

OKC is 1 of 3 possible cities chosen for Google Fiber OKLAHOMA CITY â€”

Oklahoma City is among three cities chosen by Google Fiber for possible partnerships for ultra high-speed Internet service. Gov. Mary Fallin and Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett said Wednesday Google Fiber is exploring a venture that could deliver cable and Internet speeds up to 85 times faster than in most American cities. The other cities being explored are Florida cities Tampa and Jacksonville. Beginning this week, Google will work with Oklahoma City leaders on a plan to explore what it would take to build a new fiber-optic network capable of delivering gigabit speeds throughout the area. Fallin says the project would make Oklahoma City one of the most attractive locations in the nation for high-tech startups. Cornett says city officials have had conversations with Google since 2012. Tulsa-based Samson to sell Bakken assets to pay debts BISMARCK, N.D. â€” Two more energy companies operating in North Dakotaâ€™s Bakken oil patch have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the midst of slumping crude prices. Tulsa-based Samson Resources and Denver-based American Eagle Energy plan to sell off Bakken assets to pay debts, the Bismarck Tribune reported. Samson filed for bankruptcy in mid-September, hoping to clear out more than \$3.25 billion in debt. Company spokesman Brian Maddox said Samson hasnâ€™t yet succeeded in selling acreage. Under a restructuring agreement, lenders own all the reorganized companyâ€™s equity in exchange for at least \$450 million of new capital. â€œThe steps we are taking will allow our company to maximize future opportunities and compete more effectively with significantly less debt on our balance sheet,â€• Samson CEO Randy Limbacher said in a statement. â€œWe fully expect to operate our business as usual throughout this process and to emerge as a financially stronger company.â€• Between June and late September, 10 oil and gas companies filed for bankruptcy. Nineteen have filed for bankruptcy in the past year. Others have agreed to sell shale oil acreage and assets in North Dakota. Bismarck-based MDU Resources Corp. also is trying to sell off its oil and gas exploration subsidiary, Fidelity Exploration and Production Co. North Dakota sweet crude on Tuesday was fetching

about \$36 a barrel â€” about half of what it sold for a year

ago. The number of drilling rigs in North Dakota has plummeted by nearly two-thirds.

Tyson fires two workers after video shows cruelty to chickens Tyson Foods Inc., the

largest U.S. chicken processor, fired two workers after an undercover video released by an

animal-rights group showed mistreatment of birds at a Mississippi slaughterhouse. Six Tyson employees and

the company face criminal counts of animal cruelty after the release of the footage

taken at the plant near Carthage, Mercy for Animals said in an emailed statement

Wednesday. While the group has reportedly submitted a misdemeanor complaint with county officials, to

Tysonâ€™s knowledge, criminal charges havenâ€™t been filed by any government agency, company spokesman C

Mickelson said in an emailed statement. â€œWeâ€™re appalled by the actions shown in this

video and have been investigating a claim of animal mistreatment in this area of

the plant since late last week,â€• Mickelson said. â€œWe believe proper animal handling is

an important moral and ethical obligation.â€• Tyson trains workers to properly handle animals and

theyâ€™re â€œencouraged to report bad behavior,â€• Mickelson said. This is the third undercover investigation

into Tysonâ€™s poultry business by Mercy For Animals since July, according to the group.

Itâ€™s asking the Springdale, Arkansas-based company â€œto implement meaningful animal welfare requirements

and slaughterhouses. Specifically, the group is asking Tyson to introduce new methods of slaughter

that are â€œless cruel,â€• and in which workers never handle live birds. Exposing animal

cruelty through undercover videos has become a contentious issue, with some states banning the

practice through what opponents call â€œag-gag laws.â€• Animal- rights groups argue these films are

the only way to expose wrongdoing, while opponents argue that the filmmakers get jobs

under false pretenses and misrepresent the meat industry. USDA provides \$100M for 5,000 new

ethanol pumps DES MOINES, Iowa â€” The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it is

spending \$100 million to help install nearly 5,000 additional ethanol fuel pumps in 21

states. The agency said Wednesday that matching grants bring the total public-private investment to

\$210 million to increase the availability of the corn-based fuel. The USDA says a

typical gas pump delivers 10 percent ethanol, but the grants will help install pumps that offer higher blends of ethanol for more recently made vehicles. The largest grants are going to Texas, \$17 million for 763 pumps, and Florida, nearly \$16 million for 892 pumps. Iowa, the nation's top corn-producing state, will see \$5 million. Ford recalls 129,000 midsize SUVs to fix fuel leaks DETROIT — Ford is recalling 129,000 midsize SUVs in parts of the U.S. and Canada to fix potential fuel leaks.

The company says the recall covers the 2009 and 2010 Ford Edge and Lincoln MKX. In places where salt is used to clear the roads of snow, the fuel tanks can rust under the reinforcement brackets that hold them to the SUVs.

This can cause a fuel leak or activate the check engine light. A leak could cause a fire. Ford says it doesn't know of any fires caused by

the problem. Dealers will inspect the fuel tanks and repair or replace them at no cost to customers. The recall affects SUVs that are registered or were sold

in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. In Canada, it covers New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. — From staff and wire reports Adam Daigle 918-581-8480

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