

Ready or not, the cold is coming



Georgia Department of Transportation workers will be filling trucks with brine to treat roads ahead of the winter storm expected to bring snow and ice this weekend. Despite their aggressive strategy, they advise you stay home if possible. MIGUEL MARTINEZ/AJC 2025

Governor declares state of emergency

By Rosana Hughes
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Metro Atlanta is now included in a winter storm watch as forecasts start to paint a clearer picture of what North Georgians can expect when winter's icy wrath bears down this weekend.

The watch will be in effect from 1 a.m. Saturday through 10 a.m. Monday and includes all of North Georgia, stretching southeast to just north of Macon. But it's still uncertain how exactly Atlanta will fare as warm southern air and cold Arctic air clash.

The core message remains consistent: Residents in the watch zone should hunker down from Saturday through Monday and be ready for power outages. Ice accumulation could weigh down power lines and make for treacherous travel conditions, the National Weather Service warns. Those conditions may last through Tuesday, especially in the state's northeast mountains, if temperatures struggle to make it above freezing.

"This is not so much a snow event as it's going to be a freezing rain and sleet event," Channel 2 Action News meteorologist Brian Monahan said. "In many ways, that is the most difficult type of winter weather to deal with."

Gov. Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency Thursday for all counties for the next seven days. He also authorized calling up 500 members of the National Guard.

"We do not have a need for

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ALSO INSIDE

- » From local governments to grocery stores, metro Atlanta prepares for winter storm, A6
- » What every household should have on hand for the cold, A6

Hope is GDOT's specialized brine, work crews can handle icy roads.

By Sara Gregory | sara.gregory@ajc.com

Imagine the Titanic if it were measured in salt.

The ocean liner's hull weighed 26,000 tons, a total slightly less than the amount of salt used by the Georgia Department of Transportation to keep roads clear of snow and ice last year.

All that salt is just one part of efforts the state has made since 2014 to ensure metro Atlanta, and the rest of the state, don't experience anything along the likes of that winter's infamous Snowpocalypse, during which hundreds of motorists were stranded on interstates.

As arctic air moves in this weekend, the state transportation agency again will face off against Mother Nature. The National Weather Service is predicting "significant" impacts from snow and ice beginning Saturday and lasting through the Monday morning commute, part of a larger weather system affecting states from New England to the Midwest.

GDOT officials want the public to know that a lot has changed since 2014. Their strategy today is much more aggressive and

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WEEKEND FORECAST

TODAY

Isolated showers
High: 51 Low: 38
Mostly cloudy with a 30% chance of showers.



SATURDAY

Wintery mix
High: 34 Low: 30
Cloudy with a mix of rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow developing later in the day.



SUNDAY

Wintery mix
High: 39 Low: 23
A wintery mix of freezing rain and rain likely.



Source: WSBTV.com

Raffensperger a no-show before Senate ethics group, sends chair letter instead

GOP senators want state official to submit Ga. voter rolls to Trump.

By Caleb Groves
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Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger declined to appear before the state Senate Ethics Committee on Thursday amid growing legal and political disputes over the Trump administration's demands for the state's voter data.

Instead, secretary of state officials sent a letter to the committee chair saying they would not attend because of ongoing litigation with the U.S. Department of Justice.

"If you and your colleagues

wish to weaken the legal protections for Georgia voters' private information and make millions of Georgians vulnerable to identity theft, you can certainly change the law, but that is not something that the Secretary of State's office would support," the secretary of state officials wrote in the letter.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones called on Raffensperger to testify about what Jones claimed were hundreds of thousands of votes improperly certified in the 2020 election and other "failures in protecting the integrity of Georgia's elections." Jones' allies on the committee were expected to press the secretary of state

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Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger did not appear before the state Senate Ethics Committee on Thursday despite being called to testify. ARVIN TEMKAR/AJC 2026

Georgia high court wants lawyer who took part in Jan. 6 Capitol riot disbarred

His online post stated he was among first 'to rush up the steps and inside.'

By Chris Joyner
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The Georgia Supreme Court rejected recommendations that a Middle Georgia attorney be publicly reprimanded for his actions during the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol riot and suggested that he be disbarred instead.

In a unanimous opinion released Wednesday, the justices wrote that William McCall Calhoun knew he was breaking the law when he joined the first wave of supporters of President Donald Trump who forced their



Attorney William McCall Calhoun was among those who received a presidential pardon.

way into the Capitol. His actions on that day, many of which Calhoun posted in messages and videos to social media, were "very serious" and "reflect adversely on his fitness as a lawyer."

The State Bar of Georgia suggested to the court that a public reprimand would be enough punishment for Calhoun, 63, but the justices thought otherwise.

Lawyer continued on A10

TODAY'S TOP STORIES INSIDE



CAPITOL HILL HEARING, A2

Jack Smith defends his Trump investigations

Ex-special counsel Jack Smith insisted at a congressional hearing that he had acted without regard to politics during his investigation of President Donald Trump.



GEORGIA & THE SOUTH, A4

3 raising large funds for GOP Senate primary

The three Republicans vying to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff are piling up seven-figure campaign accounts. But they still lag behind Ossoff.



SPORTS, B1

Falcons hire Rees as offensive coordinator

Tommy Rees will be the Falcons' new offensive coordinator. Rees was the Browns' coordinator last season, when he worked for new coach Kevin Stefanski.



MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, B1

Pitching move could lift Braves in NL East

The Braves could gain an edge against two teams in the division by beating them to the punch for one of the best available arms still on the free-agent market.



GO GUIDE, C1

Tuskegee Airmen exhibit visits Atlanta

The Children's Museum of Atlanta features "Aim High: Soaring With the Tuskegee Airmen," a hands-on installation about the Black military pilots of World War II.

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