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## Superstars align for Yankees' run to Series

New York sluggers Juan Soto, left, Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton make for unstoppable team. **In Sports**

# USA TODAY

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E2

## Pentagon probing Israeli intel leak

### US analysis of military moves posted online

John Bacon  
USA TODAY

An investigation is underway into the "very concerning" leak of classified U.S. intelligence documents detailing Israel's plans for a retaliatory strike on Iran, House Speaker Mike Johnson said Sunday.

Johnson told CNN's "State of the Union" he would be receiving a briefing on the probe later Sunday.

"There's some serious allegations being made there," Johnson said. "We're following it closely."

The documents, revealed on the Telegram messaging app last week, appear to have been prepared by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. They describe U.S. interpretations of Israeli Air Force and Navy planning based on satellite imagery from Oct. 15 to 16. The Pentagon said it is looking into the leak.



House Speaker Mike Johnson said the intelligence leak allegations are "very concerning." JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

Israel has pledged a firm response to Iran's ballistic-missile barrage on Oct. 1, the second direct attack on Israel in six months. President Joe Biden, responding to questions from reporters, said last week he had a good understanding of when and how Israel would attack Iran. But he also said he sees an opportunity to end the two enemies' back-and-forth strikes.

Meanwhile, the attack that killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar on Wednesday, widely reported as a chance encounter, was the result of professional soldiering and "not a stroke of luck," Israeli Col. Sivan Bloch stressed on Sunday. Bloch's Defense Force's 828th Brigade was tasked with continuing mop-up operations in Rafah, including locating and demolishing leftover Hamas infrastructure, eliminating militants and searching for signs of hostages.

Block told the Times of Israel that a vigilant soldier spotted suspicious movement several hundred meters away. The incident was almost given an all-clear after nothing was initially found, but trackers with the brigade searched the area and found fresh footprints on the ground, Bloch said. Soldiers followed the footprints to a house where they found Sinwar and his guards. A gunfight ensued and the militants were killed and a soldier went into the building.

"Half jesting, we said, 'Walla, it looks like Yahya Sinwar.' We went up to him physically, and there was no

See ISRAEL, Page 4A

# Trust the science: There's a reason we love zoo babies

Countless baby animals have become internet famous without trying. ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER BORRESEN/USA TODAY



## Why little Moo Deng has grabbed the internet spotlight

Sara Chernikoff and Jennifer Borresen USA TODAY

For many, it might seem impossible to escape the influence of 3-month-old baby hippo Moo Deng. Over the span of a week, Moo Deng drew in millions of online admirers. The charismatic animal, whose name means "bouncing pig" in Thai, resides at Khao Kheow Open Zoo in eastern Thailand about two hours from Bangkok.

Moo Deng's clumsy antics, including trying to nibble her handler despite not having teeth, have stolen the hearts of people all over the globe. Her viral fame inspired a "Saturday Night Live" skit and a beauty trend that mimics her signature dewy glow. For those on social media, the meme-ification of Moo Deng feels inescapable.

Moo Deng isn't the first zoo animal to achieve viral fame. Last month, an

**"The big eyes and the soft cheeks – it makes people treat babies nicer and want to take care of them."**

Jay Van Bavel, psychology and neural science professor at New York University

extra-large penguin chick named Pesto went viral, gaining fans far from his home at the Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium in Melbourne, Australia. Cincinnati Zoo is known for hippo siblings Fiona and Frtiz. The list of famous zoo animals goes on. What is it about them that captures our attention and makes them perfect for viral fame? The answer is

See ZOO BABIES, Page 4A

## ELECTION 2024

# Child care costs are a top issue for working parents

## Most say it will help determine their vote

Jessica Guynn and Bailey Schulz  
USA TODAY

Christina Parker should be able to live comfortably in Mill Valley, California, a leafy suburb north of San Francisco on her six-figure salary working for a real estate developer. Instead, she watches her checking account slowly empty all month long until there's nearly nothing left.

"I am working so hard and I have less than \$100 in the bank," Parker, 42, said.

Rent, electricity, groceries, car insurance – everything costs more than it used to, but it's her 2-year-old son's day care that busts her budget. And that \$3,000-a-month expense – as much as she pays for rent – just keeps going up.

Next year she will enroll her son in a pricier preschool and she'll have to tack on the cost of supplemental child care in the mornings and evenings during her commute.

"I have a good job," Parker said, "but I am barely making it."



Christina Parker says she spends \$3,000 a month on her 2-year-old's day care. PROVIDED BY CHRISTINA PARKER

For families with young children, child care is where inflation hits the hardest – a major fixed expense that only looms larger as pandemic-era federal spending dries up.

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## Long shelf life: Indie bookstore journey takes fan to over 600

Phaedra Trethan  
USA TODAY

When Bob Manson is asked which bookstore is his favorite, he pauses: "That would be like asking a parent who their favorite child is."

But parents don't have more than 600 kids – and that's how many bookstores Manson, a retired teacher from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has visited. The decadelong literary odyssey has taken him across 49 states and into Canada and Mexico.

And as book lovers across the U.S. celebrate National Book Month this month, Manson vows he's not finished yet.

"I love every bookstore I get to visit," said Manson, who taught band in middle schools for 32 years. "I am very aware of their owners and their communities."

Initially inspired by "My Bookstore: Writers Celebrate Their Favorite Places to Browse, Read and Shop" by Ronald Rice, Manson set out to visit every store included in the book.

"It was his idea to start visiting

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