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The Gainesville Sun

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Several of the goals set out in Tesla CEO Elon Musk’s pay package are written in vague language that could provide him with hefty payouts without significantly boosting profit, according to experts. ODD ANDERSEN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Musk could be paid billions without hitting Tesla goals

‘Mars-shot milestones’ built into CEO’s historic pay package

Chris Kirkham, Rachael Levy and Abhirup Roy
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES – When Tesla directors offered Elon Musk the biggest executive pay package in corporate history in September, it reassured investors that he would have to achieve the equivalent of “Mars-shot milestones” to earn \$878 billion in Tesla stock over 10 years. The board’s proposal said Musk would have to “completely transform Tesla and society as we know it” in robotics and autonomous driving as well as stock value and profits. Conversely, Musk would get “zero” unless he meets those “incredibly ambitious” goals. Yet Musk could reap tens of billions of dollars without meeting most of those targets, according to a Reuters analysis of his performance goals and more than a dozen experts in executive pay, company valuations, robotics and automotive trends including autonomous driving. He could collect more than \$50 billion by hitting a handful of the board’s easier goals that won’t necessarily revo-



Tesla’s EV business, which accounts for almost all its revenue, is deteriorating, with aging models facing fierce competition. Its only newer model, the Cybertruck, has flopped. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

lutionize Tesla’s products or business, the Reuters review found. Even hitting just two of the easiest targets, along with modest stock growth, would net Musk \$26 billion, more than the lifetime pay of the next eight best-paid CEOs combined, a group that includes Meta Platforms’ Mark Zuckerberg, Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, Apple’s Tim Cook, and Nvidia’s Jensen Huang, according to an analysis for Reuters by research firm Equilar. Musk’s vehicle sales goals are

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Church raises money to help people with bills

Cleveland Tinker
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Blessing community members with money to help catch up on bills, along with bringing people closer to the Holy Ghost, again highlighted an annual worship service hosted by a local evangelist. More than a dozen people were blessed with funds to help them get caught up with utility, rent and car note bills, but the highlight of the service was the response to the altar call, said Evangelist Gladys Ellis, who headlines the service billed as the “Back to Basics” worship service with her daughter, Charlotte Ellis-Colbert. Ellis, founder of Divine Healing Ministry, which sponsors the annual service, says it’s the manifestation of a divine assignment given to her by God. Evidence of that assignment came when a lot of people answered altar call by going to the altar to receive prayer, Ellis said. “That was the highlight of the service,” Ellis said. “So many people are in need and need to be encouraged. My prayer request was for people to

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What to know if you plan to be traveling for Thanksgiving

Cheryl McCloud
USA TODAY NETWORK

AAA is predicting a record number of holiday travelers for Thanksgiving 2025. AAA said almost 82 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holiday travel period, which runs from Tuesday, Nov. 25, to Monday, Dec. 1. The huge majority — 73 million — are expected to hit the road. That’s an estimated 1.3 million more than in 2024. And the number could be even

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Rates are down, and the market’s heating up

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