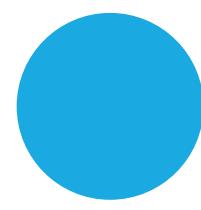


Signs of housing bubble appearing, researchers say

Dallas Fed seeing abnormal market behavior for first time since early 2000s boom. **In Money**

Memorable moments from this year's Grammys

Lady Gaga's Tony Bennett tribute and Ukrainian president's plea among top moments. **In Life**



USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$2 | TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

WAR IN UKRAINE



Bodies of civilians are gathered in the town of Bucha, Ukraine, outside Kyiv. SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

'The reality is much worse': Evidence of atrocities builds

Images of civilians apparently slain in streets provoke worldwide outrage

Chris Kenning and Grace Hauck
USA TODAY

In the Ukrainian town of Bucha, a corpse could be seen lying in the street, the man's arms tied behind his back. Other images from the Kyiv suburb showed bodies scattered in debris-strewn streets and some thrown into a mass grave.

In Motyzhyn, west of Kyiv, four people appeared to Associated Press journalists to have been thrown into a pit after being shot at close range. Residents told reporters the mayor and her family members, bound and blindfolded, were among them.

Ukrainian officials identified the mayor as Olha Sukhenko.

"Nobody expected this," Ukrainian Denys Dniprovskyi, 36, told USA TODAY on Monday from Kyiv, about a half-hour drive from Bucha. "It was some rumors, but the reality is much worse."

Photos and news reports of dead civilians in areas around the capital Kyiv, which was retaken by Ukrainian forces

after a Russian retreat, have ratcheted up global outrage, possibly marking a pivotal moment six weeks into Russia's war in Ukraine.

The apparent slaughter of civilians, condemned by leaders across the globe, has prompted calls for new sanctions from French President Emmanuel Macron and President Joe Biden, who called for a war crimes trial of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has denounced the killings as "genocide," a war crime. But asked by a reporter Monday, Biden declined to characterize the atrocities as "genocide."

"We saw what happened in Bucha. He is a war criminal," Biden told reporters.

Ukrainian officials said the bodies of 410 civilians were found in Kyiv-area towns recently retaken from Russian forces. In Bucha, 280 people were buried in mass graves, according to Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to Zelenskyy. That figure could not be independently

See WAR CRIMES, Page 2A



\$120 million yacht seized

U.S. captures a 254-foot yacht owned by Viktor Vekselberg, an oligarch with ties to Putin.

News briefs, 2A

Warning to readers

Page 2A contains a graphic image.



ALIYAH BOSTON BY KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

South Carolina ushers in new dynasty

Gamecocks win title, end UConn's run. **In Sports**

Men's final: Coverage of Kansas-UNC game online at [sports.usatoday.com](#).

Senate panel ties in vote on Jackson

She has enough support to reach Supreme Court

Dylan Wells USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's historic nomination to be the first Black woman on the Supreme Court moved one step closer Monday.

The 22-member Senate Judiciary Committee, which is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, voted along party lines for an 11-11 tie, rather than offering a "favorable" or "unfavorable" recommendation.

Though the tie vote adds a procedural step, it won't stop Jackson's nomination from moving to the full Senate for consideration. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., can set the schedule for a full chamber vote, where Jackson is likely to be confirmed before Congress leaves for Easter recess at the end of the week.

Last week, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, announced she would back Jackson, ensuring bipartisan support for the nomination. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who frequently breaks from his party, said he would vote for the nominee.

As a result, Jackson is all but ensured to be confirmed.

The Senate is evenly split between 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans. If a simple majority of 51 vote for her, Jackson is confirmed. If the Senate deadlocks at 50-50, Vice President Kamala Harris (acting as the Senate president) would break the tie and provide Jackson with the deciding vote.

With Democrats and Collins backing the nomination, Jackson appears to have enough votes to be confirmed without Harris' help.

Still, Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., cautioned that the fight to confirm Jackson isn't done until the final vote takes place.

"It ain't over," he said last week. "Watch any basketball games lately? How many of them went down to the last basket. That's what we're facing."

"Things beyond our control can change this



Jackson

"Rise, sister Jackson; rise, Judge Jackson, all the way to the highest court in the land."

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J.

See JACKSON, Page 5A

Alaska base is epicenter of Army suicide epidemic

Dark winters, shortage of counselors contribute

Tom Vanden Brook
USA TODAY

Editor's note: This article includes details of suicidal ideation and attempts.

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Alaska — A day after nearly ending his life, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Baker heeded the pleas of his Army commanders in Alaska.

He asked for help.

What happened next is a story heard time and again among soldiers stationed here in the frigid interior of Alaska. Beset by a variety of problems — including crushing homesickness, failing relationships, financial problems, substance abuse and suffocating isolation — soldiers like Baker seek professional counseling.

Get in line, they're told.

On Feb. 7, Baker, 38, had drained a bottle of tequila. He worried that his 18-year Army career, which sent him to war five times, might be nearing an end. Or that he would be assigned to a new post, which would mean moving his wife and three kids. Again. Financial stress weighed on him. So did marital problems. Drinking.

Suicide suddenly seemed like an option.

The thought of his children growing up without a father gave him pause. At work the next day, his supervisors noticed his appearance and sent Baker to the behavioral health clinic. There he filled out forms, acknowledging having had suicidal thoughts.

He was told to come back a month later.

A month?

Baker had heard stories like this from other soldiers serving with him. Now he



Seeking help at a clinic after having suicidal thoughts, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Baker was told to come back in a month. JESSICA KOSCIELNIAK/USA TODAY



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USA TODAY Snapshots

Most want tougher line from Biden on Russia

How Americans view President Joe Biden's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine:

Not tough enough	6%
About right	36%
Too tough	56%

All U.S. adults

Republicans	9%
Independents	20%
Democrats	4%

68% 25%

64% 25%

43% 53%

Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
Note: Some respondents didn't answer
Amy Barnette, Tiffany Clemens/USA TODAY

See SUICIDE, Page 6A



Journalists in Bucha, Ukraine, report signs of mass graves. SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

War crimes

Continued from Page 1A

verified by USA TODAY.

State Department spokesman Ned Price on Monday cited reports of violence against civilians in towns including Bucha, Irpin and Hostomel.

"We are seeing credible reports of torture, rape and civilians executed alongside their families. There are reports and images of a nightmare litany of atrocities, including reports of land mines and booby traps left behind by Putin's forces."

"The images we have seen and reports we have heard suggest these atrocities are not the act of a rogue soldier. They are part of a broader, troubling campaign."

The Associated Press said its journalists saw 21 bodies, including nine in civilian clothes apparently shot at close range at a site that locals said was used as a Russian base. At least two had their hands tied behind their backs.

One BBC journalist visited the basement of a Bucha home to find the bodies of five men in civilian clothes, their hands bound, who appeared to have been shot.

"It's very difficult to process it on a human level because all sorts of emotions hit you, and not all of them are useful," Maryan Zabolotskyy, a member of the Ukrainian parliament, told USA TODAY on Monday as he drove to Lviv. "What this means, not just for Ukraine but for generally the world as a whole, now they truly see the real face of Vladimir Putin – not only him but his armed forces."

Despite the horrifying reports that continue to emerge from Bucha, it was the nearby town of Borodyanka that suffered the greatest number of civilian casualties in the Russian invasion, Ukraine's prosecutor general, Iryna Venediktova, said on national television Monday.

Volodymyr Omelyan, Ukraine's former infrastructure minister who recently joined the nation's volunteer Territorial Defense Forces in Kyiv, told USA TODAY he saw bodies of people in civilian clothes lying on streets in areas surrounding the capital city.

"It is nothing new for people who know history. But definitely for Ukrainians and for the civilized world, it's a great shock because it was hardly imaginable a such thing happening in the 21st century in the middle of Europe," he said.

'Likely' war crimes

Experts said the reports provide key evidence for war crimes and could help accelerate war crimes investigations.

"It's quite unusual to be able to get this kind of evidence of likely war crimes because it's unusual that the attacking military withdraws so rapidly from a front of occupied territory, and that Ukrainian forces and journalists and presumably



Images from the town of Bucha appear to show bodies bound and abandoned on streets. RONALDO SCHEMIDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

war crimes investigators are able to get there quickly and document the situation," said Kathryn Sikkink, a professor of human rights policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

She added it will still be "difficult, if not impossible, to hold Putin or high-level Russian officials accountable for the invasion" because the International Criminal Court doesn't have a police force and other countries will not implement an arrest warrant within Russia.

Whether the atrocities mark a tipping point that could change Russia's approach to the war is less clear. Some experts said they doubted international condemnation of the crimes would influence Putin's calculus.

"Though the rest of the world will rightly condemn Russia for these atrocities, it is unlikely that such condemnations will affect Putin's war strategy or the behavior of his forces in Ukraine," said Arne Westad, a historian at Yale University.

After emerging reports over the weekend, Lithuania, Germany and France announced plans Monday to effectively expel some Russian diplomats. At the same time, some European nations are divided on whether to embargo Russian oil and coal.

The U.S. plans to impose new sanctions on Russia this week, national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Monday.

Outrage over the killings, which Russia has denied, also could stymie peace talks.

"It's very difficult to negotiate when you see what they have done here," Zelenskyy told reporters during a visit to Bucha on Monday.

William Pomeranz, acting director of the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute, a Washington-based think tank that focuses on Russian and Eurasia research, said the apparent atrocities will likely influence public opinion for years to come.

"Clearly this massacre will influence public opinion," he said. "It just means the tensions between these two countries, if indeed Ukraine remains a country, will last for generations."

Whether the deaths influence Russian public opinion isn't clear given disinformation

in Russia and arrests of protesters.

Russian media have shared images of mass graves and of bodies lying on the streets of Kyiv suburbs and have attributed the deaths to Ukrainian forces, said Nika Aleksejeva, a Latvia-based researcher with the Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank.

"The overwhelming narrative is that it is not Russian soldiers but Ukrainian who staged the scene for foreign journalists to shock the world, or who shot people with white armbands themselves," Aleksejeva said.

'Ghosts of World War II'

The suspected war crimes remind many historians of past Russian tactics, including the brutal leveling of the Chechen capital, Grozny, and the bombing and siege of Aleppo, Syria. Mass graves of hundreds of bodies have been uncovered in Chechnya in recent decades, Westad noted.

"I'm afraid that we will find more of these sites in Ukraine when the Russian troops withdraw," Westad said.

John Randolph, director of the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said reports from the territories liberated by Ukraine invoke "the worst ghosts of World War II."

"The scenes out of Ukraine towns and villages and suburbs like Bucha repeat the killing fields of the Holocaust, with mass executions of bound citizens and bullets to the head," he said.

Dniprotskyi, who has been transporting food and medicine in and around Kyiv in recent weeks, said he's terrified to reach out to friends and old neighbors.

"I'm really afraid even to call them because I'm not sure they still alive," he said.

Omelyan, the former infrastructure minister, said he believes Russians are committing similar acts of brutality in other areas, including in the besieged city of Mariupol in southeastern Ukraine.

"The most awful pictures I'm 100% sure will come from Mariupol."

NEWS BRIEFING

Human Rights Watch is tracking violence

The atrocities allegedly committed by Russian forces in Ukraine have not only been witnessed by reporters but also documented by the non-government organization Human Rights Watch.

HRW said interviews with victims, witnesses and residents of Ukrainian territories occupied by the Russians yielded accounts of several war crimes, including executions, rapes and other forms of violence against civilians.

In one instance in late February, the Russians executed six men in the village of Staryi Bykiv, in Chernihiv region, the organization said, citing a report from the mother of one of the victims.

"The cases we documented amount to unspeakable, deliberate cruelty and violence against Ukrainian civilians," said Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Rape, murder, and other violent acts against people in the Russian forces' custody should be investigated as war crimes."



A yacht linked to Viktor Vekselberg, an ally of Russia's President Vladimir Putin, was seized on Monday. AP

ca, the capital of Spain's Balearic Islands, watched FBI and Homeland Security agents along with members of the Spanish Civil Guard go in an out of the Tango, Vekselberg's \$120 million vessel.

Vekselberg's assets in the United States are frozen and American companies are barred from doing business with him and his entities. The Ukrainian-born businessman built his fortune by investing in the aluminum and oil industries in the post-Soviet era.

New US sanctions on Russia coming this week

National security adviser Jake Sullivan said Monday that atrocities in the Ukrainian town of Bucha "show further evidence of war crimes," echoing comments from President Joe Biden and vowing the U.S. will impose new sanctions on Russia this week.

Sullivan did not elaborate on the coming sanctions. He said Putin was "surprised" the U.S. was so effective uniting the world to respond to Russia's aggression against its neighbor.

Contributing: Ryan W. Miller, Jorge L. Ortiz, Celina Tebor, Joey Garrison and Rebecca Morin, USA TODAY; The Associated Press

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TODAY'S BONUS CODE

Suspect arrested in Sacramento rampage

More than 100 rounds fired; motive unclear

N'dea Yancey-Bragg, John Bacon, Celina Tebor and Christal Hayes
USA TODAY

One man was arrested Monday in a shooting rampage in the heart of California's capital city that left six people dead over the weekend, and police said more arrests are likely.

Dandrea Martin, 26, was taken into custody in connection with the shooting and faces assault and illegal firearm possession charges, Sacramento police said. More than 100 rounds were fired early Sunday in downtown Sacramento amid a chaotic altercation outside the city's entertainment district, which was packed with people leaving bars.

Police called Martin a "related suspect" and said detectives and SWAT team members found one handgun during searches of three homes in the area.

The arrest came after the six victims killed in the attack were identified. The Sacramento County coroner identified the three women killed as Johntaya Alexander, 21; Melinda Davis, 57; and Yamile Martinez-Andrade, 21. The three men killed were Sergio Harris, 38; Joshua Hoye-Lucchesi, 32; and Devazia Turner, 29.

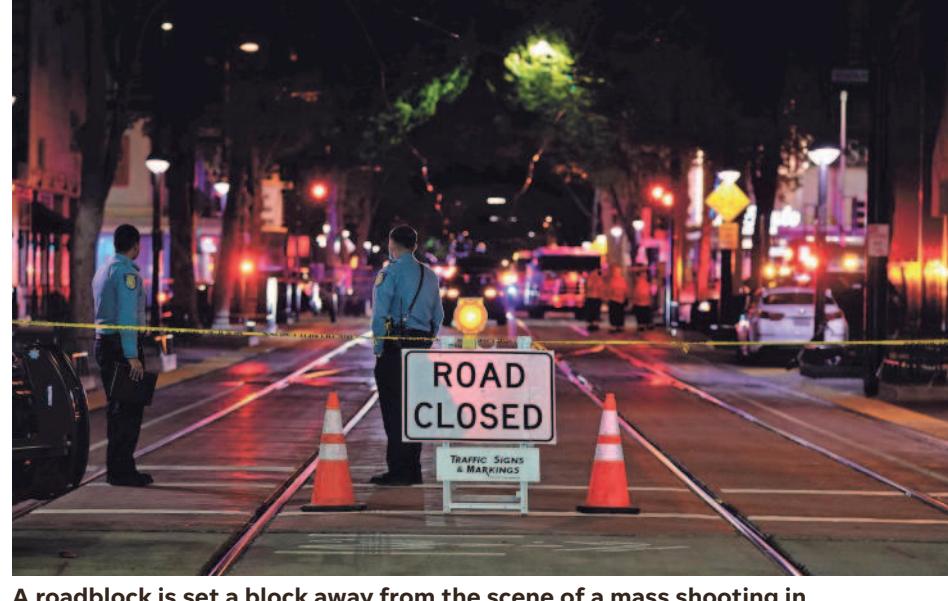
Some of the chaos was captured on video, which showed an altercation around 2 a.m. Sunday. As gunshots rang out, people scattered.

Authorities did not offer a possible motive in one of the largest mass shootings in the city's history, according to The Sacramento Bee. A month ago, a man killed his three children, another person and himself at a Sacramento church.

"The scale of violence that just happened in our city is unprecedented in my 27 years here at the Sacramento Police Department," Police Chief Kathy Lester said at a news conference Sunday.

Who were the victims?

Twelve people were treated at nearby



A roadblock is set a block away from the scene of a mass shooting in Sacramento, Calif., on Sunday. RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

hospitals, Lester said. At least four of the wounded were hospitalized with life-threatening injuries. UC Davis Medical Center spokesperson Stephanie Winn said Monday that two patients had been discharged overnight.

Devazia Turner's father, Frank, told the Bee that his son had gone to the London nightclub, which is near the shooting. Turner was with his cousin, Sergio Harris, when the shooting broke out. Both were killed.

"He was out just having fun with his friends," Frank Turner told Fox40. "There's just nothing to say. I'm just here. I'm grief, that's all – grief."

Kay Harris, Sergio's sister, told The Associated Press she thought her brother had been at the London.

"My son was a very vivacious young man," his mother, Pamela, told KCRA 3. "Fun to be around, liked to party, smiling all the time. Don't bother people. For this to happen is crazy. I'm just to the point right now, I don't know what to do. I don't even feel like this is real. I feel like this is a dream."

Some of the wounded were taken by ambulance to hospitals, while others went on their own or were taken by friends, Lester said. No information was

"For this to happen is crazy. ... I don't know what to do. I don't even feel like this is real. I feel like this is a dream."

Pamela Harris
Mother of victim Sergio Harris

provided on their conditions.

How many suspects are there?

Lester said there are multiple suspects.

The investigation continued Monday after officials reopened the eight-block area near the Golden One Center – where the NBA's Sacramento Kings play. Lester said the crime scene was "very complex and complicated," and police located "hundreds of pieces of evidence," including a stolen handgun.

Lester did not say what kind of gun was used. Officials did not know whether the victims were targeted, she said.

Downtown was packed with bar crowds, and a large fight broke out right before the shooting, Lester said Sunday.

Jaron Moore, a security guard at a club near the scene, told The Record, part of the USA TODAY Network, that he was getting off work around 2 a.m. when he heard gunshots.

"It's sad to know this happened. ... I'm still in shock," he said.

Asa Pickett, who was at the Dive Bar on Saturday night, said he heard about 100 rounds. He and his friends saw people running into each other, and his group found an area in a nearby alley where they hid for about 45 minutes.

"We came out, and there were bodies on the ground," he said. "I was just hoping my friends were OK ... everyone was OK."

Video posted on Twitter showed people running in the street with the sound of gunfire in the background.

Police arrived around 2 a.m. Sunday and found bodies on the street amid a large crowd. Multiple ambulances and first responders were at the scene.

On Sunday, City Hall was set up as an information center for family members, and police created an online portal for the public to upload evidence.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, in tweets, called gun violence "the scourge of our city, state and nation." He said Police Chief Lester has made preventing gun violence a priority.

"Words can't express my shock & sadness this morning," Steinberg tweeted. "The numbers of dead and wounded are difficult to comprehend."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom sent condolences to the victims of "yet another horrendous act of gun violence." He said his office was monitoring reports from the scene.

President Joe Biden called on Congress to enact gun control measures and thanked first responders.

"Today, America once again mourns for another community devastated by gun violence," Biden said in a statement. "But we must do more than mourn; we must act."

Contributing: Angelaydet Rocha, The Record; The Associated Press

Jury to weigh death penalty for Parkland shooter

Selection begins in sentencing trial for Cruz

Gerard Albert III
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Four years after a former student opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and killed 17 people, a jury and judge will decide if Nikolas Cruz should be put to death.

The jury selection process began Monday in the sentencing trial for Cruz, who faces the death penalty after pleading guilty to 17 counts of first-degree murder in October.

Jurors must come to an unanimous decision if they choose to recommend executing Cruz. Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer will have the final say, a ruling she may not make until fall.

Jury selection is expected to take weeks because of the publicity the killings received, and the penalty trial is expected to last at least four months. It was originally scheduled to start in 2020 but was delayed numerous times during the coronavirus pandemic.

After hearing the arguments for each side, jurors must vote unanimously for death for Cruz to be executed. According to Florida law, if even one juror votes otherwise, the convicted individual will receive a mandatory life sentence.

After the jury's recommendation, the judge then goes through the evidence and testimony and hears any additional arguments before imposing a sentence.

Florida is one of 28 states – including Texas, Louisiana and Georgia – that still have a death penalty, according to the national nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center. Three of those states – California, Oregon and Pennsylvania – have governor-imposed moratoriums, meaning no executions are going on.

17 lives lost in less than 7 minutes

Cruz, now 23, took an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle through the halls of the school on Feb. 14, 2018, killing 14 students and three staff members during a seven-minute rampage through a three-story building on the Parkland campus, about 15 miles southwest of Boca Raton. He wounded 17 others. He had been a student at the high school before being

expelled 13 months before.

After the shooting, Cruz walked to a Walmart immediately west of campus and ordered a drink at the Subway sandwich shop, before he left and stopped at a McDonald's.

A police officer arrested Cruz at 3:37 p.m., 2 miles southwest of campus. A witness identified Cruz after an officer had him in handcuffs.

On the day of the massacre, Cruz, then 19, took an Uber to the school from a nearby home where he was living. He stored the AR-15 in a bag that made it look like a musical instrument, and told the driver he was headed for music class. He passed by at least two unarmed security guards and a student before he started shooting at 2:21 p.m.

Cruz roamed the hallways of the first floor of Building 12, the primary building for freshmen on the north side of campus. He shot students in the hallways and through the window of classrooms with the AR-15.

Why sentencing will resemble trial

Evidence that would have been shown to the court had Cruz undergone a criminal trial will be shown during the penalty phase, which is expected to take months because of the severity of the crime and the number of victims.

Jury selection is expected to take weeks and end with 20 jurors, eight of them being alternates. Throughout April, lawyers will spend Monday through Wednesday selecting possible jurors and Thursday and Friday for hearings related to evidence.

Finding jurors in Broward County who do not have strong emotions about the case is one problem the court will face in trying to seat a jury.

Richard Lubin, a Palm Beach County attorney who has handled high-profile cases before but is not involved with the Cruz case, said the notoriety of the case will make choosing a fair jury difficult.

"It is impossible on a case like this to get a fair and impartial jury," he said. "But, they'll get through enough jurors who will say I will be objective, I will follow the law."

As the jury selection for Cruz's sentencing trial begins, the proceeding marks the first time the gunman in a mass school shooting will have a trial.

Cruz' penalty trial is rare because many school shooters take their own life



People attend a memorial service in 2018 for the victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. USA TODAY NETWORK

during or after the shooting.

"I am very sorry for what I did. And I have to live with it every day. And that if I were to get a second chance, I will do everything in my power to try to help others," Cruz said after pleading guilty in October, one of the only times he spoke in the courtroom.

In order for a person to be sent to death row, the jury weighs aggravating and mitigating factors. They must find at least one aggravating factor to be proven, and it must outweigh the mitigating ones.

Aggravating factors can include the heinous, cruel, or depraved manner of the crime and substantial planning and premeditation to cause death, among others.

Mitigating factors that the defense will likely argue include Cruz committing the offense under severe mental or emotional disturbance.

The state has listed more than 1,000 witnesses but said it is unlikely all of them will testify. The defense also listed witnesses, many of them mental health experts who have analyzed Cruz, whose mental health is likely to be at the center of the trial.

Cruz's massacre followed a troubled childhood and adolescence.

He was born Sept. 24, 1998, to a woman with a history of drug use. When she was five months pregnant with him, she was arrested for buying crack cocaine.

A Parkland couple adopted Cruz at birth. His adoptive father died of a heart attack when Cruz was 5. Cruz saw it

happen and alerted his adoptive mother, Lynda Cruz.

Doctors diagnosed Cruz with several disorders and conditions while he was a child: depression, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, emotional behavioral disability and autism, records from the state Department of Children and Families show.

Since preschool, Cruz had a history of threatening, frightening, unusual and sometimes violent behavior, according to court records. At school, he was bullied and struggled to make friends, according to reports.

Over 10 years, Broward deputies responded to 23 calls to Cruz's home. When he was 14, his mother reported that he had hit her with a vacuum cleaner hose. A few months later, she told deputies he had thrown her against the wall when she took away his Xbox gaming system.

School records show he left public school in eighth grade for a school that offers a program for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities.

In January 2017, he assaulted someone at Stoneman Douglas, leading to his expulsion. He transferred to an alternative school in February, the same month he bought the AR-15 he used at the school a year later from a gun shop.

In September, the FBI was warned about an eerie comment on a YouTube channel from a user named Nikolas Cruz: "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

Then, in November 2017, Lynda Cruz died of pneumonia. She was 68, and Cruz was lost without her, those who knew him said.

"He is a broken human being. He is a broken child," assistant public defender Melisa McNeill said in the days after the shooting. Others described him as mentally ill and traumatized.

Nikolas and his younger brother Zachary Cruz went to live with a former neighbor, Roxanne Deschamps. She soon kicked Nikolas out after a violent tantrum.

Around Thanksgiving, James and Kimberly Snead, whose son was a fellow Stoneman Douglas student, took Cruz in to their home and gave him his own room. They saw him as a lonely teenager who did not know how to complete household chores. They let him keep guns in their home, something Deschamps would not allow.

Pharmacist gifts kidney to customer in urgent need

Minister says donor is his angel from heaven

Terry Baddoo
USA TODAY

Pharmacists are the unsung heroes of the medical profession. Toiling away in anonymity, dispensing medicines is an essential but low-profile job. However, pharmacists, especially those in neighborhood stores, often enjoy a certain hands-on familiarity with some of their regular customers.

Dr. Kathleen Kirkland is one such pharmacist. She works for the CVS pharmacy chain in Kernersville, North Carolina. It was there that she met Donnie Pickeral, a pastor who'd come to pick up some allergy medicine.

Pickeral has a rare genetic kidney disease called IgA nephropathy, although he was unaware of his condition until his late teens when it showed up in routine lab tests. Pickeral's kidneys were functioning at about 50% capacity, and the prognosis was bleak.

"There were statistics that I wouldn't have any kidneys within two years, and I would be on dialysis," Pickeral told WXII12 TV, an NBC news affiliate in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Buoyed by his faith, the pastor, who works for the Aycock Fellowship Ministries in Greensboro, North Carolina, soldiered on. With some major diet and lifestyle changes, his ailing kidneys held out for many years. But by 2019, his body was increasingly exhausted, and his situation had become dire. His kidney function fell to 7%.



Pastor Donnie Pickeral with kidney donor, Dr. Kathleen Kirkland, after kidney transplant surgery.

PASTOR DONNIE PICKERAL

Hoping for a miracle, Pickeral was put on the transplant list and began the anxious wait for a donor whose blood type and kidney size matched his own.

Pickeral was a regular customer at Kirkland's pharmacy, where the two had built a friendship over a couple of years.

"I was very impressed with her because she showed compassion, and she showed concern for me," Pickeral told Fox 8 WGHP in North Carolina.

The pastor unburdened himself to Kirkland during their regular chitchats, telling her he was finally on the transplant list and explaining the urgency of his plight.

"I said, 'If somebody can give me a kidney,' he told Fox 8, 'I could live and serve God's people for a long time.' She said, 'You're a pastor, aren't you?' I said 'yes,' and she said, 'I want to give you my kidney.'"

Kirkland's incredible generosity brought tears to Pickeral's eyes, but there were many more steps before the dream of a kidney transplant could become a reality. Together, they discussed the practicalities, and Kirkland ran some tests that revealed she was the same blood type and a perfect match. The pharmacist was ready to throw Pickeral a lifeline.

Kirkland was already preapproved as a kidney donor, but it wasn't plain sailing. In the lab, transplant doctors discovered that her cholesterol level was too high. Before they could perform surgery, she'd have to lower it. During that anxious wait, Pickeral's kidneys shrunk to the size of raisins, leaving his hopes of survival hanging by a thread.

Finally, in May of 2020, Kirkland's cholesterol was sufficiently low for Pickeral to receive her kidney.

Naturally, the two have remained good friends, with Pickeral describing Kirkland as his angel from heaven.

"I became a pharmacist because I wanted to help people," she told Fox 8. "I knew that if I was the right match for him, that was just meant to be. God bringing us together."



Lydia Bojorquez, left, Sebastian G. Sandoval and Sebastian F. Sandoval of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe sing a prayer before naming an eagle chick during a dedication ceremony at the San Francisco Zoo's Avian Conservation Center. ANDY KUNO/AP

DNA links San Francisco area residents to 'extinct' Native tribe

Celina Tebor
USA TODAY

California was home to more than 1 million Native Americans before Spanish settlers arrived in 1769. By the 1920s, less than 20,000 were alive.

Almost one-quarter of Spanish missions in California were in the Bay Area, and in 1925, anthropologist Alfred Kroeber wrote that the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe from the San Francisco Bay Area was "extinct for all practical purposes."

Kroeber's book was considered the "authority on California Indians" for decades, said Alan Leventhal, the Muwekma Ohlone's archaeologist and ethnohistorian.

The tribe has bucked those claims, and there's scientific evidence on its side: Living Ohlone tribal members have a DNA link to their Bay Area ancestors from thousands of years ago, according to new research.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, studied eight present-day tribal members and 12 ancient individuals from the Bay in two settlements occupied as far back as 1345 CE and

490 BCE.

DNA analysis from the ancient individuals and modern tribal members revealed genetic links between the two groups, a finding that was somewhat surprising to researchers considering the decimation Spanish settlers brought to the population. To the tribe, it affirmed what they already knew.

The Ohlone have petitioned the U.S. government for federal acknowledgment for almost 30 years. The process has been entangled in legal battles and bureaucratic red tape. The new findings will be an "eye-opener" for policymakers, Leventhal said.

"This becomes a vehicle for those people who would not take notice or who would doubt about the tribe's validity and veracity – that perhaps this was another example of injustice toward a population of people who have resided in the San Francisco Bay Area for 12,000 years," he said.

The study is innovative in several ways, said Noah Rosenberg, co-author of the paper and professor of population genetics and society at Stanford University. The type of genomic analysis that

researchers used has been developed within the past decade.

Another novel aspect of the research, Rosenberg said, was researchers and tribal members working closely together and creating objectives that mutually benefited both parties. Throughout the process, the tribe had full oversight of their ancestral heritage sites.

"The questions posed were developed together, with the tribe, based on their understanding about oral histories and their own records," Rosenberg said. "Their ancestors had been in these locations in the East Bay for a very long time."

He hopes this study will become a "case example" of collaboration between archaeologists, genomic researchers and tribal leaders.

Although only about 500 Ohlone ancestors are alive, the research resurrects their history, Leventhal said. The tribe is still trying to achieve federal recognition.

"Privately, this further validates the tribe," Leventhal said. "Now, as politicians are reading, they're noticing. And now we'll be lending support for the tribe's reaffirmation."

UN: The globe is headed to 'unlivable'

Climate report calls for rapid mitigation steps

Doyle Rice and Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

The time for talk has passed and the time to act is now, according to a new United Nations report on how to curb the worst consequences of climate change.

Rapid mitigation measures – reductions in fossil fuels and better building practices – are needed to avoid unsustainable global warming, according to the report.

In fact, the report says, without immediate and deep emission reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is "beyond reach."

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change revealed "a litany of broken climate promises" by governments and corporations and accused them of stoking global warming by clinging to harmful fossil fuels.

"It is a file of shame, cataloguing the empty pledges that put us firmly on track toward an unlivable world," he said. "We are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts."

Total net greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise during the years 2010-2019, according to the report. Although the rate of growth was lower than 2000-2009, the average annual emissions were higher than in any decade on record.

"This report tells us we're still not



Steam rises from a coal-fired power station in Niederaussem, Germany, in 2021. One step to fight climate change is to phase out fossil fuels. AP

doing enough to cut carbon emissions," United Nations Environment Programme executive director Inger Andersen said. "The last two decades saw the highest increase in carbon emissions in human history, even though we know the trouble we are in."

"The next decade cannot follow the same pattern if we are to hold warming this century to 1.5 degrees. We have the knowledge and the technology to get this done."

The environmental group Climate Nexus said the main takeaway from the report is that "we must wind down dependence on fossil fuels by scaling up renewables that are now incredibly cheap and available when political barriers are overcome, to deeply reduce carbon pollution as quickly as possible."

Reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are considered the most authoritative assessments of the state of global warming, its consequences and the measures

being taken to tackle it.

"It's now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)," IPCC co-chair Jim Skea said. "Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, it will be impossible."

The cutoff point for data in the report was last fall, meaning the effect of the war in Ukraine and the sanctions on Russia weren't included by the authors.

In August, the IPCC said climate change caused by humans was "an established fact" and warned that some effects of global warming are inevitable. In March, the panel published a report that outlined how temperature increases will multiply the risk of floods, storms, drought and heat waves.

"Getting the scientific community and governments to agree on the report's summary for policymakers wasn't easy – which shows one thing above all: It's decision time now," said report co-author Elmar Kriegler of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. "The report is not just words, it calls for action, and it's good that governments now recognize this."

Governments had agreed in the 2015 Paris accord to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) this century, ideally no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit).

Yet temperatures already have increased by more than 1.1 degrees C (2 degrees F) since pre-industrial times, resulting in measurable increases in disasters such as flash floods, prolonged droughts, more intense hurricanes and longer-burning wildfires – putting human lives in danger and costing governments hundreds of billions of dollars.

Contributing: The Associated Press

Arkansas man who woke up after long coma dies at age 57

Jordan Mendoza

USA TODAY

Terry Wayne Wallis, the Arkansas man who spent 19 years in a coma before regaining awareness and speaking in 2003, has died, according to an obituary. He was 57.

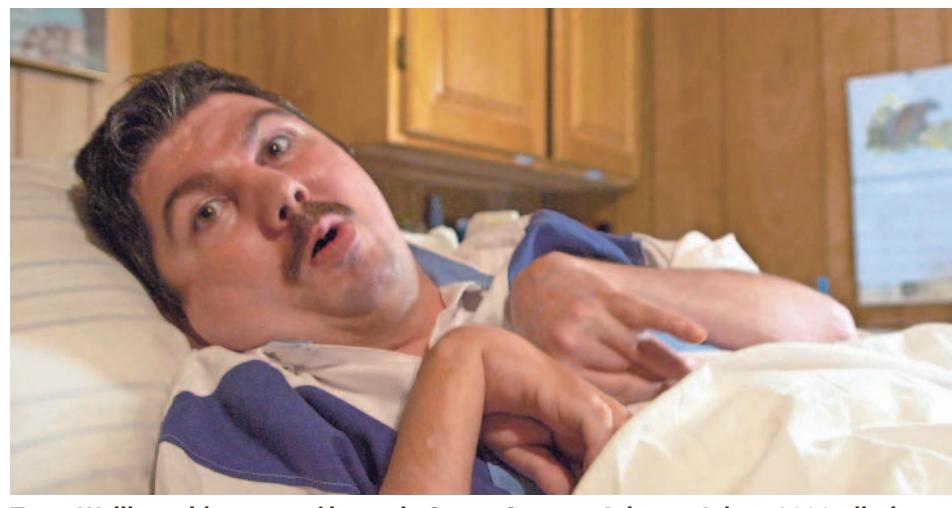
Wallis was in an automobile accident in his home state with a friend in July 1984, six weeks after his daughter, Amber, was born, according to the obituary in Roller Funeral Homes. The car plunged into a creek, and the two weren't found until the next day, underneath a bridge, The Associated Press reported in 2003. Wallis' friend died, and Wallis was put into a coma. The acci-

dent had left him a quadriplegic.

Wallis remained in the coma for 19 years, until June 12, 2003, when he said "Mom," his first word since he was comatose.

After regaining awareness, Wallis slowly was able to say "anything he wants to say," according to Stone County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center social director Alesha Badgley. The media and medical attention that surrounded Wallis afterward resulted in him being named "The Man Who Slept for 19 Years."

The obituary said Wallis' mother, Anigilee, and other family "cared for him relentlessly during his coma and afterward." Family brought him home on al-



Terry Wallis, at his parents' home in Stone County, Ark., on July 1, 2006, died on March 29. BRIAN CHILSON/AP

ternate weekends for years because doctors believed it would help his awakening period. He still thought it was 1984 when he regained awareness. His mother died in 2018.

The obituary said Wallis enjoyed eating "anything at any time and loved drinking Pepsi." He died March 29 in Big

Flat, Arkansas.

"Terry was a great teaser and loved to tease his sister. His wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed by his family," the obituary read.

Wallis is survived by his father, siblings, daughter and three grandchildren.

Jackson

Continued from Page 1A

outcome," he said. If a Democratic senator tested positive for the coronavirus, for example, and was unable to vote, the confirmation could be pushed back.

Monday's committee vote was delayed by one such factor outside the Senate's control: a passenger's medical emergency on Democratic committee member Alex Padilla's flight back to Washington from California Sunday night.

The flight was turned around, and Sen. Padilla was delayed getting back to Washington to vote until Monday afternoon.

The committee broke for recess until he was able to make it in person to vote in Jackson's favor.

In a split committee and a split Senate, any outside circumstance could affect the confirmation process.

"We're living in that world, a 50-50 world where every vote can make the difference as to whether or not she's going to be confirmed," Durbin said.

Republicans continue to criticize

Republican committee members resurrected their attacks on Jackson before the vote.

During the hearings, they pressed Jackson on her record sentencing defendants in child pornography cases and as a federal public defender representing detainees at Guantanamo Bay, the facility in Cuba holding inmates accused of being enemy combatants in the war on terror. In at times acrimonious questioning, members pushed Jackson to explain her views of controversial political issues such as court-packing, critical race theory and transgender rights.

"Her record on crime is out of the mainstream, her record on crime is extreme," said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

Cruz, who went to school with Jackson, said, "I've known Judge Jackson for 30 years, I've always liked her personally." Likewise, Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., couched his attacks on Jackson with praise of her character.

"I can say definitively that I like her, she's a good person, but I cannot support her," Hawley said before leveling

attacks on her decisions in child pornography cases in which she imposed sentences below federal guidelines.

Others on the committee voiced concern about her judicial philosophy.

"A judge must call balls and strikes, and given what I've seen and her unwillingness to disclose her judicial philosophy and disavow an expansive view of unenumerated rights, I have concerns that Judge Jackson will be pinch hitting for one team or the other. I will vote no," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of only three Republicans who voted to confirm Jackson to her position on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, said the Supreme Court is different. "I'll vote no, first time I've ever voted against any Supreme Court nominee," Graham said.

Dems highlight historical vote

Democrats used their time Monday to reiterate support for Jackson and underscore the historic nature of the vote.

"It's the first time the committee has had the opportunity to advance the nomination of a black woman to sit on

the Supreme Court. This is a historic moment for the committee, and for America," Durbin said.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a close ally of President Joe Biden, compared Jackson to Ruby Bridges, one of the first Black students to integrate a public school after the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Brown v. Board of Education.

"So, too, I found that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson conducted herself in questioning here with her head held high, with a sense of confidence in our Constitution, in our democracy and in the rule of law," Coons said.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., one of only three Black senators, quoted poet Maya Angelou during Monday's session. Last month, Booker brought Jackson to tears during the hearings with an emotional speech about the significance of her nomination.

"You may try to write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies, you may trod me in the very dirt, but still like dust, I rise," Booker said Monday. "Rise, sister Jackson; rise, Judge Jackson, all the way to the highest court in the land."

Contributing: Deborah Berry

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Just 10 Minutes Takes 10 Years Off Your Face – No Injections Required

Women are raving about the skin-rejuvenating effects of this deep-penetrating formula

There's no denying that people — mostly women — are on a mission to discover the best way to eliminate fine lines and wrinkles permanently. The \$14 billion dollars spent on aesthetic procedures in 2016 alone is a clear indication of that fact.

But now science appears to be offering a simpler solution. It's a special delivery technology adapted for skincare that gets superior results.

Known as advanced liposome technology, this powerful distribution system ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most, providing your skin with maximum anti-aging benefits.

New Age-Defying 'Dermal Filler' Cream in High Demand

Al Sears, MD, of Palm Beach, Florida, recently released an anti-aging cream that adapts this breakthrough medical technology into the realm of skincare, and he's struggling to keep up with consumer demand.

Dr. Sears is South Florida's leading anti-aging pioneer. He has authored over 500 reports, scientific papers, and books on anti-aging. A frequent lecturer at global anti-aging conferences, Dr. Sears spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz, along with special guest, Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people were in attendance as Dr. Sears discussed his latest anti-aging breakthroughs.

This powerful cream, known as Restore, keeps selling out faster than it's produced — and people are raving about the effect it's having on their skin.

"Within a few minutes of applying the cream, it visibly plumps out the under-eye area and my cheeks as well as those annoying lines that deepen as we age between the nose and lips. It also felt like it was tightening and smoothing my skin at the same time. I definitely feel I look younger whenever I use it," said Amy B., of Montville, New Jersey.

"The lines around my mouth and eyes are filled in and my skin is tightened. I love having younger-looking skin, so I will continue using Restore" raves Cathy C., of Florida.

The best part is that this cream has no adverse side effects, doesn't require a doctor's visit or prescription, and is 100% natural.

Advanced liposome technology ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most.

Powerful Delivery System Ensures Nutrients Penetrate Deep into Your Skin

The dermis is the underlying layer of skin that supplies nourishment and oxygen, and removes waste. In other words, it's responsible for keeping your outer layer of skin healthy. Liposome technology is designed to support and nourish this deeper layer of skin by delivering

nutrients directly to it.

"All of Restore's powerful ingredients are encapsulated in a liposome shell — an organic container that carries the beautifying agents deep into the skin cells," explained Dr. Sears.

"Restore's liposome shell is composed of phosphatidylcholine or PC for short. While cell membranes repel water, they absorb PC because they're actually made of it. As a result, Restore is delivered deep into the cell for maximum firming and volume."

When you apply liposome cream to your face, the liposomes in the skin cream work their way inside your skin, fuse with the skin cell membranes and then release their contents directly to the cells. Regular skin creams don't have this capability.

A Formula Designed to Take 10 Years off Your Face in Just 10 Minutes

Once it's penetrated the deeper layer of skin, Restore releases a unique blend of botanicals, vitamins and essential oils that reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, gives skin a more even tone, and moisturizes the interior layers of your dermal cells, firming and plumping your skin.

Restore's first skin-enhancing agent is Madonna lily leaf stem cell extract. It helps produce an even-toned complexion. In a clinical study reported in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology, participants treated with this extract for 28 days showed improvements in skin luminance and tone around the eyes.

Restore is also loaded with



Revolutionary new dermal-filler cream takes 10 years off your face in just 10 minutes

vitamin C, which British researchers have found reduces both wrinkles and dryness. "In Restore we use magnesium ascorbyl phosphate, a more stable form of vitamin C that doesn't break down in liquid as does ordinary C," explains Dr. Sears. "That means the antioxidant molecules stay intact within your skin cells where they can prevent damage from dangerous free radicals."

This powerful formula also features guarana seed extract, coenzyme Q10, and avocado oil. Japanese researchers have also found that coenzyme Q10 supports production of the thin membrane that separates layers of your skin, and French studies have shown that avocado oil improves skin cell metabolism and enhances skin thickness.

Where To Get Restore

Right now the only way to get this powerful age-defying delivery technology is through Dr. Sears.

To get life-changing results like Amy and Cathy, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline

at 1-800-235-3144 within the next 48 hours. "We simply don't have enough supply to get Restore shipped directly to stores," said Dr. Sears. "The hotline allows us to ship the product directly to the customer — the one who really wants it."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, that he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on every order. "Just send back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I'll send you your money back," said Dr. Sears.

The hotline will be taking orders while supplies last. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock.

Call 1-800-235-3144 to secure your limited supply of Restore. If you were not able to get through last week due to extremely high call volume, please try again! You don't need a prescription, and those who call in now qualify for a significant discount. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code **USARS10** when you call in.

Suicide

Continued from Page 1A

knew they were true.

"I understand what the soldiers are going through now," Baker recalled, still shocked and troubled by the delay. "Soldiers sit there and tell you a story, 'I tried to go get help, and there's nobody there to help me.' I finally understood what my lower enlisted soldiers were going through."

Suicide in the military is on the rise, climbing from 20.3 per 100,000 troops in 2015 to 28.7 per 100,000 in 2020. The problem is most acute in the Army. Within the Army, nowhere is the crisis more evident than Alaska. And in Alaska, Fort Wainwright is the epicenter of the epidemic.

In 2021, 17 soldiers in Alaska died by suicide, more deaths than the two previous years combined and far above its average of six per year from 2016 to 2020.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., blames the Army for failing soldiers like Baker.

"Service members in need of mental health services, including those who have nearly died by suicide, can't wait two months for service — yet that's exactly what I've heard from service members in Alaska," said Speier, who chairs the House Armed Services Committee's panel on military personnel.

Suicide devastates more than the service member and their family. It reverberates among the soldier's peers, eroding morale and readiness, said Col. Stephen Phillips, who commands the Army's 1-25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Fort Wainwright.

Mental health problems — some that soldiers harbor when they join the Army, others triggered by overseas deployments and family absences — can go untreated, hidden, as soldiers worry about the stigma of seeking help.

Few Army units, if any, know the gutting loss of a comrade to suicide better than Phillips' brigade.

"Suicides absolutely have an impact on your readiness," Phillips said. "It is undeniable."

Seven soldiers at Fort Wainwright have died by suicide since Phillips took command of the brigade in 2020. None of the units he'd commanded in the 20 prior years had suffered one soldier lost to suicide.

"You look at the faces, you look at the emotion, you look at what they're struggling with internally, and you realize they can't put it in words," Phillips said. "Sometimes that's a weight that they're going to carry for the rest of their days, not just in uniform, but on this earth."

Phillips and Maj. Gen. Brian Eifler, commander of U.S. Army Alaska, gave USA TODAY open access to Fort Wainwright for a week in mid-February to speak with many of the 4,300 soldiers in the brigade — of all ranks, in small groups and individually — about the epidemic of suicide. What emerged was a picture of the harsh work and living conditions for soldiers posted here, consistent complaints about the lack of timely access to mental health counselors, and what the Army has done well and not so well to care for them.

"COVID is a challenge, but it's not killing our soldiers," Eifler said. "Suicide is. This problem with suicide has got my full attention. I think about it every day."

In Alaska last year, suicide was almost uniquely an Army problem among the armed services. There are also 10,000 Air Force airmen based in Alaska. Many in the same parts of the state. Yet only one airmen died by suicide in 2021, according to the Air Force.

The worry for Eifler and Army brass is that the high suicide toll in 2021 represents some type of new, horrible normal in Alaska.

Alaska 'can kill you'

February's frigid weather in Fairbanks penetrates the thickest mittens instantly. Temperatures plummet to 40 below zero, and dry, crunchy snow erases sidewalks. It's cold enough that touching metal with bare skin can result in frostbite. Ice, inches thick, coats the two-lane road to Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, 350 miles away.

At 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 17, it's pitch-black and minus 25 degrees. Soldiers emerge from their vehicles, strap on cross-country skis and head for the trails as part of routine physical fitness. Some soldiers love it.

For others, like Pfc. Charles Parker, 22, from New Orleans, the Alaskan winter is to be endured, not embraced. He is seeking what's known as compassionate reassignment to be with his wife, somewhere far from Alaska.

"There's nothing easy about this environment," Parker said. "It's challenging. It will push you to your limits. It will make you figure out what you have to do to survive. And then you have to do



Temperatures are below freezing half of the year in Fairbanks, Alaska. The cold and short days can be difficult to endure. PHOTOS BY JESSICA KOSCIELNIAK/USA TODAY

more than survive, you have to try to enjoy something else here. That's what the suicide rate is about — just surviving. You're going to feel depressed."

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Montgomery, 28, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, said news he would be sent to Alaska was not well received.

"I literally cried. I don't cry," he said. "Most of my family cried. They were not happy."

Montgomery said he loves working with soldiers here. But the winter, the darkness and the isolation in Alaska can be enveloping.

"It's like suffocation," he said. "Every day does blend together. And you're doing the same thing every freaking day."

Getting home for a break isn't cheap, either. The cost of airfare to the 48 contiguous states from Fairbanks can be prohibitive. Parker said a ticket can easily cost more than a month's pay for a low-ranking soldier.

It's below freezing about half the year in Fairbanks. On its darkest winter day, Fairbanks sees a few hours of twilight. The city of about 30,000 people has restaurants, a Costco, a Safeway and is home to the "Northernmost Starbucks." Fairbanks has everything you need and nothing you don't, Phillips said.

It's also a seven-hour drive to Anchorage, the nearest large city. That drive, past Denali National Park, slices through icy black spruce forests and sheer mountains. It feels like entering a snow globe. Whiteouts from passing trucks and moose on the road's shoulder snap drivers from their reverie.

"There's an inescapable element of remoteness that just comes with it," Phillips says of living in Alaska's interior.

Winter forces some soldiers to retreat to their barracks rooms. Commanders fight against that tendency, Phillips said, noting that the isolation can deepen for some and metastasize into depression. Leaders encourage soldiers to socialize with their peers, organizing outings to ski, snowmobile, ice fish and hike. In the summer, seemingly endless days of sunlight disrupt sleep.

Alaska is a tough place to live for civilians, too. It had the second-highest suicide rate in the nation in 2019, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Even for those who love wilderness, Alaskan hazards lurk. A few minutes outside town, cellphone coverage vanishes. It can be refreshing to get unplugged; life-threatening if you have car trouble in sub-zero weather.

"The environment can kill you," Eifler said. "There's animals that will kill you. It's not for everybody."

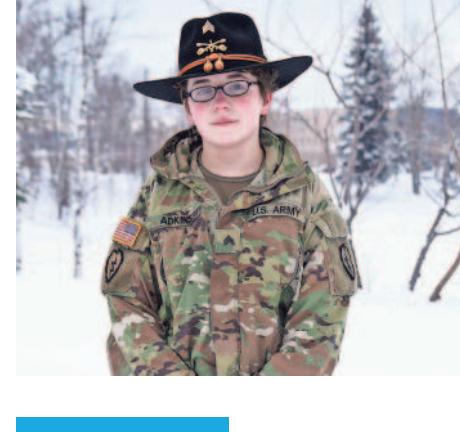
Combating suicide, improving life

Preventing suicide among soldiers has seized the attention of the Pentagon's senior leadership. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited troops in Alaska last summer and stressed the importance of mental health. Over the winter, senior Army officers checked in. The Army's suicide epidemic has the attention of Congress, too. Speier held a hearing on Capitol Hill last month. Another, in the Senate, is scheduled Wednesday.

Fort Wainwright is one of nine installations that will be examined by an independent commission charged with reducing suicide in the military. Two more in Alaska — Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Eielson Air Force Base — will also be studied.

Suicide is not a new scourge at Fort Wainwright. In 2019, after a spike in suicides, the Army embarked on a program that funneled more than \$200 million into improving living and working conditions at the post.

The improvements include new barracks. Others are being renovated. Blackout curtains were installed to help soldiers sleep in the land of the midnight sun. Vast garages have sprung up,



"This is a very hard place. It can be brutal. With no sunlight and it can get down to negative 60. As well as you're far away from your family."

Sgt. Meadow Adkins
Stationed at Fort Wainwright

allowing mechanics to service armored combat vehicles indoors.

For years, the Army has provided soldiers sent to Alaska with extra cash to defray costs such as winterizing a vehicle and buying heavy coats, hats and mittens. The Army pays \$2,000 to single soldiers and \$4,000 for those with families.

The Army also has initiatives aimed at finding soldiers who can thrive in Alaska. It's providing them with more predictable schedules and connecting them with counseling services.

Recruits in recent years have been given the option of choosing Alaska as a place to serve. So far, more than 500 soldiers have signed up, said Eifler, the two-star officer in charge.

"We need to be maybe a bit more selective on who we send here," Eifler said. "Because if someone's already vulnerable, (Alaska) could magnify the situation."

An annual "wellness check" with a licensed counselor is required for soldiers. By mandating the sessions, which last from 30 minutes to an hour, the Army hopes to remove the stigma of seeking help for mental health. Eifler and Phillips were first in line to help drive home that message.

Christine Donovan, the Army's community service chief in Alaska, described the session as an introduction to counseling, showing soldiers resources for individuals, couples and families. Six of about the first 100 soldiers have sought referrals for additional help. A "win," Donovan said.

Stigma a barrier to seeking care

Yet to see as many soldiers as possible, the Army needs more counselors, Donovan said. She's seeking a "surge" of at least 10 counselors to see 7,000 soldiers based at Fort Wainwright.

Removing the stigma of seeking help requires sustained attention and assurance that it won't damage careers or be seen as letting down fellow soldiers, said retired Gen. Peter Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the Army from 2008 to 2012.

He advocates persuading soldiers in crisis to surrender their personal weapons for safekeeping at the base.

A 'concoction' of pills, then counseling saved her life

Sgt. Meadow Adkins works in a supply room for 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

"Most civilians think that we're all like carrying guns around all the time and just ready to fight," said Adkins, 21, of Lawton, Michigan. "I work in an office. At my desk."

She's lucky to be talking about office life. She's made three suicide attempts.

The last, in October 2020, was followed by in-patient treatment and outpatient therapy that she credits with saving her life.

Adkins joined the Army, she said, for travel and financial security. Travel came fast: a deployment to Iraq shortly after being sent to Alaska. The Middle East tour allowed her to skip a winter in Alaska but not stress. A rocket struck her base in Iraq, killing an American contractor. She helped arrange the return home of the contractor's remains.

Her first attempt at suicide followed.

"I ended up taking just whatever pills I had: ibuprofen, Benadryl, Tylenol, different sleep aids, just a concoction of all of them," she said.

She woke up as though nothing had happened.

Seeing a therapist after that helped, she said. But after returning to Alaska, there was conflict with friends and issues with relatives at home. She made a second attempt at taking her life with more pills. Adkins was hospitalized and put on suicide watch.

Adkins said she was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. It's an illness marked by varying moods and issues with self-image, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Intense episodes of anger, depression and anxiety can occur. Another symptom: self-harm, which Adkins said she'd experienced beginning in middle school.

Left alone for a moment while on suicide watch, she swallowed about 30 sleeping pills. It landed her back in the Army hospital where she was given charcoal to counteract the pills.

A nurse questioned her motivation, she said. "All she kept saying was, 'Did you do this for attention?'"

Adkins was transferred from Fort Wainwright to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage. She received a week of inpatient treatment there and another month of intensive outpatient therapy that helped her develop coping skills.

"People going through similar situations just trying to, I guess, find the will to live," Adkins said. "It was very, very helpful."

Seeing a counselor, she said, should be no different than seeing a doctor for a physical sickness.

She and her husband are looking forward to a posting in Germany this summer.

"This is a very hard place," Adkins said. "It can be brutal. With no sunlight and it can get down to negative 60. As well as you're far away from your family."

'A sham': Lawmaker blasts Army's access to mental health care

For Adkins, the system in Alaska worked. For others, it appears to be failing.

One of the larger and glaring ways, according to soldiers from the lower-enlisted ranks through the officer corps here, is the lengthy wait times to see a behavioral health counselor.

Army officials in Alaska had maintained that soldiers and their families received prompt mental health care, saying long waits to see counselors were uncommon. Over a two-month period ending in late January, soldiers and their families waited an average of three to 14 days for appointments, Col. Eli Lozano, commander of U.S. Army Medical Activity in Alaska, said in a statement at the time.

Last week, the Army acknowledged that it needs more counselors in Alaska and is seeking a surge of mental health providers, U.S. Army Alaska spokesman John Pennell said.

"There is no doubt that the wait times are sometimes too long," Pennell said.

Speier accused the military of manipulating statistics to hide its inability to counsel troops in crisis.

"The Pentagon's access-to-care standards are a sham," she said. "They count intake sessions with technicians as meeting their standards when patients in crisis clearly need timely one-on-one treatments with a credentialed clinician."

"Where is the sense of urgency from the Pentagon? We need meaningful action now."

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who chairs the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, has scheduled a hearing Wednesday on mental health in the armed forces. She wants to determine what resources are needed to prevent suicide and address the crisis.

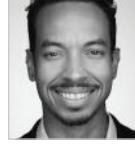
"Service members contemplating suicide need urgent help and should never have to wait a month to see a mental health counselor," Gillibrand said.

If you are a service member or veteran in crisis or having thoughts of suicide (or know someone who is), call the Military Crisis Line/Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1; text 838255; or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

OPINION

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Last Obama Republican hasn't lost all hope



John Wood Jr.
Braver Angels

I sometimes wonder if I'm the last Obama Republican. In saying this I have to qualify: I was no big fan of President Barack Obama's economic policies, have doubts about the wisdom of much of his foreign policy, and think he took liberties with the Constitution in ways that might feel shocking if we weren't fresh off the presidency of Donald Trump.

Yet, a young Sen. Obama proved that one could call out to the better angels of our nature and still succeed at the highest levels of American politics. Obama circa 2008 set a bar for grace in the grit of campaigning that inspired a generation of Americans to believe in a better sort of discourse. I was one of them.

Now, in 2022, we need that spirit back more than ever.

Remarkable moment in Denver

It is remarkable how things fade from memory. The night Obama gave his acceptance speech for the Democratic nomination, to thunderous approval from adoring supporters at Denver's Mile High Stadium, I can remember Brit Hume on Fox News taking to the air to say that, while his network was critical of the newly minted Democratic nominee, the historic nature of the moment was something they joined the country in celebrating.

When Obama, our first African American president, ultimately did prevail on Election Day, the veteran conservative commentator praised the president-elect's oratory and his team's effectiveness.

When Vice President-elect Joe Biden strode forth to shake Obama's hand center stage, Hume had kind, if qualified,

words for him as well: "We were all sitting here thinking that if Sen. Biden were allowed to make a speech now too that we could all probably go home and the morning team would be there to pick it up when he was done. Friendly fellow, we're all fond of him, but he is a bit loquacious."

Hume's style as a commentator evinced echoes of sportscasters like Chick Hearn or Vin Scully – one knew they were rooting for the home team, but they never failed to say something good about the other side.

Today, however, it would be hard to find a mainstream conservative broadcaster willing to say anything like "we're all fond" of Biden. Rather the euphemistic chants of "let's go Brandon" erupt at political rallies and sporting events, spewing from the mouths of those whose contempt for a president they believe has contempt for them has overwhelmed the traditional boundaries of public decorum.

This isn't Biden's fault. Nor is it the fault of the ordinary Republicans who revile him. We live in a moment in American life where the incentives governing political society are perverse to the point of metastasization.

Yes we had four years of a President Donald Trump who (even those who love him will agree) was the most willfully divisive president in American history. But that itself is a reflection of a reality Trump exploited and exacerbated, not one that he created.

An America already embroiled in cultural civil war sought gladiators to sweep aside the stifling decorum of gentler ages to exact vengeance on their political foes. In retrospect, Trump met the moment.

Obama's vision inspired America

Yet in 2004 – a time that could only

have been considered reasonable by those who could see 12 years into the future – the newly elected junior senator from Illinois was already lamenting the divisions of our age and warning against the cynicism that would lead us to accept them.

As he wrote in "The Audacity of Hope": "Maybe the critics are right. Maybe there's no escaping our great political divide, an endless clash of armies, and any attempts to alter the rules of engagement are futile. Or maybe the trivialization of politics has reached a point of no return. ... But I don't think so. They are out there, I think to myself, those ordinary citizens who have grown up in the midst of all the political and cultural battles, but who have found a way ... to make peace with their neighbors."

I was not watching when Obama burst onto the scene at the 2004 Democratic National Convention to speak what to this day are probably his most famous words. Addressing those "who would seek to divide us," Obama declared, "there is not a liberal America and a conservative America, there is the United States of America! There is not a Black America, and a white America and Latino America, and Asian America, there's the United States of America!"

But going back and watching this speech as a politically disenchanted 20-year-old on the eve of Obama's presidential run moved me toward believing in politics again. Revisiting this moment on CNN's YouTube channel as I write this article, I note the top-ranked comment left only a year ago was from a man named Lucas: "I'm a Republican, but this speech made me proud to be an American. I wish our country was united again."

I was a liberal Democrat when I worked as a canvasser for the Obama campaign in 2008. Years later, I would shock my Democratic friends and family by becoming a Republican and running for Congress – only to shock my new Re-

publican supporters when I told them I still believed in the Obama vision of hope and change.

But going door to door in 2008, I met many Republicans and John McCain voters who felt the same way.

Ex-president reflects on his tenure

Today, former President Obama has retired from regular public view, as is generally appropriate for former presidents to do. One has the sense of a man content to believe he did some good in office while long ago resigned to the notion that his earlier idealism was never going to be enough to prevent the escalation of our partisan warfare in ways few of us could have imagined.

In his post presidential memoir, "A Promised Land," Obama reflects upon the consequences of having raised Americans' hopes so high and the failure of their efforts to sober expectations. The context was questioning whether this left the country ill prepared to contend with the painful realities of the financial collapse: "...maybe it was for the best that people couldn't hear those cautionary notes. ... Maybe what was needed was a burst of energy, no matter how fleeting ... the kind of high that could provide just enough momentum to get us through the most treacherous part of the journey."

The journey has only become more treacherous since then. We need more than a burst of energy. We need a deeper, abiding commitment to the transcendent ethos of hope and change that Obama once represented. It is up to we the people ourselves to revive this spirit. But I would welcome the former president to join us in hope again.

John Wood Jr. is a national leader for Braver Angels, a former nominee for Congress, former vice chairman of the Republican Party of Los Angeles County, musical artist and a writer and speaker on racial and political reconciliation. Follow him on Twitter: @JohnRWoodJr.

Putin proves religion, politics are a bad mix



Jim Wallis
Georgetown University
Center on Faith and Justice

Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has framed his country's brutal invasion of Ukraine as part of a "metaphysical" battle against Western values that bless so-called sins like gay pride parades.

But the patriarch's concern for sexual morality hasn't stopped him from jumping into bed with Russian President Vladimir Putin, politically. And that is a sin.

Strange bedfellows pose a perennial problem for religious leaders – and not just for them but for their faith communities as well. As the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. wisely said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."

King knew what he was talking about. All manner of politicians offered him worldly power if he was willing to sanctify their policies. But without the Black church's prophetic witness – which always requires distance from the powers that be – there would have been no civil rights movement.

Governments need accountability

What's true in the United States also is true in Ukraine and Russia. Will religion be reduced to a tool of authoritarianism, as King warned, or will it be the critic and guide that he said governments always need?

The situation now – and importance of moral leadership in Russia – could not be more urgent: Russian bombs are raining down on hospitals, schools, desperate families and vulnerable children. The world is watching in horror.

As Pope Francis told Kirill during a virtual meeting between the two church leaders on March 16, "The church must not use the language of politics but the language of Jesus."

Naming Putin's war and the Russian military machine's assault on an entire country as "evil" should be the first thing religious leaders do during a moral outrage like this one. The good news is that religious leaders are rising up around the world and directly challenging Patriarch Kirill to rethink his support for his country's immoral invasion.

Use influence to end war

I was part of one such effort: More than 100 U. S. church leaders, including heads of denominations and charities, prominent writers and activists, wrote to Kirill and said: "With broken hearts, we are making an earnest plea that you use your voice and profound influence to call for an end to the hostilities and war in Ukraine and intervene with authorities in your nation to do so."

Our letter was neither political nor ideological, but rather "ecclesial" – a message from one community of faith leaders to another.

The message we wanted to impart was that Kirill's support for Russia's invasion might be good for his relationship with Putin, who gave him the country's highest award in November, but it is disastrous for the people of Ukraine and for his relationship with other Christians, including members of his Orthodox tradition.

An increasing number of Orthodox Christian leaders are cutting ties with Kirill. At least 20 have taken the symbolic but spiritually significant step of removing his name from their ritual prayers during worship services, citing his failure to condemn the war, while clergy groups also are demanding their church declare independence from the Moscow Patri-



Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill releases doves to mark Annunciation Day in Moscow. Kirill has framed Russia's invasion of Ukraine as part of a "metaphysical" battle against Western values. YURI KOCHETKOV/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

archate, according to National Catholic Reporter. At least one Russian Orthodox church in Amsterdam announced it would sever its ties with the patriarch.

Partisanship overwhelms the faith

In the United States, we've seen similar divisions erupt among white evangelicals over their staunch support for former President Donald Trump. As columnist David Brooks wrote recently in the New York Times, "Partisan politics has swamped what is supposed to be a religious movement."

"This politicization is one reason people have cited to explain why so many are leaving the faith," Brooks continued, pointing to surveys that show white evangelicals declining as a percentage of the American population.

Sociologist David Campbell argues that the religious right's obsession with partisan politics – with political power, really – is costing them a generation of disciples.

"Many Americans – especially young people – see religion as bound up with political conservatism, and the Republican Party specifically," Campbell writes.

"Since that is not their party, or their politics, they do not want to identify as being religious."

It's not easy to stand up to political power. As the Bible tells us, the prophets were rarely popular in their home countries, especially in the royal courts and corridors of power. King's decision to speak out against the Vietnam War resulted in immense criticism.

But prophetic courage is required of religious leaders, even when great risk is involved, and we must accept that criticism comes with the territory. It shouldn't stop us from examining our relationships to people in power: Are we bedfellows, court chaplains or prophets?

As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reminded President Joe Biden last month during an address to Congress, being a leader in this world means being a "leader of peace." Our lives depend on it.

The Rev. Jim Wallis is founding director and holds the chair in Faith and Justice of the Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice. He is an author, theologian and founder of the Christian social justice advocacy organization and publication Sojourners.

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MUSK NOW TWITTER'S LARGEST SHAREHOLDER

Elon Musk recently purchased 9.2% of Twitter stock, about 73.5 million shares, according to a filing Monday. That makes him the largest shareholder in the company. Musk has been skeptical of Twitter in the past, suggesting the social media platform shouldn't be rigidly regulated. "Free speech is essential to a functioning democracy. Do you believe Twitter rigorously adheres to this principle?" he tweeted. Anytime an investor buys 5% or more of a company's shares, the purchase must be disclosed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

LITHUANIA CUTS OFF RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS

Lithuania says it has cut itself off entirely of gas imports from Russia, apparently becoming the first of the European Union's 27 nations using Russian gas to break its energy dependence upon Moscow. Lithuania managed to reduce imports of Russian gas to zero on Saturday, a milestone in achieving energy independence in the former Soviet republic of 2.8 million, the energy ministry said.

APPEALS COURT WON'T REVISIT PIPELINE RULING

A federal appeals court has refused to revisit a ruling that struck down a key permit for a proposed natural gas pipeline running through Virginia and West Virginia. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said last week that it would not revisit a February ruling by a three-judge panel that invalidated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's opinion that the Mountain Valley Pipeline would not jeopardize two endangered fish species. The panel found "serious errors" with the agency's conclusion that pipeline construction wouldn't pose a threat to the Roanoke logperch or the candy darter.

Dow Jones Industrial Avg.



MONDAY MARKETS

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Dow Jones Industrial Avg.	34,921.88	▲ 103.61
S&P 500	4,582.64	▲ 36.78
Nasdaq composite	14,532.55	▲ 271.05
T-note, 10-year yield	2.405	▲ 0.019

SOURCES USA TODAY RESEARCH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Treasury rates

Rates as of Monday market close.

	Rate	Week ago
1 mo. T-bill	0.17%	0.18%
3 mo. T-bill	0.68%	0.61%
5-yr. T-note	2.56%	2.54%
10-yr. T-note	2.41%	2.47%
30-yr. T-bond	2.47%	2.57%

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We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 3B**

Destination brings out sense of wonder in many who visit

Touch a Jurassic-period fossil and go rafting? Dinosaur National Monument has both. **Page 4B**



ARE WE IN A HOUSING BUBBLE?

Researchers warn they're seeing abnormal market behavior for first time since early 2000s boom time

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy

USA TODAY

America's real estate market may be showing signs of a housing bubble as prices become "unhinged from fundamentals," according to the authors of a blog post published by the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank.

House prices can fall out of sync with market fundamentals like supply and demand when there is a widespread belief that prices will keep climbing.

"If many buyers share this belief, purchases arising from a 'fear of missing out' can drive up prices and heighten expectations of strong house-price gains," according to the researchers.

The exuberant, expectations-driven gains in home prices could have

many consequences, such as bankruptcies, broad effects on growth and employment and distorted investment patterns, the researchers warned.

Monitoring the housing market for the emergence of such price booms can help investors and policymakers respond before an economic crisis erupts.

What does a housing bubble mean?

A housing bubble is a period marked by an unusual spike in housing prices fueled by high demand and low supply, speculation by investors and exuberant spending.

These bubbles are caused by a variety of factors, including rising economic

See HOUSING, Page 4B

GETTY IMAGES

IRS: Don't expect a quick refund

Big backlog from 2021 is one reason for delays



Susan Tompor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Some things are turning into bad bets this spring. Putting money on Gonzaga University making it to the men's basketball Final Four. Imagining no one could possibly have a reason to remember the 2022 Oscars.

Add another: Banking on seeing your federal income tax refund within the advertised 21 days.

Many people, plain and simple, shouldn't bet on getting refund money quickly. The Internal Revenue Service is once again cautioning taxpayers not to

rely on "receiving a refund by a certain date, especially when making major purchases or paying bills."

The IRS has a list of reasons that refund money could take months to get, even if you file electronically, including cases of identity theft.

Refunds average \$3,305 so far this year

Make no mistake, nearly 51.8 million people already have received tax refunds this year through March 18. That's up 4.1% from a year ago.

The average refund so far is \$3,305 — up 12.9% from this point a year ago. Already, \$171 billion in refund cash is out there since the tax filing season kicked off Jan. 24.

Many tax professionals and early filers tell me they've had no trouble getting federal refunds within two weeks or so of electronically filing. So, that's some

good news.

Last year, of course, the IRS found itself in an outlandish mess involving refund delays — a mess that continues to bog down refunds.

The IRS had a backlog of more than 17 million unprocessed tax returns from last year as of early February — including 10.8 million unprocessed individual returns, according to Senate Finance Committee testimony by Erin Collins, the national taxpayer advocate. That figure includes both paper returns and some electronically filed returns that had been suspended during processing, often due to mistakes on the return.

Reasons for refund delays

Collins told the Free Press that millions of taxpayers face challenging delays this year because of an inventory backlog

See TOMPOR, Page 2B

IRS says more than half of returns are filed



Susan Tompor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Pulling out every excuse in the book to avoid doing your taxes this weekend? Here's a stat that might shame you into gear.

A bit more than half of all the returns that the Internal Revenue Service expects to receive during 2022 have already been filed.

Yep, nearly 81.4 million federal income tax returns were done as of March 25 – slightly more than three weeks before this year's April 18 filing deadline for most of the country.

The IRS estimates that it will receive 160.7 million returns in 2022. The agency by the end of last week processed 78.8 million returns, up 3.8%, from the same time a year ago.

Self-prepared returns lag

The flip side is another 79.3 million returns are yet to be filed.

Some do-it-yourself filers are clearly

dragging their feet.

Self-prepared returns that are electronically filed were down 5.8% through March 25, compared with the same time last year, according to the latest IRS statistics released Friday.

The IRS reported receiving 38.5 million self-prepared e-filed returns thus far this year.

E-filed returns prepared by tax professionals are about flat with 39.9 million returns filed through March 25.

Total returns filed, which would include paper returns, are down slightly, 4.3%, compared with a year ago.

Year-to-year numbers can be hard to compare, though, given changes in tax rules.

Take data for self-prepared returns. In 2020, for example, many people who typically wouldn't be required to file a return based on their low income ended up self-filing a return through the IRS.gov site "Free File" to claim the Economic Impact Payment.

In 2021, those who aren't typically required to file also self-filed to claim the Economic Impact Payment and the advance child tax credit. Such factors, according to the IRS, increased the num-

ber of self-filers beyond normal projections.

It's also good to note that the 2021 filing season did not have a typical start date or deadline. Last year, the tax season was delayed and began Feb. 12. The filing deadline was extended and pushed to May 17, 2021.

Remember: Deadline is April 18

This year, the filing season began at a more typical start date on Jan. 24. The filing deadline is April 18 for most of the country.

Early filers have seen decent refunds in many cases.

The average refund was \$3,263 for the year through March 25, up 12.4% from a year ago.

In all, the IRS has issued 57.8 million refunds this year worth nearly \$189 billion. Total refund dollars are up 15.1%.

It's important to keep in mind that the IRS is cautioning taxpayers not to rely on "receiving a refund by a certain date." The IRS has a list of reasons that refund money could take months to get, even if you file electronically.

Matt Hetherwick, director of individual tax programs for the nonprofit Ac-

counting Aid Society in Detroit, which offers free tax preparation for families and individuals with incomes up to \$58,000, said refunds are often higher for many clients, thanks to the increased child tax credit and the enhanced earned income tax credit.

For example, the earned income credit has nearly tripled on 2021 returns for lower-income workers who have no children.

The most one can earn with no qualifying children on 2021 federal income tax returns is \$1,502. That's up from the old benefit of \$538 on 2020 returns for those with no children.

Hetherwick said it is concerning to see a declining number of returns being filed so far, noting that some filers could be hoping that the tax deadline will be extended another month like last year.

He warned that the April 18 deadline is extremely likely to stick at this point in the season. While it's possible to file for an automatic six-month extension, that break won't give you more time to pay the money that's due.

"April 18th is the filing deadline if you owe taxes to the IRS," he said, "so those filers should make sure they're getting (returns) filed on or before that day."

Tompor

Continued from Page 1B

at the IRS carried over into 2022.

The large backlog includes original returns, amended returns, individual business returns, as well as correspondence.

"They're still working through those returns before they start dealing with some of the challenges and problems from this (season's) tax return," Collins said.

Of all individual returns processed last year, Collins noted, 77% resulted in refunds.

Processing delays generally translate into refund delays, she said, which can trigger financial hardships for some, including evictions, utility shutoffs and difficulty buying necessities, such as groceries and medicine.

Mistakes being made with stimulus payments

One trouble spot: Did you overlook that you received money last year, or miscalculate how much you got? Are you incorrectly claiming the recovery rebate credit on a 2022 return?

Or are you not reporting the correct information relating to the actual amount of money you received for advance child tax credit payments in 2021?

The IRS is seeing mistakes in claiming the recovery rebate and child tax credits once again this year. It continues to warn taxpayers of potential delays. It could take several weeks to resolve some of these issues.

It's possible someone could forget that they received money last year, for example, and then try to claim the recovery rebate credit on the 2021 return.

One taxpayer told me that he believed that he did not receive his third Economic Impact Payment last year for \$1,400. He then claimed the recovery rebate credit on his return, which the IRS accepted via electronic filing Feb. 23. He expected a tax refund of \$2,200.

But he looked again at his bank statements, which included an auto-deposit for \$1,400 in early 2021.

Should he file an amended return now, he asked me, saying he owed \$1,400 and then send a check to the IRS? He couldn't imagine that the IRS would simply adjust his refund down from \$2,200 to \$800.

But if he sent a check with an amended return, what would happen if the IRS issued the adjusted refund? How would he get the \$1,400 back?

It's not an uncommon mix-up – and one that will lead to refund delays, according to Mark Steber, chief tax officer at Jackson Hewitt Tax Service.

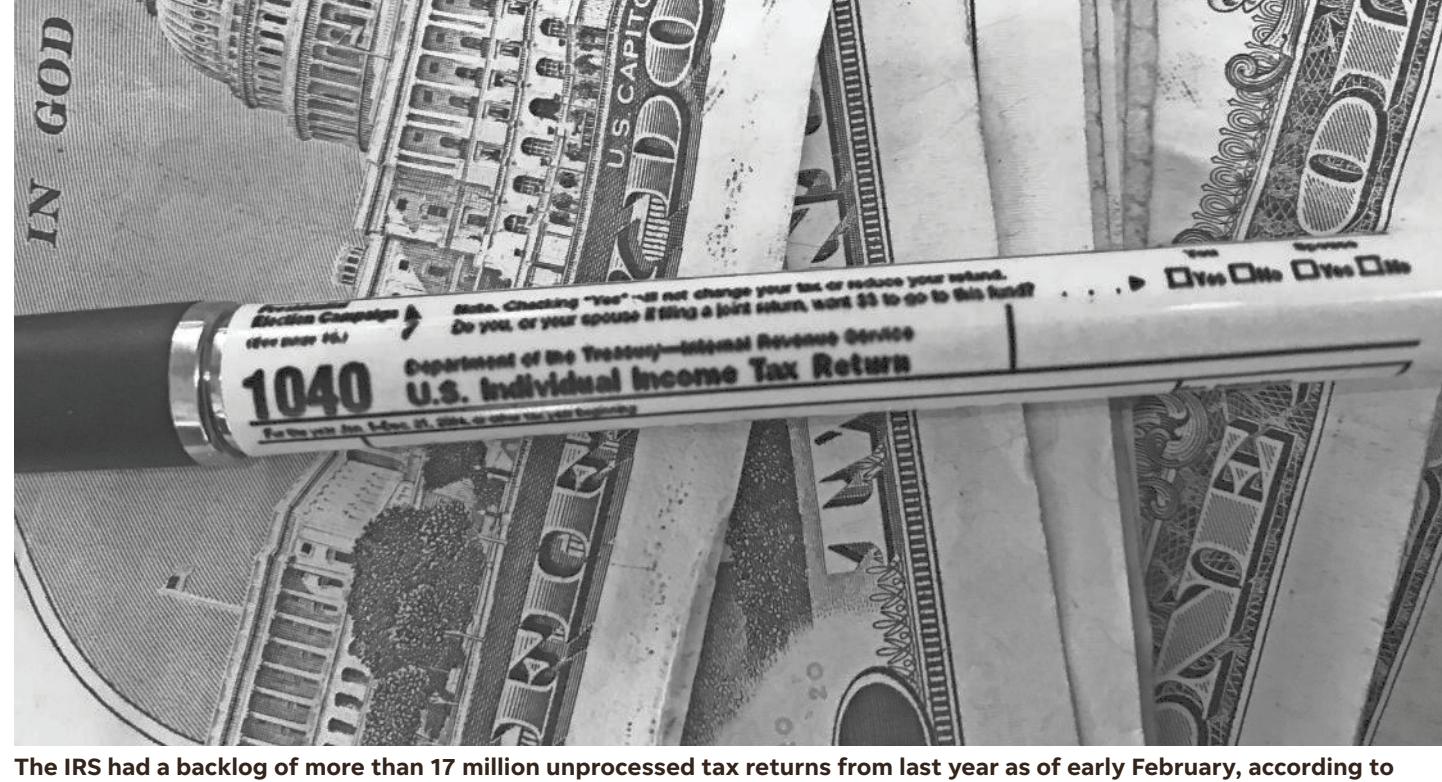
The taxpayer who is still owed a refund should take no immediate action, he said, if this type of mistake is made with stimulus payments and the recovery rebate credit.

Unfortunately, we're talking about waiting possibly six to 12 weeks for the IRS to resolve this type of error, Steber said.

The IRS isn't rejecting e-filed returns that have the mistake, but the agency is sending notices about those errors. The IRS states that taxpayers should not file an amended return in these cases.

Did you get 'plus up' stimulus payments?

Ideally, taxpayers would have received – and kept – IRS Letter 6475, which de-



The IRS had a backlog of more than 17 million unprocessed tax returns from last year as of early February, according to Senate Finance Committee testimony by Erin Collins, the national taxpayer advocate. SUSAN TOMPOR/USA TODAY NETWORK

tailed the amount of the third stimulus payment that the taxpayer received from March through December last year. Many people received that money in one lump sum in March. Others may have received what were called "plus up" payments.

Some people received a smaller amount in March or April last year, based on their 2019 tax returns. Later in the year, they received a "plus up" payment after filing a 2020 income tax return. They could have qualified for additional stimulus cash, for example, if their income dropped during the recession in 2020 and they qualified for more money based on their 2020 return.

Some "plus up" payments went to people who received money initially based on their information received from the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Veterans Affairs.

The IRS Letter 6475 gives you a complete picture of the total amount of money received for your stimulus payment or payments last year.

Collins said the IRS is working through its system to recheck the numbers for inconsistencies relating to the recovery rebate to verify what you're claiming for the credit against what was paid out last year.

"And if it is inconsistent, the IRS will be sending the taxpayer a notice for the taxpayers to either support their numbers or in essence to agree that the IRS records may be correct," Collins said.

"It is a long period of time before those taxpayers get those refunds," she said.

The tax return will flow into the error resolution system at the IRS if the numbers don't match up.

If the taxpayer still has a refund coming after the error is fixed, Steber said, the IRS will adjust any refund due and typically just send the balance as the new amount of refund. The money would show up, he said, either by direct deposit or paper check, as the taxpayer initially directed. The IRS also will send a letter to the taxpayer explaining the adjustment.

On the other hand, Steber said, it becomes more complicated if the taxpayer owes money. Taxpayers are at risk of penalties and interest if they owe a significant amount of money, Steber said, and it may be better to figure out what is owed, amend the return and make a pay-

ment to the IRS before the April 18 deadline.

Are many refunds being issued more smoothly?

"The good news," Collins said, "is that the IRS is not experiencing any unusual or unexpected problems. So far, toward the end of March, a very high percentage of individual taxpayers are filing electronically."

Many refunds are being issued, she said, assuming no errors on an e-filed 1040 return.

But all is not running smoothly. Trouble spots still arise, even with e-filed returns, when mistakes are made.

Last year, for example, the IRS ended the filing season with a backlog of nearly 10 million returns that were put in a suspended status, as the agency reconciled discrepancies involving recovery rebate credits the taxpayers claimed that they were owed versus the stimulus payments they received in 2020. Any refunds on those returns faced delays.

Paper returns – and returns that request a paper check, instead of direct deposits – continue to face much longer delays. Collins cautioned that realistically it could take six to nine months for a refund if you file by paper. Yes, that's what she said – maybe nine months.

Considering that the IRS is nearly a year behind in processing paper returns – yes, a year behind – many taxpayers will experience a great deal of frustration.

As of March 18, Collins wrote in a blog, the paper return backlog alone stood at nearly 15 million.

In her blog posted on March 30, Collins urged the IRS to quickly implement a barcoding technology for paper returns by next filing season to move away from the "IRS's archaic data intake process."

The 2-D barcoding has been used by state tax agencies, she said, for the past two decades to automate the processing of paper tax returns.

"During that time, the IRS has considered, rejected, proposed, reconsidered, partially implemented and deferred the question of whether to implement scanning technology," Collins wrote.

Now, "employees manually transcribe all paper tax returns," she wrote.

"Transcription consists of key strok-

ing each digit and each letter on the return. For a moderately complex return, several hundred digits may need to be transcribed. For longer returns with more forms and schedules, the number of digits may approach or exceed 1,000 digits."

Bluntly, she stated: "In the year 2022, this doesn't just seem crazy. It is crazy."

What can trigger delays?

Some are facing refund delays if they made a mistake reporting their unemployment benefits, which are now fully taxable on 2021 returns. Again, you don't want to guessimate how much money you received in jobless benefits. You need to match that up with a 1099-G.

And the IRS listed other reasons that trigger refund delays:

- A correction needs to be made relating to the child tax credit or recovery rebate credit amount that the taxpayer lists.

- The return includes a claim filed for an earned income tax credit or an additional child tax credit.

- The return includes a Form 8379, the Injured Spouse Allocation, which the IRS says could take up to 14 weeks to process. If you're married and filing jointly, you could end up using this form to try to get back your share of a tax refund if the refund has been reduced to apply to a debt owed by your spouse, not you.

Where's my tax refund? How to check.

To check the status of a refund, taxpayers should use the "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov. Information for the most current tax year filed is generally available within 24 hours after the IRS acknowledges receipt of a taxpayer's e-filed return. If they filed a paper return, taxpayers should allow four weeks before checking the status.

IRS phone and walk-in representatives can only research the status of a refund if it has been:

- 21 days or more since it was filed electronically (or since the IRS filing season start date – whichever is later).

- Six weeks or more since a return was mailed.

- Or when "Where's My Refund?" tells the taxpayer to contact the IRS.

AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME
MARKETS.USATODAY.COM

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

+103.61Closing: 34,921.88
Change: +.3%
YTD % Chg: -3.9%

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S

+36.78Closing: 4,582.64
Change: +.8%
YTD % Chg: -3.9%

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Energy	77.16	+0.10	+1.1%	+39.0%
Utilities	74.92	-0.58	+4.3%	+4.7%
Consumer staples	76.41	-0.24	+2.6%	-0.9%
Materials	89.10	+0.02	+11.1%	-1.7%
Financials	38.05	-0.17	+6.1%	-2.6%
Health care	136.92	-1.15	+5.2%	-2.8%
Industrials	102.05	-0.13	+4.5%	-3.6%
Technology	161.47	+3.01	+11.9%	-7.1%
Telecom	76.41	+1.48	+10.2%	-7.1%
Consumer discret.	189.39	+4.16	+16.1%	-7.4%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Twitter Inc (TWTR)	49.97	+10.66	+27.1%	+15.6%
Etsy Inc (ETSY)	136.17	+9.12	+7.2%	-37.8%
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1145.45	+60.86	+5.6%	+8.4%
Caesars Entertainment (CZR)	80.69	+4.04	+5.3%	-13.7%
Penn Natl Gaming (PENN)	44.24	+2.23	+5.3%	-14.7%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Baxter Intl (BAX)	75.47	-3.11	-4.0%	-12.1%
Abiomed Inc (ABMD)	325.70	-12.94	-3.8%	-9.3%
Starbucks Cp (SBUX)	88.09	-3.40	-3.7%	-24.7%
CBOE Global Markets (CBOE)	112.92	-3.93	-3.4%	-13.4%
Molina Healthcare (MOH)	328.67	-10.74	-3.2%	+3.3%

ALABAMA Athens: The city's police department is building a database of private security cameras to help investigators know where to look for evidence after a crime is committed.

ALASKA Anchorage: Members of the state's political leadership lauded the late U.S. Rep. Don Young on Saturday at a memorial to celebrate his life.

ARIZONA Flagstaff: Safety and structural projects planned for one of the state's most scenic highways are expected to clog traffic along U.S. Route 89A during work set to begin this spring and run into 2023.

ARKANSAS De Queen: The opening of a hospital could be delayed after thieves stole copper lines, according to hospital officials.

CALIFORNIA Sacramento: The state is experiencing one of the driest starts to spring in decades, snowpack data showed Friday.

COLORADO Denver: The Rainbow Gathering of the Tribes plans to return to the state this summer, for the first time since 2006, to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The weeklong confab draws tens of thousands of hippie campers to public lands.

CONNECTICUT Salisbury: A debate on what to do about the growing number of bears in the state is brewing as residents report more sightings and increasingly aggressive behavior.

DELAWARE Wilmington: A review of one of the city's federally funded affordable housing programs found officials did not ensure projects were purchased by low-income homeowners, lacked adequate recordkeeping, and failed to follow federal requirements and city policies when doling out nearly \$450,000.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: The winners of the National Cherry Blossom Festival's Petal Porches contest have been recognized with a surprise block party along A Street Northeast, WUSA-TV reports.

FLORIDA Tallahassee: A union representing faculty at state universities is discouraging participation in a state-ordered survey meant to suss out the political leanings of students and employees and the political climate on their campuses.

GEORGIA Brunswick: Saying sea turtle and manatee sightings are on the rise along the state's coast, wildlife officials are urging boaters to watch out to avoid hitting them.

HAWAII Honolulu: The state Office of the Securities Commissioner is holding a financial education campaign to mark Financial Literacy Month.

IDAHo Boise: Environmental groups are renewing efforts to stop exploratory drilling by a Canadian company hoping to build a gold mine in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

ILLINOIS Chicago: Many bird species in the area are nesting and laying eggs a month earlier than they did 100 years ago, with researchers citing climate change, according to a study in the Journal of Animal Ecology.

INDIANA Indianapolis: Lawsuits by Indiana University and Purdue students seeking refunds after the schools switched to online classes early in the pandemic can proceed to trial, the state appeals court ruled.

IOWA Sioux City: The city's Parks and Recreation Department is keeping a close eye on the Sergeant Floyd Monument as fragments break away.

HIGHLIGHT: LOUISIANA



Purple Louisiana irises and pink and white African crinum lilies bloom Saturday in the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Chalmette, La. AP

New Orleans: Nearly 60 years after a historic Black community founded as a home for newly freed slaves was demolished to expand a national park commemorating the Battle of New Orleans and Civil War casualties, park rangers and iris enthusiasts have found a possible botanical reminder: Louisiana irises and African lilies that the village's residents may have planted. Woody Keim, a great-great-grandson of the community's founder, said he thinks it's a tragedy that Fazendeville was torn down but wonderful the blooms have been discovered. "Even though the government tried to erase this village, there's still life raising its little flowery head to show there once was a community here," he said.

KANSAS Topeka: The state appears unlikely to bar transgender athletes from competing in girls' and women's school sports this year, partly because a conservative push to apply the ban to elementary students has drawn some GOP dissent.

KENTUCKY London: The Daniel Boone National Forest has reopened a campground damaged by severe flooding in 2019, officials said.

MAINE Augusta: Leaders of four Native American tribes traveled to Washington to testify in favor of a bill that would allow them to benefit from future federal laws despite a 1980 settlement with the state.

MARYLAND Baltimore: The city has reached a \$3.5 million settlement with a group of business owners whose property was damaged in the 2015 unrest that followed the death of Freddie Gray in police custody.

MASSACHUSETTS Worcester: The College of the Holy Cross is naming its science center after Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of its most famous alumni, the school said Monday.

MICHIGAN Detroit: The number of students held back a grade in school has rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels, new state data shows. Yet Black and Latino students continue to be held back at higher rates.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: Hennepin Healthcare has a new policy that prohibits its doctors from working side jobs in law enforcement. Leaders say the health care system will end its contract for medical instruction with city police as part of an ideological evolution.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: The state is on the verge of scrapping an official state song with racist roots. "Go, Mississippi" takes its tune from a 1959 campaign jingle of Gov. Ross Barnett whose lyrics included: "For segregation, 100%. He's not a moderate, like some of the gents."

MISSOURI Independence: The newly restored Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum is moving toward full reopening. Starting this week, it will open to the public Wednesday to Saturday.

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

+271.05Closing: 14,532.55
Change: +1.9%
YTD % Chg: -7.1%

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
SPDR Financial	XLF	38.05	-0.17	-0.4%	-2.6%
Proshares UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	61.55	+3.62	+6.2%	-26.0%
SPDR S&P 500 ETF Tr	SPY	456.80	+3.88	+0.9%	-3.8%
Proshares UltPro ShrtQQQ	SQQQ	31.71	-2.07	-6.1%	+6.8%
iShares Mktks	EEM	46.71	+0.81	+1.8%	-4.4%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	369.30	+7.45	+2.1%	-7.2%
iShares China Large Cap	FXI	34.33	+1.13	+3.4%	-6.2%
iShares Silver Trust	SLV	22.63	-0.11	-0.5%	+5.2%
iShares iBoxx HY CpbD	HYG	82.57	+0.62	+0.8%	-5.1%
KraneShs China Intnt	KWEB	32.52	+2.31	+7.6%	-10.9%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.7625	.7629	.7345	.7233
Canadian dollar	1.2485	1.2511	1.2582	1.2570
Chinese yuan	6.3634	6.3631	6.4467	6.5675
Euro	.9115	.9059	.8603	.8501
Japanese yen	122.82	122.62	110.91	110.70
Mexican peso	19.8100	19.8679	20.5074	20.3225

RUSSELL 2000

+4.33Closing: 2,095.44
Change: +.2%
YTD % Chg: -6.7%

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.38	1.39	-0.01	-0.5%	-0.7%
Corn (bushel)	7.51	7.35	+0.16	+2.1%	+26.5%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,929.20	1,919.10	+10.10	+0.5%	+5.6%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.99	1.01	-0.02	-1.8%	+22.1%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	5.71	5.72	-0.01	-0.1%	+53.1%
Oil, heating (gal.)	3.55	3.42	+0.13	+3.6%	+52.3%
Oil, lt. svwt. crude (bar.)	103.28	99.27	+4.01	+4.0%	+37.3%
Silver (troy oz.)	24.58	24.64	-0.06	-0.2%	+5.4%
Soybeans (bushel)	16.02	15.83	+0.19	+1.2%	+20.6%
Wheat (bushel)	10.10	9.85	+0.25	+2.6%	+31.1%

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	% Chg.	% YTD

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Park brings out the kid in any dino lover

Treasure trove of history greets Dinosaur National Monument's sightseers

Eve Chen
USA TODAY

There's a real Jurassic park right here in the U.S., but it's nothing like the books or films.

Dinosaur National Monument's dinosaurs died millions of years ago, but they left behind a treasure trove of fossils for generations of dinosaur lovers.

"The most fun part of being a ranger here is seeing the dinosaur kids who've grown up," Sonya Popelka, the monument's interpretation supervisor, said. "It might be a few decades or half a century since their dinosaur phase, but that love and that spark and that interest comes back alive when they come face to face with this wall of bones here."

Visitors to the National Park Service site, which straddles the Utah and Colorado state line, can walk in the footsteps of dinosaurs and do something else they can't at museums.

"You can put your hands on real dinosaur bones, turned into fossils," Popelka said.

"So you can experience the Jurassic as directly as possible by seeing and actually touching."

Museums all over North America showcase fossils from this very site, but Dinosaur National Monument is the mother lode.

There are over 1,500 dinosaur fossils in its Quarry Exhibit Hall alone, which was built right over a wall of partially excavated bones.

"We have a lot of the giant sauropods, the four-legged, long neck, long tail plant eaters. The majority of bones that are preserved in the rock quarry are those," Popelka said.

"We do have theropods. Those are the meat eaters. ... We see them less frequently, just like the predator-prey relationship today where you may have a large herd of herbivores and a small number of carnivores."

Jurassic-period species include allosaurus, apatosaurus, diplodocus and stegosaurus, among other types of dinosaurs.



Dinosaur National Monument visitors can see more than 1,500 dinosaur fossils and even touch some with their own hands. The park covers more than 210,000 acres. TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY

"You can put your hands on real dinosaur bones, turned into fossils. So you can experience the Jurassic as directly as possible by seeing and actually touching."

Sonya Popelka
Dinosaur National Monument's interpretation supervisor

More than dinosaurs

Visitors will also find evidence of what archaeologists call the Fremont culture, which dates back 1,000 years. Not much is known about the early settlers who brought agriculture to the area and whose petroglyphs and pictographs are still visible on rock walls today. However, the lands have been tied to 36 Indigenous tribes and pueblos, including the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico.

"Something that people do not really think of when they think of Dinosaur National Monument is the strong cultural connections that are evident still

across the landscape," Popelka said. "The recreational opportunities with river rafting that we have now are rooted in fur trapping and trading and transportation routes that stretch back for centuries."

Park visitors can explore all this rich history or simply enjoy the great outdoors, hiking, stargazing and camping without worrying about hurrying or big crowds, particularly outside of summer.

"Give yourself enough time to enjoy it and let things sink in," Popelka said.

Dinosaur National Monument covers more than 210,000 acres and is open all year round. It saw 359,560 visitations last year.

Housing

Continued from Page 1B

prosperity, low interest rates, more mortgage product offerings and easy to access credit.

The low supply of homes is largely a result of underbuilding, experts say.

An analysis by housing giant Freddie Mac suggests that the housing shortage has increased 52% from 2.5 million in 2018 to 3.8 million in 2020.

How does a housing market bubble burst or end?

It ends when demand decreases or stagnates – because of higher mortgage rates or inflation eating into savings – while at the same time supply realigns with demand (when construction catches up). And that can result in a sharp drop in prices, popping the bubble.

In the past month, mortgage rates have been rising in the face of rapidly rising inflation as well as the prospect of strong demand for goods and supply disruptions.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage topped 4% on March 17 for the first time since May 2019, according to Freddie Mac. And it probably will rise further; the Fed is projecting six more rate increases this year.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.67% for the week ending March 31. A year earlier, the 30-year rate averaged 3.1%.

How does the housing bubble affect the economy?

Real estate and the housing market play an important role in the U.S. economy. At the individual level, roughly 65% of occupied housing units are owner-occupied, according to Congressional Research Service. Homes are often a substantial source of household wealth in the U.S., and housing construction provides widespread employment.

Housing prices can affect residential investment and therefore affect economic growth. Rising home prices can encourage additional construction spending when the prices are high, leading to more robust economic growth. A decline in housing prices is



Real estate and the housing market play an important role in the American economy. GETTY IMAGES

likely to depress construction spending, leading to more anemic economic growth.

An increase in housing value encourages homeowners to spend more than they do at other times for a variety of reasons, including higher confidence in the economy, increased home equity for homeowners to borrow against and higher rental income.

A decrease in prices results in the opposite. In the United States, consumer spending makes up roughly 70% of the economy, so changes in housing wealth can result in significant changes in economic growth.

Are we in a housing bubble?

The Dallas Fed researchers say they are observing abnormal U.S. housing market behavior for the first time since the boom of the early 2000s.

Their reasons for concern include the

Based on current evidence, any coming housing correction will not be as dire as the 2007-09 global financial crisis in terms of magnitude, researchers say.

price-to-rent ratio (which compares the economics of buying versus renting), in particular, and the price-to-income ratio (ratio between the price of a median home to that of the median annual household income in a particular area) – which show signs that 2021 house prices appear increasingly out of step with fundamentals.

Along with low mortgage rates, other factors that drove up prices include a surge in disposable income because of pandemic-related stimulus and reduced household spending because of

mobility restrictions and lockdowns.

If disposable income increases turn out to be temporary – as fiscal stimulus wanes and the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, it would put downward pressure on home prices.

However, based on current evidence, any coming housing correction will not be as dire as the 2007-09 global financial crisis in terms of magnitude, the researchers say.

In the years before 2008, mortgage lenders made subprime loans to borrowers without verified income or adequate down payments while pushing risky loan products. This time, tough loan underwriting standards are the norm even with rock-bottom interest rates, experts say.

"Among other things, household balance sheets appear in better shape, and excessive borrowing doesn't appear to be fueling the housing market boom," according to the post.

SPORTS

USA TODAY | TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 | SECTION C

Eagles, Saints significantly reshape 2022 and 2023 drafts

Philly, New Orleans swap multiple first-round picks in NFL draft blockbuster. [nfl.usatoday.com](#)

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See our story, column, photo and video coverage of the Kansas-North Carolina men's hoops final

For Williams, UNC allegiance deeper

Scott Gleeson
USA TODAY

NEW ORLEANS — If there were ever any questions regarding how Roy Williams approached Monday night's national championship game, rest assured: The 71-year-old former coach was wearing a Carolina blue cardigan or sweater.



Williams

Williams, who retired as the Tar Heels coach this time last year, has been a "nervous wreck" rooting on his former team during this men's NCAA Tournament. Except Monday night matched his beloved former team against his other former team — the Kan-

sas Jayhawks. Before Williams coached UNC to three national titles in 18 seasons, he piloted the Jayhawks to four Final Fours in 15 seasons.

"It's an unusual game for me," Williams told USA TODAY Sports on Sunday night. "They're the first two schools I check on. I always root for Kansas to win if it's not against North Carolina. I don't know how to even feel. I've decided

I'm not rooting for Kansas to play poorly or bad or to lose. I just want North Carolina to play great, and I feel like that's pretty reasonable."

"I look at this Kansas team and I really enjoy them. I have love for the program. But with North Carolina, my (allegiance) is quite thicker and deeper be-

See WILLIAMS, Page 2C



Coach Dawn Staley and South Carolina celebrate their 64-49 victory Sunday over UConn. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Gamecocks strut to title

South Carolina begins one dynasty, ends another

Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

MINNEAPOLIS — How fitting that South Carolina's title came at UConn's expense. A new dynasty, ushered in over the old.

In winning its second title in six years Sunday, South Carolina handed UConn its first loss in 12 women's basketball national championship games. Decisively, too, the performance leaving no doubt this was a title won by South Carolina rather than lost by UConn.

Aliyah Boston with what's become

her signature, a double-double with 11 points and 16 rebounds. South Carolina with 21 offensive rebounds, three fewer than UConn had in total. And Destanni Henderson having the performance of her life in her final college game, scoring a career-high 26 while helping to contain Paige Bueckers.

Add it up, and it was a 64-49 win that wasn't as close as that scoreline looked.

"UConn is not only a great team, they're a great tradition. They're a part of our women's basketball history. Can't really take that away from them," coach Dawn Staley said. "But today, it was divinely ordered for us to be champions. We weren't going to be denied."

Not on this night, and likely not any time soon.

If not for the tournament being canceled in 2020, when South Carolina was 32-1 and expected to be the overall No. 1 seed, and last-second misses in last year's national semifinal, this could be three in a row for the Gamecocks. And they're set up to do it all again next year. Boston, the consensus national player of the year, Brea Beal and Zia Cooke are juniors, not age-eligible for the WNBA draft. South Carolina also gets back freshman phenom Raven Johnson, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in November.

"Same as this year," Boston said without hesitation when asked what South Carolina's goal next year will be.

See ARMOUR, Page 2C



Christine Brennan
Columnist
USA TODAY

Tiger looks at home at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. — It's 1:45 p.m. on the Monday before the Masters, three days before anyone hits a shot that matters, and spectators, dozens of them, are running to the practice green at Augusta National Golf Club.

A few minutes later, they are off to the practice chipping area. Some are in a full sprint. The rules say that there's no running allowed on the golf course, but that went out the window the moment the man in the white hat, navy shirt and off-white pants, the man with the slight hitch in his step, showed up for practice for a tournament he really looks like he is going to try to play.

No one is obeying the no-running rule, and no one is enforcing it, not on this stunning day at the Masters. Tiger Woods, the 46-year-old, five-time Masters champion who thought he might lose his right leg after his awful car accident little more than 13 months ago, was back, and so were the throngs following him, cheering him on, hoping that this was just a prelude for what was unthinkable even a month ago: that Tiger would play the 2022 Masters.

When Woods actually reached the first tee to play a practice round that was expected to go nine holes, Monday became Sunday at Augusta National. The crowds swelled at the first tee just

See BRENNAN, Page 4C



Tiger Woods played a full practice round Monday at Augusta National.
ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

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Simplicity

Bauer tries to turn narrative around

Brent Schrottenboer

USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES – Two attorneys for Trevor Bauer walked into a courtroom here Monday hoping to win access to the phone records of the woman who accused the baseball pitcher last year of choking and hitting her.

It didn't work.

A Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the woman instead, telling Bauer's attorneys they failed to get past the procedural hurdle necessary for it.

"The time has run for that," Judge Dianna Gould-Saltman said. "But more importantly, it appears that the materials being sought are not germane to the very limited issue that would be before the court."

But the larger quest is not over for Bauer, who signed a three-year, \$102 million contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers last year.

This was about payback for him in a case that dates to last June, when Bauer's baseball career came to a screeching halt after the woman accused him of assaulting her at his home in Pasadena.

"Trevor Bauer is sending a message," said David Ring, an attorney in Los Angeles who has represented sex assault victims but is not involved in the Bauer case. "He is now going on the counter-attack, and he is going to try to turn the narrative around."

Whether Major League Baseball and the public will buy it is an open question. Monday's setback in court didn't help Bauer, who was not present at the hearing.

After being placed on paid administrative leave in July, he remains sidelined from baseball while he and his legal team fight back against those they believe have wronged him, including two defamation suits and the matter at hand on Monday, which could have helped boost his case to return to the mound.

Why Bauer's attorneys sought woman's phone records

It was part of a larger plan to pursue attorneys' fees from his accuser and her attorneys because they say her claims were made in bad faith and based on lies.

The same judge in August heard evidence of her claims for several days and denied the woman's request for a five-year restraining order against Bauer. She ruled that while photos of the woman's injuries were "terrible," the woman's initial request for a temporary restraining order against Bauer was "materially misleading."

His attorneys since have stated in court records the woman had a plan "to seek rough sex so she could later seek to



Trevor Bauer was placed on leave in early July by MLB and did not pitch the rest of the 2021 season. MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

profit from this interaction." As a result, they want her and her attorneys to pay for his expenses according to the law.

They even served a subpoena to obtain the woman's phone records from Pasadena police because they believe the records will show she deleted evidence of her "improper motives" in the case.

This is necessary, his attorneys stated, because the woman "deleted and hid relevant documents" necessary to file a motion for attorneys' fees against her, which they say they couldn't do until they obtained the concealed records.

But the woman's attorneys fought it, calling it a "witch hunt" in court records leading up to Monday's hearing over whether to quash the subpoena.

"Mr. Bauer's harassing and abusive conduct in retaliation must stop," stated court records filed by attorneys for the woman, who also was not present Monday.

The judge ruled in their favor Monday, essentially telling Bauer's attorneys it was too late and that they didn't file the necessary motion within the 60 days required.

"It just wasn't, counsel," the judge told Bauer's attorney, Jon Fetterolf, who was accompanied by another attorney for Bauer, Shawn Holley.

It's not clear what Bauer's next move will be in this case.

Bauer, 31, was never arrested or charged. He said his encounters with the woman were "rough sex with a woman that I hardly knew."

In a separate case, a woman in Ohio also sought an order of protection against him in 2020 after repeated threats from him, according to information obtained by The Washington Post. In that case, her attorney also said Bauer punched and choked her during sex. His representatives say this was false.

But the woman in the Ohio case agreed to assist Major League Baseball in its investigation of Bauer. Baseball could suspend him based on what it learned in that case and the case from last year. If he had won access to the woman's phone records Monday, theoretically he could have used what he found to boost his case in the baseball investigation.

Bauer's defamation lawsuits and other public statements

In the meantime, Bauer still is making statements with his other activity in court.

- In early March, he sued the owner of Deadspin, alleging that the website defamed him and published false information about what happened between him and the California accuser last year.

Deadspin initially said the woman "had her skull fractured" in an incident with Bauer when she did not. Her request for a restraining order said there were "signs of a basilar skull fracture" and that she was diagnosed at the hospital with an acute head injury and assault by strangulation. A CT scan showed "no acute fracture," according to a medical report attached to the woman's request.

- In late March, he sued The Athletic for defamation, too, alleging that the website and one of its former writers damaged his reputation by publishing similar "false accusations" of fracturing the woman's skull.

- Earlier this year, Bauer's legal team also hired an investigative firm to help trace the source of anonymous harassing comments on Twitter directed at Bauer and his agent Rachel Luba, according to court records.

For example, the Twitter account-holder @Anonym027469351 posted a tweet directed at Bauer that threatened to release photographs, writing "Trev Trev Trev. Now you want the actual forensic photos to be leaked?...Keep poking the bear."

A private investigator said he traced the comments to the California accuser's phone number using account recovery and password reset functions. His legal team recently brought this to the court's attention in the fight over the subpoena over the woman's phone records.

- On Twitter, Bauer made a different kind of statement on March 18, when he congratulated NFL quarterback Deshaun Watson for his new contract with the Cleveland Browns — \$230 million guaranteed over five years. Watson has been dogged by 22 lawsuits filed by women who accused him of sexual misconduct during massage sessions, which he denies.

"Happy to see the @nfl and their franchises are allowing you to continue your career after all the BS and lies you've been through recently," Bauer wrote. "Onward and upward. The game is more fun with you in it."

The tweet drew criticism, with some saying he was "showing solidarity" in sexual assault.

He returned to Twitter the next day to say his point was "poorly phrased."

"Allegations do not mean guilt," he wrote.

Armour

Continued from Page 1C

Yes, there's more parity in the game than ever before. But all you had to do was watch South Carolina for the first quarter to know this is a special team. The Gamecocks held UConn to one basket in the first six minutes while racing out to a 13-2 lead. It did not allow Buckeyes a field goal the entire quarter.

"They deserved it, 100%," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "The first five minutes I thought they came out and set the tone right then and there for how the game was going to be played."

On South Carolina's terms.

During the most incredible stretches of UConn's run — consecutive titles from 2002 to 2004 and again from 2013 to 2016 — they were ruthless, showing few weaknesses and even fewer openings. Even if they didn't admit it, opponents knew they weren't beating the Huskies unless they beat themselves.

And so it has been for South Carolina.

Almost from the time they returned to campus after their Final Four loss, Staley and her players have had a single-minded focus. Boston, fueled by the photos of her sobbing after her buzzer-beater fell short, elevated her game and is now a level above anyone else. Every player bought into the unselfishness Staley said she would need.

But it is their defense that both defines and epitomizes the Gamecocks. Despite playing 14 games against ranked opponents this year, South Carolina led the nation with a plus-20.2 scoring margin. With UConn failing to crack 50 points, South Carolina held half of its NCAA Tournament opponents below the half-century mark.

It's soul-sapping to think you've

found an opening only to have the Gamecocks clamp down harder. There are boa constrictors that aren't as smothering as South Carolina was when UConn cut the lead to six points.

"Our players were just really resilient," Staley said. "They didn't want to lose this. So close to being national champions, they did not want to lose this battle, so they kicked it in another gear to get it done."

Staley isn't ready to call her program a dynasty after two national titles. But there is no denying that South Carolina has been at the top of the women's game for the last four years, and it's built to stay there. The Gamecocks have had the top-ranked recruiting class two of the past three years, and another national title will only attract more talent.

"I just want to be a great example of how to do things the right way and keep our game in a place where the integrity is intact, because that's the way we'll grow," Staley said. "That is the exact way we'll grow is just lifting each other up, giving us a platform where we're encouraging, we are helping each individual be the best that they can be and succeed."

But dynasties begin — and end — somewhere, and it was impossible to watch this game and not think a transition was occurring before your eyes.

"Coming into this game, the conversation was about how Coach Auriemma was 11-0 in title games. But Coach Staley was 1-0, and now she's 2-0," Boston said. "It just shows the type of program that she's built and how great it is being a dynasty."

For three decades, UConn set the standard, the program by which all others were measured. Now it is South Carolina's turn. Long may Staley and her Gamecocks reign.

Williams

Continued from Page 1C

cause it's a school where I went, where I was an assistant there and it's where my family all went. So it's an easy decision on that front, but having ties to both does lead to some (inner) conflict.

Williams quipped: "I don't feel that way when either of them are playing Duke."

Williams watched in glee as North Carolina stunned Duke in the Final Four on Saturday, the last game of Mike Krzyzewski's career as the Blue Devils head coach.

Said Williams: "No one has more respect for Mike than me." He plans to have an in-person conversation with Krzyzewski and maybe even give him some input on retirement. The two were in charge of their teams during some of the most heated Tobacco Road rivalry games in college basketball history.

"He's one of the greatest we've ever had," Williams said. "When you look at numbers, he's better than anybody. Period. The end. Mike and myself have a great deal of respect for each other. For me, this year, I always wanted him to be successful except at North Carolina's expense. I'm flattered to have been involved in the rivalry with him. It's the best in college sports."

"I didn't want to text him and say, 'Oh, hey, congrats on a great career.' I'm not saying that (expletive). I'm going to talk to him face to face or on the phone. It'll be something more personal for me because I think so highly of him."

Williams admits that on Saturday he was too lost in the way UNC was playing to empathize with Krzyzew-

ski's final game. He's been seen on television broadcasts this March Madness full of anxiety and said the powerlessness as a fan and supporter of the program is way worse than coaching.

Williams hand-picked Hubert Davis, his assistant for nine years, to be his replacement upon his retirement and said he's been watching in awe as a group of players he recruited goes on this deep run as a No. 8 seed.

"The biggest paranoia I had this season was: I didn't want to get in Hubert's way," Williams said. "If he asked, of course I was there. But I didn't offer a lot. I just think Hubert is perfect for the job. He's the nicest person I've ever known but then he's also fiercely competitive. When you put those two together, it's a pretty good mix. It's why I asked him to join our staff (in 2012). But he hasn't just had me as an influence. He had Coach (Dean) Smith, Don Nelson and Pat Riley from when he was a player. He's got all of us but then found a way to make it his."

"So this run, he's put his fingerprints on it. It's his team. He's put Hubert Davis' stamp on North Carolina basketball. He's been absolutely sensational."

Although Davis had never been a head coach, aside from heading UNC's JV team, Williams said he had been grooming him for a head coaching job similar to how Smith had mentored him on the UNC bench as an assistant from 1978 to 1988.

Still, Williams said turning over the program has been bittersweet because he misses coaching more than ever but felt he was no longer the right man for the job.

"Bottom line is I didn't feel like I was doing as well as I did in the past," Williams said. "I wasn't able to get kids to buy in as much as I thought was necessary. Name, image likeness, transfer portal had nothing to do with it."

Mariners' prospect flashes elite skills

Bob Nightengale

USA TODAY

PEORIA, Ariz. – Julio Rodriguez made the telephone call he has dreamed of since the day he picked up his first baseball bat growing up in the Dominican Republic.

"Daddy," he said, "I did it."

Then came the outpouring of tears.

Rodriguez, 21, considered one of baseball's finest prospects, was officially informed Monday morning that he will be on the Seattle Mariners opening-day roster.

Really, it was no surprise, despite Rodriguez, a 6-foot-3, 228-pound power-hitting outfielder, having played only 46 games in Class AA and 217 minor league games overall since signing in 2017.

Told by general manager Jerry Dipoto when he came to camp that the door would be left open to make the team, Rodriguez knocked the door right off its hinges, hitting .419 with a .471 on-base percentage and .839 slugging percentage. He hit three homers and four doubles, scored nine runs and stole three bases in 12 games.

If he hadn't made the team, there would have been a mutiny in Seattle, let alone a likely grievance by the Major League Baseball Players Association for manipulating his service time.

"I'm not surprised, really, because I prepared myself for those results," Rodriguez told USA TODAY Sports on Sunday. "I put myself in the position to perform the way I am now."

Now, of course, will be the most difficult part: staying in the big leagues.

Just ask teammate Jarred Kelenic.

You see, he was the Julio Rodriguez of the Mariners camp a year ago.

Kelenic, 21 at the time, also had a strong spring training in 2021, hitting .300 with a .440 on-base percentage and .700 slugging percentage. Yet he was kept off the opening-day roster, with the Mariners citing that he needed more minor league experience.

He spent a month at the Mariners alternate camp and spent just five days at Triple-A Tacoma.

He was called up May 13 to surreal



Mariners outfielder Julio Rodriguez, 21, has played in a total of 217 minor league games, but he'll be in Seattle's starting lineup on opening day.

MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

fanfare in Seattle.

And was demoted two months later, buried in a 0-for-39 slump. He went 3-for-4 with two doubles and a homer in his second game of the season and promptly hit .067 with one homer and 24 strikeouts in 75 at-bats until his demotion.

"I put way too much pressure on myself," Kelenic said. "There were a lot of expectations on me. I wanted it so bad. I wanted to go out there and help the team the best way I could. I wanted to be that guy who got 10 hits with one swing of the bat."

"Obviously, that didn't work."

Kelenic returned in July and wound up hitting .181 with 14 homers for the season, including a strong September when he hit seven homers with 20 RBI and a .854 OPS.

Now, Kelenic plans to do everything he can to help Rodriguez avoid the same rookie pitfalls, knowing that the expectations will be unreal and, in many ways, grossly unfair.

"We talk day in and day out, and I plan to be there for him," Kelenic says.

"Obviously, I can share some of the struggles I went through last year. I know what worked and didn't work. If and when he struggles, I'll always be there to help him."

The biggest advice Kelenic has offered?

"Enjoy the grind, just enjoy it, every single day," Rodriguez says.

"As a kid growing up in the Dominican, I've dreamed of this my whole life. We literally breathed baseball growing up. And to be at the top level, to be in the big leagues, is going to be a really cool experience."

There will be some glorious moments, and at times he'll look like one of the greatest young stars in the game, and other times he'll be left wondering whether he belongs.

That's the beauty of baseball.

You'd better embrace it or the game will drive you crazy.

"The biggest thing I learned is that I can have a bad week, I can have a bad month," Kelenic says, "but that doesn't mean I can't have a great week the following week. I was fortunate enough to

have a really good September last year, and going through the good September made me forget about the bad May and July I had."

"So I'll stress to him is that just because you're having a tough month or a tough week, don't panic."

Certainly, Rodriguez's exuberance and outgoing personality should help ease the difficult times.

He can be the life of the clubhouse saying hello and high-fiving everyone, and other times sitting quietly in his locker meditating, getting ready for the hectic day.

"He's just a fun kid," Mariners manager Scott Servais told reporters Monday. "The joy and the excitement he plays with, I think it's contagious. It's going to serve our team very well."

Of course, it certainly helps Rodriguez that he has an abundance of talent as the No. 3 prospect in baseball that could translate into being a perennial All-Star.

"He's a special, special talent," Mariners outfielder Jesse Winker says. "He hits the ball really hard. He runs really fast. He throws really hard. And he's put together very well, too."

"I don't know what else you can ask for in a baseball player. He's got everything. It's going to be cool to play alongside him and get on base for him."

And no one plans to have more fun than Rodriguez, who would love to be the centerpiece of the team that finally ends the Mariners' 21-year playoff drought, the longest in North American professional team sports.

"It's just cool being around everybody here," Rodriguez says, "and to be in an environment that represents who I am too. It makes it easier to be yourself when everybody is striving for the same thing."

The Seattle fan base is anxiously awaiting, and so is the Rodriguez family, with a son hoping to make everyone awfully proud.

"We had a lot of great players in the Dominican," Rodriguez says, "but honestly my hero is my dad. He taught me a lot of things. Taught me to be a man. Taught me to do things the right way."

"I can't wait. It's on. I'm ready to go."

Taurasi, Bird's ESPN show was unfiltered fun



Lindsay Schnell

USA TODAY

MINNEAPOLIS – Between the two of them, Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi have 10 gold medals, seven WNBA titles, five NCAA championships, too many pairs of Nikes to keep track of and two red Solo cups.

Well, actually, they've got a whole stack of red Solo cups.

On the second level of the Target Center, where USA TODAY Sports was granted exclusive access Sunday evening, ESPN had set up a makeshift studio for "The Bird & Taurasi Show" (BTS).

Alternate title: "Bird & Taurasi Get Tipsy on Air, Make Producers Nervous With Detailed Storytelling."

In 120 glorious minutes over the women's Final Four weekend, the UConn alums traded jokes, told stories and made fun of guests and their former coach, all while expanding the women's basketball community in a fun and – sometimes expletive-filled – manner.

"We're on the U tonight, you can say whatever you want on the U," said Taurasi on Friday. Sunday on ESPN2, they didn't exactly hold back even though they were on a more widely distributed channel. They told of the time when Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma, hot about a lackluster first half, came into the locker room and saw a player wearing a "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelet.

"You know what Jesus would do?" Auriemma thundered to his team. "He would rebound and (expletive) run!"

The show follows the format of Peyton and Eli Manning's "Monday Night Football" telecasts: two people chatting it up and bringing in guests to be roasted and participate in the roasting of others. As for what's in the red solo cups, a question every viewer kept asking, the answer was overwhelming considering these GOATS have million-dollar endorsement deals. Bird and Taurasi, it turns out, prefer to sip on Bud Light black cherry hard seltzer while entertaining some of the biggest names in basketball.

A sampling of the highlights:

Friday night during the semifinals,



Diana Taurasi and Sue Bird bite their gold medals during the Tokyo Olympics.

KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Walton expressed surprise that neither Bird nor Taurasi is in the Hall of Fame. "We're still playing, Bill," Bird reminded their ESPN color commentating colleague.

Also on Friday, Taurasi revealed that she applied to Stanford as a high schooler and was rejected. Who knew, UConn was her safety school.

With Twitter abuzz Friday night about the hilarity of BTS, Auriemma was asked after UConn's semifinal win over Stanford if he planned to catch the replay at some point.

His answer did not disappoint: "When you've been around those two as long as I have, I really, truly have no interest in hearing anything they have to say," he said. "On any topic, especially me."

On Sunday night, Bird and Taurasi watched that clip live. Bird's takeaway: "Something tells me he actually wants to come on the show," she said teasingly. Then ESPN cut to an Auriemma "head shot," an animated picture of Carl Fredricksen, the 78-year-old curmudgeonly main character of the Disney movie "Up" who, shockingly, closely resembles the coach who's won 11 national titles.

You think Michael Jordan could get away with doing this to Phil Jackson?

The show works because Bird, one of the best point guards ever, directs traffic

with ease, setting up Taurasi and other guests and smoothly transitioning from reading ads to taking social media questions to reminding everyone they should, you know, comment on the basketball game they're watching.

Their comfort in front of the camera, and with each other, rubs off on their guests.

Early in the third quarter, as Bird questioned Auriemma's coaching – "Why is Paige (Buekers) bringing the ball up? That's so tiring. Is this just the 41-year-old point guard talking?" – U.S. women's national team and OL Reign star Megan Rapinoe went in on his outfit. "I'm happy he's not wearing the Dri-Fit anymore, that's just not flattering on anyone," she said.

The women's game is exploding in popularity and parity. Having two of the best to ever play guide fans through it is sure to only help that growth accelerate. Don't be surprised if there's heavy demand for multiple BTS episodes next season to accompany nearly every women's NCAA Tournament game.

During the title game, a 64-49 South Carolina romp over UConn, Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James dropped by. He was so enamored with the show that he hung out the entire first quarter.

But for as entertaining as the on-air moments were – at one point Friday,

when discussing how important small details are in the quest for a championship, Taurasi quipped, "It's a game of inches, just ask the 'Cocks' – it's the commercial breaks that viewers would undoubtedly love most."

At halftime, when they were joined by Rapinoe, Bird's fiancée, who took the break in action to tell Taurasi, famously always dressed in dark monochromatic looks, "You know, no one gets versatility out of black like you do," Taurasi rolled her eyes before admitting that earlier that day, wife Penny Taylor, a former WNBA player, teased her, "Are you going to wear your bright black tonight or your dark black?"

When Rapinoe teased Taurasi about being dormant on social media, Taurasi revealed what many have long suspected: "When Penny goes to sleep at night, I steal her phone."

Their former coach appreciates how appealing they are to both the established fan and otherwise.

"They represent something they helped create," Auriemma said after the final. "I think they're going to water it, nurture it, and take care of it in some way, shape or form for the rest of their lives. And people are going to gravitate to them because people have gravitated to them since the first day they ever saw them play."

There are serious moments, too: When a fan walking by offered her "Free Britney Griner" sign, Taurasi and Bird both reached for it, before a producer stepped in.

There's no doubt that the show, said South Carolina coach Dawn Staley, "has grown our game. I don't really think it's that innovative ... like we could have been doing something like that (before). But I do think it takes someone like Sue and Diana, who people want to hear. They want to hear their greatness, they want to hear the stories of who impact their lives and their careers."

"And I think they're pretty darn funny. They're hilarious. I did record it because I want to watch it when I get home."

It's likely that Staley would tune in regularly if BTS gets inked for an extended episode run when Bird and Taurasi retire from playing.

If and when that actually happens, let's make sure there's money in the budget for real refreshments.

PRO GOLF



Larry Bohannan
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY Network

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Jennifer Kupcho's brilliant play in the first three rounds of the Chevron Championship spilled over into the front nine of the final round Sunday at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club.

As it turned out, Kupcho needed every perfect drive and long birdie putt from her front nine to hold on and win the LPGA's first major championship of the year.

Kupcho watched a seven-shot lead on the front nine evaporate to just two shots before she made some key putts at critical moments late in the back nine. The putts allowed Kupcho to win the major championship and claim the honor of being the last winner to celebrate her Chevron Championship win with a leap into Poppie's Pond.

"Is that me?" Kupcho said when asked to think about being a major championship winner. "I think it is surreal to be a major winner. It is really special and to be the last person here at Mission Hills to jump into Poppie's Pond is really special."

The victory is the first for Kupcho in her four-year career on the LPGA and allows the former NCAA individual champion from Wake Forest to join Hall of Famers, LPGA greats and a few surprise winners on the roster of winners in the 51-year history of the tournament in the Coachella Valley. The tournament will move to Houston in 2023, leaving behind memories like the ones Kupcho made Sunday.

Starting the day with a six-shot lead over defending champion Patty Tavatanakit, Kupcho raced away from the field early Sunday. Birdies on the fourth and fifth holes, both on putts of about 25 feet, pushed her lead to seven shots midway through the front nine.

But the driver and the putter that had propelled Kupcho to the verge of the tournament 72-hole scoring record of 19-under par suddenly went cold. She bogeyed the eighth, 10th, 13th and 14th holes while Jessica Korda made a change. Kupcho left the 14th green with



Jennifer Kupcho kisses the trophy after winning the Chevron Championship at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage on Sunday. TAYA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

just a two-shot lead, but Korda bogeyed the 15th hole seconds later to push Kupcho's lead back to three shots. When Kupcho birdied the 15th, the drama of who would be the final winner finally left the event.

Kupcho finished the tournament at 14-under 273, including a 2-over 74 that saw seven bogeys in the round Sunday, including the final two holes.

Korda finished at 12-under for the week with a 3-under 69 in the final round.

Pia Babnik, an 18-year-old from Slovenia who was in the field on a sponsor's exemption, finished alone in third at 11-under after a strong 66 Sunday.

Four players, including 2014 Chevron Championship winner Lexi Thompson and defending champion Patty Tavatanakit, finished tied for fourth at 10-under. Hinako Shiubuno, the first-round leader, and France's Celine Boutier rounded out that foursome.

Kupcho takes home a tournament record \$750,000 from the elevated purse of \$5 million, part of the allure of the Chevron sponsorship that will take

the tournament to Texas starting next year. During the trophy presentation, Al Williams, vice president of corporate affairs at Chevron, was met with a smattering of boos by the packed grandstands lining the 18th green.

As an homage to the event's history, four former champions also jumped into Poppie's Pond about two minutes after Kupcho made the last official leap in with husband Jay Monahan and caddie David Eller.

Patty Sheehan, Sandra Palmer, Patricia Meunier-Lebouc and three-time champion Amy Alcott, the originator of the leap, all got wet.

Sheehan, the 1996 winner, and Meunier-Lebouc, the 2003 winner, jumped in and did the backstroke. Alcott grabbed a flower from the bed of the pond and held it up as she did a full dive into the water. Palmer, who won in 1975, actually stumbled on her way to the pond, then sheepishly walked over to the edge and put her feet in, raising her arms to the crowd to get the applause she deserved.

Kupcho's woes started when she hit a

tee shot over the green on the par-3 eighth hole, chipped down to 10 feet and missed the putt. She couldn't coax in a 10-foot birdie putt on the ninth, then hit a drive into a fairway bunker on the way to another bogey.

Korda's day started with a hole out from the fairway for an eagle on the third hole. But she parred out on the front nine and then added two birdies and one bogey on the back nine.

"I was further back starting than I wanted and (had) bunch of lip-outs, and it is what it is," Korda said. "Sometimes you got to be lucky to win majors, and I still haven't found that yet. Second place is not bad after being 3-over through 7, so pretty proud of myself."

By the time Kupcho bogeyed the last two holes, her win was basically secured.

"Honestly I came out just trying to shoot a couple under. I mean, I had a six-stroke lead and I shot 8-under yesterday, so I figured if someone can do that, they deserve to be in a playoff."

Kupcho said she was only interested in surviving the par-5 18th hole with its island green.

"Just hit it somewhere up in the fairway and not in the water and then lay it up," she said. "I never even thought about going for it."

While the finish might not have been stellar, what Kupcho did for 72 holes was. She's the first American to win the title since Brittany Lincicome in 2015. In addition, Kupcho is the second player in a row and fifth overall to win this tournament as their first LPGA victory, following playing partner Tavatanakit from last year. And in the end, she heard the roars from a crowd that seemed appreciative toward each player walking to the 18th green as if it was the last time they would be seen in the desert.

"It's special, honestly," Kupcho said. "One of the biggest things I have fought over the last year is everyone is out here cheering for Nelly (Korda) or Lexi (Thompson) or someone else that I am playing with. I don't even hear 'Go, Jennifer.' That was really special today to have that. My caddie and his friends and all of my friends being out supporting me was special."

Iconic Augusta National shot at 11 gone

David Westin
Special to the Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY Network

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Larry Mize always said he would never try to duplicate the famous chip shot he hit on the 11th hole to win the Masters tournament 35 years ago.

Now he will never have that chance.

In 1987, Mize holed out a 140-foot chip for birdie from off the green on the right side of the par-4 hole for birdie. It came on the second hole of sudden death, dispatching Greg Norman.

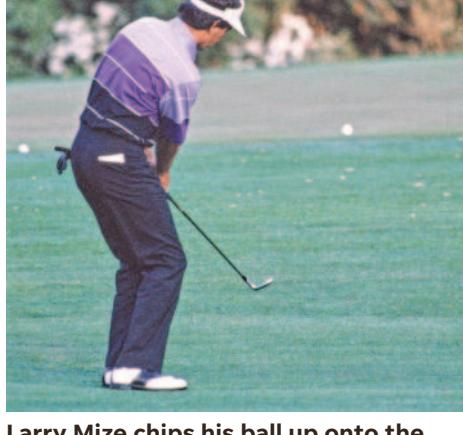
One of the four changes made to Augusta National for the 2022 Masters — all of them on the second nine — include a change to the area from where Mize made his iconic chip. Instead of being a slight slope, there is now a swale that Mize estimates is 40 degrees and drops 4 feet.

"My shot is gone," Mize said Monday.

Mize played the first nine during practice on Monday, so he never made it around to No. 11. But he's played the hole twice since the change was made after the 2021 Masters.

Since that famous shot 35 years ago, Mize had never had that shot in a tournament round. If he was in that area during practice, he'd move his ball, he said.

"I wanted to keep it a pure memory," Mize said. "Somebody gave me some



Larry Mize chips his ball up onto the green during the 1987 Masters.
THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE FILE PHOTO

great advice years ago after one of the golf publications wanted me to go replay it. He said, 'Don't do that because all of a sudden now you'll remember when you went back as well.'

"So now every time I see that shot it's the last time I saw that shot. It's been a great memory and I've kept it pure."

Mize has no problem with the change.

"I'm fine with it," he said. "That's definitely made that 11th hole harder. I know they want to keep the course up to date and they do a good job with that. It is what it is. It's a harder shot over there."

I'm good with that."

There was only a slight drop-off from the right side of the green when Mize won in 1987. From about 15 yards right of the green, he bumped his shot into the bank, watched it take three bounces and roll across the green and into the cup, which was cut on the left side near the pond. Mize's shot, had it not hit the pin, had some speed to it and might have rolled into the water.

Mize played the 11th hole last week and again on Sunday with a group of friends.

How will he play it now should he find himself in that position when the tournament starts Thursday?

"I'll find out (Tuesday)," he said. "Even though I've played it twice. I haven't gone over and fooled with that area. I'll hit some pitch shots, see if you can putt it up the hill, bump and run and blasting it. It will be a harder shot especially if the pin is close, you can't lob it because you can't stop it. You're going to have to putt it up the hill or take a 7- or 8-iron and bump up the hill. You could hit a similar shot to what I hit when it's close. So it could be a similar shot but much harder because you're going to have to hit it harder to get up that slope whereas before the slope was not as much and got up there a lot easier."

The change "will get your attention trying to pitch up that kind of hill with the green sloping away to the water."

Three-time Masters champion Nick Faldo, the color commentator for CBS Sports, played the hole Sunday. Though he last played in the Masters in 2006, Faldo can still play Augusta National as a former champion.

"It's more than likely going to be the toughest hole of the week," Faldo said of No. 11, which also has been lengthened by 15 yards this year and seen the tee moved slightly to the left. It could play as long as 520 yards, which would be the longest par 4 on the course by 25 yards.

It was the second-hardest hole last year, with an average score of 4.3990. No. 5, another par 4, was the most difficult hole at 4.4310.

When Faldo won his first Masters, in 1989, it came on No. 11 in a sudden-death playoff, just as Mize had done two years prior. Faldo also won the Masters in 1990, on No. 11 in sudden death.

"In 1989, I bogeyed it every day. I had four 5s and then I made a 3 (to win the sudden-death playoff)," he said.

Faldo said "this new bowl to the right is scary. If they put a pin down on the right side, wow. You're going to have to be really smart where you bail out. You've got to bail in front of the green, hopefully. You're going to have to play it where you hope 5 is the worst you make. It's a little bit like the Road Hole, No. 17 at St Andrews. It's like, 'I'll play it for 5 because I don't want to take 6. If I make 4, fantastic.'"

Brennan

Continued from Page 1C

as they do when the leaders tee off for the final round of the Masters on Sunday, 15-20 deep. It was an extraordinary sight for a practice round.

The masses followed him up the hill to where his tee shot landed, in the middle of the fairway, then to the first green, where the human traffic jam that occurs when any of the Sunday leaders leave the green to walk to the second tee was every bit the same bottleneck on this day.

"Great shot," a man yelled when Tiger hit his second shot on No. 1.

"Where did it go?" asked another spectator.

"Who cares where it went," said another.

Exactly. The thrill for them was just seeing Tiger where they never thought they would see him again. All this anticipation and happiness simply because Tiger played 18 holes in a practice round here last week and then tweeted this on Sunday: "I will be heading up to Augusta today to continue my preparation and practice. It will be a game-time decision on whether I compete."

"Game-time decision?" The way he

looked Monday, his touch around the greens, his joy at being back and the fans' exuberance at having him back, says he's playing Thursday, barring a setback of some sort.

The only discordant note, the only sign of caution, came when Woods had to trudge uphill — and golfers have to do a lot of that at Augusta National. Then, his shoulders drooped. His gait slowed. From behind, slightly hunched over, he looked older. You could tell this wasn't easy for him, understandably of course.

Woods' right leg was shattered on Feb. 23, 2021. For some time afterward, there was the fear that he wouldn't be able to walk again. What he did here

Monday was spectacular, but still, there are reminders of how hard this has been: the accident, the recovery, the rehabilitation, all of it.

It was 25 years ago that Tiger won here for the first time. He did it again in 2001, 2002 and 2005, and then there was the surprise of 2019. He has won three U.S. Opens, three British Opens and four PGA Championships. But this one, this has always been the major tournament with which he is most associated.

So he walked around the place Monday, and Augusta National welcomed him with the warmest embrace. Of course it did. He was home.

Spaun masterful in Texas Open

Tim Price
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — J.J. Spaun earned his first PGA Tour victory — and his first trip to the Masters — by firing a final-round 69 at the Valero Texas Open on Sunday.

In his 147th PGA Tour start, Spaun survived a double-bogey start to his round by recording five birdies with no bogeys to finish at 13-under at TPC San Antonio. It gave him a two-shot margin over Matt Kuchar (69) and Matt Jones (66).

"I was thinking about the Masters last night," Spaun said. "But I think a year ago, to think I would even be here playing on tour, I'd have to do a lot of work. To finally get a win, it's what you dream about."

In October, Spaun was ranked No. 396 in the World Golf Rankings. It followed a 2020-21 season where he missed more cuts than he made, including a missed cut at the Texas Open, and only one top-10 finish. He had to play in the PGA's Korn Ferry Tour last year to retain his tour card.

The 31-year-old closed with four straight pars, and no one could close in on him. Spaun's previous best finish on the PGA Tour was runner-up in 2018 at the RSM Classic. Sunday's tournament win includes a \$1.54 million check.

Adam Hadwin (67), Beau Hossler (72), Charles Howell III (69) and Troy Merritt (69) tied for fourth at 10-under.

Jones missed a 3-foot par putt on the 16th, birdied the 17th and missed a 14-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

"It was a good weekend," Jones said, "but I had a good round going Thursday and let it slip, and then Friday I just played poorly and made a couple of mistakes. Those mistakes are what cost golf tournaments. Yeah, I played great today."

Kuchar needed a birdie on the final hole and Spaun to make bogey to force a playoff. Spaun found trouble off the tee in the left rough, but Kuchar's second shot went into the water. Spaun reached the green of the par-5 finishing hole in three and his final putt was less than 2 feet.



J.J. Spaun acknowledges the fans Sunday in San Antonio after he won the Valero Texas Open, his first tournament victory on the PGA Tour, and a spot to play in this week's Masters. ERIK WILLIAMS/USA TODAY SPORTS

It was a missed opportunity to get back to the Masters for Kuchar and Brandt Snedeker, who shared the lead after the first two holes Sunday. Between them, they have 26 Masters appearances, seven top-10 finishes, and each has a top-3 finish.

Snedeker finished tied for 18th after a 75.

Spaun's double-bogey final round start before getting the victory is so rare that the last time it happened on the PGA Tour came in 2008, when Tiger Woods won the U.S. Open (and Woods needed a playoff the following day).

"It didn't bother me as much as you would think," Spaun said. "I knew there was a lot of golf. I'd rather double the first hole than the last hole."

Spaun took the lead with a birdie after nailing his approach into the 11th to 3 feet away.

Jones' birdie at the 17th cut the lead to one, but Spaun answered with a birdie at the par-5 14th after getting almost pin high in the greenside bunker. He hit to 9 feet and made the putt to go back to two ahead. Spaun nursed the lead, making a 6-footer for par at 15, chipping to 5 feet away and making the par putt on the 16th, and on 17 knocking in par from 4 feet.

Spaun's double-bogey at the start came when his approach missed so much it settled left of the bunker situated left of the green. His chip rolled toward the back of the green and he three-putted.

"I was thinking, what could I do to get a top 10, not win the tournament," Spaun said.

He also double-bogeyed the ninth hole on Saturday. Yet he birdied the tough ninth on Sunday, one of five on the day.

Keegan Bradley, who shot a final-round 66, finished in a tie for eighth at 9-under with Matthias Schwab (68), Gary Woodland (70) and third-round co-leader Dylan Frittelli (73).

Frittelli's chances started to slip after he walked to the ninth tee after a birdie at 8. His tee shot ran down a cart path straight into cactus. He pulled the ball away from the spines and took an unplayable and managed bogey to fall two back.

Hamlin win slows youth movement

Zach Dean
The Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY Network

Leave it to Denny Hamlin to throw a wet towel on NASCAR's youth movement.

For the first time in 13 Cup Series races, an old guy was in victory lane Sunday!

"It was just a matter of time," said Hamlin who, at 41, became the first winner over 30 since he won last fall at Las Vegas. "We weren't just going to hang back where we were. You just have a tough season and things aren't going well. It seems like everything is not going your way and the law of averages say things are going to work out and we'll get our performance better, and today's the day where it all matched up."

Game, set and match, Denny!

Who won the Toyota Owners 400?

Hamlin wasn't the only graybeard up front, either. Look at this leaderboard ...

1. Hamlin
2. Kevin Harvick (welcome back, Kevin ...)

4. Martin Truex Jr. (... and Martin!)

"We finally had a day where nothing went wrong," said Harvick, who scored his best finish since Bristol last fall. I think he got into it there with some guy named Chase – can't remember, though.

"I think we had the best car, but it doesn't matter," Truex added. "Overall, just really proud of our guys and a big step in the right direction. Completely different mindset coming here, and after today what we can do going forward."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. returning to NASCAR

Speaking of the old-timers ... guess who's back this week?

Junior!

Yep. Dale Earnhardt Jr. is set to run his annual Xfinity Series race Friday night at Martinsville, a place where he won once over 35 career Cup starts.

Junior will run the No. 88 Hellmann's Chevy for JR Motorsports (glad the boss



Denny Hamlin celebrates in victory lane Sunday after winning the Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway. AMBER SEARLS/USA TODAY SPORTS

let him back!) in what will be his fifth Xfinity race since retiring from his full-time Cup ride in 2017. His other four finishes?

Fourteenth at Richmond last fall, fifth at Homestead (2020), fifth at Darlington (2019) and fourth at Richmond (2018).

NASCAR Richmond results: Denny Hamlin leads resurgence

Back to the modern drivers ...

Hamlin won for the 47th time at Richmond, putting a bow on a strong day for Joe Gibbs Racing, which they desperately needed.

Truex finished fourth and frankly had the best car (by a lot). Christopher Bell finished sixth and Kyle Busch ninth.

After a really, really, *reeeeeaaallllly* slow start to the year for JGR, the group righted the ship Sunday. Granted, Richmond is a place where that team has absolutely dominated for years now, but a win's a win, baby!

Hendrick Motorsports (minus Chase Elliott. Panic time yet?) had another good outing, while Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing seemingly came out of nowhere to find some surprising speed.

While Kez only finished 13th, he did score points in the first two stages and ran in the top 10 most of the day.

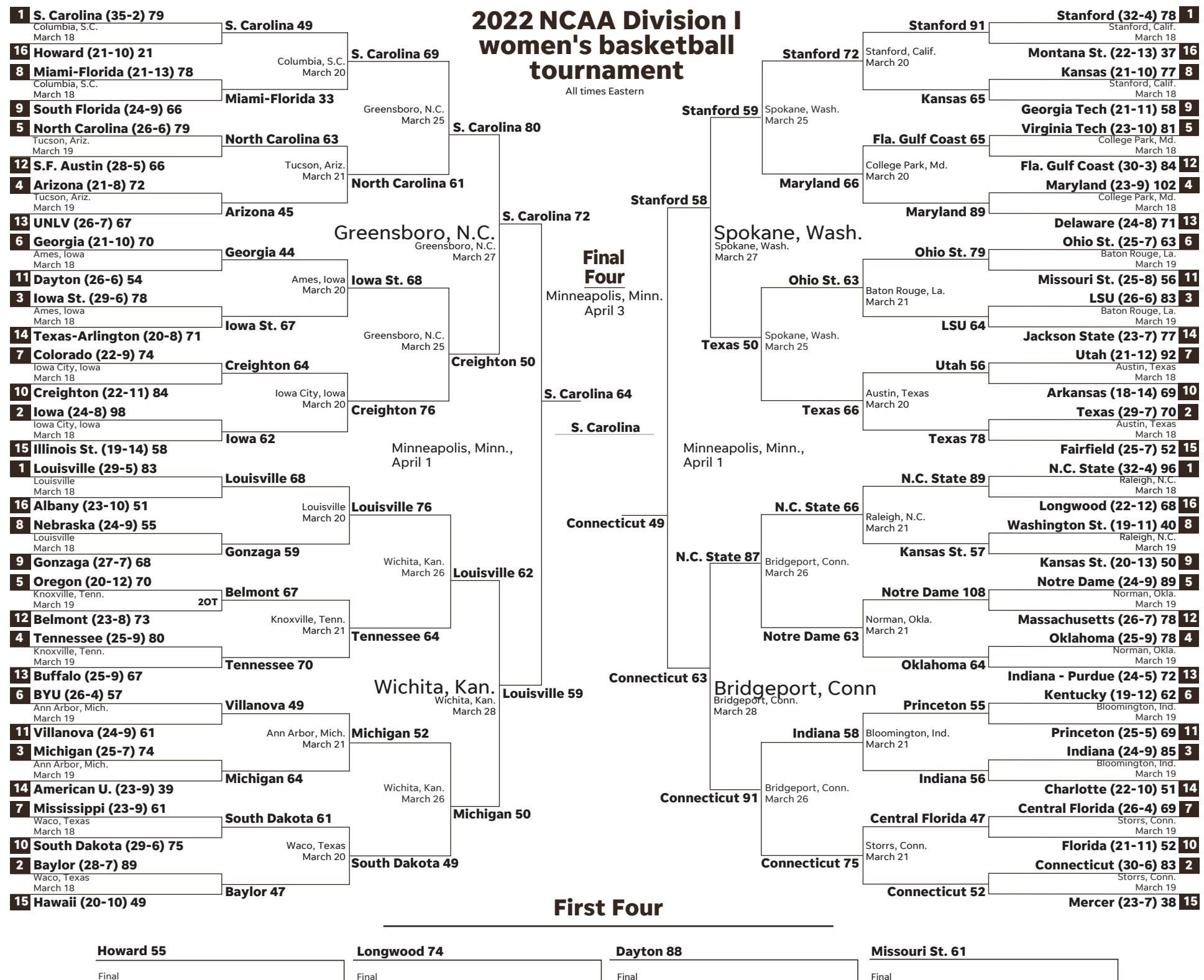
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WEATHER

TODAY'S FORECAST

TODAY'S HIGH

TEMPERATURES

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ION FORECAST

A storm will push across Southern states today. It

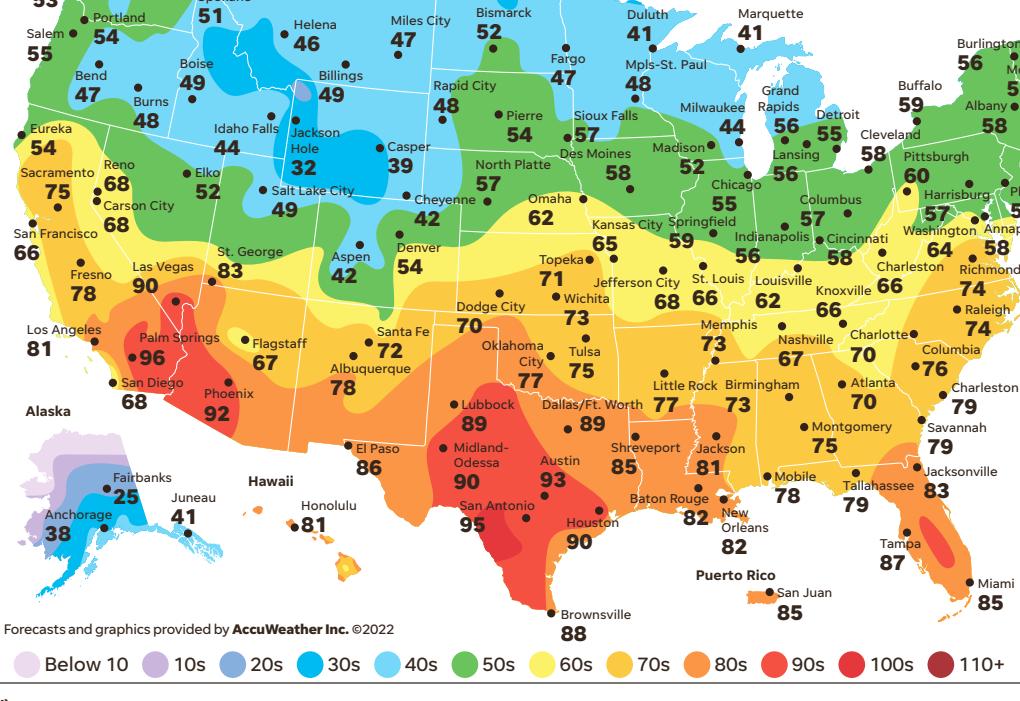
through the storm system is not overly strong, it will lead to severe thunderstorms and the potential for a few tornadoes from southeastern **Louisiana** to **South Carolina, Georgia** and northern **Florida**. Along with the risk of high wind gusts, flash flooding is also a concern. Rain is forecast to drench areas from **Illinois** to **Maryland, Delaware** and southern **New Jersey**.

Farther west, a large storm will gain strength over the northern **Plains**. Areas of rain and snow will

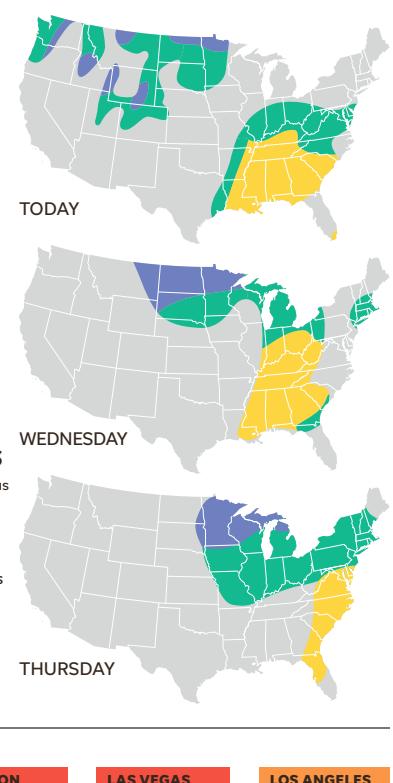
stretch from coastal **Washington** and **Oregon** to the **Dakotas** and **Minnesota**. Winds will howl from the interior **Northwest** to the mountains in **Montana**, **Wyoming** and **Colorado**, as well as areas over

the High Plains and over the **Rockies**. Warmth will build over the **Southwest** and **California**.

52 Seattle
Olympia Spokane



CHICAGO



TUE  T-storms
70/64 **TUE**  A little
rain
59/52 **TUE** 

WED	A.P.M. t-storm 79/56	WED	Rain 66/48	WED	Rain, cooler 48/43	WED	Partly sunny 81/64	WED	A little rain 60/42	WED	Breezy, cooler 73/47	WED	Windy 46/28	WED	Rain 55/42	WED	A stray shower 82/70	WED	Breezy 83/55	WED	Not as warm 80/58	WED	Very warm 90/62																		
THU	Not as warm 68/46	THU	Rain 60/47	THU	Cloudy, rain 48/46	THU	Stray t-storm 77/47	THU	A few showers 48/35	THU	Sunny, breezy 68/45	THU	Very windy 52/26	THU	Shower 56/39	THU	Breezy 84/71	THU	Sunny, breezy 76/48	THU	Sunny, warm 84/62	THU	Sunny, hot 91/64	THU	Sunny, warm 84/62																
AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Good	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Moderate																		
MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON																														
TUE	Breezy, humid 85/77	TUE	P.M. rain 48/37	TUE	T-storms 82/71	TUE	Alittle rain 56/48	TUE	A.P.M. t-storm 88/71	TUE	A little rain 57/52	TUE	Sunny, warm 92/67	TUE	Showers around 49/32	TUE	Mostly sunny 68/57	TUE	Breezy 66/49	TUE	Breezy 52/35	TUE	A little rain 64/54	WED	Some sun 67/54																
WED	Breezy 89/77	WED	P.M. showers 48/36	WED	T-storm 86/60	WED	Morning rain 55/45	WED	Stray t-storm 89/72	WED	A little rain 60/50	WED	Sunny, hot 95/67	WED	Sunlit, nice 73/60	WED	Breezy 76/55	WED	Milder 59/42	WED	Milder 67/54	WED	Rain 60/49	WED	Very warm 84/55																
THU	T-storm 91/73	THU	Rain, snow 40/31	THU	Not as warm 75/52	THU	Rain 52/48	THU	Breezy, humid 87/67	THU	Becoming rainy 58/50	THU	Sunny, warm 92/66	THU	Sunny, milder 64/43	THU	Warmer 86/63	THU	Very warm 68/46	THU	Rain 60/49	THU	Very warm 84/55	THU	Very warm 84/55																
AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Good	AQI	Moderate	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good	AQI	Good																
c	Cloudy	f	Fog	i	Ice	r	Rain	sf	Snowflurries	sn	Snow	w	Windy	dr	Drizzle	h	Haze	pc	Partly cloudy	s	Sunny	sh	Showers	t	Thunderstorms																
U.S. CITIES			TODAY	WED				TODAY	WED				TODAY	WED				TODAY	WED				TODAY	WED																	
Akron, Ohio			59/47c	63/43r				Cincinnati	58/49r				61/42r							Nags Head, N.C.	67/61r				Sarasota, Fla.	85/74w															
Albany, N.Y.			58/43c	52/43c				Cleveland	58/47pc				60/43r							Hartford, Conn.	59/44c				Nashville, Tenn.	67/57t															
Albuquerque			78/46w	65/36w				Colorado Springs	67/32w				49/29w							Indianapolis	56/48r				Scottsdale, Ariz.	90/65s															
Allentown, Pa.			54/45r	55/47r				Columbia, S.C.	76/63r				83/66t							Jackson, Miss.	81/65r				New Haven, Conn.	54/45c															
Amarillo, Texas			84/38pc	64/36s				Columbus, Ohio	57/47r				61/40r							Jacksonville, Fla.	83/68t				Jacksonville, Fla.	68/68t															
Anaheim, Calif.			81/56s	94/62s				Corpus Christi, Texas	89/67pc				89/58pc							Jefferson City, Mo.	68/45r				Norfolk, Va.	73/60r															
Anchorage, Alaska			38/29sf	41/27c				Dayton, Ohio	56/50r				57/42r							Kansas City	65/40s				Oakland, Calif.	67/46s															
Aspen, Colo.			42/19c	34/19pc				Daytona Beach, Fla.	86/69r				87/69t							Key West, Fla.	86/78s				Sioux Falls, S.D.	57/36r															
Atlantic City, N.J.			51/48r	58/45r				Des Moines, Iowa	58/37r				55/37w							Duluth, Minn.	60/54t				Shreveport, La.	85/68s															
Augusta, Ga.			76/61r	84/63t				Durham, N.C.	41/33c				39/32sn							Lexington, Ky.	61/51t				Laredo, Texas	98/69s															
Austin, Texas			93/61s	80/50w				El Paso, Texas	86/60w				84/49s							Lincoln, Neb.	64/38sh				Pensacola, Fla.	80/71t															
Bakersfield, Calif.			77/52s	84/59s				Fairbanks, Alaska	25/7sn				42/8pc							Little Rock, Ark.	77/58c				Pierre, S.D.	54/35w															
Baton Rouge, La.			82/68t	84/53t				Flagstaff, Ariz.	67/34w				61/29s							Long Beach, Calif.	73/56pc				Pittsburgh	60/46r															
Billings, Mont.			49/35w	48/30w				Fargo, N.D.	47/35r				42/34sn							Louisville, Ky.	62/54r				Portland, Maine	53/36pc															
Birmingham, Ala.			73/65t	78/49t				Fort Myers, Fla.	90/74s				89/75pc							Lubbock, Texas	89/42w				Providence, R.I.	57/44c															
Bismarck, N.D.			52/33sh	45/30sn				Fort Smith, Ark.	78/51pc				70/44pc							Madison, Wis.	52/38t				Raleigh, N.C.	74/60r															
Boise, Idaho			49/27w	57/34s				Fort Wayne, Ind.	58/47c				56/40r							Memphis, Tenn.	73/62r				Rapid City, S.D.	48/32w															
Buffalo, N.Y.			59/45c	63/46r				Fresno, Calif.	78/53s				85/59s							Milwaukee	44/42c				Madison, Wis.	60/42pc															
Burlington, Vt.			56/37pc	54/43c				Grand Rapids, Mich.	56/45c				54/38r							Montgomery, Ala.	75/67t				Richmond, Va.	74/59r															
Cedar Rapids, Iowa			52/36r	54/35w				Green Bay, Wis.	45/41c				52/38r							Mobile, Ala.	78/68t				Rochester, N.Y.	58/44c															
Charleston, S.C.			79/65r	81/66pc				Greensboro, N.C.	71/56r				78/62pc							Modesto, Calif.	76/51s				Sacramento, Calif.	75/51s															
Charleston, W.Va.			66/49r	76/46t				Greenville, S.C.	66/57t				78/61t							Montgomery, Ala.	75/67t				San Jose, Calif.	73/49s															
Charleston, W.Va.			42/25w	40/24w				Harrisburg, Pa.	57/50r				61/50sh							Myrtle Beach, S.C.	73/64r				Santa Fe, N.M.	76/65c															
WORLD CITIES																																									
TODAY																																									
Beijing																																									
Buenos Aires																																									
Cancun, Mexico																																									
Dubai, UAE																																									
Frankfurt																																									
Hong Kong																																									

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	30	.620	
x-Philadelphia	48	30	.615	½
Toronto	45	33	.577	3%
Brooklyn	40	38	.513	8%
New York	35	44	.443	14

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	48	30	.615	—
Atlanta	41	37	.526	9%
Charlotte	40	38	.513	10%
Washington	34	44	.436	16%
Orlando	20	59	.253	31

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	48	30	.615	—
Chicago	45	33	.577	3%
Cleveland	43	36	.544	5%
Indiana	25	54	.316	23%
Detroit	23	56	.291	25%

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Memphis	55	23	.705	—
Dallas	49	30	.620	6%
New Orleans	34	44	.436	21
San Antonio	33	45	.423	22
Houston	20	59	.253	35%

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	47	32	.595	—
Utah	46	32	.590	½
Minnesota	45	34	.570	2
Portland	27	51	.346	19%
Oklahoma City	23	55	.295	23%

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Phoenix	62	16	.795	—
x-Golden State	50	29	.633	12%
L.A. Clippers	39	40	.494	23%
L.A. Lakers	31	47	.397	31
Sacramento	29	50	.367	33%

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Sunday's Games

Boston 144, Washington 102
Dallas 118, Milwaukee 112
Denver 129, L.A. Lakers 118
Detroit 121, Indiana 117
New York 118, Orlando 88
Philadelphia 112, Cleveland 108
Oklahoma City 117, Phoenix 96
San Antonio 113, Portland 92
Miami 14, Toronto 109
Minnesota 129, Houston 132
Golden State 109, Sacramento 90
L.A. Clippers 119, New Orleans 100

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Portland at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Dallas at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Utah, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.
Thursday's GamesOrlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 10 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Florida	69	48	15	6	102	287	204
Toronto	68	44	19	5	93	258	204
Tampa Bay	68	43	18	7	93	228	192
Boston	68	43	20	5	91	217	183
Detroit	69	26	34	9	61	197	268
Buffalo	70	25	34	11	61	193	248
Ottawa	68	25	37	6	56	181	221
Montreal	69	19	39	11	49	179	262

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	69	45	16	8	98	230	164
N.Y. Rangers	70	44	20	6	94	214	186
Pittsburgh	70	41	19	10	90	233	188
Washington	69	37	22	10	84	226	202
N.Y. Islanders	68	32	27	9	73	190	186
Columbus	69	32	32	5	69	223	260
Philadelphia	69	32	36	11	55	179	246
New Jersey	69	24	39	5	46	213	258

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	69	49	14	6	102	282	189
Minnesota	68	43	20	5	91	252	209
St. Louis	68	38	20	10	86	245	201
Nashville	68	35	25	4	82	224	199
Dallas	68	36	26	3	81	201	204
Winnipeg	70	33	27	10	76	217	219
Chicago	70	24	35	11	59	188	247
Arizona	69	22	42	5	49	176	249

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Sunday's Games

Florida 5, Buffalo 3
Ottawa 5, Detroit 2
N.Y. Islanders 4, New Jersey 3
Vegas 3, Vancouver 2, OT
Minnesota 5, Washington 1
Arizona 3, Chicago 2, OT
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, SO
Edmonton 6, Anaheim 1
Seattle 4, Dallas 1

Monday's Games

Boston at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Arizona at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia 4, Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Florida, 12:35 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Florida, 1:05 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Philadelphia vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Florida, 1:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Florida, 1:05 p.m.
Portland 3, Angel City FC 0

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<table

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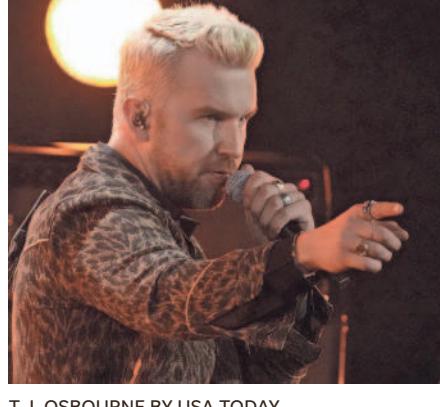
STIHL

LIFELINE

STYLE STAR
LIL NAS X

★ Call me by Balmain. "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" singer Lil Nas X may not have taken home any trophies after collecting five nominations this year including album of the year, but the 22-year-old artist brought his A-game to the Grammys red carpet on Sunday, stepping out in an embellished look from French fashion house Balmain with embroidered butterflies and coordinating platform shoes.

DAN MACMEDAN/
USA TODAY



T.J. OSBOURNE BY USA TODAY

THEY SAID WHAT?
THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

"I never thought that I would be able to do music professionally because of my sexuality. And I certainly never thought it would be here on the stage accepting a Grammy, after having done something I felt like was going to be life-changing, and potentially in a very negative way. And here I am tonight, not only accepting this Grammy award with my brother, who I love so much, but I'm here with a man that I love and who loves me back. I don't know what I did be so lucky. Thank you." - T.J. Osborne of the Brothers Osborne, while accepting the country duo's first Grammy on Sunday, when their song "Younger Me" was named Best Country/Duo Group Performance. Last year, T.J. became the first openly gay artist to be currently signed to a major country label.

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Lily James is 33. Sterling K. Brown is 46. Pharrell Williams is 49.

USA TODAY SNAPSHTOTS©

Weekend box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore.

1. Morbius	\$39.1M
2. The Lost City.....	\$14.8M
3. The Batman.....	\$10.8M
4. Uncharted	\$3.6M
5. Jujutsu Kaisen 0	\$1.9M



ASSOCIATED PRESS

64TH GRAMMY AWARDS NEWS & VIEWS



Billie Eilish re-creates the music video for "Happier Than Ever" while wearing a shirt featuring an image of the late Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins. PHOTOS BY ROBERT HANASHIRO/USA TODAY

Moments will live on after the tunes fade

Marco della Cava USA TODAY

The 2022 Grammy Awards show is in the books. When we all eventually look back on this year's musical smorgasbord, there are a number of moments that are sure to be remembered long after we've forgotten who took home record of the year. • There were no scandalous events, although there was one early reference to The Slap, the moment during the Oscars last Sunday when Will Smith walked up to the stage and belted presenter Chris Rock for a perceived slight to Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. • "All right, I'm going to present this award and I trust that you people will stay 500 feet away from me," joked song of the year presenter Questlove, who won his documentary Oscar right after the slap. • Our nominees for the top moments from this year's Grammy show:

Billie Eilish pays tribute to Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins

Billie Eilish brought the noise and the rain in a thundering performance of "Happier Than Ever" that put a poignant spotlight on Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins, who died March 25 while on tour in Colombia.

Eilish launched into her song in all black, and her baggy T-shirt bore

the smiling image of Hawkins at the kit. As the song picked up pace, a simulated rain storm pelted the singer and her two bandmates, soaking the shirt. At the end of the performance, Eilish, smiling broadly, took her thumbs and forefingers and pinched the shirt around her collarbone and held it up to roaring applause.

See GRAMMYS, Page 2D



Jon Batiste wins the award for album of the year for "We Are." He finished Sunday night taking home five trophies.

Performances at the Grammys show diversity and range

Veteran artists and relative newcomers share the stage on music's big night. Page 3D

BOOKS

Billings finally finding 'Time' and space for herself

David Oliver
USA TODAY

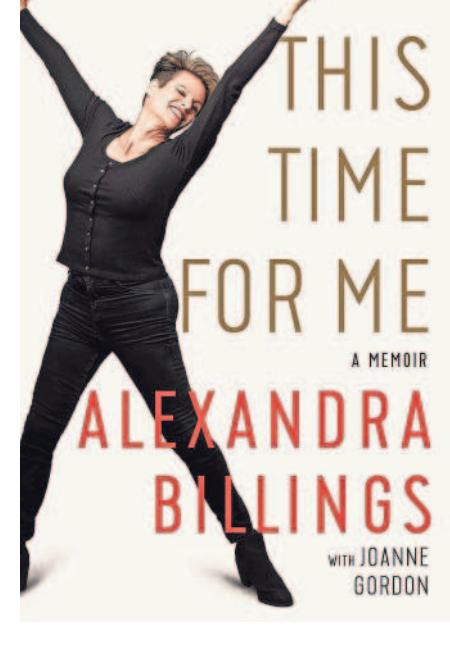
Alexandra Billings keeps talismans. The white crewneck sweater her mother gave her unexpectedly one Christmas. The gray suitcase she packed when she was homeless during the HIV crisis – still packed.

"Every once in a while, I pick it up to go through it, and I go through the top layer, and I just can't do it," Billings, 60, says of the suitcase. "And it's been years."

Still, "The Conners" actress and University of Southern California assistant professor of acting unpacks the suitcase of her life in her memoir "This Time for Me" (Topple Books, 429 pp.). And it's a full one.

The actress's journey from Illinois to California contains many layers, both harmonious and horrifying: Her time as drag queen Shanté; the road to confirming her gender identity; ongoing violence she experienced, including rape and assault; a suicide attempt; drug addiction; her long-lasting marriage to wife Chrisanne; her HIV diagnosis; her college education; and her eventual TV stardom.

Growing up, Billings thought she was "normal." Not everyone thought so, including her parents. They thought they needed "to be careful around" her, Billings writes, because she was "starting to lean" in a gay direction. Billings also notes she would raid her mother's closet for jewelry and clothing.



"If we say something is normal, that actually means different things to different people, depending on your lens of experience," Billings says. Her whole life has been spent saying "this is my normal" and not receiving that affirmation back.

"The ask of trans people isn't about conformity for you," she says. "It's about honoring us, that's all."

Anti-LGBTQ legislation is brewing around the country, and transgender people face discrimination in every walk of life, whether that be in education, health care, or even entertainment.

Billings describes harassment she experienced working in TV – including "Romy and Michele: In the Beginning" and "Transparent." In "Romy and Michelle," for example, she recalls in her memoir that someone referred to her by the wrong pronouns: "I'm not going to learn this dance if I have to be sandwiched between you and *him*," referring to Billings. (She uses both she/her and they/them pronouns today.) But, she notes, Hollywood has improved.

What's not better? Opportunities. She can't watch the Oscars anymore, she says, because transgender people are not represented. They may appear on the red carpet occasionally, but they do not enjoy meaningful inclusion.

"The thing that makes me angry is I always get the same question from people in the business, which is, 'Well, what are we supposed to do?'" she says.

See BILLINGS, Page 4D



Chris Stapleton speaks emotionally of sacrifice as he accepts his award for best country album for "Starting Over."

Grammys

Continued from Page 1D

Chris Stapleton salutes sacrifice in his country album acceptance speech

A humble Chris Stapleton took the Grammy stage to pick up his best country album award for "Starting Over," and spent the bulk of his speech paying tribute to the sacrifices that musicians, and all artists, often make for their craft.

"Today is my twins' birthday – they're 4 years old. So I'm thinking a lot about sacrifice because I missed out on some of their birthday today," said Chris Stapleton in his short but sweet acceptance speech.

"Everybody in this room has made some kind of a sacrifice to be up here doing this. And I don't know what it is for everybody, but I know that it hurts sometimes. But hopefully, we're all doing it so we can make the world a better place, and the people that live in it will love each other."

Donatella Versace helps Dua Lipa, Megan Thee Stallion re-create a classic Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston moment

Fashion designer Donatella Versace joined Dua Lipa and Megan Thee Stallion on stage to quickly strip both of their skirts after the two singers joked



Lady Gaga pays tribute to Tony Bennett, who was not in attendance, Sunday night at the Grammy Awards. PHOTOS BY ROBERT HANASHIRO/USA TODAY

about appearing in similar outfits as they presented the new-artist Grammy Award.

"Ladies, don't fight," Versace announced in Italian as she marched up the steps toward the duo and seconds later whipped off part of their dresses with a flourish. The moment seemed to pay tribute to the time Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston shared the stage at the 1998 MTV Video Music Awards and playfully wore identical brown gowns.

In the original version, Carey and Houston milk the applause and laughs before Carey says she "comes prepared" for such instances, and yanks off the lower portion of her outfit, revealing a miniskirt underneath. Houston then does the same.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy makes a virtual plea for support

One unexpected guest was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who in a recorded message in English implored

the audience to support his nation's battle against the ongoing Russian invasion. His appearance was notable because when Oscars co-host Amy Schumer suggested this very idea for the Academy Awards, it went nowhere.

Although the Oscars would have been a fitting place for Ukraine's president to appear – he is after all a one-time TV actor turned national leader – Zelenskyy painted a grim picture of death and destruction, where artists sing to the wounded and dying.

"Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedoes ... but our music will break through anyway," said Zelenskyy, urging artists to "fill the silence with your music."

The president's message was immediately followed by a performance by John Legend singing "Free" on a stage bathed in blue. At his side appeared Ukrainian musician Siuzanna Igldan, who accompanied Legend's piano playing a Ukrainian stringed instrument called a bandura. The duo was joined by Ukrainian singer Mika Newton and Ukrainian

poet Lyuba Yakimchuk, both having only recently escaped the war. At the end of the song, viewers were directed to a donation page for Ukraine.

Lady Gaga pays heartfelt tribute to Tony Bennett with 'Do I Love You'

Lady Gaga turbocharged the standard "Love for Sale" as she joined a rollicking big band for what turned into a tender tribute to her longtime friend and frequent collaborator Tony Bennett, who retired from public performance last year.

Bennett, 95, made a rare and apparently taped appearance at the Grammys with a very short introduction of Gaga, before blowing her a kiss. Gaga took things from there, segueing into "Do I Love You," not a question but a statement of her feelings for the legend. As she sang, the screen filled with photos of Gaga and Bennett together over the years, with Bennett getting increasingly older while Gaga's hairstyles and color change in turn.

"I love you, Tony, we miss you," Gaga said at the song's conclusion, with a close-up on her face showing signs of tears.

Jon Batiste looks both perplexed, humbled by album of the year win

Singer, songwriter, musician and "Late Show With Stephen Colbert" bandleader Jon Batiste looked decidedly shocked and almost perplexed after Lenny Kravitz read his name as winner of the coveted album of the year Grammy for "We Are."

Batiste, who earlier in the show performed his infectious song "Freedom," took a moment to make his way to the stage, stopping on the way to hug applauding fellow nominee Billie Eilish.

Once at the microphone, Batiste used the spotlight to praise his fellow musicians and shoot down the notion of there being any true "bests" in a competition among creative people.

"I believe this to my core, there is no best musician, best artist, best dancer, best actor," he said. "The creative arts are subjective and they reach people at a point in their lives when they need it most. It's like a song or an album is made and it's almost like it has a radar to find the person when they need it the most."

Puzzles

CROSSWORD

EDITED Erik Agard
BY Erik Agard & Malaike Handa

INDENTATION

ACROSS

1 Filipino pantry staple
5 Polite address common in the South
9 Clip-___ (sound of a horse's hooves)

13 ___ mater
14 "Ta-da!"

15 Staff assistant

16 Person who writes gossipy articles

19 Programming tool whose logo features a crescent moon

20 Desire

21 Visually perceive

22 Centerpiece of the Taj Mahal

24 "All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (___'s Version)"

27 Polite address common in the South

28 Personal hero

30 Night before a special day

31 "Stick to the Status ___"

32 "The weekend! Finally!"

33 Shopping cart unit

34 Creator and star of "Abbott Elementary"

37 Performance with two singers

38 Friend, in French

39 "Are you the ___?" (MTV reality show)

40 Coffee

41 Dock

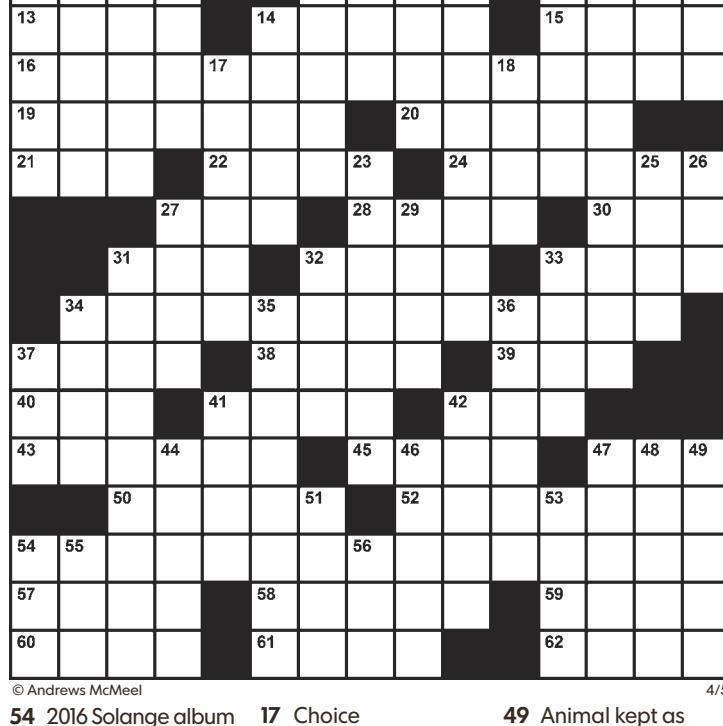
42 No longer stylish

43 Wicked

45 Record label Top ___-di-dah

50 Smoke shop purchases

52 Trait of easily-to-follow directions



© Andrews McMeel

4/5

17 Choice
18 Shape of an ice rink
23 8-foot-2-inch Muppet
25 Bakery appliance
26 Deep sleep stage
27 Clubs or hearts
29 Urgent
31 Hive mothers
32 Like a housecat but not a wildcat
33 Ain't
34 Je ne sais ___
35 Party before a big game
36 Chewy candy bar filling
37 Controls the music
41 Drop kick
42 Small bird that hoots
44 Gets frothy
46 Feels sore
47 Zodiac sign symbolized by scales
48 Book of maps

Monday's Answer

STATS MAX GIN

HANOI ACE BANE

EXERT JAM SUMUP

AIWEI WEI JOSEPH

NASSOLPIE

BDAY STATUE LAW

AIRED IDOS FAQ

AYEAYECAPTAIN

SEA SELL

THE DROPEDETERS

REDO LURE EXEC

IRISE IRISERISE

STAVE STAR SUN

SKIS MESATMI

ALT SEEN SEC

MONDAY'S ANSWER

64TH GRAMMY AWARDS NEWS & VIEWS

Performances ran the gamut from wringing out tears, cheers

Patrick Ryan

USA TODAY

Let's take a page from Olivia Rodrigo and get brutal.

The newly minted three-time Grammy winner was one of more than two dozen artists who performed during Sunday's Grammy Awards telecast, including album of the year honoree Jon Batiste and R&B duo Silk Sonic, who surprised with wins for record and song of the year ("Leave the Door Open").

The ceremony, hosted by Trevor Noah and held in Las Vegas for the first time, featured a wide array of industry veterans as well as up-and-comers, with glimpses of performances by Ay'mée Nuviola, Maverick City Music and Billy Strings throughout the 3½-hour broadcast.

Here are the best and worst musical moments from the show.

17. Justin Bieber featuring Daniel Caesar and Giveon, 'Peaches'

Bieber's silky smooth chart-topper "Peaches" is one of the biggest ear-worms of the past year. But the stilted Grammys performance lost much of what makes it such a feel-good bop by beginning with an overlong, overwrought introduction on piano before Bieber joined featured artists Caesar and Giveon. Even then, the lyrics were so heavily bleeped that it was more distracting than delectable.

16. Brothers Osborne, 'Dead Man's Curve'

The siblings won a much-deserved Grammy for best country duo/group performance earlier Sunday night for "Younger Me," which was inspired by singer T.J. Osborne's experience coming out as gay. So it's somewhat puzzling that they chose to perform the less impactful and too-brief "Dead Man's Curve," which closed out the ceremony with a whimper rather than a bang.

15. John Legend, 'Free'

After a taped introduction from Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Legend took the stage to perform his moving single "Free." Although the song's lyrics were fitting – if on the nose – given Russia's invasion of Ukraine ("Rain down freedom, rain down 'til we're all free"), we would have preferred if the Recording Academy ceded the spotlight entirely to the Ukrainian artists who accompanied Legend onstage, including Siuzanna Igldan, Mika Newton and poet Lyuba Yakimchuk.

14. Lil Nas X with Jack Harlow, 'Dead Right Now,' 'Montero,' 'Industry Baby'

After delightfully provocative turns on "Saturday Night Live" and the MTV VMAs, the genre-bending "Old Town Road" breakout played it curiously tame on the Grammys stage, running through hits including "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" and "Industry Baby" featuring Harlow. Aside from some slick moves and a slew of costume changes, Nas X was unfortunately overshadowed by flashier performances throughout the telecast.

13. Carrie Underwood, 'Ghost Story'

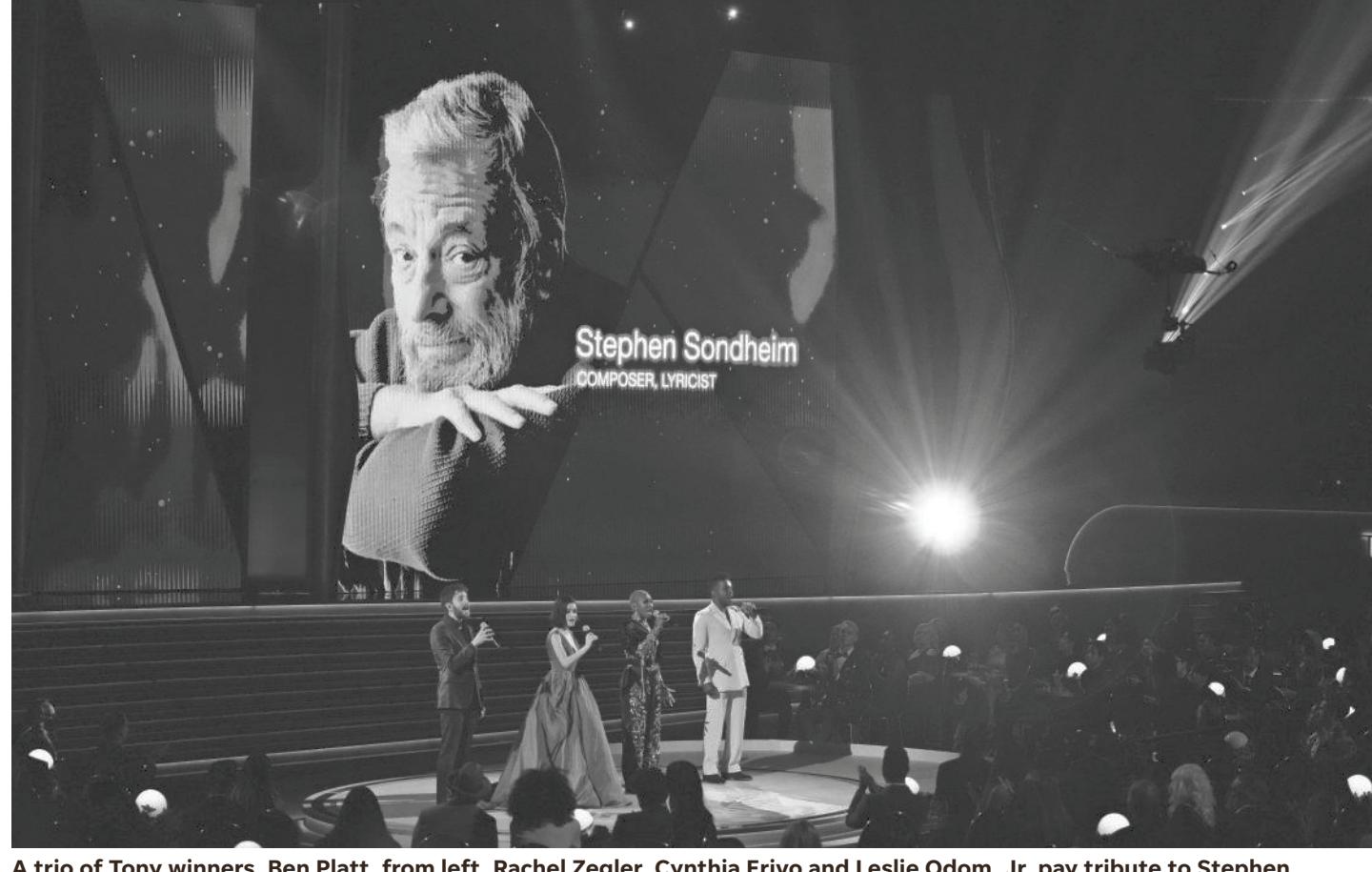
Underwood's ruffled train and wind machines nearly stole the show during "Ghost Story," a lyrically evocative and dramatic revenge anthem from her upcoming studio album. The country star's powerhouse vocals and impassioned delivery helped sell the somewhat forgettable track, which was saddled with an undesirable slot at the end of the night.

12. Nas, medley

Nas threw it back to earlier hits, including "Made You Look" and "One Mic," with his career-spanning medley, bringing out a horns section for "Rare" from last year's "King's Disease II." It was a self-assured if unsurprising performance, which could have used a shot of adrenaline from his latter album's guests Eminem or Ms. Lauryn Hill.

11. J Balvin and Maria Becerra, 'Qué Más Pues?' and 'In da Getto'

Silk Sonic and Rodrigo are tough acts



A trio of Tony winners, Ben Platt, from left, Rachel Zegler, Cynthia Erivo and Leslie Odom, Jr. pay tribute to Stephen Sondheim in the "In Memoriam" segment Sunday during the Grammys in Las Vegas. PHOTOS BY ROBERT HANASHIRO/USA TODAY



Brandi Carlile racked up another emotional Grammy moment with her performance of "Right On Time," one of Sunday night's highlights.

to follow, but Balvin more than held his own with sexy renditions of his "Jose" album tracks "In Da Getto" and "Qué Más Pues?" featuring Argentine singer María Becerra. Props should be given to the light-up staircase and neon-drenched backup dancers, who gave us some of the most mesmerizing handography this side of Madonna's "Vogue."

10. Silk Sonic, '777'

The R&B team-up of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, who released their nine-song joint effort last November, opened the show with the album's electrifying intro track, followed by standout "777." Throwing back to the '70s in sleek white jumpsuits the dynamic pair name-checked Sin City in rollicking, funky fashion, singing, "I'm 'bout to buy Las Vegas after this roll."

9. Chris Stapleton, 'Cold'

Stapleton brought his signature gravelly vocals and bluesy guitar to the searing "Cold," calling out a bad lover on the mournful chorus ("Why you got to go and cut me like a knife?"). Few artists make heartbreak sound better than this soulful crooner, who took home the country album Grammy (for "Starting Over") this year.

8. H.E.R. featuring Jimmy Jam, Terry Lewis, Travis Barker and Lenny Kravitz, medley

The Oscar- and Grammy-winning breakout brought a refreshing hard-rock edge to Sunday's festivities, performing a rousing medley with drummer Travis Barker and guitarist Lenny Kravitz. It was a much-needed jolt as the show dragged into its third hour.

7. Olivia Rodrigo, 'Drivers License'

The 19-year-old pop-punk breakout already was a Grammy winner going



H.E.R. performing "Are You Gonna Go My Way" with Lenny Kravitz and Travis Barker brought a jolt to the ceremony as it entered its third hour.

into Sunday's telecast, picking up her first award for pop solo performance (for debut single "Drivers License") hours before the show. (She ended the night with a trio of trophies.) Backed by an all-female band, and sporting glitter eyeliner and fishnet stockings, Rodrigo sounded tremendous as she delivered a soaring rendition of her emotional breakup ballad while darting across a vivid suburban backdrop, complete with a DMV-approved Mercedes.

6. Jon Batiste, 'Freedom'

If you weren't already a fan of Batiste before Sunday, it's nearly impossible not to be after his vibrant performance of record of the year nominee "Freedom." The jazz/R&B singer was effortlessly charismatic and exuberant throughout the eye-popping display, delivering expert choreography and climbing on tables as he got the audience on its feet.

5. Lady Gaga, 'Love for Sale,' 'Do I Love You'

After her heartwarming presentation of the best-picture Oscar with Liza Minnelli last month, Gaga proved yet again

that she's one of the classiest acts around. Performing without her long-time friend and "Love for Sale" duet partner Tony Bennett, who announced his Alzheimer's diagnosis last year, the pop star launched with a jaunty take on the album's title track before sitting on the stairs of the stage for a touching rendition of Cole Porter's "Do I Love You." Singing to a video backdrop of Bennett and her in the studio together, Gaga appeared emotional, pausing toward the end of the number as the crowd cheered his name.

4. Brandi Carlile, 'Right on Time'

Carlile's performance of inspiring single "The Joke" at the 2019 Grammys is an instant tear-jerker, and her stirring take on latest anthem "Right on Time" similarly gave us chills. Donning a disco ball-chic blazer and flanked by flashing rainbow-colored lights, the Americana singer/songwriter showcased her dexterous skills on piano and guitar, although her most flawless instrument was her commanding voice as she delivered the song's heartfelt message ("It wasn't right/but it was right on time").

3. BTS, 'Butter'

Could BTS be any more infectious? The K-pop superstars oozed charm as they delivered an ebullient take on "Butter," gliding across the stage in black tuxedos and paying homage to everything from "Ocean's Eleven" to "Mission: Impossible" as they flicked playing cards and evaded lasers in suave Vegas style. And we couldn't help but swoon as member V playfully cozied up to Rodrigo at the top of the number.

2. Billie Eilish, 'Happier Than Ever'

"Happier Than Ever" is without a doubt one of the most thrilling songs released by a mainstream pop artist in years, with ferocious vocals, heartachingly personal lyrics and a blistering, head-banging third verse. Eilish's Grammys performance of the song – the title track from her second album – did not disappoint as she re-created the music video's flooded house and rain-soaked finish. Her T-shirt tribute to late Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins added a layer of poignancy to the already intense moment.

1. Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr., Ben Platt and Rachel Zegler, In Memoriam

Coming off the uncomfortably upbeat In Memoriam tribute at the Oscars, the Grammys showed everyone how it should be done with a performance that was elegant, tasteful and deeply affecting. The trio of Tony winners – joined by dazzling star on the rise Zegler ("West Side Story") – harmonized gorgeously as they sang a medley by late Broadway composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who died in November. By the time they all congregated on stage to perform the wistful "Somewhere" from "West Side," we could hardly see the TV screen through our tears.

Billings

Continued from Page 1D

Billings has an answer: Invite them to the party. "Why can't you have just like 20 seats? Twenty of those cis heteronormative, white human beings brought husbands, cousins, or somebody with them," she says. "Those people can't step back to allow for representation? Art is the reflection of the human experience. And if we are not reflected in art, we are not reflected in the human experience."

That directly correlates to anti-transgender sentiment. "If you can't see us, you can't help us," Billings says. She's confident change will happen anyway: "I can come to my own party and bring my own table."

Billings should know — she has witnessed tremendous change throughout her life, particularly since her HIV diagnosis in the 1990s. HIV education has evolved, as have preventative drugs such as PrEP and others that ensure HIV-positive patients have undetectable viral loads and can't pass on the disease to their partners. And of course, HIV-positive people can live full lives; the diagnosis is no longer a death sentence.

Billings recently spoke with someone about how the COVID-19 pandemic was the second viral plague they've lived through. This person said it was disheartening that the younger queer generation doesn't un-



Judith Light, left, and Alexandra Billings discuss their show "Transparent," which wrapped in 2019.

DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES

derstand what that was like. It also is a gift, Billings says.

"I don't want them to go through what we went through," she adds. "I don't want them to bury their friends. I don't want them to go to funeral after funeral after funeral. I don't want them to experience that. I don't need anybody to walk in my shoes. I've said that

for years. They're my shoes. They cost me enough. I don't need you to walk for me. I need you to walk with me."

Walk with Billings down the yellow brick road and you'll speak her language.

"The Wizard of Oz" has popped up as a theme — a talisman, really — in her life, at one point leading to her debut as Madame Morrible in "Wicked" on Broadway several years ago. The story is full of teachers — something she discusses the importance of in a letter to all students at the end of the memoir.

"The human experience is messy, and chaotic, and filled with pain and grief, and wells of sadness," Billings says. "But if we pretend none of that is true, and none of it's happening, then that's also connected to our joy and our beauty, and our love, and empathy and compassion. You can't get rid of one thing without getting rid of everything." As students move through life — "this fantastic madness" — they should keep an eye out for guides and return the favor to others.

Perhaps easier said than done — and not as easy as clicking your heels three times — but as Dorothy says, there's no place like home.

"That story has resonated as a talisman, much like the suitcase and the sweater, in that it's the hero's journey that you return 'the same only different,'" Billings says. "That's true about all heroes, that you start off at home, and you go through the forest, and battle the witches and figure out how to get the shoes so that you can go home because you've been home all along."

TONIGHT ON TV

NETWORK	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
ABC	Judge Steve Harvey A married couple sues each other over the wife's cooking skills. (N)	Abbott Elementary Ava gives a presentation. (N)	Black-ish Pops and Ruby plan to use their RV. (N)	To Tell the Truth Celebrities meet a professional hitchhiker and a cemetery archeologist. (N)	Local Programs	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
CBS	FBI The team exposes a terrorist plot; Scola reflects on the 9/11 attacks.	FBI: International One of Kellett's shifty informants is arrested for robbery and murder.	FBI: Most Wanted A famous lifestyle guru is killed; Kristin becomes closer to her ex-husband.	Local Programs		The Late Show with Stephen Colbert (N)		
Fox	The Resident Leela looks for a sperm donor for Padma and discovers something unsettling. (N)	Name That Tune Actors Jodie Sweetin & Frankie Muniz; Olympians Laurie Hernandez & Nastia Liukin. (N)						
NBC	Young Rock Family Mr. Mayor Journey to Scorpio. (N)	This Is Us Rebecca and Miguel's anniversary barbecue does not go as they expected. (N)	The Thing About Pam Pam finds herself under extreme public scrutiny after "Dateline" episode airs. (N)	Local Programs	Local Programs	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon		
PBS	Benjamin Franklin (N)			Benjamin Franklin				
CW	Superman & Lois Sarah's quinceañera.	Naomi Homecoming excitement in Port Oswego.	Local Programs					
ION	Chicago Fire Casey reunites with his old friend.	Chicago Fire Otis and Cruz find a new roommate.	Chicago Fire Casey faces a big politician.	Chicago Fire A hazardous warehouse fire.				
Telemundo	Exatlón Estados Unidos (N)	Hercal, Amor y venganza (N)	Pasión de Gavilanes (N)	Noticias Telemundo	Noticias Telemundo (N)			
Univision	Soltero con hijas	Mi fortuna es amarte	Madre (N)	Noticiero Univisión (N)	Noti. Univ. Ed. noc. (N)			
CABLE								
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC	Twister A storm chaser teams up with his ex-wife in pursuit of killer tornadoes. Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton (1996)				Sixteen Candles A girl's 16th birthday gets overlooked. Molly Ringwald (1984)			
Animal Planet	North Woods Law: Uncuffed (N)				North Woods Law Group lights fire in the woods.	North Woods Law Local cops help remove campers.		
BBC America	Edge of Tomorrow Officer killed in battle finds himself thrown into strange time loop. Tom Cruise (2014) (7:30)				Godzilla Godzilla rises to restore balance and fight against malevolent creatures. Aaron Taylor-Johnson (2014)			
BET	The Best Man A writer's new novel annoys his friends.	Carl Weber's The Family Business (N)			American Gangster: Trap Queens (N)	Carl Weber's The Family Business		
Bravo	The Real Housewives of New Jersey (N)	The Real Housewives of Miami Pool party.	What Happens	The Real Housewives of Miami The women attend a pool party.				
Cartoon	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	American Dad!	American Dad!	American Dad!	Rick and Morty
CMT	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Mom	Mom Bonnie's brother.	Mom Support group.	Mom Law professor.	Mom Tammy paroled.	Mom Late husband.
CNBC	Shark Tank Soft dress shirts are pitched.	Shark Tank Sisters discuss their heritage.	Shark Tank A water bottle is examined.	Shark Tank Gourmet meat business.				
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)	CNN Tonight (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)				
Comedy	The Office	The Office Father-son.	The Office Darryl's move.	The Office Dwight's task.	The Office Pam's vandal.	The Office Andy's return.	The Office	The Office
Discovery	Street Outlaws: America's List Chief begins his march to number one. (N)				Deadliest Catch Winter preparation.	Deadliest Catch Mysterious waters.		
Disney	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	BUNK'D	BUNK'D Ignore Ravi.	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Miraculous: Ladybug	Miraculous: Ladybug
DisXD	Gravity Falls Amphibia Replace cane.	Amphibia	Amphibia	Amphibia Strange beast.	Roman to the Rescue	Walk the Prank	Walk the Prank	Big City Greens
E!	Forgetting Sarah Marshall Man encounters ex-girlfriend at resort. Jason Segel, Kristen Bell (2008) (7:15)				Paris in Love Kathy moves in down the beach. (N)	Nightly Pop (N)	Mother's Day (2016)	
Food	Chopped High-end and top-dollar ingredients.	Chopped	The chefs make a BLT inspired meal. (N)	Big Restaurant Bet (N) (Series premiere)			Chopped Pickle pizza and an egg-flavored snack.	
Fox News	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Hannity (N)				Gutfeld! (N)		
Freeform	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office Michael left.	The Office Treasure hunt.	The Office Action movie.	The 700 Club	
FX	Bad Moms Exhausted mother is pushed to her limit and decides to have some wild fun. Mila Kunis (2016)				Bad Moms Exhausted mother is pushed to her limit and decides to have some wild fun. Mila Kunis (2016)			
FX	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
GSN	America Says	America Says	America Says	America Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
Hallmark	Flip That Romance Rival renovators rekindle a romance while working on a duplex. Julie Gonzalo (2019)				The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	Fixer to Fabulous: Welcome Inn Renovation continue.	Fixer to Fabulous: Welcome Inn (N)			House Hunters (N)	Hunters International (N)	House Hunters	Hunters International
History	The Curse of Oak Island Shipwreck evidence.	The Curse of Oak Island (N)			Lost Gold of the Aztecs (N)		The Curse of Oak Island Shipwreck potential.	
HLN	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files Bombing.	Forensic Files
ID	Crime Scene Confidential The final word.	Crime Scene Confidential Stacie Pannell. (N)			True Conviction A veteran is killed. (N)		Body Cam Buying drugs and guns from gangs.	
IFC	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men
Lifetime	Castle Beckett is connected to a murder.		Castle	Castle threatens to ruin wedding plans.	Castle Beckett investigates car crash.		Castle Castle questions his disappearance.	
Magnolia	Restoration Road with Clint Harp		The Craftsman (N)	The Craftsman	Building Off the Grid: Georgia Mountain Watchtower	Building Off the Grid: Idaho Underground Home		
MotorTrend	Roadkill Classics Best quality car for under \$3,000.		Roadkill Classics (N)		Rust Valley Restorers Build for friend. (N)	Rust Valley Restorers 1955 Belair Wagon.		
MSNBC	All in with Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell (N)	The 11th Hour (N)		
MTV	Teen Mom 2 Teens have kids, school, jobs and more.		Catfish: The TV Show Media pen pals.		True Life Crime Crime cases.		Families of the Mafia	Ridiculousness
NatGeo	Life Below Zero: Next Generation (N)				Something Bit Me! Humans collide with a carnivore.		Life Below Zero: Next Generation Facing challenges.	
NatGeo Wild	The Incredible Dr. Pol Mud season.		Port Protection Alaska The coming freeze. (N)		The Incredible Dr. Pol Dr. Emily's husband.		The Incredible Dr. Pol Canine patients.	
NewsNation	NewsNation Prime w/Marni Hughes		The Incredible Dr. Pol Wild Sandhill Crane.		Banfield		NewsNation Prime: Special Report	
Nick	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends Monica caters.
NickJr	PAW Patrol	Blaze Machines	Peppa Pig	Peppa Pig	Peppa Pig Construction.	Peppa Pig	PAW Patrol	PAW Patrol
OWN	All Rise Lola is detained during a protest.		All Rise Lola could have to recuse from case.		All Rise Tensions escalate between Lola & Benner.		All Rise Emily has a near breakdown.	
Oxygen	Dateline: Unforgettable (N)				Dateline: Unforgettable Young witness.		Dateline: Unforgettable Vulnerable moment.	
Paramount	Movie				Movie			
Pop	House House takes Death Row inmate.		House House doubts cancer patient's bravery.		House Handyman's fall reveals illness.		House Physician uses illness to further cause.	
Science	Expedition Unknown Lost coins.		Expedition Unknown Prehistoric structure in England.		Expedition Unknown A lost sacred relic is sought.		Expedition Unknown Long-lost treasure.	
Sundance	NCIS Director Vance discovers information.		NCIS Ducky and Jimmy are possibly kidnapped.		NCIS Gibbs' barber asks for his help.		NCIS A wife asks NCIS for help with husband.	
Syfy	Signs Mel Gibson (2002)	Clash of the Titans A young Greek warrior who was fathered by Zeus leads a dangerous quest. Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson (2010)					Gods of Egypt A mortal fights god of darkness. (2016)	
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Rat in the Kitchen	Cooking challenges.
TCM	Gentlemen Prefer Blondes Two showgirls take to the high seas on a quest for romance and riches. (1953)		Imitation of Life A white widow and her black housekeeper face problems with their daughters. (1934)					
TLC	7 Little Johnstons The Johnston Backyard Games.	7 Little Johnstons Holiday traditions. (N)			Doubling Down with the Derricos Learner's permit. (N)	Little People, Big World Zach & Tori's news.		
TNT	Angel Has Fallen An assassination attempt on the president occurs, endangering the country. Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman (2019)					The Rock A madman seizes Alcatraz prison. Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage (1996)		
Travel	These Woods are Haunted A werewolf interferes with a family's camping trip in Michigan. (N)					These Woods are Haunted Beast terrorizes.	These Woods are Haunted Satanic site.	
TruTV	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes		Spider-Man	A nerdy teenager uses his superhuman abilities to combat evildoers. Tobey Maguire (2002)	
TV Land	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	The King of Queens	The King of Queens
USA	WWE NXT NXT 664 (Live)				VWE Evil (N)		Mud, Sweat & Beards	
VH1	Wild 'N Out (N)	Wild 'N Out (N)	Wild 'N Out	Wild 'N Out	Wild 'N Out	Wild 'N Out	Wild 'N Out	Wild 'N Out
VickiLand	Killer Kids Brothers terrorize close-knit community.		Nightwatch An officer is reported shot.		Nightwatch Police officers join S.W.A.T. team.		Nightwatch Officers on duty on Halloween night.	
WE	Law & Order Politician hampers investigation.		Law & Order Abortion clinic bomber goes down.		Law & Order Lawyer tries to clear assault suspect.		Law & Order TV reporter assault.	
Weather	Heavy Rescue: 401 A new crew rollover.		Heavy Rescue: 401 An operator faces a toxic mess.		Heavy Rescue: 401 Wreck in Toronto.		Ice Pilots: NWT The Electra's landing gear is stuck.	
MOVIE NETWORKS								
Cinemax	All My Life Engaged couple faces tragedy when the groom is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Harry Shum Jr., Jessica Rothe (2020)		Take Me Home Tonight Frustrated MIT graduate and others experience dramatic evening that changes all. Topher Grace, Anna Faris (2011) (9:33)				Bad News Bears A drunken womanizer is recruited to coach little league baseball team. (2005) (11:12)	
Encore	After Earth Father and son crash land on Earth 1,000 years after humanity's escape. Jaden Smith (2013)		Contraband After his brother-in-law messes up a drug deal, a retired smuggler is forced to return to the game and run counterfeit money from Panama to the United States. Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale (2012)				The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Lowl	

NATION & WORLD **EXTRA**

Inside

United Nations
issues climate
warning. **7NN**

GOP support likely seals Jackson's bid

Murkowski, Romney to back high court nominee

Mary Clare Jalonick, Becky Bohrer
and Kevin Freking

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney announced Monday night they will vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's historic elevation to the Supreme Court, giving President Joe Biden's nominee a burst of bipartisan support and all but assuring she'll become the first Black female justice.

The senators from Alaska and Utah

announced their decisions ahead of a procedural vote to advance the nomination and as Democrats pressed to confirm Jackson by the end of the week. GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine announced last week that she would back Jackson, noting her "stellar qualifications" as a federal judge, public defender and member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

All three Republicans said they did not expect to agree with all of Jackson's

See JACKSON, Page 8NN



With three Republicans supporting her in the 50-50 split Senate, Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson is nearing confirmation.
MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP



Bodies in Ukraine's streets stir world's ire

Biden: 'Brutal' Putin should face charges of war crimes

Oleksandr Stashevskyi and Nebi Qena

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUCHA, Ukraine – Moscow faced global revulsion and accusations of war crimes Monday after the Russian pullout from the outskirts of Kyiv revealed streets, buildings and yards strewn with corpses of what appeared to be civilians, many of them evidently killed at close range.

The grisly images of battered or burned bodies left out in the open or hastily buried led to calls for tougher sanctions against the Kremlin, especially a cutoff of fuel imports from Russia.

Germany and France reacted by expelling dozens of Russian diplomats, suggesting they were spies, and U.S. President Joe Biden said Russian leader Vladimir Putin should be tried for war crimes.

"This guy is brutal, and what's happening in Bucha is outrageous," Biden said, referring to the town northwest of the capital that was the scene of some of the horrors.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy left the capital, Kyiv, for his first reported trip since the war began nearly six weeks ago to see for himself what he called the "genocide" and "war crimes" in Bucha.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy pledged that Ukraine would work with the European Union and the International Criminal Court to identify Russian fighters involved in any atrocities. "The time will come when every Russian will learn the whole truth about who among their fellow citizens killed, who gave orders, who turned a blind eye to the murders," he said.

See UKRAINE, Page 4NN

Tanya Nedashkivs'ka, 57, mourns the death of her husband, killed in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday.

RODRIGO ABD/AP

Senate bargainers reach \$10B COVID agreement

Compromise draws support from president

Alan Fram and Farnoush Amiri

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Senate bargainers reached agreement Monday on a slimmed-down \$10 billion package for countering COVID-19 with treatments, vaccines and other steps, the top Democratic and Republican negotiators said, but ended up dropping all funding to help nations abroad combat the pandemic.

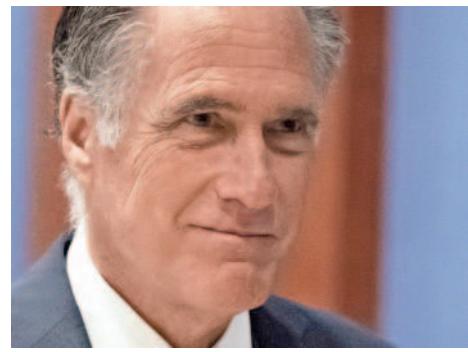
The compromise drew quick support

from President Joe Biden, who initially pushed for a \$22.5 billion package. In a setback, he ended up settling for much less despite administration warnings that the government was running out of money to keep pace with the disease's continued – though diminished – spread in the U.S.

"Every dollar we requested is essential and we will continue to work with Congress to get all of the funding we need," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki. "But time is of the essence. We urge Congress to move promptly on this \$10 billion package because it can begin to fund the most immediate needs."

Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., his party's lead bargainer, abandoned Biden's request to include \$5 billion to help countries – especially poorer ones – where the disease is still running rampant.

The inability of Biden and top Democrats to protect the additional spending they wanted came after the two parties gridlocked over GOP demands to pay for it by pulling back unspent aid from earlier pandemic measures. It also reflected the diminished political force that battling COVID-19 has this election year, two years into a pandemic that began



Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said budget savings in the new COVID-19 deal means it "will not cost the American people a single additional dollar."

ALEX BRANDON/AP

See AGREEMENT, Page 8NN

Arrest made in connection to Sacramento shootings

6 killed, 12 wounded after a fight broke out

Adam Beam and Kathleen Ronayne

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sacramento police arrested a man Monday connected to the shooting that killed six people and wounded a dozen others in the heart of California's capital as at least two shooters fired more than 100 rapid-fire rounds and people ran for their lives.

Police said they booked Dandrea Martin, 26, as a "related suspect" on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and being a convict carrying a loaded gun. Detectives and SWAT team members found one handgun during searches of three homes in the area.

The arrest came as the six victims killed were identified in the shooting that occurred Sunday at about 2 a.m. as bars were closing and patrons filled the streets near the state Capitol.

The Sacramento County coroner identified the three women killed as Johntaya Alexander, 21; Melinda Davis, 57; and Yamile Martinez-Andrade, 21. The three men killed were Sergio Harris, 38; Joshua Hoye-Lucchesi, 32; and Devazia Turner, 29.

The burst of gunshots sent people running in terror in the neighborhood just a few blocks from Golden One Arena, where the NBA's Sacramento Kings held a moment of silence for the victims before their game Sunday night.

Detectives were trying to determine if a stolen handgun found at the crime scene was connected to the shooting, Police Chief Kathy Lester said. Witnesses answered her plea for help by providing more than 100 videos and photos of evidence.

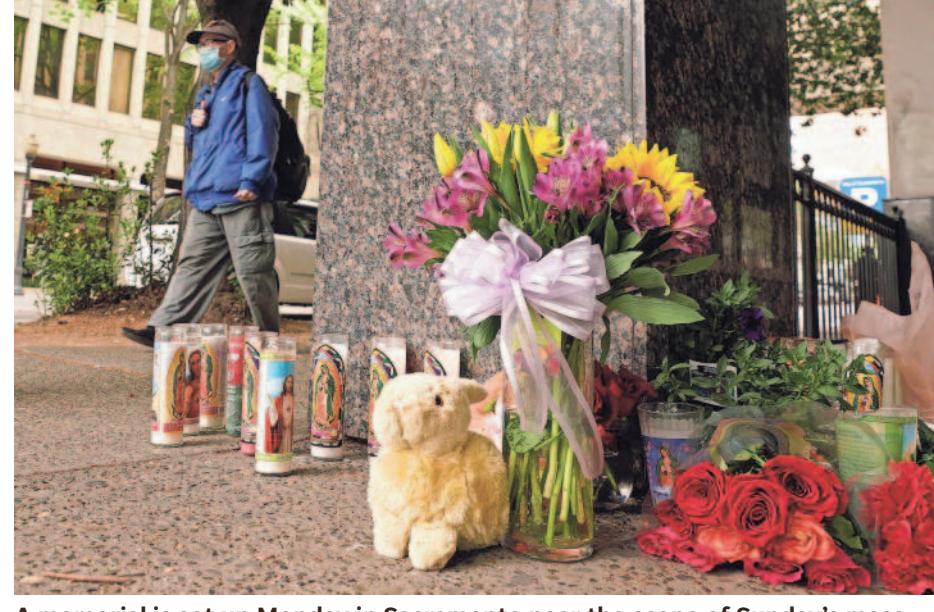
"The scale of violence that just happened in our city is unprecedented during my 27 years here," Lester told reporters. "We are shocked and heartbroken by this tragedy."

Martin was not arrested for any homicide-related charge, District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert said.

"The investigation is highly complex involving many witnesses, videos of numerous types and significant physical evidence," Schubert said in a statement. "This is an ongoing investigation and we anticipate more arrests in this case."

Martin was held without bail and was scheduled to appear in Sacramento County Superior Court on Tuesday, according to jail records.

Martin was freed from an Arizona prison in 2020 after serving just over



A memorial is set up Monday in Sacramento near the scene of Sunday's mass shooting that killed six people. RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

1½ years for violating probation in separate cases involving a felony conviction for aggravated assault in 2016 and a conviction on a marijuana charge in 2018. He was also wanted on a misdemeanor warrant by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in Southern California.

It was not immediately clear whether Martin had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Of the 12 wounded, at least four suffered critical injuries, the Sacramento Fire Department said. At least seven of the victims had been released from hospitals by Monday.

At the scene where the chaos erupted, streets were reopened Monday and police tape had been removed.

On sidewalks where video had shown victims writhing in pain, memorials began to grow with candles, balloons, flowers and stuffed animals paying tribute to the lives lost. One balloon had a message on it saying in part: "You will forever be in our hearts and thoughts. Nothing will ever be the same."

Politicians decried the violence, and some Democrats, including President Joe Biden, called for tougher action against gun violence.

California has some of the nation's toughest restrictions on firearms, requiring background checks to buy guns and ammunition, limiting magazines to 10 bullets, and banning firearms that fall into its definition of assault weapons.

But state lawmakers plan to go further. A bill getting its first hearing Tuesday would allow citizens to sue those who possess illegal weapons, a measure

patterned after a controversial Texas bill aimed at abortions.

Other proposed California legislation this year would make it easier for people to sue gun companies and target unregistered "ghost guns."

The gunfire erupted just after a fight broke out on a street lined with an upscale hotel, nightclubs and bars. Police said they were investigating whether the altercation was connected to the shooting. Video from witnesses posted on social media showed rapid gunfire for at least 45 seconds as people screamed and ran for cover.

Sunday's violence was the third time in the U.S. this year that at least six people have been killed in a mass shooting, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. And it was the second mass shooting in Sacramento in the last five weeks.

On Feb. 28, a father killed his three daughters, a chaperone and himself in a Sacramento church during a weekly supervised visitation. David Mora, 39, was armed with a homemade semiautomatic rifle-style weapon, even though he was under a restraining order that prohibited him from possessing a firearm.

The crime scene Sunday sprawled across two city blocks, closing off a large swath of the city's downtown. Bodies remained on the pavement throughout the day as Lester said investigators worked to process a "really complex and complicated scene" to make sure investigators gathered all the evidence they could.

No verdict reached in Whitmer plot trial

Jury's progress in deliberations uncertain

John Flesher and Ed White

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Jurors returned to court to ask a question Monday but offered no verdict during the first day of deliberations in the trial of four men accused of conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker told jurors to "find a good distraction," maybe the NCAA men's basketball championship, and return Tuesday "ready to engage, fresh."

Adam Fox, Barry Croft Jr., Daniel Harris and Brandon Caserta

are charged with a kidnapping conspiracy. Three men also face additional charges, including conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, namely an explosive.

The jury asked the judge for a definition of "weapon" at mid-afternoon Monday, but otherwise gave no indication of the progress of deliberations.

"Something that can be used to injure, kill or destroy someone or something," Jonker said after consulting with prosecutors and defense lawyers. "So if that helps — I hope — great. If it doesn't, just let us know."

The trial has lasted 16 days, including 13 days of testimony. The jury heard hours of closing arguments and instructions Friday.

Jonker last week told jurors that the men could be convicted of conspiracy, even if a kidnapping did not occur in fall 2020.

A key factor, if the jury finds it, would be a "mutual understanding either spoken or unspoken" between two or more people in the group, the judge said.

Prosecutors said the plot was simmering for months, leavened by anti-government extremism and anger over Whitmer's COVID-19 restrictions. With undercover FBI agents and informants embedded in the group, the men trained with a crudely built "shoot house" to replicate her vacation home, prosecutors allege.

There is no dispute that the alleged leaders, Fox and Croft, traveled to Elk Rapids, Michigan, to scout the governor's property and a nearby bridge that same weekend in September 2020.

Ty Garbin and Kaleb Franks, who pleaded guilty and testified against the four men, were on the same road trip, along with covert investigators.

Garbin said the goal was to get Whitmer before the fall election and create enough chaos to create a civil war and stop Joe Biden from winning the presidency. Much of the government's case came from secretly recorded conversations, group messages and social media posts.

"You heard them in their own voices over and over again," Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler told jurors, "talking about kidnapping her, murdering her, blowing up bridges and people and anybody who could get in their way. And it wasn't just talk."

The men were arrested in October 2020.

Defense lawyers, especially those representing Fox and Croft, attacked the government's investigation and the use of a crucial informant, Dan Chappel. They claimed Chappel was the real leader, taking direction from the FBI and keeping the group on edge while recording them for months.

"Dan Chappel makes everything happen," attorney Christopher Gibbons said in his closing remarks.

Attorney Joshua Blanchard repeatedly called the scheme "smoke and mirrors."

"There was no plan. There was no agreement," he said.

Croft is from Bear, Delaware, while the others are from Michigan.

Whitmer, a Democrat, rarely talks publicly about the plot, though she referred to "surprises" during her term that seemed like "something out of fiction" when she filed for reelection on March 17.

She has blamed former President Donald Trump for fomenting anger over coronavirus restrictions and refusing to condemn right-wing extremists like those charged in the case.

Parkland school shooter's jury selection begins

Terry Spencer

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nikolas Cruz enters the courtroom before jury pre-selection in the penalty phase of his trial in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A jury will decide whether Cruz gets life in prison or a sentence of death for murdering 17 at a school in 2018. AMY BETH BENNETT/POOL

ticipate directly in the screening process. He pleaded guilty in October, meaning the jury will only decide if he gets death or life without parole.

Eight parents and other family members of some victims sat together in the courtroom. They declined to comment as they left.

Approximately 1,500 potential jurors, perhaps more, will be screened over the next few weeks as the pool is pared down to 12 plus eight alternates in a three-step process that will run through the end of May.

In the first screening, they are only being asked about hardships and conflicts. With the exception of the woman who met Cruz, they were not asked on Monday for their opinions about the death penalty or whether they could be fair. Those who said they could serve were given questionnaires to fill out in another room. The questionnaires will be given to lawyers in advance of the next round.

One prospective juror said she met

Cruz in 2016 when she went with a group of friends to a lake cabin for a weekend and an acquaintance invited him along. The woman, who appeared to be in her early 20s, said she had few interactions with Cruz, but he seemed perhaps "mentally not together." She was dismissed after saying she could not envision many circumstances where she would even consider voting for a life sentence.

Scherer seemed taken aback when one prospective juror said serving would be a financial hardship because she has to visit her "sugar daddy" daily. Scherer asked her to repeat what she said. She did. Scherer had her held over after dismissing other jurors. Under questioning, she repeated that again. She was finally dismissed. One prosecutor then called her "wacky."

The Parkland shooting is the deadliest in the U.S. ever to make it to trial. Seven other U.S. killers who fatally shot at least 17 people died during or immediately after their attacks, either by suicide or at the hands of police. The suspect in the 2019 massacre of 23 at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart is still awaiting trial.

Death penalty trials in Florida and much of the country often take two years to start because of their complexity, but Cruz's was further delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and extensive legal wrangling.

Tony Montalto, whose 14-year-old daughter, Gina, died in the attack, said before Monday's hearing that the trial "has been a long time coming."

"I just hope everyone remembers the victims," he said. Cruz, he said, "told the world his plans on social media, carried out those plans in a cold and calculated manner and murdered my beautiful daughter, 13 of her classmates and three of her teachers."

INVASION IN UKRAINE

Biden: Putin should be put on trial

US, other countries begin probe of possible abuses

**Aamer Madhani, Zeke Miller
and Chris Megerian**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden on Monday called for Vladimir Putin to be tried for war crimes and said he'll seek more sanctions against Russia after what he described as "outrageous" atrocities around Kyiv. One of the president's top advisers said the Russians had exacted a horrible toll before making a "pell-mell" retreat from around Ukraine's capital to regroup for dangerous forays elsewhere.

"We have to gather all the detail" for a war crimes trial, Biden said, referencing one of the towns surrounding Kyiv where Ukrainian officials say the bodies of civilians have been found. "This guy is brutal, and what's happening in Bucha is outrageous and everyone's seen it."

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, later reminded reporters that the U.S. had unveiled intelligence in the lead-up to the Feb. 24 invasion warning that Russia would seek to imprison or kill dissidents and others it viewed as threats to its attempted occupation of Ukraine. The grim scenes that unfolded around the capital city show that the concern is now coming to pass, he said.

"We do not believe that this is just a random accident, or the rogue act of a particular individual," Sullivan said of the images of bound civilians who had been killed. "We believe that this was part of the plan."

Biden made the war crimes allegations to reporters after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Bucha, where Ukrainian officials say the bodies of civilians have been found in macabre scenes of brutality. Zelenskyy labeled the Russian actions "genocide" and called for the West to apply tougher sanctions against Russia.

Biden and U.S. officials, however, stopped short of calling the actions genocide.

"We have seen atrocities, we have seen war crimes, we have not yet seen a level of systematic deprivation of life of the Ukrainian people to rise to the level of genocide," Sullivan said.

The bodies of 410 civilians have been removed from Kyiv-area towns that were recently retaken from Russian

forces, according to Ukraine's prosecutor-general, Iryna Venediktova. Associated Press journalists saw the bodies of at least 21 people in various spots around Bucha, northwest of the capital.

Sullivan warned that the world "should brace" for additional potential war crime revelations.

Sullivan said "the Russians have now realized that the West will not break" in its support of the Ukrainian government. But he warned that Russia was redoubling its offensive in other parts of the country after pulling many troops from around Kyiv.

White House officials said talks about ramping up new sanctions against Russia intensified after reports of the alleged atrocities emerged. Biden said Monday that he would continue to add sanctions but did not detail what sectors the U.S. may target next. Sullivan said the additional sanctions would come this week.

After unveiling an avalanche of sanctions in the first weeks of the war, administration officials in recent days have put more focus on closing loopholes that Russia might try to use to avoid sanctions.

Biden noted that he had faced pushback last month when he described Putin as a war criminal for the unfolding onslaught in Ukraine after hospitals and maternity wards were bombed. In his remarks on Monday, Biden suggested it was clear that assessment had been validated.

Investigations into Putin's actions had begun before the newest allegations of atrocities.

The U.S. and more than 40 other countries are working together to investigate possible violations and abuses, after the passage of a resolution by the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish a commission of inquiry. There is another probe by the International Criminal Court, an independent body based in the Netherlands. The U.S. Senate unanimously approved a resolution last month seeking investigations of Putin and elements of his government for war crimes over the invasion.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. is supporting a multi-national team of war crimes experts deployed to the region that are supporting the Ukraine Prosecutor General's War Crimes Unit.

Biden's chief envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, announced Monday that the U.S. plans to seek a suspension of Rus-



The mother of 41-year-old soldier Simakov Oleksandr strokes his face during his funeral ceremony at the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Church in Lviv, western Ukraine, Monday. NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/AP



President Joe Biden told reporters on Monday "we have to gather all the detail so this can be an actual – have a war crimes trial." ANDREW HARNIK/AP

sia from its seat on the U.N.'s top human rights body after the latest revelations. That would require a decision by the U.N. General Assembly.

Russia and the other four permanent members of the U.N. Security Council – Britain, China, France and the United States – all currently have seats on the 47-member-state rights council, which is based in Geneva. The United States

rejoined the council this year.

"My message to those 140 countries who have courageously stood together is simple: The images out of Bucha and devastation across Ukraine require us now to match our words with action," Thomas-Greenfield said. "We cannot let a Member State that is subverting every principle we hold dear to continue to sit on the U.N. Human Rights Council."

It's a hard path to justice in Bucha atrocities

Erika Kinetz

ASSOCIATED PRESS

This story is part of an ongoing investigation from The Associated Press and Frontline that includes the War Crimes Watch Ukraine interactive experience and an upcoming documentary.

BRUSSELS – The horrific images and stories tumbling out of Ukrainian towns like Bucha in the wake of the withdrawal of Russian troops bear witness to depravity on a scale recalling the barbarities of Cambodia, the Balkans, World War II.

The question now: What to do with this suffering?

With disclosures by Ukrainian officials that more than 400 civilian corpses had been discovered, a chorus has resounded at the highest levels of Western political power, calling for accountability, prosecution and punishment. On Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy denounced the killings as "genocide" and "war crimes," and U.S. President Joe Biden said Vladimir Putin was "a war criminal" who should be brought to trial.

But the path to holding the Russian president and other top leaders criminally responsible is long and complex, international lawyers caution.

"Certainly, the discovery of bodies which bear signs of executions – such as gunshot wounds to the head – presents strong evidence of war crimes," said Clint Williamson, who served as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues from 2006 to 2009.

Building a case against Putin won't be easy

There is no reason to believe the Russians will own up to war crimes. Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday that "not

a single civilian has faced any violent action by the Russian military," and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has described the scenes outside Kyiv as a "stage-managed anti-Russian provocation."

The International Criminal Court, which typically prosecutes only a handful of high-level perpetrators, has opened an investigation into atrocities in Ukraine. Ukrainian prosecutors have launched thousands of criminal investigations. Prosecutors in Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, France, Slovakia, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland have opened investigations of their own. And there have been growing calls to set up a special tribunal to try Russia for the crime of aggression in Ukraine.

To build a case for war crimes, prosecutors must gather forensic and ballistic evidence, as they would in any murder case, to establish the cause and circumstances of the victims' deaths. They also need to show that the crime occurred in the context of an ongoing armed conflict. That's clearly the case in Ukraine.

To build a case for crimes against humanity, prosecutors must additionally establish that the crimes were part of widespread, systematic attacks on civilians by, for example, showing patterns of behavior in how people were killed in Bucha, Motykhyn, Irpin and other towns.

Then comes the more difficult task of establishing who is responsible by building a chain of evidence to link the crime scene with top civilian or military leaders. The first link in that chain is often understanding which forces were present when the atrocities occurred and whose command they were under.

"If you want to look into chains of command and perpetrators, it's important to analyze and gather information about which unit is where," said An-



This handout satellite image released by Maxar Technologies on Monday shows an overview of the site before excavations near the Church of Saint Andrew and Pyervozvannoho All Saints in Bucha, Ukraine, on Feb. 28. U.S. President Joe Biden called for a "war crimes trial" over alleged atrocities in Bucha and vowed tougher sanctions against Moscow.

SATELLITE IMAGE ©2022 MAXAR TECH/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

dreas Schüller, program director for International Crimes and Accountability at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights in Berlin. "You need linkage evidence from the entire military apparatus. Documents could be leaked, or witnesses could speak up and disclose internal planning operations."

Building a case all the way to the top – to hold Putin and other leaders individually accountable for war crimes or crimes against humanity – will be tough, legal experts say.

"You've got to prove that they knew or they could have known or should have known," said Philippe Sands, a

prominent British lawyer and professor at University College London. "There's a real risk you end up with trials of mid-level people in three years and the main people responsible for this horror – Putin, Lavrov, the Minister of Defense, the intelligence folks, the military folks and the financiers who are supporting it – will get off the hook."

It would be easier to nab Putin for the crime of aggression – that is, the act of waging a ruthless, unprovoked war against another country. But the International Criminal Court doesn't have jurisdiction over Russia for the crime of aggression because Russia, like the United States, is not a signatory.

INVASION IN UKRAINE



Sold-out benefit raises funds for Red Cross

From left, Olga Smirnova, Alessio Carbone (San Carlo theater's art director) and Anastasya Gurskaya pose for a photograph in Naples on Monday. Gurskaya, a top ballerina in Kyiv's opera, and Smirnova, who quit the Bolshoi last month over the Russian invasion, rehearsed on a stage in Naples before a sold-out benefit performance Monday night to raise funds for the Red Cross and champion the cause of peace. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

Russian, Ukrainian ballet stars perform together in Naples

**Maria Grazia Murru
and Frances D'Emilio**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAPLES, Italy — A Ukrainian ballerina who fled the war in her homeland and a Russian ballerina who quit the Bolshoi Ballet over the Russian invasion rehearsed on a stage in Naples ahead of a sold-out benefit performance Monday night to raise funds for the Red Cross and champion the cause of peace in Ukraine.

Naples' San Carlo Theater billed the event "Stand with Ukraine — Ballet for Peace."

Despite that description, the prospect of Russian dancers dancing on the same stage with Ukrainians reportedly angered Ukraine's consul in Naples. The Italian daily *La Repubblica* quoted the consul as telling fellow Ukrainians in the southern Italian city to shun the

performance.

Among the stars in the event were prima ballerina Olga Smirnova, who quit the Bolshoi last month and is now dancing with the Dutch National Ballet. Another headliner was Anastasia Gurskaya, a top ballerina in Kyiv's Opera, who fled the fighting in Ukraine.

"I think it's important in this situation, in this time, to be together on the stage. To do little things, the smallest things, what we can do for Ukraine," Smirnova told reporters in the theater ahead of the final rehearsal. "This is the main goal for all of us. That's why we are here, that's why we are dancing tonight."

Fellow prima ballerina Gurskaya said her performance is one way to help Ukraine.

"My life is upside down now. And I've never been in Italy in this city, and I've never danced with stars like today,

with world ballet stars, and I am so excited about it. And I don't know why this happened to me," the Ukrainian dancer told The Associated Press.

The theater's artistic director, Alessio Carbone, hailed Smirnova's participation.

"Olga is a very strong image for us, because obviously she was the first dancer who publicly opposed the (Putin) regime. So to have her with us tonight is an inspiration of courage," Carbone said.

About a dozen protesters, some holding Ukrainian flags, demonstrated outside the theater before the event to show discontent over the participation of Russian dancers.

Before the rehearsal, one of the Ukrainian dancers spoke about a small town near Kyiv where the chilling discoveries of civilian bodies have emerged.

Germany takes control of Gazprom subsidiary

Aim is to bring 'order' to company conditions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — Germany on Monday put a government agency in charge of a long-time German subsidiary of Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom after an opaque move last week by the parent company to cut ties with the unit.

Economy Minister Robert Habeck said Germany's network regulator has been appointed as Gazprom Germania's trustee until Sept. 30, with the right to dismiss and appoint managers. He said it is meant as a temporary measure to bring "order to the conditions" at the company.

"The German government is doing what is necessary to ensure security of supplies in Germany, and that includes not exposing energy infrastructure in Germany to arbitrary decisions by the Kremlin," Habeck said.

He said Gazprom announced it was withdrawing from Gazprom Germania but didn't give details on the new owners, which violates German rules on reporting acquisitions.

He said the unit is "of paramount significance" to natural gas trade, transport and storage in Germany and also is active in Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

The minister said officials have found out about an "indirect acquisition" of Gazprom Germania by entities called JSC Palmary and Gazprom Export Business Services LLC.

He said German law calls for his ministry to give permission for acquisitions of critical infrastructure by any non-European Union investor, but it's unclear who is behind those companies. He also said the buyer ordered Gazprom Germania's liquidation, which isn't allowed before a purchase has been approved.

It wasn't immediately clear what was behind Gazprom's move, which came amid tensions between Russia and Europe over natural gas deliveries.

Germany, which gets about 40% of its gas from Russia, is moving to reduce its dependence on Russian gas but has resisted calls for an immediate embargo on Russian energy imports.

Ukraine

Continued from Page 1NN

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed the scenes outside Kyiv as a "stage-managed anti-Russian provocation." Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the images contained "signs of video forgery and various fakes."

Russia has similarly rejected previous allegations of atrocities as fabrications on Ukraine's part.

Ukrainian officials said the bodies of at least 410 civilians have been found in towns around Kyiv that were recaptured from Russian forces in recent days.

The Ukrainian prosecutor-general's office described one room discovered in Bucha as a "torture chamber." In a statement, it said the bodies of five men with their hands bound were found in the basement of a children's sanatorium where civilians were tortured and killed.

Associated Press journalists saw dozens of bodies in Bucha, including at least 13 in and around a building that local people said Russian troops used as a base. Three other bodies were found in a stairwell, and a group of six were burned together.

Many victims appeared to have been shot at close range. Some were shot in the head. At least two had their hands tied. A bag of spilled groceries lay near one victim. The dead witnessed by the news agency's journalists also included bodies wrapped in black plastic, piled on one end of a mass grave in a Bucha churchyard. Many of those victims had been shot in cars or killed in explosions trying to flee the city. With the morgue full and the cemetery impossible to reach, the churchyard was the only place to keep the dead, Father Andrii Galavin said.

Tanya Nedashkivs'ka said she buried her husband in a garden outside their apartment building after he was detained by Russian troops. His body was



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky examines the site of a recent battle in Bucha close to Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

one of those left heaped in a stairwell.

"Please, I am begging you, do something!" she said. "It's me talking, a Ukrainian woman, a Ukrainian woman, a mother of two kids and one grandchild. For all the wives and mothers, make peace on Earth so no one ever grieves again."

Another Bucha resident, Volodymyr Pilutskyi, said his neighbor Pavlo Vlasenko was taken away by Russian soldiers because the military-style pants he was wearing and the uniforms that Vlasenko said belonged to his security guard son appeared suspicious. When Vlasenko's body was later found, it had burn marks from a flamethrower, his neighbor said.

"I came closer and saw that his body was burnt," Pilutskyi said. "They didn't just shoot him." Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, insisted Monday at a news conference that during the time that Bucha was under Russian control, "not a single local person has suf-

fered from any violent action."

However, high-resolution satellite imagery by commercial provider Maxar Technologies showed that many of the bodies have been lying in the open for weeks, during the time that Russian forces were in Bucha. The New York Times first reported on the satellite images showing the dead.

In other developments, more than 1,500 civilians were evacuated Monday from the besieged and devastated port city of Mariupol in the south, using the dwindling number of private vehicles available to get out, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

But amid the fighting, a Red Cross-accompanied convoy of buses that has been thwarted for days on end in a bid to deliver supplies and evacuate residents was again unable to get inside the city, Vereshchuk said.

European leaders and the United Nations human rights chief joined the Ukrainians in condemning the bloodshed

that was exposed after Russian troops withdrew from the area around Kyiv.

At the same time, many warned that the full extent of the horrors has yet to emerge.

"I can tell you without exaggeration but with great sorrow that the situation in Mariupol is much worse compared to what we've seen in Bucha and other cities, towns, and villages nearby Kyiv," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Zelenskyy was due to speak to a previously scheduled U.N. Security Council meeting Tuesday. Britain's U.N. ambassador, Barbara Woodward, said the session was certain to focus on the killing of large numbers of civilians in Ukraine. Western and Ukrainian leaders have accused Russia of war crimes before, and the International Criminal Court's prosecutor has already opened an investigation. But the latest reports ratcheted up the condemnation.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the images from Bucha reveal the "unbelievable brutality of the Russian leadership and those who follow its propaganda." And French President Emmanuel Macron said there is "clear evidence of war crimes" in Bucha that demand new punitive measures.

"I'm in favor of a new round of sanctions and in particular on coal and gasoline. We need to act," he said on France-Inter radio.

Though united in outrage, the European allies appeared split on how to respond. While Poland urged Europe to quickly wean itself off Russian energy, Germany said it would stick with a gradual approach of phasing out coal and oil imports over the next several months.

The U.S. and its allies have sought to punish Russia for the invasion by imposing sweeping sanctions but fear further harm to the global economy, which is still recovering from the pandemic. Europe is in a particular bind, since it gets 40% of its gas and 25% of its oil from Russia.

INVASION IN UKRAINE



▲ A woman prepares to have lunch in the basement of a building that was used as housing for about 400 people, since apartments were used by Russian soldiers during the occupation of Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday. RODRIGO ABD/AP



▲ A dog wanders around destroyed houses and Russian military vehicles in Bucha close to Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

▼ Ruslan Mishanin, right, bids farewell to his daughter, 9, as the train with his family leaves Odessa for Poland on Monday.

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP

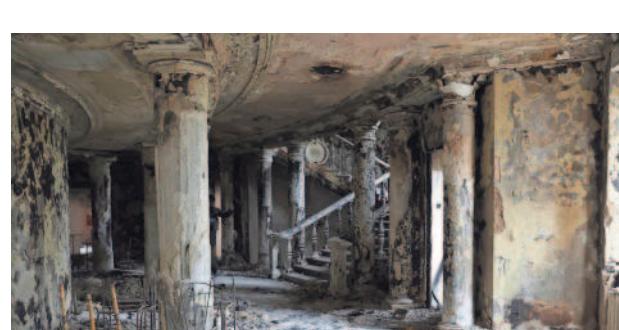
Ukrainians grieve, attend funerals

The grisly images of battered bodies left out in the open or hastily buried led to calls for tougher sanctions against the Kremlin, namely a cutoff of fuel imports from Russia. • Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy left the capital, Kyiv, for his first reported trip since the war began nearly six weeks ago to see for himself what he called the “genocide” and “war crimes” in Bucha. He said dead people had been “found in barrels, basements, strangled, tortured.” • In one photo, a stunned woman clutches her cat to her chest as she stands outside a brick house, the bodies of her husband and brother lying in different parts of the yard in front of her. Another woman kneels in the mud, her hands clasped together and her face distorted in anguish as she sobs over the death of her husband. In another, a distraught 6-year-old boy stands in front of a dirt mound covered by a simple wooden cross that marks the grave of his mother. • Ukrainians both horrified and numbed by the ongoing death and destruction buried bodies in mass graves, or attended funerals for those whose remains were identified, placed in a casket and properly mourned. At a funeral in the western city of Lviv, a woman places a hand on her bowed head as she sobs at a church in the western city of Lviv during the funeral of her husband, a 44-year-old Ukrainian soldier who died fighting the Russians.

Associated Press



◀ The wife, center, of 44-year-old soldier Tereshko Volodymyr, second right, prays and mourns his death before his funeral ceremony at the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Church in Lviv, western Ukraine, Monday. NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/AP



▲ Debris covers the inside of the Mariupol theater damaged during fighting in territory under the government of the Donetsk People's Republic, eastern Ukraine, Monday.

ALEXEI ALEXANDROV/AP

◀ In the courtyard of their house on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Vlad Tanyuk, 6, stands Monday near the grave of his mother Ira Tanyuk, who died because of starvation and stress.

RODRIGO ABD/AP

BUSINESS

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
+103.61 Closing: 34,921.88
 Change: +.3% YTD % Chg: -3.9%

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S
+36.78 Closing: 4,582.64
 Change: +.8% YTD % Chg: -3.9%

NASDAQ COMPOSITE
+271.05 Closing: 14,532.55
 Change: +1.9% YTD % Chg: -7.1%

RUSSELL 2000
+4.33 Closing: 2,095.44
 Change: +.2% YTD % Chg: -6.7%

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR				
Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Energy	77.16	+0.10	+1.1%	+39.0%
Utilities	74.92	-0.58	+4.3%	+4.7%
Consumer staples	76.41	-0.24	+2.6%	-0.9%
Materials	89.10	+0.02	+11.1%	-1.7%
Financials	38.05	-0.17	+6.1%	-2.6%
Health care	136.92	-1.15	+5.2%	-2.8%
Industrials	102.05	-0.13	+4.5%	-3.6%
Technology	161.47	+3.01	+11.9%	-7.1%
Telecom	76.41	+1.48	+10.2%	-7.1%
Consumer discret.	189.39	+4.16	+16.1%	-7.4%

MARKET NOTEBOOK				
Issues	NYSE	NASDAQ	Total	Issues at
Advancing	1,292	2,246		
Declining	1,172	1,297		
Unchanged	59	253		
Total	2,523	3,796		
Share Volume				
New 52 Week High	81	55		
New 52 Week Low	33	64		
Total	4,109,209,112	4,222,789,105		
Advancing	2,621,621,374	3,056,992,626		
Declining	1,436,759,476	1,089,080,263		
Unchanged	50,828,262	76,716,216		

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Twitter Inc (TWTR)	49.97	+10.66	+27.1	+15.6
Etsy Inc (ETSY)	136.17	+9.12	+7.2	-37.8
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1145.45	+60.86	+5.6	+8.4
Caesars Entertainment (CZR)	80.69	+4.04	+5.3	-13.7
Penn Natl Gaming (PENN)	44.24	+2.23	+5.3	-14.7

S&P 500'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Baxter Intl (BAX)	75.47	-3.11	-4.0	-12.1
Abiomed Inc (ABMD)	325.70	-12.94	-3.8	-9.3
Starbucks Cp (SBUX)	88.09	-3.40	-3.7	-24.7
CBOE Global Markets (CBOE)	112.92	-3.93	-3.4	-13.4
Molina Healthcare (MOH)	328.67	-10.74	-3.2	+3.3

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
SPDR Financial	XLF	38.05	-0.17	-0.4%	-2.6%
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	61.55	+3.62	+6.2%	-26.0%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	456.80	+3.88	+0.9%	-3.8%
ProShs UltPro ShrtQQQ	SQQQ	31.71	-2.07	-6.1%	+6.8%
iShares Emerg Mkts	EEM	46.71	+0.87	+1.8%	-4.4%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	369.30	+7.45	+2.1%	-7.2%
iShares China Large Cap	FXI	34.33	+1.12	+3.4%	-6.2%
iShares Silver Trust	SLV	22.63	-0.11	-0.5%	+5.2%
iShares iBoxx HY CpbD	HYG	82.57	+0.62	+0.8%	-5.1%
KraneShs China Intnt	KWEB	32.52	+2.31	+7.6%	-10.9%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.7625	.7629	.7345	.7233
Canadian dollar	1.2485	1.2511	1.2582	1.2570
Chinese yuan	6.3634	6.3631	6.4467	6.5675
Euro	.9115	.9059	.8603	.8501
Japanese yen	122.82	122.62	110.91	110.70
Mexican peso	19.8100	19.8679	20.5074	20.3225

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.38	1.39	-0.01	-0.5%	-0.7%
Corn (bushel)	7.51	7.35	+0.16	+2.1%	+26.5%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,929.20	1,919.10	+10.10	+0.5%	+5.6%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.99	1.01	-0.02	-1.8%	+22.1%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	5.71	5.72	-0.01	-0.1%	+53.1%
Oil, heating (gal.)	3.55	3.42	+0.13	+3.6%	+52.3%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	103.28	99.27	+4.01	+4.0%	+37.3%
Silver (troy oz.)	24.58	24.64	-0.06	-0.2%	+5.4%
Soybeans (bushel)	16.02	15.83	+0.19	+1.2%	+20.6%
Wheat (bushel)	10.10	9.85	+0.25	+2.6%	+31.1%

SOURCE Morningstar, Dow Jones Indexes, The Associated Press



GETTY IMAGES

Small businesses in need of a loan find banks are stingy

Mae Anderson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Small businesses still have the pandemic and now high inflation to grapple with — and they're finding it's tough to get a loan to help with the daily grind.

A recently released survey from the Federal Reserve shows how the pandemic has altered the financial landscape for small business. About 85% experienced financial difficulties in 2021, up nearly 20 percentage points from 2019. Back then, more than half of owners who sought a loan were looking to expand; last year, the majority of applicants needed funds just to cover every day operating expenses.

Meanwhile, inflation is the highest in decades, with raw materials and finished goods soaring in price and workers demanding higher wages. The Federal Reserve is raising interest rates in response, which means the cost of borrowing money is going up.

Even in normal times, it can be tough for small businesses to get loans from traditional banks because they lack the assets and credit histories of bigger companies. During the pandemic, banks have been stingier, outside of COVID-related programs. Two years in, loan applicants are more likely to get turned down or to receive less money than they asked for compared to before COVID-19.

When the building she leased in went up for sale, Letha Pugh knew she would need to relo-

Only about 30% of businesses that applied for financing last year got the full amount that they asked for, down from about half in 2019.

cate her business. So, she decided to buy and renovate her own building.

Pugh, co-founder of Bake Me Happy, a gluten-free bakery in Columbus, Ohio, applied for a Small Business Administration loan last July. But the process, involving a Community Development Financial Institution and a local bank, First Merchants Bank, dragged on.

Pugh worried that another buyer would swoop in with cash and buy the building she was under contract for. Finally, in January, she got approval for a loan of \$780,000.

"One night I got off the phone and just started bawling because I was so frustrated, all of these things were happening, not because of me, but because of the bureaucracy and red tape," she said.

Only about 30% of businesses that applied for financing last year got the full amount that they asked for, down from about half in 2019.

Firms owned by people of color, firms with fewer employees, and leisure and hospitality firms were least likely to receive the full amount of financing sought. About 68% of applicants got some of the amount they applied for, down from 83% in 2019 and 76% in 2020.

Todd McCracken, president of the National Small Business Association, an advocacy group, said the current loan environment could make it tougher on small businesses trying to recover from the pandemic.

"Past performance is not really good indicator of future potential," he said.

In February, big banks approved 14.7% of loan requests, down from 28.3% in February 2020. And small banks approved 20.5% of loan requests, down from 50.3% in the same month in 2020. That's according to the online lender Biz2Credit.

The banks' stinginess has led business owners to consider other options such as community banks, online lenders and crowdfunding sites. Owners were more likely to apply for an online loan last year than in 2020, while applicants were less likely to seek financing from a small bank, the Fed survey shows.

There are tradeoffs however: Alternative loans can be easier to get but are likely come with higher interest rates or steep penalties. Typically, traditional banks' small business loans carry interest rates from 3% to 7%, while online loan rates vary widely but can be 10% and higher.

IN BRIEF

Stocks close higher; Twitter soars on news of Musk stake

Stocks shook off a downbeat start to close higher Monday, as big gains by technology and communications companies helped offset losses elsewhere on Wall Street.

The S&P 500 rose 0.8% after having been down 0.2% in the early going. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3

UN: The globe is headed to ‘unlivable’

Climate report calls for rapid mitigation steps

Doyle Rice and Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

The time for talk has passed and the time to act is now, according to a new United Nations report on how to curb the worst consequences of climate change.

Rapid mitigation measures – reductions in fossil fuels and better building practices – are needed to avoid unsustainable global warming, according to the report.

In fact, the report says, without immediate and deep emission reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is “beyond reach.”

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change revealed “a litany of broken climate promises” by governments and corporations and accused them of stoking global warming by clinging to harmful fossil fuels.

“It is a file of shame, cataloguing the empty pledges that put us firmly on track toward an unlivable world,” he said. “We are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts.”

Total net greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise during the years 2010–2019, according to the report. Although the rate of growth was lower than 2000–2009, the average annual emissions were higher than in any decade on record.

“This report tells us we’re still not doing enough to cut carbon emissions,” United Nations Environment Programme executive director Inger Andersen said. “The last two decades saw the highest increase in carbon emissions in human history, even though we know the trouble we are in.”

“The next decade cannot follow the same pattern if we are to hold warming this century to 1.5 degrees. We have the knowledge and the technology to get this done.”

The environmental group Climate Nexus said the main takeaway from the report is that “we must wind down dependence on fossil fuels by scaling up renewables that are now incredibly cheap and available when political barriers are overcome, to deeply reduce



Steam rises from a coal-fired power station in Niederaussem, Germany, in 2021. One step to fight climate change is to phase out fossil fuels. AP

carbon pollution as quickly as possible.”

Reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are considered the most authoritative assessments of the state of global warming, its consequences and the measures being taken to tackle it.

“It’s now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit),” IPCC co-chair Jim Skea said. “Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, it will be impossible.”

The cutoff point for data in the report was last fall, meaning the effect of the war in Ukraine and the sanctions on Russia weren’t included by the authors.

In August, the IPCC said climate change caused by humans was “an established fact” and warned that some effects of global warming are inevitable.

In March, the panel published a report that outlined how temperature increases will multiply the risk of floods, storms, drought and heat waves.

“Getting the scientific community and governments to agree on the report’s summary for policymakers wasn’t easy – which shows one thing above all: It’s decision time now,” said report co-author Elmar Kriegler of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. “The report is not just words, it calls for action, and it’s good that governments now recognize this.”

Governments had agreed in the 2015 Paris accord to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) this century, ideally no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit).

Yet temperatures already have in-

creased by more than 1.1 degrees C (2 degrees F) since pre-industrial times, resulting in measurable increases in disasters such as flash floods, prolonged droughts, more intense hurricanes and longer-burning wildfires – putting human lives in danger and costing governments hundreds of billions of dollars.

“I hope this information will be used by governments in different parts of the world to proceed with mitigation,” World Meteorological Organization Secretary General Petteri Taalas said.

Skea concluded that “climate change is the result of more than a century of unsustainable energy and land use, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production. This report shows how taking action now can move us towards a fairer, more sustainable world.”

Contributing: The Associated Press

Africa looks to renewables to curb warming

Boosting economies would be added benefit

Wanjohi Kabukuru

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOMBASA, Kenya — From wind farms across the African coastline to geothermal projects in the east African rift valley, a new United Nations climate report on Monday brought the continent’s vast clean energy potential into the spotlight. If realized, these renewable energy projects could blunt the harshest global warming effects, power the continent’s projected economic development and lift millions out of poverty, the report said.

The U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change report comes at a time when Africa’s renewable energy business is already booming. Many African nations are intensifying efforts to embrace alternative renewable energy pathways and shift away from fossil fuel dependency, with countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Morocco, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa taking the lead on large-scale clean energy adoption.

Yet Africa has attracted just 2% – \$60 billion – of the \$2.8 trillion invested in renewables worldwide in the last two decades and accounts for only 3% of the world’s current renewable energy capacity. Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) or 2C (3.6F), in line with the 2016 Paris climate agreement, will involve even greater energy system transformation, the U.N. report said.

That means more renewable energy initiatives, such as Kenya’s Lake Turkana Wind Power, launched in 2019 some 372 miles northwest of the capital Nairobi and making up 18% of the country’s energy production, are needed. Its CEO, Philip Leferink, said large projects like these can be replicated, but it remains logically challenging.

“The wind conditions in the north of Kenya are rather unique for the continent. You will be hard-pressed to find another location in Africa with a similar



Workers install a solar panel at a photovoltaic solar park situated on the outskirts of the coastal town of Lamberts Bay, South Africa, on March 29, 2016. Renewable energy’s potential across the African continent remains largely untapped, according to a new report by the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/AP, FILE

wind regime,” Leferink said. “(This) however does not mean that there is no potential for other wind projects in Africa; there most certainly is. Especially the African coastline, from Djibouti all the way south around South Africa and up north again up to Cameroon, has good wind potential and certainly warrants initiatives in this regard.”

The project is already in good company, with off-grid solar power also contributing to the country’s energy production. In Nakuru county, some 104 miles northwest of Nairobi, James Karuki signed up for M-Kopa solar power, a pay-as-you-go low-cost financing for off-grid solar power to his home.

“When I installed solar power into my home, I ended up making considerable savings from the use of kerosene lamp for lighting and charcoal in my house,” Karuki said. “Hospital bills for my family have since gone down and we now have internet and watch international sports in my home.”

Since 2012, M-Kopa has powered over 225,000 homes in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with off-grid solar power. Kenya has also been expanding its geothermal and bioenergy capacity for several years.

“Renewable energy sources are definitely an important mitigation strategy for Africa, offering its citizens decent living standards by developing infrastructure and buildings that do not require carbon intensive solutions,” report author and energy expert Yamina Saheb told the Associated Press. “The whole continent could go solar including PV (photovoltaic) and thermal solar and some countries could also go for wind.”

Solar energy initiatives such as the Noor Ouarzazate complex in Morocco, Benban solar park in Egypt and South Africa’s Redstone solar park have sprung up across the continent. The four nations attracted 75% of all the renewable energy investments flows in the region.

Africa has a world-leading capacity for even more solar power initiatives, the report said, with a solar photovoltaic potential of up to 7900 gigawatts. Plans are also underway to explore the potential for geothermal energy in the east African rift valley system and nations dotted around the continent, such as Angola, Sudan and Zambia, are investing in wind and hydropower.

A transition to clean energy is also “economically attractive” in some circumstances, the IPCC report said. The U.N. estimates that Africa’s continued uptake of renewable energies will see the creation of more than 12 million new jobs. China remains the largest lender of Africa’s renewable energy investments followed by the African Development Bank, World Bank and the Green Climate Fund.

“This latest IPCC working group report on mitigation is a clear indicator that Africa should harness the immense renewable energies opportunities available within the continent to power economic growth and build resilient infrastructure,” said Max Bankole Jarrett, an energy expert and former Africa regional manager at the International Energy Agency.

53 African nations have already submitted their voluntary national determined contributions under the Paris climate agreement which details energy plans and outlines targets to curb emissions. 40 of those countries have included renewable energy targets.

Africa suffers some of the most severe effects from climate change, despite being the lowest greenhouse gas emitting continent with the least adaptive capacity. Swathes of the continent still lack access to electricity and cooking fuels: The International Energy Agency estimates some 580 million people were without power in 2019, and the World Health Organization says about 906 million are in need of cleaner cooking fuels and technologies. But providing universal access using non-renewable energy sources would lead to increased global emissions, the report warned.

各位同学：

我们于 2012 年推出外刊 VIP 终身会员服务，2015 年开始通过微信平台招募会员，并通过微信朋友圈发布外刊更新提醒，在全网都属首创（欢迎查证）。八年来，我们的服务惠及上万名会员，资源更新从未间断（包括春节等节假日）。

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外刊 VIP 只通过如下 14 个微信号（官方正式途径）进行：

微信号 1: book408	微信号 8: book361
微信号 2: book608	微信号 9: book362
微信号 3: book208	微信号 10: book599
微信号 4: book308	微信号 11: book7749
微信号 5: book4008	微信号 12: book8848
微信号 6: book5008	微信号 13: book9669
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NYC mayor recruiting unhappy Floridians

'Don't Say Gay' law fuels controversy

Karen Matthews

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — New York City is launching a digital billboard campaign to lure Floridians unhappy with their state's "Don't Say Gay" law to the Big Apple, Mayor Eric Adams announced Monday.

The billboards supporting LGBTQ visibility will be displayed in five major markets in Florida for eight weeks starting Monday, Adams, a Democrat, announced.

"This is the city of Stonewall. This is the city where we are proud to talk about how you can live in a comfortable setting and not be harassed, not be abused — not only as adults but also as young people," Adams said at a City Hall news conference.

The announcement came one week after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill into law that forbids instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade.

DeSantis and fellow Republicans say the new law affirms the right of parents, not teachers, to decide when children learn about sexual orientation and gender identity.

LGBTQ groups have condemned the legislation, which they call the "Don't Say Gay" law. Advocates say the law, which allows parents to sue school districts for noncompliance, will marginalize LGBTQ children and families.

A request for comment was sent to a spokesperson for DeSantis.

Adams called the Florida law "a targeted attack on the LGBTQ+ population."

Messages on the digital billboards include: "People say a lot of ridiculous things in New York. 'Don't Say Gay' isn't



New York Mayor Eric Adams, at podium, addresses a news conference in the rotunda of City Hall in New York on Monday. New York City is launching a digital billboard campaign supporting LGBTQ visibility that will be displayed in five major markets in Florida for eight weeks. It's intended to lure Floridians unhappy with their state's "Don't Say Gay" law to the Big Apple, Adams announced. ED REED/OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK CITY MAYOR VIA AP

one of them" and "Come to the city where you can say whatever you want." There will also be social media ads with the same messages, city officials said.

Although known as a supporter of LGBTQ rights during his political career including six years in New York's state Senate, Adams angered LGBTQ activists earlier this year when he appointed three men who have taken homophobic positions to posts in his administration.

"This is not a community that's going to be silent," Adams said when asked about the hires Monday. "If they see something they don't like, they'll let you know."

He added, "We can work through anything but we will never go to the days where we will publicly demonize a group, and that's what's happening now. And so they voiced their concern about the hires that we made and we're

going to continue to move forward."

New York state has seen more migration to Florida than from Florida in recent years. In the last three years of the 2010s, more than 60,000 New Yorkers moved to Florida each year on average. By contrast, during the same period, fewer than 24,000 Floridians on average annually moved to New York state, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.

Agreement

Continued from Page 1NN

with bipartisan support for throwing trillions of dollars at it.

Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the lead GOP bargainer, hailed the accord as one that would address "urgent COVID needs." He also trumpeted the measure's savings, which he said meant it "will not cost the American people a single additional dollar."

Still uncertain Monday was whether objections by some Republicans might prevent the Senate from considering the bill this week, as Biden wants, before Congress begins a two-week spring recess. It was also not certain there would be the minimum 10 GOP votes needed for passage in the 50-50 chamber.

Its fate was also not guaranteed in the House, where House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and many liberals have criticized the ejection of global assistance. But party leaders there signaled they were ready to compromise.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said, "That's all the Senate can do right now, which I regret deeply, then I think we need to pass that" as fast as possible. A senior House Democratic aide, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe internal thinking, said it would be best to take what was achievable and fight for more later.

Schumer said the agreement would provide "the tools we need" to help the country recover from the economic and public health blows that COVID-19 has inflicted. But he said while the \$10 billion "is absolutely necessary, it is well short of what is truly needed to keep up

safe" over time.

He said members of both parties want to craft a second spending measure this spring that could include funds to battle COVID-19 and hunger overseas and more assistance for Ukraine as it continues battling the Russian invasion.

The fate of such a measure is uncertain.

Romney also suggested an openness to considering future money. "While this agreement does not include funding for the U.S. global vaccination program, I am willing to explore a fiscally responsible solution to support global efforts in the weeks ahead," he said.

The agreement comes with BA.2, the new omicron variant, expected to spark a fresh increase in U.S. cases.

At least half the agreement's \$10 billion would be used to research and produce therapeutics to treat the disease, according to fact sheets from Schumer

and Romney.

The money would also be used to buy vaccines and tests. At least \$750 million would be used to research new COVID-19 variants and to expand vaccine production, the descriptions said.

Administration officials have said the government has run out of money to finance COVID-19 testing and treatments for people without insurance. They've also said funds are running low for boosters, vaccines focused on specific variants, free monoclonal antibody treatments and care for people with immune system weaknesses.

The deal is also a reduction from a \$15 billion version that both parties' leaders negotiated last month. Pelosi abandoned that plan after Democratic lawmakers rejected proposed cuts in state pandemic aid to help pay for the package.

Jackson

Continued from Page 1NN

decisions, but they found her extremely well qualified. Romney said Jackson "more than meets the standard of excellence and integrity." Murkowski said she will "bring to the Supreme Court a range of experience from the courtroom that few can match given her background in litigation."

With three Republicans supporting her in the 50-50 split Senate, Jackson is on a glidepath to confirmation and on the brink of making history as the third Black justice and only the sixth woman in the court's more than 200-year history. Beyond the historic element, Democrats have cited her deep experience in nine years on the federal bench and the chance for her to become the first former public defender on the court.

Both Collins and Murkowski said they believed that the Senate nomination process has become broken as it has become more partisan in the past several decades.

Murkowski, who is up for reelection this year, said her decision partly rests "on my rejection of the corrosive politicization of the review process for Supreme Court nominees, which, on both sides of the aisle, is growing worse and more detached from reality by the year."

After the vote, Murkowski said she had "assumed a level of risk" but "there's three of us that found ourselves in this place where I believe the strength, qualifications of the candidate are such that are appropriate for the court."

Biden nominated Jackson to replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, who will step down after the court's session ends

this summer. Biden has sought bipartisan backing for his pick, making repeated calls to senators and inviting Republicans to the White House.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that administration officials would work the phones until the last minute to maximize support.

Judge Jackson will bring extraordinary qualifications, deep experience and intellect, and a rigorous judicial record to the Supreme Court, Biden tweeted earlier Monday. "She deserves to be confirmed as the next justice."

The Senate's 53-47 vote Monday evening was to "discharge" Jackson's nomination from the Senate Judiciary Committee after the panel deadlocked, 11-11, on whether to send the nomination to the Senate floor.

The committee vote, split along party lines, was the first deadlock on a Supreme Court nomination in three decades.

The Judiciary committee's top Republican, Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, said he opposed Jackson's nomination because "she and I have fundamental, different views on the role of judges and the role that they should play in our system of government."

The committee hadn't deadlocked since 1991, when Biden was chairman and a motion to send the nomination of current Justice Clarence Thomas to the floor with a "favorable" recommendation failed on a 7-7 vote. The committee then voted to send the nomination to the floor without a recommendation, meaning it could still be brought up for a vote.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky set the tone for most of his party last week when he said he "cannot and will not" support Jackson, citing GOP concerns raised in hear-



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., right, talks to Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., before resuming the committee's business meeting to consider the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

ings about her sentencing record and her backing from liberal advocacy groups.

Republicans on the Judiciary panel continued their push Monday to paint Jackson as soft on crime, defending their repeated questions about her sentencing on sex crimes.

"Questions are not attacks," said Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, one of several GOP senators on the panel who hammered the point in the hearings two weeks ago.

Jackson pushed back on the GOP narrative, declaring that "nothing could be further from the truth" and explaining her reasoning in detail. Democrats said she was in line with other judges in

her decisions. And on Monday they criticized their GOP counterparts' questioning.

"You could try and create a straw man here, but it does not hold," said New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker.

The questioning was filled with "absurdities of disrespect," said Booker, who also is Black.

He said he will "rejoice" when Jackson is confirmed.

Derrick Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the NAACP, expressed disappointment with the committee tie, even as he noted that Jackson had cleared an important hurdle. He said "history will be watching" during the full Senate vote later this week.

NKorea warns of nuclear response

SKorea chided for touting capacity

Kim Tong-Hyung
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea – For the second time in days, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un berated South Korea for touting its supposed preemptive strike capabilities against the North, saying her country's nuclear forces would annihilate the South's conventional forces if provoked.

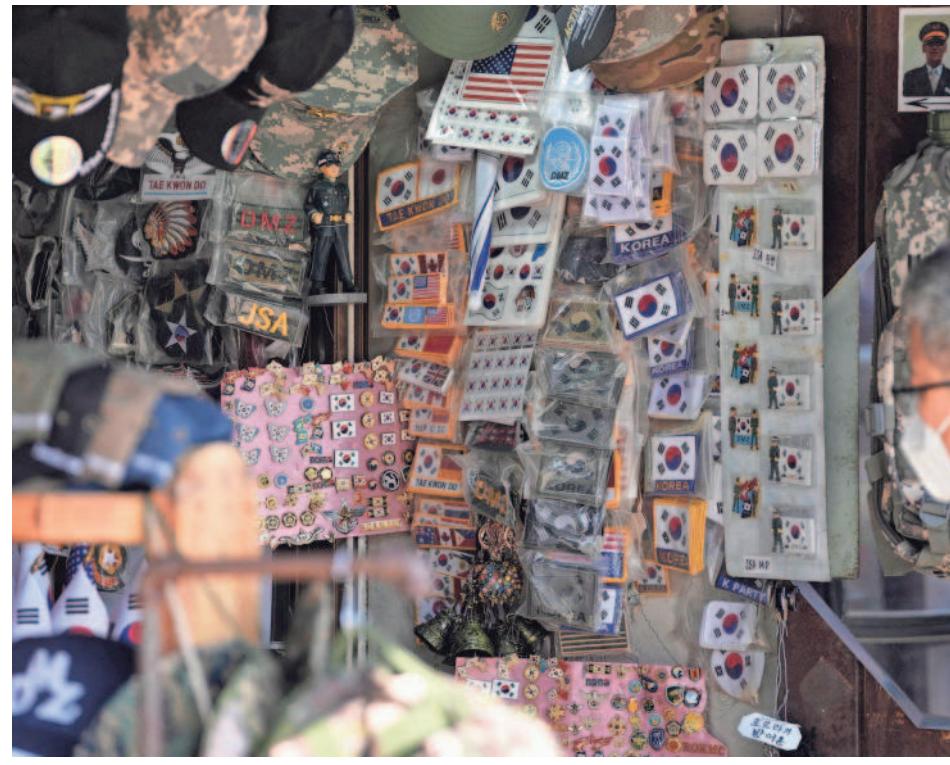
In a statement carried by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong called South Korea Defense Minister Suh Wook's recent comments about preemptive strikes a "fantastic daydream" and "hysteria of a lunatic."

While stressing that North Korea doesn't want another war on the Korean Peninsula, Kim warned that the North would retaliate with its nuclear forces if the South opts for preemptive strikes or other attacks, which would leave the South's military "little short of total destruction and ruin."

Kim issued a similar statement toward Suh's comments on Sunday, calling him a "scum-like guy" and warning that the South may face a "serious threat" because of his comments.

Her statements come amid tensions over North Korea's accelerating weapons tests this year, including its first test of a long-range missile since 2017 on March 24, as her brother revives a nuclear brinkmanship aimed at pressuring Washington to accept the North as a nuclear power and remove sanctions.

Some experts say the North may up the ante in the coming months, possibly test-flying missiles over Japan or re-



The South Korean national flag is seen on items at a souvenir shop at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, South Korea, on Sunday. LEE JIN-MAN/AP

"Preemptive strike' against a nuclear weapons state? ... This is a fantastic daydream, and it is hysteria of a lunatic."

Kim Yo Jong

suming nuclear explosive tests, as it tries to get a response from the Biden administration, which is distracted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and an intensifying rivalry with China.

The renewed tensions have been a major setback for outgoing South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a dovish liberal who had staked his presidential term on his ambitions for inter-Korean rapprochement.

During a visit to the country's strategic missile command last week, Suh said South Korea has the ability and readiness to launch precision strikes on North Korea if it detects the North intends to fire missiles at South Korea.

Seoul has long maintained such a preemptive attack strategy to cope with North Korea's growing missile and nuclear threats, but it was highly unusual for a senior Seoul official under the

Moon administration to publicly discuss it.

"In case (South Korea) opts for military confrontation with us, our nuclear combat force will have to inevitably carry out its duty ... a dreadful attack will be launched and the (South Korean) army will have to face a miserable fate little short of total destruction and ruin," Kim said in her latest statement.

"Preemptive strike' against a nuclear weapons state? ... This is a fantastic daydream, and it is hysteria of a lunatic."

Moon met Kim Jong Un three times in 2018 and lobbied hard to help set up his Kim's first summit with then-U.S. President Donald Trump in June that year.

But the diplomacy never recovered from the collapse of the second Kim-Trump meeting in 2019 in Vietnam, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a limited surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

North Korea has also severed all cooperation with Moon's government while expressing anger over U.S.-South Korea military exercises and Seoul's inability to wrest concessions from Washington on its behalf.

Moon term ends in May, when he will be replaced by conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, who openly discussed the preemptive attack strategy on North Korea during his campaign.

His liberal rivals criticized him for unnecessarily provoking North Korea, but Yoon said he would pursue a principled approach on Pyongyang.

While the Biden administration has offered open-ended talks, North Korea as rejected the overture, demanding that Washington remove its "hostile" policy first, a term the North mainly users to refer to joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises and U.S.-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons program.



Israeli border police officers detain a protester during clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians next to Damascus Gate, outside the Old City of Jerusalem, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. MAHMOUD ILLEAN/AP

Israel police arrest 8 in third night of Jerusalem unrest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM – Israeli police arrested several Palestinians accused of throwing rocks and other objects at officers outside the contested Old City of Jerusalem on Monday as tensions flared during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Police said officers arrested eight people suspected of throwing rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers during Ramadan revelries outside the Damascus Gate. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Police said in a statement that "most of the people at the scene were not actively participating in these disturbances." Video footage from the scene showed officers being pelted by water bottles and other objects and detaining suspects.

It was the third consecutive night of unrest outside the Old City, a frequent flashpoint of Israeli-Palestinian vio-

lence.

On Sunday, Palestinian youths and Israeli police scuffled outside the Damascus Gate, a central gathering place in the heart of historic Jerusalem. Police said officers arrested 10 people suspected of attacking officers while the area was packed with hundreds of revelers after the day's fast. Several people suffered minor injuries, paramedics said.

Israeli police are on high alert after three deadly attacks by Palestinians in Israel in recent weeks that killed 11 Israelis. An Israeli raid on a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank last week in search of a gunman's suspected accomplices set off a gunbattle in which two Palestinians were killed and 15 were wounded. On Saturday, Israeli police said its officers killed three Palestinian militants who were involved in recent attacks on Israeli forces and were planning another.

Israeli authorities have sought to avoid a repeat of last year's violence

during the month-long Muslim holiday. Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian leaders have held a flurry of meetings in recent weeks, and Israel has announced a series of goodwill gestures, in an effort to maintain calm during Ramadan.

Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police around the historic Old City, the emotional epicenter of the more than century-long conflict, during Ramadan last year helped precipitate the 11-day war between Israel and the Islamist militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip in May.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with its holy sites to the three monotheistic faiths, in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed it in a move unrecognized by most of the international community. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as capital of a future state that would include the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel considers the city its united capital.

Colombians demand probe of explosions by rebel groups

Manuel Rueda
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOGOTA, Colombia – Victims of landmine explosions rallied outside Colombia's peace tribunal Monday to demand an investigation of rebel groups that have placed the explosives around the country, injuring thousands of civilians and troops.

The small group of victims was led by congressman Jose Jaime Uscategui, who said the special peace tribunal was not doing enough to investigate crimes committed by rebel groups against civilians and members of the military.

"We need to hold individuals responsible for these kind of attacks" Uscategui said. "Victims have the right to see the face of those who were responsible, and there has to be some kind of sanction."

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace was created in 2016 as part of a peace treaty between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

Among its tasks is to look into war crimes and come up with reparation plans for victims.

Colombia's government says more than 12,000 landmine victims have been registered.

Mines are still being used in remote areas by FARC holdouts and other rebel groups that are fighting over drug trafficking routes and other resources abandoned by the FARC following the peace deal.

"History is repeating itself because of the mantle of impunity enjoyed by those who use landmines," said Nelson Moreno, a former soldier who attended the protest.

Moreno stepped on a mine while he was on patrol in 2011 in Meta province. The explosion destroyed several bones on his right foot, and he now needs to walk on crutches.

The Red Cross says that in the first three months of this year, 218 people were injured by landmines and other explosives in Colombia, including 150 civilians. That was up 25% from the same period last year.

Alvaro Jimenez, director of the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines said it is important for Colombian society to learn more about the "level of cruelty" with which landmines were deployed during the conflict between Colombia's government and the FARC.

Shares in Trump social firm plunge

Two key staffers reportedly depart

Bernard Condon and Tali Arbel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Shares in a company planning to buy Donald Trump's new social media business plunged Monday on a news report that two key staff members left, deepening losses from last week when it said it would miss a deadline to file its annual financial statements.

Digital World Acquisition Corp. dropped more than 10% in midday trading on a Reuters report that the chief technology officer and chief products officer had left the company, citing two anonymous sources. Neither executive responded to requests for comment by The Associated Press, but a person close to the company speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk confirmed the two had left.

It was not immediately clear why the head of technology, Josh Adams, and the product chief, Billy Boozer, decided to leave, but the staff turnover comes at



Former President Donald Trump has been quiet as of late about his new social media business.

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

a bad time for the company as it struggles to attract subscribers.

The departures follow a filing by the company last week stating that its accountants needed more time to review financial figures before filing its annual report.

Many public companies request filing extensions, but the news added to investor jitters fueled by the botched February launch of Trump's Truth Social app, which was marred by outages and long wait lists to gain access.

As of Monday, nearly 1.5 million potential subscribers were waiting for access.

The stock rocketed past \$100 last fall after Digital World announced it planned to buy Trump's company, Trump Media & Technology Group, the developer of the Truth Social app.

In midday trading Monday, shares in Digital World were trading at \$56.06, down more than a third over the past month.

Last week, Trump's two adult sons began posting on the platform. "Feels the whole gang is back together!" Eric Trump wrote. The same day, Don Jr. posted, "Who's ready for some truth?"

But the biggest attraction for Truth Social, the ex-president, hasn't posted anything after writing more than month and half ago, "Get Ready. Your favorite president will see you soon!"

The Truth Social app topped Apple's App Store free rankings on the day it was made available to a limited set of subscribers in February. Since then, it has tumbled down the charts and is no longer in the top 200.

Another possible problem for Digital World is funding its operations. Trump managed last year to get dozens of investors to agree to put \$1 billion into the

business once Digital World combines with Trump Media, but that hasn't happened yet.

Digital World is still waiting for regulators to sign off on the deal, which is no sure thing. The company said last year that the Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating Digital World following reports it may have broken security rules last year.

Digital World is a so-called blank check company, a empty entity set up with the sole purpose of buying an operating business that is allowed to offer stock to raise money without much public disclosure because it doesn't have a clear idea what it will buy yet. News reports last year said Digital World and Trump's company had conversations about a merging before Digital World stock began trading, in possible violation of the rules.

The company has said it is complying with the probe. Trump has dismissed the regulatory scrutiny as a politically motivated "witch hunt."

Despite the Digital World stock plunge Monday, the price still values the company at more than \$2 billion, surprisingly high for a business with virtually no operating history or publicly available financial figures.

Judge refuses to delay trial in Christmas parade deaths

Todd Richmond
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. – A judge refused Monday to delay the trial for a man accused of killing six people and injuring dozens more when he allegedly drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, saying it's important to resolve the case as quickly as possible.

Darrell Brooks Jr. faces more than 80 charges in connection with the incident in Waukesha in November 2021, including six homicide counts. His trial is scheduled to start Oct. 3 and expected to last all month.

His attorneys, public defenders Anna Kees and Jeremy Perri, filed a motion with Waukesha County Circuit Judge Jennifer Dorow on Friday seeking to push the proceedings back until at least March 2023.

The attorneys argued in the motion they need at least six months to study more than 300 videos of the parade, break down the SUV's speed throughout the incident, review the police interrogation of Brooks and reach out to potential expert witnesses.

Perri added Monday that he has a five-week trial beginning in January, making it impossible for him to be present if Brooks' trial began that month.

District Attorney Susan Opper urged the judge to stay on schedule. She said prosecutors have turned over almost all its evidence to the defense. The last pieces are results from DNA tests on samples taken from Brooks' SUV and those should be ready within the next two weeks, she said.

The surviving victims and their families need closure as soon as possible, Opper added.

Dorow took 30 minutes to consider the arguments, then returned to the bench and denied the request to delay. She said that Brooks' attorneys have almost all the evidence in hand and Perri won't have any time to devote to the case come November because he has to prepare for his January trial.

"It is incredibly important to this court to make sure cases come to finality as quickly, as efficiently, as responsibly as possible," she said.

Brooks squeezed his chest during the first part of the hearing and rocked back and forth in his chair throughout the second half.

Kees and Perri have filed another motion seeking to either move the trial out of Waukesha County or bring in a jury from another county. They argue publicity surrounding the case has been so overwhelmingly negative that Brooks can't get a fair trial in Waukesha.

Dorow and attorneys from both sides worked last week to prepare a questionnaire for potential jurors to gauge whether they've formed any biases from media coverage of the case.

Majority-Black Detroit largest US city to challenge census numbers

Mike Schneider and Corey Williams
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT – Majority-Black Detroit has become the largest U.S. city to challenge its figures from the 2020 census following a national head count in which the U.S. Census Bureau acknowledges that a higher percentage of African Americans were undercounted than last decade, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Leaders of Michigan's largest city, which is more than three-quarters Black, had questioned the results of the 2020 census since last December when they released a report suggesting that more than 8% of the occupied homes in 10 Detroit neighborhoods may have been undercounted.

Detroit filed its challenge late last week, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In a letter to the Census Bureau, Mayor Michael Duggan said insufficient resources and not enough census takers were devoted to the count in Detroit, resulting in an undercount of unoccupied homes that could amount to tens of thousands of residents being overlooked.

"The Census Bureau now has an obligation to set the record straight," Duggan said.

The 2020 census data showed Detroit with 639,111 residents, while estimates from 2019 put the city's population at 670,052 residents. A drop of 31,000 residents would be "really implausible," Jeffrey Morenoff, a University of Michigan sociology professor who helped conduct a study on the undercount for the city, said when the report was released in December.

Detroit is no stranger to census challenges. Then-Mayor Coleman Young sued after the 1990 census, and the numbers were later adjusted.

Even though the overall U.S. population was missed by a small percentage,



Detroit's mayor believes tens of thousands of residents in the majority-Black city were missed in the 2020 census. PAUL SANCYA/AP FILE

0.24%, during a once-a-decade head count challenged by the pandemic, natural disasters and political interference from the Trump administration, some minority groups were overlooked at greater rates than the previous decade.

The Black population was undercounted by 3.3%, those who identified as some other race had a 4.3% undercount, almost 5% of the Hispanic population was missed and more than 5.6% of American Indians living on reservations were undercounted.

Detroit is among almost two dozen cities and counties that have challenged their census figures so far. States and municipalities have until the middle of next year to appeal their figures through the Census Bureau's County Question Resolution operation. Challenges are rarely successful, but the outcome could determine whether the cities and counties get their fair share when it comes to the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding.

In Detroit's case, Duggan said that federal funding for the city tied to the

2010 census in the previous decade exceeded \$37 billion.

"A roughly 8% undercount of Detroit's population in the 2020 census creates disastrous financial consequences for the City," Duggan said.

The overwhelmingly majority of the municipalities challenging their census figures are small towns, with more than half of them coming from the rural South. About half a dozen have said in their challenges that prisons in their communities were overlooked during the count.

Residents of prisons, nursing homes and college dorms – also known as group quarters -- were among the most difficult people to count during the 2020 census since students on campus were sent home when the pandemic began in the U.S. in March 2020, and prisons and nursing homes went into lockdowns against the spread of the coronavirus.

Because of the difficulties in counting these residents, the Census Bureau last month created a separate program for challenges of group quarter counts.

Extradition request bid certified by judge for man accused in Iraq killings

Jacques Billeaud
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX – A judge certified the Iraqi government's extradition request for a Phoenix driving school owner on charges that he participated in the killings of two police officers 15 years ago in the Iraqi city of Fallujah as the leader of an al-Qaida group, sending the extradition decision to Washington to decide.

In the decision issued Friday in Arizona, U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael Morrissey concluded there was probable cause that Ali Yousif Ahmed Al-Nouri, who came to the United States as a refugee in 2009 and became a U.S. citizen in 2015, participated in the killings carried out by masked men in June 2006 and October 2006.

The U.S. Department of Justice confirmed it has no record of having ever

before extradited anyone to Iraq under a decades-old a U.S.-Iraq treaty.

Despite inconsistencies in statements by people interviewed about both attacks, Morrissey ordered the extradition request be sent to Washington. He said an inconsistency from a person cooperating with authorities wasn't enough to undermine probable cause in one case and that other statements made by a cooperator in the other killing are consistent in many significant details, even though there was an inconsistency in that person's account.

The magistrate judge rejected Ahmed's claim that his extradition isn't allowed under a U.S.-Iraq treaty provision that bars extraditions for offenses that are political in nature.

He concluded al-Qaida wasn't part of an internal uprising or violent political disturbance under one court standard

and instead that the killings were acts of international terrorism.

David Eisenberg, an attorney who represented Ahmed, didn't immediately respond to a call Monday morning requesting comment on his client's behalf.

Morrissey didn't make conclusions about whether Ahmed is innocent or guilty of the charges or whether his extradition is warranted. Instead, he determined there was evidence of probable cause to support each charge and certified the request.

The decision on whether to extradite Ahmed to Iraq is ultimately up to Secretary of State Antony Blinken's office, though the Justice Department typically plays a driving role in the extradition process.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the decision.