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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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In speech, Putin steps deeper into the mire

He seizes Ukrainian land, excoriates the West and leaves no easy exit

BY ROBYN DIXON

Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech Friday, declaring the annexation of four Ukrainian regions, was likely the most consequential of his nearly 23 years in power. But rather than a clarion call to restore Russian greatness as he clearly intended, the address seemed the bluster and filibuster of a leader struggling to recover his grip — on his war, and his country.

By proclaiming the largest military seizure of territory since World War II, Putin left no off-ramp from his war in Ukraine, placing Russia and himself in acute danger. That raises a serious risk of escalation, and the prospect of a new, more perilous phase of the conflict, which Putin has made clear is not just with Ukraine but also with the United States and Kyiv's other Western allies.

With the Russian public increasingly anxious about Putin's declaration of a military mobilization, the speech offered a moment to reignite declining domestic support for the war, as he asks more Russians to send loved ones to fight and risk death in Ukraine.

Instead, Putin delivered another rambling, resentful diatribe, stuffed with historical references, lashing out fiercely at what he described as a predatory, thieving, lying neocolonial West seeking to dominate and break Russia. For long stretches, he did not mention Ukraine but focused his venom on the United States.

"The West wants to see us as a colony, a crowd of soulless slaves," he said in a long and aggressive denunciation of Russia's enemies.

SEE PUTIN ON A9

Russian strike: Dozens are killed in a Ukrainian civilian convoy. **A10**

As Ian hits S.C., Florida still digs out



TED RICHARDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Tammy Drake and her daughter Maddy evacuate Fort Myers Beach, Fla., on Friday after damage from Hurricane Ian. Florida officials are still evaluating the extent of the damage in the state as flooding persists in the storm's aftermath.

Disabled and in need, he was no match for Ian

Friends tried mightily to save 65-year-old fixture in small island town

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

FORT MYERS BEACH, FLA. — Scott Lumley was among this beach community's most vulnerable residents, which made him no match for Hurricane Ian.

Lumley, 65 and disabled, spoke with a stutter and walked with a cane, his legs and right arm progressively paralyzed by Lou Gehrig's disease. He was

short and stocky, with long gray hair and a bushy Santa-style beard. In this small island town of about 7,000, Lumley had been a common sight at Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites Tiki Bar and other hangouts over the years. He was also an increasingly easy target for thieves, who spotted him riding his three-wheel bicycle and beat him up a few times in recent years, stealing his \$800 monthly disability check.

But Lumley, a New Jersey native, loved beach town life. He told his friends he never wanted to return to his native New Jersey, despite entreaties from relatives. Never married, he got to

SEE SHELTER ON A6



TED RICHARDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Lynn Krinsky and her husband sheltered with Scott Lumley in a bungalow before he died and "the water just washed him away."

STORM LASHES ATLANTIC COAST

Rescues continue, death toll mounts on Gulf Coast

BY LORI ROZSA, TIM CRAIG, JASON SAMENOW AND KARIN BRULLIARD

ASTOR, FLA. — Hurricane Ian made landfall for the second time this week on Friday, crashing into coastal South Carolina as a Category 1 storm that brought lashing rains and storm surge but appeared unlikely to wreak the sort of devastation that was still emerging in Florida.

There, the vast parameters of the damage became more evident as emergency crews pulled people and bodies from streets — some still flooded and others dry but strewn with wreckage. About 34,000 Floridians had filed for federal emergency aid, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) said. At least 23 people had been determined to be victims of the storm as of Friday evening, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said, but officials cautioned that confirming causes of death was a slow and deliberate process and said the toll was likely to rise as medical examiners completed more autopsies.

"We're just beginning to see the scale of that destruction" in Florida, President Biden said Friday. The disaster, he said, was "not just a crisis for Florida, this is an American crisis." Indeed, the storm, while weakened, was expected to drive north into Virginia and other East Coast states after crossing over the Carolinas.

That destruction could be seen across Florida. Damage to a three-mile causeway cut off Sanibel, a battered barrier island off the Southwest Coast of Florida, from the mainland. DeSantis said barges were ferrying heavy equipment.

SEE HURRICANE ON A7

A random path: Ian's wake spares some homes, destroys others. **A6**

Storm journalists: Braving the elements is a news tradition. **C1**

Trump legal team split on Mar-a-Lago strategy

Attorneys urging fight over FBI file search seem to have upper hand

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN, JOSH DAWSEY, CAROL D. LEONNIG AND PERRY STEIN

After attorney Christopher Kise accepted \$3 million to represent Donald Trump in the FBI's investigation of government documents stored at Mar-a-Lago, the veteran litigator argued that Trump should adopt a new strategy.

Turn down the temperature with the Department of Justice, Kise — a former Florida solicitor

general — counseled his famously combative client, people familiar with the deliberations said.

Federal authorities had searched Trump's Florida residence and club because they wanted to retrieve the classified documents that remained there even after a federal subpoena, Kise argued, according to these people. With that material back in government hands, maybe prosecutors could be persuaded to resolve the whole issue quietly.

But quiet has never been Trump's style — nor has harmony within his orbit.

Instead, just a few weeks after Kise was brought aboard, he finds himself in a battle, trying to persuade Trump to go along with his legal strategy and fighting with some other advisers who have

SEE TRUMP ON A4

An injury, then a concussion, now a firestorm

NFL facing questions about whether policy allowed Dolphins player back too soon

BY DAN DIAMOND



JEFF DEAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, who was hurt in a game Sunday, suffered a concussion in Thursday night's game.

A high-profile NFL injury has put the spotlight back on football's persistent concussions, which are linked to head trauma and a variety of long-lasting symptoms, and can be worsened by rushing back to physical activity.

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, who appeared to suffer head trauma in a game Sunday afternoon that was later described as a back injury, was diagnosed with a concussion Thursday night following a tackle. After Tagovailoa's head hit the turf, he remained on the ground and held his arms and fingers splayed in front of his face — which experts said evoked conditions known as "decorticate posturing" or "fencing response,"

where brain damage triggers the involuntary reaction.

"It's a potentially life-threatening brain injury," said Chris Nowinski, a neuroscientist and co-founder of the Concussion Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit group focused on concussion research and prevention, adding that he worried about Tagovailoa's long-term prognosis, given that it can take months or years for an athlete to fully recover from repeated concussions. Nowinski said he was particularly concerned about situations where people suffer two concussions within a short period — a condition sometimes known as second impact syndrome.

SEE CONCUSSIONS ON A5

Playing defense: NFL, Dolphins say player cleared all protocols. **D1**

IN THE NEWS



ELIZABETH FRANITZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

All rise: Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, on the job since June, was officially commissioned and took her place on the bench. **A3**

Roadside shooting: Twin brothers have been charged after allegedly firing a shotgun at a group of Mexican migrants, killing one. **A2**

THE NATION

Months after the Buffalo grocery store massacre, victims' relatives are debating the merits of the death penalty against the accused. **A3**
New York City schools this week began unraveling pandemic-era rules that had added racial and economic diversity considerations into admissions in elite academic programs. **A3**
President Biden signed legislation to continue funding the government for several weeks, averting a partial shutdown hours before a midnight deadline. **A5**

THE WORLD

After years of delay, former officials in Guinea have been put on trial after security forces in 2009 killed more than 150 people and raped scores of women at a soccer stadium. **A8**
At least 19 people, mostly girls, were killed in a suicide bombing at a Kabul educational center. **A10**
For Iranians who have left their homeland, the latest protests have brought both hope and pain. **A10**

THE ECONOMY

Elon Musk's text mes-

sages reveal how he was initially convinced to buy Twitter. **A11**
Relyvrio, the newly approved ALS treatment, is only the third cleared by the Food and Drug Administration in almost three decades. **A12**

THE REGION

The FBI is investigating menacing messages directed at a former D.C. police officer on duty at the Jan. 6 insurrection and who is now a critic of former president Donald Trump. **B1**
After years of criticism from residents, the D.C. regulatory agency will split into two entities to streamline services. **B1**
A new exchange of

classical music students will connect four HBCUs, including Howard and Morgan State, with students at conservatories. **B1**
Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) distanced herself from Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) over Pelosi's handling of stock-trading legislation. **B1**
An antiabortion flier dropped on doorsteps in College Park was a flop among some residents of the blue city. **B1**

STYLE

Trevor Noah announced that he would be leaving "The Daily Show" after seven years as host. **C1**

INSIDE



STYLE
The witches are back

"Hocus Pocus" has become a cult favorite, especially among millennials. How does the sequel stack up? **C1**

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