Middle-income families face food insecurity

More Americans visiting food banks amid financial struggles. **In Money**

24-team playoff coming to save average teams

Toppmeyer: Enjoy it before the clown show arrives in college football. **In Sports**



69th annual Grammy Awards nominations

Soul-pop sensation Raye, left, landed atop the list with 11 nods, while last year's best new artist, Olivia Dean, nabbed six. **In Life**

USA TODAY

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LEFT: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT: EMMA MCINTYRE/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE RECORDING ACADEMY

Justices decline to hear gun ban case

They also leave block on DEI grant cuts in place

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court won't decide how far states may go to ban guns in "sensitive" places – such as government buildings, public transportation, hospitals, stadiums and parks – dodging another gun rights dispute in the court's ongoing debate over the reach of the Second Amendment.

The court on Nov. 16 declined to hear a challenge to Maryland's rules about where guns are prohibited. It was one of several orders issued that morning.

The justices are already scheduled to debate in December whether bans on assault-style weapons are constitutional.

The justices have been inundated by gun rights appeals as the court refines how to apply a landmark 2022 ruling, which said firearm regulations must be "consistent with this nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation."

The justices have been inundated by gun rights appeals as the court refines how to apply a landmark 2022 ruling.

That 6-3 decision in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen also significantly expanded the Second Amendment right to bear arms outside the home.

It was one of three key rulings by the Supreme Court since 2008 that broadened gun rights in a nation deeply divided over how to address firearms violence including frequent mass shootings. The United States has the most guns per capita of any nation in the world, according to Reuters.

Some Democrat-led states latched onto the court's comments in the Bruen ruling that firearms may still be banned in "sensitive places," a category the justices did not define.

The gun owners and advocacy groups challenging Maryland's rules argue the state's definition is too broad.

"The Supreme Court has been clear that the Second Amendment protects a right for individuals to carry for self-defense as they go about their daily lives," Adam Kraut, executive director of the Second Amendment Foundation, said in a statement. "Put bluntly, when forced by the Supreme Court to issue carry permits, Maryland simply made those permits useless everywhere."

An appeals court based in Virginia rejected the group's challenge. Similar gun-control measures in other states have been upheld by other appeals courts, although not always for the same reasons or for the same types of locations.

In asking the Supreme Court to get involved, gun rights groups called

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VANCE'S 2028 PROSPECTS TAKE A HIT

Midterm wipeout opens GOP field

After losses in the midterms, some influential Republicans started writing off Vice President JD Vance's anticipated presidential run in 2028. TOM BRENNER/REUTERS



Secretary of State Marco Rubio has brushed off talk of a presidential run and has said he will stay in his job for as long as President Donald Trump will have him. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Francesca Chambers and Zac Anderson USA TODAY

WASHINGTON

Vice President JD Vance huddled in the East Room of the White House with President Donald Trump and other members of the administration, watching the GOP's stunning midterm election losses roll in. ● First, the House fell, then the Senate. A landslide wiped out Republican lawmakers in deep-red states and districts Trump and Vance had personally campaigned in. ● Vance entered the midterms facing questions about whether he could win over Trump's coalition and keep Secretary of State Marco Rubio from challenging him in the party's next presidential contest. ● By the time his 2028 audition was over, he had a much bigger issue: Influential Republicans were writing off his anticipated bid altogether. **See VANCE, Page 6A**

Gen Z transforming Thanksgiving meals

Modern holidays reflect more diverse tastes

Maddie Rhodes
USA TODAY

From gochujang Brussels sprouts to harissa honey-glazed carrots, food trend experts and chefs say some traditional Thanksgiving meals could be getting spicier.

With many friends from younger generations celebrating the holiday together as "Friendsgiving" and sharing their favorite dishes, people aren't necessarily giving up traditional dishes. However, some are changing them, mixing recipes and adding flavors into Thanksgiving must-haves like turkey and green bean casserole.

Gen Z is keeping the classics like turkey and pumpkin pie, but they're getting creative, according to Miriam Aniel Oved, a senior consumer trends analyst at food and beverage consumer intelligence site Tastewise.



Gochujang, a Korean sweet and spicy pepper paste, might show up in glazes, butters or dressings in more holiday dinners. JACOB PUCCI/USA TODAY NETWORK

But this isn't a new trend or viral recipes taking over the table, according to Own Han, a culinary content producer and author of "Stacked: The Art of the Perfect Sandwich" (HarperCollins Publishers, 2024).

"People seem less attached to doing things a certain way just because that's how they've always been done. The idea of getting everyone together and having a big meal is still there, but the food can be a lot more personal and reflect the cultures and values of the more diverse or mixed families that are hosting," Han said.

About 1 in 10 Gen Z Thanksgiving foods include something mashed, spicy, barbecued, mini, gluten-free or deviled, according to Tastewise data. Instead of bringing the traditional green bean casserole, it might be spicy or in a single serving for your relative with dietary restrictions.

At Han's Thanksgiving, he still makes mashed potatoes, gravy and roasted vegetables, but he brings dishes that feel more like him, like mac and cheese, and a dish leaning into his Italian roots, like pasta with vodka sauce or a lighter tomato sauce. Instead of the main turkey dish, Han prefers a roast chicken and steak.

Jessica Woo, a Las Vegas cook and author of the cookbook "Let's Make Some

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