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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today’s puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.



‘Carrie’ TV show made big changes to prom scene

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ANALYSIS

Trump uses federal power to boost GOP



President Donald Trump is spending millions of government dollars to air ads promoting himself and his agenda despite federal laws prohibiting public funds for political advertising. EVAN VUCCI/REUTERS

Critics call attempts to sway midterms illegal

Zac Anderson and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Americans are seeing taxpayer-funded television ads promoting President Donald Trump, government checks are hitting nearly 1 million mailboxes across the country, and federal agents are scouring voting rolls as a midterm election marked by Trump’s relentless efforts to boost Republicans’ chances enters its final weeks.

Facing a challenging midterm landscape for the GOP, Trump has taken extraordinary steps targeting the election at every turn. The president is harnessing the power of the federal government in ways that election experts say are unprecedented, raising questions about what could come next from a leader who sought to overturn the 2020 presidential contest he lost, was impeached and indicted over it, and now is back in the White House for another consequential campaign cycle.

“I think the president is trying to use all of the powers at his disposal to control the election results, and almost all of those efforts are illegal, but that has not deterred the administration,” said Adav Noti with the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan watchdog group that has fought some of the Trump administration’s actions in court.

Trump’s midterm moves include a rare mid-decade redistricting effort to carve out more Republican-leaning House seats, executive orders creating new voting restrictions and directing the Department of Homeland Security to look for noncitizens on the voting rolls. He regularly has accused Democrats of cheating to win elections, without presenting evidence, and sowed doubts about the integrity of U.S. elections in a prime-time speech in July.

Igniting accusations of bribery, Trump promised to give every U.S. adult \$5,000 if Republicans keep control of Congress. And the Trump administration recently started sending \$500 refund checks to Americans he said were overcharged under the Affordable Care Act by the Biden administration.

Trump also is spending millions of government

See TRUMP, Page 2A

Alito talks religion, racism, big moments

Supreme Court justice ‘amused and puzzled’ by retirement rumors

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The blockbuster scoop jolted the nation’s capital in June, just after the Supreme Court had handed down its final decisions for the term: Justice Samuel Alito was retiring.

Except he wasn’t.

In the privacy of his chambers, how did Alito react to the inaccurate story, quickly retracted by NPR?

“I was amused and puzzled,” Alito told USA TODAY in answers to written questions. “I wondered what had led to the erroneous report. And when the error was corrected, I wondered how many people were crestfallen.”

Weeks later, Alito – who at 76 is the court’s second-oldest justice – publicly denied rumors that he will step aside anytime soon to give President Donald Trump the chance to further reshape the court with a fourth nominee.

Now Alito has written “So Ordered: An Originalist’s View of the Constitution, the Court, and Our Country,” published Oct. 6 by Basic Liberty. The book is an adaptation of past speeches that explain his approach to the law along with thoughts about “distinctly American” values and experiences – including what baseball can teach people about the law and life.

The lifelong baseball enthusiast and Phillies fan has previously said that growing up cheering for a largely losing baseball team affected his thinking. While some of his childhood friends outside Trenton, New Jersey, rooted for the Yankees, which dominated baseball in the 1950s, Alito and his best friend followed the Phillies.

See ALITO, Page 6A

Kennedy launches initiative on vaccine injuries

Ahmed Aboulenein
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. last week launched an agencywide effort to study and document any health problems reported after vaccination, the Department of Health and Human Services said on Oct. 8.

The initiative is the latest step by Kennedy, who spent years questioning vaccine safety and founded an anti-vaccine group before taking office, to reshape federal immunization policy.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says child-

hood vaccines are studied in placebo-controlled and comparison-group trials and monitored for safety after approval.

The federal Vaccine Injury Table lists 14 compensable injuries across 16 vaccine types under the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a no-fault system in which claimants file against the government, not vaccine makers.

Since 1988, it has awarded roughly \$5 billion across about 12,300 injury and death claims.

The new moves, which appear to be part of Kennedy’s decadeslong efforts to sow skepticism about vaccines, come as he faces legal challenges to his attempts



Kennedy Jr.

to alter U.S. childhood vaccination schedules and growing concern among public health experts about falling immunization rates, particularly against measles, which has seen a resurgence in the United States since last year.

The effort centers on a National Institutes of Health clinic opened on Oct. 5 to treat and study patients reporting health problems after receiving vaccines, HHS said in a statement.

Other measures include a proposal by the Centers

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