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**Montana: Gardiner** — The Gallatin National Forest implemented an emergency closure for the Beattie Gulch area because grizzly bears are feeding on gut piles left by hunters. Gardiner District Ranger Mary Maj said the bears are gathering near the trail, posing safety concerns. Two hunters were attacked in the area in the fall of 2007. The bear believed responsible was killed last fall.

**Nebraska: Omaha** — A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of theft after he was found with two handguns that his father reported missing. Doors at Millard North High School were secured while police looked for the boy, who recently had been suspended from the school.

**Nevada: Carson City** — The secretary of State's office said 1,002 couples have registered as domestic partners. The law passed by the 2009 Legislature extends rights similar to those held by married couples to cohabiting couples, gay or straight. More than 700 couples pre-registered to get their certificates Oct. 1, the day the law took effect.

**New Hampshire: Concord** — The number of bald eagles raised in nests in the state fell by a third this summer. After a record breeding season in 2008, only 16 chicks reached fledgling age this summer, down from 24 the previous year. But the number of adult bald eagle pairs increased from 15 to 19, giving officials hope for more productive breeding seasons in the future.

**New Jersey: Newark** — Mayor Cory Booker announced a gun buyback and amnesty program. Anyone turning in a gun at one of the following churches will get $200: Emanuel Christian, First Trinity Baptist, Paradise Baptist, JBC Calvary Baptist and Independent Church of God. The first buyback dates are Nov. 11 and 12 at Emanuel Christian.

**New Mexico: Santa Fe** — Twenty-one energy projects across the state have been chosen to share more than $8 million in federal stimulus money. Gov. Richardson said the funds will help counties, cities and towns move forward with energy-saving projects such as installing solar power and more efficient lighting. The funds come from the U.S. Department of Energy.

**New York: Syracuse** — Syracuse University is scheduling classes on the day of MayFest, a student block party that drew several thousand people last year. The university started giving students a spring day off in 2005 to participate in an on-campus academic celebration, but for the past three years, students have instead held an outdoor party. MayFest is scheduled for April 19.

**North Carolina: Asheville** — Engineers have a plan that could cost up to $10 million to clean up a rock slide on Interstate 40. The Department of Transportation said unstable rocks would be removed first and then large boulders would be blasted into smaller pieces. The rock slide occurred about 2 a.m. Sunday, closing I-40 both ways.

**North Dakota: Fargo** — Police said periodontist Philip Gattuso, 49, found dead Monday in his Fargo condo, had a significant head injury, and they are searching for his missing silver Porsche Boxster with state tags 2-KRYSIS. Lt. Joel Vettel said Gattuso's home appeared to have been ransacked.

**Ohio: Columbus** — The City Council approved a 10-year tax break for developers who plan to demolish the Buckeye Hall of Fame Cafe and replace it with a 134-room hotel. The restaurant south of the Ohio State campus is a big gathering spot on game days. The cafe fell into receivership in February when it was behind more than $160,000 on its rent.

**Oklahoma: Oklahoma City** — Billionaire T. Boone Pickens said a forum Thursday at his alma mater, Oklahoma State University, to promote his Pickens Plan for energy independence could be his last in a college setting because the campaign has proved so successful. It calls for developing renewable energy sources and using natural gas as car fuel.

**Oregon: Ashland** — An Ashland company that makes electric motorcycles thinks it has a home-grown solution to the nation's energy troubles. To prove it, Brammo sent two executives from Detroit to Washington — about 600 miles — in increments of 45 miles, the distance its bike can travel on one charge.

**Pennsylvania: Bensalem** — Police said they've arrested a woman who offered sex for World Series tickets. Bensalem police said Susan Finkelstein, 43, posted an ad on Craigslist that stated she was in desperate need of two tickets. An undercover officer responded. Police said Finkelstein offered to perform sex acts in exchange for tickets.

**Rhode Island: Bristol** — Officials at the state's only law school said a $250,000 gift from a prominent attorney will be used to boost free legal services to low-income residents. The gift will help cover the costs of running the Roger Williams University Law School's Pro Bono Collaborative, which facilitates collaborations among law firms, community organizations and law students.

**South Carolina: Beaufort** — A boat owned by a South Carolina fire department is one of two that burned in a fire at a repair shop. *The Beaufort Gazette* reported a Beaufort Fire Department boat was destroyed when the fire started at a repair shop in Burton on Saturday. Beaufort Fire Department spokesman Dan Byrne said the city had used its boat for search-and-rescue missions.

**South Dakota: Pierre** — Bill Napoli, an outspoken former state lawmaker who owns an antique car shop and museum in Rapid City, said the four Republicans running for governor aren't conservative enough and he will run if supporters can raise $250,000 to launch a campaign. He said supporters already have $160,000 in pledges.

**Tennessee: Knoxville** — No people or animals were hurt in a small fire at the Knoxville Zoo. WBIR-TV reported firefighters extinguished the blaze in a janitor closet Monday. A fire department spokesman said there was smoke and water damage throughout the administration building, but fire damage was contained to the closet and a hallway.

**Texas: Dallas** — An National Transportation Safety Board investigation found that a puncture on a retreaded front tire caused a charter bus crash that killed 17 members of Houston's Vietnamese Catholic community in 2008. The bus, carrying 55 passengers, plunged over a highway bridge about 60 miles north of Dallas. U.S. regulations bar retreads on buses' front wheels.

**Utah: Salt Lake City** — State regulators gave approval for a surface coal mine on private lands in southern Utah. Alton Coal Development plans to produce 1 million tons a year from a 400-acre parcel south of the town of Alton in Kane County. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining said Alton Coal will get an operating permit as soon as it posts a $6 million reclamation bond.

**Vermont: Cavendish** — Students are helping families of Vermont National Guard soldiers deploying to Afghanistan. Secretary of State Deb Markowitz kicked off the "Service-to-Service" project at Cavendish Town Elementary School, where students raised $1,400 for Guard families. Markowitz said other schools are planning concerts, offering babysitting and other services.

**Virginia: Harrisonburg** — James Mason University journalists Tim Chapman and Katie Hibson face trespassing and disorderly conduct charges for entering a dorm to interview students about a peeping Tom incident. School spokesman Don Egle said dorm access is restricted for safety. The Virginia chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists wants the case dropped.

**Washington: Seattle** — The Army Corps of Engineers has pumped nearly 400,000 gallons of grout into a leaky abutment at the Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River, said dam program manager Mamie Brouwer. The corps is hurrying to complete a grout wall within the abutment by Nov. 1 and the start of the winter rainy season.

**West Virginia: Mathias** — Three people, including a firefighter, have been found dead in a house blaze that authorities are calling suspicious. Hardy County deputies identified the victims as Dennis Taylor, 36; his wife, Allaina Taylor, 39; and their 5-year-old daughter, Kaylee Whetzel. Dennis Taylor was a firefighter in Rockingham County, Va.

**Wisconsin: Madison** — State Assembly Democratic Speaker Mike Sheridan has named a panel to consider kicking troubled Rep. Jeff Wood out of the body. A Chippewa Falls independent, Wood was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs this month. He has been arrested three times in 10 months on that offense.

**Wyoming: Cheyenne** — The state-health department said 8,000 doses of swine flu vaccine, the latest shipments, are being distributed around the state this week. The state has received 24,000 doses in the past three weeks, health department spokeswoman Kim Deti said. She said the state had hoped to get more of the vaccine but production has been slower than expected.

**U.S. territory: Puerto Rico** — Thousands of dead fish are washing up on the shores of San Jose Lagoon. A spokesman for the San Juan Bay Estuary Program said the deaths are unrelated to the recent explosion at the nearby Caribbean Petroleum fuel depot. Javier Laureano said the tilapia, sardines and other fish suffocated because of poor water circulation in the lagoon.

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