BUSBY, cont. from p. 1

McNally was one of the lucky students on his floor, as the puddle had stopped growing shortly before reaching the door of his room. His belongings were unimpacted, and he was able to rest before later leaving again for his 10:10 a.m. class.

While McNally was able to return to normal life soon after, he said he didn't receive much communication from the university about the situation.

"We learned it was a pipe burst a couple hours after it happened, and that I think people on our floor were just told to evacuate for the time being," McNally said. "It was scary, I guess, but it wasn't 'evacuate,' evacuate. It was just 'get out of the area for the time being' or whatever. And I think, later that week, we got emails concerning people coming in to inspect the walls and whatever for water."

In her email, Reitz noted that frozen pipes bursting isn't unheard of. She said students can help prevent future incidents by staying aware.

"Unfortunately, buildings on campus can be vulnerable to frozen pipes during sub-zero temperatures just as [it] occurs in homes, businesses, and other locations," Reitz said. "We ask students to help by being our eyes and ears in their buildings, placing work orders when they first notice a leak or a heating issue, and to keep windows closed and secured."

LAMONT, cont. from p. 1

State Sen. Ryan Fazio, a Republican who is seeking his party's gubernatorial nomination, said the governor's budget lacked any long-term strategy to reduce costs or grow the economy.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, a Democrat, took a more measured stance, telling reporters he was glad the conversation had shifted toward returning money to taxpayers, though he left open the question of exactly how that should happen.

Legislators from both parties are pushing competing ideas, the CT Mirror reports. Many House and Senate Democrats favor a permanent child tax credit providing up to $600 per child for lower- and middle-income families. House Republicans want to expand a property tax credit for the middle class, while Senate Republicans have proposed a broader $1.5 billion package that would cut income tax rates and reduce the state's payroll tax.

The General Assembly must weigh all of these options before the legislative session ends on May 6, 2026.

NVIDIA LEADS THE US STOCK MARKET HIGHER



Trader William Lawrence works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, in New York.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AP PHOTO

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market ticked higher on Wednesday, led by its most influential stock, Nvidia.

The S&P 500 rose 0.6% and pulled a bit closer to its all-time high set late last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 129 points, or 0.3%, and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.8%.

Nvidia helped lift the market and climbed 1.6% after Meta Platforms announced a long-term partnership where it will use millions of chips and other equipment from Nvidia for its artificial-intelligence data centers.

"No one deploys AI at Meta's scale," Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said. Because his company is the most valuable on Wall Street, Nvidia's stock was the single most powerful force pulling the S&P 500 higher.

That performance demonstrated the upside of AI development for the U.S. stock market. But investors have also focused on the potential downsides recently, which has led to sharp swings for Wall Street. Worries are rising, for example, about how much companies like Meta are spending on AI and whether they can make back their huge investments through higher profits and productivity in the future.

Meta's stock fell as much as 1.7% before recovering and rising 0.6%.

Another worry is that if AI succeeds in creating tools to do complicated tasks more cheaply, companies in industries as far flung as software and legal services and trucking logistics could see their businesses get undercut. That has pushed investors to suddenly and aggressively punish stocks of companies seen as under threat, and analysts have likened it to a "shoot first-ask questions later" mentality.

Several profit reports from companies helped to lift stocks Wednesday. They continued what's been a strong reporting season for the big U.S. companies in the S&P 500.

Cadence Design Systems climbed 7.6% after delivering both profit and revenue for the latest quarter that topped analysts' expectations. CEO Anirudh Devgan credited what he called "the essential nature of Cadence's engineering software," even as investors worry about AI threatening to remake the industry.

Analog Devices rose 2.6% after likewise topping analysts' estimates for profit and revenue. The chip company said it saw record orders during the quarter for its data center business.

Outside of earnings reports, Moderna jumped 6.1% after saying regulators at the Food and Drug Administration will review its flu vaccine candidate after earlier refusing to consider it.

They helped offset a 6.8% drop for Palo Alto Networks. The cybersecurity company reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected, but it gave profit forecasts for the current quarter and the remainder of its fiscal year that fell short of their estimates.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 38.09 points to 6,881.31. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 129.47 to 49,662.66, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 175.25 to 22,753.63.

In the bond market, Treasury yields ticked higher following reports on the U.S. economy that came in better than economists expected. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.08% from 4.05% late Tuesday.

One report said that industrial production improved last month by more than economists expected. Another said orders for computers, fabricated metal products and other long-lasting manufactured goods rose more in December than economists expected, when not including airplanes and other transportation equipment. A third report said homebuilders broke ground on more new homes in December than expected.

Such strong data could encourage the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates steady.

The Fed has put its cuts to interest rates on hold, but many on Wall Street expect it to resume later this year. The widespread forecast is that will come during the summer, after a new chair is scheduled to step in atop the Fed.

Minutes released Wednesday from the Fed's last meeting, though, showed many officials want to see inflation fall further before they would support additional interest rate cuts this year.

Lower rates can give a boost to the economy and prices for investments, but that comes at the cost of potentially worsening inflation.

In stock markets abroad, London's FTSE 100 climbed 1.2% after the latest update on U.K. inflation bolstered expectations that the Bank of England may soon cut interest rates.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1% as Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was reappointed by the parliament following a landslide victory for her ruling Liberal Democrats in a Feb. 8 election. The expectation is that she will push through policies to help the economy and markets.

Elsewhere in Asia, several markets were closed for the Lunar New Year holiday.

The Daily Campus

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Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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