

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



White House hesitates to level sanctions upon Russia's oil and gas industry while critics assert it's the only way to restrict Putin's ability to finance war

FREEDOM FROM RUSSIAN PETROLEUM



By Orion Donovan-Smith
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WASHINGTON – As Russia's invasion of Ukraine roils global energy markets, Northwest Republicans are calling on President Joe Biden to boost U.S. oil and gas production and impose sanctions on Russian fossil fuel exports in an effort to weaken the Kremlin's leverage over Europe.

In response to the invasion, the United States and its allies have levied sanctions on Russian banks, state-owned businesses and even President Vladimir Putin himself. But the White House has resisted targeting Russia's oil and gas industry – which accounted for more than a third of the country's budget in 2021 – over fears of further disrupting markets already unsettled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Russia depends on those revenues just as much as the world needs its energy," Daleep Singh, Biden's deputy national security adviser, said

See **OIL, 8**



SHUTTERSTOCK

Ukrainian community thrives in Spokane

Because of U.S. policy, many didn't choose city; it was chosen for them

By Colin Tiernan
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Everyone knows the story. Christians, fleeing religious persecution in Europe, made the arduous trek over the Atlantic Ocean to reach America and freedom. It's the story of the Pilgrims, who settled in Massachusetts 400 years ago.

It's also the story of how thousands of Slavs settled in Spokane.

Many Spokanites are feeling shock, anger and despair as they watch Russia invade Ukraine. But for a significant percentage of the community, the invasion is personal.

Spokane's Slavic residents represent all Eastern European countries, and most arrived from the Soviet Union between the late 1980s and early 2000s.

It's difficult to pinpoint how many Slavs live in Spokane County. Alex Kaprian, a Ukrainian American pastor at Pilgrim Slavic Baptist Church, said the best guess puts the number at roughly 50,000 Slavs in the Spokane area, and Ukrainians make up the largest percentage of that figure. All throughout Spokane County, Ukrainian Americans are terrified for their friends and family

See **SPOKANE, 8**



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A protester waves a Ukrainian flag as he takes part in a demonstration outside a NATO leaders virtual summit on Friday at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

MORE ON CRISIS

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR UKRAINIANS IN STATE

Several Washington organizations strive to support Ukrainian Americans who have relocated to the U.S.

NORTHWEST, 4

FIERCE FIGHTING CONTINUES AS RUSSIANS TRY TO ADVANCE

U.S., EU rushed ammunition, weapons to the country as explosions continued to go off outside Kyiv. More than 150,000 civilians have fled.

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SUNDAY, February 27, 2022

139th VOL., ISSUE 264 - EST. MAY 19, 1883

Spokane, Washington



Sometimes I would have to get in between him and my daughter."

Renee Butcher, mother of young actor

Former employees say theater leaders ignored their pleas for safety

Sexual assault of young actress one of several allegations by workers

By Emma Epperly
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane Children's Theater leadership allowed a lighting technician to continue participating in productions with kids for more than a year after multiple people associated with the theater raised concerns about his inappropriate behavior, according to multiple sources who worked for the theater or served on its board. Galen Myers is awaiting

trial in Spokane for allegedly raping a young actress in the theater parking lot.

The ignored concerns about Myers, now a convicted sex offender for different incidents, are just one of many problems at the theater that led to an unsafe environment, said a former board president of the theater and two adults who led productions there. The concerns center

See **THEATER, 9**

BLACK VIOLIN

Since officially forming their now Grammy-nominated duo in 2004, Wil B and Kev Marcus have been a mainstay in modern music, composing the score for Fox's "Pitch" and touring with Wu-Tang Clan and Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park in addition to working on solo projects. They bring their unique sound to Spokane on Thursday at the Fox. **TODAY, 1**



NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The Black Lens is published in Spokane, focusing on information important to the Black community. **NEWS, 6-7**

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