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The Kharkiv region in Ukraine on Saturday after the Russian military retreated. The occupiers continued to fall back on Sunday.

STUNNED MOSCOW ADMITS TO LOSING MOST OF KHARKIV

Retreat Dents Image of a Mighty Putin An Emboldened Kyiv Wants More Arms

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI Ukraine's rout of Russian forces this weekend is creating a new kind of political challenge for President Vladimir V. Putin: It undercuts the image of competence and might that he has worked for two decades to build. On Sunday, the Russian military continued to retreat from positions in northeastern Ukraine that it had occupied for months. State television news reports referred to the retreat as a carefully planned "reorganizing operation" praising the heroism and professionalism of Russian troops. But the upheaval in the east did little to dampen the anger among supporters of the war over the retreat and the Kremlin's handling of it. And it hardly obscured the bid that Mr. Putin now finds himself, pressing over a six-month war against an increasingly energized enemy and a Russian populace that does not appear to be prepared for the sacrifices that could come with an escalating conflict.

Election offices are in crisis across U.S.

Coordinated flood of requests by Trump backers strains system

By AMY GARDNER AND PATRICK MARLEY

Supporters of former president Donald Trump have swamped local election offices across the nation in recent weeks with a coordinated campaign of requests for 2020 voting records, in some cases paralyzing preparations for the fall election season. In nearly two dozen states and scores of counties, election officials are fielding what many describe as an unprecedented wave of public records requests in the final weeks of summer, one they say may be intended to hinder their work and weaken an already strained system. The avalanche of sometimes identically worded requests has forced some to dedicate days to the process of responding even as they scurry to finalize polling locations, mail out absentee ballots and prepare for early



A man steps outside the damaged gate of his home after Russian troops fled the village of Zaluzhne.

Liberated villagers tell of troops fleeing

'THEY JUST DROPPED RIFLES ON THE GROUND'

By STEVE HENDRIX, SERIY KOROLICHUK AND ROBYN DIXON

ZALUZHNE, UKRAINE — In the end, the Russians fled any way they could on Friday, on stolen bicycles, disguised as locals. Hours after Ukrainian soldiers poured into the area, hundreds of Russian soldiers camped in this village were gone, many after their units abandoned them, leaving behind stunned residents to face the ruins of 28 weeks of occupation. "They just dropped rifles on the ground," Olena Matvienko said Sunday as she stood, still disoriented, in a village littered with ammo crates and torched vehicles, including a Russian tank loaded on a flatbed. The first investigators from Kharkiv had just pulled in to collect the bodies of civilians shot by Russians, some that have been lying exposed for months. "I can't believe that we went

Poorer Nations Get Little Help On Monkeypox

By STEPHANIE NOLEN

For the past month, a couple of patients a day have sat across from Dr. Alberto Mendoza at the H.I.V. clinic where he works in Lima, Peru, to hear him confirm what they had feared: They have monkeypox. The men are tormented by the painful lesions the virus causes. They're also afraid, because the visible sores mark them as men who have sex with men, a dangerous identity in Peru, where there is intense discrimination against homosexuality. But Dr. Mendoza, an infectious disease specialist, has little to offer: "I have no options," he said in an interview. Neither the antiviral drug nor the vaccine being used against monkeypox in the United States and Europe is available in Peru. "We have nothing, even though we see the country with one of the highest numbers of cases by population," said Dr. Mendoza, who works with the medical charity Partners in Health. Neighboring Brazil, which, according to the World Health Organization, has seen 19 percent of global monkeypox cases, currently has no vaccine or treatment either. Nor do the countries in West and Central Africa that have struggled with monkeypox outbreaks for decades. The scramble for monkeypox vaccines and treatments has been centered in the United States and Europe, where supplies of shots have stretched thin or nearly run out. But more than 100 countries are now reporting monkeypox cases, and a vast majority of those have had no vaccine or treatments at all. They have been shut out by the prohibitive cost and by wealthy nations who hoard access to tests, treatments and vaccines, after it declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern on July 23. They say the issues echo those seen with Covid, but they hope that vaccine technology that was developed to try to right the balance during the co-

A Quiet, Dramatic Blow to Childhood Poverty

By JASON DEPARLE Broadened Safety Net Drives 59% Decline Over 30 Years

WASHINGTON — For a generation or more, America's high levels of child poverty set it apart from other rich nations, leaving millions of young people lacking support as basic as food and shelter. But with little public notice and accelerating speed, America's children have become much less poor. In 1993, nearly 28 percent of children were poor, meaning their households lacked the income the government deemed necessary to meet basic needs. By 2019, before temporary pandemic aid drove it

Teenager Rules Tennis

Carlos Alcaraz, 19, won the U.S. Open, gained the No. 1 ranking and ushered in a new era. Page D1.



Atlanta D.A. Takes On Crime and a President

By RICHARD FAUSSET Longtime Prosecutor Is Unruffled by Critics

ATLANTA — Fani T. Willis strode up to a podium in a red dress late last month in downtown Atlanta, flanked by an array of dark suits and stone-faced officers in uniform. Her voice rang out loud and clear, with a hint of swagger. "If you thought Fulton was a good county to bring your crime to, to bring your violence to, you are wrong," she said, facing a bank

even lower, child poverty had fallen to about 11 percent. More than eight million children remained in poverty, and despite shared progress, Black and Latino children are about three times as likely as white children to be poor. With the poverty line low (about \$29,000 for a family of four in a place with typical living costs), many families who escape poverty in the statistical sense still experience hardship. Still, the sharp retreat of child poverty represents major progress and has drawn surprisingly little notice, even among policy experts. It has coincided with profound changes to the safety net, which at once became more stringent and

Some in Former Colonies Ask: Why Do We Even Need a King? By DAMIEN CAVE HONOLULU, Solomon Islands — Millicent Barry has spent years trying to decolonize her country, recording oral histories across the Solomon Islands and promoting indigenous culture. Her goal is to prioritize local knowledge, not just what arrived with the British crown. But on Friday morning, when asked about the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Ms. Barry sighed and frowned. Her eyes seemed to hold a cold spring of complicated emotion as she recalled meeting the queen in 2018 with a Commonwealth youth leaders' program. "I love Her Majesty," she said, sipping coffee on the Solomon Island of Guadalcanal in the Pacific, 9,300 miles from Buckingham Palace. "It's really sad." Recalling a seemingly benevolent queen with the often-cited motto of the British Empire is the crownman at the heart of Britain's post-imperial legacy. The British royal family regained over more territories and people than any other monarchy in history, and among the countries that

Questions escalate on Fla. felons' vote arrests

Several claim that election officials, groups deemed them eligible

By TIM CRAIG AND LOBI ROSSA BELLE GLADE, FLA. — When Leo Grant Jr. cast his ballot in the 2020 election, it was the first time the 52-year-old had ever voted — an act that made him feel like he was setting a good example for his three sons and fulfilling his role as a citizen. But in August, three Florida officers showed up at his home near Lake Okechobee in Palm Beach County as he was about to go bass fishing with a friend. They had handguns tucked into holsters strapped to their jeans and carried shackles. Grant had committed a grave offense, they said: election fraud. He'd voted despite a sexual-offense conviction two decades earlier in 1999. They placed handcuffs around his wrists and drove him to jail. "I've been a good father and I follow the law," he thought. "I do

REMEMBERING SEPT. 11



First responders salute as an American flag is unfurled at the Pentagon on Sunday to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "I hope we'll remember them in the midst of these dark days, we dug deep," President Biden said.

A journey lined with tears and tributes

As queen's coffin reaches Scottish capital, the U.K. puts daily life on hold

By LOUISA LOVELL AND MERIAM BERGER

LONDON — The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II began a carefully choreographed 600-mile journey Sunday to its final resting place, moving from Balmoral Castle through the crowded streets of the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, where it will remain until it is flown to London ahead of the funeral Sept. 19. And while Britain was mostly consumed by mourning and ceremony, some people were missing their canceled soccer matches and regular television programming. In Edinburgh, throngs of people pressed up against metal police barricades along the route of the black Mercedes-Benz hearse to pay their respects to the queen. Stacks of floral tributes lined the gates of Balmoral Palace in London and other royal sites. But after the initial shock, scenes of national mourning — the queen's face appears on numerous signs in every town and the BBC's presenters are wearing black — coexist now with ordinary daily life as the royal family and its large apparatus seek to orchestrate a transition of power for a public very different from the one Elizabeth faced 70 years ago. "I think especially for the older generation, she's been such a constant in all of our lifetimes and it's large apparatus know the queen being there," said Chloe Young, 21, a master's degree student mourning on a

Unity then, division now

Somber ceremonies as legacy of war on terror lingers and nation faces threats to democracy

By TOBI RAJI

The nation on Sunday honored the nearly 3,000 lives lost 21 years ago during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, even as the country remains mired in the fallout of the decades-long war in Afghanistan and new concerns have arisen about the strength and resilience of democratic institutions in the United States. President Biden led a day of nationwide remembrance from Arlington against the backdrop of heavy wind and rain. He delivered forceful remarks after attending a