



Super Bowl-bound Chiefs deny the Ravens



NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Zay Flowers fumbles just shy of the goal line for a critical turnover during a 17-10 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs in Sunday's AFC championship game in Baltimore. The Chiefs will attempt to repeat as Super Bowl champions when they face the San Francisco 49ers on Feb. 11 in Las Vegas. **Sports, D1**

3 U.S. troops killed in drone attack in Jordan

AT LEAST 34 OTHERS WOUNDED IN ASSAULT

Biden blames Iranian proxies, vows to respond

BY ALEX HORTON,
TOLUSE OLORUNNIP, DAN LAMOTHE
AND MISSY RYAN

A militant drone attack killed three U.S. service members and injured at least 34 in Jordan on Sunday, officials said, marking the first deadly military action against American troops since the war in Gaza triggered a steep rise in violence across the Middle East.

President Biden blamed the assault on groups supported by Iran, generating immediate questions about when, where and how forcefully the United States might respond.

Speaking during a visit to South Carolina, Biden referenced the loss of "three brave souls."

"We had a tough day last night in the Middle East," he said, before leading a moment of silence. "And we shall respond."

As the tally of attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria has

surged to more than 160 since October, the Pentagon has carried out retaliatory strikes against Iranian proxies there. But to the frustration of many in Washington, those actions, along with a parallel campaign of strikes on Iranian-linked rebels in Yemen, have failed to end the violence, and the president's critics used the incident Sunday to ramp up their demands for more aggressive countermeasures.

The deadly attack targeted a facility known as Tower 22 in northeast Jordan, close to where the borders of Syria, Iraq and Jordan converge.

A U.S. defense official said the one-way drone struck the base's living quarters, causing injuries that ranged from cuts and bruises to brain trauma. About 350 troops are stationed at the base.

Jordan's government condemned the attack and said Jordanian troops had suffered no casualties. Government spokesperson

SEE JORDAN ON A12

U.S. recovery outpaces other nations'

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

The European economy, hobbled by unfamiliar weakness in Germany, is barely growing. China is struggling to recapture its sizzle. And Japan continues to disappoint.

But in the United States, it's a different story. Here, despite lingering consumer angst over inflation, the surprisingly strong economy is outperforming all of its major trading partners.

Since 2020, the United States has powered through a once-in-a-century pandemic, the highest inflation in 40 years and fallout from two foreign wars. Now, after posting faster annual growth last year than in 2022, the U.S. economy is quashing fears of

Nation's success in
reviving economy holds
lessons for future crises

a recession while offering lessons for future crisis-fighting.

"The U.S. has really come out of this into a place of strength and is moving forward like covid never happened," said Claudia Sahm, a former Federal Reserve economist who now runs an eponymous consulting firm. "We earned this; it wasn't just a fluke."

On Friday, President Biden hailed fresh government data showing that annual inflation over the second half of 2023 fell

back to the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target. Coupled with Thursday's news that the economy grew by 3.1 percent over the past 12 months, the Commerce Department report showed that the United States appears to have achieved an economic soft landing.

The recovery from the pandemic challenged long-standing economic beliefs, such as the idea of an inverse relationship between unemployment and inflation. (As one rose, the other was expected to fall.) Expressed in what economists call the Phillips curve, this nostrum proved nearly useless in explaining the economy's recent behavior.

Washington's success in reviving the economy also suggests a

new approach to future downturns, one that relies more on the government's power of the purse and less on the Federal Reserve's control of the cost of credit.

"Putting money in people's hands vs. moving around interest rates, which is monetary policy, fiscal policy is going to be stronger," Sahm said. "We cannot go into the next crisis being, like, 'Oh, the Fed's got this.'"

Consumer spending is driving the economy: Real consumption rose by 0.5 percent in December, its fastest pace since last January. Pending home sales jumped, too. Following the flurry of good news, JPMorgan Chase economists said they raised their first-quarter growth forecast.

SEE RECOVERY ON A5

Surging Red Sea violence could imperil aid for Yemen

BY KAREEM FAHIM
AND MISSY RYAN

The escalating military confrontation between the United States and Houthi militants is threatening to deepen a humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where aid groups were already struggling to meet the country's needs, relief workers have warned.

Nearly a decade of civil war in the Arabian Peninsula country has driven millions of people from their homes, deepened poverty and spread starvation. Now a new conflict — Houthi fighters are firing missiles on commercial shipping; American and British forces are striking back — is disrupting tentative efforts at peace.

Years of war have left more than two-thirds of the population — 21 million people — "in desperate need of food, water, and lifesaving assistance," 26 aid organizations reported this month, expressing "grave concern over the humanitarian impacts of the recent military escalation."

"We urge all actors to prioritize diplomatic channels over military options to de-escalate the crisis and safeguard the progress of peace efforts," groups including CARE, the International Rescue Committee and Save the Children wrote.

One major concern is the Biden administration's decision this month to return the Houthis

SEE YEMEN ON A12

Musk faces a battle for more control of Tesla

Investor frustration
accelerated after the
CEO's antisemitic tweet

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI

Six years ago, Tesla outlined an ambitious compensation package for its chief executive that made Elon Musk one of the wealthiest men alive, and investors were all for it. Now, the world's richest person's desire for more control over the company is facing skepticism from those same quarters.

"Him asking for stock, the whole thing's absurd," Ross Gerber, a longtime investor and Musk ally, said in an interview, after issuing a stark conclusion: "I'm very grateful for the Tesla investment I made 10 years ago. We've reached a point as a firm, and me personally, where I feel the story is played out."

While Gerber hasn't pulled out of Tesla, he has tempered expectations about the company's future — and become a vocal critic of

Musk, one of the most vivid examples of mounting frustration with the entrepreneur regarded as brilliant but erratic. Since Musk this month requested a 25 percent stake in Tesla to avoid "a takeover by dubious interests," investor patience has shown signs of wearing thin with the risks Musk has taken with his own fortune — and theirs. Gerber's turning point was when he received outreach from hordes of Tesla investors seeking to pull out of the company after Musk fired off an antisemitic tweet in November.

A little more than a year ago, Musk sold billions in Tesla stock as he scrambled to finance his \$44 billion purchase of Twitter, where he promptly gutted the social media company's workforce, ditched the ubiquitous bird logo and rebranded it as X. Two months ago, advertisers began boycotting the platform after Musk put up the antisemitic post.

Amid that controversy, Musk launched a campaign to persuade Tesla shareholders to restore his stake in the company, saying his current 13 percent holding could

SEE MUSK ON A2

ELECTION 2024

Analysts warn many Black voters growing weary of Biden

Outside Detroit, some see little progress and ponder their options ahead of presidential election



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Bryan Killian-Bey, 59, in the neighborhood where he grew up in Pontiac, Mich., on Jan. 3. Killian-Bey voted for President Biden in 2020 but says he's unsure how he'll vote in the upcoming election.

BY MICHAEL BRICE-SADDLER

PONTIAC, MICH. — The neighborhood he grew up in was always a bit rough around the edges, and it has frayed even more over the years, but Bryan Killian-Bey found reasons to smile as he drove through it on a recent winter day: his grandmother's old, now-abandoned house and the school that used to be a hangout spot for the area's kids.

But the smile fled as Killian-Bey, 59, steered his truck farther into the city's core, which has rapidly declined during years of economic turmoil, leaving streets once lined with vibrant homes and businesses now riddled with empty lots. Without fail, he said, Democratic canvassers show up around election time vowing to improve conditions for him and his neighbors, but it never happens.

He voted for President Biden in 2020, but this time Killian-Bey says he and others in his predominantly Black neighborhood aren't so sure. "I'm torn between voting

SEE VOTERS ON A6

IN THE NEWS

Digital safety Child pornography is more widely available online than ever, data shows. Top tech CEOs are set to testify before senators on the issue. **A3**

Mayorkas impeachment House Republicans announced two formal charges but have yet to detail clear evidence against the secretary. **A8**

THE NATION Ring will no longer facilitate police requests for users' footage. **A3**
The Pentagon chiefs prostate cancer case underscores a broader silence around the disease, survivors say. **A4**

U.S. and Chinese officials will meet to discuss a fentanyl crackdown. **A4**

THE WORLD Poles hoping for a rollback of the nation's abortion ban could be in for a difficult fight. **A9**

Ukrainian officials allegedly stole about \$40 million intended for ammunition. **A10**

THE ECONOMY Shira Ovide explains how legal action in Europe and the United States affecting Apple and Google may change app experiences. **A13**

THE REGION A Virginia bill would set up a regulated marketplace for recreational cannabis by Jan. 1. **B1**
A witness recounts the Chesapeake Bay Bridge pileup Saturday that left 13 people injured. **B1**
D.C. teens took on the FBI in a friendly game of basketball. **B1**

STYLE Black Jesus has undergone a resurrection of sorts as of late, thanks to "The Book of Clarence," Lil Nas X and "Mrs. Davis." **C1**
"Masters of the Air" careers between disorienting realism and paradoxically on-the-nose World War II clichés. **C1**

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