THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Last week: DJIA 33706.34 ▼ 54.31 -0.2% NASDAQ 12303.22 ▼ 2.6% STOXX 600 437.36 ▼ 0.8% 10-YR. TREASURY ▼ 1 6/32, yield 2.987% OIL $90.37 ▼ $1.32 EURO $1.0040 YEN 135.93

What's News

Business & Finance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

World-Wide

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

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

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

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

◆ **The McKinney Fire**, California's largest wildfire of the year, was 96% contained, officials said, nearly a month after it first erupted. **A6**

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

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Terrorist Attack on Somali Hotel Ends With 21 Civilians Dead

FEISAL OMAR/REUTERS

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

Droughts Take Widening Toll On World's Largest Economies

By Matthew Dalton, Jim Carlton and Shu Hao

Severe droughts across the Northern Hemisphere—from the farms of California to waterways in Europe and China—are further snarling supply chains and driving up the prices of food and energy, adding pressure to a global trade system already under stress.

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

In the American West, a drought that began two decades ago now appears to be the worst in 1,200 years, according to a study led by the University of California, Los Angeles.

Researchers compare droughts by measuring the growth of annual tree rings that reflect rainfall and temperature from year to year in specific areas. Climate scientists said this year's dry spells are partly due to La Niña, a cyclical pattern of cooler water in the eastern Pacific Ocean that pushes the atmospheric jet stream northward, leaving parts of Europe, the U.S. and Asia with less rain. The United Nations said the number of droughts worldwide has risen 29% since 2000 due to land degradation and climate change.

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

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Broad Group Of Stocks Propels Rebound

Breadth hits technical milestone, but few traders are ready to call a market bottom

By Hannah Miao

A swath of stocks has participated in the market's recent rebound, typically an encouraging sign of a rally's durability.

Yet few investors are willing to call a market bottom, especially after such a punishing year.

The S&P 500 has risen 15% from its 2022 low in mid-June, with all 11 sectors of the benchmark climbing to start the third quarter. Dozens of stocks, from BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings Inc. to Northrop Grumman Corp. and H&R Block Inc. set 52-week highs last week.

Plus, a widely followed technical indicator for market breadth recently hit a key milestone. The share of S&P 500 stocks closing above their 50-day moving averages rose earlier this month to 91%—the highest level since the summer of 2020—and held above 90% for most of last week, according to FactSet and Dow Jones Market Data. In the past two decades, the benchmark has on average risen in the months and year after initially crossing the 90% threshold.

Market participants typically see a broad push higher as an indication that a rally

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Phone Sales Slow as Users Put Off Buying New Models

By Yang Jie And Sarah Dongjanson

The global smartphone market is facing a breather.

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

China's Xiaomi Corp., the world's third-largest smartphone maker after Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co., said Friday that it shipped 20% fewer smartphones in the April-to-June quarter compared with a year earlier, and smartphone-related revenue fell 28% to the equivalent of $8.2 billion.

Xiaomi cited stunning consumer demand in China, which had pandemic-related lockdowns in the quarter, as well as rising food and fuel prices around the globe.

In the same quarter, worldwide smartphone shipments declined nearly 9% compared with a year earlier to 286 million units, according to research firm International Data

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Global smartphone shipments in the second quarter

Source: IDC

Killing of Daughter Of Putin Ally Probed

By Matthew Luxmoore

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

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

Ms. Dugina was the daughter of Aleksandr Dugin, who for years has called on Russia to expand its territory by seizing Ukraine. In 2014, as Russian-backed separatists were capturing government buildings in eastern Ukraine and Moscow fomented an armed conflict there, Mr. Dugin gave interviews suggesting Russia should take over the country and execute key officials.

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

By Lisa Wehrle

Katie Hampton's two cats, Oliver and Yahzee, have a new favorite spot in her Los Angeles home. It's the shelf right below her TV, and above her PlayStation 4, where they have the best view of her playing the indie videogame "Stray."

Released in July, "Stray" drops players into a desolate dystopian city, which they must navigate as a lost orange tabby who has been separated from its pack. The game's hero isn't your average animated cat; it scratches and yawns with striking feline fidelity.

Oliver and Yahzee, Ms. Hampton says, are convinced it's one of their own.

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

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

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INSIDE

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

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

Kremlin Leverages Mercenaries

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

By Benoit Faucon And Joe Parkinson

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

On the northern end of the airstrip stood a line of attack aircraft, including Russian jet fighters and helicopter gunships to send to the front line of a decade-long war against jihadists, according to footage of the ceremony on Malian state television. On the southern end, out of sight, was the swelling base of Wagner Group, the Kremlin-linked military company that has deployed some 1,000 mercenaries into Mali in exchange for cash and the potential for lucrative mining concessions.

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

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