

## **Round 1**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson is returning to the Senate for a third day of hearings. She is facing senators again Wednesday morning as Republicans try to paint her as soft on crime and Democrats herald the historic nature of her nomination to become the first Black woman on the high court. On Tuesday, Jackson responded to GOP concerns and highlighted her empathetic style on the bench. The committee's Republicans, several of whom have their eyes on the presidency, tried to brand her — and Democrats in general — as soft on crime, an emerging theme in GOP midterm election campaigns.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's trip to Europe comes at a critical moment for the war in Ukraine, which could become a bloody stalemate as Russia pummels cities with airstrikes and artillery. Biden departs Wednesday on a four-day trip. Biden will meet with allies during a long day of meetings in Brussels on Thursday. NATO, the European Union and the Group of Seven nations are holding summits that day. Biden on Friday is scheduled to continue on to Poland, which has been on the front lines of a growing refugee crisis as millions of people flee the fighting in Ukraine.

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's Internal Security Agency says it has identified 45 Russian secret service officers and their associates who have enjoyed diplomatic status in Poland. The agency is asking the Foreign Ministry to expel the Russians who were described as a danger to Poland's security. The agency also said Wednesday that it detained a Polish citizen on suspicions of espionage for the Russian secret services. The suspect worked in Warsaw's registry office and had access to city archives.

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization says the number of new coronavirus cases globally increased by 7% in the last week, driven by rising infections in the Western Pacific. At the same time, deaths from COVID-19 declined 23%, according to a report by the U.N. health agency issued late Tuesday. Confirmed cases of the virus had been falling steadily worldwide since January but rose again last week, due to the more infectious omicron variant and the suspension of COVID-19 protocols in numerous countries. WHO cautioned that with many countries dropping widespread testing programs, many infections are likely being missed and new case numbers should be interpreted cautiously.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — NATO is estimating that 7,000 to 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in a month of fighting in Ukraine. A senior NATO military official said Wednesday the estimate was based on information from Ukrainian officials, what Russia has released — intentionally or not — and intelligence gathered from open sources. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by NATO.

LONDON (AP) — Britain is pausing to remember thousands of lives lost to the coronavirus, two years to the day after Prime Minister Boris Johnson plunged the country into lockdown with the command: “You must stay at home.” Offices, schools, restaurants, shops and playgrounds were shut under a strict lockdown imposed on March 23, 2020. It lasted for about three months. Members of bereaved families tied yellow ribbons to Westminster Bridge beside Parliament on Wednesday, and a minute’s silence was held at noon. The prime minister said “those lost to COVID will never be out of our hearts and minds, and today we reflect as a nation.” A public inquiry into his government’s handling of the pandemic is due to begin within weeks.

ARABI, La. (AP) — Louisiana is sending 300 National Guard troops to the New Orleans area where tornadoes flipped cars, ripped off rooftops and killed at least one person. The St. Bernard Parish president says a girl on a ventilator was rescued from a house that was lifted up and landed in the middle of a street. Authorities said another parish resident died in the storm, which killed a woman south of Dallas as it moved through Texas. The National Weather Service reported flash flooding and another apparent twister in Alabama. The worst of it appears to be waning over South Carolina.

TISHOMINGO, Okla. (AP) — The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says six teenage students killed in a collision with a semi were riding in a small car with only four seats. Only the 16-year-old driver and front-seat passenger were wearing seat belts when their 2015 Chevrolet Spark collided with a semi Tuesday afternoon in Tishomingo, a rural city of about 3,000 people located about 100 miles southeast of Oklahoma City. The highway patrol says those killed include the 16-year-old driver, three 15-year-olds, and two 17-year-old passengers. The victims’ names weren’t released because they are juveniles.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Robbers smashed the front window of a Beverly Hills jewelry store in broad daylight and fled with millions of dollars worth of merchandise. Witnesses recorded video of Tuesday’s assault on the store, which is the latest in a long string of brazen smash-and-grab thefts and robberies of people wearing expensive watches or jewelry in the Los Angeles region. Luxury Jewels Company President Peter Sedghi tells NBC4 he lost several million worth of merchandise. Beverly Hills police say additional patrols and other measures have been instituted in the area. Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said this week that robberies citywide are up 18% year-to-date compared to 2021.

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Top-ranked Ash Barty has announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 25. Barty says in an emotional video on social media: “I’m so happy and I’m so ready. I just know at the moment in my heart for me as a person this is right.” The announcement, later confirmed by the women’s tennis tour, comes less than two months after Barty won her home Australian Open to claim her third Grand Slam singles title.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Dane County supervisor wants to eliminate the Pledge of Allegiance from county board meetings, claiming the recitation is divisive. Heidi Wegleitner has proposed removing the pledge as well as the word “prayer” from the board rules, which are currently undergoing a biannual redraft. The board’s executive committee will consider Wegleitner’s proposal at a meeting Thursday, although newly elected supervisors would have the final say following the April 5 election. Wegleitner said she looked into which area governmental bodies recite the pledge at the start of meetings and found an inconsistency to whether it was done. Municipalities that don’t have the pledge on their agendas include Madison and Waunakee.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A woman has asked a judge to authorize criminal charges against a white Madison police officer who killed her biracial grandson. The Wisconsin State Journal reports that Tony Robinson's grandmother, Sharon Irwin-Henry, filed a petition Monday asking a judge to authorize homicide charges against Matt Kenny. The petition falls under Wisconsin's so-called John Doe law, which allows citizens to ask judges to approve charges if prosecutors refuse to file any. The family of a man killed by a Wauwatosa officer in 2016 has employed a similar legal maneuver, and the judge's decision in that case is expected within six weeks.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court has thrown out Wisconsin state legislative maps that were preferred by the state’s Democratic governor and selected by Wisconsin’s top court. Republicans had complained that Gov. Tony Evers’ maps moved too many people to create more districts with a majority of Black and Hispanic voters in violation of the federal Voting Rights Act. But while the justices in an unsigned opinion threw out voting maps drawn for the State Assembly and Senate, they left in place state congressional maps. The court sent the case back to Wisconsin's Supreme Court for further action.

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 17 rebounds in his return to action and the Milwaukee Bucks rolled to a 126-98 victory over the Chicago Bulls. Antetokounmpo missed the Bucks’ 138-119 loss at Minnesota on Saturday due to a sore right knee. Milwaukee played without All-Star forward Khris Middleton because of a sore left wrist. Jrue Holiday had 27 points. Brook Lopez made his first start for Milwaukee since the season opener. The 7-footer had come off the bench for the Bucks’ last three games after missing 67 due to a back injury.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Free agent defensive tackle Jarran Reed says he’s heading to the Green Bay Packers. Reed indicated his choice by tweeting, “Let’s gooooo #GoPackGo so thankful for the opportunity to continue my career in Green Bay.” The Packers haven’t announced his addition yet. The 29-year-old Reed should fortify a defensive line that features playmaking tackle Kenny Clark but lacks depth. Reed played for the Kansas City Chiefs last season and had 2½ sacks plus a fumble recovery. He spent his first five seasons with the Seattle Seahawks.

**Today**

Sunny, with a high near 41. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight**

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

**Tomorrow**

A slight chance of freezing rain and sleet before 10am, then a chance of rain and sleet between 10am and noon, then a chance of rain after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 42. Southeast wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Tomorrow Night**

Rain. Patchy fog. Low around 40. South wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

**Hunger Task Force :30**

Hunger Task Force has some important updates about getting help with food for your children.

The Pandemic-EBT program has been approved in Wisconsin for this school year.

Pandemic-EBT is a program that provides grocery benefits for families to replace the value of missed school meals. If your child missed school meals due to virtual learning or COVID-related absence any time this school year, you may be eligible. To find out if your child is eligible for Pandemic-EBT or should be receiving benefits, visit [Hunger Task Force dot org](http://HungerTaskForce.org).

BYRAM, Miss. (AP) - A Mississippi school district has begun a hearing for an assistant principal who was fired after reading a book called "I Need a New Butt" to second grade students. Toby Price is trying to regain his job at Gary Road Elementary School in Byram. His employment appeal hearing started Monday and is to continue next week. Hinds County School District Superintendent Delesicia Martin says some teachers were anxious about how parents would react if they learned Price had read aloud a book about a child who tries to find a new backside. Price's attorney says the school library has books with similar themes or illustrations, including "Captain Underpants."

DROHOBYCH, Ukraine (AP) - Ukrainian actress Alla Shkondina is taking on a new role, preparing potato dumplings, meat-filled pancakes and borscht to send to soldiers on the front lines. She was working Monday alongside fellow artists at the repertory theater in the Ukrainian city of Drohobych, one small part of a massive war effort by defiant volunteers across the country. In the theater's warmly lit cafe, where popcorn has gone stale in the month since Russia's invasion, artists in this community near the foot of the Carpathian Mountains are rolling and filling dough to add to the thousands of dumplings they've sent to the front, or to displaced people in need.