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Socializing, saving a tricky balancing act



Gen Z and millennials spend on average about \$250 each month on activities with friends, according to a survey. Among respondents, 72% said going to a restaurant or bar is how they spend time with friends, and 32% said they go weekly or more often. GETTY IMAGES

Gen Z, millennials report overspending on social events

Rachel Barber

USA TODAY

Maria Stevens' credit cards are maxed out, in part because she relied on them when she was laid off, but she thinks it's also largely because she struggles to say no to invites from her friends.

After attending 30 social events in four years, she said she "crashed out" over pressure to spend on social activities in July. In one month, she was invited to several more events, baby showers, weddings and bachelorette trips, on top of planning her own birth-

"I'm like, I'm about to have to hide under a rock because there's no way. ... I was very overwhelmed," Stevens said. "And I was like maybe I'm going to have Socializing is still important to Generation Z and millennials - 69% of whom prioritize in-person connection with friends at least weekly. But 3 in 5 say spending on social activities impacts their financial goals, according to a new Ally Bank survey.

to cut ties with some people somehow." Stevens, 25, is part of a generation of-

ten characterized by loneliness, and the financial strain of friendship might be one reason why. Socializing is still important to Generation Z and millennials 69% of whom prioritize in-person connection with friends at least weekly. But 3 in 5 say spending on social activities impacts their financial goals, according to a new Ally Bank survey.

It found that overspending is widespread, not an exception, and most young adults are aware they are not budgeting effectively for their social

Few young people have strict budget for socializing

When Stevens got engaged in 2023, she and her now-husband decided they would stop going to bars entirely because they were easily spending \$200 in one night - up to \$400 if they also went to dinner beforehand.

That's close to what the average young person spends socializing per month. Gen Z and millennials spend on average about \$250 each month on activities with friends, according to

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Man from **2022** car accident wanted on warrant

Zixuan Mo was struck and killed by Trent **Lewis Robinson**

Ron Wilkins

Lafayette Journal & Courier **USA TODAY NETWORK**

LAFAYETTE — Trent Lewis Robinson admitted to being the driver of a Buick that fled the scene on the afternoon of Aug. 9, 2022, after he struck and killed Zixuan Mo, a 25-year-old woman who was an international student from China attending Purdue University.

Robinson, 37, of Brookston, has been free since February 2024 on a suspended sentence for leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death. But now there's a warrant out for his arrest on a special prosecutor's petition to revoke his probation and force him to serve the remaining 1,815 days of his sentence.

The special prosecutor in the case filed to revoke Robinson's probation on Aug. 18, and a special judge issued a warrant for Robinson's arrest on Aug.

The motion to revoke Robinson's probation alleged that Robinson failed a drug screen on April 14, testing positive for marijuana. The motion also alleged that Robinson failed another drug screen on July 29, testing positive for marijuana and methamphetamine.

The arrest warrant is just one legal problem plaguing Robinson since he fled the scene, leaving Mo to die in the street.

Her estate is suing Robinson, and Robinson's father, Scott.

Trent Robinson was driving his father's car when he struck Mo, and Scott Robinson's insurance specifically excluded Trent Robinson from coverage on the car, according to a second civil lawsuit that dismissed Scott Robinson's insurance provider from legal actions.

At the time Robinson killed Mo, he was driving eastbound on Kalberer Road. Mo was on a skateboard crossing the road in the crosswalk and heading onto the paved paths at Trailhead Park.

Robinson didn't stop, driving to Brookston after the crash, where he lived with his father.

Brookston police detained Robinson the next day after noticing the car matched the description from witnesses. West Lafayette police arrested him that day.

Reach Ron Wilkins at rwilkins@jconline.com. Follow on Twitter: @RonWilkins2.

This car, possibly a Buick Lucerne, struck and killed a 25-year-old woman crossing Kalberer Road near the Trailhead Park on Aug. 9, 2022. PROVIDED BY WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE

Indiana slashes child care voucher rates

Caroline Beck

Indianapolis Star **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Indiana is reducing the reimbursement amount for child care providers who serve low-income families through a voucher program to address a \$225 million funding gap.

Indiana's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, which administers the vouchers, said that the rate cuts were to focus their help on

"We made this decision to protect the children and families that depend on CCDF vouchers," said Adam Alson, Director of the office, in a news release on Sept. 4, 2025. "There is only one pot of money - we could either protect providers or kids, and we chose kids."

The money saved from the change, however, won't get families off the extensive wait-list anytime soon, state leaders said.

The vouchers are through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, which provides funds to low-income families to help access

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