

INTERNATIONAL

2016 Was The Hottest Year Yet, Scientists Declare

Last year, global warming reached record high temperatures. The planet has now had three consecutive years of record-breaking heat. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just released its annual State of the Climate report, which says it's the hottest it has been since scientists started tracking global temperatures in 1880. A separate analysis, by NASA scientists, came to the same conclusion. "[Last year] was the warmest year on record, beating 2015 by a few hundredths of a degree, and together those two years really blow away the rest of our record," says Deke Arndt, chief of the monitoring group at NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, N.C. He says 2016 was about 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit above the global average for the 20th century. "And that doesn't sound like a lot, but when you take that and you average it all the way around the planet, that's a big number," Arndt says. The warming was truly global. "Some part of every continent, and some part of every major ocean basin was warmest on record," Arndt says, adding that in the United States, only Georgia and Alaska had record-setting warmth but "pretty much the entire country was above normal, and well above normal." This represents long-term warming along with the short-term effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon, he explains, predicting that the streak of breaking records will probably end this year as those El Nino effects dissipate. But the long-term warming trend should continue to go up and, Arndt says, threatens new records almost every year. "The long-term warming is driven almost entirely by greenhouse gases," Arndt says. "We've seen a warming trend related to greenhouse gases for four, five, six decades now."

Collapse of burning Tehran high-rise kills 30 firefighters

A high-rise building in Tehran engulfed by fire collapsed on Thursday, killing at least 30 firefighters and injuring some 75 people, state media reported. The disaster struck the Plasco building, an iconic structure in central Tehran just north of the Iranian capital's sprawling bazaar. Firefighters, soldiers and other emergency responders dug through the rubble, looking for survivors. Iranian authorities did not immediately release definitive casualty figures, which is common in unfolding disasters. Iran's state-run Press TV announced the firefighters' deaths, without giving a source for the information. Local Iranian state television said 30 civilians were injured in the disaster, while the state-run IRNA news agency said 45 firefighters had been injured. Firefighters battled the blaze for several hours before the collapse. The fire appeared to be the most intense in the building's upper floors, home to garment workshops where tailors cook for themselves and use old kerosene heaters for warmth in winter. Police tried to keep out shopkeepers and others wanting to rush back in to collect their valuables. Tehran's mayor, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said there were "no ordinary civilians" trapped under the rubble. However, witnesses said some people had slipped through the police cordon and gone back into the building. President Hassan Rouhani ordered Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli to investigate and report the cause of the incident as soon as possible, IRNA reported.



2017 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT - C

Czechs a step away from smoking ban in bars, restaurants

The Czech Republic is one step away from losing its status of one of the last havens for tobacco smokers in Europe. The Senate, the upper house of Parliament, voted 45-12 on Thursday to approve a smoking ban in bars, restaurants and cafes. The lower house gave its green light on Dec. 9. To become effective on May 31, which is World No Tobacco Day, it needs final approval: a signature from President Milos Zeman, who is a chain smoker. Movie theaters, concert venues, exhibition halls and indoor sports settings would be banned from having separate rooms for smokers. Unlike most of Europe, Czechs have remained tolerant of smoking. Right now it is up to restaurant owners to decide whether to allow or ban it.

S. Koreans' ties with Samsung are lifelong, often conflicted

The family smartphones? An assortment of Samsung Galaxies. The flat-screen TV that illuminates the living room? A Samsung SUHD, with the brand name sparkling on the nameplate. The maker of the digital toilet seat? You guessed it: Samsung. It's difficult for people outside South Korea to fully grasp what Samsung, a truly global brand, means inside its home country, where it is far more than just another big company. It is seen variously as both a talisman and a millstone, as national savior and greedy business behemoth. Those diverse views only intensified Thursday when a court rejected prosecutors' request to arrest Samsung heir and Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong in the corruption scandal surrounding impeached South Korean President Park Geun-hye. Samsung is inextricably woven into the psychological fabric of this small, proud country, where a reverence for wealth, power and prestige is linked to rapid economic growth after the Korean War, when authoritarian government policies favored big businesses. A complex mix of admiration and resentment was on full display when Lee, held by authorities for more than 12 hours, was released Thursday after a court said there was not "enough justification for a (formal) arrest at this stage." Prosecutors said Lee gave 43 billion won (\$36 million) in bribes to Park and Choi Soon-sil, her confidante, seeking support for a contentious merger. Many South Koreans flooded social media with complaints that the court decision showed their country remains in thrall to Samsung and other big chaebol, the conglomerates that dominate the nation's economy, jobs and investment. "There was no justice when the judicial system threw a cold blanket on this opportunity to change a rotten society," said Lee Jong-ran, a labor lawyer and Samsung critic who added that the judge "overturned a desperate chance to crack the chaebol system." But the prospect of the Samsung heir's arrest also stirred anger, and even worries that it could harm the country's economy. "Samsung feeds about 30 percent of our people," said Han Hyo-jung, a 72-year-old self-described "patriot." "I think it's too much to put him in detention. ... We must not humiliate Samsung internationally." Samsung played a major role as South Korea, formally known as the Republic of Korea, rose from the rubble of war and the anguish of dictatorship and colonization into an Asian powerhouse.

2017 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT - C



NATIONAL

Native American Education: What Will It Take To Fix The 'Epitome Of Broken'?

High up in the mountains of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, Delphine Gatewood teaches special education at the Crystal Boarding School. She's dreading this winter, like she dreads every winter, because temperatures can slip into the negative digits which the school building just can't handle. "You have a boiler system that regulates heat at one certain temperature so you can't turn it down," she says. "It gets so hot in the classroom and you have to open the windows in the dead of winter."

The Crystal Boarding School isn't part of any local school district in New Mexico. It's overseen at the federal level by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education. As are nearly 200 other Native American schools nationwide. In 2015, Arne Duncan, the secretary of education at the time, called the bureau "the epitome of broken." The federal school system has been around for more than 150 years, marred by a past of forcefully assimilating students, rock-bottom academic performance and a crumbling infrastructure. That's why the Obama administration poured resources into leading an effort with the bureau to change the way it serves the 50,000 students attending its schools nationwide. The bureau has said it hopes to shift into a role that provides more support, rather than issue directives. In other words, shift away from being a direct overseer of schools and give local control to tribal communities.

Officials at the Bureau of Indian Education estimate that roughly one-third of their school buildings are in poor condition. To fix them, they say it'll take more than \$1.3 billion. That's why a big part of the reform effort is to build new schools and repair old ones.

In 2016, Violence Pervaded Policing On Both Ends Of The Gun

Deadly encounters between police and civilians often made 2016 a year full of palpable tension. Across the country, demonstrators took to the streets to protest police shootings, while at the same time officers in a number of states were targeted and killed by gunmen. Both situations have prompted law enforcement to examine use-of-force policies. Early this year, the FBI will take the first steps in developing a national database to track police shootings. Currently, the country's 18,000 police departments report crime information voluntarily, so media outlets and academics such as Philip Stinson, a criminologist at Bowling Green State University, work to create their own comprehensive list of police shootings. "My best estimate is that about 1,000 times a year an on-duty police officer shoots and kills someone," he says. Stinson says prosecutors consider most of those cases legally justified and few officers face charges. Even so, several police shootings this year drew massive protests and widespread attention. In July, Baton Rouge was a hotbed of protests and mourning after police shot and killed 37-year-old Alton Sterling who was selling CDs outside of a storefront. A bystander's graphic video of his death shows two white officers pinning Sterling to the ground.



2017 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT - C

In Toledo, Syrian Refugees Are Welcomed Amid a Difficult Immigration Climate

Omar Al-Awad and his family were among the newest refugee families from Syria settling in to life in Toledo, Ohio in fall of 2015. Back then, Awad was attending his first English class at a local church and couldn't say much more than his name. Today he's able to haltingly conduct a basic conversation in English. He and his wife, Hiyam, also had a fourth baby — a boy, Salman, who just turned 1 and is a full-fledged American citizen. The other kids — Taiba, 5, Abdul-Jabar, 7, and Hammam, 10 — are now practically fluent in English. But Hiyam says overall, this first year in the U.S. was tough. "We came to a country that is not our country, and everything changed on us: the system, the people the area, the city," she says in Arabic. The U.S. never took in a lot of refugees from Syria. With millions of people displaced, the U.S. admitted only 12,000 or so over the past five years. Some cities in Europe took in twice that many in a given week. But President Donald Trump has suggested stopping admission of Syrian refugees altogether, fearing they could be dangerous.

"We are going to stop the tens of thousands of people coming in from Syria. We have no idea who they are, where they come from. There's no documentation. There's no paperwork," the President said in September, while campaigning.

Actually, there's a lot of documentation and paperwork. The screening process often takes as long as two years. There are medical tests, background checks and round after round of interviews. Awad feels lucky to have made it to the U.S. while the door was still open a crack. "Anyone that is able to get out of these countries — whether it's Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey — of course the situation is better here than to be there," he says. Those are countries where millions of Syrians sit in refugee camps, waiting to see what comes next. Awad's family spent two years at a refugee camp in Jordan before coming to Toledo.

One organization in Toledo works to settle new refugees who arrive here. They help people find housing, furniture and jobs. There's even a new program offering counseling for people who have experienced torture. The group is called US Together. Recently, at an orientation organized by US Together, a pastor named Luke Lindon from a nearby church spoke to new arrivals from Syria. "There are some people that you may have heard that may not feel as welcoming. They might be saying some scary things," he says. Lindon is tall and gentle, with a shaved head. He sprinkles his conversation with "dude" and "blessings." He wants the new refugees not to feel afraid of differences. "It scares our people here and it scares you all coming in," he tells them. "But I'm here to say that nothing defeats fear like a face." When he finishes talking to the group, he sits down with him in an office. "My own grandfather is a Slovakian immigrant who worked in the brickyards, and he recalled a time before World War II that he was not considered white," Lindon says. "He wasn't considered part of the populace. He was a problem. And so knowing that, we want to make sure that history doesn't repeat." He says it's important to be truthful in talking to refugees about the climate surrounding immigration in the U.S. "It's a reality. We've got to name the reality. We have to be truthful," he says.

2017 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT - C



STATE

UW-Madison Researchers Study Plant Aging To Improve Yields

People enjoy watching leaves change from green to gold every fall. But researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are hoping to discover how plants know to make these seasonal changes. In a recent study, UW-Madison assistant professor Xuehua Zhong found a protein complex that tells plants to change the way they grow based on the environment. Zhong said it's important to know the plant's natural cycle for leaves to change color and fall. A lot of people think "the plant aging is just the death of the plant, but it's not actually, because all those leaves are reused (as) nutrition, utilizing for the next generation in the next year," Zhong said. By learning more about this process, Zhong said scientists are one step closer to controlling how a plant ages, a tool that could be useful for farmers. "We can actually delay the aging," Zhong said. "And that's also important because if we delay the aging, it means more yields." Scientists could also use this process to make plants less sensitive to the impacts of climate change. "If we have a system, knowing that this is a sensor for sensing those environmental changes, then we can do something (to make the plant) maybe less sensitive to the environmental change." Zhong said she's working to better identify what seasonal changes, like temperature or sunlight, triggers the protein complex.

Milwaukee Teacher Named A Finalist For Grammy Music Educator Award

Erica Breitbarth, a music teacher at Ronald Reagan High School in Milwaukee, has been named a top 10 finalist out of 3,000 nominees for the Grammy Music Educator Award. She is the school's music department chair, a choir instructor, and is credited with helping expand its music program from 50 students to more than 400. Breitbarth said one of the biggest challenges in expanding the program was teaching students who had no previous exposure to music lessons. "We had to find ways to fill in those gaps so that our students could apply to schools of music or enter the music industry right away out of high school," Breitbarth said. "That was a huge challenge to fill in those gaps and we've been able to do that." She said over the past four years, 100 percent of the graduates with an interest in music have been accepted into college music programs. Breitbarth says she hopes more teachers are willing to teach at schools in urban communities that may not have an established music program. "Right now, I don't necessarily think that a lot of teachers who are getting out of conservatories of music with music education degrees are really thinking about going and building new programs," she said. "They want to go to a program that's pre-existing or a program in a community that they are familiar with." Breitbarth said her inspiration to expand the school's music program came from her college experience where she watched her mentor teach thousands of children in Chicago public schools. As a finalist for the award, Breitbarth and Ronald Reagan High School each received a \$1,000 gift from the Grammy Foundation.



2017 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT - C

Employment No Longer Top Concern For Some Low-Income Families In Wisconsin

With unemployment down in Wisconsin, affordable housing and the cost of health care have become bigger issues for some low-income families in southwestern Wisconsin. Couleecap, a poverty assistance agency in western Wisconsin, surveys low-income households about their needs every three years. The organization received responses from around 900 low-income households in La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford and Monroe counties for its 2016 survey. Employment has been near the top of the list in previous surveys, especially after the 2008 recession. But this year, housing, transportation and health care all topped job concerns – signaling families have largely recovered from the recession, Couleecap Executive Director Grace Jones said. "People have overcome unemployment, gotten back to work, and so as an overall issue, it just fell in terms of the priorities," Jones said. Employment is still a top issue among some demographic groups, including African-Americans and Asians, she said. In the employment category, respondents' top concerns were receiving higher wages and health benefits. Jones said these issues are important for families in poverty, but they aren't immediate needs. "It's just that when you're literally almost unable to keep your car running or pay your rent, those issues rise to the top because they're really on the front burner," Jones said. Jones said wages have not kept up with the rising cost of rental housing, making it harder for low-income families to save enough to buy a home. "Ideally your housing costs would not exceed more than 25 percent of your gross income, and we have folks paying much more than that up to 50 percent and plus of their income for housing," Jones said. "That's an issue, but it's even broader than that – there's folks who are becoming homeless."

Dairy Producers Ready For Better Milk Prices In 2017

Wisconsin dairy producers saw an increase in milk prices in December, reaching the highest price in the last two years. Last month producers received \$17.40 per hundredweight, or 100 pounds of milk. It's the highest base price since they started to fall in 2014. Even with December's record, the average price for 2016 was less than \$15. That's down about 6 percent from 2015 and 33 percent from 2014. But the new year could bring a more positive outlook for the industry. "With lower feed prices, better milk prices, you're going to see farmers respond to that a little bit," said Bob Cropp, UW-Madison professor emeritus. "We're looking for milk production to grow 2 percent, but we're looking for continued strong demand for cheese and butter." Barring changes in exports or production, Cropp predicts prices will average \$2 higher in 2017.

That's welcome news for Todd Doornink, owner of Jon-De Farms in Baldwin. "2016 was not a stellar year, that's for sure, but 2017 has some opportunities to at least break even for a lot of producers, us included," said Doornink, vice president of the Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative. Doornink said the recent drop in feed costs will definitely help his farm's bottom line in the coming year. "Our other costs are going to be pretty well fixed also, so if we can maintain our production, get some production out of our cows, coming up (in) 2017 we should be in good shape," Doornink said.

2017 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT - C



SPORTS

PREP CHEERLEADING: Portage takes 2nd in co-ed division at It's Showtime Competition

The Portage High School cheer team kicked off its competition season in style with a second place finish at Sunday's It's Showtime Cheer and Dance competition. The Warriors brought home silver in the co-ed division from the 25-team competition held in accordance with the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches, Inc. at UW-Stevens Point. Portage finished just behind first place Shawano High School and ahead of Lincoln High School at the competition, in which team's perform an up to 2 minute, 30 second dance/cheer routine. "This is the best team I've had at Portage and we've just been getting better each year," said Engelhart. "Their routine was clean and fun for the crowd, and the judges made a point to say they noticed how improved the team is."

UW-Stevens Point Suspends Men's Basketball Coach For Season

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has suspended men's basketball coach Bob Semling for the rest of the season and is banning the team from post-season play. The suspension and ban follow an internal investigation and an investigation by the NCAA. The suspension came after the NCAA notified the school of four major allegations regarding the men's basketball program stemming from a decision to begin team practices before Oct. 15, the official start date set by association rules. Semling was suspended because he was personally involved in the violations, according to [a statement](#) released by the university. The school also announced the team would be banned from post-season play, including the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament. "As an institution we feel it is imperative to take swift and immediate action in response to what we have been informed by the NCAA are major allegations regarding our men's basketball program," UW-Stevens Point Director of Athletics Brad Duckworth said in the statement. Current associate head coach Kent Dernbach will serve as interim head coach during the suspension. Semling has coached the UW-Stevens Point Pointers since the 2005-06 season, and has a career record of 262-71.

Cyclist, 105, sets new distance record

Frenchman Robert Marchand set a new world record Wednesday when he cycled 22.547 kilometers (about 14 miles) in an hour — at the age of 105. Wearing a purple and yellow cycling suit, pink helmet and yellow glasses, Marchand completed 92 laps at the Velodrome National, an indoor track near Paris that's used for elite cycling events. According to The Associated Press, he set a new record for the 105-plus age group and received a standing ovation from people in the crowd, who chanted "Robert, Robert" as he rolled to a stop. Still, he said he could have done better. "I did not see the sign warning me I had 10 minutes left," Marchand said, according to the AP. "Otherwise I would have gone faster, I would have posted a better time. I'm now waiting for a rival." For comparison, the U.K.'s Bradley Wiggins rode 54.526 kilometers (about 34 miles) in 2015 and holds the record for the men's hour, the BBC reported. "I am not here to be champion. I am here to prove that at 105 years old you can still ride a bike," Marchand said, per Eurosport.

WEATHER

- **Tonight** Increasing clouds, with a low around 17. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
- **Tomorrow** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.
- **Tomorrow Night** Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. South wind around 10 mph.
- **Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
- **Thursday:** A slight chance of rain and snow before midnight, then a slight chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. West wind 10-15 mph. Chance of precipitation 20%.
- **Friday:** A chance of flurries before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 32. West wind 10 to 15 mph.

COMMERCIALS

It's Valentine's Day... the candles are lit... the music is soft... and beside you sits the most beautiful girl in the world. As she unwraps her gift from you... a tiny little box from Lakes Region Jewelers. ...the look on her face says it all... diamond earrings were the PERFECT CHOICE.

Ever seen a face light up like a lamp? You will... with a little Valentine's shopping at Lakes Region Jewelers. Lakes Region Jewelers carries a wide variety of sparkling gifts that'll truly say it all. Platinum and white gold... titanium and silver... gem stones, diamonds, engagement rings and wedding bands. And at Lakes Region Jewelers... you can even have a special piece custom made as pretty as she is.

Lakes Region Jewelers... downtown on Main Street. In-house repairs and layaway are available. Phone 528-33-11. Make this Valentine's special... with Lakes Region Jewelers. Open Monday to Saturdays 9 to 8, Sundays 11 to 5.

VO: Are you experiencing a case of the Mondays? Do you suffer from a once-weekly outbreak of sore personality, swollen mood or inflamed temper? Then Marmite on toast for breakfast could be the pseudo-scientific remedy you're looking for. It's anecdotally proven to help families smash through the start of the week. To report a case of the Mondays, call the Marmite helpline on 0800 832 1835.

Hate Mondays. Love Marmite.