

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 204 ~ 1 of 55

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

**Due to the dangerous wind chills, the Groton Area School District will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 29, and Wednesday, Jan. 30th.**

**The basketball game for Tuesday at Langford will be postponed.  
The Government trip scheduled for Wednesday will also be postponed.**

### Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Today is National Puzzle Day and National Cornchip Day

**Cancelled:** Upper Dakota Conference Congressional Debate at Groton

**Postponed:** Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Langford @ Langford

**Postponed:** Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Langford @ Langford

### Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019

Today is National Inane Answering Message Day

### Thursday, January 31, 2019

Today is Backward Day and Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

4:00pm: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Webster Area High School @ Webster Armory (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.)

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Groton Area High School

### Friday, February 1, 2019

Today is Bubble Gum Day, National Freedom Day and No Politics Day

5:15pm: Basketball: Boys C Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Tiospa Zina High School followed by JV and Varsity games.

## Skating Rink Hours

**Open Monday - Thursday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Friday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Sunday: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## Extreme cold may wipe out high percentage emerald ash borer larvae

by Paul Huttner

Here's one resident who may welcome the extreme cold wave headed for Minnesota. Your local ash tree.

The extreme temperatures moving in with Sunday's arctic blast may kill off a significant percentage of emerald ash borer larvae, according to one of the premier forestry experts in Minnesota.

As I gauge the incoming cold wave event, my latest read is that the Twin Cities area will see close to 84 consecutive sub-zero hours starting Saturday night, and lasting into Wednesday morning.

Model forecasts vary, but the deepest cold should peak somewhere between -20 and -26 Monday and Tuesday mornings. Here's the latest look at the Global Forecast System model's temperature output for early this week.

### Emerald ash borer and extreme cold?

Given the magnitude of the incoming cold wave, I wondered about the potential positive benefits of the extended sub-zero streak.

I've spoken many times about the mortality of the pine bark beetle at -40 in northern Minnesota based on discussions with University of Minnesota forestry expert Lee Frelich, director of the Center for Forest Ecology.

Lee is widely regarded as a premier expert on all things Minnesota forest, including insect mortality in extreme cold.

Astute MPR News listener and Updraft reader Krista Loke got me thinking about how the emerald ash borer might fare in the upcoming cold.

Hey Paul, was just reading the updraft. Even though I never miss you in the morning with Kathy. Though I find this latest temperature dip a tough one I'm glad to see it/feel it. Didn't we used to get cold like this for weeks at a time? And they never cancelled school! Kids have it so easy these days.

I digress.... I am wondering how cold and for what duration do we need to kill off the emerald ash bore? I thought it was something along the lines of -20 for 2 weeks straight.

Focus on the positive! I just received my first wave of seed catalogs. Time to hunker down and start planning the garden. Take care, stay warm.

Krista Loke

Great question Krista. I had my suspicions on how the extreme cold might affect the little buggers, but I went straight to the source for this one. Here's the excellent and timely response Lee sent my way.

Paul:

I think the forecast temperatures that we will experience in the next several days will cause a lot of mortality for emerald ash borer in MN. Details below—probably more than you need. I looked up the most recent research this morning, because I figured I will get a lot of questions about this over the next week.

Winter mortality for emerald ash borer is definitely temperature dependent. The larvae can

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supercool to a certain point, but they die if they freeze, and there is variability in tolerance among individual insects. A recent study from the Forest Service (Venette and Abrahamson—see attached) in Minnesota showed that 5% of the insects die at 0F, 34% at -10F, 79% at -20F and 98% at -30F.

However, there is the question of what temperatures the insects actually experience, since they spend winter under the bark of trees, and some of them close to the ground, where they may be insulated by the bark itself and possibly by the snow.

This insulation effect can have a substantial effect if overnight minimum temperatures take a brief plunge and recover quickly. In such cases minimum temperatures under the bark can be 2-7F warmer than air temperature.

However, with prolonged cold lasting all night or, as we may experience in the coming days, prolonged cold well below zero all day and all night, then the insulating effect of bark becomes minimal.

A recently published study (DeSantis et al—see attached) integrates these factors to show where emerald ash borers are likely to have substantial mortality—see color maps in figures 2 and 3 in the DeSantis paper. There is a large area in northern MN that has a lot of ash trees that experiences temperatures cold enough to greatly limit the survival and reproduction of the insect.

That is good news for our 900+ million ash trees, many of which grow in the swamps of northern MN. However, with warmer winters likely to occur in the future, this could change. Also, the few insects that do survive the upcoming cold spell might be more resistant to cold than an average insect, and give rise to a new generation of more cold-tolerant insects, although we don't know much about this type of selection in emerald ash borer.

In addition, as you know, there is huge variability in minimum temperature across the landscape, on south or north facing slopes, hill tops, valley bottoms.

We will know more about that over the next year, as we acquire data from our network of Hobos measuring hourly temperatures at 150 forested locations within forests in the BWCAW and Voyageurs National Park, and 150 on Isle Royale. There is also the urban heat island in the Twin Cities, which will help the insects a lot.

Lee

Lee E. Frelich

Director, The University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology

So for Minnesota's ash trees, the magnitude and duration of the upcoming cold wave may be a very good thing! No doubt Lee and his colleagues will be checking in to see how the ash borer larvae fared during this extreme cold wave.

Paul Huttner

phuttner@mpr.org

Paul Huttner is chief meteorologist for Minnesota Public Radio. Huttner has worked TV and radio stations in Minneapolis, Tucson and Chicago. Paul is a graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul and holds a bachelor's degree in geography with an emphasis in meteorology.

## From a Facebook Page

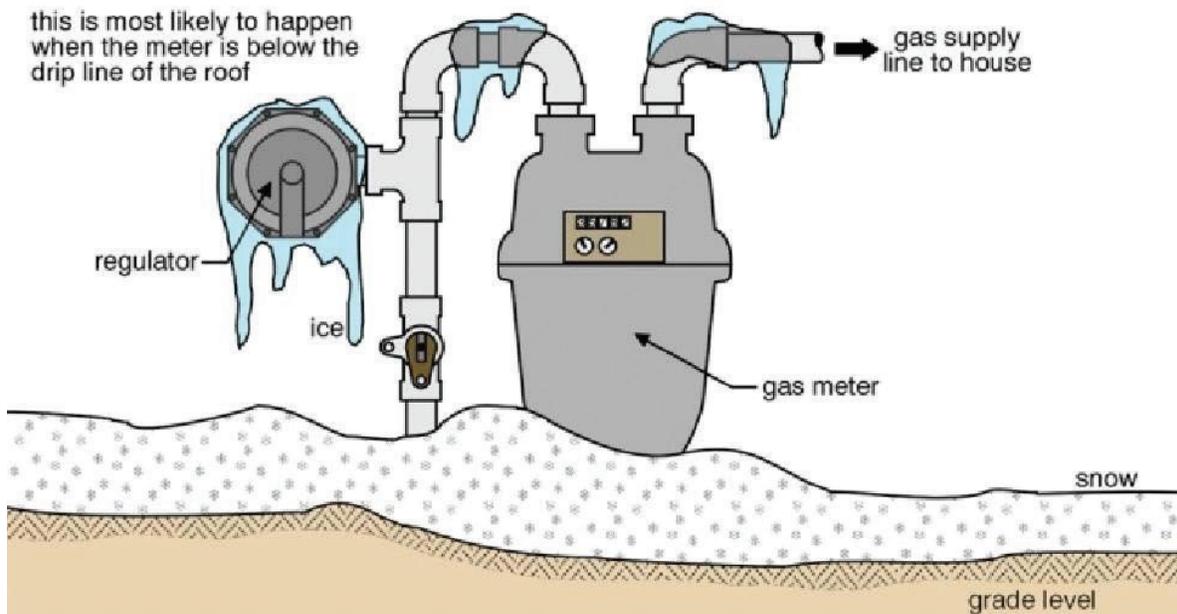
A friendly reminder to keep your gas meters clear of ice and your dryer vents clear of snow. Doing this will help keep natural gas and carbon monoxide from backing into your home.



### Ice on regulator

ice build-up on regulators can block the vents and potentially allow excess gas pressure into the house

this is most likely to happen when the meter is below the drip line of the roof



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## From a Facebook Page

**Everyone do me a big favor and go check your exhaust for your furnace. Then check your neighbors. With this extreme cold it doesn't take long to build up ice and block the exhaust. I don't want anyone to wake up dead from CO. Please share.**



From a Facebook Page

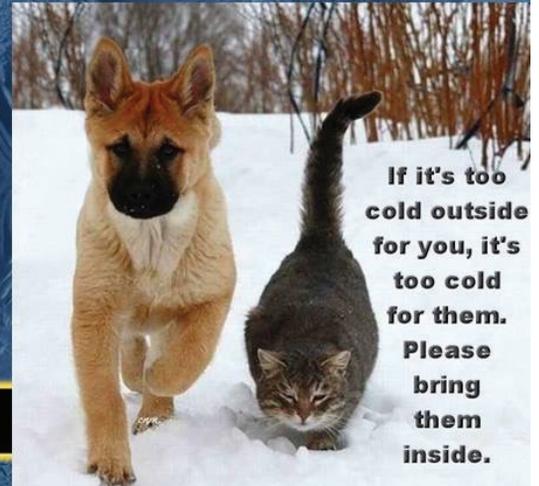
## WINTER WEATHER PET TIPS

- ✓ Provide a warm insulated shelter or bring them inside if you can.
- ✓ Check on them often if they are outside.
- ✓ Make noise before starting your car. Some animals use warm car engines or wheels to stay warm.
- ✓ Provide fresh, unfrozen water.
- ✓ Check their paws for salt.

LINCOLN COUNTY



SHERIFF'S OFFICE



If it's too cold outside for you, it's too cold for them. Please bring them inside.



Does the access to your fire hydrant look like this? If not, it should. It's your responsibility to keep the hydrants cleared.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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From a Facebook Page



Cindy Haskell of Conde took this cool photo Monday morning.

From a Facebook Page



This Groton Area boys sixth grade team took first place Saturday at a tournament played in Langford. Pictured left to right are Logan Pearson, Caden McInerney, Blake Pauli, Payton Mitchell, Tuner Thompson, Carter Simon and Teylor Diegel. (Photo by Corey Mitchell)

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From a Facebook Page



The main blizzard hit Sunday evening, but with all of this snow, a little wind can create issues. Lindsey Tietz said on her Facebook Page about this photo, "Holy ground blizzard and blinding sun....this wind picks up so fast!"

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## Sippel Farm featured on American Pickers

The Bruce and Vickie Sippel farm, rural Groton, was featured Monday on on American Pickers. This is a show on the History Channel. Bruce and his son, Adam, were featured on the show.

In the top left photo, Adam is pushing a door open so the American Pickers could get a prized item out of the shed.

The middle photo features Adam (wearing the white shirt) and Bruce (wearing the red hat) as they were introduced to the hosts of the show.

In the bottom photo, Bruce looks on as the pickers pick through the stuff.

(Photos taken from the History Channel Show)

## Polar Vortex Plunge to Bring Brutally Cold Temps to South Dakota

January 29, 2019 - With a surge of arctic air expected to bring the coldest temperatures in years to most of eastern South Dakota by Wednesday, AAA is gearing up to assist stranded drivers. A polar vortex is set to blast the region with brutally cold temperatures and life-threatening wind chills of -40 to -60 degrees are possible Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.



“Wind chills this low can be deadly, so it’s critically important to be as prepared as possible,” said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. Drivers are also more likely to experience dead car batteries or tire pressure issues as the temperature drops.

Currently, AAA South Dakota’s call volume is 4 times higher than normal in the Sioux Falls and east river areas of the state due to blowing snow and cold temps.

“It will be all hands on deck at AAA so that we may respond to stranded motorists as quickly and safely as possible,” Buskohl said. “AAA encourages anyone with a car battery more than three years old to get it checked as temperatures drop.”

### Batteries

AAA says the average car battery lasts 3-5 years.

Even at 32 degrees, a battery is 35 percent weaker.

At zero degrees, a car’s battery loses about 60 percent of its strength, yet the engine needs about twice as much power to start.

A battery’s life can be drained faster if devices are plugged into cars (cell phone chargers, upgraded audio and GPS devices)

### Tires

AAA also recommends checking tire pressure frequently because tires lose air when air temperatures are cold.

Proper cold weather tire pressure can be found in the vehicle manual or on a sticker inside the driver’s door, not on the tire itself.

### Winter Emergency Kit

Motorists are advised to prepare a winter emergency kit to stow in the trunk of their vehicle to have immediately available should the need arise. More than 40 percent of motorists do not carry an emergency kit in their vehicle, cautions AAA South Dakota.

Emergency kit items to include – de-icer, shovel, ice scraper, warning flare or reflector triangle, flashlight with fresh batteries, first aid kit, jumper cables and sand or kitty litter (for traction).

Pack a blanket, extra gloves and heavy but light-colored jacket, scarf or hat (so you can be seen if you have to get out of your vehicle) – if you’re stuck on the road for an extended period of time you’ll need to stay warm, especially if your vehicle is not running.

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Snacks and beverages for passengers and pets who may be traveling with you.

Motorists should also have a cell phone with car charger, and AAA members should travel with their membership card or have their membership number handy when calling for roadside assistance. Drivers are urged to make sure your AAA membership is active for roadside assistance is important and as simple as going to AAA.com or stopping in at one of the AAA South Dakota retail locations.

If travel is planned across the area, motorists should be prepared to encounter snow-covered roads, and slow travel conditions," Buskohl said. Frozen streets and blowing snow cause more vehicles to slip off the traveled portion of the roadway, therefore will need extrications and possible tows. AAA is reaching out to our providers to ensure the drivers and equipment are prepared to help our 100,000 AAA members in South Dakota.



## Vehicle Breakdown Tips

Pull out of the traffic lanes if your car breaks down. If faced with a vehicle emergency, safely steer your car off the roadway. Turn on the emergency flashers to alert other drivers and exit the vehicle on the side facing away from traffic, if possible. Once everyone is in a safe location, request roadside assistance.

"The first goal is to try to avoid a breakdown by keeping your vehicle up-to-date on maintenance. The second goal, should you break down, is to stay as safe and warm as possible while waiting for help to arrive," Buskohl said.

For more safety tips if a vehicle breaks down, visit: <http://exchange.aaa.com/automotive/roadside-assistance/road-safety-tips>.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 59 million members nationwide and nearly 100,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, non-profit corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

## Tips for the home during the Polar Vortex

**This info was obtained from Brooklyn Park, MN Fire and Rescue.**

Monday night through Thursday we all will experience temperatures and wind chills that our homes' heating systems are NOT designed for. -20 to -30-degree temperatures with wind chills into -40 and up to -50+.

Newer homes will struggle to maintain temperature and older homes will NOT maintain temperature and the temperature WILL drop while the heating system is working at full capacity.

1. Please raise the temperature in your home on Monday, 2 to 4 degrees above your normal setting.
2. Take all programmable thermostats out of setback mode and set on a permanent HOLD.
3. If you have a furnace; replace the filter.
4. Keep garage doors closed.
5. Limit opening exterior doors.
6. Make sure air vents and radiators are not blocked or obstructed.
7. If you have a 90%+ furnace and boiler: You must keep the intake and exhaust clear of ice and snow. During these cold temperatures, ice can build up. A 90%+ furnace and boiler have 2 white PVC pipes; an exhaust pipe and an intake pipe that are generally on the side or back of your home. In some instances, they are on your roof, do NOT go on your roof to clear the pipe.

If the temperature in your home is dropping and your radiators are HOT with boiler systems or you have HOT air coming out of your vents with furnaces DO NOT PANIC. Please make sure that your heating system continues to operate.

If the temperatures drop in your home, it will not be able to recover until temperatures rise and the windchill diminishes. Our heating systems cannot overcome temperatures -20 to -30 with wind chill up to -50+. They are sized to operate at 0 degrees outdoor. Put your thermostat on hold 70 degrees or higher.

To help minimize temperature loss you can boil water, make soup, or stews; they help introduce humidity and warmer temperatures into your home. DO NOT USE YOUR OVEN or a GRILL TO HEAT YOUR HOME.

You may also want to turn your facets on to a slow drip to prevent pipes from freezing.

Please check on neighbors and elderly residents during these extreme temperatures. Stay warm and safe this week and share this with any of your family and friends.

**Director  
of Nursing**

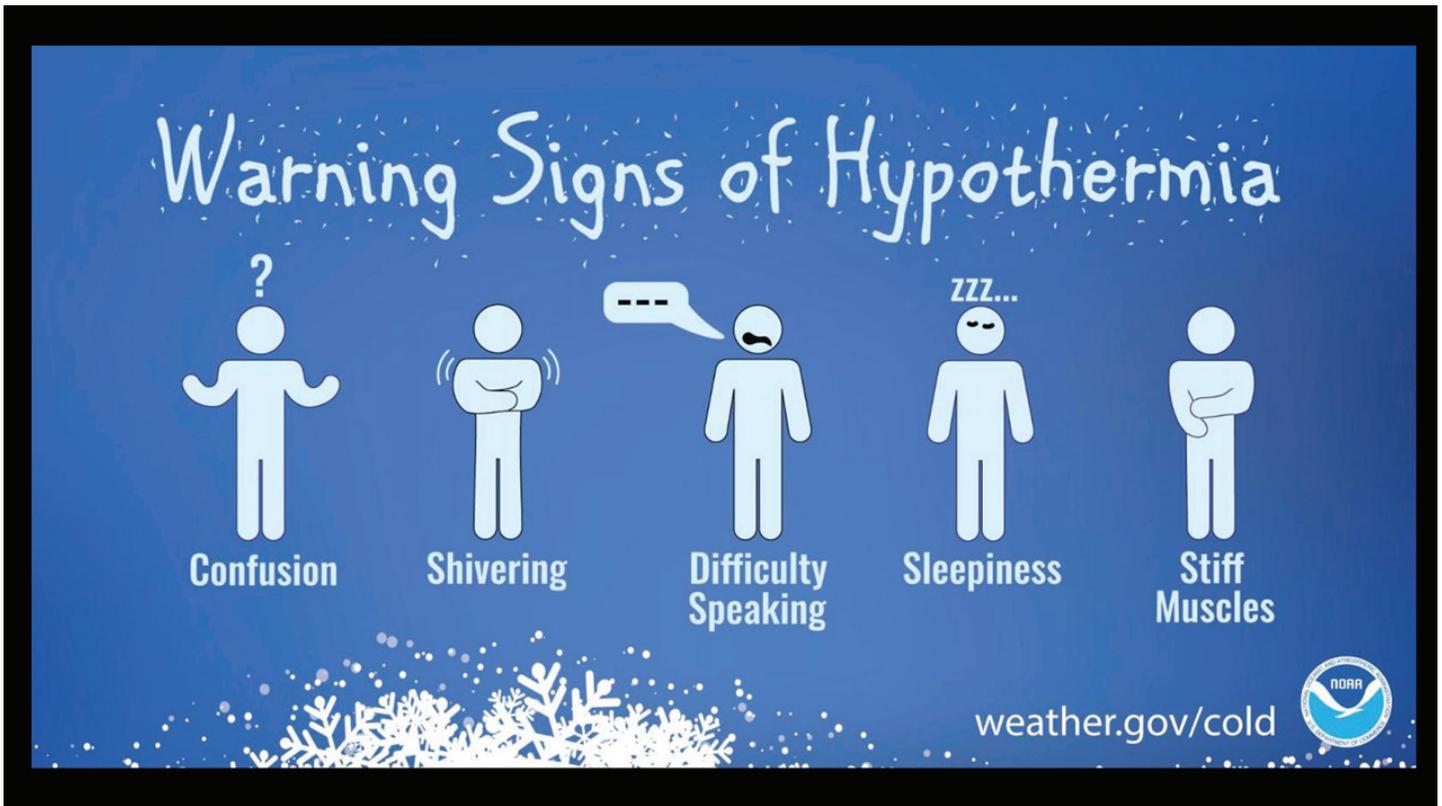
Current RN licensure in SD  
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## Frostbite and Hypothermia

Watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia when outdoors during extreme cold weather.

Frostbite is a severe reaction to cold exposure that can permanently damage its victims. A loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in fingers, toes, or nose and ear lobes are symptoms of frostbite. In fact, research has shown that uncovered fingers can freeze up to 8 times faster than a human cheek, and the nose can freeze 3 times faster. This illustrates the importance of keeping fingers and parts of your face (ear lobes, nose) well covered in extreme cold weather.

Hypothermia is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops to less than 95 deg F. Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, slow speech, memory lapses, frequent stumbling, drowsiness, and exhaustion.

If frostbite or hypothermia is suspected, begin warming the person slowly and seek immediate medical assistance. Warm the person's trunk first. Use your own body heat to help. Arms and legs should be warmed last because stimulation of the limbs can drive cold blood toward the heart and lead to heart failure. Put the person in dry clothing and wrap their entire body in a blanket.

Never give a frostbite or hypothermia victim something with caffeine in it (like coffee or tea) or alcohol. Caffeine, a stimulant, can cause the heart to beat faster and hasten the effects the cold has on the body. Alcohol, a depressant, can slow the heart and also hasten the ill effects of cold body temperatures.

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## Wind Chill Chart

Wind (mph)

Temperature (°F)	Wind (mph)												
	Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	25	25
35	31	27	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	19	18	17	17
30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12	12	11	10	10
25	19	15	13	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	3	3
20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4	-4
15	7	3	0	-2	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-11	-11
10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-19
5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	-26
0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	-33
-5	-16	-22	-26	-29	-31	-33	-34	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-40
-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-44	-45	-46	-48	-48
-15	-28	-35	-39	-42	-44	-46	-48	-50	-51	-52	-54	-55	-55
-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57	-58	-60	-61	-62	-62
-25	-40	-47	-51	-55	-58	-60	-62	-64	-65	-67	-68	-69	-69
-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71	-72	-74	-75	-76	-76
-35	-52	-59	-64	-68	-71	-73	-76	-78	-79	-81	-82	-84	-84
-40	-57	-66	-71	-74	-78	-80	-82	-84	-86	-88	-89	-91	-91
-45	-63	-72	-77	-81	-84	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-98	-98



### Frostbite Times

- 30 minutes
- 10 minutes
- 5 minutes



### Wind Chill Index

The "Wind Chill" Index is a calculation of how cold it feels outside when the effects of temperature and wind speed are combined. The National Weather Service in Green Bay issues Wind Chill Advisories when they reach -20 F, and Wind Chill Warnings when they drop to -35 F or lower. Exposure to cold, biting air for long periods of time is dangerous.

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## Today in Weather History

January 29, 2008: Arctic air combined with strong northwest winds of 20 to 40 mph to bring extreme wind chills to much of north central and northeast South Dakota. The extreme wind chills began in the morning hours of January 29th across all of the area. The wind chills improved across north central South Dakota by the evening and improved across northeast South Dakota during the morning hours of January 30th. The extreme wind chills ranged from 35 to 50 degrees below zero across the area. The extreme cold caused school delays and activity cancellations along with much discomfort to people and livestock. On Monday January 28th, the day before the extreme cold, a southerly flow brought very mild temperatures with some record highs set at several locations. Highs were in the 40s to the mid-50s across central and northeast South Dakota. When the Arctic front came through on January 28th, temperatures fell dramatically through the evening and early morning with below zero temperatures by Tuesday morning, January 29th. In fact, most locations across the area had a 40 to 55 degree temperature change from the 28th to the 29th.

1921: A small but intense windstorm resulted in the "Great Olympic Blowdown" in the Pacific Northwest. Hurricane force winds, funneled along the mountains, downed vast expanses of Douglas fir trees, and the storm destroyed eight billion board feet of timber. Winds at North Head WA gusted to 113 mph. On January 31, 1921, the International News Services reported from Aberdeen, Washington, "It is reported that thousands of dollars in damage was done to buildings and storms in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The wind velocity was estimated at from 125 to 150 miles an hour. Four steel smokestack reaching almost 200 feet into the air were the first to collapse before the terrific onslaught of the gale. The giant chimneys crashed down on dwellings crushing them like houses of cardboard."

1947: On this date through the 30th, a fierce winter storm buried southern Wisconsin under two feet of snow. Strong northeasterly winds piled drifts up to 10 feet high in the Milwaukee area, shutting down the city for two days.

2002: A major three-day winter storm blasted parts of Kansas and Missouri. A catastrophic ice storm occurred south of the snow area, with two inches of ice and snow accumulating in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Thousands of trees were felled by the storm, blocking roads, felling utility lines and causing fires. Two "Bicentennial Trees" which were estimated at being over 200 years old were badly damaged from this storm. After the 31st, 325,000 people were reportedly without power in Kansas City alone.

2008: A sharp cold front moved across Illinois during the day, producing a drastic temperature drop. Temperatures fell 20 to 40 degrees in just a couple hours, with areas from Springfield, Illinois to St. Louis, Missouri seeing temperatures fall as much as 50 degrees between noon and 6 pm. Temperatures in the mid-60s in central Illinois at midday on the 29th had fallen to near zero by the next morning.

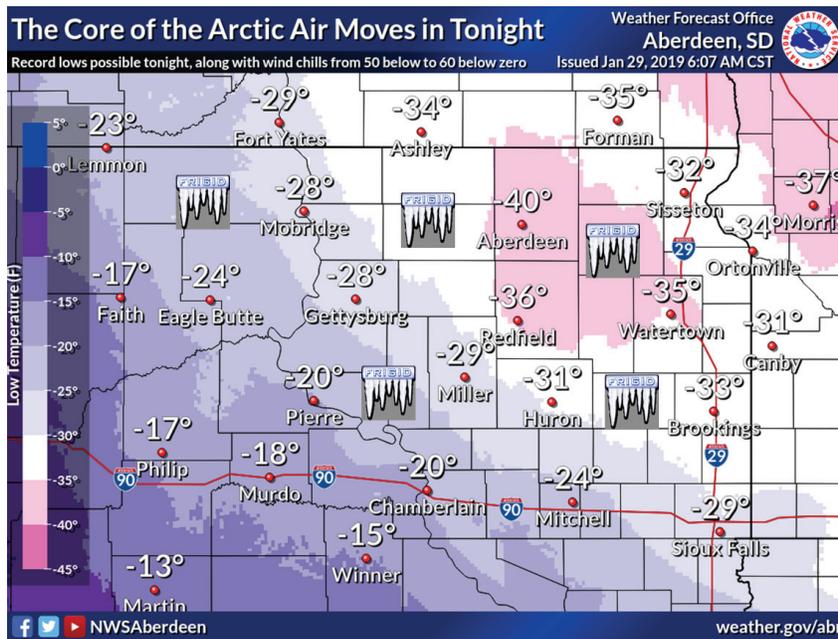
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Winter Weather Advl...

## Wind Chill Warning

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
				
Scattered Flurries and Patchy Blowing Snow	Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Mostly Clear	Cold	Increasing Clouds	Cold
High: -13 °F ↓	Low: -40 °F	High: -16 °F	Low: -28 °F	High: 3 °F



Extremely cold temperatures and wind chills will pour into the region today, with highs only in the single digits below and teens below zero. Wind chills will range from 25 below zero to 45 below zero for most locations, with the coldest readings across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. The core of the cold air will settle in over the region tonight. The graphic shows low temperatures tonight, the actual AIR TEMPERATURE. 40 below zero in Aberdeen is certainly not out of the question. Record lows are likely in many areas, especially across the east. Winds will subside to around 10 mph or less tonight, although with actual air temperatures this cold, wind chill values will range from 50 below to perhaps 60 below zero for northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Air this cold is dangerous to be outside in, unless you adequately cover any exposed skin. Frostbite can occur in a matter of minutes. Exercise caution if you have to be outdoors today.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 11 °F at 3:18 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: -6 °F at 6:35 AM**

**High Gust: 37 mph at 12:34 AM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 58 in 1931**

**Record Low: -32 in 1952**

**Average High: 24°F**

**Average Low: 2°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.43**

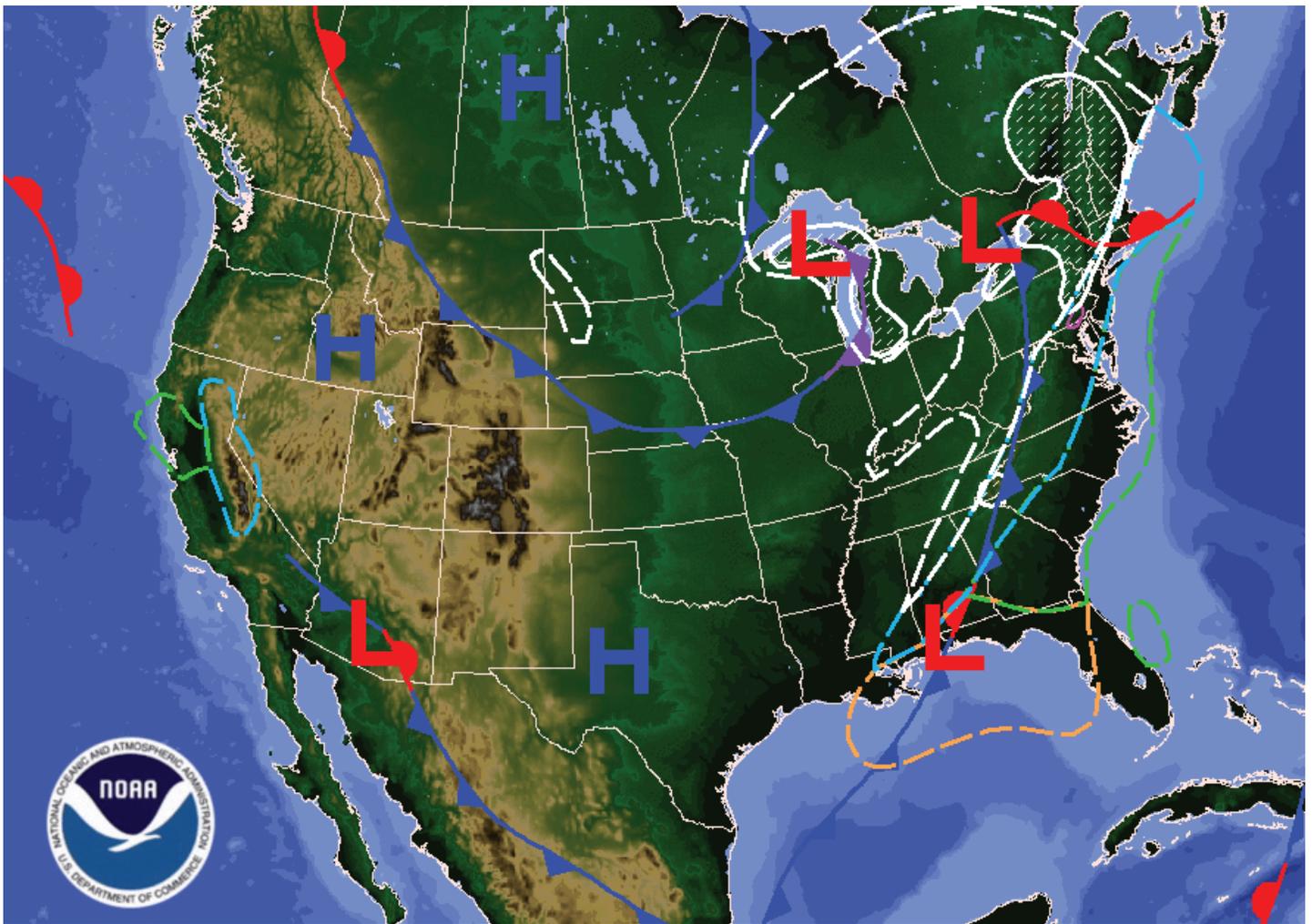
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.43**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.09**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:36 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jan 29, 2019, issued 6:32 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds/Roth with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

**Rain**  
**Rain and T'Storms**  
**Rain and Snow**  
**Snow**  
**Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)**  
**Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)**  
**Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)**  
**Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)**

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## HAVE MERCY!

When we are offended by another person, we have four options: we can pout, pity ourselves, take it out on someone else, or pray.

When we pout, we pollute ourselves with the poison of displeasure. Its like pouring a teaspoonful of black dye into a glass of pure water and watching the darkness take over. It ruins the beauty that light brings to life. Pouting brings distress into our lives - not deliverance.

When we pity ourselves, we are simply poisoning ourselves. Self-pity distorts our thinking, disrupts our work, disturbs our body and even disfigures our face with wrinkles. It depresses our friends, demoralizes our life and above all, dishonors our Lord.

When we take our hurt out on others, it not only pains them, but will come right back to pain us as well - and eventually punish us. Revenge is like a boomerang: Although it flies into the path of the other person, it will eventually come back to attack us in the process. It can hit the one who threw it with the heaviest blow.

When we pray we protect ourselves and place the responsibility for settling the score up to God. We are Gods children and what offends us offends Him; what hurts us will hurt Him, and what affects us has already affected Him. He understands our pain and our sorrow.

The Psalmist expresses this in a beautiful way: I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me. God will always take care of us, remove the sadness from our hearts, and bring His healing. When we pray, He makes things right!

Prayer: Father, when we have been injured by the ways and words of others, may we look to You for Your healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 120:1 I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me.

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

## News from the Associated Press

### Record-breaking cold coming to Midwest after snowstorm

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Extremely cold, record-breaking temperatures are settling across parts of the Midwest after a powerful snowstorm pounded the region overnight Monday, and forecasters are describing the subzero weather on the way as potentially life-threatening.

Minneapolis Public Schools announced there would be no classes through Wednesday, when the region will experience frigidly low temperatures not seen in a quarter century.

"You're talking about frostbite and hypothermia issues very quickly, like in a matter of minutes, maybe seconds," said Brian Hurley, a meteorologist with the Weather Prediction Center.

The cold also prompted officials to close some schools in eastern Iowa, while Chicago Public Schools officials said that Wednesday's classes have been canceled due to the anticipated cold snap.

The Chicago Zoological Society, meanwhile, said it's closing the Brookfield Zoo on Wednesday and Thursday to ensure the safety of employees and animals. It's only the fourth time the zoo has closed during its 85-year history.

Subzero temperatures will begin Tuesday but Wednesday is expected to be the worst. Wind chills in northern Illinois could fall to negative 55 degrees (negative 48 degrees Celsius), which the National Weather Service called "possibly life threatening." Minnesota temperatures could hit minus 30 degrees (negative 34 degrees Celsius) with a wind chill of negative 60 (negative 51 degrees Celsius). The potentially record-breaking low temperature forecast in Milwaukee is negative 28 degrees (negative 33 degrees Celsius), with a wind chill as low as negative 50 (negative 45 degrees Celsius). The current record of minus 26 degrees (negative 32 degrees Celsius) was set in 1996.

"That's 40 degrees below normal," Hurley said.

The high temperature forecast at O'Hare on Wednesday is negative 14 degrees (negative 25 degrees Celsius), which would break a record set on Jan. 18, 1994.

Homeless shelters were preparing for the onslaught of cold. The Milwaukee Rescue Mission's call volume was "unusually high," but there should still be enough beds for those who need them, said the mission's president, Pat Vanderburgh. Charitable groups that operate warming places and shelters in Minneapolis were expanding hours and capacity as the cold moved into the city where 1,500 people typically are sheltered on a given night.

"The charitable organizations responsible for operating shelters are adding emergency capacity as they do whenever dangerous extreme temperature events occur," said Hennepin County Emergency Management Director Eric Waage. He said ambulance crews in the city were handling all outside response incidents as being potentially life-threatening.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel urged residents to check on their neighbors and take safety precautions. He said city agencies are making sure homeless people are in shelters or offered space in warming buses.

Cold weather advisories are in effect across a broad swath of the central U.S., from North Dakota to Missouri and spanning into Ohio. Temperatures will be as many as 20 degrees below average in parts of the Upper Great Lakes region and Upper Mississippi Valley, according to the National Weather Service.

The unusually frigid weather is attributed to a sudden warming way above the North Pole. A sudden blast of warm air from misplaced Moroccan heat last month made the normally super chilly air temperatures 20 miles (32 kilometers) above the North Pole rapidly rise about 125 degrees (70 degrees Celsius). That split the polar vortex into pieces, which then started to wander, according to Judah Cohen, a winter storm expert for Atmospheric Environmental Research, a commercial firm outside Boston. One of those polar vortex pieces is responsible for the subzero temperatures across the Midwest this week.

On Monday, snowplow drivers had trouble keeping up with the snow in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where some areas got as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters). Chicago-area commuters woke up to heavy snowfall,

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with more than 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) already on the ground. In Michigan, nonessential government offices were closed, including the Capitol.

Rare snowfall was also forecast for some southern states. Forecasters warned of up to 3 inches (7 centimeters) of snow in central Mississippi and Alabama by Tuesday morning and said temperatures will plummet as arctic cold blasts southward. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey issued a state of emergency ahead of the storm.

Associated Press reporters Caryn Rousseau in Chicago, Gretchen Ehlike in Milwaukee and David Runk in Detroit contributed to this report.

## **FBI investigating death of man pursued by Rosebud police**

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — Rosebud Sioux tribal police say it's not yet clear whether a man being chased by officers died after they opened fire on him or from injuries suffered when his vehicle went over a cliff.

Tribal police say they began pursuing the man Sunday evening after he drove away from his home where he was threatening his family in St. Francis. Authorities say the man drove onto an old gravel trail and was blocked by two police cars. The driver then rammed his vehicle into one of the police squad cars. Officials say the officers fired at the vehicle, which went over a cliff and rolled to the ground below.

The Rapid City Journal reports the driver was pronounced dead at the scene. He has not been identified. The FBI is investigating.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## **Monday's Scores** By The Associated Press

### **BOYS PREP BASKETBALL**

Bon Homme 48, Corsica/Stickney 43  
Dakota Valley 66, Tri-Valley 46  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 70, Garretson 67  
Ethan 68, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 61  
Freeman 51, Scotland 30  
Irene-Wakonda 71, Howard 43  
Menno 61, Avon 41

### **POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS**

Aberdeen Christian vs. Britton-Hecla, ppd.  
Baltic vs. Elkton-Lake Benton, ppd. to Feb 5th.

### **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Bon Homme 52, Gregory 39  
Ethan 56, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 33  
Harrisburg 68, Sioux Falls Washington 34  
Irene-Wakonda 62, Howard 53  
Kadoka Area 45, New Underwood 31  
Red Cloud 70, Little Wound 50  
Wall 42, Hot Springs 20

### **POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS**

Aberdeen Christian vs. Britton-Hecla, ppd.

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Heavy snow hitting parts of Midwest; dangerous cold coming

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Heavy snow and powerful wind created blizzard-like conditions Monday across parts of the Midwest, prompting officials to cancel about 1,000 flights at Chicago's airports and close hundreds of schools. But forecasters warned the most dangerous weather is yet to come: frigidly low temperatures that the region hasn't seen in a quarter century.

Snowplow drivers had trouble keeping up with the snow in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where some areas got as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters). Chicago-area commuters woke up to heavy snowfall, with more than 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) already on the ground. In Michigan, non-essential government offices were closed, including the Capitol.

But the snow is only "part one, and maybe even the easier part" because temperatures will plummet over the next three days, said Brian Hurley, a meteorologist with the Weather Prediction Center.

Wednesday is expected to be the worst. Wind chills in northern Illinois could fall to negative 55 degrees (negative 48 degrees Celsius), which the National Weather Service called "possibly life threatening." Minnesota temperatures could hit minus 30 degrees (negative 34 degrees Celsius) with a wind chill of negative 60 (negative 51 degrees Celsius).

"You're talking about frostbite and hypothermia issues very quickly, like in a matter of minutes, maybe seconds," Hurley said.

The potentially record-breaking low temperature forecast in Milwaukee is negative 28 degrees (negative 33 degrees Celsius), with a wind chill as low as negative 50 (negative 45 degrees Celsius). The current record of minus 26 degrees (negative 32 degrees Celsius) was set in 1996.

"That's 40 degrees below normal," Hurley said. "When you think about it in that sense, that's a big 'whoa.'"

Cold weather advisories are in effect across a broad swath of the central U.S., from North Dakota to Missouri and spanning into Ohio. Temperatures will be as many as 20 degrees below average in parts of the Upper Great Lakes region and Upper Mississippi Valley, according to the National Weather Service.

The unusually frigid weather is attributed to a sudden warming way above the North Pole. A sudden blast of warm air from misplaced Moroccan heat last month made the normally super chilly air temperatures 20 miles (32 kilometers) above the North Pole rapidly rise about 125 degrees (70 degrees Celsius). That split the polar vortex into pieces, which then started to wander, according to Judah Cohen, a winter storm expert for Atmospheric Environmental Research, a commercial firm outside Boston. One of those polar vortex pieces is responsible for the sub-zero temperatures across the Midwest this week.

Homeless shelters were preparing for the onslaught of cold. The Milwaukee Rescue Mission's call volume was "unusually high," but there should still be enough beds for those who need them, said the mission's president, Pat Vanderburgh.

"We are being especially vigilant during the night," he said. "Monitoring our doors, our security are going out on the street, we're partnering individuals that go out proactively looking out for homeless individuals and sharing with them winter clothes and food."

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel urged residents to check on their neighbors and take safety precautions. He said city agencies are making sure homeless people are in shelters or offered space in warming buses.

Hundreds of schools were closed across Michigan as road conditions deteriorated, including Eastern Michigan University. The largest public school districts in Wisconsin and Minnesota also were among those closed, including districts in Milwaukee and St. Paul. Minneapolis Public Schools announced there would be no classes through Wednesday. The cold also prompted officials to close some schools in eastern Iowa, while Chicago Public Schools officials said they were monitoring the weather ahead of Wednesday's cold snap.

In eastern North Dakota, officials have issued travel alerts because of blowing snow. The Minnesota State Patrol was responding to scores of spinouts and crashes early Monday in the Twin Cities metro area because of snow-covered and icy roads.

More than 800 flights were cancelled at Chicago O'Hare International Airport Monday morning and Midway

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International Airport canceled more than 220. The high temperature forecast at O'Hare on Wednesday is negative 14 degrees (negative 25 degrees Celsius), which would break a record set on Jan. 18, 1994.

Even the fabled "frozen tundra" of Lambeau Field, home to the NFL's Green Bay Packers, wasn't able to withstand the heavy snow and wind that closed hundreds of businesses, schools and government offices in Wisconsin. The stadium said tours, the Packers Hall of Fame and other related businesses were closed Monday.

Courthouses and most offices were closed in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Columbia and Washington counties, while more than three dozen flights were canceled early Monday at the Milwaukee area's largest airport, Mitchell International Airport.

Rare snowfall was also forecast for some southern states. Forecasters warned of up to 3 inches of snow in central Mississippi and Alabama by Tuesday morning and said temperatures will plummet as arctic cold blasts southward. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey issued a state of emergency ahead of the storm.

For the latest updates on weather: <https://bit.ly/2FVf5QY>

Associated Press reporters Caryn Rousseau in Chicago, Gretchen Ehlike in Milwaukee and David Runk in Detroit contributed to this report.

## South Dakota House to vote on allowing permitless carry

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would allow people to carry concealed handguns without a permit is headed to the South Dakota House for a vote.

The House State Affairs Committee approved the bill 10-3 Monday. It has already passed the Senate and Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, has said she supports permitless carry.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports that the South Dakota Sheriffs' Association testified Monday that they don't oppose the idea but would prefer it apply only to South Dakota residents. A separate bill that includes that restriction hasn't been scheduled for a hearing yet.

Sen. Brock Greenfield, a Clark Republican, argued to the committee that his bill does away with a background check that duplicates one people have already done when they purchased a handgun.

Rep. Jamie Smith, a Sioux Falls Democrat who opposed the bill, says there's been no need shown to change the law.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## Prosecutor rejects wrongful death claim in hospital shooting

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — A man who was shot to death by a police officer at a hospital on a Native American reservation was killed due to his own negligence and actions, the U.S. attorney in South Dakota said in rejecting a federal lawsuit filed by the victim's mother.

An Oglala Sioux Tribe police officer took Jamie Brave Heart to the Pine Ridge hospital on June 3, 2016, after his mother said he was acting strangely. Brave Heart stabbed and cut the officer as he tried to flee the hospital and the officer shot him, tribal spokesman Kevin Yellow Bird Steele said at the time.

In July 2018, Brave Heart's mother filed a wrongful death lawsuit claiming excessive force and negligence, and seeking \$2 million for "pain and suffering." She said in the complaint that her 28-year-old son was taken to the hospital for an assessment but instead was shot "numerous times" by Officer Charles Hunter. The mother's lawsuit did not mention Brave Heart stabbing the police officer or any other actions that might have caused Hunter to shoot him.

In a response filed Jan. 10, U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons said Brave Heart's death was caused by his own negligence and actions, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Terry Pechota, the lawyer representing Brave Heart's mother, said he would not comment on the incident or lawsuit. The U.S. Attorney's Office has yet to make a statement.

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Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## Girl's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

### Class AA

1. Harrisburg (15)	11-1	100	3
2. O'Gorman (6)	12-2	95	1
3. Brandon Valley	9-3	62	2
4. Lincoln (2)	9-4	45	RV
5. Stevens	10-3	29	4

Receiving votes: Brookings 14.

### Class A

1. Lennox (21)	12-1	112	1
2. Winner (2)	13-0	91	2
3. West Central	11-0	67	T5
4. Belle Fourche	13-1	31	T5
5. McCook Central-Montrose	12-1	21	4

Receiving votes: Vermillion 14, St. Thomas More 8, Sioux Falls Christian 1.

### Class B

1. Ethan (23)	12-0	115	1
2. Warner	12-2	79	2
3. De Smet	12-1	69	3
4. Corsica-Stickney	12-1	49	4
5. Faith	13-0	30	5

Receiving votes: Bridgewater-Emery 2, Avon 1.

## Boy's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Prep Media Basketball Poll for the week of Jan. 28 is listed below, ranking the top-five teams, the team's record, points received and ranking in the previous poll. First-place votes are listed in parentheses.

### Class AA

1. Lincoln (23)	10-0	115	1
2. Brandon Valley	9-2	91	4
3. O'Gorman	8-5	59	2
4. Yankton	11-3	43	3
5. Roosevelt	7-4	22	RV

Receiving votes: Stevens 13, Harrisburg 1, Huron 1.

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## Class A

1. Tea Area (23)	13-1	115	1	
2. St. Thomas More		11-1	82	3
3. SF Christian	12-1	77	2	
4. Red Cloud	11-2	36	4	
5. Pine Ridge	10-3	16	5	

Receiving votes: Tiospa Zina 13, Dakota Valley 6.

## Class B

1. White River (10)	12-1	99	1	
2. Clark2Willow Lake (10)	10-1	95	2	
3. Bridgewater-Emery (3)	11-2	82	3	
4. Viborg-Hurley	11-1	32	RV	
5. Sully Buttes	10-2	22	4	

Receiving votes: Aberdeen Christian 6, Arlington 3, Timber Lake 3, Warner 3.

## Schurz Communications selling newspapers to GateHouse Media

MISHAWAKA, Ind. (AP) — Schurz Communications says it's selling its publishing division, including 20 newspapers in five states, to GateHouse Media LLC.

Indiana-based Schurz, which owns the South Bend Tribune and The Herald-Times in Bloomington announced the deal Monday. Terms were not disclosed. The family-owned company says New York-based GateHouse will assume ownership during the first quarter of the year. GateHouse currently owns 145 daily newspapers

The Tribune reports employees were told Monday that Schurz executives and board members decided GateHouse would offer a scale of operations that can make the newspapers more competitive and successful in the long term.

The newspapers being sold include The Petoskey (Michigan) News-Review, The American News in South Dakota and The Herald-Mail in Maryland.

Schutz says it will continue investing in cloud and managed IT services and broadband operations.

## Tribal police involved in fatal shooting in Rosebud

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The FBI says tribal police were involved in a fatal shooting on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

The shooting happened at about 6 p.m. Sunday in Rosebud. Details about how the shooting happened were not immediately released.

No officers were injured and the FBI is investigating.

The name of the person who died also has not been released pending notification of family members.

## Trucker charged in Rapid City fatal accident

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A truck driver involved in a fatal crash near Rapid City has been charged with vehicular homicide.

Prosecutors say Brian Rasmussen acknowledged using Ambien, a drug to treat sleep insomnia, two days before his truck crossed the median and hit an oncoming Jeep in Friday's crash on Interstate 90. A 64-year-old woman in the Jeep died.

The Rapid City Journal, citing court documents, reported that say a drug recognition expert evaluated the 53-year-old Rasmussen, of De Beque, Colorado, and found him impaired by a central nervous system depressant. The documents say Rasmussen then acknowledged using Ambien two days before the crash.

Chris Christianson, an attorney for the Denver-based company Rasmussen works for, said there is no

evidence proving Rasmussen was under the influence of any substance.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## **Attorney general: Head trauma caused baby's death**

PARKSTON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials say a baby who died at a daycare in Parkston last summer had suffered head trauma.

The Attorney General's Office has released results of an autopsy on 11-month-old Elliot Milbrandt. The boy, who has a twin brother, died on July 23, 2018 after he was found unresponsive at the Parkston daycare.

The attorney general says the state Division of Criminal Investigation continues to look into the child's death. No one has been named as a suspect.

## **Company uses former New Mexico ranch to film 'Fireball Run'**

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A former ranch near Madrid, New Mexico, has been used to shoot episodes of the Amazon Prime television series Fireball Run.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports production company Adrenaline Partnership recently filmed scenes at the Scaramanga Ranch and Film Site. The production company now owns the property.

Adrenaline's managing partner and Fireball Run showrunner J. Sanchez says glimpses of New Mexico likely will be in the final six or eight shows of the 30-episode season that premiered Jan. 15.

Most of the South Dakota exteriors were shot in South Dakota.

Sanchez renamed the property for the villain Francisco Scaramanga in the 1974 James Bond movie The Man with the Golden Gun.

Fireball Run centers on an epic drive from Wisconsin to South Dakota undertaken by 40 teams.

## **Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials**

**By The Associated Press**

### **Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Jan. 21**

#### **On transgender issue, choose facts over fear**

Here we go again.

Despite past failed attempts to sanction discriminatory treatment of transgender high school students, the South Dakota Legislature is plodding forth with yet another ill-fated proposal.

Republican lawmakers Jim Bolin and Thomas Brunner have introduced legislation aimed at sinking a South Dakota Activities Association policy that allows transgender students to participate on sports teams that reflect their gender identities rather than the biological sex listed on their birth certificate.

The SDHSAA policy was crafted in 2015 after a survey showed that 77 percent of South Dakota high school superintendents wanted a statewide directive on the transgender issue, just as 44 other states have done. It calls for an independent hearing officer to review school and medical transcripts and personal statements before rendering a decision on eligibility.

Only a handful of athletes have gone through the process over a four-year period, which works against the "looming threat to competitive integrity" theory that Bolin and Brunner are putting forth.

This continues a recent trend of stoking fear amid discriminatory rhetoric when it comes to addressing the topic of transgender students in public schools.

First we heard that there would be sexual impropriety in school restrooms if gender identity was allowed to play out — a distasteful talking point that held no evidentiary weight. Then there was the proposal to use "visual inspection" as part of a process to officially determine a person's gender, one of the low points in recent state legislative history.

It took a veto from former Gov. Dennis Daugaard to restore sanity when both the House and Senate

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passed the transgender bathroom bill in 2016, saving South Dakota from national backlash in the form of NCAA and corporate boycotts. Based on past statements, it's not safe to rely on Kristi Noem to be the adult in the room on this issue, which places more onus on lawmakers to rely on research over rhetoric.

Bolin has attacked the SDHSAA policy in the past with bills that passed the House before stumbling in the Senate, where less reactionary leaders were mindful of potential lawsuits that could put local school boards in a bind, not to mention the harmful effect of further targeting transgender students.

Though there is no court decision directly pertaining to gender identification and high school sports, there are several rulings involving protected rights of transgender students at public institutions.

In a landmark decision last May, a federal judge in Virginia found in favor of a transgender student whose efforts to use the boys bathroom at his high school thrust him into a national debate. That ruling came despite attempts by the Trump administration to roll back Obama-era guidelines pertaining to Title IX, which prevents sex discrimination in public institutions.

The judge called the school board's arguments in attempting to forbid the student to use the restroom corresponding to his gender identity "resoundingly unpersuasive."

Those same Title IX protections govern high school athletics, which makes the assault on SDHSAA policy unsettling. Bolin has stated that his stance is about "fair competition," pointing to instances where transgender athletes in other states won championships in sports such as wrestling and track.

But the level of documentation and references required in South Dakota makes it unlikely that a student-athlete will "cheat" the system for competitive gain. The very notion of going through the scrutiny and stigmatization of such a process just to win a trophy seems misguided at best.

As usual, there are basic themes of misinformation and fear-mongering surrounding this issue, and we've been here before. It's our hope that true leadership emerges in the coming weeks to cut through the hysteria and bring legal and social realities to light, saving South Dakota from itself once again.

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## Rapid City Journal, Jan. 20

### Air Force should do right by those with fouled water

Trucks stop by weekly to deliver safe drinking water — 5 gallons per person — enough to cook and to sip. An alphabet soup of toxic chemicals mixed in with the tap water turns showers into sealed-mouth ordeals.

A few hundred affected residents have been essentially trapped — transformed into economic refugees — because pollution has made their homes unsaleable.

And this is in Box Elder, not Anbar Province.

The recent revelation that firefighting foams used at Ellsworth Air Force Base over decades has contaminated local groundwater is more than an inconvenience to affected residents. The Air Force should do everything necessary to make things right.

Familiarity with the snail-like pace of federal bureaucracy dims hopes for a quick resolution. The Air Force can neutralize threats in Syria in minutes, but addressing contamination on American soil sometimes takes longer than winning wars.

Meanwhile, the worries of affected residents get replenished as frequently as their jugs and bottles. Toxins released in the foam have been linked to cancer, thyroid disease and other health problems. The effects on individuals will depend on length of exposure, toxic concentrations, genetics and lifestyles. There is no satisfactory answer to the burning question: What does it mean for me? Nobody truly knows and won't for decades. Sorry. Try not to worry.

Who should be blamed? The Air Force purchased foam systems to protect airmen and airplanes. Pollution was unintended. Notification, however, took too long. In 2011, Ellsworth officials began to investigate whether firefighting foam had contaminated the base's soil and water. In February 2013, the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources sent the base a letter urging the testing of private wells "as soon as possible in the current calendar year." Five-and-a-half years later, the base completed the first stage of tests.

It's easy to imagine water reports stamped "urgent" stacked in cardboard boxes and rotting among

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lost desks deep inside the Pentagon. That won't lessen the legitimate anger of parents whose children unknowingly drank polluted water while government dithered. The Air Force should aim higher.

The response has been more urgent since fault was finally acknowledged. The base has delivered water wherever tests reveal contamination above EPA advisory levels. Mid-term solutions are being explored, such as reverse osmosis or granulated active carbon filtering systems.

A likely long-term solution will involve hooking into Box Elder's municipal water system, but that fix comes with a threatened water bill. "If we hook you up to public water, we pay for the tie-in and, I'm sorry to say, the water bill then is going to be yours to take care of," Brian Howard of the Air Force Civil Engineering Center told residents in November.

"We can't be a purveyor of water to the public," Howard said. "The Air Force and U.S. government, we're not in the position to be purveyors of water."

If a private company had caused the contamination, the responsibilities would be clear. A judge would require the injured parties to be restored to pre-contamination conditions as quickly as possible and at no cost to those harmed. Polluters would be required to pay for any and all damages proven to have stemmed from the contamination, with indemnification required for future claims. Payment also could be expected for pain and suffering. Unnecessary delays in rectifying the problem would likely increase awards.

The Air Force should be held to no lesser standard. In light of circumstances, agreeing to purvey water in perpetuity — while outside the government's normal mission — might be considered a real bargain.

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## Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Jan. 23

### Nursing home task force needed

If ever an issue currently facing South Dakota merited a special task force, it would be the nursing home crisis.

This issue has been a persistent one and it appears to be reaching a critical mass. There have been facility closures and there are concerns about the futures other facilities.

While lawmakers have a lot to contend with each session, this issue must be at or very near the top of the list.

But the way forward is not so simple.

Many nursing homes are straining to survive as they face mounting costs and a lack of Medicaid reimbursement funding. According to the American Health Care Association, South Dakota ranks dead last in the nation in terms of Medicaid reimbursement, as facilities receive \$131 per patient per day when the average daily per-patient cost is \$161. South Dakota News Watch reported recently that South Dakota nursing homes are losing \$39 million per year.

Another issue is that about 55 percent of nursing home patients receive Medicaid, which is significantly lower than the national average of 62 percent. According to nonprofitquarterly.org, to help offset the shortfall, many nursing homes rely on private-pay patients, who pay far more for their care — roughly \$7,000-\$9,000 per month. But it's an unreliable source of income.

Corporate, for-profit ownership is not always the best way to go, which is something nursing homes everywhere — and not just in South Dakota — are discovering. It's estimated that for-profit companies own about 70 percent of all nursing homes in the country, but even many of these facilities are struggling. And that can result in cold, faceless business decisions and/or cost cutting that could prove detrimental to patients.

The struggles faced by nursing homes are already creating painful ripples that are being felt everywhere. In many small towns, these facilities are vital employers — perhaps even the biggest employer — and the closure of such a facility would damage the community financially. And of course, the closure of these facilities puts tremendous hardship on the patients and their families, who face the prospect of sending loved ones to different facilities perhaps located far away. This is more than inconvenient; it's detrimental to the well-being of everyone involved.

And this problem is not going away. With an aging population, the crisis among nursing homes figures to only grow, and unless answers are found, the hardship and misery will, too.

This is not a new issue. At last Saturday's District 18 cracker barrel, Rep. Ryan Cwach noted that he had done some research and found a legislative memo from 1996 discussing the funding problems for nursing homes. So, this has been a long time in the making.

That's why a task force, similar to the one put together a few years ago to examine teacher pay in South Dakota, may be the best way to go. It could draw together input from everyone impacted by this issue and then work to determine some feasible course of action.

A task force would be a practical step forward to address an issue that will generate more headaches and hardships in the years to come.

## Top Pakistani court upholds acquittal, frees Christian woman

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's top court on Tuesday upheld its acquittal of a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy, clearing the last legal hurdle and freeing Aasia Bibi to leave the country in a move that dealt a blow to radical Islamists who had demanded her execution.

Following the landmark decision, Bibi will finally be able to join her daughters who earlier fled to Canada where they have been given asylum.

Bibi's lawyer, Saiful Malook, who returned to Islamabad after fleeing the country amid death threats, called the decision a victory for Pakistan's constitution and rule of law.

The three-judge Supreme Court panel had "insisted on very strict proofs of blasphemy" and found none, Malook said, expressing hope that Bibi's acquittal will deter false blasphemy allegations in the future.

From her secret location, Bibi watched the decision reported live on local television, according to a friend who spoke to her as it was being announced. Bibi's first thoughts were for her daughters, the friend said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he fears reprisals from radical religious militants.

"I am really grateful to everybody, now after nine years it is confirmed that I am free and I will be going to hug my daughters," he quoted Bibi as saying.

Pakistan's Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa led the panel of judges that dismissed the petition asking the court review its Oct. 31 acquittal of Bibi and send her back to prison and eventual execution. He said in court that Bibi's accusers were guilty of perjury and if the case had not been so sensitive, they should have been jailed for life.

"The image of Islam we are showing to the world gives me much grief and sorrow," Khosa said.

Much of the evidence presented against Bibi was suspicious, and some of it appeared to be fabricated, he said, adding that the cleric who lodged the initial charge of blasphemy gave contradictory statements that were unchallenged in the trial.

Following Bibi's acquittal, radical religious parties took to the streets to protest, calling for the killing of the judges behind the ruling and for the overthrow of Prime Minister Imran Khan's government. They also filed the last-minute appeal for a review of the acquittal. The protests were spearheaded by the radical Tehreek-e-Labbaik party, whose single point agenda is protection of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.

In a video message on the eve of Tuesday's hearing, the party urged followers to gather in the capital, Islamabad. Local news reports said police had arrested hundreds of party activists on Monday in Lahore, Islamabad and nearby Rawalpindi in apparent attempt to stave off mass protests.

Security at the court was high Tuesday, with riot police in full gear around the building and rolls of concertina wire ready to be strung out along main roads. Police stopped and searched cars on the road outside the court while officers and plainclothes security agents were deployed inside the building.

Bibi's case goes to the core of one of Pakistan's most controversial issues — the blasphemy law, often used to settle scores or intimidate followers of minority religions, including minority Shiite Muslims. A charge of insulting Islam can bring the death penalty.

The mere accusation of blasphemy is sometimes enough to whip up vengeful mobs, even if courts acquit

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defendants. A provincial governor who defended Bibi was shot and killed, as was a government minority minister who dared question the blasphemy law.

Joseph Francis, a Christian activist who attended Tuesday's hearing, said the decision was good news for Pakistan's minority Christian community. "I am happy because the judges spoke out strongly against giving false evidence," Francis said.

Human rights activist Tahira Abdullah said religion and politics have become a "horrible jumble" in Pakistan. Tuesday's decision could "have a deterrent effect, but knowing the political mileage to be gained from false charges of blasphemy I doubt it will be," she said.

Bibi, who always insisted that she was innocent, has said she will leave the country as soon as her legal battles are over. Her lawyer, who fled the country after receiving death threats, returned to Pakistan for the final review.

Bibi's ordeal began on a hot day in 2009 when she brought water to fellow farmhands who refused to drink from the same container as a Christian woman. Two of her fellow farmworkers argued with Bibi and later accused her of insulting Islam's prophet.

Following protests after Bibi's acquittal, the authorities arrested radical clerics Khadim Hussain Rizvi and Mohammad Afzal Qadri, both leaders of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Party, and several of their followers for destroying public property during rallies against Bibi and for inciting their followers to violence. The clerics and the others remain in custody.

The cleric petitioning the court for Bibi's return to death row, Qari Salam, is linked with Rizvi's party.

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Associated Press writer Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## China tells US to stop 'unreasonable crackdown' on Huawei

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China called on Washington on Tuesday to "stop the unreasonable crackdown" on Huawei after the United States stepped up pressure on the tech giant by indicting it on charges of stealing technology and violating sanctions on Iran.

Beijing will "firmly defend" its companies, a foreign ministry statement said. It gave no indication whether Beijing might retaliate for the charges against Huawei, China's first global tech brand and the biggest maker of switching gear for phone and internet companies.

Huawei Technologies Ltd., which has spent a decade battling U.S. accusations it is a front for Chinese spying, denied committing any of the violations cited in Monday's indictment.

The foreign ministry complained Washington has "mobilized state power" to hurt Chinese companies "in an attempt to strangle fair and just operations."

"We strongly urge the United States to stop the unreasonable crackdown on Chinese companies including Huawei," said the statement read on state TV. It said Beijing will defend the "lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies" but gave no details.

The charges unsealed Monday by the Justice Department accused Huawei of trying to take a piece of a robot and other technology from a T-Mobile lab that was used to test smartphones. Huawei passed Apple in mid-2018 as the second-biggest global smartphone brand after Samsung.

The U.S. charges included no allegation Huawei worked at the Chinese government's direction. But Washington has previously accused Beijing of involvement in cyberspying and theft of industrial secrets. It has charged several Chinese hackers and intelligence officials.

Huawei also is charged with using a Hong Kong front company, Skycom, to trade with Iran in violation of U.S. controls. Prosecutors allege Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, lied to banks about those dealings.

Meng, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, was arrested Dec. 1 in Vancouver, a development that set off a political firestorm between China and Canada.

"We urge the U.S. to immediately withdraw the arrest warrant against Miss Meng Wanzhou and stop

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making such kinds of extradition requests," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. "We urge Canada to take seriously China's solemn position, immediately release Ms. Meng Wanzhou and protect her legitimate and legal rights."

Huawei, headquartered in the southern city of Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, has rejected the U.S. accusations.

"The company denies that it or its subsidiary or affiliate have committed any of the asserted violations of U.S. law set forth in each of the indictments," a Huawei statement said.

Huawei is "not aware of any wrongdoing by Ms. Meng, and believes the U.S. courts will ultimately reach the same conclusion," it said.

Meng is out on bail in Vancouver and is due in court Tuesday as she awaits extradition proceedings.

Huawei's U.S. market evaporated after a 2012 congressional report said it and Chinese rival ZTE Corp. were security risks and told phone companies to avoid them. But Huawei says the scrutiny has had little impact on its business elsewhere.

The company says it serves 45 of the 50 biggest global telecom carriers. It forecasts its 2018 global revenue should exceed \$100 billion for the first time despite the tension with Washington.

Huawei said U.S. prosecutors rejected a request to discuss the investigation following Meng's arrest. It also noted the allegations in the trade secrets charge were the subject of a U.S. civil lawsuit that already has been settled.

The latest charges could dim prospects for U.S.-Chinese trade talks due to start Wednesday in Washington.

President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, agreed Dec. 1 to put off any further sanctions against each other's exports while they negotiated. A breakdown would likely lead to higher tariffs, a prospect that has rattled financial markets for months.

The entirely state-controlled Chinese press has portrayed Huawei as the victim of U.S. government efforts to cripple a potential industrial challenger.

"This is not just the matter of Huawei. It involves the whole nation of China," said Qin Xiaohua, who works in the finance industry in Beijing. "We have to unite no matter as individuals or as an integrated country."

While U.S. authorities stress the independence of courts, "ordinary Chinese people all believe it is a deliberate crackdown on Huawei," said Lu Feng, an economist at Peking University. He said Beijing will see a "link to Chinese-U.S. trade relations."

"The difference in understanding will bring about complicated problems," said Lu.

Asked about the possible effect of the Huawei case on trade talks, the foreign ministry spokesman, Geng, said, "as for the China-U.S. trade talks and our position on this, I think the U.S. is also quite clear about that."

The Justice Department officials provided details from a 10-count grand jury indictment in Seattle, and a separate 13-count case from prosecutors in New York.

The Seattle charges allege that beginning in 2012, Huawei plotted to steal information about T-Mobile's robot, known as "Tappy." It says Huawei engineers secretly took photos of the robot, measured it and tried to steal part of it from T-Mobile's lab, according to prosecutors. T-Mobile declined to comment.

AP researcher Yu Bing in Beijing and AP writers Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker and Christopher Rugaber in Washington, Rob Gillies in Toronto and Tali Arbel in New York contributed.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. 'STOP THE UNREASONABLE CRACKDOWN'

Beijing issues a warning to Washington following Huawei's indictment in the U.S. on charges of stealing technology and violating sanctions on Iran. Trade talks this week could suffer.

2. AFTER A PUBLICITY-FILLED WEEKEND, ROGER STONE TO FACE JUDGE

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Donald Trump's confidant is expected to plead not guilty at a federal court in Washington to charges that he lied to Congress and engaged in witness tampering.

## 3. 'I AM FREE'

Pakistan's top court upholds its acquittal of a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy, clearing the last legal hurdle and freeing Aasia Bibi to leave the country.

## 4. RECORD-BREAKING COLD COMING TO MIDWEST

Wind chills in northern Illinois could fall to negative 55 degrees by midweek prompting a meteorologist to say that frostbite and hypothermia could occur "in a matter of minutes, maybe seconds."

## 5. WHAT IS A KEY STICKING POINT IN BREXIT STALEMATE

The U.K. parliament is set to vote on competing Brexit plans, with the prime minister seeking a mandate from lawmakers to help secure concessions from the EU on a proposed Irish border measure. The bloc says there will be no further renegotiation.

## 6. PG&E FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

The largest utility in the U.S. files for Chapter 11 reorganization as it faces billions of dollars in potential damages from wildfires in California.

## 7. POLICE ACTION IN HOUSTON TURNS DEADLY

An attempt to serve a search warrant at a suspected drug house escalates into a gun battle that killed two suspects and injured five officers.

## 8. WHERE CORRUPTION IS RAMPANT

A survey finds countries like Hungary and Turkey are growing more corrupt as they become more autocratic, and threats to the American system of checks and balances knock the U.S. out of the top 20 "cleanest" countries.

## 9. WORKSPACES CENTERED ON WOMEN ON THE RISE

While many predate the #MeToo movement, their growth has been interlinked with it as it put combating workplace harassment on the national agenda.

## 10. TOP NFL TEAMS GETTING YOUNGER, CHEAPER

An AP analysis of Super Bowl champions over the past seven years finds that title teams shed an average of 20.4 players off their 53-man rosters from the Super Bowl to Week 1 of the next season.

## US charges against Huawei could inflame China trade talks

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's unveiling of criminal charges against the Chinese tech giant Huawei has complicated high-level talks set to begin Wednesday in Washington that are intended to defuse the trade war between the administration and Beijing.

The Justice Department charged Monday that Huawei had violated U.S. sanctions against sales to Iran and stolen trade secrets from T-Mobile, a U.S. partner. Those charges cut to the heart of some of the administration's key complaints about China's trade practices.

Analysts said the trade talks would likely proceed, but reaching any substantive agreement would probably be harder. And unless the two sides can forge some sort of accord by March 1, U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports are set to rise from 10 percent to 25 percent.

"The Chinese will keep talking," said David Dollar, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former U.S. Treasury official. "They won't be happy with the Justice Department action, but I think they would like to keep it separate from the trade talks."

Representatives of U.S. business groups privately raised concerns that the administration's actions could poison the atmosphere between the two sides. Any backlash in China against the indictment of Huawei, one of the country's global powerhouses, could limit Beijing's ability to agree to anything that might be seen as bowing too willingly to U.S. demands.

The Justice Department has also charged Huawei's chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou. The United States is seeking to extradite Meng, who has been held in Canada since Dec. 1.

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Sarah Sanders, the White House spokeswoman, was asked whether the criminal charges against Huawei were linked to the trade talks with China and amounted to a carrot-and-stick approach.

"No, those two things are not linked," she said. "They are a totally separate process."

This week's negotiations were already facing low expectations.

"We are anticipating no big outcomes this week," Erin Ennis, senior vice president at the U.S.-China Business Council, said Monday before the Huawei charges were announced.

The Trump administration, with support from U.S. businesses, wants China to make fundamental changes to its economy that China is reluctant to accept and that will be difficult to verify, analysts say. The administration has accused Beijing of deploying predatory trade tactics, ranging from requiring U.S. and other foreign companies to hand over technology in return for access to the vast Chinese market to outright cyber-theft.

Robert Lighthizer, the U.S. trade representative and lead negotiator in this week's talks, wants China to toughen its protections of intellectual property and to stop unfairly subsidizing its state-owned enterprises.

"The scope of these talks will be the broadest and deepest in U.S.-China history," Larry Kudlow, a top White House economic adviser, said Monday.

Yet reaching the kind of deal the United States wants could prove elusive if not impossible. Chinese officials deny that they force U.S. companies to transfer technology. And they regard the support of their state-owned companies and the acquisition of cutting-edge technology, much of it from abroad, as vital to China's economic development.

U.S. companies in China say that forced technology transfers typically happen at the local level and stem from informal pressure by Chinese officials, which would make it difficult to verify whether Beijing has complied with any major agreement.

In previous rounds of talks, China has shown little inclination to yield to the administration's demands.

"China has yet to show any indication that it is ready to address U.S. and global concerns about its structural issues," said Scott Kennedy, a China specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The two sides are pretty far apart."

Beijing has previously offered to increase its purchases of U.S. products, notably soybeans and other agricultural goods as well as natural gas. This would help address Trump's concern about the gaping U.S. trade deficit with China. Beijing could also open more industries to U.S. companies and pledge better protection for U.S. intellectual property. In return, China could press the U.S. to remove the tariffs that President Donald Trump imposed last year.

Derek Scissors, a China expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said that China would likely accept such a deal, if it were offered. Doing so would outweigh any concerns China has about Huawei.

"If they think they can get the deal that they want, they won't cancel the talks over Huawei," he said.

AP Business Writers Marcy Gordon and Martin Crutsinger in Washington and Joe McDonald in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Trump confidant Roger Stone to face federal judge in DC

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a publicity-filled weekend spent asserting his innocence and slamming investigators, Donald Trump confidant Roger Stone will appear before a federal judge who may look to muzzle him as the case moves forward.

Stone faces a Tuesday morning arraignment in Washington and is expected to plead not guilty to charges that he lied to lawmakers, engaged in witness tampering and obstructed a congressional investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Though most defendants facing charges tend to stay quiet for fear of inflaming prosecutors or a judge, Stone has opted for a different tack since his pre-dawn arrest Friday in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

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Stone staged an impromptu news conference outside a Florida courthouse, made the rounds on weekend television and repeatedly mocked the probe on an Instagram account, including with a cartoonish-image of Mueller as a bowtie-wearing butler holding a tray with a hamburger roll — but no meat in between.

A self-described dirty trickster and longtime confidant of the president, Stone is the sixth Trump aide charged in Mueller's investigation. The indictment does not accuse Stone of coordinating with Russia or with WikiLeaks on the release of hacked Democratic emails. But it does allege that he misled lawmakers about his pursuit of those communications and interest in them. The anti-secrecy website published emails in the weeks before the 2016 presidential election that the U.S. says were stolen from Democrats by Russian operatives.

Stone, who has alleged without evidence that the FBI used "Gestapo tactics" in arresting him, said he did nothing more than exercise his First Amendment rights to drum up interest with voters about the WikiLeaks disclosures. He said he never discussed the issue with Trump.

"That's what I engaged in. It's called politics and they haven't criminalized it, at least not yet," Stone said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

"All I did was take publicly available information and try to hype it to get it as much attention as possible, because I had a tip, the information was politically significant and that it would come in October," he added.

Tuesday's arraignment could inspire the same circus-like atmosphere that surrounded his Friday court appearance in Florida, where Stone emerged from the building in a blue polo shirt, flashed a Richard Nixon victory sign, predicted his vindication and vowed that he would not "bear false witness against the president, nor will I make up lies to ease the pressure on myself."

All the while, jeering spectators shouted "Lock Him Up!" while others in the crowd cheered him on.

It's unclear whether Mueller's prosecutors will look to have Stone locked up pending trial or whether they will simply recommend conditions that would allow him to remain free on bond. It's also possible that U.S. Magistrate Deborah Robinson might impose a gag order to prevent Stone from discussing the case.

## **PG&E files for bankruptcy amid wildfire lawsuits**

**By SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The largest utility in the U.S., Pacific Gas & Electric Corp., filed for bankruptcy Tuesday as it faces billions of dollars in potential damages from wildfires in California.

The utility filed documents in a U.S. court seeking Chapter 11 reorganization despite state investigators determining last week that its equipment was not to blame for a 2017 fire that killed 22 people in Northern California wine country.

The company cited hundreds of lawsuits from victims of that blaze and others in 2017 and 2018 when it announced this month that it planned to file for bankruptcy. The fires included the nation's deadliest in a century — a November blaze that killed at least 86 people and destroyed 15,000 homes in Paradise and surrounding communities.

The cause of that fire remains under investigation, but speculation has centered on PG&E after the utility reported power line problems nearby around the time it started.

The bankruptcy filing immediately puts a halt to the wildfire lawsuits and consolidates them in bankruptcy court, where legal experts say victims will likely receive less money.

Wildfire victims have little chance of getting punitive damages or taking their claims to a jury in a bankruptcy proceeding. Instead, they will have to tussle with PG&E's creditors, including bondholders, for a payout from the company.

Consumer activist Erin Brockovich, who famously took on PG&E in the 1990s, had urged California lawmakers not to let the utility go bankrupt because it could mean less money for wildfire victims.

PG&E faced additional pressure not to move forward with the bankruptcy after state fire investigators said a private electrical system, not utility equipment, caused the wine country blaze that destroyed more than 5,600 buildings in Sonoma and Napa counties in October 2017.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office estimated that more than half of the roughly \$30 billion in potential damages

that PG&E said it was facing was from that fire.

Legal experts say the bankruptcy will likely take years to resolve and will result in higher rates for PG&E customers. The company provides natural gas and electric service to 16 million people over a 70,000-square-mile area in Northern and central California.

A bankruptcy filing would not affect electricity or natural gas service but allow for an "orderly, fair and expeditious resolution" of potential liabilities from the wildfires, the company has said on its website.

PG&E said it was committed to helping those affected by the wildfires and could not speculate on any changes to customers' bills, noting that the California Public Utilities Commission sets electric and gas rates.

The utility also filed for bankruptcy in April 2001 near the height of an electricity debacle marked by rolling blackouts and the manipulation of the energy market.

PG&E emerged from bankruptcy three years later but obtained billions of dollars in higher payments from ratepayers.

## French yellow vest movement dogged by intolerance, extremism

By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Intolerance and conspiracy theories have haunted the margins of France's "yellow vest" movement since the first protests over fuel taxes roused the discontented middle of French society.

The men and women in fluorescent safety vests blocking traffic and intimidating shoppers on the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue vent a range of grievances against the government.

But over 11 weeks of yellow vest protests, views from the fringes have bubbled through the diffuse and leaderless movement and have been amplified: anti-Semitic rants about banking, a Holocaust survivor harassed on the subway, assaults on journalists, and claims the government concocted terrorist attacks or deadly accidents to divert attention from the demonstrations.

There has been scattered violence at the protests, with clashes between participants and riot police, and authorities worry that the extremists have taken over the center of the movement, risking a return to the darker episodes from France's past.

On Saturday in Paris, a man in a yellow vest turned toward a journalist filming at the sidelines of an otherwise quiet match, hurled a homophobic epithet and added: "You work for the Jews." No one in the march joined in, but neither did they contradict him.

In a more positive sign, a group of several hundred protesters forming a human chain in central Lyon inadvertently converged with a Holocaust commemoration that was planned separately by the city. After the boisterous protesters largely complied with a moment of silence for Holocaust victims, Deputy Mayor Jean-Dominique Durand, who organized the memorial, urged the group to "clean house" of any extremist views.

"It was an important moment to show that anti-Semitism has no place here," said yellow vest protester Thomas Rigaud, according to Europe 1 radio.

Marchers at one of the first yellow vest rallies in Paris in November held the French flag aloft while chanting "This is our home!" — a double-edged slogan that resonates with the far-right National Rally party, whose leader Marine Le Pen calls it a "cry of love" for France; critics see only anti-immigrant overtones.

In December, a group of marchers in Paris' bohemian Montmartre neighborhood proffered an anti-Semitic salute. They sang lyrics associated with Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, a French comedian convicted several times of racism and anti-Semitism. The hand gesture and song are both called the "quenelle," with the gesture mimicking an inverted Nazi salute and the song hinting at Zionist plots. Dieudonne describes them as anti-establishment symbols.

On that same day, men in yellow vests harassed an elderly Holocaust survivor on a subway train when she asked them to stop making the gesture, and one of them replied that the gas chambers that had killed her father never existed. A journalist who saw the exchange said no one took the woman's side. France's interior minister said the train operator was trying to identify the men, saying "whether hidden by a yellow vest or in the anonymity of Twitter, anti-Semitism must be fought with all strength."

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Some of France's most notorious anti-Semitic personalities have been seen at the forefront of some of the Paris protests.

One of them, Herve Ryssen, appeared on the cover of the weekly Paris Match, facing police as he stood before the Arc de Triomphe. Ryssen has been convicted repeatedly of anti-Semitism and provoking acts of discrimination. He was convicted again last week for Holocaust denial, a crime in France for decades that harkens back to the country's history of surrendering French Jews to the occupying Nazis to be killed.

Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux acknowledged that protests varied from town to town, but said last week that some were marked by "paramilitaries close to the extreme right." Among them were Victor Lenta, a former soldier who fought alongside pro-Russian separatist forces in Ukraine.

Maxime Nicolle, a YouTube personality who goes by the handle Fly Rider, and Eric Drouet, a trucker who was among the early yellow vest organizers, also have emerged as prominent voices.

The Jean Jaures Foundation, a think tank connected with the Socialist Party, studied online activity by Drouet and Nicolle, and said both are tacitly affiliated with France's far-right party.

It said Drouet shared anti-migrant videos and provided a Facebook platform for discuss plots involving Zionists, banks, and the media. The study said Nicolle had repeatedly liked videos linked with the party that lost to President Emmanuel Macron.

Nicolle has publicly expressed doubts about French authorities' account of a gunman killing five people near a Strasbourg Christmas market in December. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which derailed the next weekend's yellow vest protest. He, like others in the yellow vest movement, said he did not believe it was terrorism and mused that the government benefited from the timing.

"I don't trust anything I cannot see," he said.

Organizations that track racist and anti-Semitic incidents in France say more of both were reported in 2018, though they haven't finished compiling the data. SOS Racisme, a coalition of groups co-founded by French intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy, said it received 587 reports last year, compared with 508 in 2017. The government has not made its final figures public for the year.

"I would not say that the movement is anti-Semitic, but I say that these mass movements are always exploited by anti-Semites," said Francis Kalifat, president of CRIF.

That was a danger sign for France that the movement "will try to win in the streets what they lost in the vote," he said.

Conspiracy videos about the Rothschilds, a French Jewish banking family that frequently is at the center of global conspiracy theories, appear prominently on many of the yellow vest Facebook feeds. Macron — the chief target of the weekly protests because of policies seen as benefiting the wealthy — used to work for the family's investment bank.

The Jewish banker-as-scapegoat theme came up repeatedly in conversations with yellow vest marchers Saturday in Paris. Still, several peaceful marchers expressed concern about actions by the radical fringe. The grassroots movement is increasingly seeing divisions between its moderates and extremes.

To join two of the most popular Facebook groups for the yellow vests, members must agree to rules including being kind and courteous, and to not incite hatred or harass or insult other participants. On Saturday, at a meeting in northern France, there was little the about 100 delegations could agree upon except an affirmation that they were "neither racist, nor sexist, nor homophobic" — an apparent pushback against the recent allegations.

That hasn't stopped Dieudonne, on his 10-minute YouTube shows, from selling his own version of a yellow vest printed with a vulgar reference to Macron and the song heard on the steps of Montmartre. He said he has sold out of the vests, but has ordered another shipment.

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Associated Press writer Angela Charlton contributed.

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## In the younger, cheaper NFL, Super Bowl champs get cut, too

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

A word of warning to all those soon-to-be Super Bowl champions in New England or Los Angeles: Don't get too comfortable. You might be looking for a job fairly soon.

The NFL's inexorable trend of going younger and cheaper does not bypass the best teams in the league. In fact, it may help them stay as good as they are.

An Associated Press analysis of Super Bowl champions over the past seven years revealed that title teams shed an average of 20.4 players off their 53-man rosters from the Super Bowl to Week 1 of the next season. That's 38.5 percent. On average, the new players had 1.8 fewer years of experience than the players they replaced.

The findings were in line with data analyzed by the AP that showed a steady trend downward in experience of all teams despite attempts in the 2006 and 2011 collective bargaining agreements to stem that tide. Average experience on opening-day rosters has dropped from 4.6 years to 4.3 since 2005 .

"I mean, look, there's a lot of turnover in the National Football League on every team in every year," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "It's the National Football League. Teams turn over a lot of players and a lot of coaches every single year, every single team."

No team does it with quite the high-profile effectiveness as the Patriots, who have collected five Super Bowl titles since 2002, and will be going for No. 6 on Sunday against the Rams.

New England's five Super Bowl champions turned over an average of 19.2 players the season after they won their titles. The season after their 2015 win over the Seahawks, they brought in 24 new players — the biggest number among all the teams surveyed in this analysis.

How does all this turn out? Not very well, except for the Patriots. Of the past seven Super Bowl teams, none has repeated. Two have returned to the Super Bowl to lose. Two have lost in the playoffs. Three didn't even make the playoffs.

The 2003-04 Patriots are the last team to repeat.

Belichick's famously unsentimental view of rosters, and the players who fill them, has led to some of the most awkward, unpopular and sometimes downright messy break-ups in recent memory.

Coming off a season in which the Patriots lost the AFC title game, Belichick traded away linebacker Jamie Collins — to the then 0-8 Browns, no less — in the middle of the 2016 season. New England won the Super Bowl that year.

Ty Law, Adam Vinatieri, Vince Wilfork, Richard Seymour. Lawyer Milloy, Jimmy Garoppolo, Wes Welker, Damien Woody. New England said goodbye to all of them when they still had gas left in the tank.

They unexpectedly benched the cornerback who saved the 2015 Super Bowl, Malcolm Butler, at the Super Bowl three years later, then let him go via free agency. Drew Bledsoe got injured in 2001 and his days were numbered. He got traded to the Bills after a backup named Tom Brady stepped in and did fairly well.

Through it all, Brady and Belichick have been the constant.

"Some of it is perception, and some of it is reality," said Eric Winston, the former NFL offensive lineman who is now the president of the players' union. "Every NFL team, in certain areas, goes through maturation and goes through the process of, 'How do we build a team?' And then it changes. One year, it's finding a few older free agents who can play. Another, everyone wants to get younger when the Seahawks win with an average age of" 26.4.

The average experience on Seattle's 2013 Super Bowl champions was 3.66 years, the lowest among the teams AP surveyed. Not surprising, then, that Seattle only turned over 15 players from that roster. Seattle returned to the Super Bowl the next season, but went into a rebuilding mode not long after, with many of the top contributors from the Super Bowl teams becoming too pricey. The team scrambled to put fresh talent around still-young quarterback, Russell Wilson, but has never returned to the Super Bowl.

"Teams will try to find a younger, cheaper option even if the drop off in production isn't there" from the player they're cutting ties with, said Seahawks 11th-year offensive lineman Duane Brown. "If they're not as productive but a little cheaper they're willing to sacrifice it."

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Even by jettisoning around one-third of their rosters, teams don't always end up younger the next season. Of the 10 teams the AP analyzed — all seven title teams since 2011, along with the 2001, 2003 and 2004 Patriots — six actually got older. That's because even with the turnover, essentially two-thirds of the roster stays and ages a year.

That only amplifies the need to work hard at staying young.

Jets offensive lineman Kelvin Beachum recalled conversations he's had with assistant coach David Diaz-Infante, who played on the Broncos title teams in the late 90s.

"He said, 'Man, I remember when I was in my room, the youngest person in our room was 29,'" Beachum said. "That's considered almost older than a geezer now."

AP Pro Football Writer Dennis Waszak Jr. in New York, Sports Writers Tim Booth in Seattle, Jimmy Golen and Kyle Hightower in Boston, and AP Data Journalist Larry Fenn contributed to this report.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Workspaces centered on women on the rise in #MeToo movement

By MICHELLE R. SMITH, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Entering the year-old workspace ModernWell feels like coming into a comfortable spa. Clean lines give way to cozy touches like footstools covered with faux fur and a roaring fire surrounded by comfortable armchairs. Women type away on laptops at tables scattered throughout.

There is not a man in sight.

ModernWell is one of a growing number of women-only and women-focused workspaces around the country. While many predate the #MeToo movement, their growth has been interlinked with it as it put combating workplace harassment on the national agenda. They're also tapping into a desire among many women to build a community and supportive environment at work that's different from a stereotypical corporate workplace culture.

The spaces provide more than just desks and a coffee machine. They offer programs like high-profile speakers or yoga classes, and a chance to build a social and business network with like-minded women. It's like WeWork, minus the beer on tap and tech bro atmosphere.

"I think women, especially, are craving safe spaces where they can go and be inspired and do really important work without interruption, and without being reminded of all that, too. There's literally no risk that somebody's going to sexually harass me here," said Renee Powers, a ModernWell member who founded her business, Feminist Book Club, in the space.

The biggest player is The Wing, which opened in 2016 in New York and has been expanding rapidly across the country. Its San Francisco location opened in October with a nod to the #MeToo movement, naming a conference room after Christine Blasey Ford, who testified before Congress that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her in high school. Kavanaugh denied the allegation and was confirmed to the court. Membership to use one location costs \$2,350 annually, and the company now has more than 6,000 members, spokeswoman Zara Rahim said.

Most of the spaces allow men, but some do not. The Wing was sued by a Washington, D.C. man who alleged discrimination. Its board soon after approved a membership policy providing that an applicant's gender identity would not be considered, a development first reported by Insider. Rahim said the policy was being developed before the lawsuit and was unrelated to it. The Wing is also under investigation by the New York City Commission on Human Rights for gender-based discrimination. The Wing said it is working with the commission.

Another fast-growing space is The Riveter, with five locations in Seattle and Los Angeles and plans to open in Austin, Texas, in March. About 20 percent of its members are building venture-scale startups, but the majority are small businesses with just a few employees, or people who work on their own such as lawyers or real estate agents, founder and CEO Amy Nelson said. It ranges from \$99 to hundreds of

dollars monthly.

About one-quarter of The Riveter's 2,000 members are men, Nelson said, but the difference is that "out of the gate we're putting women first."

"I think that we're seeing a societal shift that isn't going to go away," she said. "Women's voices are being heard."

The space has brought in high-profile speakers such as Sheryl Sandberg and offers activities such as office hours with a venture capital firm and seminars on digital mindfulness or wellness. That kind of programming sets the spaces apart from more general ones, said Steve King of Emergent Research, who studies the future of work and the rise of the independent workforce.

ModernWell founder Julie Burton, an author and wellness instructor, teaches yoga at her space, which also offers events such as a class on women's memoir writing. Burton said her space grew out of a writing group she co-founded in 2015, which coincidentally was women-only. After the 2016 presidential election, she said many women she knew were upset and she felt galvanized to build a business to help women support each other and empower themselves.

"Whether you are out marching or not marching, I felt we had work to do, and I wanted to be part of the work," she said.

The space has given women from different industries and professional backgrounds a chance to connect, she said.

Those connections help women support each other, battling feelings such as "imposter syndrome," where women question whether they have the qualifications to start a company or embark on a particular venture, Burton said.

That community feeling is what draws some women to the spaces, said Jamie Russo, executive director of the Global Workspace Association.

Co-working spaces in general are on the rise, and as the sector grows, different niches have developed to serve different groups, such as attorneys or people working in real estate, technology, big data or artificial intelligence. For the operators, niche spaces tend to be more profitable than more general workspaces, Russo said.

An analysis by King's firm estimated more than 14,000 coworking spaces and 1.7 million members globally in 2017 and forecast around 30,000 spaces and 5.1 million members by 2022. There's little data about women-centric spaces, and while the segment is growing, it is expected to remain a relatively small niche in the industry, King said.

Some spaces offer child care, but until now it's been rare, likely due to complicated state and local laws around child care, King said. That may be changing. The Wing will offer child care starting this week in one of its New York City locations and soon in Los Angeles.

Jasna Burza, a life and business coach, has a home office but prefers to do her work at ModernWell, where there is a community of women to greet her. She compares coming to the space to the old TV show 'Cheers,' where everyone knows her name.

"It can be really isolating to be on my own," Burza said. "I come here, and it's my happy place."

## Shooting that hurt 5 officers started with warrant attempt

By JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — It started as an attempt to serve a search warrant at a suspected drug house and quickly turned into a gun battle that killed two suspects and injured five officers, including four who were shot, Houston's police chief said.

The suspects were killed Monday after firing at narcotics officers who were trying to enter a home on the city's southeast side where authorities allege black tar heroin was being sold, Chief Art Acevedo said. Four of the officers were shot and a fifth suffered a knee injury.

Acevedo said two of the officers who were shot were hit in the neck by gunfire and were in critical but

stable condition at a Houston hospital.

"We're hopeful that they will recover," Acevedo said.

Two other officers, including the one who injured a knee, were in good condition at the hospital Monday night. Another officer who was shot was released after being treated for a shoulder wound.

Acevedo didn't immediately have additional information about the suspects. The names of the injured officers were not immediately released.

The chief said a group of about a dozen officers with the Houston Police Department's narcotics unit were attempting to serve the warrant when they forced open the home's front door and immediately faced gunfire from one or two individuals. He said officers had gotten a tip from a neighbor that the heroin was being sold there.

"Once the officers breached the door and the gunfire began from the suspects, one of the suspects actually retreated momentarily to the back of the room and then that suspect came back and again engaged the officers in gunfire," Acevedo said.

It was not immediately known how many officers returned fire but the two suspects were later found dead after SWAT officers used two robots to go into the home and determine that it was safe to enter after the gunfire stopped.

"This has been a tough day for our city," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Pray for (the injured officers) and pray for their families."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement that the shooting was a "solemn reminder" of the service and sacrifices made by officers.

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## **In Kabul, US reports 'agreements in principle' with Taliban**

**By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Negotiators for the United States and the Taliban insurgents have reached "agreements in principle" on key issues for a peace deal that would end 17 years of war in Afghanistan, the top U.S. envoy said Monday.

The statement by U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad followed six days of talks last week with the Taliban in Qatar, where he urged the insurgents to enter into direct negotiations with the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Ghani on Monday assured Afghans that their rights will not be compromised in the name of peace with the Taliban, who have been staging near-daily attacks against Afghan forces, causing scores of casualties every week. Their offensive has not let up despite the severe Afghan winter and the insurgents now hold sway over nearly half of the country.

Khalilzad said in an interview with The New York Times that an agreement in principle was reached with the Taliban on the framework of a peace deal "which still has to be fleshed out" that will see the insurgents commit to guaranteeing that Afghan territory is not used as a "platform for international terrorist groups or individuals."

He said the deal could lead to a full pullout of U.S. troops in return for a cease-fire and Taliban talks with the Afghan government.

In his statement released by the U.S. Embassy, Khalilzad said, "We made progress on vital issues in our discussions and agreed to agreements in principle on a couple of very important issues."

"There is a lot more work to be done before we can say we have succeeded in our efforts but I believe for the first time I can say that we have made significant progress," he said.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said he has been briefed on the talks and described them as encouraging, but he also told reporters that the department has not been directed to prepare for a full withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Speaking before a meeting at the Pentagon with Shanahan, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

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said any discussion about the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan would be premature. He said Khalilzad had briefed NATO allies on the talks weeks ago.

"We are in Afghanistan to create the conditions for a peaceful negotiated solution," Stoltenberg said. "We will not stay longer than necessary, but we will not leave before we have a situation that enables us to leave or reduce the number of troops without jeopardizing the main goal of our presence and that is to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for international terrorists once again."

He added that he believes it's too soon to speculate on withdrawal because "what we have to do now is to support the efforts to try to find a peaceful solution. We strongly support those efforts."

Ghani sought to assure Afghans that no deals would be made without Kabul's awareness and full participation.

"Our commitment is to provide peace and to prevent any possible disaster," Ghani said in an address to the nation. "There are values that are not disputable, such as national unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Ghani's office said he and Khalilzad met late Sunday in Kabul to discuss details from the talks.

Khalilzad's statement emphasized the inclusion of the Afghan government in the talks.

"There is a false narrative that Afghans are not included. That is not true. The Afghan voice is there," he said. "We are working together to get to a comprehensive cease-fire. We are working with the Afghan government, with international partners, to find implementing mechanisms to reach these goals."

Khalilzad has met with the Taliban on a number of occasions in recent months in the latest bid to end America's longest war. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to topple the Taliban, who were harboring Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

The statement from Ghani's office also claimed that the Taliban demanded from Khalilzad the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan, but that there was also no agreement on that issue.

The statement added that Khalilzad has no authority to discuss issues such as a future Afghan administration but that his goal is to facilitate an intra-Afghan dialogue, meaning direct talks between the Taliban and Kabul.

Khalilzad had tweeted Saturday about progress in the talks in Qatar, where the insurgents have a political office, saying: "Meetings here were more productive than they have been in the past."

"We made significant progress on vital issues," he tweeted, without offering details.

Abdul Hakim Mujahid, a former Taliban official and currently a member of the High Peace Council, an independent body of clerics and respected Afghan figures, said he believes the Qatar talks resulted in a "good understanding between both sides" but that more discussions are needed in the coming weeks or months.

"Afghanistan's problem is not so simple that it can be solved in a day, week or month, it needs more time and more discussions," Mujahid told The Associated Press.

The Taliban have in the past refused to negotiate directly with Kabul — a standing that does not appear to have changed. They have maintained that they are prepared to talk with U.S. officials only and only about the pullout of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

Afghan political analyst Waheed Muzhda says he believes that Khalilzad and the Taliban have reached agreement on both the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan and a cease-fire deal, but that neither side is prepared to say so at this point.

"But peace talks are not possible unless both sides first agree on a cease-fire," Muzhda said.

In Monday's address to the nation, Ghani also stressed that U.S. and other foreign forces are in Afghanistan because they are needed here and that if there is to be any downsizing or pullout, the Kabul government will have to play a role in the talks.

Ghani also reiterated his call on the Taliban to engage "in direct talks with the Afghan government."

## DOJ's Whitaker says Russia probe 'close' to being completed

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel's Russia probe is "close to being completed," the acting attorney general said in the first official sign that the investigation may be wrapping up.

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker's comments Monday were a departure for the Justice Department, which rarely comments on the state of the investigation into whether President Donald Trump's campaign coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

"The investigation is, I think, close to being completed," Whitaker said Monday at the end of an unrelated news conference in Washington. He said he had been "fully briefed" on the probe.

Whitaker did not elaborate or give any timetable for the end of a nearly two-year investigation that has shadowed Trump's presidency.

So far, special counsel Robert Mueller has charged 34 people, including several close to the president. But he has yet to accuse anyone close to the Trump campaign of conspiring with the Kremlin to hurt Democrat Hillary Clinton and help Trump win the election.

Whitaker, who is seen as a Trump ally, took over the Justice Department — and oversight of the Mueller probe — after Jeff Sessions resigned as attorney general in November at Trump's request.

Whitaker has drawn criticism for not recusing himself from the Russia investigation, even though he has publicly criticized it in the past. A top Justice Department ethics official advised him to step aside out of an "abundance of caution," but Whitaker declined to do so.

According to Justice Department regulations, Mueller has to provide a report to the attorney general at the conclusion of his investigation laying out his prosecution decisions.

But it's unclear what form the report will take or whether it will be released publicly.

And depending on when Mueller wraps up, the report may not go to Whitaker. Trump has nominated William Barr to serve as the next attorney general. His confirmation hearing was held this month and he's awaiting a vote in the Senate.

Barr told the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this month that he wants to release as much information as possible about Mueller's findings, but he has hedged on specifics.

Trump has slammed the Russia investigation as a "witch hunt" and says there was no collusion.

The evidence so far shows that a broad range of Trump associates had Russia-related contacts during the 2016 presidential campaign and transition period, and several lied about the communication. Those contacts, according to Mueller's indictments and U.S. intelligence agencies, occurred while the Russian government carried out a multifaceted effort to influence the 2016 presidential campaign and attempt to sway it Trump's way.

On Friday, longtime Trump confidante Roger Stone became the sixth Trump associate to be charged by Mueller.

The others are Trump's former national security adviser, his campaign chairman, his former personal lawyer and two other campaign aides.

Stone faces a Tuesday morning arraignment in federal court, where he is expected to plead not guilty to charges that he lied to lawmakers, engaged in witness tampering and obstructed a congressional investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Though most defendants facing charges tend to stay quiet for fear of inflaming prosecutors or a judge, Stone has opted for a different tack since his pre-dawn arrest Friday.

Stone staged an impromptu news conference outside a Florida courthouse, made the rounds on weekend television interviews and mocked the probe on Instagram, posting a cartoonish image of Mueller holding a "nothingburger" — just a hamburger bun with no meat.

Also Monday, a judge delayed the sentencing of Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort in Virginia after he was convicted of eight financial crimes last year.

The sentencing is being delayed as a judge in Washington decides whether Manafort intentionally lied to investigators.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

## Houston police: 5 officers hurt in shooting, 2 suspects dead

By **JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press**

HOUSTON (AP) — Two suspects are dead after a shooting on Monday that injured five Houston police officers, including four who were hit by gunfire as they attempted to serve a search warrant at a home where drug selling was suspected, the police chief said.

A group of about a dozen officers with the Houston Police Department's narcotics unit were attempting to serve the warrant when they forced open the home's front door and immediately faced gunfire from one or two individuals, said Police Chief Art Acevedo.

Police targeted the southeast Houston home following an investigation that began after officers got a tip from a neighbor that black tar heroin was being sold from the house, Acevedo said.

"Once the officers breached the door and the gunfire began from the suspects, one of the suspects actually retreated momentarily to the back of the room and then that suspect came back and again engaged the officers in gunfire," Acevedo said at a Monday evening news conference.

It was not immediately known how many officers returned fire but the two suspects were later found dead after SWAT officers used two robots to go into the home and determine that it was safe to enter after the gunfire stopped.

All the officers were taken to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center in Houston, with two of them transported by helicopter.

Four officers were shot, with two being hit in the neck. Those two officers underwent surgery and were in critical but stable condition, Acevedo said.

"We're hopeful that they will recover," Acevedo said of the two critically injured officers.

The other two officers who were shot were in stable condition and were able to walk around, Acevedo said. Police later said that one of those officers was released after being treated for a gunshot wound to the shoulder, and that the other remained hospitalized in good condition.

A fifth officer suffered a knee injury during the shooting and was also in good condition.

Acevedo didn't immediately have additional information about the suspects. The names of the injured officers were not immediately released.

"This has been a tough day for our city," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Pray for (the injured officers) and pray for their families."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement that the shooting was a "solemn reminder" of the service and sacrifices made by officers.

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## Dems fear Trump re-election if ex-Starbucks CEO Schultz runs

By **STEVE PEOPLES and GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Some of the most influential forces in Democratic politics revolted Monday against former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz's prospective presidential bid, insisting that an independent run would unintentionally help President Donald Trump win another four years in office.

The critics included the Democratic chairman of Schultz's home state, another billionaire businessman who long flirted with an independent run of his own, former President Barack Obama's chief strategist, and the most powerful super PAC in Democratic politics.

"If Schultz entered the race as an independent, we would consider him a target. ... We would do everything we can to ensure that his candidacy is unsuccessful," said Patrick McHugh, executive director of Priorities USA, which spent nearly \$200 million in the 2016 presidential contest.

Specifically, he seized on Schultz's apparent willingness to cut entitlement programs such as Medicare

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and Social Security to narrow the federal deficit.

"The bottom line," McHugh said, "is that I don't think Americans are looking for another selfish billionaire to enter the race."

The intense pushback in the early days of the 2020 campaign reflects the passion Democrats are bringing to the race to deny Trump a second term. Rank-and-file voters and party officials alike are anxious about any hurdle that would prevent them from seizing on Trump's unpopularity.

While no independent has won the presidency since George Washington, Democrats fear that Schultz would almost certainly split their vote and give Trump an easier path to re-election. Yet Democrats concede that they had few tools to dissuade Schultz from launching an independent campaign — as he told CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday he was considering — though many were skeptical that he would actually follow through.

Schultz felt the passion of the anti-Trump resistance moments after he took the stage Monday evening in New York City to promote his new book.

"Don't help elect Trump, you egotistical billionaire!" a protester shouted before being ejected by security.

In an interview with The Associated Press after the appearance, he acknowledged that his prospective run might be "threatening" to some Democrats, but said, "my heart's in the right place."

The 65-year-old billionaire confirmed that he has identified as a Democrat his entire life. But Schultz suggested his moderate approach might attract a significant number of Republican voters frustrated with Trump in addition to Democrats turned off by the party's embrace of liberal policies, such as universal health care and free tuition at public universities.

"Who's to say that lifelong Republicans given the choice between Donald Trump and a far-left liberal, progressive Democrat — if they had a better choice where are they going to go?" he asked. "My views are squarely in the middle."

Schultz said he would make his decision in the "summer-fall" after spending the coming months traveling around the country — in part promoting a new book — to test whether there's interest in an independent presidential candidate, according to a person familiar with his planning. Asked how much of his personal fortune he'd be willing to spend on the election, he said only: "I'm going to do what's necessary."

Schultz's team has polled on the viability of a third-party run and believes there is an opening, though they have not shared the specifics of their internal surveys.

He's being advised by a team with experience in both parties, including Steve Schmidt, who worked on Republican John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, and former Obama adviser Bill Burton, who joined Schultz at his Monday appearance in New York.

Schultz's team also includes Republican pollster Greg Strimple, GOP strategist Brooks Kochvar, former journalist Erin McPike and Rajiv Chandrasekaran, another former journalist who has worked closely with Schultz since 2015.

Yet history — and the reality of a political system designed to favor major-party candidates — suggests that Schultz may do little more than play spoiler should he decide to run. Bloomberg, who studied the possibility of an independent run of his own in the past, offered Schultz a direct message based on his own experience.

"The data was very clear and very consistent. Given the strong pull of partisanship and the realities of the electoral college system, there is no way an independent can win. That is truer today than ever before," Bloomberg, who is considering a Democratic 2020 bid, said in a statement.

He continued: "In 2020, the great likelihood is that an independent would just split the anti-Trump vote and end up re-electing the president. That's a risk I refused to run in 2016, and we can't afford to run it now."

The angry voices were far and wide, and they included Obama's former chief strategist, David Axelrod, along with Democrats from Schultz's home state.

"If Schultz decides to run as an independent," Axelrod tweeted, Trump "should give Starbucks their Trump Tower space rent free! It would be a gift."

Tina Podlodowski, the Democratic chairwoman in Washington state, where Schultz has lived for decades,

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discouraged him from running as an independent.

"A billionaire buying his way out of the entire primary process does not strengthen democracy," she said. "It only makes it more likely that our democracy will be further strained under another four years of President Donald Trump."

Perhaps trying to elevate Schultz, who is not well known among Democratic primary voters, Trump himself weighed in on Monday, tweeting that Schultz "doesn't have the 'guts' to run for President!"

The Seattle billionaire was in New York Monday to promote his latest book, "From the Ground Up: A Journey to Reimagine the Promise of America." After New York, he has stops this week in Tempe, Arizona; Seattle; and San Francisco — but no dates listed for the early voting states of Iowa or New Hampshire.

On paper, Schultz offers a number of qualities that might appeal to voters. He grew up in public housing in New York City's Brooklyn borough and became the first person in his family to graduate from college.

He's also been a longtime Democratic donor, contributing to the campaigns of Obama, Hillary Clinton, New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, and Washington Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, among others. In Monday's interview, he said McCain was the only Republican he had ever donated money to.

The soft-spoken businessman has also criticized Trump, telling employees that the president was creating "chaos" and hurting business; calling Trump's tax cuts for corporations unnecessary and reckless; and vowing to hire 10,000 refugees after Trump issued an executive order banning travel from seven mostly Muslim nations.

The Democratic National Committee declined to address Schultz directly. Spokeswoman Xochitl Hinojosa offered only this response: "We are focused on defeating Donald Trump, and anyone who shares that goal should vote for the Democrat nominee in 2020."

Johnson reported from Seattle. AP writer Julie Pace in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Analysis: Shutdown 2.0? Trump has reasons to avoid a repeat**

**By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump learned over the past month a valuable Washington lesson that old-timers like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell learned long ago: Shutdowns never work.

After beating a retreat and agreeing last week to end the shutdown on Pelosi's terms — with no money for his oft-promised U.S.-Mexico border wall — it's difficult to imagine Trump getting anywhere near his \$5.7 billion demand for wall funding in an upcoming round of negotiations. And it would seem unlikely that Trump would attempt another shutdown strategy after the last one blew up in his face. Capitol Hill Republicans, especially in the Senate, have little appetite for a reprise.

With the government funded for three weeks, it's up to a group of House and Senate negotiators from the powerful Appropriations Committee to try to iron out a deal under the close watch of top leaders including Pelosi, McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. Pelosi, D-Calif., was a longtime member of the panel before rising into leadership, and McConnell, R-Ky., still sits on it. Both of them know how to cut a deal.

But the talks, set to begin Wednesday, will be centered on the polarizing question of what border security projects should be funded in a package for Homeland Security. For both parties, as well as the hundreds of thousands of federal workers returning Monday from unpaid furloughs, there is no guarantee of an easy resolution.

"In the past, when the president has stayed out of it, when the president has given Congress room, we have been repeatedly able to forge bipartisan agreements, including two budget agreements. When the president injects maximalist partisan demands into the process, negotiations tend to fall apart," Schumer, D-N.Y., said Monday.

Trump himself is pessimistic about a deal and says he likely won't accept less than his \$5.7 billion demand. Adding a bigger immigration deal such as protection for so-called Dreamer immigrants illegally brought to

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the U.S. as children is a long shot as well, Trump told The Wall St. Journal in an interview Sunday.

"If everybody could leave the thing to the appropriators and let them cut the deal ... then yeah, you could end this. At this point, I'm not confident that that could happen," said Hazen Marshall, a lobbyist who left McConnell's staff last month. "I don't think it's good enough for the president, and I think it would remain too much for Pelosi."

With prospects of a deal so iffy, the White House is considering using emergency powers to declare a national emergency and arbitrarily shift billions of dollars from disaster aid or other accounts into border security. That raises the possibility that Trump might sign a catchall government funding bill that short-changes his wall request and immediately grab some or all of the funding anyway.

"The best fix is to be able to do it legislatively," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday. But, she added, "If Congress doesn't do their job, then the president will be forced to make up for all their shortcomings."

While issuing an emergency declaration would likely draw pushback from Trump's own party, it would bow to the reality about shutdowns: The folks who start them invariably lose.

In the 1990s, Pelosi and McConnell watched House Speaker Newt Gingrich take a political beating at the hands of President Bill Clinton after starting two futile shutdowns to try to force Clinton to balance the budget. Almost two decades passed without another shutdown.

In 2013, GOP conservative hard-liners tried a futile shutdown strategy to try to "defund" President Barack Obama's signature health care law, only to come away with nothing. And just last year, Democrats were on the losing side when sparking a brief shutdown over protecting "Dreamer" immigrants — a move easily quashed by Trump and McConnell.

The fundamental flaw in a shutdown strategy is simple: It's usually obvious who's responsible, and that side carries less leverage into the fight because the public awards them the blame. It's difficult to shift blame to the other side when one's opponent simply asks to reopen the government.

In this case, opinion polls were decisive. Only 34 percent of Americans approved of Trump's job performance in a survey released last week by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research — down from 42 percent a month earlier.

What is also true about shutdowns is that the party that is held responsible for starting them tends to become more splintered and disunified as time passes. Vice President Mike Pence got an earful at a lunch of unhappy Senate Republicans last Thursday, and several Republicans split from Trump in a vote afterward.

Pelosi, meanwhile, did what any congressional leader would have done in her situation. Seeing public opinion solidly behind Democrats and watching Trump's approval rating sink, she held firm, insisting that Trump reopen the government before having talks about border security.

Trump could never shake the fact that he had sparked the shutdown, so making demands while suffering among federal workers worsened and problems from the shutdown grew more severe — such as Friday's partial closure of New York City's LaGuardia Airport — eventually proved unsustainable.

"I don't think shutdowns are good leverage," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday. "It's a lesson I've certainly learned in my time here."

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EDITOR'S NOTE — Andrew Taylor has covered Congress for The Associated Press since 2005.

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Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Agent: Anthony Davis tells New Orleans that he wants a trade

By **TIM REYNOLDS** and **BRETT MARTEL**, AP Sports Writers

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Anthony Davis wants out of New Orleans.

And if a trade happens, it'll be on the Pelicans' schedule.

The five-time All-Star has told the Pelicans that he wants to be traded to a championship-contending team and will not sign an extension with New Orleans, agent Rich Paul told The Associated Press on Monday.

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ESPN first reported Davis' demand to be traded to a contender, a request he made last week. It is a move that will resonate around the league, one that will have teams trying to see how they can put together a package good enough to land Davis. But the Pelicans made clear in a written statement Monday afternoon that they're in no rush, and will wait for the right deal.

"We will do this on our terms and our timeline," the Pelicans said, adding that they will only accept a deal that "makes the most sense for our team and it will not be dictated by those outside of our organization."

Translated: The NBA trade deadline is Feb. 7, and if the Pelicans don't get a deal they want by then, they're prepared to wait.

"He plans on playing out the season," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said Monday while Davis was at the team's training headquarters in Pelicans gear, working out and getting treatment on the injured left index finger that has kept him out of four games. "A.D. is a professional guy and he's going to play as hard as he can once he gets well and we're going to do the best we can to try put our team in position to win games."

The Pelicans have also asked the NBA to "strictly enforce" any tampering rules associated with the pursuit of Davis, who is having the best season of his career, averaging 29.3 points and 13.3 rebounds per game. The NBA is also looking into the trade request itself, since making such a demand publicly would seem to have violated league rules.

Davis will almost certainly become a six-time All-Star later this week when the NBA announces the full rosters for this year's game that will be played Feb. 17 in Charlotte.

It's just unclear if Davis will be in Charlotte as a member of the Pelicans.

"It's the business of basketball," said New Orleans guard Jrue Holiday, who said Davis is "90 percent" of the reason why he decided two summers ago to sign a five-year, \$126 million contract to remain in New Orleans.

The Pelicans next play Tuesday at Houston.

In Indianapolis, where Golden State played the Pacers on Monday night, the Warriors' Kevin Durant supported Davis' trade demand.

"It's not like the president is shutting down the government. It's just basketball," Durant said. "As players, we want guys to do exactly what they want to do in this league. They have a short amount of time. So why not do what you want?"

Davis' future has long been in question. He's an elite superstar on a team that hasn't gotten past the second round of the playoffs since he's been in New Orleans — and in four of his first six full seasons, the Pelicans didn't qualify for the postseason at all. They entered Monday 13th in the Western Conference standings, six games out of the final playoff spot with 32 games remaining.

His telling New Orleans that he wants out is the latest power move by a star player who wants to get traded, following a path now similar to what Kawhi Leonard did when he wanted to be traded by San Antonio and what Paul George did when he decided it was time to move on from Indiana. Telling the Pelicans that he won't re-sign with them provides a blunt message: Move me, or lose me for nothing.

But New Orleans, which controls Davis' contract through the 2019-20 season, had been steadfast for months and repeatedly said it had no desire to move its best player. Davis would be eligible this summer for a five-year, roughly \$240 million extension with the Pelicans that would have kicked in beginning with the 2020-21 season.

"When we've had our team together that we thought we were going to have, we're 7-3 — and that tells you that we've only had our team together for 10 games," Gentry asserted. "From there, you can speculate whatever you like to. ... We were excited about the team we started the season with."

Trade chatter has ramped up this season, especially after Los Angeles Lakers All-Star LeBron James — who is represented by Paul, just as Davis is — included the New Orleans star on a list of players that he would love to play with. James' comments were construed in some circles as campaigning for Davis.

Boston would almost certainly be a place that makes sense; the Celtics are a contender and have more than enough assets to make a good deal for New Orleans. But the Celtics cannot trade for Davis under NBA rules until July 1, unless they also trade away Kyrie Irving — which likely won't happen. Irving is a

factor because of what's known as the Rose Rule, the one that says NBA teams cannot trade for more than one player who has signed an extension.

The Celtics could sign Irving in July and then trade for Davis. But until then, unless they move Irving, Davis won't be in Boston.

That would point to the Lakers as another possible destination for a trade. The Lakers have James, which probably means they're attractive to Davis as well. But when James spoke of Davis last month, he shrugged off the notion he did anything illicit and insisted star players wanting to play with other stars is just common sense.

"Come on, guys," James told reporters last month. "It's not rocket science."

A year ago at this time, the Pelicans had perhaps the most dominant frontcourt in the NBA with Davis lining up with DeMarcus Cousins. Then Cousins tore his Achilles tendon, and wound up signing this past summer with Golden State. The Pelicans responded by opening the season with a surprisingly lopsided victory at Houston and started 4-0 before a series of injuries appeared to undermine them.

It has been an interesting few days for New Orleans sports fans. Saints fans are still reeling from a non-call for pass interference last week that played a major role in their team losing the NFC championship game to the Los Angeles Rams and being denied a Super Bowl berth.

And now, the news only gets worse with Davis declaring he wants out.

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AP Basketball Writer Tim Reynolds contributed to this report from Miami

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More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **Strongest tornado in 8 decades hits Cuba; 3 dead, 172 hurt**

**By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Neighborhood brigades and teams of government workers hacked at fallen trees and hauled chunks of concrete out of collapsed homes Monday as the Cuban capital attempted to recover from what officials called the strongest tornado to hit Cuba in nearly 80 years.

Three people were dead and hundreds injured, at least 12 in critical condition, after the tornado touched down with estimated winds of 200 mph (320 kph) in three neighborhoods across eastern Havana.

Members of the Provincial Defense Council of Havana said 90 homes collapsed completely and 30 suffered partial collapse.

A quarter of the city's roughly 2 million people were without power Monday afternoon and more than 200,000 people had lost water service because of a broken main and power cuts that left pumps out of service. Some 100 underground cisterns close to the coastal section of Havana were contaminated by seawater.

Three electric substations were knocked out by the tornado, the strongest to hit Cuba since Dec. 26, 1940, when a Category F4 tornado hit the town of Bejucal, in what is now Mayabeque province, officials said. It also appeared to be the first tornado to hit the capital in at least as many years.

Residents of the three relatively poor boroughs hit by the tornado were bracing for further calamity once the tropical sun started to dry sodden buildings, which can often lead to structures shifting and collapsing.

Julio Menendez, a 33-year-old restaurant worker, said his neighborhood in Havana's 10 de Octubre district looked "like a horror movie."

"From one moment to the next, we heard a noise like an airplane falling out of the sky. The first thing I did was go hug my daughters," who are 9 and 12, he told The Associated Press.

Driver Oster Rodriguez said that amid a fierce storm, what looked like a thick, swirling cloud touched down in the central plaza of the Reparto Modelo neighborhood "like a fireball." He saw a bus blown over, though he said the driver escaped unharmed.

Miguel Angel Hernandez of the Cuban Center for Meteorology said the tornado was a Category F3, with winds between 155 and 199 miles per hour, produced when a cold front hit Cuba's northern coast. Other

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meteorologist told state media that the tornado may have been even stronger.

Some of the heaviest damage from Sunday night's rare tornado was in the eastern borough of Guana-  
bacoa, where the twister tore the roof off a shelter for dozens of homeless families.

Cubans enduring long waits for government housing often live in such multifamily shelters for years.

Dianabys Bueno, 31, was living in the shelter with her husband and son after they were forced to relocate  
by the collapse of their home in Central Havana. Much of the housing in Havana is in dire condition due  
to years without maintenance, and building collapses are routine even in ordinary storms.

"This has already happened to us once," Bueno said. "I'm not going anywhere."

Around Havana, cars were crushed by fallen light posts and vehicles were trapped in floodwaters.

Leany Calvo, a restaurant cook in the 10th de Octubre borough, said she was working Sunday night  
despite heavy rain and wind when she heard a rumbling noise outside and looked out to see what ap-  
peared to be a tornado touching down.

"It was something that touched down, and then took off again. It was like a tower," she said, describing  
it as displaying colors of red and green. "It was here for two-three seconds, nothing more. They were the  
most frightening seconds of my life."

The tornado tore the concrete roof off an apartment building in the Regla section of Havana and dumped  
it into an alleyway, briefly trapping residents in their homes.

Marlene Marrero Garcia, 77, said she was in her ground-floor apartment with her grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren Sunday night when she heard electrical transformers begin to explode. Then the  
tornado passed.

"It looked like fire, everything was red, then everything began to fall," she said.

Marrero said she and her family were trapped by debris for about half an hour before firefighters arrived.

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

## Lyft rider arrested in killing of pregnant driver in Arizona

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — A Lyft rider in suburban Phoenix stabbed his pregnant driver, killing the woman and  
her unborn child before stealing her vehicle and driving nearly 150 miles before being arrested near the  
California line, authorities said Monday.

Tempe police said Kristina Howato, 39, was in her third trimester of pregnancy and is survived by two  
other young children.

They say Fabian Durazo, 20, was being held at a La Paz County jail on suspicion of two counts of first-  
degree murder and one count each of kidnapping and armed robbery, authorities said.

It was unclear Monday if Durazo has a lawyer yet who could speak on his behalf.

Howato was working early Sunday as a Lyft driver when she received a pickup request in west Tempe,  
said Sgt. Ron Elcock, a police spokesman.

Durazo allegedly attacked Howato when they arrived at an apartment complex about a half-mile away  
and he fled in her SUV.

Police officers responded to the apartment complex about 1:30 a.m. after receiving reports of a woman  
screaming in the parking lot.

They found Howato suffering from multiple stab wounds. She was transported to a hospital where both  
she and the unborn baby died.

Arizona Department of Public Safety officials used GPS tracking to locate the stolen SUV on Interstate  
10 near Quartzsite, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the Arizona-California line and Durazo was taken  
into custody Sunday afternoon.

Police said they don't believe Durazo and Howato knew each other and a motive for the fatal stabbing  
remains undetermined.

"Throughout our careers as officers, we have incidents that really, really touch our hearts and stay with  
you throughout your careers," Elcock said at a news conference. "This is definitely one of those incidents

that really is going to affect the police department for a long time.”

A statement from officials with San Francisco-based Lyft said: “We were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of this tragedy, and our thoughts are with the family and friends of the victims.”

Lyft says it is assisting with the investigation, adding that the passenger’s account has been permanently deactivated.

## US hits Venezuela with oil sanctions to pressure Maduro

By MATTHEW LEE and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Monday sanctioned Venezuela’s state-owned oil company, ratcheting up pressure on socialist President Nicolas Maduro to cede power to the U.S.-backed opposition in the oil-rich nation in South America.

The action means Maduro’s embattled government would lose access to one of its most important sources of income and foreign currency along with around \$7 billion in assets of the state-owned company, Petroleos De Venezuela S.A.

Hours after the White House announced the sanctions, Maduro went on state TV and called the U.S. action “immoral, criminal.” In words directed at President Donald Trump, he said, “Hands off Venezuela!”

The sanctions follow the unusual decision by more than 20 countries, including the U.S., to recognize the opposition leader of the National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the interim president of Venezuela. Maduro was re-elected last year in an election widely seen as fraudulent. The once prosperous nation has been in an economic collapse, with several million citizens fleeing to neighboring countries.

“We have continued to expose the corruption of Maduro and his cronies, and today’s action ensures they can no longer loot the assets of the Venezuelan people,” national security adviser John Bolton said at a White House news conference to announce the sanctions with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Bolton said he expects Monday’s actions against PDVSA — the acronym for the state-owned oil company — will result in more than \$11 billion in lost export proceeds during the next year.

Oil production — the lifeblood of Venezuela’s economy — has been collapsing for years. Despite sitting atop the world’s largest reserves, Venezuela currently pumps just a third of the 3.5 million barrels a day it did when the late Hugo Chavez took power in 1999.

The nation’s refining capacity has also declined because of poor maintenance and lack of skilled personnel. That has left it reliant on Citgo, the Houston-based refining arm of PDVSA, to refine the oil and send gasoline back to Venezuela to meet domestic needs.

“They have just lost that source,” said Russ Dallen, managing partner of Caracas Capital, a brokerage company.

Venezuela is very reliant on the U.S. for its oil revenue, sending 41 percent of its oil exports to the U.S. Maduro can divert the roughly 500,000 barrels per day of oil currently being sold to Gulf Coast refineries to markets in Russia, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

But processing international financial transactions is hard without going through the U.S. or European banks. Transport costs would also jump because Venezuela’s ports aren’t well-equipped to load supertankers for transporting oil to distant markets.

That means the country, which depends almost entirely on oil exports for hard currency, will be able to purchase even less food and other imports, potentially worsening shortages and deepening its economic collapse.

Outside the PDVSA headquarters in Caracas, office workers lining up to board red company buses were seeking information about the immediate impact of the U.S. sanctions. As he hurried home with his two children, one employee told The Associated Press that the sanctions signaled tough times ahead.

“Things are going to get difficult,” said the man, who refused to identify himself by name because he feared reprisals from the company. “The United States is one of the few buyers who pays for the oil up front, and it’s probably where most of our income comes from.”

Mnuchin said any money that U.S. entities use to buy Venezuelan oil will go into a blocked account in

the United States, not the Maduro government.

He said if PDVSA wants to see the sanctions lifted, there would have to be a speedy transfer of control to the interim, U.S.-backed president and a democratically elected government that is "committed to taking concrete and meaningful actions to combat corruption."

He said the Treasury Department has taken steps to allow refineries to continue importing oil from Venezuela temporarily. Also, he said Citgo will be able to continue importing oil as long as the revenue is sent to the blocked account in the United States.

"This is a country that is very rich in oil resources," Mnuchin said. "There is no reason why these resources shouldn't be used for the economic benefit of the people there."

Mnuchin said he did not expect the sanctions would cause U.S. consumers to see higher prices at gas pumps.

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, which represents 95 percent of the refining sector, has lobbied hard during the past two years against any sanctions that would disrupt imports of Venezuelan oil. The association issued a statement saying it supported the Trump administration's goal to bring change to Venezuela.

"To that end, we will work with the administration to minimize any unnecessary disruptions or negative impacts to the market and American consumers," the association said.

Mnuchin insisted the sanctions would have only a "modest" impact on U.S. refineries because Venezuelan oil exports to the U.S. have declined steadily over the years, falling particularly sharply over the past decade as its production plummeted amid its long economic and political crisis.

The U.S. imported less than 500,000 barrels a day of Venezuelan crude and petroleum products in 2017, down from more than 1.2 million barrels a day in 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Still, Venezuela has consistently been the third- or fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to the United States, and any disruption of imports could be costly for refiners. In 2017, the most recent year that data were available, Venezuela accounted for about 6 percent of U.S. crude imports. Valero and Citgo are among the largest importers of Venezuelan crude.

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Associated Press writers Alexandra Olson in New York; Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia; and Joshua Goodman, Scott Smith and Manuel Rueda in Caracas contributed to this report.

## Searchers probe deep mud from Brazil dam breach; 65 dead

By **MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA, PETER PRENGAMAN and ANNA JEAN KAISER, Associated Press**

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian firefighters and Israeli rescue workers poked sticks into treacherous mud Monday looking for bodies as pressure mounted on the mining company responsible for a dam that burst and spilled a flood of iron ore waste.

By late in the day, the death toll rose to 65, with 279 people still missing, said Lt. Col. Flavio Godinho of the civil defense department in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

In a sign of the risks posed by the deep mud, Col. Alexandre Ferreira, a doctor with the military police of Minas Gerais, advised rescue crews, volunteers and journalists to take antibiotics to prevent cholera, the bacterial infection leptospirosis and other diseases.

Officials said the death toll was expected to grow "exponentially," since no had been rescued alive since Saturday.

Search efforts were extremely slow because of the treacherous sea of reddish-brown mud that surged out when the mine tailings dam breached Friday afternoon. The mud was up 24 feet (8 meters) deep in some places, forcing searchers to carefully walk around the edges of the muck or slowly crawl onto it so they would not sink and drown.

Teams focused their searches Monday morning in areas where a bus was immersed and where many workers were eating lunch at the mine cafeteria when the dam ruptured.

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The mine's owner, Vale SA, is the world's largest producer of iron ore, the raw ingredient for making steel. The Brazilian company's American depository shares plunged 18 percent Monday on the New York Stock Exchange.

At the scene of the disaster, helicopters looking for bodies took off and landed nonstop. On the ground, dozens of rescuers with tracking dogs were searching for bodies through the mountains of mud. An Associated Press photographer witnessed at least 10 helicopters each carrying one body.

More than 100 Israelis equipped with specialized rescue technology joined the 200 Brazilian firefighters in the search.

Areas of water-soaked mud appeared to be drying out, which could help firefighters get to areas previously unreachable. Still, it was slow going for the search teams, residents were on edge and some started searching on their own for relatives.

A Catholic priest for a church now being used as a command center for rescuers said many of his parishioners are believed to be buried in mud.

"It's going to be difficult to rebuild our hearts," said the priest, Rene Lopez. "This won't take a month or a year. It's an open wound for all of the people in Brumadinho."

And there was mounting anger directed at Vale amid questions about the area's largest employer following an apparent lack of a warning siren ahead of Friday's collapse.

"The company didn't take care of the people," said Josefa de Santos, who has friends and neighbors among the missing. "I heard the cries of people asking for help, everyone was running and screaming. The siren didn't go off at all, it was horrible."

In an email, Vale told The Associated Press that the area has eight sirens, but "the speed in which the event happened made sounding an alarm impossible" when the dam burst.

Sen. Renan Calheiros called for Vale's board of directors to step down and Attorney General Raquel Dodge told reporters that Vale executives could be held responsible.

Vice President Hamilton Mourão said a Brumadinho crisis committee established by the president was "studying" the possibility of removing Vale's board of directors. His office later told AP that the government wouldn't intervene, as Vale is a private company.

Over the weekend, courts froze about \$3 billion from Vale assets for state emergency services and told the company to report on how it would help victims.

The carpet of mining waste also raised fears of widespread environmental contamination and degradation.

According to Vale's website, the waste is composed mostly of sand and is non-toxic. But a U.N. report found that the waste from a similar Brazil disaster in 2015 "contained high levels of toxic heavy metals."

That dam owned by Vale and Australian mining company BHP Billiton collapsed in the city of Mariana in Minas Gerais, killing 19 people and forcing hundreds from their homes.

About 250,000 people were left without drinking water thousands of fish died. An estimated 60 million cubic meters (646 million square feet) of waste flooded nearby rivers and eventually flowed into the Atlantic Ocean.

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Associated Press writer Marcelo Silva de Sousa reported this story in Brumadinho, AP writer Peter Prengaman reported from Arraial do Cabo and AP writer Anna Jean Kaiser reported from Sao Paulo. AP photographer Leo Correo in Brumadinho contributed to this report.

## PG&E files for bankruptcy amid wildfire lawsuits

By SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The largest utility in the U.S., Pacific Gas & Electric Corp., filed for bankruptcy Tuesday as it faces billions of dollars in potential damages from wildfires in California.

The utility filed documents in a U.S. court seeking Chapter 11 reorganization despite state investigators determining last week that its equipment was not to blame for a 2017 fire that killed 22 people in Northern California wine country.

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The company cited hundreds of lawsuits from victims of that blaze and others in 2017 and 2018 when it announced this month that it planned to file for bankruptcy. The fires included the nation's deadliest in a century — a November blaze that killed at least 86 people and destroyed 15,000 homes in Paradise and surrounding communities.

The cause of that fire remains under investigation, but speculation has centered on PG&E after the utility reported power line problems nearby around the time it started.

The bankruptcy filing immediately puts a halt to the wildfire lawsuits and consolidates them in bankruptcy court, where legal experts say victims will likely receive less money.

Wildfire victims have little chance of getting punitive damages or taking their claims to a jury in a bankruptcy proceeding. Instead, they will have to tussle with PG&E's creditors, including bondholders, for a payout from the company.

Consumer activist Erin Brockovich, who famously took on PG&E in the 1990s, had urged California lawmakers not to let the utility go bankrupt because it could mean less money for wildfire victims.

PG&E faced additional pressure not to move forward with the bankruptcy after state fire investigators said a private electrical system, not utility equipment, caused the wine country blaze that destroyed more than 5,600 buildings in Sonoma and Napa counties in October 2017.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office estimated that more than half of the roughly \$30 billion in potential damages that PG&E said it was facing was from that fire.

Legal experts say the bankruptcy will likely take years to resolve and will result in higher rates for PG&E customers. The company provides natural gas and electric service to 16 million people over a 70,000-square-mile area in Northern and central California.

A bankruptcy filing would not affect electricity or natural gas service but allow for an "orderly, fair and expeditious resolution" of potential liabilities from the wildfires, the company has said on its website.

PG&E said it was committed to helping those affected by the wildfires and could not speculate on any changes to customers' bills, noting that the California Public Utilities Commission sets electric and gas rates.

The utility also filed for bankruptcy in April 2001 near the height of an electricity debacle marked by rolling blackouts and the manipulation of the energy market.

PG&E emerged from bankruptcy three years later but obtained billions of dollars in higher payments from ratepayers.

## Asian stocks slip on Huawei charges as trade talks loom

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets were lower on Tuesday after the U.S. Justice Department unsealed criminal charges against China's Huawei, its subsidiaries and a top executive ahead of trade talks.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index tumbled 1 percent to 20,448.47 and the Kospi in South Korea shed 0.4 percent to 2,169.42. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was 0.8 percent lower at 27,370.58. The Shanghai Composite index fell 1 percent to 2,572.39. Australia's S&P ASX 200, reopening after a holiday, eased 0.6 percent to 5,870.80. Stocks fell in Taiwan and Singapore but rose in Indonesia.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks fell Monday on signs that slowing Chinese growth was affecting corporate America. Caterpillar, considered an economic bellwether, reported weaker-than-expected earnings for the fourth quarter of 2018. The company said it expects the growth of construction equipment sales in China to be flat this year. Chipmaker Nvidia slashed its fourth-quarter revenue estimate, citing slowing demand in China among other reasons. The S&P 500 index lost 0.8 percent to 2,643.85. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.8 percent at 24,528.22 and the Nasdaq composite gave up 1.1 percent to 7,085.68. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks lost 0.6 percent to 1,473.54.

HUAWEI CHARGES: The U.S. criminal charges against Chinese tech giant Huawei allege that it violated U.S. sanctions by using a Hong Kong shell company to sell equipment in Iran. The company is also accused of stealing trade secrets, including technology behind a robotic device that T-Mobile used to test smartphones. Several of Huawei's subsidiaries and its chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou were to also

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face criminal charges. Meng was arrested while changing flights in Canada last month. China has demanded her release and warned of retaliation against American and Canadian executives.

**US-CHINA TALKS:** According to Bloomberg, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at a briefing Monday that President Donald Trump is set to meet Chinese Vice Premier Liu He in Washington. Negotiators from both countries are expected to sit down for two days of trade talks starting Wednesday. While a meeting with Trump may show that the U.S. is serious about striking a deal, charges against Huawei could cast a cloud over negotiations going forward.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** Charges against Huawei "illustrate the risks attached to the U.S.-China relationship," DBS Group Research strategists Philip Wee and Eugene Leow said in a commentary. "The actions by the DOJ show that it would not be enough for China to buy more U.S. goods. America wants China to make structural reforms especially on its intellectual property practices," they added.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude added 20 cents to \$52.19 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dropped \$1.70 to settle at \$51.99 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 15 cents to \$59.96 per barrel. It lost \$1.78 to \$59.81 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar was trading at 109.12 yen down from 109.35 yen late Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1430 from \$1.1428.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2019. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 29, 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

On this date:

In 1820, King George III died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's famous narrative poem "The Raven" ("Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...") was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

In 1856, Britain's Queen Victoria introduced the Victoria Cross to reward military acts of valor during the Crimean War.

In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union.

In 1863, the Bear River Massacre took place as the U.S. Army attacked Shoshone in present-day Idaho. The New York Stock & Exchange Board changed its name to the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1963, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963). Poet Robert Frost died in Boston at age 88.

In 1975, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage, but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek re-election in the fall.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2002, In his first State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said terrorists were still threatening America — and he warned of "an axis of evil" consisting of North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

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Ten years ago: Declaring that ending pay disparity is not just a women's issue, President Barack Obama signed The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, giving workers more time to take their pay discrimination cases to court. The Illinois Senate voted, 59-0, to convict Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) of abuse of power and throw him out of office nearly two months after the second-term Democrat's arrest on charges of trying to sell Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat.

Five years ago: The state of Missouri executed Herbert Smulls for the 1991 slaying of jeweler Stephen Honickman in suburban St. Louis.

One year ago: FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, a target of frequent criticism and accusations of bias from President Donald Trump, abruptly stepped down from his position ahead of his planned retirement in the spring. Alex Azar, a former drug company executive and official in George W. Bush's administration, was sworn in as Trump's second health secretary. The Cleveland Indians announced that they would remove the Chief Wahoo logo from their uniforms in the coming baseball season, after decades of protests and complaints that the grinning, red-faced caricature was racist.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse is 88. Feminist author Germaine Greer is 80. Actress Katharine Ross is 79. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 78. Actor Tom Selleck is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 73. Actor Marc Singer is 71. Actress Ann Jillian is 69. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 66. Rhythm-and-blues/funk singer Charlie Wilson is 66. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 65. Actor Terry Kinney is 65. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 63. Actress Diane Delano is 62. Actress Judy Norton (TV: "The Waltons") is 61. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 60. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 59. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 58. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 58. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 57. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 55. Actor-director Edward Burns is 51. Actor Sam Trammell is 50. Actress Heather Graham is 49. Former House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 49. Actor Sharif Atkins is 44. Actress Sara Gilbert is 44. Actress Kelly Packard is 44. Actor Justin Hartley is 42. Actor Sam Jaeger is 42. Writer and TV personality Jedediah Bila is 40. Actor Andrew Keegan is 40. Actor Jason James Richter is 39. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 38. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert (TV: "American Idol") is 37. Country singer Eric Paslay is 36.

Thought for Today: "Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired." — Robert Frost, American poet (born 1874, died this date in 1963).