



# Celebrated amateur steps into the Hall

Roberts honored with induction to Kentucky Golf HOF/Sports, C1

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### Democrats renew worries about Trump interfering in the midterms

BY NICHOLAS RICCARDI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If history is a guide, Republicans stand a good chance of losing control of the House of Representatives in 2026. They have just a slim majority in the chamber, and the incumbent party usually gives up seats in midterm elections.

President Donald Trump, whose loss of the House halfway through his first term led to two impeachments, is trying to keep history from repeating — and doing so in ways his opponents say are intended to manipulate next year's election landscape.

He has rallied his party to remake congressional maps across the country to create

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more conservative-leaning House seats, an effort that could end up backfiring on him. He's directed his administration to target Democratic politicians, activists and donors. And, Democrats worry, he's flexing his muscles to intervene in the midterms like no administration ever has.

Democrats and other critics point to how Trump has sent the military into Democratic cities over the objections of Democratic mayors and governors. They note that he's pushed the Department of Homeland Security to be so aggressive that at one point its agents handcuffed a Democratic U.S. senator. And some warn that a Republican-controlled Congress could fail to seat winning candidates if Democrats reclaim the House majority, recalling Trump's efforts to stay in power even after voters rejected him in 2020, leading to the violent attack by his supporters on the U.S. Capitol.

Regarding potential military deployments, Ken Martin,

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# County searching for new EMA deputy director

BY FREDDIE BOURNE  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Daviess County Fiscal Court is looking to add a Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the start of the new year.

The position, which was posted on the Fiscal Court's website on Monday, will assist Jeremy Smith, public safety director, in overseeing day-to-day management and supervision of the county's Emergency Management Agency, assisting with the coordinating emergency response protocols and step into Smith's role if absent or unavailable, among other responsibilities.



Jeremy Smith

... As far as Emergency Management, our job is to prepare our community: ... during the emergency (by being) there for them, and then after the emergency during the recovery phase," Smith said. "We play that role during any natural or man-made disasters that hit our community.

"We want to build this office for the future," Smith continued. "We want to build it to where during a disaster (and if I happen to be out of town, someone could

immediately step up into that role and (lead) on our end."

Smith said the role was most previously filled by Chris Cunningham, who resigned from the position in October 2024. The tasks were then overseen by Andy Ball, who served as the EMA director from December 2014 until stepping down in June.

Since then, Smith — who was promoted from Daviess County Fire Chief to his current role in May — has been managing the EMA operations in addition to his public safety director obligations.

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Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | avarren@messenger-inquirer.com

Juan Munoz, left, Joel Thren, Colton Marchand, and Josh Casebolt, working for Ohmega Electric of Rockport Ind., work together on Tuesday to get a new tornado warning siren with upgraded technology connected and raised up that will replace the old siren at Moreland Park. Josh Casebolt works for Casey Electric but was helping with the project.

# City, county upgrading weather sirens

BY JAMES MAYSE  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Weather sirens across the city and county are in the process of being either upgraded or replaced with technology

that will result with the sirens being activated faster during severe weather events.

City-county 911 director Paul Nave said Tuesday the sirens are being upgraded

or replaced at a rate of a few a year. The new technology, Nave said, is replacing the old VHF siren system with an 800 megahertz system, which will speed up the time the

sirens are activated in weather events.

"It will facilitate the sirens going off immediately when

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Stephanie Scarbrough | Associated Press

Kilmar Abrego Garcia and his wife Jennifer Vasquez Sura leave the United States District Court District of Maryland on Dec. 22 in Greenbelt, Md.

# ICE doesn't plan to detain Abrego Garcia again — as long as judge's ban stands

BY TRAVIS LOLLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — U.S. immigration officials do not plan to detain Kilmar Abrego Garcia again as long as a judge's order banning it stands, according to a Tuesday court filing.

The plans by President Donald Trump's administration are the latest in the saga over the Salvadoran citizen's case that has become a lightning rod for both sides of the immigration debate as he fights to remain in the U.S. after a mistaken deportation to his home country, where he was imprisoned.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement did make clear they would detain Abrego Garcia if the order was lifted, Liana J. Castano, assistant director for field operations, wrote in the filing.

Trump officials have accused Abrego Garcia of being a member of the MS-13 gang, but he has vehemently denied the accusations and has no criminal record. The administration brought him back to the U.S. in June under a court order, but only after issuing an arrest warrant on human smuggling charges in Tennessee.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis earlier this month questioned whether government officials could be trusted to follow orders barring them from taking Abrego Garcia back into immigration custody or deporting him.

**A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PUSH TO INDICT**

Earlier Tuesday, a newly unsealed order in the criminal case against Abrego Garcia

SEE ICE/PAGE A2



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