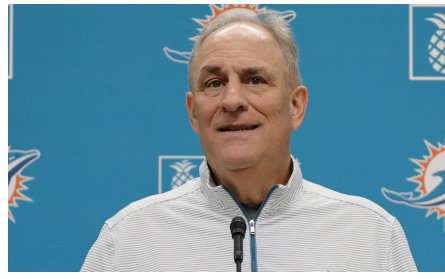


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## WAR IN UKRAINE

# Biden makes surprise visit to Kyiv

By Evan Vucci, John Leicester and Aamer Madhani  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — President Joe Biden swept unannounced into Ukraine on Monday to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in

a defiant display of Western solidarity with a country still fighting what he called “a brutal and unjust war” days before the first anniversary of Russia’s invasion. “One year later, Kyiv stands,” Biden declared after meeting Zelenskyy at Mariinsky Palace.

Jabbing his finger for emphasis on his podium, against a backdrop of three flags from each country, he continued: “And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands. The Americans stand with you, and the world stands with you.” Biden spent more than five

hours in the Ukrainian capital, consulting with Zelenskyy on next steps, honoring the country’s fallen soldiers and seeing U.S. Embassy staff in the besieged country. Altogether he was on Ukrainian territory for about 23 hours, traveling by train from and back to Poland.

The visit came at a crucial moment: Biden is trying to keep allies unified in their support for Ukraine as the war is expected to intensify with spring offensives. Zelenskyy is pressing allies

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

## Unelected aides can get inside advantage

How elected officials hire helpers without opening jobs to others

By Lisa J. Huriash  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

When a Broward County commissioner hired an aide without opening the job up for the public to apply in January, it was the rule — not an exception.

All nine of the county’s commissioners hire their own staff for full-time pay and county benefits without a formal process or a chance for the public to compete for the jobs. That includes County Commissioner Michael Udine’s selection of a former Tamarac mayor, and Broward’s Vice Mayor Nan Rich’s choice of a former Hallandale Beach city commissioner.

The commissioners’ hiring practices were recently thrust into the public spotlight when Tamarac’s vice mayor was forced to quit his \$80,000-a-year county job after the South Florida Sun Sentinel raised questions about how he was hired.

While a government watchdog says the ideal, ethical way would be to publicly advertise such positions as part of doing “the public’s business,” the county says the current process lets commissioners find and hire the person they want on their own.

Turn to Aides, Page 7



A Spider-Man-themed work area at One Cowork shared workspace in Boca Raton on Thursday. CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## In this together

Boca Raton a top neighborhood in US for co-working spaces

By Spencer Norris  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Boca Raton residents aren’t really working with their co-workers, per se.

The city was ranked as the suburb with the sixth-highest number of co-working spaces in the nation, according to a study published by CoworkingCafe. The study

defined a suburb as any city except the largest one in a particular metro area.

The renters run the gamut: shoestring startup owners, crypto traders, car-part suppliers, an Invisalign competitor and real estate agents, to name a few.

And it looks like the odd officemates are there to stay. Even though co-working spaces were conceived of as temporary

solutions, many are staying for years because of the national shift towards hybrid workplaces. Others are using them as launching pads for their startups before they can upgrade to a long-term office lease.

Maximillian Ramirez, a manager at The One Cowork, said that turnover is

Turn to Together, Page 2



Students who attend Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland walk to school from a parking lot in Coral Springs on Sept. 14, 2022. JOE CAVARETTA/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## 351 students won’t attend Stoneman Douglas to ease crowding

By Lisa J. Huriash  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School isn’t Broward’s only overcrowded school, or even the most overcrowded. But it is the only one rezoned for the upcoming school year to move out hundreds of students.

All students currently living in an area proposed for change and

currently attending Stoneman Douglas are allowed to stay until graduation. Only incoming students will have to attend a new school.

Stoneman Douglas now has about 3,500 students, when its intended capacity is 3,077, district officials said. Citing the overcrowding that has created some “impassable hallways” and forced some students to eat lunch outside

or on the floor, Broward’s School Board decided they would take action now.

Of the 351 students who’d go to a school other than Stoneman Douglas in the next four years, the boundary change would affect 88 current students who will be in ninth grade the next school year.

It’s a number small enough to ease overcrowding, but not large enough to lead to empty seats,

which could force the school to accept “reassignment” students from other neighborhoods throughout the county, officials said.

Reassignment is a process where students can enter a lottery to attend schools where there is extra space for them and avoid their zoned school.

Turn to Students, Page 7

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# Ukraine

from Page 1

to speed up delivery of promised weapon systems and calling on the West to provide fighter jets — something that Biden has declined to do.

Biden got a taste of the terror that Ukrainians have lived with for close to a year when air raids sirens howled just as he and Zelenskyy wrapped up a visit to the gold-domed St. Michael's Cathedral.

Looking solemn, they continued unperturbed as they laid wreaths and held a moment of silence at the Wall of Remembrance honoring Ukrainian soldiers killed since 2014, the year Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and Russian-backed fighting erupted in eastern Ukraine.

The White House would not go into specifics, but national security adviser Jake Sullivan said it notified Moscow of Biden's visit to Kyiv shortly before his departure from Washington "for deconfliction purposes" in an effort to avoid any miscalculation that could bring the two nuclear-armed nations into direct conflict.

In Kyiv, Biden announced an additional \$500 million in U.S. assistance — on top of the more than \$50 billion already provided — for shells for howitzers, anti-tank missiles, air surveillance radars and other aid but no new advanced weaponry.

Biden's mission with his visit to Kyiv, which came before a scheduled trip to Warsaw, Poland, is to underscore that the United States is prepared to stick with Ukraine "as long as it takes" to repel Russian forces even as public opinion polling suggests that U.S. and allied support for providing weaponry and direct economic assistance has started to soften.

For Zelenskyy, the symbolism of having the U.S. president stand side by side with him on Ukrainian land as the anniversary nears is no small thing as he prods allies to provide more advanced weaponry and step up delivery.



President Joe Biden walks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy outside St. Michael's Cathedral in Kyiv. **EVAN VUCCI/AP**

"I thought it was critical that there not be any doubt, none whatsoever, about U.S. support for Ukraine in the war," Biden said.

Biden's trip was a rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who had hoped his military would swiftly overrun Kyiv within days. Biden recalled speaking with Zelenskyy on the night of the Feb. 24 invasion, saying, "That dark night one year ago, the world was literally at the time bracing for the fall of Kyiv. Perhaps even the end of Ukraine."

A year later, the Ukrainian capital remains firmly in Ukrainian control. Although a semblance of normalcy has returned to the city, regular air raid sirens and frequent missile and drone attacks against military and civilian infrastructure across the country are a near-constant reminder that the war is still raging. The bloodiest fighting is, for the moment, concentrated in the country's east, particularly around the city of Bakhmut, where Russian offensives are underway.

At least six civilians have been killed and 17 more have been wounded in Ukraine over the past

24 hours, Ukraine's presidential office reported.

In the eastern Donetsk region, the Russian military was using aviation to strike cities on the front line. A total of 15 cities and villages have been shelled over the past 24 hours, according to the region's Ukrainian Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, cities near the border with Russia came under fire. A missile strike hit Kupiansk, damaging a hospital, a plant and residential buildings.

"The cost that Ukraine has had to bear has been extraordinarily high," Biden said. "And the sacrifices have been far too great." But "Putin's war of conquest is failing."

Signing a guest book at the presidential palace, Biden praised Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people, closing with "Slava Ukraini!" — "Glory to Ukraine!"

This was Biden's first visit to a war zone as president. His recent predecessors, Donald Trump, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, made surprise visits to Afghanistan and Iraq during their presidencies.



Mary Richter, whose company is based in New York, works at One Cowork space in Boca Raton on Thursday. **CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

# Together

from Page 1

remarkably low for a venture based around the idea of allowing people to pick up leave without multi-year leases.

"I've had clients out here that have been with us since opening day," Ramirez said. It took some time to create an initial client base, "but I'll say most of these clients that we've had here since then have stuck around with us," he said.

Demand for some Boca co-working spaces has been consistent since they opened their doors. The One hit 92% occupancy about four months after it started promoting its space, Ramirez said. An annex that nearly doubled their square footage in June last year is already at about 80% capacity. Brooke Howard, a coordinator at CoSuite, said her company's Boca location is at capacity and has created a waitlist for new customers.

She expects demand to only go up in coming years.

Howard attributed the popularity of co-working in Boca to its reputation as a startup incubator. Smaller companies on shoestring budgets might not want to sink money into

a multiyear office lease, especially if there's questions about whether the business will work out in the long-term. CoSuite decided to offer options that cater to those smaller companies and one-person startups that don't need a whole office space.

To some extent, co-working spaces are also riding the coattails of the COVID economy. The shift towards remote and hybrid work models gave co-working spaces a boost. Some companies have eschewed traditional leases altogether and now rent co-working offices and desks for employees, Howard said.

Plus, with a shift to remote work, many people are just lonely. Many are opting for a work environment where they know they'll see other faces, even if they aren't their actual colleagues.

"A lot of people, they're getting sick of being in their homes, and they want a sense of community," Howard said.

Even though life has largely returned to normal three years into the pandemic, the owners of the co-working spaces are optimistic that the boon to their business model is permanent. Both CoSuite and The One have plans to expand their operations in the near future.

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**Fireball:** 7  
**Pick 2 (evening):** 0-8  
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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.

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