

G.O.P. TAKES HOUSE WITH A SLM MAJORITY

Gay Marriage Clears Hurdle In Senate Vote

12 in G.O.P. Cross Aisle to Back Rights Bill

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday took a crucial step toward passing landmark legislation to provide federal protections for same-sex marriages, as 12 Republicans joined Democrats to advance the Respect for Marriage Act, putting it on track to become law in the twilight of the Democratic-held Congress.

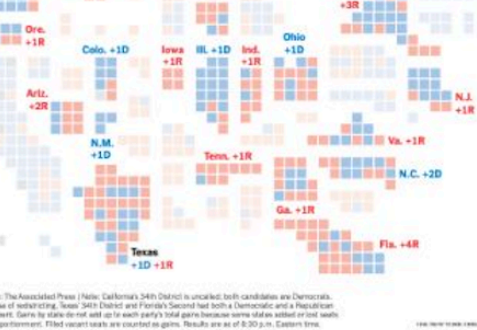
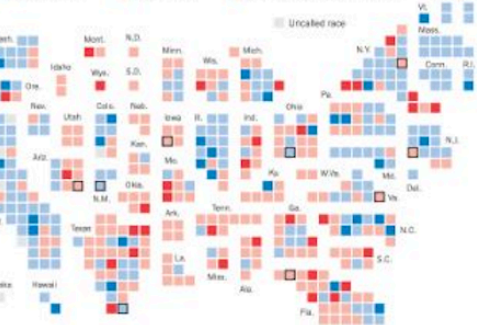
The 62-to-37 vote, which came only days after the midterm elections in which Democrats retained control of the Senate but lost the House to Republicans, was a rare and notable last gasp of bipartisanship by a lame duck Congress as lawmakers looked toward an era of political gridlock.

It also signaled a remarkable shift in American politics and culture, demonstrating how same-sex marriage, once a divisive issue, has been so widely accepted that a law to protect the rights of same-sex couples across the country could gain decisive, bipartisan majorities in both the Senate and the House. Last summer, 47 House Republicans joined Democrats to pass a version of the

Senate Chuck Schumer, the majority leader, said that passage of the legislation, now expected early Thanksgiving, would be "one of the true highlights of the year for this body" and "one of the more significant accomplishments of this Senate to date."

Speaking on the Senate floor, Mr. Schumer noted that his daughter and her wife were expecting a baby in the spring and that he wanted "them, and everyone in a loving relationship, to live without the fear that their rights could one day be stripped away."

The measure still must pass in the House.



Party to Face Internal Divisions and Democratic-Held Senate

Republicans secured a slender majority in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, a delayed yet consequential finish to the 2022 midterm election that will reorder the balance of power in Washington and is expected to effectively give the party a veto on President Biden's agenda for the next two years.

With vote counting stretching for over a week, the Republican Party formally counted the 238 House seats needed to claim the majority after just four years out of power. The outcomes in six close races that remain undecided will determine the final size of a slim Republican majority that will be far narrower than party leaders had expected, though Republicans still cheered the achievement.

"The era of one-party Democratic rule in Washington is over," Representative Kevin McCarthy, the House Republican leader, said in a speech to Congress on Wednesday. "The future is too promising to be trapped in political warfare."

But the president also recognized the surprising strength of the Democratic showing, and the departure of a series of far-right Republicans who had refused to recognize the legitimacy of the last

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What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. retail sales rose sharply in October, a sign of economic strength that leaves the Fed likely to keep raising interest rates as it tries to reduce persistently high inflation.

Securities regulators in the Bahamas are seeking to control FTX's bankruptcy proceedings through the crypto exchange's heavily held subsidiary, challenging the filing in Delaware.

Target's profit for the latest quarter came in below the company's forecasts and executives lowered their financial goals for the holiday period.

Amazon is reducing its corporate taxes, in a rare move for a tech company that has mostly seen consistent growth throughout its history.

U.S. stocks fell, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow pointing losses of 0.8%, 1.5% and 0.7%, respectively.

Microsoft recently filed the possibility of someone succeeding him as Tesla's chief, a board member said while testifying in a trial over the CEO's pay package.

Tencent is shedding part of its stake in Maxima as the social media and video-gaming giant moves to cash out from its investments in China's internet sector.

The top two international executives at Citigroup are leaving the bank as part of a reorganization of the network and parent company JPMorgan Chase.

World-Wide

Republicans won a majority of seats in the House, the Associated Press said, bolstering their ability to alter the agenda of Congress after two years of Democratic control at both chambers of Congress and the White House.

Landmark legislation to recognize same-sex marriage rights in federal law cleared a decisive hurdle in a 62-37 Senate vote, as lawmakers aim to get the measure to Biden's desk in coming weeks.

McConnell was re-elected as Senate minority leader, ending off a challenge from Florida's Scott, the latest round in a feud that has been building over the midterm elections.

New intelligence collected from downed Iranian drones in Ukraine shows that a majority of the aircraft's parts are manufactured by companies in the United States and other allied nations.

The U.S.'s annual rate of inflation rose to a 41-year high in October amid rising energy costs, with consumer prices up 11% higher than a year earlier.

NASA's Artemis 1 mission took a big step forward in the early morning hours Wednesday with a booster rocket launch that set the Orion spacecraft spinning toward a lunar orbit.

Yale Law School and Harvard Law School are pulling out of the U.S. News & World Report rankings.

JOURNAL REPORT

Encore: 10 ideas for dealing with an aging population.

Blast in Poland Wasn't Russian Attack



PROF. Polnia patrol near where a missile crashed in Przewodów, Poland. NATO said the missile was likely fired by a Ukrainian air-defense system, rather than by Russia.

Retail Sales Climb 1.3% In Clear Sign of Strength

U.S. retail sales rose sharply in October, a sign of economic strength that leaves the Federal Reserve likely to keep raising interest rates as it tries to reduce persistently high inflation. Retail sales climbed a seasonally adjusted 1.3% last month compared with September, when they were unchanged, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Shoppers spent more on everyday necessities such as gasoline and food, but they also shelled out

more on discretionary items such as cars, furniture and restaurant meals. Some of the spending was due to purchases of building materials and home furnishings in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, economists said.

The jump in sales showed households continued to have the resources to increase their spending despite inflation rising close to a four-decade high, climbing interest rates and economic uncertainty.

Many households built up savings earlier in the pandemic, and some consumers are spending later in the year. "Maybe they are trying to get more of their shopping done now before prices go up," analysts say.

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GOP Narrowly Wins Control Of the House

Party's majority of at least 218 seats sets up Washington for divided government

WASHINGTON — Republicans won a majority of seats in the House of Representatives, the Associated Press said, bolstering their ability to steer the agenda on Capitol Hill after two years of Democratic control of both chambers of Congress and the White House.

More than a week after Election Day, the AP said GOP Rep. Mike Garcia won re-election in California's 27th District, putting the total GOP House Republicans at 218 for Democrats in the 435-seat chamber.

Same-Sex Marriage Bill Takes Key Step

WASHINGTON — Landmark legislation that would cement same-sex marriage rights into federal law cleared a decisive hurdle in the Senate Wednesday, with lawmakers aiming to get the measure to President Biden's desk by the end of the year to become law.

The 62-to-37 vote underscored how the politically divisive issue now draws bipartisan support despite opposition from some social conservatives, less than a decade after same-sex marriage became legal nationwide under a 2015 Supreme Court ruling.

The Respect for Marriage Act, if signed into law, would codify the ability of same-sex couples to get married and require states to recognize the marriages, rights established in Supreme Court rulings.

The bill needed 60 votes to proceed under Senate rules. The proposal faces at least one more vote in the Senate and would need approval by the House by the end of the year to become law.

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Launch Blazes Trail for NASA Back to Moon

By KENNETH CHANG

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. — NASA's majestic new rocket soared into space for the first time in the early hours of Wednesday, lighting up the night sky and accelerating on a journey that will take an astronaut-less capsule around the moon and back.

This flight, evoking the bygone Apollo era, is a crucial test for NASA's Artemis program that aims to put astronauts, after five decades of idling in low-Earth orbit, back on the moon.

"We are all part of something incredibly special," Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, the launch director, said to her team at the Kennedy Space Center before the launch. "The first launch of Artemis. The first step in returning our country to the moon and on to Mars."

For NASA, the mission ushers in a new era of lunar exploration, one that seeks to unravel scientific mysteries in the dark shadows of craters in the polar regions, test technologies for drives-of-journeys to Mars and space privateers to chase new entrepreneurial frontiers out in the solar system.

Labeled a Gangster, Based on 6 Text Messages

By SELAM GERBERIKID

MANCHESTER, England — Ademola Adefeji tried to picture what the jury saw when they looked at him.

Could they tell that he was the school president? The captain of the rugby team? The older brother who made dinners for his siblings and read them bedtime stories?

No. 7 in a trial of 10 Black teenagers charged with conspiracy to murder a gangster, the prosecutors claimed, who worked out his trials?

Mr. Adefeji, a very dark, next tall 18-year-old, had a lot riding on this trial.



Ademola Adefeji, of Bolton, England, in April. He was on trial this spring for conspiracy to murder.

Poland Vows Missile Deaths As an Accident

By STEVEN ERLANGER and MARC SANTORA

BRUSSELS — A top NATO official said Poland's president said on Wednesday that a Ukrainian air-defense missile, not a Russian weapon, had more likely caused a deadly explosion on Polish territory, causing fears that the military alliance would become more deeply embroiled in the war.

Both men took pains to say that the incident was not Ukraine's doing and that the NATO secretary general, "Russia bears ultimate responsibility as it continues its illegal war against Ukraine."

Officials said that what had struck the grain-processing plant was an S-300 missile, a munition that was built for air defenses but that had also been used by Russia to attack Ukraine, Poland's justice minister said.

The earliest version was developed by the Soviet Union — and was also used by the United States to early confusion over who was responsible for the blast.

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Former Allies Holding Back On Trump '24

This article by Reid J. Epstein, Lisa Lerer and Jonathan Weisman.

ORLANDO, Fla. — Three billionaire donors have moved on and others are actively weighing their options. A number of former allies are staying on the sidelines.

A long list of potential rivals — including former governors and members of Congress — are seriously assessing their chances for 2024. Even his own daughter has decided to get involved.

Within hours of Donald J. Trump announcing his third presidential bid on Tuesday, some of his fiercest political opponents set off a chain of denials.

While Mr. Trump has long faced criticism from within the party, and elite quarters of his party, this round of criticism was new in its raw bluntness, plainly out in the open.

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INSIDE



'Sad Beige' Takes Over Baby Gear

Parents hope neutrals lead to calm, quiet kids

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FTX's Collapse Shakes Staff Stunned, Shaken With Anger

One FTX executive vented when he learned that the crypto exchange was missing billions of dollars of customer funds.

By Alexander Orlovich, Caitlin O'Hara and Gregory Szabo

FTX's collapse left a bitter taste in the mouths of many of its employees.

FTX seemed like an opportunity for financial rewards at one of the world's fastest-growing cryptocurrency firms.

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