



Power rankings: Who's in No. 1 spot after Rams' latest loss?

SPORTS, 1B

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U.S. forces hit Islamic State in Nigeria

Trump says terrorist group targets Christians

Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said on Dec. 25 that the U.S. military had attacked Islamic State targets in Nigeria, claiming the group had been targeting Christians.

In a post on Truth Social, the president said he directed the military to launch a “powerful and deadly strike against ISIS Terrorist Scum in Northwest Nigeria, who have been targeting and viciously killing, primarily, innocent Christians, at levels not seen for many years, and even Centuries!”

In a post on X, the U.S. military’s Africa Command confirmed it had conducted a strike that killed multiple militants at the request of Nigerian authorities. The strike occurred in “Soboto state,” the post said, an apparent reference to the country’s Sokoto state.

A U.S. defense official said the strike targeted multiple militants at known camps of the Islamic State group. A video posted by the Pentagon showed at least

one projectile launched from a warship. “I have previously warned these Terrorists that if they did not stop the slaughtering of Christians, there would be hell to pay, and tonight, there was,” Trump continued, adding that the Pentagon conducted “numerous perfect” strikes against Islamic State targets in the region.

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PENNY ANSWER



Shortage means ShopRite will start rounding up and down on cash buys

David P. Willis Asbury Park Press | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

If you pay with cash at ShopRite, you should probably make sure you have enough change, including pennies, to pay the exact amount. In response to a shortage of pennies, ShopRite has implemented a new policy to round change up or down to the nearest nickel if you’re paying with cash and don’t have the exact amount. If you pay with a card, Electronic Benefits Transfer or gift card or have exact change, nothing is different, according to the policy, which is posted in the stores.

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Sherrill taps adjutant general and VA nominees

Katie Sobko
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Two more potential Cabinet members for the incoming Sherrill administration were announced on Dec. 22.

Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill will nominate U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Yvonne Mays to remain in her post as adjutant general of New Jersey and lead the Department of Military Affairs.

Sherrill also intends to nominate U.S. Army veteran Vincent Solomono III to serve as commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs. He currently serves as a deputy commissioner and the state’s administrator of veterans affairs.

The Legislature opted to split the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs into two separate agencies. That division is effective in January.

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Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill has nominated the current adjutant general to remain in her post and lead the Department of Military Affairs and another veteran to head the Department of Veterans Affairs.
NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

Judge rejects Parsippany mayor’s election loss challenge



The 2025 candidates for mayor in Parsippany: Democrat Pulkit Desai, left, and Mayor James Barberio, a Republican. NORTHJERSEY.COM

William Westhoven
Morristown Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A third and seemingly final attempt by Parsippany Mayor James Barberio to overturn his narrow election loss last month has been dismissed by a Superior Court Judge in Morristown.

Judge Noah Franzblau rejected the Republican’s challenge on Dec. 23 with prejudice, meaning it cannot be resub-

mitted. In a 25-page ruling, Franzblau said Barberio’s claims of voting irregularities were based on “information and belief” without documented evidence.

The ruling sets the stage for Pulkit Desai to be sworn in as mayor in Morris County’s largest town in early January and for Democrats to claim both the mayor’s seat and a council majority for the first time in decades.

Barberio’s two previous court requests for recounts were denied last

month by Morris County Assignment Judge Stuart Minkowitz. Initial election night returns showed Barberio ahead by 209 votes in his bid for a fourth term as mayor. But after counting late-arriving mail-in and provisional ballots, Desai was certified as the winner by 80 votes.

The mayor’s latest challenge, Franzblau wrote, included “neither a certification nor affidavit from any of the 155

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