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Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022 • \$3

New rules by Russia limit travel in Ukraine

Moscow seeks to solidify its illegal annexations with border measures

BY LOUISA LOVELUCK, EMILY RAUHALA AND ROBYN DIXON

ZAPORIZHZHIA, UKRAINE — While raining missiles down on Ukrainian land it has failed to capture on the battlefield, Russia is seeking to solidify its illegal annexation of four regions by imposing new border controls and limiting travel outside of occupied territories.

The new measures demonstrate the Kremlin's intent to absorb the four regions despite global censure, including demands by leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized powers that Russia "completely and unconditionally withdraw" its troops.

Ukrainian civilians who fled Russian-held territory in recent days said in interviews on Wednesday that they were required to provide extensive documentation to leave, including birth certificates, expected return dates and even the serial numbers of their cellphones.

In Zaporizhzhia, a region that Russia now claims as its own but only partially controls, the new measures have slowed the exodus to a trickle in recent days. People hoping to reach Ukrainian-controlled areas are being held in detention.

Brushed aside: Baltic nations have long sounded alarm on Russia. **A13**

Amid scandal, Montgomery planning board resigns

BY DANIEL WU AND KATHERINE SHAVER

All five members of the Montgomery County Planning Board resigned Wednesday at the insistence of the county council after weeks of escalating misconduct accusations, media leaks and worsening staff morale.

The council, which appoints the board, voted unanimously in a closed session Tuesday to ask the entire board to resign, according to two people familiar with the vote, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Those who didn't resign would have faced a public hearing seeking their removal, the people said.

The upheaval at the planning agency shocked even longtime political observers in a county accustomed to intense development spats. It follows a trail of scandals and leaks that has dogged one of Montgomery's most influential institutions since mid-September.

They included an internal investigation that found the board **SEE RESIGN ON A4**



Sheep in front of a Gassco gas processing plant in Stavanger, Norway, on Sept. 28. The major Norwegian pipeline operator delivers gas to Europe, which has grown increasingly dependent on Norway for its oil and gas supply amid the war in Ukraine.

With natural gas scarce and pipelines in peril, Europe has rarely needed Norway more. Or resented it as much.

More than seven months into the war in Ukraine, the Scandinavian country is increasingly central to Europe's energy security. Norway, not Russia, is now the European Union's leading natural gas supplier. The explosions that damaged Russia's Nord Stream pipelines didn't lead to a supply crisis because the E.U. had cut its reliance on Russian gas and was celebrating a new pipeline from Norway to Poland the same week.

Countries are counting on Norwegian fuel to get them through the winter months — and to help fill their stocks for

Norway plays hero and villain in energy crisis

Now the E.U.'s leading natural gas supplier, the Scandinavian nation faces accusations of war profiteering over its gas and oil revenue

BY EMILY RAUHALA IN STAVANGER, NORWAY

years ahead. But even as Oslo ups exports to Europe, the do-gooding home of the Nobel Peace Prize faces pointed criticism from the continent, including charges that its windfall oil and gas revenue amounts to war profiteering.

There is no question that the fallout from the war is making Norway richer. The state is a major player in the oil and gas industry. All told, Oslo expects to bring in about \$109 billion from the petroleum sector this year — \$82 billion more than in 2021. Much of that will go to the country's sovereign wealth fund, a national nest egg worth more than \$1 trillion.

Critics call the energy income obscene. Poland's prime minister **SEE NORWAY ON A15**

ELECTION 2022

In blue Maryland, MAGA embrace puts GOP on the ropes

BY PETER JAMISON

FREDERICK, MD. — Perhaps it was the aroma of smoked turkey legs and warm cinnamon rolls, or the pleasant coolness that stole across the fairgrounds as the sun began to set behind the Magic Maze. Whatever the reason, Lisa Nieves was in a fine enough mood on a September evening to make a friendly overture to a man she considers her enemy.

"You want to come to the Republican side?" she called out cheerfully to Richard Kaplowitz, a 70-year-old Democratic activist, clad in blue, who strode by the Republican party's headquarters at the Great Frederick Fair.

"Only when I'm crazy," Kaplowitz replied without stopping. Nieves's face darkened.

The Republicans of Frederick County do not like it when people call them nuts. And it has not escaped their attention that people aren't hesitant these days to **SEE MARYLAND ON A6**



GOP volunteers April Montgomery, right, and Stephanie Dellamura last month at a fair in Frederick, Md., where they found few receptive ears. A poll has the GOP gubernatorial nominee down 32 points.

Worker: Trump had files moved

TELLS FBI OF ORDER AT MAR-A-LAGO

Security video is also part of key evidence

BY DEVLIN BARRETT AND JOSH DAWSEY

A Trump employee has told federal agents about moving boxes of documents at Mar-a-Lago at the specific direction of the former president, according to people familiar with the investigation, who say the witness account — combined with security-camera footage — offers key evidence of Donald Trump's behavior as investigators sought the return of classified material.

The witness description and footage described to The Washington Post offer the most direct account to date of Trump's actions and instructions leading up to the FBI's Aug. 8 search of the Florida residence and private club, in which agents were looking for evidence of potential crimes including obstruction, destruction of government records or mishandling classified information.

The people familiar with the investigation said agents have gathered witness accounts indicating that, after Trump advisers **SEE TRUMP ON A9**

Jan. 6 panel: Trump was repeatedly alerted to the brewing violence. **A3**

Sandy Hook families win \$965M from Alex Jones

BY JOANNA SLATER

A Connecticut jury ordered Infowars founder Alex Jones to pay \$965 million in damages to the families of eight victims of the Sandy Hook shooting for the suffering caused by years of lies that the massacre was a hoax.

Wednesday's verdict marks the largest award to date in a multi-pronged legal battle by the families to hold Jones responsible for circulating falsehoods about the 2012 mass shooting, in which 20 children and six educators were killed in an elementary school in Newtown, Conn.

Within hours of the shooting, Jones was telling his audience that it was staged as a pretext for confiscating guns. Within days, he began to suggest that grieving parents were actors. In the years that followed, he repeatedly said the massacre was faked.

The families testified during the trial that the lies spread by Jones led to harassment and threats by conspiracy theorists who have accused them of faking their own children's deaths. They **SEE VERDICT ON A4**

IN THE NEWS



CHAIKEN THREINUP FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Fleeing Myanmar A tea shop just inside Thailand has become a haven for exiles who have left since the coup in their country. **A10**

Shots available The FDA approved updated coronavirus boosters for kids as young as 5 to provide better protection against variants. **A3**

THE NATION Andy Warhol's transformation of a photo of the musical artist Prince is at the center of a Supreme Court case. **A2**

A Los Angeles City Council member at the center of a scandal over secretly recorded racist comments resigned. **A4**

A federal judge dismissed a Justice Department lawsuit to compel casino mogul and GOP megadonor Steve Wynn to register as an agent of China, a setback to efforts to police foreign influence. **A6**

President Biden design-

ated Camp Hale, a former Army site in Colorado that's now a critical wildlife habitat, as a national monument. **A8**

THE WORLD Iranians in Tehran spoke to The Post about the ongoing anti-government protests and how they are transforming a country long ruled by fear. **A11**

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's looming third term raises the threat of potential war over Taiwan. **A12**

U.S. and Mexican officials agreed on a plan for Venezuelan

migrants that will include more opportunities for legal entry through consulates abroad. **A12**

THE ECONOMY Customers are unhappy as chain restaurants begin making it harder for them to get rewards under their loyalty programs. **A16**

Adidas is rethinking its deal with Kanye West and his multibillion-dollar Yeezy brand after the celebrity's recent controversies. **A17**

New grants awarded under the infrastructure law pave the way for what federal officials hope will be a multiyear bridge construction

boom. **A18**

A judge is considering a lawsuit from six GOP-led states challenging the president's student loan relief program. **A18**

THE REGION In a fiery first debate, candidates for Virginia's 2nd Congressional District sparred on energy policy, abortion and the 2020 election. **B1**

A deputy D.C. mayor, Chris Geldart, resigned in the wake of an assault allegation. **B1**

A majority of Maryland voters in a Post-UMD poll said it is inappropriate for teachers through fifth grade to discuss the acceptance of LGBTQ people. **B1**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Reclaim your countertops Professional organizers share cheap and easy tips for cutting bathroom and kitchen clutter.

STYLE MacArthur names 'genius' fellows Among this year's grant recipients are a pair of mathematicians and a "Chicanos artist." **C1**

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LIVE Q&A

Amalia Graziani on achieving the modern farmhouse look

Amalia Graziani, a real estate developer and principal at Noor Property Group in New York, joined staff writer Jura Koncius last week for our online Q&A. Here is an edited excerpt.

Q: Are there any foundational pieces that can help center a living space in this style, even if all the details aren't necessarily there?

A: If you have the opportunity to make structural changes, I'd recommend removing any Colonial or Victorian moldings and opting for square-cut (think Shaker-style) moldings and doors. I love introducing decorative beams. (Hand-hewn is ideal, but aged oak or stained pine are more accessible alternatives.) A large, central table (ideally oversize) definitely helps. Bring in rougher materials, such as antique or reclaimed wood, and decor that feels heavy and rustic. For example: large antique vases, rustic wood platters and tabletop items. The key is introducing pieces that have a lot of volume and weight.

Q: Some elements of modern farmhouse design can feel forced. How do you bring the best parts of this style in a way that feels natural?

A: The goal is to create something that takes the best elements of this style without feeling put-on. For walls, aim for warmth and texture. (Wood paneling or low-shine Venetian plaster are my favorites.) For furniture, I recommend relaxed fabrics in a consistent palette. I love working with leather and linen. For accent pieces, such as tables and lighting, I opt for modern shapes and materials that have a more urban feel, so the room doesn't feel like it's adhering to a theme.

Q: Which floors work best for this style?

A: Quarter-sawn hardwood floors in white oak are the gold standard on my projects. I use three coats of flat polyurethane to seal the floors. This keeps the wood looking very natural, and it ensures that it doesn't feel too red or bleached.

Q: It seems as if every remodel in my neighborhood is going all white with black windows and a big farmer's porch. How did these black steel windows become so popular, and what do they add to the exterior of a home?

A: I think this trend started to



NATALIE CHITWOOD

The key to making the modern farmhouse style look fresh is mixing contemporary and rustic elements, above, says real estate developer Amalia Graziani, right, as seen in this project in Amagansett, N.Y. For walls, Graziani recommends aiming for warmth and texture, such as by using wood paneling.

gain traction in its earliest iteration in the '90s, when "shabby chic" was everywhere. HGTV renovations through the early aughts carried some of this through, then large-scale home developers really doubled down on some of these elements. I think the iron window/white

house combination can feel a bit formulaic, so I focus on elements you can introduce that feel a bit different while still maintaining this aesthetic.

Q: What tips do you have for making a den feel cozy and warm?

A: I love building oversize rooms that feel warm and layered. I try to include one in each of my projects, even if that means transforming a secondary structure on a property or converting a garage into a family room. For a more airy and modern feel,

unfinished white oak with a floor in a similar color is warm and serene. If you'd like something cozier and a bit more masculine, panel with unfinished cedar. It pairs nicely with a matte slate stone and a dark rug.

Q: Are modern farmhouses going out of style?

A: There are elements of this aesthetic that I think are timeless, such as using natural materials, favoring symmetry and strong millwork (beams, moldings, trim, etc.), and working with a restrained color palette. Other elements, such as interior sliding barn-style doors or a decorative milking stool, may not withstand the test of time. It's the items that don't feel authentic to a space, such as an antique wagon in an apartment, that can make this look jarring. The decision should be about what makes your eye happy.

Q: When you are approaching these projects, how many of the key parts of the original structure do you preserve?

A: I focus on maintaining original structural elements, which can include breaking open ceilings to expose the original roofline or uncovering and repairing structural beams. For inspiration, I love touring old structures while traveling and blending the elements I love there with more modern influences.

SEE Q&A ON 16

Amalia Graziani on embracing the modern farmhouse style

Q&A FROM 15

Q: When remodeling a house, what drives your design, vision and aesthetic?

A: Creating a home or environment always means considering how the space would be enjoyed by and shared with others. Although I do follow my own aesthetic and shy away from pieces that feel trendy, I always ask myself how others would engage with a space and whether a room feels functional and welcoming.

Q: How do you like to incorporate lighting into a space?

A: I'm a big fan of discreet accent lighting over anything overhead. A mix of sconces and floor lighting will make a space feel warmer. If you're working with a room that has exposed beams, subtle recessed lights on dimmers are a good option.

Q: We have a real farmhouse (built in 1904), but we're remodeling elements of it. Do you have interior paint recommendations that are more interesting than our current light gray? Do modern farmhouses call for a specific style of frame for wall art and photos?

A: I love when structures from this era are painted in warmer neutrals. Farrow & Ball's Shadow White, Strong White and Shaded White are really warm and rich. For art, I like sleek frames (black or nickel, depending on the context). When bringing in metals, consider the hardware you're using elsewhere in the room.

Q: Which building materials are best to use for this style?

A: Reclaimed woods are ideal, but new oak and cedar are great alternatives. For stone, I work with bluestone or slate. I like heavily textured rugs, such as sisal, and fabrics that feel relaxed and comfortable.

Q: Where does your design process begin when you take on a project with land and a structure that needs a major remodel? Do you do the house first, then land, or vice versa?

A: They're both incredibly important; a lot can be done with a renovation, and I don't shy away from taking on dilapidated, overlooked structures. Land and the way a house is situated on a lot can't be changed, so this piece is a crucial consideration. The way you approach a house from the street and the different factors



PHOTOS BY ALICE GAO



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: This bedroom in Amagansett, N.Y., uses a neutral and restrained palette, highlighting the textures and materials, Graziani says; white oak lends itself to a more modern feeling, whereas cedar can warm a space up; the use of reclaimed wood and hand-hewn beams can add texture to an otherwise sleek space, Graziani says.



affecting your light exposure can inform the entire feeling of your home.

Q: Why is a den so important?
A: It grounds your living space and creates a cozy setting where you can connect with the people in your home. I think it's particularly important now, because it's so common for people to be siloed in their respective work-from-home areas.

Q: If you have black windows outside, should you also get black interior windows?

A: Not necessarily. Your contractor can do this, or you can order pre-finished windows with different colors on each side. I'm doing the reverse on an 1865 farmhouse right now. We gave white on the exterior with natural wood mullions on the interior. Choose what works with the other features of your room.

Q: Where can I find farmhouse lighting that looks contemporary?

A: I love modern lighting in a more rustic space. Check RBW (rbw.com) for lighting that feels modern alongside wood items. For pieces that lean more toward a traditional farmhouse style, Circa Lighting (circalighting.com) has some great options.

Q: What tips do you have for buying old furniture secondhand? How can I evaluate a piece's quality and condition if I can't see it in a store?

A: I like to see things in person for this reason. If you can't, then hop on a video call with the dealer. Most people selling on popular listing sites such as Chairish (chairish.com) will do this.

Q: I've been updating a 20-year-old kitchen and removed some upper cabinets. I created space for one or two long shelves, but I can't decide whether floating, live-edge wood shelves will look ridiculous in a few years. Will the floating shelf trend float away soon?

A: I prefer floating shelves to blend in with the room. Shelving that either pulls from the walls or the existing stone will keep things more streamlined.

● Also at washingtonpost.com

Read the rest of this transcript and submit questions to the next chat, Thursday at 11 a.m., at live.washingtonpost.com.