

EASTERN EUROPE

Russia attacks Ukraine

Anton Lytvyn, a 28-year-old reservist, packed his gear at his house in Kyiv, Ukraine, after he was called up to active duty on Wednesday.



Chris McGrath/Getty Images

Biden calls military actions 'unjustified,' says world will hold Moscow accountable

FROM WIRE REPORTS

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday announced that a military operation was underway in Ukraine and warned other countries that any attempt to interfere with the Russian action would lead to "consequences they have never seen."

In a televised address, Putin said that the action came in response to threats coming from Ukraine and that the operation was intended to protect civilians in eastern Ukraine — a claim the U.S. had predicted he

would falsely make to justify an invasion.

He added that Russia didn't have a goal to occupy Ukraine, and he said the responsibility for bloodshed lies with the Ukrainian "regime."

As Putin spoke, explosions were heard in Kyiv, the capital, as well as Kharkiv, Odessa and other areas of Ukraine.

President Joe Biden denounced the "unprovoked and unjustified" attack on Ukraine and said the world will "hold Russia accountable." He described Putin's actions as a "chosen premeditated war that will bring a catastrophic loss of life and human suffering."

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AT A GLANCE

U.S. troop movement

More than 90,000 U.S. troops are in Europe or sailing near it, with about 35,000 based in Germany alone. Some recent actions:

ARMY: Several thousand 82nd Airborne soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., were deployed to Poland; another 1,000 soldiers operating Stryker armored combat vehicles were moved from Germany to Romania.

NAVY: Among the assets already in the area or heading to the area are the Harry S. Truman carrier strike group, a powerful formation of ships that includes an aircraft carrier; P-8A Poseidon surveillance planes, which specialize in hunting submarines; up to eight F-35 fighter jets.

The Washington Post

WEATHER

Winter delivers a warning



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

Crews worked to de-ice an American Airlines jet as temperatures and light precipitation fell Wednesday at DFW International Airport. Hundreds of departures and arrivals were canceled Wednesday and for today.

Freezing rain expected to coat roads with ice, canceling classes, flights

By **JAMIE LANDERS** and **NATALY KEOMOUNGKHOUN**
Staff Writers

Just three weeks after a winter storm coated Dallas-Fort Worth in a layer of ice for several days, North Texans found themselves Wednesday

INSIDE

HUNDREDS of flights canceled for DFW and Love Field airports. **3B**

ONLINE

UPDATED list of area school closings. dallasnews.com/news/education

day once again bracing for another blast of frigid air and freezing precipitation.

School districts across the region

canceled classes Thursday as North Texas remained under a winter storm warning, with rain forecast to turn into ice overnight Wednesday. Dallas, Fort Worth, Plano, Frisco and Allen ISDs were among the dozens of districts to call off school on Thursday.

The storm also brought hazardous conditions to North Texas roads — Dallas police had responded to more than 360 calls about traffic ac-

cidents by 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Dallas police Maj. Paul Junger said there was a limited number of tow trucks available, particularly for freeway crashes. He urged people to stay off the roads if they could, but, if travel is necessary, to drive slowly.

"Leave plenty of time, plenty of space and pack plenty of patience," Junger said.

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Abbott disputes price setting

Ex-ERCOT chief: Governor ordered high electricity rates

By **PHILIP JANKOWSKI**
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AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott's campaign is disputing accounts that he ordered Texas' power grid operator to set electricity prices at a sky-high cap during 2021's deadly winter storm.

Abbott's critics and his presumptive Democratic opponent in November's election pounced on reports of testimony in federal court from former ERCOT CEO Bill Magnus on Wednesday.

Magnus, during a bankruptcy trial in Houston on Tuesday, testified that Abbott had given orders to the Public Utility Commission to take any and all action to prevent further blackouts during the winter storm. The implication was that Abbott essentially ordered the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to artificially inflate electricity prices, which remained in place long after they were necessary.

Abbott campaign spokesman Mark Miner said Abbott had no hand in directly setting pricing.

"As Texans would expect, Governor

See **ABBOTT** Page 3A

RESTAURANTS

Why Dallas eateries are now adding service fees

Diners seeing higher prices at bottom of receipts can thank prolonged pandemic

By **SARAH BLASKOVICH**
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Detail-oriented Dallas diners might have noticed something peculiar at the bottom of some restaurant receipts lately: What's this extra "service charge" fee?

It's a tactic some restaurants are

using to collect a little more cash during a prolonged coronavirus pandemic when food prices and labor costs are skyrocketing.

Service fees are often given to untipped kitchen workers, which in turn offers an incentive for cooks who wouldn't ordinarily make more than an hourly wage. Restaurant operators can implement them however they want — if they choose to at all. In Dallas, we're seeing service fees of 3%

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ONLINE

BUILD your own ballot that you can take with you to the polls. dallasnews.com/voterguide

READ about candidates' views on issues, in their own words. dallasnews.com/voterguide

BROWSE a list of 349 candidates and all 122 races. dallasnews.com/voterguide

FIND OUT which candidates the editorial board recommends. dallasnews.com/opinion/#/we-recommend

ELECTIONS '22 | GOVERNOR

Candidates cashing in with California donors

Despite disparaging the Golden State, Abbott has benefited from allies there

By **ROBERT T. GARRETT**
Austin Bureau
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AUSTIN — Beto O'Rourke has Walt Disney's great nephew and singer-across-songwriter Bette Midler in his camp. But Greg Abbott is the true shaker of the California money trees, pulling in

six-figure donations from two Orange County businessmen in real estate and proprietary higher education, according to the latest campaign-finance reports.

In the most recent period, both of the leading contenders for Texas governor posted strong fundraising results. However, Abbott led in the West Coast sweepstakes.

Between Jan. 21 and Saturday, the two-term Republican incumbent took in

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Icy and very cold



Metro, back page

INSIDE

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METRO

Shaq shares some lessons
Basketball great Shaquille O'Neal spoke at a fundraiser for St. Philip's School and told students about the habits that helped him succeed. **1, 8B**

BUSINESS

Supply chain woes to persist
Supply chain issues won't disappear this year, port officials said, because container vessels keep arriving while major issues remain unresolved. **3B**

NATION & WORLD

Trans approach criticized
The Biden administration said it was dangerous for Texas elected officials to label affirming medical care for transgender youth "child abuse." **2A**

Market summary table with columns for S&P 500, DOW JONES, NASDAQ, U.S. BONDS, DOLLAR, GOLD, CRUDE OIL, NAT. GAS, CATTLE, CORN, COTTON. Includes day, 1-year, and YTD percentage changes.

Stock market performance table with columns for Stock, Close, Chg, 1-wk, 1-yr, and 5-yr returns. Includes sub-sections for MOST ACTIVE, BEST PERFORMERS, WORST PERFORMERS, and BEST 1-YEAR RETURN.

Business Briefing section with a sign-up for free newsletters and a table of stock market performance data.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dallas' Lantern plays a role in acquisition

Investors join backers in \$35M purchase of Studios of Paris. By ALEXANDRA SKORES. The Dallas investor duo who bought Harvey Weinstein's entertainment company has struck another deal, partnering with an Italian firm to acquire studios in Paris that have produced titles such as Emily in Paris and Murder

Mystery 2. Lantern Entertainment, co-founded by Andy Mitchell and Milos Brajovic, is one of the backers of Tarak Ben Ammar's \$35 million purchase of Studios of Paris. The studios include nine sound stages totaling 120,000 square feet. Ben Ammar, who co-founded the studios a decade ago and owned a 25% stake in the, completed the acquisition via Eagle Pictures France, a subsidiary of the Italian production and distribution pow-

erhouse. California-based private equity firm IRA Capital also is one of his backers. Mitchell said a surge in studio development demand is one of the main reasons for the acquisition. "It was just a lot easier to produce television, movies and commercials inside of a soundstage because you can control the environment vs. trying to do it on the outside," Mitchell said. "So there's been a surge of demand for additional places."

house. California-based private equity firm IRA Capital also is one of his backers. Mitchell said a surge in studio development demand is one of the main reasons for the acquisition. "It was just a lot easier to produce television, movies and commercials inside of a soundstage because you can control the environment vs. trying to do it on the outside," Mitchell said. "So there's been a surge of demand for additional places." moved its Dallas headquarters from The Crescent to Old Parkland last fall, Mitchell said. He said he considers Texas as to be an ideal business environment. "We still have offices in L.A.," Mitchell said. "You can't be in Hollywood and not be in Hollywood, but I like to continue to grow in Texas." Netflix recently agreed to invest \$45 million in at least 10 French and European films over the next three years. All of the films under the deal will have a theatrical premiere in France and launch on the streaming platform 15 months later. Netflix's Murder Mystery 2, starring Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler, is filming at Studios of Paris. Mitchell and Brajovic paid \$289 million for Harvey Weinstein's entertainment company in a bankruptcy auction in 2019. The two cleaned out Weinstein's management team and formed a partnership with the former CEO of Metro Goldwyn Mayer to lead the company. "We continue to invest in the production of world class content," Mitchell said. "It's kind of a vertical integration. Instead of just being a production company and producing movies and films, we are now acquiring and controlling the production assets." Lantern Entertainment, founded in 2018, is part of Lantern Capital Partners LP. Twitter: @AlexandraSkores

REDEVELOPMENT

Pegasus signs on Stemmoms tower to get makeover

Effort is part of revamp of old Mobil offices into medical campus



The signs are on two sides of the 18-story tower at Pegasus Park, a redeveloped 23-acre campus for biotech, medical and nonprofit firms. Lewisville-based FSGS is bringing the iconic signs into the 21st century with new LED lights and repairs.

By STEVE BROWN, Real Estate Editor. Two of Dallas' flying red horses — the city's unofficial symbols — are getting a makeover as part of a major real estate redevelopment. The 19-foot signs are on two sides of an 18-story office tower on Stemmoms Freeway northwest of downtown. The high-rise previously housed offices for Mobil Oil, which used the red Pegasus symbols as its signature for decades. The former Mobil tower has been redone as part of a 23-acre campus for biotech, medical and nonprofit firms. Called Pegasus Park, it's a project of J. Small Investments and Lydia Hill Philanthropies. As part of the ambitious development, the Pegasus signs will also get a revamp. Lewisville-based sign company FSGS is bringing the iconic signs into the 21st century with new LED lights and repairs. "Our team is very excited and proud to be part of this project and making our mark on

the Dallas skyline," FSGS owner Indu Sanka said in a statement. The Stemmoms Freeway signs are two of four in the Dallas area. The red Pegasus was originally the trademark of Dallas' Magnolia Oil Co., which merged with Mobil in 1959. Starting in 1934, the red-lighted flying red horse has been on top of the landmark downtown Magnolia Building in downtown — for years Dallas' tallest building. Magnolia Oil erected the sign on its headquarters to welcome a petroleum industry conference being held in Dallas. In 1999, the Pegasus sign on top of the Commerce Street tower was replaced with an exact replica. The original neon sign is displayed in front of downtown Dallas' Omni Hotel. Mobil moved its downtown Dallas offices to the Stemmoms Freeway campus in the late

1980s and added two Pegasus signs. The tower was built as the headquarters of Dallas-based jeweler Zale Corp. In 2015, Exxon Mobil sold the building near Dallas Love Field to J. Small Investments and moved those operations out of the area. After extensive renovations, the high-rise and surrounding smaller buildings now house operations for UT Southwestern Medical Center, Massachusetts-based BioLabs, Taysha Gene Therapies, Health Wildcaters and other medical and research firms. Dallas architect GFF designed the Pegasus Park redevelopment. "Pegasus Park brings together the nonprofit community, biolab and medical industry leaders to create a campus for innovation," GFF's Russell Hagg said in a statement. Twitter: @SteveBrownDMN

HIGHER RATE REAL ESTATE Higher loan payments seen locally

Rising mortgage rates, prices take toll on homebuyers, analysts say

By STEVE BROWN, Real Estate Editor. North Texas homebuyers are already paying the price for higher mortgage rates. Average Dallas-Fort Worth mortgage payments were more than a third higher — by \$351 a month — in January than a year earlier due to interest increases and home price hikes, according to a new report by Zillow Group. The average D-FW mortgage payment last month was \$1,254, not including taxes, insurance and other expenses, Zillow analysts said. Nationwide home mortgage costs rose to a record average \$1,162 last month, up \$277 a month in a year. The mortgage payment for a typical U.S. home has jumped 31% in the past year and is forecast to continue to increase. Higher home finance costs along with soaring home values are to blame. "If we had January 2021 prices with this January's interest rates, mortgage payments would have risen 9.5%," Zillow chief economist Jeff Tucker said. "If instead, rates had remained unchanged, mortgage payments would have risen exactly as much as home values." "So if we are diving up the blame, I'd assign it in proportion to those two numbers, with interest rates responsible for 32% of the rise and 68% attributable to rising prices." The average nationwide interest on long-term, fixed-rate mortgages in the U.S. has risen from 2.73% in January 2021 to 3.55% in the same month this year. Economists are forecasting even further mortgage hikes during the remainder of 2022, pushing average costs well above 4%. Home loan costs are expected to rise as the Federal Reserve raises borrowing costs to fight inflation. "Looking ahead, mortgage rates are extremely difficult to predict long term," Tucker said. "Our forecast calls for a 20.8% increase in home values in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro by January 2023, a decent step down from the 26.8% appreciation seen over the course of the last year." Median D-FW home sales prices top \$350,000 — more than double where they were a decade ago. Area home prices are growing at unheard of rates due to a severe shortage of housing inventory and thousands of new residents coming to the area. Twitter: @SteveBrownDMN

SOUTHERN DALLAS

Amazon plans its second D-FW shipping hub

Online retail giant to occupy distribution center south of I-20. By STEVE BROWN, Real Estate Editor. E-commerce giant Amazon is eyeing another huge shipping hub in southern Dallas County. The Seattle-based digital retailer is already North Texas' largest occupier of warehouse and distribution space, with more than 12 million square feet of buildings. The company is also the country's biggest warehouse user, with

almost 400 million square feet of space, according to some reports. Amazon is now working on designs for another more than 1-million-square-foot distribution center south of Interstate 20. It plans to occupy the huge DalParc Logistics Center building on Telephone Road, documents filed with the state indicate. The huge warehouse was recently completed by VanTrust Real Estate. Construction for the Amazon shipping hub is set for completion later this year and includes "offices, break rooms, restrooms, trucker lounge, warehouse space,

guardhouse, locker room and parking lot expansion," according to planning documents. Illinois-based Korte Design Inc., which has a long history of working on Amazon projects, is the architect for the building improvements. An Amazon construction manager is identified for the project. The Telephone Road building Amazon has landed in is one of three warehouses VanTrust has built in the business park. Amazon leased a more than 900,000-square-foot building in the same industrial park in 2017. Developer VanTrust is starting work on another 245,000-square-foot speculative warehouse in the DalParc Logistics Center development. Amazon uses multiple distribution buildings in southern Dallas County and is also expanding its footprint east of Dallas and north of Fort Worth. VanTrust is also building warehouses in South Fort Worth and in Forney, east of Dallas. The developer is a partner in the \$2 billion Frisco Station mixed-use project on the Dallas North Tollway in Frisco. Twitter: @SteveBrownDMN