

N.Y. / REGION

New York Today: Remembering Pearl Harbor

New York Today

By ALEXANDRA S. LEVINE DEC. 7, 2016

Updated, 12:10 a.m.

Good morning on this damp Wednesday.

Today is the 75th anniversary of Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, which killed more than 2,400 Americans at a naval base in Hawaii and drew the United States into World War II.

Our city felt the shock waves from nearly 5,000 miles away.

“For New York, Pearl Harbor was the beginning of galvanizing to become a very mobilized, war-oriented city,” said Mike Thornton, an associate curator at the New-York Historical Society.

New York “became the Army and Navy’s Costco for the European theater,” he said, referring to the region of fighting across the Atlantic. “All of the supplies and planes were shipped out of here, and we were also a great training destination for troops.”

More than three million people and 63 million tons of supplies were dispatched from New York Harbor during the war.

And many of the ships that were bombed or targeted at Pearl Harbor had been built and serviced at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Mr. Thornton told us.

The battleship Arizona, which exploded and sank in the attack, was one of them. (Incidentally, the battleship Missouri, upon which the Japanese surrendered in 1945, was being built in that same Brooklyn yard at the time the Arizona was being bombed.)

Few survivors remain across the country — so few that the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association disbanded five years ago.

But you can join a small number of survivors at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum for a wreath-laying ceremony today to commemorate the attack and those who risked, or lost, their lives at Pearl Harbor.

The museum is also offering guided talks to learn about the heroes and the legacy of the attack, and it will be streaming the memorial service in Hawaii.

Here's what else is happening:

Weather

It's moody.

A slight drizzle, gray skies, and a nippy breeze are on tap.

It should feel in the low 40s today.

The damp sidewalks and sound of wheels on wet streets are making us feel like we've walked onto the set of a classic New York movie.

The scene should wrap this afternoon when it dries out and the sun makes an appearance.

In the News

- A nasty debate over how to pay for the new Port Authority Bus Terminal has threatened to paralyze the board that oversees the agency. [New York Times]
- At least five babies have been born in the city with Zika-related developmental symptoms. [New York Times]
- The man who admitted that he shot and killed the former Jets player Joe McKnight in Louisiana was arrested and charged with manslaughter. [New York Times]
- A man who hacked into the email accounts of celebrities and athletes was sentenced to five years in prison. [New York Times]
- An unprecedented number of city residents complained about voting problems in this year's primary, according to a report from the attorney general. [DNAinfo]
- The panel in the House of Representatives has set aside \$7 million for the city to protect Donald J. Trump, short of the \$35 million requested. [New York Post]
- Two state legislators from Staten Island are suing the city to stop it from deleting IDNYC records, which could be used by the Trump administration as a deportation tool. [Gothamist]
- The MTA is on track to install Wi-Fi in all of its 279 underground stations by the end of the year. [amNewYork]
- A woman who fled the Nazis, and then Russia, makes a life in Brooklyn. [New York Times]
- Today's Metropolitan Diary: "The Scarf Blinked"
- Scoreboard: Islanders root out Rangers, 4-2. Devils defeat Canucks, 3-2. Knicks chill Heat, 114-103.
- For a global look at what's happening, see Your Wednesday Briefing.

Coming Up Today

- Our New York Today New Yorker of the Year contest continues. You can nominate someone by filling out the form at the bottom of this page.
- A gingerbread-making workshop, led by a professional chef, at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx. 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. [\$25, registration required]
- **Eight Flavors: The Untold Story of American Cuisine**, a talk with The New York Times food writer Melissa Clark and the historical gastronome Sarah Lohman, at the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side. 6:30 p.m. [Free]
- A screening of “Little Gandhi,” a documentary about the Syrian peace activist Ghiyath Matar, followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmaker, at the Lebanese American University in Midtown Manhattan. 6:30 p.m. [Free, registration required]
- **How to Feel About Death**, a Brooklyn Public Philosophers lecture with the author and professor of philosophy Ben Bradley, at the Brooklyn Public Library. 7 p.m. [Free]
- **Looking ahead: Sign up for a beginners’ flying trapeze class on Saturday or Sunday at Circus Warehouse in Long Island City, Queens.** [\$65]
- Nets host Nuggets, 7:30 p.m. (YES). Knicks host Cavaliers, 8 p.m. (MSG).

Commute

- **Subway** and **PATH**
- **Railroads:** L.I.R.R., Metro-North, N.J. Transit, Amtrak
- **Roads:** Check traffic map or radio report on the 1s or the 8s.
- **Alternate-side parking:** in effect until Dec. 8.
- **Ferries:** Staten Island Ferry, New York Waterway, East River Ferry
- **Airports:** La Guardia, J.F.K., Newark

And Finally...

We're sorry to inform you that today will be the darkest afternoon of the year.

The sun will say good night at 4:28 p.m.

But on the shortest day of the year, Dec. 21, the sun sets later, at 4:32 p.m.

How is that possible?

“You assume that on the day when you have the least amount of daylight, the sun will set the earliest,” said Ashley Pagnotta, a postdoctoral fellow at the American Museum of Natural History. “Intuitively, that makes sense. But it turns out that’s not true.”

In New York, we'll always see the *shortest amount of daylight* on or about Dec. 21, the winter solstice, but we'll always see our *earliest sunset* on Dec. 7 or Dec. 8.

Why?

There are two things that affect how long the sun stays in the sky, and what time it goes up and down, Dr. Pagnotta explained.

First, the tilt of the earth's axis relative to the sun. This causes the sun to travel a lower, shorter path across the sky in the winter, giving us shorter daytimes.

Second, our modern clocks. The time on your wristwatch is not the same as solar time on a sundial.

We, as humans, define one day as midnight to midnight — exactly 24 hours — but the sun is running on a slightly different schedule. This misalignment between our clocks and the sun is the reason that the earliest sunset differs from the shortest day, Dr. Pagnotta said.

(If you want a full scientific breakdown, the United States Naval Observatory's Astronomical Applications Department explains the phenomenon in detail.)

Catch the rays while you can — 4:28 is an early bedtime.

New York Today is a weekday roundup that stays live from 6 a.m. till late morning. You can receive it via email.

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