

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Another snowstorm hits the Northeast, threatens more power outages

PHILADELPHIA — The second big storm to hit the Northeast in less than a week brought wet, heavy snow today to a corner of the country where tens of thousands of people were still waiting for the power to come back on from the first bout of wintry weather.

The nor'easter closed schools and government offices, grounded thousands of flights and raised fears of another round of fallen trees and electrical outages as it made its way up the East Coast.

A mix of snow and light rain fell before daybreak in many areas, then began turning to all snow. By late morning, heavy snow was blanketing eastern Pennsylvania, and driving became treacherous on some highways.

The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning into Thursday morning from the Philadelphia area through most of New England. Forecasters said areas west of the Interstate 95 corridor could easily get more than a foot of snow, with some places in northwestern New Jersey expected to receive up to 2 feet.

More than 2,000 flights across the region — 1,700 in the New York metro area alone — were canceled, a number expected to climb as conditions deteriorated.

The morning commute went smoothly in most areas, as the storm had not yet kicked into high gear. But motorists were urged to avoid travel so crews could treat and clear roads. Pennsylvania and New York banned big rigs from some major highways.

Putin praises Trump, says US political system eating itself

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin lavished praise on President Donald Trump, but added that he was sorely disappointed with the U.S. political system, saying that it has been "eating itself up."

Speaking in a series of interviews with Russian state television which were included in a documentary released today, Putin described Trump as a great communicator.

"I have no disappointment at all," Putin said when asked about the U.S. president. "Moreover, on a personal level he made a very good impression on me."

The two leaders met on the sidelines of international summits last year. Putin praised Trump as a "balanced" man, who easily gets into the gist of various issues and listens to his interlocutor.

Moscow has said that its hopes for better ties with Washington have been dashed by the ongoing congressional and FBI investigations into allegations of collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia.

He said he was particularly dismayed by what he described as the U.S. role in the ouster of Ukraine's Russia-friendly president in February 2014 amid massive protests.

Putin charged that the U.S. had asked Russia to help persuade then-President Viktor Yanu-



AP Photo/Eric Gay

Signs in storage at the Bexar County Election offices in San Antonio.

Democrats, women candidates score big in Texas primaries

AUSTIN, Texas — Women running for Congress surged to big wins and Democrats smashed recent turnout levels in Texas' first-in-the-nation 2018 primary elections, giving Republicans a potential glimpse of what's ahead in the first midterms under President Donald Trump.

Energized and angry Democrats in Texas, where the GOP has dominated for decades, came out in force to surpass 1 million voters Tuesday and eclipse midterm primary participation totals unseen since 1994, when the party was in full slide toward wilderness after long being the top political dog.

Equally striking was the showing by women on the ballot: Of the nearly 50 women running for Congress in Texas, more than half won their primaries outright or advanced to runoffs. What's more, at least three of those runoffs in May will feature women going head-to-head, including a key race for Democrats in their bid to take control of the U.S. House this fall.

Not all women fared so well. Kathaleen Wall, a Republican megadonor in Houston who pumped \$6 million of her own money into her race for Congress, failed to survive a crowded nine-person field despite outspending all other candidates and having the backing of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Wall's failure was also a potential warning sign of the limits of Republicans going all-in on Trump this election year. She partly staked her candidacy on TV ads that told voters there was little daylight between her and the president, who remains popular among GOP voters despite his rough edges and low approval ratings nationwide.

For all the talk of renewed Democratic energy heading into 2018, Texas Republicans also set a new benchmark for turnout in a midterm election. More than 1.5 million people voted Tuesday in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate, won by incumbent Ted Cruz. That beats the previous record of 1.48 million in 2010, during former President Barack Obama's first term.

kovich not to use force against protesters and then "rudely and blatantly" cheated Russia, sponsoring what he called a "coup."

Russia responded by annexing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

Report: Failed VA leadership put patients at risk

WASHINGTON — A stinging internal investigation finds "failed leadership at mul-

tipled levels" at the Veterans Administration during the Obama administration that put patients at a major hospital at risk. It's another blow to current Secretary David Shulkin, who also served at the agency then and now is fighting to keep his job.

The 150-page report released today by the VA internal watchdog offers new details to its preliminary finding last April of patient safety issues at the Washington, D.C., medical center.

Painting a grim picture of communications breakdowns, chaos and spending waste at the government's second largest department, the

report found that at least three VA program offices directly under Shulkin's watch knew of "serious, persistent deficiencies" when he was VA undersecretary of health from 2015 to 2016, but stopped short of saying whether he was told about them.

Shulkin, who was elevated to VA secretary last year by President Donald Trump, told government investigators that he did "not recall" ever being notified of problems.

Declaring the problems "systemic," Shulkin told reporters that he was not aware of the problems at the Washington hospital. He pledged wide-scale change across VA, including unannounced audits of its more than 1,700 medical facilities from health experts in the private sector, immediate hiring to fill vacancies at local hospitals and plans in the coming months to streamline bureaucracy and improve communication.

A blistering report by the inspector general last month concluded that he had violated ethics rules by improperly accepting Wimbledon tennis tickets and that his then chief of staff had doctored emails to justify his wife traveling to Europe with him at taxpayer expense.

He also faces a rebellion among some VA staff and has issued a sharp warning to them: Get back in line or get out.

European Union ready for a trade war if Trump slaps on tariffs

BRUSSELS — The European Union says it's ready to retaliate against the U.S. over President Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum — with counter-measures against iconic U.S. products like Harley Davidson motorcycles, Levi's jeans and bourbon.

The EU threat and Trump's insistence that the tariffs will go ahead escalate the risk of a trade war, in which countries try to punish each other by increasing taxes on traded goods. In the end, that tends to hurt all sides as exporting producers suffer but so do consumers who face higher costs, experts say.

There was some hope that free trade proponents in the White House, like economic adviser Gary Cohn, would dissuade Trump from going ahead with the tariffs. But Cohn's resignation Tuesday dealt a blow to that expectation.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said today that the EU is circulating among member states a list of U.S. goods to target with tariffs so that it can respond as quickly as possible.

The list is being finalized but so far includes U.S. steel and agricultural products, as well as other products like bourbon, peanut butter, cranberries and orange juice.

She did not say what level of tariffs the EU would set, leaving it unclear what the economic impact would be.

The EU considers itself to be caught in the crossfire of this particular trade dispute, in which Trump has mainly singled out China for being unfair in its commercial deals.

Trump last week he said his government would levy penalties of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports, but left it not clear whether trading partners like the EU and Canada would be exempt.

TV SCHEDULE

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING		A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach										MARCH 7	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Am.Housewife (N)	Designated "The Final Frontier" (N)		KATU News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Am.Housewife (N)	Designated "The Final Frontier" (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Blacklist "Pattie Sue Edwards" (N)	Law&Order: SVU "In Loco Parentis" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Profiles" (N)				KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Survivor "Only Time Will Tell" (N)	SEAL Team "No Man's Land" (N)	Criminal Minds "Annihilator" (N)				KOIN 6 News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Survivor "Only Time Will Tell" (N)	SEAL Team "No Man's Land" (N)	Criminal Minds "Annihilator" (N)				KIRO News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	The Blacklist "Pattie Sue Edwards" (N)	Law&Order: SVU "In Loco Parentis" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Profiles" (N)				KGW News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Riverdale (N)	Life Sentence "Pilot" (P) (N)	News at 10 (N)	Friends			Two and a Half	Two and a Half
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Naledi: One Little Elephant"		Great Performances "Concert for George" A soulful cinematic tribute to George Harrison.					
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	The X-Files "Familiar" (N)	9-1-1 "Karma's a Bitch" (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)				News (N)	Page Six TV
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)	9 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy	American Dad!			The Game	The Game 2/2
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The X-Files "Familiar" (N)	9-1-1 "Karma's a Bitch" (N)	Q13 News at 10 (N)				Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal			Conan (N)	
22	KZJO	(22) Friends	Friends	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN	(29) NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Detroit Pistons (L)	NBA Basketball	Cleveland Cavaliers at Denver Nuggets Site: Pepsi Center -- Denver, Colo. (L)			SportsCenter (N)				SportsCenter	
29	ESPN2	(29) NCAA Basketball	ACC Tournament Site: Barclays Center -- Brooklyn, N.Y. (L)			SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	NFL Live				NBA Basketball	Cleveland vs Denver
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Paradise Run	The Thundermans	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd		Andi Mack	Andi Mack	Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark
34	FAM	(34) *** Matilda (1996, Family)	Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman, Mara Wilson.			Grown-ish (N)	Alone Together (N)	*** Hot Rod (2007, Comedy)	Isla Fisher, Bill Hader, Andy Samberg.			The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) Movie	(50) *** The Karate Kid (2010, Action)	Jackie Chan, Taraji P. Henson, Jaden Smith.				(40) FXM Presents	Win Win (2011, Comedy/Drama)	Amy Ryan, Jeffrey Tambor, Paul Giamatti.			
36	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy "Poker Face"		Little Women: Atlanta "Cover Girls"	Little Women ATL "Girl Power" (N)	LW Atlanta "Big Little Decisions" (N)		Glam Masters "The Art of Beauty" (N)	(305) LaurieOakland Gibson				
38	ROOT	(38) (5:30) MLB Baseball	Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium (L)			H.S. Basketball WIAA	Tournament Boys 3A Championship			MLB Baseball	Spring Training Oakland vs Seattle		
39	FS1	(39) Big East Bridge	NCAA Basketball	Big East Tournament (L)		Big East Post	The Maestro			Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.			
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy)	Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.		Heathers "Pilot" (P) (N)		Heathers "Pilot"			
44	COM	(44) South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Corporate (N)	South Park			The Daily Show (N)	The Opposition (N)
45	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire "Akrafena"		Forged "Sword Breaker Redemption"	Forged Fire "The Rhomphaia" (SP) (N)	The Men Who Built War	Shifts beyond the colonies and into the frontier. (P) (N)	(305) The Curse of Civil "Betrayal"					
46	A&E	(46) Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Rooster & Butch "The Big Little Lie" (N)	(305) Storage Wars	(35) Storage Wars			
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life "Robert's Story" 1/2 (N)	My 600-lb Life "Robert's Story" 2/2 (N)	My 600-lb Life "Tamy Lyn's Story"		To Be Announced		TBA // (305) 600 Life "Lupe and Ashley D."	(310) My 600-lb Life "Tamy Lyn's Story"				
49	DISC	(49) Outlaws "Who Made These Rules?"		Street Outlaws "Rules and Regulations"	Outlaws "Making It in Memphis" (N)	Street Outlaws "Memphis Money" (N)		Twin Turbos "Back on Track" (N)		Street Outlaws "Memphis Money"			
49	NGEO	(49) Drugs, Inc. "Bangkok Ice"		Drugs, Inc. "Cancun Spring Break"		Drugs, Inc. "The High Wire"		Louis Theroux "Heroin Town" (N)		Drugs, Inc. "Memphis Mayhem"			
50	TNT	(50) Bones "The Plain in the Prodigy"		Bones		Hercules (2014, Adventure)	John Hurt, Irina Shayk, Dwayne Johnson.	(15) *** 47 Ronin (2013, Action)	HiroYuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.				
51	AMC	(51) (4:00) *** The Green Mile (1999, Drama)	David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, Tom Hanks.	*** Open Range (2003, Western)	Kevin Costner, Annette Bening, Robert Duvall.					Hang "Em High" (68) Clint Eastwood.			
52	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Victims"		The Wedding Ringer (2014, Comedy)	Josh Gad, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, Kevin Hart.			The Wedding Ringer (2014, Comedy)	Josh Gad, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, Kevin Hart.			Modern Family	Modern Family
53	FOOD	(53) Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Game "Bacon to the Max" (N)		Guy's Game "Family Style: Food Feud"		Guy's Game "Judge vs. Judge"	
54	HGTV	(54) Buying & Selling "Don't Do It Yourself"		Buying & Selling "Perfect Master Suite"		Property Bros. "Condo to Countryside"		Property "Family Above All Else" (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Property Brothers	
56	FX	(56) (4:00) Captain America: The Winter S...	*** Straight Outta Compton (2015, True Story)	Corey Hawkins, Jason Mitchell.		O'Shea Jackson Jr.		Gianni Versace "Ascent" (N)		Gianni Versace "Ascent"		(15) Gianni Versace "Ascent"	
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Super Rich (SP) (N)	Super Rich (N)	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Lives-Super Rich	Lives-Super Rich	Paid Program	
63	BRV	(63) Real Housewives "Second Chances"		Vanderpump Rules		The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills		Atlanta "Barcelona Breakdown"		Married to Medicine "In the Black"		WatchWhat (N)	Housewives Atl.
64	TCM	(64) (1:15) *** Riff Raff (47, Adv)	Anne Jeffreys, Pat O'Brien. (45) *** Dillinger (45, Bio)	Anne Jeffreys, Edmund Lowe.		(15) *** Return of the Bad Men (48)	Steve Brodie, Lex Barker.					Trail Street (47, Western)	Robert Ryan.
65	SYFY	(65) *** National Treasure (2004, Adventure)	Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.			The Magicians "All That Josh" (N)		Channel Zero "The Red Door" (N)		National Treasure '04	Nicolas Cage.		
162	RFD	(162) Dude Ranch	Cowboy (N)	WesternSport	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase	

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