

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

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The body of a Russian soldier outside a destroyed school in Vilkhivka, Ukraine, which had been occupied for weeks by Russian forces.

Russia Preparing to Annex Parts of Southeast Ukraine

Installing Officials and Introducing Ruble

This article is by Marc Santora, Ivan Nechiporenko and Norimitsu Onishi. KRAKOW, Poland — Fresh from its triumph over the last armed Ukrainian resistance in the devastated city of Mariupol, Russia appeared to be laying the groundwork Thursday for annexing parts of southeast Ukraine, described by a high-ranking Kremlin official as having a "worthy place in our Russian family"...



President Biden with the leaders of Finland and Sweden.

even intended to charge Ukraine for electricity generated by the Ukrainian nuclear plant that Russia's forces commandeered in the early weeks of the invasion — a plan that Ukraine described as extortion.

Russia's move came as the United States sought to further escalate pressure on the Kremlin. President Biden vowed to help gain speedy approval of applications to join NATO by formerly neutral Finland and Sweden, as he welcomed the leaders of these countries to the White House and as U.S. officials expressed confidence that they could satisfy Turkey and Swedish objections to Finnish and Swedish membership. And the Senate overwhelmingly approved a \$40 billion aid package for Ukraine that Mr. Biden was set to

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Adams Resists New Mandates As Covid Rises

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS In what was a typically busy week for Mayor Eric Adams, he met with the mayor of Gage, Miss. and the mayor of Brookline, Mass. He visited a college to promote a new degree in video game design. And he visited the State Capitol in Albany to push for the renewal of mayoral control of schools.

But as New York City entered the high risk level for the coronavirus, Mr. Adams did not hold any public events to warn residents about the surge in cases. Mr. Adams has insisted that he would not bring back masks and vaccine mandates and would instead focus on antiviral treatments and at-home testing.

While many American cities long ago jettisoned public health precautions, New York City and other Democratic-led cities like Los Angeles and Philadelphia had taken a more cautious approach to combating waves of the virus. Now, even as cases and hospitalizations rise again, those cities may resemble the rest of the nation by focusing on a return to normalcy and personal responsibility.

In New York, rather than raising alarms about the city's heightened risk level, Mr. Adams has repeatedly emphasized that his infection in April was mild, in part because he took the antiviral Paxlovid.

"I think that the reason we are here and we are not seeing dramatic actions is because we've done an amazing job of telling people — vaccines, boosters," Mr. Adams said at a recent news conference. "When I was hit with Covid, it was just a tickle in my throat. I was still

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Scarred by Racist Past, a Georgia County Booms

By JONATHAN WEISSMAN CUMMING, Ga. — In October 1912, after the raped and brutalized body of Mae Crow, a white 18-year-old, was laid to rest beside the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, the white men of Forsyth County went on a rampage, driving its 1,099 Black citizens — about 10 percent of the population — from Forsyth's borders.

They had already dragged 24-year-old Ruth Edwards, a Black man, from a jail cell in the Cumming town square, beaten him with crowbars, riddled his corpse with bullets and hoisted him over a telephone pole yardarm. Two Black teens, Ernest Knox, 18, and Oscar Daniel, 18, would hang after the most specious of trials.

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Migrants gather in border towns in the hope that pandemic limits on entry will be lifted. Page A18.

Long Wait in Mexico

Migrants gather in border towns in the hope that pandemic limits on entry will be lifted. Page A18.

Fentanyl-Laced Pills Bought Online Cause Youth Deaths to Soar

By JAN HOFFMAN Shortly after Kade Webb, 20, collapsed and died in a bathroom at a Safeway Market in Roseville, Calif., in December, the police opened his phone and went straight to his social media apps. There, they found exactly what they feared.

Drug Dealers Are Using Social Media Apps

Members released this month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Law enforcement authorities say an alarming portion of them unfolded the same way as his: from counterfeit pills

In Hungary, Cheap Russian Oil Fuels Right-Wing Culture Wars

By ANDREW HOGGINS and BENJAMIN NOVAK BUDAPEST — Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary has forced a privately managed education foundation that last year hosted the Fox News host Tucker Carlson at a festival of right-wing pundits in Hungary. It has also provided stipends and fellowships to conservative Americans and Europeans looking for a safe haven from what they believe is the spread of "cancel culture" back home.

Some of them featured this week at the first Hungarian edition of the Conservative Political Action Conference, or CPAC, a gathering of the right wing of American politics. The event, at which Mr. Orban gave the keynote speech, opened in Budapest on

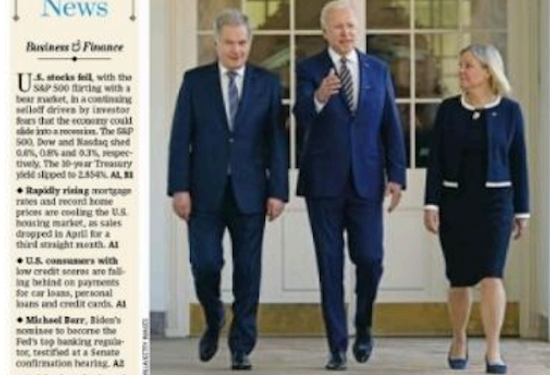
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Oklahoma Passes a Measure To Ban Abortion at Fertilization

This article is by Kate Zerahn, Mitch Smith and Luke Vander Pleck. The Oklahoma Legislature gave final approval on Thursday to a bill that prohibits nearly all abortions starting at fertilization, which would make it the nation's strictest abortion law. The bill allows private individuals to sue abortion providers and anyone who "aids or abets" an abortion. It would take effect immediately if signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican who has pledged to make Oklahoma the most anti-abortion state in the nation.

There can be nothing higher or more critical than the defense of innocent, unborn life," State Representative Jim Olsen, a Republican, said on Thursday on the floor of the Oklahoma House, where the

Biden Backs Finland, Sweden for NATO



President Biden with the leaders of Finland and Sweden.

President Biden on Thursday said he backs their countries' bids to join NATO, as the Senate approved \$40 billion in aid for Ukraine. A4, A5

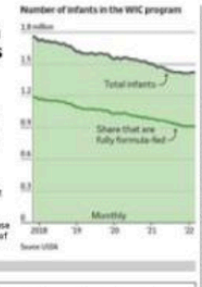
Ukraine War's New Phase Shifts Outlook for Its End

By STEVEN FIZKE Difficult. Some things that seemed highly probable at the start of the war will end in Ukraine, but it's clear that right now Russia isn't winning. According to Western governments and private analysts, Moscow failed to achieve its initial goal of a lightning strike into Kyiv and it is going to survive.

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Baby Formula Aid Falls Short

For some parents who rely on the government's Women, Infants and Children program, the amount of approved baby formula has left them paying hundreds of dollars to purchase formula outside the program. A7



Number of infants in the WIC program

Teen Babysitters Are Charging \$30 an Hour, Because They Can

Shortage turns high-schoolers into VIPs; 'order anything you want for dinner' By RACHEL WOLFE After two years of hunkering down at home with their children, parents are returning to their office jobs and social lives and are competing for part-time babysitters at the same time. Teens are getting better snacks, doing fewer errands and are more demanding to boot.

Beijing Pushes Elites To Sell Foreign Assets

By CHAN HUI WONG BEIJING — China's Communist Party has urged officials to sell foreign assets abroad, people familiar with the matter say. The move is intended to reduce the types of assets now being held in Beijing and to reduce the risk of capital flight.

Slump Sends S&P 500 Near Bear Territory

Benchmark is down over 18% from high amid fear of recession; Treasury yield slips

By HEATHER STONE and JIM WALLACE U.S. stocks and bond yields fell, with the S&P 500 losing 1.6% and Treasury yields slipping. The major indexes slipped on Thursday's session, a day after declining 4%, before recovering ground. They ultimately finished lower, with all three on track for weekly losses of about 2.0%. Concerns about consumer spending, which helped lift the market out of recessionary lows, have weighed

Rising Rates, Prices Cool Off Home Sales

By NICOLE FREEMAN Rapidly rising mortgage rates are cooling the U.S. housing market, with April sales dropping for the third straight month and falling to their weakest pace in nearly two years. Existing-home sales slipped 2.4% in April from the prior month to 3.6 million, a record high in data going back to 1969, NAR said.

Subprime Borrowers Struggle With Car Loans, Credit Cards

By ANNA MARIA ANDREOTTI Consumers with low credit scores are falling behind on payments for car loans, personal loans and credit cards, a sign that the subprime credit market is in a state of crisis. The share of subprime credit cards and personal loans that are at least 60 days past due has risen to 10.1% in March, according to Fitch. In March, these delinquencies

Teen Babysitters Are Charging \$30 an Hour, Because They Can

Shortage turns high-schoolers into VIPs; 'order anything you want for dinner' By RACHEL WOLFE After two years of hunkering down at home with their children, parents are returning to their office jobs and social lives and are competing for part-time babysitters at the same time. Teens are getting better snacks, doing fewer errands and are more demanding to boot.

INSIDE

SPORTS Nick Saban slams Texas A&M's Jebbo Fisher for allegedly paying recruits. A14

MANSSION London's artsy Hampstead goes luxe as property values explode. M1

What's News

Business & Finance U.S. stocks fell, with the S&P 500 losing 1.6% and Treasury yields slipping. The major indexes slipped on Thursday's session, a day after declining 4%, before recovering ground. They ultimately finished lower, with all three on track for weekly losses of about 2.0%.

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