

Kid fundraisers: Best ways to deal with endless asks

Experts advise parents and those getting hit up to keep it polite, infrequent, guilt-free. **In Money**

25 not-too-scary movies to watch this Halloween

Perfect picks for folks who want something spooky but not frightening or bloody. **In Life**



JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/
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Ohtani injury doesn't dim Dodgers' confidence

Los Angeles knows it can win World Series, with or without its designated hitter, columnist Bob Nightengale writes. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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USA TODAY/SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY POLL

Fears over what follows Election Day

Protesters gather outside the CBS Broadcast Studios in New York before the vice presidential debate Oct. 1 between Republican JD Vance and Democrat Tim Walz. JASPER COLT/USA TODAY



Most trust accuracy of the vote count but worry about violence in aftermath

Susan Page, Sudiksha Kochi and Maya Marchel Hoff
USA TODAY

And the day after? Election angst won't end on Election Day, a new USA TODAY/Suffolk University Poll finds. Americans, fiercely divided between Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, are concerned about the accuracy of the vote count, anxious about the peaceful transition of power and even braced for political violence. The survey of 1,000 likely voters, taken Oct. 14 to 18 by landline and cell-

phone, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Here are seven takeaways about what happens once the ballots are cast.

Do you trust the vote count?

Nearly 8 in 10 voters do. Most said they were "very" confident (43%) or "somewhat" confident (36%) that the results of the election will be accurately counted and reported.

But trust was higher among Harris supporters than those who back Trump.

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True-crime shows keep affecting real cases

Here's a look at 4 times it's happened recently

Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

Thirty-five years after Erik and Lyle Menendez shot their parents to death in their Southern California home, the brothers might be granted a resentencing in what advocates have called a move toward justice. It's thanks in large part to a surge in media attention and the nation's appetite for true crime content.

The Menendezes were convicted of the 1989 slaying of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, in a retrial after their first murder trial ended with an undecided jury. To secure a conviction the second time, substantial evidence of the abuse the brothers said they suffered at the hands of their parents was excluded, their attorneys contend.



Adnan Syed's murder conviction was overturned in 2022 after his case was chronicled in the hit podcast "Serial." JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

But a groundswell of support for the brothers, who are currently serving life sentences without the possibility of parole, followed the release of the Netflix documentary "The Menendez Brothers" about the case earlier this month. Another Netflix offering, a dramatized portrayal, was released in September.

Popular true crime content – which explores and often reinvestigates elements of real murder and other criminal cases in documentaries, podcasts and books – often leads to a wave of

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More than a good way to send a chill down your spine



Victoria Sova of National Nightmares leads a group in a ghost tour centered around many of the iconic buildings around the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Oct. 17. PHOTOS BY JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

Ghost tours teach real history, boost tourism



Sova portrays long-deceased Anna Surratt, whose mother was hanged as an accomplice in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, as she recounts gruesome tales of deaths in the nation's capital.

N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – On a chilly October night, a few brave souls gathered under the light of fall's first full moon in the heart of the nation's capital.

The gaggle of Midwestern tourists was awaiting Anna Surratt, whose mother was hanged as an accomplice in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Though Surratt – like her mother – is long dead, she emerged from the darkness wearing a long, hooded cloak and carrying a lantern to guide the group around Capitol Hill to the spots haunted by her fellow spirits.

Surratt, played by theater actress Victoria Sova, recounted gruesome tales of deaths that took place in and around the country's most vaunted and historic sites.

Taking a ghost tour in the nation's capital brings added resonance and renown to what has become an American pastime: getting spooked at Halloween. Among the ghosts still haunting Washington: Lincoln, who

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"People that do ghost tours, it becomes kind of a hobby for them. They often will take the ghost tour in any city that they visit."

Frankie Harris
Amerighost Tours in Nashville



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