

RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR

Russian attack on western Ukraine hits an American factory

SAMYA KULLAB
and ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched a rare drone and missile attack on western Ukraine overnight, officials said Thursday, striking targets including an American-owned electronics plant and injecting further uncertainty into the U.S.-led efforts to end the three-year-old war.

The aerial assault on a part of Ukraine that has largely avoided such focused attacks was one of Russia’s biggest this year and came amid Moscow’s objections to key aspects of proposals that could end the fighting following Russia’s February 2022 invasion of its neighbor.

U.S. President Donald Trump discussed the war with Russian



Ukrainian servicemen of the 44th artillery brigade fire a 2s22 Bohdana self-propelled howitzer towards Russian positions at the frontline in the Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025.

President Vladimir Putin in Alaska last week before hosting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders

at the White House on Monday. Russia’s Defense Ministry said the strikes targeted “enterprises of the Ukrainian

military-industrial complex,” including drone factories, storage depots, missile launch sites and areas where Ukrainian troops were gathered. Russia has repeatedly denied targeting civilian areas of Ukraine.

But in a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote that “the Russians practically burned down an American company producing electronics — home appliances, nothing military.”

“The Russians knew exactly where they lobbed the missiles. We believe this was a deliberate attack against American property and investments in Ukraine,” Zelenskyy wrote, adding: “Telling attack, right as the world awaits a clear answer from Russia on negotiations to end the war.”

Trump last month questioned Putin’s commitment to ending

the war, saying the Russian leader “talks nice and then he bombs everybody.”

In a social media post Thursday, Trump criticized his predecessor, Joe Biden, for not providing Ukraine with more weaponry it needs to “fight back.”

“It is very hard, if not impossible, to win a war without attacking an invaders country,” Trump said. “It’s like a great team in sports that has a fantastic defense, but is not allowed to play offensive. There is no chance of winning! It is like that with Ukraine and Russia.”

The White House didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on whether Trump is considering changes to the types of weapons the U.S. will provide to Kyiv.

LAW

Appeals court throws out massive civil fraud penalty against President Trump

JENNIFER PELTZ
and MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York appeals court on Thursday threw out President Donald Trump’s massive financial penalty while narrowly upholding a judge’s finding that he engaged in fraud by exaggerating his wealth for decades. The ruling spares Trump from a potential half-billion-dollar fine but bans him and his two eldest sons from serving in corporate leadership for a few years.

Trump claimed “TOTAL VICTORY” in the case, which stemmed from a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James.

“They stole \$550 million from me with a fake case and it was overturned,” Trump said, echoing his earlier social media post as he addressed police in Washington, D.C. “They said this was a fake case. It was a terrible thing.”

James, a Democrat, focused on the parts of the decision that went her way,



Former President Donald Trump sits in the courtroom before the start of closing arguments in his civil business fraud trial at New York Supreme Court, Jan. 11, 2024, in New York.

saying in a statement that it “affirmed the well-supported finding of the trial court: Donald Trump, his company, and two of his children are liable for fraud.”

The ruling came seven months after Trump returned to the White House, his political fortunes unimpeded by the civil fraud judgment, a criminal conviction and other legal blows. A sharply divided panel of five judges in the state’s mid-level Appellate Division couldn’t agree on many issues raised

in Trump’s appeal, but a majority said the monetary penalty was “excessive.”

A lower-court judge, Arthur Engoron, had ordered Trump last year to pay \$355 million in penalties after finding that he flagrantly padded financial statements provided to lenders and insurers. With interest, the sum has topped \$515 million. Additional penalties for executives at his company, the Trump Organization, including sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr., have brought the total to \$527 million with interest.

AN ‘EXCESSIVE’ FINE

“While harm certainly occurred, it was not the cataclysmic harm that can justify a nearly half-billion-dollar award” to the state, Judges Dianne Renwick and Peter Moulton wrote in one of three opinions shaping the appeals court’s ruling. They called the penalty “an excessive fine that violates the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.” Both were appointed

by Democratic governors.

Engoron’s other punishments, upheld by the appeals court, have been on pause during Trump’s appeal, and the president was able to hold off collection of the money by posting a \$175 million bond.

Donald Trump Jr. celebrated the decision by mocking James, who had periodically posted a running tally of the fraud penalty, with interest. Over a post from James in February 2024, when the tally was nearly \$465 million, Trump Jr. wrote: “I believe you mean \$0.00. Thank you for your attention to this matter.”

The five-judge panel, which split on the merits of the lawsuit and Engoron’s

fraud finding, dismissed the monetary penalty in its entirety while also leaving a pathway for an appeal to the state’s highest court, the Court of Appeals. In the

meantime, Trump and his co-defendants, the judges wrote, can seek to extend the pause to prevent any punishments from taking effect.

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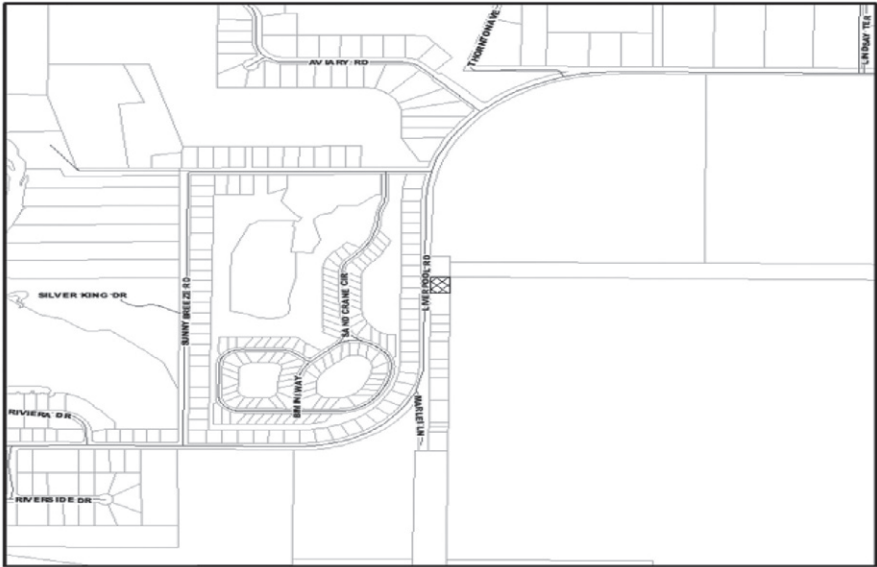
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the below ordinance(s) will be considered at the regularly scheduled Public Hearings/Meetings of the Planning Commission, sitting as the Local Planning Agency, and Board of County Commissioners (Board) on the dates and times listed below, or as soon thereafter, as they may be heard on those dates. All public hearings will be held in the County Commission Meeting Room 103, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida. Copies of the applications and staff reports are available at the Development Department Room 204, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida five days prior to the meeting dates and are available on the County’s website at www.desotobocc.com under Department News and News & announcements. Members of the public may appear and be heard on the matters to be considered. Pursuant to Section 286.0105, F.S., if you want to appeal any decision of the Planning Commission or Board, you will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, you may need to arrange for a verbatim transcript to be prepared.

PLANNING COMMISSION: (PC) Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5:30
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: (Board) Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM

1. Ordinance, EAR Property Co. Rezone (RZNE-0069-2025) PC & Board
AN ORDINANCE OF THE DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FOR A +/- 0.43 ACRE PARCEL FROM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) TO AGRICULTURAL 5 (A-5) FOR PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED IN SOUTHWEST DESOTO COUNTY AT 8355 SW LIVERPOOL ROAD, THE PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BEING 35-39-23-0000-0090-0000 FOR EAR PROPERTY CO; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



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adno=3967430-1

JOIN OUR TEAM

Editor

Do you have an interest in writing? Do you have an interest in Southwest Florida boating, fishing, hunting and other aspects of wildlife?

Waterline is seeking a new full-time editor for the publication who will help guide it and write environmental-based stories for it and for The Daily Sun.

Applicants should have a background in environmental or wildlife journalism. A knowledge of Southwest Florida and its culture of fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife is preferred.

Waterline is a part of Adams MultiMedia, one of the fastest growing media companies in the United States with a variety of benefits.

For additional company information, visit www.adamspg.com.

To apply, send a resume and pertinent news clips to Scott Lawson at scott.lawson@yoursun.com.