

# TIMES-NEWS

## CSI falls in Final Four

Finishes 3rd in NJCAA Women's tournament **SPORTS, B1**



## Daunting recovery underway

Biden declares emergency after severe weather strikes southern states **NATION, A5**



**CLOUDS AND SUN 41 • 27** FORECAST, B4

**MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023**

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# Ukraine demands UN meeting

### Emergency request spurred by Putin's plan to prep atomic weapons

**KARL RITTER**  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's government on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail" after Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

One Ukrainian official said Russia "took Belarus as a nuclear hostage."

Further heightening tensions, an explosion deep inside Russia

wounded three people Sunday. Russian authorities blamed a Ukrainian drone for the blast, which damaged residential buildings in a town just 110 miles south of Moscow.

Russia has said the plan to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus comes in response to the West's increasing military support for Ukraine. Putin announced the plan in a TV interview that aired Saturday, saying it was triggered by a U.K. decision this past week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.

Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States. He noted that Washington has nuclear weapons

based in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

"We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews," he said.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry condemned the move in a statement Sunday and demanded an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

"Ukraine expects effective action to counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail by the U.K., China, the U.S. and France," the statement read, saying these countries "have a special responsibility" regarding nuclear aggression.



**EVGENIY MALOLETKA, ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ukrainian servicemen fold the national flag over the coffin of their comrade Andrii Neshodovskiy during a funeral ceremony Saturday in Kyiv, Ukraine.

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# Rec Center keeps folks active



**DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS**

Phil De Mello gets in a work out on Friday at the Jerome Recreation Center.

### TIMES NEWS

The Jerome Recreation Center is just a part of what the recreation district offers its members.

In April, it's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

Coming up in late April, the Jerome Recreation District's

Magic Valley Hike six-week series will interest anyone wanting to explore local hiking areas.

And in May, a Mother/

Daughter 5K Fun Run adds to the fun.

Call the district at 208-324-3389 if interested.

# GOP pushes cash bail

### Legislation subverts Democratic changes

**HARM VENHUIZEN**  
Associated Press/Report for America

MADISON, Wis. — Just two days before he drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing six people and injuring more than 60, Darrell Brooks Jr. posted bail for charges of domestic violence.

He had been accused of using his SUV to run over the mother of his child, and a pretrial assessment found Brooks was at high risk of reoffending. But a court official set that bail at a mere \$1,000 cash at the request of prosecutors, who later called their recommendation a mistake. For the parade killings, Brooks was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Brooks quickly became the poster child for a Republican-backed push to enact tougher bail policies. The Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature is asking voters to ratify a constitutional amendment that would make it harder for violent criminals to get out of jail on bail.

GOP lawmakers in other states also are scrambling to make it harder for defendants to get out of jail before trial after branding themselves as tough on crime in the 2022 midterm elections. Their efforts led to a fierce fight with Democrats over public safety and the rights of criminal defendants.

Recent Democratic overhaul measures in states such as Illinois and New York have sought to eliminate cash bail and lessen pretrial detention on the premise they do more harm than good, especially to marginalized groups.

But Republican lawmakers in at least 14 states have introduced some 20 bills so far this year to do just the opposite. Their proposals include increasing the number of non-bailable offenses, requiring more people to pay cash bail and encouraging or requiring judges to consider a defendant's

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# Autism diagnoses shift by race in US

### More common among Black, Hispanic kids

**MIKE STOBBE**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For the first time, autism is being diagnosed more frequently in Black and Hispanic children than in white kids in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among all U.S. 8-year-olds, 1 in 36 had autism in 2020, the CDC estimated. That's up from 1 in 44 two years earlier.

But the rate rose faster for children of color than for white kids. The new estimates suggest that about 3% of Black, Hispanic and Asian or Pacific Islander children have an autism diagnosis, compared with about 2% of white kids.

That's a contrast to the past, when autism was most commonly diagnosed in white kids



**SAM OWENS, EVANSVILLE COURIER & PRESS VIA AP**

Deleah Payne, 12, center, spends time with her mother Delisa, right, and 6-year-old sister Delynn as they watch movie clips in their living room Aug. 27, 2019, in Evansville, Ind. Deleah and Delynn were both diagnosed with autism.

— usually in middle- or upper-income families with the means to go to autism specialists. As recently as 2010, white kids

Experts attributed the change to improved screening and autism services for all kids, and to increased awareness and advocacy for Black and Hispanic families.

The increase is from "this rush to catch up," said David Mandell, a University of Pennsylvania psychiatry professor.

Still, it's not clear that Black and Hispanic children with autism are being helped as much as their white counterparts. A study published in January found Black and Hispanic kids had less access to autism services than white children during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Autism is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. There are many possible symptoms, many of which overlap with other diagnoses. They can include delays in language and learning, social and

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