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TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022

National Edition
Upper Midwest: A mix of sunshine and clouds. Thunderstorms tonight, heavy and rain by late night. In the eastern Wisconsin to low 50s to the south. Weather map is on Page A1B.

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Ukrainians laid flowers at war memorials for Victory Day on Monday. One statue was sandbagged for its protection at a site in Kyiv.

A Pastor Struggles as Politics Divide a Congregation in Arkansas

BY RUTH GRAHAM

FORT SMITH, Ark. — In the fall of 2020, Kevin Thompson delivered a sermon about the gunpowder of the American Revolution. It was a quick contrast between a lively, combustible God and a more passive, obedient one. Speaking in his pulpit, Mr. Thompson did not care about the issue of gun trafficking. Mr. Thompson soon realized that their sermons spring from the spread

American Evangelicals See Rising Rifts and Falling Attendance

ing QAnon conspiracy theory, which claims that the movie star is part of a ring of Hollywood pedophiles. For decades, Mr. Thompson, 44, has been confident that he knew the people of Fort Smith, a small city nestled under a bend in the Arkansas River along the Oklahoma border. He was born at the oldest

hospitals in town, attended public schools there and grew up in a Baptist church that encouraged him to start preaching as a teenager. But the sermon he would give in Fort Smith for the rest of his life, that one he was not so sure. So he talks about how he is the truth, how central truth is to Mr. Thompson, said in an interview. "The more you lose the concept of truth, you've lost everything."

A political moment in which the Supreme Court appears on the brink of overturning *Roe v. Wade* looks like a triumph for the conservative evangelicals.

Continued on Page A1B

Risk for States: Stoking Prices With Tax Cuts

BY ALAN RAFFAPORT

WASHINGTON — In Kansas, the Democratic governor has been pushing to slash the state's property sales tax. Last month, New Mexico lawmakers passed \$300 million to rebates to households hit hardest by high gas prices. Legislators in Iowa, Indiana and Idaho have cut state income taxes this year.

A combination of that state inflation, high oil prices and rapid inflation in housing across the country looking for ways to ease the pain and, in some places, with nearly three dozen states reaching or considering a new form of a refund, according to the Tax Foundation, a right-leaning think tank.

The efforts are sharing typical party lines when it comes to tax policy. In many cases, Democrats are jettisoning Republicans in supporting permanently lower taxes or temporary cuts, including for high earners.

But while the policies are aimed at helping Americans weather the fastest pace of inflation in 40 years, some economists worry that, paradoxically, cutting taxes could encourage the very inflationary pressures that are driving them. By putting more money in people's pockets, policymakers risk exacerbating inflationary pressures.

Mr. Thompson said that the future of the state economy was producing at full capacity right now. But five years later, the younger Mr. Thompson and his mother were



A polling station on Monday. Preliminary results showed Ferdinand Marcos Jr. leading the vote.

36 Years Later, a Marcos Is Set to Lead Filipinos

BY SUMNER WEE

MANILA — Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the former Philippine dictator, appeared set to win the country's presidential election on Monday, with a commanding vote margin that heralded a remarkable revival for a family once feared inside and outside the Philippines for bad governance, said the Bureau of Electoral Administration, which called the election a historic victory.

Mr. Marcos family was driven by Mr. Marcos and his mother were

Capping Off a Family's Remarkable Revival

born in 1930 to the "People Power" uprising, with millions of Filipinos willing to desert deadly dictator and rampant corruption that siphoned billions of dollars from the treasury into the family's personal coffers.

Early Tuesday, preliminary results showed Mr. Marcos Jr. leading the vote.

Continued on Page A1B

On Victory Day, Putin Walks a Careful Line On the Ukraine War

A Kinship Rooted in History Shatters False Claims But No Call for Escalation

BY MICHAEL SCHWITZ

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine — He carried a simple bouquet of white lilies as explosions reverberated through the bright spring air. Tears streaked her weathered face, which was framed by a blue headscarf.

Nina Mikhailovna came on Monday as she does every year on May 9, to the eternal flame in a city park that commemorates the allied victory in World War II. She came to honor the memory of her father, who was killed in 1943, and to remember those who died liberating her native Kramatorsk in eastern Ukraine from the Nazis, whose remnants lived here into the fields as a child to cut and gather wheat.

At nearly 80, Ms. Mikhailovna thought she would never witness anything as hot as that war with the Germans. But the current war with the Russians is worse, she said.

At least the Germans were enemy.

"These are our people," she said, referring to a Ukrainian city a few miles away from Kramatorsk. "And now they're suffering here because of the war."

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Continued on Page A1B

Oil Companies Sell Dirty Wells, But Emissions Only Get Worse

BY NIKHIL KUMAR

When Royal Dutch Shell sold its stake in the U.S. oil fields in the Niger Delta last year, it was, in part, a step toward the oil company's climate ambitions: Shell could clean up its holdings and invest in cleaner technologies, it said. But the company's oil and gas operations have made it difficult to do so.

At the oil field, however, the oil field underwent a change so significant it was detected from space: A surge in the amount of burning of excess gas in towering columns of smoke from the known as flaring, which emits planet-warming greenhouse gases, as well as, into the atmosphere.

Around the world, many of the

GOP bets Roe ruling won't sway midterms

Strategists, candidates say polls show abortion not a top issue for voters

BY MAX DELBONO AND JANE DAWSON

One week after the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion that would eliminate the constitutional right to abortion, Republican strategists and candidates are increasingly confident that such a decision would not seriously harm the GOP's chances of winning the November, as Democrats have suggested it might.

The call and vote showed that while some Western officials had predicted Mr. Putin would use the

he made no claim of victory or "mission accomplished" and no promise that the fight in Ukraine could end soon. But as President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia spoke in Red Square in Moscow on Monday, he also made no call for new offensives or mobilization, no threat of a nuclear strike, no stark pronouncement about an existential war with the West.

Instead Mr. Putin, speaking on Russia's most important national holiday, delivered a message for the broader public that Russians could keep on living their lives. The military would keep fighting to rid Ukraine, in his false telling, of "terrorists, death squads and Nazis," but Mr. Putin did not make any new attempt to prepare his people for a wider conflict.

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The Washington Post

This site was set up to provide reliable information.

Partly essay: heavy 70/30 • Timeliness: mostly 70/30

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 • 2



ABOVE: Ukrainian military soldiers standing in front of a large, white, sack-like memorial structure. The memorial is decorated with red flowers and ribbons. In the background, other people are visible, and a sign with the word 'MEMORIAL' is partially visible.

As Russia celebrated its most emotional holiday commemorating the end of World War II, Putin appeared in Moscow's Red Square to invoke pride over the Soviet role in that cause and cast the invasion of Ukraine as a comparable effort. "There is no place in the world for aggression, plunder and Nazi," he said.

Mr. Putin's speech was brief and made no mention of Russian troops' poor performance and misadventures. And he did not declare the "special military operation" to be a "war" or announce a general or partial mobilization to rebuild depleted Russian forces, as some had feared.

Instead, Victory Day was observed in a more subdued and subdued way in Red Square and across parts of Ukraine.

The governor of Kharkiv — Ukraine's second-most populous city, where Ukrainian troops have been pushing back Russian battles — said there was less cheering Monday than any day since the conflict began 75 days ago. In Kherson, Ukrainian forces launched a counteroffensive against Russian occupying the area, a Russian news agency reported.

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Putin: War is against 'Nazis'

EQUATES INVASION TO WORLD WAR II

False claims permeate his Victory Day address

This article is by Robert D. Black, Mary Quinlan, Mark Rankin, Joshua Kohnstamm and Anna Leshch.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sought to justify his coercion war against Ukraine during a long Victory Day parade on Monday, again making the case for Ukrainians "Nazis" and insisting without evidence that Kyiv was planning to build nuclear weapons.

As Russia celebrated its most emotional holiday commemorating the end of World War II, Putin appeared in Moscow's Red Square to invoke pride over the Soviet role in that cause and cast the invasion of Ukraine as a comparable effort. "There is no place in the world for aggression, plunder and Nazi," he said.

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