

Amid closures, more areas become 'pharmacy desert'

Many people don't have access to medication within 10 miles as pharmacies shutter. **In Money**

Alex Van Halen goes deep into life with Eddie in book

In "Brothers," drummer unloads his love for his sibling and gets candid about struggles. **In Life**

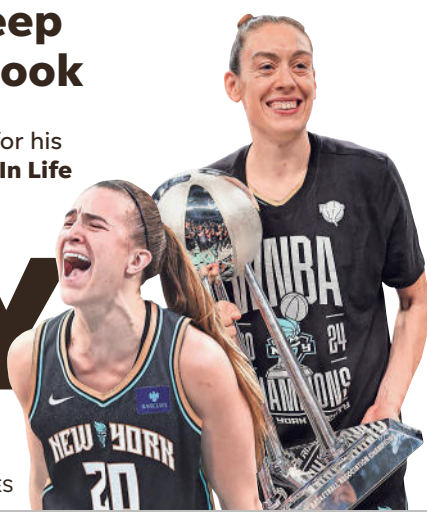
Champs at last: Liberty collects first WNBA title

NY stars Sabrina Ionescu, left, and Breanna Stewart found ways to make a difference when shots weren't falling, columnist writes. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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Diversity drop felt at elite colleges

Fewer disclose race on applications after ruling

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

Fewer students in this fall's class of college freshmen chose to disclose their race or ethnicity in their applications to some top schools, data shows.

The pattern, which is nuanced and only affects a sliver of the nation's universities, is among several early indications of the potential impacts of the Supreme Court's decision last year that has effectively prohibited colleges from considering race as a factor in admissions.

Highly selective universities, which do not enroll the majority of U.S. college students, were most likely to consider race in admissions prior to the decision. Admissions at most colleges were unaffected by the June 2023 Supreme Court ruling, however, the fraction of institutions impacted by it includes some of the wealthiest and most well-resourced schools. Among these campuses are Ivy League universities, which offer some of the best returns on investment and the most generous financial aid policies for students with the greatest need.

Since the 2023 decision, many Americans have anxiously waited to see how or if the racial and ethnic makeup of freshman classes would change at the most sought-after colleges. Those numbers have been slowly trickling in from different campuses since the beginning of the fall semester.

The pattern is among early indications of the potential impacts of the high court's decision last year that effectively prohibits colleges from considering race in admissions.

The results are preliminary and it's tricky to compare the disparate data. But they present some troubling throughlines, which may or may not be related to the Supreme Court's decree, including a downturn in enrollment of Black and Hispanic first-year students at some high-profile institutions. Johns Hopkins University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University are a handful of the schools that saw enrollments of those demographic groups drop. Other colleges, including Northwestern University and Yale University, showed gains, not losses, in the same types of students.

A USA TODAY review and a new data analysis published by the nonprofit advocacy group Education Reform Now show another apparent trend: At many selective colleges, a greater number of students chose not to identify their race or ethnicity on their applications. For example, at Pomona College, a small private school about 30 miles east of Los Angeles, an average of 3.7% of incoming freshmen did

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ELECTION 2024 USA TODAY/SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY POLL



With just two weeks to go, voters line up to cast their ballots Monday in Miami. CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Harris, Trump hustling for a boost over the top

With contest tight, candidates battle over Black, Latino vote

Susan Page, Sudiksha Kochi and Maya Marchel Hoff
USA TODAY

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are essentially tied as they head into the final stretch of the presidential campaign, an exclusive USA TODAY/Suffolk University Poll finds, as the Democratic ticket scrambles to command the strong enthusiasm of Latino and Black voters.

The poll puts Harris at 45%, Trump

at 44%, a closer race than the poll found in August. Then, in the wake of the Democratic National Convention, Vice President Harris led the former president by 5 percentage points, 48%-43%.

"I'm not too fond of either candidate, but if I have to, I'd vote for Donald Trump," said Jacob Rossow, 24, a college student from Oklahoma City, saying it had been a difficult decision. He was among those surveyed. "I just feel that he's been more clear on his policies and what he wants to do. I'm still unsure of

Kamala's plan for the country."

The poll of 1,000 likely voters, taken by landline and cellphone Oct. 14-18, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

By double digits, voters said Harris hadn't done enough to explain specific policies she would pursue, 57% to 37%. Those who want to hear more include nearly 1 in 4, or 23%, of her supporters. In contrast, those surveyed split

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LA's Shohei Ohtani, top, Yoshinobu Yamamoto, with flag, and Co. celebrate their National League pennant Sunday night. JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/IMAGN IMAGES

Dodgers versus Yankees: It's World Series perfection



Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Dodgers, their shirts stripped off, wading in a pool of beer and champagne nearly up to their ankles in the clubhouse Sunday night, were drunk with emotion trying to explain what this meant to them.

They had just pounded the New York Mets 10-5 and won the National League pennant at Dodger Stadium,

but this title was nothing more than the warmup act.

Now comes the moment that Major League Baseball, its TV partners, its corporate advertisers and millions of baseball fans have been clamoring for the past 43 years.

The Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees, for the first time since 1981, will face each other in the World Series.

Hollywood versus Broadway. Rodeo Drive versus Fifth Avenue. Shohei Ohtani versus Aaron Judge. Mookie Betts versus Juan Soto.

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Drug treatments for pediatric cancer remain in short supply

Adrianna Rodriguez
USA TODAY

Doctors told Laura Bray that she was "lucky" because her 9-year-old daughter's leukemia was curable.

Abby had a 90% chance of beating the blood cancer if she followed a three-year treatment. There was just one problem.

Doctors told Bray the key drug that kicked off Abby's chemotherapy in 2018 was hard to find. She had to figure out a way to tell her daughter.

"I had no answers for her when she asked me if she was going to die if she didn't have her medicine," said Bray, 47, of Tampa, Florida. "All I could say is that, 'We're going to try to find it. Sometimes, extraordinary things

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Abby Bray and her mom, Laura Bray, celebrate the end of treatments in 2021. PROVIDED BY ANGELS FOR CHANGE



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