



## Travel anxiety: Some rethink trips amid price spikes, fears, delays

LIFE, 1B

# Poughkeepsie Journal

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026 | POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



People stand outside a damaged residential building April 3 in Karaj, Iran. AJID SAEEDI/GETTY IMAGES

## NY AG warns of AI scams as tax day nears

**Madison Scott**  
New York Connect Team  
USA TODAY NETWORK

With tax season underway, New York Attorney General Letitia James issued a consumer alert, warning New Yorkers about tax preparation fraud and scams.

According to James, these scams can take many forms, but fraud involving sophisticated artificial intelligence has been increasing this tax season. Since Tax Day is two weeks away, James and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) provided New Yorkers with tips on how to avoid, catch and report tax scams.

“As New Yorkers file their taxes, I encourage everyone to be on the lookout for scammers who try to steal their money and personal information,” Attorney General James said. “I encourage everyone to follow the tips from my office and contact us immediately if you believe you have been targeted or victimized by a scam.”

Here’s what New Yorkers should know about tax preparation fraud and how to avoid it.

### What are AI-powered tax scams?

According to James, New Yorkers should look out for these common AI-powered tax season scams:

● **Fake videos of government officials or celebrities providing false tax information:** AI scammers can make fake, lifelike videos of popular figures pushing fake tax incentives, deductions or convincing unsuspecting victims to share sensitive information or money.

● **Tax-related phishing emails:** According to James, AI technology has allowed scammers to make convincing and personalized emails disguised

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## One rescued after U.S. jet downed over Iran

### Law experts claim ‘clear violation of the United Nations Charter’

**Thao Nguyen and Cybele Mayes-Osterman**  
USA TODAY

One crew member of a U.S. F-15E fighter jet that went down over Iran on April 3 has been rescued, according to a U.S. official.

President Donald Trump has been briefed on the jet, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement without providing details.

CBS News first reported the crew member’s rescue.

The status of the other crew member from the two-seater fighter jet was unclear. News outlets including The Wall

Street Journal and The New York Times reported that a search and rescue operation was ongoing.

The regional governor promised a commendation for anyone who captured or killed the pilot, according to the semi-official Iranian news agency ISNA. Iranian news agencies said U.S. helicopters were flying low on apparent search missions and carried videos of residents shooting at them.

President Donald Trump vowed in an April 1 address to hit Iran “extremely hard” over the next two to three weeks.

As of April 2, 13 U.S. service members had died in the war and more than 300 had been wounded.

Trump proposed increasing defense spending to \$1.5 trillion – a 44% increase – in his 2027 budget, which was released on April 3.

“President Trump promised to reinvest in America’s national security infrastructure, to make sure our Nation is safe in a dangerous world,” wrote Russell Vought, the director of the Office and Budget Management, in a letter submitting the budget to Congress. “The 2027 Budget upholds this promise and would ensure that the United States continues to maintain the world’s most powerful and capable military.”

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## These are the most stolen cars in New York

**Victoria E. Freile**  
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly 25% fewer cars were stolen in the United States in 2025 compared to one year earlier, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

That’s almost 660,000 vehicle thefts compared with the 850,000 in 2024, according to the report. However, the decline is a “clear signal of the end of the pandemic-fueled surge in vehicle thefts” according to the NICB. The latest decrease follows 17% drop in vehicle thefts in 2024, which at the time was the largest drop in thefts in 40 years.

Motor vehicle theft is the third most common property crime. Some vehicles are more popular among thieves than others.

“New York experienced a significant decline in vehicle thefts in 2025, with a 15% reduction in reported instances of the crime,” said NICB specialist Nicholas Zeitlinger.

According to the NICB, the **New York City area** (which includes New York and Jersey City among communities in northern New Jersey) ranked second in metropolitan areas nationwide with the most vehicle thefts in 2025. The NYC area has **27,138 thefts**.

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Honda CR-V is one of the most stolen vehicles in New York, according to NICB data, in 2025. PROVIDED BY HONDA

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