

## What's News

## Business &amp; Finance

U.S. existing home sales fell in July for the sixth straight month, the longest streak of declines in more than eight years, as higher mortgage rates and a shortage of homes for sale cool the once red-hot market. **A1**

◆ **Investor Ryan Cohen** cashed out his entire position in Bed Bath & Beyond this week, capping a wild stretch of trading in the company's shares and marking the latest sign that meme-stock mania is still alive. **A1**

◆ **The Big Ten struck** a new seven-year TV-rights contract with Fox, CBS and NBC that people familiar with the matter said is worth up to about \$7.5 billion. **A1**

◆ **Turkey's central bank** unexpectedly cut key interest rates for the first time in eight months, resuming an unconventional policy that triggered a currency crisis last year. **A8**

◆ **St. Louis Fed chief Bullard** said he is considering support for another large interest-rate increase at the central bank's policy meeting next month. **A9**

◆ **U.S. stocks edged higher**, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both posting gains of 0.2% and the Dow Industrials advancing 0.1%. **B11**

◆ **Stablecoin issuer Tether** said that it switched the accounting firm that signs off on its attestation reports to BDO Italia, the Italian member firm of BDO. **B1**

◆ **Kohl's said** its net income fell 63% in the latest quarter on lower sales, and the department-store chain cut its guidance for the year. **B3**

## World-Wide

◆ **A federal judge said** he would make public at least part of an affidavit detailing the evidence that led the FBI to search Trump's Mar-a-Lago home, after a Justice Department official said a full release would jeopardize the investigation into the former president's handling of classified information. **A3**

◆ **The Biden administration** is planning for a return to its practice of paying for Covid-19 shots and treatments, shifting more control of pricing and coverage to the healthcare industry in ways that could generate sales for companies, and costs for consumers, for years to come. **A4**

◆ **Ukraine's Zelensky met** with the leaders of Turkey and the U.N. to discuss food shipments from Ukraine and the increasingly tense situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, as Ukraine continued to hit Russian logistical hubs. **A6**

◆ **Russia is moving** to close a nonprofit organization that helps Russian Jews emigrate to Israel, amid tensions over Israel's stance on Russia's war in Ukraine. **A16**

◆ **The man accused** of trying to kill Salman Rushdie was motivated by strong feelings that the acclaimed novelist had disrespected Islam, prosecutors said. **A3**

◆ **More than 7.5 million** people who defaulted on their federal student loans would be able to regain their eligibility for financial aid under guidelines released by the Biden administration. **A5**

◆ **Died: Hanae Mori**, 96, fashion designer. **A16**

CONTENTS Markets... B11 Arts in Review... A10-11 Opinion... A13-15 Business News... B3 Sports... A12 Crossword... A11 Technology... B4 Equities... B8 U.S. News... A2-5 Heard on Street... B12 Weather... A11 Marathon... A11-14 World News... A6-13

© 2022 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

## Trump Organization's Former Finance Chief Pleads Guilty



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Allen Weisselberg, center, a longtime confidant of Donald Trump, pleaded guilty Thursday to 15 felonies for what he admitted was a tax-fraud scheme he committed while chief financial officer at the former president's company. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Mr. Weisselberg will testify if called as a witness at the Trump Organization's trial. **A3**

## Investor in Bed Bath &amp; Beyond Sells Stake, Stirs Stock Frenzy

By CAITLIN MCCABE AND GUNJAN BANERJI

Billionaire investor Ryan Cohen cashed out his entire position in Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. this week, capping a wild stretch of trading in the stock and marking the latest sign that meme-stock mania is still alive.

Mr. Cohen, the co-founder of pet-supply retailer Chewy Inc., developed a deep fan base of individual investors last year after he ascended to become chairman of GameStop

Corp., the original meme stock. In March, he revealed another activist position in Bed Bath & Beyond, sparking a rally in its share price.

Many individual investors followed Mr. Cohen into Bed Bath & Beyond, in support of his endeavor to push for changes to turn the company around. They cheered his agreement to add three new directors to the board. Then, this week, they watched him unload his shares, some with dismay.

Just a few days ago, the

trajectory of the stock seemed different. Many individual investors started piling into the shares in August, and chatter on social media lit up once again. Trading activity was haywire at times, marked by halts in trading and frenzied activity in the company's options bets, with many positioning for an even bigger swing in the shares.

At its August peak, Bed Bath & Beyond shares climbed to \$30 intraday, up nearly 500% for the month. They finished Thursday at \$18.55,

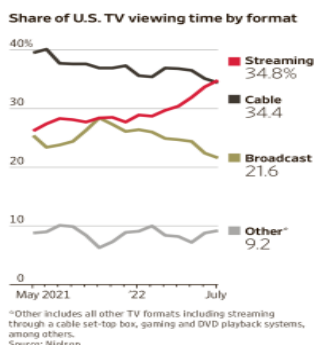
down 20%—after Mr. Cohen's proposal to sell his shares was revealed—before falling an additional 44% in after-hours trading after securities filings showed that he had sold all of his shares.

"Somebody bought it at \$30, and someone lost 12 bucks a share to enrich Ryan Cohen," said Michael Pachter, an equity research analyst who covers GameStop for Wedbush Securities. "That's a retail investor who bought the stock."

Please turn to page A5

## Stream Services Overtake Cable TV

Americans spent more of their July TV-viewing time streaming content on services such as Netflix, YouTube and HBO Max than they did watching cable television, according to data from Nielsen, marking the first month that streaming has overtaken cable. **B1**



## Big Ten Reaches New Seven-Year TV Deal For Up to \$7.5 Billion

By LAINE HIGGINS

The Big Ten struck a massive new seven-year contract with Fox, CBS and NBC that people familiar with the matter said is worth up to about \$7.5 billion, catapulting the conference to the front of a cash-driven race for domination among a dwindling number of top college conferences.

The Big Ten's contract is the richest ever for a college athletic conference and the latest landmark in an era in which the surging value of college football's broadcast rights has redefined and reshaped the sport. Whereas a group of five top athletic conferences recently ruled college football's airwaves, that number has narrowed to two: the Big Ten and the Southeastern Conference.

The Big Ten has separated itself from other leagues in part by expanding the geographic

reach of the conference to add one of the nation's top media markets. Less than two months ago, the Big Ten announced it had landed Southern California and UCLA as future members, shocking the sports world by expanding the Midwest-based conference to the West Coast and driving up the bidding to telecast Big Ten games.

The SEC did something similar last year, announcing it was adding football behemoths Texas and Oklahoma by 2025. In 2024, when the SEC's new deal with Walt Disney Co.'s ESPN takes effect, the conference will generate more than \$800 million annually in media rights, according to a person familiar with the matter. That number stands to increase again after the new teams join.

The Big Ten and SEC each will have 16 member schools once their current expansion

Please turn to page A4

## Wall Street Bets the Fed Is Bluffing in Inflation Game

Fed officials try to dismiss investors' view that inflation has peaked

By AKANE OTANI

The Federal Reserve says it is going to keep raising interest rates. Wall Street thinks it's bluffing.

This could spell trouble for both of them. Markets pummeled by the Fed's rate increases in the first half of the year are racing upward. The S&P 500 is up 17% from its mid-June low. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note, which is used to help set rates on debt such as mortgages and student loans is down more than half a percentage

point from its June peak. Even battered cryptocurrencies have jumped.

For many investors, the rebound reflects a belief that inflation has peaked, and expectation that the Fed will shift from raising rates to lowering them sometime next year.

A parade of Fed officials has tried to push back. "There's a disconnect between me and the markets," Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari said last week.

Please turn to page A9

◆ Fed's Bullard leans toward 0.75-point rise... **A9**

## Russia's Mercenaries Plug War Gap

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

In May, Italian television journalists asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov about the role Wagner Group, a private military company, was playing as Moscow began its offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas area.

He dismissed the question.

Wagner, he said, wasn't deployed in Ukraine and had no connection to the Russian state.

But, according to Ukrainian commanders, Wagner's fighters have proven indispensable in Russia's few successes in Donbas. Once ordered to minimize Wagner's role, Russia's official media is awash with reportage about the heroic exploits of the

company, which likes to call itself the "orchestra" and its soldiers "musicians."

Wagner's owner, Yevgeny Prigozhin, known as President Vladimir Putin's chef because of his catering contracts with

Please turn to page A8

◆ Kyiv urges action on 'nuclear blackmail'... **A6**

## What Exploded? Oh, You Just Dropped Your Steel Water Bottle

Metal vessels offer guilt-free hydration, and embarrassment when they hit the floor

By CONNOR HART

Heather Hoffmeyer aimed to keep a low profile on one of her first days of class this summer term at Butler University.

Instead, she started with a clang.

The 22-year-old aspiring physician assistant walked into her classroom juggling a back-

pack, medical equipment and lunch. She also toted her Hydro Flask, a stainless-steel water bottle she has brought nearly everywhere since acquiring it during undergraduate studies.

As she swung her backpack around to sit down, the Hydro Flask slipped out of a side pocket and fell to the hard

Please turn to page A2

## INSIDE



## MANSSION

Full-time RVers work remotely while seeing the country from their wheeled homes. **M1**



## TikTok's time

Rise of Chinese app weakens US grip on internet — JOHN THORNHILL, PAGE 17

## Seoul searching

Korean buyout groups are flush with cash and on the hunt — BIG READ, PAGE 15



## Gene genie

First drug using Crispr technology is almost out of the bottle — PAGE 9

## Ukraine talks Nuclear plant leads agenda

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, left, sits with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, centre, and UN secretary-general António Guterres, right, in Lviv yesterday during the Turkish president's first face-to-face meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart since Russia's full-blown invasion began nearly six months ago.

Zelenskyy said the three had discussed the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, which was captured by Russian forces in March but is still operated by Ukrainian staff. Both sides have accused the other of shelling the site. "We don't want to live through another Chernobyl," Erdoğan warned.

News & analysis page 2  
Turkey rate cut page 6



Turkish presidential press service/AP

# Quant funds help push US stocks higher with bets on equities rally

◆ Bearish positions unwound ◆ Reversal despite slowdown signs ◆ Market value up by \$7tn

ERIC PLATT — NEW YORK

Quant funds are increasing their bets on US stocks, helping fuel a sharp rally that has added \$7tn in value to markets since June even as economic data point to a slowdown in the world's largest economy.

In many cases, the funds — which look for trends in the market and then attempt to ride the momentum — have quickly unwound positions taken in late 2021 and this year that were structured to benefit from falling stock markets.

As they have closed out those bearish bets, they have helped push stock prices higher — and then followed the new trend by making fresh wagers that benefit from the rally.

Charlie McElligott, a strategist at

Nomura, said quant funds "moved fast and unemotionally" to shift their stance, catching "a very bearish market... very flat footed".

These funds have spent tens of billions of dollars on futures, helping push the benchmark S&P 500 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite up double digits from recent lows, according to traders and analysts.

Nomura estimates that trend-following hedge funds and volatility control funds have purchased \$107bn of global stock futures since markets hit a low in late June with a large portion of that used to close short positions.

"With positioning basically at the low, there was a lot of cash on the sidelines and so, as the market stabilised and started to rally, more and more of this

flow has come back into the market," said Glenn Koh, head of equities trading at Bank of America.

The role of the computer-driven funds helps to partly explain the head-scratching advance in the \$4.7tn US stock market. Whether the "risk-on" shift can last depends in part on whether the US Federal Reserve can raise rates to damp economic activity and stamp out inflation without pushing the world's largest economy into recession.

Investors moved to the sidelines en masse as stocks slid this year and many trend-following hedge funds placed short bets on the market as they predicted further declines.

Markets were pummeled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, surging commodity prices and the threat of eco-



Buy signal:  
New York  
Stock Exchange  
benchmarks  
such as the  
S&P 500 and  
tech-heavy  
Nasdaq  
Composite are  
up double digits  
from recent lows  
Seth Wernig/AP

nomical slowdowns in China, the US and western Europe just as central banks raised interest rates to snuff out inflation. But after the S&P 500 fell into a bear market in June, the market snapped back, recouping more than half its losses this year.

JPMorgan strategist Marko Kolanovic said the rally had reached most corners of the market. About 88 per cent of S&P 500 stocks are trading above their average over the past 50 days, up from just 2 per cent in mid-June.

Fund managers have also grown more optimistic. After polling portfolio managers this month, Michael Hartnett, strategist at Bank of America, said they were "no longer apocalyptically bearish".

Wall Street's Dr Doom page 10

### Briefing

► **China backs coal as power demand rises**  
Beijing has said it will offer support for the fossil fuel as a months-long heatwave and a lack of rain starve dams of water in Sichuan, a province of 80m people that relies on hydropower. — PAGE 4

► **Berlin to cut VAT on gas to aid families**  
German chancellor Olaf Scholz has announced a cut from 19 per cent to 7 per cent, adding that more moves would be set out in coming weeks. The cut will offset a levy that starts in October. — PAGE 2

► **Covid curbs and chip shortage hit Geely**  
The carmaker has said its profits more than halved as production was disrupted in the latest sign of the impact of persistent lockdowns on China's once high-flying companies. — PAGE 8; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Australian wine group puts faith in UK**  
Treasury Wines Estates, which owns brands such as Penfolds and Lindeman's, has said inflation is hitting the lower end of the market but many were not cutting back. — PAGE 6

► **Embracer makes most of games scarcity**  
The Swedish dealmaker has defied a downturn in the sector as it announced six acquisitions and posted a rise in first-quarter sales and profits despite a drought in game releases. — PAGE 4

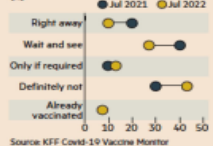
► **Oslo unveils second rate rise this year**  
Norway has increased interest rates to 1.75 per cent and plans another rise next month to counter what the central bank described as "persistent global price pressures". — PAGE 2; MARKETS INSIGHT, PAGE 11

► **Time running out for forever chemicals**  
Scientists have discovered a simple method for destroying harmful chemicals — compounds known as PFAS or simply "forever chemicals" — which were thought to be almost indestructible. — PAGE 4

### Datawatch

#### Job fears

Will you get your under-fives vaccinated?  
CX



US authorities in June approved Covid-19 vaccines for children as young as six months. Four in 10 parents now say they will not get their youngsters inoculated, citing concerns over lack of testing and possible side effects



## Student makes \$110m from bet on meme stock

A sale of a stake in struggling retailer Bed Bath & Beyond has netted a \$110m gain for 20-year-old student Jake Freeman after a period of frantic share-price movements reminiscent of last year's meme stock bonanza. He bought 5m shares in July after dismal profits and the ousting of the group's chief executive. The University of Southern California student's initial stake cost \$25m, which he said was mostly raised from friends and family.

Analysis ► PAGE 10

## Trump executive's guilty plea in tax case adds to legal woes of former president

LYDIA TOMKIW — NEW YORK

Allen Weisselberg, the former chief financial officer of the Trump Organization, has pleaded guilty to criminal charges in a tax fraud case relating to his time working for former US president Donald Trump's family business.

Weisselberg pleaded guilty to all 15 counts in the indictment yesterday. Under a deal struck with Manhattan prosecutors, he was promised a jail sentence of five months, along with a possible five years' probation contingent on his testifying truthfully in the upcoming trial of the Trump Organization if he is called upon. He faced up to 15 years in prison if convicted of the charges against him.

The case against the Trump Organization is continuing, and jury selection is scheduled for October 24.

The Trump Organization and Weisselberg, one of its most loyal and long-time employees, were charged last year in connection with what prosecutors alleged was a 15-year scheme in which company officials avoided paying taxes by receiving benefits "off the books".

Prosecutors said Weisselberg had not paid taxes on \$1.7m in income and perks including a Manhattan apartment, Mercedes-Benz cars and private school tuition for family members.

"Today, Allen Weisselberg admitted in court that he used his position at the Trump Organization to help taxpayers and enrich himself," said district attorney Alvin Bragg. "This plea agreement directly implicates the Trump Organization in a wide range of criminal activity and requires Weisselberg to provide invaluable testimony in the upcoming trial against the corporation."

Weisselberg must also make tax, interest and penalty repayments to New York City and the state totalling more than \$1.9m, Bragg said.

The Trump Organization's financial practices have been under legal scrutiny for years. Cyrus Vance, the former Manhattan district attorney, launched an investigation after Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer, testified before Congress about Trump's businesses.

However, the probe has hit several snags. Two prosecutors leading the investigation into Trump, Carey Dunne and Mark Pomerantz, resigned this year, throwing into question whether the office would continue the probe.

Trump, who is facing numerous other legal woes as he contemplates another run for the White House in 2024, has repeatedly denounced accusations against him as a partisan witch hunt.

### Subscribe in print and online

www.ft.com/subsusa

Tel: 1 800 628 8088

For the latest news go to

www.ft.com

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2022

News: 41,097 ★

Printed in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Dubai



6 14919 00001 5

### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Aug 18	Prev	%Chg	Pair	Aug 18	Prev	%Chg	Yield (%)	Aug 18	Prev	%Chg
S&P 500	4265.70	4274.04	-0.23	\$/£	1.013	1.016	-0.3	US 10 yr	3.21	3.35	-4.14
Nasdaq Composite	12985.38	12938.12	+0.37	\$/¥	1.290	1.294	-0.3	US 30 yr	2.98	2.91	+2.39
Dow Jones Ind	33566.00	33580.32	-0.07	€/£	0.844	0.844	0.0	UK 30 yr	3.12	3.10	+0.04
FTSE100	1732.24	1726.36	+0.40	\$/¥	135.210	135.465	-0.2	UK 10 yr	2.54	2.51	+0.03
Euro Stoxx 50	3774.78	3756.06	+0.50	\$/¥	162.395	163.154	-0.5	UK 5 yr	2.31	2.29	+0.02
FTSE 250	7541.85	7515.75	+0.35	\$/¥	0.987	0.989	-0.2	JPY 2 yr	-0.09	-0.09	0.00
FTSE All-Share	4182.11	4146.49	+0.38	\$/¥	1.146	1.146	0.0	JPY 10 yr	0.19	0.18	+0.01
CAC 40	6857.40	6828.32	+0.45	\$/¥	23304.31	23306.89	-0.01	GER 2 yr	0.73	0.72	+0.01
Xetra Dax	13687.41	13626.71	+0.52	\$/¥	1861.86	1853.99	+1.51	GER 10 yr	1.29	1.29	0.01
Nikkei	28942.14	28222.77	+2.59								
Hong Kong	19163.91	19022.45	+0.80								
MSCI All-Share	2822.87	2844.42	-0.76								
MSCI EM	1015.59	1014.22	+0.13								
MSCI ACWI	655.07	659.44	-0.66								
FT Wilshire 2500	5571.49	5618.88	-0.84								
FT Wilshire 5000	43522.88	43997.73	-0.85								

Prices are latest for edition  
Data provided by Morningstar

A Nikkei Company

## LUNAJETS

LEADING PRIVATE JET CHARTER

GENEVA +41 22 782 12 12 | LONDON +44 2036 095 095 | PARIS +33 1 89 16 40 70

LunaJets SA is a flight broker and an online marketplace for all private jet chartering services from third-party charter operators, acting as agent in the name and on behalf of its customers. LunaJets SA does not own or lease aircraft, does not have any pilots or crew and is not a transportation or an aviation service.



## Late Edition

Today, mostly sunny, very warm, light breeze, high 88. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, low 73. Tomorrow, a mixture of sunshine and clouds, high 85. Weather map, Page A18.



A branch of the Loire River in Loireauxence, France. Warmed rivers in the country have complicated the flushing of nuclear reactors.

## Trump's C.F.O. Admits to Role In Tax Scheme

### Legal Blow to Former President's Company

This article is by Jonah E. Bromwich, Ben Protess and William K. Rashbaum.

Allen H. Weisselberg, one of Donald J. Trump's most trusted lieutenants, stood before a judge in a Lower Manhattan courtroom on Thursday and admitted that he had conspired with the former president's company to commit numerous crimes.

Mr. Weisselberg's guilty plea, which followed more than a year of the Manhattan district attorney's office pressuring him to cooperate in a broader investigation of Mr. Trump, painted a damning picture of the beleaguered company, which now faces significant financial penalties if it loses its own trial on similar charges.

But for prosecutors who have long sought to indict Mr. Trump, Thursday's hearing was something of a consolation prize. Mr. Weisselberg refused to turn on Mr. Trump himself, something prosecutors had hoped he would do since they charged him with 15 felonies last July.

Under the plea deal, Mr. Weisselberg must pay nearly \$2 million in taxes, penalties and interest after accepting lavish off-the-books perks from Mr. Trump and his company, including leased Mercedes-Benzes, an apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side and private school tuition for his grandchildren.

He also must point the finger at his longtime employer, the Trump Organization, at its trial in October. In exchange, Mr. Weisselberg, who was facing years in prison, is likely to receive a five-month jail sentence, and with time credited for good behavior, he might serve as little as 100 days.

The deal emerged after weeks of pitched back-and-forth negotiations. They culminated in a crucial meeting on Monday, Mr. Weisselberg's 75th birthday, when his lawyers gathered with prosecutors in the judge's chambers, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Mr. Weisselberg's lawyers, Nicholas A. Gravano Jr. and Mary E. Mulligan, pressed for leniency, emphasizing their client's age, frail health and past service in the National Guard and arguing

Continued on Page A15

## TRUMP AFFIDAVIT MAY BE UNSEALED WITH REDACTIONS

### RULING ON F.B.I. SEARCH

### Judge, Striking Balance, Says Public Should Have Information

By PATRICIA MAZZEI and ALAN FEUER

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A federal judge ordered the government on Thursday to propose redactions to the highly sensitive affidavit that was used to justify a search warrant executed by the F.B.I. last week at former President Donald J. Trump's private home and club, saying he was inclined to unseal parts of it.

Ruling from the bench, the judge, Bruce E. Reinhart, said it was "very important" that the public have as "much information" as it can about the historic search at Mar-a-Lago. Mr. Trump's Florida residence. He noted later in a written order that the government "had not met its burden of showing that the entire affidavit should remain sealed."

Judge Reinhart went on to say that he was leaning toward releasing portions of the document, adding that "whether those portions would be meaningful for the public or the media" was not for him to decide. He also acknowledged that the redaction process could often be extensive and sometimes turned documents into "meaningless gibberish."

In its fullest form, the affidavit supporting the warrant would reveal critical details of the broader investigation into Mr. Trump's handling of sensitive documents, chief among them what led prosecutors to believe there was probable cause that evidence of a crime existed at Mar-a-Lago. Even a redacted version could shed light on aspects of the inquiry, such as the back-and-forth negotiations between Mr. Trump and federal prosecutors about returning the documents, a crucial step in showing that the former president may have willfully kept them in his possession.

Judge Reinhart's decision in the closely scrutinized case appeared to strike a middle course between the Justice Department, which

Continued on Page A14

## 'We Need Water': A Parched Europe Swelters

By JASON HOROWITZ

ASERAL, Norway — In a Nordic land famous for its steep fjords, where water is very nearly a way of life, Sverre Eikeland scaled down the boulders that form the walls of one of Norway's chief reservoirs, past the driftwood that protruded like something caught in the dam's teeth, and stood on dry land that should have been deeply submerged.

"You see the band where the vegetation stops," said Mr. Eikeland, 43, the chief operating officer of Agder Energi, pointing at a

### Climate Extremes Put Strains on Economy and Energy Supply

stark, arid line 50 feet above the Skjerkevatt reservoir's surface. "That's where the water level should be."

"We are not familiar with drought," he added with a shrug. "We need water."

It has been a summer of heat and drought across Europe, affecting nearly every part of the

economy and even its normally cool regions, a phenomenon aggravated by human-caused climate change. France has been scarred by vast wildfires, and its Loire Valley is so dry the river can be crossed in places on foot. The Rhine in Germany is inches deep in parts, paralyzing essential commerce and stranding riverboat cruises. Italy is drier than at any time since 1800, and the growers of its iconic rice used for risotto now risk losing their harvest.

But perhaps the drought's most surprising impact can be found in Norway's usually drenched south,

Continued on Page A8

## Sun Belt Cities Top the Nation In Rising Costs

By JEANNA SMIALEK

A.J. Frank watched the Phoenix real estate market and its entire economy implode as he was graduating from high school in 2009, a scarring experience that has made him a cautious saver. He is again living through a major economic upheaval as the cost of living climbs sharply.

Phoenix — among the hardest-hit cities during the housing crisis — is now on the leading edge of another painful economic trend as the United States faces the most rapid inflation in 40 years. The city is experiencing some of the fastest price increases in the nation, something Mr. Frank has felt firsthand.

His landlord tried to raise his rent nearly 30 percent this year, prompting him to move. Mr. Frank, a 31-year-old engineer, is still paying \$250 a month more than he was previously, and rising grocery and gas bills have reduced his disposable income.

"It's always traditionally been a pretty affordable city to live in, but it's getting more expensive," Mr. Frank said of Phoenix.

While inflation has been rising quickly across the country, it is especially intense in Sun Belt cities like Phoenix, Atlanta, Miami and Tampa, which have experienced price increases well above 10 percent this year, much higher than the national rate of 8.5 percent in July. Prices in the southern part of the United States have risen 9.4 percent over the past year, the fastest pace of any large region in the nation and more rapid than in the Northeast, where prices are up 7.3 percent.

Part of the divide can be traced to fuel and electricity costs, which surged earlier this year. Because many Sun Belt cities depend on cars and air-conditioning, those purchases make up a larger percentage of consumer budgets in the region. And, just as it did in 2008, housing is playing a crucial role — this time, through the rental market, which is a major contributor to overall inflation. In Phoenix, rents are up 21 percent from a year ago, and in Miami, they are up about 14 percent. For urban dwellers nationally, rent is up only about half as much, 6.3 percent.

The Sun Belt's intense bout of inflation matters for several reasons. While inflation is painful everywhere, it is having a disproportionate impact on the region.

Continued on Page A11



A statue on the collector Douglas A.J. Latchford's computer, left, and later displayed at the Met.

## Quest for Lost Cambodia Artifacts Leads to Met

By TOM MASHBERG and GRAHAM BOWLEY

In the 1970s, long after its encyclopedic collection had been acknowledged as among the world's finest, the Metropolitan Museum of Art recognized it had slender holdings in South or Southeast Asian art. One in-house estimate suggested that no more than 60 objects were worth exhibiting.

But over the next two decades it built a world-class collection, acquiring hundreds of artifacts for

### Country Says Museum Holds Looted Items

new galleries that now occupy the equivalent of more than a city block. The massive undertaking brought the glories of ancient Cambodia and India, Thailand and Vietnam to New York, where they took pride of place alongside the Western masterpieces that had long defined the museum.

Significant to this effort was Douglas A.J. Latchford, a British-Thai businessman who had become a leading collector, scholar and dealer in Khmer art — and would later be indicted as an illegal trafficker of Cambodian artifacts.

Starting in 1983, Mr. Latchford gave or sold the museum 13 artifacts, a modest amount but one that included premiere examples of Khmer sculpture. Two gifts were the torsos of massive, twin stone statues, the Kneeling At

Continued on Page A6

Michigan and the other Big Ten schools will be flush with money.

## With \$7 Billion Television Deal, Big Ten Follows N.F.L. Playbook

By ALAN BLINDER and KEVIN DRAPER

The Big Ten Conference has reached the richest television agreement for a college athletic league, selling the rights to its competitions for an average of at least \$1 billion a year.

The seven-year arrangement, announced Thursday and worth at least \$7 billion over the life of the contract, cements the Big Ten as one of the nation's pre-eminent college sports leagues. It also promises to fuel the intensifying debate over how universities should treat athletes who are not

paid salaries. The deal reflects television networks' desire to capitalize on America's enormous appetite for sports, and it comes at a time of extraordinary upheaval in college athletics.

The college sports industry has faced setbacks in statehouses and courtrooms, including one at the Supreme Court in 2021 that made it more vulnerable to antitrust challenges. And college sports' diminished political influence has

Continued on Page A14



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

### Flooding Adds to the Misery

Widespread flash floods in Afghanistan have left over 40 dead and 100 injured, battering a country in crisis. PAGE A8

### Risk of Nuclear Plant Disaster

Russia and Ukraine accused each other of plotting to attack the power station in Zaporizhzhia, Europe's largest. PAGE A9

NATIONAL A10-18

### Maternal Woes in Mississippi

The state is among 17 that haven't adopted an option to extend new mothers' Medicaid coverage for a full year after they have given birth. PAGE A10

### Monkeypox Racial Disparities

New data in New York City shows that Black men have received far fewer monkeypox vaccines than their share of the at-risk population. PAGE A12

### 3 Indicted in Bulger's Death

The three were fellow inmates of the Boston crime boss and longtime fugitive James (Whitey) Bulger when he was beaten to death in 2018. PAGE A16



BUSINESS B1-6

### Pressure to Reduce Emissions

Building owners in New York City are rushing to comply with a law intended to fight climate change. PAGE B1

### I.R.S. Overhaul Riles G.O.P.

Republicans are fanning conspiracy theories about tax collectors persecuting mom-and-pop shops. PAGE B1

SPORTS B7-8

### Is Manchester United for Sale?

No. Not really. The Glazer family isn't soliciting bids for the coveted but languishing English soccer club, but that hasn't stopped people from making unsolicited inquiries. PAGE B7

### Watson's Suspension Grows

Cleveland quarterback Deshaun Watson will miss 11 games this season and pay a record \$5 million fine as part of the N.E.L.'s appeal of his original six-game suspension. PAGE B8

OPINION A22-23

### David Brooks

PAGE A23



WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

### A Shoreline for a Stage

The Beach Sessions at Rockaway Beach, an end-of-summer tradition, features a performance by the Trisha Brown Dance Company. PAGE C1



0 354 613 9





**THE CONSEQUENCES** of cliff erosion have already proved to be severe on roads, railways and other crucial infrastructure, and officials are turning to scientists for help. Above, a collapse in Del Mar last year. JARROD VALLIERE/San Diego Union-Tribune

## Study finds erosion hot spots along state’s coast

### Cliffs in Northern California disappearing the fastest

By ROSANNA XIA

Cliffs along California’s northernmost coast have been eroding faster than the more populated bluffs of Southern California — one of many conclusions highlighted in a new map and study that analyzed, for the first time with high-resolution data, every cliff along the state’s long and varied shoreline.

The study, conducted by researchers at UC San Diego’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography, also identified hot spots in areas both north and

south: The rate of cliff collapse was more than 16 feet per year in places such as the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Big Sur, Point Arguello and Martins Beach just south of San Francisco.

Overall, the highest rates of erosion were detected in the counties of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte. Hot spots there include Usal Beach, the King Range, Centerville Beach — which are all part of a region known as the Lost Coast — and an area about two miles north of the Klamath River.

The consequences of cliff erosion have already proved to be severe on major roads, railways and other crucial infrastructure, and coastal officials have increasingly turned to scientists for help. A recent cliff collapse that killed three women has also intensified the pressure to better understand this hazard looming over much of the California coast.

Like hurricane forecasting, projecting when and how much a cliff will erode — especially in the face of sea level rise — is in high demand. But coastal cliffs are notoriously difficult to study, and the data that scientists need to feed into these forecasting models have been few and far between.

[See Erosion, A7]

## Deadly Windsor Hills crash ‘is the tip of the iceberg’

Traffic deaths are piling up at an alarming rate — with no signs of slowing.

By RACHEL URANGA

Phaedra Battle was just a 19-year-old college student heading out to watch a new Eddie Murphy movie, when a car slammed into hers at Slauson and La Brea avenues.

More than three decades later, her mother, Francine Battle, 83, watched with a rush of emotion footage of the gruesome Windsor Hills crash that left five people, including a pregnant woman, dead.

The tragedy happened in the same spot where her daughter was fatally injured in 1987.

“They say time heals. It doesn’t,” Battle said. “It is constantly with you, it never leaves you. It might not be as intense, but you never get

over the loss.”

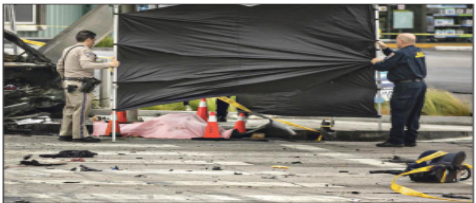
The losses are piling up at an alarming rate. With the pandemic came a surge of motor vehicle deaths, abetted by an upswing in reckless behavior. Nearly 43,000 people died nationwide in crashes in 2021 — a 10.5% increase from the year before.

And the trend doesn’t show signs of letting up. An estimated 9,560 people died in crashes in the first three months of this year in the U.S., according to preliminary data released this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That’s equivalent to a death every 13 minutes.

“When everyday life came to a halt in March 2020, risky behaviors skyrocketed,” said Steve Cliff, administrator of the NHTSA. “We’d hoped these trends were limited to 2020, but sadly they aren’t.”

Deadly collisions began to shoot up during the pandemic, just as roads emptied

[See Crash, A7]



**HIGHWAY PATROL** and other officials investigate the crash that killed five people in Windsor Hills. JARROD ARMOUR/Los Angeles Times



**SOLDIERS** guard the town of Cercoahui, Mexico, in June. Drug cartels have caused a wave of violence across the nation, leading to more troops in the streets. HERIKA MARTINEZ/AP/Getty Images

## A broken promise on returning troops to base

Mexico’s president vowed to end military presence. Numbers have doubled instead.

By KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — After cartels unleashed a wave of violence across Mexico last week, killing civilians, blocking roads with burning vehicles and setting dozens of stores on fire, the government here responded as it

often does to an outbreak of lawlessness: It sent in the troops.

The thousands of soldiers and National Guard members who arrived in the cities of Tijuana, Juarez and Guadalajara in recent days appeared ready for combat with helmets, camouflage and assault rifles strapped across their ballistic vests.

It was a reminder of not only the ongoing security crisis gripping this nation but also President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s failed promise to pull soldiers off

the streets.

As a candidate, López Obrador vowed a radical break with the militarized security strategy of his predecessors, which he blamed for turning Mexico “into a cemetery.”

He floated the idea of drug legalization and amnesty for criminals and promised to lift up poor communities with “hugs, not bullets.” Insisting that soldiers “don’t solve anything,” he repeatedly vowed to “return the army to the

[See Mexico, A10]

**Weather**  
Hazy sunshine.  
L.A. Basin: 85/65. B6



85944 00200 5

## Voters look past Biden and Trump

Most Californians don’t want 2024 to be a rematch of the 2020 election, poll finds.

By MELANIE MASON

Californians have little appetite for a rematch of the 2020 presidential race, according to a new UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies poll, with strong majorities of the state’s voters hoping neither President Biden nor former President Trump runs again in two years.

The poll, co-sponsored by The Times, found that roughly 6 in 10 respondents are against Biden trying for a second term in 2024 — a striking reluctance in a solidly Democratic state that he won handily. Another Trump campaign would be even less popular, with more than 70% in opposition.

Vice President Kamala Harris, widely considered Biden’s chosen successor to lead the party, also struggles to find traction in California, her home state, lagging behind Gov. Gavin Newsom and Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont as voters’ choice for president if Biden does not run. But no candidate emerges as the consensus favorite for the Democratic nomination in this early gauge of potential 2024 contenders.

While many California Democrats are not convinced that Biden should run again, the absence of a clear Democratic alternative may afford [him] more space in avoiding a serious

primary challenge should he decide to seek reelection,” said Eric Schickler, co-director of the Institute of Governmental Studies.

The findings come at a time when Democrats are increasingly vocal about their anxieties over the next presidential campaign.

Biden, 79, has consistently said he intends to run, but has already made history as the oldest president. Republicans frequently call attention to his age, questioning his fitness for the job. He will be 82 on Inauguration Day 2025.

“The age factor has to be looming in many voters’ minds,” said Mark DiCamillo, who co-directs the institute.

Just 3 in 10 California voters in the poll said they supported another Biden candidacy, while 61% were opposed — nearly identical to the share of the vote he won in the state in 2020. Among poll respondents who voted for him two years ago, nearly half said they opposed him running again. And among voters with favorable views of Biden’s current job performance, nearly 30% said they would not like to see him run in 2024.

Nor is there a loud clamor in California for Harris, 57, the state’s former U.S. senator to assume the Democratic Party’s mantle. The vice president’s approval ratings have flagged, even in her home state.

Harris sees an opportunity for Harris to break from the polling doldrums by leading the administration’s efforts to preserve abortion rights. Still, voters eligible for [See Poll, A5]

## Rolling out the compost buckets

Seen as a ‘laggard’ in diverting food waste, L.A. hopes curbside program changes that.

By JAMES RAINEY

For all the smiles and goodwill they attracted on a recent morning, the workers in the big green truck might have been hawking Pop-sicles and Choco Tacos. But on this hot Saturday near downtown, the people of Los Angeles were showering their love not on the ice cream man, but the trash man.

The reason: L.A. Sanitation & Environment employees were delivering composting pails to every home and apartment in the Sun-set Junction neighborhood west of Dodger Stadium. If all goes as planned, the expansion of this program will allow every Angeleno to conveniently recycle kitchen scraps, thereby reducing the burden on landfills and helping stem the production of Earth-warming greenhouse gases.

“I’m really excited,” said Frankie McLafferty, a freelance web producer, accepting a toaster-sized composting pail at her front door. Until recently, she had seen composting as an “inaccessible” goal, requiring a big yard and her own equipment. Not anymore.

“I’d rather do something for the environment. Now I [See Composting, A10]

**BUSINESS INSIDE:** Reproductive health apps may pose risk for those seeking abortion. A6



# The Washington Post

Please recycle this newspaper. Recycle this newspaper.

Partly sunny 88/71 • Tomorrow: T-storm 82/69 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022 • B2

## New plan to speed a vaccine has critics

U.S. splitting monkeypox doses into fifths until more vials are finished

BY DAN DIAMOND AND FENIT NIRAPPI

White House officials on Thursday touted steps to speed access to monkeypox vaccine, including a deal to finish 2.5 million vials in the United States. Although some local health officials applauded the moves, others were unnerved by a rapid plan to stretch existing supply by splitting vaccine doses into fifths, clamoring for more time to examine the data and train providers to deliver the shots correctly.

The Biden administration is "forcing our hand," said one local health official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to jeopardize vaccine orders. "It's extraordinarily frustrating because we have to execute and defend this strategy ... it's just a question of giving us the time and the doses to bridge to that strategy."

A team of researchers also urged officials to tweak the plan, saying there was too little data on its effectiveness.

"We propose a mixed-dosing strategy," where all recipients will receive one shot as originally intended, and a second shot via the new approach, researchers from the Rapid Epidemiologic Study of Prevalence, Networks, and Demographics of Monkeypox Infection

SEE MONKEYPOX ON A6



VICTOR J. BLUE/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Allen Weisselberg, center, long-time chief financial officer of the Trump Organization, departs a New York court Thursday. The trusted associate of Donald Trump over a span of decades pleaded guilty to more than a dozen felonies and faces jail time and probation.

## Trump CFO pleads guilty

CRIMINAL TAX FRAUD AND GRAND LARCENY

Weisselberg agrees to testify at company trial

BY SHEILA MCCLEAR AND MARK BERMAN

NEW YORK — Allen Weisselberg, the longtime top financial officer of former president Donald Trump's company, pleaded guilty on Thursday to committing more than a dozen felonies, including criminal tax fraud and grand larceny.

Weisselberg and the Trump Organization were indicted last year by authorities in New York who charged them with concealing certain financial compensation as part of what they called a years-long scheme to avoid paying taxes. The case is part of the churning legal maelstrom still surrounding Trump and his close allies, with local, state and federal authorities scrutinizing everything from his namesake business to his handling of classified government documents since leaving office.

Appearing in a Manhattan courtroom, Weisselberg, 75, acknowledged his part in the scenario outlined by prosecutors — and agreed to testify, if called, at a pending trial for the company. As part of his plea agreement, Weisselberg, Trump's close and trusted

SEE WEISSELBERG ON A4

## Parts of Mar-a-Lago affidavit likely to be unsealed

BY JOSH DAWSEY AND PERRY STEIN

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. — A federal judge said Thursday that he is "inclined" to unseal some of the affidavit central to last week's FBI search of former president Donald Trump's Florida home, instructing the Justice Department to redact the document in a way that would not undermine its ongoing investigation if made

public. Federal Magistrate Judge Bruce E. Reinhart, appearing to reject the government's argument for keeping the entire document sealed, said he would make a determination after next Thursday, when Justice Department officials are expected to submit their proposed redactions.

The affidavit has become the latest flash point in a criminal probe scrutinizing materials tak-

ing from the White House when Trump's term ended last year. On Aug. 8, FBI agents executed a search warrant at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, carting away dozens of boxes containing what authorities have characterized as highly classified national secrets.

Reinhart, noting that he had reviewed the affidavit multiple times, said he believed parts of it could be made public without

impeding the probe.

The government had argued that its investigation was in the "early stages" and that release of the affidavit could hurt potential witnesses, risk the safety of those already interviewed, reveal future investigative steps and disclose significant amounts of grand jury material.

"I'm not prepared to find the affidavit should be fully sealed,"

SEE TRUMP ON A5

### EXTREME SUMMER

## As sequoias burn, so too does preservation debate

Park managers say logging is part of the answer. Some environmentalists intensely disagree.

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, CALIF. — Every June, Tony Caprio and his wife, Linda, hike into the Sugarbowl — a cluster of giant sequoias high in the Sierra Nevada — to admire the profusion of wildflowers and walk among some of the oldest and tallest trees on the planet.

Now when he visits, he sees something that, scientists say, has no precedent in thousands of years of history: vast acres of dead sequoias, killed by fire.

The Sugarbowl, an amphitheater of solemn and enormous trees, part of the Redwood Mountain grove, one of the largest collections of giant sequoias on Earth, has become a graveyard. Trees that have lived since the

Roman Empire stand as fire-blackened matchsticks, their once bushy green crowns shriveled into charred fists. When the KNP Complex Fire roared through last October, it burned so hot in some places that Caprio expects few seedlings to rise from the ash.

"These are all dead," said Caprio, the fire ecologist for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, wandering among the grove now closed to the public. "So what's going to be the long-term prognosis for an area like this? Is it going to come back as a shrub field?"

Summer wildfires, in the era of climate change, mean something different now for giant sequoias. These trees evolved with fire, and

SEE WILDFIRES ON A18



RYAN CHRISTOPHER JONES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A sequoia hollowed out by a high-intensity fire in California's Kings Canyon National Park. The trees are among the world's largest.

## Big Ten's TV deals are richest in college sports

Media rights agreements with Fox, CBS and NBC net more than \$7 billion

BY BEN STRAUSS AND EMILY GIAMBALVO

The Big Ten Conference unveiled seven-year media rights agreements Thursday expected to be worth more than \$1 billion annually, a monumental windfall that arrives amid a rapidly changing landscape of schools hopping conferences and athletes advocating for a greater share of the increasing riches flowing through athletic departments. The deals, with Fox, CBS and NBC, are the largest in college sports history.

Once synonymous with the Midwest, the Big Ten soon will have 16 teams spread from New Jersey to California, a newly minted national conference in a sporting realm once prized for its regional appeal. The conference recently announced the planned additions of USC and UCLA, which will give the conference a

footprint in the lucrative Los Angeles media market and boosted the value of the agreements.

Kevin Warren, the conference's commissioner since 2020, said this summer that he had been thinking about Big Ten expansion since he interviewed for the job. Warren built the idea of expansion, if not the specific schools, into the earliest term sheets discussed with networks, he said.

"What expansion did us and for our fans, it really shrunk the United States, shrunk our country," Warren said in an interview. "To where people recognize they'll be able to watch our teams compete and their schools compete morning, noon and night and at unique times during the year, like on Black Friday, and from coast to coast."

All 16 members of the Big Ten, including previous additions Maryland and Rutgers, will be recipients of the financial windfall. The conference's chief rival, the SEC, has made its own moves, announcing last year that it would add Texas and Oklahoma.

SEE BIG TEN ON A4

### IN THE NEWS



NICK CAMMETT/GETTY IMAGES

**Watson banned 11 games** The NFL and its players union settled on the QB's punishment for violating its personal conduct policy. D1

**Russian mercenaries** The once-shadowy Wagner Group is now openly recruiting soldiers to join the war in Ukraine. A10

**THE NATION**  
**After the FDA's** approval this week of over-the-counter hearing aids, a look at what to know about them and how to make a purchase this fall. A2  
**A federal judge** ordered pharmacy chains to pay \$650.6 million to two Ohio counties that were flooded with opioids. A2  
**Human behavior** and other factors provide reason to question how federal climate legislation will affect carbon dioxide emissions. A3

**THE WORLD**  
**Eleven men** serving life

sentences for gang rape and murder were released early from prison, sparking widespread outrage in India. A7  
**Pakistan** has launched a crackdown on media friendly to former prime minister Imran Khan as political tensions rise to a boil. A7  
**A bomb blast** at a mosque in Kabul killed 21 people, including children and a well-known cleric. A8  
**Ukraine's president** has faced criticism over comments justifying not warning the country that Russia planned to invade. A11

**THE ECONOMY**  
**The FTC** is threatening to sue a tech company that it alleges reveals people's visits to sensitive locations, including women's reproductive health clinics. A3  
**A federal judge** ordered Starbucks to reinstate seven Memphis baristas who were fired this year after speaking publicly about their union campaign. A14

**THE REGION**  
**High-occupancy** toll lanes being built along I-66 are on course for a December opening, Virginia officials said. B1  
**The 4th Circuit** became the first U.S. appellate court to rule that

gender dysphoria is covered by the Americans With Disabilities Act. B1  
**John W. Hinckley Jr.**, who shot President Ronald Reagan in 1981, is free and trying to start a music career, but he's having trouble finding performance venues. B1  
**Some Marylanders** living in coronavirus hot spots are dealing with health and economic disparities long after other areas have bounced back. B1

**STYLE**  
**Media correspondent** Brian Stelter will leave CNN, as the network announced the cancellation of the long-running "Reliable Sources." C1

### INSIDE



**WEEKEND**  
**Revelation** in one bite  
At the small Yu Noodles chain, dining on Chinese soup dumplings can be a cosmic experience.

**STYLE**  
**A somewhat game** 'Thrones' prequel HBO's 'House of the Dragon' has plenty of violence and, eventually, character depth. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A13  
COMICS.....A14  
OPINION PAGES.....A15  
LOTTERIES.....B3  
OBITUARIES.....B6  
TELEVISION.....B7  
WORLD NEWS.....A7

CONTENT © 2022  
The Washington Post / Year 345, No. 257  
0170628121100 3



## Watson settles with NFL in personal conduct case

Browns QB now banned 11 games, fined \$5M amid sexual misconduct allegations. **In Sports**

## Talk about scene stealers! 10 movie moments we love

We rank favorites from this summer's films – but watch out, some are spoilers. **In Life**

## Naughty or nice? Impact of inflation on holidays

Retailers probably will have lots of lower-cost items and fuller shelves, analysts say, but goods like game consoles could be hard to get. **In Money**

# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | WEEKEND | AUGUST 19-21, 2022



ADAM MONACELLI/USA TODAY NETWORK

### SEARCH OF MAR-A-LAGO

## Parts of affidavit may be released

Judge gives DOJ a week to prepare redacted copy

Bart Jansen, Ella Lee and Kevin Johnson  
USA TODAY

A federal magistrate has set up the possible release of a heavily edited version of the Justice Department affidavit authorizing the search of former President Donald Trump's Florida estate, ordering government lawyers to provide a redacted copy of the document for his consideration by next week.

U.S. Magistrate Bruce Reinhart said Thursday that he would decide on the release after reviewing the redacted copy of the detailed document that the government used as the basis for the unprecedented search.



The Justice Department has opposed unveiling the Mar-a-Lago affidavit. ANDRES LEIVA/USA TODAY NETWORK

"This is going to be a considerate, careful process," Reinhart told attorneys at the close of a hearing after a consortium of media companies pushed for the document's public release.

The Justice Department has opposed the affidavit's release, arguing that it would provide a "roadmap" to its investigation and place the inquiry and witnesses in possible jeopardy.

See **AFFIDAVIT**, Page 6A



HOME DELIVERY  
1-800-872-0001, USATODAYSERVICE.COM

### USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS ©

#### Most want to impose SCOTUS term limits

U.S. adults on ending life terms for Supreme Court justices and setting a number of years they serve:

Neither favor nor oppose 19%  
14% Oppose  
67% Favor

SOURCE AP-NORC Poll, July 14-17  
AMY BARNETTE, TIFFANY CLEMENS/USA TODAY

DAILY DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS ...  
**Dining Deals**  
**USA**  
PAGE 2A

CONSIDER YOUR MAN CARD REISSUED.



FORCES OF OPPOSITION, BOW DOWN.  
YOU ARE SINGLE-HANDEDLY OUTNUMBERED.



## Gun ad crackdown needed, critics say

Safety advocates, some Dems call marketing deceptive as sales soar

Nick Penzenstadler and Amritpal Kaur Sandhu-Longoria USA TODAY

Taurus pistols promise to "win the fight" with home intruders; Benelli tactical shotguns are ready to defend "Iraq, Afghanistan, your living room"; and you might consider buying Wilson Combat's \$2,500 "Urban Super Sniper" model rifle that is so precise its .223 caliber rounds can hit within an inch at 100 yards.

A USA TODAY review of thousands of gun company magazine advertisements spanning decades shows a gradual marketing shift from guns as tools for hunting to guns as necessities to protect your home and your family. The inflection point – the moment self-defense came to dominate – has been pegged by researchers to about 2011, two years after President Barack Obama took office with a platform that included gun control.

That shift is driving efforts to slow a different trend: Annual gun sales peaked during the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 21.5 million sold in 2020. Another 19 million were sold in 2021, the second-highest ever recorded.

Democrats and advocates seeking to address gun violence argue that owning a gun does not make your home safer, a case for false advertising, and that marketing offensive "tactical operations" with military-grade weapons constitutes unlawful use of the product.

Just as Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man became flashpoints for a crackdown on cigarette ads in the 1990s, several images are dominating the national debate. Among them is a series of ads from Remington about a "combat"

See **GUN ADS**, Page 3A

### Handful of images dominate debate

Take a closer look at five ad campaigns that alarmed critics and changed laws. **3A**

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS: ANDREA BRUNTY/USA TODAY NETWORK; PHOTOS PROVIDED BY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### PREGNANT BUT UNEQUAL

## Care inequalities rooted in the system



The only hospital in Hancock County, Ga., sits abandoned as rural communities of color increasingly find themselves with few options for maternal health care. RITA HARPER FOR USA TODAY

### Mapping the care gap

For women of color across the nation, the disparities, and the risks, are stark. Full-page graphic, **4A**

### ABOUT THIS SERIES PART 3 OF 3

This USA TODAY project examines the lack of maternal health care in America's rural communities of color.

Rural communities suffer from a history of neglect

Nada Hassanein  
USA TODAY

Several years ago, a group of five Black grandmothers in rural Alabama went to the office of their congresswoman, U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell.

They had a simple question: Why did their daughters have to travel so far to have their babies?

Maternity wards at the hospitals where they lived were shutting down, and moms weren't getting prenatal care.

For Sewell, it was a wake-up call. She calls those grandmothers a "driving force" behind her efforts to save Alabama's rural hospitals. Less than a third of the state's 67 counties have a labor and delivery unit, she said.

"So often, these labor and delivery units are the first to go to cut costs, to keep the ER open, as if those services are somehow optional. And they're absolutely not," said Sewell, who helped

See **SYSTEM**, Page 5A



## Una noche de fiesta pone en apuros a la premier de Finlandia

Aparecieron videos que muestran a Sanna Marin bailando en forma desinhibida; le piden que se haga un test de drogas; quedó envuelta en una fuerte polémica. **Página 6**



## DESPUÉS DEL FÚTBOL, LA VIDA DE PONZIO FUERA DE LA CANCHA

—deportes

El "capitán eterno" de River tendrá su partido homenaje el 21 de septiembre en el Monumental; habla sobre su perfil de productor agropecuario y su visión del país.

## ESTRENAN LA NOVELA QUE BATIÓ TODOS LOS RÉCORDS EN BRASIL

—espectáculos

Se presenta en Telefe *Génesis*, el origen de todo; es una de las series del género religioso que rompieron las barreras del rating en el país vecino.

# LA NACION

VIERNES 19 DE AGOSTO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Massa llamó al diálogo por la crisis, pero la oposición desconfía de la convocatoria

**MENSAJE.** El ministro admitió que necesita apoyo; no se hizo ninguna propuesta formal

El ministro de Economía, Sergio Massa, aprovechó ayer el foro del Council of the Americas, que reúne a empresas norteamericanas, para convocar al diálogo a la oposición frente a la crisis. La propuesta fue recibida con desconfianza por Juntos por el Cambio, que advirtió que no hubo ninguna llamada concreta

y replicó que el oficialismo primero tiene que solucionar sus propias diferencias internas.

"No tenemos que tener miedo o vergüenza de sentarnos en una mesa por más que seamos de fuerzas políticas distintas", aseveró Massa en su discurso. En el mismo escenario, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta se mostró a

favor de un gobierno de "coalición", pero a partir de las próximas elecciones. Y el embajador de EE.UU., Marc Stanley, pidió "no esperar" a 2023 para un acuerdo. **Página 8**

**El Gobierno refuerza su agenda de viajes a Estados Unidos**  
Mariano Spezzapria. **Página 9**

**EL ESCENARIO**  
La economía agrava la crisis de liderazgo

**Claudio Jacquelín**  
**Página 12**

## Echan a la funcionaria que agitaba el conflicto mapuche

**INAI.** El Presidente le pidió la renuncia a Odarda, tras sus enfrentamientos con gobernadores patagónicos

El presidente Alberto Fernández le pidió la renuncia a la titular del Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI), Magdalena Odarda, quien protagonizó varios conflictos con gobernadores patagónicos a raíz de su apoyo explícito a los grupos autodenominados mapuches, que en los últimos años perpetraron ataques y tomas violentas de tierras. "Renuncio a un cargo, no a la lucha por los derechos de los pueblos indígenas", advirtió Odarda, en su carta de renuncia. **Página 15**

## Adolescentes: la vida en riesgo por un celular



**seguridad** — La brutalidad delictiva en el conurbano golpeó nuevamente a dos adolescentes. Un menor de 15 años fue baleado por motochorros que lo interceptaron para robar su celular a diez cuadras de la escuela, en Lomas de Zamora, de la que había salido minutos antes; otro sangriento asalto en busca de un teléfono móvil ocurrió, en tanto, en Merlo, donde un adolescente de 17 años fue acuchillado mientras se dirigía al colegio. **Página 26**

## La economía de Europa, complicada por la sequía

**CLIMA.** El Rin está en el nivel más bajo de la historia; Alemania podría caer en recesión. **Página 2**

## Etiquetado. Llegan los primeros alimentos identificados como menos saludables

A partir de mañana, se empezarán a ver los envases con octógonos negros

Mañana llegará a las góndolas la primera tanda de envases con octógonos negros para identificar los alimentos y las bebidas considerados menos saludables.

Será un tímido debut de la ley de etiquetado, que busca generar información para modificar conductas de los consumidores y en esta etapa alcanzará solo a las gaseosas de

primeras marcas. La norma prevé que los envases alerten en un lugar visible sobre alto contenido en azúcares, sodio, grasas totales, grasas saturadas y calorías. **Página 24**

## Otro juicio a Milagro Sala por destruir pruebas

**NO DECLARÓ.** Ayer se inició el proceso contra la líder de la Tupac Amaru

**Javier Fuego Simondet**  
ENVIADO ESPECIAL

**SAN SALVADOR DE JUJUY.** Milagro Sala enfrenta desde ayer un nuevo juicio oral en su contra, acusada de instigar el robo y la destrucción de un expediente que la involucraba, conocido como "el caso de la balacera de Azopardo", en el que fue herida una niña. Sala había sido absuelta tras aquel robo. Continúa en la página 16

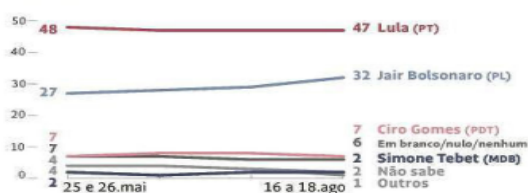
**Gerardo Morales.**

"Sala es una presa vip: desde su casa maneja 20.000 planes"

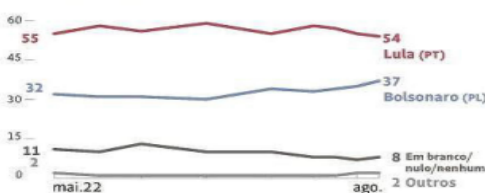
**Página 16**



Lula tem 15 pontos de vantagem sobre Bolsonaro no 1º turno  
Resposta estimulada, em %



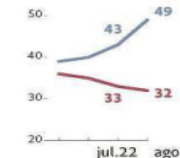
Lula venceria Bolsonaro no 2º turno  
Resposta estimulada, em %



Diferença entre mulheres é de 18 pontos  
Resposta estimulada, em %



Bolsonaro amplia margem entre evangélicos  
Resposta estimulada, em %



## Bolsonaro reduz vantagem de Lula

Datafolha indica que margem caiu de 21 para 15 pontos em três meses; petista fica estável e tem 51% dos votos válidos

A primeira pesquisa feita pelo Datafolha após o início oficial da campanha eleitoral, na terça (16), mostra que o presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL) reduziu a vantagem do ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) em três pontos.

Desde o levantamento de 27 e 28 julho, o titular do Planalto passou de 29% para 32% na preferência dos eleitores, e o petista se manteve estável, com 47%. Assim, a diferença passou de 18 para 15 pontos. Em maio, ela era de 21.

Ciro Gomes (PDT) está em terceiro, com 7% (oscilou um ponto para baixo), e Simone Tebet permaneceu em 2% — mesmo patamar dos que se declaram indecisos. A 45 dias das eleições, 6% afirmam que votarão nulo ou em branco.

Lula tem 51% dos votos válidos (de 49% a 53%; a margem de erro é de dois pontos), e a maioria selaria o pleito em 2 de outubro. Ele venceria por 54% a 37% um segundo turno. O Datafolha ouviu 5.744 pessoas nos dias 16, 17 e 18.

O presidente ganhou terreno no eleitorado evangélico, que representa 1 em cada 4 pessoas na amostra, e saltou de 43% para 49%, ante 32% de Lula. Em junho, os dois estavam tecnicamente empatados nessa fatia.

Se a atuação da primeira-dama, Michelle, teve efeito no segmento, isso não se repetiu em outra ala na qual Bolsonaro tenta avançar, as mulheres. Ele oscilou para cima e foi a 29%; Lula, que também oscilou, tem 47%. **Política A4**

### Grupo espanhol leva Congonhas e dez terminais por R\$ 2,45 bi

Único interessado no leilão do aeroporto paulista, o grupo Aena arrematou, por 30 anos e com ágio de 231%, o principal bloco de três disponíveis na sétima rodada de concessões aeroportuárias.

Junto de Congonhas, a empresa, que já atua em seis terminais do Nordeste, levou também a operação de mais dez aeroportos em Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais e Pará. **Mercado A19**

### Equilíbrio B2

Jejum intermitente é melhor para perder peso, mas não gordura, diz estudo

### Ilustrada C1

Agronejo transforma a vida rural em ostentação ao som de funk e berrantes

### Guia C11

Conheça bares que abrem nas noites de segunda, quando a maioria está fechada

### Frente fria chega a São Paulo com 9°C de mínima hoje

Cotidiano B4



Emerson Soares/TV Globo

### YOUTUBER CHAMA BOLSONARO DE 'TCHUTCHUCA DO CENTRÃO'

Após ser chamado de 'tchutchuca do centrão' e 'vagabundo' por Wilker Leão, presidente pede para não filmar e tenta tirar celular de sua mão; depois, os dois conversaram **Política A12**

### Haddad lidera com 38%; Tarcísio tem 16%; Rodrigo, 11% em SP A10

**ANÁLISE** Bruno Boghossian

Presidente estanca entre os mais pobres e busca reconquistar eleitores de 2018 **A6**

**MÔNICA BERGAMO**

### Presidente diz a apoiadores que não discursará no 7/9 no Rio

Pessoas próximas duvidam que o mandatário resista a falar à multidão esperada, mas apostam que ele evitará ataques ao Judiciário, com quem busca um armistício. **C2**

**Reinaldo Azevedo**

### O óbvio como resistência

Que país é este em que o óbvio é alçado à condição de categoria especial de pensamento? É aquele em que alguns empresários reúnem-se no WhatsApp para pregar um golpe de Estado caso Lula vença a eleição. E o fazem em nome da liberdade. **Política A13**

**TSE volta a descrever**

**bens de candidatos**  
Detalhes do patrimônio dos candidatos, omitidos por causa da LGPD, voltarão a ser divulgados. **A14**

### Câmara cassa vereador carioca Gabriel Monteiro

Cotidiano B4

### Após acordo, A.C. Camargo recua e continuará no SUS

O A.C. Camargo, referência no tratamento de câncer, continuará a atender pacientes do SUS com recursos extras do Estado para casos complexos, disse o governador Rodrigo Garcia (PSDB). O hospital havia decidido suspender o convênio por defasagem na tabela do sistema. **Saúde B1**

**EDITORIAIS A2**

**Bolsonaro se move**  
Sobre a corrida presidencial, segundo o Datafolha.

**Máscara opcional**  
Acerca de fim do uso obrigatório em viagens aéreas.



**JHSF**  
apresenta

**BOA VISTA VILLAGE**

Golf Residences  
com vista  
para o campo  
de golfe de  
18 buracos por  
Rees Jones.

Veja nas páginas A8 e A9.



Aponte a câmera no código e baixe o novo app da Folha



**Abdo le pidió tener una posición clara para no crear confrontación en el oficialismo**

## Velázquez desafía a EEUU y se aferra a la Vicepresidencia

Sorpresivamente, dijo que no dejará el cargo hasta tener una información precisa sobre el motivo que hizo que el Departamento de Estado lo declarara significativamente corrupto.

PÁGINA 2

**En el Senado cuestionan intromisión  
Embajada de EEUU informó  
a la Cancillería antes del  
anuncio de las sanciones**

PÁGINAS 3 y 4

**Telefuturo reprodujo dichos del prófugo  
Un ex asistente fiscal alertó  
a Marset que lo investigaban  
y este negó las acusaciones**

PÁGINA 8



**COMPRA OPCIONAL 1**

**COLECCIÓN MI BIENESTAR N.º 6**

**Libro: G. 40.000**

**COMPRA OPCIONAL 2**

**LIBRO HISTORIA DEL**

**PARAGUAY + PICA DVD**

**G. 70.000**



**INSTITUTO DE PREVISIÓN SOCIAL**

### CREAR CITAS

Datos del Assegurado	
No. Documento:	Nombre y Apellidos:
Fecha de Nacimiento:	Tipo Assegurado:
Cédula:	Estado:
Turnos:	
Matutino:	17:00 a 20:00
Sierra:	10:00 a 13:00
Tarde:	14:00 a 17:00
Noche:	17:00 a 19:00

### Seleccione un Medico

NO SE ENCUENTRA NINGUNA CITA LIBRE

## Sigue el calvario para conseguir turno en IPS

**Suplicio.** Una periodista de UH realizó 88 llamadas para poder ingresar al sistema del Call Center del IPS. Al final le respondieron que no había turno.

PÁGINA 21

**Plantea alianza público-privada  
El MIC presentó el  
Plan Maestro para  
industria automotriz**

PÁGINA 14

**Apoderados de HC no estuvieron en reunión previa al anuncio  
TEP aceptó inscripción de Wiens  
como precandidato presidencial**

PÁGINA 5

**Conflicto por tierras  
Enfrentamiento entre  
ocupantes deja dos  
muertos en Marina Cué**

PÁGINA 50

**ETIOS** MÁS POR  
DESCUBRIR

CUOTA DESDE  
**145 USD**

**2 AIRBAGS**  
VERSATILIDAD  
Y ECONOMÍA

4.5/5 ESTRELLAS



WWW.TOYOTA.COM.PY  
+595 21 6190000

TOYOTA

TOYOTASHI



TOYOTASHI

TOYOTASHI



lefigaro.fr

## LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais



**SOLITAIRE DU FIGARO**  
LES AMBITIONS DE VICTOIRE  
D'ÉLODIE BONAFOUS

PAGE 10

**BOUALEM SANSAL**  
« LA FATWA CONTRE  
SALMAN RUSHDIE ATTENTE  
À TOUTE L'HUMANITÉ » PAGE 18

L'ÉTÉ  
DU FIGAROLES MYSTÈRES  
DES MONTRES  
DE LÉGENDE

LA DERNIÈRE  
HEURE DE MARIE-  
ANTOINETTE

PAGE 13

LES GARDIENS  
DES TRADITIONS

REINES DE  
CORNOUAILLE :  
LA BRETAGNE  
EN HÉRITAGE

PAGE 17

SUR LES TRACES  
D'ANTOINE BLONDIN

L'IVRESSE DES  
NUITS BLANCHES

PAGE 19

CAPITALES  
RENAISSANTES

L'ANCIENNE  
PRISON DE PUNTA  
CARRETAS,  
NOUVEAU CŒUR  
DE MONTEVIDEO

PAGE 25

JEUX D'ÉTÉ PAGE 15

## UKRAINE

Le ton monte  
autour de la  
centrale nucléaire  
de Zaporijjia

PAGE 5

## RN

La course  
à la succession  
s'engage

PAGE 6

## SÉCURITÉ

À scooter ou à  
moto, l'impunité  
poursuit son rodéo

PAGE 7

FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question  
de jeudi:  
L'État a-t-il raison  
d'apporter un soutien  
financier massif  
à l'apprentissage ?

**NON 9%** **OUI 91%**  
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 92 075

Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr

Faut-il mieux encadrer  
l'utilisation de l'allocation  
de rentrée scolaire ?

ALEXIS COURCOUX-GATTONI/  
DPALE PHOTO-PASCAL POCHARD-  
CASABIANCA/AFP

Le monde face au spectre  
des guerres de l'eau

Un combattant kurde  
surveille le barrage  
stratégique de Mossoul,  
sur le fleuve Tigre,  
dans le nord de l'Irak.

La sécheresse attise les problèmes de pénurie et de répartition de l'eau en de nombreux points sensibles de la planète, multipliant les tensions géopolitiques et les risques de conflits. PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Les banques resserrent  
les crédits à l'immobilier

Coup dur pour des milliers de Français qui ont un projet d'achat de logement : l'accès à l'emprunt est de plus en plus difficile et les refus de prêts se multiplient. Ce coup de frein s'explique par la hausse des taux d'intérêt et

par le renforcement de la réglementation, qui durcit les conditions d'accès au crédit. Il pèse par ricochet sur le marché immobilier lui-même, avec une orientation des prix à la baisse et un tassement des transactions.

PAGE 22

La Corse endeuillée par  
des orages exceptionnels

Cinq morts, une vingtaine de blessés sans compter les très lourds dégâts matériels. Avec des rafales de vent enregistrées à plus de 130 km/h, la tempête qui a balayé l'île de Beauté, jeudi matin, a surpris les prévisionnistes de Météo-

France. Il était attendu que les orages reprennent hier soir. Face à l'ampleur de l'événement, le ministre de l'Intérieur, Gérald Darmanin, est allé apporter son soutien sur place.

PAGE 8

**ÉDITORIAL** par Philippe Gélie [pgelie@lefigaro.fr](mailto:pgelie@lefigaro.fr)

## L'injonction du partage

Depuis la nuit des temps, l'homme se bat pour l'eau autant que pour la terre, conscient que l'une sans l'autre ne vaut pas grand-chose. La domination de l'Empire romain était confortée par sa science des aqueducs ; au XV<sup>e</sup> siècle, les paysans du Valais suisse s'entretenaient pour le contrôle des torrents de montagne ; en 1503, Léonard de Vinci conspirait avec Machiavel pour détourner l'Arno de Pise au profit de Florence ; et l'eau ne fut pas le moindre enjeu de la guerre des Six-Jours, en 1967, entre Israël et ses voisins arabes. Cela fait quelques décennies qu'experts et rapports de l'ONU annoncent les « guerres de l'eau du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle ». Cette ressource vitale, bienfait naturel par excellence, peut devenir une arme, voire un objectif stratégique lorsqu'elle vient à manquer. Or la pénurie est là, accélérée par la sécheresse et le dérèglement climatique : près de la moitié de l'humanité vit dans des régions confrontées au manque d'eau, chronique ou ponctuel. En Afrique, au Moyen-Orient, en Asie centrale et même en Amérique, les points de tension se multiplient à mesure que les bassins fluviaux se tarissent et les nappes phréatiques se viduent.

Des solutions existent, techniques (recyclage, désalinisation) et politiques (gestion de la ressource et régulation de la consommation). Comme dans *Manon des Sources*, l'âpreté au gain et la confiscation ne peuvent que mener aux conflits de voisinage. Du Nil au Tigre et à l'Euphrate, le pouvoir se trouve en amont des fleuves et le droit de l'eau se résume trop souvent à la loi du plus fort. Plus la planète a soif, plus les tensions affluent, les désordres sociaux se multiplient, les déplacements climatiques se jettent sur les routes... L'injonction du partage représente un enjeu de paix et de sécurité internationale. Le monde a besoin d'une architecture multilatérale où puisse se déployer une véritable « diplomatie de l'eau », pour lutter contre la gabegie, anticiper les crises et parer aux risques de guerres. L'avenir de l'humanité est lié au destin que nous réserverons à « l'or bleu », source de vie et condition de survie, sur notre planète. ■

Le droit de l'eau se résume trop souvent à la loi du plus fort

BDL Capital Management, société de gestion française et indépendante

Inflation, hausse des taux d'intérêt,  
tensions géopolitiquesQUELLE SOLUTION POUR  
VOS PLACEMENTS ?

**BDL  
REMPART**  
Depuis 2005

Éligible Assurance-vie & Épargne salariale  
PARLEZ-EN À VOTRE CONSEILLER FINANCIER

**BDL**  
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Investir &amp; S'investir

[www.bdlcm.com](http://www.bdlcm.com)

Ceci est une COMMUNICATION PUBLICITAIRE. Risques du fonds : risque actions, liquidité, crédit, contrepartie, de change et de perte en capital. Veuillez-vous référer au prospectus de BDL Rempart et au document d'informations clés pour l'investisseur disponible sur [www.bdlcm.com/rempart](http://www.bdlcm.com/rempart) avant de prendre toute décision finale d'investissement. L'investissement promu concerne l'acquisition de parts ou d'actions d'un fonds, et non d'un actif sous-jacent donné, tel que les actions d'une société, étant donné que ceux-ci sont uniquement des actifs sous-jacents détenus par le fonds. La décision d'investir dans BDL Rempart doit tenir compte de toutes les caractéristiques et de tous les objectifs du fonds promu, tels que décrits dans son prospectus ou dans les informations à communiquer aux investisseurs conformément à l'article 23 de la directive 2011/61/UE, à l'article 13 du règlement (UE) n°345/2013 et à l'article 14 du règlement (UE) n°549/2013, le cas échéant. BDL Capital Management, 24, rue du Rocher 75008 Paris - Numéro de Siret : 48109448000029 | N° d'agrément AMF : GP-05000003



**Björk** on bereavement, empty-nest syndrome and brutal techno  
Interview → Film & Music G2



Twilight zone Kristen Stewart's best films – ranked! → Film & Music G2



Friday  
19 August 2022  
£2.50  
From £1.85 for subscribers

# The Guardian

News provider of the year

## Water bosses' bonuses rose 20% amid pollution failings

**Helena Horton**  
Environment reporter

The annual bonuses paid to water company executives rose by 20% in 2021, despite most of the firms failing to meet sewage pollution targets.

Figures show that on average executives received £100,000 in one-off payments on top of their salaries,

during a period in which foul water was pumped into England's rivers and swimming spots for 2.7m hours.

The analysis of water companies' annual reports found that their bonus pool for executives now stands at more than £600,000 per company on average. In total the 22 water bosses paid themselves £24.8m, including £14.7m in bonuses, benefits and incentives in 2021-22.

Sewage releases have continued to blight coastlines. Data suggests recent discharges have taken place in Cornwall, Cumbria, Devon, Essex, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Sussex, with people told to stay out of the sea at some beaches this week. These include some sites in Devon, where swimming is not advised because of the human waste pumped into the water.

*'It's time huge profits were diverted to properly managing water and sewage'*

**Hugo Tagholm**  
Surfers Against Sewage

Severn Trent gave out the highest payouts in bonuses, base pay and benefits to executives, topping the chart at £5,939,300, and United Utilities came second, paying £4,218,000.

Richard Foord, the Lib Dem MP for Tiverton and Honiton in Devon, has seen beaches in his constituency marked as unsafe this week, and said: "Local people and holidaymakers shouldn't be forced to swim amidst human waste. Devon's beaches are amongst the best in the world but the government is turning a blind eye while private companies ruin them."

The south coast has been particularly badly hit. MPs from Sussex have written to Southern Water and the Environment Agency asking them to respect the coast. They called for a plan to end discharges, adding: "In addition to the obvious environmental

17 →



## Top A-level grades fall as regional gap widens

**Sally Weale**  
**Pamela Duncan**  
**Rachel Hall**

The number of top A-level grades has fallen sharply this year after a return to examinations, with warnings of large regional variations and a "stark" divide between state and private schools.

Grades awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland yesterday were

down by 8.4 percentage points compared with last year's record results, while A\*s alone decreased by 4.5 points, in line with government plans to bring marks gradually back to pre-pandemic levels.

University admissions have fallen, after one of the most competitive admissions cycles in recent years, though they are still the second highest on record, according to the university admissions service Ucas. But the number of students without a

▲ Well-earned results at Whalley Range high school in Manchester – but regional gaps have widened

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK WAUGH/MANCHESTER PRESS

university place rose by a third, while a further 24,000 are estimated to have missed out on their first choice.

Overall, yesterday's results were higher across the UK than pre-pandemic levels, but the attainment gap between the north and south of England widened

## Anger at record profits for P&O owner

Months after sacking 800 workers with no notice, DP World bosses recorded £600m profits. The TUC called them 'corporate gangsters'  
News, page 29 →

## Model speaks out on botched treatment

Linda Evangelista reveals how she was persuaded to have a cosmetic procedure that she says has left her 'permanently deformed'  
News, page 13 →

8 →