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WAR IN UKRAINE

MILITARY EVACUATES SOME CIVILIANS



NINA LIASHONOK, REUTERS

A man plays an accordion on a street, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the frontline city of Kherson on Friday.

Parts of Kherson region under threat as ceasefire expiration nears

RON POPESKI AND ALESSANDRA PRENTICE
Reuters

KHERSON, UKRAINE — Ukraine's military said it evacuated 167 people from threatened areas of southern Kherson region on Sunday as a temporary local ceasefire neared expiry — two days after busloads of residents were brought out of the embattled Russian-held town of Oleshky.

A six-day local ceasefire in Oleshky and the surrounding area was reached after mediation efforts by US first lady Melania Trump and with the involvement of Pope Leo. The ceasefire was due to expire at midnight Moscow time.

It is the longest local pause in fighting since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

"Units of civil-military cooperation of the 'South' group of forces, in cooperation with representatives of local authorities, evacuated 167 civilians to safer points in the Kherson region," Ukraine's General Staff wrote on Telegram.

It said the evacuees included 22 children and 21 people with limited mobility requiring special assistance.

The governor of Kherson region, Oleksandr Prokudin, urged residents to be vigilant as the expiry of the ceasefire neared.

"I also strongly urge you not to visit the so-called 'red zones' — areas and settlements near the Dnipro," Prokudin wrote on Telegram. "The intensity of Russian strikes there remains high, and the threat to life is extremely high."

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, quoted by Russian news agencies, said Russia had a positive view of how the operation was conducted in Oleshky, as well as of the coordination between the two countries' human rights commissioners.

The pope said he hoped cooperation between Russia and Ukraine in implementing a ceasefire in Oleshky would pave the way for broader peace efforts.

Melania Trump, writing on X, said the ceasefire "has provided residents with the freedom to move, access to food, clean water, medicine, plus a renewed sense of dignity without the constant threat of attack."

On Saturday, starved and exhausted residents of Oleshky crossed into Ukraine after a circuitous journey from the area, just a few miles from the front line.

They first traveled by bus via Crimea, annexed by Russia from Ukraine in 2014, to the Russian town of Anapa, before flying to Belarus from where they continued to Ukraine.

Please see **UKRAINE,** Page A2

UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN

11% drop in international students drives overall dip

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The Universities of Wisconsin's enrollment has dipped this fall, fueled by a significant drop in international students, the UW system announced Friday.

Overall, 164,579 students are enrolled at UW system schools, a decrease of 1,233, or 0.7%. The slight dip is a departure from last year, when enrollment rose for the third consecutive year.

A decline of 1,134 international students, or 11%, accounts for nearly all of the overall enrollment decrease, said interim President Renée Wachter in a news release Friday.

Total student enrollment, however, fared better than the UW system's initial projected 1% decrease based on first-day student counts released in September. The student enrollment count released Friday was taken on the 10th day of school.

First-year enrollment remained nearly unchanged from fall 2025. The UW system enrolled 28,442 first-year students this fall, nearly three dozen fewer than the year prior.

UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, the UW system's research universities, have reported that even before visa limits were set to take effect, the threat was impeding efforts to enroll students from abroad. A federal judge has temporarily blocked the rule.

7 schools up, 6 down

Among the UW system's universities, seven saw enrollment growth while six reported decreases.

This fall, UW-Eau Claire had the largest enrollment drop by percentage, with a 5.2% decrease, or 497 students, followed by UW-Platteville and UW-Oshkosh.

UW-Madison, the UW system's largest university, saw a loss of 955 students, a 1.9% decrease. The university's own enrollment report published this fall says it has 50,965 students, a 1.6% decrease from last year.

Universities with increases in student enrollment this fall: UW-Milwaukee, UW-Green Bay, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout Polytechnic, UW-Whitewater, UW-Superior and UW-Parkside.

UW-Superior, the UW system's smallest school by enrollment, had the largest percentage increase, with a 7.1% (202 students) increase from the year prior.

By student count, UW-Milwaukee had the largest increase, reporting an additional 1,334 students enrolling this fall, which is a 5.9% increase.

Since the UW system published its fall enrollment in September based on first-day student counts, UW-Parkside switched. Initially reported as having fewer students than last year, Parkside's enrollment actually grew by 2.9%, or 114 people.

Direct admission program grows

A potential driver for enrollment: UW system's program that directly admits students to universities has continued to grow this fall.

Please see **STUDENTS,** Page A2