

Treatment of hearing loss with hearing aids may delay cognitive decline.*



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*Source: Sarant et al. 2023 <https://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/audiology-and-speech-pathology-research/hearing-and-cognition-research-program/research/remediation-hearing-aids>; Lin, F. et al. (2023, July 17). Hearing intervention versus health education control to reduce cognitive decline in older adults with hearing loss in the USA (ACHIEVE): a multicentre, randomised controlled trial. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(23\)01406-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)01406-X). ²Certain types of hearing loss may require a hearing instrument model that is not appropriate for the trial. Hearing evaluation required. See clinic for details. Only available for selected hearing instruments. Offers expire 02/28/26.

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Winter storm pummels Northeast



Cities report whiteouts, mass power outages

More than 568,000 power outages were reported across the Northeast by the morning of Feb. 23, with most occurring in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, according to poweroutage.us.

PETER PEREIRA/NEW BEDFORD STANDARD-TIMES

Christopher Cann, N'dea Yancey-Bragg, Dinah Voyles Pulver, Eduardo Cuevas, Doyle Rice and Brandi D. Addison USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – An intensifying winter storm pummeled the Northeast on Feb. 23, bringing blizzard conditions that blanketed major cities in snow, halted travel, closed schools and caused mass power outages.

Over 40 million people were under blizzard warnings from Maryland to Maine as the storm dumped 2 to 3 inches of snow per hour and brought winds of up to 70 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Overnight on Feb. 23, blizzard conditions – winds reaching at least 35 mph and snow that reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less for at least three hours – were verified in Teterboro, Newark and Islip, New Jersey; Westhampton, New York; and Groton, New Haven and Bridgeport, Connecticut, according to the weather service.

See **WINTER STORM**, Page 5A



People wait in freezing temperatures to receive food aid Feb. 18 in Kyiv as the Russia-Ukraine war marks its fourth anniversary.
CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

Peace deal for Ukraine elusive

Trump takes harder line with Kyiv than Moscow

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump has taken extraordinary action when it comes to confronting authoritarians in places like Venezuela, where U.S. forces captured leader Nicolas Maduro, and Iran, where Trump bombed nuclear sites in June 2025 and is now threatening a new attack.

But there's one strongman Trump has consistently refused to challenge: Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose intellect and iron grip the former reality TV star has long admired.

The Russian leader has convinced Trump and U.S. negotiators, including presidential envoy Steve Witkoff, that he wants to cut a deal to end his long war – even as Moscow rains missiles and drones on Ukrainian

See **ELUSIVE PEACE**, Page 7A

Cartel leader's death leads to violence across Mexico

Lauren Villagran and Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Feb. 23 that normal activity had resumed following a day of violence in several regions of her country.

"Today, there is tranquility," she said, adding that peace had been secured and blockades largely cleared.

The unrest was triggered by the Feb. 22 killing of a powerful cartel leader in a military operation.

Nemesio Oseguera, commonly known as "El Mencho," was Mexico's most-wanted cartel leader, with a \$15 million bounty for information leading to his capture.

He rose through the ranks and launched a deadly coup to become the

leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, or CJNG. The criminal enterprise rapidly grew into a continent-spanning empire that rivaled its former allies in the Sinaloa Cartel, run by kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who is serving life in prison.

Oseguera's death triggered waves

See **CARTEL**, Page 3A



Gunmen suspected to be supporters of Nemesio Oseguera, commonly known as "El Mencho," set cars and businesses ablaze on Feb. 22.

ULISES RUIZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



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