



EVGENIY MALOLETKA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

## Americans' faith in banks low

PAUL WISEMAN AND HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Only 10% of U.S. adults say they have high confidence in the nation's banks and other financial institutions, a new poll found. That's down from the 22% who said they had high confidence in 2020.

Following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank this month, the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research also found a majority say the government is not doing enough to regulate the industry.

The underwhelming assessment of America's banks and bank regulation came after a series of shocks brought back disturbing memories of the 2008-09 financial crisis.

Silicon Valley Bank, the nation's 16th-biggest, failed March 10 after making risky bets in the bond market. Two days later, regulators closed New York-based Signature Bank, which was involved in cryptocurrencies. Across the Atlantic Ocean, long-troubled Credit Suisse was acquired by rival UBS on Sunday in a shotgun marriage designed to restore confidence in global financial institutions.

In the United States, the tumult raised questions among policymakers about 2018 legislation that rolled back strict regulations put in place after the financial crisis.

The poll suggests the U.S. public shares that concern: 56% say the government isn't doing enough to regulate banks and other financial institutions, while 27% say it's doing the right amount and 15% say it's regulating too much. The worry about under-regulation is bipartisan: 63% of Democrats say current bank regulation is insufficient, as do 51% of Republicans.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Philip Metscher, 53, a stay-at-home father of seven in Sacramento, California, said he has little faith in bankers or the government agencies that are supposed to regulate them.

"It's like they have free rein to do whatever they want with money," said Metscher, a Republican.

The poll found that in addition to the 10% of Americans saying that they have high confidence in the nation's banking institutions, 57% have some confidence; 31% have hardly any.

Low confidence among Americans in their public institutions is nothing new — the General Social Survey, which has tracked trends in public opinion for decades, shows that confidence in institutions ranging from the financial industry to organized religion and from the news media to Congress declined substantially since the 1970s. The new poll shows few Americans have high confidence in any branch of the U.S. government.

Please see UKRAINE, Page A2

Please see BANKS, Page A2

# Ukraine demands meeting over Putin's nuclear plan

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.



AP FILE PHOTO

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

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.

"The world must be united against someone who endangers the future of human civilization," the statement said.

Ukraine has not commented on Sunday's explosion inside Russia. It left a crater about 50 feet in diameter and 16 feet deep, according to media reports.

Russian state-run news agency Tass reported authorities identified the drone as a Ukrainian Tu-141. The Soviet-era drone

was reintroduced in Ukraine in 2014, and has a range of about 620 miles.

The explosion took place in the town of Kireyevsk in the Tula region, about 180 miles from the border with Ukraine. Russia's Defense Ministry said the drone crashed after an electronic jamming system disabled its navigation.

Similar drone attacks have been common during the war, although Ukraine hardly ever acknowledges responsibility. On Monday, Russia said Ukrainian drones attacked civilian facilities in the town of Dzhankoi in Russia-annexed Crimea. Ukraine's military said several Russian cruise missiles were destroyed, but did not specifically claim responsibility.

In December, the Russian military reported several Ukrainian drone attacks on long-range

bomber bases deep inside Russia. The Russian Defense Ministry said the drones were shot down, but acknowledged that their debris damaged some aircraft and killed several servicemen.

Also, Russian authorities have reported attacks by small drones in the Bryansk and Belgorod regions on the border with Ukraine.

On Saturday, Putin argued that Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has long asked to have nuclear weapons in his country again to counter NATO. Belarus shares borders with three NATO members — Latvia, Lithuania and Poland — and Russia used Belarusian territory as a staging ground to send troops into neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Both Lukashenko's support of the war and Putin's plans to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus have been denounced by the Belarusian opposition.

Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, tweeted Sunday that Putin's announcement was "a step towards internal destabilization" of Belarus that maximized "the level of negative perception and public rejection" of Russia and Putin in Belarusian society. The Kremlin, Danilov added, "took Belarus as a nuclear hostage."

Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield and have a short range and a low yield compared with much more powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles.

Please see UKRAINE, Page A2

# Utah social media law means kids need approval from parents

SAM METZ AND BARBARA ORTUTAY Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Children and teens in Utah would lose access to social media apps such as TikTok if they don't have parental consent and face other restrictions under a first-in-the-nation law designed to shield young people from the addictive platforms.

Two laws signed Thursday by Republican Gov. Spencer Cox prohibit kids under 18 from using social media between the hours

of 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m., require age verification for anyone who wants to use social media in the state and open the door to lawsuits on behalf of children claiming social media harmed them. Collectively, they seek to prevent children from being lured to apps by addictive features and from having ads promoted to them.

The companies are expected to sue before the laws take effect in March 2024.

The crusade against social me-

dia in Utah's Republican-supremacy Legislature is the latest reflection of how politicians' perceptions of technology companies has changed, including among typically pro-business Republicans.

Tech giants including Facebook and Google enjoyed unbridled growth for over a decade, but amid concerns over user privacy, hate speech, misinformation and harmful effects on

Please see SOCIAL MEDIA, Page A2



TRENT NELSON, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Gov. Spencer Cox signs two social media regulation bills Thursday during a ceremony at the Capitol building in Salt Lake City.