



Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize  Gold Medal for Public Service

# SOUTH FLORIDA SunSentinel

SUNSENTINEL.COM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

\$4.50

## Ukrainian forces put up fierce fight

Russia continues to move on Kyiv; new sanctions unveiled

By Yuras Karmanau, Jim Heintz, James LaPorta and Vladimir Isachenkov  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian defense forces put up fierce resistance Saturday, slowing the

advance of the larger and better-armed Russian military closing in on Kyiv, the capital. European nations and the U.S. rushed assistance to the country, including more ammunition and weapons, and announced another round of sanctions aimed at further isolating Russia from the global financial system.

Terrified people sought safety inside and underground, and the government maintained a 39-hour

curfew to keep people off the streets. More than 150,000 Ukrainians fled for Poland, Moldova and other neighboring countries, and the United Nations warned the number could grow to 4 million if fighting escalates.

“We will fight for as long as needed to liberate our country,” President Volodymyr Zelenskyy promised.

To aid Ukraine’s ability to hold out, the U.S. pledged an additional

### INSIDE

Will people who flee their Ukrainian homes be able to take refuge in South Florida? **Page 2**

\$350 million in military assistance to Ukraine on Saturday, including anti-tank weapons, body armor and small arms. Germany said it would send missiles and anti-tank weapons to the besieged country and that it would close its airspace

to Russian planes.

The U.S., European Union, and United Kingdom agreed to block “selected” Russian banks from the SWIFT global financial messaging system, which moves money around more than 11,000 banks and other financial institutions worldwide. They also agreed to impose “restrictive measures” on Russia’s central bank.

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2



Ivan Edwards brings his catch back to the boat after shooting it along the Middle River near Inverrary Feb. 11. Guides offer iguana-hunting trips through South Florida canals, allowing locals and tourists to shoot the non-native reptiles with air rifles. MIKE STOCKER / SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## Iguana expedition

Hunts around South Florida backyards have become tourist attraction

By David Fleshler  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Standing in a boat in suburban Fort Lauderdale, Chris Whitaker aimed a .25-caliber air rifle at a large green

iguana on a canal bank and squeezed the trigger.

The weapon gave a metallic pop, and the iguana jerked onto its back, its legs writhing. The iguana struggled for a minute or two, until Whitaker administered a shot to its head.

Whitaker and his girlfriend Krissy Garcia had paid \$500 to Hunting Iguanas LLC for four hours of iguana hunting in Broward County, where the

non-native reptiles have found a congenial home along canals lined with a lush variety of trees.

“We have people come from all over the United States,” said Gene Parker, the company’s owner. “And their comment is, this is a sport and a hunt we never even dreamed of. I’ve got guys that’s hunted every animal in North America.”

Turn to Iguanas, Page 37

## Abortion ban could have some dramatic effects

Measure may bring legal challenges, burst of activity at Fla. clinics

By Cindy Krischer Goodman, Brooke Baitinger and Caroline Catherman  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Should a proposed 15-week abortion limit making its way through the Legislature go into effect in July, Floridians can expect a dramatic fallout.

That could look like a burst of activity at clinics, increased travel to other states for procedures, an intensification of legal challenges and a heavier burden on the poor.

Florida has 56 clinics, with 43 of them licensed to do the second trimester abortions that would become illegal should the proposed measures go into effect, according to the Florida AHCA.

Only a sliver of Florida counties — 17 of Florida’s 67 — have abortion clinics and their administrators are preparing for a law change that would reduce the cutoff for abortions from 24 weeks.

Turn to Ban, Page 36

### INSIDE

Florida’s 15-week abortion ban will affect women in the Caribbean and Latin America, too, **Local & State, Page 3**

## Schools PR chief is cleared after planning Runcie rally

By Scott Travis  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

For the past three years, the leader of Broward schools’ communications department has juggled her district duties with her privately owned company, business relationships and desire to protect the former superintendent.

Kathy Koch, who makes \$168,300 a year, secretly organized a rally that was held on district property during the school day April 23 to try to save the job of former Superintendent Robert Runcie, after his arrest on a perjury charge.

She also left her job one morning in 2019, without taking leave,

to secure a contract for her private company, a school district investigation has revealed.

The personnel investigation of Koch, which resulted in a 185-page report, initially focused on whether she acted improperly by organizing the Runcie rally. But the scope was later expanded to review whether she performed work for

her private marketing company on district time. A professional standards committee determined by a 5-2 vote that “insufficient factual or legal basis exists to establish just cause for inappropriate conduct.”

That’s largely because the district has no clear policies addressing these issues, officials said. But that could change soon,

possibly affecting numerous employees.

Newly appointed Superintendent Vickie Cartwright told the South Florida Sun Sentinel she will propose “in the near future” a policy change that will “address secondary paid employment and

Turn to Koch, Page 37

**PRESIDENTS DAY SALE** EXTENDED ENDS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

UP TO **70% OFF** STEARNS & FOSTER TEMPURPEDIC

**MATTRESSTOWN**  
2677 N. FEDERAL HWY, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33306  
954-530-9280 • MYMATTRESSTOWN.COM  
HOURS: MON - SAT: 10AM - 7PM • SUN: 11AM - 6PM

**FREE boxspring** OR **SAVE UP TO \$500** ON ADJUSTABLE BEDS

**SAVE UP TO \$800** ON BEAUTYREST BLACK™ HYBRID MATTRESSES AND ADJUSTABLE SETS

**SAVE UP TO \$1000** on qualified iComfort by Serta™ Hybrid Mattresses and adjustable sets

**TEMPURPEDIC CLEARANCE** UP TO **30% OFF** Select Closeout

**FREE DELIVERY** SELECT PURCHASES SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

**FREE REMOVAL** SELECT PURCHASES SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

**2 FREE PILLOWS** SELECT PURCHASES SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

**FREE PROTECTOR** SELECT PURCHASES SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

We reach nearly 1.5 million adults every week with the combined resources of:

SunSentinel.com

South Florida COMMUNITYNEWS

SENTINEL

Vol. 64, No. 59

©2022. All rights reserved.

For home delivery, call 1-800-548-NEWS.



# Ukrainian migration options to US remain unclear

By David Lyons  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Just hours after Russian military forces invaded their homeland, members of the Ukrainian community in South Florida protested the incursion with a rally in Hallandale Beach and voiced hopes for the safety of friends and relatives who have taken shelter or fled the country.

The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, estimates that more than 100,000 people were believed to have left their homes in Ukraine and that up to 4 million may flee to other countries, the Associated Press reported.

But whether any of them can take refuge in the United States in the near future remained an open question on Friday.

The Biden Administration has yet to decide on whether to add to protections available to Ukrainians who seek

to come here.

"I hope the U.S. administration will take some sort of action to help those people evacuate," said Aleksey Shtivelman, a Ukrainian-American and international dispute resolution lawyer at the law firm of Shutts & Bowen in Miami. "The U.S. has issued previous emergency declarations regarding refugee admissions."

Shtivelman, who has clients in both Ukraine and Russia, was born in the Black Sea port city of Odessa, the scene of intense fighting. He moved to New York via Israel in the 1990s, and has relatives in New York, Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale and Miami.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association is urging the administration to expedite cases of Ukrainians who are eligible to migrate to the U.S.

"AILA calls on the Biden Administration to immedi-

ately ensure that Ukrainian nationals who may be eligible to come to the United States may safely and expeditiously do so and to ensure that we do not send people back to danger," said Allen Orr, president of the Washington, D.C.-based association in a statement.

William Gerstein, a Fort Lauderdale immigration lawyer with Gerstein & Gerstein P.A., said Ukrainians currently visiting the U.S. could be granted temporary protected status. The U.S. has granted the status to Venezuelans living in the country after they fled the authoritarian regime of strongman and disputed President Nicolás Maduro.

CBS News, citing unidentified sources, reported Friday that the Biden Administration is considering protecting some Ukrainians now in the U.S. from deportation. The protection would come either through TPS or

so-called Deferred Enforced Departure orders.

"U.S. citizens with Ukrainian family have always had the ability to sponsor their family but may not have thought to act on it in the past," Gerstein said. "For an individual to be brought to the U.S. that does not have a tourist visa or cannot get one, there is humanitarian parole available for situations such as these."

Under humanitarian parole, refugees with "a compelling emergency" and an "urgent humanitarian reason" may be allowed to temporarily enter the United States, according to a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website.

Refugee status is granted indefinitely and has no expiration date. But refugees are required to apply for permanent residency or green card status a year after living in the U.S., according to the agency. Gerstein said he has one

client who lives close to the hotly contested Donbas region in the southeast of Ukraine.

"They are trying to hunker down and not be on the move," he said.

Refugees seeking to stay in the U.S. "are a more complex lot" than those living here under temporary status, lawyers say.

Both take considerable time, said David Abraham, professor emeritus of law at the University of Miami School of Law who specializes in immigration and refugee law and the political economy of Europe.

"The normal route would require one or two things: an asylum application which would require getting to the U.S. and asking at the airport for asylum on the grounds of persecution back home," Abraham said. "That process is one at a time and you have to get here to do it."

The other route takes

refugees through camps managed by the United Nations "and that process can take two years," Abraham said.

Eligibility for refugee status is determined on a case-by-case basis through interviews with officers with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, according to the agency's website.

During the interview, an officer examines "all relevant evidence, including testimony." The agency considers "the conditions in the country of origin" and evaluates the person's credibility.

"We also confirm that security checks have been completed and the results of the checks are reviewed and analyzed before approval," the agency says.

But as the invasion and subsequent geo-political picture unfolds, it is unclear about where Ukrainians will want to end up if their country is overtaken.

## Ukraine

from Page 1

The central bank restrictions target the more than \$600 billion in reserves the Kremlin has, meant to limit Russia's ability to support the ruble amid tightening sanctions. They also will severely constrain Russia's ability to import and export goods.

It was unclear how much territory Russian forces have seized. Britain's Ministry of Defense said "the speed of the Russian advance has temporarily slowed likely as a result of acute logistical difficulties and strong Ukrainian resistance."

A senior U.S. defense official said more than half of the Russian combat power that

was massed along Ukraine's borders had entered the country and Moscow has had to commit more fuel supply and other support units inside Ukraine than originally anticipated. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal U.S. assessments, did not provide further details.

Even as Zelenskyy called on his countrymen to join the fight, it was impossible to know how effective Ukraine has been in slowing the Russian advance. A curfew in Kyiv set to last through Monday morning forced everyone inside, though the relative quiet of the capital was sporadically broken by gunfire.

Fighting on the city's outskirts suggested that

small Russian units were trying to clear a path for the main forces. Small groups of Russian troops were reported inside Kyiv, but Britain and the U.S. said the bulk of Russian forces were 19 miles from the city's center as of Saturday afternoon.

Russia claims its assault on Ukraine is aimed only at military targets, but bridges, schools and residential neighborhoods have been hit since the invasion began Thursday.

Ukraine's health minister reported Saturday that 198 people, including three children, had been killed and more than 1,000 others had been wounded during Europe's largest land war since World War II. It was



A Ukrainian soldier walks near a burned military truck and other debris Saturday in Kyiv, Ukraine. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

unclear whether those figures included both military and civilian casualties.

Zelenskyy reiterated his openness to talks with Russia

in a video message Saturday, saying he welcomed an offer from the leaders of Turkey and Azerbaijan to organize diplomatic efforts, which so

far have faltered.

The Kremlin gave a terse confirmation of a phone call between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev but gave no hint of restarting talks. A day earlier, Zelenskyy offered to negotiate a key Russian demand: abandoning ambitions of joining NATO.

The conflict has driven thousands of Ukrainians from their homes in search of safety. Refugees arriving in the Hungarian border town of Zahony said men between the ages of 18 and 60 were not being allowed to leave Ukraine.

"My son was not allowed to come. My heart is so sore, I'm shaking," said Vilma Sugar, 68.

## SunSentinel SunSentinel.com

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-800-548-6397

### Report delivery issues

Mon - Sat: Before 9:30a.m.; Sunday: Before 11a.m.

### Subscriptions & billing

Mon - Fri.: 7a.m.-5p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 7 a.m.-noon

### Advertising

Dave Karabag, Vice President of Advertising  
dkarabag@tribpub.com

Classified: 1-800-250-2000  
Display, Retail and Community Newspapers: 954-425-1919

### Circulation

Mark Quan, General Circulation Lead, Circulation  
mark.quan@pilotonline.com

### NEWSROOM CONTACTS

Main newsroom: 954-356-4500  
Palm Beach County Newsroom: 561-243-6615

Editor-in-Chief: Julie Anderson, 954-425-1685,  
janderson@SunSentinel.com

Managing editor: Gretchen Day-Bryant, 954-356-4718  
gdaybryant@SunSentinel.com

Opinion Editor: Steve Bousquet, 850-567-2240  
sbousquet@SunSentinel.com

Assistant Managing Editor/  
News and Production  
Kathy Laskowski, 954-356-4824  
klaskowski@SunSentinel.com

Assistant Managing Editor/  
Creative Director  
David Schutz, 954-356-4046  
dschutz@SunSentinel.com

Metro Editor  
Juan Ortega, 561-243-6527  
jortega@sunsentinel.com

Sports Editor  
Kathy Laughlin, 954-356-4653  
klaughlin@SunSentinel.com

Director of Photography  
Sean Pitts, 954-356-4450  
spitts@SunSentinel.com

### FLORIDA'S LOTTERY

**Selected Saturday**  
Fireball: 3  
Pick 2 (midday): 6-4  
Pick 3 (midday): 3-8-7  
Pick 4 (midday): 6-9-1-4  
Pick 5 (midday): 4-9-3-8-4  
**Selected Friday**  
Fireball: 5  
Pick 2 (evening): 2-5  
Pick 3 (evening): 3-8-7  
Pick 4 (evening): 6-9-1-4  
Pick 5 (evening): 4-9-3-8-4  
**Selected Saturday**  
Cash Pop  
Morning: 9  
Matinee: 3

**Selected Friday**  
CashPop  
Afternoon: 8  
Evening: 8  
Late Night: 4  
Fantasy5: 18-21-22-26-27  
JackPot Triple Play: 1-9-13-24-28-36  
Cash 4 Life: 6-40-48-50-52-2  
MegaMillions: 15-31-40-56-66-4-x3  
**For more results, call 1-850-921-7529**  
Florida Lottery  
Capitol complex  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4016  
FloridaLottery.com

### Corrections and clarifications

The Sun Sentinel takes complaints about accuracy seriously and will publish a correction or clarification whenever it is established that we have made an error or published misleading information. Corrections and clarifications will appear on this page, with some limited exceptions.

Opinion page corrections and clarifications will appear on those pages. In the Community News sections, they will appear on Page 2 of the section in which the original material was published.

### To report mistakes:

Palm Beach County: 561-243-6613  
Broward County: 954-356-4300  
Email: corrections@sun-sentinel.com

HOME DELIVERY WITH UNLIMITED DIGITAL ACCESS RATES: BY CARRIER: 7-day \$17.50, Wed-Sun \$13.25, Thur-Sun \$11.25, Mon-Fri \$10.75, Sat/Sun \$9.00, Fri/Sun \$7.75, Sat/Sun \$7.00, Sunday \$6.00. E-Newsletters and Digital Combo \$6.93 per week. All subscriptions may include up to twelve Premium Issues per year. For each Premium Issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$6.99 in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Premium issues scheduled to date: 1/9/22, 2/13/22, 3/27/22, 4/17/22, 5/15/22, 6/12/22, 7/19/22, 8/17/22, 9/4/22, 10/9/22, 11/20/22, 12/18/22. Dates and topics are subject to change without notice. Member Alliance for Audited Media. A Tribune Publishing Company, U.S.P.S. 526520 ISSN 0744-8139. Published every morning by Sun-Sentinel Company, LLC, 333 SW 12 Avenue, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. Periodical postage paid at Fort Lauderdale, FL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Sun Sentinel, 333 SW 12 Avenue, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. For customer service, call 1-954-375-2018.

**VICTORIA'S THE EXPERIENCE.**

PRIME STEAKS | HAND MADE PASTAS | FRESH SEAFOOD | SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

1350 SE 2ND ST, POMPANO BEACH  
SOLIDGOLDFTL.COM 954.933.2115  
WEST OFF ATL.AVE, SOUTH OFF ANDREWS AVE.

**FREE PUZZLES & GAMES**

Play online every day at **PlayJumble.com**

DAILY JUMBLE | DAILY SUDOKU | MAHJONG STORY | COOKIE CRUSH | BUBBLE SHOOTER PRO | SOLITAIRE STORY

Jumble Daily | Jumble Crossword Daily | Jumble Sunday Sudoku | Mahjong | Bubble Shooter Pro | Plus many more

**TRIBUNE PUBLISHING**