

In Webisode 57DHYAFZZFLHX **1** Hungary Peter Magyar challenges Orban in Hungary on April 12 2026 Peter Magyar leader of the opposition TISZA party arrives at his election campaign tour in Balassagyarmat Hungary **2** United States **3** Alaska **4** California **5** New York **6** Tennessee **7** Virginia **8** United Kingdom **9** France **10** Ukraine **11** Russia **12** Iran **Headlines**

#### Main Content

**1** Hungary Peter Magyar challenges Orban in Hungary on April 12 2026 Peter Magyar leader of the opposition TISZA party arrives at his election campaign tour in Balassagyarmat Hungary **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** Reuters February 25 2026 Reuters in Budapest March 25 2026 The Hungarian center right opposition **Tisza** party has widened its lead over the Prime Minister **Viktor Orban Fidesz** in March a poll showed on Wednesday ahead of an April 12 election where the veteran nationalist is seeking election again Orban seeking to retain his **16 year grip on power** is facing a strong challenger for the first time in a parliamentary vote with the outcome having major implications not only for Hungary but for Europe and its far right political forces The poll published by new site h v g dot hu showed Tisza gaining ground while the Fidesz support was stagnating despite numerous voter pleasing measures announced by the government after three years of economic stagnation **Tisza which was only launched in 2024** has widened its lead over Fidesz to **23** percentage points among decided voters up from a **20** point lead in a February survey pollster Median said Led by former government insider Peter Magyar Tisza had the support of **58** percent of decided voters up from **55** percent a month ago **Fidesz was supported by 35 percent unchanged from February** When looking at the entire population Tisza was supported by **46** percent while Fidesz was backed by **30** percent according to the survey conducted between March 17 and 20 Median expects high turnout at the election as **89** percent of respondents said that they would cast a vote At the last election in 2022 turnout was **70** percent It is possible that we will see a record high turnout Endre Hann head of Median said in a podcast by h v g dot hu The far right Our Homeland Mi Hazánk party was supported by **4** percent of decided voters down from **6** percent in February Parties must win at least **5** percent to get seats Pollster Median has one of the strongest track records of **accurate** forecasts in Hungary It **correctly predicted the Orban landslide victory in the last election four years ago** though it slightly overstated opposition support

**2A** United States RFK Junior Takeaways From an Inside Look at the Centers for Disease Control the CDC Many current and former employees say the actions of Health Secretary RFK Junior are undermining the agency role in safeguarding public health **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 23 2026 When Trump announced that he was choosing RFK Junior to lead the Department of Health and Human Services he promised to let RFK Junior who had amassed a large following while spreading falsehoods about vaccines go wild on health Since his confirmation in February 2025 RFK Junior has tried to do exactly that He has taken particular aim at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calling it the most corrupt agency at HHS and maybe the government At least twenty four hundred people or eighteen percent of the CDC staff have been fired or have resigned since January 2025 The critics of RFK Junior say that his goal is to dismantle the United States vaccination programs in which the CDC plays a key part Communications were hijacked An early directive was that all public communications by agency staff had to be reviewed before it was released You had a whole new layer of people with no public health experience no government experience and no scientific knowledge and they did not know what to do And so everybody was told Do not engage You cannot even get on the phone The CDC public communications would be taken over by political appointees We had a very stringent scientific process for vetting information that would get published on the CDC website Everything was checked and double checked And for political appointees to take over the means of

communication is devastating and also dangerous. Now some things are correct and some are not which means that you cannot trust any of it. Amid a measles outbreak RFK Junior promoted unproven remedies instead of vaccines. After a child in Texas died of the measles the health secretary downplayed the outbreak as not unusual in cabinet meetings and television appearances even though it was the largest since the disease was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000. Even as the outbreak grew RFK Junior was still just praising the doctors who were giving snake oil treatments like budesonide a corticosteroid and clarithromycin an antibiotic to kids with measles and saying how they saved hundreds of lives which was absolute garbage. We were asked to add those treatments to the measles guidelines. We managed to mitigate that by including the words on the guidelines but saying that none of these were proven. Giving people the wrong medicines delayed lots of care for lots of kids. RFK Junior replaced the CDC vaccine experts with people who share his views. In June RFK Junior fired all 17 voting members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices who set the CDC vaccine recommendations. He replaced them with people who had far less expertise but shared his views on vaccination. The new committee went on to change several longstanding vaccine recommendations for flu hepatitis B and MMRV measles mumps rubella and varicella. I did not want to be part of any machine that they were going to use to spread false information about vaccines or to take vaccines away. This month a federal judge temporarily halted the RFK Junior reconstitution of ACIP and the changes he made to the childhood vaccine schedule saying that he had violated the Administrative Procedure Act and calling the changes by the health secretary to vaccine recommendations arbitrary and capricious. The agency has been left without a permanent director for most of the past year. CDC employees told me that the agency has been largely leaderless since Trump took office.

**2B** United States RFK Junior Trump to Delay Nominating New CDC Director The administration has yet to find a candidate who aligns with Health Secretary RFK Junior agenda while avoiding his unpopular stance on vaccines. Under federal law the White House has until midnight on Wednesday to nominate a replacement for former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Susan Monarez. **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 25 2026 The White House plans to delay naming a candidate to head the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention an agency that has been roiled by a string of high level departures and has had three different leaders since Trump returned to the White House according to people familiar with the situation. Under federal law the White House has until midnight on Wednesday 210 days since the exit of the previous director to nominate a new candidate. But the administration faces a formidable challenge in finding a nominee who aligns with Health Secretary the RFK Junior Make America Healthy Again agenda while avoiding his unpopular stance on vaccines. The White House has yet to find someone who fits with the Trump mission and can also win Senate confirmation according to a person familiar with the situation. The administration has a short list of several candidates some of whom are staunch vaccine advocates. The Health Department said on Wednesday that Doctor Jay Bhattacharya who directs the National Institutes of Health and has been running the CDC in an acting capacity will continue to oversee the CDC by performing the delegable duties of the CDC director until the agency has a permanent director. Doctor Bhattacharya said he intended to name new leaders for the CDC institutes to replace those who had been fired or had resigned over the previous year. Hundreds of employees have been laid off programs have been shuttered and a gunman who was fixated on the coronavirus vaccine fired a barrage of bullets at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta last summer killing a policeman. The CDC is also facing lawsuits. Last week a federal judge put the CDC revised and shorter childhood vaccine schedule on hold. In the case which was brought by six medical organizations the judge ruled that RFK Junior and his advisers had made arbitrary and capricious changes to the schedule that were not backed up by scientific evidence. The administration has indicated it will appeal the decision. The CDC director must be confirmed by the Senate a requirement that lawmakers added in 2022. Last March the White House withdrew its first pick to lead the agency Doctor Dave Weldon a Republican and former congressman when it became clear that his views against vaccines would not

pass muster with the Senate The nomination of Doctor Casey Means the White House pick for surgeon general has also stalled as two Republicans Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine have expressed qualms about her statements on vaccines

**3** Alaska A Critical Political Season Could Decide if Alaska Is a Failed Petrostate A governor who spent two terms cutting services to preserve the oil funded annual checks to Alaskans is leaving office Voters must now decide what comes next for the Alaska faltering fiscal model **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 25 2026 Juneau Alaska takes pride in providing services that some larger cities would shy away from child care and housing assistance arts grants three libraries two public pools an arboretum a ski area and a pledge that all 250 miles of borough roads will be plowed if possible within 48 hours after a snowstorm ends But the system that has made that possible a steady flow of **revenue from oil production** is **cracking like Arctic ice in spring** not just in Juneau the capital of Alaska but across the state Even with the war in Iran sending oil prices sky high the **oil dependent model** that has financed generous public services while giving Alaskans annual checks from a Permanent Fund **can no longer keep both promises** And a political year that will include a wide open race for governor and one of the most watched Senate contests in the country could help decide the future of what has become known in some circles as **a petrostate for its public reliance on oil production on the brink** The petrostate has not quite failed yet said Joseph Geldhof a Juneau lawyer but it will if something does not change Anything that increases global oil prices is good for the finances of Alaska and state economists expect that **the Iran war will mean a revenue bump of at least five hundred million dollars this fiscal year** as well as a similar windfall next year if the fighting continues But that money is essentially already accounted for to fill existing budget gaps and short term war gains will not solve either **the immediate problem for Alaska residents rising gas prices hit them hard** too or the **long term supply and demand fundamentals such as the spread of electric vehicles in Europe and China** the freeing up of supply from Venezuela and the **long term decline in production along the North Slope** of Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy a Republican who has spent nearly eight years cutting state government services to protect the Permanent Fund dividend of Alaska is **leaving office** this year with one of the **lowest approval ratings** of any governor according to recent polls The crowded race to succeed him coincides with the Senator Dan Sullivan bid for election again against **a formidable Democratic challenger former Representative Mary Peltola** A man who runs the local power company was pessimistic that the state had learned any lessons from the boom and bust cycles of an oil dependent economy

**4** California San Francisco Killed 8th Grade Algebra Now It is Set to Come Back The San Francisco school board approved a plan to restore algebra as an option at all middle schools more than a decade after it was removed over equity concerns Photo of the hands of a child holding a pencil over an algebra worksheet The decision to stop offering algebra in middle school frustrated some families in the San Francisco Unified School District **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 25 2026 The San Francisco school board narrowly approved a plan on Tuesday evening to bring back eighth grade algebra across all the public schools of the district **12 years after the system stopped offering it** The course was removed from middle schools under the rationale that many students especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds would **benefit from having more time to master foundational math before tackling algebra in high school** But the plan did not work The number of students enrolled in advanced high school math declined and wide racial gaps remained Meanwhile many parents enrolled their **children in summer and after school math courses to keep them accelerated often paying out of pocket** For years San Francisco tried to achieve equity not by raising the floor but by **lowering the ceiling** said a Stanford University economist who studied the policy with colleagues It is a problem we see nationally he added The 4 3 vote followed a lengthy board debate about how to reflect the desire of a community for more choices while ensuring that students succeed in the math courses they enroll in For decades middle school algebra has been an important step on the way to being accepted into a selective college

Taking Algebra I in eighth grade allows students to proceed to geometry in ninth grade Algebra II in 10th precalculus in 11th and finally calculus during the senior year of high school a crucial marker of rigor for college admissions offices **In San Francisco the loss of eighth grade algebra prompted a lawsuit and a 2024 ballot initiative in which voters overwhelmingly demanded that algebra return to middle schools** Anger over math also contributed to a roiling political movement in the Bay Area and beyond Some voters were deeply disappointed with actions of left leaning school districts during the Covid 19 pandemic long school closures and they argued equity policies that sacrificed academic rigor We are the center of technological innovation in the United States and we cannot teach our kids math? said a founder of Grow SF an advocacy group that supports accelerated learning It upended existing political alliances and got tens of thousands of people paying attention The new class of elected officials in the city of San Francisco including school board members and Mayor Daniel Lurie tend to strongly support eighth grade algebra Reinstating the class could help the San Francisco district reverse enrollment declines that reduce funding said the school board president Families want to see a public school system that offers rigorous coursework he said This is absolutely an instructional strategy But it is also a retention tool to bring families to our district and demonstrate we will not only take care of your children but we will teach them too The district superintendent will present a plan to the school board that would make algebra an eighth grade elective in 19 schools intended to be taken concurrently with regular eighth grade math Any eighth grader would be able to enroll in algebra but high achieving students would be automatically placed in the course with the ability to opt out a policy meant to increase access for underrepresented demographic groups For families who do not want their children to lose an elective period there will be an option to enroll in algebra as the only eighth grade math course but only if the student meets eligibility requirements Another two schools will participate in a pilot program in which all middle school students will take an accelerated math sequence covering Math 6 7 8 and Algebra I over a three year period Students in the study who skipped Math 8 and enrolled in algebra were more likely to have to repeat algebra in ninth grade but that effect was diminished for students with a higher base line level of achievement The results suggest the opportunity for a quick win in education at a relatively low cost he added **Simply making rich academic content more broadly available is an appealing strategy** He noted that **at least nine states are moving toward automatically enrolling high achieving students in advanced course work including Texas North Carolina and Washington**

**5** New York also Virginia and Kentucky **It Begins as a Tick Bite and Can Be Devastating** And It is Spreading The incidence of **alpha gal syndrome** appears to be growing significantly Patients who are bitten can develop a severe allergy to red meat and a few have died Most cases of alpha gal syndrome are believed to start with a bite from the lone star tick **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 25 2026 A decade ago a man named Scott knew of only one person stricken with a tick borne ailment called alpha gal syndrome the husband of the cousin of his wife The list has since grown in his corner of **Long Island** His sister who was bitten this past summer has it So does the best friend of his sister Then there is the mother of a boy on the baseball team of his son The phlebotomist at the Lab company office where he gets blood drawn has it And yes Scott has alpha gal too Once regarded as a rarity the disease which involves an allergy to red meat that develops after a tick bite has emerged as a significant health menace with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that as many as 4 hundred fifty thousand people nationwide may have had it in the past 15 years An alpha gal expert at the University of Virginia School of Medicine who has explored the **potential link to heart disease** If somebody makes alpha gal antibodies even if they have never had a bad reaction should we be talking about **dietary modification**? he asks Virginia is one of more than a dozen states that track positive alpha gal blood tests Between the start of tracking in September and early March eight thousand four hundred eighty two Virginians had positive alpha gal tests according to the Virginia Department of Health That averages to about 50 a day Kentucky with about half the population of Virginia has logged about thirty suspected cases a day Since May the health authorities have learned of eight thousand eight hundred sixty four Kentucky residents

who tested positive In New York the state health authorities do not track cases But the New York City Health Department does although the lone star tick has only a minor presence in the city The Health Department knows of two hundred eighty suspected cases since 2024 It is a different story on Long Island In Suffolk County between three thousand eight hundred and eighteen thousand people had alpha gal from 2010 to 2022 based on CDC estimates That corresponds to as much as 1 point 2 percent of the population In some pockets that is probably an undercount On one L shaped block in suburban Farmingville full of swimming pools and encroaching deer three neighbors said they have alpha gal syndrome all diagnosed within the last two years

6 Tennessee Nashville The Single Family Home Gets Caught in a Political Vise Within the Senate housing bill lie the terms of an unusual debate Who gets to own and live in single family homes? Photo of a rental home community being built in Simpsonville Tennessee One reporter attended the build to rent trade show in Nashville at the same time that a second reporter was tracking the housing legislation moving through Congress Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times March 25 2026 The landmark housing package that passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support this month is loaded with measures to make it easier to build housing faster and cheaper a critical step toward dragging the country out of a punishing housing crisis But there is one type of dwelling that the bill could create fewer of which is single family houses built as rentals One of the provisions among the 40 bills that make up the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act would curb the role that institutional buyers play in the housing market and that includes the build for rent industry The bill would set new restrictions on investors who own three hundred fifty or more single family rental homes requiring them to sell newly built units to individual owners after seven years or face stiff fines Now with the legislation back in the House awaiting a vote critics are urging lawmakers to drop that build to rent restriction arguing it would counter the intent of the bill making it harder not easier to build homes when the country desperately needs them That the bill treats one housing type as a special case shows how tethered lawmakers are to an ideal in which single family houses are owned by the people who live inside them an American Dream requiring protection in federal law The view against a lobbyist advocating for rental ownership of single family homes is that the occupant will accrue equity while paying down a mortgage the large investor profits excessively and the protections for tenants against challenges like excessive fees property neglect and eviction extend only as far as local rental laws permit A rental lobbyist was a speaker at the IMN Build to Rent conference held last week at the Grand Hyatt in Nashville It is normally consumed by wonky subjects like interest rates or property management software This year however seemingly every panel featured a discussion on the bill and calls for the audience to write to their congressional representatives The provision mandating sales offers some outs for the industry Investors would have the option to extend a lease for up to three years beyond the seven year limit and would be obligated only to list the home on the market for 60 days But the mood at the conference was grim The build for rent provision was called catastrophic by rental lobbyists The next stop after Nashville for a number of the participants is Washington DC to lobby Congress

7 Virginia Democrats Spend Big but Face Tough Fight in Virginia Gerrymandering Battle Republicans are cautiously optimistic about a statewide referendum now at the center of the United States gerrymandering war but Democrats have a huge cash advantage Virginians for Fair Elections the main Democratic aligned effort to redraw congressional maps in Virginia has heavily out raised the main Republican aligned effort Virginians for Fair Maps Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times March 25 2026 The battle over congressional maps in Virginia the latest in the nationwide clash over redistricting in the middle of a decade in the lead up to the November 2026 midterm elections is intensifying with a statewide referendum only weeks away Tens of millions of dollars have poured into the state to fund campaigns for and against the referendum which takes place on April 21 and will decide whether Democrats can redraw the map of Virginia to flip as many as four US House seats currently held by

Republicans The vast majority of the money has flowed in on the Democratic side With early voting already underway the evidence so far points to surprisingly healthy turnout and a relatively close outcome **potentially much closer** than the California vote for redistricting was in November The stakes are significant If Virginians approve an amendment that would allow redistricting Democrats could fight their way to a rough draw in the United States gerrymandering war The Virginia delegation in the US House is currently made up of six Democrats and five Republicans the map proposed by Democratic leaders would give Democrats an advantage in 10 of the 11 districts of Virginia Coupled with the new maps that voters in California approved in November the new Virginia seats would cancel out most if not all of the Republican redistricting gains made last year in states including North Carolina Ohio Missouri and Texas where President Trump and state Republicans kicked off the gerrymandering scramble in the middle of a decade Florida Republicans may still redraw their Florida map to give their party more seats which could lead to a slight Republican advantage heading into the midterms But the big wild card is that the US Supreme Court could vote to gut a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and if the ruling came in the spring it would almost certainly set off further rounds of redistricting before November Even so the referendum might not be the final word In January a circuit judge in rural Tazewell County ruling on **one of several lawsuits brought by Republican leaders issued an order blocking the referendum vote** The decision was appealed and the Supreme Court of Virginia ordered that the referendum should go forward But in making that ruling the court cautioned that it was not a final judgment expressing grave concern about the issues raised in the lawsuit regarding the procedural steps Democratic lawmakers had taken in their votes to put the amendment on the ballot

8 United Kingdom The Man Leading the Green Party Surge in Britain **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 25 2026 One big winner of a United Kingdom Political crackup is a left populist environmentalist party which has surged in polling and tripled in membership since a change in leadership last September In Britain that left populist party is the Greens under 43 year old Zack Polanski who has refocused the Green party message on affordability and economic inequality The Nigel Farage noxious Reform Party has upstarts cannibalizing the old Conservative Party and the Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana new Your Party is poised to draw support from the left of unpopular Labor As it happened Your Party has crashed and burned and the left flank of British politics now seems to belong to the Greens who in the last election won only four seats in the six hundred fifty seat Parliament Now they are neck and neck nationally with both Labor and the Tories depending on the poll In some surveys the Greens are now the most popular party in Britain among all voters under the age of 50 Already in February behind a charismatic plumber and plasterer named Hannah Spencer they stormed to victory in a highly competitive off cycle election in a Manchester constituency called Gorton and Denton which as recently as the 2024 general election was judged one of the Labor safest seats In the aftermath the polling of the Greens surged again This may all prove a bit illusory or only a Pyrrhic victory Another national parliamentary election will not be held for years and the Farage right wing Reform party still leads the polls largely thanks to its strength among the old Labor may well pivot and discard Keir Starmer as leader potentially reviving its fortunes along the way And if an election were held today analysis suggests the Greens might win only 56 seats or so a huge jump from their current position but not exactly a dominant share in a 650 seat legislature I think the climate crisis should be the Number One priority of everyone but you cannot tackle the climate crisis without tackling the affordability crisis and the inequality crisis It is the same polluters who are destroying our environment who are extracting wealth from our economy to line their own pockets **One obvious connection is dirty air or toxic air far too often it exists in places that are working class communities full of racial minorities** Another example is that in Britain we have some of the leakiest homes in Europe **they are energy inefficient** And so if we insulated everyone who needed it And it would reduce bills for people which is literally addressing the cost of living crisis while reducing emissions in a climate crisis And a last one I will mention is what we are seeing in Iran right now We are literally seeing oil rain from the skies And our biggest strategic

vulnerability right now is our dependency on fossil fuels There was a report out just this morning from the Climate Change Committee an independent committee from the government showing that **going to net zero by 2050 would cost Britain less than a single oil shock** A single oil shock It is incredibly dystopian the path we are on And I think it is important that we all connect those dots with the environment with internationalism and with peace

**9** France Paris The Trump Threats to Europe Put Its Leaders in a Double Bind Over Iran European politicians risk angering their voters if they join the war of America Yet they could also face domestic upheaval if they take no action to reopen shipping routes that Iran has blocked and ease an energy crisis

**Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization**

The New York Times March 26 2026 Trump in his latest broadside at Europe castigated its leaders for refusing to help keep open the Strait of Hormuz They complain about the high oil prices they are forced to pay he said on social media last week but they reject a simple military maneuver that is the single reason for the high oil prices However impulsive his outburst it pointed up a deeper truth Trump has put The European leaders into a kind of double bind The Iran de facto closure of the strategic waterway has set off a full blown energy crisis across the Continent With skyrocketing oil and gas prices angering voters throughout Europe the pressure is mounting on its leaders to take more forceful actions to reopen the shipping lanes Yet at the same time The European political winds are blowing ever more fiercely against the war raising the stakes for leaders to take part The military campaign is faulted by many Europeans especially on the left who say it is gratuitous illegal and now is threatening The European fragile growth The leaders also remain haunted by the Iraq War which Britain supported to its lasting regret Araud the former French ambassador to the United States said France could play a more meaningful role diplomatically in helping wind down the conflict But he said Europe was hamstrung by three interlocking factors The Trump distrust of Europe especially after its refusal to support the war The European fears that antagonizing the president could lead him to punish Ukraine and The Iran suspicion of Europe given its reluctance to confront him more openly We could play the role of go between but Trump would rather have the Pakistanis Araud said adding that the Iranians do not trust us either they think we are in the pocket of the Americans

**10A** Ukraine and Moldovan Romanian Book Review Loss and loneliness in a contemporary Moldovan classic **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Kiev Independent March 25 2026 Our mission is to keep

the truth about the Russian war against Ukraine visible and that is only possible because people like you choose not to look away Become a member today Kyiv independent Loss and loneliness in a contemporary Moldovan classic The cover of The Summer My Mother Had Green Eyes by Moldovan Romanian author Tatiana Țibuleac on an undated photo from North of France From the early pages of The Summer My Mother Had Green Eyes we are swimming in the grief of the protagonist Aleksy The story begins at a point in his late teenage years when he hated his mother more than ever and could have killed her with a thought She is not a source of love and strength in his life the woman who gave him life but of utter repulsion and shame The Moldovan Romanian author Tatiana Țibuleac novel recently translated from Romanian by Monica Cure and published by Deep Vellum loses none of its unsettling power when read in English The book is both unflinching in its emotional honesty and luminous in its prose It is a reminder of the value of translation given that the themes of the novel such as the toll we allow grief to take on us the turmoil of adolescence are universally relatable even if the original language kept it out of reach for many readers until now At its core The Summer My Mother Had Green Eyes is a novel about loneliness about how it is more often than not imposed on oneself and how once it takes hold it often becomes consuming Aleksy at the start of the novel is looking forward to a summer trip with his friends Jim and Kalo to Amsterdam where he plans to take part in every conceivable form of debauchery Even if I were to catch AIDS even if I were to drown under a bridge that had been my biggest dream since I was fourteen years old The bravado of Aleksy is more for show than anything else These are as he admits the only friends he has ever had He has never had a girlfriend either The anger that

seems to animate his very breathing makes him think that normal initiation rites on the path to adulthood must be achieved through extremity as though anything less would fail to register. What he seeks is not fulfillment but annihilation of self in a world in which he feels painfully unseen. Underlying this performative recklessness is a diffuse but deeply felt sense of betrayal. The father of Aleksy has long been absent from his life leaving a void that his mother cannot entirely fill burdened as she is by the trauma of the death of his younger sister Mika. The precise circumstances of death of Mika remain deliberately vague leaving the reader to process only its catastrophic aftermath on the family. Aleksy confesses that he misses his sister intensely. As the novel progresses it becomes clear that the anger of Aleksy toward his mother is rooted in her inability to have managed the ordinary rhythms of life while dealing with her grief. I would have liked Mum to remember me at least once her other child. I would have liked Mum to have sat next to me she did not have to comfort me or ask me how I felt and to have told me to get out of her sight for seven months and then we will see Aleksy explains. That would have been the honest way for an adult to deal with a boy asking himself to this day if he could have saved his sister from dying. Amid this ticking time bomb of familial resentment the mother of Aleksy persuades him to abandon his plans in Amsterdam and spend the summer with her in a village in the north of France. The urgency of her insistence is not immediately explained. Yet Aleksy ultimately yields his own plans to hers. What follows is one of the most powerful and original explorations of a mother-child relationship in contemporary literature including the ways in which parents wrestle with how they have failed their children. The novel traces the many contours of the loneliness of Aleksy while granting over time a near equal weight to the loneliness of his mother as she begins to face the amount of years their family surrendered to her grief. If the death of a child buries a part of the parent with them the loss of the love of a living child exacts a quieter no less devastating toll. This realization of lost time comes when her own time has nearly run out. Death has claimed not only Mika and shattered the family but is also closing in on the mother of Aleksy. She brings him to northern France because she is dying of cancer and the doctors have made it clear this is her last summer on earth. After years of turning away from life she is now desperate for her own untimely end to carry some measure of meaning. How that unfolds is what makes the novel so interesting. Aleksy recalling this summer as part of a therapy exercise is confronted by words swarming over him like a bewitched wolf pack as he struggles to process it. *The Summer My Mother Had Green Eyes* is ultimately a testament to the redemptive power of engaging with memory and storytelling no matter how painful it may be. The recollections of Aleksy shaped by grief and anger become a means of better understanding himself and his mother of mapping the invisible contours of loss and loneliness that came to define his life. The *Țibuleac* novel reminds us that even when love has been fractured even when time has been stolen by grief the human heart is capable of stitching together fragments of life into moments of beauty. As Aleksy himself observes Beautiful memories though they are few and faded take up more space than all the files of pus together because a single beautiful image contains emotions smells and memories that last for entire days. These memories are the most precious part of me the shiny pearl born from the hollow shell. The green bud rising from the carcass. Note from the author: Hi this is Kate Tsurkan thanks for reading this article. I have written a lot about books from Ukraine and Russia but keep a look out as our book review section starts to expand to cover books from other countries in the region. If you like reading about this sort of thing please consider supporting *The Kyiv Independent*.

**10B** Ukraine With Over 550 Drones Russia Unleashes Daytime Attack on Ukraine The assault which came after overnight strikes across the country was one of the largest of the war the Ukrainian authorities said. Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times March 25 2026 Russian forces on Tuesday unleashed one of the largest daytime assaults on Ukraine since the war began launching more than 550 drones and striking city centers across the country. Several people were killed and at least 40 others wounded according to President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine. Apartment buildings hospitals and a UNESCO

World Heritage site all sustained damage officials said The unusual daytime strikes followed a more typical series of overnight attacks in which Russian forces launched 34 missiles and 392 attack drones Those killed two people in the Poltava region one in Zaporizhzhia and another on a passenger train in Kharkiv according to the local authorities Air raid alarms warning of new waves of attack drones in Ukrainian airspace started sounding around noon shuttering some businesses and sending people rushing for shelters in the middle of the workday People covered in blankets lie on cots near two small tents Some individuals look at phones Sheltering during an air raid warning in Kyiv Ukraine on Tuesday Soon explosions were reported in **the cities of Lviv Ternopil Vinnytsia Ivano Frankivsk Zhytomyr Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro** This is utterly perverse Zelensky said in his nightly address of the strikes which came as he had been pushing to get peace talks with Russia back on track The scale of the attack today he added strongly indicates that Russia has no intention of really ending this war The Ukraine Air Force called the daytime assault one of the most massive attacks of the war Taken together with the drones deployed overnight Russia launched nearly 1000 attack drones in under 24 hours across Ukraine according to Air Force figures Image A drone flies above leafless trees A Russian attack drone above central Lviv Ukraine on Tuesday While air defenses shot down most the Air Force said that 15 hits were recorded during the daytime strikes In the central city of Ivano Frankivsk two people were killed and four others were injured the authorities said Two maternity hospitals sustained damage as did about 10 residential buildings One person was killed in Vinnytsia and 13 others injured according to the emergency services It said more than 90 rescuers had been deployed to respond to strikes which damaged nine residential buildings Video shared by the Ukraine public broadcaster showed a Shahed tearing into the historic center of Lviv in western Ukraine At least 26 people were wounded according to Andriy Sadovyi the mayor Firefighters were still working to extinguish blazes sparked by the strikes as night fell Photo of A firefighting ladder extends to a damaged building as water is sprayed into a window lit by orange flames Thick white smoke pours from the building Firefighters working at the site of an apartment building hit by a Russian drone strike in Zaporizhzhia Ukraine on Tuesday

**11** Russia reported from United Kingdom London An American in Russia Is Linked to Neo Nazi Terror Cells Across Europe FBI agents thought they had weakened an online hate group known as the Base A string of European terrorism cases indicates it has resurged A man with a long dark beard and wearing a black baseball cap A screenshot of Rinaldo Nazzaro during an interview on the news channel Russia 24 Europol identified Nazzaro as the man behind the Base a far right group operating mostly online **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 25 2026 Over the past 18 months investigators across Europe have **dismantled a string of neo Nazi groups** Some were well organized and armed with guns and knives Others appeared looser In Britain a teenager was arrested and charged with plotting an attack to start a race war **These seemingly unrelated cases shared a thread** In each the authorities linked key figures to a **far right group known as the Base** which recruits online largely through white supremacist memes and propaganda The message of the group is that multiculturalism has made Western society irredeemable Recruits are **urged to commit sabotage and murder** to hasten its collapse American law enforcement officials thought they had stifled the group years ago with a series of prosecutions Its European resurgence is particularly concerning experts say because **the goals of the Base align so squarely with the efforts of the Kremlin** to conduct sabotage and undermine Western governments The man behind the Base the authorities say is a fifty two year old American living in Russia far outside the reach of Western authorities In recent years **as Russia has waged war against Ukraine the Base has begun promoting violence against Ukrainian politicians** government offices and infrastructure according to a report by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue an international research organization Steven Rai the author of that report said the Russian government may simply be giving the founder of the group safe haven Another possibility is that the relationship extends beyond tacit approval he said with Russia offering more direct and covert forms of support Rinaldo Nazzaro whom

Europol identified in December as the man behind the Base has said the group promotes defense of self not terrorism or Nazism. He has repeatedly denied any relationship with the Russian security services. I do not know what the goals of the Russian intelligence services are he said in a 2021 email. He did not respond to a recent email. The Russian Embassy in London did not respond to a request for comment. Though all of the European arrests were made before any violence the cases represent a reversal of fortune for Nazzaro a former contract counterterrorism analyst for the FBI and Pentagon. In 2020 FBI agents arrested several Base members. The immediate threat from the organization was thought to be diminished said a Justice Department senior adviser on domestic terrorism at the time. Nazzaro began losing credibility among far right figures who suspected that he was a Russian agent. They were blasting him as a spy said a former FBI agent who infiltrated the group in the United States. But Nazzaro did not fade away. In November 2023 a British teenager contacted the Base on the Telegram messaging app. Hello I did not realize you guys were active the boy wrote according to a record of messages presented at his trial. Yeah we are still hanging on even if just barely came the reply. The boy later asked about the process of becoming a member. Over the following months he attempted to recruit others on Telegram. He hung recruitment posters in the village near his home in Northumberland in northeastern England. Investigators found explosive making materials a crossbow knives and a journal the boy kept. In it he wrote that he wanted to inspire others and to start a race war prosecutors said. He wrote that he would livestream an attack online. It is either death or capture by the enemy one journal entry said. The boy whose name is sealed because he is a minor was convicted last month of five terrorism offenses including membership of the Base. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the charge of preparing acts of terrorism. He is to be sentenced on Friday. Investigators in Spain Italy and the Netherlands say they have made arrests tied to the Base. The group is banned under terrorism laws in Britain the European Union and Canada. They encourage murder and acts of terrorism and want to bring about the collapse of society through a race war with the end goal being a white supremacist utopia said a prosecutor in the British case. American officials have not designated the Base a terrorist organization. The US Constitution protects even hateful racist speech and the Supreme Court has ruled that the protection extends to speech generally advocating the violent overthrow of the government. Regardless the Nazzaro home in Russia puts him out of reach of Western efforts to prosecute him. He traveled to Russia as a tourist European officials say then started the Base in 2018 after moving there with his wife a native Russian. He has said he was attracted to the conservative culture of Russia. A lecturer in Russian politics at La Trobe University in Australia said the Base had a symbiotic relationship with the Kremlin.

12 Iran In Iran War Cheap Drones Remain Wild Card Stopping The Iran production of drones is critical to opening the Strait of Hormuz and halting its attacks on Gulf nations. But can it be done? Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times March 25 2026. The first black and white surveillance image shows a simple factory complex on a tree lined road west of the Iranian city of Isfahan. In a second image the factory which United States Central Command said was manufacturing drones had been blown to pieces leaving shards of debris and blackened skeletal frames where buildings once stood. Central Command released the before and after images last week showing what it purported to be another major blow to The Iran defense industrial base while serving as a kind of promise to allies in the Persian Gulf that the barrage of Shahed attack drones targeting their population centers and energy infrastructure would eventually be stopped. It is a promise the United States might not be able to keep. The Shahed drones are cheap weapons made with off the shelf parts that can be assembled in a smaller workshop than the site near Isfahan University of Technology targeted by the United States. The problem with a technology like that is it is become democratized said a nonresident fellow at the Stimson Center an organization that analyzes global security who was previously chief of the Advanced Programs Division at the US Air Force Air Mobility Command. If it is relatively easy to do to bend aluminum to 3 D print a basic motorcycle engine then it is harder to track where it is coming from Iran will be able to produce more if this war continues.

The goal for US and Israeli airstrikes is to destroy as many production facilities and weapon stores as possible to stop the threat from Iranian drones. The US is trying to hit the production sites but you have different ways to produce these frames. It is not necessarily very easily tracked. Decentralized production is possible. You do not need huge facilities for these

**March 26 2026 Headlines The New York Times and The Guardian and others**

The Trump Threats to Europe Put Its Leaders in a Double Bind Over Iran The New York Times

**March 25 2026 Headlines New York Times and the Guardian and others**

We want peace. Iranians try to maintain semblance of normal life as conflict drags on. US Israel war on Iran. The Guardian

A Critical Political Season Could Decide if Alaska Is a Failed Petrostate The New York Times

Air Canada CEO Draws Scorn for Delivering Condolences Only in English The New York Times

An American in Russia Is Linked to Neo Nazi Terror Cells Across Europe The New York Times

And who is playing Madeline. The Lily Allen West End Girl could make sensational theatre. Stage. The Guardian

Cheap Drones Remain Wild Card in Iran war The New York Times

Democratic rising star extends love after Hegseth pastor prays for his death Democrats The Guardian

Democrats Have Fundraising Edge in Virginia Redistricting Battle Ahead of April Referendum The New York Times

Duffy to tell story of her kidnapping and rape ordeal in new Disney+ documentary Duffy The Guardian

For the Australia Farmers Fuel Crisis Comes at Worst Possible Time The New York Times

Humans Had Dogs Before They Had Farming Ancient DNA Confirms The New York Times

The Hungarian opposition Tisza party widens lead over the Orban Fidesz poll says

It Begins as a Tick Bite and Can Be Devastating And It is Spreading The New York Times

James Talarico Responds With Love To Criticism of Hegseth Pastor The New York Times

Kate Marvel Prominent Climate Scientist Resigns From NASA The New York Times

Matt Brittin Former Google Executive Named the New BBC Head The New York Times

Melania Trump Appears With a Robot Saying More Children Should Be Educated by Them The New York Times

Meta Lays Off 700 Employees While Rewarding Top Executives The New York Times

One story from Ukraine – the Kiev Independent

Opinion Chuck Schumer What the SAVE Act Would Really Do The New York Times

Opinion Zack Polanski on the Rise of the Green Party of Britain The New York Times

Russia Launches Daytime Attack on Ukraine With Over 500 Drones The New York Times

San Francisco Killed 8th Grade Algebra Now It is Set to Come Back The New York Times

Senate Housing Bill Sparks Debate About Who Gets to Own Single Family Homes The New York Times

Stephen Colbert Is Writing a New Lord of the Rings Movie The New York Times

Stephen Colbert to write new Lord of the Rings film after end of the Late Show Movies The Guardian

Takeaways From an Inside Look at the CDC The New York Times

The Guardian view on a significant week for European politics progressives have some reasons to be cheerful Editorial The Guardian

Tracy Kidder Author of The Soul of a New Machine Dies at 80 The New York Times

Trump Administration Live Updates Democrats Send Counteroffer to End DHS Shutdown The New York Times

Trump Says He is Talking With Iran But Iran Says He is Not Here is Why The New York Times

Trump to Delay Nominating New CDC Director The New York Times The Trump peace plan falls flat as

he insists the war is almost over while increasing troop numbers Donald Trump The Guardian

USPS Plans to Impose 8 Surcharge to Offset Rising Transportation Costs Amid Iran War The New York Times

What to Know About Democrat the Emily Gregory Win in Florida The New York Times

With Their Voter Bill Stymied GOP Leaders Ponder a Plan B The New York Times

Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate debate postponed over Chris Taylor illness