

OVER THE PASS



"I watch sports just because the kids give me some time. That's when I can get paperwork done. I pretend to watch the sports. But now all my kids have turned into football fans, two boys and two girls. They remind me when the sports are coming on. I've created little football monsters."

— Ian Van Der Heide, retired U.S. Army, Trinidad



"I spend a lot of time watching sports when I'm not working. My main teams are the Lakers and the Raiders, especially when the Raiders play the Broncos. I watch Broncos games, too. If football or basketball aren't on, I'll watch some hockey. The only baseball I'll watch is the Dodgers. Most of the time I'm working, though."

— Robert Shirek, carpenter and general labor, Trinidad



"I literally haven't watched any sports this year. Since I'm no longer in a marching band, I don't have to watch any sports. I'm perfectly happy about that. There's so much more to do."

— Colette Village Center, UNM undergraduate, Raton

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"How much time do you spend watching sports?"

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"Just Thursdays, Sundays and Mondays during the football season. Mostly the Broncos so that's about three hours. Maybe ten hours a week total. Outside of football, I might watch a little basketball but not much. I find other things to do."

— Mike Romero, owner, Romero's Liquors and Romero's Candy, Trinidad

SEISMOLOGY REPORT

Feds: Risk of 2016 quake increases, in ground east of Rocky Mountains

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ground east of the Rockies is far more likely to shake this year with damaging though not deadly earthquakes, federal seismologists report in a new risk map for 2016. Much of that is a man-made byproduct of drilling for energy.

Parts of Oklahoma now match northern California for the nation's most shake prone. One north-central Oklahoma region has a 1 in 8 chance of a damaging quake in 2016, with other parts closer to 1 in 20.

Overall, 7 million people live in areas

where the risk has dramatically jumped for earthquakes caused by disposal of wastewater, a byproduct of drilling for oil and gas. That is mostly concentrated in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado and Arkansas.

Natural earthquake risk also increased around the New Madrid fault in Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Illinois.

In a first-of-its-kind effort, the U.S. Geological Survey on Monday released a map for risks of damaging quakes in the current year. Past efforts looked at 50-year risks and didn't include man-made quakes. The new risks are mostly based on increases in quakes felt last year.

These are not massive quakes that kill hundreds or thousands of people and leave devastation in their wake. Instead, these smaller quakes happen more frequently, said Mark Petersen, chief of the National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project. They damage but don't topple buildings.

"There's no question that there's a lot of shaking going on in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas," Petersen said in an interview after a press conference Monday. "These are much higher ground motions" than the last time

he created the longer-term map, in 2014.

For example, on that map the risk was low in Dallas; now, after a tenfold increase in risk, Petersen said it compares to places in California. The Dallas-Fort Worth area risk is between 2 to 5 percent this year, he said.

"Oklahoma and Texas have the largest population exposed to induced quakes," Petersen said.

North-central Oklahoma was said to have a 12 percent risk, and it has already been hit: A 5.1 magnitude quake caused some damage around Fairview in February.

Seismologist Rowena Lohman of Cornell University, who wasn't part of the map team, said the increase around Oklahoma is easily noticeable and scientists are trying to determine whether these man-made smaller quakes lead to larger events.

Induced quakes are to blame for much of the problem. They result when wastewater is injected deep underground, said USGS seismologist Justin Rubinstein, the deputy chief of the mapping program. That injection is a byproduct of energy drilling, including hydraulic fracturing, a relatively new and controversial process to drill for oil and gas. But he said the fracking process

itself mostly doesn't cause quakes strong enough to be damaging, while injecting fracking waste does.

Rubinstein said there is a scientific consensus "that wastewater disposal does cause earthquakes."

Arkansas, Kansas and Ohio saw dramatic reductions in man-made quakes when those states tighten restrictions on wastewater injections, Rubinstein said.

In Oklahoma, "the longer we go, the more we pump down there, the more likelihood we have that we're going to have larger quakes," Petersen said.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin said the research justifies action taken by Oklahoma earlier this year to cut back on injections.

"Recent declines in produced wastewater disposal in Oklahoma are not reflected in the USGS map," Fallin said. "This gives us even a stronger base in going forward and gives state regulators further justification for what they are doing."

Rubinstein said it's too early to see any results from Oklahoma's new efforts.

The increase in the natural quakes in the New Madrid area remains a mystery, Petersen said, but "it's higher than it's been in several years."

STATE BRIEFS

Associated Press

Farmers, ranchers respond to low feed prices

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — Many cattle feeders and dairy owners have been able to buy their feed at low prices lately, but they are also making less off the milk and meat they sell.

Rick Podtburg of Long's Peak Dairy in Pierce told The Greeley Tribune that it's been a net neutral effect: The depressed commodities market has made it more affordable to feed animals, but the price of milk has also gone down.

Magnum Feedyard owner Steve Gabel says his industry has also lost value in the marketplace, but the less expensive feed helps.

Other farmers say the lower grain prices have had a definite positive impact on their operations.

Colorado Livestock Association CEO Bill Hammerick says some ranchers may not be seeing a change in revenue because they overpaid for cattle or are overfeeding their animals.

Trial set for Parachute man in infant daughter's death

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — A Parachute man is expected to plead not guilty to murder in the death of his one-month-old daughter.

The Daily Sentinel reports that 30-year-old Matthew Ogden is scheduled to enter not guilty pleas in May to murder and child abuse in the June 20 death of Sarah Ogden, who had a bruised liver and a fractured skull. A judge has set his trial for September.

Sarah's mother, Phyllis "Amy" Wyatt, pleaded not guilty to child abuse that caused the child's death and was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Police say Wyatt told them Ogden violently shook the baby overnight, but Wyatt did not get out of bed. The two skipped town before arrest warrants were issued but were arrested a short time later in Minnesota.

Chokehold ban among Colorado police bills nearing approval

DENVER (AP) — A limited ban on police chokeholds and other limits on law enforcement are nearing approval in the Colorado Legislature, a year after Republicans blocked measures aimed at curbing police abuse.

A series of compromises appear to have made the difference. For example, the chokehold ban now would ban only chokeholds that cut off air flow, not chokeholds that cut off blood flow. Police say that's an important distinction.

A Republican-controlled Senate committee approved four bills Monday to address police misconduct.

Others included an expansion of the ban on racial profiling to include sexual identity and other aspects. Another bill requires authorities to expunge criminal records when people are victims of identity theft.

All four measures have already passed the House and await action by the full Senate.

Cruz to campaign at Colo. GOP convention

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Ted Cruz is coming to Colorado next week as he tries to pick up delegates to support him at the Republican National Convention.

The Colorado Republican Party announced Monday that Cruz will address delegates when they gather at the state GOP convention April 9 in Colorado Springs to pick delegates for the national convention.

GOP chairman Steve House says the party is hopeful that Donald Trump and Ohio Gov. John Kasich will also make their pitch there.

Colorado Republicans caucused earlier this month on state and local races but didn't weigh in on the presidential race because the national GOP required a binding delegate vote.

Weld County officials look to reunite baby's urn with family

LONGMONT, Colo. (AP) — Weld County officials are trying to return an urn containing a baby girl's ashes to its rightful owner.

The Daily Times-Call reports that Weld County Sheriff's spokesman Matthew Turner says the department has no leads since finding the urn in a Longmont ditch on March 3. The urn contains the ashes of Jamesha Janaya Swain, who died May 18, 1997, and was cremated in Antioch, California.

The crematory doesn't keep records that old and Turner says it was unable to provide contact information for Jamesha's family members. He says the sheriff's office has followed leads that reached as far away as Georgia, but investigators have not been able to successfully find the owners of the urn.

Child poverty rate down, homeless rate up

DENVER (AP) — A new report says the number of children living in poverty in Colorado has dropped for the second straight year, falling to the same level as before the recession. The Kids Count report released Monday by the Colorado Children's Campaign found that 15 percent of children lived in households earning less than the federal poverty level in 2014, the most recent data available. That's defined as those with an income of less than about \$24,000 for a family of four.

In 2013, 17 percent of children were living in poverty. The report also found that the number of homeless children more than doubled over the last six years. The Children's Campaign says homelessness has increased in several school districts, including in Denver and Mesa County, as housing costs have increased.