

Aldis Hodge puts spin on 'Cross' role

Actor in new Amazon Prime series brings realism to James Patterson's literary detective. **In Life**

One-stop shop for holiday feast

Find Southern-style recipes and tips for a tasty turkey, scrumptious sides and delicious desserts. **In Weekend Extra**



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Can Buffalo end KC's win streak?

In titanic NFL showdown, Bills are one of few teams in AFC in position to hand Chiefs a loss. **In Sports**

K1

Trump's AG pick of Gaetz surprises

Insights into shared views, critics' concerns

Bart Jansen and Riley Beggin
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President-elect Donald Trump's unexpected choice of Rep. Matt Gaetz for attorney general signaled a like-minded approach to overhauling the Justice Department.

But the choice also sparked some of the first criticism of Trump's Cabinet selections, as senators questioned whether the Florida Republican would be a serious choice to become the country's top law enforcement official.

Like Trump, Gaetz has been through the legal system under the limelight of a criminal investigation.



Like the president-elect, Rep. Matt Gaetz has faced federal investigation and has shown a willingness to fight the Washington establishment.

MIKE DE SISTI/USA TODAY NETWORK

Here are five takeaways from the announcement:

Trump chose Gaetz to end so-called 'weaponization' of DOJ

Trump and Gaetz both became fierce critics of the Justice Department after being investigated.

Gaetz, who resigned from Congress after Trump announced his nomination as attorney general, was the subject of a federal sex-trafficking probe that ended without charges against him, although a once-close political ally pleaded guilty.

The House Ethics Committee is investigating Gaetz and said in June it was expanding the probe to include additional allegations. The committee was to decide on Friday whether to release its report, but his resignation effectively ended the investigation.

The committee has been looking into a variety of allegations that Gaetz engaged in sexual misconduct and illegal drug use, accepted "improper gifts" and gave out special favors. Gaetz denied the allegations and blamed the inquiry on former House

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Trump's picks so far for Cabinet, advisory roles

What to know about his list of nominations and appointments. **2A**

Shaking up Pentagon? Outsider named to lead

A closer look at Fox News host Pete Hegseth and his agenda. **2A**



Donna Rorabaugh works on a haunted gingerbread lighthouse in her kitchen in Rochester Hills, Mich., just before Halloween. Some of her creations can take up to 75 hours to build. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Gingerbread wizardry all in the nuts and bolts



"People think, 'Yeah, yeah, right, little gingerbread houses.' I'm like: 'No, no. Big, extravagant gingerbread houses.'"

Donna Rorabaugh

Rorabaugh's gingerbread Bourbon Town for the Mustard Seed Hill contest in 2022 – held in Bourbon County, Ky. – won the competition.

GM engineer's love of building takes her from steel to sugar

Jamie L. LaReau
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Donna Rorabaugh loves to solve problems and build things.

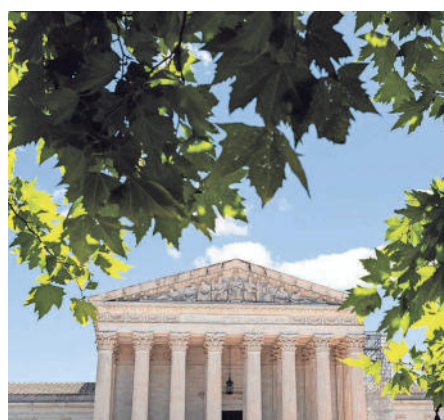
As an advanced vehicle industrial engineer at General Motors, Rorabaugh helps the automaker create the production processes in its factories. A few years ago, when the automaker launched the all-electric GMC Hummer pickup at Factor Zero in Detroit and Hamtramck, Michigan, Rorabaugh designed the process used to assemble the front-drive unit on that vehicle.

In her free time, Rorabaugh is still engineering and building – but not cars. She makes gingerbread houses. We are talking huge, elaborate monuments of sugar (they can hold 30 pounds or more), spice, flour, chocolate, candy and more. Some of her creations stand 4 feet tall and have electric lighting. They typically cost less than \$100 in ingredients but take up to 75 hours to build.

Rorabaugh is famous in the gingerbread community, having won or placed high in 19 major competitions held all over the country – where the rule for all competitions is everything

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Shifting winds ruffle the Supreme Court



A new administration is set to have a hand in the high court's current and future cases. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

Trump's victory could have a whiplash effect

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Gun control advocates had been cautiously optimistic the Supreme Court would uphold Biden administration rules to regulate otherwise untraceable "ghost guns."

But despite the justices sounding in last month's oral arguments as if they might side with the White House, the incoming Trump administration could rescind the requirement that guns made from kits must have serial numbers and

owners must pass background checks.

"Obviously, we're very worried because of the major public safety and public health concerns," Douglas Letter, chief legal officer at the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said of how President-elect Donald Trump's victory could affect the case.

Whiplash may be even more likely on another big question before the high court: whether states can ban puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender minors.

In early December, the Justice Department will try to convince the court that such bans are unconstitutional.

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