



By DAMON WINTER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Visibility was low at the lake in Central Park in New York, which was hit with heavy snow and high winds on Thursday. Eight inches fell at the park, the mayor said.

Blizzard Roars As the Prelude To a Big Freeze

By BENJAMIN MUELLER

After battering the South and whipping up the Mid-Atlantic coast, a blizzard propelled by hurricane-strength winds lashed the Northeast on Thursday, grounding flights, shuttering schools, flooding buildings and sending squalls of snow into the tunnels of New York City's subway system.

In downtown Boston, a three-foot tidal surge flooded a subway station and turned a popular tourist area into a slushy tundra. In New York, the two major airports stopped flights and cars slid off glazed roads. And in Virginia, more than 40,000 residents and businesses lost power.

The storm, called a "bomb cyclone" by some meteorologists for how quickly the barometric pressure fell, created winds that topped 75 miles per hour in Nantucket and 65 miles per hour on Long Island, tearing the roof off a gas station and making some crossings impassable for trucks.

As treacherous as it was, elected officials warned that the storm was a prelude to worse misery, with days of subzero wind chills ahead that could freeze snowy roads and put homeless people in grave danger.

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio said it could feel like minus-20 degrees on Friday and Saturday nights. There were eight inches of snow in Central Park and more than nine inches coating sections of Queens.

Continued on Page A22

Trump Moves To Open Coasts For Oil Drilling

By LISA FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said Thursday it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, giving energy companies access to leases off California for the first time in decades and opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic and along the Eastern Seaboard.

The proposal lifts a ban on such drilling imposed by President Barack Obama near the end of his term and would deal a serious blow to his environmental legacy. It would also signal that the Trump administration is not done unraveling environmental restrictions in an effort to promote energy production.

While the plan puts the administration squarely on the side of the energy industry and against environmental groups, it also puts the White House at odds with a number of coastal states that oppose offshore drilling. Some of those states are led by Republicans, like Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, where the tourism industry was hit hard by the Deepwater Horizon rig disaster in 2010 that killed 11 people and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Governor Scott vowed on Thursday to protect his state's coast from drilling, saying he would raise the issue with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

"I have asked to immediately

Continued on Page A13

Justice Dept. Shift Threatens Legal Marijuana

By CHARLIE SAVAGE and JACK HEALY

WASHINGTON — The viability of the multibillion-dollar marijuana legalization movement was thrown into new doubt on Thursday when the Trump administration freed prosecutors to more aggressively enforce federal laws against the drug in states that have decriminalized its production and sale, most recently California.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, long a vocal opponent of the legalization of marijuana, rescinded an Obama-era policy that discouraged federal prosecutors in most cases from bringing charges wherever the drug is legal under state laws.

"It is the mission of the Department of Justice to enforce the laws of the United States, and the previous issuance of guidance undermines the rule of law," he said in a statement. In his memo to United

Allowing Federal Laws to Be Enforced More Aggressively

States attorneys, he called the earlier policy "unnecessary" and pointed to federal laws that "reflect Congress's determination that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that marijuana activity is a serious crime."

Democrats and some Republicans condemned the move. Senator Cory Gardner, Republican of Colorado, threatened to retaliate by holding up Justice Department appointments that required Senate approval. Gavin Newsom, the Democratic lieutenant governor of California, vowed to encourage cooperation among states that have legalized marijuana.

"This brings states together around issues of freedom, individ-

ual liberty, states' rights," he said in an interview, "all of the principles that transcend red and blue."

California began allowing the sale of recreational marijuana on Monday, joining Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Massachusetts and possibly Maine are expected to begin sales this year. In all, 29 states and the District of Columbia have at least partly legalized the substance — including for medicinal use — though it remains illegal under federal law.

The move seemed certain to increase the confusion surrounding whether it is legal to sell, buy or possess marijuana in those parts of the United States where state and federal law conflict. Federal law has long prohibited those activities.

In 2013, after voters in Colorado and Washington State voted to decriminalize marijuana for recreational use, the Justice Department

Continued on Page A15



By MATTHEW SUMNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A marijuana dispensary in Oakland, Calif. The state began allowing recreational sales on Monday.

Voter Fraud Commission Started By a Tweet Ends With a Whimper

By MICHAEL WINES and MAGGIE HABERMAN

WASHINGTON — The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, which was disbanded this week by the White House, grew out of a presidential tweet.

"I will be asking for a major investigation into VOTER FRAUD," President Trump wrote on Jan. 25, just days after his inauguration, repeating a claim he had made that millions of illegal immigrants had voted improperly in the last presidential election and swung the popular vote in Hillary Clinton's favor.

On Wednesday the president

closed the inquiry, which after eight months of efforts had found no evidence of electoral fraud and had been widely discredited and enmeshed in controversy after controversy. Its epitaph too was marked by a follow-up missive typed out on Thursday morning by @realDonaldTrump.

"System is rigged," Mr. Trump wrote, blaming Democratic obstructionism for preventing the commission from getting to the bottom of his claim. Others paint a different picture: Riven by partisan politics, ensnared in lawsuits

Continued on Page A20

The Dow Hits 25,000: The Party Will End One Day, but When?

In the midst of a long-running bull market that is now reaching momentous proportions, most investors may well have forgotten that just two years ago, during the first five trading days of 2016, the market dropped 6 percent. It was the worst five-day

start to a year ever and supposedly a harbinger of bad times.

We know where that ended. Spurred by Donald Trump's election that November, market indexes surged to record levels and went far higher this year. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index gained 19 percent in 2017, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 25 percent, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq com-

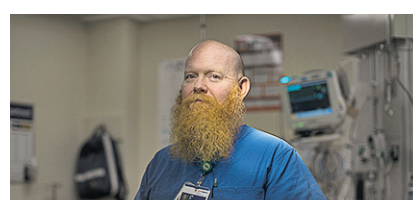
posite leapt 28 percent.

There wasn't a single day last year when the S.&P. 500 fluctuated more than 2 percent, a level of low volatility unseen since the mid-1960s, according to James Stack, a market historian and president of InvesTech Research.

In a rare convergence, investor euphoria spread across the globe. A measure of market performance, the MSCI All Coun-

try World Index, gained 22.7 percent last year, closing at a record high. And so far this year, stocks have continued their advance. On Thursday, the Dow broke the 25,000 barrier for the first time, and technology stocks are soaring to new highs. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are adding a whiff of bubblelike mania.

Continued on Page A13



BUSINESS DAY B1-6

Men at Work, in Nursing

More and more men are finding that nursing is a reliable, well-paying job in tough economic times. PAGE B1

Iranian Hackers' Rising Threat

An inner glimpse at Iranian hackers shows they have matured and moved on to cyberespionage. PAGE B3

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Tall Hurdles Loom for Koreans

The opening for talks could be small, because only major North Korean concessions would satisfy South Korea's key ally, the United States. PAGE A6

Israeli Offer: Ticket Out or Jail

Tens of thousands of Africans have been asked to leave Israel with a plane ticket and \$3,500, or go to jail. PAGE A10

NATIONAL A12-20

G.O.P. Wins in Virginia

A slip of paper is drawn to break a tied race, and the House of Delegates stays narrowly in Republican hands. PAGE A12

NEW YORK A21-23

Tax Revenue Won't Be Easy

A barrage of practical questions awaits Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's idea for a workaround to ease New York's pain from the federal tax plan. PAGE A21

OBITUARIES A24-25

Risk-Taking Former Governor

Brendan T. Byrne, a Democrat who led New Jersey from 1974 to 1982, staked his political career on creating the state's first income tax. He was 93. PAGE A24

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A26-27

David Brooks

PAGE A27



WEEKEND C1-28

Paying Homage Through Glass

Inspired by Harriet Tubman, Joyce J. Scott's glass-and-beads show touches on racism and misogyny. PAGE C21

Some Met Visitors Must Pay

The Met is partly forgoing its "suggested" admission fee and is requiring non-New Yorkers to pay \$25. PAGE C21

To Our Readers

On Jan. 8, the Monday-Saturday newsstand price of The Times will increase from \$2.50 to \$3.00. The Sunday newsstand price will be unchanged.

SPORTSFRIDAY B7-10

Funky Sounds of a Comeback

The star turns of Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid have Philadelphia 76ers fans cheering again — and strutting to the 1975 disco-inspired victory anthem "Here Come the Sixers." PAGE B7

