

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Shower 67/43 • Tomorrow: Shower, windy 54/38 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 • \$3

Polarizing picks roll on amid GOP doubt

Trump taps celebrity doctor Oz as Hegseth, Gaetz face Hill meetings

BY LIZ GOODWIN, LEIGH ANN CALDWELL, MARIANNE LEVINE AND JACQUELINE ALEMANY

President-elect Donald Trump is pressing forward with his list of controversial Cabinet picks despite doubts from some within his own party.

Trump on Tuesday announced his plan to nominate Mehmet Oz, the celebrity doctor and onetime U.S. Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, to lead the agency that administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs responsible for the health care of 160 million Americans. It's the latest in a rapid-fire list of unconventional Cabinet and other top-government choices Trump has rolled out in recent weeks as he makes clear he expects Senate Republicans to speedily approve them — or deal with an end-run by the new president.

Trump's picks for attorney general and Pentagon chief will be meeting with senators on Capitol Hill this week, as part of a bid by the incoming administration to convince Republican lawmakers to confirm their most important choices amid some signs of opposition.

Vice President-elect JD Vance will make the rounds with Pete Hegseth, Trump's choice to lead the Defense Department, and

SEE TRANSITION ON A4

Testimony on Gaetz: Documents accessed in apparent breach. **A8**

U.S.-made missiles strike deep into Russia

Ukraine's first such use of ATACMS signals intensification of war

BY SIOBHÁN O'GRADY, DAVID L. STERN, SERHIY MORGUNOV AND MISSY RYAN

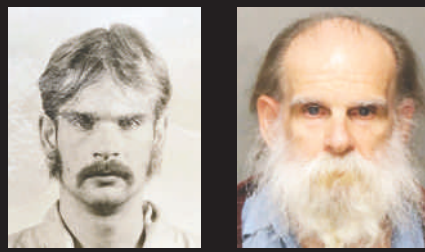
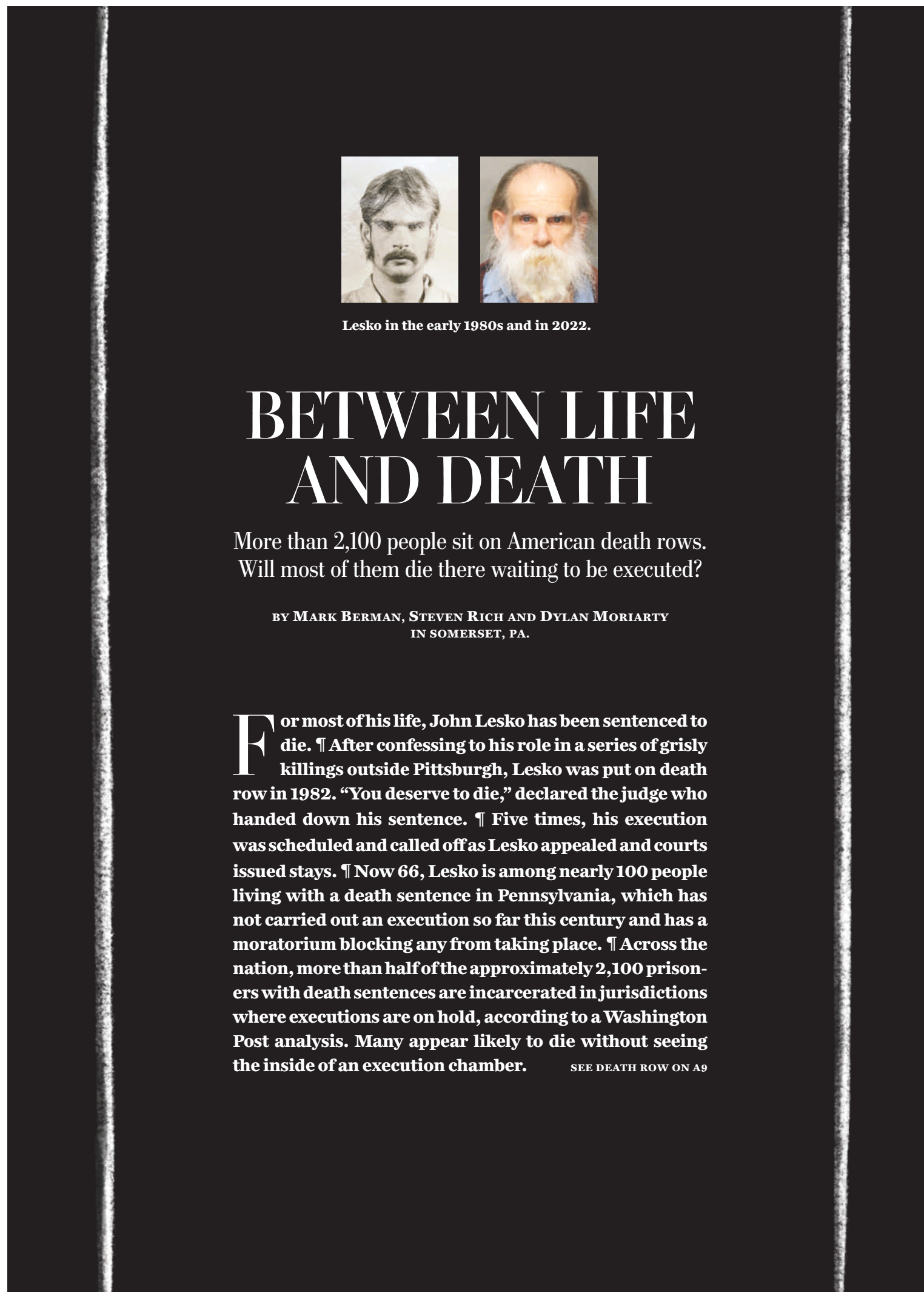
KYIV — Ukraine fired American-made ATACMS missiles deep into Russia for the first time on Tuesday, U.S., Ukrainian and Russian officials said, marking an intensification of the war just months before President-elect Donald Trump's return to office heralds a potential major shift in course.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed that five out of the six missiles, fired at a target in the country's Bryansk region, were shot down and that the sixth was damaged, dismissing the attack as largely ineffective. But Ukrainian officials said the strike caused a conflagration at a weapons depot in the city of Karachev, just over 70 miles from the Russia-Ukraine border — and about 250 miles south of the Kremlin.

A U.S. official, who like other officials spoke on the condition of

SEE UKRAINE ON A14

Land mines: In another shift, Biden approves supply of munitions. **A14**



Lesko in the early 1980s and in 2022.

BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

More than 2,100 people sit on American death rows. Will most of them die there waiting to be executed?

BY MARK BERMAN, STEVEN RICH AND DYLAN MORIARTY IN SOMERSET, PA.

For most of his life, John Lesko has been sentenced to die. ¶ After confessing to his role in a series of grisly killings outside Pittsburgh, Lesko was put on death row in 1982. “You deserve to die,” declared the judge who handed down his sentence. ¶ Five times, his execution was scheduled and called off as Lesko appealed and courts issued stays. ¶ Now 66, Lesko is among nearly 100 people living with a death sentence in Pennsylvania, which has not carried out an execution so far this century and has a moratorium blocking any from taking place. ¶ Across the nation, more than half of the approximately 2,100 prisoners with death sentences are incarcerated in jurisdictions where executions are on hold, according to a Washington Post analysis. Many appear likely to die without seeing the inside of an execution chamber.

SEE DEATH ROW ON A9

Trump flouts transfer process

'HOSTILE TAKEOVER' OF GOVERNMENT

Ethics pledges unsigned; no vetting for appointees

BY LISA REIN, AARON C. DAVIS AND JOSH DAWSEY

A thousand miles from the austere buildings where Washington runs, Donald Trump's transition team in his Mar-a-Lago resort has begun what a close ally calls a hostile takeover of the federal government.

Since his victory, Trump has ignored many of the rules and practices intended to guide a seamless transfer of power and handover of the oversight of 2.2 million federal employees. Instead, the president-elect, who has pledged to fire thousands of civil servants and slash billions of dollars in spending, has so far almost fully cut out the government agencies his predecessors have relied on to take charge of the federal government.

Trump has yet to collaborate with the General Services Administration, which is tasked with the complex work of handing over control of hundreds of agencies, because he has not turned in required pledges to follow ethics rules. His transition teams have yet to set foot inside a single federal office.

SEE TRUMP ON A6

Intelligence: The president-elect is now receiving regular briefings. **A8**

For Truth Social, no post-vote stock bump

Some investors had hoped to get 'very rich' after Trump's victory

BY DREW HARWELL

John Viaud, a retiree in South Carolina, knew he was taking a big risk when he poured his pension money into the stock of his political icon's social media company, Donald Trump's Trump Media & Technology Group.

As its share price sank in the months before the election, he took to the company's Truth Social platform to write, “This is getting depressing! I've lost \$600,000. ... C'mon Trump!”

But Viaud was hopeful a Trump electoral win would rocket the stock into the stratosphere, posting, “Come November all of us are going to be very rich!!!”

In the days since the election, however, the stock has fallen, losing nearly half its value since last month's peak. And on a Truth Social investor board, users who had been predicting a post-vote surge began voicing their agitation. “The fact is we are in trouble,” one wrote.

As its top shareholder prepares for the White House, Trump Media is facing what some financial

SEE TRUTH SOCIAL ON A17

D.C.'s bid for RFK Stadium site gains key Senate push

BY SAM FORTIER, ERIN COX AND MEAGAN FLYNN

Federal legislation that would give D.C. greater control over the decrepit RFK Stadium site — and allow it to potentially turn it into a new Washington Commanders home — is now at the goal line with the clock winding down.

The bill, which would give D.C. power over the site for 99 years and allow it to develop a stadium there, passed a key milestone Tuesday by winning approval from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with broad bipartisan support. The vote clears the way for potential passage before Congress adjourns later this year.

The full Senate now stands in the middle of the Commanders' stadium search, which could narrow to a competition between the

SEE STADIUM ON A4



ROB GRAY/MAGN IMAGES

Pursuit of history is paused

Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin has a lower leg injury and is listed as “week-to-week,” the team said. After a hot start, the 39-year-old is 27 goals from breaking Wayne Gretzky's NHL record. **Story, D1**

IN THE NEWS

SpaceX splashdown As Donald Trump watched, the company aborted an attempt to “catch” a returning rocket booster. **A18**

For the dogs A battalion of beagles has been deployed at Washington Dulles International Airport to protect the United States from foreign agricultural threats. **B1**

THE NATION
The next four years are expected to be tumultuous for federal student loan borrowers. **A3**
New York prosecutors appear open to a years-long delay in Trump's hush money case. **A8**

THE WORLD
In Hong Kong, 45 pro-democracy leaders were sentenced to prison for up to 10 years. **A12**
Iraq banned alcohol in social clubs and hotels, among the last venues serving it. **A13**

THE ECONOMY
Drugmakers are wary of the potential impact of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Trump's health secretary pick, on the FDA. **A16**
The leaders of Trump's “Department of Government Efficiency” have discussed creating a mobile app for Americans to file their taxes free. **A18**

THE REGION
School board chairs in Northern Virginia are urging the state to delay a new system measuring school success. **B1**
D.C.'s attorney general sued a company that offers consumers early access to paychecks, accusing it of misleading ads and unlawful loans. **B1**

STYLE
CMA Awards voters shared thoughts about why Beyoncé wasn't nominated for the country music accolades. **C1**

FOOD
Get a head start on Thanksgiving with a cornucopia of dishes you can prepare in advance — yes, even the turkey. **E1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A15
COMICS.....C5
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A19
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A12

CONTENT © 2024
The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 54041

0 170628 211001 3