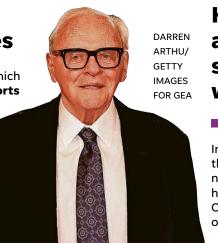
### For many jobs, high risk doesn't equal high salary

Check out the highest- and lowest-paying dangerous careers in the nation. In Money

### **Too soon? Contenders** for the 2026 World Series

USA TODAY Sports takes an early look at which teams should be poised to compete. In Sports



### Hopkins: 'It's a wonderful surprise' to wake daily

In memoir, he talks about the alcohol addiction that nearly killed him and how he thought Laurence Olivier would be the end of his career. In Life

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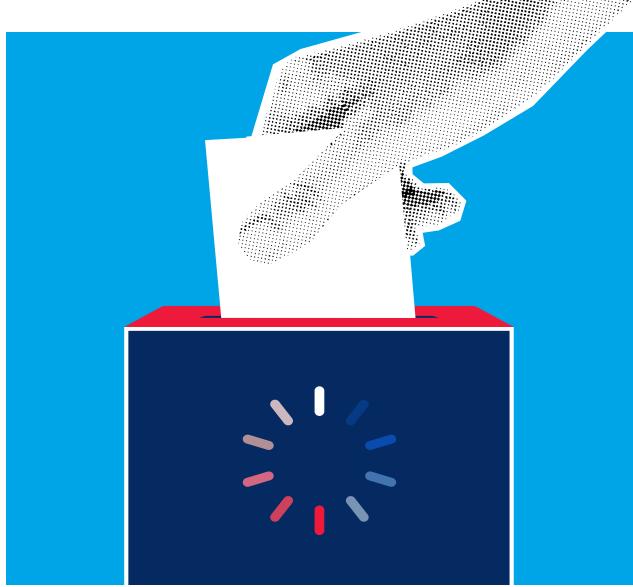


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY CLEMENS/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

## **Elections test voters'** feelings of status quo

Zac Anderson USA TODAY

emocrats are trying to bounce back from their 2024 thumping, while Republicans are working to blunt the typical momentum for the party out of power as voters hit the polls Nov. 4 for contests that will offer a window into the mood of the electorate nearly a year after President Donald Trump won his second term. • The off-year races in New Jersey, Virginia, California, New York City and elsewhere are seen as key early barometers of how voters feel about Trump and the Democratic Party as it fights his aggressive agenda. • The president has loomed large over the contests, featuring in ads and as a frequent topic in debates as Democrats blast his record and Republicans embrace it. Trump is paying close attention, hyping GOP candidates on social media and taking aim at their opponents.

See ELECTION, Page 6A

Dems try to recover as GOP aims to hold on in off-year races

#### **Election** coverage and results

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# Cash for young athletes vanishes

**Kenny Jacoby** 

**USA TODAY** 

DENVER - Nearly 100 nights a year, thousands of dollars in cash poured into a room the size of a broom closet in downtown Denver's Ball Arena.

Each night, Randy Kanai collected the cash and stashed it in a safe.

The money came from the charity 50/50 raffle held for a decade at Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Mammoth and Colorado Rapids home games. As the state-certified raffle manager, Kanai was tasked with ensuring the money reached its intended recipi-

Half the jackpot went to the winner. The other half was supposed to go to charity - primarily the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA), the nonprofit USA Hockey governing body that regulates the sport in the state. Kanai was its president.

The money could have been used to offset the costs of a notoriously expensive youth sport in which ice rental, equipment and travel costs routinely exceed \$10,000 a year for a single child. But instead of it going to the hockey nonprofit and its member teams and leagues, 1 in 3 dollars the raffle raised from late 2016 through 2022 was misspent or

See RAFFLE, Page 2A

Much of the raffle money was intended to benefit amateur hockey, one of the more expensive youth sports.

MICHAEL CIAGLO

FOR USA TODAY



## Former satanist is embraced as one of the Catholic Church's newest saints

**Marc Ramirez** 

**USA TODAY** 

The recent canonization of Italy's Bartolo Longo shows that occasionally on the path to sainthood, the devil is in the details.

Longo, a onetime satanist in the 1800s who was among seven new saints canonized in October by Pope Leo XIV, was an attorney whose foray into the occult purportedly led him to promise his

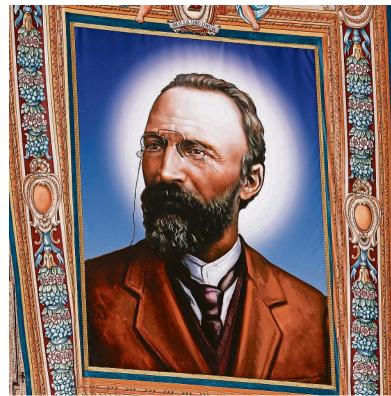
soul to a demon. But in a radical turnaround, he eventually returned to his Catholic faith and became an ardent proponent of Marian devotion, ultimately becoming known

See BARTOLO LONGO, Page 6A





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A portrait of Italian lawyer Bartolo Longo, a former satanist turned Catholic, is displayed on the day of his canonization in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct. 19. CLAUDIA GRECO/REUTERS

### **Character.AI platform** plans major changes amid lawsuits and child safety concerns

**Rachel Hale and Alyssa Goldberg** 

**USA TODAY** 

Artificial intelligence chatbot platform Character.AI has announced that it will move to ban children under 18 from engaging in open-ended chats with its character-based chatbots.

The move comes as the startup faces multiple lawsuits from families, including the parents of 14year-old Sewell Setzer, who took his life after developing a romantic relationship with a Character.AI bot.

The change will take effect on Nov. 25, and Character.AI will limit chat time for users under 18, starting at two hours a day, in the weeks leading up to the move.

As part of an effort to enforce age-appropriate features, the company is partnering with third-party group Persona to help with age verification and establishing an AI

See CHARACTER.AI, Page 3A

"Safety issues are surfacing almost as soon as technology is deployed, and the risks to young people are racing ahead in real time."

Dr. Laura Erickson-Schroth Chief medical officer at The Jed Foundation