

New method spots signs of Earth's primordial life

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New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani won over New Yorkers with the promise of a more affordable city. The idea of universal child care sparked interest among residents and out-of-state folks alike, as child care remains the highest cost for most American families besides rent. MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

Experts: Free child care in NYC feasible

Mamdani plan will require big changes

Madeline Mitchell ΠΖΑ ΤΩΠΑΥ

Rebecca Bailin pays \$32,000 a year for her five-month-old's all-day child care in New York City.

That's higher than the national average, but not unusual. Care.com's 2025 Cost of Care Report found many parents spend 22% of their household income on child care.

Along with being a parent, Bailin is executive director of New Yorkers United for Child Care, a nonprofit that started organizing parents, grandparents and anyone else in favor of free child care in 2023.

"People are spending enormous amounts and they can't make it work, but they don't have a choice," Bailin said. Families tell her they feel embarrassed to share how much they pay for child care, "because there's this real feeling that it's your fault. That you weren't savvy enough."

But with mayor-elect Zohran Mam- See MAMDANI, Page 2A

dani taking over, Bailin said she's hopeful their shared dream of free child care will come true.

Mamdani won over New Yorkers with the promise of a more affordable city. The idea of universal child care sparked interest among residents and out-of-state folks alike, as child care remains the highest cost for most American families besides rent. In nearly every state, the cost of child care for two kids is more than rent, according to an analysis from Child

Mackinaw City advances after blowout win in High School Bowl

Janis Reeser

Al-assisted reporter **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Mackinaw City recently defeated Big Bay de Noc in the High School Bowl. The final score was 290-20.

Thirty-six schools from the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin participate in the tournament, which is in its 47th year, according to a community announcement.

Mackinaw City will advance to the second round when they play Watersmeet, scheduled to air on Jan. 17, 2026. The High School Bowl series airs on WNMU-TV at 8 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Mondays. It is also available state-

wide on the Michigan Learning Channel. Representing Mackinaw City were Nathaniel Petoskey, Tyler Allaire, team



Mackinaw City defeated Big Bay de Noc in the High School Bowl and will advance to the second round when they play Watersmeet, scheduled to air on Jan. 17, 2026. PROVIDED BY NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

captain Benjamin Strittmatter and Naomi Knack. Will Bouldin served as an alternate, with Hannah Weber as the primary coach and Amanda Munger as the secondary coach.

Big Bay de Noc's team included Adelynn Jasch, Ivy Gates, team captain Karlee Kuehl and Leandra Cooper. Jaime Ziemba coached the team. High School Bowl's host is Jim Koski.

The High School Bowl tournament began in November and will continue through the championship game in April. More information about the 2025-2026 tournament is available at wnmutv.nmu.edu.

This story was created by Janis Reeser, jreeser@usatodayco.com with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at https://cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

Michigan is set to break records with holiday travel

Jenna Prestininzi

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Michigan is set to see record-breaking holiday travel, according to forecasts.

Thanksgiving is the busiest travel period of all American holidays, with 81.8 million Americans expected to travel — 90% by car — this season, according to AAA.

That trend is reflected in Michigan, where the association expects 2.6 million travelers, 2.3 million of whom will drive to their destinations.

'Michigan residents are embracing the Thanksgiving spirit with recordbreaking travel plans this year," AAA Vice President of Travel Debbie Haas said in a release. "Whether it's driving across the state or flying across the country, people are making time to connect with loved ones. Even with concerns about flight cancellations, travelers are showing flexibility and resilience and relying most on driving."

Here's what to know about Thanksgiving travel in Michigan.

How many Michiganders are expected to travel this Thanksgiving?

AAA predicts 2.6 million Michiganders will travel at least 50 miles from home this Thanksgiving season, from Nov. 25 to Dec. 1, in what would be a record high, according to the release. The number would represent a 1.4%

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