



Coming of age in Dadaab, young refugees cling to hope of leaving



MALIN FEZEHAJ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Duol Ter, 16, raises pigeons in Kenya’s sprawling Dadaab refugee camp, fashioning makeshift homes for them out of discarded USAID boxes in a compound that he shares with eight cousins. Since Ter came to the camp in 2013 at age 5, fleeing the civil war in South Sudan, the pigeons have been his companions and a way to pass his days. His family has interviewed with the U.N. refugee agency for resettlement in Australia, but the process can take years and, like many others in the camp, they don’t know when it will happen. **Story, A8**

A rare gene mutation could help slow Alzheimer’s

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

In 2019, researchers announced the discovery of an unusually resilient person — a Colombian woman who carried a ticking time bomb in her genes that should have triggered an aggressive, early form of Alzheimer’s disease, starting in her 40s. But for three decades, the bomb didn’t explode.

Scientists studied her DNA and scanned her remarkable brain, ultimately tracing her protection to a rare version of the APOE gene, called the Christchurch

Scientists study variant found in 27 members of a Colombian family

variant. She had two copies. The extraordinary story of Aliria Rosa Piedrahita de Villegas, who did eventually develop dementia in her 70s and died of cancer at age 77, offered inspiration for a disease that afflicts millions of people, for whom hope is often in short supply.

But she was just one patient. That left a nagging doubt: Could this case hold the key to a new way to stave off Alzheimer’s? Or was she a one-off?

In a study published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, researchers reported 27 members of the same extended Colombian family carry the genetic risk for Alzheimer’s, along with a single copy of Christchurch. Cognitive decline in this singular group was delayed by about five years — suggesting that a drug that emulates the gene could have similar effects.

“We are taught in medicine to be wary of not drawing too many conclusions” from a single patient, said Joseph F. Arboleda-Velasquez, an associate scientist at Mass Eye and Ear in Boston and a co-author of the study. “Maybe it was related to something she ate or didn’t eat. Maybe it’s something related to the water in the house. The idea of finding 27 people — some lived in the city, some lived in rural areas — increases our confidence in the discovery — and shows the results

SEE ALZHEIMER’S ON A2

MAJOR EXPANSION AT UNDERGROUND SITE

Several bombs’ worth of nuclear fuel every month

BY JOBY WARRICK

A major expansion underway inside Iran’s most heavily protected nuclear facility could soon triple the site’s production of enriched uranium and give Tehran new options for quickly assembling a nuclear arsenal if it chooses to, according to confidential documents and analysis by weapons experts.

Inspectors with the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed new construction activity inside the Fordow enrichment plant, just days after Tehran formally notified the nuclear watchdog of plans for a substantial upgrade at the underground facility built inside a mountain in north-central Iran.

Iran also disclosed plans for expanding production at its main enrichment plant near the city of

Natanz. Both moves are certain to escalate tensions with Western governments and spur fears that Tehran is moving briskly toward becoming a threshold nuclear power, capable of making nuclear bombs rapidly if its leaders decide to do so.

At Fordow alone, the expansion could allow Iran to accumulate several bombs’ worth of nuclear fuel every month, according to a technical analysis provided to The Washington Post. Though it is the smaller of Iran’s two uranium enrichment facilities, Fordow is regarded as particularly significant because its subterranean setting makes it nearly invulnerable to airstrikes.

It also is symbolically important because Fordow had ceased making enriched uranium entirely under the terms of the land-

SEE IRAN ON A10

Russia, N. Korea deepen ties to undermine West

In mutual defense deal, Putin secures arms from Kim for war in Ukraine

BY MICHELLE YE HEE LEE AND ROBYN DIXON

SEOUL — In a show of defiance against Western sanctions, Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea’s Kim Jong Un signed a comprehensive strategic pact on Wednesday pledging to come to each other’s assistance in case of a military attack — the starkest evidence yet of Russia’s alignment with anti-Western nations determined to topple the United States as a global leader.

Putin, visiting the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, for the first time since 2000, said Russia and North Korea “pursue an independent foreign policy and

do not accept the language of blackmail and diktat.”

“The comprehensive partnership agreement signed today provides, among other things, for mutual assistance in the event of aggression against one of the parties to this agreement,” Putin said.

Shunned by the West over his invasion of Ukraine, Putin is seeking partners who share his anti-Western stance, including China, Iran and North Korea. Kim extolled the “firm alliance” with Moscow and openly backed Putin’s war against Ukraine, the strongest support for Russia’s invasion from any foreign leader.

“Moscow and Pyongyang will continue to oppose the practice of sanctions strangulation that the West has become accustomed to,” Putin said, calling for a review of U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear

SEE PACT ON A11

Could ‘boommates’ help solve the housing crisis?

Intergenerational homes aren’t just for families

BY MICHAEL J. COREN

Cynthia Holzapfel, 76, knows what it’s like to share a home with someone else — or even 30 others.

As one of the early residents of the Farm, a 1970s-era commune in Summertown, Tenn., Holzapfel lived under the same roof with multiple couples and more than a dozen children in a five-bedroom house where everything from the laundry room to meals was shared.

“It was a constant party,” she says. “It was like having all your cousins move in with you.”

The Farm is no longer a commune, although the land is still owned collectively by its residents. Yet one thing never changed for Holzapfel: housemates. Over the past 20 years, she has rented her basement to seven families.

Holzapfel is among the growing number of baby boomers, the

76 million people born in the United States from 1946 to 1964, living with intergenerational housemates. And they just may be part of the solution to America’s grinding housing crisis.

Baby-boomer empty nesters now own more large homes in major cities than millennial families — and show few signs of moving out. Record prices and scarce inventory appear to have frozen everyone in place.

Several generations living under one roof would help ease the housing crunch and the loneliness epidemic affecting half of U.S. adults. It would also cut global warming emissions. Denser living is almost always greener: fewer homes, less energy and more efficiency overall. Freeing up room in boomers’ homes could also bring young people and suburban families back to communities near jobs and schools, eliminating polluting

SEE HOUSEMATES ON A7



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Celebrating a ‘holiday of resilience’

J.D. Davis and Diamond Jewel Butler share a laugh Wednesday at a Juneteenth street festival in D.C., joining hundreds of others across the region in defying the baking sun. June 19 became a federal holiday in 2021 following a national reckoning over racial injustice. **Story, B1**

ELECTION 2024

Once a Trump rival, Rubio’s shift puts him into VP mix

BY MARIANNE LEVINE

When Marco Rubio flew with President Donald Trump on Air Force One in 2017, the Republican senator from Florida cracked a joke about Trump’s reported strong handshake with French President Emmanuel Macron. Rubio knew his hands weren’t small, Trump quipped.

Trump was referring to Rubio’s awkward attack on him — an implicit reference to male anatomy — during the 2016 primary, when the two were bitter rivals, charting different courses for the GOP. The in-flight conversation, recounted by then-Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.), was one of the earliest indicators of a thaw in a once-frosty dynamic between

SEE RUBIO ON A4

IN THE NEWS

An uneven policy shift Pardons for low-level marijuana convictions in Maryland are part of a nascent movement to remedy inequities that experts say often does not go far enough. **A2**

Remembering Mays At historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Ala., a Negro Leagues event turned into a celebration of a legend. **D1**

THE NATION **The Christian right** sees opportunities for fresh gains during a second Trump term. **A3** **Gov. Gavin Newsom** said he backs banning or limiting smartphones in California schools. **A4**

THE WORLD **Hezbollah’s** increasing use of low-tech drones has caught Israel’s air defense off guard. **A9** **Hundreds were** reported dead after the Hajj pilgrimage took place amid scorching heat. **A10**

THE ECONOMY **The coalition** once called TikTok for Biden is now Gen-Z for Change — and so far, it has not endorsed the president’s reelection bid. **A13** **Toxins from** the train derailment near East Palestine, Ohio, reached as many as 16 states, a study found. **A14**

THE REGION **A U.S. judge** said the operators of the ship that struck the Key Bridge may not help its crew leave the country before a hearing. **B1** **Analysts weigh in** on what a still-too-close-to-call GOP primary in Virginia says about Donald Trump’s influence. **B1**

STYLE **Jill Biden** is back on the campaign trail for her husband, and she’s focusing on the senior circuit with energy and solidarity. **C1** **LOCAL LIVING** **A 101-year-old** scientist may have created your new favorite tomato variety.

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