

Russia

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The battle for the Donbas has turned into a village-by-village, back-and-forth slog with no major breakthroughs on either side and little ground gained. In his nightly address Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said no one can predict how long the war will last but that his country's forces have been making progress, including retaking six Ukrainian towns or villages in the past day.

Fierce fighting has been taking place on the Siversky Donets River near the city of Severodonetsk, said Oleh Zhdanov, an independent Ukrainian military analyst. The Ukrainian military has launched counterattacks but has failed to halt Russia's advance, he said.

"The fate of a large portion of the Ukrainian army is being decided — there are about 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers," he said.

The Ukrainian military chief for the Luhansk region of the Donbas said Friday that Russian forces opened fire 31 times on residential areas the day before, destroy-

ing dozens of homes, notably in Hirske and Popasnianska villages. He said Russian troops have taken nearly full control of Rubizhne, a city with a prewar population of around 55,000.

In the ruined southern port of Mariupol, Ukrainian fighters holed up in a steel plant faced continued Russian attacks on the last stronghold of resistance in the city. Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, said his troops will hold out "as long as they can" despite shortages of ammunition, food, water and medicine.

Justin Crump, a former British tank commander who is now a security consultant, said Moscow's losses have forced it to downsize its objectives in Ukraine. He said the Russians have had to use hastily patched-together units that haven't trained together.

"This is not going to be quick. So we're settled in for a summer of fighting at least. I think the Russian side is very clear that this is going to take a long time," he said.

In the first war crimes case brought to trial, Russian Sgt. Vadim Shyshmarin, 21, could get life in prison if convicted of shooting a Ukrainian man in the head through an open

car window in a village in the northeastern Sumy region on Feb. 28, four days into the invasion.

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova said she is readying war crimes cases against 41 Russian soldiers for offenses including bombing civilian infrastructure, killing civilians, rape and looting. It was not immediately clear how many of the suspects are in Ukrainian hands and how many would be tried in absentia.

In a small Kyiv courtroom, scores of journalists witnessed the start of the wartime proceedings, which will be closely watched by international observers to make sure the trial is fair.

The defendant, dressed in a blue and gray hoodie and gray sweatpants, sat in a small glass cage during the proceedings, which lasted about 15 minutes and will resume on Wednesday.

Shyshmarin was asked a series of questions, including whether he understood his rights and whether he wanted a jury trial. He declined the latter.

His Ukraine-assigned attorney, Victor Ovsyanikov, has acknowledged that the case against Shyshmarin is strong and has not indicat-

ed what the soldier's defense will be.

Shyshmarin, a member of a tank unit that was captured by Ukrainian forces, admitted that he shot the civilian in a video posted by the Security Service of Ukraine, saying he was ordered to do so.

As the war grinds on, teachers are trying to restore some sense of normalcy after the fighting shuttered Ukraine's schools and upended the lives of millions of children.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, lessons are being given in a subway station that has become home for many families. Children joined their teacher Valeriy Leiko around a table to learn about history and art, with youngsters' drawings lining the walls.

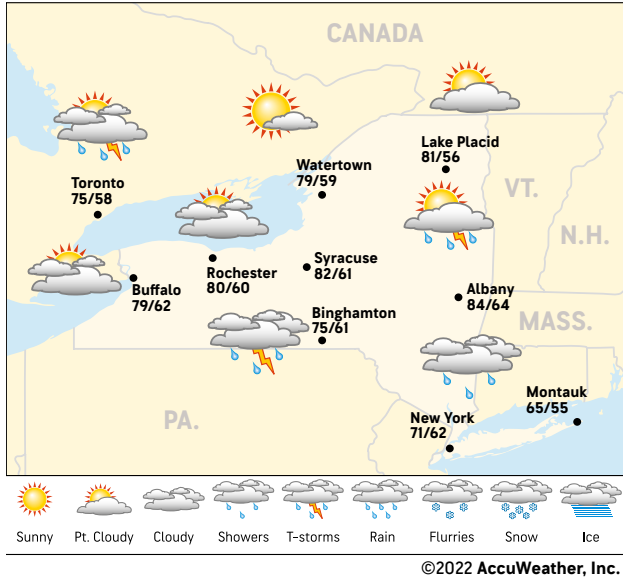
"It helps to support them mentally. Because now there is a war, and many lost their homes. ... Some people's parents are fighting now," Leiko said. In part because of the lessons, he said, "they feel that someone loves them."

An older student, Anna Fedoryaka, monitored a professor's online lectures on Ukrainian literature, admitting: "It is hard to concentrate when you have to do your homework with explosions by your window."

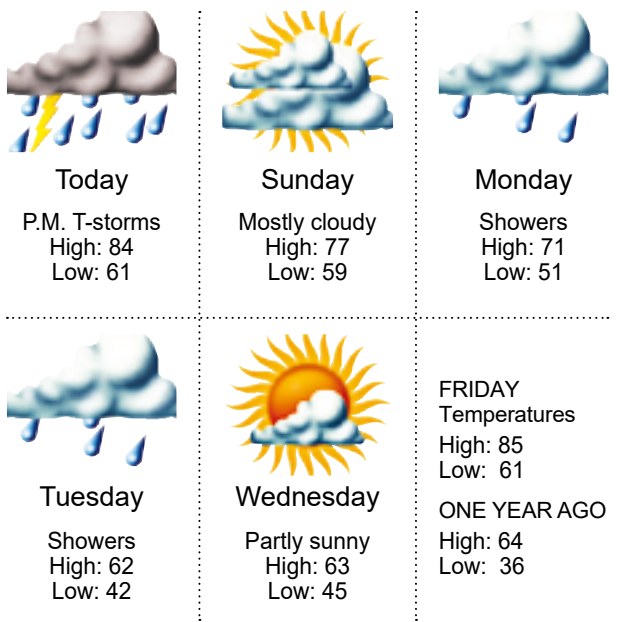
Weather/lotteries

Today's weather  **AccuWeather.com**

Forecast for Saturday, May 14, 2022



FIVE-DAY FORECAST



Lottery Numbers

Daily Middyay	2 5 8
Win Four Middyay	6 1 6 1
Take Five Middyay	10 11 15 18 33
Pick 10	4 8 12 16 23 26 27 37 41 43
	50 51 56 47 58 65 70 71 73 76
Cash4Life	30 38 47 57 59 CashBall 2

Center for Problem Gambling 24-hour helpline: 518-462-6531 or 800-437-1611

Mega Millions		Powerball	
Date	Pot	Date	Pot
5/13	\$99 mil	5/14	\$83 mill

New York Lotto			
Date	Numbers	Bonus	Pot
5/11	15 17 26 29 31 54	7	\$12 mil No winner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wealthy must pay fair share of taxes

The pandemic made many people rich — unfortunately not our heroes working in healthcare and service jobs.

The people I know are aware this isn't fair and assume there is nothing that can rectify this situation.

We all have concerns about the people in Ukraine, climate change and the need to provide healthcare for all.

The wealthiest people in America need to finally share the tax burden with the people living paycheck to paycheck. Since it does seem they are happy to have more money than they need or can ever spend, we have to insist that they pay taxes like the rest of us.

We need to change the tax law so it is no longer a salary-based structure and includes other sources of income.

We have an opportunity to make this happen in the midterm elections.

This is a subject that has been discussed and dismissed in our current governments' agenda.

We need to elect politicians that are in favor of taxing the rich.

I often feel politicians prioritize the benefit they receive from contributions before revising current tax laws. I can't see how people who work for a salary can continue to shoulder the tax burden to address America's needs and participate in humanitarian global concerns.

Jean Nicholas
Hagaman

With summer comes threat of skin cancer

With sunny days here, people are spending more time outside. To exercise, start a new hobby like gardening, or spend time with friends, Mother Nature is a wonderful gym, and our

backyards/parks are places for meet up.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness month, and the Cancer Prevention in Action (CPiA) program wants to remind everyone to protect their skin against cancer.

Melanoma is the deadliest type and mostly caused by ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV rays come from the sun or indoor tanning devices. Nearly 4,000 New Yorkers get melanoma each year.

Men, especially men older than 50, are at higher risk for melanoma because they're more likely to work outdoors.

Good news: About 90% of melanomas can be prevented.

Follow these simple steps to lower your risk of skin cancer while enjoying the outdoors:

- ◆ Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a 15 SPF or higher. Apply 15 minutes before going outdoors and again after swimming or sweating.

- ◆ Wear a wide brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt and pants when possible.

- ◆ Wear sunglasses that block UVA/UVB rays.

- ◆ Avoid direct sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- ◆ Follow these tips on cloudy days, as clouds do not block UV rays.

The CPiA program works in local communities to raise awareness about skin cancer and the dangers of indoor tanning.

We provide education and help community partners to adopt policies that promote sun safety and prevent skin cancer. CPiA works with schools, daycares, businesses, municipalities, and more.

For more information about CPiA, visit www.takeactionagainstsuncancer.com or call 518-770-6815.

Kelsey Carpe
Amsterdam

The writer is health education promotions coordinator, Cancer Prevention in Action Program of Fulton, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties.

DRI

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one of the original 18 projects in Gloversville's successful 5th round application for the \$10 million DRI grant. The for-profit project had sought \$800,000 in DRI funding, 40% of the total project cost.

◆ 'I Can Breathe and I Will Speak' kitchen and meeting space construction — This project was sponsored by Hawkins' own nonprofit organization and sought \$500,000 to fund 100% of the cost of building a commercial kitchen and meeting space in the basement of the Fulton County CRG's 34 W. Fulton St. location.

◆ Revitalization of family/community business — Michael Medina, originally from Puerto Rico, requested \$627,300 in DRI funding to fund 40% of a \$1.5 million project to rehabilitate 17-19 N. Main St. Medina operates Fulton County Barber Shop at 17 N. Main St.

"Those were withdrawn at the request of the sponsors, so just to be clear they were not eliminated by the LPC, these were ones that were either just not eligible or the sponsor withdrew their application for consideration," N'doll said. "I just want to make sure that's clear."

The proposed \$21.2 million Glove City Lofts project, seeking \$1.3 million in DRI funding, does in part fulfill the state's DRI goal of promoting diverse housing options, according to Lisa Nagle of Elan Planning, Design & Landscape Architecture, Gloversville's main consultant in the DRI process. She said Glove City Lofts project sponsor Kearney Development is seeking to build 75 loft-style affordable housing units at 52 Church St. for mixed income tenants, including some units dedicated specifically to income-eligible artists. The project would be required to adhere to all state and federal laws prohibiting housing discrimination on the basis of race, she said.

"This project in particular is aimed at middle and low-income residents, and has to meet the [requirements of] the Fair Housing Act, so that one, were it to be funded [would promote diverse housing]," she said. "Also the public projects, they are open to all. There is no discrimination on who could go to a public park for example."

"I think I'm being misunderstood," Hawkins interjected during the May 4 meeting. "I'm not meaning the projects are being [discriminatory], what I'm saying is there is no minority projects included in this DRI. That's what I'm saying."

REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL

Hawkins was precluded from discussing her own project proposal by the rules

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LASHAWN HAWKINS

Gloversville DRI Local Planning Committee member

of the DRI process during the planning committee meeting, but after the meeting she explained it was simply too difficult for her organization to answer all of the questions and obligations required for DRI funding in the short time frame between February and June

"Nobody could fulfill that DRI timeframe," she said, adding that she believes her withdrawal led to a "domino effect" after which Medina and Chase also pulled out.

Committee co-chair Wally Hart, the division director of community and business development for Lexington ARC, during the May 4 meeting suggested that businesses and nonprofits should reach out to the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth and the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce as resources for how to obtain either public or private funding.

"We need to try to continue to encourage people to be engaged to apply for [state funding] through the [Consolidated Funding Application] process, working with those entities that can help them be successful," Hart said.

Hawkins said that even though her organization is located in the Fulton County CRG building, and that organization has been very helpful to her, she still feels that the process of obtaining resources and assistance for business ventures, either for-profit or nonprofit, is not very accessible to minority entrepreneurs.

"You aren't going to find somebody who has an idea or the means to start a business on Pine Street, because you're not on Pine Street," Hawkins said of the organizations Hart referenced.

Hawkins said when she first sought to tap into the \$10 million DRI grant she was not aware that some of the applicants in the process had been working for five years to help the city win the grant, and were much better prepared for the process than a newcomer such as herself.

"They keep saying [information] was on the city's web page, and it was on the Facebook and all that stuff, and it was in The Leader-Herald, but, again — I have an office in the CRG — and I was one of the people who was misinformed, so I feel like the information needs to be more," she said. "I didn't realize this was a five-year project that they've been working on for five years, and got rejected. I didn't know about the long term process leading up to

the city actually winning this. I didn't know a lot of these projects were a part of the prior applications, so I was misinformed. That information should have been available."

Nagle said she's been involved with each of the five rounds of New York state's \$10 million DRI contest, and in her experience the projects that tend to get DRI funding support are the ones that are most ready to begin the fastest. She rejected the notion that Gloversville's DRI process has a lot of projects that have been in the works for five years.

"Everyone who withdrew, withdrew for different reasons," she said of the withdrawn projects. "The timeframe is set by the DRI program, and I'm just facilitating this process."

Nagle said she believes New York state wants a fast-turnaround for the DRI process in part based on an economic development philosophy that uses the DRI funding as the last piece of a project that is ready to break ground immediately, rather than as a "first-in" funding that stimulates private sector investment.

"It isn't intended to be first money in as a spark, and I've said this publicly. The intent of the DRI is really to help close a gap at the end, a project that is really close to being completed, but needs a little bit of financial help to get there," she said.

Medina, originally from Puerto Rico, is one of the few, if not the only, business owner who identifies as part of a minority population in Gloversville's DRI zone. His DRI proposal was to renovate the building he owns to create some light manufacturing of the "in-house hair care line of products" he sells at the barber shop and to create three apartments. He pulled out of the DRI process.

"I actually voluntarily withdrew from the DRI grant, not because it would have been impossible for me, because if a company can meet all of the criteria for these DRI funds they will get the DRI funds," he said. "The project I was proposing would have cost about \$1.5 million and there would have been almost no way for me to get that value back from the building because 10 or 20 years from now the building would still not be worth that much, so it would have been great to create that business in this building, but it just wasn't something I wanted to commit to. Even though the building could be occu-