

## ACADEMY AWARDS

## Who won gold at the Oscars?

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FROM LEFT: KATE HUDSON BY PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET BY FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; TEYANA TAYLOR BY JULIAN HAMILTON/GETTY IMAGES



## Taking concerns from ER to ballot

Doctors run for office to fight MAHA agenda

Sarah D. Wire  
USA TODAY

Soon after Congress voted to cut Medicaid and food assistance for millions of people in the Republican tax and spending bill last summer, Dr. Thomas Fisher headed to the emergency room for his regular shift.

The ER was already chaos. "There were people in every room, there were people in the hallway, there were people who had been waiting to be admitted. And that's not just my ER. That's every ER," he told USA TODAY. "It's one thing to accept, as I do, that there's a certain amount of suffering in life that's just the human condition. It's another thing to accept that people in government are making that worse intentionally."

He felt like he had to do something in response to the vote. Run for public office.

Fisher, 51, is now competing with more than a dozen Democrats in the March 17 primary for a chance to represent Chicago's downtown and West Side in Congress.

See **DOCTORS**, Page 4A



ER physician Thomas Fisher is running for Congress to challenge changes the Trump administration has made to health care. PROVIDED BY FISHER FOR CONGRESS CAMPAIGN



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## WOMEN OF THE YEAR



## Mother turns her unthinkable loss into advocacy

Rachel Goldberg-Polin's resolve is a lifeline for world's bereaved

Romina Ruiz-Goiriena USA TODAY

Maybe, for the first time since her son's death, Rachel Goldberg-Polin can grieve. • Or so she told her therapist. • But how would it happen? • Goldberg-Polin imagines herself in a grocery store. In the cereal aisle, she'd spot a box of Cap'n Crunch on the shelf. Her son's favorite cereal, the peanut butter kind, would trigger some kind of flashback. That's when, unprompted, she'd fall screaming onto the floor of Kroger. • Her scene of grieving plays out that way, Goldberg-Polin deadpans to USA TODAY, "because that's what happens on TV." • The delivery is vintage Goldberg-Polin, her friends say. But she hasn't made it to the grocery store yet – going out in public is too hard. People easily recognize her petite frame, even under the hat, parka and big glasses.

See **GOLDBERG-POLIN**, Page 4A

## About the Women of the Year project

USA TODAY's Women of the Year is a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country.

Meet this year's honorees at [womenoftheyear.usatoday.com](https://womenoftheyear.usatoday.com).

ABOVE: After her son's abduction, Rachel Goldberg-Polin was thrust into the global spotlight, becoming a powerful advocate for hostages and their families. AVISHAG SHAAR-YASHUV FOR USA TODAY

## Hey, hey! The last living Monkee, Micky Dolenz, has a story to tell

'You take your best shot,' then it all falls into place

Kim Willis  
USA TODAY

The way Micky Dolenz sees it, The Monkees' success was neither predictable nor replicable.

"You can't reduce it. You can't take it apart," he says of the beloved made-for-TV band, soon to turn 60. "You can't take 'Star Trek' and say it was just Leonard Nimoy's ears, it was William Shatner, it was the writing. You

can't do that.

"To my mind, what happens is you take your best shot, and at some point, the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts."

Dolenz, who turned 81 March 8, is celebrating his late bandmates Davy Jones, Michael Nesmith and Peter Tork with his ongoing, hit-packed 60 Years of The Monkees tour. A Sept. 12 stop in Los Angeles marked the 1966 premiere date of the innovative NBC sitcom.

In three hours of pre-birthday conversation with USA TODAY, Dolenz

See **THE MONKEES**, Page 6A



Micky Dolenz performs at City Winery Nashville in Tennessee on Dec. 2, 2025. JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES