

USA TODAY WEEKEND

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GENERATIONAL DIVIDE

BRIDGING THE GAP

People across age groups share views on sex, voting, saving money, climate

In Weekend Extra

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA BRUNTY/ USA TODAY NETWORK; GETTY IMAGES



Anna Kendrick tackles serial killer

“Woman of the Hour” spotlights dangers women face, she says, making directorial debut. **In Life**

Dueling game plans for Vikings, Lions

Weekend game pits Minnesota, with NFL's top defense, against Detroit's best offense. **In Sports**

E2

Israeli forces kill Hamas' military chief

Yahya Sinwar, 61, was considered the architect of the massacre of Israelis by Hamas militants on Oct. 7, 2023.
MOHAMMED ABED/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



‘Today we have settled the score,’ Netanyahu declares

Kim Hjelmgard, Tom Vanden Brook, Joey Garrison, Michael Collins and John Bacon
USA TODAY

Israel said Thursday that after a year-long pursuit it killed Hamas' military leader Yahya Sinwar, regarded as the architect of the militant group's Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel.

“Today we have settled the score,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a recorded statement in

which he vowed to continue the war in Gaza until all the remaining Israeli hostages taken by Hamas were returned. Hamas has not publicly commented.

The Hamas attacks targeted communities in southern Israel. About 1,200 people were killed. A further 251 were kidnapped and taken to Gaza. The attacks resulted in Israel launching a war in Gaza, meant to wipe out Hamas, that

See HAMAS, Page 6A

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Vote count safeguard still has loopholes

Congress' new law could be exploited at local level

Aysha Bagchi
USA TODAY

When Congress passed the Electoral Count Reform Act in the wake of former President Donald Trump's post-2020 election effort to reverse his loss, leaders in both parties said it would help safeguard future elections.

There are still holes that could be exploited, however, especially at the local level. Some of those holes are already being tested by local officials, such as refusing to certify elections at the county level, according to Matthew Seligman, a fellow at Stanford's Constitutional Law Center and co-author of the 2024 book “How to Steal a Presidential Election.”

“Due to the changes in the Electoral Count Reform Act, the effort has shifted to try to get county boards of elections, and then potentially state-level boards of election, to have some kind of authority to refuse to certify the election results,” Seligman told USA TODAY.

In 2020, Trump tried to persuade Republican members of Congress and Vice President Mike Pence to refuse to count the Electoral College votes after Joe Biden won the election.

The Electoral Count Reform Act makes that approach more difficult by clarifying that the vice president's vote-counting role is ceremonial and by raising the number of votes in Congress needed to object to election results.

See INTEGRITY, Page 6A

ABOUT THIS SERIES

This USA TODAY series looks at how the U.S. electoral system is resilient, and where it remains vulnerable. We highlight hot spots to watch and key players, many of whom we interviewed.



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Inside America's great obsession with corn mazes



Kevin Watson, assistant director at Howell Living History Farm in New Jersey, stops at a time clock inside a corn maze. The farm has the state's longest continually running corn maze. PHAEDRA TRETHAN/USA TODAY

Unraveling their story

Phaedra Trethan
USA TODAY

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Beloved children's story bunny Peter Rabbit. Late country star Toby Keith. Taylor Swift, possibly the most famous person on the planet.

Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell. That sweetest eccentric, Willy Wonka. Smokey the Bear, who wants you to help prevent forest fires.

Oh, and steers and octopuses and a moose. Cows and quilts and championship-winning sports teams. “Star Wars” and “Peanuts.”

What do they all have in common? Corn.

They're just some of the many designs cut from cornstalks into mazes at farms and in fields across the county, drawing millions of people of all ages who will navigate their twists, turns and dead

ends, all in the name of fall fun.

“It's the thrill of getting lost,” said Kevin Watson, assistant director at Howell Living History Farm in Hopewell Township, New Jersey, where the state's longest continually running corn maze is located. “It's a unique experience, something you can do on the farm with your friends or your family, something that's great

See CORN MAZES, Page 2A

They escaped Ukraine but fell to Helene



Anastasiia Novitnia Segen, left, and Dmytro Segen died in Hurricane Helene. PROVIDED BY LYSA GINDINOVA

Other family members missing in North Carolina

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

For two weeks, Lysa Gindinova clung to her family's harrowing journey out of Ukraine for hope.

She tried to believe they escaped Hurricane Helene's floodwaters before it swept them away, just as they had escaped the bombarded city of Kherson in

the first months of Russia's invasion.

But that hope fell apart when a North Carolina sheriff presented her family with a gold earring a search team found on the body of a deceased woman. Gindinova immediately recognized it as a prized possession of her aunt, Anastasiia Novitnia Segen.

“We saw the earring, and everyone stood quiet,” Gindinova told USA TODAY. “That was the moment when there was nothing else we could come

See REFUGEES, Page 3A