

USA TODAY WEEKEND

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

Fall frenzy of movies to stream

New options on Hulu, Max, Netflix and Prime Video include recent theatrical releases and original films. **In Life**



Tales of terror, intrigue will test your courage

Check out monsters, haunts and things that go bump – or worse – in the night. **In Weekend Extra**

ILLUSTRATION BY TRACIE KEETON/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Bueckers, UConn take center stage

Guard looks to lift Huskies to national prominence as women's college hoops exits the Caitlin Clark era. **In Sports**

E2

Patients face insulin shortage, delays

Janel Wright, of Alaska, had to ration her insulin this year when she could not get it at her pharmacy. PROVIDED BY JANEL WRIGHT



Some desperate as focus shifts to weight loss drugs

Ken Alltucker USA TODAY

Janel Wright had just days left in her insulin supply in early January when a pharmacist told her there was none of the drug left to fill her prescription. Her neighborhood Fred Meyer pharmacy in Anchorage, Alaska, hadn't called in weeks to offer an automatic refill, and Wright's supply of NovoLog insulin had dwindled to nearly nothing.

The 62-year-old administrative law judge has Type 1 diabetes and needs the medication to live.

The pharmacist told Wright the pharmacy had tried unsuccessfully to get a wholesaler to ship them new insulin, so she had two remaining options. She could drive to a town 90 minutes away where another Fred Meyer had two vials in stock or call other pharmacies to see

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"I thought: No insulin? Death is imminent."

Janel Wright Diabetes patient from Anchorage, Alaska

Resentence Menendez brothers, DA urges

Action in 1989 murder case could bring freedom

John Bacon and Christopher Cann USA TODAY

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced Thursday that he recommends the resentencing of Erik and Lyle Menendez, brothers who are serving life sentences without parole for the murders of their parents in a case that seized the nation's attention 35 years ago.

Resentencing means Erik and Lyle Menendez could walk out of prison on parole almost immediately.



Erik, left, and Lyle Menendez, shown in court in 1992, were sentenced to life in prison. VINCE BUCCI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Gascón was considering new evidence in the case and has met with family members who have been pleading for the brothers' release. The relatives say the new evidence demonstrates the abuse the brothers suffered at the hands of their father, wealthy music executive Jose Menendez.

A jury found the brothers guilty in 1996 of killing Jose and Kitty Menendez after their highly publicized and televised first trial ended in a mistrial.

Erik Menendez was 18 and Lyle Menendez was 21 at the time of the 1989 murders. Their lawyers argued they acted in self-defense and said they were sexually abused by both parents. The brothers had confronted their parents and believed their parents might kill them to prevent them from going public with the abuse, the defense lawyers argued.

Prosecutors at the time dismissed

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PUMPKINS REIGN IN ILLINOIS TOWN



Sleepy hollow near Peoria provides big slice of autumn Americana to USA

Michael Loria USA TODAY

MORTON, Ill. – America loses its head over pumpkins every fall. Pies, chilis, donuts, lattes, bread, beer and more, adding to a cultural flavor that's made the pumpkin a national icon ever since the headless horseman flung one at Ichabod Crane.

But there's a good chance every bite of the nation's orange obsession has its origins in the same spot: Morton, a sleepy hollow outside Peoria that touts itself as the pumpkin capital of the world.

There seems to be no squashing that claim. Morton was built around a pumpkin factory that caters to most of the U.S. canned pumpkin demand. The factory has processed nearly 2 million tons of pumpkins over the past 16 years alone, according to factory spokesperson Olivia Jones. That's around 250 million pounds annually.

"We're all about pumpkins here," says Jeff Kaufman, the mayor of Morton, standing beside a carriage-size pumpkin-themed jungle gym on

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John Ackerman, holds a "peanut pumpkin" at his farm in Morton, Ill. It's known for having skin like a peanut shell and is one of the many unique varieties the Ackerman farm is known for growing. MICHAEL LORIA/USA TODAY

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Activists watch polling sites like never before



David Clements says he gives activists the tools to ensure election integrity. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

Right-wing groups train people to act on concerns

Sarah D. Wire USA TODAY

RONKONKOMA, N.Y. – On a Friday night in a warehouse plastered with posters of MAGA figures like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, former tax law professor David Clements demonstrated to a group of 30 people how to take over a public meeting if their election concerns aren't being taken seriously.

"You need to focus right now on who administers your elections here, who certifies your elections," he told the crowd, who had gathered in the building

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.

repurposed as an America First social club in suburban Long Island.

After the 2020 election, conspiracy theorists – with the support of former President Donald Trump – scrambled to

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