



Workers assembling computer-driven robots at a new General Dynamics artillery ammunition factory in Mesquite, Texas. DESIREE RIOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A One-Man Disinformation Army Out of Russia

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

A dozen years ago, John Mark Dougan, a former deputy sheriff in Palm Beach County, Fla., sent voters an email posing as a county commissioner, urging them to oppose the re-election of the county's sheriff.

He later masqueraded online as a Russian tech worker with a pseudonym, BadWolf, to leak confidential information in violation of state law, fooling officials in Florida who thought they were dealing with a foreigner.

He also posed as a fictional New York City heiress he called Jes-

Former Deputy Sheriff Is Seen as Key Player Against the West

sica, tricking an adviser to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office into divulging improper conduct by the department.

"And boy, did he ever spill ALL of the beans," Mr. Dougan said in a written response to questions for this article, in which he confirmed his role in these episodes.

Those subterfuges in the United

States, it turned out, were only a prelude to a more prominent and potentially more ominous campaign of deception he has been conducting from Russia.

Mr. Dougan, 51, who received political asylum in Moscow, is now a key player in Russia's disinformation operations against the West. Back in 2016, when the Kremlin interfered in the American presidential election, an army of computer trolls toiled for hours in an office building in St. Petersburg to try to fool Americans online.

Today Mr. Dougan may be ac-

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Alito Rejecting Calls to Recuse In Flag Uproar

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. declined on Wednesday to recuse himself from two cases arising from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol after reports that flags displayed outside his houses appeared to support the "Stop the Steal" movement.

In letters to Democratic members of Congress who had demanded his recusal, Justice Alito said that the flags, at his home in Virginia and a beach house in New Jersey, were flown by his wife, Martha-Ann.

"My wife is fond of flying flags," the justice wrote. "I am not. She was solely responsible for having flagpoles put up at our residence and our vacation home and has flown a wide variety of flags over the years."

The revelation that provocative flags flew outside the Alitos' property has raised questions about the appearance of bias in two cases the Supreme Court is considering related to Jan. 6. In the weeks after the Capitol attack, an inverted American flag that Trump loyalists have adopted to contest Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s electoral victory was aloft at Justice Alito's residence in Alexandria, Va. Last summer, an "Appeal to

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JOAO SILVA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mandela's Party in Jeopardy

In South Africa's national election, the African National Congress may lose its majority. Page A9.

France's Rich Cuisine Gets an Olympic Upgrade

By ROGER COHEN

PARIS — There will be no French fries for the 15,000 athletes at the Olympic Games that open in France in July. Yes, you read that right.

In what is being called the biggest restaurant in the world — a 700-foot-long former electrical power plant at the heart of the Olympic Village — there will be no foie gras, either, but vegetarian hot dogs and quinoa muesli will abound.

Strolling the length of what is

Menu Puts Athletes and the Environment First

known as the nave, a light-filled vaulted space where some 45,000 meals a day will be served 24/7 throughout the Olympics and Paralympics, Stéphane Chicheri and Charles Guillo, the chefs in charge, sang the praises of vegetarian shawarma, za'atar-spiced sweet potatoes with hummus, cabbage pickles, beetroot falafel

and grilled eggplant with smoked paprika.

This is a far cry from the classic French cuisine of elaborate sauces and "enough melted butter to thrombose a regiment," as A.J. Liebling once described a dish.

But these are 21st-century Games on a warming planet. Carbon imprint trumps cassoulet. Vegetable protein is the thing; and of course athletes have to perform in a country of a thousand epicurean delights that are no-noes to their exacting nutrition-

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An Arms Plant In Texas Opens To Aid Ukraine

Racing to Catch Up to Russia's Production

By JOHN ISMAY

MESQUITE, Texas — In a warehouse off Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway in an industrial area outside Dallas, the future of American military ammunition production is coming online.

Here, in the Pentagon's first new major arms plant built since Russia invaded Ukraine, Turkish workers in orange hard hats are busy unpacking wood crates stenciled with the name Repkon, a defense company based in Istanbul, and assembling computer-controlled robots and lathes.

The factory will soon turn out about 30,000 steel shells every month for the 155-millimeter howitzers that have become crucial to Kyiv's war effort.

Ukraine fired between 4,000 and 7,000 such shells daily for several months in 2023, according to NATO's secretary-general, before infighting among House Republicans held up further funding for Pentagon arms shipments. Large shipments of American artillery ammunition resumed in April after Congress passed an aid package that included \$61 billion to Ukraine.

The gap led to a drastic ammunition shortage for Kyiv, with Ukrainian troops able to fire only a fraction of the shells shot at them by Russian forces.

To keep Ukraine's artillery crews supplied, the Pentagon set a production target last year of 100,000 shells per month by the end of 2025. Factories in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa., together make about 36,000 shells per month. The new General Dynamics facility in Mesquite, Texas, will make 30,000 each month once it reaches its full capacity.

The 100,000-per-month goal represents a nearly tenfold increase in production from a few

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WAR IN UKRAINE STRAINING BONDS IN BORDER ZONE

SPLIT BY A FRONT LINE

Conflict Causes Anguish for People With Kin on Both Sides

By VALERIE HOPKINS

SHEBEKINO, Russia — When Valentina's small town in Russia came under heavy bombardment in March by Ukrainian forces, her daughter Alla, who lives a short distance across the border near Kharkiv, would text her mother to make sure she was all right.

Now that Kharkiv and its surrounding region are under heavy attack by Russia, it's Valentina who is checking with her daughter to make sure that everything is fine. The regular check-ins have continued as fighting has intensified across the new front Russia opened this month.

"So she's calling me asking: 'Mom, how is it there? It's so loud here. I think there's something heading your way from our direction. Mom, be careful!'" said Valentina, a dual Russian-Ukrainian citizen who did not want to give her full name out of fear of repercussions for both herself and her daughter in Ukraine.

"I say: 'OK, daughter, OK, it's all right. How are you doing?'"

Similar conversations are taking place all along the border region now caught up in Russia's advance on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. Not only is life in these areas physically dangerous, but it can be emotionally jarring, as sympathies are tested by family bonds that reach across the border.

Like many living in the border regions, Valentina grew up in Ukraine before moving to Grayvoron, a Russian town six miles over the border, in 1989 to do

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For Families, Wall of Red Tape Stands Between Gaza and U.S.

By HAMED ALEAZIZ

WASHINGTON — Ghada Redwan, a 48-year-old pharmacist in Houston, has been trying to get her parents out of Gaza for months. Their bags, packed and ready to go, have been sitting by their door in Rafah, the city where Israel is now conducting a military offensive.

But Ms. Redwan has hit roadblocks at every turn. And like other Palestinian Americans desperate to get their relatives to safety, she has described a confounding bureaucratic maze in-

Americans Struggle to Get Relatives Out

volving the State Department, the governments of Israel and Egypt, politicians, advocacy groups, lawyers and more.

The closure this month of the Rafah border crossing into Egypt — the only way out for civilians — has thrown an already complicated system into disarray, leading to calls for the United States to

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Baseball's New Batting Leader

As Major League Baseball incorporated statistics from the Negro leagues into its records on Wednesday, Josh Gibson became the career leader in batting average at .372, topping Ty Cobb's .367. Gibson, who played in the 1930s and '40s, also surpassed Babe Ruth as the leader in slugging percentage and O.P.S. Page B7.

Career batting average

■ PLAYED IN NEGRO LEAGUES

1	Josh Gibson	.372
2	Ty Cobb	.367
3	Oscar Charleston	.363
4	Rogers Hornsby	.358
5	Jud Wilson	.350
6	Turkey Stearnes	.348
7	Ed Delahanty	.346
8	Buck Leonard	.345
9	Tris Speaker	.345
10	Ted Williams	.344

Source: Major League Baseball

THE NEW YORK TIMES



BETTMANN, VIA GETTY IMAGES

INTERNATIONAL A4-12

New Dutch Leader Selected

The parties forming a governing coalition tapped a political outsider, Dick Schoof, to be prime minister. PAGE A9

Hottest Day on Record

On Wednesday, New Delhi reported its highest temperature ever measured, 126 degrees Fahrenheit. PAGE A6



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Trump Jurors Get Instructions

Justice Juan M. Merchan explained the 34 charges of falsifying business records that Donald J. Trump faces. It was no simple task. PAGE A20

Teaching A.I. to Mislead

We customized our own chatbots with a range of political views to see just how easy it is to create divisive content. The result? Very easy. PAGE A13

Messages From Seized Phones

Prosecutors introduced audio and text messages between Senator Robert Menendez and his future wife in the lawmaker's bribery trial. PAGE A17

BUSINESS B1-6

Saudis Eye Future Beyond Oil

The kingdom is juggling its petroleum industry with green energy sources like wind and solar as it faces pressure to lower carbon emissions. PAGE B1

Home Insurance Pain Unseen

Skyrocketing premiums are hitting homeowners hard, but they barely factor into common price measures when it comes to inflation. PAGE B1

Unions Struggle to Expand

The Teamsters made little headway in organizing workers at Amazon and FedEx despite wage and other gains it secured at UPS last year. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-8

Sounding the Trumpets

A celebration of the music of Frank London will be missing one thing: the ailing bandleader himself. PAGE C1

The Dancer's Edge

Mira Nadon, the New York City Ballet principal, is coming off her best season yet. And it's only the beginning. PAGE C1



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'Inside the NBA' on Edge

Next season could be the last for TNT's beloved studio show, and Charles Barkley will not be going quietly. PAGE B9

Rangers Look to Regroup

A stinging loss underlined the struggles of some of their top players against the swarming Panthers. PAGE B10

OPINION A22-23

Gail Collins

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