

## What's News

## Business &amp; Finance

A swath of stocks has participated in the market's recent rebound, typically an encouraging sign of a rally's durability, yet few investors are willing to call a market bottom. **A1**

◆ Many smartphone owners are sticking with their current models longer, according to industry executives, as inflation lifts the cost of daily necessities like gasoline and food. **A1**

◆ Warren Buffett's bid to boost his big stake in Occidental Petroleum even further isn't expected to serve as a prelude to a full takeover of the energy company by the billionaire, at least for now. **B1**

◆ A \$1.7 billion jury verdict against Ford involving a fatal truck crash called into question the roof strength of older-model Super Duty pickups sold by the company over a roughly 17-year period. **B1**

◆ Amazon is adding new revenue streams ahead of the holiday season to help it counter inflationary pressures and other rising costs and as it recalibrates following a pandemic boom. **B1**

◆ Amazon is among the bidders in an auction for home-health-services provider Signify, according to people familiar with the matter. **B2**

◆ Israeli cyber firm NSO said it is replacing its chief executive and will lay off 100 employees, in a reorganization that follows criticism that clients abused its powerful spyware. **B4**

## World-Wide

◆ Severe droughts across the Northern Hemisphere are further snarling supply chains and driving up the prices of food and energy, adding pressure to a global trade system already under stress. **A1**

◆ Russian officials opened an investigation into a car bombing outside Moscow that killed the daughter of a prominent, far-right Russian ideologue who has long called for Russia to seize Ukraine. There was no claim of responsibility, and a Ukrainian official denied that Kyiv played any role in the bombing. **A1**

◆ The U.S. and South Korea were set to revive live-fire military drills after a years-long hiatus, sharpening their preparedness as the North Korean nuclear threat deepens and China steps up its presence around Taiwan. **A8**

◆ Liz Cheney said her political focus after leaving Congress will go beyond challenging Trump's hold on the Republican Party to include opposing candidates who promote his false claim that the 2020 election was stolen. **A4**

◆ The McKinney Fire, California's largest wildfire of the year, was 95% contained, officials said, nearly a month after it first erupted. **A6**

◆ California's Death Valley National Park reopened some of its most-popular sites to the public two weeks after severe flooding damaged roads and facilities. **A3**

**JOURNAL REPORT**  
Workplace Technology: Is Your Company Monitoring You? **R1-8**

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## Terrorist Attack on Somali Hotel Ends With 21 Civilians Dead



**SURVEYING DAMAGE:** Somali security forces ended a 30-hour siege of a popular hotel by Islamist militants in which 21 civilians were killed by gunfire and explosives, police said, the deadliest attack in the East African nation's capital in months. **A8**

## Droughts Take Widening Toll On World's Largest Economies

Severe droughts across the Northern Hemisphere—from the farms of California to waterways in Europe and China—are further snarling supply

By Matthew Dalton,  
Jim Carlton  
and Sha Hua

chains and driving up the prices of food and energy, adding pressure to a global trade system already under stress. Parts of China are experi-

encing their longest sustained heat wave since record-keeping began in 1961, according to China's National Climate Center, leading to manufacturing shutdowns owing to lack of hydropower. The drought affecting Spain, Portugal, France and Italy is on track to be the worst in 500 years, according to Andrea Toreti, a climate scientist at the European Commission's Joint Research Center.

In the American West, a drought that began two de-

cades ago now appears to be the worst in 1,200 years, according to a study led by the University of California, Los Angeles.

Researchers compare droughts by measuring the growth of annual tree rings that reflect rainfall and temperature from year to year in specific areas. Climate scientists said this year's dry spells are partly due to La Niña, a cyclical pattern of cooler water in the eastern Pacific Ocean that pushes the at-

mospheric jet stream northward, leaving parts of Europe, the U.S. and Asia with less rain. The United Nations said the number of droughts worldwide has risen 29% since 2000 due to land degradation and climate change.

For some of the world's biggest economies, this summer's droughts are hurting industries including electricity generation, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. That is

Please turn to page A2

## Phone Sales Slow as Users Put Off Buying New Models

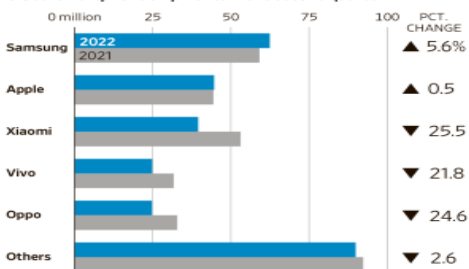
By Yang Jie  
and Sarah Donaldson

The global smartphone market is taking a breather. With inflation lifting the cost of daily necessities like gasoline and food, many phone owners are sticking with their current models longer, according to industry executives. Companies are making fewer phones and fewer phone parts, and they are planning for a further rough patch ahead.

China's Xiaomi Corp., the world's third-largest smartphone maker after Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co., said Friday that it shipped 26% fewer smartphones in the April-to-June quarter compared with a year earlier, and smartphone-related revenue fell 28% to the equivalent of \$6.2 billion.

Xiaomi cited shrinking consumer demand in China, which had pandemic-related lock-

Global smartphone shipments in the second quarter



Source: IDC

downs in the quarter, as well as rising food and fuel prices around the globe.

In the same quarter, worldwide smartphone shipments

declined nearly 9% compared with a year earlier to 286 million units, according to research firm International Data

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## Killing of Daughter Of Putin Ally Probed

By Matthew Luxmoore

Russian officials opened an investigation into a weekend car bombing outside Moscow that killed the daughter of a prominent, far-right Russian ideologue who has long called for Russia to seize Ukraine.

There was no claim of responsibility, and a Ukrainian official denied that Kyiv played any role in the bombing, which killed Daria Dugina in what Russia's Investigative Committee described as a pre-planned hit. The agency said the Toyota Land Cruiser she was driving exploded Saturday at around 9 p.m. local time as the likely result of a bomb placed inside.

Ms. Dugina was the daughter of Aleksandr Dugin, who for years has called on Russia to expand its territory by seizing Ukraine. In 2014, as Russian-backed separatists were capturing government buildings in eastern Ukraine and Moscow fomented an armed

conflict there, Mr. Dugin gave interviews suggesting Russia should take over the country and execute key officials.

Ms. Dugina had long been a vocal supporter of Eurasianism, her father's unique brand of Russian nationalism. She backed the war in Ukraine and published regular op-eds on pro-Kremlin websites under the pseudonym Daria Platonov.

She was also a frequent guest on state TV. In a recent appearance on the "Time Will Tell" talk show, Ms. Dugina said Russia was trying to rescue Ukrainians from Nazis running the government.

"Ukraine lost the unity of its nation," she said, echoing an oft-repeated Kremlin line that Kyiv was in thrall to Western-backed nationalists whom Russia had to prevent from tearing the country apart. "A bunch of gangs appeared with aggressive tendencies, with aggressive ideol-

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## Cat People Are Loving a New Videogame. So Are Their Cats.

'Stray,' starring a lost orange tabby, has built a devoted fan base—of felines

By Luke Winkie

Katie Hampton's two cats, Oliver and Yahzee, have a new favorite spot in her Los Angeles home. It's the shelf right below her TV, and above her PlayStation 4, where they have the best view of her playing the indie videogame "Stray." Released in July, "Stray" drops players into a desolate dystopian city, which they must navigate as a lost orange tabby who has been separated from its pack. The game's hero isn't your average animated cat; it scratches and yawns with striking feline fidelity. Oliver and Yahzee, Ms.

Hampton says, are convinced it's one of their own.

"It's like they want to interact with the cat," says Ms. Hampton, a 35-year-old creative producer for a digital media company. "The little one meowed back, which was really cute."

Social media has ballooned with videos of players' pets who seem enthralled by "Stray." Cats swipe at the television as if they're trying to grab a pawful of digital fur. Others cement themselves on a couch, coiled and springy, ready to pounce and play if

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## INSIDE



## PHARMACEUTICALS

Moderna, Pfizer race to make different boosters for U.S. than they are in other countries. **A3**

## BUSINESS NEWS

Berkshire Hathaway isn't likely to seek a full takeover of Occidental Petroleum. **B1**

## Kremlin Leverages Mercenaries

Wagner Group, a private army formed by 'Putin's Chef,' takes aim at Mali's mineral riches

By Benoit Faucon  
and Joe Parkinson

**MALI-MAURITANIA BORDER**—The leaders of Mali's junta gathered at Bamako airport earlier this month to hail the latest delivery from their new benefactor: the Kremlin.

On the northern end of the airstrip stood a line of attack aircraft, including Russian jet fighters and helicopter gunships to send to the front line of a decade-long war against jihadists, according to footage of the

ceremony on Malian state television. On the southern end, out of sight, was the swelling base of Wagner Group, the Kremlin-linked military company that has deployed some 1,000 mercenaries into Mali in exchange for cash and the potential for lucrative mining concessions.

"This batch of military equipment reflects our commitment to do everything possible to enhance the operations of our defense and security forces," said Colonel

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## Healthy interest

How Randox aims to revolutionise home diagnostics — BIG READ, PAGE 13

## A need-to-buy basis

Consumer confidence is not a true mirror of retail sales — OPINION, PAGE 15



## Going mainstream

Institutional investors pile into crypto exchanges — FT VIEW, PAGE 14

## Hotel terror Heavy toll in Somalia siege

A security officer on patrol in Mogadishu, capital of Somalia, yesterday after government forces broke up a 50-hour siege by jihadist group al-Shabaab in which almost two dozen people died.

More than a hundred more were wounded in the gun and bomb attack by the al-Qaeda-linked group, it began on Friday evening when the militants stormed the Hayat Hotel, a popular site for local politicians.

Al-Shabaab is waging an insurgency to topple Somalia's UN-backed government and its African Union allies and impose its own strict interpretation of Islam. It was its first major attack since a new president of Somalia took office earlier this year.

Al-Shabaab attack page 4



Hassan Ali Elmehrikh via Getty Images

# Top Russian diplomat dismisses chances of Ukraine peace deal

◆ Gatilov urges bigger UN role ◆ Blow after grain breakthrough ◆ War nears six-month mark

HENRY FOY — GENEVA

Moscow sees no possibility of a diplomatic solution to end the war in Ukraine and expects a long conflict, a senior Russian diplomat has warned, as president Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion reaches the six-month mark this week. Gennadiy Gatilov, Russia's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, told the FT that the UN should be playing a bigger role in attempts to end the conflict and accused the US and other NATO countries of putting pressure on Ukraine to walk away from negotiations. There would be no direct talks between Putin and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he said.

"Now, I do not see any possibility for diplomatic contacts," Gatilov said. "And

the more the conflict goes on, the more difficult it will be to have a diplomatic solution."

His remarks, which come despite a flurry of shuttle diplomacy in recent weeks, are a blow to negotiators who had hoped that a recent agreement on grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports could become the basis for a broader deal.

The UN has become mired in "politicisation" because of the war and that "damaged the authority of the UN and its organisations", Gatilov said. As a result, it is unable to act effectively as a mediator, he complained. "We do not have any contacts with the western delegations," he said of his day-to-day work in Geneva. "We simply do not talk to each other."

Global diplomacy was in the worst state he had experienced in his 50-year career, Gatilov added. "The world has changed and the UN will never be the same as it was before," he said.

Bilateral ceasefire negotiations broke down after evidence of war crimes committed by occupying Russian troops was discovered in April; Moscow has denied the allegations.

The failure to restart peace talks combined with continued western military support for Ukraine meant it was impossible to forecast how long the conflict could last, Gatilov said. "And so they [Kyiv and its western supporters] will fight until the last Ukrainian."

The UN and Turkey have sought to act as intermediaries between Kyiv and Moscow, and had recent success in brok-



Gennadiy Gatilov, Russia's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, ruled out talks between Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

ering the deal on Ukraine's grain exports. But Gatilov said it was "unfortunate" that the UN was not playing a larger role. "I think [the grain deal] is the only example that they played a practical role in trying to mediate," he said. "It should be more than that."

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited Putin in Sochi this month and met Zelenskyy in Lviv last week alongside UN secretary-general António Guterres in an effort to act as a mediator. Gatilov praised Erdoğan for "trying his best" but dismissed speculation of talks between Putin and Zelenskyy, saying there "was not any practical platform for having this meeting."

Additional reporting by Roman Olschak and Mehul Srivastava  
Moscow car bomb page 2

### Briefing

► **Berlin audit watchdog attacks cosy ties**  
Thorsten Pötzsch, head of Germany's new financial reporting watchdog, has accused the industry of being "too close" to clients and urged "professional scepticism" after the collapse of Wirecard. — PAGE 5

► **Putin backer's daughter killed in blast**  
Daria Dugina, whose father Alexander is a far-right Russian ideologue, has been killed by a car bomb outside Moscow. She was driving her father's Toyota but he had switched to another vehicle. — PAGE 2

► **More foreign delegations head for Taipei**  
Indiana governor Eric Holcomb has arrived in Taiwan, Japanese MPs land today and another US group arrives at the weekend. The visits defy efforts by China to deter foreign engagement. — PAGE 4

► **Tourists snub Japan despite reopening**  
Industry analysts have said there is only a trickle of visits to the country, two months after Tokyo announced that it would reopen borders shut for two years in the pandemic. — PAGE 4



► **Bundesbank chief firm on rate increases**  
Berlin central bank chief Joachim Nagel has warned that interest rates need to keep rising despite a risk of recession, as inflation hits double-digit levels for the first time since 1951. — PAGE 2; WEEK AHEAD, PAGE 7

► **Brussels bid to revive vaccination push**  
The European Commission has warned that the rate of vaccination has levelled off despite surging Covid-19 cases. It called on EU states to intensify campaigns ahead of autumn and winter. — PAGE 4

► **SVP sued by shopping mall investors**  
Minority shareholders in Washington Prime Group have sued distressed debt investor Strategic Value Partners, saying they were short-changed as it took control amid bankruptcy proceedings. — PAGE 6

### Datawatch

#### People power

Population (mn)  
India China Nigeria  
Pakistan US

Source: UN World Population Prospects 2022

The latest World Population Prospects report from the UN shows that India is set to overtake China as the world's most populous country next year. Nigeria and Pakistan are likely to overtake the US by mid-century.

Source: UN World Population Prospects 2022

## SoftBank sacrificed Alibaba shares to calm investors after record \$23bn loss

KANA INAGAKI AND LEO LEWIS — TOKYO

SoftBank sold a large part of its stake in Alibaba to "instantly show" investors that its finances were solid after logging a record quarterly loss of \$23bn, its chief financial officer said.

Yoshimitsu Goto said the share sale was intended to reassure investors in what is one of Japan's most highly leveraged companies and dismissed market concerns that SoftBank's heavy losses could strain its relationship with lenders. "In times like this, it is critical as an investment group to instantly show that our financial strength is rock solid," Goto told the Financial Times.

SoftBank's stake will reduce from 23.7 per cent at the end of June to 14.6 per cent in September, it announced earlier this month. The sale has boosted the group's share price by 10 per cent. The

move significantly reduces the investment on which founder Masayoshi Son built his name as one of the world's greatest technology investors.

SoftBank revealed that it would post a gain of ¥4.6tn (\$35.6bn) by selling shares in Alibaba only two days after reporting its worst quarterly performance.

Goto acknowledged that SoftBank's announcement was abrupt after years of playing down the possibility of any sudden exit. But he said it was designed to mirror the previous sale of some of SoftBank's most prized holdings when the Covid-19 pandemic led to a crash in its share price in March 2020.

Then, the \$41bn asset sale funded the largest share buyback in Japanese history and paid down SoftBank's debt load, helping to improve investor confidence.

"Just like two years and a half ago, we wanted to show the world that we can do something like this because we are financially resilient. That was our objective," Goto said.

The decision comes with the political risk of being seen to abandon a Chinese investment at a sensitive time. China is undertaking a regulatory crackdown on tech companies, and diplomatic relations between Beijing and Tokyo are strained.

Several investors and analysts fear that SoftBank risks breaching a financial covenant which states it must not report two consecutive years of losses. SoftBank suffered a ¥1.7tn net loss in the year to March 2022.

"Our decision has nothing to do with the financial covenant. There are countless ways for us to address the covenant issue," Goto said.



### Wave of rich new entrants lifts properties in Dubai

Dubai developers are bringing long-delayed projects out of mothballs amid a surge in demand from Asian billionaires, cryptocurrency investors and rich Russians looking to escape sanctions. For existing investors who are now receiving offers for their contracts on plots and properties, it is bittersweet. After years of battling they are only expected to get a fraction of their money back but, says one, "it's better than nothing".

Back in play — PAGE 5

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Aug 19	Aug 12	Prev. %Chg		Aug 19	Aug 12	%Chg		Aug 19	Aug 12	%Chg
S&P 500	4231.44	4283.74	-1.22	\$/£	1.004	1.025	-2.05	US 2 yr	3.25	3.21	0.04
Nasdaq Composite	12713.06	12965.34	-1.95	\$/€	1.180	1.212	-2.64	US 10 yr	2.98	2.86	0.13
Dow Jones Ind	33721.14	33969.04	-0.82	\$/¥	0.051	0.045	+13.33	US 30 yr	3.22	3.12	0.10
FTSE 100	1722.17	1733.24	-0.64	€/¥	137.115	133.705	+2.54	UK 2 yr	2.80	2.54	0.06
FTSE 250	3727.67	3777.38	-1.33	\$/₹	161.827	162.016	-0.11	UK 10 yr	2.41	2.31	0.10
FTSE All-Share	4157.79	4182.11	-0.59	\$/₹	0.963	0.967	-0.41	UK 30 yr	2.71	2.62	0.09
CAC 40	6488.63	6552.40	-0.94	€/₹	0.999	0.976	+2.35	JPN 2 yr	0.09	0.09	0.00
Nikkei 225	33444.52	33897.41	-1.32					JPN 10 yr	0.20	0.19	0.00
Hong Kong	28930.33	28942.14	-0.04					JPN 30 yr	1.07	1.09	-0.02
Hang Seng	19773.63	19763.91	0.05					GER 2 yr	0.81	0.73	0.08
MSCI World	2628.41	2622.87	0.13					GER 10 yr	1.23	1.10	0.13
MSCI EM	1209.58	1015.59	+19.69					GER 30 yr	1.40	1.29	0.11
MSCI ACWI	695.39	655.07	0.05								
FT Wilshire 2500	5504.88	5521.49	0.24								
FT Wilshire 5000	43830.96	43522.88	0.25								

Prices are latest for addition Data provided by Morningstar

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Ukrainian soldiers waited to form a military column to advance toward eastern Ukraine from a base south of Kyiv on Sunday.

## Activists Push To Get Fetuses Person Status

Even as roughly half the states have moved to enact near-total bans on abortion since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June, anti-abortion activists are pushing for a long-held and more absolute goal: laws that grant fetuses the same legal rights and protections as any person.

So-called fetal personhood laws would make abortion murder, ruling out all or most of the exceptions for abortion allowed in states that already ban it. So long as Roe established a constitutional right to abortion, such laws remained symbolic in the few states that managed to pass them. Now they are starting to have practical effect. Already in Georgia, a fetus now qualifies for tax credits and child support, and is to be included in population counts and redistricting.

The laws also open up questions well beyond abortion, about immigration and who is entitled to public benefits.

They have the potential to criminalize common health care procedures and limit the rights of a pregnant woman in making health care decisions.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision returning the regulation of abortion to the states has opened new interest in the laws, and a new legal path for them.

In Indiana, where this month the Republican-controlled legislature banned abortion starting at conception — one of the strictest laws in the nation — some conservative lawmakers objected that the law included exceptions for rape and incest. "This bill justifies the wicked, those murdering babies, and punishes the righteous, the unborn human being," one lawmaker said, pushing instead for a fetal personhood law with no exceptions.

In Georgia, a law granting fetal personhood to fetuses after around six weeks of pregnancy took effect after the overturning of Roe. But Georgia Right to Life and other conservative groups are petitioning Gov. Brian Kemp to call a special legislative session to pass a fetal personhood amendment to the state constitution. It would eliminate any exceptions for abortion allowed in the law, by declaring a "paramount right to life of all human beings as persons at any stage of development from fertil-

Continued on Page A17



### INTERNATIONAL A4-8

**'Artistic Awakening' in Benin**  
The country responds to the return of looted artifacts with an exhibit that has drawn 200,000 people. PAGE A4

**Singapore to End Gay Sex Ban**  
A colonial-era law criminalizing sex between men will be repealed, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said. PAGE A7

## Mayor at Night: Private Table, Tarnished Friends

By SARAH MASLIN NIR  
and JAZMINE HUGHES

Before he took office, Eric Adams vowed to boost New York City's nightlife as both the mayor and a very active participant, visiting venues from Staten Island to Queens, showing up personally to restore the vibrancy of an industry crushed by Covid.

Mr. Adams has indeed become a fixture out after dark, visiting destinations around the city. But a curious and unmistakable pattern has also emerged: Again and again he returns to the same upscale Manhattan restaurant. There, he slips behind a frosted glass partition to a private table where he holds court, while the restaurant stays open until he

### Savoring City's Fun, but Partial to Venue Run by Ex-Convicts

leaves — sometimes well after its official closing time.

The restaurant, Osteria La Baia, is run by Mr. Adams's close friends, Robert and Zhan Petrosyants — twin brothers whose businesses Mr. Adams has supported despite the brothers' past felony convictions, outstanding tax debts and a trail of legal troubles.

In June alone, Mr. Adams visited La Baia on at least 14 evenings, according to New York

Times reporters who observed his nighttime outings — of which there were at least 22 that month.

At La Baia, where entrees range in price from about \$30 to over \$60, Times reporters never observed him paying for his meals. In response to questions from The Times, a spokesman said the mayor personally pays the bill to the restaurant monthly. But the spokesman declined to provide receipts, and the restaurant's operators did not respond to emails seeking any documents that would support the mayor's claim.

If the mayor has failed to pay for his meals, he could have violated the city's ethics rules, watchdogs said. Public servants are explicit-

Continued on Page A15



Mayor Eric Adams leaving Zero Bond, a private club in Lower Manhattan that he visits as a guest.

## A Father Is Flagged for Photos Sent to a Doctor

By KASHMIR HILL

Mark noticed something amiss with his toddler. His son's penis looked swollen and was hurting him. Mark, a stay-at-home dad in San Francisco, grabbed his Android smartphone and took photos to document the problem so he could track its progression.

It was a Friday night in February 2021. His wife called an advice nurse at their health care provider to schedule an emergency consultation for the next morning, by video because it was a Saturday

### Tech to Weed Out Child Abuse Has Pitfalls

and there was a pandemic going on. The nurse said to send photos so the doctor could review them in advance.

Mark's wife grabbed her husband's phone and texted a few high-quality close-ups of their son's groin area to her iPhone so she could upload them to the health care provider's messaging

system. In one, Mark's hand was visible, helping to better display the swelling. Mark and his wife gave no thought to the tech giants that made this quick capture and exchange of digital data possible, or what those giants might think of the images.

With help from the photos, the doctor diagnosed the issue and prescribed antibiotics, which quickly cleared it up. But the episode left Mark with a much larger problem, one that would cost him more than a decade of

Continued on Page A16



### SPORTS D1-8

**Fame, in All Its Forms**

Seven stories of people who gained the spotlight, often in a brief moment. Above, Kamila Valieva. PAGE D1

### A Subway Series Preview

The slumping Yankees will face the two-headed monster atop the Mets' pitching rotation. PAGE D2

### BUSINESS B1-5

#### Mining Tesla's Crash Data

Data and video recorded by Tesla and other automakers to hone driver-assistance systems could be an investigative tool for regulators, the police and lawyers. As yet, little is shared. PAGE B1

#### Getting 'Weird' on Roku

The streaming media device company is delving deeper into original programming with its most ambitious project to date, a biopic of "Weird Al" Yankovic, who co-wrote the movie. PAGE B1

### OPINION A18-19

**Charles M. Blow**

PAGE A19

## Pro-War Russian Pundit Is Killed in Car Bombing

### In State News, Clash of Civilizations

By NEIL MACFARQUHAR

"Vesti Nedeli," the flagship weekly roundup of Kremlin-controlled television news, recently portrayed a long history of predatory Western powers coming to grief when they invaded Russia: Sweden in the 18th century, France in the 19th, Germany in the 20th.

Enemies now seek to reverse those losses, said Dmitry Kiselyov, the show's host, blaming the West for the war that Russia instigated in Ukraine. The goal to finish off Russia is "centuries old and unchanging," he said. "Here we are on the defensive."

In the six months since Russia invaded, the state media's emphasis in reporting the war has gradually shifted. Gone are predictions of a lightning offensive that would obliterate Ukraine. There is less talk of being embraced as liberators who must "denazify" and demilitarize Ukraine, though the "fascist" label is still flung about with abandon.

Instead, in the Kremlin version — the only one most Russians see, with all others outlawed — the battlefields of Ukraine are one facet of a wider civilizational war being waged against Russia.

The reporting is less about Ukraine than "about opposing Western plans to get control of Russia," said Stanislav Kucher, a veteran Russian television host now consulting on a project to get Russians better access to banned news outlets. The United States is the main antagonist, with Europe and NATO its lackeys.

Vladimir Solovoyev, a talk-show host and top cheerleader for President Vladimir V. Putin's government, said this month that "Russia is invited to join Western society for dinner — not as a guest, but as a dish."

One of his nightly shows recently presented the war as a kind of cosmic showdown between good and evil. For specific incidents, he brings out various "experts," like the American-born one-time martial arts star Steven Seagal, now a Russian citizen, who pushed the Kremlin's narrative that an explosion in July at a Russian internment camp in east-

Continued on Page A6

**Late Edition**  
Today, mostly cloudy, showers and heavy thunderstorms, high 77. Tonight, spotty thunderstorms, low 70. Tomorrow, thunderstorms, high 82. Weather map appears on Page A20.

### Strike Near Moscow Puts Elite on Edge

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI

A brazen car bombing in a Moscow suburb that killed the daughter of a prominent backer of President Vladimir V. Putin's invasion of Ukraine has injected new uncertainty into the six-month war and rattled Russia's elite.

The Russian authorities said on Sunday that they had begun a murder investigation into the killing of Daria Dugina, 29, a hawkish political commentator who was the daughter of the philosopher Aleksandr Dugin, long a leading proponent of an imperialist Russia who has been urging the Kremlin to escalate its assault on Ukraine.

Russian state television described the car bombing, which occurred on Saturday evening on a highway and shattered the windows of nearby houses in an affluent Moscow suburb, as a "terrorist act" and said the intended target had been Mr. Dugin. It ended up killing his daughter instead because he had taken a different car at the last minute, according to Russian news reports.

There was no evidence that the attack was connected to the war in Ukraine, but associates of Ms. Dugina quickly claimed that Ukraine was behind it. The Kremlin was silent. An adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said his country had played no role in the bombing.

"Ukraine certainly had nothing to do with yesterday's explosion," Mykhailo Podolyak, the adviser, said in televised comments on Sunday morning. "We are not a criminal state like the Russian Federation, much less a terrorist one."

Still, the rare attack on a member of the pro-Kremlin elite — reminiscent of the fiery assassinations of Moscow's chaotic 1990s — has the potential to further upend Mr. Putin's efforts to pursue the war in Ukraine while maintaining a sense of normalcy at home.

It comes in the wake of a number of Ukrainian attacks deep behind the front line in the Russian-controlled peninsula of Crimea, and as many of the war's most ardent cheerleaders have been calling on Mr. Putin to launch a new assault on Ukraine in retaliation.

Ms. Dugina was not well known. Continued on Page A6

## Stars Return to Fill the Stage, But Gaze at Many Empty Seats

By MICHAEL PAULSON  
and JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ

Patti LuPone, Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig came back to Broadway. The Norwegian diva-in-the-making Lise Davidsen brought her penetrating voice to the Metropolitan Opera. Dancers filled stages, symphonies reverberated in concert halls and international theater companies returned to American stages.

The resumption of live performance after the long pandemic shutdown brought plenty to cheer about over the past year. But many fewer people are showing up to join those cheers than presagers had hoped.

Around New York, and across the country, audiences remain well below prepandemic levels. From regional theaters to Broadway, and from local orchestras to grand opera houses, performing arts organizations are reporting persistent — and worrisome — drops in attendance.

Fewer than half as many people saw a Broadway show during the season that recently ended than did so during the last full season before the coronavirus pandemic. The Met Opera saw its paid at-



Lincoln Center. Covid continues to affect audience behavior.

tendance fall to 61 percent of capacity, down from 75 percent before the pandemic. Many regional theaters say ticket sales are down significantly.

There was a greater magnetic force of people's couches than 1, as a producer, anticipated," said Jeremy Blocker, the managing di-

Continued on Page A14



### ARTS C1-6

**A 'Game of Thrones' Prequel**

The "Thrones" author George R.R. Martin says that "House of the Dragon" has all it needs to succeed. Above, Emma D'Arcy and Matt Smith. PAGE C1







**AUTUMN McWILLIAMS**, 33, who is homeless, walks with her Pekin duck named **Cardi D** on Grand Avenue in downtown L.A.

COLUMN ONE

## She's a friend in fine feather

For Autumn McWilliams, life on the streets of L.A. isn't easy. But an 'emotional support duck' named Cardi D has her back — and vice versa.

Story by **Brittney Mejia** | Photography by **Mel Melcon**

**N**o one took a second look at the young woman pushing the maroon stroller through the concrete tangle of downtown Los Angeles. From a distance, Autumn McWilliams could have been any mother out with her baby — until passersby drew near and caught sight of the creamy white feathers.

Then they pointed. They quacked and shouted "Aflac!" a nod to the ubiquitous insurance spokes-duck. They asked to snap photos.

Inside the stroller was the center of attention: a Pekin duck known as **Cardi D**.

McWilliams takes **Cardi D** everywhere: on the bus, the train — even to the dreaded DMV. Walking with the duck feels like being part of a celebrity entourage, she says, with



**McWILLIAMS**, right, wearing a wig, and her boyfriend, **Jack**, do laundry at their homeless encampment in downtown Los Angeles while **Cardi D** cools off in a container of water.

newly minted fans flocking for a closer look.

But **Cardi D** is more than a source of amusement for tourists and locals. In her first four months of life, she has become a comfort animal — an "emotional support duck" — for McWilliams, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, depression and anxiety.

McWilliams, 33, has been homeless off and on for half her life. She says she relies on **Cardi D** to keep her calm. The duck relies on McWilliams to keep her safe.

After all, life on the street — for both humans and ducks — isn't easy. There are fires. Violence. Overdoses. Loved ones die. Before **Cardi D** waddled into her life, McWilliams relied on a series of other ducks for support; all four of them died within a matter of

[See Feather, A6]

## Stars are among excessive water users

Some famous names appear on a list of 2,000 customers cited by a utility in western San Fernando Valley.

By **HAYLEY SMITH** AND **SEAN GREENE**

They're among the biggest names in entertainment and sports: **Sylvester Stallone**, **Dwyane Wade**, **Kevin Hart**, **Kim and Kourtney Kardashian**.

And as Southern California struggles with a third year of punishing drought and unprecedented water restrictions, they may be among the biggest names in water waste in the tony San Fernando Valley enclaves of Calabasas and Hidden Hills, documents obtained by The Times show.

The celebrities were among more than 2,000 customers who recently were issued "notices of exceedance" by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, indicating that they had surpassed 150% of their monthly water budgets at least four times since the agency declared a drought emergency at the end of last year.

Their properties are now subject to the installation of flow restrictor devices, which can reduce showers to a trickle and silence lawn sprinklers.

"Customers are expected to adhere to the water use reductions and water conservation measures that are in place due to this emergency," the notices read.

Las Virgenes on June 1 imposed severe "Stage 3" restrictions in an effort to achieve an unprecedented 50% reduction in consumption due to a water shortage emergency. The rules limit outdoor watering to one day

[See Water, A14]

## TikTok, the new campaign challenge

Politicians want to reach young voters. But can their videos pass the 'teenager eye-roll test'?

By **PRISCILLA VEGA**

As Megan Thee Stallion raps about her desires for a lover, a young woman records herself in her room, strutting toward her phone in sweatpants and a tank top.

On sync to the track's beat, she drops low. This is usually the part where TikTok creators pivot and show themselves in a new outfit, glammed up.

Instead, a 49-year-old man in a suit and tie appears, mirroring the woman's dance pose before crouching on his office floor, an American flag on a stand behind him.

"Hey, are you registered to vote?" Florida Democratic congressional candidate **Ken Russell** asks, bear crawling toward his phone's screen. "There's a primary on Aug. 23 and the general election Nov. 8. Wait, [See TikTok, A14]

## Major monkeypox fear: a jump from pets to wild

Prospect of rodent vectors keeps scientists up at night

By **CORINNE PURTILL**

**Maureen Miller**, an infectious disease epidemiologist and medical anthropologist at Columbia University, was not surprised to learn last week that an Italian greyhound in Paris had become the first dog known to catch monkeypox from a human.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

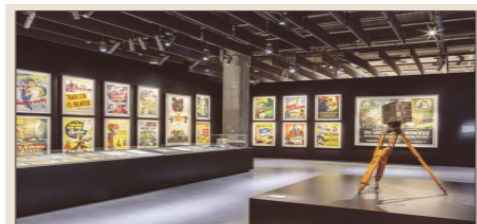
along with the World Health Organization have cautioned since the start of this outbreak that the disease could spread to pets. Many of the routine ways dogs show affection for owners — licking their faces, nuzzling their skin, leaping up into their bedding — are potential pathways for viral transmission.

The CDC offers clear guidance for isolating

household animals from infected people, and potentially infected pets from one another. Dogs should be able to recover from the virus just like humans do.

That's not the human-to-animal transmission scenario that worries **Miller**. "It's rodents that scare me," she said.

If the virus becomes established in wild animals [See Monkeypox, A7]



**JOSHUA WHITE** JW Pictures/Academy Museum Foundation

### BLACK PIONEERS IN FOCUS

"Regeneration," a new exhibit at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, above, gives trail-blazing Black filmmakers their due. **CALENDAR, E1**

### Study: Hot days to triple by 2053

Severe heat will lead to infrastructure accidents and higher energy costs across California, report says. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Beach volleyball win fulfills dream

**Sara Hughes** and **Kelley Kolinske** stage a comeback to clinch the AVP Manhattan Beach Open title. **SPORTS, D1**

### Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin 81/65. **B6**



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**IZ SINISTRA** was shot in the head with a beanbag projectile by LAPD officers during a 2020 protest.

## Wounded protester finally looks ahead

Man injured by LAPD in 2020 reflects on his grueling legal process, \$1.25-million payout and path forward.

By **KEVIN RECTOR**

**Iz Sinistra** was entering an exciting new chapter in life in May 2020. He was studying music under the GI Bill after four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, was about to sign a lease on a Los Angeles apartment, and felt happy and independent.

He also felt newly empowered to speak out about important social issues, which he said the Marines had always discouraged. So

when **George Floyd** was killed by police in Minneapolis that month and thousands of people took to the streets of L.A. in protest, **Sinistra** joined them.

"I felt it was time to go do something that was right," he said.

What followed would upend **Sinistra's** new life.

The protest he attended that day in **Pan Pacific Park** turned into one of the most volatile in L.A. history. Los Angeles Police Department officers trying to disperse the crowd shot **Sinistra** in the head with a beanbag projectile, part of an arsenal of so-called less-lethal ammunition used for subduing suspects and quelling unrest.

The incident sent **Sinistra** [See Protester, A8]



# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington

50 11 12 13 14



A p.m. t-storm 84/70 • Tomorrow: A t-storm 86/72 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022 • B2

## Colombia's radical line on cocaine: Regulate it

War on drugs ally argues decriminalization could wrest market from cartels

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT  
AND DIANA DURÁN

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA — It's the largest producer of cocaine in the world, and the source of more than 90 percent of the drug seized in the United States. It's home to the largest Drug Enforcement Administration office overseas. And for decades, it's been a key partner in Washington's never-ending "war on drugs."

Now, Colombia is calling for an end to that war. It wants instead to lead a global experiment: decriminalizing cocaine.

Two weeks after taking office, the country's first leftist government is proposing an end to "prohibition" and the start of a government-regulated cocaine market. Through legislation and alliances with other leftist governments in the region, officials in this South American nation hope to turn their country into a laboratory for drug decriminalization.

"It is time for a new international convention that accepts that the war on drugs has failed," SEE COLOMBIA ON A12

## Can mining escape its noxious reputation?

Sourcing of metals for batteries in electric cars offers industry a test case

BY EVAN HALPER

TAMARACK, MINN. — Electric cars are still rare in this marshy stretch of central Minnesota, where it is more common to pass a flock of wild turkeys on the country roads than a Nissan Leaf.

But the region could have an outside impact on America's transition to zero-emission vehicles. Tamarack, sitting atop a treasure trove of metal used to power electric cars, is fast becoming a test case of whether the auto industry can meet this critical climate moment by sourcing colossal amounts of battery materials domestically and sustainably.

The climate package President Biden just signed gives new momentum to companies such as Talon Metals, working to persuade locals that it can extract thousands of tons of nickel without making an environmental mess. The legislation includes billions of dollars in tax credits SEE MINING ON A13



South Memphis resident Angela Johnson, on the route, says the fight against industrial pollution "becomes emotionally draining."

## The south Memphis coal ash mountain

A daily TVA convoy trucks the contaminant through a pollution-burdened Black community

BY DARRYL FEARS  
IN MEMPHIS

It's rare for a Black community to notch a win against a large industrial polluter, but that's what happened on this city's south side.

Residents stood up to a proposal by two oil and gas industry giants to build a pipeline under their properties and forced them to back down. When the news broke last year in July, the rejoicing began.

But it didn't last long. Just two weeks after Valero Energy Corp. and Plains All-American abandoned their pipeline bid, the Tennessee Valley Authority

announced its plan to truck millions of tons of contaminated coal ash through south Memphis for nearly 10 years and dump it in a landfill there. And there was nothing residents could do to stop it.

What happened in south Memphis is another example of how industries constantly work to fight their way into communities of color already teeming with pollution — and get their way more often than not.

By spring this year, earthmovers were crawling on a mountain of the toxic pollutant and dumping it into trucks with sealed cabins to protect the drivers against breathing it. Every weekday, the convoy rolls toward Interstate 55, starting a 19-mile procession to dump waste laced with mercury, arsenic and other contaminants at a landfill in south Memphis and cover it with dirt.

Diesel trucks operated by a contractor, Republic Services, will make 240 trips per day to remove 3.2 million cubic yards of coal SEE CONVOY ON A18

## From a world away, a U.S. volunteer guides Afghan allies left behind

BY ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER

FAIRPORT, N.Y. — Kim Staffieri woke before dawn to find the latest in the seemingly never-ending stream of desperate text messages and voice mails from Afghanistan.

It was a Monday, one of the four days a week that Staffieri devotes her full attention to helping men and women who once helped the United States during its longest war but could not leave their country before Taliban militants took over a year ago.

"I have three small children and I'm scared," read one message. "Please help me."

At a glance, Staffieri, 56, might seem an unlikely candidate for the volunteer role that consumes so much of her life. She has no law degree, has never been to Afghanistan and never served in the U.S. military. She's an accountant, which is what pays the bills.

But over the past five years, she has donated thousands of hours of her time to helping Afghans navigate the U.S. government's program for Special Immigrant Visas



Kim Staffieri of the Association of War-time Allies visits with an Afghan refugee at his new home in Rochester, N.Y.

(SIVs) — the visas set aside for Afghans who worked for the U.S. government, at their own peril, during 20 years of war.

The aid gained greater urgency last summer, when the United States withdrew from the country and left the majority of those SIV-seekers behind.

Staffieri, who in 2019 had co-founded the Association of War-time Allies to help SIV applicants, estimated in a February report that 96 percent of them were still in Afghanistan.

"It's so disheartening to see the U.S. [which] had the biggest interest in this war of any country in the world, turn their backs on people," she said. "If we don't take care of the folks who worked with our troops, who kept our troops safe, who made our troops effective over there, the next time we step into a conflict zone, who is going to help?"

Staffieri comes from a military family and started volunteering six years ago to resettle SIVs in her area of Upstate New York as a way SEE VOLUNTEER ON A9

ELECTION 2022

## Hopefuls avoiding Biden on trail

CAMPAIGNS SIDELINE HIM DESPITE WINS

Unfamiliar spot for once sought-after surrogate

BY MATT VISER

Joe Biden on Thursday will effectively launch his midterm campaign efforts, attempting to capitalize on one of the best stretches of his presidency and beginning the hard task of persuading voters to keep Democrats in control of the House and the Senate.

But he has also been in an uncomfortable position, as an anchor for many in his party. And for Biden, who for decades has prided himself on being one of the most sought-after Democratic surrogates, it's also an unfamiliar one.

He's being attacked more often in televised ads than Barack Obama was at this point in 2010, or Donald Trump in 2018. He goes largely unnamed on Democratic campaign websites and Twitter accounts. And candidates in key races in battleground states are either not asking him to come — or actively avoiding him when he does, according to a Washington Post survey of more than 60 candidates in the most competitive gubernatorial, U.S. Senate and congressional campaigns in the country.

Few candidates said they wanted Biden to campaign for them in their state or district, with many not responding to the question at SEE BIDEN ON A4

## GOP's possible 2024 candidates go national for the midterms

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

DES MOINES — Mike Pence smiled through rain and hail at the Iowa State Fair as he campaigned for a traditional conservative senator on the ballot this fall — and teased his own potential run in a state that has long kicked off the GOP presidential nominating process. "My family and I will do as we've always done, and that is reflect and pray on where we might next serve," the former vice president said.

On the same day, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was in battleground Pennsylvania campaigning for a far-right nominee for governor. DeSantis recounted his battles with "establishment Republicans" and "the corporate media," as well as the culture wars in which he and the nominee both have eagerly fought.

Just as DeSantis's event got underway, Donald Trump's political organization announced his own rally for the "Pennsylvania Trump Ticket" on Labor Day weekend. SEE MIDTERMS ON A5

The Fix: Trump may no longer be the most likely GOP nominee. A2

## IN THE NEWS



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

**'Abandoned' in Haiti** A year after a powerful earthquake, residents have been frustrated by the pace of recovery and rebuilding. A8

**The Church of Safe Injection** In Maine, a young activist started a movement to help drug users. His own struggles ran deep. A3

**THE NATION** A federal appeals court temporarily paused an order that would have required Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) to testify before a Georgia grand jury probing GOP efforts to reverse the 2020 presidential election results in the state. A5

**The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee** said public pressure to unseal the affidavit used in the search of former president Donald Trump's Florida home could put FBI agents at personal risk or be used to intimidate witnesses. A7

**THE WORLD** China is suffering its worst drought on record as temperatures dry up key parts of the Yangtze River, damaging crops and limiting drinking water supplies. A10

**The daughter of a far-right Russian nationalist** who helped shape the Kremlin's narrative about Ukraine was killed when the car she was driving exploded near Moscow, according to Russian authorities. A11

**THE ECONOMY** The Help Desk offers five tips to make gadget batteries last longer. A14

## THE REGION

**Two universities in D.C.** illustrate divergent strategies on public health as colleges head into the third fall term since the pandemic upheavals of early 2020. B1

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**MONDAY** NASA holds an online briefing after a flight readiness review for its upcoming Artemis I mission.

**TUESDAY** Florida and New York hold primary elections.

**WEDNESDAY** President Biden is expected to return to the White House after vacationing at his North Shores, Del., home.

**THURSDAY** Biden is expected to speak at a Democratic National Committee event in Maryland. Jobless claims are estimated at 255,000.

**FRIDAY** Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell discusses the U.S. economic outlook at an event in Wyoming.

## INSIDE



**STYLE** Parting words In her final column, Margaret Sullivan offers advice on how to cover a perilous election. C1

**SPORTS** No Mystics magic Washington couldn't keep up with Seattle's offense as the Storm completed a first-round sweep in the WNBA playoffs. D1

**BUSINESS NEWS** A14  
**COMICS** C6  
**OPINION PAGES** A16  
**LETTERS** B3  
**OBITUARIES** B4  
**TELEVISION** C4  
**WORLD NEWS** A8

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**Business owners reviewing budgets to avoid layoffs**

Worried about possible recession, companies look at ways they can keep staff. **In Money**

**'Dirty Dancing': Ranking every song on soundtrack**

We had the time of our life listing tunes for dance drama's 35th anniversary. **In Life**

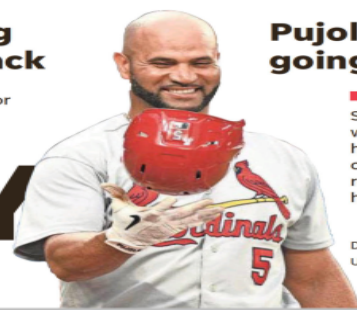
**Pujols: 'I'm still going to retire'**

St. Louis Cardinals icon, who is closing in on 700 home runs, says he won't change his mind about retiring even if he doesn't hit milestone. **In Sports**

DAN HAMILTON/  
USA TODAY SPORTS

# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022



## ELECTIONS

### Primary poised to test new Fla. laws

Some fear voting limits are aimed at minorities

Rick Rouan  
USA TODAY

Floridians will cast their primary ballots Tuesday under new voting restrictions a judge once said were designed "to target Black voters," the first such federal election under the new law.

Voting rights advocates say the new rules make it harder to request and turn in absentee ballots and register voters as well as making it easier to challenge votes once cast. But supporters say the new rules are needed to combat voter fraud.

The primary will not only serve as a preview of presidential elections in 2024, but it will also test ideas about who should be able to vote, and how easily, in what has become one of the most electorally important states in the country.

By 2024, in fact, Florida might have even more restrictions. Its new election laws call for a committee to study rules similar to those in Texas, which led to a spike in rejected ballots in that state's primary earlier this year.

Operating under new rules, Texas tossed out more than 12% of mailed ballots during its 2022 primary, up from what the Texas Tribune determined to be less than 2% in 2018.

"A lot of people have questions about this new law," said Amy Keith, program director for the good government group Common Cause Florida.

#### New restrictions for midterms

Florida is part of a group of states that have adopted new election restrictions fueled by claims of election fraud

See **FLORIDA**, Page 2A



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#### USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS

##### Tots' take per tooth tops \$5

The average payout per canine, incisor, molar or premolar has hit a new high at \$5.36 this year.



SOURCE: Delta Dental's Original Tooth Fairy Poll of U.S. parents  
AMY BARNETTE, BILL CAMPLING/USA TODAY

#### DAILY DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS ...

Dining Deals

USA

PAGE 2A



DATABASE TRACKING MASS KILLINGS

## Shootings only part of story

The horror and tragedy of mass shootings in American schools, churches and other public places capture the nation's attention. But these are only part of the larger violence of mass killings — deaths by guns, knives, fires, vehicles and other weapons in public and in private — that plague the United States, research shows.

Over the past decade, USA TODAY, along with Northeastern University and The Associated Press, has been tracking all mass killings in the United States. When it comes to gun violence, our database is narrower than other tracking sites that include shootings that injure large numbers of people but kill no one. However, our data is broader in other ways. It includes every mass killing since 2006 from all weapons in which four or more people, excluding the offender, were killed within a 24-hour time frame.

Among the key points we learned from the database: Victims of mass killings are more likely to have been killed by someone they know and mass killings aren't confined to big cities.

#### What the data tell us

Takeaways include that most mass killings are committed using handguns and most often occur in private homes.

Full-page graphic, 3A

#### Explore the database

Search the tool using variables such as type, date and state to learn more about fatal incidents at [masskillings.usatoday.com](https://masskillings.usatoday.com).

ILLUSTRATION BY TRACIE KEETON/  
USA TODAY; PHOTO BY ALBERT CESARE/  
USA TODAY NETWORK



Lawrence Springer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's conservation response unit writes down a home's information after identifying a wayward sprinkler system in violation of the agency's rules on water waste. AMANDA LEE MYERS/USA TODAY

## Calif. water patrols, neighbors crack down on big-time wasters

Amanda Lee Myers  
USA TODAY

From working-class neighborhoods to the celebrity haunts of Malibu, residents in the Los Angeles area have been getting visits from what is essentially the water police as California remains in a near constant state of drought.

Six million Southern California residents are under the toughest water restrictions in the nation. And because of the patchwork of different agencies overseeing different areas, that means

different rules for everyone, sometimes even neighbors who live across the street from each other.

Leading the charge is Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, which includes some of the richest areas of the region, including Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village and parts of Malibu.

For the biggest water users among its 75,000 customers, the agency has begun installing devices that limit flow inside homes and completely cut it off

See **WATER**, Page 4A

## Trump raises cash off FBI inquiry

More than 100 emails sent in days after search

Erin Mansfield, Candy Woodall  
and Rachel Looker  
USA TODAY

Former President Donald Trump is aggressively raising money off the FBI's seizure of confidential documents at his Mar-a-Lago home, sending a blitz of emails that urge supporters to donate to an "Official Trump Defense Fund."

The money is being solicited through a fund-raising vehicle that can dump money into Donald Trump's leadership PAC, Save America, and to another fund, Make America Great Again PAC, which evolved out of his first presidential campaign.

Trump is using the criminal investigation as an opportunity to motivate his supporters to stock war chests that already have more than \$100 million. He will be able to use the money in a variety of ways, including opposing his political enemies, and preserving and extending his already-firm grip on the

See **TRUMP**, Page 2A



## deportes

## Calles de pasión

## La media maratón dejó récords e historias

Entre más de 20.000 atletas, muy buen desempeño de los argentinos detrás del poderío africano. **Página 6**



## Boca no lo mereció

Otra mala tarea de los xeneizes, pero vencieron 1-0 a Defensa y Justicia en el minuto final. **Página 2**

## River se prende

Goleó 3-0 a Central Córdoba y quedó a cuatro puntos de la cima del campeonato. **Página 3**

## LA NACION

LUNES 22 DE AGOSTO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

# Massa nombró viceministro a Rubinstein, un crítico de Cristina e impulsor del ajuste

**CRISIS.** Su ratificación demoró más de 15 días, tras la difusión de sus tuits contra la vicepresidenta

A poco más de dos semanas de que se filtrara su nombre como una posibilidad, el ministro de Economía, Sergio Massa, confirmó finalmente ayer a Gabriel Rubinstein como nuevo viceministro de esa cartera. El economista, que en tiempos del ministro Roberto Lavagna era su representante en el Banco Central, tiene posiciones cercanas a la orto-

doxia y es partidario de aplicar un ajuste fiscal, antes que una devaluación. Había expresado fuertes críticas a la política económica del kirchnerismo y, en particular, contra la vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner. Una vez que Massa confirmó el nombramiento ayer en su cuenta de Twitter, Rubinstein escribió en la misma red: "Con profesionalis-

mo y pasión, brindaré lo mejor, frente a los desafíos que nos toca enfrentar". Y agregó, en un claro pedido de disculpas: "Quiero destacar además la amplitud del Gobierno de incorporar al equipo a pesar de comentarios agraviantes de mi parte en redes sociales que no correspondían efectuar". **Página 10**

## EL ESCENARIO

## Los socios fijan los límites

Claudio Jacquelin

Página 14

## Tensión oficialista a la espera del pedido de condena

**VIALIDAD.** El Gobierno teme que reavive las internas oficialistas

El kirchnerismo exhibió ayer su preocupación ante la inminencia de un pedido de condena por parte del fiscal Diego Luciani contra Cristina Kirchner por la corrupción en la obra pública. Por un lado, motivó que más de 500 intendentes oficialistas expresaran su respaldo a la vicepresidenta y aludieran a una supuesta "persecución judicial". Lo mismo hizo con el bloque de diputados del Frente de Todos. Con el kirchnerismo alterado, el Gobierno teme que un fallo condenatorio reavive la interna oficialista. **Página 16**

## Asesinan en Rusia a la hija del ideólogo de Putin



Un hombre que se presume es Alexander Dugin, conmocionado minutos después del ataque en el que murió su hija (izq.)

TWITTER

**el mundo**— MOSCÚ (AP).— Daria Dugina, la hija de Alexander Dugin, ideólogo ultranacionalista ruso conocido como "el cerebro de Putin", murió anoche cuando explotó una bomba en el auto de su padre cerca de Moscú, en un ataque que provocó una fuerte conmoción en Rusia. El Kremlin acusó a Ucrania de perpetrar el atentado contra la politóloga, ferviente detractora de Occidente, pero no se descarta una operación doméstica de grupos radicales. **Página 2**

## Los subsidios al transporte subieron 76% en un año

Diego Cabot  
LA NACION

El Estado destinó US\$8 millones por día para subsidiar el transporte durante el primer semestre del año. Con los costos de los servicios públicos desatados, es difícil saber si es poco o mucho. Pero pese a los millones, salvo los ferroviarios, que están en silencio gracias a las bondades de los cheques oficiales, los colectiveros y los aeronáuticos están en pie de guerra. Nadie está conforme. **Continúa en la página 12**

## Chicos. La autonomía, entre el estrés y la inseguridad

Vuelve el debate sobre cuándo pueden circular solos

Ir a la escuela o viajar en transporte público solos son los primeros pasos que los padres suelen habilitar en la autonomía de los chicos. Si bien históricamente coincidían con la edad de ingreso a

la secundaria, ahora tienden a demorarse por los recientes hechos de violencia contra menores, que se suman a la tensión que este proceso siempre provoca en las familias. **Página 22**

## La secta enviaba mujeres a EE.UU. como "geishas"

**ESCUELA DE YOGA.** Sospechas de explotación sexual

Para la Justicia, una de las principales fuentes de recaudación de la Escuela de Yoga de Buenos Aires era el "geishado", eufemismo usado para encubrir que varias "alumnas" del grupo liderado por

Juan Percowicz eran puestas a disposición de "clientes vip" —entre ellos, empresarios y políticos— para mantener encuentros sexuales por dinero en el país, en Estados Unidos y en Uruguay. **Página 26**

## Conmoción en Córdoba por un secuestro y homicidio

**TRASLASIERRA.** Pedían de rescate \$7 millones por un chico, de 18 años

Página 28



## ENTREVISTA DA 2ª Galvão Bueno

**Não vai ter outro Galvão na Globo; eu fazia tudo**

Narrador prepara sua despedida após 48 anos de TV — 41 só de Globo. "Paro em 18 de dezembro, final da Copa", diz Galvão, que vai migrar para as plataformas digitais. Ele não acredita que haverá um substituto. "É uma questão de quantidade, não qualidade." B4

## Celso R. de Barros Qual o prazo de Bolsonaro?

Pesquisas da semana passada frustraram o Planalto. A eleição se aproxima, e o prazo para que aliados do presidente passem a abandoná-lo pode ser mais curto. O centrão não banca perdedor. Política A9

## Empresas devem ser condenadas no Cade por cartel

Após dois anos, conselho de defesa econômica retoma casos de empreiteiras acusadas na Lava Jato de infrações de quase R\$ 70 bilhões em três projetos. Belo Monte e Petrobras foram citadas. Mercado A15



O narrador esportivo Galvão Bueno, 72. Eduardo Anizelli/Folhapress

# Estados investem mais, mas receitas perdem fôlego

Apesar de investimentos terem avançado 176% acima da inflação no primeiro semestre, arrecadação desacelera

Os investimentos dos governos estaduais e do Distrito Federal cresceram 176% acima da inflação no primeiro semestre em relação ao mesmo período de 2021.

Os dados fazem parte de levantamento da IFI (Instituição Fiscal Independente). Esses gastos representaram 10% da despesa corrente em 2022, ante 4% de janeiro a junho do ano passado.

Entre as despesas, turbinadas pela sazonalidade deste ano eleitoral, estão educação, urbanismo, cultura, habitação, transporte e saneamento básico.

Os números, contudo, apontam que a arrecadação está em trajetória de desaceleração desde o início do ano, um processo que se acentuou em julho após as desonerações do ICMS.

A diretora da IFI Vilma Pinto vê um processo simultâneo de redução permanente de receitas e aumento de despesas que deve afetar a situação fiscal. "Vários estados retomaram concursos e concederam reajustes. São despesas com impacto permanente e de longo prazo. Investimentos também podem virar despesa corrente lá na frente." Mercado A13

## Eleições provocam racha geracional e silêncio em família

Segundo pesquisa Datafolha, 49% dos eleitores deixaram de falar sobre política com pessoas próximas. Para especialistas, desgaste nas relações abre espaço para sofrimento psíquico e danos mentais. Política A8

## Deputados gastam em 1 mês recorde de R\$ 26 mi em cotas

Em apenas um mês — dezembro de 2020, com o Congresso esvaziado pela pandemia —, a Câmara pagou R\$ 26 milhões aos deputados em reembolsos por despesas com a atividade legislativa, 95% a mais que a média mensal do ano.

A explosão de despesas, mais da metade justificada como "divulgação da atividade parlamentar", veio perto do prazo limite para que o dinheiro voltasse aos cofres públicos caso não fosse utilizado. Política A4



Luara Olívia/Folhapress

## CIDADES PRÓXIMAS AO SÃO FRANCISCO VIVEM RODÍZIO DE ÁGUA EM MEIO A BRIGA POR LEGADO DA TRANSPOSIÇÃO

Parte desativada do Ramal do Agreste em Sertânia (PE), onde água só é bombeada para as casas no fim de semana; Lula e Bolsonaro disputam dividendos políticos com a obra Política A6



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

## Ilustrada C1

### Rebelião hiperpop

Punk feminista do Pussy Riot faz sons e política mais sutis na Rússia em guerra

## Filha de 'ideólogo' de Putin morre em atentado a bomba

Daria Dugina, 30, filha do filósofo Aleksandr Dugin, um dos principais arquitetos da expansão territorial russa, morreu na explosão enquanto dirigia o carro do pai — especula-se que ele seria o alvo. Mundo A11

## Corrida B6

Réplica da cabeça do presidente vira bola de futebol para ativistas no Minhocão

## Coração em formol de d. Pedro chega com festa e críticas

Mundo A12

## Indígenas vão à Justiça contra 60 ações para garimpo de ouro

Organizações querem anular 60 requerimentos de pesquisa e lavra em área do Amazonas com 149 mil hectares — quase o tamanho da cidade de São Paulo —, o que afetaria 45 mil em dezenas de comunidades. Cotidiano B1

## Universidades tratam obesidade de servidores VIDA PÚBLICA

Instituições públicas retomam programas de saúde e qualidade de vida para seus funcionários após aumento de males crônicos na pandemia. Cotidiano B3

## Professores veem alunos violentos após pandemia

Seis em cada dez professores do país avaliam que os estudantes estão mais violentos desde que retornaram às aulas presenciais, segundo pesquisa feita pela Nova Escola. Cotidiano B2

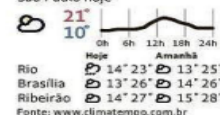
## EDITORIAIS A2

**Otimismo em alta**  
Sobre avaliação da economia, segundo o Datafolha.

**Demônios eleitorais**  
A respeito de disputa pelos votos dos evangélicos.

## ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje





Entrevista al presidente en *Políticamente Yncorrecto* por Telefuturo

## Marito calificó de error que Hugo Velázquez no renuncie

Abdo afirmó que debe dejar la Vice. Acusó a HC de financiar a diputados y manejar la Fiscalía. Sostuvo que no habrá abrazo republicano. Tabesa acciona para recuperar cuenta en el BNF.

PÁGINA 5

La Fiscalía allanó comunidad indígena  
**Tras un criminal ataque, detienen a veintena de personas en Alto Paraná**

PÁGINA 36

Poderoso clan narco  
**Filtración evitó caída de cocaína de Marset**

PÁGINA 6

COMPRA OPCIONAL 1  
COLECCIÓN VASOS DE  
CERVEZA N° 3 G. 35.000

COMPRA OPCIONAL 2  
COLECCIÓN  
RELOJES G. 60.000  
SYNROVSKI N° 5

COMPRA OPCIONAL 3  
DÍA DEL FOLCLORE  
POVY +  
BOMBILLA G. 20.000

Como cardenal, apurará causa en Roma  
**Martínez espera que se conozca milagro para santificar a Chiquitunga**

PÁGINA 15



### Essap busca suba para tapar su desastre

**Ineficiencia a la vista.** Por calles de Asunción y área metropolitana abunda el agua por caños rotos. Para renovarlos, tarifa debe subir 40%, dice titular del ente.

PÁGINA 17

Contundente mensaje de titular de Diócesis de Benjamín Aceval  
**Obispo acusa en Caacupé: Corruptos dan fama lamentable al Paraguay**

PÁGINA 2

Presos abrieron un boquete en techo de hormigón  
**El PCC tenía todo preparado para fuga masiva de penitenciaría esteña**

PÁGINA 39

**ETIOS**

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## LE FIGARO

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



**CHARLES DE GAULLE**  
IL Y A SOIXANTE ANS,  
L'ATTENTAT  
DU PETIT-CLAMART **PAGE 9**

**UKRAINE**  
DANS LE DONBASS, DES  
SOLDATS ÉPUISÉS RACONTENT  
LEUR ENFER **PAGES 6 ET 7**

L'ÉTÉ  
DU FIGARO

## EN IMMERSION

DANS  
LE BUREAU  
D'OLIVIER  
ROUSTEING  
**PAGE 14**

**TRÉSORS DE FRANCE**  
DES  
CHERCHEURS  
D'OR  
AU CHÂTEAU  
DE COUCY  
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**LA CONQUÊTE  
DES ALPES**  
LES DÉBUTS  
ROYAUX DE  
L'ALPINISME AU  
MONT AIGUILLE  
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**JEUX D'ÉTÉ** **PAGE 16**

**PROCHE-ORIENT**  
La Turquie flirte  
avec le régime  
de Damas **PAGE 5**

**ENVIRONNEMENT**  
360 espèces de  
grands prédateurs  
à protéger **PAGE 11**

**ÉCONOMIE**  
La grande  
distribution redoute  
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CHAMPS  
LIBRES

• Un entretien  
avec Guillaume  
Pitron  
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Morales **PAGE 19**

FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON

**Réponses à la question  
de samedi :**  
Faut-il durcir  
les sanctions contre  
les incendiaires ?

**NON 3%** **OUI 97%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 134 565

**Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr**  
Faut-il réguler les vols  
en jet privé ?

KEYSTONE-FRANCE/GAMMA-RAPHO-  
SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES VIA  
AFP-FRANÇOIS BOUCHON/LE FIGARO

Trente-quatre marins  
à l'assaut de  
la Solitaire du Figaro

Les skippers, dont cinq femmes et neuf bizuts, se sont élancés de Loire-Atlantique sous la pluie dimanche après-midi pour une première étape de 644 milles. Ils navigueront jusqu'au pays de Galles avant de redescendre vers Port-la-Forêt, où ils sont attendus sur la ligne d'arrivée jeudi. **PAGE 12**

ARNAUD PUJOLÉ

Macron prépare  
une rentrée  
sous pression

Prix de l'énergie, urgence climatique, budget... les dossiers chauds s'accumulent pour l'exécutif, qui tiendra son Conseil des ministres de reprise, mercredi. Sans majorité absolue, il doit trouver des compromis.

Clap de fin pour les vacances des ministres. Tous les membres du gouvernement sont attendus ce mercredi à l'Élysée pour un Conseil des ministres de rentrée sous la houlette d'Emmanuel Macron. Après des vacances studieuses, perturbées par des incendies sans précédent

et des orages meurtriers, l'exécutif se prépare à une rentrée périlleuse. Plusieurs dossiers chauds attendent le gouvernement, qui doit gérer les conséquences économiques de la guerre en Ukraine, notamment sur le prix de l'énergie. À l'automne, le vote du budget sera un

test majeur dans un contexte politique inédit : privés de majorité absolue à l'Assemblée, les macronistes vont devoir nouer des compromis avec des oppositions remontrées à bloc. Les débats s'annoncent également houleux sur la transition écologique et l'immigration.

→ LES DOSSIERS CHAUDS QUI ATTENDENT L'EXÉCUTIF  
→ LES DÉPUTÉS VONT PRENDRE LE TEMPS DE NÉGOCIER AVANT DE RELANCER LES HOSTILITÉS  
→ TROIS QUESTIONS À MAUD BREGNON (LRM), À SÉBASTIEN CHENU (RN), À ANNIE GENEVARD (LR) ET À CLÉMENTINE GUETTÉ (LFI) **PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL**

Le garde des Sceaux dans  
la tourmente après une  
course de karts en prison

Diffusée vendredi sur internet, la vidéo d'une course de karts organisée fin juillet dans la cour de la prison de Fresnes suscite colère et incompréhension. Éric Dupond-Moretti lui-même a dénoncé des

« images choquantes ». L'événement aurait pourtant été validé « au plus haut niveau » du ministère de la Justice. « Nos prisons ne sont pas des colonies de vacances », s'est indigné Éric Ciotti. **PAGE 8**

## ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard yththread@lefigaro.fr

## L'heure de vérité

Dans le tourbillon de l'actualité, il est une certitude qui revient tous les ans à la même époque : la rentrée est toujours annoncée comme « chaude ». Cette année n'échappe pas à la tradition. Il est vrai que le retour de l'inflation, la flambée des prix de l'énergie, les conséquences de la guerre en Ukraine suscitent des craintes et des tensions. Mais, à ce climat, s'ajoute un contexte inédit : un paysage politique éclaté comme jamais. Le président de la République et son gouvernement ne disposent pas d'une majorité absolue, et donc d'une totale liberté d'action. Quant à l'opposition, si elle est plurielle, elle est surtout répartie entre les deux extrêmes, à gauche et à droite. Dans ces conditions, Emmanuel Macron va-t-il pouvoir conduire les réformes qu'il entend entreprendre ? Rien n'est moins sûr, tellement l'adversité est forte. Et sa troupe, peu homogène : l'idée de faire voter les étrangers non européens aux municipales a surpris plus d'un dans les rangs !

Le chef de l'État peut certes se réfugier dans le « en même temps », mais l'expérience a montré que cette recette tenait plus de la fuite en avant que du bon sens politique. Sur

l'immigration, la sécurité, la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique, l'éducation, le pitoyable état des lieux exige des décisions claires qui ne fassent pas dans la demi-mesure. Et que dire de la réforme des retraites, dont les contours sont complètement brouillés ! Quelques-uns de ces sujets seront abordés dans le cadre du fameux Conseil national de la refondation, qui doit être porté sur les fonts baptismaux le 8 septembre. Comment le travail de cette agora réunissant élus locaux, forces vives de la nation et citoyens s'articulera-t-il avec celui des députés et des sénateurs ? Des frictions ne sont pas à exclure. Quoi qu'il en soit, l'heure de vérité sonnera à l'automne, au moment du débat sur le budget 2023. Un moment périlleux pour le camp présidentiel. À moins qu'il décide de passer par l'article 49-3, comme la Constitution l'y autorise. Celui-ci permet d'adopter un texte sans vote. Si tel était le cas, ce serait un terrible aveu de faiblesse. ■

Le débat sur le budget 2023 sera un moment périlleux

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## Autumn arts special

### What's coming up ... from Christine to the Queen



## Football City and Newcastle thrill as Leeds flatten Chelsea

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# The Guardian

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# Crisis in care home staffing leaves residents with basic needs unmet

Robert Booth

Social affairs correspondent

Thousands of vulnerable people are suffering inadequate care as severe staffing shortages in previously good care homes push operators to break rules and put residents at risk.

Inspections by the regulator have revealed the human impact of a worsening staffing crisis, with people being left in their rooms 24 hours a day, denied showers for more than a week, enduring assaults from fellow

residents, and left soaking in their own urine. Stretched staff have been reported to fear the squeeze on their time is dangerous.

Analysis by the Guardian revealed staff shortages were identified as a problem in three-quarters of care homes in England where the Care Quality Commission had cut their rating from "good" before Covid-19 to "adequate" this summer.

A further 10% of homes whose rankings fell had enough staff, but failed to recruit safely, either not taking references properly, not carrying

out criminal record checks, or not training staff adequately.

Staff shortages rose by 52% in the last year to 165,000 vacancies, according to Skills for Care, and close to one in 10 social care posts in England are now vacant. Examples of comments care workers made to inspectors include "staffing is a disaster" and "because of how intense it's been and lack of support, staff just don't want to do it any more".

The current average pay in independent care homes in England is £9.01 an hour. Starbucks baristas earn

over £10, and Amazon warehouse workers earn a basic wage of £10-£12.

Incidents in care homes found to have contributed to breaches of Care Act regulations because of staffing shortages included:

- A resident at Cedar Lodge care home in Bury St Edmunds - where at times 23 people were left unsupervised - physically and verbally assaulted another. Another person went missing and was only found after a member of the public escorted them to a police station.
- At Osbourne Court care home in

Herefordshire, staff had so little time they used wet wipes to clean one resident and only showered and washed the resident's hair once a week.

● Residents were left in soiled incontinence pads overnight at the Hollies in Westcliff-on-Sea.

Workers have been quitting to take less stressful, better paid jobs in supermarkets, hospitality, hairdressing and factory work, care managers report. Low pay worsened by high inflation and burnout are among the most common reasons given for leaving.

## Swimmers' sewage risk due to faults in monitors

Helena Horton

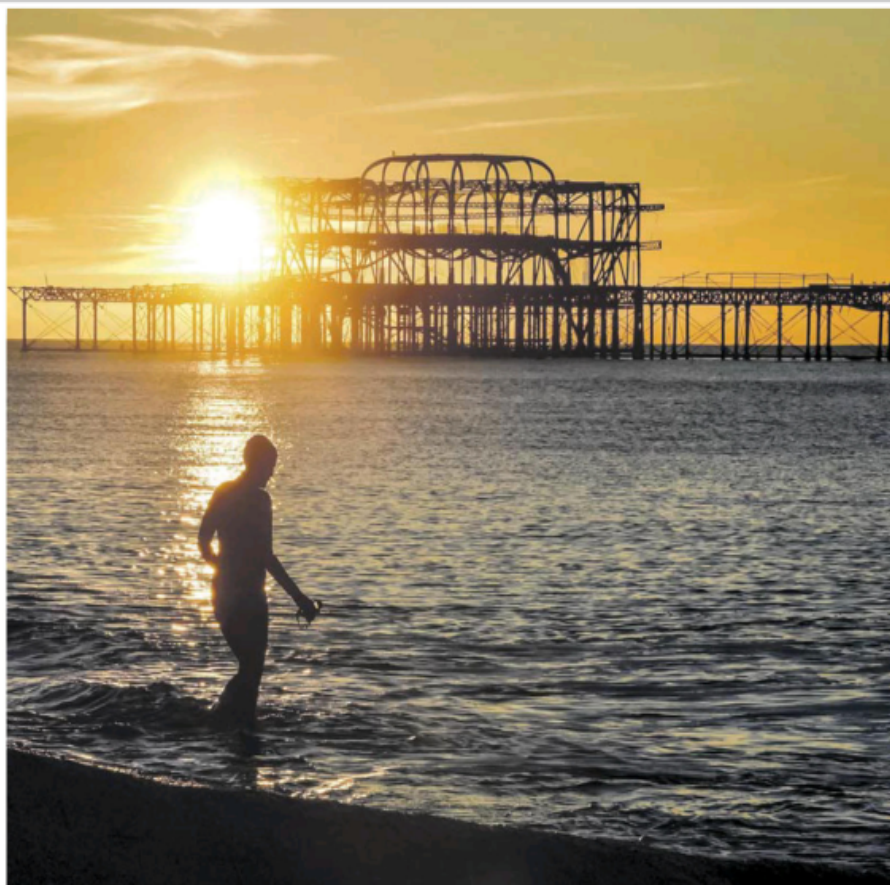
Sewage monitors at some popular seaside destinations in England and Wales are faulty or not installed, Environment Agency data has revealed, meaning people could be swimming in human waste without realising.

Seaside holidays this year have been marred by water companies pumping raw sewage into the sea, with beaches in areas including Sussex and Devon having to close.

However, some holidaymakers could be swimming in it without warning, as analysis by the Liberal Democrats has found some monitors that measure the sewage pumped into water are broken or not installed.

Water companies monitor the levels and length of time sewage is dumped from storm overflows by using event duration monitors (EDMs), which detect spills. The Environment Agency data for England and Wales shows water com-

panies may have monitors that do not always provide



▲ A swimmer heads into the sea at sunrise near Brighton's West Pier. On parts of the coast people are at risk of bathing in human waste unknowingly, owing to faulty or missing sewage monitors PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON DACK/ALAMY

## Ukraine fears Russia car bomb revenge

Dan Sabbagh Kyiv  
Luke Harding

Ukraine is bracing itself for an intensification of Russian missile attacks to coincide with its independence day on Wednesday in the aftermath of the car bomb that killed the daughter of an ultranationalist Russian ideologue who was herself a pro-war propagandist.

The Ukrainian military said Russia had put five cruise missile-bearing warships and submarines out in the Black Sea and that Moscow was positioning air defence systems in Belarus. Mass events have been banned in Kyiv for four days from today.

Overnight on Saturday, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, had warned that "Russia may try to do something particularly nasty, something particularly cruel" this week as the country celebrates its 31st anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union.

The country's armed forces also warned last