



## INTERNATIONAL

### **Blood Avocados No More: Mexican Farm Town Says It's Kicked Out Cartels**

Avocados have rapidly become a staple in many U.S. diets, with Americans consuming on average 7 pounds a year. To satisfy that surging popularity, imports from Mexico have skyrocketed. That's made a lot of farmers rich — but it's also drawn the attention of organized crime gangs. One town in Mexico has been able to fight off the gangs and keep the peace, and wealth, at home. It's Tancitaro, a small farming town of about 30,000 in western Michoacan state. Super Bowl Sunday is a big deal here. But not because of the sport. "We know when it's Super Bowl time," says Hugo Naranjo, the manager at Frutas Finas packing plant. "Our production jumps." Since last month the plant has been packing 40-50 percent more avocados than normal. "We produce more avocados here than anywhere else," boasts Tancitaro's mayor, Arturo Olivera Gutiérrez. He estimates the town's exports top \$1 million a day. "That's given us a lot of work," he says. "And I'm sure you've felt it, Tancitaro is a tranquil place," he adds. That's not something a lot of mayors in Michoacan can say. The state, long a key center for some of Mexico's most vicious organized crime gangs, was just slapped with the U.S. State Department's highest advisory warning travelers to not go there. Mayor Olivera says his town was once very dangerous. As avocado production grew, drug cartels moved in realizing they could make good money extorting growers and packers. Two of the country's powerful narco gangs even got their start forcing avocado farms to pay up, according to a report from the Mexican attorney general's office. "They were the ones that made the rules and enforced them," Olivera says. Farmers and packers had to pay taxes to the gangs. If someone didn't comply, Olivera says dead bodies would be put on display for everyone to see, with warning notes attached. In late 2013, Tancitaro's residents said they had enough. And like many towns throughout Michoacan, they took up arms, forming self-defense groups to drive the gangs out. Tancitaro went a step further and built a solid police force.

**A discount on Nutella has led to violent scenes in a chain of French supermarkets,** as shoppers jostled to grab a bargain on the sweet spread. Intermarché supermarkets offered a 70% discount on Nutella, bringing the price down from €4.50 to €1.40 (Euros) But police were called when people began fighting and pushing one another. "They are like animals. A woman had her hair pulled, an elderly lady took a box on her head, another had a bloody hand," one customer told French media. A member of staff at one Intermarché shop in central France told the regional newspaper Le Progrès: "We were trying to get in between the customers but they were pushing us." All of its stock was snapped up within 15 minutes and one customer was given a black eye, the report adds. Some 365 million kilos of Nutella, a hazelnut chocolate spread, is consumed every year in 160 countries around the world. It was created by the Ferrero family in the 1940s in the Piedmont region of Italy, which is famed for its hazelnuts. The firm said it regretted Thursday's violence, but noted that the discount had been unilaterally decided by Intermarché.



## Water shortage leading to Day Zero in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Long lines of South Africans collect water daily from a natural spring pipeline in an upscale suburb of Cape Town, illustrating the harsh impact of a drought that authorities say could force the closure of most taps in the country's second largest city in just over two months, an occasion ominously known as "Day Zero."

The prospect that large sections of South Africa's showcase city, famously perched near two oceans, might go without running water has induced anxiety as well as resolve among its nearly 4 million residents. It has attracted scrutiny from scientists and city managers worldwide who also face the dual challenge of ballooning populations and shrinking resources. This would be the world's first major city to go dry. "There are a lot of people who have been in denial and now they suddenly realize this is for real," said Shirley Curry, who waited to fill a plastic container with spring water from one of several taps outside a South African Breweries facility in the Newlands suburb. Security guards made sure people took only an allotted amount (25 liters maximum in one line and 15 liters in another "express" line). However, things were more freewheeling at a nearby spring water source with no oversight. The spectacle of people scrounging for water could become more common as "Day Zero" approaches in Cape Town, whose natural beauty has made it a coveted spot for international visitors. While the city urges people to restrict water usage, many living in poor areas already have limited access to water. They use communal taps in gritty neighborhoods such as Blue Downs on the Cape Flats, where people washed clothes outside and carried buckets of water to shack dwellings on a recent afternoon. Cape Town's leaders have instructed residents to use only 50 liters of water daily from Feb. 1, down from the current 87-liter limit. "Day Zero" is projected to arrive on April 12 but some fear it could come sooner, while others hope it won't happen if rationing works and rains eventually come.

If "Day Zero" arrives, many people would have to go to collection points for a daily ration of 25 liters. Taps would continue to run in hospitals and provisions would be made for schools, some of which can pump water from boreholes. Communal taps in poor areas known as informal settlements likely would run to avoid the threat of disease. Some central and downtown areas could be exempt from the cut-off for the sake of tourism and business. While tourists are still welcome, tourism authorities urge them to flush the toilet as little as possible and "take a dip in the ocean instead of swimming pools, and maybe even spare yourself a shower." The water crisis is propelling Cape Town into the unknown, but the causes have been brewing for a while. Since around the end of white minority rule in 1994, the population has soared by about 80 percent, straining municipal infrastructure. Meanwhile, the region has endured several years of drought. Scientists at the University of Cape Town say man-made global warming may have contributed to the severe weather, and that similar droughts could be more common in the future.



## NATIONAL

### **U.S. Renews Temporary Protected Status For Some Syrians**

In 2012, as Syria's internal unrest deepened into full-scale civil war, Syrians living in the U.S. were offered an opportunity: If they met certain conditions and paid the requisite fees, they could register for temporary protection from deportation — and avoid having to return to the violence that awaited them back home. On Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security announced it is renewing that program, known as temporary protected status, for an additional 18 months. Syrians can re-register if they have resided in the U.S. since Aug. 1, 2016, and have been physically present in the country since Oct. 1, 2016. "It is clear that the conditions upon which Syria's designation was based continue to exist, therefore an extension is warranted under the statute," said Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen in a statement. About 2,000 Syrian visa holders who arrived since 2016 are not covered. As of last October, nearly 7,000 Syrians were covered under the program, which shields people from certain countries racked by war or natural disasters. Under TPS, protected immigrants can live and work in the U.S. without fear of deportation if they pay hundreds of dollars for permits every 18 months. The Trump administration in recent months has announced an end to such protections for people from Haiti, Sudan and Nicaragua. The Obama administration extended the protection to Syrians in March 2012, amid the deepening civil war that continues there to this day. Nielsen faced a Wednesday deadline to either re-designate their status or end the protection, meaning Syrians would have had to seek another avenue to remain in the country legally. Syrians are far from the only nationals protected by the program. In total, the Congressional Research Service estimates more than 317,000 people from 10 different countries — ranging from Yemen and Nepal to Nicaragua and Somalia — signed up during the previous registration period. The Trump administration has announced many of those protections will end and signaled that it would like others to end, too.

### **Dogs rescued from Puerto Rico**

After Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico, 62 dogs and cats who were abandoned are now getting a fresh start after being relocated. This past weekend, Southwest Airlines in conjunction with Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, brought much-needed pet-supplies to San Juan on a special trip to the island – and made all the animals as comfortable as possible on the flight back. Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, based in the D.C. area contacted Southwest after their partner in Puerto Rico, PR Animals, communicated a dire need to help relocate animals. After months of planning the airline felt they could accommodate extra humanitarian flights, especially ones carrying furry PAW-sengers. Many of the cats and dogs were cuddled by volunteers and even the pilots themselves during the return trip to Washington D.C., where they will all be put up for adoption. Southwest and Lucky Dog have shipped more than 20,000 pounds of humanitarian supplies to Puerto Rico and this is their third animal rescue flight to relocate cats and dogs. Learn more about the relocated dogs and cats by visiting [LuckyDogAnimalRescue.org](http://LuckyDogAnimalRescue.org) and follow their journey on Facebook and Instagram.



In the last three months of 2017, Amazon saw its profit more than double to reach a record of **\$1.9 billion**. The company's sales continued to soar during the holiday quarter as more people signed up for its fast-delivery Prime program and bought its voice-activated device Echo. Company executives touted the sales of the devices powered by its voice assistant Alexa. Amazon also said millions of people shopped by using their voice last year. Without disclosing specific numbers, CEO Jeff Bezos said of Alexa sales: "We don't see positive surprises of this magnitude very often — expect us to double down." Amazon said its profits also got a boost from a tax benefit of about \$789 million thanks to the new tax law passed in December. And the company noted big contributions from its advertising business and the cloud-computing service known as Amazon Web Services. Amazon has long had a reputation for being parsimonious, investing its gains in new products and infrastructure rather than disbursing money to shareholders. But now its profits have risen sharply, although not nearly at the rate of the booming sales. This new report marks about 2 1/2 years of profitability. For the next year, more of Amazon's focus is expected to shift to its grocery business as the company tries to expand its delivery service and works to integrate the recently acquired Whole Foods. In a call with investors, Amazon executives addressed recent reports of empty shelves at Whole Foods locations, saying that the company made no changes that would affect the restocking of items. Instead, they blamed weather-related restocking issues and increased demand in response to lower prices. Amazon's Thursday report also showed that some 566,000 people worked for the company at the end of 2017. That number excludes contractors or temporary workers and represents a 66 percent increase from the end of 2016.

## **2 Students Shot At Los Angeles Middle School, Police Say It Was Accidental**

Two students were hospitalized with gunshot wounds in Los Angeles after what police describe as an accidental shooting Thursday morning at Salvador Castro Middle School. A 12-year-old girl has been arrested. "[Police] spokesman Josh Rubenstein says the 12-year-old girl arrested in Thursday's shooting was being booked on a charge of negligent discharge of a firearm on school grounds. Twelve-year-old Jordan Valenzuela, a classmate, that he talked to her just after the shooting. "He says she was sobbing and kept repeating, 'I didn't mean it.' He says she told him that the gun was in her backpack and that it accidentally went off when she dropped the bag." Both students who were shot are 15 years old — a boy who is in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head and a girl who was shot in the wrist and is in fair condition. Erik Scott of the Los Angeles Fire Department said three other people, ranging in age from 11 to 30, "suffered abrasions" during the attack. The 15-year-old boy is expected to fully recover. Trauma surgeon Aaron Strumwasser said the victim was lucky the bullet that struck him in the temple did not cause life-threatening damage. "I think he will do fine," said Strumwasser at the LA County-USC Medical Center. "As a parent, this is everyone's worst-case nightmare — a worst-case scenario and a nightmare for all of us," Robert Arcos, commanding officer of the Los Angeles Police Department's Operations-Central Bureau, told reporters Thursday. He said at the time it was too early know how the girl obtained the weapon.



## STATE

### **Report: Nearly 1,200 Wisconsin Bridges In 'Deficient' Condition**

A new report finds 8.7 percent of Wisconsin's bridges have at least one key component in poor condition, or worse — making about 1,200 bridges in the state what's considered "structurally deficient." Seven of the most traveled bridges on the list are in southeastern Wisconsin. The American Road & Transportation Builders Association released its 2018 Deficient Bridge Report this week. Using 2017 Federal Highway Administration data, it tracks the number of structurally deficient bridges across each state and the District of Columbia. While these bridges are generally considered safe to drive on, they could use repairs. Kevin Traas, director of policy and finance with ARTBA's state affiliate, the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association, said it makes sense that in Wisconsin the most traveled bridges with deficiencies are in Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine Counties. "The Milwaukee freeway system carries about 25 percent of the total travel in Wisconsin," Traas explained. "Having a functioning transportation system is important for southeastern Wisconsin and the entire state of Wisconsin." According to the report, the seven bridges with poor marks were built in the 1950s and 60s. The busiest of the bridges can average about 124,000 crossings a day. Traas said they are nearing their expiration date. "You can do rehabilitation and maintenance on a bridge to extend its life but eventually you reach a point where it needs to be reconstructed," he said. Wisconsin had the 24th-highest rate of deficient bridges in the country in 2017 but the condition of the state's bridges has declined since the report began five years ago. According to the data the state reported to the Federal Highway Administration, it has identified nearly 2,800 bridges that need repairs. The estimated costs of those repairs are about \$2.6 billion. Funding to maintain and expand Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure has been an ongoing source of political disagreement in recent years. Gov. Scott Walker said Thursday he could support raising gas taxes to fund infrastructure if it meant access to federal support.

**Police in the Madison area are looking for a 13-year-old girl who they say carjacked a vehicle,** dragged its owner and then ran over her. Authorities say the crime took place in the parking lot of a Town of Madison business about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday. A 45-year-old Middleton woman had her vehicle running while loading it. The woman saw the girl jump into the driver's seat and tried to talk to her through a passenger door. Police say the girl reversed the vehicle and dragged the woman about 30 feet before she fell from the vehicle. Officials say the girl accelerated as she drove over the woman. The woman was taken to a Madison hospital. Her condition is unknown. Police recovered the vehicle, but the girl is still at large.

**Former members of the now-dissolved Government Accountability Board** are defending the work they did in the face of an investigation by Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel. Eleven former judges who previously served on the GAB issued a statement Friday saying "we are proud of the work we did and of the people who worked for us." They say they welcome a "fair and honest review of that work that is free of political considerations." Senate



Republicans in December authorized fellow Republican Schimel to launch an investigation into the conduct of former workers at the agency that oversaw ethics and elections. Republicans contend the GAB was on a partisan witch hunt against Gov. Scott Walker and Republicans. The Legislature disbanded the GAB in 2015.

### **Milwaukee Council Asks Health Officials Why They Didn't Speak Out Sooner On Lead Problems**

Milwaukee Common Council heard from the city's Health Department on Wednesday, two days after a report that was critical of Milwaukee's lead abatement program was made public. But the gathering, which was scheduled to discuss the report's findings, left elected officials with more questions than answers. The internal audit from the Milwaukee Health Department said years of funding cuts and a lack of accountability stretched the program to its limits, often leaving lead-exposed children without appropriate follow-up testing services. During Wednesday's Steering and Rules Committee meeting, common council members were critical of what they called a lack of transparency, questioning even the timing of the report's release and Mayor Tom Barrett's response. "When the mayor has a press conference at 7:15 on a Monday night that catches everyone by surprise, how are we in good conscience supposed to feel like we're getting the straight scoop?" asked Alderman Mark Burkoswki. A spokesman for Barrett said the mayor wanted to make the findings public as soon as possible. Barrett called for a press conference just hours after he got the report which he ordered to be put together in 10 days. Among the biggest points of concern for council members was the extent of lead exposure for Milwaukee children and how many remained untested. According to the report, numbers from 2016 show 11.6 percent of children tested positive for lead levels high enough to require follow-up from the health department. That's down from the 2003 numbers showing 37.9 percent of Milwaukee's children were testing positive. Dr. Geoffrey Swain, the interim medical director of the department, said the percentage of children tested has also improved somewhat in recent years but the problem remains extensive. "Between 2000 and 2008, roughly speaking, there were typically 30 to 40 percent of kids under 6 that were being tested," Swain said. "By 2011 that was closer to 50 percent, and it's sort of stayed between 40 and 50 percent between 2011 and 2016. So are we testing all the kids? No." Council members were left asking what more could have been done to address the shortcomings. "A lot of times we can say that we send out some piece of paper to peoples' homes and we've got it on our websites, the answer to that is, it's still not enough and we all know that," said Alderman Jim Bohl. City officials also wondered why staff didn't blow the whistle if problems were so pervasive. Bevan Baker, the former health commissioner, resigned in January when it was first learned the Milwaukee Health Department couldn't confirm it had run the necessary follow-up for thousands of lead-exposed children. The common council is launching its own investigation into the health department's management of the lead program.



## SPORTS

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Khris Middleton scored 35 points and hit two long jumpers in the final minute, Malcolm Brogdon added 32 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Phoenix Suns 109-105 on Monday night hours after firing coach Jason Kidd. Brogdon added a steal with 40 seconds left after the Bucks double-teamed guard Devin Booker in the backcourt. Brogdon lobbed a cross-court pass to Middleton, who hit a jumper from the left corner with 24 seconds left for a 105-100 lead. Middleton also hit a fade-away jumper from nearly the exact same spot with defender Isaiah Canaan in his face with 54 seconds left for a three-point edge. T.J. Warren had 23 points for Phoenix, which has lost four of five. Kidd was fired hours before the game, ending a three-plus season tenure that included two playoff appearances but stretches of inconsistency on both ends of the floor. Other than a 33-win season in 2015-16, the Bucks hovered around .500 under Kidd as a young core of Giannis Antetokounmpo, Middleton and Brogdon blossomed into top-flight players. The Suns fell to 17-30, making them an ideal opponent for the Bucks to beat in their first game under Joe Prunty, the former assistant who will replace Kidd the rest of the season. Prunty was fiery at times on the sideline and jawed with an official, a contrast from Kidd's typically mild-mannered demeanor. Middleton and Brogdon sparked the Bucks in the closing minutes by dominating in the backcourt. Eric Bledsoe added 19 points for the Bucks against his former team. He was dealt to Milwaukee earlier this season in a trade that sent Greg Monroe to Phoenix. Monroe finished with 19 points and seven rebounds, while Troy Daniels added 15 off the bench for Phoenix. The Bucks started slow, then used a 24-10 in the first quarter to get back in the game that was tied at 53 at halftime.

### TIP INS

Suns: Monroe played for the first time in three games, and his 30 minutes were his most since playing 34 on Jan. 3 against Denver. Coach Jay Triano said he wanted to give a break to Tyson Chandler, the 35-year old starting center averaging about 26 minutes over his previous nine games. "He has been going hard," Triano said. "We'll give (Monroe) a chance to come back home where he was and see how he plays."

Bucks: Antetokounmpo missed a second straight game with right knee soreness, sticking with a plan put in place by Kidd.

### UP NEXT

Suns: At the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night.

Bucks: Host the Brooklyn Nets on Friday night.

The Milwaukee Bucks have assigned forward D.J. Wilson to the Wisconsin Herd, its G League affiliate. Wilson joins Bucks teammate Jabari Parker for practice Tuesday with the Herd at Menominee Nation Arena in Oshkosh. Wilson is expected to play Wednesday when the Herd takes on the Erie BayHawks at home. Wilson has appeared in 15 games for the Bucks this season, averaging 0.5 points and 0.4 rebounds in 3.5 minutes per game. The Herd is in second place in the Central Division with a 16-14 record.

# 2018 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO NEWS REPORTING SCRIPT - B



INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) -- Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue has tweaked his starting lineup in hopes of reviving a team that has lost 10 of 13 games. Lue had been resisting changes, but after today's practice he said he's dropping forward Jae Crowder to the second team, bringing center Tristan Thompson off the bench and returning All-Star Kevin Love to power forward.

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) -- Middle linebacker Mason Foster has re-signed with the Washington Redskins. Foster went on injured reserve in late October and had surgery on his right shoulder. He had been playing with a torn labrum in his shoulder since the first half of Washington's victory over the Los Angeles Rams in Week 2. Foster sealed that win with an interception. In a series of tweets when he was put on IR, Foster appeared to criticize some in the organization for the handling of his injury.

## WEATHER

- **Today:** Isolated snow showers after 3pm. Increasing clouds, with a high near 25. South wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
- **Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. South wind around 7 mph.
- **Tomorrow:** A 20 percent chance of rain after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Breezy, with a south wind 8 to 16 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph.
- **Tomorrow Night:** A chance of rain before 7pm, then a chance of rain and snow between 7pm and 8pm, then a chance of snow after 8pm. Cloudy, with a low around 14. Wind chill values as low as 5. Blustery, with a north wind 9 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.
- **Thursday:** A 30 percent chance of snow before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 17. Blustery, with a north wind 10 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Little or no snow accumulation expected.
- **Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 6.
- **Friday:** Snow likely after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
- **Friday Night:** A 40 percent chance of snow before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13.

## COMMERCIALS

Recycling is the easiest thing we can all do to save energy, conserve natural resources and create green jobs. Show your support for recycling in (CITY)\_\_\_\_\_. join the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the morning March 10th from to celebrate America Recycles Day and learn more about how and what we can recycle in (CITY)\_\_\_\_\_. Call (608) 555-6789 or go to [americarecyclesday.org](http://americarecyclesday.org) for more information. This is a public service message of the Department of Natural Resources.



## 2018 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO NEWS REPORTING SCRIPT - B

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Are there times when you feel like you live in a dull, grey box? Well, break out of the crypt with a fresh coat of paint and interior decorating services from Shelly's Interiors! Within hours, your home will be transformed to your reflect your tastes. Don't know what your taste is? No problem. Shelly's Interiors has a wide array of styles in their portfolio to choose from, including Modern Chic, Urban Elegance, and Rural Escape. To get a preview, log-on to [www.shellysinteriors.com](http://www.shellysinteriors.com). From there, pick out the style you like best and pick up your phone! Reach Shelly's Interiors at 555-5555 or send us an email from the website. Shelly's Interiors, turning houses into homes since 1990.