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ULET IFANSASTI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Where Oil Is a Subsistence Business

Collecting crude oil with a bucket near the Indonesian village of Teksas Wonocolo, which is named for the Lone Star State. Page A7.

Ukraine Pleas
For Defenses
Go Unheeded

By CONSTANT MÉHEUT
KYIV, Ukraine — For much of the war with Russia, President Volodymyr Zelensky's appeals to Western allies for air defenses have paid off. His lobbying helped persuade Washington to give Kyiv its first U.S.-made Patriot air-defense system in 2023, followed by several more sent by Western nations over the years.

Now, as Ukraine confronts the most intense Russian missile campaign of the war, Mr. Zelensky's renewed pleas are falling flat.

After yet another deadly assault on Kyiv early Wednesday, in which the capital was left completely undefended against Russian ballistic and hypersonic missiles, Mr. Zelensky offered an accounting. In a statement, he said the number of air-defense missiles supplied by Western partners so far this year had "dropped threefold compared with 2025."

Ukraine's allies "do have the missiles," he said, but "the necessary political decisions" to send them and accelerate production had yet to be made.

Most recently, Mr. Zelensky has framed his position in human terms, arguing that every additional interceptor saves lives. But his entreaties are no longer as successful because of a changed geopolitical landscape.

Western allies are more hesitant to give up missiles they may need for their own defense as war rages on multiple fronts, including in the Middle East, where fighting has whittled global stockpiles.

Even if Ukraine's partners did heed Mr. Zelensky's call, they could not fully meet the country's needs. Russia produces ballistic missiles faster than the West can make the interceptors designed to stop them.

So far this year, Russia has fired 650 ballistic missiles at Ukraine, according to a New York Times analysis of figures from the Ukrainian Air Force. That is more than the number of PAC-3 interceptors — the advanced weapons most capable of intercepting ballistic missiles — that their U.S. manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, delivered worldwide all of last year.

"The situation today is more critical than at any point since the

Continued on Page A6

In Lab, A.I. Designs Viruses Not Found in Nature

By CARL ZIMMER
For the first time, scientists have used artificial intelligence to create new kinds of viruses, raising hopes for medical advances while also raising the disturbing possibility that the technology could someday be used to invent dangerous pathogens.

Synthesizing viruses from scratch is hardly new. Researchers long ago learned how to manufacture viral genomes; they are used to investigate antiviral drugs and vaccines, as well as to learn how viruses work.

But the new study, published

Hopes for Advances in
Medicine, and Fears
About Pathogens

Thursday in the journal Science, goes well beyond duplicating viral genes. Scientists at the Arc Institute, a research organization in Palo Alto, Calif., taught A.I. to recognize patterns of DNA structure in nature, and then to use that data to write recipes for entirely new viruses.

The researchers followed those recipes to create DNA molecules,

which they inserted into bacteria. The modified bacteria then produced viruses never seen in nature. The viruses were able to infect other bacteria, demonstrating that they were viable.

"This is an important milestone," said Patrick Cai, a synthetic biologist at the University of Manchester, who was not involved in the study.

The viruses dreamed up by A.I. do not pose a threat to humans, because they are all similar to a naturally occurring virus called Phi X-174, which can infect only bacteria.

But the new study adds to growing

Continued on Page A18



FREDRIK LERNERYD FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Cowboys and Cowgirls in Kenya

Line dancing and Kenny Rogers songs abounded at a country music festival in Nairobi. Page A9.

On a Vanity License Plate, Whose Speech Is It?

The next great First Amendment battleground is just six inches high and is attached to about a million motor vehicles in Virginia alone. It is the vanity license plate, and courts are splintered over whether and how states can censor the messages the plates convey.

The latest decision landed last Friday. It involved Curtis Whate-

7-Character Tag Shapes
Constitutional Clash

ley, who paid Virginia \$10 in 2023 for a personalized license plate. He had seven characters to work with, and he sought to convey a statement "expressing my opinion on the current state of policing in this country," as he would

later put it in a lawsuit. He settled on FTP & ATF. No one disputes what those letters stand for. "TP" is the police. "ATF" is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "F" is what you think it is. The state issued the plate, and he used it for about a year, until the authorities received an anonymous complaint that caused them to cancel it. Representing

Continued on Page A17

Trump Risks
Befouling Air
In A.I. Push

Gas-Burning Plants to
Power Data Centers

By HIROKO TABUCHI
EL PASO — In March, a developer working on a Meta data center in El Paso applied to power the site with a gas-burning plant large enough to supply electricity to 300,000 homes.

Typically, approving a big power plant might require public hearings and months of detailed vetting. But Texas environmental regulators signed off in just 20 days.

They approved another project in three days. And an even larger data center power plant, also gas-burning, won approval in just two days.

All without public notice. "They're going to fire up those turbines," said Cynthia Crouse, who lives in an upscale development with panoramic views of the desert, about a mile from the planned Meta data center and power plant.

"I thought I'd bought my dream home, that I'd be looking out on the dark sky, hearing the coyotes call," Ms. Crouse said. "Then I woke up to the biggest nightmare I've ever had."

As data centers ignite debates across the country, neighbors and environmentalists often cite water use and noise as problems. Less mentioned has been the pollution from the scores of gas-burning plants that will power these data centers.

When the El Paso facility's power plant is complete, it could emit as much planet-warming carbon dioxide in a year as 360,000 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles over the same period.

Encouraged by the Trump administration, data center developers are building their own power plants instead of plugging into an electric grid. Nationwide, at least 82 gas-burning power plants are being built or have been proposed to power data centers, according to the Environmental Integrity Project, a nonpartisan research organization. Most were announced or granted permits within the past 18 months.

If built as planned, the gas-burning plants — scattered across states including Texas, Ohio and Wyoming — could release as much planet-warming pollution in a year as roughly half of all the

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FAUCI IS REBUKED
IN CONTEMPT VOTE
BY SENATE PANEL

SPLIT ON PARTY LINES

Resolution Could Lead to
Charges Over Refusal
to Take Questions

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
The Senate Homeland Security Committee voted along party lines on Thursday to hold Dr. Anthony S. Fauci in contempt of Congress for his refusal to answer questions at a hearing last week, clearing the way for the committee to ask the Justice Department to prosecute him.

Dr. Fauci invoked his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent more than 100 times last week, as Republicans accused him of funding research in China that started the coronavirus pandemic, and lying about it to Congress — accusations he vigorously denies.

Thursday's vote addressed a different question: Did Dr. Fauci fail to comply with a congressional subpoena, a federal misdemeanor that carries a prison sentence up to 12 months? The panel adopted a resolution concluding that he did.

The vote once again exposed the sharp partisan divisions around Dr. Fauci. With the midterm elections coming up in November, it also thrusts Dr. Fauci's handling of the pandemic back into the political debate. As far back as 2022, Republicans including Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, the panel's chairman, have made Dr. Fauci a boogeyman, attacking him to raise money for their campaigns and whip up the party's base.

In a statement after the hearing, Dr. Fauci's lawyer, David Schertler, called the vote "a crude political stunt intended to punish Dr. Fauci for exercising his constitutional rights."

Ordinarily, when a Senate committee passes a contempt resolution, it is forwarded to the full chamber for a vote. If the Senate approves, with a 60-vote majority, the resolution goes to the U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia, who can bring it to a grand jury.

But Republicans cannot muster the 60 votes, and the Senate is now headed into its August recess. So Mr. Paul is bypassing the Senate vote. He said after the hearing that the panel would hand-deliver

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SYDNEY TOWLE, 1999-2026

TikTok Creator Mixed Anguish
Of Cancer With a Thirst for Life

By KATHERINE ROSMAN
Sydney Towle, a social media memoirist who mixed anguish, optimism and unabashed wanderlust as she challenged TikTok viewers to reconsider how a cancer patient should look and live, died on Wednesday at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. She was 26.

Her death, from complications of metastatic bile duct cancer, was announced on her social media channels. Earlier this week, her family said that she had entered hospice care.

In 2023, Ms. Towle, a recent graduate of Dartmouth, was living in Los Angeles — working at a remote-office marketing job, surfing and posting bikini selfies and dance-trend videos online — when a bulge and a burning sensation in her belly landed her in urgent care. Soon after, she was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer of the bile ducts.

Ms. Towle turned her new life as



MICHELLE V. AGINS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sydney Towle challenged how cancer patients are perceived.

a young woman with cancer into content. For an audience that grew to more than a million followers, she created videos showing herself hiking in Spain, sharing her loneliness and, with her mother, wrapping her head in ice packs to help prevent hair loss from chemotherapy.

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NATIONAL A10-18

The Parking Sticker of Shame
After a decade, New York City is once again slapping labels on cars that don't move for street sweepers. PAGE A14

Moderate Democrats to Fight
One group calls progressives' wins "deeply troubling" and plans an effort against democratic socialism. PAGE A16

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Indictment in West Bank Death
An Israeli settler was accused of manslaughter in the death of a Palestinian activist last summer. PAGE A8

Looking In on France's Seniors
To prevent heat-related deaths, the government asked postal workers to help check on older residents. PAGE A5

OBITUARIES A19, 22
He Challenged Views on Islam
John L. Esposito, 86, started out in the 1970s as a rare U.S. expert on political Islam and became a prolific scholar and prominent public intellectual. PAGE A19



BUSINESS B1-5

A Boom in Local Lettuce
Amid reports of cyclosporiasis, small produce stands and farmers' markets are seeing a surge in demand. PAGE B1

Your iPhone Just Got Smarter
Siri's A.I. brain transplant has made it much more useful. Tech Fix offers five prompts to get you started. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-9

Valkyries Riding High
From anticipating player demands to creating a loyal fan base, Golden State has taken advantage of an ideal market in the Bay Area and set a new standard for the W.N.B.A. PAGE B6

A Quarterback's Burden
The Texans have an elite defense, but they won't get to the next level unless C.J. Stroud can bounce back from an uncharacteristically sloppy playoff game last January. PAGE B7

OPINION A20-21
Daniela J. Lamas PAGE A20



WEEKEND ARTS C1-8

Say Aaah
Andrew Winslow, collections manager at the Cloisters, takes care of many mythical creatures, including the Bat Lyrical, a.k.a. Tzinacantecuhli. PAGE C8



The New York Times

INTERNATIONAL EDITION | FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

Move ahead with a Saudi nuclear deal

Daniel Poneman

OPINION

The confused rollout of the proposed nuclear power deal with Saudi Arabia has created an opportunity to advance several vital American interests, if Congress and the administration can quickly agree on a path forward.

Despite widespread criticism and few publicly released details, it is clear that the deal could help limit the spread of nuclear weapons, strengthen U.S.-Saudi relations at a tense moment and increase the possibility of peace between the kingdom and Israel.

But the deal, which would commit the Saudis to working with American companies in developing nuclear energy, is in limbo. After his administration announced it had been signed on July 22, President Trump called the agreement into question, saying it was contingent on progress toward normalized relations between the kingdom and Israel. Critics of the deal said that it would increase the risk that Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East will pursue and obtain nuclear weapons.

Under U.S. law, a Saudi program with American involvement would already be subject to stronger controls than are required by international treaty or by any U.S. competitor, including Russia and China. Parts of the Trump deal would go still further, not only requiring U.S. consent before any Saudi uranium enrichment or plutonium reprocessing can take place, but also barring the transfer of sensitive technology. Inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency could verify compliance.

Insisting on even stricter controls would undermine international limits on the spread of nuclear technology by driving the Saudis and other countries seeking their own programs into the arms of competitors with looser standards. It would also undermine the cause of Middle East peace by pushing Saudi-Israeli rapprochement even further out of reach.

Mr. Trump should use the leverage provided by this moment of limbo. To do so, he must send the deal to Congress or risk missing an opportunity. To understand why critics of the deal are wrong, and why Mr. Trump should proceed, it's important to understand how U.S. safeguards for civilian nuclear power projects developed over the years.

PNEMAN, PAGE 10

The New York Times publishes opinion from a wide range of perspectives in hopes of promoting constructive debate about consequential questions.



Praying near a collapsed building where rescuers were working last month in La Guaira, the Venezuelan coastal state hit hardest by back-to-back earthquakes in June.

Trapped in a painful limbo

LA GUAIRA, VENEZUELA

On Venezuela's coast, life has been reduced to survival and burial

BY EMMA BUBOLA

There was a billboard on the seaside road along Venezuela's northern coast with a gigantic photo of a smiling Nicolás Maduro, the country's former leader, and the words "a land flowing with milk and honey," a biblical phrase that describes a blessed land.

But there was no Mr. Maduro, no milk and no honey behind the sign. Just mountains of rubble, body bags and makeshift encampments for thousands of Venezuelans left homeless by June's devastating, back-to-back earthquakes.

La Guaira, once a lively beachside escape, and the state hardest hit by the disaster, is completely disfigured. Tall residential towers overlooking the Caribbean are dusty piles of contorted debris. With about 24,000 people left homeless and hundreds of buildings damaged or destroyed, according to the government, the coastal strip has become an immense humanitarian camp, with many living in tents by the debris.



Part of Celia Figueira's daughter's home toppled into a pool in La Guaira. "I don't know what will happen with us," one resident said. "We have lived through too much."

The inescapable presence of the sea and its salty summer breeze clashed with a near-constant presence of death — in the corpses that kept emerging from the rubble, in the body bags on pickup trucks, in the boxes of ashes carried from the morgue to cars, homes, shelters or church altars.

Spaces designed for leisure or busi-

ness or commerce now serve only two essential functions: survival or burial.

The McDonald's, a popular stop for residents and tourists on the way to the beach, functions as a field hospital. The port has been turned into a crowded morgue. The golf course and a surfing resort are homeless camps.

The muddy, fly-infested encamp-

ments in La Guaira raise urgent questions about where the huge numbers of displaced will eventually live and what a future for the region, once a main gateway into Venezuela, could look like.

The challenges are magnified because it is the second time in less than three decades that the area has faced a colossal reconstruction task following a natural disaster.

After mudslides killed at least 15,000 people along the coast in 1999, and floods forced thousands of people out of their homes in 2010, the government built a forest of high-rise apartment buildings meant to fulfill a pledge by Venezuela's socialist president, Hugo Chávez, to provide the poor proper homes.

This year, many of those buildings collapsed, trapping and killing large numbers of residents. Some critics have said that builders did not account for the loose soil that made them vulnerable in quakes. (The official death toll stands at more than 5,500, but that is most likely an undercount.)

Many Venezuelans see the sprawling ruins, months after U.S. forces captured Mr. Maduro, as the culmination of a failed political and economic project overseen by a corrupt and incompetent authoritarian government.

Just as major questions loom over VENEZUELA, PAGE 4

The battle that's raging above Russia and Ukraine

KYIV, UKRAINE

Both sides launch missiles at distant cities as front line remains largely deadlocked

BY MARC SANTORA

As the front line in Ukraine calcifies into a bloody deadlock, the future trajectory of the war is being shaped in the skies.

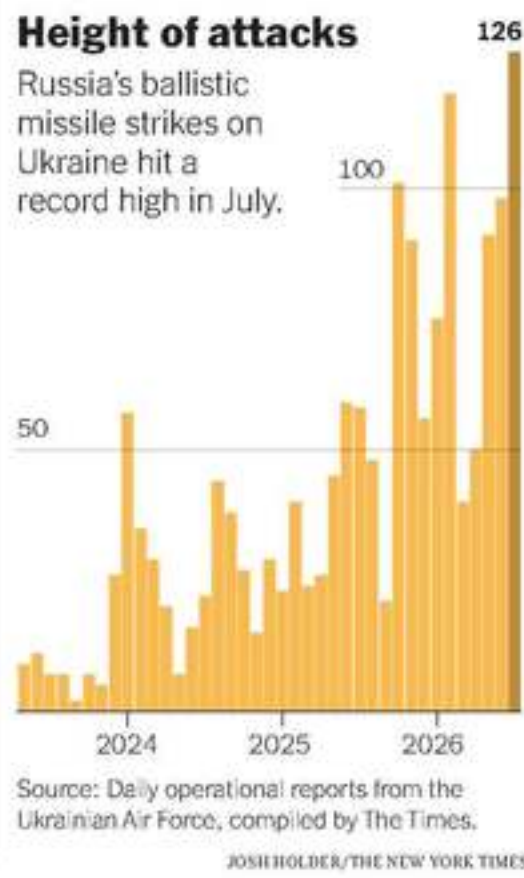
This air war is an all-encompassing contest stretching from a few yards above scorched tree lines to satellites in low-earth orbit. Its physical toll is etched in fire across the landscape by missiles and drones, though much of the fight remains unseen, in the race to deploy artificial intelligence and control a spectrum of radio waves.

Ukraine is using exploding drones to hit Russian oil facilities from Siberia to St. Petersburg and Russian ports from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. Day after day, the warehouses of Russia's largest online retailer are going up in flames, and Russia-occupied Crimea is being plunged into darkness. Ukraine is striking Russia far more often than it did earlier in the war, including attacks with cruise missiles on military targets hundreds of miles from the front.

At the same time, Russia is setting monthly records for its own aerial onslaughts, exploiting gaps in depleted Ukrainian air defenses to deadly effect.

In July, Moscow fired at least 126 ballistic missiles — a wartime high, according to a New York Times analysis of Ukrainian Air Force data. About 400 civilians died last month in Russia's barrages, which included cruise missiles and drones, making it the deadliest month since April 2022.

Before dawn on Wednesday, at least 17 more people were killed in Kyiv, the RUSSIA-UKRAINE, PAGE 4



A daring escape from a 'prison without bars'



Kim Yu-mi, right, fled North Korea in 2023 with her children and her mother. Life in South Korea has not been quite what they had imagined, but they have no regrets.

SEOUL

Family fled North Korea by boat in search of a better life in the South

BY CHOE SANG-HUN

Rain lashed a flimsy wooden boat as it tossed through a churning sea, its engine straining against the swell. Under the cover of a stormy night three years ago, the vessel was fleeing North Korea.

On board were nine people, including two small children and a woman who was six months pregnant. They eluded a patrol ship, speeding across the world's most heavily guarded maritime border.

Soon after their boat lurched into South Korean waters, a high-speed warship of the South's navy bore down on it, tearing the water in aggressive circles. Snipers on the vessel trained their laser sights on the chests of the three adult men on the wooden boat.

Through a loudspeaker, a voice boomed: "Are you lost? Engine trouble?"

The North Koreans shouted: "Please help. We are defecting."

The red dots remained stubbornly fixed on their chests. Desperate, the men shouted into the boat's cramped hold for the other passengers to emerge in order to prove that they were civilians. From below, the two children, a 5-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy, were hauled up first. Only then did the red dots drop off.

The North Koreans, led by Kim Il-hyeok and his younger brother, Yi-hyeok, were bound together by blood and marriage. The brothers, both in their 30s at the time, were accompanied by their mother and their families: Il-hyeok's partner, who was pregnant, and Yi-hyeok's wife, their two children, his mother-in-law and brother-in-law.

The family, who defected in 2023, was among the few who managed to escape North Korea after its leader, Kim Jong-un, imposed a crushing lockdown during NORTH KOREA, PAGE 2



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Games



BOB HUMPHRIES, an ex-surfboard shaper from Costa Mesa, is treated at Catalina Island Health last week.

FCC OKS LIFTING CAP ON STATION OWNERS

Split decision relaxes 39% coverage limit on local TV affiliates. It could face legal battle.

By Stephen Battaglio

The Federal Communications Commission voted 2 to 1 in favor of allowing TV station ownership groups to own more outlets, easing the way for more consolidation and deepening concerns the agency could further disrupt the broadcast industry that has been rattled by battles with the Trump administration.

The Thursday vote means companies can own local stations that cover more than 39% of the U.S. They can also own more than two stations in a single market.

The measure supported by FCC Chair Brendan Carr allows the agency to approve deals that put station ownership groups over the cap if the agency determines that they are promoting the public interest.

The controversial Trump appointee has said the agency will consider such issues as a commitment to local journalism and “viewpoint diversity.” But critics will be watching to see whether the rule change is used to reward President Trump-friendly media companies such as Sinclair Broadcasting, which aims to acquire more stations, while punishing the broadcast networks that Trump often attacks.

Carr has made his name by threatening to pull the broadcast licenses of TV stations that irritate Trump with their coverage and commentary. Even Trump-supporting Republicans such as Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) have raised concerns that the FCC’s scrutiny of broadcast content could be violating the right to free speech.

“Sometimes the FCC scares me right now,” Kennedy said at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing this week. “I don’t like some of the stuff that is said on television, but what business is it of the FCC?”

Jeff McCall, a professor of communications at DePaul University, said having the FCC decide who benefits from the rule change will face resistance. “It will give the FCC wide discretionary powers and open up any decisions to second-guessing and, of course, court challenges,” he said.

Carr already has shown a willingness to use the FCC rules on the books to threaten broadcasters whose news

[See FCC, A12]

Catalina’s lone hospital is barely staying afloat

Vital center has county funding, but not for long

By Connor Sheets

The Saturday morning calm at Catalina Island Health’s two-bed emergency room was broken just before noon, when two tourists with arm injuries burst in within minutes of one another.

Praveen Biln, the registered nurse on duty in the ER, kicked into gear checking vital signs on the first arrival, a woman in her 50s who broke a bone in her elbow when she fell while roller skating at the Catalina Casino.

Minutes later, 8-year-old Carter Olsen hobbled in with his worried mother after hurting his arm in a fall. An X-ray ultimately revealed it wasn’t fractured.

“Can I ask you a silly question: Did you hit your head? Can you turn your neck?” Biln asked him to be sure he wasn’t hurt anywhere else. Carter, of Newport Beach, told the nurse that he had not, and that he could. “Awesome,” Biln told him. “You’re doing so good.”

As the only full-time medical provider

on the island, Catalina Island Health is a vital resource for approximately 4,000 residents and 1 million annual visitors. But Tim Kielpinski, the hospital’s CEO, says it was “in dire straits” and on the brink of having to shut its doors last year before it received an emergency multimillion-dollar bailout from Los Angeles County.

“We just had six days of cash on hand in June of 2025,” he said Saturday evening at a fundraiser for the hospital. “Six days,” he added, “before we would have faced impossible decisions.”

Its financial picture has improved somewhat since that nadir, but Catalina Island Health remains one of several hospitals across the county that are struggling to stay open in the face of strong financial headwinds. Inflation has soared since the COVID-19 pandemic, government reimbursement for Medi-Cal pa-

[See Catalina, A8]

ICE’s broken healthcare system

Unpaid claims could cost detainees vital treatment

By Andrea Castillo and Gabrielle Lamarr Lemee

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security’s system for paying for detainee medical care has collapsed, records show, leaving a backlog of unpaid claims probably costing millions of dollars.

With a new payment system still not in place, advocates for immigrant detainees fear some are going without necessary treatment as medical providers near a year without compensation.

Newly released federal records reveal what that treatment could be for, detailing more than 233,000 claims for off-site medical and dental care between January and early October of 2025. The claims, for which Homeland Security spent \$96 million, show detainees were treated for a wide variety of conditions, including strokes, pregnancy, suicide attempts and frostbite.

For years, Homeland Security relied on a unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs, its financial services center, to process claims for detainee medical care. But

since that arrangement abruptly ended Oct. 3, the company hired to create a new payment processing system has yet to start reimbursing the medical clinics, dental practices and pharmacies that treat detained patients.

The documents were released by the VA to the nonprofit watchdog group American Oversight through the Freedom of Information Act and shared exclusively with The Times. They paint the clearest picture yet of the off-site medical care received by immi-

[See Detainee care, A5]

Unregulated peptide use alarms researchers

Consumer demand driven by online hype and distrust of health guidance

By Corinne Purtill



PINCHAS Cohen, a USC gerontologist, is concerned about the online marketing of his peptide discovery.

A few months ago, Pinchas Cohen learned of a thriving online trade in MOTS-c — a peptide that, when injected into mice, seems to mimic the effects of exercise.

The dean of the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology was very familiar with this particular short chain of amino acids. His lab identified it years ago as one of the thousands of peptides that act as chemical messengers in the human body, one he believed might someday have therapeutic uses for humans.

But Cohen was alarmed to learn that his discovery was being promoted by legions of longevity seekers, fitness enthusiasts and wellness influencers as “exercise in a bottle.” Though not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, it was widely available online, often in vials marked “for research use only.”

“Turns out that tens of thousands of people are injecting themselves with MOTS-c [that’s] black market, illegal, from unknown

[See Peptides, A6]

Confirmation of Blanche on a razor’s edge

The tight Senate vote exposes the depth of skepticism of Trump’s Justice Department.

By Michael Wilner and Ben Wieder

WASHINGTON — President Trump’s choice for attorney general is facing a tight vote for confirmation in a Republican-controlled Senate nearly halfway through his second term, reflecting mounting doubts about his leadership of the Justice Department as bipartisan concerns over the weaponization of justice intensify.

The confirmation of Todd Blanche hangs on the support of two Republicans who repeatedly have criticized Trump’s stewardship of the department, where Blanche has served as deputy and acting attorney general, roles he assumed after working as the president’s personal lawyer for nearly two years.

Republican senators resisted Trump’s approach to the Justice Department from the start of the presidential transition, rejecting

his first choice to lead it, Matt Gaetz, amid concerns he would use the department to pursue political retribution. But after Gaetz withdrew, Trump’s replacement, Pam Bondi, won bipartisan confirmation with the support of the entire Republican caucus.

Blanche already is guaranteed a narrower margin, with Sen. Susan Collins of Maine announcing she will vote to reject his confirmation, and with Sen. Mitch McConnell absent for now for health reasons. Democrats are expected to be united in opposition against him.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a figure the president has referred to as a “terrible,” “Trump-deranged” “loser” who “should never be elected,” has refused to comment on her plans.

Her staff has said she is reviewing a commitment Blanche made in writing to formally rescind a controversial, \$1.8-billion “Anti-Weaponization Fund,” announced in May to compensate Trump’s political allies, including those who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Blanche also said he

[See Blanche, A5]

A housing fix, one empty lot at a time

Initiative aims to show how small multiunit projects can chip away at L.A.’s shortage.

By Grace Toohey

It is perhaps one of the biggest contradictions of Los Angeles’ housing crisis.

How can a city where homes are in such short supply and financially out of reach for so many have more than 20,000 lots that are zoned for housing but remain vacant?

It’s been a long-missed opportunity, but one that some housing experts hope could now create a fresh wave of attainable homeownership.

A newly launched novel experiment aims to demonstrate how these vacant lots, while small, can be transformed into thoughtfully designed “gentle density”

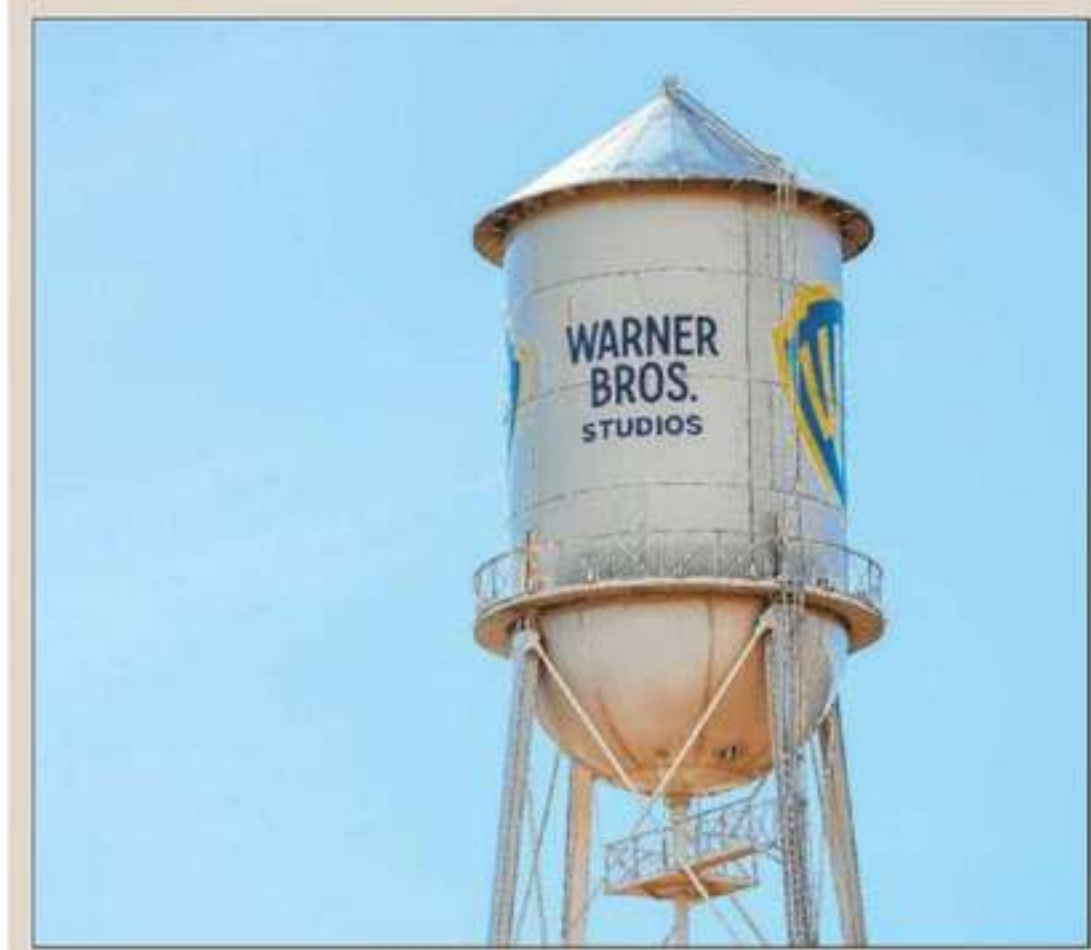
housing — such as duplexes, fourplexes and townhome communities — to be sold at more reasonable prices than L.A.’s long-venerated single-family home.

“There hasn’t been a new generation of starter homes since post-WWII. How do we get back to that?” said Dana Cuff, director of UCLA’s city-LAB, which is spearheading this phase of the “Small Lots, Big Impacts” initiative, focused on turning vacant, privately owned parcels into affordable homeownership opportunities.

Small-scale, multiunit housing has been a mainstay of L.A. architecture for more than a century — from grand Spanish Colonial duplexes in places such as Carthay Circle to tidy courtyard apartments and boxy mid-century “dingbat” complexes across Hollywood and the Fairfax District.

But such small-scale

[See Housing, A8]



ERIC THAYER Los Angeles Times

ONE STEP CLOSER

British authorities approved Paramount’s bid to buy Warner Bros. Discovery, but Ellison still faces an antitrust suit at home. **BUSINESS, A10**

Midterm races to watch in West

These states hold four of the nation’s 18 toss-up contests as rated by political observers. **NATION, A4**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 88/69. **B6**

Markets **A12**
Opinion Voices **A13**

Possible measles exposure at park

An infected visitor spent a full day at Universal Studios in July. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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Chicago Tribune



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Lobbyists: Consensus forming on data centers

Discussions in Springfield over regulation described as productive

By John Lippert and Jeremy Gorner
FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Even as a political backlash against data centers mushrooms across the U.S., a broad consensus on how to regulate them is emerging in Springfield, according to key corporate, labor and environmental lobbyists.

Marc Poulos, a Springfield labor quarterback, is circulating a three-page proposal that would require data centers to use closed-loop cooling to preserve water, speed up grid connections for data centers that use renewable power, roll back some biometric privacy protections and restore data center tax incentives that Gov. JB Pritzker suspended in July.

Jen Walling, executive director of the Illinois Environmental Council, said her group is likely to support or not oppose several provisions in the Poulos document.

Broadly speaking, she said, they resemble proposals already circulating among the governor's office and data center operators. They contain several important elements, including requiring data centers to bring their own power, which she said her coalition supported in a bill introduced this year called the POWER Act.

No formal bill-writing negotiations have occurred, although Pritzker representatives and top legislative officials are scheduled to hold a second meeting of their data center task force this month.

Around the country, more than 530 counties and municipalities have blocked or severely restricted data centers, according to Heatmap Pro, a clean energy news service. More than 200 additional towns are considering similar restrictions, Heatmap reported on July 30, as they seek to protect their land, water, electricity supplies and clean air.

These include six Illinois towns where data centers have been canceled since last year, and 13 which have enacted moratoriums or restrictive ordinances, according to Robinson Meyer, Heatmap's executive editor. Four other Illinois towns are still debating how to proceed, he said.

Legislators return for their fall session on Nov. 17, just one day after the Illinois Commerce Commission and other agencies will formally release a plan aimed at preventing

See **CENTERS** on Page A4



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

'Other Washingtons' public art encircles 1902 statue

Artist Amanda Williams, center, poses with people named Washington at her "Other Washingtons" installation unveiling Thursday at the site of a 1902 George Washington statue on the South Side. Flags encircle the existing statue of George Washington and carry the names of other Washingtons. **A+E**

Dozens of bodies found at Southeast Side funeral home, sources say

By Tess Kenny, Caroline Kubzansky and Sam Charles
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

More than four dozen bodies in various stages of decomposition were recovered Thursday from the basement and attached garage at a South Deering funeral home on the city's Southeast Side, according to multiple law enforcement sources with knowledge of the investigation.

Authorities received a tip about the South Chicago Chapel in the 2900 block of East 95th Street and asked that South Chicago District (4th) police accompany them to an inspection, a source said. Near the facility Thursday evening, a squad car sat parked at the intersection of South Exchange Avenue and 95th Street, where police had blocked the road from South Escanaba Avenue to South Commercial Avenue.

At least two people could be seen walking along 95th Street with masks as the two back doors of South Chicago Chapel sat open. Several police sergeants and the officials from the city's Department of Buildings were also on scene.

A Chicago police spokesman deferred questions to the Cook

See **BODIES** on Page A2



Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart outside the Cook County Jail complex on April 4, 2023. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

ICE threatened sheriff with criminal charges over access to inmates

Letters contend Tom Dart could be charged with witness tampering

By Madeline Buckley and Caroline Kubzansky
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Federal authorities sent Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart subpoenas for inmates wanted for civil immigra-

tion enforcement along with letters that threatened criminal charges if the office didn't turn over the individuals, according to the sheriff's office and public records obtained by the Tribune.

The New York Times was the first to report on the existence of the letters, which appear to be the Trump administration's latest tactic to try to gain access to jails in sanctuary jurisdic-

tions. The Times reported that letters were also sent to Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna Witt, who called it a "scare tactic."

Hennepin County covers Minneapolis, where federal agents surged immigration enforcement operations on the heels of Operation Midway Blitz.

See **SHERIFF** on Page A5

Poll shows weather reshaping daily life

US adults more likely to say extreme heat has personal impact

By Alexa St. John and Linley Sanders
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elisa Bracamonte has lived in Arizona her whole life, so she's used to adjusting her schedule and outdoor activities around high temperatures, especially during the summer months.

But the retired nurse, 74, from Tucson said she feels the heat has been impacting more of her day-to-day: summer plans with family members across the region, meet-ups with friends, road trips and her daily morning walk routine.

"I've noticed at least a 10-degree difference in the weather," Bracamonte said. "Every summer, it seems to be getting hotter and hotter."

Like Bracamonte, Americans are increasingly feeling a personal impact from extreme heat, according to a new poll from Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

According to the survey, U.S. adults are more likely to say extreme heat has had either a "major impact" or "minor impact" on their travel or vacation plans, electricity bills, their sleep, their family's outdoor activities and more parts of their day-to-day life than in July 2024.

Much of that shift was among people who live in the West or Midwest. Democrats are also more likely to say that extreme heat has had a "major" impact on each item asked about.

Warming has endangered the globe especially in recent years; scientists calculated that Earth's average temperature in 2025 hovered among one of the three hottest on record, along with 2024 and 2023. The U.S. has sweltered under dangerous heat domes over the past few years, and unusually

See **HEAT** on Page A9

Inside

Willie Wilson running for mayor

Willie Wilson is officially in for the 2027 mayoral race, he confirmed on Wednesday. The business owner said he will stake out conservative positions as he once again tries a long-shot run for City Hall. **ChicagoLand, Page 3**

Committee votes Fauci in contempt

A Senate committee voted along party lines to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci in contempt of Congress over his refusal to answer questions at a hearing on his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Nation & World, Page B4**

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WEATHER FORECAST

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179th year No. 219
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<https://monedios.com>

Alberta shutter trucking firm tied to deadly Manitoba crash

Carrier accused of changing provinces to avoid enforcement after having safety certificate revoked

SARA MOJTEHEDZADEH

The Alberta government has shuttered a trucking company linked to a recent fatal collision in Manitoba after an investigation found violations, including deliberate and prolonged regulatory non-compliance. Conquer Transportation set up in Alberta in late 2021; an associated company had its safety credentials revoked in Manitoba earlier that year, regulators have said. Alberta took action against Conquer Transportation after one of the company's trucks was involved in a deadly crash in Brandon in May, Transport Minister Devin Dreeshen said in a Thursday statement. Police have said the truck failed to stop at a stop sign, colliding with an SUV at "highway speeds" and killing a 49-year-old woman who was its sole occupant. Manitoba authorities have said they pre-

viously decertified a related company, Conquer Transport, over chronic safety issues. The province subsequently accused the company of setting up in Alberta under a slightly different name. A probe launched by Alberta regulators in June concluded that Conquer Transportation engaged in "willful and sustained non-compliance," according to the minister's Thursday statement. Investigators also identified "chameleon practices" at the company – referring to carriers who move jurisdictions or change names to evade enforcement. After the investigation, Alberta downgraded the company's safety rating to unsatisfactory, "effectively shutting down its operations immediately," the Thursday statement said. The company was penalized \$16,500 for unspecified infractions. In an interview with The Globe and Mail, Mr. Dreeshen said his ministry was com-

mitted to putting "boots on the ground" to ensure adequate safety enforcement. "We have been cracking down, but I still think there's more to go for sure," he said. Mr. Dreeshen did not describe the infractions uncovered at Conquer Transportation, but said inspectors identified "abnormalities" in how the carrier was operating. Conquer Transportation did not respond to requests for comment. A Globe investigation published earlier this year found that poor information sharing and weak penalties are undermining enforcement efforts in the trucking sector. In June, The Globe revealed that Conquer Transport was granted permission by the federal government on three occasions to hire temporary foreign workers, after its safety fitness certificate was revoked by Manitoba regulators in 2021. ■ TRUCKING, A15

Toronto police charge two in last month's U.S. consulate shooting

MATTHEW FRANK

Two teenagers have been arrested and charged in last week's shooting of the U.S. consulate building in Toronto, the second instance of gunfire at the diplomatic office in recent months and another case police have linked to what they call gun-for-hire networks. Police allege the two accused drove a stolen white Honda Accord with no licence plates past the U.S. consulate just before 5 a.m. on July 27 and fired at the building, damaging the facade but causing no reported injuries. Surveillance footage played during a news conference Thursday showed someone fired twice from the vehicle. Only one bullet struck the diplomatic office, police said. The incident fit a similar "modus operandi" to a previous U.S. consulate shooting earlier this year, Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw said Thursday. He alleged the accused were recruited into a gun-for-hire network – what police say is a loosely affiliated group of individuals who will shoot at buildings and businesses in exchange for payment. Police allege that such a group was also responsible for the March shooting at the same building. Investigators traced that shooting to suspects who resided in a west-end Toronto apartment building. When police conducted raids there on the morning of June 11, an officer, Constable Marc Pinizzotto, was shot and killed. At Thursday's news conference, police said the accused in both the March and July attacks communicated and were offered payment through encrypted messaging apps. Police know of multiple criminal networks hiring gunmen operating in Toronto, said Chief Superintendent Joe Matthews of detective operations. Chief Demkiw acknowledged there is significant public interest in learning more about who is hiring these young men. He did not disclose any details about whom police suspect, but said it is a "key focus" of the investigation. Police previously said the networks use apps, such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal, and shooters must record the attacks to receive payment. ■ CONSULATE, A15

After facing China's 'transnational repression,' activist vows to carry on her cause in Canada



Zhang Xinyan, seen on Wednesday, was one of 15 people elected last year to the Toronto-based dissident 'Hong Kong Parliament' of exiled, pro-democracy Hong Kongers – prompting a \$36,000 bounty on her head. JIMMY JEONG/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

ANDREA WOO VANCOUVER

Chinese activist who was living in Thailand and detained there for three months, after facing persecution for years by China's Communist Party, says she plans to keep speaking out in Canada to draw international attention to what she says are the regime's efforts to silence dissidents abroad. Zhang Xinyan, 55, arrived in Vancouver on Monday after a co-ordinated effort from Ottawa, the United Nations refugee agency, Thai lawmakers and international human-rights groups. She recounted her experience in a lengthy Cantonese-language interview with The Globe and Mail on Wednesday. "My story is an example of CCP persecution – of transnational repression," she said. "If we don't draw international attention to it, it's saying that the CCP can do whatever it wants." Ms. Zhang, a long-time practitioner of the controversial spiritual movement Fa-

lun Gong, said she fled to Thailand in 2014 to evade persecution from China, where it is banned and heavily suppressed. Two years later, she was recognized as a refugee by the UN Refugee Agency. Ms. Zhang was also among 15 people elected last year to the Toronto-based dissident "Hong Kong Parliament," a group comprising exiled, pro-democracy Hong Kongers, prompting authorities in the Chinese territory to place a \$36,000 bounty on her head for subversion. China's embassy in Ottawa did not respond to a request for comment Thursday. Sheng Xue, a Toronto-based activist, said Ms. Zhang's last-minute detention raised concerns about Beijing's "long-arm jurisdiction" and had echoes of the case of Dong Guangping, a Chinese human-rights activist who in 2015 was also prevented from travelling from Thailand to Canada. Mr. Dong was forcibly returned to China before travelling by rubber boat to South Korea and eventually flying to Toronto, where he reunited with his family last month. Ms. Zhang arrives in Canada as Ottawa

recalibrates its approach to Beijing. Amid deteriorating relations with the United States, Prime Minister Mark Carney's government is pursuing closer economic ties with China as part of a broader global effort to diversify trade. Canada diverged from U.S. trade policy in January by reaching an agreement with China to replace its 100-per-cent surtax on Chinese-made electric vehicles with a quota of 49,000 vehicles a year at a 6.1-per-cent tariff rate. The quota will increase by 6.5 per cent annually. In exchange, China agreed to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers affecting Canadian agriculture, including canola products. In the interview, Ms. Zhang said she has been a practitioner of Falun Gong for nearly 30 years. While teaching at a middle school in Shenzhen, she said she wrote on a bank note that "Falun Dafa is good" – a tactic used by practitioners who put the notes back into circulation to bypass state censorship and spread information about their movement. Falun Dafa is another name for Falun Gong. ■ DISSIDENT, A7



JANUS FILMS VIA AP

WEEKEND WATCHING
A murder mystery by way of a master
The Samurai and the Prisoner might just be Kiyoshi Kurosawa's most satisfying film yet ■ A12

WILDFIRES
Crews hold back blaze that threatened fringes of Metro Vancouver area ■ A3

TRADE
Carney says he's not interested in sector-by-sector deals with U.S., wants comprehensive pact ■ A4

REPORT ON BUSINESS
Suncor's Kruger to step down as CEO next year after steering oil sands giant's turnaround ■ B1

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NATIONAL POST

VOL. 28 NO. 230

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

RIGHT TO THE POINT

Court orders housing aid even for tent-dwellers



TIM KROCHAK / POSTMEDIA NEWS

A Nova Scotia court case could open the door to more government assistance for those in homeless encampments.

COMMENT

Police the hate crime, not free speech

It has become a slippery slope in Edmonton

ROB BREAKENRIDGE

It's become apparent that dealing with hate-motivated crimes is now a part of the increased burden being placed upon police forces across the country.

Within the past couple of weeks, for example, we've seen a suspected arson at a Jewish restaurant in Montreal, along with gunshots and vandalism targeting two locations of a Jewish bakery in Toronto. Over the weekend in Saskatoon, a synagogue and numerous vehicles parked outside were vandalized — while the Saturday prayer service was in progress.

In addition, police have had to deal with serious terrorism threats. In Toronto last month, terrorism charges were laid in connection with public statements made by an individual at two separate pro-Palestinian demonstrations that police say advocated for "harm against members of the Israeli and Jewish communities."

Late last year in Edmonton — on back-to-back days, no less — police arrested and charged two separate individuals in connection with threats toward the Jewish community.

See **BREAKENRIDGE** on A8

NOVA SCOTIA CASE TURNED ON WHETHER A TENT CAN BE CONSIDERED AN ACCOMMODATION

A tent should legally be considered a form of accommodation, according to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, in a decision that could set a precedent for government assistance granted to homeless people in the province.

The appellant, Jacqueline Lowe, was acting as representative of the estate of Bradley Lowe, a homeless man who died of an overdose in downtown Halifax in December of 2023.

Two months before he died, Lowe, who had been initially approved to receive \$380 per month in income assistance, applied for the enhanced rate of \$974 per month.

However, the request was denied because he was deemed "unhoused" and therefore did not meet the eligibility requirements.

Days after Lowe's death, Nova Scotia's Assistance Appeal Board dismissed an appeal and upheld the deci-

sion denying enhanced rate assistance. The case then went to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and, in May 2025, Justice John A. Keith dismissed the judicial review, finding the board's decision unreasonable but ultimately concluding that Lowe did not meet eligibility requirements for the enhanced rate.

On Wednesday, however, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal ruled not only that the board's original decision was unreasonable, but that Lowe met the eligibility requirements for enhanced rate assistance according to the province's Employment Support and Income Assistance Act.

"The court found that the hearing judge erred in interpreting the Regulations (of the Act), as the term 'accommodation' should include the applicant's tent," Chief Justice Michael J. Wood wrote in the decision.

See **TENT** on A4

The West's enemies have shifted shape

BRADLEY MARTIN
AND LIRAM
KOBLENTZ-STENZLER
Comment

The latest U.S.-Iran standoff has laid bare the outdated lens through which Washington continues to see the Middle East. For nearly a quarter-century, American policy in the region has been locked into the assumptions forged in the post-9/11 era.

After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks — when al-Qaida under Osama bin Laden killed almost 3,000 Americans — president George W. Bush launched the

"War on Terror." That campaign marked a decisive break from traditional military thinking. Instead of preparing primarily for clashes with rival states, the U.S. redirected its attention toward loosely organized terrorist networks like al-Qaida and later ISIS.

"Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them," Bush told Congress just days after the 9/11 attacks. He went on to say that U.S. military action would begin with al-Qaida but continue "until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated."

See **MARTIN** on A9

How a Canadian company's crypto cold wallets were hacked.
Page FP1

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POILIEVRE TO CARNEY: DELIVER ON TRADE

'Concession after concession after concession'

JORDAN GOWLING

OTTAWA • Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre said the prime minister should focus on results in U.S. trade talks and should stop pre-emptively giving up concessions to the Americans.

"I think Mr. Carney needs to actually focus on the results that he promised, he promised he would have a deal by July 21st, 2025," he said, during a press conference in St. John's, N.L., on Thursday.

"A year and a half later, I don't understand the strategy of making concession after concession after concession before even getting to the negotiating table," Poilievre added.

Prime Minister Mark Carney spent Thursday in Saguenay, Que., a region hit hard by Section 232 tariffs on aluminum and lumber.

Carney said there are "many options" on how a trade deal with U.S. could be reached, in response to a question on whether quotas for Canadian steel and aluminum in the U.S. market are on the table.

"We're in a negotiation, so there are many options in terms of how a deal could be structured," he told reporters, after touring an aluminum plant.

"But if I focus on the aluminum sector, the facts are that since the Americans put their tariffs in, their first tariffs on primary aluminum, the price of aluminum in the United States has gone up 58 per cent," Carney added.

See **POILIEVRE** on A7

Hospital reviews are in: they're brutal and might help

SHARON KIRKEY

Many Canadians have not-so-fond memories of their hospital experiences, suggests a study that found nearly half of online hospital reviews analyzed involved negative feedback.

A random sample of 1,000 Google review comments involving Canadian acute care hospitals from 2017 to 2022 found people were more likely to leave negative (47.9 per cent) than mixed (19.8 per cent) or positive (32.3 per cent) reviews.

Feedback ranged from "the most frustrating experience in my life" to "great care and attentive physicians and staff."

Senior author Dr. Dhruv Nayyar cautioned it's not a fully representative sample of the patients treated in hospitals. People with a negative experience are also more likely to leave an online review, he said.

See **HOSPITALS** on A2



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TRUMP PONE TRABAS PARA IMPORTAR PRODUCTOS MEXICANOS

—CARLOS ARRIETA Y JAVIER CABRERA Corresponsales

El gobierno de Estados Unidos tiene en la mira la lechuga, el chile jalapeño, el cilantro y perejil, así como el aguacate y el ganado mexicanos, argumentando motivos de salud y de seguridad. La autoridad mexicana anunció el envío de más de mil 500 militares a Michoacán para blindar la producción de aguacate; se temen pérdidas millonarias. ● **Estados A10**

● **El dato**
Autoridades de EU vinculan al chile jalapeño mexicano con un brote de salmonela que afecta a 27 de sus estados.

Llaman a evitar que Cuba sea Gaza



● Expertos en derechos humanos de Naciones Unidas condenaron las sanciones de Estados Unidos a Cuba y llamaron a evitar que la isla se convierta en una "Gaza silenciosa". Washington anunció medidas contra entidades militares cubanas. ● **Mundo A13**

Detienen a Ángel Aguirre, por caso Ayotzinapa

—MANUEL ESPINO
—nacion@eluniversal.com.mx

● El exgobernador de Guerrero Ángel Aguirre Rivero fue aprehendido por la Fiscalía General de la República, al señalar que es penalmente responsable de desaparición forzada y de ordenar el ocultamiento y destrucción de videos que registraron el momento de la detención de un grupo de normalistas de Ayotzinapa frente al Palacio de Justicia del estado en 2014. ● **Nación A4**



ADOLESCENCIA, SEXO Y MUERTE
El deseo encuentra lugar en el terror ● **A26**

FESTIVAL THEATERWELT

Teatro alemán con perspectiva migrante
Autoras germanas reflexionan sobre este drama universal. ● **Cultura A24**

DIEGO SIMÓN SÁNCHEZ. EL UNIVERSAL



El edificio del Archivo Histórico y Biblioteca del Agua se ubica en la esquina de Balderas y Ayuntamiento.

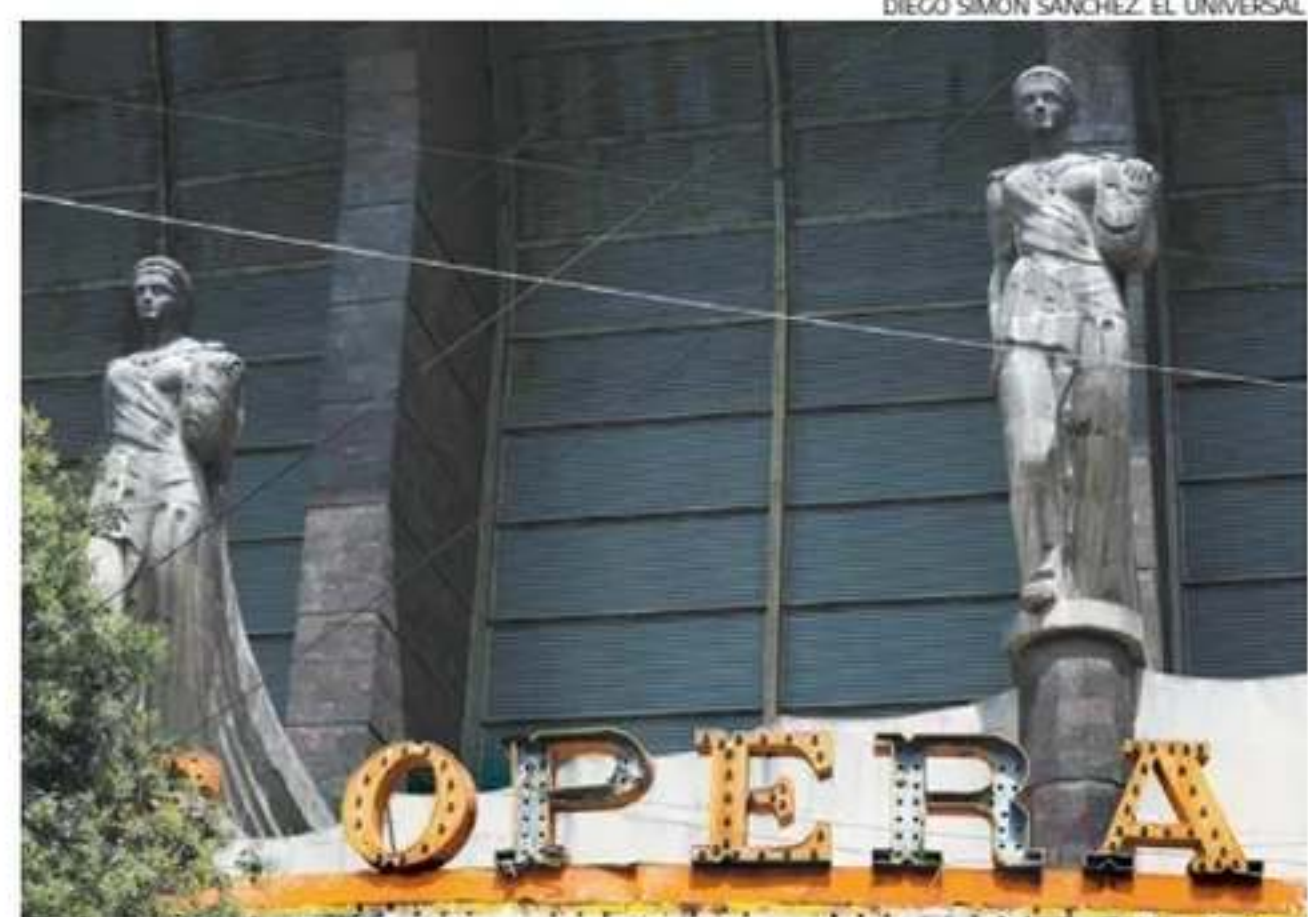
Gobierno busca recuperar inmuebles con valor histórico y artístico

—PEDRO VILLA Y CAÑA
—nacion@eluniversal.com.mx

El gobierno federal quiere revivir al menos 67 inmuebles, entre ellos el Cine Ópera y el Archivo Histórico y Biblioteca del Agua, en la Ciudad de México, considerados patrimonio artístico, pero que llevan años abandonados y casi en ruinas. De acuerdo con la ley, las dependencias que muestren interés deberán, además de tener la autorización para su uso, contar con la disponibilidad presupuestaria para atender los gastos que generen los inmuebles. El Cine Ópera fue clausurado en 1998 tras una presentación del grupo de rock Bauhaus.

● **Nación A6**

DIEGO SIMÓN SÁNCHEZ. EL UNIVERSAL



El Cine Ópera fue inaugurado en 1949 en la colonia San Rafael, Ciudad de México. Destaca por su estilo art déco. Actualmente se encuentra abandonado.



CENTROAMERICANOS

Mexicanas que son de oro puro ● **UD B1**

Utilidades de bancos caen, pero suman 149 mil mdp en primer semestre

—ANTONIO HERNÁNDEZ
—cartera@eluniversal.com.mx

● Los bancos privados ganaron 149 mil 120 millones de pesos en el primer semestre, 3 mil millones por debajo del mismo periodo de 2025 y es la primera vez que caen sus utilidades desde 2020, indican datos oficiales. El ajuste de tasas y la acumulación de reservas, los motivos, explican analistas. ● **Economía A21**

● **El dato**
BBVA México se mantiene en la cima con una ganancia neta de 48 mil 227 mdp, seguido de Banorte y Santander.

ANALISTAS VEN PRUDENCIA MONETARIA

Tasa de interés, sin cambios; Banxico retrasa meta de inflación

6.50%

TASA DE REFERENCIA, la cual sirve a la banca para determinar el costo del dinero que presta. ● **A21**



SELLAN SU AMOR

Tom Holland y Zendaya celebraron su boda con 250 invitados en una finca inglesa de lujo. Ya presumen sus argollas... ¡y sus perros! **GENTE**

Amplía EU revisión de redes para visa

REFORMA / STAFF

El Gobierno de Donald Trump cada vez pone más revisiones para dar la visa.

Según un memorando interno del Departamento de Estado estadounidense, obtenido por el medio Daily Signal, Estados Unidos está ampliando su requisito de verificación de redes sociales para incluir a los solicitantes de más tipos de visas.

Los nuevos requisitos se aplicarán a los representantes de medios de comunicación extranjeros y a los ciudadanos cualificados de México y Canadá que ingresen a EU por motivos de negocios en el marco del T-MEC, así como a sus dependientes.

En junio pasado, la Administración Trump anunció que los solicitantes de visas de estudiante con cuentas privadas en redes sociales deberán hacerlas públicas para su verificación.

La medida ya es obligatoria para visas diplomáticas y oficiales, trabajadores temporales y aprendices, visitantes de intercambio, participantes en intercambios culturales internacionales, trabajadores religiosos, y testigos, informantes y víctimas.

"Durante el proceso de evaluación y verificación de visas, el Departamento recurre a todas las fuentes de información disponibles para identificar a los solicitantes que podrían ser inadmisibles en EU, incluidos aquellos que representan una amenaza para la seguridad nacional o la



RESTRINGEN CIUDADANÍA

Trump firmó dos decretos para negar la ciudadanía a los niños nacidos en EU como consecuencia del "turismo de maternidad" con fines comerciales.

INTER. 13



Y REVISARÁN A MASCOTAS

Si planea viajar con una mascota de México a EU, o viceversa, en algunos casos deberá acreditar, con una certificación veterinaria, que esté libre del gusano barrendero.

INTER. 13

seguridad pública", señala el memorando.

También indica a todos los solicitantes que cambien la configuración de sus redes sociales a "públicas" o "abiertas".

ÁNGEL CAÍDO

A casi 12 años de la desaparición de los 43 normalistas de Ayotzinapa, la FGR acusó al ex Gobernador Ángel Aguirre de ocultar videgrabaciones de la agresión a estudiantes. **NACIONAL 6**



VUELA EN CASA

Le basta al América un primer tiempo de contundencia para superar 3-1 al San Diego FC, en el primer juego en la historia de la Leagues Cup en el Estadio Banorte.



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REFORMA

C O R A Z Ó N D E M É X I C O

Operan con hidrocarburos robados y como empresas fachada

Pasan de la ordeña a tener sus refinerías

Atribuyen expertos migración criminal a que como 'industria' son menos vigilados

BENITO JIMÉNEZ Y MARIO LÓPEZ

El robo de combustibles en México pasó de las perforaciones clandestinas en ductos de Pemex y el trasiego de gasolina en pipas a una estructura industrial en mini refinerías "invisibles" para autoridades y sus operativos, aun cuando operan a pie de carreteras.

Hoy, en lugar de puntos de ordeña, controlan plantas capaces de almacenar, separar y procesar hidrocarburos robados, con personal altamente capacitado, inversiones millonarias y redes de protección.

Recientes aseguramientos de la FGR en Tamaulipas, Veracruz, San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo y Morelos exponen este modelo, aunque sin personas detenidas.

Las instalaciones ya aseguradas por la Fiscalía cuentan con tanques de gran capacidad, tuberías, motobombas, sistemas de calentamiento, áreas de separación de hidrocarburos y equipos para almacenar miles de litros.

Algunas de ellas, como una de las dos aseguradas en San Luis Potosí, llevaban años operando con permisos para producir biocombustibles, pero derivaron o fueron obligadas a procesar productos del crimen organizado.

Estos centros que operan incluso como empresas fachada, también son abastecidos por la ordeña y por el huachicol fiscal, explicó un superintendente de Pemex consultado por REFORMA.

"Con los combustibles que ingresan al País con documentos falsos, subvaluados o declarados como aceites, aditivos u otros productos para evadir impuestos. Esos hidrocarburos pueden almacenarse, mezclarse con

ANATOMÍA CRIMINAL E 'INVISIBLE'

Personal, equipo y procesos están a la vista para la operación de una minirrefinería clandestina, como la que fue asegurada hace unos días en San Luis Potosí, y donde no hubo detenidos.

INSTALACIONES

- Terrenos extensos
- Tanques metálicos
- Kilómetros de tuberías
- Motobombas
- Sistemas de calentamiento
- Generadores eléctricos



OPERACIONES

- Flotilla de pipas y tractocamiones
- Grúas y montacargas
- Compra de refacciones
- Recepción constante de insumos
- Huachicol fiscal que entra con documentos falsos para subvaluar el producto



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- Personal de vigilancia



Y detectan más tomas clandestinas

BENITO JIMÉNEZ

Pemex detectó 3 mil 836 tomas clandestinas entre enero y abril de 2026, que representan 137 más que en el mismo periodo del año pasado.

Los estados de Hidalgo, Jalisco, Puebla, Estado de México y Guanajuato concentraron 2 mil 721, que equivalen al 71 por ciento de las perforaciones ilegales, según el

reporte más reciente de la petrolera publicado en agosto.

Hidalgo volvió a encabezar la incidencia nacional con 986 piquetes, seguido de Jalisco, con 740, y Puebla, con 362. Estado de México sumó 341 y Guanajuato 292.

Entre Hidalgo y Jalisco concentraron mil 726 tomas, es decir, 45 por ciento de todas las detectadas por Pemex entre enero y abril.

producto robado de ductos y procesarse antes de ser distribuidos, incluso a estaciones de servicio", explicó.

Otro ejemplo es la refinería de Reynosa, Tamaulipas, que llevaba cuatro años operando con infraestructura capaz de procesar miles de barriles diarios de hidrocarburos a unos kilómetros de una

base de la Guardia Nacional.

Expertos coincidieron en que el crimen organizado ha migrado a esta modalidad industrial por la menor exposición que tienen a los operativos de las autoridades.

Gonzalo Monroy, experto en energía y director de la consultora GMEC, dijo que los poliductos por donde se

envían combustibles están constantemente vigilados, mientras que nadie está observando los oleoductos, donde tienen mayor libertad para delinquir.

Antes, el robo de petróleo no era tan viable porque no tenía mercado de venta, pero, con estas instalaciones, ya pueden procesar el crudo y mezclarlo con etanol u otros destilados intermedios.

Víctor Hugo Juárez, director de Edge Innovation, agregó que utilizan infraestructura camuflada, como complejos industriales cerca de ductos y refinerías, y contratan personal que trabajó en alguna refinería o en la industria petroquímica y que se quedó sin empleo.

En todos los casos, deben tener acuerdos con autoridades que les permiten operar, agregó.

NACIONAL 11

TUVO FIFA OTRA CENA EN ANTROPOLOGÍA

ÉRIKA P. BUCIO

La cena celebrada por la FIFA el 10 de junio en el Alcázar del Castillo de Chapultepec no fue la única actividad programada en un recinto del INAH alrededor del Mundial de Fútbol. Una invitación que circuló entre invitados al partido inaugural incluyó también, la noche del 11 de junio, una "Celebration Dinner" en el Museo Nacional de Antropología.

Ante solicitudes de información de REFORMA, varias áreas del instituto ofrecieron respuestas distintas.

La Dirección de Asuntos de lo Consultivo consideró procedente reservar durante 5 años la documentación solicitada por su relación con una carpeta de investigación, mientras la Coordinación Nacional de Museos y Exposiciones respondió que no halló documento al respecto.

Consultado, Antonio Saborit, director del Museo, res-



pondió inicialmente que no recordaba el evento.

"Del día de la inauguración del Mundial me acuerdo de la tromba que cayó aquí perfectamente (...) pero no recuerdo con precisión los datos que me pregunta", señaló.

"Entonces, ¿dijimos que no se llevó a cabo?", se le insistió.

"No lo sé, no lo sé, supongo que sí", respondió.

CON INFORMACIÓN DE ISRAEL SÁNCHEZ

MÉXICO CON INFANTINO

En medio de los escándalos y críticas, la Federación salió en defensa del presidente de FIFA. **NAC. 2**



REFORMA / STAFF

En medio de extorsión, amenazas y violencia del crimen organizado en la zona aguacatera de Michoacán, las Fuerzas federales se desplegaron para lanzar señales ante las presiones de EU.

El despliegue de mil 557 efectivos ocurrió luego de que EU decidió suspender temporalmente los trabajos de sus inspectores agrícolas al aguacate de exportación, tras emitirse una alerta de seguridad por amenazas e incidentes violentos de los cárteles que operan en la zona.



EL DESPLIEGUE

LECHUGA, AGUACATE Y AHORA ¡JALAPEÑOS!

REFORMA / STAFF

Los productos agrícolas mexicanos están dando de qué hablar en EU... pero para mal.

Tras la ciclosporiasis de las lechugas, la inseguridad frenó la exportación del aguacate y ahora se alertó por salmonelas en chiles jalapeños. Los Centros para el Con-

trol y la Prevención de Enfermedades de EU reportaron que el brote de salmonela ligado a chiles exportados desde Sinaloa ha enfermado a 345 personas en 27 estados.

Los chiles fueron distribuidos por Coast Citrus Distributors, empresa que ya inició el retiro del producto y notificó a sus clientes.

Ayer, la Presidenta Claudia Sheinbaum anunció el despliegue de 900 elementos del Ejército y 657 de la Guardia Nacional en municipios clave para blindar huertas, empacadoras, rutas de transporte y combatir la extorsión.

En tanto, la Asociación de Productores y Empacadores Exportadores de Agua-

cate de México urgó al Gobierno de EU a reactivar el Programa de Exportación a la brevedad para frenar la incertidumbre laboral y económica en una entidad que genera cerca del 75% de la producción enviada a EU.

CON INFORMACIÓN DE CLAUDIA GUERRERO, BENITO JIMÉNEZ, NATALIA VITELA E IRIS VELÁZQUEZ

El despliegue

Algunos de los municipios de Michoacán a los que se enviaron tropas.



https://moneos.com



No fue omisión técnica, sino acto doloso y deliberado, indica la fiscal Godoy

Cae el ex gobernador Aguirre; ocultó videos de los 43, acusa FGR



● Ordenó destruir evidencias del ataque en Iguala, Guerrero

● Fue aprehendido en Tepotzotlán e ingresado al penal de El Altiplano

● La detención, “paso clave” en la búsqueda de la verdad: Morena

▲ Según la acusación, Ángel Aguirre, quien renunció al gobierno de Guerrero el 23 de octubre de 2014 tras lo sucedido con los normalistas (la imagen, durante una conferencia de prensa en Iguala el 11 de ese mes), pidió deshacerse de grabaciones que mostraban la detención de alumnos por parte de policías municipales y estatales. Foto Afp

GUSTAVO CASTILLO, ANDREA BECERRIL, GEORGINA SALDIerna E ISRAEL DÁVILA, CORRESPONSAL / P 3 Y 4

Envían a mil 557 efectivos

Refuerzan la seguridad en la zona aguacatera de Michoacán

● Busca México diálogo con EU para reanudar exportación cuanto antes

ALMA E. MUÑOZ, NÉSTOR JIMÉNEZ, BRAULIO CARBAJAL Y GUSTAVO CASTILLO / P 17

► La Defensa detalló que, para “fortalecer la paz”, desplegó a 657 elementos de la Guardia Nacional y a 900 del Ejército en nueve municipios. Foto tomada de X



Avala extraer gas no convencional en dos cuencas de Tamaulipas, NL y Coahuila

Comité científico: *fracking*, necesario para reducir dependencia energética

- “Muchos nos opusimos al principio; ¿qué cambia?, las nuevas tecnologías”: Sheinbaum
- Plantean agua salada, aditivos menos tóxicos y consultas a la población; el PAN aplaude

NÉSTOR JIMÉNEZ, ALMA E. MUÑOZ Y FERNANDO CAMACHO / P 15 Y 16

Mantiene BdeM su tasa en 6.5%; prevé Banamex que siga así el resto del año

- Destaca el banco central la reactivación de la economía, pero advierte de riesgos a la baja
- Retrasa del segundo al cuarto trimestre de 2027 la llegada a la meta de 3 por ciento en la inflación

BRAULIO CARBAJAL / P 16

Rayuela

¿Por qué tanta tardanza?

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Nuevo embate de Trump para limitar ciudadanía



Feroz represión a manifestantes en Argentina

▲ Miles salieron ayer a las calles de Buenos Aires en rechazo al proyecto de ley sobre la inviolabilidad de la propiedad privada, pero se encontraron con un operativo en el que policías

dispararon balas de goma, gases lacrimógenos y chorros de agua, con saldo de una veintena de heridos y detenidos. La imagen, frente al Congreso Nacional. Foto Afp S. CALLONI, CORRESPONSAL / P 21

● Firma decreto para poner fin a lo que llama "turismo de nacimiento"

● Dice que redes delictivas llevan a EU a extranjeras para dar a luz

● Negarán visas si se sospecha que solicitantes viajan con ese propósito

● Corte Suprema ya anuló orden que suprimía derecho a hijos de migrantes

AFP Y REUTERS / P 22

Dialogan sobre democracia e inversión

Sostiene Lula encuentro con el canciller Velasco

● De visita en Brasil, el titular de la SRE y el mandatario refrendan vínculos de cooperación

REDACCIÓN Y JESSICA XANTOMILA / P 7

Operaba en CDMX, Edomex, Puebla y SLP

Desarticulan banda que se dedicaba a defraudar

● Sus ganancias, de 40 mdp; hay 15 detenidos

KEVIN RUIZ / P 27

Aspirantes prefieren ponerse a estudiar

UNAM: fracasa protesta por examen de control

● CU exige el doble de aciertos que otras sedes

LILIAN HERNÁNDEZ / P 9

Cuba, la "Gaza silenciosa"



▲ Expertos en derechos humanos de la ONU urgieron a la comunidad internacional a impedir que en la isla se repita lo sucedido en Gaza, pues debido a la falta de electricidad se ha complicado la distribución

de agua. Esto, en momentos en que el gobierno estadounidense anunció el refuerzo a su bloqueo con nuevas sanciones a cinco entidades cubanas y a ocho personas. Foto Afp AGENCIAS / P 20



LE ENTRAN A LA BOHEMIA El rock necesita librar la zona de confort

Salvador Moreno, Pascual Reyes y José Manuel Aguilera preparan un concierto acústico en el que harán una revisión de sus éxitos.

MÉXICO DA EL PRIMER PASO

México buscará agua salada para el fracking

El gobierno federal abrió una nueva etapa en la evaluación del gas shale. Tras aceptar las recomendaciones del Comité Científico sobre soberanía energética, la presidenta Claudia Sheinbaum instruyó avanzar en estudios para determinar la viabilidad del desarrollo de yacimientos no convencionales de gas natural en las cuencas Sabinas-Burro-Picachos (Coahuila y Nuevo León) y Burgos (al noroeste de Tamaulipas). La aceptación no implica autorizar el fracking ni iniciar perforaciones, sino profundizar el análisis de la disponibilidad de agua, las condiciones geológicas, la viabilidad económica y los riesgos ambientales de los proyectos. **Pág. 12**



Luis Carriles **Pág. 13**
Javier Orozco **Pág. 14**
Saúl Monreal **Pág. 20**



TESTIGOS LO ACUSAN DE DESTRUIR EVIDENCIA

Cae exgobernador por caso Ayotzinapa

ARIADNA Y ABEL MIRANDA/ El Sol de Acapulco

La FGR detuvo a Ángel Aguirre, quien habría ordenado ocultar pruebas de la noche de Iguala

El exgobernador de Guerrero, Ángel Aguirre, fue detenido por la Fiscalía General de la República (FGR) presuntamente por destruir evidencia clave relacionada con la desaparición de los 43 estudiantes de la Normal Rural Raúl Isidro Burgos de Ayotzinapa, en 2014.

De acuerdo con la fiscal Ernestina Godoy, en mayo de 2026, un testigo protegido declaró que Ángel Aguirre ordenó, en una reunión con mandos de primer nivel de su gobierno, la desaparición de cualquier evidencia relacionada con los hechos ocurridos

el 26 y 27 de septiembre de aquel año, cerca del Palacio de Justicia de Iguala.

Meses antes, en enero de 2026, otro testigo proporcionó información sobre el ocultamiento de videgrabaciones del autobús de los estudiantes cuando circulaba en las inmediaciones del Palacio de Justicia de Iguala. En las indagatorias iniciales se dijo que este video no existía por supuestas

fallas técnicas del sistema.

El exgobernador se suma a otros exfuncionarios detenidos por el caso: Jesús Murillo Karam, exprocurador de la República, acusado de desaparición forzada, tortura y obstrucción de la justicia; y José Luis Abarca, exalcalde de Iguala, señalado por su presunta complicidad con el crimen organizado de la zona y por los hechos de violencia del 26 y 27 de septiembre de 2014. **Pág. 4**

LUIS FLORES/ EL SOL DE CUERNAVACA



Explota una pipa, otra vez

CUERNAVACA. El saldo al cierre de esta edición era de 21 personas lesionadas, seis de ellas graves, por la explosión de una pipa de gas en la calle principal de la colonia Las Granjas, en el municipio de Cuernavaca. Autos y casa aledañas quedaron dañadas. Hasta ayer las autoridades desconocían el nombre de la empresa propietaria del vehículo y el destino del conductor. **Pág. 8**

VIGILARÁN ZONA AGUACATERA

Llegan mil 500 agentes a Michoacán

La medida busca restaurar las condiciones de seguridad luego de que el gobierno de Estados Unidos suspendió de manera temporal sus actividades en la zona de producción. **Pág. 11**

CASI MIL DESEMPLEADOS

Cierra otro ingenio en Veracruz

LERDO DE TEJADA. El cierre del ingenio San Pedro, en Veracruz, por deudas impagables, dejó sin empleo a 950 trabajadores cañeros de seis municipios. **Pág. 6**



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Sequía provoca caída del 85% en las lluvias

Chiquimula, Jutiapa, Santa Rosa, Escuintla y Suchitepéquez son los departamentos más impactados por el fenómeno El Niño, dice reporte Pág. 4



FOTO PRENSA LIBRE: ESBIN GARCÍA

Actos proselitistas marcan elección para integrar postuladora para Contraloría Página 3



FOTO PRENSA LIBRE: COG

Ejército cambia estrategia contra el narco en Petén Pág. 6

ACTUALIDAD

Ejecutivo tiene 15 días para decidir sobre IUSI

Página 7

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TRIBUNAL FEDERAL DE MASSACHUSETTS RECHAZÓ SUSPENDER LA POLÍTICA QUE LIMITA A UN AÑO LA VIGENCIA DE LOS PERMISOS DE TRABAJO >2-3

FERVOR RELIGIOSO

Cientos de feligreses participaron en la bajada del Divino Salvador, en la Catedral Nuestra Señora de los Pobres, en Zacatecoluca, La Paz >6



LPG ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ

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LA SELECCIÓN FEMENINA DE FÚTBOL GANÓ BRONCE EN LOS JUEGOS C.A. Y DEL CARIBE : 37



Miles acudieron a plantón en defensa de democracia y Poder Judicial P. 3

Clamor nacional



La plaza de la Democracia y la avenida segunda, en San José, fueron desbordadas ayer por una multitudinaria manifestación. JOSÉ CORDERO

► Ciudadanos, expresidentes, oposición, universitarios, sindicatos y otros grupos acudieron al llamado

► Participantes exigieron al gobierno frenar ataques contra Corte y respetar independencia de poderes

► Defendieron fallo que evitó cierre técnico de Sala IV y reprocharon recorte de fondos a Poder Judicial

► 'No fue chiripa', corearon oficiales del OIJ al rechazar críticas del Ejecutivo a captura de alias Diablo

► Asistentes aplaudieron a autoridades judiciales y expresaron apoyo a la prensa independiente

► Movimiento también registró concurridas asistencias en otras sedes judiciales del territorio nacional

ADVIERTE DEBILIDADES EN POLÍTICA PARA COLOCACIONES EN EL EXTRANJERO P. 20

Supén señala fallas en controles para invertir fondos del IVM

CCSS realizó primera operación internacional por un monto de \$10 millones en 2025

EDGARDO ARAYA P. 9

Tribunal de Ética del FA verá insulto de legislador

Revisará comentario sobre Laura Fernández



Una feria con la impronta de Fidel

**100 AÑOS
CON FIDEL**

La fiesta de las letras cubanas este año lleva intrínseco el espíritu del Comandante en Jefe, tanto en la lucha contra las adversidades actuales, como en las obras que se van a presentar. Como bien expresó el Presidente del Instituto Cubano del Libro «la organizamos (34 FILH) con el espíritu de que la Feria creada por Fidel no muera».

PÁGINA 3



Fidel estaba convencido de la importancia de difundir la creación literaria y fomentar el hábito de lectura. FOTO: DUNIA ALVAREZ PALACIOS

Cuba acoge la IV Asamblea Continental ALBA Movimientos

ALBA Movimientos constituye una plataforma que articula a más de 400 organizaciones de 25 países en torno a un proyecto de unidad e integración de Nuestra América desde una perspectiva emancipadora gestada por y para los pueblos

BORIS LUIS ALONSO PÉREZ

Con la presencia del primer Secretario del Comité Central del Partido y Presidente de la República, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, tuvo lugar en el Centro de Convenciones Varona de la Universidad de La Habana, la inauguración de la IV Asamblea Continental ALBA Movimientos: *Por el Socialismo 100 Años caminando con Fidel*, que se desarrollará hasta al próximo 8 de agosto en la capital cubana.

Cerca de 200 participantes, de ellos 150 delegados extranjeros procedentes de Estados Unidos, Canadá, España, China, Burkina Faso, América Latina y el Caribe, con representación de la Asamblea Internacional de los Pueblos, sostendrán espacios de

diálogo sobre la integración regional, el antiperperialismo, la solidaridad con Cuba ante las crecientes presiones del Gobierno estadounidense y las experiencias comunes de lucha.

Participaron también en la inauguración del evento los miembros del Buró Político Roberto Morales Ojeda, secretario de Organización del Comité Central del Partido, Manuel Marrero Cruz, primer ministro, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, entre otros dirigentes del Partido y el Gobierno, las organizaciones juveniles y de masas, y líderes del capítulo cubano de los movimientos sociales.

El Héroe de la República de Cuba Gerardo González Nordelo, coordinador nacional de los CDR, dio las

palabras iniciales del evento en las que denunció el cerco petrolero impuesto por Estados Unidos y la nueva arremetida ideológica imperial contra los pueblos de América.

El espacio teórico inició con los paneles: Principales Rasgos, Desafíos y Alternativas frente a la actual ofensiva imperialista sobre el sur global y Cuba en el contexto regional y global hoy, desafíos y defensa de la Revolución. Además, se dialogó sobre la situación del pueblo palestino y el aumento del paramilitarismo en África.

Como parte del programa de actividades del evento los participantes visitarán el Hospital Oncológico y la Casa de niños sin amparo parental de 10 de Octubre, un intercambio que de seguro mostrará la resistencia del

pueblo cubano y sus instituciones en medio de un contexto de agresión económica y política.

ALBA Movimientos, denominada formalmente Articulación Continental de Movimientos Sociales y Populares, constituye una plataforma que articula a más de 400 organizaciones de 25 países en torno a un proyecto de unidad e integración de Nuestra América desde una perspectiva emancipadora gestada por y para los pueblos.

La plataforma opera en diálogo y sinergias integradoras con otras redes, plataformas y articulaciones de alcance continental y global. Busca impulsar una contraofensiva popular que represente toda la riqueza y diversidad de la lucha por la construcción del socialismo.

**100 AÑOS
CON FIDEL**

«Creo en la unión de todos los países del mundo, en la unión de todos los pueblos del mundo y en la unión libre, verdaderamente libre; no la fusión, sino la unión libre de todas las culturas...». Fidel Castro Ruz

