



Predicting the winners: Buckeyes to win it all in an all-Big Ten final

SPORTS, 1B

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Each day, according to officials, thousands of drivers illegally pass school buses despite their flashing lights and deployed stop arms. ANDREW WEST/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS & NAPLES DAILY NEWS FILE

Dems release more Epstein photos

Part of effort to pressure DOJ to release files

Bart Jansen, Sarah D. Wire and Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – House Democrats received another trove of 95,000 pictures from accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's estate and released 19 images Dec. 12 that show Presidents Donald Trump and Bill Clinton and other high-profile figures.

It was not immediately clear why Democrats on the House Oversight Committee chose to release these particular 19 photos, which included images of sex toys and, separately, snapshots of various VIPs whose past associations with Epstein were already widely known.

The photos were provided without any captions identifying or providing the occasions, dates, locations or context of the famous people shown in them.

One picture shows Trump, who had a long friendship with Epstein in the 1990s and early 2000s, posing for a photo with women whose faces are blacked out. He is seen chatting or sitting next to women in various pictures. One portrays a sign for a "Trump condom."

Trump has not been accused of wrongdoing in the Epstein investigation. He has consistently denied knowing about the late financier's abuse and sex trafficking of underage girls, and said he broke off ties before Epstein pleaded guilty to prostitution charges.

Other images show Clinton below an autograph, director Woody Allen, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Andrew Mountbatten Windsor, the former British prince who was recently stripped of his title by his brother King Charles III. Allen is shown in one image talking to former Trump adviser Steve Bannon.

Allen's name appeared in Epstein emails previously released by the

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Summit explores school bus safety

Stop-arm cameras could help deter illegal passing

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – At a packed conference room in the nation's capital, dozens of people gasped as they watched a video monitor playing a terrifying, yet common scene: Cars speeding past kids as they approached their school bus.

"Horrible," one person said as the screen showed clips of children who were struck by vehicles but avoided seri-

ous injuries. Some turned their eyes from the screen. Others seemed to hold back tears.

The clips were played during the first National School Bus Safety Summit on Dec. 10, which brought together hundreds of federal, state and local leaders, as well as safety and transportation experts, to discuss reckless drivers endangering children across the country.

Each day, according to officials, thousands of drivers illegally pass school buses despite their flashing lights and deployed stop arms. And with more than 500,000 school buses on the road, millions of violations occur each year. Some

illegal maneuvers have ended in tragedy.

In 2018, a driver in Rochester, Indiana, passed a stopped school bus and fatally struck a 9-year-old girl and her 6-year-old twin brothers. The incident led to reforms and calls for harsher penalties for violators.

Recent attention has been centered around autonomous vehicles, especially after driverless Waymo taxis in Austin, Texas, were caught maneuvering around stopped school buses at least 20 times, prompting a federal investigation and calls to halt the taxi service.

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Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem asked to explain deportation of veteran

Rebecca Morin
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was grilled on Capitol Hill, facing questions related to her department's immigration efforts, including whether United States military veterans have been deported under the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

Rep. Seth Magaziner, D-Rhode Island, invited Sae Joon Park, a Purple Heart recipient who self-deported earlier this year due to a removal order, to join the House Homeland Security Committee hearing through a video call on Zoom. During the five minutes he had allotted to question Noem, Magaziner asked the secretary how many military veterans have been deported.

"Sir, we have not deported U.S. citizens or military veterans," Noem responded.

Magaziner went on to introduce Park, a U.S. Army combat veteran who was shot twice while serving in Panama



Several Democratic lawmakers at the Dec. 11 committee hearing called on Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to resign.

SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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