

Financial markets in 2026:
AI one of many factors

Even though people have gloomy views, many experts believe stocks will do well. **In Money**

Eagles’ Carter, defense
keep playoff dreams alive

Column: Shaky offense deserves scrutiny, but team’s D is reason for win over Bills. **In Sports**

Kate Hudson
back in the
awards
conversation

“I could see his pride”: Star shares oldest son’s one-word reaction to her Golden Globe-nominated performance in “Song Sung Blue.” **In Life**

EMMA ROSE MILLIGAN/USA TODAY



Millions
under
blizzard
warnings

Storm blasts across U.S.,
upending travel plans

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

A powerful winter storm barreling across the northern tier of the country dumped heavy snow across multiple states, causing delays on roads and at airports as authorities warned of dangerous travel conditions.

Tens of millions of people were under blizzard and winter storm warnings from Minnesota and Iowa to Michigan, New York and Maine, the National Weather Service said.

On Dec. 28, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz authorized the National Guard to support emergency storm operations.

More than a foot of snow was expected across the upper Great Lakes region, federal forecasters said, and double that amount was possible along the south shore of Lake Superior.

Weather officials told people to avoid traveling, warning those who must drive to bring a winter survival kit in case they get stranded. Visibility in some areas could be near zero, meteorologists said.



Andi Kulbacki captures Lake Erie waves crashing ashore near Avonia Beach Park in Fairview, Pennsylvania. GREG WOHLFORD/USA TODAY NETWORK

“Travel could be very difficult to impossible,” said the weather service office in Marquette, Michigan, warning of wind gusts up to 50 mph and 3 to 7 inches of snow. Major thoroughfares were closed after snow rendered them impassable, including a portion of Interstate 35 near Minnesota.

The Arctic air is expected to march southward, breaking a dayslong mild spell that brought record warm temperatures to several cities.

More than 80,000 homes and businesses were without power in Michigan, according to USA TODAY’s outage tracker. In New York, more than 17,000 outages were reported, most of them in the western part of the state. In Ohio, more than 6,000 buildings were in the dark. Outages also were mounting in the south, where high-wind warnings were active. In Texas, nearly 30,000 outages were reported.

At airports nationwide, delays and cancellations over the weekend persisted. A ground stop was issued at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport early on Dec. 29, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Multiple airports were deicing planes on their runways, including in Albany, New York, and Burlington, Vermont.

Almost 50 flights at Chicago O’Hare International Airport were canceled, according to FlightAware, a flight tracking website. More than 60 flights were canceled at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Black women find
a home in Mexico



American Zakiya Harris says that for her, Mexico City “really checked off all the boxes.” SOULEYMAN MESSALTI FOR USA TODAY



Dianne Ray-Herman SUZETTE HACKNEY/USA TODAY

ABOUT THIS SERIES

In this occasional series, USA TODAY columnist Suzette Hackney explores what “home” means and the trials and triumphs of those who have lost theirs, those fighting to stay and those seeking a new home.

These American immigrants
look south for a new dream

MEXICO CITY – On a perfect, sunny 75-degree day, a group of Black American women gathered at a sidewalk cafe over coffee and pastries to dish about dating, the affordability of weight loss medications and where to find the best chocolate chip cookie.

They easily break out in Spanish to converse with the servers. They go inside the tiny *panaderia* to check out the display of *pan dulces*. Though bakeries are plentiful throughout the city, butter can be subpar here.

Dianne Ray-Herman, who sports glasses and a neatly cropped and graying afro, opts to snack on a plate of falafel and hummus. She’s a retired widow originally from Little Rock, Arkansas. After losing her husband in 2019, she knew she would eventually pursue something different.

She plotted a path to leave her real estate job. And her country.

Ray-Herman, 67, landed in Mexico City, a

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Suzette Hackney
National Columnist
USA TODAY

“I came here to create a home and create a life for my family.”

Zakiya Harris

It’s time for The Talk
with your adult kids

Daniel de Visé USA TODAY

The Talk, in parenting circles, is generally defined as an uncomfortable conversation with your children about sex.

But there is another talk. It happens later, and it’s just as hard.

Aging parents fret and procrastinate over sitting down with their adult children to talk about money – and power of attorney, and medical directives, and all the other issues that arise toward the end of life.

AARP offers a book titled “The Other Talk: A Guide to Talking With Your Adult Children About the Rest of Your Life.” The topic popped up again

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