WISCONSIN JOURNAL

Messages for a holy time

Area members of the clergy offer a sample of planned sermons, plus the **Christmas Story**

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Wisconsin men's basketball coach Greg Gard faces tough test after rough start

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

SPORTS, B1

Ominous horizon

Militant groups experiment with AI, and the risks are expected to grow

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Best of TV

'Adolescence,' 'The Pitt' and an 'SNL' milestone lead the 10 picks for 2025

ENTERTAINMENT. A5

(*) MADISON.COM

Wednesday, December 24 - Thursday, December 2025 • Holiday Edition

UW-MADISON | IMPACT FROM FEDERAL CUTS



OWEN ZILIAK PHOTOS, STATE JOURNAL

Ankur Desai, chair of the UW-Madison Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Department, worries that the Trump administration's plan to close the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado will have long-term impact on UW-Madison's climate research.

Climate research in peril

Colorado weather center faces closing **SABINE MARTIN**

smartin@madison.com

UW-Madison atmospheric and oceanic sciences graduate student Rudra Thaker has spent the last five years researching climate and weather simulations by tapping into a federally funded supercomputer in another state.

Thaker has access to the treasure trove of data through the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, a consortium of more than 130 colleges and universities, including UW-Madison and UW-Mil-Boulder-based National Center for Atmospheric Research.

But a plan from President Donald Trump's administration Wisconsin, at risk. to shutter the center puts his of other faculty and students in heavily on NCAR," Thaker said. ing supercomputers, research



waukee, that manages the UW-Madison graduate student Rudra Thaker says the NCAR supercomputer gives him access to data that couldn't otherwise be stored at UW-Madison.

work, and research from dozens than half of the people rely of-the-art resources, includ-

"On this floor, I think more center says it provides "state-

aircraft, sophisticated computer models and extensive data sets" to the atmospheric and related Earth system science community. It's funded through the National Science Foundation.

Among other things, the center has helped improve early warnings in weather forecasts and air safety, the American Meteorological Society said in a statement.

White House officials say they're closing the center because it's "one of the largest sources of climate alarmism in the country," Russ Vought, director of the Office of Management and Budget, wrote in a post on X Dec. 16 in the announcement of the plan.

"A comprehensive review is underway & any vital activities such as weather research will Established in 1960, the be moved to another entity or location," Vought wrote.

Please see RESEARCH, Page A6

EPSTEIN FILES LATEST RELEASE

Scope of DOJ probe shown

The U.S. Department of Justice released its biggest tranche to date Tuesday from the department's investigative cases into the deceased sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

The more than 10,000 files show internal deliberations between federal prosecutors, attorneys for victims and attorneys for Epstein.

The files also include tips that the FBI and Justice Department received about possible wrongdoing by Donald Trump and other Epstein associates.

Please see FILES, Page A6

Powerball jackpot up to \$1.7B

OLIVIA DIAZ **Associated Press**

The Powerball jackpot has jumped to an eye-popping \$1.7 billion, after the 46th drawing passed without a big winner.

The numbers drawn Monday night were 3, 18, 36, 41, 54 and the Powerball 7.

Since Sept. 6, there have been 46 straight drawings without a

big winner. The next drawing will be on Christmas Eve, on Wednesday, with the prize expected to be the 4th-largest in U.S. lottery

history. Powerball's odds of 1 in 292.2 million are designed to generate big jackpots, with prizes growing as they roll over when no one wins. Lottery officials note that

Please see POWERBALL, Page A6

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