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TRUMP, BIDEN VOW SEAMLESS SWITCH

'Welcome back,' president tells longtime rival as they discuss wars in Ukraine, Gaza

By Will Weissert, Lisa Mascaro and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump made a victor's return to Washington on Wednesday, visiting the White House for a nearly two-hour meeting with President Joe Biden and committing to a straightforward transition of power despite actively working to disrupt the same process four years ago.

Sitting in the Oval Office, the former rivals shook hands before Mr. Biden called Trump "Mr. President-elect and former president" and then settled simply on "Donald."

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Election 2024 AFTERMATH
☆☆☆☆

"Congratulations," the Democrat told the Republican. "I look forward to having, like they said, a smooth transition. Welcome. Welcome back." Trump replied, "Thank you very much," saying that "politics is tough. And it's, in many cases, not a very nice world. But it is a nice world today, and I appreciate it very much." Except for the opening moments,

SEE TRUMP, PAGE A-6



Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images
President-elect Donald Trump and President Joe Biden meet Wednesday in the White House. After a public greeting, they talked privately.

Senate race goes to recount

McCormick holds nearly 30K-vote lead

By Benjamin Kail
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — State officials will recount the results of the contentious U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania, with Republican former hedge fund CEO David McCormick leading Democratic three-term incumbent Sen. Bob Casey by fewer than 30,000 votes as of Wednesday.



Casey

The automatic recount was triggered under state law because the margin of Mr. McCormick's lead, as of Wednesday afternoon, was under the half a percentage point threshold, at just 0.43 percentage points (48.93% of the vote to Mr. Casey's 48.5%).



McCormick

While the race was called for Mr. McCormick by the Associated Press two days after Election Day, the recount means that the official winner

SEE SENATE, PAGE A-12



BUTLER FORGES AHEAD

Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette photos

A documentary called "Butler Under Fire" will be shown at the Theater on Main Street in Butler on Thursday.

Voters in 'the place Trump got shot' did their part in sending the former president back to White House

By Laura Esposito
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Butler County is known around the world as the place where Donald Trump was the target of an assassin's bullet, but its residents likely will tell you the same thing — they never wanted to be famous, especially not for an act of political violence.

The mostly rural county about 40 miles north of Pittsburgh counts just under 200,000 residents. It was known for being where the first Jeep was produced, in 1940 at the request of the Army, and that the city of Butler was

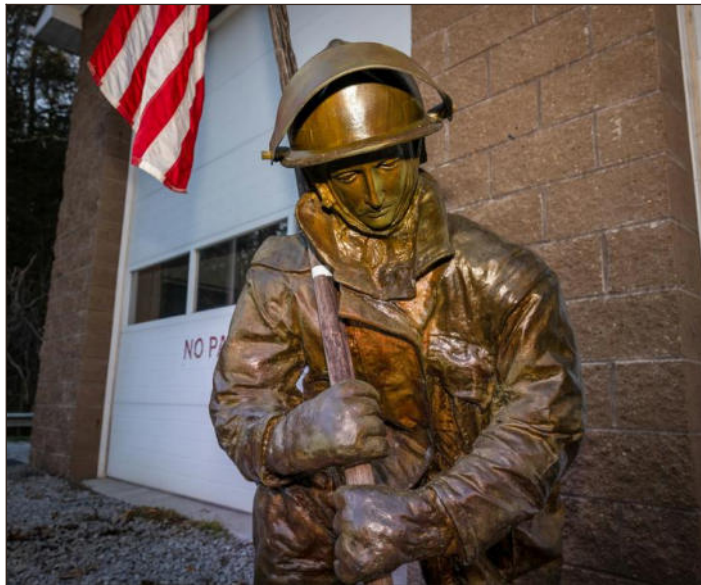
listed by Smithsonian magazine as one of America's 20 Best Small Cities in 2012.

But when a shooter opened fire minutes into the now president-elect's speech at the Butler Farm Show grounds July 13, the county was thrust into the national spotlight. Residents recoiled as the area's reputation shifted.

Four months later, people there say they have found their voices again — by overwhelmingly voting Trump back into office.

Just shy of 80,000 Butler County voters cast their ballots for Trump on Nov. 5, nearly

SEE BUTLER, PAGE A-2



A statue in memory of Corey Comperatore is in front of the Buffalo Township Fire Department where he volunteered. Comperatore was killed at Donald Trump's campaign rally in Butler in July.

Republicans win control of House

GOP secures hold on federal government

By Stephen Groves and Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans have won enough seats to control the U.S. House, completing the party's sweep into power and securing their hold on U.S. government alongside President-elect Donald Trump.

A House Republican victory in Arizona, alongside a win in slow-counting California earlier Wednesday, gave the GOP the 218 House victories that make up the majority. Republicans earlier gained control of the Senate from Democrats.

With hard-fought yet thin majorities, Republican leaders are envisioning a mandate to upend the federal government and swiftly implement Trump's vision for the country.

SEE HOUSE, PAGE A-3



ONLINE TODAY:
Get real-time breaking news and much more at post-gazette.com
Page B-8

Weather
Cooler; periods of rain.
Daytime high, 46;
tonight's low, 44.
Page B-8

Bridge.....E-6
Business.....D-1
Classified.....C-11
Comics.....E-5
Crosswords.....E-6
Editorials.....A-10

Food.....E-1
High Schools.....C-6
Horoscope.....E-6
Hot List.....WE-2
Local News.....B-1
Lottery.....B-2

Obituaries.....B-6
Perspectives.....A-11
Scoreboard.....C-10
Sports.....C-1
Television.....C-9
Weekend Mag.....WE-1



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