

Airlines compared: Which is best for plus-size fliers?

A look at seating policies from major carriers after Southwest tightens refunds. **In Money**

South Florida is coolest underdog after upsets

Bulls won't back down with coach Alex Golesh, talented QB and stingy defense. **In Sports**

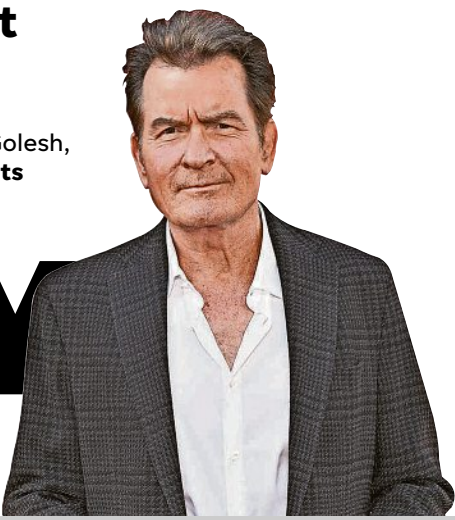
Charlie Sheen opens up in memoir

"The Book of Sheen" reveals actor's most famous – and infamous – life moments as he writes about drugs, sex workers and divorces. **In Life**

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LISA O'CONNOR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

24 years after 9/11, alliances fractured

In Trump's new world, things are a bit lonelier

It is Donald Trump's world now, and it is a lonelier place.

Twenty-four years ago, the first foreign leader to reach out to President George W. Bush in the wake of the catastrophic 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington was the new Russian president, Vladimir Putin, offering condolences and help. The NATO alliance invoked Article 5 for the first time, calling it an attack on them all.

Nearly every country in the world, from Argentina to the former Yugoslavia, declared that it stood with America.

Since then, the alliances forged in tragedy have been fractured by the long war in Iraq and upheaval in the Middle East, the revival of "America First" populism and the steepest U.S. tariffs in nearly a century, a transactional president and the passage of time.

See PAGE, Page 2A



The sorrow and pain of the Sept. 11 attacks is as strong today as it was then, says a 9/11 widow.

THOMAS E. FRANKLIN/USA TODAY NETWORK

9/11 victims' families aim to prove Saudi involvement

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – After decades of litigation, a federal judge is allowing a lawsuit to go forward against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the Gulf state's potential involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge George B. Daniels marks a significant step forward for the relatives of victims of the Sep. 11, 2001, attacks who have been trying to bring the kingdom to court since 2002. The judge's ruling out of the Southern District of New York federal court in Manhattan comes after he deemed that lawyers for Saudi Arabia failed to explain a remarkable

See FAMILIES, Page 2A



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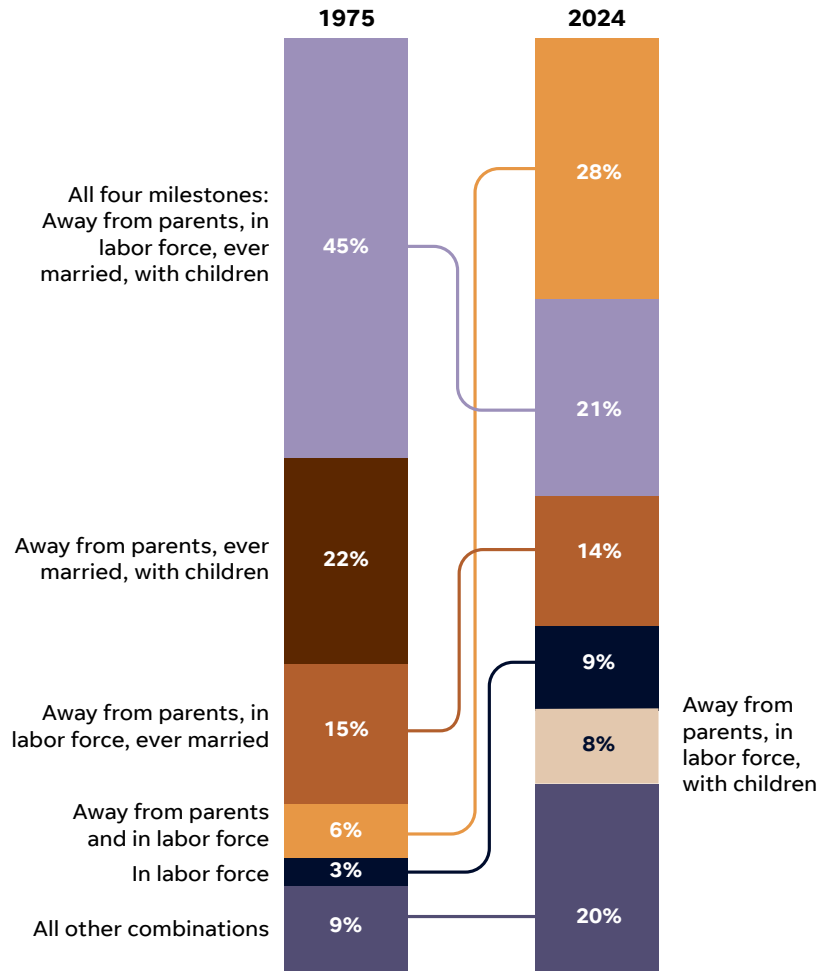


Economy has young people pushing back traditional milestones

Path to adulthood takes new detours

Top five combinations of milestones of adulthood

Percentage of 25-to 34-year-olds:



SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1975 and 2024 Annual Social and Economic Supplements
JENNIFER BORRESEN/USA TODAY

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER BORRESEN/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Sara Chernikoff
and Jennifer Borresen
USA TODAY

Young adults are prioritizing economic security over marriage and having children, according to a report from the Census Bureau. These shifting priorities reflect the burden of rising living costs such as housing, food and travel.

In 1975, about 45% of adults ages 25 to 34 had moved out of their parents' home, were working, had married and had started families. Fifty years later, less than 25% of adults that age had done the same.

"Over the decades, the most common milestones shifted from family to economic ones – being in the labor force and living independently but not being married or having kids," wrote Paul Hemez and Jonathan Vespa, census statisticians and authors of the paper. It was published in August.

As of 2024, about 28% of young adults were living on their own with jobs – the most common milestone pattern among people ages 25 to 34. The combination of moving out, having kids and marrying is no longer the most common milestone in young adulthood, the Census Bureau found.

"Experiencing key milestones tied to economic independence and family formation can influence how young men and women develop their identity as adults," Hemez and Vespa wrote.

See MILESTONES, Page 3A

A transformation about more than weight

Laura Trujillo
USA TODAY

The after photo is the one that gets all the likes, the congratulations, the one where everyone tells her how great she looks.

But it's the before photo that makes Monica Di Giacomo the proudest.

That's the woman who at 37 had wanted to kill herself, the woman who felt she was unlovable, the one who at 320 pounds thought she was worthless.

That's also the woman who walked into a gym to ask for help. All the trainers said no.

She was too big. She was too much of a health risk. She would quit soon

See TRANSFORMED, Page 4A



Monica Di Giacomo holds a photo of herself when she weighed 320 pounds 10 years ago. Now, after a decade of dedication to getting in shape, she'll be participating in a body building competition. TAIMY ALVAREZ FOR USA TODAY