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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Preparing to loosen the reins on crypto

Advocates have Trump’s ear, may hold top posts at regulatory agencies

BY TONY ROMM

President-elect Donald Trump is preparing the U.S. government to adopt a more permissive stance toward cryptocurrency, eyeing a roster of industry-friendly candidates for key posts while his top advisers consult crypto executives on potential changes to federal policy.

By pursuing a more lenient regulatory environment, Trump aims to fulfill his campaign promise to transform the United States into the “crypto capital of the planet” — a declaration that has rankled consumer watchdogs, earned the industry’s robust support and sent the price of bitcoin skyrocketing, reaching nearly \$89,000 by Monday evening.

The early discussions have centered on a set of financial regulatory agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission. For important leadership posts, Trump’s aides have considered a mix of current regulators, former federal officials and financial industry executives, many of whom have publicly expressed pro-crypto views, according to five people familiar with the matter. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the deliberations, cautioning that the process is still in its early stages and the list of candidates is changing.

These appointments are critical: Under Trump, the heads of the SEC and other agencies will have the power to determine whether crypto will become a larger, more formalized part of the financial system. The choice has vast implications for the global economy, and the stakes are high, as evidenced by the 2022 collapse of the crypto giant FTX — and the risks it raised for a catastrophic contagion.

The names under consideration
SEE **CRYPTO** ON A11

Biden marks Veterans Day



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

President Joe Biden, joined by, from left, Vice President Kamala Harris, Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough and Army Maj. Gen. Trevor Bredenkamp, lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Monday. In the District, veterans were honored at the World War II Memorial. **Story, B1**

This time, strict migration rules already in place

BY NICK MIROFF

President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to clamp down on migrant crossings at the southern border by quickly restoring the policies of his first term, including “Remain in Mexico,” which required asylum seekers to wait outside U.S. territory while their cases were decided.

But when he returns to office in January, Trump stands to inherit enforcement tools from the Biden administration that are even more powerful than the policies at his disposal last time.

Biden’s crackdown gives Trump stronger tools than he had in first term

Biden administration officials, for example, have implemented emergency border controls this year that essentially ban asylum for migrants who enter unlawfully. While Trump’s Remain in Mexico policy provided asylum seekers with access to U.S. courts, President Joe Biden’s asylum re-

strictions afford no such process, allowing U.S. officials to summarily deport migrants and threaten them with criminal prosecution if they return.

Biden’s policies are deplored by immigration advocates, but they were designed to mitigate one of the Democrats’ biggest vulnerabilities heading into the election — record-high illegal crossings during the president’s first three years in office.

The asylum restrictions have helped the administration slash the number of illegal crossings at the Mexico border by 78 percent

since December to levels even lower than during the end of Trump’s first term.

Biden officials defend their restrictions as part of a broader carrot-and-stick approach meant to channel migrants away from smugglers and toward Biden’s expanded “lawful pathways,” which allow more than 70,000 applicants per month to enter the United States legally.

Trump is planning to take away the carrots and keep the sticks.

Trump said he will appoint
SEE **POLICIES** ON A6

Trump to tap Rubio for State

MIKE WALTZ SET FOR SECURITY ADVISER

Hawkish views contrast with president-elect’s

BY JOSH DAWSEY,
DAN LAMOTHE,
LEIGH ANN CALDWELL
AND JOHN HUDSON

President-elect Donald Trump is expected to nominate Sen. Marco Rubio as secretary of state and has asked Rep. Mike Waltz to be the White House national security adviser, people familiar with the matter said Monday, elevating two Florida Republicans with more hawkish foreign policy views than that of the incoming president, who ran on a platform of restoring peace to a war-torn world.

Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, built his political identity around support for upending autocratic governments from Latin America to the Middle East to Asia, but he has softened his once-neoconservative worldviews in recent years on economics, immigration and foreign policy. He is vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee and had been among those Trump considered to be his running mate before settling on Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, now the vice president-elect.

Waltz, a retired Special Forces officer who used to work for Vice President Dick Cheney, is one of
SEE **WALTZ** ON A12



Michael Waltz Marco Rubio

Deportations: Appointments are first steps toward Trump’s goal. **A6**

Haiti swaps premiers; gunfire shuts main airport

BY AMANDA COLETTA

Haiti’s ruling council swore in a new acting prime minister Monday, despite claims from the previous premier that his ouster was illegitimate, as escalating violence forced the main airport in the gang-beset country to halt flights.

In a decree published Monday, the transitional presidential council announced that Garry Conille, a former official with the U.N. children’s agency, would be replaced as prime minister by businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aimé. The council said this weekend that it had fired Conille, who had been in the position since May.

The move by the council — a body tasked with restoring order to a nation in the grip of gang violence and with preparing a path for free-and-fair elections — plunged Haiti deeper into a constitutional crisis, with Conille claiming that his removal was “nothing more than a maneuver that further weakens our country and seriously compromises our

SEE **HAITI** ON A9

RETROPOLIS

‘The dancing mouse,’ found at last

USS Edsall, which valiantly tried to fend off a Japanese fleet, sank in 1942

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

On March 1, 1942, three months after Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor, the aged American destroyer USS Edsall was steaming alone in the Indian Ocean south of Java, loaded with 153 sailors and several dozen Army Air Forces pilots and soldiers.

The Edsall was a small ship, only about 300 feet long. It had been damaged in an earlier depth charge accident and was unfit for combat. But it was probably hurrying to the aid of a ship in distress when it blundered into a huge Japanese naval force around 4 p.m.

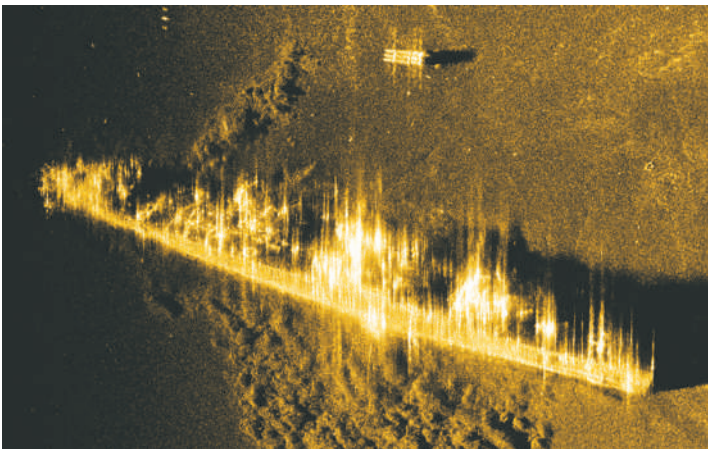
For more than an hour, the Edsall dodged and swerved as enemy ships fired hundreds of shells. The Edsall fired back, threw up a smokescreen and launched torpedoes. The Japanese later called the Edsall “the dancing mouse.”

Finally, the Japanese sent in dive bombers, and the battered destroyer rolled over and sank as evening fell. A few survivors were picked up and later beheaded in an enemy prison camp, historians found.

On Monday in Australia, when
SEE **SHIP** ON A5



NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SEAPOWER CENTRE

TOP: The USS Edsall’s final resting place was a mystery until last year. **ABOVE:** The wreckage was found in the Indian Ocean. Its discovery was announced Monday.

Many leaders take pass on U.N. climate summit

Biden, others absent as Earth is on track for its hottest year on record

BY CHICO HARLAN
AND MAXINE JOSELOW

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN — With just over two months until Donald Trump takes office, the Biden administration has sent a high-powered delegation to the annual climate summit in an attempt to reassure negotiators here that the United States will continue to work on combating climate change.

At a news conference Monday, John D. Podesta, senior adviser to the president for international climate policy, asserted that the United States would “continue to reduce emissions, benefiting our own country and benefiting the world.”

But the gathering — which last year signed a historic agreement to steer the world away from coal, oil and gas — comes as Earth is on track to endure its hottest year on record, and many top leaders are staying home this year.

It is the second year in a row

that nations meeting at the U.N. Climate Change Conference, or COP29, have shattered heat records, and delegates have to contend with their countries’ failure so far to deliver on the central pledge of last year’s negotiations.

The United States, for its part, is pumping more oil and gas than any country ever has — a trend that is certain to continue under Trump, who has summarized his energy policy as “drill, baby, drill.” On Monday, Trump chose former New York congressman Lee Zeldin to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, saying Zeldin would push to loosen environmental rules constraining U.S. companies.

“He will ensure fair and swift deregulatory decisions that will be enacted in a way to unleash the power of American businesses,” Trump said in a statement, “while at the same time maintaining the highest environmental standards, including the cleanest air and water on the planet.”

Zeldin, a Republican, received a 14 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters, an environmental group. He also belonged to the Conservative Climate Caucus and the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus in the House.

SEE **CLIMATE** ON A12

IN THE NEWS

Despair, anger, relief, elation How women say they are feeling after Donald Trump won another term in office. **A4**

Honored at last Harriet Tubman, America’s first Black female combat soldier, is finally properly recognized for her military service after 160 years, Petula Dvorak writes. **B1**

THE NATION

Trump’s strong showing has left some “resistance” organizers feeling overwhelmed. **A3**
Women are requesting abortion pills ahead of a presidency they fear could curtail access. **A7**

THE WORLD

After Trump’s win, an Israeli minister called for annexing parts of the West Bank. **A8**
The Kremlin said that a Putin-Trump call reported on by The Post did not occur. **A9**

THE ECONOMY

Minority-owned firms are bracing for the end of affirmative action in federal contracting. **A10**
Lawmakers in Congress are discussing a temporary measure that would fund the government into March, well after Donald Trump’s inauguration. **A10**

THE REGION

A 29-year-old statistician called 911 to report killing her mother, Montgomery County police said. **B1**
After a record-setting 38 dry days, the D.C. area recorded measurable rainfall overnight Sunday into Monday morning. **B1**

STYLE

Perimenopause, the time leading up to menopause, has entered pop culture with the ferocity of a hot flash. **C1**

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Scientists are zeroing in on ways to predict which puppies have the traits to find success as working dogs. **E1**

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