

Heavy snow hits parts of Midwest; dangerous cold coming

By IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — 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. Chicago-area commuters woke up to heavy snowfall, with more than 5 inches 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, which the National Weather Service called "possibly life threatening." Minnesota temperatures could hit minus 30 degrees with a wind chill of negative 60.



AP Photo/Joshua Clark

An employee of Pozorski Hauling & Recycling collects trash during a snowstorm Monday in Manitowoc, Wis.

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, with a wind chill as low as negative 50. The current record of minus 26 degrees 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

above the North Pole rapidly rise about 125 degrees. 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.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel urged residents to check on their neighbors and take safety precautions. He said city agencies are mak-

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

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.

U.S. hits Venezuela with oil sanctions to press President Maduro's exit

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration imposed sanctions Monday on the state-owned oil company of Venezuela, a potentially critical economic move aimed at increasing pressure on President Nicolas Maduro to cede power to the opposition in the South American nation.

Maduro's increasingly isolated government would lose access to one of its

most important sources of income and foreign currency along with around \$7 billion in assets of Petroleos De Venezuela S.A. under the sanctions announced by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and national security adviser John Bolton.

The move follows the unusual decision by the U.S. and other nations last week to recognize the opposition leader of the National

Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the interim president of Venezuela instead of Maduro, who 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," Bolton said at a White House news conference.

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 over the

next year.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stressed that the new sanctions do not target the people of Venezuela and will not affect humanitarian assistance, including medicine that is "desperately needed after years of economic destruction under Maduro's rule."

The sanctions will not likely affect consumer prices at the gas pump but will hit oil refiners. 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 economic and political crisis.

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COMING FEBRUARY 13

SCREEN time

Exclusively in the Wednesday East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald

Meatless Wednesday: Flavortown Market goes to the greens and beans

By Andrew Warren
TV Media

In the first round of the competition, host Guy Fieri gives the competing chefs a list of ingredients that their dishes must feature. Then, in the second round, the chefs spin a wheel that randomly gives each of them a meat dish that they must create vegetarian. Finally, Guy gets tricky in the final round and takes away the remaining competitors' shopping carts before sending them out to shop for the ingredients needed to make their guilty pleasure dishes.

"Guy's Grocery Games" is similar to other cooking competition shows, with chefs getting the six after each round once the judges have had a chance to taste and evaluate all of the dishes. The contest is held twice a year, and the competitors are required to "shop" for their own ingredients from the store's shelves, and all sorts of twists tie into the unique milieu.

The judges that Guy has brought in to taste the week's mystery meals are a who's who of Food Network celebrity chefs. There's a pair of "Food Network Star" winners in Dan Snierson and "Southern at Heart" and Award-Winning "Chef Al's Stars" winner Richard Blais.

Vegans don't have to be buying, and with those three discerning judges ready to taste everything on the plate, the contestants in the week's "Guy's Grocery Games" have to pack as much punch into their dishes as they can.

cooking this week

Day	Time	Program
Sunday	12:00 p.m.	CGU The Great British Bake Off (N)
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
Monday	12:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
Thursday	12:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
Friday	12:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
Saturday	12:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	1:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	2:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network
	3:00 p.m.	FOOD Network's Food Network

Guy Fieri as seen in "Guy's Grocery Games"

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