



10 ways NFL draft came into focus after free agency moves

SPORTS, 1B



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Economic report: Volunteer firefighters save state \$4.7B



Rockland volunteer firefighter battle recent blaze in Valley Cottage. PROVIDED BY ROCKLAND FIRE TRAINING CENTER

Organization cites overall force of 80K across NY

Steve Lieberman
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Rockland volunteer firefighters respond to fires and other emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week at all hours. They enter burning buildings and respond in all types of weather: freezing cold, oppressive heat, rain and snow.

They don't get paid or receive many benefits for their public service.

Rockland's estimated 1,900 active firefighters are part of an 80,000 force of volunteers across New York state that saves taxpayers an estimated \$4.7 bil-

lion annually, according to an economic study released by the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, known as FASNY.

Outside of paid firefighters in cities and urban areas, volunteer firefighters make up nearly 93% of the fire responders who protect life and property across the state, according to FASNY. Rockland volunteers answer an estimated 9,000 calls a year.

"This report underscores the importance and value of the volunteer fire-fighting service to New York," FASNY President Edward Tase Jr. said. "Without the dedication and service of the

brave volunteers throughout the state, local taxpayers would face a significant financial burden to fund the type of emergency response they are accustomed to."

In Rockland, the volunteer firefighters save taxpayers an estimated \$50 to \$60 million annually, Rockland Fire and Emergency Services Coordinator Chris Kear said, adding that too many variables are involved with a

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Greene, McCarthy pull closer to rioters

DC jail visit illustrative of attempt inside GOP to rewrite Jan. 6 history

Lisa Mascaro
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene swept into the District of Columbia jail to check on conditions for the Jan. 6 defendants, with Republican lawmakers handshaking and high-fiving the prisoners, who chanted "Let's Go Brandon!" – a coded vulgarity against President Joe Biden – as the group left.

A day earlier Speaker Kevin McCarthy met with the mother of slain rioter Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran who was shot and killed by police as she tried to climb through a broken window during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

And the House Republican leader recently gave Fox News' Tucker Carlson exclusive access to a trove of Jan. 6 surveillance tapes despite the conservative commentator's airing of conspiracy theories about the Capitol attack.

Taken together, the House Republicans can be seen as working steadily but intently to distort the facts of the deadly riot, which played out for the world to see when Donald Trump's supporters laid siege to the Capitol, and in the process downplay the risk of domestic extremism in the U.S.

In actions and legislation, the Republicans are seeking to portray perpetrators of the Capitol riot as victims of zealous federal prosecutors, despite many being convicted of serious crimes. As Trump calls for the Jan. 6 defendants to be pardoned, some House Republicans are attempting to

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Bank failures test Yellen's experience

Fatima Hussein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Working against the clock to stop a developing banking crisis, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had until sunset on Sunday, March 12, to come up with a plan to calm the U.S.

economy. She quickly turned to someone who had been through the fire before, and on a much larger scale: Hank Paulson.

Paulson, who ran the Treasury Department during the financial crisis in 2008, counseled immediate govern-

ment action. "It's really hard to stop or even slow down a bank run. And to do that requires a powerful and quick government response," Paulson said, recounting what he told Yellen.

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Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES/AP FILE

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