



Column: Kiffin convinced himself Ole Miss did him dirty

SPORTS, 1C

ANALYSIS

Trump to face skeptical world leaders

Houthis’ rapid advance puts U.S. in tighter bind

Matt Spetalnick
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – When President Donald Trump addressed the United Nations a year ago, he touted the U.S. bombing of Iran’s nuclear sites just months earlier as “totally obliterating everything” and said he had brought peace between Israel and Iran.

Returning to the world body on Sept.

22, Trump will face a deeply skeptical audience increasingly rattled by six months of war between U.S. forces and an emboldened Iran, growing regional instability and a nuclear threat that has not disappeared despite his claims.

Though battered militarily and economically, Tehran has remained defiant, obstructing oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and in recent days gaining new leverage as its Houthi allies in Yemen tighten their grip on a Red Sea choke point, further spiking global energy prices.

The lightning advance by the Houthi

milittants has put Trump in an ever-tighter bind over the unpopular conflict, dealt a blow to US ally Saudi Arabia and exposed the limits of Washington’s ability to protect its regional partners.

Most European and Asian allies have spurned Trump’s demands for assistance in a conflict he launched without consulting them and that has had damaging fallout for their economies.

And with gasoline prices high and his approval ratings low, Trump could pay a price in November’s midterm elections

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Iran took up only a small portion of President Donald Trump’s speech at last year’s U.N. General Assembly.
MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES FILE



The fully integrated Starship spacecraft is composed of both a 236-foot-tall lower-stage booster known as Super Heavy and a 171-foot-tall upper stage simply called Starship. STEVE NESIUS/REUTERS

SpaceX aims for orbit in next Starship flight

Launch window possible the morning of Sept. 22

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY NETWORK

After more than three years of testing, the world’s largest rocket could reach orbit for the first time in its next flight.

SpaceX said the milestone will be the primary objective of the next Starship launch, set for no earlier than Sept. 22 from South Texas.

The mission would be the 14th flight test of Starship since April 2023 and the third of 2026.

The impending launch also comes at a crucial time for SpaceX, as tech mogul Elon Musk’s company races to have the Starship rocket operational in time for NASA’s next mission under its Artemis



SpaceX last launched its Starship rocket July 24. The upper-stage, designated Ship 40, was able to slowly tip over and float in the ocean without exploding or sinking, as prior prototypes have done. PROVIDED BY SPACEX VIA REUTERS

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Survey shows varying approaches to payday

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Americans approach payday in different ways.

In a survey of 2,000 people by FinanceBuzz and Wells Fargo, 80% of respondents said they pay bills as soon as they get a paycheck, while 71% said they immediately move money into savings.

Nearly nine out of 10 respondents said they celebrate in some way, such as a takeout meal, a “treat” purchase or buying something they’ve put off. But 74% of respondents also said they have a bill due before their next paycheck. 51% said they delay paying essential bills in the days before payday while 43% put off essential purchases such as groceries, gas or medication. Twenty-three percent of respondents reported incurring a late fee or

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Putin sees vote as gauge of public support for Ukraine war

Andrew Osborn
REUTERS

MOSCOW – Russians began voting on Sept. 18 in a three-day parliamentary election that President Vladimir Putin has said will show that millions of people back his army fighting in Ukraine, even though most anti-war candidates were not allowed to run.

The State Duma election, the first since Russia launched its full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022, is widely expected to see the ruling pro-Putin United Russia party retain its dominance in Russia’s tightly controlled political system.

The result is likely to be held up by the Kremlin as evidence of widespread public support for Putin’s policies and, in particular, for his prosecution of Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II, now in its fifth year.

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