



ALAN HANCOCK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

### Painstaking Search for the Missing

Crews set out to account for everyone on a hurricane-battered island in Florida, even if that meant breaking down doors. Page A4.

### As Job Frenzy Begins to Cool, Wages Do, Too

By SYDNEY EMBER and BEN CASSELLMAN

Last year, Klausner Home Furnishings was so desperate for workers that it began renting billboards near its headquarters in Asheville, N.C., to advertise job openings. The steep competition for labor drove wages for employees who are knocking on doors to get out the vote are on the cusp of front lines of the Democratic Party's midterm battle.

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"You think I am going to vote for those Democrats after all they've done to ruin the economy?" a voter shouted one evening last week from her estray in a working-class neighborhood of East Las Vegas.

Miguel Gonzalez, a 55-year-old chef who described himself as a conservative Christian who has voted for Republicans for most of his life, was more polite but no more convinced. "I don't agree with anything Democrats are doing at all," he said after taking a fistful of fliers from the union canvassers.

### Nevada Reflects Democrats' Hurdles Across U.S.

By JENNIFER MEDINA and JONATHAN WEISSMAN

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### Republicans Anticipate Gains Over Fears About Economy

WASHINGTON — For all his threats to fire tactical nuclear arms at Ukrainian targets, President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia is discovering what the United States itself concluded years ago, American officials suspect: Small nuclear weapons are hard to use, harder to control and a far better weapon of terror and intimidation than a weapon of war.

Analysis inside and outside the government who have tried to gain out Mr. Putin's threats have come to doubt how useful such arms — delivered in an artillery shell or thrown in the back of a truck — would be in advancing his objectives.

The primary utility, many U.S. officials say, would be as part of a last-ditch effort by Mr. Putin to halt the Ukrainian counteroffensive, by threatening to make parts of Ukraine uninhabitable. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe some of the most sensitive discussions inside the administration.

The scenarios for how the Russians might do it vary widely. They could fire six or six and a half dozen missiles from a mobile launcher on the border in Russia. The targets could be a Ukrainian military base or a small city. They could be nuclear weapons, which Russia tested in 1945.

— vital to its national coalition and its hold on the blue West. Now, Democrats in Nevada are facing potential losses up and down the ballot in November and bracing for a seismic shift that could help Republicans win control of both houses of Congress.

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto remains one of the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents in the country, Gov. Steve Sisolak is fighting his most formidable challenger yet. And the state's three House Democrats could all lose their seats.

The Democratic juggernaut that Harry M. Reid built as a senator is on its knees, starting down the most significant slip of losses in more than a decade.

The party had in recent years relied on the state's changing demographics. Continued on Page A15

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### Risks for Putin As He Rattles Nuclear Saber

U.S. Trying to Prepare for the Unthinkable

By DAVID E. SANGER and WILLIAM J. BROAD

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### RUSSIA RETREATS AS TROOPS SHOW SIGNS OF TURMOIL

DOUBTS OVER BORDERS

Ukraine's Gains in South and East Undermine Kremlin's Claims

This article is by Andrew E. Kramer, Corlotta Gell and Anton Troianovski.

IZMIL, Ukraine — Russian forces in Ukraine were on the run Monday across a broad swath of the front line, as the Ukrainian military pressed its blitz offensive in the east and made gains in the south, belying President Vladimir V. Putin's claims to have absorbed into Russia territories that his armies are steadily losing.

Following the capture over the weekend of Lyman, a strategic rail hub and gateway to the eastern Donbas region, Ukrainian forces showed no sign of stopping, pushing eastward toward the city of Izydorsk, which Russia seized three months ago after bloody fighting. Any loss of territory in the Donbas undermines Mr. Putin's objectives for the war he launched in February, which has focused on seizing and incorporating these regions.

The Kremlin reflected the disparity of its forces on the ground, where territory was rapidly changing hands, acknowledging that it did not yet know what new borders Russia would claim in southern Ukraine. "In terms of the borders, we're going to continue to consult with the population of these regions," Mr. Putin's spokesman, Dmitriy S. Peskov, told reporters on Monday.

On Monday, when criticism Mr. Putin ordered on Sept. 21 to bolster his battered forces has set off nationwide protests, the Kremlin, bringing the war home to many Russians who had felt untouched by it. Many men have been drafted, and many were supposed to be ineligible based on factors like age or disability.

On Monday, the governor of the Kharkov region in the Far East said that half of the men called up that morning were in the militia. Continued on Page A16

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### Attack on 'bedrock' of democracy is asserted

Prosecutors in Jan. 6 trial say Oath Keepers, leader plotted armed rebellion

By SPENCER S. Hsu, RACHEL WEINER and TOM JACKMAN

Members of the extremist group Oath Keepers led by Stewart Rhodes planned for an armed rebellion "to shatter a bedrock of American democracy" — the peaceful transfer of presidential power — culminating in his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol, a prosecutor told a jury Monday in the first seditious conspiracy trial of the sprawling Jan. 6 investigation.

Rhodes and four co-defendants that day staged an "arsenal" of firearms in nearby Virginia and secretly forcibly breached the Capitol, a judge said. The charges grew from certifying President Biden's 2020 election victory, thwarting the will of U.S. voters and elected representatives, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Nussler said during opening statements in federal court.

"That was their goal — to step by what we humans necessary the lawful transfer of presidential power, including by taking up arms against the United States government," Nussler said. Depending on Washington "to attack and not just the Capitol, not just Congress, not just our government — but our country itself."

Rhodes's defense described the prosecution as "government mischaracterization and government overreach." Oath Keepers came to Washington as "peacekeeping" security guards who "had no part in the bulk of the violence that occurred on January 6th," attorney Phillip Linder said, believing that President Donald Trump could invoke the Insurrection Act.

SEE OATH KEEPERS ON A15

### Ian's ferocity worsens Florida's housing crisis

Thousands of displaced residents are wondering where they will live next

By ANTONIO OLIVO and TIM CRAIG

ESTERO, Fla. — The billions of dollars in damage caused by Hurricane Ian has exacerbated an already urgent housing crisis for Florida, with thousands of displaced residents unsure where they'll live in one of the country's most expensive states.

On Monday, about 1,700 people remained in emergency shelters, many of them evacuated before their homes were either leveled by the 150 mph winds or rendered uninhabitable by a storm surge that flooded large portions of the state — leaving nearly

### In triumph, Kyiv's troops march on

Just days after liberation of strategic eastern city, most military presence is removed

By ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN and LOUISA LOUVOCK

LYMAN, UKRAINE — The Ukrainian soldiers were, hoisted and raised their fists in triumph as they drove out of the strategic eastern city of Lyman on Monday, riding M113 armored personnel vehicles provided by Western countries. They passed grim corpses of enemy Russian soldiers who died trying to run from a Ukrainian counteroffensive that swept through the area and is still going, putting the lie to President Vladimir Putin's message claims.

The bodies were binned, and some had open mouths, as if still wearing an expression of shock. At the moment the Ukrainian troops were driving by, the dead Russians were being unceremoniously placed into black bags.

Sitting atop a tank several yards away, Leonid, a soldier with Ukraine's National Guard, pondered Russia's plans to send 300,000 more men to Ukraine. "They're going to need a bigger grave," Leonid said.

Just two days after Ukraine troops claimed victory in Lyman, a city of 22,000 that the Russians had used as a vital transport hub in Ukraine's Donetsk region, there was almost no military presence left there — a sign of how quickly Ukrainian forces are advancing after

months of incremental gains, if any. After Moscow's "partial mobilization" intended to call up some 300,000 new troops, Kyiv appears to be making a major push to recapture as much occupied territory as it can before those reinforcements arrive.

Forcing the Russians to retreat from nearly the entire northeastern Kharkiv region and now from Lyman has put Ukraine's military in a strong position to attack the Russians occupying the neighboring Luhansk region, the border of which has not quite 15 miles from Lyman by road.

On Monday, the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, voted unanimously to condemn Ukraine's seizure of the city.

Annexation advances: Russia's illegal seizures move ahead in parliament. A10



SCOTT KINGS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Jose Messer, a boat captain the Island Girl Charters, ferries Pine Island, Fla., residents from their homes that were flooded and ravaged by the storm surge from Hurricane Ian. Story, A4

### Report: Soccer's leaders 'failed'

YATES PROBE OFFERS NEW ABUSE CLAIMS

Systemic issues plague top women's pro league

By RICK MAERZ

Abuse and misconduct were pervasive and systemic at the highest tiers of women's professional soccer, and the sport's governing bodies and league executives reportedly failed to heed warnings or punish coaches who abused players, according to an investigative report released Monday by the U.S. Soccer Federation.

The year-long probe by Sally Q. Yates, the former acting attorney general, found that some of the game's top coaches were the subjects of numerous allegations of sexual misconduct, including some that previously had not been made public. The coaches also faced on various coaching tactics, Yates found, including "twisting, degrading, tirades, manipulation that was about power, not improving performance, and retaliation against those who attempted to come forward."

"Players described a pattern of sexually charged comments, un-

SEE SOCCER ON A14

Sally Jenkins: After yet another report, when will change come? B1

### Claims on Oz's show get new scrutiny

By LOBBY BROWNSTEIN and COLBY ERKOWITZ

Mehmet Oz looked directly into the camera and introduced his daytime television viewers to a "controversial" weight-loss approach: taking a hormone that women produce during pregnancy combined with a diet of 500 calories a day.

"Does it really work? Is it safe? Is it a miracle? Or is it hype?" he asked in a 2011 episode of "The Dr. Oz Show" before introducing his audience to "human chorionic gonadotropin" or HCG, and to a weight-loss doctor who promoted it.

In fact, there was little uncertainty about the HCG Diet. Numerous studies conducted years before Oz's show had shown that the fertility drug does not cause weight loss, redistribute fat or suppress hunger. Ten months later, the Food and Drug Administration warned seven companies marketing HCG products that they were violating the law by

### N.Y.U. Students Were Failing Class. The Professor Lost His Job.

By STEPHANIE SAVA

In the field of organic chemistry, Matthew Jones Jr. has a storied reputation. He taught the subject for decades, first at Princeton and then at New York University, and wrote an influential textbook. He

received awards for his teaching, as well as recognition as one of N.Y.U.'s coolest professors. But last spring, as the campus emerged from pandemic restrictions, 82 of his 156 students signed a petition against him.

course — known for ending many a dream of medical school — was too hard, blamming Dr. Jones for their poor test scores. The professor defended his standards. But just before the start of the fall semester, university deans terminated Dr. Jones's

contract. The officials also had tried to placate the students by offering to review their grades and allowing them to withdraw from the class retroactively. The chemistry department's chairman, Mark E. Continued on Page A19

### Report Details 'Systemic' Abuse Against Women's Soccer Players

By KEVIN DRAPER

One coach called in a player to review game film and investigated her pornography instead. Another was notorious at the highest levels of women's soccer for alternately praising his players and then quizzing them about their sex lives.

A third coach coerced multiple players into sexual relationships, behavior that one top team found so disturbing that it fired him. But when he was hired by a rival team only a few months later, the original club, which had documented his behavior in an internal investigation, said nothing. Instead, it publicly wished him well in his new post. Continued on Page A20