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What's News

World-Wide

- ◆ **Putin claimed territories** in Ukraine where his troops are losing ground as part of the Russian Federation, blasting the U.S. and its allies as "satanic," hinting at his willingness to use nuclear weapons and signaling a sharp escalation in the war as Kyiv troops to recover its occupied lands. **A1**
- ◆ **Ukrainian troops** encircled thousands of Russian soldiers in the strategic town of Lyman, a logistical center for Russian operations. **A6**
- ◆ **Ian made landfall** again Friday afternoon as a Category 1 hurricane, this time on the South Carolina coast, after devastating parts of southwest Florida and leaving at least 21 people dead. **A1, A4**
- ◆ **The Biden administration** has received a rare request from Cuba's government to provide emergency assistance following the devastating impact of Ian. **A9**
- ◆ **House lawmakers** approved a bill to fund the federal government's operations until mid-December, extending current funding levels beyond the fiscal year's end. **A4**
- ◆ **A suicide bomber** detonated an explosion at an education center in Kabul, killing at least 19 people. **A9**

Business & Finance

- The rout in markets deepened on Friday to end a dismal third quarter in which hope faded that monetary tightening would soon ease, sending bond yields soaring and leaving U.S. stocks on track for their worst year since the 2008 financial crisis. **A1, B1, B11**
- ◆ **Altria has decided** to compete with Juul, distancing itself from a vaping upstart in which it invested nearly \$13 billion and which now faces a potential ban of its e-cigarettes in the U.S. **A1**
 - ◆ **Disney said** it has added Carolyn Eversen, a veteran technology and media executive, to its board, one month after activist investor Loeb asked CEO Chapek to "refresh" the board. **B1**
 - ◆ **U.S. consumers** are digging deeper into their wallets to cover rising costs of essentials such as rent and utilities as inflation spreads, a government spending report for August showed. **A2**
 - ◆ **The eurozone's** annual rate of inflation hit double digits in September amid the currency area's continuing energy woes. **A8**

NOONAN Enduring Lessons Of the Cuban Missile Crisis **A15**

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Ukrainian personnel gather bodies on Friday after a Russian strike on a column of civilian cars near the city of Zaporizhzhia.

Putin Claims Areas for Russia, But Ukraine, West Defy Move

By ANN M. SIMMONS
AND YULIYA CHERNOVA

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed territories in Ukraine where his troops are losing ground as part of the Russian Federation, blasting the U.S. and its allies as "satanic," hinting at his willingness to use nuclear weapons, and signaling a sharp escalation in the war as Kyiv vowed to recover its occupied lands.

Bringing Russian-controlled Luhansk and areas of Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia under Moscow's control after a series of disputed referendums is a pivotal part of the Russian

leader's war goals. It effectively provides Moscow a land bridge to Crimea, the peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014, which is home to its Black Sea fleet. Claiming the new territories intensifies the crisis in a way that could leave Mr. Putin short of viable off-ramps as the ground war begins to turn

against Russia, analysts said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has pledged to retake the occupied areas, driving Russian forces from lands that he says are right. *Please turn to page A6*

◆ **Ukraine advances on key eastern city.....** **A6**

Altria Is Set to Start Competing With Juul

By JENNIFER MALONEY
AND CARA LOMBARDI

Altria Group Inc. has decided to compete with Juul Labs Inc., distancing itself from a vaping upstart in which it invested nearly \$13 billion and which now faces a potential ban of its e-cigarettes in the U.S.

The decision gives the Marlboro maker the flexibility to acquire another e-cigarette brand or develop its own new vaping products. It also gives

Juul the freedom to sell itself—or a significant stake—to one of Altria's competitors. Altria is still Juul's largest investor with a 35% stake.

"We believe the decision to terminate our noncompete maximizes our flexibility to compete in the e-vapor space while maintaining our economic interest in Juul," an Altria spokesman said in response to questions from The Wall Street Journal.

Juul is in a dispute with the *Please turn to page A9*

Weaker Ian Hits South Carolina

Ian made landfall again Friday afternoon as a Category 1 hurricane, this time on the

By Elizabeth Findell,
Dan Frosch
and Scott Calvert

South Carolina coast, after devastating parts of southwest Florida and leaving at least 21 people dead.

The storm struck near Georgetown, about 60 miles northeast of Charleston, pack-

ing maximum sustained winds of 85 miles per hour after regaining strength Thursday evening over the Atlantic. It was expected to dissipate by Saturday night near the border of North Carolina and Virginia. More than 365,000 electricity customers in the Carolinas were knocked offline by late Friday, according to tracking *Please turn to page A4*

◆ **Cuba makes rare request for U.S. aid in storm's wake.....** **A9**

Fans Tune In For Otis, Fat Bear King

Livecam streams
star gorging salmon
ahead of vote

By ANGELA OWENS

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, Alaska—It's a cool July afternoon some 300 miles southwest of Anchorage. Otis is standing knee deep in the glistening Brooks River, hoping to catch one of the many red salmon journeying upstream. A breeze tousles the blond hair by his ears as he gazes intently at the water. He is completely unaware that at that moment, thousands of eyes are on him.

He may well be Alaska's biggest celebrity, both in popularity and in circumstance.

Also known by the number 480, Otis is a magnificently ro- *Please turn to page A10*

Fentanyl Inflames U.S. Drug Crisis

Opioid, often mixed into heroin, cocaine and Adderall, drives overdose deaths to records

By ARIAN CAMPO-FLORES
AND JON KAMP

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Fentanyl, the potent opioid driving U.S. drug deaths to record highs, has infiltrated virtually every channel of the illicit drug supply and turned it more toxic than ever.

In this city and across the U.S., traffickers are making fentanyl, primarily produced in Mexico, the dominant substance for opioid users craving a fix. The synthetic drug is killing users who fear its strength but can't easily find alternatives, as well as those seeking it out to feed their rising tolerance to prescription painkillers or heroin. It

also is claiming the lives of people who didn't know they were taking it.

"Fentanyl has changed everything," said Shawn Bain, a Columbus-based drug intelligence officer with the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, part of a federal program to assist law enforcement. "It's just flooded the market."

As a result, even though prescriptions in the U.S. outside of hospitals for opioids fell about 44% in the eight years to 2020, opioid overdose deaths nearly tripled in that time span, and moved even higher in 2021. The deaths reached about 82,000 *Please turn to page A11*

Markets Wrap Up A Rough Quarter In Retreat

By KAREN LANGLEY

The rout in markets deepened Friday to end a dismal third quarter in which hope faded that monetary tightening would soon ease, sending bond yields soaring and leaving U.S. stocks on track for their worst year since the 2008 financial crisis.

The intensifying declines alarmed investors who entered the quarter enjoying a summer rally that more than halved the S&P 500's 2022 losses before fizzling. As the months progressed, hair-raising moves dashed any remaining sense of safety, with major stock indexes enduring their deepest one-day retreats since 2020 and government bond yields interrupting their ascent to notch their biggest daily pullbacks in years.

U.S. stocks fell Friday, cementing their quarterly losses. The S&P 500 declined 54.85 points, or 1.5%, to 3585.62. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 500.10 points, or 1.7%, to 28725.51. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite retreated *Please turn to page A2*

- ◆ **Macro funds that sensed change rake in returns.....** **B1**
- ◆ **Oil prices plunged in the third quarter.....** **B11**
- ◆ **Battered investors struggle to find havens.....** **B11**

EXCHANGE



BRITAIN'S PLIGHT

A wild week is a warning for world markets. **B1**

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Gilt prices this week faced extreme volatility after the UK chancellor's fiscal statement, until the Bank of England intervened to stabilise the market

Why I am selling my legacy Pharrell Williams exclusive



Katie Martin The bond market love-in is over THE LONG VIEW



How to pick a winning team Ed Smith LIFE & ARTS



Wine race is on England's biggest producers LIFE & ARTS



Putin raises nuclear stakes with annexation of 4 Ukraine regions

Sham referendums the pretext Threats made to Kyiv allies Nato sees 'serious escalation'

MAX SEDDON — RIGA

Vladimir Putin has annexed four regions in south-eastern Ukraine and vowed to use "all the means" at Russia's disposal to defend the territory in a speech that marked a further escalation in his war against Kyiv and his resentment at its western allies.

In a ceremony marking the move yesterday, Russia's president called on Ukraine to negotiate an end to the war — but reserved his strongest ire for Kyiv's "real masters" in the west, which he accused of trying to "destroy" Russia.

The annexations are a dramatic attempt to raise the stakes in the conflict by bringing them under Russia's nuclear umbrella. The move "represents the most serious escalation since the start of the war", Nato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said.

In response, the US slapped sanctions on Elvira Nabiullina, governor of Russia's central bank, as part of a new package of measures.

In a statement, G7 foreign ministers condemned the "illegal annexation".

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine meanwhile announced his country's formal application for accelerated accession to Nato.

In a 37-minute speech in the Kremlin's ornate St George's Hall, Putin said an

attack on the four regions, which he said he now considered part of his country's territory, would be treated as an attack on Russia and met with full force.

"We will defend our lands with all the means at our disposal and do everything to protect our people. This is our great liberating mission," he said.

Putin said Russia was willing to hold peace talks with Ukraine but declared the four regions — Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia — off limits in any future negotiations following hastily organised sham "referendums".

"People made their choice, an unambiguous choice," Putin said, describing the votes, which were met with international condemnation, as "the will of millions of people".

As he spoke, Ukrainian troops pushed farther east in Donetsk, coming close to surrounding the town of Lyman, a key staging ground for Russian forces.

The Kremlin has said it could treat Ukrainian attempts to retake the regions as an attack on its sovereignty and respond by using tactical nuclear arms.

Although Putin did not make reference to Russia's nuclear arsenal, he accused the US of setting a "precedent" in bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the second world war.

News & analysts page 4
FT View & Timothy Garton Ash page 10

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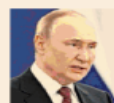
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Vladimir Putin: 'We will defend our lands with all the means at our disposal and do everything to protect our people'



Accusations of top-level cheating rock chess world

The shock defeat this month of world chess champion Magnus Carlsen, who many regard as the best player ever, by teen Hans Niemann, above, might have been celebrated as the arrival of a new force in the ancient game of strategy. But the St Louis match, which ended a 53-game unbeaten run for the Norwegian, has instead sparked bitter claims of cheating, legal threats and wild conspiracy theories — amplified by Elon Musk — that involve sex toys.

Stalemate — PAGE 3

Hong Kong's new luxury flats stand empty as housing prices plummet

CHAN HO-HIM — HONG KONG

Not a single new apartment was sold last week at an event publicising an 800-flat development in Hong Kong, in a sign of the sagging real estate market forcing the city's tycoons to resort to property firesales.

Private-home prices plummeted to the lowest level since February 2019, according to the latest government data.

Analysts and insiders are expecting home prices to drop 30 per cent or more this year, despite the Chinese territory finally scrapping tough mandatory hotel quarantine requirements.

"Now is definitely winter for the property market," said Sammy Po, chief executive of Hong Kong-based Midland Realty's residential division. "Prospective buyers prefer a wait-and-see attitude."

Po said that in the latest batch of 139 new apartments put on offer at residential project South Land, not one had been sold since the latest round of sales began on September 20. The project has 800 apartments.

Even incentives such as HK\$12,000 (US\$1,500) of coupons at Michelin-starred restaurants for the first five buyers were unable to generate interest. In contrast, its previous round of sales last year saw strong demand, with more than 2,200 people vying for 160 flats.

At Miami Quay, a real estate project in a redeveloped urban area in Kowloon — jointly built by Hong Kong family-owned conglomerates including Henderson Land Development and New World Development — agents said that only two out of 139 units were sold on the first day of sale in August.

Pandemic restrictions have made

travelling to Hong Kong difficult for mainland Chinese investors, while Beijing's imposition of a national security law has led to an exodus of residents.

Interest rate increases coupled with a weak economy in the territory have further hit sentiment.

Charles Chan, Hong Kong-based managing director of valuation and professional services at real estate agency Savills, estimated a drop in home prices this year at up to 15 per cent. The downward trend might extend into next year, he said.

Citigroup analysts said that Singapore's private residential market is expected to rise 9 per cent in 2022.

The city state and rival hub to Hong Kong had eased Covid-19 measures much earlier than the Chinese territory.

Additional reporting by Hudson Lockett House & Home separate section

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS							
	Sep 30	Prev	%Chg		Pair	Sep 30	Prev	Pair	Sep 30	Prev	Yield (%)	Sep 30	Prev	%Chg	
SP500	3642.65	3640.47	0.06	\$/£	0.980	0.977	0.03	\$/¥	1.021	1.024		US 2 yr	4.14	4.20	-0.06
Nasdaq Composite	10795.89	10737.51	0.45	\$/€	1.116	1.103	0.01	€/£	0.896	0.906		US 10 yr	3.73	3.74	-0.01
Dow Jones Ind	29140.51	29225.61	-0.29	€/¥	0.878	0.885	-0.01	\$/HK\$	1.140	1.130		US 30 yr	3.71	3.69	0.02
FTSE100	1537.22	1519.74	1.15	\$/₹	144.745	144.595	0.01	\$/INR	141.800	141.219		UK 2 yr	3.90	4.38	-0.48
S&P 500 VIX	30.17	30.78	-0.19	¥/¥	161.578	159.353	0.01	€/INR	75.356	73.967		UK 10 yr	4.13	4.14	-0.01
FTSE MIB	6893.81	6881.58	0.18	\$/₹	0.964	0.958	0.01	€/INR	1.089	1.082		UK 30 yr	3.81	3.96	-0.15
FTSE All-Share	3763.48	3745.11	0.49									JPN 2 yr	-0.05	-0.05	0.00
CAC 40	5782.34	5676.87	1.51									JPN 10 yr	0.25	0.25	-0.01
Xetra Dax	12114.36	11975.55	1.16									JPN 30 yr	1.29	1.40	-0.09
Nikkei	28622.21	28422.05	-0.69	Bitcoin \$		19817.86	19600.00	1.11				GER 2 yr	1.75	1.79	-0.03
Hang Seng	17222.83	17165.87	0.33	Ethereum		1357.01	1305.94	1.58				GER 10 yr	2.11	2.18	-0.07
MSCI World \$	2401.32	2438.78	-1.54									GER 30 yr	2.08	2.15	-0.06
MSCI EM \$	873.29	875.85	-0.29												
MSCI ACWI \$	957.89	965.81	-0.83	COMMODITIES											
FT Wilshire 2500	4736.73	4841.29	-2.17	oil WTI \$		80.50	81.23	-0.90							
FT Wilshire 5000	36966.59	37000.61	-0.18	oil Brent \$		80.18	82.18	-1.11							
				Gold \$		1654.80	1652.15	0.15							

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A member of the Ukrainian military stood by Saturday as a fellow soldier was treated at a field hospital in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Russian Troops Retreat From Crucial Rail Hub As Ukrainians Push On

**Nuclear Talk Revives
Tone of Cold War**

**Putin Claimed Area
the Day Before**

This article is by David E. Sanger, Anton Troianovski and Julian E. Barnes.

This article is by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Andrew E. Kramer, Anton Troianovski and Catherine Porter.

WASHINGTON — For the first time since the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, top government leaders in Moscow are making explicit nuclear threats and officials in Washington are gaming out scenarios should President Vladimir V. Putin decide to use a tactical nuclear weapon to make up for the failings of Russian troops in Ukraine.

In a speech on Friday, Mr. Putin raised the prospect anew, calling the United States and NATO enemies seeking Russia's collapse and declaring again that he would use "all available means" to defend Russian territory — which he has now declared includes four provinces of eastern Ukraine.

Mr. Putin reminded the world of President Harry S. Truman's decision to drop atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, 77 years ago, adding, "By the way, they created a precedent." On Saturday, the strongman leader of the southern Russian republic of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, said Mr. Putin should consider using "low-yield nuclear weapons" in Ukraine, becoming the first prominent Russian official to openly call for such a strike.

Senior American officials say they think the chances that Mr. Putin would employ a nuclear weapon remain slim. They say they have seen no evidence that he is moving any of his nuclear assets, and a recent Pentagon analysis suggests the military benefits would be few. And the cost for Mr. Putin — in a furious international response, perhaps even from the Chinese, whose support he needs most — could be tremendous.

But they are more worried about the possibility now than Continued on Page 8

The Russian retreat quickly spawned withering criticism among powerful allies of Mr. Putin, who blamed Russia's military leaders for the recent losses, calling them incompetent. It was a striking display of internal dissent after Mr. Putin made a show of force in Moscow on Friday, delivering a menacing speech in which he announced the annexation of the swaths of Ukrainian territory, and positioned the war as an existential battle between Russia and Western elites.

The annexation was widely condemned as illegitimate by the United States and its allies. The Biden administration quickly announced new sanctions as punishment.

Lyman sits on the banks of the meandering Siverskyi Donets River, which has served as a natural division between Russian and Ukrainian front lines since Russian forces captured the city in May. Retaking it offers Ukrainian forces a strategic foothold for further advances into the Donbas region. Continued on Page 8

As Ian Intensified, One Florida County Delayed Evacuation Plan

This article is by Frances Robles, Mike Baker, Serge F. Kovaleski and Lazaro Gamio.

FORT MYERS, Fla. — As Hurricane Ian charged toward the western coast of Florida this past week, the warnings from forecasters were growing more urgent. Life-threatening storm surge threatened to deluge the region from Tampa all the way to Fort Myers.

But while officials along much

of that coastline responded with orders to evacuate on Monday, emergency managers in Lee County held off, pondering during the day whether to tell people to flee, but then deciding to see how the forecast evolved overnight.

The delay, an apparent violation of the meticulous evacuation strategy the county had crafted for just such an emergency, may have contributed to catastrophic consequences that are still coming into focus as the death toll con-

Area With Highest Toll Was a Day Behind

tinues to climb.

Dozens have died overall in the state, officials said, as Ian, downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone, moved through North Carolina and Virginia on Saturday, at one point leaving nearly 400,000 electricity customers in those states

without power.

About 35 of Florida's storm-related deaths have been identified in Lee County, the highest toll anywhere in the state, as survivors describe the sudden surge of water — predicted as a possibility by the National Hurricane Service in the days before the storm hit — that sent some of them scrambling for safety in attics and on rooftops.

Lee County, which includes the Continued on Page 25

Venezuela Sets U.S. Prisoners Free in Swap

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR and FARNAZ FASSIHI

WASHINGTON — Seven Americans who had been held captive in Venezuela for years were on their way home Saturday after President Biden agreed to grant clemency to two nephews of Cilia Flores, Venezuela's first lady, officials said. The men had been sentenced in 2017 to 18 years in prison for conspiring to smuggle cocaine into the United States.

At the same time, Iran on Saturday released Siamak Namazi, a 51-year-old dual-national Iranian American businessman who had been jailed since 2015, on a temporary furlough and lifted the travel ban on his father, Baquer Namazi, an 85-year-old former official for the United Nations, according to the family's lawyer.

Together, the announcements regarding Venezuela and Iran represented one of the largest mass releases of Americans detained abroad in recent memory, though one American official said the timing was coincidental. For Mr. Biden, freeing seven Americans, some of whom had been held for years in Venezuelan prison, was part of an aggressive push to accelerate such homecomings — an effort that has drawn some criticism for the president's willingness to exchange convicted criminals.

Continued on Page 30



Herschel Walker reached out to a crowd during a parade through Wrightsville, Ga., in 1982.

Walker Hasn't Closed Racial Rift in Hometown

By JOHN BRANCH

WRIGHTSVILLE, Ga. — The race for a critical Senate seat was in full motion by midsummer, but there were just a few Herschel Walker campaign signs sprinkled around his hometown.

They were planted in front of big homes with big yards, in a downtown storefront window, near the sidewalk by the Dairy Queen. There were two on the corner by the Johnson County Courthouse, near a Confederate memorial.

The support appeared ran-

domly scattered. But people in Wrightsville saw a dot-to-dot drawing of a racial divide that has shaped Wrightsville for generations — and is now shaping a critical political race with national implications.

"All those campaign materials were in the white community," said Curtis Dixon, who is Black and who taught and coached Mr. Walker, a Republican, in the late 1970s when he was a high school football prodigy. "The only other house that has a Herschel Walker poster is his family."

It may not be an exaggeration.

In a predominantly Black neighborhood of small homes about a block from where Mr. Walker went to high school, nine people, including a man who said he was Mr. Walker's cousin, gathered on a steamy Saturday in July to eat and talk in the shade.

No one planned to vote for Mr. Walker. Most scoffed at the thought.

Around the corner, a retired teacher named Alice Pierce said nice things about Mr. Walker's mother and family, as most people do.

Continued on Page 28

'NAKED FEAR' A pipeline attack stokes anxiety in Germany and threatens to weaken Europe's resolve to help Ukraine fight Moscow. PAGE 10

Lawmakers Fearing the Worst As Intimidation Tactics Grow

This article is by Stephanie Lai, Luke Broadwater and Carl Hulse.

WASHINGTON — In Bangor, Maine, an unknown visitor smashed a storm window at Senator Susan Collins's home.

In Seattle, a man who had sent an angry email to Representative Pramila Jayapal repeatedly showed up outside the lawmaker's house, armed with a semiautomatic handgun and shouting threats and profanities.

In Queens, a man who had traveled across the country waited in a cafe across the street from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's office to confront her, part of a near-constant stream of threats and harassment that has prompted the congresswoman to switch her sleeping location at times and seek protection from a 24-hour security detail.

Members of Congress in both parties are experiencing a surge in threats and confrontations as a rise in violent political speech has increasingly crossed over into the realm of in-person intimidation and physical altercation. In the months since the Jan. 6, 2021, at-



In the months since the 2021 Capitol riot, both parties have faced stalking and assaults.

tack on the Capitol, which brought lawmakers and the vice president within feet of rioters threatening their lives, Republicans and Democrats have faced stalking, armed visits to their homes, vandalism and assaults.

It is part of a chilling trend that many fear is only intensifying as lawmakers scatter to campaign and meet with voters around the

Continued on Page 23

NATIONAL 16-31

Prevention or Permission?

Advocates of test strips say the ability to check drugs for lethal fentanyl may save lives. But critics argue that the strips enable drug use. PAGE 16

SUNDAY BUSINESS

No One Was at the Wheel

A ride in an experimental driverless vehicle, operated by a G.M. subsidiary, was impressive — until it got stuck on the streets of San Francisco. PAGE 1

ARTS & LEISURE

David Geffen Hall Is Back

A broad look at the reopening of the venue, the New York Philharmonic's home, its \$350 million renovation and the many steps on the way. PAGES 8-13

SPECIAL SECTION

Get Ready to Revisit Asia

With pandemic restrictions largely lifted in many places, a vast continent provides a variety of experiences for travelers. We suggest some of the best.

SUNDAY OPINION

Jeff Shesol

PAGE 6



Skechers

THE UNO

AVAILABLE FOR MEN & WOMEN

Afghans denied U.S. visas are living in fear

Some interpreters say they've been unfairly 'blacklisted' despite their wartime loyalty.

By Andrea Castillo

WASHINGTON — As an expert in explosive device removal, H.S. spent nearly three decades carefully cleaning up land mines and disabling unexploded bombs planted by insurgent groups in Afghanistan.

During the last 12 years of his career, H.S. — whom The Times is identifying by his initials for his safety — worked as an interpreter for U.S. government contractors training Afghan national police and army forces to do his job. A supervisor said his dedication and experience made him irreplaceable.

But H.S. said that in 2020 he failed a counterintelligence screening after mixing up the Western and Afghan calendars when telling an agent the date of a work trip to Pakistan. As a result, H.S. was fired and his application for a U.S. visa was denied in 2021, just a few months before the remaining U.S. troops left his country as the Taliban took power. He spent most of the last year in hiding north of Kabul, the Afghan capital.

"I can't continue my life like this," he said. "The Taliban, if they find me, they will send me to jail or kill me."

The rapid and disorganized exit from Afghanistan a year ago left many people in a banger under Taliban rule. Among them are interpreters like H.S., who refer to themselves as "blacklisted" and say they were unjustly barred from getting visas promised to Afghans who helped the U.S. Advocacy groups such as the International Refugee Assistance Project say thousands have been affected.

The State Department declined to comment on individual cases.

The Times interviewed two dozen people about the issue, including interpreters, U.S. supervisors, advocates and lawyers, and reviewed hundreds of pages of internal State Department communications, government reports and visa applications. The interpreters who spoke to The Times said their visa petitions were denied despite receiving positive reviews from

[See Afghans, A6]



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

AT TOP, STREET signs partly melted by the heat of last year's Dixie fire in Greenville, Calif. Bottom, the start of the Sierra Nevada town's traditional Gold Diggers Day parade is visible through an American flag.

REBUILD | REBURN

California spends billions restoring towns charred by wildfire. In a future ravaged by climate change, bringing back every community will only put people in mortal danger once again.

ERIKA D. SMITH AND ANITA CHABRIA
REPORTING FROM GREENVILLE, CALIF.

Most days, Ken Donnell steals a moment to gaze at the forested valley that surrounds this remote grid of streets in the mountains.

Before the Dixie fire came barreling through the Sierra Nevada last year, leveling everything here but a few houses, businesses and a school, this was a charming — if dying — Gold Rush-era town that about 800 people called home. Now, much of the charm is gone along with most of the residents, replaced by the skeletal remains of conifer trees and the deathly silence of black after empty block.

But even as Donnell has mourned, his mop of gray hair a fixture at community meetings on how to bring the town and the surrounding Plumas County valley back to life, he has become grateful.

It's good that Greenville burned down when it did, he believes. Sooner rather than later. Because one day, in a not-so-distant future ravaged by climate change, many of Northern California's far-flung rural towns — founded in another time and for another economy — might not get rebuilt at all.

Gone could be the political and public will to spend hundreds of millions of dollars — with Southern California taxpayers footing a big chunk of the bill — to replace homes and businesses for a small number of people, knowing that it's all likely to burn down again as extreme heat and drought keep decimating unmanaged forests.

"Resources are going to be drained," Donnell predicted. "It's just the reality."

[See Rebuild, A12]

Caruso gains ground on Bass' big lead

Poll finds developer still trails by double digits among likely voters in mayor's race.

By Benjamin Oreskes

Rick Caruso has made significant progress in the race for mayor, closing a large part of the gap with Rep. Karen Bass since August, but the billionaire businessman still trails by double digits among the people who are likeliest to vote.

Those findings from the latest UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies poll, sponsored by The Times, highlight key dynamics as the mayoral race heads into its final weeks:

Bass, backed by most of the elected Democratic leadership in California, has a strong hold on her fellow partisans, who make up the bulk of the Los Angeles electorate. Caruso, backed by tens of millions of dollars from his personal fortune, has a path forward, but one that depends on getting potential supporters who are not frequent voters to show up for a mayoral election with few other major draws on the ballot.

Still, Caruso, whose ubiquitous visage recently returned to the region's airwaves, has gained ground from a month ago. Among all registered voters, he's now behind by just 3 percentage points, 34%-31% — within the poll's margin of error. That's down from a 12-point gap in August.

Among likely voters, however, Bass continues to lead by 15 points, 46%-31%, down from a 21-point lead a month ago.

Determining which voters are likely to turn out in an election is a complicated task for pollsters. The Berkeley poll, which was accurate in the June primary, defines likely voters as those who have a history of voting in recent elections and who indicated they were highly interested in voting this fall.

Those likely voters tend to be older, richer and whiter and are more likely to be registered Democrats and to identify as strongly liberal than the electorate as a whole.

"The actionable information in a poll is with likely voters," said the pollster. [See Mayoral race, A10]

To stop alleged plot, feds faked a murder

A very Hollywood ruse leads to arrest of developer accused of ordering a hit on two.

By Noah Goldberg

Arthur Aslanian wasn't taking any chances when he met his employee, Sesar Rivera, on the side of a road last month.

Only after patting Rivera down to check if he was wearing a wire and making him leave his phone in Aslanian's pickup truck did he look at the photograph Rivera had brought. Aslanian had hired a gruesome image of a dead man who had been shot in the face.

The real estate developer studied the photo to make sure it was the proof he wanted. "That's him, man, that's him," he said. Rivera asked Aslanian what to do with the photo. "F— shred it," Aslanian responded.

Aslanian left the roadside meeting believing the photo confirmed that a plan he set in motion had succeeded, according to an account of the meeting provided by the U.S. attorney's office. The man in the photo was a banker who had been fighting to recoup about \$3 million Aslanian owed him. Instead of paying, prosecutors allege, Aslanian had hired an assassin.

Aslanian, however, had [See Plot, A11]

Ukraine offensive expels Russians

The pullout complicates the Kremlin's new declaration of four annexed regions. WORLD, A3

At least 129 killed in soccer stampede Indonesian police fire tear gas amid rioting; panic erupts. NATION, A4

New coronavirus subvariants arise A surge in COVID-19 cases can't be ruled out this fall and winter. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather: Morning clouds. L.A. Basin: 78/63 B10

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CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ FUENMAYOR For The Times

How to help yourself and others

Print subscribers will find a 24-page mental health section in today's paper. It is also available for purchase at latimes.com/store.

In uncertain times, retirement isn't what it used to be

By Jaimie Ding and Ronald D. White

Retirement: The word conjures up thoughts of relaxing on a tropical beach, playing with grandkids and taking up bird-watching or gardening.

But the nature of retirement as a reliable reward for a lifetime of work is changing with the uncertain times.

Many Americans found themselves forced into an early retirement when they lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unable to find new employment,

they pinched their pennies and hunkered down at home.

Some, faced with unpredictability and the high mortality rate of COVID-19 among seniors, resolved to enjoy the years of life they had left. Others, flummoxed by the sudden drop in value of their 401(k)s and the risk of depletion of necessities, opted to put off retiring or even to return to the job market.

A quarter of Americans think they'll need to delay retirement because of inflation, according to a BMO Harris poll, and a survey of [See Retire, A14]



The Washington Post

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Rain 59/50 • Tomorrow: Rain 55/49 C12

Democracy Dies in Darkness

M2 V1 V2 V3 V4

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 • \$5

Florida confronts extensive damage

Ian leaves at least 44
dead, destroys estimated
\$60 billion in property

BY TIM CRAIG,
PAUL SONNE
AND MATTHEW BROWN

NORTH PORT, FLA. — Search and rescue efforts continued along Florida's west coast as residents confronted the sweeping devastation and rising death toll wrought by Hurricane Ian, one of the strongest storms ever to make landfall in the continental United States.

The Florida Medical Examiners Commission said late Saturday that the storm had resulted in 44 deaths, most of them due to drowning. The figure is likely to rise as search and rescue teams continue to comb through the debris. Officials didn't offer estimates on the number of people still missing three days after the storm first struck the state.

Many of the officially recorded deaths were among senior citizens, reflecting a storm that has wielded an outsized impact on the elderly given the area is popular with retirees. About 33 percent of southwest Florida's population is over 65, compared with nearly 17 percent of the U.S. population at large, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In North Port, some retirees who evacuated to shelters didn't have anywhere to go.

Cynthia King, 91, rode out the storm at a friend's house but was evacuated by boat early Saturday. She wonders where she will go next because she isn't sure the house she originally left is habitable.

"There are ups and downs to living in Florida, and this is definitely a down," King said. "I have been sitting here a long time, and I just want someone who can take me home."

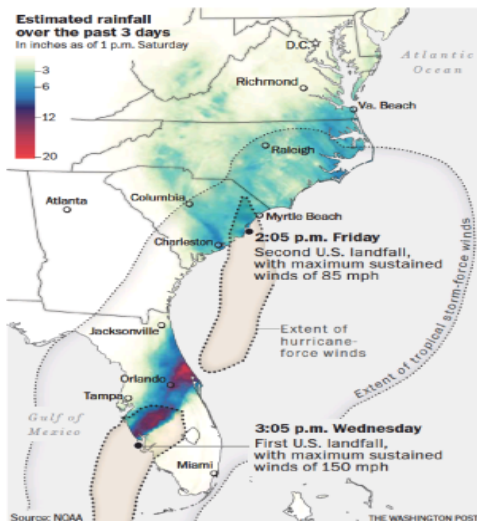
More than three days after Ian bulldozed into southwest Florida, communities farther inland in central Florida, including Orlando, are also inundated by water.

SEE HURRICANE ON A14



BRYAN R. SMITH/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Willie Wright III travels in a boat to his house in a flooded Orlando neighborhood days after Hurricane Ian hit Florida. For some of the 2 million hurricane evacuees, getting anywhere has proved difficult, as power outages continue and floodwaters persist.



After storm took everything, one hard-hit block bands together

BY REIS THEBAULT

SAN CARLOS ISLAND, FLA. — Nearly everyone at Joe Fernandez's place lost everything in the storm.

Many lived in the RV parks and mobile home communities clustered along Main Street on this small patch of land between Fort Myers and Estero Island. The water to the north is known as Hurricane Bay, and for one terrifying stretch last week the line between land and sea blurred. Ian, one of the most fearsome hurricanes to ever hit the country, turned this patch of southwest Florida into an epicenter of devastation.

And it left many who live here with no place to go. No place but Joe Fernandez's. The motor sport shop became a shelter first, then a food pantry. By Friday night, it turned into a

place to process, to grieve. A place to find strength and fellowship. Most at the impromptu gathering didn't evacuate, and they swapped stories of survival over cans of hard seltzer and a bottle of Jack Daniel's.

Their accounts are harrowing and hard to fathom: Twenty people huddled in a small apartment on the second floor of one of just a few two-story buildings while water climbed the steps. The sight of boats lifted from the nearby marina slamming onto houses in the storm surge. The sound of trapped residents pounding on windows as their homes flooded. Close calls and heroic rescues.

"This was some 'Walking Dead' type of apocalypse," Fernandez, 32, said. "This is what it feels like."

SEE COMMUNITY ON A15

Lesson learned: Why did so many buildings in Punta Gorda survive the worst of Ian? Look to the aftermath of 2004's Hurricane Charley. **A14**

Ian's sudden shift south: Why the storm track was hard to predict, and harder to communicate, catching some off-guard and unprepared. **A15**

Russian troops leave key city

UKRAINIAN FORCES
SURROUND LYMAN

Putin claimed to annex
the region the day before

This article is by Isabelle
Khreshchuk, Arelia Shinnan,
Ellen Franz, Robyn Dixon
and Claire Parker

KYIV, UKRAINE — The day after Russian President Vladimir Putin proudly proclaimed the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk region, thousands of his troops withdrew from a strategic town there under Ukrainian fire.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday that its troops withdrew from the town of Lyman in eastern Ukraine, as Ukrainian forces surrounded it. The retreat marks a major embarrassment for Moscow, a day after it claimed swaths of eastern Ukraine as its own — in the face of widespread international condemnation.

It is also a strategic loss for Russia. Lyman is a key supply hub on the western edge of Ukraine's Donbas region, where Russia has concentrated its military campaign for months. Russian forces have used it to supply operations to the east since capturing Lyman in the spring.

Ukrainian forces advanced on the city overnight, even as Russia put on a grand ceremony and a pop concert in Moscow's Red Square celebrating the annexation. The Ukrainian victory poses a test for Putin, who has vowed to treat attacks in the annexed regions as attacks on Russia.

SEE UKRAINE ON A17

Annexation: Putin's move pushes world closer to nuclear war. **A19**

2 Americans detail abuse in Russian captivity

BY DAN LAMOTHE

TRINITY, ALA. — Alex Druke and Andy Tai Huynh evaded Russian forces for hours, slogging through pine forests and marshes in Ukraine to avoid detection. The U.S. military veterans were left behind — "abandoned," they said — after their Ukrainian task force was attacked, and determined that their best chance of survival was to hike back to their base in Kharkiv.

What followed was an excruciating, often terrifying 104 days in captivity. They were interrogated, subjected to physical and psychological abuse, and given little food or clean water, Druke and Huynh recalled. Initially, they were taken into Russia, to a detention complex dotted with tents and ringed by barbed wire, they said. Their captors later moved them, first to a "black site" where the beatings worsened, Druke said, and then to what they called a more traditional prison run by Russian-backed separatists in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine.

SEE PRISONERS ON A18

Prisoner swap: Putin overruled advisors in lopsided exchange. **A19**

Supreme Court set to resume as its approval takes a beating

BY ROBERT BARNES

The Supreme Court begins its new term Monday, but the nation, its leaders and the justices themselves do not appear to be over the last one.

The court's 6-to-3 conservative majority quickly moved its jurisprudence sharply to the right, and there is no reason to believe the direction or pace is likely to change. This version of the court seems steadfast on allowing more restrictions on abortion, fewer on guns, shifting a previously strict line separating church and state, and reining in government agencies.

If it is the conservative legal establishment's dream, it has come at a cost.

Polls show public approval of

SEE COURT ON A10

On the docket: EPA, election rules, race in admissions and more. **A10**

Twenty years later, reliving the terror of the D.C. snipers

The random killings petrified the region and sparked a massive — and flawed — manhunt

BY PAUL DUGGAN
AND MICHAEL E. RUANE

Patrick McNerney, a homicide detective in Montgomery County, Md., was on duty the night of Oct. 2, 2002, when a call came in about a shooting outside a Shoppers Food Warehouse. Arriving about 6:30 p.m. at the supermarket, in the county's Wheaton area, McNerney saw a sheet in the parking lot covering the body of James D. Martin, a program analyst for a federal climate agency. Martin, 55, lived nearby and had stopped for groceries on his way home from work. Witnesses said they heard a loud "boom" and that the victim, walking toward the store's entrance, had crumpled to the pavement.

Like others in his homicide squad two decades ago, McNerney, who has since retired, was unusually puzzled on that warm autumn Wednesday: There were no signs of a robbery attempt. No one reported seeing Martin in an altercation. Security video

SEE SNIPERS ON A12



BRENDAN McDERMID/REUTERS

Officers search the car used by John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo after their capture Oct. 24, 2002, at a rest stop near Myersville, Md., after they killed 10 people and wounded three.

Aftermath of Hurricane Ian

Florida reels from the destruction after powerful storm batters state. Millions left without power, and death toll expected to rise. **Coverage inside**



ANDREW WEST/USA TODAY NETWORK

E3

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LA NACION
REVISTAEsteban Bullrich
Lección inspiradora de
un guerrero silencioso

—por Pablo Sirvén

EL CASI FESTEJÓ UN
INOLVIDABLE TRIUNFO
FRENTE AL SIC

—deportes

Con un try penal en el décimo minuto
adicional, el Atlético ganó un clásico
increíble por 29-28 en el Top 13 de la
URBA; su rival igual se clasificó.RETRATO DE LA
DESIGUALDAD EN UNA
PROVINCIA RICA

—comunidad

Córdoba tiene uno de los índices más
altos de generación de riqueza, pero en su
territorio hay 281 asentamientos; miles
de chicos viven hacinados. Página 28

LA NACION

DOMINGO 2 DE OCTUBRE DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Aumenta la conflictividad
y calculan un récord de
10.000 piquetes en 2022

CRISIS. La inflación es el factor que motoriza las protestas de organizaciones sociales y sindicatos

La multiplicación de piquetes,
acampes y protestas en la vía pública,
que dominó la agenda política
y económica en la última semana,
preocupa al Gobierno y también al
sector privado. Las manifestaciones
callejeras recrudescen al ritmo
espiralizado de la inflación.De acuerdo con un estudio esta-
dístico al que tuvo acceso LA NACION,
este año terminará con un récordhistórico de piquetes a nivel nacio-
nal. Se estima que, el último día de
2022, se habrán contabilizado unos
10.000 bloqueos de calles y rutas en
todo el país. A agosto pasado, ya se
había realizado el 93% de las protes-
tas de todo 2021.Las organizaciones sociales y los
sindicatos, especialmente los nu-
cleados en la izquierda del arco po-
lítico, protagonizan las demandas,que van desde un pedido al Gobierno
para que aumente los planes sociales
hasta el reclamo a las empresas para
que otorguen aumentos salariales,
ante la pérdida del poder adquisitivo
por el alza constante de precios.En este escenario se registró una
primera advertencia de Cristina Kir-
chner al ministro de Economía, Ser-
gio Massa, para que se atienda a los
sectores vulnerables. Página 16

RESISTENCIA

Resistencia, la capital cha-
queña, se transformó en el
epicentro de los piquetes
en el interior, que cada vez
se desarrollan con mayor
violencia. Página 17

EL ESCENARIO

Función
especial en
el Gaumont

Jorge Liotti

—LA NACION—

Los piqueteros ya llevaban un
día de acampe en la avenida
9 de Julio; el gremio de los
neumáticos mantenía un bloqueo
irreductible que paralizaba las
plantas automotrices; bandas au-
toidentificadas como mapuches
tomaban por asalto las casas de
Villa Mascardi y se parapetaban
con barricadas; y alumnos de co-
legios porteños protagonizaban
una insólita toma de las escuelas.
Era martes al mediodía y el país se
había transformado en un caótico
campamento revolucionario.
Continúa en la página 38

EL ESCENARIO

El periodismo
se reinventa
en la era digital

Fernán Saguier

—LA NACION—

SILENCIO vaticano en el au-
ditorio. Más de 1200 pe-
riodistas y ejecutivos de
medios de comunicación de to-
do el mundo asisten, después
de tres años de interrupción por la
pandemia, a la reunión anual del
Congreso Mundial de Editores de
Noticias.Con sus casi dos metros de
altura y una estampa señorial
que irradia autoridad, el orador
toma el atril y lanza cuatro sen-
tencias inapelables. Continúa en
la página 22

Bolsonaro y Lula cerraron sus campañas, ayer, en San Pablo, uno con una caravana y el otro con un acto

AP Y AIP

Brasil vota en su elección más polarizada

COMICIOS. Lula busca vencer a Bolsonaro en primera vuelta; los sondeos le dan una ventaja de 14 puntos

Guillermo Idiart
ENVIADO ESPECIALSAN PABLO.—Cuatro años después
del histórico giro hacia la ultrade-
recha en Brasil, cuando el triunfo
en ballottage de Jair Bolsonaro sor-
prendió al mundo y abrió una etapa
inédita para el mayor país de Amé-
rica Latina, las elecciones generalesde este domingo podrían marcar un
nuevo punto de quiebre. Tras una
agresiva campaña, en la que dos
fuerzas han concentrado las pre-
ferecias de los electores, Luiz Inacio
Lula da Silva, favorito por delante
del presidente, buscará concretar
su resurrección política con una
victoria a 12 años de haber dejado
el poder. Semejante triunfo parecíaimpensado hasta hace muy poco,
cuando estuvo preso e inhabilitado
por condenas de corrupción.Según las encuestas, que reflejan
la polarización y crispación, el lí-
der del Partido de los Trabajadores
(PT), de 76 años, está cerca de ganar
en primera vuelta, con un 50% de in-
tención de votos válidos. Continúa en
la página 4

EL HILO DEL MUNDO

Tres riesgos
subterráneos

Inés Capdevila

—LA NACION—

Página 10

Villa Mascardi.
Temor en
el bosque
usurpadoLos vecinos se sienten
inseguros y reclaman
acciones al Gobierno

Página 18

Lula tem 50%; Bolsonaro, 36%

Pesquisa Datafolha não permite prever se petista terá hoje maioria dos votos válidos para vencer presidente no 1º turno

A mais recente pesquisa Datafolha mostra que o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) lidera a corrida para o Palácio do Planalto com 50% dos votos válidos.

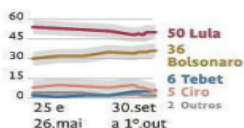
Como a margem de erro é de dois pontos percentuais para mais ou para menos, não é possível afirmar se haverá segundo turno. O levantamento foi feito na sexta-feira (30) e no sábado (1).

O atual presidente, Jair Bolsonaro (PL), está com 36%, seguido da senadora Simone Tebet (MDB), com 6%, e do ex-ministro Ciro Gomes (PDT), que tem 5%.

Para dar por encerrada a eleição hoje, Lula precisa obter metade mais um dos votos válidos (descontados os nulos e os brancos). O PT torce por uma abstenção pequena e pelo "voto útil".

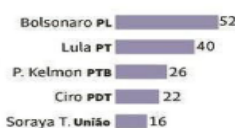
Evolução dos votos válidos no 1º turno

Excluindo brancos e nulos, em %



A rejeição dos candidatos

Não votariam de jeito nenhum (resposta múltipla, em %)



A campanha eleitoral foi marcada por suspeitas levantadas por Jair Bolsonaro a respeito da segurança das urnas eletrônicas e por ameaças de que não aceitará o resultado.

Desde que a possibilidade de reeleição foi instituída, em 1997, Bolsonaro é o primeiro presidente que não chega ao primeiro turno como o favorito na disputa.

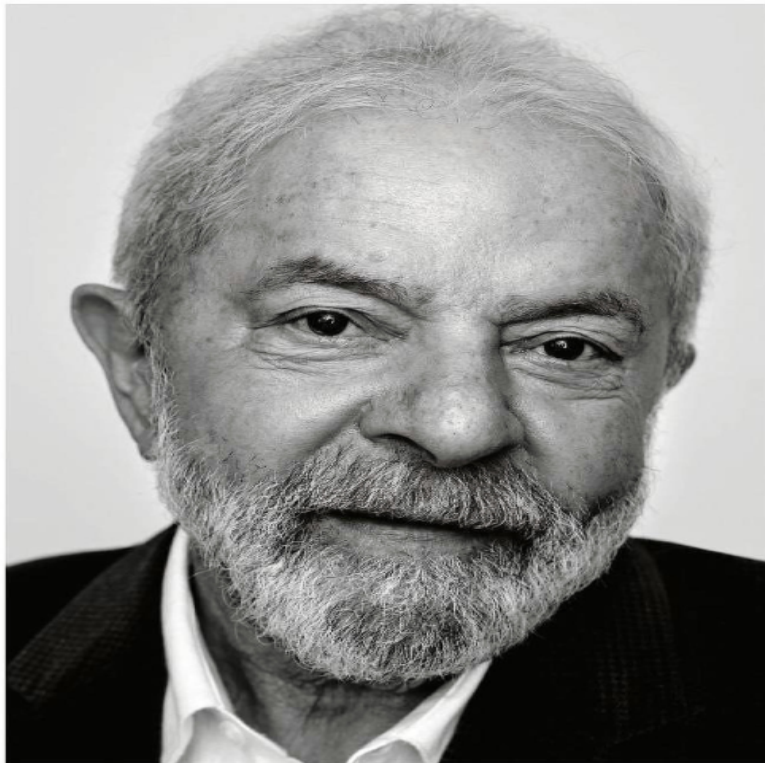
Lula, que ficou preso por corrupção até 2019, conseguiu anular as condenações na Justiça e volta à cena política com o apoio, principalmente, dos mais pobres.

São escolhidos hoje também governadores, senadores, deputados federais e estaduais. Pela primeira vez, todos os estados votam ao mesmo tempo, até 17h de Brasília. Eleições 2022 A4

Haddad marca 39%; Tarcísio, 31%, e Rodrigo, 23% em SP A20

Castro está com 44% no RJ, seguido por Freixo (35%) A21

Em MG, governador Zema chega a 56%; Kalil, 35% A21



Fotos Bob Wolfenson

RETRATOS DE UMA DEMOCRACIA

Os presidentes Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) e Jair Bolsonaro (PL) estão entre expoentes políticos do país fotografados ao longo de um ano por Bob Wolfenson em parceria com a Folha Especial

TSE promete segurança em meio ao medo e retórica golpista

O presidente do Tribunal Superior Eleitoral, Alexandre de Moraes, prometeu que a segurança e o sigilo do voto serão observados hoje.

O Brasil chega às urnas após campanha turbulenta.

Casos de violência marcaram os últimos meses, sob a sombra da retórica golpista. O presidente Jair Bolsonaro estimulou a atuação de militares no processo em escala inédita desde 1985. A14 e A15

Recorte a cola antes de votar e tire suas dúvidas

Folha traz ficha onde anotar os números dos candidatos, indica cidades com transporte gratuito e orienta o voto em trânsito e sem o título. Celular deve ficar com o mesário. A6

EDITORIAIS A2

Às urnas, cidadãos

Pela primeira vez, um candidato à reeleição presidencial chega em desvantagem ao primeiro turno. Ruim e péssimo são qualificadores apropriados do desempenho de Jair Bolsonaro (PL).

Desafiado de maneira inédita, o aparato institucional desenhado para resistir ao autoritarismo demonstrou a sua inepugnabilidade e devolveu o especulador da desordem ao seu devido lugar.

A prova exuberante do enraizamento da democracia no país é a manutenção do ritual cívico que se repete hoje. As escolhas da soberania popular serão apuradas com eficiência e respeitadas.

Ucrânia expulsa russos de cidade anexada por Putin

Mundo A26

Violência no futebol indonésio deixa 129 mortos

Esporte B7

match eleitoral



Em dúvida em quem votar para deputado e senador em SP? Mire a câmera acima

Wilson Gomes

Atenção ao votar para o Congresso

Nada adianta dar a Presidência a A, achando que ele vai magicamente transformar o país, e anular todo o efeito da eleição do Executivo entregando as casas legislativas a B no momento em que elas têm o maior poder da sua história. Ilustradíssima C3

PAINEL S.A.

Empresários têm resistência zero a Lula

ENTREVISTAS COM O EMPRESARIADO
Líder do grupo Esfera Brasil, que fez jantar com Lula, João Camargo diz que empresários são pragmáticos e não devem se opor a um governo petista. A28

Anna V. Balloussier

Jairo é 22, Eliana é 13, e o amor venceu

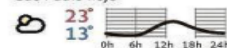
Nenhum conseguiu mudar a cabeça do outro. Já brigaram feio, "de eu até ficar com raiva dele", por causa de eleição, diz Eliana. Hoje a convivência está pacificada. Ela entendeu que tudo bem cada um ter seu preferido e não dá bola se Jairo azucrinar. Corrida B8

Alerta financeiro

Sobre riscos em um cenário global de juros em alta.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



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9 771414 572018 3 4 1 5 0

Los miembros del TSJE comparecen hoy en el Congreso por incendio

Suspicaaz incidente enturbia aún más el clima electoral

Dos desconocidos ingresaron a otro depósito con urnas de forma subrepticia. Denuncia ya está en manos de fiscales. Analistas acusan que siniestro es ataque al sistema democrático.

PÁGINAS 2 y 4



Hay 2.600 gasolineras
Servicentros
se multiplican
como hongos y
edil plantea ley
para frenarlos

PÁGINAS 24 y 25

Presupuesto en ascuas
Golpe al erario:
En PGN 2023
piden subas
salariales de
hasta el 55%

PÁGINA 34

Exportamos lo malo
Paraguayos
lideran ránking
de infractores
de tránsito en
Foz de Yguazú

PÁGINA 48

DOMINGO
Jorge Querrey, Senador del Frente Guasu
"Nos convertimos en un país en
que casi somos un paraíso fiscal"

PÁGINAS 6 y 7

Entrevista Persona
Ximena Coronel
"La música siempre fue como un
refugio cuando me pasaba algo"

PÁGINA 26

ETIOS MÁS POR
DESCUBRIR

CUOTA DESDE
145 USD

2 AÑOS

VERSATILIDAD
Y ECONOMÍA

5 ESTRELLAS



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LE FIGARO

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

JONATHAN LITTELL

« NOUS DEVONS TENIR TÊTE AU POKER MENTEUR DE POUTINE »

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de vendredi :

Retraites : Emmanuel Macron a-t-il eu raison d'attendre 2023 pour présenter sa réforme ?

NON 46%

OUI 54%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 121 754

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr

Faut-il encadrer l'activité des influenceurs sur les réseaux sociaux ?

ILLUSTRATION : FABIEN CLAIREFOND - FRANÇOIS BOUCHON / LE FIGARO - MIGUEL SCHINCARIOL/AFIP



Vladimir Poutine, hier après son discours au Kremlin, aux côtés des dirigeants des territoires annexés.

Poutine dresse la Russie contre l'Occident

En scellant l'annexion de quatre territoires pris à l'Ukraine, le président russe a prononcé un réquisitoire contre les Occidentaux. En réaction, Kiev demande à entrer dans l'Otan.

PAGES 2, 4, 22, 23 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Présidence LR : l'élection suspendue à un imbroglio juridique

Réintégrée dans la course à la présidence de LR par une décision de justice, Virginie Calmels compte désormais saisir le tribunal au fond afin de « compenser le préjudice subi ».

Une procédure qui fait planer le doute sur le calendrier et la tenue même du scrutin. La direction du parti se veut confiante et reste ouverte à la négociation.

PAGES 8 ET 9



ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Théâtre russe

Potemkine n'aurait pas renié le théâtre de Vladimir Poutine, vendredi, au Kremlin et sur la place Rouge : entraînant la volonté du peuple souverain, il a validé l'annexion des 18 % du territoire ukrainien sous sa botte. Comment eût-il pu résister à cet élan spontané qui a vu se jeter dans les bras - armés - de la mère Russie 87 % des habitants restés sous la mitraille à Kherson, 93,1 % de ceux de Zaporijjia et, respectivement, 98,4 % et 99,2 % des oblasts (districts) de Louhansk et Donetsk, occupés depuis 2014 ? On aimerait mettre un visage sur le téméraire citoyen de Donetsk qui a craché à la face du bon tsar... « Les mots "référendum" et "élection" ne devraient jamais être utilisés pour décrire un processus dans lequel des hommes en armes frappent à votre porte et vous obligent à remplir un bulletin sous leurs yeux », rappelle dans *The Atlantic* le politologue Brian Klaas, qui a étudié les trucages électoraux à travers le monde. Les méthodes trahissent toujours le tricheur et le contexte - il semble qu'en 2002 pas un seul Irakien n'avait voté contre Saddam Hussein... Les dirigeants russes sont généralement plus subtils, parfois même créatifs - comme lorsqu'ils multiplient des candidats locaux portant le même nom afin d'émietter leur score. Cette fois, Poutine a eu recours à l'artillerie lourde du plébiscite quasi unanime. Les Occidentaux s'inquiètent de le voir requalifier son invasion en guerre défensive et justifier une escalade incluant la menace nucléaire. Mais le chef du Kremlin n'est pas naïf au point d'imaginer que son grossier stratagème puisse avoir la moindre valeur aux yeux du monde. Il reconnaît d'ailleurs que les frontières des territoires annexés doivent encore être « clarifiées » ! L'habillage a donc un autre objectif probable : souder la nation russe derrière le mythe d'une opération de « libération » de « frères » prisonniers d'un régime « nazi ». Au moment où la conscription suscite de vives tensions dans la société, on adosse sa crédibilité à la prétendue volonté des Ukrainiens d'être « sauvés ». La mise en scène grandiose du coup de force confirme la propagande à vocation intérieure. Les Russes, nourris de fake news, seraient habitués à croire que tout est possible. Dupes jusqu'à quand ? ■

Le Brésil joue son destin entre Lula et Bolsonaro

L'élection présidentielle brésilienne, dont le premier tour a lieu dimanche, met face à face deux hommes que tout oppose, Jair Bolsonaro et Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Un duel qui promet de tester la solidité des institutions du plus grand pays d'Amérique latine. Alors que plus de 156 millions de Brésiliens sont appelés à voter, deux incertitudes pèsent sur le scrutin : Lula peut-il être élu dès dimanche soir ? Et Bolsonaro acceptera-t-il le verdict des urnes ?

PAGES 10 ET 11

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