



RESTAURANTS OF THE YEAR

Our 2026 list highlights standout dining destinations across the country, from humble roadside gems to chef-driven hot spots

In Weekend Extra

FROM TOP: PAUL KUEHNEL/USA TODAY NETWORK; LILY SMITH/USA TODAY NETWORK; PROVIDED BY JOSE SALINAS/ESTHER'S KITCHEN



Bringing JFK Jr.'s 'Love Story' to life

Paul Anthony Kelly and Sarah Pidgeon transform into Kennedy and Carolyn Bessette. In Life

THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. men's hockey ready to compete

Snoop Dogg and U.S. women help team get into "winning mode" before Olympic games. In Sports

ICE will end its operation in MN

After weeks of unrest, drawdown has begun

Phaedra Trethan, Christopher Cann and Jeanine Santucci

USA TODAY

The Trump administration said it is ending the immigration enforcement operation in Minnesota that sparked nationwide protests after federal agents shot and killed two U.S. citizens in January.

White House border czar Tom Homan said Feb. 12 that he has "proposed, and President Trump has concurred, that this surge operation conclude."

"A significant drawdown has already been underway this week and will continue through the next week," Homan said.



The Trump administration had sent 3,000 federal agents to Minnesota beginning in December as part of what it called Operation Metro Surge.

CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

He credited the development to "unprecedented" cooperation with state and local officials that broadened federal authorities' access to local jails. Homan also cited a decline in "unlawful agitator activity."

"Thank you, Minnesota," Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said in a short post on X. He had been calling for the Trump administration to end its surge in his state and for independent state investigations into the shootings.

At his news conference, Homan thanked Walz for urging anti-ICE protesters to remain peaceful.

The move was not unexpected: A week earlier, Homan said 700 agents would withdraw from Minnesota. On Feb. 10, Walz said he expected a full drawdown before Feb. 20, citing conversations with Homan and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles.

About 3,000 federal agents were sent to Minnesota beginning in December as part of Operation Metro

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When cancer struck, a best friend was the best medicine



When Jennifer Taylor, right, discovered she had breast cancer at age 40, her best friend since preschool, Adrien Finkel, was by her side. "Whatever is going to happen, I'm just going to be there," Finkel says. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ADRIEN FINKEL

'Girl time' sets patient on the road to healing



Taylor loves her husband, but when it came to her cancer, she leaned first on her best friend: "I do feel so very lucky that I have Adrien and that I have a group of friends that are there to support me."

Madeline Mitchell USA TODAY

Jennifer Taylor's breast cancer story started like thousands of other women's: by finding a lump. • Her doctor guessed it was hormonal but sent her for a mammogram and an ultrasound just to be sure. In the days leading up to her mammogram appointment, Taylor's nerves kicked in. She called up her best friend, Adrien Finkel, and asked: "It's probably nothing, but will you just come with me, because I don't want to go by myself?" • On the brink of 40 and at the tail end of a devastating breakup, Finkel had just upended her life in Los Angeles and moved cross-country with her two dogs to start fresh in New York City, where Taylor and her family live. She didn't have a job yet. It was an easy yes. See JEN & ADRIEN, Page 6A

Can you protect your parents from afar?

The search for Nancy Guthrie, left, the mother of "Today" anchor Savannah Guthrie, has highlighted the risk of elderly parents living on their own and the difficulty of protecting them from a distance.

PROVIDED BY NBC



Guthrie case shows risks of elderly living alone

Kathleen Wong
USA TODAY

The kidnapping of "Today" anchor Savannah Guthrie's mother is sending shockwaves through the nation. The family is holding out hope for her safe return, while raising concerns for people about the safety of their own elderly loved ones living alone.

The search for Nancy Guthrie, 84, has just surpassed its 12th day, with authorities releasing images and videos of a masked and "armed" individual appearing to tamper with Guthrie's Nest doorbell cameras the morning she was taken.

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