

## Financial infidelity: Tips on how to overcome deceit

Hiding shopping habits or purchases can break trust with family member or friend. **In Money**

## 'Utility guy' Jrue Holiday elevates Celtics in Game 2

Guard's shining night helps give Boston 2-0 series lead over Dallas in NBA Finals. **In Sports**

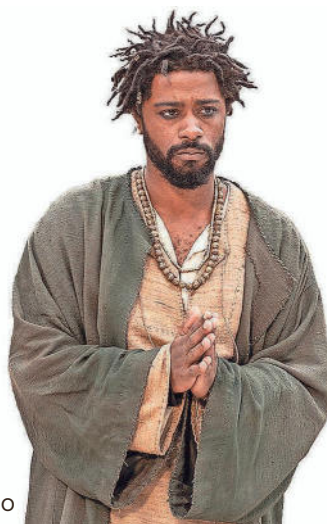
## Where to catch this year's 10 best flicks

"Book of Clarence" (starring LaKeith Stanfield, left) and "Dune 2" among standout movies halfway through 2024. **In Life**

# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

PROVIDED BY MORIS PUCCIO



## Civil rights office can't keep up with cases

### Campus incidents spike as resources dwindle

Zachary Schermele  
USA TODAY

Since the start of the Israel-Hamas war last fall, two of the country's leading civil rights groups have disagreed on a lot. The Anti-Defamation League, which is dedicated to fighting anti-semitism, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim advocacy organization, cast the plight of Jewish and Palestinian students in vastly different lights when antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents spiked on college campuses.

But they have seen eye-to-eye on one thing: Both groups agree the federal office that investigates discrimination complaints in schools lacks the resources to address the mounting pile of reported incidents.

The Office for Civil Rights, an arm of the Education Department, saw complaints rise to the highest level ever last year, according to its recently released annual report. In fiscal year 2023, the office received 19,201 complaints, a 2% increase from the previous year's record high of 18,804.



The Office for Civil Rights, an arm of the Education Department, has been "decimated" by a shortage of staffing and money, Secretary Miguel Cardona says. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

The office, which Congress flat-funded in fiscal year 2024, has hemorrhaged staff for years, and hiring hasn't kept up. Since 2009, the number of complaints the office received annually has tripled, the agency says. During that span, the average number of full-time staffers dropped by about 70.

"The office was decimated," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said at a convention for education reporters.

Some outsiders worry that the fall-out on campuses in response to the Middle East conflict has stressed the office to a breaking point.

As lawmakers in Washington negotiate the agency's next annual funding package, it's unclear whether the outrage on Capitol Hill in recent months over a rise in campus antisemitism could change the frugal stance of many Republicans. Some of them have called for abolishing the federal Education Department altogether.

Unlike congressional lawmakers, civil rights groups are in resounding agreement: The office needs more money.

"Is it a good idea to give more funding to this agency? Absolutely," said Edward Ahmed Mitchell, CAIR's national deputy director.

In a statement to USA TODAY, Lauren Wolman, director of government

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A mother and child sleep on the southern embankment of the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, as they await an opportunity to breach the concertina wire and enter the U.S. to seek asylum. PHOTOS BY OMAR ORNELAS/USA TODAY NETWORK

## Migrants face peril

### With feds and Texas troops at border, path gets harder

Lauren Villagran  
USA TODAY

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico – Yoneyda Villegas stood on the riverbank under the light of a three-quarter moon and looked northward.

"We tried to cross two nights ago," said Villegas, a 32-year-old Venezuelan migrant, in late May, "but they were tough on us – tough, tough."

As she and dozens of other migrants weighed their chances of successfully crossing the dry Rio Grande and giving themselves up to U.S. Border Patrol agents, Texas troops watched them through a blanket of concertina wire.

On that night, Villegas stood at the center of a tug-of-war between President Joe Biden and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott over who controls the border – and its political narrative.

With many Americans viewing immigration as a top issue in this fall's hotly contested election, both Republicans and Democrats are vying to claim they are cracking down the hardest.

Biden unveiled new border restrictions on Tuesday, effectively cutting off the path to asylum between ports of entry, in places like this riverbank in Ciudad Juarez across from El Paso,

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Migrants grow desperate to cross into U.S. territory from Ciudad Juarez after multiple failed attempts and being pushed back into Mexico by Texas National Guard troops Thursday.

"I've been working for two years in Juarez with migrants, and it was the most desperation I have ever seen. ... They are hemmed in."

Brian Elmore  
Chief medical officer for the Catholic nonprofit Hope Border Institute

### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.

## Independent's goal is to give 'hope for our democracy,' not be a spoiler



Campaign materials are on display at a rally with Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his running mate, Nicole Shanahan, at Brazos Hall in Austin, Texas, on May 13. JAY JANNER/USA TODAY NETWORK

Margie Cullen and Sarah D. Wire  
USA TODAY

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says he is the 2024 presidential candidate of hope. Not, as many people have accused him of, a spoiler.

In a race where many voters aren't excited for a rematch between the same two White House contenders as four years ago, Kennedy, a long-shot, third-party candidate, sees himself as the alternate they are looking for.

"I think it's important that Americans feel that its potential for democracy to work for them, and they don't have to vote the lesser of two evils. They don't have to hold their nose and vote for a candidate they don't like because they

hate the other guy worse," Kennedy said in an exclusive interview with USA TODAY. "I think it's important to give them an alternative where they can continue to have hope for our democracy and vote out of inspiration rather than fear."

Kennedy, 70, said he draws support from both Democrats and Republicans, perhaps proving that his appeal is best summed up in how he is neither President Joe Biden nor former President Donald Trump. Yet an independent candidate has never come close to winning the presidency, and most polls show him significantly trailing the front-runners.

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