



Workplace culture more than a buzzword

BUSINESS, 5A

WEEKEND Lebanon Daily News

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 | LDNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Don't fall for scam texts about tickets, tolls

Susan Tompor
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

DETROIT – Every day, drivers find themselves getting rammed by one fake text after another. One phony alert hitting smartphones in 2026 threatens that you could lose your driver's license if you don't deal with those unpaid tickets soon. Another is that age-old text about unpaid tolls.

Cities across the country – Detroit;

Common versions of a toll or ticket scam, according to Nessel's alert, include fake court notices, impersonations of government agencies or fraudulent messages from toll companies.

Boston; Columbus, Ohio; Providence, Rhode Island, and more – are warning that all those texts about unpaid parking tickets and tolls are not legitimate.

Take one example: On March 23, some metro Detroit drivers reported receiving a fake text from the "36th Judicial District" in Detroit that claimed they

needed to scan a QR code to settle an unpaid balance for a "Parking Violation/Toll Violation." No dollar amount was stated.

If the drivers didn't pay now, the fake "notice of default" claimed, they had to show up at 9 a.m. March 24 for a court hearing.

It was a scam. The so-called "Judge: Michael Rodriguez" isn't a judge in metro Detroit. One text was sent from a 737

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Local classics worth a trip



Italian comfort food is on the menu at the 101-year-old Angelo's Civita Farnese on Federal Hill in Providence, Rhode Island. GAIL CIAMPA/PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE

Best old-school restaurants in America

USA TODAY NETWORK

Our USA TODAY Network food writers love spotlighting great new restaurants, but there's something about old-school classics that warms our hearts. These outposts of Americana offer great old stories, classic recipes and the comfort of knowing a place won't change, no matter how long you've been away.

From beloved Rutt's Hutt in Clifton, New Jersey, where the ripper hot dog with relish is famous far and wide, to The Charcoal Pit in Wilmington, Dela-



Little has changed inside Jesse's Embers, a classic supper club in Des Moines that opened in 1963. CODY SCANLAN/DES MOINES REGISTER FILE

ware, which hasn't changed much since the bobby socks era, these restaurants have stood the test of time for a reason.

You'll find everything from swoon-worthy bakeries and famous steak-

houses to the oldest-school diners. Here are standout classic American restaurants worth the detour – or the

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Lebanon woman charged in alleged attack

Matthew Toth
Lebanon Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

A Lebanon woman has been charged after she allegedly struck a motorist on the head with a hammer through the open vehicle window, police say.

At 6:45 p.m. on March 31, police responded to a disturbance at the intersection of Locust and Cherry Streets.

The alleged victims said they were inside a car when it was approached by three female suspects, and chased the alleged victims down Locust St.

"The three female suspects on the outside of the victim's car were attempting to make entry into the vehicle by yanking on the car door handles and reaching in through a small opening in the driver's window," police said in charging documents.

Police said that Melanie Perez, 25, allegedly attempted to open the driver's side door by reaching through an open window.

The driver reported she was allegedly struck twice in the head with the hammer after refusing to open the door.

The occupants in the car said Perez and the other two subjects stopped when told police were responding. Police said Perez allegedly removed a license plate from the vehicle during the incident and took it from the scene.

The driver was transported to the hospital by EMS with complaints of head pain.

Police located Perez at her residence later that day and took her into custody.

According to court records, Perez

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Volume 154 | No. 176
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