

Connecticut basketball seeks rare men's 3-peat

History not on Huskies' side, but coach says "you can't hide from this opportunity." **In Sports**

Skele-tons of fun: Story behind viral decoration

Popularity of Home Depot's 12-foot Halloween skeleton a surprise to creators. **In Money**



JOSHUA SAMMER/
GETTY IMAGES FOR ZFF

Fiennes grappled with faith for movie

"Conclave" star met with priests to discuss Jesus and says papal political thriller stirred up questions about belief and history. **In Life**

USA TODAY

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Austin: NKorea has troops in Russia

Defense chief warns of escalation in Ukraine

Tom Vanden Brook
USA TODAY

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said there is evidence North Korean troops are in Russia, branding their presence a "very serious" escalation in the war that started with Russia's unprovoked invasion in 2022 and has left tens of thousands dead.

"There is evidence that there are DPRK troops in Russia," Austin told reporters traveling with him Wednesday in Rome, using North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"What exactly they are doing? Left to be seen. These are things that we need to sort out," Austin said.

A U.S. official confirmed Austin's brief statement about North Korean troops in Russia. North Korea already has supplied Russia with large stores of artillery shells, a key component of the grinding fighting, especially in eastern Ukraine.

"It's a big deal," said Seth Jones, senior vice president and director of

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Derek Rinaldo and Alison Lively visit the flood-damaged River Arts District of Asheville, N.C., this week. JASPER COLT/USA TODAY

Three weeks after Helene, dozens still missing in NC

Christopher Cann, Sarah Honosky and Iris Seaton
USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — More than three weeks after Tropical Storm Helene ravaged western North Carolina, dozens of people remained unaccounted for Wednesday as schools and government offices prepared to reopen amid prolonged power outages and water service disruptions.

The missing were being sought and tracked by a North Carolina Department of Public Safety task force created after several hundred people were unaccounted for amid widespread communication and power blackouts. Last week, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said 96 people were missing.

As of Wednesday, 41 people remained unaccounted for in western North Carolina, said Brian Haines, a spokesperson for the North Carolina

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ELECTION 2024



Border Patrol agents take migrants into custody after crossing into the U.S. last month near Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif. In a USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll, 45% supported Donald Trump's mass deportation proposal. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Deportations ramp-up more doable for Trump

Vow by former president costly, but easier in a 2nd term

Lauren Villagran, Bart Jansen and Aysha Bagchi
USA TODAY

If he returns to the White House, Donald Trump has vowed to launch a "mass deportation" of at least 11 million immigrants living in the United States without authorization.

He made a similar promise during his first administration. It didn't pan out after he hit logistical and legal obstacles.

This time, experts say, things may be different.

A second, more experienced Trump administration will know "how to effectively use an enormous bureaucracy to their advantage," said César García Hernández, an Ohio State University law professor and author of "Migrating to Prison: America's Obsession with Locking Up Immigrants."

There will be fewer legal obstacles, too. Trump appointed hundreds of judges during his first term, reshaping the courts that previously slowed or

"The priorities will stay the same: going after convicted criminals. However, nobody is off limits."

Mark Morgan, acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection under Trump

stopped his attempts to ramp up immigration enforcement.

The ramp-up is doable if a second Trump administration takes a "steroid-infused, whole-of-government approach," said Mark Morgan, who served as acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection under Trump.

"The priorities will stay the same: going after convicted criminals," Morgan said. "However, nobody is off limits."

And if Trump wins a second term, experts say, public opinion may be on his side to do things Americans objected to before, like separating immigrant

parents from their children in order to prosecute the adults.

A new USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll found 45% of respondents support Trump's mass deportation proposal and 49% oppose it, with 4% undecided. The poll of 1,000 likely voters, taken by landline and cellphone Oct. 14 to 18, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Trump hasn't released detailed plans for a mass deportation. But a USA TODAY review of interviews and speeches by Trump and his former advisers and administrators indicate he intends to:

- Use emergency and executive authorities to bypass existing law, which includes protections for immigrants.
- Activate provisions under a law from the 1700s called the Alien Enemies Act, which was used to detain people of Japanese, German and Italian descent in World War II.
- Rely on local and state police,

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Noah, Olivia top baby names for 2024

Saman Shafiq
USA TODAY

Noah, Liam and Oliver for boys and Olivia, Amelia and Emma for girls were among the most popular names for babies in 2024, new research by BabyCenter has found.

Noah was the most popular name for boys followed by Liam and Oliver, while Olivia was the most popular for girls followed by Amelia and Emma, BabyCenter said in a news release, adding "'E' names for boys" and names ending with "-lee" or "-lyn" for girls were becoming popular.

Emrys debuted on BabyCenter's top 1,000 boys' names soaring to spot no. 954, while other boy names starting with E, such as Emir, Enrique, Edgar and Eliel, shot up on the rankings. Easton and Everett reentered the Top 100 list at No. 92 and No. 93, respectively.

For girls, the top 100 names "list brims with new popular choices like Evelyn, Brooklyn, and Madelyn," BabyCenter said, and other "rising stars" including Adalee, Avalynn, Lakelyn, Rosalee and Maelynn. All these names jumped a couple of hundred spots, joining the top 1,000 girl names in the U.S. for the first time.

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