

Jeep Cherokee hybrid is back bigger and better

Test run: New five-seat SUV offers power, roomy interior and good fuel economy. **In Money**

Team USA ready to win World Baseball Classic

Column: Roster loaded with star power aims to dethrone defending champion Japan. **In Sports**

Luke Grimes returns to 'Yellowstone' universe

Actor shares why he agreed to get back in the saddle as Kayce Dutton for "Marshals" spinoff. "I was really on the fence," he says. **In Life**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES FOR CBS



Israel had long sought revenge

Plan to kill Khamenei born of Oct. 7 massacre

Kim Hjelmggaard
USA TODAY

The decision to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Iran-backed leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah was taken in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 attacks, when Israel decided to eliminate anyone involved in planning or assisting the devastating 2023 assault, USA TODAY has learned.

But more specific planning for what Israel has called Operation Roaring Lion and the United States is calling Epic Fury did not begin until after Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June 2025, and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the order for the

See OCT. 7, Page 3A

Trump: United States can fight Iran 'forever'

Trump and top White House officials say war could last for weeks. **2A**

See latest developments online at usatoday.com

Follow live updates and find more stories, graphics and videos.



A photo obtained from Iran's ISNA news agency shows the site of an airstrike on a girls school Feb. 28. ALI NAJAFI, ISNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Questions arise over suspected deadly strike on girls school

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The search for the dead in the apparent U.S. or Israeli missile strike on the Shajarah Tayyebah all-girls elementary school in Iran has officially ended.

But the questions surrounding the attack that killed at least 175 people have just begun as international condemnation and calls for investigations – and accountability – were amplified March 2.

"All alleged violations – including indiscriminate or disproportionate

See SCHOOL, Page 3A

Prediction market hits new, exotic, lucrative heights



Welcome to the 'Wild West' of betting

Terry Collins USA TODAY

"It's like betting on two flies – which fly will climb up the highest on a wall faster?"

Danny Funt
Sports journalist and author

ILLUSTRATION BY
ALGERNON QUASHIE/
USA TODAY

Hours before U.S. Army Delta Force operators captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife on Jan. 3, an anonymous trader wagered more than \$30,000 on the prediction site Polymarket that Maduro would be removed from office by Jan. 31. • The bettor reportedly walked away with more than \$400,000 in winnings. • The wacky and wildly popular prediction market, which involves betting on almost anything in politics, business and entertainment, takes the prospects of "Wanna bet?" to a whole new level. • Dennis Kelleher, president of Better Markets, a nonprofit that advocates for regulating prediction markets, told USA TODAY the bet on Maduro's capture illustrates the dangerous territory the country has now entered. • Kelleher believes the bet on Maduro being caught had all the makings of insider trading, given how few people knew about the operation. • "If that isn't the perfect scenario, then I don't know what is," Kelleher said. "It makes you ask and say to yourself, 'Gee, I wonder who it was?'" See BETTING, Page 6A

TikTok plea for stem cell donor goes viral



From left, mom, Lucia; sister, Sophie; Max, who has a rare blood disorder; and dad, Juan Uribe. PROVIDED BY JUAN URIBE

'I need your help to save my son' with rare blood disorder, dad says

Sara Moniuszko
USA TODAY

Most people download TikTok for fun. For Juan Uribe, it was a decision made out of desperation – and love. "I'm posting this because I need your help to save my son," Uribe said in his first video, posted on Feb. 10. "This is my first time posting on social media so please bear with me if I don't get things quite right."

His son Max, 15, is dealing with a rare blood disorder that may soon turn into a deadly blood cancer if he doesn't find a stem cell transplant donor.

How to help

For more information or to register as a donor, visit NMDP's page at go.nmdp.org/formax.

See DONOR SEARCH, Page 2A



10
©COPYRIGHT 2026
USA TODAY
A division of
USA TODAY Co., Inc.

HOME DELIVERY
1-800-872-0001, [USATODAYSERVICE.COM](https://usatoday.com)