

Once Scorned,

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JULY 23 - 24, 2022 ~ VOL. CCLXXX NO. 19

What's News

World-Wide

Ukrainian President Zelensky warned that any cease-fire that allows Russia to keep Ukrainian territories would only encourage an even wider conflict, giving Moscow an opportunity to replenish and rearm. Al Russia and Ukraine agreed to resume exports of millions of tons of Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea for the first time since the Russian invasion. A6

- ♦ An effort by Texas and Arizona to bus asylum-seeking migrants to the na-tion's capital is beginning to strain city government and local nonprofits. A3
- ◆ California Gov. Newsom signed a bill into law al-lowing private citizens to sue the gun industry to en-force the state's ban on certain weapons. A3
- **Former Trump adviser
 Steve Bannon was found
 guilty of contempt of Congress, handing a victory to
 the Justice Department
 and the House select committee investigating the attack on the Capitol. A4
- ♦ Biden's symptoms have improved a day after test-ing positive for Covid-19, his physician said. A5
- ◆ Security forces in Sri Lanka raided the main anti-government protest camp in Colombo, taking down tents and removing activists. A9

Business & Finance

- ◆ Twitter reported a sur-prising decline in revenue that the social-media com-pany blamed on advertis-ing weakness and uncer-tainty related to its pending \$44 billion acqui-sition by Elon Musk. A1
- Key shareholders in VW
 joined forces with labor
 leaders to oust CEO Herbert
 Diess, who was in the midst
 of a push to turn the German
 auto company into a top
 maker of electric vehicles. A1
- U.S. stocks slumped, snapping a three-day win-ning streak. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq fell 0.9%, 0.4% and 1.9%, respectively. All three indexes posted weekly gains. **B1**
- weesky gains. B1
 Vince McMahon, the king of U.S. wrestling, retired as CEO and chairman of WWE, following disclosures by The Wall Street Journal of multiple payouts to women who had alleged sexual misconduct and infidelity. B1
- Verizon said cash-strapped customers and stiffer compe-tition would pressure its busi-ness through the end of the year, prompting it to lower its revenue and profit targets. B3
- U.S. and global business activity fell sharply in July, according to surveys of purchasing managers, raising recession risks. A2

NOONAN

The 'Great Resignation' Started Long Ago A13



2022 Dow Jones & Company, Inc

On the Ropes for Alleged Misconduct, McMahon Retires



EXIT: Vince McMahon, shown in 2009, retired as World Wrestling Entertainment CEO and chairman. been facing pressure after the company disclosed a board investigation into alleged misconduct. B1

VW CEO Diess to Step Down **After Clash With Labor Unions**

Key shareholders in Volks-wagen AG joined forces with labor leaders to oust Chief Ex-ecutive Officer Herbert Diess, who was in the midst of a push to turn the German auto company into a top maker of electric vehicles. Mr. Diess will be succeeded by Oliver Blume, CEO of VW's sports-car maker Porsche AG

and long an ally of the Porsche-Piëch family that controls a majority of VW voting rights. Mr. Blume will retain his job running Porsche, which is slated for an initial public offering this autumn.

The departing chief executive had repeatedly clashed with unions, which hold half the seats on the German equivalent of the company's board of directors. Until now he had retained the support of

Porsche.

Mr. Diess was informed around midday Thursday that the company's core shareholders and labor representatives had decided to fire him. The broader supervisory board learned of the decision at a meeting at around 4:30 p.m. Friday local time, according to a person familiar with the proceeding.

The sudden ouster comes after renewed internal strife over the slow progress developing core software for the company's new generation of electric vehicles. The delays have caused the launches of some models to be pushed back, raising doubts among the Porsche-Piëch family about Mr. Diess's ability to deliver on his promises, people familiar with the situation said.

Please turn to page A5

Twitter Revenue Declines On Slide In Ads

Slackening demand echoes Snap's warning, also reflects wariness around deal with Musk

By Sarah E. Needleman AND SUZANNE VRANICA

BY SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN
AND SUZANNE VRANICA

Twitter Inc. reported a surprising decline in revenue that
the social-media company
blamed on advertising weakness and uncertainty related
to its pending \$44 billion acquisition by Elon Musk.

Twitter's results Friday follow rival social-media company Snap Inc. posting its
weakest-ever quarterly sales
growth because of what it said
was "increasing competition
for advertising dollars that are
now growing more slowly."
Digital companies often are
the first to be hit by an ad
slowdown since marketers can
turn off spending in real time,
industry observers said. Other
forms of advertising, such as
buying TV commercials, are
much harder to cancel at a
moment's notice, they said.
Smaller platforms such as
Twitter and Snapchat also are
at risk if marketers shift spending to more established players
such as Alphabet Inc.'s Google
and Meta Platforms Inc.'s Facebook, MoffettNathanson said in
a note Friday. Alphabet and
Meta report second-quarter
earnings on Tuesday and
Please turn to page A2

Heard on the Street: Musk just
one of Twitter's problems. B12

Heard on the Street: Musk just one of Twitter's problems... B12

Europe Is Tested By Energy, Inflation

Gas supply and interest rates pose threats

By Stephen Fidler And Kim Mackrael

This past week brought home the double-headed crisis testing the European Union's resilience.

Russia is trying to break its unity by curbing supplies of natural gas to the bloc. At the same time, rising inflation is ending an era of negative interest rates and increasing the risk of a fracturing eurozone economy.

Wonder How Crime Probes Get Named?

'Angry Birds' and 'Varsity Blues' riff off pop culture

By Corinne Ramey

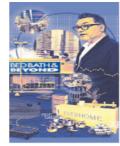
When former federal prosecutor Eric Rosen began investigating a Yale soccer coach for impropriety in college admissions, he dubbed the probe "Operation Free Kick."

As it ballooned to include wealthy parents suspected of bribing coaches to admit their children, the Federal Bureau of Investigation decided to change the name to "Operation Varsity Blues," a salute to Please turn to page A10

Sanctions on Russia have hit the bloc harder than other Western countries, because its economies are more intertwined than others in the West. According to EU officials, Moscow's ambition in manipulating gas supplies is to split the bloc's steadfast unity in support of Ukraine and reverse sanctions that are harming Russia's economy.

The battle will come to a head this winter, with the Please turn to page A6

EXCHANGE



BED BATH & BEHIND

How an overhaul at the home retail giant went awry

Zelensky Says No Cease-Fire Until Russia Returns Land

KYIV, Ukraine—Any cease-fire that allows Russia to keep Ukrainian territories seized since the invasion in February would only encourage an even wider conflict, giving Moscow a badly needed opportunity to replenish and rearm for the next round, Ukrainian Presi-dent Volodymyr Zelensky warned. warned.

warned.
"Freezing the conflict with
the Russian Federation means
a pause that gives the Russian
Federation a break for rest,"
Mr. Zelensky said in an inter-

Ukraine Grain Deal Reached

considers provi ter jets to Kyiv.

view with The Wall Street Journal in the heavily fortified presidential compound in Kyiv on Friday. "They will not use this pause to change their geo-politics or to renounce their claims on the former Soviet republics."

Mr. Zelensky outlined his views at a critical point in the war, as economic pain from the conflict ripples around the world and Russia's military advances slow down, with both sides exhausted after five months of bloody fighting. Rising energy and food prices, coupled with the prospect of a Russian natural-gas shutdown this winter, are threatening to push Europe into recession, testing Western resolve just as Moscow seeks to divide the Western alliance.

The U.S. said it is considering providing fighter jets to Please turn to page A8

Series of Hearings Aimed to Show Trump's Efforts to Hold Onto Power

By Scott Patter

WASHINGTON—In eight televised hearings, the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol sought to paint a damning picture of a president willing to incite a mob to hang on to power after running out of options in reversing his election defeat.

options in reversing his election defeat.

Now, the committee plans to keep going through the fall, citing new witnesses and unanswered questions, just as Democrats try to keep their narrow House majority and Republican former President Donald Trump weighs a new run for the White House.

The recent hearings laid out the committee's case that the Please turn to page A4



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INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

SATURDAY 23 JULY / SUNDAY 24 JULY 2022

Cities of the future:

how to adapt to extreme weather

Diess ousted as Volkswagen boss

Workers and investors force exit • Porsche chief to step in • Tesla rivalry angers union

JOE MILLER — WÜRZBURG

Volkswagen chief executive Herbert Diess, the architect of the German carmaker's multibillion-euro push into electric vehicles, will leave the company within weeks after being forced out by union leaders and shareholders. The 63-year-old, who took over following the VW emissions scandal, will be replaced by Porsche boss Oliver Blume from the start of September. His exit followed a vote by VW's supervisory board, which is controlled by a loose alliance of workers' representatives and the state of Lower Saxony, the group's second-largest shareholder.

The 20-seat board, which includes representatives from VW's anchor shareholders, the Porsche-Piëch family, voted unanimously to replace Diess, according to two people with direct knowledge of the matter.

nowledge of the matter. Diess had made it his mission to catch Diess had made it his mission to catch up with Tesla and become the world's largest electric car producer by the middle of the decade. He oversaw the launch of Vw's first all-electric cars and committed to spending e52bn on developing battery-powered models, while imposing big cost cuts.

But his tenure was marred by repeated clashes with Volkswagen's powerful German works council, which

represents most of its 300,000 workers in the country and occupies 10 of the 20 seats on the supervisory board. Last year, Diess sparked union outrage after privately suggesting that VW had 30,000 excess staff in the country. Volkswagen's works council leader Daniela Cavallo said the group wanted to ensure that "job security and profitability remain equally important corporate goals in the coming years". "Our focus as an employee organisation is clear: all our colleagues must be involved. Today's decisions pay tribute to this."

The announcement by VW came hours after Diess posted a holiday mes-

The announcement by VW came hours after Diess posted a holiday mes-



Herbert Diese had repeated clashes with the group's German works council during his time as VW chief sage to the company's employees. "I am very satisfied with our performance," he wrote, adding that sales had been hurt by shortages in semiconductors and other bottlenecks. His progenetary

His propensity for comparing VW infavourably to electric market leader

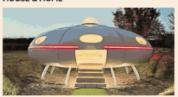
unfavourably to electric market leader Tesla had been criticised by unions. In an interview last November, Cav-allo also criticised Diess for problems with YW's software development pro-gramme, as well as recent poor per-formance in china. Diess, a former BMW executive who was a rare outsider within VW, will be replaced by Blume, who has spent his professional life within the group.

Ukraine's open-source war Gillian Tett on the digital battle



Crazy living

The trend for exotic rentals HOUSE & HOME



No more 'whatever it takes

Katie Martin on the ECB



Jancis Robinson

Extravagant Burgundies LIFE & ARTS



Grain truce

Moscow and Kyiv sign deal

Ukrainian emergency service workers inspect a wheat field for explosive devices in the Mykolayiv region of the

devices in the Mykolayiv region of the country yesterday. With time running out before an estimated 22mm tonnes of trapped wheat, corn and other grains rot in Ukraine, Kyiv and Moscow yesterday agreed a "de facto ceasefire" on ships that will collect the stranded grain from ports to avoid a global food crisis. But with Russia's war still raging in Ukraine, and deep mistrust between the two sides, diplomats warned that upholding the agreement would be a big challenge.

Ports 'ceasefire' page 4



Cheney's bld to stop Trump returning to Oval Office

Liz Cheney this week wrapped up the hearings examining last year's attack on US Congress and whether Donald Trump fuelled It. She defled

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CRISTINA CRIDDLE — LONDON HANNAH MURPHY — SAN FRANCISCO

Twitter has blamed a slump in digital advertising spending and "uncertainty" over Elon Musk's on-off pursuit of the social media company for a fall in second-quarter revenues.

The San Francisco-based group is seek-ing to enforce a \$44bn sale to Musk in

ing to enforce a \$444bn sale to Musk in court, after the Tesla chief executive put the deal on hold in May and officially attempted to extitithis month. Reporting results for the three months to the end of June, the social media platform yesterday highlighted the turmoil around the prospective takeover as among the reasons that revenues fell 1 per cent to \$1.18bn.

Twitter said the lacklustre results reflected "advertising industry headwinds associated with the macro-

STO

environment, as well as uncertainty related to the pending acquisition of Twitter by an affiliate of Elon Musk". The figures missed analyst expecta-tions of a rise in revenues to \$1.3bn.

Twitter's results come a day after social media rival Snap lost more than a quarter of its value after missing reve-

quarter of its value after missing revenue and profit expectations, and announced plans to slow hiring and shakeup its business strategy as a result. After a pandemic-related boost to business, social media platforms have been suffering as brands increasingly curb their digital ad spending to cope with rising interest rates and inflation, coupled with supply chain woes.

The company's net loss was \$270mm, compared with a net income of \$66mm in the same period last year.

Social media groups have also been hurt by rising competition from apps

including viral video platform TikTok, and by Apple privacy changes that have made it harder to target advertising and measure the success of campaigns. Twitter's monetisable daily active

users, its unique metric for tracking its audience, stood at 237.8mn, above analysts' estimates of 236mn.

At its last earnings in April, Twitter admitted to overstating its audience fig-ures by almost 2mn users for three years, due to what it called an "error".

years, due to what it called an "error".
Twitter is heading for a courtroom
showdown with Musk in October, after
the billionaire attempted to terminate
the deal, citing concerns over the
number of fake accounts. "Twitter
believes that Mr Musk's purported termination is invalid and wrongful, and
the merger agreement remains in
effect," the company said yesterday.
Elaine Moore page 9

World Markets

World Plankers													
CK MARKETS				CURRENCIES						GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Jul 22	Prev	%chg	Pair	Jul 22	Prev	Pair	Jul 22	Prev	Yield (%)	Jul 22	Prev	Chg (b/pl
500	3973.74	3998.95	-0.63	S/E	1.023	1.019	6/\$	0.978	0.981	US 2 yr	2.99	3.17	-0.18
daq Composite	11880.28	12059.61	-1.49	\$/E	1.204	1.195	£/\$	0.831	0.837	US 10 yr	2.79	2.95	-0.16
Jones Ind	31994.03	32036.90	-0.13	£/Æ	0.850	0.853	€/E	1.177	1,172	US 30 yr	3.00	3.10	-0.10
Eurofirst 300	1673.09	1669.46	0.22	¥/\$	136.045	137.835	¥/E	139.181	140.482	UK 2 yr	2.05	2.18	-0.13
Stoox 50	3600.31	3586.51	0.11	W/E	163.819	164.699	£ inde	x 78.733	78.964	UK 10 yr	1.94	2.04	-0.10
E 100	7276.37	7270.51	0.08	SFr/Æ	0.983	0.988	SFt/E	1.157	1,158	UK 30 yr	2.45	2.53	-0.08
E All-Share	4028.28	4021.50	0.17	CRYPTO						JPN 2 yr	-0.09	-0.08	-0.01
40	6216.82	6291,11	0.25	CRYPTO		Jul	22	Prev	%chg	JPN 10 yr	0.21	0.24	-0.03
a Dax	13253.68	13246.64	0.05	Bitcoin (\$)		23158		23149.09	96Chg	JPN 30 yr	1.22	1.26	-0.03
iei	27914.66	27803.00	0.40	Ethereum		1577.		1574.99	0.14	GER 2 yr	0.42	0.64	-0.22
g Seng	20609.14	20574.63	0.17	Euleream		13//	.13	13/4.33	0.14	GER 10 yr	1.03	1.22	-0.19
World \$	2663.84	2643.93	0.75	COMMOD	ITIES					GER 30 yr	1.28	1.40	-0.12
DEM \$	990.69	986.56	0.42			Jul	22	Prev	%chg				
DI ACWI \$	620.42	616.02	0.72	OII WTI \$		97.	36	96.35	1.05				
Vilshire 2500	5208.42	5158.91	0.96	Oil Brent \$		105.	20	103.86	1.29			Prices are lat	est for edition
Vilshire 5000	40674.28	40293.65	0.94	Gold \$		1705.	.10	1709.30	-0.25			Data provided b	y Marringster



"All the News

The New York Times State State of the Country State State of the Country State State of the Country State of the C

VOL. CLXXI ... No. 59,494

By May, the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol was a charred skeleton. A prize coveted by President Vladimir V. Putin, it was won only after months of bombardment.

Last Stand at the Steelworks: Inside an 80-Day Siege

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

The two Mi-8 helicopters tore across enemy territory early on early on the constant of th

Ukrainians Huddled in Terror and Hunger

ol. The soldiers were surrounded y a massive Russian force and on

pol. The soldiers were surrounded by a massive Russian force and on the verge of annihilation. The plan called for the Mi-8s to land at the factory, swap their cargo for wounded soldiers, and fly back to central Ukraine. Al-most everyone understood that the city and its defenders were lost. But the weapons would allow the soldiers to frustrate the Rus-sian forces for a few weeks more, blunting the onslaught faced by Ukrainian troops elsewhere on

the southern and eastern fronts and giving them time to prepare to a new first them to prepare to a new first them to the prepare to a new first them to the guys, who were fully encircled, to know that we had not abandoned them, that we would fly to them, risking our lives to take their wounded and bring them ammunition and medicine," said a military intelligence officer with the call sign Flint, who was on the first flight and described the operation to The New York Times, along with three others involved. "This Continued on Page 9

DEAL IMPERILED A Russian strike on Odesa threatened a deal to facilitate grain exports. PAGE 8



Inside the plant, in a photo from an Azov fighter's wife.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Women Face Public Vitriol For Testimony

and MAGGIE HABERMAN
WASHINGTON — Before
Sarah Matthews, a former deputy White House press secretary,
even opened her mouth to testify
on Thursday before the select
committee investigating the Jan.
6 assault on the Capitol, the
House Republican Conference
attacked her on Twitter as a
"iliar" and a "pawn" of Democrats.

"Biar" and a "pawn" of Demo-crats.

The group did not mention the man seated beside her, Matthew Pottinger, the former deputy national security adviser, who was also there to issue a scathing indictment of President Donald J. Trump's behavior on the day of the riot. Nor did Mr. Trump hin-self mention Mr. Pottinger when he lashed out hours later with a statement calling Ms. Matthews a fame-seeker who was "clearly lying."

lying."
The contrast highlighted how, in a series of revelatory hearings that have focused on issues of democracy, the rule of law and the peaceful transfer of power, another, less-discussed theme

IN GEORGIA, CASE INVOLVING TRUMP CASTS BROAD NET

2020 ELECTION INQUIRY

Diverse Targets Suggest D.A. Weighs Charges of Conspiracy

By RICHARD FAUSSET and DANNY HAKIM

and DANNY HARIM
ATLANTA — The criminal investigation into efforts by former
President Donald J. Trump and
his allies to overturn his election
loss in Georgia has begun to entangle, in one way or another, an
expanding assemblage of charactore:

A United States senator. A congressman. A local Cadillac dealer. A high school economics teacher. The chairman of the state Republican Party. The Republican Candidate for lieutenant governor. Six lawyers aiding Mr. Trump, includidate for lieutenant governor. Six lawyers aiding Mr. Trump, includidate for lieutenant governor. Six lawyers aiding Mr. Trump, includidate for lieutenant governor. Six lawyers aiding Mr. Trump, includidate for lieutenant governor. Six lawyers aiding Mr. Trump, includidate for lieutenant governor. Six lawyers aiding Mr. Trump, including for many for lieutenant governor govern

ates.
Whether Mr. Trump will ultiContinued on Page 18

Health Officials Call Emergency For Monkeypox

by AFFORINA MANDAVILLI
For the second time in two
years, the World Health Organization has taken the extraordinary
step of declaring a global emergency. This time the cause is monkeypox, which has spread in just a
few weeks to dozens of countries
and infected tens of thousands of
portal to the country of the count

people.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the W.H.O.'s director general, on Saturday overruled a panel of advisers, who could not come to a consensus, and declared a "public health emergency of international concern," a designation the W.H.O. currently uses to describe only two other diseases, Covid-19 and polio.

W.H.O. currently uses to describe only two other diseases, Covid-19 and polio.

"We have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly through new modes of transmission, about which we understand too little, and which meets the criteria" for a public health emergency, D. Tedrost told reporters. It was apparently the first time that the direction general had sides of the control of the c

What Is Justice? One Parkland Family's Journey.

By AUDRA D. S. BURCH

By AUDRA D. S. BURCH
PARKLAND, Fla. — Sometime
after 1:30 a.m. in a hotel conference room, the law enforcement
officer's eyes — even before his
words — told Tom and Gena
Hoyer that their youngest child
was gone, killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas
High School.
They remember so little about

They remember so little about the ride home. Almost as soon as they entered their Parkland

house, Ms. Hoyer walked upstairs into Luke's second-floor room, untouched since the morning hours when he had been getting ready for school. She sat on the edge of his unmade bed next to the night stand where he had left his prescription glasses. She was in Luke's room at this hour because she believed that if she did not do this task right now, she might never.

Two thoughts entered her mind. One was clear but painful to con-template: How could their family

go on without Luke? The other was much less formed and so much harder to answer: What now? That question would crystop of the season of the season of the season of the season?

It's been nearly four and a half years since an afternoon ambush at the high school on Valentine's Day 2018, claimed Luke and 16 other students and faculty members.

ers.
What the Hoyers now know is
Continued on Page 16

Gena and Tom Hoyer lost their youngest son, Luke, in the 2018 school massacre in Parkland, Fla.

An Explosion of Digital Comics Finds a New World of Readers

By GEORGE GENE GUSTINES and MATT STEVENS

For decades, the fans who pow-ered the comic book industry made weekly pligrimages to their local comic shops to buy the latest issues about their favorite caped-and-cowled adventurers. These Wednesday Warriors, named for Wednesday Warriors, named for land on shelves, still do. Voracious readers of printed comics, they skew older — and are mostly male.

male.

But now all it takes is a smart-phone, as the world of comics is re-shaped by the kind of digital dis-ruption that has transformed jour-nalism, music, movies and televi-sion. Web comics have exploded in popularity in recent years, in

NES and MATT STEVENS
part by tapping into an audience
the industry had long overlooked:
Gen Z and Millennial women. The
stories they offer — of a young
woman battling sexism in the
world of e-sports or a romance-focused retelling of Greek myth —
are mostly free and scroll vertically on smartphones, where
readers under 25 live.
And they have minted stars
from a new generation of creators.
"Even 10 years ago, 1 wouldn't
be doing this," said Kaitlyn Narvaza, 28, of San Diego, who is
known as instantmiso on Webtoon
where her series "Siern's Lament"
Continued on Page 15

INTERNATIONAL 4-13

In Israeli City, Art Unites

In Israeli City, Para In an ancient underground reservoir, visitors hear a beguiling musical composition that combines Arab love songs poetry. PAGE 4 position that con..... with Hebrew poetry. Possible Motive in Abe Killing

The suspect in the shooting of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan had blamed the Unification Church for bankrupting his family. PAGE 6

Papal Apology Over Schools

Pope Francis is traveling to Canada to deliver a message of contrition to Indig-enous communities for the church's role in an abusive school system. PAGE 5

Cancer Care After Roe

Urgent questions arise about treating pregnant women in states where they cannot terminate pregnancies. PAGE 17

Beagle Brigade on Guard

Floppy-eared hounds are sniffing out threats to U.S. agriculture at airports and border crossings. PAGE 14



Don't Forget the Fava Beans Why, you look good enough to eat: A rash of recent books, films and TV shows suggest we've never looked so delicious — to one another.

He's Notorious, Kind Of

Will Malitek owns and operates Film Noir Cinema. If you've never heard of it, that's fine with him. PAGE 1

Goodbye, Antihero

The brooding crusader in black who toes the line between good and evil has become a gross parody of itself. PAGE

SUNDAY OPINION Farhad Manjoo

Setting Sights High

New York City isn't exactly known for its clean and state-of-the-art airports. With a \$25 billion transformation, that should change by 2030. PAGE 6



SUNDAY BUSINESS

Ukraine's Bright Side

Surprisingly, the technology sector is thriving in the country. But with the war, and with most business executives unable to meet with foreign clients, the good times may not last. PAGE 1

A Long-Term Housing Crisis

and not enough people to sell them to.
In the long term, there's a different
problem: not enough houses for all the
people who want them. PAG





L.A. NATIVE Barry Settle tackles timely issues

MY COUNTRY =

People of color discovering peace in the Inland Empire

As more relocate from big cities in search of a better life, they're welcomed by solitude and surprised by diversity

By Tyrone Beason

PROPERTY FROM MORENO VALLEY, CALIF.

By Tyrone Beason
REPORTINO FROM MORENO VALLEY, CALIF.

y ideas about the Inland Empire have always been seeded with a prickly skepticism.

As far as I was concerned, passing through towns like Rilalto, Colton and Jurupa Valley along Interstate I0 and State Route 60 was a necessary inconvenience on the way to the desert — not a chance to the way to the most recent U.S. census figures showing the Inland Empire to be one of the fastest-growing regions in the country and that waves of Black and brown transplants, many from Los Angeles and Southern California's other urban centers, have driven a cultural transformation that's been decades in the making.

The population has swelled to 4.6 million people spread across Riverside and San [See Inland Empire, A10]



Explosive blaze forces thousands to flee



FLAMES engulf a home as the Oak fire burns in Mariposa County on Saturday. The blaze, which began Friday afternoon, has destroyed at least 10 structures.

Governor declares state of emergency as fast-moving Oak fire near Yosemite spreads to nearly 12,000 acres.

Firefighters were struggling to battle California's largest fire of the season so far, a fast-moving inferno tearing through the Sierra Nevada foothills west of Yosemite National Park that has burned at least 10 structures, forced several thousand people to flee their homes and is threatening multiple mountain communities.

nities.
The Oak fire, which started Friday near Mid[See Oak fire, A13]

Ukraine faces thorny dilemma as war drags on

Western weapons are helping, but boasts may undercut arms appeals

KYIV, Ukraine — The explosion is invariably spectacular: a gigantic spewing fireball, often followed by a slow-motion airborne cascade of secondary blasts. As soon as such footage finds its way online, exultant Ukrainian commentary erupts: "It's HIMARS o'clock!"
As its war with Russia enters a sixth month, Ukraine has been celebrating recent battlefield successes generated by sophisticated launchers known as High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS. The Pentagon has provided or promised a dozen of the advanced systems, capable of hitself surgets argets up to 50 miles away we will be a supposed to the surget argets up to 50 miles away we will be a supposed to the surget argets up to 50 miles away we will be supposed to the surget argets up to 50 miles away we will be supposed to the surget argets up to 50 miles away we will be supposed to the surget argets up to 50 miles away we will be supposed to the surget argets up to 50 miles away we will be supposed to the surget argets and the surget argets are supposed to the surget argets are supposed to the surget argets and the surget argets are supposed to the surget argets are surget argets and the surget argets are surget are surget argets and the surget argets are surget are surget argets and the surget argets are surget are surget argets are surget are

away.
Following Russia's full-scale invasion of its smaller neighbor on Feb. 24, the con-flict has veered from

Moscow's initial failed effort to capture the capital, Kylv, to substantial Ukrainian terin the country's eastern in the country's eastern in the country's eastern in dustrial heartland.

Now the combat calculus appears to be shifting yet again, with Ukrainian forces, assisted by their new weaponry, striking dozens of sites, including Russian ammunition dumps, troop concentrations and bridges. That is seen as likely preparation for an offensive to regain Russian-held territory in the country's south, near the Black Sea coast.

The strike of the sea of the

McCarthy finds skeptics at home

In a newly drawn, even redder district, discontent with the GOP House leader is brewing on the right.

By Jasper Goodman

CLOVIS, Calif. — In Washington, Kevin Mc-Carthy is the ultimate party-line Republican, one of former President Trump's most loyal congressional foot soldiers and leading the charge in the GOP's quest to regain control of the House in November.

But back home in his district, Cora Shipley is skeptical.

district, Cora Shipley is skeptical.
"I do not believe that he is a true conservative," said Shipley, 78, owner of an ice cream shop in Clovis, which

was drawn last year into the new 20th Congressional District, where McCarthy is seeking reelection.

Shipley's shop is a staple of Old Town Clovis, where American flags line antique spluys over a loudspeaker. She said she is waiting to see how McCarthy will lead the GOP should he become House speaker next year.

"He's been on both sides of a lot of issues," she said from a table in the back of her shop, with photos of Elvis on the walls and a "thin blue line" flag hanging outside.

McCarthy is tasked with

side.

McCarthy is tasked with introducing himself to more than 200,000 new voters in a district where the GOP's registration advantage has grown to almost 20 percentage points, the largest in the state. But even in an area [See McCarthy, A12]

Can Caruso hold his lead among Latinos?

Bass might still win the support of some who voted for De León in the mayoral primary. CALIFORNIA, B1

As mask decision looms, cases star to flatten in L.A.

If the weekly numbers continue to fall, the county may delay the mandate set to begin Friday. CALIFORNIA, BI

Jackson reflects on his journey

Chargers cornerback kept his NFL dream alive after being charged with four felonies in 2015. SPORTS, D1

Weather Clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 83/62. **B10**

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BUSINESS INSIDE: Bosses still lean toward in-office work amid COVID uncertainty. A14





Maryland matchup Wes Moore vs. Dan Cox: A governor's race that will echo down ballot **METRO**



Pining for paper Concert halls hit a sour note by getting rid of programs ARTS & STYLE



The Washington Post

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Trump oft chose strife over calm. panel says

Hearings cast president as repeatedly keeping U.S. on course for Jan. 6

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN

Donald Trump had already been told by his campaign manag-er, his top campaign lawyer and his lead data analyst that he had

been told by his campaign manager, his top campaign lawyer and his lead data analyst that he had lost the presidential election when he was visited by his attorney general on Dec. 1, 2020.

William P. Barr was a steadfast Trump ally. But in the Oval Office that afternoon, he had no solace to offer the president. He told Trump that claims of 2020 voter fraud were "complete nonsense," "crazy stuff;" "a grave disservice to the country," he later recounted. They were "bullshit."

In an interview with the Associated Press that day, he offered the country the same conclusion, though in less profane terms: The Justice Department had found no evidence sufficient to overturn Joe Biden's election win.

Trump could have accepted what Barr later termed "reality."

But inside the White House, the AP story was met with presidential fury. Sitting inside the ornate West Wing dining room, Trump threw his lunch, shattering a porcelain dish and leaving ketchup dripping down the wall.

That account came from a White House aide who testified to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, which over eight public hearings in the past six weeks has laid out an elaborate SEE TRUMP on As

WHO labels monkeypox a global health emergency

BY FENIT NIRAPPIL

The World Health Organization on Saturday declared the international monkeypox outbreak
a global emergency, a decision
that underseores concerns about
rapidly spreading infections
sparked by the virus.

The move to label the outbreak
a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the highest
level of alert the WHO can issue, is
expected to marshal new funding
to fight the outbreak and to pressure governments into action.
More than 16,500 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 74
countries.

"In short, we have an outbreak
that has spread around the world
rapidly through new modes of
transmission about which we understand too little," WHO Director
General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Saturday.

The decision means the world
is confronting two viral diseases
that have crossed the extraordinary threshold of being declared
health emergencies: covid-19 and
monkeypox. The WHO labeled
the coronavirus pandemic a global crisis early in 2020.

WHO officials said the global
risk of monkeypox is moderate,
but that it is high in Europe,
where most of the infections have
been recorded in an outbreak that
ignited in the spring.

Tedros said that one of the
reasons he moved to declare a

SEE MONKEYPOX ON A4



Chip shortage is upending the auto industry — even in Detroit

BY JEANNE WHALEN

DETROIT — Even Motor City is running short of cars these days.

Rental counters at the Detroit airport have run out of vehicles recently. Dealerships all over town are reporting scarce inventory. And buyers are facing monthslong delays and soaring prices before they can get their hands on a new truck or SUV. The root problem is the same across the country — a global deficit of computer chips that has forced automakers to slash output, causing shortages of new and used vehicles. But the predicament feels particularly offensive here, Detroiters say. "This is an auto manufacturing city. It shouldn't be short of cars," said Benyam

Buving a car may never be the same amid the biggest disruption since the 1970s

Tesfasion, a cabdriver who has been busy shuttling travelers from the airport to pick up rental cars at locations 10 or 20 miles away. Another feature of his daily travels, he says, is driving past giant parking lots where automakers are stockpiling newly manufactured cars that are still awaiting a few final chips.

Detroit's experience shows how thoroughly the nearly two-year-old semiconductor shortage has upended manufacturing — and foisted change on one of

America's most beloved consumer mar-

America's most beloved consumer markets.

"It may be the biggest disruption we've seen since the 1970s and the fuel crisis," said Matt Anderson, a transportation historian at the Henry Ford museum complex in Dearborn, referring to the tumultuous period that forced car companies to make more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The chip shortage "is the kind of thing that my successors I'm sure will be studying about in future years," he added.

Gone are the days when buyers could drop in on a dealership and drive home in a cherry-red convertible packed with their favortie features. Buying a car now means placing an order and waiting, sometimes

Thousands of "build shy" GM vehicles — missing some final components — idle in Auburn Hills, Mich., last week. The average U.S. list price for a new car has risen by 20 percent over the past two years. The average for a used car has soared by 40 percent.

Russian missiles strike **Odessa**

MOSCOW VOWED NO ATTACKS 1 DAY PRIOR

Deal allowing grain to be shipped now in jeopardy

BY ELLEN FRANCIS, KAREEM FAHIM AND CLAIRE PARKER

Russian missiles hit the Black Sea port of Odessa on Saturday, Ukrainian officials said, imperliing a deal Moscow and Kyiv reached a day earlier to allow shipment of millitons of tons of trapped grain and ease a global food crisis. The millitary command in southern Ukraine said two Kalibr cruise missiles hit the port's infrastructure but not the grain silos in Odessa — one of the country's largest and most important seaside trading cities.

Air raid warnings rang around 1 a.m. with the sounds of explosions echoing across the city. The military's southern command reported no casualties. It said airdefense systems shot down two other missiles in the attack, which the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine described as "outrageous."

The strike threatens an agreement that diplomats had hailed less than 24 hours earlier as a breakthrough after months of negotiations. Friday's deal, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, would help lift a Black Sea block-ade that exacerbated global hunger, especially in Africa and the Middle East.

A keystone of the deal is Russia's promise not to attack Odessa and two other ports involved in the shipments. The deal includes security assurances for both Ukraine and Russia, which agreed not to "undertake any attacks against merchant vessels and other civilian vessels and port facilities" tied to the initiative.

"This attack easts serious doubt on the credibility of Russia's commitment to yesterday's deal and see ODESSA ON A14

mitment to yesterday's deal and SEE ODESSA ON A14

EXTREME SUMMER

Tour de France races into uncertain future

Heat wave plaguing Europe is early warning sign of grim road ahead for contest and planet

AYROS-ARBOUIX, FRANCE — The Tour de France has always been a test of human endur-

been a test of human endur-ance.

The cyclists cover epic dis-tances over the course of three weeks, speeding past fields of sunflowers, bouncing along cobblestone roads, and climb-ing dizzyingly steep mountains with frightening corkscrew de-scents.

with frightening orkscrew descents.

But as the peloton makes its way down the Champs-Elysées toward the finish line Sunday—on a day forecast treach 93 degrees Fahrenheit, 20 degrees higher than the average Julhigh for Paris — there are questions about whether the world's most prestigious cycling race is pushing up against its own limits, whether increasingly intense European summers are making the competition dangerously extreme.

The race has long been a see TOUR DEFRANCE ON A12



After 9 years and 12 raids. success for **DEA** agents

BY KEVIN SIEFF AND MARY BETH SHERIDAN

AND MARY BETH SHERIDAN

MEXICO CITY — For years, the secret U.S. task force was devoted to finding a single man. They tracked his whereabouts in the jungles of northwestern Mexico. Over and over again they planned aerial raids meant to pluck him from the tent where he slept.

The team took the initials of the target himself: "The RCQ Task Force," for Rafael Caro Quintero. Until his July 15 capture, the 69-year-old Caro Quintero was the Drug Enforcement Administration's most wanted man, accused of killing DEA agent Kiki Camarena in 1985 and then resuming a drug trafficking career after a technicality got him released from a Mexican prison in 2013.

Publicly, both countries have

2013.

Publicly, both countries have presented his apprehension as a hard-fought victory in the war against drug trafficking and impunity. But the quest to arrest SEE ARREST ON A16

EDITORIALS/LETTERS.....

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deportes

Milton, el polifacético El jugador récord de la era Gallardo

Casco participó ya de 214 partidos; más allá del fútbol, tiene varias pasiones. Página 2



LAS LIBRERÍAS ARGENTINAS, A LA CONQUISTA DE MADRID

-cultura

Con diferentes formatos y ofertas, tres espacios fueron inaugurados recientemente para promover la literatura latinoamericana. Página 28

¿TODOS LOS CAMINOS LLEVAN A ENGROSAR EL ESTADO?

_el herliné

El empleo público creció aun cuando el ingreso estuvo vedado oficialmente.

por Diego Cabot

LA NACION

DOMINGO 24 DE JULIO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Batakis busca una ayuda del FMI para moderar el impacto de la crisis

VIAJE. Llega hoy a Washington; aspira a rever las metas o a lograr un *waiver* que le dé oxígeno político y frene el temblor financiero

WASHINGTON (De nuestro corresponsal).—Silvina Batakis llega hoy a Estados Unidos en medio de la tormenta financiera que azota a la Argentina con la esperanza deobtener una nueva ayuda del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) que le dé oxígeno político y detenga el descalabro

en los mercados. Sin financiamiento ni un claroapoyo interno, la ministra busca herramientas para moderar el ajuste fiscal al que la compromete el acuerdo con el organismo. En su entorno trabajan en la idea de rever las metas o, en su defecto, lograr un waiver. Página 10 Alberto y Cristina: hay diálogo, pero no ceden los rencores

Página 11

EL ESCENARIO

Preparativos para un desenlace inconcluso

Jorge Liotti

a reunión de gabinete del último miércoles no fue como las anteriores, expositivas, enumerativas, según los propios ministros, aburridas. La nueva integrante del equipose encargó de sacudir el ambiente al pintar un cuadro económico desesperante. Así, Silvina Batakis se presentó antesus pares, que quedaron profundamente desanimados, no solo por los ajustes de partidas que les auguró en sus áreas, sinopor las oscuras expectativas. Continúa en la página 14

EL ANÁLISIS

Un país donde todo puede pasar

Joaquín Morales Solá

-LA NACION-

ecían que sería en septiembre. Pero la dinámica de las crisis económicas y sociales no figura entre las cienciasexactas; establece su ritmoy su tiempo según su propio desorden. Ya está entre nosotros. El país sufrió en la semana que pasó la devaluación más fulminante del dólar paralelo desde la hiperinflación de los 80; alcanzó el riesgo país de una nación en default, cuando la Argentina no loestá, y los bonos argentinos valencomo valen los bonos basura. Continúa en la página 39

La diversión infantil le ganó a la niebla

sociedad — Entusiasmados con los planes para este fin de semana, los chicos casi ni advirtieron que la niebla había ganado la ciudad. Miles de ellos se sorprendieron con los animales en la Rural, y en el Planetario disfrutaron de juegos y aprendizaje. Página 27



La Rural estuvo colmada todo el día y los chicos se entretuvieron con ovejas, caballos y cerdos

HERNÁN ZENTENO

Un ataque ruso hace peligrar el acuerdo con Ucrania

GUERRA. PARÍS (De nuestra corresponsal).—Solo un día después del acuerdo con Ucrania para desbloquear la exportación de granos, Rusia atacó con misiles el puerto de Odessa, lo que dejó en duda el crucial pacto. Página 4

EL HILO DEL MUNDO

¿Le interesa la Argentina al mundo?

Inés Capdevila

Página 8

Emergencia global por la viruela del mono

Página 6

FOLHA DE S.PAULO

DESDE 1921



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Marcelo Leite narra experiência de inalar psicodélico DMT

em teste clínico c4 a c6

Direito ao aborto era menos polêmico em 1973, quando EUA o reconheceram c10

MÔNICA BERGAMO

Não se apaga falta de Daniella, diz Gloria Perez sobre crime que virou série c2

Equilíbrio B4 Médicos veem aumento na busca por cirurgias estéticas no país

Esporte B7 Hamilton chega ao 300° GP na F1 sob maior jejum, sem vencer há 12 provas

Fast-food vira 'última refeição' de pacientes paliativos

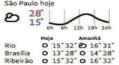
VIDA PÚBLICA Comer lanche de fast-food é desejo comum a pacien-tes de oncologia e hema-tologia internados em es-tado grave e submetidos a tratamento paliativo no HC da Unicamp. Muitos optam pela refeição por não terem mais preocupa-ção com saúde. cotidiano B2

EDITORIAIS A2

Caixa de problemas Acerca de novas irregularidades no banco estatal

Apreensão global Sobre o risco de recessão nos EUA e na Europa

ATMOSFERA



34080

Fala a embaixadas expõe abalo de Itamaraty sob Bolsonaro

Apresentação de teor golpista arrasta ministério para campanha de reeleição

O discurso de mentiras e te-orias conspiratórias sobre o sistema eleitoral brasileiro feito nesta semana pelo pre-sidente Jair Bolsonaro a mais de 60 embaixadores em Brasília consolida o declínio do Ministério das Relações Ex-teriores em sua gestão.

A apresentação, descrita por diplomatas como vergo-nhosa e rebatida por gover-nos estrangeiros com decla-rações oficiais de confiança nas urnas brasileiras, solapou a tentativa do chance-ler Carlos França de resga-tar a imagem do Itamaraty.

Diplomatas ouvidos pe-la Folha na última semana veem a pasta, uma das mais tradicionais e estáveis, ser arrastada para a campanha de reeleição do presidente e questionam o esforço de normalização após a tensa gestão de Ernesto Araújo.

Bolsonaro convocou re-presentantes da comunida-de global na segunda (18) pa-ra uma reunião na qual exi-biu slides com erro ortográfi-co e questionou a confiabili-dad de uma seletrânicae. dade das urnas eletrônicas e do Judiciário a menos de três meses da eleição. Mundo A14

ENTREVISTA Thomas Shannon

Brasil será isolado caso haja ruptura

Jair Bolsonaro e sua equipe estudaram a estratégia de Donald Trump, que em ja-neiro de 2021 insuflou a in-vasão ao Congresso americano, diz o ex-embaixa-dor dos EUA no Brasil. Pa-ra Thomas Shannon, o país sofrerá muita pressão po-lítica e econômica se a democracia ruir. Mundo A15



ÚNICA DEPUTADA FEDERAL INDÍGENA, JOENIA WAPICHANA PREGA CALMA PARA DIALOGAR

Joenia (Rede-RR) no Congresso; ela diz se inspirar no costume de seu povo de negociar para ter apoio a projetos de defesa dos indígenas Ambiente B6



VÍTIMAS DE VIOLÊNCIA BUSCAM REGISTRO DE CAC

Anderson Nonato, 40, no clube de tiro onde pratica, em São Paulo, desde que foi assaltado, em 2021; procura pelo registro distorce categoria privilegiada por atos de Bolsonaro Cotidiano BI

Recuperar instituições deve ser prioridade econômica em 2023

O próximo governo terá de reverter a deterioração institucional para o país voltar a crescer de forma sustentável, afirmam analistas. Para Luis Otavio de Souza Leal, do Banco Alfa, contestar as urnas agravaria o quadro. Mercado A17

Ricardo Lewandowski

Eleitores brasileiros não são cordeiros diante de sofismas para solapar urna A3

Lula sugere não disputar ruas no 7 de Setembro

Por sugestão do ex-presidente, movimentos sociais planeiam mobilização dia 10, para evitar confron-tos com bolsonaristas. A10

Para OMS, varíola dos macacos é emergência global

emergencia global

A Organização Mundial de
Saúde classificou a disseminação da varíola dos macacos como emergência
pública de preocupação
global. O diretor-geral da
OMS, Tedros Adhanom,
disse que o risco no mundo ainda é relativamente
moderado, exceto na Eumoderado, exceto na Eu-ropa, onde é alto. saúde B4



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Tercer intento por la destitución de la fiscala general del Estado

Juicio político a Sandra Quiñónez pone de nuevo a prueba a la Cámara de Diputados

- Los oficialistas y opositores presentaron libelo acusatorio
- Para hoy, a las 09:00, está fijada la sesión para iniciar el proceso

PÁGINAS 4 a la 8 y 10 a la 12

- Le incriminan inacción en los casos de Cartes y sus aliados
- HC denunció en un acto político amenazas de muerte

Bajo lupa. Dardos apuntan a la titular del MP tras ser declarado HC significativamente corrupto por EEUU









Imedic, agua tónica y tapabocas Causas por corrupción en pandemia siguen aún sin juicio oral

PÁGINA 56

DOMINGO Sabores y colores se imponen en la Expo Frutilla



Eterno drama: Otra vez la bajante de los ríos complica el comercio

PÁGINA 20

Opacidad administrativa y antiguos problemas se mantienen en el IPS

PÁGINAS 24 y 25

Cambio de norma en DDJJ será positivo en compras públicas, según la DNCP

PÁGINA 19















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LIE TIGAIRO

LES PLUS BEAUX MARCHÉS D'EUROPE

DOLAC LE VENTRE DE ZAGREB

JEUX D'ÉTÉ

DIPLOMATIE



TERRE D'ÉCRIVAINS GRAHAM GREENE A PAIX RETROUVÉE À ANTIBES

REPORTAGE EN ISÈRE ET EN SAVOIE À LA RECHERCHE DES CÉPAGES OUBLIÉS **page 2**3



Loi pouvoir d'achat : Borne trouve la voie du compromis

Dans un Hémicycle tendu, l'adoption du paquet pouvoir d'achat marque une première victoire pour l'exécutif, forcé de s'entendre avec Les Républicains.

Le Sénat critique la réforme du Quai d'Orsay

UKRAINE Sur le front. ces Ukrainiens qui font la guerre avec leurs drones PAGE 9

SÉCURITÉ En Corse, Gérald Darmanin cible le crime organisé

RELIGION Au Canada, le pape en «pèlerinage pénitentiel»

ENTRETIEN Bernard Thévenet : «L'un des Tours les plus passionnants et spectaculaires»

ÉNERGIE L'État allemand à la rescousse d'Uniper, prisonnier du gaz russe

CHAMPS

 Un grand entretien avec Alain Supiot, penseur de l'État Social PAGE 24

Réponses à la question vendredi : La hausse des taux d'intérêt vous inquiète-t-elle?

TOTAL DE VOTANTS: 127 012

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr Êtes-vous satisfait

du vote du projet de loi pouvoir d'achat?

nationale, les débats se déroulent presque comme au Festival d'Avignon : il y a le «in» et le «off». D'un côté, dans un Hémicycle transformé en théâtre et à l'atmosphère électrique, les députés s'invectivent à coups «fachos», « avatollahs verts» et «incompétents». De l'autre, plus discrètement, le gouvernement et les responsa-bles du groupe Les Républi-cains (LR) se rapprochent pour trouver des compromis.

Le projet de loi sur le pouvoir d'achat en est l'illustration, il a été adopté par la coalition présidentielle avec le soutien décisif de LR et celui du Rassemble

ment national (RN). Élisabeth Borne va pouvoir continuer à roder sa nouvelle méthode autour de «compromis sans

→ DE NOUVELLES DÉPENSES SUR FOND DE RETOURNEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE → CE QUE CONTIENT LE TEXTE SUR LE POUVOIR D'ACHAT → LES FRANÇAIS SALUENT LES MESURES, MAIS RESTENT ATTENTIFS À LA DÉRIVE BUDGÉTAIRE → L'IMPORTANCE DE LA COMMISSION MIXTE PARITAIRE → L'ASSEMBLÉE PLONGÉE DANS UN CHAHUT PERMANENT PAGES 2 À 6 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Trois ans après l'incendie, le général chargé de la restauration de la cathédrale souligne la nécessité de tenir un calendrier très serré pour respecter la promesse présidentielle de reconstruire Notre-Dame en cinq ans. PAGE I7

La santé, nouvelle frontière des géants de la tech

Le rachat par Amazon du réseau de centres de soin One Medical marque une nouvelle étape dans l'ambition des Ga-fam d'investir le juteux marché de la santé. Aux montres connectées, bardées de cap-teurs biométriques, s'ajoutent la vente de médicaments et des services de téléconsulta-tions médicales. Leur maîtrise de l'analyse des données les a également imposés comme prestataires techniques de choix pour les laboratoires de recherche. Les réglementa-tions locales limitent toutefois leur appétit. PAGE 28



Quand la bise viendra

a Nupes aboie, la loi pouvoir d'achat passe. Au terme d'une semaine éprouvante pour les oreilles des dé-putés, Élisabeth Borne peut affiche son sourire malicieux. Elle a franchi ce premier obstacle et fait taire les persiflages qui, au lendemain des élections législatives, assuraient qu'elle ne passerait pas l'été. Avec une habileté certaine, elle a trouvé un point d'équilibre entre l'obstruction débraillée des Insoumis et le soutien embarrassant du Ras-semblement national. En théorie, le texte tel qu'il a été voté illustre les vertus de la délibé-ration démocratique. La fabrique de la loi a remplacé la boîte de Playmobil ; le Parlement a retrouvé son rôle. Première victoire, donc, pour le gouvernement, mais ce prologue est peu de chose en regard des cols abrupts et hostiles qu'il va falloir affronter. L'objet de ce texte, en effet, crée une illusion d'optique. La discussion n'a porté que sur l'argent à distri-buer, les salaires à augmenter, les prix à baisser, les taxes à réduire. Il fallait vraiment être habité d'un maximalisme mélenchoniste pour s'opposer radicalement à de telles propositions. Mais bientôt, c'est écrit, se tairont les cigales, la bise viendra : il faudra fermer le distributeur de billets.

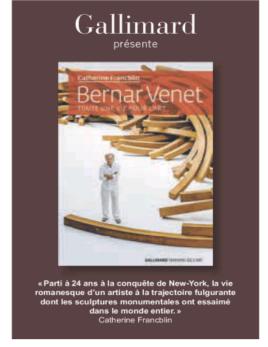
Devant les indispensables plans d'économies que la période exige, nos députés montreront-ils le même sens des responsabilités? Assurance-chômage, réforme des retraites, réforme de l'État, sobriété énergétique... la conversation alors roulera sur les efforts à fournir, les sacrifices à consentir. Elle risque fort de diviser, et jusque dans la majorité. Il en ira de même, et plus encore, quand s'im-

poseront à l'agenda - c'est inéluctable - les

Fermer le distributeur de billets

maux qui affaiblis-sent notre pays. Hôpital, école, sé-curité, immigra-tion...

On voit bien le danger : pour tenir un fragile équilibre, éviter soigneusement tout ce qui pourrait le perturber. Reporter le réel à une date ulté-rieure pour s'installer, comme le fit Jacques Chirac lors de son second mandat, dans une virtualité rassurante où n'émergent que les thèmes les plus consensuels. Même votée, la loi pouvoir d'achat ne répond donc pas à la grande interrogation de la rentrée : Élisabeth Borne est-elle là pour gérer les affaires courantes ou pour redresser un pays qui s'affaisse?■



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