



Mostly sunny 49/38 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 66/45 C10

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Two years of war and the forever changed lives of three Ukrainian soldiers



BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND ANASTACIA GALOUCHKA

On Feb. 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military to invade Ukraine, setting off the largest land war in Europe since World War II. Thousands of Ukrainians with no military experience committed to fight that day, fearing that their survival — and their country’s existence — depended on it. ¶ Two years later, many are still fighting. Some have lost limbs. Many have barely seen their families. For everyone, their hopes and dreams for the future have shifted as a war that most expected to quickly end drags on. They long for a return to their civilian lives. ¶ Two years into the war, here are the stories of three Ukrainians who enlisted on Feb. 24, 2022. **Inside, A15**

From left, Vadym Burei, 44, call sign Vasylovich; Taras, 24, call sign Stoyik; and Oleksandra Ryazantseva, 40, call sign Yalta, photographed in January and February in Ukraine.

PHOTOS BY WOJCIECH GRZEDZINSKI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

ELECTION 2024

Trump barrels on with decisive victory in S.C.

AS LOSSES MOUNT, HALEY VOWS TO STAY IN

Former president fueled by evangelical, rural support

BY JOSH DAWSEY, DYLAN WELLS AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Donald Trump extended his sweep of the early Republican primary contests with a decisive victory in South Carolina on Saturday, soundly defeating the state’s former two-term governor, Nikki Haley, as he marches toward the nomination.

The Associated Press projected Trump as the winner just after polls closed. The victory marked another successful early-state performance by Trump, who many in the party are treating as the presumptive nominee. It was a blow to Haley, who had outspent and outworked Trump in the state. And it marked her fourth major state loss in a row, leaving some close to her pessimistic on her

path forward, even as she vowed to keep running.

Trump spoke three minutes after the polls were closed Saturday, long before he usually does, and the small room at the state fairgrounds was still half-empty. He was frustrated in New Hampshire when Haley came out before him and declared the evening a success, and was determined not to let her have the first word again, advisers said.

“I have never seen the Republican Party so unified as it is right now,” Trump said, in an implied dig at Haley. Looking toward the November election, Trump added, “I just wish we could do it quicker.” He did not mention Haley directly. **SEE SOUTH CAROLINA ON A13**

A big impact: Nikki Haley earns admiration from young girls. **A12**

Justices to decide if states can control fate of social media

Florida and Texas cases will settle who has power to set rules on censorship

BY CAT ZAKRZEWSKI AND ANN E. MARIMOW

To participate in the internet’s leading Star Trek forum, Reddit users must abide by a simple rule: “Be nice.”

So when a Texas-based user called one of the franchise’s characters a “soy boy” — a pejorative term insulting a person’s masculinity — in 2022, the discussion board’s volunteer moderators kicked him out.

But the user shot back, filing a lawsuit against Reddit under a landmark Texas law prohibiting social media companies from removing posts or accounts based on a viewpoint — an unprecedented regulation subverting how the internet has operated for decades.

The Supreme Court on Monday will hear oral arguments to determine the constitutionality of that Texas law along with a related Florida law, which prohibits platforms from suspending the accounts of political candidates or media publications.

The cases will determine whether state governments or tech companies have the power to set the rules for what posts can

SEE COURT ON A8

Housing industry stymies new energy efficiency rules

Builders cite extra costs, but climate advocates say inaction hurts consumers

BY ANNA PHILLIPS

“Out in the middle of nowhere” in Moore County, N.C., developer Ron Jackson said he is building what America needs — more affordable homes for the nurses, police officers and teachers struggling to find housing they can afford amid a nationwide shortage.

That’s why Jackson and others from North Carolina’s home-building industry say they came out in force last year against a state plan to tighten energy efficiency building codes so new homes would waste less energy, reducing their carbon footprints. The builders succeeded in blocking the new standards, helping to maintain the status quo.

“All that energy code was going to do in my price range is make it to where the working man and woman would not be able to buy a home,” Jackson said. He sells

homes in the \$250,000 range and estimated the changes would have increased his costs by more than \$20,000 — a figure that comes from a survey of North Carolina builders conducted by the state branch of the National Association of Home Builders, the housing industry’s largest lobbying group.

Across the country, the home-builder lobby is mobilizing its 140,000 members against state and local efforts to save energy and ease the transition to cleaner technologies, such as wiring homes to support electric car charging. Since poorly designed and insulated buildings tend to leak and waste energy — one reason homes account for nearly one-fifth of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions — climate advocates say the home builders’ repeated victories will have a lasting impact, locking in practices that could hurt consumers and the planet for decades.

There’s no debate that boosting the energy efficiency of new homes often increases upfront costs, but the builders appear to be inflating the numbers. A federal study found that North Caro-

SEE HOME BUILDERS ON A10



DESIREE RIOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Stephanie Lloyd and her daughter, Kelsie Norris-De La Cruz, both blame Texas’s abortion ban for a delay in care.

Texas woman faced possible death with ectopic pregnancy. She was sent home to wait.

Case highlights how hospitals and doctors struggle to navigate medical care because of bans on abortion

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER IN ARLINGTON, TEX.

Kelsie Norris-De La Cruz tried not to cry as the doctor in the emergency room delivered one of the most frightening diagnoses a pregnant woman can receive.

The 25-year-old college senior was told she likely had an ectopic pregnancy, a highly dangerous condition where the embryo implants outside of the uterus. Without immediate treatment, the fallopian tube can rupture — and the patient can die.

The law that has prohibited abortions in Texas since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned now explicitly allows doctors to treat ectopic pregnancies. But when doctors at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital evaluated Norris-De La Cruz this month, they refused to terminate the pregnancy, saying there was some chance the pregnancy was still viable, Norris-De La Cruz recalled. Instead, they advised

her and her mother to go home and wait, according to medical records reviewed by The Washington Post.

Norris-De La Cruz ultimately received emergency surgery about 24 hours later at a different hospital in the area, at which point her ectopic pregnancy had already started to rupture. The OB/GYN who performed the procedure said that, if Norris-De La Cruz had waited much longer, she would have been “in extreme danger of losing her life.”

“I was scared I was going to . . . lose my entire reproductive system if they waited too long,” Norris-De La Cruz said in an interview two days after her surgery. “I knew it could happen at any moment.”

Her case highlights a chilling reality of post-*Roe* America: Medical exceptions to abortion bans have not stopped doctors from turning away patients with significant pregnancy complications, **SEE PREGNANCY ON A6**

METRO

The Smithsonian should hasten return of human remains, task force says.

BUSINESS

Glut of lab space shows how the economy zigged when all expected a zag.



ARTS & STYLE

Oscar nominee Lily Gladstone’s moment is here. It’s a lot to carry.

BOOK WORLD

Sloane Crosley lost her best friend. She’ll make you miss him, too.



SPORTS

The talk of spring training this season? Somehow, it’s the pants.

TRAVEL

Zoo Atlanta has become the last place in the U.S. to see giant pandas.

\$167

SUNDAY COUPON INSERTS

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