



INTERNATIONAL

Venezuelan President Maduro Begins Second Term, As Millions Leave The Country

Nicolas Maduro has been sworn in as president of Venezuela, taking power for six more years amid an economic crisis that has caused an outpouring of migrants from the country. The socialist successor to Hugo Chavez won re-election to a second term last May, in a contest that was denounced as a sham by the United States, Canada and a dozen Latin American nations. Maduro was sworn in by the nation's supreme court, cheered on by officials and flag-waving children. Outside the court's chambers, a noticeable increase in security presence marked the quiet streets of Caracas early on morning of the inauguration. By mid-morning, a crowd of supporters lined the street leading up to the site of the inauguration, according to freelance journalist Mariana Zuniga. "Some of [the supporters] were there because they truly supported President Maduro," Zuniga said. But she says others were obliged to attend because they were government employees. "In Venezuela it's not uncommon that state workers are obliged to go to these rallies or vote in elections," she says. In his speech, Maduro emphasized the legitimacy of his government and urged other Latin American countries to acknowledge his second term. U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said on Thursday the United States will not recognize the "illegitimate" inauguration. "We will continue to increase pressure on the corrupt regime, support the democratic National Assembly, and call for democracy and freedom in Venezuela," Bolton tweeted. The Trump administration imposed sanctions on former Venezuelan government officials earlier in the week, citing corruption in Maduro's administration. Last year the U.S. sanctioned Venezuela's gold sector, which Maduro has turned to for revenue as oil production has fallen.

Myanmar Court Rejects Appeal Of 2 Imprisoned Reuters Journalists

A court in Myanmar has upheld the convictions of two Reuters journalists serving seven-year prison sentences in a case that has drawn international criticism and cast doubt on the state of democracy in the country. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were found guilty last fall of violating the Myanmar's colonial-era Official Secrets Act. They were in Myanmar to investigate a massacre of 10 Rohingya men amid a military crackdown on the country's Muslim minority. On Friday, Yangon High Court Judge Aung Naing called the seven-year term "a suitable punishment," Michael Sullivan reports for NPR from neighboring Thailand. Defense lawyers had argued last month that the courts failed to prove the journalists intended to harm national security and wrongly placed the burden of proof on the defendants. Reuters Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler released a statement Friday calling the decision "yet another injustice" against the two men, who have been held for over a year. "They remain behind bars for one reason: those in power sought to silence the truth," Adler wrote. "Reporting is not a crime, and until Myanmar rights this terrible wrong, the press in Myanmar is not free, and Myanmar's commitment to rule of law and democracy remains in doubt." The journalists can still appeal their convictions to Myanmar's Supreme Court. The U.S. State Department denounced Friday's decision and called for the release of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo.



Canada Grants Asylum To Saudi Woman Who Fled Her Family

Canada has granted asylum to the 18-year-old Saudi woman who barricaded herself in a Bangkok hotel room after escaping what she called abuse and oppression by family members. "The UNHCR has made a request of Canada that we accept Ms. Alqunun as a refugee, and we have accepted the U.N.'s request that we grant her asylum," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday, referring to the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun has boarded a plane in Bangkok and was expected to fly to Canada, Thai immigration police said. Australia had said it was considering whether to offer her asylum, but a UNHCR spokesman hinted in an email to NPR that Ottawa moved more quickly. "When referring cases with specific vulnerabilities who need immediate resettlement, we attach great importance to the speed at which countries consider and process cases," Babar Baloch wrote. Alqunun had been on vacation with her family in Kuwait earlier this month when she ran away and took a flight to Bangkok. She landed Saturday and planned to fly from there to Australia. In Bangkok, Thai agents stopped Alqunun at the airport and seized her passport. Alqunun hid in a transit lounge hotel room and began tweeting in Arabic about her plight. "I'm the girl who ran away to Thailand. I'm now in real danger because the Saudi embassy is trying to force me to return," she wrote in her first tweet. Egyptian-American activist Mona Eltahawy translated the tweets into English, and within days, Alqunun gathered thousands of followers. She said she suffered physical abuse at the hands of family members and alleged they had tried to marry her off against her will. Alqunun's family so far hasn't commented publicly on the accusations.

NATIONAL

Where Does Illegal Immigration Mostly Occur? Here's What The Data Tell Us

Most undocumented immigrants didn't enter this country through Tijuana, where news cameras have captured images of thousands of immigrants seeking refuge during recent months. And they didn't enter near the border town of McAllen, Texas, which the president visited Thursday during the 20th day of a partial government shutdown fought over constructing additional barriers on the Southern border. When it comes to people in the country without proper documentation, the majority of them didn't cross the Mexican border at all. Most of them came to the United States legally — but then don't leave. About 700,000 travelers to the United States overstayed their visas in fiscal 2017, the most recent year for which the Department of Homeland Security has published figures. DHS estimated that more than 600,000 of those travelers were still in the U.S. During that same year, there were just 300,000 apprehensions along the Southern border, according to Customs and Border Protection — the lowest number since 1971. Visa overstays have outnumbered people who enter the country illegally at the Southern border every year since 2007, according to a report by the Center for Migration Studies. The report's authors estimate that the number of total visa overstays was 600,000 more than the total number of border crossers and that in 2014, visa overstays accounted for two-thirds of all new undocumented immigrants.



America's farmers 'won't gain back everything' they've lost in Trump's trade war

A cease-fire between the US and China sparked hopes that the world's largest economies can scrap protectionist policies. But for some farmers, damage from tariffs will outlast the trade war. In a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit, President Donald Trump agreed to put off plans to more than double the rate on most tariffs to 25%. With China agreeing to buy more agricultural goods from the US — though the amount wasn't specified — Trump quickly hailed the agreement as a victory for American farmers. Beijing has sought to reduce dependence on American farms as it retaliates against his administration, which imposed a flurry of tariffs on China in attempt to force change to trade practices seen as unfair. While orders from China may pick back up if tariff levels were lowered, it isn't clear to what extent. Trade relationships have shifted. American crops have rotted. Some farmers may not be able to get back customers they lost. To avoid a 25% tax on shipments from American soybean growers, for example, the Chinese have turned to other major producers like Brazil. Soybean exports from the US to China fell 94% through mid-October compared with last year's harvest. Chad E. Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University, estimates soybean farmers could recover around half of market share over the next year if tariffs were lifted immediately. In the long run, he said that could increase to about three quarters. "We won't gain back everything we lost," Hart said. "We sort of lost our window of opportunity in the Chinese market, at least for this growing season. Once you've established trade flow and get that shipping all worked out, it's hard to want to move away from that."

Los Angeles Teachers Strike For Smaller Classes, More Nurses And Librarians

Los Angeles public school teachers went on strike, a result of failed negotiations between the teachers union and school district. "We are more convinced than ever that the district won't move without a strike," declared union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. UTLA has more than 30,000 members, including teachers, librarians, school nurses and counselors. The last time the city saw a teacher strike was nearly 30 years ago. The district says schools will remain open for the same hours during the strike, with the same before- and after-school programs. It has also said that student learning will still take place in schools staffed by administrators, volunteers and 400 newly hired substitute teachers. Negotiations with the LA Unified School District started in early 2017, and union members have been working without a contract for more than a year. LAUSD is the second largest school district in the nation, and the strike will affect about 480,000 students. The district and the union are close on teacher salaries, but educators and union leaders say the strike is about more than paychecks. "It's about the conditions that the kids are learning in," says Scout Wodehouse, a drama teacher at Orthopaedic Hospital Medical Magnet High School. On Thursday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a proposed budget that includes more funding for public education. The next day, LAUSD presented a new offer that put more money toward the union's demands — but union leaders said the offer wasn't enough. They want smaller class sizes, more counselors and librarians, and a full-time nurse in every school. "If they want a strike, they'll have a strike," said LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner at a Friday press conference after



unveiling the district's new offer. "We're doing everything we can to avoid it. We don't want it because we know the harm it will cause." "This is not an easy decision for us," says Jesenia Chavez, a Spanish teacher at UCLA Community School in the Koreatown neighborhood. She grew up in southeast Los Angeles; some of her students are immigrants, and many are low-income. She says, "Public education for me was a space of transformation, a place for opportunity. And that's why I'm striking."

STATE

Wisconsin Lost Record-Breaking Percent of Dairy Farms In 2018

Wisconsin lost 638 dairy farms in 2018, according to the latest data from the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. That's a 7.25% decline in the number of registered dairy herds, the biggest drop since records started in 2004. Bob Cropp, professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said Wisconsin's dairy farmers have had it tough. "We've gone through four years of very disturbing low milk prices for dairy farmers and it's finally taken a hold," Cropp said. "It's not only occurring in Wisconsin. We're getting reports from some other states like Iowa and others that are telling the same thing." Cropp said 2018 will likely have the lowest average milk price since the market fell in 2015. Shelly Mayer, executive director of Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, said the decline in farms has an impact on more than just the agriculture industry. "That has an impact on the whole community around you," Mayer said. "Your local feed mill, your accountant, the people you buy gas from and where you're spending your dollar in your community, there are fewer dollars so other businesses feel the impact as well." Mayer said part of the decline is likely from natural retirements and consolidation within the industry. "As a state, the citizens have benefited from having ... a raw commodity that's made here, manufactured here, sold from here and all the dollars come back. And other states want that, so there's competition for our dairy families, our dairy infrastructure and our dairy processing." Mayer said. Cropp said prices could improve in 2019 if milk production continues to slow and trade improves. But he said most dairy experts expect the number of dairy herds to continue to decline.

Kimberly-Clark Notifies State It Will Close Neenah Plant By May 31

Kimberly-Clark Corp. has notified Gov. Tony Evers' administration that it will close its plant in Neenah by May 31. The state Department of Workforce Development announced Thursday that the paper products giant had provided the workforce reduction notice. The plant's closure was first announced a year ago. Kimberly-Clark also initially said it planned to close a larger facility that employs about 400 people in nearby Fox Crossing, but decided to keep it open after then-Gov. Scott Walker's administration executed a \$28 million deal to save it. According to Kimberly-Clark, 74 workers will lose their jobs at the Neenah nonwovens plant between March 15 and March 29, with the rest eliminated by the end of May. About 100 people work at the plant.



Dairyland Power, Minnesota Power Seek Permits For Superior Natural Gas Plant

La Crosse-based Dairyland Power Cooperative and Minnesota Power began seeking permits from Wisconsin regulators this week for plans to build a \$700-million natural gas power plant in Superior. An application was submitted on Tuesday to the Public Service Commission, which will evaluate the project. The Nemadji Trail Energy Center facility is expected to provide as much as 625 megawatts of power when the utility providers are unable to draw from renewable sources like wind and solar, according to Deb Mirasola with Dairyland Power Cooperative. "This project will support our renewable energies with the addition of wind and solar and help us (meet) that growing demand by balancing out that power when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing," she said. Minnesota Power has set a goal to provide 44% of its power from renewable resources by 2025. Mirasola said Dairyland Power hasn't set an exact goal, but it's working toward roughly 25% by 2025. The Nemadji Trail Energy Center would be jointly owned by the two utility providers. Minnesota regulators signed off on the proposal last fall after an administrative law judge said last summer that Minnesota Power didn't demonstrate the project is needed. The proposal received widespread opposition from steel and paper industries in Minnesota, as well as clean energy groups. Katie Nekola, staff attorney with Clean Wisconsin, said they're also opposed to the project because it would result in "millions of tons of carbon per year, for the next 40-50 years. We are well past the point when we can afford to add more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, especially now that renewable energy is cheaper and more available than ever." However, Julie Pierce, vice president of strategy and planning with Minnesota Power, said the project represents the most efficient way to advance the transition to renewable energy: "Natural gas, especially the state-of-the-art modern facility that we're building, is the most efficient and cost-effective plant for providing the reliability that is needed on the electric system when we don't have enough renewable generation or variable generation to serve our customers."

Nearly 300 Layoffs Coming To Rhinelander

The city of Rhinelander learned this week that one of its largest employers will largely shut down in February, leaving nearly 300 people without jobs. The national pet retailer Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. announced it would shut down operations at Drs. Foster and Smith, which Petco acquired in 2015. Drs. Foster and Smith is a pet supply and pharmaceutical company built by local veterinarians in the 1980s. "It supported our city, our workers, our people for quite a while with great jobs," said Rhinelander Mayor Christopher Frederickson. "One of the civic prides that we have is our employees work very hard. We have a great workforce here in the north woods, and the company was built on that excellence." In letters to employees and Rhinelander officials, Petco said it would lay off 289 Drs. Foster and Smith employees, none of whom are represented by a union. Petco plans to keep its own business, Live Aquaria, which is based in Rhinelander and employs 59 people, running. Frederickson said the announcement has hit the tight-knit community hard. "There's a fair amount of reassurance both ways trying to happen, but with uncertainty," he said. "They want answers, so we're working on that."



SPORTS

Program Launches Skate Drive For Superior Rinks

The City of Superior and Superior/Douglas County Adult Leadership program paired up to launch the Skates for Superior program. The program seeks to provide free skating equipment to the public at the city's outdoor skating rinks. Linda Cadotte, director of parks, recreation and forestry, said the Superior/ Douglas County Adult Leadership program wants to remove barriers for people who want to get out on the ice. Cadotte said they are hoping to have 25 skates at the shacks for people to sign up and borrow. She said fewer people have been using the city's skating rinks. "I think a big part of that is weather-organized sports," she said. "Obviously, kids have different interests than going to play pickup games after school versus going to play computer games." Superior High School student Trevor Dalbec is working with the program for his senior project. Dalbec said he's been playing hockey for around 15 years and wanted to give back to the community. "I grew up in east end, and I used to go to the red barn. I remember some buddies that they didn't have skates," he said. "Just like putting that into memory and perspective, having this drive will allow those type of kids to put on a pair of skates and skate with their buddies no matter what." Dalbec said their goal is to collect as many skates as possible. He said they're also looking for donations of helmets, sticks, and other skating equipment. The donation bins can be found at Wessman Arena, Superior Ice Arena, and Superior High School.

Mack Keryluk's scoring punch sends Verona past Sun Prairie

Mack Keryluk just has that knack. Keryluk, a 5-foot-11, 160-pound junior forward for the Verona boys hockey team, scored two more goals Saturday night. As a result, the Wildcats took a 5-1 victory over Sun Prairie in a showdown for first place in the Big Eight Conference at Verona Ice Arena. Keryluk, who entered the game tied for fourth in the state in goals, scored twice as the Wildcats took a 2-0 lead after two periods. And then, he added assists on Cale Rufenacht's two goals during Verona's three-goal third period. "He's a dynamic offensive high school hockey player," Verona coach Joel Marshall said. "He has that scoring knack for the puck. "He's a great playmaker, as well. His skill sets are as good as anybody on any of the teams in our area. He's our leading scorer for a reason. He puts the pressure on the other team." With the victory, Verona (14-2-2 overall, 10-0-0 Big Eight) opened a two-game lead over Sun Prairie (12-3-0, 8-2-0) in the conference standings. The Wildcats, ranked third in the state coaches' poll, have dealt the fifth-ranked Cardinals both of their two conference losses. "We are going to need a lot of help," Sun Prairie coach Chris Finkler said about the league race. "It's going to be tough for teams to beat Verona. I guess it is theirs to lose." The Wildcats killed off three penalties in the first period and scored a short-handed goal on the first Sun Prairie power-play opportunity.



WEATHER

- **Tonight:** Freezing drizzle, mainly before 11pm. Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 24. Southwest wind 3 to 5 mph.
- **Tuesday:** A slight chance of freezing drizzle before 7am. Patchy fog before 1pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 34. Light southwest wind increasing to 6 to 11 mph in the morning.
- **Tuesday Night:** A slight chance of snow between 7pm and 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Southwest wind 8 to 10 mph becoming north after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
- **Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 31. North wind 6 to 9 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
- **Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. East wind around 7 mph.
- **Thursday:** A slight chance of snow between 7am and 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 31. Southeast wind 5 to 7 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
- **Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. Northwest wind around 8 mph.
- **Friday:** A 50 percent chance of snow after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 24. Northeast wind 7 to 9 mph.
- **Friday Night:** Snow likely, mainly after 7pm. Cloudy, with a low around 16. Northeast wind 9 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

COMMERCIALS

Many medicines used to treat cold and flu contain acetaminophen, a pain reliever and fever reducer found in hundreds of over-the-counter and prescription medicines. But, taking too much or taking more than one medication containing acetaminophen per day can damage your liver, so always read the label and don't take acetaminophen if you drink three or more alcoholic drinks a day. To learn more, visit [FDA dot gov](http://FDA.gov), slash OTC pain info. A message from the US Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration.

Celebrate Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday with his musical *On the Town* at Capital City Theatre at the Overture Center in Madison, in collaboration with Madison Ballet. *On the Town* is an energetic wartime musical set in 1944 about three sailors on a leave in New York. With brash, spectacular, and slightly bittersweet abandon, *On the Town* is a tale about seizing the day and living life to its fullest. Performances are limited, May 30th through June 2nd. Visit [overture dot org](http://overture.org) for more information and to purchase tickets. That's [overture dot org](http://overture.org).