



Monday, December 08, 2025

1. U.S. citizens are getting caught up in President Donald Trump's immigration operation.

In the Chicago area: Several Latinos say they have been detained by officers asking where they were born. The actions come as Trump is upping his anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Two Post exclusives: The mom of Karoline Leavitt's nephew spoke out about her ICE arrest. And Cuban detainees were beaten for refusing removal to Mexico, the ACLU said.

As Trump's crackdown continues: Many leading Democrats are staying quiet.

2. Trump hosted the Kennedy Center Honors last night.

How did it go? The president won cheers and laughs from a MAGA-friendly crowd. He joked about nominating himself for the honors next year.

Zooming out: The night capped a dramatic year at the D.C. arts institution, which Trump took over in February. The center is now showier, emptier and more political.

On Saturday: SNL mocked Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

3. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is trying to wait out Trump.

What's happening? Five months into a U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean, Maduro is refusing to go into exile. However, he is fearful of a U.S. strike or an attempt on his life.

What else to know: Trump has threatened military action against Venezuela over claims the country supports the drug trade. But Trump keeps pardoning drug traffickers.

4. Child deaths under 5 appear to be increasing for the first time in decades.

According to a new study: The number of children worldwide who die before turning five is set to rise this year — the first time this century that child mortality has increased.

What's driving the increase? Cuts to aid from several countries are a key factor, researchers said. That includes the U.S., which has slashed foreign assistance under Trump.

5. Scientists discovered a powerful new way to combat the effects of aging.

How? By triggering stem cells to create and deliver new mitochondria to damaged and aging cells. Mitochondria play an important role in health and diminish with age.

What it could mean: With further research, the method could be used to supercharge a patient's cells to fight diabetes, muscular dystrophy, Alzheimer's disease and more.

6. The College Football Playoff bracket is set.

What to know: Indiana, Ohio State, Georgia and Texas Tech each received first-round byes in the 12-team tournament that begins Dec. 19.

Prefer the other football? After an elaborate draw Friday (and special prize for Trump), the 2026 World Cup groups are decided. The U.S. men will face some familiar foes.

7. Spotted lanternfly "poop" is changing the taste of some honeys.

How? Bees are collecting a sticky secretion left by invasive lanternflies and carrying it to their hives. The result is a darker, mysterious new kind of honey.

What's it like? A professional taster said it has a smoky, savory, salty, resinous or lightly fruity flavor. Others say the "insect-poop honey" tastes very weird.



Vocabulary 08/12/25

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|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Kristi Noem -
crackdown - | Homeland Security Secretary
a situation in which someone starts to deal with illegal behaviour |
| 2. | Kennedy Center
Honors - | annual award for extraordinary contributions to the American
culture by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington |
| | storied - | often spoken of or written about |
| | perch - | a place where a bird sits, esp. a thin rod in a cage |
| 3. | Nicolás Maduro - | Venezuelan President |
| | to wait out sth. - | to wait until something unpleasant has ended |
| | drug trafficking - | the act of buying and selling drugs |
| 5. | to trigger - | to cause sth. to start |
| | mitochondrion - | in a cell a long or round piece that produces energy for the cell by
breaking down food. Plural: mitochondria |
| | stem cell - | a cell, especially one taken from a person or an animal at a very early
stage of development, that can develop into any other type of cell |
| | to supercharge - | to make more powerful |
| 6. | bracket - | a diagram showing the series of games in a tournament |
| | elaborate - | very detailed |
| 7. | poop - | solid waste from the body |
| | to squash - | to crush sth. into a flat shape |
| | hive - | a structure where bees live |

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