

Webisode 57DHYAFZZFLHM March 18 2026 Sean Penn receives Oscar made from Ukrainian train metal

In the Webisode 1 Malibu Actor in Ukraine Sean Penn receives symbolic Oscar made from damaged Ukrainian train metal in Kyiv 2 United States Health and Human Services under RFK Junior Officials missed 99 percent of data before ending Covid vaccine recommendation memos reveal US based Covid vaccine guidance for children and pregnant people on ideology instead of evidence critics say 3 United States Doctors Say Court Ruling Cannot Undo RFK Junior Vaccine Damage A federal judge halted the Trump administration changes to vaccine recommendations but the mistrust and fear they have stoked may last for years 4 Ukraine Business roundup Food Halls in Historic Markets and more Ukraine Business News Main Content

1 Malibu Actor in Ukraine Sean Penn receives symbolic Oscar made from damaged Ukrainian train metal in Kyiv **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian March 18 2026 Sean Penn is gifted a symbolic version of the famous statuette made from the damaged metal of a train carriage hit in a Russian strike in Kyiv from the Ukrainian railway company Ukrzaliznytsia Penn receives Oscar made from damaged Ukrainian rail carriage after Zelenskyy meeting The actor skipped Academy Awards ceremony to travel to Ukraine where he was presented with alternative prize The actor Sean Penn walks down a street in Kyiv on March 16 2026 amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine Sean Penn who scored an Oscar for best supporting actor for One Battle After Another on March 15 2026 and is in Ukraine to show support to the war torn country a senior Ukrainian official said Penn a vocal advocate for Ukraine who had visited the country several times has won his third acting Oscar but was not at the ceremony One no show after another The statue which is flat silver and shaped like an Academy Award was given to him by Oleksandr Pertsovskiy CEO of Ukrainian railways who told him You are missing Oscars so we made this one He added It is not golden but it is very real and from the bottom of our hearts Penn 65 replied These are all treasures thank you The actor skipped the ceremony Sunday evening in Los Angeles where he won his third Oscar a best supporting actor award for his performance in the Paul Thomas Anderson One Battle After Another which took a total of six prizes including best director and best picture Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets Sean Penn in his office on March 16 2026 The Sean Penn absence from the Oscars was unexplained on the night but on Monday it was revealed the actor had flown to Ukraine late last week where he was photographed in central Kyiv on Monday wearing sunglasses and carrying a box of cigarettes President Zelenskyy then posted a picture of them sitting together in his office In 2022 Penn loaned one of his Oscars to the president saying This is for you it is just a symbolic silly thing but if I know this is here with you then I will feel better and stronger for the fight He added When you win bring it back to Malibu I will feel much better knowing a piece of me is here Penn has visited the country frequently since Russia invaded four years ago and made a documentary about its president in 2023 His previous two Oscars were for Mystic River in 2004 and Milk in 2009 The actor also won a Bafta for One Battle Against Another in February but was also absent from the ceremony

2 United States Health and Human Services under RFK Junior Officials missed 99 percent of data before ending Covid vaccine recommendation memos reveal US based Covid vaccine guidance for children and pregnant people on ideology instead of evidence critics say **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit**

organization The Guardian March 16 2026 There was scant data behind ending the Covid vaccine recommendation for pregnant people and children according to internal memos made public because of a lawsuit against the US Department of Health and Human Services HHS The memos overlooked hundreds of studies on the benefits and safety of Covid vaccination and set the precedent for making changes to vaccine recommendations based on ideology instead of evidence critics say As officials make dramatic changes to immunization recommendations in the US members of Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ACIP several of whom have expressed anti vaccine views signaled they are taking up vaccines in pregnancy The committee which is scheduled to meet on Wednesday and Thursday reportedly scuttled plans recently to end recommendations for all Covid vaccines using messenger RNA mRNA On May 27 2025 RFK Junior the health secretary and a longtime vaccine opponent made a unilateral change to Covid vaccine recommendations via a post on X the first in a series of changes US health leaders have made to reshape recommendations dramatically for routine immunizations in the US The vaccines would no longer be recommended for healthy children and pregnant people in the US he said Two internal memos on vaccination during pregnancy and childhood both dated May 12 2025 circulated at US health agencies before the decision and they have now come to light as part of the lawsuit brought by the American Academy of Pediatrics against the administration I was blown away by those memos said Kevin Ault an obstetrician and gynecologist who served as an expert for ACIP working groups until outside representatives were excluded Officials missed 99 percent of the data on the topic they analyzed he said Putting together their own evidence base and making decisions via internal memos is highly unusual he added Naima Joseph a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Boston Medical Center who served on the ACIP working group for the Covid vaccine said The citations were not evidence based but more like biased perspectives Taking away the recommendations is not aligned with international recommendations such as the WHO she added and the move put the US out of step with other nations Tracy Beth Høeg who was at the time the senior adviser for clinical sciences to Marty Makary the commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration wrote a short memo with only 12 citations including two of her own studies on Covid vaccines in pregnancy She pointed out that the initial randomized clinical trials from Pfizer Moderna and Novavax excluded pregnant women but did not note that some people became pregnant during the trials and showed no adverse side effects and at least 258 studies have since shown the safety and effectiveness of Covid vaccination in pregnancy The evidence on Covid vaccination was misconstrued and distorted Joseph said Data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC shows no increased risk of short or long term complications from vaccination she said The data are so reassuring and it is really at this point a vaccine well studied in pregnancy The risk of Covid infection conversely remains a big concern Covid infects the placenta which can lead to poor intrauterine growth prematurity stillbirth and other complications Compared with unvaccinated individuals people who receive Covid vaccines in pregnancy have a lower risk of complications keeping recipients out of the hospital and the intensive care unit and preventing pre term delivery Even after years of immunity acquired by infection we are still seeing data to support that vaccination helps Joseph said Ending the recommendation puts pregnant women and their infants at higher risk for complications that are preventable she said There are benefits to vaccination in pregnancy that extend far beyond birth Babies under the age of six months cannot get vaccinated against Covid and they have one of the highest rates of hospitalization for the virus Vaccination in pregnancy can help protect them against serious illness There is also some evidence that

forgoing vaccines in pregnancy may lead to delayed or skipped vaccination for babies **It gets the whole process off to a poor start if there is confusion about maternal vaccines that can bleed over into the first year or two of vaccines for the newborn** Ault said. Officials in May also took aim at Covid vaccines for children. A memo from Matt Memoli, principal deputy director at the National Institutes of Health, and Sara Brenner, principal deputy commissioner of the FDA, said that there was no clear evidence that the benefits of Covid vaccination outweigh the risk of harm in children under 18 years of age **but they cited at least one study that concluded Covid deaths in children had fallen significantly in part because of vaccination**. Other studies, not mentioned by the officials, show **Covid vaccination in childhood helps reduce long term symptoms, complications such as myocarditis and hospitalization**. Members of ACIP said they had created a working group for vaccination in pregnancy in December. Previously, every working group already included **obstetricians and gynecologists as outside experts, but they were excluded from the discussions under RFK Junior**. **After being excluded, the American Academy of Pediatrics left the meetings, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recently announced it would no longer participate as well**.

3 United States **Doctors Say Court Ruling Cannot Undo RFK Junior Vaccine Damage**. A federal judge halted the Trump administration changes to vaccine recommendations, but the mistrust and fear they have stoked may last for years. **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization**. The New York Times, March 17, 2026. After a federal court on Monday halted, at least for now, the Trump administration sweeping changes to vaccine recommendations, pediatricians and researchers expressed **concern that the ruling would have little effect on the confusion and mistrust that those changes have stoked**. Over the past year, pediatricians have reported a **surge in parents** who might once have been persuaded to accept vaccines for their children but are **now staunchly opposed**, as well as parents who **were fully on board but now are unsure**. No one is under the illusion that this puts the genie back in the bottle. Michael Osterholm, who directs the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said of the court ruling, "The damage has been done. The administration actions over the past year, including removing shots against six diseases from the routine childhood vaccination schedule and appointing vaccine critics to a federal advisory panel on immunizations, have given **credence to unfounded fears about the safety of vaccines**," said Jason Schwartz, an associate professor of health policy at the Yale School of Public Health. He added that those moves have made it **harder for parents to know who to trust**. Doctor Schwartz and other experts said they thought it was **unlikely that the court ruling, which effectively reinstates the more expansive vaccine schedule, could swiftly change that**. Doctor Suresh Nagappan, a pediatrician in Greensboro, N.C., said he had seen an increase in parents who sort of threw up their hands and said, "I do not know if I can trust anybody as the administration vaccine guidance strayed further from that of major medical organizations." If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now had one recommendation and the American Academy of Pediatrics had another, they were not confident in either. new parents in St. Paul, Minn., said that when their son was born last month, **they were asked if they wanted a hepatitis B vaccine, a vitamin K injection, and an antibiotic eye ointment**. **The question was neutral**. Schwartz, 30, said with no indication that there is strong medical support for all three. They consented to the shots and the ointment after pressing

for an opinion from their care team which supported all of them. The couple said that they would probably continue to follow the pre-RFK Junior schedule but that they felt less confident and more compelled to ask questions about each individual vaccine. A judge is not a doctor, a judge is not a clinical researcher, so is our whole public health system just based on the opinions of politicians? Jennifer Carraher, an obstetrics nurse at a hospital in Santa Rosa, Calif., said she was frequently present during conversations with new parents and had been unsettled by a shift. Before Ms. Carraher said it was routine to tell parents that the hospital and the CDC recommended those shots. And more parents are declining, she said. The overwhelming majority of Americans still support most childhood vaccines. KFF found that most parents remained confident in the safety of measles, polio, hepatitis B, and flu vaccines, though confidence in the safety of COVID vaccines was starkly split among partisan lines. But even before RFK Junior took office, uptake of some critical shots had slipped. The rate of kindergartners with complete records for the measles vaccine fell from around 95 percent before the pandemic to under 93 percent in 2024, less than the threshold needed for herd immunity that can stem the spread of the virus. While parents who refuse vaccines remain a minority, their decisions can still have significant consequences both for unvaccinated children and for public health. Doctor Megan Ranney, an emergency physician and dean of the Yale School of Public Health, said reversing the decline in trust would require doctors and public health officials to empathize with confused parents, allay their worries, and address broader issues that contribute to poor health and can make people distrustful of the medical system. A court ruling could be a significant step forward because it validated the guidance of organizations that stuck with the previous schedule, like the AAP and the American Medical Association. Many pediatricians said they had always talked to patients about their concerns and answered their questions. In practice, they said, the changes have instead pushed them to treat vaccinating and not vaccinating as equivalent. Pediatricians were really challenged by this because they do not have two equally good options for, say, measles prevention, said Jennifer Reich, a professor at the University of Colorado and the author of *Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines*. They have one really good option and no other option. Doctor Nagappan, whose job involves training new pediatricians, said he was teaching them to immerse themselves in the evidence around vaccines, so they could tell parents they endorsed each shot not because a higher authority said so, but because they had personally assessed the research. A wealth of evidence shows that parents trust pediatricians and primary care doctors. In the experience of Doctor Nagappan, this approach does not convince parents who steadfastly oppose vaccines, but he has found it effective with some who are torn. Reich said it had become harder for parents to access transparent, reliable information on vaccines in the past year. Nobody should have to get a PhD in immunology to be able to make health care decisions for their family, she said.

4 Ukraine Business roundup **RAWSEP View** This is a view of Ukraine as a country still starting viable businesses in the form of Food Halls in Historic Markets in the midst of war. Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. Kiev Independent Newsletter March 18 2026. The Ukraine Business Roundup this week where I bring you the latest news shaping The Ukraine business landscape. I am here today to talk about commercial real estate developments, specifically food halls, the euphemistic term for upscale food courts usually found at the site of a historic food market, and why I believe they are a failing bet for

developers If it seems like a departure from our typical business coverage not to worry there is more business news below A view at the food court at the Bessarabskyi market in Kyiv Ukraine on February 11 2026 Photo Inside the Bessarabskyi market in Kyiv Ukraine on November 11 2018 And while Ukraine already had a few of these trendy food halls now it seems the trend is coming for The Kiev historic markets At the end of last year The Kiev historic Bessarabskyi market which you have probably seen if you have walked the main thoroughfare of the city which is Khreshchatyk you see it was reopened as a brightly lit upscale food court While the outside remains the same the center of the market now features a large bar with most of the interior converted into a dining area lit by these oversized straw chandeliers A few grocery vendors remain along the outer edges of the dining area **Kyiv Food Market an already upscale food hall in The Kiev Arsenalna area also completed renovations in December last year** The upgrade closely resembles the style of the changes made at Bessarabskyi The reaction among the civically minded here in Kyiv has been fierce Bessarabskyi market has completely lost its soul said Olha Terefeyeva an activist from Save Kyiv Modernism an organization fighting to preserve The Kiev architectural heritage Prominent chef and cultural preservationist Yevhen Klopotenko said it plainly A food court was built there and now the market has died Bessarabskyi was pretty much a mess It was dilapidated dark and damp It had lost a lot of foot traffic over the years and was not much of the center of community life a market should be Truth be told I sort of loved it and it was quirky and weird and had a small bar by the local brewery Tsypa that I spent many long and fun nights at Indeed it needed a renovation But not this kind I decided to stop by there last night It was at peak dinner time here around 8 pm and it was empty To be sure it was a Monday evening but still dinner time in the most central area in the city and there is three or four people at a couple tables looking like they are having a coffee on their way to somewhere else? Kyiv Food Market which had that cold industrial look that was popular some years ago and was in need of a facelift it is a little better now I guess is never as busy it should be either Commercial real estate giant Cushman and Wakefield In 2017 the firm said that there were around 100 food halls in Europe with another 200 in the pipeline In 2024 there were 135 with just 10 in the pipeline Yes Covid may have disrupted some plans but the excitement has died down as these food halls fail to show the kind of results everyone was hoping for I am not advocating for letting food markets continue to wither away into total obscurity But I do believe there is a way to do it right If you have ever been to a mercado in Spain you know what I mean Enter a central market of a city and what you will find is a beautifully sophisticated marriage of the past and present the everyday and the upscale In Spanish markets most of the space is taken up by actual food vendors selling farm fresh meats cheeses fish fruits and vegetables and sweets It is this central aspect of community life buying food from people you know and trust that is surrounded by food stalls selling tapas and other fares Some of which have actual Michelin stars There is symbolism in every architectural choice and it is hard to ignore that the vendors who once sold their food prominently at Bessarabskyi market are now relegated to a ring outside the new renovation left to stare in at what used to be theirs So next time anyone gets the idea that they need to totally gut a market an idea that is in the works for The Kiev Podil neighborhood Zhytnii market that is an absolute treasure to make it interesting and palatable for the community they should take a page from the book of Spain in addition to actually finding out what the people want

The roundup What else is happening this week 1 Exclusive Ukraine has few options if Hungary keeps EU funding frozen A top Ukrainian official told the Kyiv Independent there is no reliable funding option after spring without European support and relying on domestic measures like debt would

be costly 2 Ukraine has a new bank on its books Estonian fintech lute Group finalized its entry into the market on March 16 2026 the first foreign bank to enter the Ukraine competitive banking sector since 2021 3 Swiss ruling strengthens The Ukraine push to extract billions from Gazprom of Russia The Ukraine state owned oil and gas giant Naftogaz won a case against Gazprom of Russia in a Swiss court paving the way for the Russian company to pay more than 1 point 4 billion dollars in debt 4 The Ukraine Naftogaz in talks with OMV Petrom of Romania to develop Black Sea gas reserves Reuters reported Talks were at an early stage and development of the field would not start before the war ends sources told Reuters 5 EU to open technical talks on The Ukraine remaining accession negotiation clusters Tomorrow we take another step on The Ukraine EU reform path by opening technical negotiations on all remaining clusters European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos said on March 16 6 IMF raises concern over Ukraine aid as parliament stalls The International Monetary Fund warned that The Ukraine ability to keep receiving funds from its 8 point 1 billion dollar package is at risk as lawmakers delay the measures required to release the financing its representative told Bloomberg 7 Steelmaker ArcelorMittal to shut additional Ukraine units The Ukraine leading steelmaker ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih announced on March 16 that it will close two rolling mills citing the energy crisis from Russian strikes and the expense of EU environmental regulations 8 Japan weighs new deal with Kyiv for Ukrainian made drones Sources familiar with the matter told Kyodo News that Tokyo is eyeing a bilateral deal with Kyiv as one potential option for bolstering the defenses of the island nation 9 Swarmer sets price for initial public offering Swarmer Inc a drone autonomy software company with Ukrainian roots now based in the US announced it will offer 3 000 000 shares of common stock at 5 dollars per share 10 Retail chains in Ukraine see strong growth in 2025 The beauty supply chain EVA saw its 2025 revenue rise 18 percent to Hr 31 point 8 billion 7 hundred 24 million dollars with a net profit of Hr 1 point 1 billion 25 million dollars The Rozetka-Evo marketplace group The Ukraine version of Amazon posted a turnover of Hr 112 point 4 billion 2 point 6 billion dollars up 9 percent from the previous year Events Online The Ukraine next elections Preparations politics and pitfalls This online KI Insights monthly briefing will feature Senior Political Analyst Anatoliy Otkysiuk and Director Jakub Parusinski discussing The Ukraine push for elections Details March 19 4 30 pm Kyiv time Subscribers only Register here Kyiv and elsewhere in Ukraine The Big Meet An evening at Premier Palace Expats locals friends and familiar faces are invited to come together at The Kiev Premier Palace Hotel Details March 27 6 30 pm to 10 30 pm Premier Palace Hotel Entrance Fee Hr 500 includes welcome drink plus lottery No preregistration More details here Vsi Svoi spring houseware market in Kyiv Ukrainian brands shop Vsi Svoi Market is organizing a spring houseware market featuring household items from The Ukraine best local brands Details March 21 to 22 10 am to 8 pm Kyiv 12 Desiatynna St Free entry Safe sustainable and swift reconstruction of Ukraine This conference will bring together scientists policymakers industry leaders educators and construction experts to discuss research and innovative solutions for The Ukraine reconstruction Details March 19 to 20 Lviv Register here Around the world Brave1 US roadshow The Ukraine defense innovation cluster will hold a two week investment tour across US cities in March where Ukrainian defense tech startups will showcase drones and other technologies to investors corporations and lawmakers Details Month of March Various cities in the United States More information here