

Amtrak’s new Acela trains feature modern amenities

Ride along in debut: Faster top speed, more seats and improved accessibility. **In Money**

10 TV shows vying for your attention this fall

Must-see series include “The Office” spinoff and final season of “Stranger Things.” **In Life**

6 players crucial in MLB World Series race

Brewers slugger Andrew Vaughn, left, and Dodgers pitcher Shohei Ohtani among those holding key to teams’ prospects. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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VAUGHN BY JEFF HANISCH/IMAGN IMAGES AND OHTANI BY JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/IMAGN IMAGES



George Illingworth, 5, was diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease Type 4C, a rare genetic neuropathy, in March. PROVIDED BY CATHERINE ILLINGWORTH

Therapies for rare diseases stymied

Lack of funding keeps treatments out of reach

Madeline Mitchell
USA TODAY

Catherine Illingworth, 39, knew something was wrong the moment her son’s neurologist walked into the room.

Illingworth requested the referral from her son’s pediatrician based on instinct. George took a while to start walking, she said. Once he started, he never seemed stable. At 4 years old, George fell often and couldn’t keep up with friends his age.

His diagnosis was a gut punch: Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease Type 4C, a rare genetic neuropathy associated with early onset scoliosis. As the condition progresses, George could develop other symptoms like cataracts, deafness, bone or joint abnormalities, cognitive issues and respiratory problems.

The doctor offered a ray of hope and told Illingworth that a treatment for her son’s rare disease had likely already been invented. The catch? It was stuck in “the research valley of death.” Illingworth found the neurologist’s prediction was true. Her son’s treatment was just a few clinical trials – and \$6 million – out of reach.

Illingworth’s situation is all too common. More than 7,000 rare diseases impact more than 30 million people in the United States, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Half of those patients are children. Most of those conditions do not have treatments, and many of the therapies that are invented to treat rare diseases never gain the capital to make it to market, leaving parents with few places to turn.

Two months after George’s diagnosis, Illingworth took a deep breath, opened the TikTok app on her phone, and started fundraising.

For parents of children with rare diseases, advocacy can be a full-time job, and the results are life or death.

Josh Carter, grandson of former President Jimmy Carter, is one of those parents. His youngest son was diagnosed with Very Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease when he was 7 months old.

“Even though we had a diagnosis, that did not get us that much closer to having a treatment,” Carter told USA TODAY. The journey to finding the right medication for his son was

See RARE DISEASES, Page 4A

Money or love?

Survey finds Americans divided over which matters more



Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

Although the median U.S. annual salary is about \$62,192, Americans on average expect their ideal partner to earn six figures, a new survey found.

On average, women want their ideal partner to earn \$110,000 while men expect theirs to earn \$90,000, according to a Tawkify survey of 1,000 Americans. A quarter of respondents want more, saying their ideal partner should earn over \$150,000. That’s still not enough for 1 in 10 who are holding out for \$250,000 and 1 in 20 who want \$500,000 or more.

Some responses were contradictory. More than 6 in 10 Americans (63%) surveyed said they would marry for love, even if it meant a lifelong financial struggle. But if forced to decide between love and money, 46% said they would pick the latter. In fact, nearly 1 in 3 said they’d consider getting back with an ex if that person became wealthy.

Those unemployed in a rough job market may find more trouble in their love life. Nearly half of Americans are taking the lyrics to TLC’s 1999 hit “No Scrubs” to heart, with 48% reporting they would not date someone without a job, even if they were attracted to them.

Brie Temple, Tawkify’s chief commercial officer and chief matchmaker, said the match-making company’s clients want to date someone who adds to their life and not someone who is financially dependent on them.

“Women, in particular, are saying things like ‘I’m not interested in being a nurse or a purse,’ particularly if they’re dealing with an older demographic,” Temple said.

See MONEY OR LOVE, Page 6A

ILLUSTRATION BY GETTY IMAGES

\$110,000

is the ideal income women expect their partners to earn.

\$90,000

is the ideal income men expect their partners to earn.

63%

of Americans said they would marry for love, even if it meant a lifelong financial struggle.

46%

said they would pick money over love if forced to decide between the two.

Roughly 33%

said they’d consider getting back with an ex if that person became wealthy.

48%

said they would not date someone without a job, even if they were attracted to them.

69%

said they remained in a relationship longer than they wanted due to shared finances.

“It is possible for couples to be together if they don’t have exactly the same values. But can you agree, and can you work together? If one person likes to save, and one person likes to spend, yes, you can spend, but are we also saving for our future?”

Traci Williams, financial therapist

Some ICE agents are citing burnout

Current, former officers say pace is taking toll

Ted Hesson, Tim Reid
and Nicole Jeanine Johnson
Reuters

WASHINGTON – Under President Donald Trump, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has become the driving force of his sweeping crackdown on migrants, bolstered by record funding and new latitude to conduct raids, but staff are contending with long hours and growing public outrage over the arrests.

Those internal pressures are taking a toll.

Two current and nine former ICE officials told Reuters the agency is grappling with burnout and frustration among personnel as agents struggle to keep pace with the administration’s aggressive enforcement agenda.

The agency has launched a recruitment drive to relieve the stress by hiring thousands of new officers as quickly as possible, but that probably will take months or years to play out.

All of those interviewed by Reuters supported immigration enforcement in principle. But they criticized the

See BURNOUT, Page 6A



Federal agents patrol the halls of immigration court in August at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building in New York. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Bye, daylight: In September, the sun goes on the run

Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

Daylight will soon start disappearing remarkably fast.

With the winding down of summer comes that familiar shortening of daylight hours until we reach the autumn equinox, one of two points in our annual calendar when days and nights will be roughly equal lengths. Days have been getting subtly shorter since the summer solstice June 20, but that loss of daylight will become much more noticeable in September.

Americans in many parts of the country can expect more daylight to disappear in September than during any other month of the year, according to AccuWeather meteorologists.

In the northernmost areas of the United States, daylight hours will shorten by about 100 minutes over the month.

The loss of daylight in Alaska will be most dramatic at 193 minutes.

See SUNLIGHT, Page 2A



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