

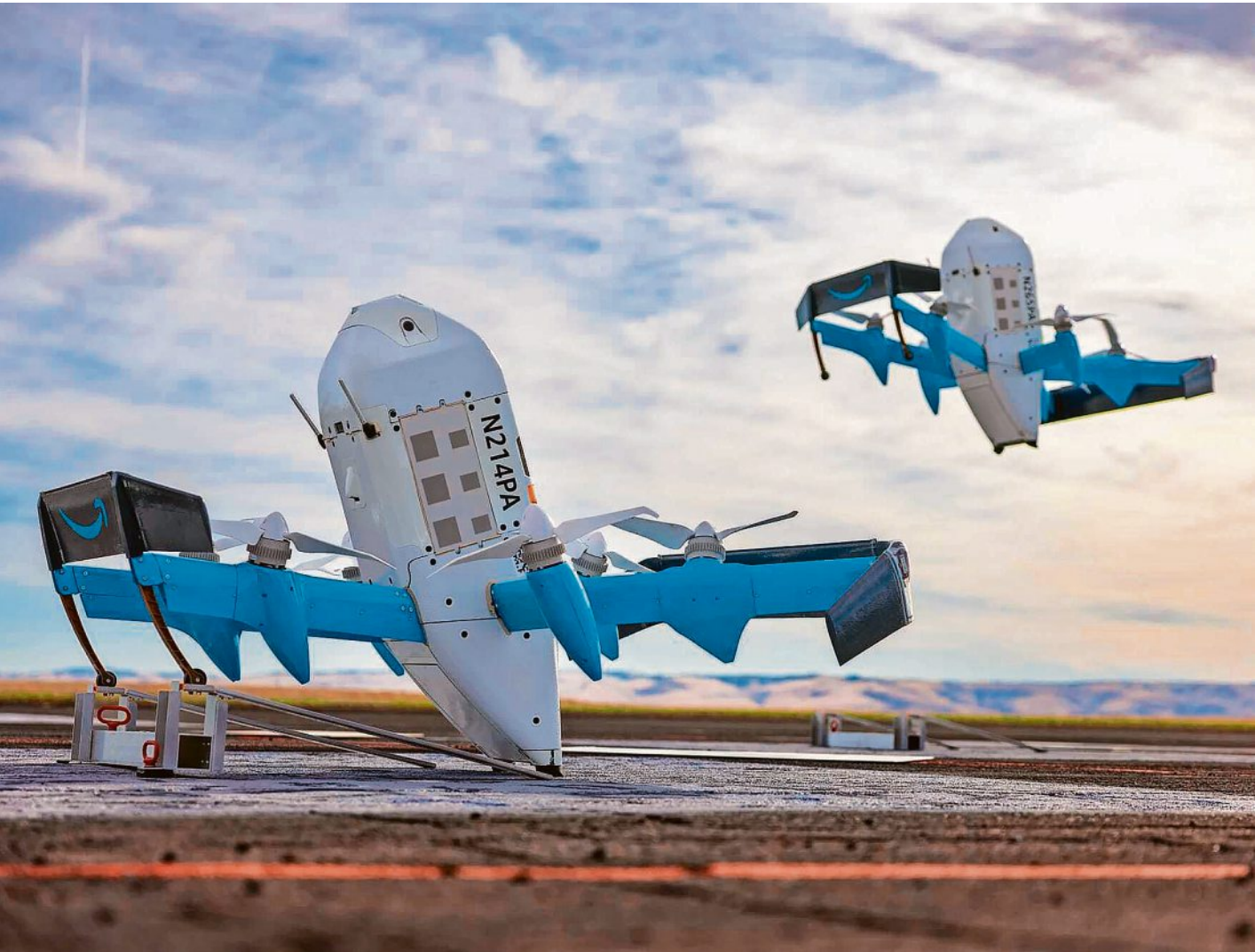


# White says ‘it was me’ after FSU defensive woes

SPORTS, 1B

# TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | TALLAHASSEE.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Drones such as these may soon be flying around the Tallahassee area as Amazon hints at plans to expand its Prime Air delivery service to Florida's capital city. PROVIDED BY AMAZON MEDIA RELATIONS

# Amazon Prime Air drones in Tallahassee?

New service could be coming to capital city

TaMaryn Waters Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Several signs point to potential new drone delivery service by Amazon in Florida’s capital city. The world’s largest e-commerce company is actively hiring for “Prime Air Ground Handlers” in Tallahassee, although there’s been no official announcement. The expanding service is provided through Amazon Prime Air, which the company said provides the “widest selection of items by drone, including millions of groceries, electronics, cosmetics, medications, and household products” within 30 minutes. “How do you get items to customers quickly, cost-effectively, and — most importantly — safely, in less

than an hour? And how do you do it in a way that can scale?” said the Tallahassee job listing on Amazon’s site. “Our teams of hundreds of scientists, engineers, aerospace professionals, and futurists have been working hard to do just that! We are delivering to customers, and are excited for what’s to come.” The Tallahassee Democrat received a statement from an Amazon spokesperson on potential drone service, who said, “We are always exploring new ways to get customers a wider selection at faster

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U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT’S 2026-2027 BEST COLLEGES

# FSU still in Top 25

But slips to No. 24

Tarah Jean Tallahassee Democrat USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Florida State University is seeing more fluctuating outcomes in one of the nation’s most anticipated college rankings after slipping down in the U.S. News & World Report’s “2026-2027 Best Colleges.” Released Sept. 22, the report ranked FSU No. 24 among the nation’s public universities, moving it down three spots from No. 21 last year when it moved up two spots from the year prior. The drop comes as the publication updated its metrics for a second time

See FSU, Page 5A

# FAMU rises to No. 79

Loses seven-year streak as top public HBCU

Tarah Jean Tallahassee Democrat USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

After seven consecutive years of ranking Florida A&M University the nation’s top public HBCU, the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings stripped FAMU of the prestigious title – putting an end to the streak. FAMU came in second place among public HBCUs (historically Black colleges or universities) in the nation, but it catapulted 13 spots in the report’s “2026-2027 Best Colleges” rankings to No. 79 among the nation’s public universities, which is its highest-ever

See FAMU, Page 4A

# TLH airport lands \$1.5M grant for Houston flights

TaMaryn Waters Tallahassee Democrat USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

A federal grant subsidy may help Tallahassee’s airport resume direct flights to Houston through United Airlines. In 2020, the Chicago-based carrier

first debuted the route from the Bobby Bowden-Tallahassee International Airport to the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. It was canceled within less than a year. It was paid through a \$750,000 federal grant in 2015 to Tallahassee’s airport, the only Florida airport at the time awarded the grant.

Documents obtained by the Tallahassee Democrat show new grant details as part of the Small Community Air Service Development Program, provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation. A 10-page report dated Sept. 17, 2026, said Tallahassee would be awarded \$1.5 million to help relaunch service

to Houston. “The funding will be used for a revenue guarantee, start-up cost offsets, and marketing program for restoration of nonstop service to George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH),” the report

See HOUSTON, Page 2A



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