

## **STATE-BY-STATE; News from across the USA**

USA TODAY

December 29, 2015 Tuesday

FIRST EDITION

Copyright 2015 Gannett Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4A

**Length:** 2079 words

### **Body**

---

**Alabama Montgomery:** Seven trainees in the Fire and Rescue Department were kicked out of the program after allegedly cheating during a test. Names were not released.

**Alaska Anchorage:** Scientists discovered a massive landslide in an uninhabited area. The slide Oct. 17 unleashed 200 million tons of rock down the Taan Fiord valley onto Tyndall Glacier in Icy Bay.

**Arizona Phoenix:** The Arizona Republic profiled Laura Tohe, an English professor at Arizona State University, who was named the Navajo Nation's second poet laureate. She is the only tribal poet laureate in the country.

**Arkansas Mountain Home:** A reward of \$5,365 was offered for information leading to the person involved in a fatal hit-and-run more than a month ago.

**California Monterey:** The Monterey Bay Aquarium announced the birth of a wild sea otter. The aquarium posted online photos of the fuzzy brown pup playing with mom.

**Colorado Aurora:** Phi Pham, 33, was accused of first-degree murder after a man was shot and killed Christmas night, KUSA-TV reported.

**Connecticut New Haven:** Police investigated the disappearance of toys and coats meant for underprivileged children from a community non-profit group that shares a building also used as a police substation, the New Haven Register reported.

**Delaware Minquidale:** Man's best friend scared away two home invaders who kicked open the front door of a residence. When they entered the home, a 36-year-old woman released the family dog from its cage, and the intruders fled, The (Wilmington) Journal News reported.

**District of Columbia:** Toy drones -- a hot-selling Christmas gift -- interfere with military operations at several bases across the country, The Washington Post reported. Cmdr. William Marks, a Navy spokesman at the Pentagon, said Navy pilots or air-traffic controllers at U.S. bases have reported close calls or encounters with unauthorized drones 12 times in the past three months.

**Florida Fort Myers:** A 20-hour high-speed boat chase that spanned more than 300 nautical miles and resembled a James Bond movie ended about 65 miles west of Cuba when three suspects gave up and the stolen \$350,000 boat was recovered, The News-Press reported.

## STATE-BY-STATE; News from across the USA

Georgia Buford: A bank robber allegedly gave a teller a note that demanded cash and wished the teller a "Merry Christmas." According to Gwinnett County police, the suspect had a beard and wore a blue cap, blue jeans, black hoodie and white gloves.

Hawaii Honolulu: The state Supreme Court upheld a decision by a commission to add nearly 12,000 homes on farmland on Oahu's Ewa Plain.

Idaho Boise: The Suicide Prevention Hotline received a \$300,000 grant that will go toward launching the state's first online emotional support program, KTVB-TV reported.

Illinois Chicago: Online fantasy sports contests offered by FanDuel and DraftKings "clearly constitute gambling" and are illegal, state Attorney General Lisa Madigan said in a legal opinion, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Indiana Indianapolis: Charles Knights told police he'd heard news reports that horses were stuck in floodwaters and wanted to help. He was arrested after he ignored commands from authorities to get out of the water as the 13 horses were led to dry land, The Indianapolis Star reported.

Iowa Grinnell: Three years after it opened, the Transportation Museum has hit a dead end, losing its building to foreclosure and leaving the city on the hook to repay more than \$4 million in federal aid for the project, The Des Moines Register reported.

Kansas Lawrence: The Public Library received a gift of nearly \$230,000 from the estate of a former librarian, the Lawrence Journal-World reported. The gift from the estate of Ann Hyde is the largest single contribution the library has ever received.

Kentucky Louisville: A parental escort policy could prevent situations like last week's disturbance at the Mall St. Matthews, where up to 2,000 people, mostly unsupervised juveniles, disrupted the post-holiday shopping weekend, officer Dennis McDonald, a spokesman with the St. Matthews Police Department, told the Courier-Journal.

Louisiana Baton Rouge: About 11,000 invitations have been sent for Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards' swearing-in ceremony set for Jan. 11.

Maine Augusta: The Association of Realtors said home sales jumped more than 22% in November compared with a year ago.

Maryland Crisfield: The non-profit Somerset County Arts Council will broadcast a blend of live and recorded music with talk programs and free syndicated programs on new station WBYC (107.3 FM) in March, The (Salisbury) Daily Times reported.

Massachusetts Greenfield: An 87-year-old man was charged with pointing a handgun at another man's head during a dispute about a woman in a bar, The Recorder reported.

Michigan Detroit: Nearly 200 people gathered around candles in a vigil for Anthony Tolson, 33, a musician who was shot to death in a carjacking, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Minnesota Owatonna: A 61-year-old man died in a rollover crash on an icy highway. James Weinhold was a car salesman at Cornerstone Ford in Elk River.

Mississippi Amory: American Furniture Manufacturing will open a plant to make couches and sleeper sofas, investing \$560,000 and hiring 140 people.

Missouri Independence: The city banned the sale of tobacco products to anyone younger than 21, The Kansas City Star reported.

## STATE-BY-STATE; News from across the USA

Montana Bozeman: Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokeswoman Andrea Jones said the state is moving to shut down Animals of Montana, which rents bears, a Siberian tiger, other large cats and wolves for photography shoots and motion pictures. Alleged violations include holding wild animals in unlocked cages.

Nebraska Omaha: The population grew modestly this year, and it might not be enough to protect all three of the state's U.S. House seats after the 2020 Census.

Nevada Carson City: The Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to move forward with a new rate structure for customers with rooftop solar panels. The three-member commission adopted a proposed order that would reduce by 75% the amount NV Energy pays customers for excess power their solar panels produce and change the flat service rate for customers with solar panels.

New Hampshire Concord: Public hearings have been set for January in five counties where the proposed Northern Pass electrical transmission lines would cross. Eversource wants to run a 192-mile transmission line from Pittsburg to Deerfield, carrying 1,090 megawatts of Canadian hydropower to New England.

New Jersey Lakewood: Authorities investigated the death of Miguel Rivera, 45, who was found lying face-down in the hallway of his Laguna Lane home. He appeared to have been beaten to death, the Asbury Park Press reported.

New Mexico Albuquerque: A police officer resigned after a judge ruled he would stand trial on charges of aggravated battery and tampering with evidence. The charges against Pablo Padilla stem from a traffic stop in April 2014 in which he allegedly kneed a University of New Mexico law school student in the groin.

New York West Harrison: Joseph Lemm, a New York City Police detective killed in Afghanistan by a suicide bomber, will receive a hero's funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan on Wednesday, The (Westchester County) Journal News reported.

North Carolina Raleigh: Michael Landguth, president and CEO of Raleigh-Durham International Airport, said "we're learning a lot" from a technology foul-up that penned 124 drivers at the airport's parking exits for half an hour last month. "We want our customers to know they can get out and get home," Landguth told The News & Observer.

North Dakota Bismarck: Corrections officials investigated an assault that led to a nearly week-long lockdown at the state penitentiary, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

Ohio Hamilton: Recently married in September and short of his 29th birthday next month, firefighter Patrick Wolterman was killed after falling through the floor to a basement while fighting a house fire, the Cincinnati Enquirer reported.

Oklahoma Oklahoma City: Tim Stewart, executive director of the Turnpike Authority, announced his resignation and will take a similar position in Colorado.

Oregon Portland: An elephant named Tusko at the zoo was euthanized. A decades-old leg injury impaired his mobility, KATU-TV reported.

Pennsylvania Penn Hills: Police investigated after a Molotov cocktail was thrown through the window of a home.

Rhode Island Providence: A federal judge approved an agreement requiring the state to fix thousands of storm drains that are polluting rivers, ponds and Narragansett Bay with contaminated runoff. The consent decree also orders the state Department of Transportation to pay a \$315,000 penalty to the federal government for violations of clean water rules.

South Carolina Pickens County: Private company MRR Pickens entered into a preliminary agreement to undertake "a large disposal project" that could dump hundreds of thousands of tons of coal ash in Pickens County, The Greenville News reported.

## STATE-BY-STATE; News from across the USA

**South Dakota Sioux Falls:** The state crime lab will hire an additional forensic scientist to help clear a backlog of untested evidence from sexual assault cases, the Argus Leader reported. Attorney General Marty Jackley, who oversees the state crime lab, approved the new position.

**Tennessee Nashville:** Officials are preparing to launch a \$1 million advertising campaign to encourage adults who dropped out of college to go back and get their degrees, The Tennessean reported. The ads promoting the Reconnect and Complete initiative seek to reach 110,000 Tennesseans who were more than halfway to a degree when they left college.

**Texas Houston:** The Department of State Health Services will not renew its contract with Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast to fund HIV prevention and testing, amounting to almost \$600,000 annually. Since 2014, the clinic has identified 1,182 people with HIV, The Texas Tribune reported.

**Utah Salt Lake City:** The state Department of Transportation launched a system that allows people to use their smartphones to track the location of snowplows in their area. The **Automated Vehicle** Locator system provides locations for more than 500 snowplows on the state's highways and freeways. It does not include county and city snowplow information on local roads. The new system can be accessed through the UDOT website or by using the UDOT Traffic smartphone app.

**Vermont Winooski:** Misery Loves Co., a restaurant, plans to turn its former bakery, MLC Bakeshop, into Incubator - a place where people can host pop-up dinners, cook and eat meals together, throw a party and talk about food, the Burlington Free Press reported.

**Virginia Roanoke:** Chem-Solv, a chemical distribution company, pleaded guilty to federal hazardous waste charges. It agreed to pay a \$1 million criminal fine and \$250,000 to fund environmental community service projects under the plea agreement. The company also agreed to serve five years' probation.

**Washington White Pass:** U.S. 12 over White Pass reopened in both directions. The highway was closed about two weeks ago after rain caused washouts and mudslides.

**West Virginia Marlinton:** The Pocahontas County school system will try to implement new school bus routes on days where classes might have previously been canceled because of snow, The Inter-Mountain reported. The county averaged 11.85 snow days per calendar over the past 15 years.

**Wisconsin Algoma:** Mops made by Algoma Mop Manufacturers made their debut in the movie Joy, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro and Bradley Cooper. The movie is based upon the story of Joy

Mangano, who overcame hardship to become an inventor and home-shopping entrepreneur, building a business dynasty that began with the Miracle Mop in the 1990s. When the film's prop master couldn't find enough of the original Miracle Mops, she contacted the Algoma company,

a subsidiary of East Shore Industries, which employs more than 80 adults with disabilities.

**Wyoming Cheyenne:**

Gov. Mead, a Republican, asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its

new rule regulating emissions from coal-fired power plants. Wyoming is the nation's leading coal-producing state, and state officials are increasingly concerned about falling coal revenue. The state petition claims the final EPA rule is stricter than an earlier draft.

Compiled by Tim Wendel, Nicole Gill and Jonathan Briggs, with Carolyn Cerbin, Linda Dono, Mike Gottschamer, Ben Sheffler and Nichelle Smith. Design by Jeff Harkness. Graphics by Alejandro Gonzalez.

## Graphic

---

graphic

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2015

---

End of Document