



Williams: McGuire says foes' envy will fuel Tech

SPORTS, 1B

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Trump, GOP look to beat midterm odds



Newly elected RNC Chairman Joe Gruters said his success in turning Florida from a swing state to a red state was among the reasons President Donald Trump tapped him to lead the national GOP. ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Early maneuvers have Democrats crying foul

Zac Anderson
USA TODAY

ATLANTA – If Democrats win back control of Congress, Donald Trump's presidency "is basically over," said Joe Gruters, the new chair of the Republican National Committee.

Although Trump's approval rating has fallen, it's still unclear whether Democrats can muster enough support to reclaim Congress. Gruters, 48, and others are taking no chances. He and the nation's top Republican leaders were fanning out across a cavernous Atlanta hotel last week, putting more meat on the bones for their next nationwide campaign plan. While Trump may be term-limited, the president also is right there working to ensure his party remains in power. Trump has urged GOP states to redis-

trict to create more Republican-leaning House seats. He has trumpeted a possible executive order to curtail mail-in ballots. He is laying down an aggressive midterm strategy, and Republicans are gearing up to follow his lead. "The president's committed to winning," Gruters said. "The party's committed to winning." Their early maneuvering has Democrats crying foul, while also trying to keep up as the 2026 chessboard rapidly is rearranged.

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Trial begins for father of infant

Accused of giving baby fatal dose of benadryl

Gabriel Monte
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jurors were seated Monday to hear the trial of a 33-year-old father accused of giving his 2-month-old daughter a fatal dose of allergy medication four years ago. A panel of seven women and five men, with one alternate juror, were picked in the 137th District Court to hear the case against Adam Canales Jr. who is charged with manslaughter in the July 11, 2021 death of his daughter, Athena. He is represented by by Mark Snodgrass and Kristopher Mincey. Canales, who is out on bond, is one of two people charged in the infant's death. The girl's mother, 25-year-old Sarah Mills is also charged with manslaughter. She is out on bond while awaiting trial. Lubbock County District Attorney Sunshine Stanek told jurors in her opening statements on Tuesday that the evidence will show Canales' and Mills' desires overrode their duty to protect their daughter. "This defendant was so selfish and reckless in his actions that he caused the death of Athena," she said. "They made a habit of giving their kids, including Athena, medicine to make them sleep. When they were tired and just wanted adult time to themselves - they dosed her." She said the medicine they gave the child was clearly labeled not for children under 4 years old and certainly not for infants. She said Canales knew his actions were dangerous because he lied to investigators initially when he denied giving his daughter any medi-

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Former Lubbock teacher faces new child sex charge, police seek victims

Gabriel Monte
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Another woman has come forward with an outcry against a former Lubbock teacher arrested after a former student accused him

of having a sexual relationship with her while she was a student at LISD. The new outcry stems from 41-year-old Jeremy Maxfield's time as a youth pastor in Amherst and has resulted in a second sexual assault of a child charge filed against him. Maxfield was initially arrested and

booked Wednesday, Aug. 20 into the Lubbock County Detention Center on a count of inappropriate relationship between a teacher and student and three counts of sexual assault of a child, according to jail records.

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