

INTERNATIONAL

U.K. Parliament Must Trigger Brexit, Highest Court Says, Dealing Setback To May

The U.K.'s exit from the European Union must be triggered by Parliament — not by the prime minister, the nation's Supreme Court says. In an 8-3 ruling, the court ruled that Theresa May doesn't have legal standing to carry out Brexit, the plan to leave the EU that voters embraced in a close referendum last June. The prime minister's office says the ruling "does nothing to change" its timetable of leaving the economic union by the end of March. That's when May set a deadline for invoking Article 50 — the exit clause that's built into the EU's constitutional rules. But the already complicated process, the Supreme Court now says, must also include Parliament. "The ruling is an embarrassing setback for the prime minister, but it does not threaten to derail Brexit," NPR's Frank Langfitt reports from London. "Ministers of Parliament can delay the bill and debate it, but they can't overturn the June referendum." The ruling bolsters a High Court ruling from November, which Prime Minister May's government had appealed. It's also a victory for Gina Miller, a leading plaintiff in the case who works as an investment manager. Saying that her case was about the legal process, Miller said after today's ruling, "No prime minister, no government, can expect to be unanswerable or unchallenged." In an interview with NPR last year, Miller explained her reasons for challenging the government's plan to leave the EU: "Because I don't feel that we've had a rational, grown-up, sensible debate about all the factors that would impact on us leaving the EU. It was very much overshadowed by people who were basically power hungry politicians who were fooling the public, in my view." In that interview, Miller added that people who pushed to leave the EU "didn't have a plan" for what comes next after leaving the union. And today, she acknowledged that the issue was one of the most divisive in modern times in Britain.

New Czech Government Unit Seeks To Monitor Fake News

Beyond the U.S., many countries are concerned that fake news stories could influence voters. The Czech Republic has elections later this year, and the country is so concerned about this problem that it has opened a new center against terrorism and hybrid threats. One of its key missions is to monitor social media and identify stories that it deems to be false. To talk about it, we are joined via Skype by Tomas Prouza, the Czech government state secretary for European affairs. PROUZA: "What we have seen in the last two years was growing number of Russia-connected websites who've been reporting blatant lies. And they spread alternative versions on events to make sure that people have no idea what is true any longer, and they simply start doubting the very basics of democracy, and that is the key worry we have." RADIO HOST: You say that these are connected to Russia, what evidence do you have that Moscow is behind this? PROUZA: One is that many of these websites share stories that originally appear on Russia Today or Sputnik, which are the two key Kremlin propaganda tools. And we also been looking at financing of some of these websites, and some of the leads we have fall in towards financial sources from Russia.

In West Bank, Witnesses To Conflict Are Using Video To Document What They See

Early in the morning of March 24, 2016, a 45-year-old Palestinian shoemaker named Imad Abu Shamsiyeh was having coffee with his wife, Fayzia, at their home in the West Bank city of Hebron. They heard shots being fired outside. Instead of seeking cover, they grabbed Abi Shamsiyeh's video camera and ran to the roof of their house. He immediately started filming, zooming on the street below. "I saw someone lying on the ground," Abu Shamsiyeh says. "I wasn't sure if he was Israeli or Palestinian. Blood was gushing from him." The man was Abed Fatah al-Sharif, a 21-year-old Palestinian who had been shot and badly wounded after he stabbed an Israeli soldier. Sharif lay nearly motionless. Then a soldier shot him in the head from close range. Abu Shamsiyeh sent his video to B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights group, which verified and published the video on its website. "One of the aspects of the video that is quite shocking is seeing how apathetic the other soldiers are, like nothing has happened," says B'Tselem spokesman Amit Gilutz. "Like a very casual thing to take place, shooting a Palestinian who is laying on the floor motionless in the head." The video went viral. It was shown during the trial of Sgt. Elor Azaria, the Israeli soldier who shot Sharif. A military court convicted Azaria of manslaughter earlier this month. The court will hear arguments on sentencing Tuesday. The case deeply divided Israelis. Polls show most want Azaria pardoned. Abu Shamsiyeh, a father of seven, says he's been filming violence in Hebron for five years, spurred by what's happened to his own family. "My daughter was injured by settlers, my two sons and wife were attacked and put in jail, I was attacked and put in jail," he says. "We've been the target of a lot of violence by the sheer fact that we live here." They live practically adjacent to an enclave of Jewish settlers near the center of Hebron, a sprawling city of more than 200,000, the largest in the West Bank.

Nigeria air strike dead 'rises to 115' in Rann

Camp residents and aid workers were among those killed when the air force bombed Rann, in Borno state, thinking it was a base of Boko Haram militants. It was the biggest known botched attack in eight years of fighting the group. The Nigerian army says it is engaged in a "final push" against the Islamists. Commanders have apologized for the "accidental" bombing, which they said was because of "the fog of war". Human Rights Watch said this did not absolve them of responsibility, and called for compensation for the victims. A local government official from the area, Babagana Malarima, said a mistake had been made when it was earlier reported that the number of those killed had risen to 236. The error had been made by those in the camp settlement who had added the number of dead to the number of injured to come up with the figure, he said. In the immediate aftermath of the attack last Tuesday, the medical charity MSF said 52 people had died. The wounded were treated in an MSF tented clinic as there are no hospitals in Rann, where displaced people are living in makeshift shelters. An aid worker said the attack, in which at least two bombs were dropped, caused terror and chaos at the camp. He said he saw dead children lying on the ground, others left as orphans and terrible injuries among survivors.

NATIONAL

President Trump To Cut Regulations By '75 Percent' — How Real Is That?

In a meeting with business leaders, President Trump on Monday made an eyebrow-raising claim. As part of an effort to make America more business-friendly, Trump said, "We think we can cut regulations by 75 percent. Maybe more, but by 75 percent." Republicans do seem serious about some kind of regulatory reform. But even conservative economists say that number is not believable. It's been said that the president likes to have an adversary. And at the meeting, Trump took aim at government regulations that stifle business. "We're gonna be cutting regulation massively," the president said. "The problem with the regulation that we have right now is that you can't do anything. You can't, I have people that tell me they have more people working on regulations than they have doing product." Of course, there are all kinds of government regulations. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration aims to keep workers safe. The Food and Drug Administration makes sure we have food that's safe to eat. The Environmental Protection Agency protects the environment. Trump suggested that there wouldn't be a downside to the important goals of the nation's myriad federal regulations. "Now we're gonna have regulation," he said, "and it's gonna be just as strong and just as good and just as protective of the people as the regulation we have right now." "We're gonna take care of the environment, we're gonna take care of safety and all of the other things we have to take care of," said the president. It's a bit unclear what Trump means when he says he thinks he can cut "75 percent" of regulations.

Strangers in Their Own Land: The 'Deep Story' of Trump Supporters

Researchers have long been confused by what seems like a paradox: many people in America vote against their economic self-interests. Whether it's the working class conservative who wants a tax cut for the wealthy, or a member of the liberal elite who fights for safety nets that raise his own taxes — we don't always act in the way that would help *us* the most. In her new book, *Strangers in Their Own Land*, sociologist Arlie Hochschild tackles this paradox. She says that while people might vote against their *economic* needs, they're actually voting to serve their *emotional* needs. Hochschild says that both conservative and liberals have "deep stories" — about who they are, and what their values are. Deep stories don't need to be completely accurate, but they have to *feel true*. They're the stories we tell ourselves to capture our hopes, pride, disappointments, fears, and anxieties. Hochschild spent years in Louisiana trying to understand the deep stories of conservative, white, heterosexual, working-class Americans. Their deep story focused on the American Dream: the idea that, if you work hard and play by the rules, you can have a better life. But what happens when that dream doesn't come true? When people see "line cutters" getting ahead while their own lives don't seem to be going anywhere? According to Hochschild, Donald Trump was able to tap into these deep stories. He offered a narrative that confirmed how these people feel. His rhetoric gave them a way to talk openly about their deep stories — perhaps for the first time.

2017 SPEECH SEASON – PRACTICE RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT



Obamacare Repeal Threatens A Health Benefit Popular In Coal Country

At the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinic in Scarbro, W.Va., oxygen tubes dangle from the noses of three miners slowly pedaling on stationary bikes. All of these men have black lung — a disease caused by breathing in coal dust. Over time, dust coats the lungs and causes them to harden. Hard lungs don't easily expand and contract, and that makes it difficult to breathe. "You try to get air in them, and they don't want to cooperate with you as they did before," says retired miner James Bounds, speaking with great effort. Not every coal miner gets black lung, just as some smokers don't get cancer. But for those who do, Bounds says, the disease is devastating. "There's no cure at all," he says. "It keeps getting harder and harder until one day, I guess, you take your last breath and they won't expand for you no more." Bounds is one of about 38,000 miners or eligible survivors — usually a spouse — currently receiving black lung benefits. The benefits are compensation for the physical damage Bounds sustained while doing his job. It took him four and a half years to get approved, despite the fact that his lungs are so bad he has to stop moving to talk. But now the qualification process is supposed to move faster. The Affordable Care Act includes special provisions that make the process of getting black lung benefits easier for coal miners. If the ACA is repealed, gaining these benefits could become much more difficult, effectively harming a group of people that President Donald Trump has promised to protect. Debbie Wills coordinates the black lung program for Valley Health primary care system. She says that prior to the ACA, it was almost impossible to qualify for the compensation benefits. Coal companies pay the benefits, and also pay into a federal trust fund that pays when coal companies can't. Wills says the process of getting benefits was arduous for miners. "Coal company lawyers would doctor shop around the country and find two, three, four, five, seven doctors to say, 'Yes this miner is disabled, but it's not because of black lung,'" she says. The Affordable Care Act includes something called the Byrd Amendments. One shifts the burden of proof — instead of miners having to prove that mining caused their black lung, the coal companies have to prove that mining didn't. "You still have to prove the 100 percent disability, which is hard," says Wills. "But if you can prove that, and if you've worked 15 or more years or longer in the mines, then you're entitled to a presumption that your disease arose from your coal mine employment."

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Politics Aside, Counting Crowds Is Tricky

There has been [a lot of arguing](#) about the size of crowds in the past few days. Estimates for President Trump's inauguration and the Women's March a day later vary widely. And for crowd scientists, that's pretty normal. "I think this is expected," says [Mubarak Shah](#), director of the Center for Research in Computer Vision at the University of Central Florida. Shah says he encountered something similar during mass protests in Barcelona, Spain a couple of years ago. "The government was claiming smaller number than the opposition was claiming," he says. Counting quarrels have popped up during previous events in the U.S. as well. During the Million Man March in 1995, the National Park Service estimated the crowd to be far smaller than the organizers claimed. The controversy led Congress to bar the Park Service from doing head counts on the National Mall. The reason that disagreements frequently arise is that there's no foolproof way to get an accurate head count of a large crowd. Decades ago, crowd estimates were done by people who simply looked at photographs of an event. They would count the number of people in one small area of a photo, then extrapolate that number to estimate the entire field of view. This method was inaccurate, though, in part because some areas might have lots people packed together, while others would have just a few people with large spaces between them. Computers have improved counting somewhat. They don't suffer fatigue the way humans do, and a computer doesn't have any political bias, Shah says. But even computers have limits, says Dinesh Manocha of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They have no problem sorting a few people who aren't packed together. But when you have big crowds, like those seen across the country in the past few days, it gets tricky. "When it's more than 100,000, we just can't estimate right. We don't have an answer today," he says.

STATE

UW-Oshkosh Faculty Are Supporting Their Current Chancellor

The president of the Faculty Senate at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is voicing support for Chancellor Andrew Leavitt, who is being credited with exposing the illegal transfer of school money into a private foundation. The state Department of Justice is suing former Chancellor Richard Wells and a former Vice Chancellor, Thomas Sonnleitner for allegedly illegally transferring \$11 million in university money to the UW-Oshkosh Foundation, a private nonprofit. Wells left the school in 2014. Sonnleitner left in 2016. Karl Loewenstein, president of the UW-Oshkosh Faculty Senate, said his colleagues are concerned and curious about the accusations. Loewenstein credits current Leavitt for exposing the transfers. Loewenstein, an associate professor of history, said, "out of all of this I appreciate the ethical behavior of our new chancellor." "When this circumstance came to light he quickly worked with (the) system to clarify and fix the problem," Loewenstein said. The suit alleges the defendants transferred the money to help fund five development projects including a hotel, sports complex, alumni center and two bio-digesters.



Chippewa County Clinic Closed After DEA Warrant Executed

Police say a clinic in Chippewa County has been shut down by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. An outgoing voicemail message at the Cadott Medical Center on Thursday said it's closed indefinitely. Robert Bell of the DEA's Milwaukee District Office said agency investigators, along with the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation and Chippewa County Sheriff's Department executed what's called a "federal administrative inspection warrant" at the clinic Wednesday. Inspection warrants are conducted at facilities that distribute prescription narcotics. Bell wouldn't comment on what investigators were searching for or why the medical center was closed. Although, he said the DEA and state and local partners are concerned about the opioid epidemic and are fully committed to using all available tools to ensure the health and safety of the public.

Wisconsin Farmers Weigh-In On Ag Secretary Pick

Wisconsin farmers say they're cautiously optimistic about President Donald Trump's nominee for Secretary of Agriculture. This week, the Trump administration named Sonny Perdue as their pick to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the last cabinet position to be filled. The former Georgia governor is a trained veterinarian and has owned several different agribusinesses. Given the differences between Wisconsin and Georgia, Darin Von Ruden from the Wisconsin Farmers Union said he's not sure what to expect from the nominee. "He's from the South, so it might be hard to really understand what he's going to work on or what his main issues will be," said Von Ruden, who owns a dairy farm in Vernon County. And Von Ruden said the new administration's delay in naming an Ag Secretary doesn't send a positive message to farmers. "During the campaign and even since the Election Day there hasn't been a lot of attention paid to agricultural issues. So it's going to be a wait and see attitude I guess," Von Ruden said. But Karen Gefvert from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau said she's pleased with the new administration's choice. "Georgia just like Wisconsin has a variety of agricultural commodities and a really diverse agriculture. So we're hoping that with that diversity and that knowledge, that bodes well for Wisconsin," Gefvert said. Many believe Trump's presidential campaign was a success because of support he received from rural communities. And Gefvert said farmers and other rural citizens will be watching to see if the new president responds. "One of the things that he will really need to show that rural base is that he has their best interest in mind," Gefvert said. "I would think that that would hopefully be common sense to support farmers since they are the backbone of rural America." Both Gefvert and Von Ruden said they hope Perdue will improve price protections for dairy farmers. "We certainly need to take a look at what's going on with the dairy industry and federal milk marketing orders, the margin protection program which has been a complete failure, how can we address those issues and help all the dairy farmers in the state," Von Ruden said. And both farm organizations said they're hopeful the Trump administration will create new opportunities for international trade.

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STEM students, DVMF team up on local project

A collaboration between students at DeForest Area High School and the DeForest Veterans Memorial Foundation is serving to showcase to the greater community some of what the new STEM curriculum and infrastructure at the high school can do. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) is an oft-lauded curriculum designed to ready students for a technologically advancing jobs market. Its implementation in schools has been championed by the Obama Administration to match quality living-wage jobs to workforce demands. Jeff Unger, who heads and co-founded the DeForest Veterans Memorial Foundation (DVMF), approached the district soliciting help for a project in DeForest Veterans Park. The charge was fairly straightforward: create an accurate, scale reference image to help park visitors find specific names on the park's "Walk of Heroes" bricks. To do this, tech-education students Delaney Harding and Austin Fairfield used computer aided design (CAD) software paired with site information and measurements to create the model. "It has been a pleasure for the Foundation to partner with the DeForest Area School District for several Veterans Park educational projects over the past 13 years," Unger said. "This project is just another excellent opportunity for our DeForest area students to play an integral role in making their community a better place, leaving a legacy for generations to come." The finished product will be a three by six-foot weatherproof sign installed at the walk that will help park visitors locate specific bricks on the Walk of Heroes.

SPORTS

Grapplers tussle at home invite

Jackson Hemmer won an individual title and Luke Beyer captured a second place finish to lead DeForest at its home invitational last Saturday at DAHS. Elkhart took the team title with a score of 217 points, followed by River Valley at 195.5 and Evansville at 163.5. DeForest finished in fifth place among the eight-team field with a score of 120. The senior Hemauer, a returning WIAA Division 1 state champion, opened his run at 182 with a quarterfinal bye before he defeated Harford Union's Evan Schmidt by fall in 1:50. Hemauer then dispatched Riley Remington of Elkhorn with a 9-3 decision in their first place match. Hemauer finished the day with 24 team points for the Norskies and moved his season record to 22-0. The tournament's next leading finish for the home team came from Beyer at 106 pounds. Beyer began his day with setback by fall (1:35) to Jared Miller of Evansville. He then came back to secure an 11-3 major decision over Quentin Woyak of Elkhorn and then pinned Matt Straka of Portage in 1:29 to finish with 13 team points. At 145 pounds Austin Rauls picked up a third place finish thanks to three victories on the day. Raul opened with a 45 second pin of Evan Alt of River Valley before he fellow in the semi-finals to Josh Otto of Arrowhead by 12-4 major decision. Rauls bounced back in the consolation semi-final round with a 10-0 major decision against Alan Duncan of West Bend West. He then won the third place match with a 51 second pin of Elkhorn's James Welsh.

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Sauk Prairie holds off DeForest

The DeForest boys basketball team split a pair of Badger North Conference games last week to move into a tie for second place in league standings. After letting a home game which the team appeared to control slip away against Sauk Prairie on Jan. 12, the Norskies bounced back to dispatch Reedsburg 58-42 on Saturday night. DeForest led by just two at the half, but outscored Reedsburg 31-17 in the second to cruise to victory. The Norskies controlled the glass, outrebounding the Beavers 47-29. There were plenty of rebounds to be had as both teams shot under 40 percent from the field for the game. DeForest was just 1-of-9 from behind the arc and shot 38 percent for the game. Reedsburg made good on 4-of-16 three-point attempts, and shot 35 percent from the field. Alex Buchheim led the Norski scoring attack, finishing with 12 points on 5-of-11 shooting. Big man Bryce Duffy recorded a double-double, finishing with 10 points and 13 rebounds—seven of which came on the offensive glass—for the game. Brodie Runez and Jarrett Klein each had eight points, while Austin Westra added six. Jacob Marty, Trey Schroeder, and Bryson Girten finished with four points each, and Mili Aziri hit a pair of free throws to finish with two points. DeForest led by double digits in the first half against Sauk Prairie last week, but were unable to fend off the Eagles in a 43-39 defeat. After falling behind early DeForest went on a 15-2 run and led by four points heading into the half. The second half turned into a seesaw battle as both teams committed turnovers and missed shots late. DeForest was only awarded two free throws (and missed both) in a game that featured a lot of contact around the basket. Sauk Prairie converted on 6-of-7 free throw attempts in the game. Both teams shot matching 47 percent from the field, with DeForest finishing 18-of-38 and Sauk Prairie shooting 16-of-34.

WEATHER

- Tonight: Rain and snow, becoming all snow after 10pm. Low around 33. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.
- Wednesday: Snow, possibly mixed with rain. High near 35. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.
- Wednesday Night: Snow likely before 2am, then a chance of snow and freezing rain. Cloudy, with a low around 27. Northwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.
- Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 31. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
- Thursday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 20. West wind around 10 mph.
- Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

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From the Wisconsin State Patrol:

Wisconsin winter weather can be unpredictable and even dangerous. Back in December, while a State Trooper was helping a vehicle disabled in another collision, his car was crashed into by a motorist who failed to exercise caution when passing the crash scene. While the Trooper sustained minor injuries from the passing motorist, others have lost limbs – or even their lives. Wisconsin Law requires motorists to move over and slow down for maintenance vehicles, emergency vehicles, and tow vehicles. Be mindful when out on the roadways. It's the law. It's the right thing to do.