



SENDING A REMINDER Struggling in Ukraine's east, Russia struck Kyiv on Sunday for the first time in more than a month. Page A9.

## Taking Guns From Those in Crisis: A County's 'Red Flag' Lessons

This article is by Andy Newman, Benjamin Weiser and Ashley Southall.

The boy made his threat aboard a school bus.

In late March, a 16-year-old in Suffolk County, N.Y., 60 miles east of New York City, told fellow students that he wanted to shoot their heads off, according to court records. He told the police that he wanted to hurt himself with a shotgun as his house.

What followed happened more often in Suffolk County than any other county in the state: A judge issued a "red flag" order that would allow authorities to take weapons from the home. The police filed an application to remove the boy's access to guns. The judge acted after finding that he posed a danger. Two shotguns were taken. The judge later wrote that the boy "admitted that not having the shotguns in the home is helpful to him."

In the wake of horrific mass shootings at a Buffalo supermarket, a Texas school and an Oklahoma hospital, many policymakers are grasping for ways to keep guns out of hands of people in crisis.

On Thursday, President Biden inspired Congress to pass a federal red flag law, though some states have already passed similar measures.

## Mass Shootings Over Weekend Unnerve Cities

This article is by Luke Vander Pleig, Christine Chang and Lisa Albeck-Ripke.

A brawl between at least two men turned a packed Philadelphia street into a scene of terror Saturday night after they pulled out guns and began firing wildly at each other. By the time the gunfire ended, three people were injured and 12 more were hurt.

Just a few hours later, in Chattanooga, Tenn., a mass shooting outside a bar sent people fleeing in panic. Three people were killed there, too, including one who was struck by a vehicle, and 14 were hurt, most of them by gunshots.

And at parties in Phoenix, Chester, Va. and Summerville, S.C., celebrations turned tragic in mass shootings that resulted in a total of at least three deaths and 22 injuries, many of them children.

Although shootings across the country traditionally begin to rise with the approach of summer, the scenes of carnage over the weekend ended by Tuesday, leaving no less cities shaken though, tellingly, not shocked.

"People are afraid to let their kids out of the house," Mayor Jim Kenney of Philadelphia said in an interview. But he added that there was little he could say to reassure frightened or grieving residents.

"Words are hard," Mr. Kenney said. "Words these days have become somewhat meaningless."

As of Sunday evening, the po-

## A Jubilee, and a Cup of Tea

Revelers in Windsor toasted Queen Elizabeth II's 70-year reign at the Big Jubilee Lunch. Page A9.

## Debate on Crime Splits San Francisco Democrats

By TIM ARANGO and THOMAS FULLER

SAN FRANCISCO — As the former chief of the San Francisco Democratic Party, Mary Jung has a long list of liberal bona fides, including her early days in politics volunteering in Ohio for the presidential campaign of George McGovern and her service on the board of the local Planned Parenthood branch. "In Cleveland, I was considered a communist," she

## Putin Peddles Stolen Grain To Needy World, U.S. Says

### African Nations Face Hunger and Dilemma as Ukraine's Bounty Is Shipped Out

By DECLAN WALSH and VALERIE HOPKINS

NAIROBI, Kenya — Russia has peddled the grain production capacity of Ukraine, which accounts for one-tenth of global wheat exports, resulting in dire forecasts of increased hunger and of spiking food prices around the world.

Now, the United States has warned that the Kremlin is using to profit from that plunder by selling stolen wheat to drought-stricken countries in Africa, some facing possible famines.

In mid-May, the United States sent an alert to 14 countries, mostly in Africa, that Russian cargo vessels were leaving ports near Ukraine laden with what a State Department cable described as "stolen Ukrainian grain." The cable, identified by name, gave Russian cargo vessels it said were suspected of transporting it.

The American alert about the grain has only sharpened the dilemma for African countries, many already being trapped between East and West, as they potentially face a hard choice between, on one hand, benefiting from possible war crimes and displacing a powerful Western ally, and on the other, refusing cheap food at a time when wheat prices are soaring and hundreds of thousands of people are starving.

The alarm sounded by Washington reinforced Ukrainian government accusations that Russia has stolen up to 500,000 tons of Ukrainian wheat, worth \$100 million, since Russia's invasion in February. Much of it has been trucked to ports in Russia-controlled Crimea, then transferred to ships, including some under Western sanctions, Ukrainian officials say.

On Friday, the head of the African Union, President Macky Sal of Senegal, met in Russia with President Vladimir V. Putin, in an

effort to secure grain supplies from the country.

Critics said the trip, during which Mr. Sal referred to his "dear friend Vladimir," played straight into Mr. Putin's hands by offering him yet another tool to leverage divisions in the international response to his brutal assault on Ukraine.

But many African nations are already ambivalent about the punishing Western campaign of sanctions against Russia for reasons that include their dependence on Russian arms sales, lingering Cold War-era sympathies and perceptions of Western double standards.

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But Kenia is developing a group of nations focused on the treatment of prisoners of war, as a way to get stalled talks on power projects on track.

On top of that, the continent is suffering badly.

Russia and Ukraine normally supply about 40 percent of wheat needs in Africa, where prices for the grain have risen 12 percent in the last year, the United Nations said. In the Horn of Africa region, a devastating drought has left 17 million people hungry, mostly in parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, according to the United Nations.

## 2020 Deniers Gain in Races To Run Voting

By ALEXANDRA BERZON

Key figures in the effort to subvert the 2020 presidential election have thrown their weight behind a slate of Republican candidates for secretary of state across the country, injecting specious theories about voting machines, foreign hacking and voter fraud into campaigns that will determine who controls elections in several battleground states.

The America First state committee more than a dozen candidates who falsely claim the 2020 election was stolen from Donald J. Trump. It grew out of meetings held by a conspiracy-mongering QAnon leader and a Nevada politician, and has quietly gained support from influential people in the election denial movement — including Mike Lindell, the MyPillow founder, and Patrick Byrne, the former Overstock.com executive who has financed public efforts that promote the candidates and theories about election vulnerabilities.

Members of the slate have party endorsements or are competitive candidates for the Republican nomination in several states, including those — Michigan, Arizona and Nevada — where a relatively small number of ballots have decided presidential victories. And in Pennsylvania, where the governor appoints the secretary of state, State Senator Doug Mastriano, who is aligned with the group, easily won his primary for governor last month.

## Fertilizing a Wheat Field Near Kharkiv, Ukraine, in April

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## Biden Boxed In As Price of Oil Refuses to Cool

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

HOUSTON — When President Biden meets Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, he will be following in the footsteps of President Donald Trump, who flew to Tehran in 1977 to exchange hostages with the Shah of Iran on New Year's Eve.

Mr. Biden was obliged to negotiate with him for a cause that was of great concern to people back home: cheaper gasoline and secure oil supplies.

As Mr. Carter and other presidents learned, Mr. Biden has precious few tools to bring down costs the pump, especially when Russia, one of the world's largest energy producers, has started an unprovoked war against a smaller neighbor. In Mr. Carter's time, oil supplies that Western countries needed were threatened by revolutions in the Middle East.

During the 2020 campaign, Mr. Biden pledged to turn Saudi Arabia into a "pariah" for the assassination of a prominent Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. But officials said last week that he planned to visit the kingdom this summer. It was just the latest sign that all has again regained its centrality in geopolitics.

Just a few years ago, many lawmakers in Washington and oil and gas executives in Texas were patting themselves on the back for an energy boom that had turned the

## What's News

Business & Finance

A run of mixed economic data is dragging on the dollar, stalling a rally that has rippled through the economy and financial markets.

• Shoppers have shifted their spending from items in demand at the height of the pandemic, cutting some retailers off guard and leaving them with excess goods.

• Starbucks is considering self-control measures for its non-ethiopian coffee, as its CEO, Laxman Narasimhan, said the firm needs to add new talent and skills to its workforce.

• Carl Kula is developing a group of nations focused on the treatment of prisoners of war, as a way to get stalled talks on power projects on track.

• "Top Gun: Maverick," the sequel to the 1986 classic, is set to become the highest-grossing film in the U.S. and Canada over the weekend, following "Avatar: The Way of Water."

Explosions hit Kyiv early Sunday. Russia's Defense Ministry said it targeted equipment supplied by Eastern European nations.

Key Donbas city sees close urban combat while Russian missiles hit Kyiv, other sites.

Ukraine-Ukrainian forces network parts of the city of Sevastopol in a counterattack, as they try to hold off the Russian offensive in the east while Kyiv waits for new long-range rocket systems from the U.S.

## World-Wide

• Ukrainian forces retake parts of the city of Sevastopol in a counterattack, as they try to hold off the Russian offensive in the east while Kyiv waits for new long-range rocket systems from the U.S.

• The latest Covid-19 wave in the U.S. has shifted westward, hitting places like the San Francisco area, as health-care systems in recent Northeast hot spots.

• North Korea fired eight intercontinental ballistic missiles on Sunday, South Korea's military said, a day after a special U.S. aircraft departed from Seoul.

• Shootings in Philadelphia and Chattanooga, Tenn., left several people dead and about 100 others injured over the weekend, adding to the growing tally of U.S. gun violence.

• Gunmen killed dozens of worshippers including children in a shooting at a church in Nigeria, in a religious violence in Africa's most populous nation.

• An unprecedented push of economic resources flowing into the federal government, driven in part by tax breaks and business owners, surprising the nation's fiscal policy experts.

• Baby formulas will remain hard to find, especially when Russia, one of the world's largest energy producers, has started an unprovoked war against a smaller neighbor. In Mr. Carter's time, oil supplies that Western countries needed were threatened by revolutions in the Middle East.

San Francisco's top prosecutor is among those facing electoral challenges.

By ZIONA KATZ and Amy Jacobs-Ginsburg

SAN FRANCISCO — District Attorney George G. DeLeonis declared his 2020 election victory a call by voters for radical change. He promised to do more than look up criminals and prosecute them. He has called the prosecutive prosecutor movement, Los Angeles County, New York County, which encompasses Manhattan, Chicago, Cook County, and Philadelphia — all cities where homicide rates are up during the pandemic and lockdowns, homicides in the U.S. jumped nearly 20% in 2020 from 2019, the largest increase in murder and other crimes.

Backward Running Gains Ground

It can help with conditioning, but ok, the potatoes!

By Alex Miron

When Sarahi Malini passes other runners in a half-marathon, the authorial look on her face gives him a little pang of satisfaction.

Mr. Malini has a clear view of the nation, a place in the world, and other crimes.

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## Ukraine Strikes Back in East As It Awaits Stronger Rockets

Key Donbas city sees close urban combat while Russian missiles hit Kyiv, other sites.

Ukraine-Ukrainian forces network parts of the city of Sevastopol in a counterattack, as they try to hold off the Russian offensive in the east while Kyiv waits for new long-range rocket systems from the U.S.

## Rising Crime Tests 'Progressive' District Attorneys

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## Cloudy Economic Outlook Weighs On Dollar

Signs of possible weakness ahead reverse a recent trend favoring the currency.

By JILL AARON VALLERIE

A run of mixed economic data is dragging on the dollar, stalling a rally that has rippled through the economy and financial markets.

The WSJ Dollar Index, which measures the dollar against a basket of 10 currencies, is around 2% off its May peak and is at its lowest since October 2021. That decline bodes a steady march that brought the dollar to multi-decade highs. The index rose 0.6% last week, breaking a two-week losing streak.

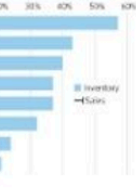
Behind the slip has been a solid slide in the economic landscape. According to recent economic reports, U.S. consumers are still spending money at a rapid pace, while employers keep adding jobs, including the trends that have helped lift the dollar over the past 12 months or so.

We have been able to sign of weakness elsewhere. Wage growth has moderated from last year, and consumers have been able to sustain their spending only by dipping into savings. The U.S. service sector, which includes restaurant, has been a major driver of growth.

Ukraine struggles to export grain from its ports.

## Surplus Inventory Piles Up In Stores as Spending Shifts

First quarter 2022 inventory and sales, change from previous year



Inventory in late May that the shift was dramatic and happened faster than the economy had anticipated.

May's net sales jumped 5.6% in the spring quarter, compared with a year before. But the May's said markdowns to clear the excess inventory would weigh on profit margins, leaving the door open for higher promotional levels.

## China and U.S. Jockey For Influence in Pacific

By MARK GARDNER

SUVA, Fiji — The latest struggle between China and the U.S. for influence in the Pacific ended with a setback for Beijing when its top diplomat would not accept a regional summit to discuss security and trade ties with more than half a dozen Pacific countries, including the U.S. and Japan.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, the first to visit in nearly six years, called the summit a "historic moment" for the Pacific region.

Mr. Blinken's visit is a sign of the U.S. commitment to the Pacific region, which has been a key focus of the Biden administration's foreign policy.

China, on the other hand, has been seeking to expand its influence in the Pacific region, particularly in the South Pacific.

The U.S. and China are both vying for influence in the Pacific region, which is a key area of strategic interest for both nations.