



Why the U.S. Never Caught Mullah Omar

REVIEW

WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



Summertime...and The Pasta Is Easy

OFF DUTY

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What's News

World-Wide

FBI agents who searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago home Monday removed 11 sets of classified documents, including some marked as top secret and meant to be only available in special government facilities, according to a search warrant released by a federal court in Florida. **A1**

◆ **Chinese officials** are making plans for Xi to visit Southeast Asia and meet face-to-face with Biden in November, according to people familiar with the preparations. **A1**

◆ **The House** passed a climate and healthcare bill, sending it to Biden's desk, the culmination of a push by Democrats that Republicans cast as harmful government overreach. **A6**

◆ **Ukraine** said it is preparing plans to evacuate civilians from towns around the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. **A8**

◆ **Southern Baptist** leaders said that several of the denomination's major entities are under investigation by the Justice Department. **A4**

◆ **The virus** that causes paralytic polio has been found in New York City sewage samples, according to city and state health departments. **A3**

◆ **NHTSA** is losing its top administrator less than three months after lawmakers confirmed his appointment. **A4**

Business & Finance

◆ **U.S. stocks** rose Friday, with major indexes notching gains for the week as investors cheered signs of a slowdown in inflation. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow posted gains of 1.7%, 2.1% and 1.3%, respectively, in Friday's session. **A1**

◆ **Best Buy and Peloton** are cutting hundreds of jobs in a bid to reduce costs as they align their operations with ongoing changes in consumer-spending habits. **A1**

◆ **YouTube** is planning to launch an online store for streaming video services and has renewed talks with entertainment companies about the platform. **B1**

◆ **Five Chinese state-owned** companies said they intend to delist their American depositary shares from the NYSE, as Beijing and Washington remain at loggerheads over U.S. audit requirements. **B1**

◆ **The U.K. economy** contracted in the second quarter, with gross domestic product falling 0.1%, Britain's statistics agency said. **A9**

◆ **It was more expensive** to buy a U.S. home in June than it has been for any month in more than three decades. **A2**

◆ **Huawei's revenue** fell 5.9% in the first half of the year compared with a year earlier, amid continued pressure from U.S. restrictions. **B10**

OPINION

How Your Retirement Account Got Politicized **A13**

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Assailant Stabs 'Satanic Verses' Author Salman Rushdie



SOMBER SCENE: A still image from video shows a man being escorted away as people tended to Salman Rushdie after the author was attacked Friday at a lecture in Chautauqua, N.Y. Mr. Rushdie, who spent years under police protection after Iranian leaders called for his execution over the 1988 book 'The Satanic Verses,' was on a ventilator Friday evening, his agent said. **A3**

Stocks Stage Another Rally To Cap Fourth Week of Gains

By PAUL VIGNA
AND JOE WALLACE

U.S. stocks rose Friday, with major indexes notching gains for the week as investors cheered signs of a slowdown in inflation.

The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite both posted their fourth consecutive week of gains. That marked their longest stretch since a streak that ended in early

November, when both rose for five weeks in a row.

Investors hope a recent deceleration in consumer-price growth will encourage the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates at a slower pace, which in turn could prevent the economy from tipping into a recession. Lower rates tend to boost prices for stocks, bonds and more speculative assets like cryptocurrencies, and stocks

have swooned this year in part because of the Fed's aggressive rate increases.

Though inflation is still near the highest it has been in decades, data Wednesday showed that it had eased, clocking in at 8.5% in July compared with 9.1% in June. Data on Thursday showed that U.S. suppliers raised prices in July at the slowest annual pace since last fall, buoyed by a drop in energy

prices.

On Friday, the S&P 500 climbed 72.88 points, or 1.7%, to 4280.15. The Nasdaq Composite jumped 267.27 points, or 2.1%, to 13047.19.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 424.38 points, or 1.3%, to 33761.05.

The Dow rose 2.9% for the

Please turn to page A2

◆ Consumer sentiment improved this month..... **A2**

Best Buy, Peloton Cut Jobs, Slash Costs

By ALEX HARRING
AND SARAH NASSAUER

Best Buy Co. and Peloton Interactive Inc. are cutting hundreds of jobs across their operations in a bid to reduce costs, a sign of how companies are working to align their operations with ongoing changes in consumer-spending habits.

Best Buy cut hundreds of jobs in stores over the last week, including some workers who do jobs such as helping people purchase or plan home-entertainment system layouts, according to people familiar with the situation. A few weeks ago the company lowered its sales and profit targets for the year.

Peloton said it would shed about 800 jobs—roughly 13% of its workforce—as part of efforts to reduce its operating footprint and restructure the company. It also plans to raise prices on some of its fitness equipment and scale back its bricks-and-mortar retail ambitions.

"These are hard choices because we are impacting people's lives," said Peloton Chief Executive Barry McCarthy in an email to staff Friday. "These changes are essential if Peloton is ever going to become cash flow positive. Cash is oxygen. Oxygen is life."

The latest job cuts come as the overall U.S. job market remains strong. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.5% last month, a half-century low also seen just before the pandemic in early 2020, according to the

Please turn to page A6

Teens, Alcohol and a Crash: Case Shakes South Carolina

The Murdaugh killings have spawned a showdown over liability law

By VALERIE BAUERLEIN

HAMPTON, S.C.—The saga of disgraced South Carolina lawyer Alex Murdaugh includes five deaths, millions of dollars allegedly absconded from clients and, in July, indictments accusing him of murdering his wife and son, to which he pleaded not guilty.

It also spawned a pair of explosive and potentially groundbreaking lawsuits, with one tentatively set to go to trial this fall.

On one side sits the family of Mallory Beach, a 19-year-old killed in 2019 when a boat driven by Mr. Murdaugh's late son, Paul, crashed into a bridge to Parris Island. On the other sits Greg Parker, a wealthy convenience store magnate whose company Ms. Beach's family sued for

selling alcohol to an underage Paul before the boat crash.

Mr. Parker denies his company's culpability in the boat crash, saying the store clerk who sold the alcohol did nothing wrong because Paul Murdaugh presented a valid ID belonging to his older brother.

Mr. Parker, whose Savannah-based Parker's Kitchen chain has 71 stores in Georgia and South Carolina, is effectively the last defendant standing as others have settled and the Murdaugh family's assets are frozen. Under an unusual feature of South Carolina law, that means he could be held 100% financially responsible for the girl's death, with damages potentially running to tens of millions of dollars.

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EXCHANGE



REFASHIONING
Victoria's Secret is trying to convince women it can change. **B1**

The President Next Door Ruffles Seoul

Leader moves closer to citizens, too close for some

By HAKYUNG KIM

SEOUL—When South Korea's new leader vowed to relocate the presidential office to Lee In's central Seoul neighborhood, the 35-year-old marketing freelancer felt a tinge of excitement. Local development, he thought, could finally flourish in the sleepy Yongsan district.

Mr. Lee, whose apartment

Please turn to page A12

Xi Plans Biden Meeting During Trip in the Fall

By KEITH ZHAI

Chinese officials are making plans for Xi Jinping to visit Southeast Asia and meet face-to-face with President Biden in November, according to people familiar with the preparations, which would mark the Chinese leader's first international trip in nearly three years and his first in-person meeting with Mr. Biden since the American leader's inauguration.

The trip preparations suggest that the 69-year-old Mr. Xi is confident about his fortunes at a twice-a-decade congress set to take place this fall, where he is expected to break with recent precedent and claim a third term as

Energy Woes Plague France

Nuclear-power outages raise risk of winter blackouts. **A9**

Year-ahead power prices in Europe

€1,000 a megawatt-hour



Note: Prices are for periods of peak demand.

€1=\$1.03

Source: Argus Media

Communist Party chief. Officials involved in the preparations said the Chinese leader is first expected to conclude the party congress, then likely would attend a summit of leaders from the Group of 20 nations on the Indonesian island of Bali on Nov. 15-16.

From there, Mr. Xi is expected to travel to the Thai capital of Bangkok to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit two days later, they said.

Part of the preparations, which are still at the early stage and could be changed, is to prepare a possible meeting between Messrs. Xi and Biden on the sidelines of one of the

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On the beach

A photography special

LIFE & ARTS

Russia rebuffs calls for access to nuclear site

- IEA blocked from key Ukraine facility
- Risk level could 'change at any minute'

MEHUL SRIVASTAVA — KYIV

Russia has said it will not yet allow international inspectors to access Europe's largest nuclear power plant despite fears over the state of the Ukrainian facility under Moscow's occupation.

Kyiv and Moscow have traded accusations over who has attacked the Zaporizhzhia plant in southern Ukraine, which has been under Russian control since March following its full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

The site has suffered weeks of shelling that has caused fires and damaged buildings in the sprawling facility.

Rafael Grossi, the International Atomic Energy Agency chief, has said that while there was no immediate threat to nuclear safety, it could "change at any minute". "These military actions near such a large nuclear facility could lead to very serious consequences," he told the UN Security Council at an emergency meeting on Thursday night.

However, Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's envoy to international missions in Vienna, told the Izvestia newspaper in an interview yesterday that a visit by Grossi could not take place before "the end of August or early September".

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine has repeatedly warned that Russia's control of the plant creates a

radiation danger for Europe. "Only the complete withdrawal of Russians from the territory of the Zaporizhzhia... and the restoration of Ukraine's full control over the situation around the plant will guarantee the restoration of nuclear safety for all of Europe," he said in his most recent address on Thursday.

But Russia has refused demands to return control of the plant to Ukraine.

"The only way to ensure security at the plant is to have 100 per cent control over it. Ukraine's government are in no state to do that," Konstantin Kosachev, a senior Russian lawmaker in the upper house of parliament, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news wire.

A Kyiv official said that Ukraine was considering evacuating its citizens around the power plant.

International calls for access to the plant came after unconfirmed reports of felled power lines that could have been used to divert the plant's electricity into Russian-occupied territories such as the Crimean peninsula. The power plant's two operational reactors are still connected to the Ukrainian grid.

Russian forces have shelled the nearby city of Nikopol from the vicinity of the plant for months, while Ukraine says that it has held back retaliatory fire out of fear for damaging the plant.

Rushdie stabbed 'Satanic Verses' author attacked 33 years after fatwa



Salman Rushdie, the author whose writings have made him the target of death threats from Iran since 1989, was stabbed on stage in New York state yesterday *Report, Page 4*

Afghan women's voices On the cultural front line

LIFE & ARTS



Lunch with the FT Formula 1's Toto Wolff

LIFE & ARTS



Wheels in the wild Cycling across Kyrgyzstan

LIFE & ARTS



The hustle and bustle is back Janan Ganesh on big city living

LIFE & ARTS



Luxury watch prices halve as wealthy Chinese sell collections to stay afloat

SUN YU — BEIJING

The price of second-hand luxury goods has fallen rapidly in China over recent months, as even the wealthy cut back on spending and sell their Rolex watches and Hermès bags to raise cash. More than a dozen popular brands of luxury watches and bags have lost between 20 and 50 per cent of their value on the secondary market since Shanghai imposed a strict lockdown in March to crush a Covid-19 outbreak.

The restrictions in China's financial and commercial capital, as well as dozens of other regions, have forced small-business owners that accumulated luxury goods to reassess their cash flow.

Last week tens of thousands of tourists in Hainan, an island province billed as "China's Hawaii", were prevented from returning home to stem a Covid

outbreak. The government is promoting Hainan as a duty-free paradise where Chinese consumers can buy the same luxury goods they used to snap up in cities such as Paris, Rome and London before President Xi Jinping's controversial zero-Covid policy made it almost impossible to travel abroad.

Watchco, an industry portal for used luxury watches, said the price of second-hand Rolex Submariners — a model coveted by connoisseurs and collectors — had fallen 46 per cent since March. Luxury-bag dealerships in Shanghai and Hangzhou have also cut prices of classics such as Hermès Birkin bags by up to a fifth over the same period.

Pawnshops and other luxury-goods resellers said there had been a big rise in customers, led by cash-strapped business owners struggling to pay down debt and keep their operations afloat.

"The boom time is over," said James Wang, a seller of second-hand luxury watches in the eastern city of Nanjing. "We are entering a correction period that could last for a long time."

Wang said that he bought six Patek Philippe and 29 Rolex Submariner watches from distressed owners in July, compared with just five Rolex Submariners in the first quarter of this year.

"Patek Philippe says you never actually own its watch, but merely look after it for the next generation," said Wang. "That's not the case in a business crisis."

Shaun Rein at consultancy China Market Research said that the sudden rise in supply and resulting price drops of second-hand luxury goods were evidence of "very weak consumer confidence... It's probably the weakest I've seen in my 25 years in China."

Additional reporting by Tom Mitchell



Razoni's travails highlight complexities of grain trade

When the Lebanon-bound Razoni set sail from Odessa this month, the first ship to leave Ukraine with a cargo of food since Russia's invasion, the UN hailed it as carrying two commodities in short supply — "corn and hope". But the vessel never arrived in Lebanon, and its subsequent voyages to Turkey and Egypt have shone a light on the complex nature of commodities trading and the layers of middlemen, agents and insurers involved.

See of troubles — PAGE 3

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Aug 12	Prev	%Chg	Pair	Aug 12	Prev	%Chg	Yield (%)	Aug 12	Prev	Chg Bps
S&P 500	4242.59	4207.27	0.84	\$/£	1.025	1.025	0.00	US 2 yr	3.24	3.17	0.07
Nasdaq Composite	12921.14	12779.91	1.11	\$/¥	1.212	1.223	-0.85	US 10 yr	2.86	2.84	0.02
Dow Jones Ind	33541.94	33336.67	0.62	€/£	0.845	0.846	-0.12	US 30 yr	3.13	3.12	0.01
FTSEurofirst 300	1730.57	1728.46	0.12	\$/₹	133.705	132.565	0.85	UK 2 yr	2.15	2.13	0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	3770.58	3757.05	0.35	\$/₹	182.018	182.084	-0.04	UK 10 yr	2.11	2.08	0.03
FTSE 100	7500.09	7485.91	0.17	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	UK 30 yr	2.54	2.45	0.09
FTSE All-Share	4149.90	4131.26	0.45	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	JPN 2 yr	-0.09	-0.10	0.00
CAC 40	6953.06	6944.67	0.14	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	JPN 10 yr	0.18	0.19	0.00
Xetra Dax	13776.05	13694.51	0.74	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	JPN 30 yr	1.10	1.10	-0.01
Nikkei	28945.98	27019.33	7.12	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	GER 2 yr	0.90	0.85	0.15
Hang Seng	20175.62	20062.43	0.46	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	GER 10 yr	0.98	0.97	0.01
MSCI World	2892.23	2863.37	-0.04	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51	GER 30 yr	1.23	1.22	0.01
MSCI EM	1014.29	987.20	2.71	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51				
MSCI ACWI	650.71	649.75	0.15	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51				
FT Mibex 2500	5499.39	5486.73	-0.07	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51				
FT Wilshire 5000	42897.39	42504.85	-0.06	\$/₹	0.967	0.972	-0.51				

Prices are latest for the edition
Data provided by Morningstar

A Nikkei Company



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THE MOST FABULOUS JEWELS IN THE WORLD



ERIC SCHAFER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The New Exchequer Dam in California. Global warming has increased the state's chances of a megastorm to 1 in 50, a study found.

Fox on Its Heels Amid Libel Suit On Voter Fraud

By JEREMY W. PETERS

In the weeks after President Donald J. Trump lost the 2020 election, the Fox Business host Lou Dobbs claimed to have "tremendous evidence" that voter fraud was to blame. That evidence never emerged but a new culprit in a supposed scheme to rig the election did: Dominion Voting Systems, a maker of election technology, whose algorithms, Mr. Dobbs said, "were designed to be inaccurate."

Maria Bartiromo, another host on the network, falsely stated that "Nancy Pelosi has an interest in this company." Jeanine Pirro, a Fox News personality, speculated that "technical glitches" in Dominion's software "could have affected thousands of absentee mail-in ballots."

Those unfounded accusations are now among the dozens cited in Dominion's defamation lawsuit against the Fox Corporation, which alleges that Fox repeatedly aired false, far-fetched and exaggerated allegations about Dominion and its purported role in a plot to steal votes from Mr. Trump.

Those bogus assertions — made day after day, including allegations that Dominion was in fact for the communist government in Venezuela and that its voting machines could switch votes from one candidate to another — are at the center of the libel suit, one of the most extraordinary brought against an American media company in more than a generation.

First Amendment scholars say the case is a rarity in libel law. Defamation claims typically involve a single disputed statement. But Dominion's complaint is replete with example after example of false statements, many of them made after the facts were widely known. And such suits are often quickly dismissed, because of the First Amendment's broad free speech protections and the high-powered lawyers available to a major media company like Fox. If they do go forward, they are usu-

Continued on Page 16

The Megastorm That Could Inundate California

By RAYMOND ZHONG

California, where earthquakes, droughts and wildfires have shaped life for generations, also faces the growing threat of another kind of calamity, one whose fury would be felt across the entire state.

This one will come from the sky. According to new research, it will very likely take shape one winter in the Pacific, near Hawaii. No one knows exactly when, but from the vast expanse of tropical air around the Equator, atmospheric currents will pluck out a long tendrill of water vapor and funnel it toward the West Coast. This vapor plume will be enormous, hundreds of miles wide and more than 1,200 miles long, and seething with ferocious winds. It

Monthlong Downpour Is Made More Likely by Climate Change

will be carrying so much water that if you converted it all to liquid, its flow would be about 26 times what the Mississippi River discharges into the Gulf of Mexico at any given moment.

When this torpedo of moisture reaches California, it will crash into the mountains and be forced upward. This will cool its payload of vapor and kick off weeks and waves of rain and snow.

The superstorm that Californians have long feared will have begun. In centuries past, great rains deluged the Pacific Coast, and

strong storms in recent decades have caused havoc and ruin. But, because of climate change, this one would be worse than any in living memory.

Drenching rain will pummel cities and towns. At times, the hills around Los Angeles could get nearly 2 inches of rain an hour. Heavy rain and snow in the Sierra Nevada will test dams in the Central Valley, one of the world's most productive farm belts.

While all this has been happening, another filament of moisture-laden air will have formed over the Pacific and hurtled toward California. Then another. And another.

After a month, nearly 16 inches of precipitation, on average, will have fallen across the state. Large swaths of mountainous areas will

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A YEAR SINCE AFGHANISTAN'S FALL



BRYAN DENTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

SPECIAL SECTION On Aug. 15, 2021, the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan when they walked into the capital, Kabul. The lives of Afghans, whether they fled abroad or were left behind, were irrevocably upended.

THE MAGAZINE After barring girls from high school — and harboring the leader of Al Qaeda — the Taliban government risks becoming a pariah state, jeopardizing the aid that keeps Afghans alive.

INTERNATIONAL 4-10

Clearing Out Guantanamo

As the Biden administration looks for places to safely send cleared detainees, a rehabilitation program in Saudi Arabia could provide a solution. PAGE 10

NATIONAL 12-23, 30

Violence at Idyllic Retreat

The attack on Salman Rushdie took place at the Chautauqua Institution, which has hosted cultural and Christian leaders for nearly 150 years. PAGE 23

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Manufacturing Goes Green

A battery plant in Commerce, Ga., is at the center of the electric-vehicle revolution and the effort to make truck lovers want a pickup that plugs in. PAGE 6

ARTS & LEISURE

A Successor to 'Thrones'?

"Game of Thrones" was the most popular show in HBO history. Its first spin-off, "House of the Dragon," hopes to bring those viewers back. PAGE 7

SUNDAY OPINION

Karim Sadjadpour

PAGE 6



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Trump Lawyer Asserted Return of Secret Papers Was Completed by June

Right's Talk Darkens, and Violence Rises 'Classified' Marking on Seized Files

By ALAN FEUER

The armed attack this past week on an F.B.I. office in Ohio by a supporter of former President Donald J. Trump who was enraged by the bureau's search of Mr. Trump's private residence in Florida was one of the most disturbing episodes of right-wing political violence in recent months.

But it was hardly the only one. In the year and a half since a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol, threats of political violence and actual attacks have become a steady reality of American life, affecting school board officials, election workers, flight attendants, librarians and even members of Congress, often with few headlines and little reaction from politicians.

In late June, a former Marine stepped down as the grand marshal of a July 4 parade in Houston after a deluge of threats that focused on her support of transgender rights. A few weeks later, the gay mayor of an Oklahoma city quit his job after what he described as a series of "threats and attacks bordering on violence."

Even the federal judge who authorized the warrant to search for classified material at Mar-a-Lago, Mr. Trump's beachfront home and club, became a target. On pro-Trump message boards, several threats were issued against him and his family, with one person writing, "I see a rope around his neck."

While this welter of events may feel disparate, occurring at different times and places and to different types of people, scholars who study political violence point to a common thread: the heightened use of bellicose, dehumanizing and apocalyptic language, particularly by prominent figures in right-wing politics and media.

Several right-wing or Republican figures reacted to the search of Mar-a-Lago not only with demands to dismantle the F.B.I., but also with warnings that the action had triggered "war."

"This just shows everyone what many of us have been saying for a very long time," Joe Kent, a Trump-endorsed House candidate in Washington State, said on

Continued on Page 16

By MAGGIE HABERMAN
and GLENN THRUSH

At least one lawyer for former President Donald J. Trump signed a written statement in June asserting that all material marked as classified and held in boxes in a storage area at Mr. Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence and club had been returned to the government, four people with knowledge of the document said.

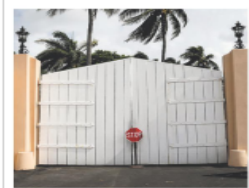
The written declaration was made after a visit on June 3 to Mar-a-Lago by Jay I. Bratt, the top counterintelligence official in the Justice Department's national security division.

The existence of the signed declaration, which has not previously been reported, is a possible indication that Mr. Trump or his team were not fully forthcoming with federal investigators about the material. And it could help explain why a potential violation of a criminal statute related to obstruction was cited by the department as one basis for seeking the warrant used to carry out the search of the former president's home on Monday, an extraordinary step that generated political shock waves.

It also helps to further explain the sequence of events that prompted the Justice Department's decision to conduct the search after months in which it had tried to resolve the matter through discussions with Mr. Trump and his team.

An inventory of the material taken from Mr. Trump's home that was released on Friday showed that F.B.I. agents seized 11 sets of

Continued on Page 15



Outside Donald J. Trump's Florida home on Tuesday.

Democrats Laboring to Retain Crucial Asian American Votes

By ALEXANDER BURNS

JOHNS CREEK, Ga. — At a brightly lit restaurant in suburban Atlanta, nestled in a tidy neighborhood of office buildings and private drives, State Senator Michelle Au brought up the mass shooting that lingers as a singular trauma in the local Asian American community.

Addressing a predominantly Chinese American group of about 40 people, Dr. Au, a practicing anesthesiologist, delicately alluded to "the shootings that took place in metro Atlanta on March 16 of 2021" as she launched into a plea for new gun-control laws that Georgia Republicans oppose. She did not need to remind her audience of the details of the deadly attack carried out last year by a white gunman against several massage parlors in the Atlanta area, killing eight people includ-

ing six women of Asian descent. "Republicans, while they talk a big game about public safety, they don't seem to be as interested in actually proposing concrete solutions to deal with it," Dr. Au told the crowd.

The issue of gun safety is one of several that Democrats like Dr. Au are putting at the center of their argument to Asian American voters ahead of the November elections, as they work to win over the array of communities that make up America's fastest-growing demographic group.

Dr. Au's district — a well-paved tangle of shopping centers and office complexes where law firms list their names in Korean and Indian grocers compete for space with bubble tea chains — is a case study in the social and political

Continued on Page 21

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Cop still on job despite assault claim

Ex-girlfriend alleges sexual abuse; LAPD corroborates it, then quietly backtracks.

By Kevin Rector

Kelsie Mathews thought she'd finally won a bit of justice.

She had worked with Los Angeles police investigators for months to prove that her former boyfriend, an LAPD officer, had sexually assaulted her and acted inappropriately with other women and arrestees. In September, she received a letter saying the investigators had corroborated her claims.

The letter said an "appropriate penalty" would be imposed on her ex-boyfriend, Officer Oscar Rojas, but it would not be disclosed to Mathews or the public due to confidentiality laws around police personnel records.

Mathews, a 35-year-old actress and television production assistant, said relief washed over her. Prosecutors had already decided not to charge Rojas criminally, citing a lack of evidence, but the LAPD's letter made it seem as if he would at least be held accountable within the department.

"Although I don't know the exact punishment, knowing that my tears didn't fall on deaf ears is a small victory and some kind of justice," she said in an emotional TikTok post.

That feeling wouldn't last.

Mathews' case is one of many in recent years in which LAPD officers who

[See LAPD, A10]



Photographs by BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

TRAIL CREW LEADER Henry O'Donnell levels a section of the "Lost Sierra Route" in Quincy, Calif. He hopes the project can "find the balance between bringing [tourists here] and having them go home."

Hoping trail leads to revival

'Lost Sierra Route' aims to link up mountain towns across 600 miles and draw hikers and cyclists to a struggling region

By Jessica Garrison

PORTOLA, Calif. — The rutted dirt road twisted ever skyward through miles of lonely pine trees and then abruptly ended at the base of a mountain peak. The workers parked their truck, hoisted a jackhammer, a full gas can and shovels on their backs, and began to march up through the brush.

They didn't take a trail, because there was no trail. That's why they had to haul the jackhammer.

The workers — and a tribal monitor, Jess Lowry, who sometimes accompanies them — are part of an audacious infrastructure project that has been quietly underway in California's northern Sierra for the last several years.

Yard by dusty, backbreaking yard, workers have set out to build 600 miles of trails to connect remote mountain towns such as Sierra City and Chester that once flourished

[See Trail, A12]



NORTHERN SIERRA towns such as Greenville, which was incinerated by the Dixie fire in 2021, face mounting economic problems.

State's risk of ruinous deluge growing

UCLA researchers say warmer climate could fuel a 'megaflood' rivaling that of 1862.

By Louis Sahagún

Even today, as California struggles with severe drought, global warming has doubled the likelihood that weather conditions will unleash a deluge as devastating as the Great Flood of 1862, according to a new study from UCLA.

In that inundation 160 years ago, 30 consecutive days of rain triggered monster flooding that roared across much of the state and changed the course of the Los Angeles River, relocating its mouth from Venice to Long Beach.

If a similar storm were to happen today, the study says, up to 10 million people would be displaced, major freeways such as Interstates 5 and 80 would be shut down for months, and population centers including Stockton, Fresno and parts of Los Angeles would be submerged — a \$1-trillion disaster larger than any in world history.

It would also probably be "bigger in almost every respect" than what scientists have come to call the "ARK-Storm scenario" of 1862, said climate scientist Daniel Swain, co-author of the study, published in the journal *Science Advances*.

"There's more rain overall, more intense rainfall on an hourly basis and stronger wind," he said.

The paper, published Friday, is the latest piece of research

[See Deluge, A11]

Questions linger over 'mild' variant

Omicron could be as inherently dangerous as prior coronaviruses despite its lesser toll.

By Melissa Healy

For more than two years, Cathy Baron and Sara Alicia Costa managed to duck the coronavirus. But despite their being fully vaccinated and boosted, the Omicron variant finally caught them.

Baron is an actress and dance instructor who lives in Santa Monica. Costa is an architect in Austin, Texas. Both are 40 and healthy. But the two friends saw two very different sides of the variant, which they expected to be gentler than earlier strains.

For Costa, the Omicron variant lived up to its repu-

tation for mildness, causing headaches and "something like a crummy cold" for a couple of days. She was visiting Baron and surfing in Santa Monica a week after testing positive.

Baron's illness was deeply chastening. She was flattened for several days with a high fever and debilitating muscle aches, and was too exhausted to teach her pole-dancing class for three weeks. Two months later, she's still coping with fatigue, brain fog and episodic coughing fits.

Baron and Costa are what scientists would dismiss as an "n of 2." If their experience were a study, the sample size would be far too small to draw any conclusions, especially one as important as whether the Omicron variant really is

[See Omicron, A16]

COVID shadows new academic year

Tutoring, therapy and vigilance sit atop Southland parents' back-to-school checklist. CALIFORNIA, B1

Crypto company's failure takes toll

Michael Hiltzik writes that customers of Celsius say the firm's collapse has upended their lives. PERSPECTIVES, A2

Weather Mostly sunny and hot. L.A. Basin: 93/67. **B10**

Soft-top boards making waves

Weekend warriors and pro surfers alike have joined the fun for foams' craze. WEEKEND, L10

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Melody Gutierrez Los Angeles Times

MELODY GUTIERREZ, with her brother and older sister in front of their Wonder Valley home.

COLUMN ONE

Abandoned homesteads fascinated me. Now my childhood home is one.

By Melody Gutierrez

REPORTING FROM WONDER VALLEY, CALIF.

Helin Bereket spent hours driving her rental car down the dusty roads just east of Twenty-nine Palms earlier this year, photographing the abandoned homesteads that littered the desert landscape. The Berlin-based photographer had read online about the forgotten shacks filled with shriveled reminders that they were once homes decades ago.

Many of the homesteads were built in the 1950s as part of the Small Tracts Act, a popular federal program that awarded five-acre parcels to people who agreed to build homes on the property. Today, the abandoned shacks are as much a part of the desert as the creosote bushes that dot the land.

As her lens captured the dilapidated exteriors that the

[See Home, A14]

Trump DOJ should throw the heaviest possible book at him, law professors say **OUTLOOK**



Commanders Preseason opens with a new name, new uniforms — and a defeat **SPORTS**



On break The Magazine section will return next week

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Trump's secrets: How a records dispute escalated to an FBI raid

BY JOSH DAWSEY, ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN, JACQUELINE ALEMANY AND DEVLIN BARRETT

As FBI agents pulled up to Donald Trump's Florida club Monday morning to conduct a search for top-secret government documents — approved by a federal judge and requested by the attorney general of the United States — the former president was by chance already huddled

with his lawyers in Trump Tower in New York, a thousand miles to the north.

They were supposed to be preparing Trump to be deposed later in the week in an entirely different matter, a civil probe of Trump's family business. But the session was interrupted by a phone call informing the former president of the extraordinary events unfolding at his Mar-a-Lago Club, said Ron Fischetti, his New York attorney.

A remarkable moment for the former president — and a turning point in his relationship with the DOJ

Trump and his close allies quickly became transfixed by the events unfolding in Palm Beach, people familiar with the day said. Some monitored the agents via CCTV security cameras as they searched Trump's office and personal quarters and a first-floor

storage facility, another of his lawyers, Christina Bobb, told Fox News. Distracted, Trump kept jumping on the phone, Fischetti said, trying to figure out why the agents, casually dressed in khakis and polo shirts to cause less of a scene, were roaming the seaside

facility he had tried to brand "the winter White House," which was mostly closed for the summer.

So distressing was the search that the usually loquacious Trump team stayed mum for much of the day — until 6:51 p.m., when Trump himself confirmed the raid in a bombastic statement that declared it unjustified and politically motivated. "They even broke into my safe!" he announced.

The court-authorized search

was a remarkable moment even for Trump, who has been under investigation by state and federal prosecutors nearly continuously since he swore the oath of office in 2017. What began as a low-level dispute over the Trump White House's chaotic and haphazard record-keeping had morphed into a deeply serious probe of

SEE DOJ ON A6

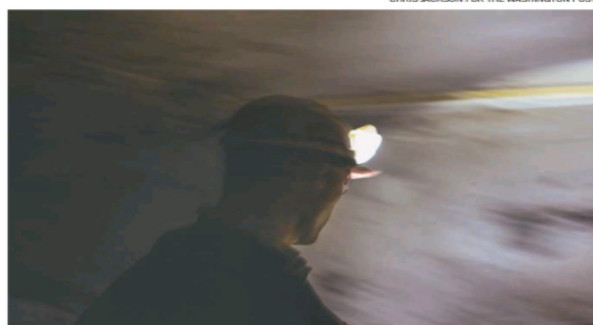
The Fix: Debunking the "What about Obama?" comparison. **A13**



CHRIS JACKSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



ROGER MAY



ROGER MAY

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: An engine for a prototype electric school bus made by GreenPower Motor, which is opening a plant in South Charleston, W.Va. A sign in Bluefield, W.Va., attests to the historical importance of coal to the state, which has shed 40,000 coal mining jobs since 2012. A mine foreman in McDowell County, W.Va.



Meltsville: Here's how extreme heat can affect a city that's not used to it. **A12**

Coal country will test the power of climate bill

W.Va. banks on influx of new factory jobs

BY JEFF STEIN
IN CHARLESTON, W.VA.

Travis Elswick used to spend his days detonating millions of tons of explosives, blowing holes in the Appalachian Mountains so miners could reach the coal underneath. Now he's considering applying for a job at a battery plant expected to open here soon, aiming to join the growing domestic industry moving the U.S. economy off fossil fuels.

Elswick's potential jump from a "surface blaster" for coal to a clean energy worker illustrates a key idea behind Democrats' landmark economic legislation: that the nation can fight climate change by reviving an industrial core hollowed out by decades of globalization and the shift to a service-sector economy. Passed by the House on Friday and soon to be signed into law by President Biden, the Inflation Reduction Act includes hundreds of billions of dollars designed in part to return manufacturing jobs to states like West Virginia that have been pummeled by outsourcing, while aiming to slow global warming in the process.

SEE COAL ON A10

Falling prices, little relief

COMMODITIES COULD REVERSE COURSE

Developing world still faces threat of famine

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

Many of the global prices for food, fuel and fertilizer that spiked when Russia invaded Ukraine have returned to their prewar levels, defying the most dire forecasts even as policymakers warn of the continued risk of famine and financial crisis in the developing world.

Russia's Feb. 24 attack on Ukraine sent a shock wave through commodity markets. Since then, however, fears that the war would cut off all exports through the Black Sea have proved unfounded.

Russian grain cargoes for months have sailed from the docks in Novorossiysk to customers in Africa and the Middle East. And limited grain shipments from the Ukrainian port of Odesa resumed Aug. 1 under a deal brokered by the United Nations.

Pressure on commodity markets also eased after Wall Street speculators began selling their holdings in response to the Federal Reserve's interest-rate increases, which made bets on rising commodity prices less certain.

Wheat is now less expensive than when the war began. Brent crude oil, the global benchmark, hovers around its mid-February level of \$97 per barrel. And the price of urea fertilizer, which

SEE COMMODITIES ON A22

China's growing reach is reshaping a Pacific chain

Rising fears over losing self-rule in strategically located Solomon Islands

BY MICHAEL E. MILLER

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS — The half-built stadium is hard to miss in a country of crumbling infrastructure. Cranes swing massive pieces of steel. Welding sparks rain down from the rafters. Trucks hauling concrete rumble late into the night. Above it all soar two flags, one belonging to this underdeveloped island nation and the other to the country building and paying for the

\$50 million project: China. "For Shared Future," read signs in English and Chinese.

That future has its critics, however.

As China rapidly extends its reach in the Pacific, its growing influence is unmistakable in the Solomon Islands, a country with which it established diplomatic ties only in 2019. The relationship between the world's most populous country and this Pacific archipelago of 700,000 people was thrust into the spotlight this year when word leaked that they had struck a secret security agreement. The United States and its allies fear the pact could pave the way for the establishment of a Chinese military base in the

SEE CHINA ON A16

A family accused of killing another

Ohio prosecutors allege that eight people were murdered as a means to get custody of a child

BY CHRIS GRAVES

PIKE COUNTY, OHIO — Weather has worn the name "Rhoden" from the mailbox on Union Hill Road here in the rural, rolling hills of southwest Ohio.

Six seasons of snow and rain and sun have grayed the outbuildings, faded the "no trespassing" and "private property" signs meant to keep out the curious and the true-crime gawkers. A sole ribbon of once-yellow tape is illegible.

All that remains of evidence that a family once lived — and died — here is a faded poster tacked to a barn and showing photos of smiling faces and a question:

"Do you know who murdered



TYWRIGHT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A headstone marks where five of the eight slain members of the Rhoden family are buried in McDermott, Ohio.

us on April 22, 2016?"

Prosecutors say they know exactly who executed the eight family members, and they are gearing up to present their case to a jury when the first trial in Ohio's most costly and complex criminal investigation starts in late August. The trial will give onlookers a front-row view into a corner of America known more through stereotypes than complex realities: a place where, often, family protects family at all costs and where love and loyalty trump all else.

"A lot of this, and I don't mean this in any kind of derogatory way, is the code of the hills," said Mike Allen, a Cincinnati-based criminal defense lawyer who has

SEE FAMILY ON A14

ARTS...E1
BUSINESS...G1
CLASSIFIEDS...G12

COMICS...INSERT
EDITORIALS/LETTERS...A23
LOTTERIES...C3

OUTLOOK...B1
OBITUARIES...C7
STOCKS...O6

TRAVEL...F1
WEATHER...C12
WORLD NEWS...A18

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ANÁLISE Igor Gielow

Desocupação do Afeganistão faz 1 ano com dilema sobre terrorismo

Com o início da retomada do Afeganistão pelo Talibã há um ano, os EUA retiraram seus funcionários do país asiático e o deixavam à própria sorte após 20 anos de ocupação. Ainda é cedo para dizer se isso vai piorar o cenário do terrorismo — resta aos americanos bombardearem ameaças potenciais. **Mundo A13**

ilustração Paula S. Lloso

Jamais votaria em Lula, diz Mario Vargas Llosa

Consagrado no romance e controverso na política, o peruano Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel de Literatura, diz à Folha que não queria estar na situação de escolher Bolsonaro ou Lula. Mas no segundo jamais votaria. **C1**

Ricardo A. Pereira Silêncio democrático

Primeiro, o YouTube excluiu um vídeo em que Bolsonaro atacava o sistema eleitoral, baseando-se em falsidades. Depois, um ministro do TSE mandou apagar do YouTube um vídeo em que Lula chamava Bolsonaro de genocida. Agora é só prosseguir esta prática até ficarmos todos calados. **C7**

Ataque a Rushdie foi premeditado; escritor melhora

C10

Reabertas há 1 ano, escolas ainda têm desafios incertos

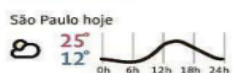
O Brasil completa um ano da reabertura das escolas ainda sem um diagnóstico preciso das perdas causadas pela pandemia no aprendizado e na saúde mental dos alunos. Sem monitoramento do governo federal, avaliação do cenário é parcial. **Cotidiano B1**

EDITORIAIS A2

Além do teto
Sobre revisão de normas e práticas orçamentárias.

Congresso fértil
Acerca de projeto de lei que facilita laqueaduras.

ATMOSFERA



Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



O casal de atores Tiago Pessoa (sentado) e Paulo Tardivo com filhos Sara e Davi, adotados em 2017. Karime Xavier/Folhapress

Gastos com servidor atingem o menor patamar em 26 anos

Fatia do funcionalismo cai de 4,2% a 3,4% do PIB; gestão Bolsonaro diz ter reduzido cargos de 630 mil para 570 mil

Projeções apresentadas pelo Ministério da Economia a integrantes do mercado financeiro indicam que o gasto com servidores, que chegou a consumir 4,2% do PIB, deve encerrar 2022 em 3,4% do Produto Interno Bruto. É a menor fatia em 26 anos.

A queda resulta de política de contenção de custos com os quadros — o número de funcionários ativos, de 570 mil segundo a Economia, fechou junho no menor patamar em 13 anos após redução de quase 10% no governo de Jair Bolsonaro (PL).

A Economia atribui esse corte à digitalização na gestão federal. Representantes dos servidores, porém, dizem que desde os anos 1990 o funcionalismo caiu 12% e a população cresceu 40%, onerando sobretudo saúde e educação. **Mercado A17**

dia dos pais

Nicolás José Isola

Ser pai é ser um espectador presente. Assiste, fala, repete. Cuida. Presença **A3**

Cotidiano B4

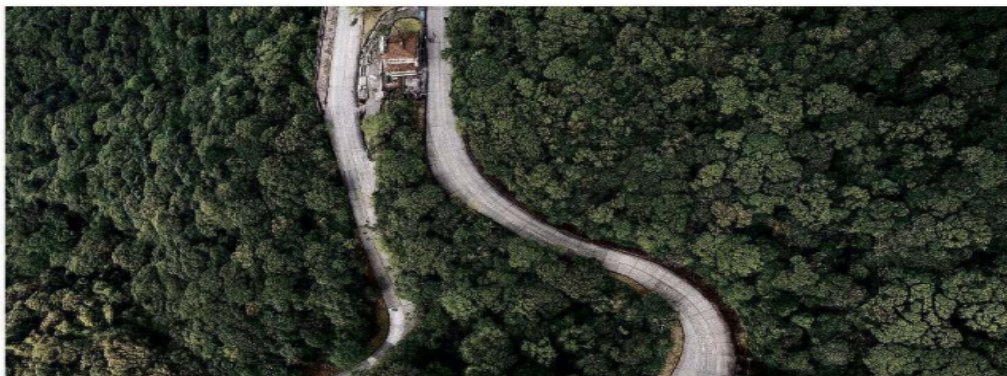
Adoção por casais gays aumenta 93% em 2 anos, mas se concentra em SP e Sul

Equilíbrio B5

Negros buscam desconstruir ideias de ausência paterna

Mercado A25

Licença paternidade maior trava em falta de lei e peso cultural



Eduardo Knapp/Folhapress

CAMINHO DE D. PEDRO 1º RUMO AO GRITO DA INDEPENDÊNCIA SERÁ RESTAURADO

A Calçada da Lorena, via pavimentada de pedras construída no final do século 18 e que serviu de rota para o então príncipe regente em seu trajeto de ida e volta de Santos em setembro de 1822, será objeto de recuperação e conservação. **Cotidiano B3**

Exército vê risco de violência nas eleições

O Alto Comando do Exército teme um aumento da violência eleitoral neste ano diante do acirramento da polarização política. Segundo relatos de familiares familiarizados com recente reunião do colegiado militar, batalhões devem ficar a postos nos quartéis para eventuais convocações. Embora prevista, a medida não chegou a ser tomada em outros anos. **Política A4**

Bolsonaro admite 'coisa errada' na ditadura militar

Em entrevista a um canal do YouTube, o presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL) admitiu que houve "coisa errada" durante a ditadura militar (1964-85). Ele exemplificou com "cascudo, tapa ou afogamento", mas não falou em pessoas mortas pelo regime. **Política A12**

Centralizador e político, Moraes assume TSE na 3ª

Política A10

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El cartismo promete no poner trabas a la nueva precandidatura presidencial

Marito impone a Wiens como cabeza en chapa oficialista

El ministro de Obras Públicas reemplazará a Hugo Velázquez, quien renunció tras ser acusado de corrupto por EEUU. El TEP espera la inscripción para tomar una decisión.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Interesados en Vicepresidencia realizan un intenso lobby

PÁGINA 8

Beneficios de la política no cesan para hijos de ex poderosos

PÁGINA 10

Monumentos históricos están en completo abandono

PÁGINAS 24 y 25

Hacienda quiere evitar que el Parlamento elija deuda a tomar

PÁGINA 13

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PÁGINAS 26 y 27

DOMINGO

Jorge Rolón Luna, abogado y analista
"EEUU nos vino a decir que nuestras instituciones no funcionan, y es grave"

PÁGINA 6



James Spalding, ex director de Itaipú
"Era insostenible llegar casi al noveno mes y no tener presupuesto en Itaipú"

PÁGINA 14



Mauricio Larrosa, gerente de CCR
"La pandemia cambió de manera significativa los hábitos de consumo"

PÁGINA 20



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