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West Speeding Aid to Ukraine For Air Defense

Current Shield Works, but Has Some Holes

This article is by Michael Schwartz, Lew Jukes and Eric Schmitt.

KYIV, Ukraine — In just two days this week, Russian forces fired more than 100 cruise missiles and dozens of exploding drones at cities across Ukraine, many more than the nation's aging air defenses were ever expected to encounter. And yet fewer than half made it to their targets, Ukrainian officials say.



A grave prepared for a military funeral in Bucha on Wednesday. Ukrainian forces remain on the offensive against Russian troops.

Ukraine's success in knocking down those projectiles, and the death and destruction caused wherever missiles slipped through, have reinvigorated calls by officials in Kyiv for Western countries to provide more sophisticated defensive weapons systems. At a meeting in NATO's headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday, the United States and other allies readily agreed, pledging to rapidly provide the weapons.

In Long View, Biden Strategy Aims at China

By DAVID E. SANGER

President Biden declared on Wednesday that the overwhelming challenge for the United States in the coming years would be "out-competing China and restraining Russia" while focusing on restoring a damaged democracy at home.

The Hidden Hand Guiding Conservative Causes

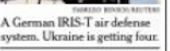
By KENNETH F. VOEL

Millions of dollars in television advertisements blasting theory for teaching critical race theory and assisting corporations like BlackRock, Uber and American Airlines for catering to "woke politicians."

Millions Flow Through Network Assembled by Veteran Activist

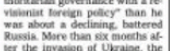
By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

Mr. Jones, who for years said the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting that killed 20 first graders and six educators in Newtown, Conn., was a government hoax, now faces financial ruin. But it is unclear how much money the families will ultimately collect.



A German IRIS-T air defense system. Ukraine is getting four.

And a day after the Biden administration said it was working to speed up delivery of two advanced missile systems, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III said, "The systems will be provided as fast as we can physically get them there."



A man in a military uniform, likely a Ukrainian soldier.

But for all the gobs made clear by the bombardment, which killed at least 19 people and scared some two dozen Ukrainian cities, Ukrainian patchwork air defenses have proved to be one of the great successes of the war, and among the most unexpected. And Ukraine's response to the attacks underscored how far the air defense units have come since President Vladimir V. Putin ordered his forces to invade on Feb. 24.



A man in a military uniform, likely a Ukrainian soldier.

China "is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, and military power to do so."



A man in a military uniform, likely a Ukrainian soldier.

Mr. Jones, an independent, five-term congressman from Texas, was ordered to pay two Sandy Hook parents about \$50 million — a sum that would be paid in installments over 10 years.

Reluctance to Fire Employees Could Help Stabilize Economy

By JEANNA SMIALEK and SYDNEY EMBER

PROVO, Utah — Chad Pritchard and his colleagues are trying everything to stall their pizza shop and bistrot, and as they do, they have turned to a new tactic: they avoid firing employees at all costs.

A Daring Addiction Strategy

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

Rhode Island aims to prevent overdoses with supervised drug consumption sites. Cristina Ramsey, left, who died after a long battle with drugs, felt such programs might have helped her.

SANDY HOOK LIES WILL COST JONES ABOUT \$1 BILLION

VICTORY FOR FAMILIES Decision Strikes Blow to Culture of Conspiracy Theories in U.S.

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

WATERBURY, Conn. — The families of eight Sandy Hook shooting victims on Wednesday won nearly \$1 billion in damages from the infowar fabulist Alex Jones, a devastating blow against his empire and a message from the jury that his lies and those of his followers have crippling consequences.

Mr. Jones, who for years said the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting that killed 20 first graders and six educators in Newtown, Conn., was a government hoax, now faces financial ruin. But it is unclear how much money the families will ultimately collect.

The families and their lawyers sat in stunned silence as the court clerk read one by one the sums awarded to each of 15 plaintiffs in the case. After court was adjourned, they hugged one another quietly, weeping.

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What's News

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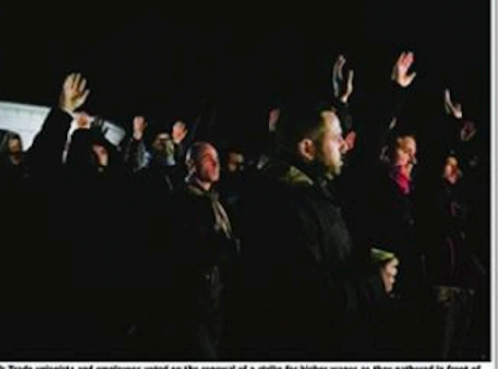
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Strike by Refinery Workers in France Deepens Energy Woes



ON STRIKE: Trade unionists and employees vented on the removal of a strike for higher wages as they gathered in front of an Exxon Mobil site in northwestern France early Wednesday. The strike has closed fuel supplies across the country.

Facing Curbs, U.S. Suppliers Leave Chinese Chip Maker

BEIJING — U.S. chip equipment suppliers are pulling out their best at China's leading memory-chip maker and pouring billions into new plants as they grapple with the impact of the U.S. chip equipment ban.

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TikTok Parent Looks to Challenge Spotify

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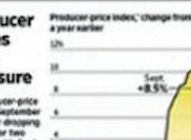
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The producer-price index in September rose after dropping in the prior two months, with food and home-heating costs driving the gains in what suppliers charge customers. An 8.5% annual rise last month was down from August's 8.7% increase.

Ukrainian Strategy Is Running Circles Around Russian Forces

Nimble battlefield decision-making exploits Russia's military failings.

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Retirees to Arizona State: Shhh

Seniors living on campus want less loud music.

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Tribal Victims Settle Hospital Abuse Suits

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Palantir The industry leader in artificial intelligence software.

Rank	Company	Revenue
No. 1	Palantir	\$1,392M
No. 2	Microsoft	\$1,252M
No. 3	IBM	\$776M
No. 4	Avus	\$688M
No. 5	Google	\$358M

Palantir Technologies Inc. is the industry leader in artificial intelligence software.