

Parents would rather talk birds and bees than money

One in 3 polled say they've avoided topic with kids because of their own finances. **In Money**

Freddie Mercury insights, through best friend's eyes

Confidante Mary Austin shares stories, photos in creative archive "A Life in Lyrics." **In Life**



POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

What's next after mistrial in Clancy murder case

Prosecutors will decide whether to try her again in the deaths of her three children after jury could not come to a verdict. **In News**

USA TODAY

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A memorial is held for four college students killed Oct. 17, 2023, in Malibu, California. ROBERT GAUTHIER/LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

High-speed crash killed 4. Was it murder?

Weighing accidents with deadly consequences

Amanda Lee Myers
USA TODAY

It was 8:30 p.m. on a Tuesday and 22-year-old Fraser Bohm had just accidentally killed four sorority sisters. Bohm was speeding in his BMW on Dead Man's Curve, a notorious stretch of Southern California's Pacific Coast Highway. Prosecutors say Bohm was driving 104 mph in a 45 mph zone when he lost control and slammed into parked cars, which then barreled into the women as they stood on a sidewalk on Oct. 17, 2023. The crash killed Niamh Rolston, Peyton Stewart, Asha Weir and Deslyn Williams, all seniors at Pepperdine University in Malibu and members of the Alpha Phi sorority. "I feel awful," Bohm told investigating officers, according to a transcript obtained by USA TODAY. "Trust me, I'm so [expletive] up." Bohm did not set out to kill the young women that night, but he's being tried on four counts of second-degree murder and four counts of vehicular manslaughter. His trial begins Dec. 1. Prosecutors argue Bohm understood that driving so fast could have deadly consequences and did it anyway, showing "a reckless disregard for life." Bohm's attorneys say a road rage driver clipped him just before the accident and point to his lack of criminal record or traffic violations. "It was an accident, period," Bohm's high-profile attorney, Alan Jackson, told USA TODAY. "There was no malice in Fraser's heart. He meant no harm to anybody. He was reacting to circumstances that were outside his control and an accident occurred." He added: "The DA's office has wildly overcharged this case." If convicted of the murder charges, Bohm, now 24, could spend the rest of his life in prison. If a jury finds him guilty of only the vehicular manslaughter charges, he could face as little as two years behind bars. Bohm's trial is being closely watched for the questions it raises about what justice means for someone who doesn't intend to kill but whose actions have deadly consequences. The verdict also could have implications for similar cases in the future. Though historically rare, murder or

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SEPT. 11, 2001
25 YEARS LATER

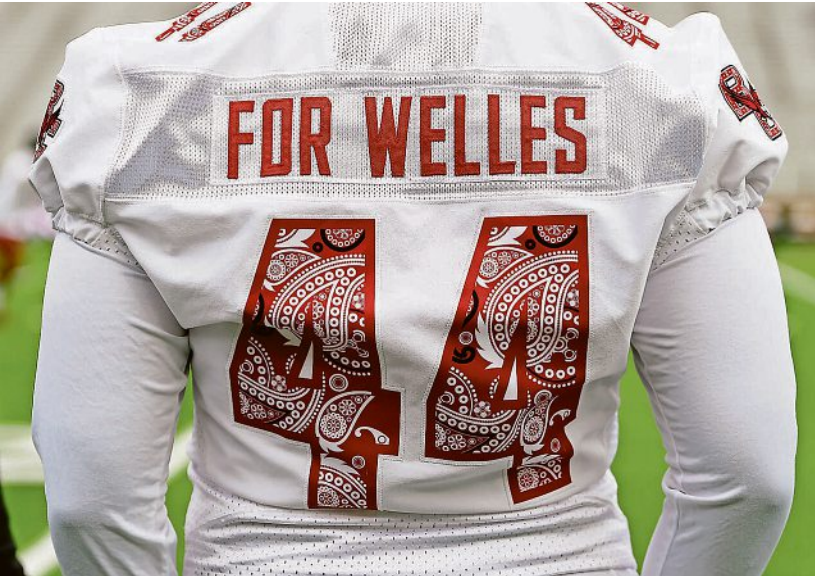
Alison Crowther holds a painting of her son Welles Crowther, a 9/11 hero known as the Man in the Red Bandanna. SETH HARRISON/USA TODAY NETWORK

Man in the Red Bandanna

Why teachers are using this story to help new generation grasp 9/11

Karissa Waddick
USA TODAY

When the left wing of United Airlines Flight 175 cut through the south tower sky lobby, those who survived the impact didn't know if there was a way out. Then, they heard Welles Crowther's voice. "I found the stairs," he told them. Crowther led them to safety, turned around and climbed back into the burning tower. The 24-year-old equities trader saved as many as 18 people on his three trips to the 78th floor. He didn't survive. For many Americans, Crowther became a symbol of heroism on Sept. 11. See 9/11 HERO, Page 6A



A Boston College football player wears a warm-up jersey honoring Welles Crowther before a game against Florida State on Sept. 16, 2023, in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. ERIC CANHA/IMAGN IMAGES

"9/11 should never be forgotten or diminished in any way. It should be addressed in the schools. You have to move forward."

Alison Crowther
Welles Crowther's mother

GOP sets midterm election gamble

2-day convention to put Trump 'front and center'

Zac Anderson and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump has a solution for his party's midterm woes as Republicans struggle to match Democrats' election enthusiasm and face major headwinds to keep control of Congress – more Trump. Enter "Trumpapalooza," the party's first-ever midterm convention and the president's clearest attempt yet to inject himself squarely at the center of the election and position himself as the party's savior. Never mind that Trump's low approval rating has been an anchor weighing on the GOP, with the potential to drag down midterm candidates. The president and his advisers have suggested he's the only one who can bring the MAGA faithful to the polls in large enough numbers to avoid a midterm catastrophe for Republicans. "This is a turnout race," Republican National Committee Chair Joe Gruters told USA TODAY. "We need the president front and center." That strategy will be on display over two days in Dallas beginning Sept. 9 as Trump gathers his party for the final post-Labor Day push toward the Nov. 3

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Chris Murphy says the artificial intelligence-generated image he saw on a menu at a Chicago deli is a real turnoff. PROVIDED BY CHRIS MURPHY

AI-generated food images making some lose appetite

Alyssa Goldberg
USA TODAY

When Chris Murphy went into his local deli in late August, all the menu items had been replaced by uncanny, artificial intelligence-generated images. The sandwiches depicted on the screen above the countertop displayed food with strange, repeated textures that looked hyperrealistic, yet somehow aggressively fake at the same time. It was the kind of "AI slop" that made Murphy's stomach turn and appetite suppress. The Chicago deli, located just across the street from Murphy's office, only switched to the increasingly prolific AI-generated menu about a month ago. On its Yelp review page, there are still photos of its old menu, which features generic food photography and text describing the contents of each sandwich. Had the original menu remained intact, Murphy said he would have placed an order.

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