Biden to Tap Reserve

as Move by Cartel

Lifts Crude Price

By STANLEY REED

LONDON - Saudi Arabia and Russia, acting as leaders of the OPEC Plus energy carrol, agreed on Wednesday to their first large production cut in more than two years in a bid to raise prices, coun-tering efforts by the United States and Europe to choke off the enormous revenue that Moscow reaps from the ask of carrier

President Biden and European

President Biden and European loaders have urged more oil production to ease gasoline prices and punish Moscow for its aggression in Ultraine. Vladimir V. Putin, the Russian president, has been accused of using energy so a weapon against countries opposing its invasion of Ultraine, and the optics of the decision could not be missed.

The White House was not

be missed.

The White House was not happy. The president is disappointed by the shortisglited decision by OPEC Plus to cut production quotas while the global economy is dealing with the continued negative impact of Putris invasion of Ukraine," Befan Deese, the director of the National Economic

rector of the National Economic rencil, and Jake Sullivan, the na-

mal security adviser, said in a

The cut of two million barrels a

and cut of two milition ourress a day represents about 2 percent of global oil production. By reducing output, OPEC Plus was also seeking to make a state-

ment to energy markets about the group's cohesion during the

Ukraine war and its willingness to

At a news conserverse after the meeting, the Saudi energy min-ister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, said OPEC Plus was act-ing amid signs of a downturn in

"We would rather be pre-emp-

The move appeared to have the fesired result: The price of Brent trude, the international bench-nark, which had slumped last rummer, rose more than L5 per-cent after the meeting, extending

the gains recorded in recent days

ive than be sorry," he said

and prices to fall.

act quickly to defend prices, ana

om the sale of crude.

A defiant

OPEC to

produce

COALITION REJECTS

BIDEN'S ENTREATIES Move could send up gas

prices and bolster Russia

BY JUST STEEN.

RACHEL LERMAN AND JOHN HUDSON

tions led by Russia and Saudi Ara

bia announced Wednesday it will slash oil production by 2 million barrels per day, in a rebuke to President Biden that could push

up gas prices worldwide, worsen the risk of a global recession and bolster Russia in its war in

The move by the Organization or the Petroseum axporting Coun-tries and its partners prompted a blistering reaction from White House officials and reverberated

almost immediately through do-mestic and global financial mar-

mestic and global financial mar-kets, threatening higher energy costs for the United States and European countries already grap-pling with inflation and economic instability.

plifies geopolitical tensions at a

precarious moment for the world's major powers. Biden ad-

aunched an extraordinary effort

to press Saudi Arabia to produce

ident personally visiting Sandi leaders in a trip to Jiddah. With this move, Sandi Arabia has reject-ed those entreaties at least in part, leaving senior White House offi-

steps and publicly hinting at un-precedented measures to under

precedented measures to under-cut the gulf nation's grip on inter-

Looming blackouts: E.U. prepart for a winter energy crisis. A12

took her last breaths with us."

As stories of death emerged from the destruction in south-west Florida, President Biden.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and

local authorities have clashed over lan's casualty toll. Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno told

"Good Morning America" that

deaths could range into the hun-dreds. Biden warned that Ian could be the "deadliest hurricane in Plorida's history." The governor

has downplayed deaths in daily

briefings, saying the tropical cy-clone's numbers will not come

national energy markets.

oil to compensate for the global shortage caused by Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the pres-live visiting. Saud

less oil

The Washington Post

To fight crime, the city sought to intervene with 230 people in the path

of violence. Half have yet to be reached, and two have been killed.

### Putin faces limits of his military power

Troop influx may not be sufficient for Russia to regain military advantage

BY PAUL SONNE

Russian President Vladimir Pu tin is betting that an impending infusion of drafted troops can change the dynamic on the battle-field in Ukraine, but analysts say he is losing time, as his military operation succumbs further to Ukrainian advances and shows signs that it needs more than just

from the bleak battlefield picture in recent days by orchestrating referendums, declaring annexa-tions and making nuclear threats all part of an attempt to freeze since February that are unravel-

since February that are unraweiing by the day.

But those political machinations in Moscow, carried out with
great funfare and bluster, have
been unable to mask the reality
some 600 miles saway in Ukrainer.

Russiak force is beleaguered and
poorly managed — and in the
mmediate future, there may not
be a silver bullet to fit it.

Military analysts agree that

Military analysts agree that Russia's haphazard mobilization of at least 300,000 reservists is unlikely to help Putin on the bat-tlefield in a matter of days. Whether it can aid Moscow in stabilizing

Nuclear arsenat: Why it's hard to

Propaganda war: Putin's rosy rhetoric clashes with reality. A10

THE COVID MONEY TRAIL

### GOP in Okla. ties hospital's relief to end of trans care

BY KIMBERLY KINDY

When Oklahoma lawmakers met last week to distribute more than \$108 million in federal pan-demic relief funds for one of the state's largest hospital systems many expected a routine vote in favor of upgrading its medical rec-ords and a cancer-treatment cen-

Instead, Republican lawmakers added an explosive provision: OU Health would only get these funds, including \$39.4 million for a new pediatric mental health facility, if its Oklahoma Children's Hospital stopped providing gender-

Gov. Kevin J. Stitt (R) signed into law on Tuesday, marks the first time conservative state lawmak-ers have successfully tied genderaffirming care to the receipt of funds from the American Rescue

the deadly storm. We have very different political philosophies, but we've worked hand in glove. ... In dealing with this crisis,



Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) and his wife, Casey, left, talk with Presiden

bipartisanship he once pledged to restore to politics, while at the same time extolling a man who could soon seek to oust him from

threatened to send planeloads of

# shows perils of storm surge

More than half of victims drowned, highlighting danger of water vs. wind

PORT MYERS BEACH, FLA. - The water was rising quickly, so the women ran to the top floor of the vacation house they had rented for Nishelle Harris-Miles's 40th

on a bed. But Hurricane lan's storm surge gashed through the floor, lifting the mattress higher and higher until the four were smashed against the ceiling. Then the roof collapsed, lodging a sed, lodging a

nail into the neck of the w they affectionately called No

sear the 1928 hurricane that killed a record 2,500. Yet lan already is shaping up to be the deadliest storm to pound Florida since 1935. State authorities have documented 72 deaths thu

of organic matter and pollutants. A6



Disaster-Zone Détente

Gov. Ron DeSantis and President Biden out their differences aside as they toured storm-damaged sites in Fort Myers. Fla. Proc A17.

### U.S. Bolstering Taiwan Muscle Against China

and JOHN ISMAY WASHINGTON - American officials are intensifying efforts to suild a giant stockpile of weapons

the island as a prelude to any at-tempted invasion, and Taiwan yeld have to held out on its own ions intervened, if they decided to do that, the current and former

officials say.

But the effort to transform Taiwan into a weapons depot faces challenges. The United States and its allies have prioritized sending its allies have prioritized sending weapons to Utraine, which is re-ducing those countries' stock-piles, and arms makers are relu-tant to open new production lines without a steady stream of long-

And it is unclear how China might respond if the United States accelerates shipments of weapons to Taiwan, a democratic, self-gov-erning island that Beijing claims

U.S. officials are determin tity and types of weapon sold to Taiwan by quietly telling Taiwanese officials and American arms makers that they will reject orders for some large systems in orders for some large systems in layor of a greater number of smaller, more mobile weapons The Biden administration an ounced on Sept. 2 that it had an

### Use of 'Civil War' Soars After Mar-a-Lago Search

### By KEN BENSINGER and SHEERA FRENKEL

Soon after the ERI searched researchers zeroed in on a worry

ng trend. Posts on Twitter that mentioned civil war" had seared nearly ,000 percent in just a few hours is Mr. Trump's supporters de inced the action as a provoca tion. Similar spikes followed, in-cluding on Facebook, Reddit, Tele-gram, Parler, Gab and Truth So-cial, Mr. Trump's social media platform. Mentions of the phrase

nore than doubled on radio pro-

Analysts Worry About Fiery Term's Spread Before Midterms

by Critical Mention, a media-

by Critical Mention, a media-tracking firm.

Posts mentioning "civil war" jumped again a few weeks later, after President Biden branded Mr. Trump and "MAGA Republicans" a threat to "the very foundations of our republic" in a speech on de-mocracy in Philadelphia.

Now experts are bracing for re-

newed discussions of civil war, as

Continued on Page A15

om domestic politics in the ted States to the war in

proach and political talk grows more urgent and heated.

More than a century and a half after the actual Civil War, the deadliest war in U.S. history, 'civil war" references have become increasingly common on the right. While in many cases the term is used only loosely — shorthand for the nation's intensitying partisan discisions — observance parts that

the phrase, for some, is far more

than a metaphor.

Pelling, social media studies and a rise in threats suggest that a growing number of Americans are anticipating, or even welcoming, the possibility of sustained politi-

ought to prevent the cut of two nillien barrels a day. It called on tome of its closest Arab allies— tarting with Saudi Arabia. where Mr. Biden visited in July. and met with the crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, over th ections of human rights orga tions and even some of his

ecosomic poucy at a time waen the global economy is at risk of recession, and energy politics has emerged as a key componen of the conflict in Ukraine.

erican sanctions. It came

fter a concerted but ultimately

terests. In this case, sustain

ursuccessin appointance error i Washington to halt the oil pro-duction cut, a signal that Mr. Biden's influence over his Gulf allies was far less than he had that, even in an era in which oil should be diminishing in imporance as a source of energy OPEC Plus acts in its own selfhe price per barrel has proved

ar more important to its men

bia and Russia, brought togethe an array of foreign and economissues that affect everything

### and bringing prices back to leve last seen in mid-September. The average price of gasoline in the United States recently began to U.S. Believes Ukrainians Backed

A Russian Nationalist's Murder

dichael Schwirtz WASHINGTON - United States intelligence agencies be-ieve parts of the Ukrainian gov-

The United States took no part ntelligence or other assistance officials said. American officials officials said. American officials also said they were not aware of the operation ahead of time and would have opposed the killing had they been consulted. Alter-ward, American officials admos-ished Ukrainian officials over the assassination, they said.

The clouds hald awassersant of

The closely held assessment of Ukrainian complicity, which has not been previously reported, was



sandr Dugin, may have been a

when asked about the American

Continued on Page A8

## Missteps mar D.C.'s at-risk list

A month after the D.C. government set out to do whatever it took to save Jahmeze Williams and people like him, the 20-year-old collapsed in the back seat of a car, a bullet

ledged in his right arm.

Ite died within half an hour, shot inches above a tattoo of his mother's name.

His life wasn't supposed to end this way. Williams was one of about 230 D.C. residents the city had dubbed "People of Promise," a diplomatic way of referring to a list of those considered most at risk of comselves. The initiative, a key pillar of D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's effort to combat crime as homicides continue at a pacthat could reach a two-decade high, was designed to bring intense government services to those on the list, assigning a cabinet-level official to super-vise each person's case.

But about five months after the city formally launched the least eight others on the list have been shot, and more than



Aleashea Cumbo poses with a photo of her son Jahmeze Williams, who was shot dead at age 20 in May in th

Political rivals emphasize a spirit of cooperation in hurricane relief efforts

BY TOLUSE OLOBUNNUPA

President Biden visited this storm-stricken community in southwest Florida on Wednes-day, touring the damage from Burricane Ian and pledging billions of dollars for recovery, he used the opportunity to praise one of his top political rivals and harshest critics - Republican

The move, which Oklahoma Gov. Ron DeSantis. "I think he's done a good job," Biden told reporters when asked about the governor's handling of

phony tax returns, covid theft. B1

Nene died right there with us," said Chanel Maston, 46, sobbing

## Newtown Would Like to Forget the Conspiracy Theorist in Court

NEWTOWN, Com. — Less than 20 miles from the place where a gumman massacred 20 first graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the trial of Alex Jones, who has

The closely watched courtroom Haunted by Massacre spectacle playing out just up In terstate 84 is part of a long-run IO Tears Later

In Tears Later

IO Tears Later

10 Years Later

spent much of the decade since about Mr. Jones.

and in the town's general store the attack spreading lies about "I think that most of the people having a coffee on Tuesday mores—what happened that day, neared in this town would like to forget in

A slain E.M.S. captain, Alison Russo-Elling, was buried Wednesday in Brookville, N.Y. Page A18.

But for the very real town that

acy website Infowars, Mr. Jones was found liable last year in four defamation lawsuits, and a jury in nearby Waterbury, Conn., is ex-pected to decide within days how much he should pay in compensa-

While Bussia has not retaliated