

STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Florence: Fewer state residents are enrolling in the state's public colleges and community colleges, according to the Commission on Higher Education. This year's freshman class at the University of Alabama consisted of more out-of-state students than state residents.

ALASKA Juneau: The Assembly is considering possible changes to its tax exemption rules to help ease concerns with the city's budget, including to a program that allows anyone 65 or older to apply for an exemption from city sales taxes. The city lost out on \$2.8 million in sales tax due to the program in 2013.



ARIZONA Phoenix: Some rural school districts are recruiting applicants from abroad to fill what they say is a statewide scarcity of qualified teachers. The Department of Education said a little over half of 95,000 teachers certified in the state are actually teaching this year, and 21,000 have retired in the last five years.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The state Supreme Court is set to hear arguments Thursday over a lawsuit challenging a proposal that would let voters decide whether to legalize alcohol sales in all 75 counties. Currently, 37 counties are "dry."

HIGHLIGHT: NORTH DAKOTA

Some 'man camps' get a little luxury

The Associated Press

WILLISTON Worker accommodations in the state's oil patch can be rough: Men sleep in tiny trailers with boarded windows, in parked cars and in overcrowded apartments. The barracks-style "man camps" imply that roughness of life, too.

But for some big oil companies, as the boom matures beyond an insatiable rush for bodies and beds, a number of man camps resemble luxury versions of overseas military bases and function almost like hotels. Some of these high-end camps are self-contained communities with all-you-can-eat buffets, private quarters and housekeeping services that lay down fresh sheets and towels.

"These big oil companies have a lot of money, and they just want it all done and taken care of," said Barry Roman, founder of Reliant Asset Management, a firm involved in crew camp construction.

"Once a client comes in, they don't have to leave again until it's time to go to work," said Nick Nelson, assistant manager of Target Logistics' 496-bed Bear Paw Lodge near Williston that offers a gym and 24-hour dining hall.

Camps like this offer comfort and convenience for exhausted workers while also giving com-



JOSEPH WOOD, AP

Reliant Asset Management Executive Vice President Peter Eberle, left, and camp manager Shawn Duby show off one of the cabins at a "man camp" near Watford City, N.D.

panies a degree of control over the workforce: security guards man the entrances, and no booze or guests are allowed.

Reliant has similar facilities in the oil patch. But Roman said while the level of comfort at traditional man camps has increased, the needs of some oil companies have also changed. As some companies move away from the model of flying in workers for short periods of time, they are also looking to cut out food-catering costs and get more permanent housing.

In Watford City, Reliant has

built a hybrid man camp of sorts composed of prefab cabins that looks like a small subdivision but still operates like a traditional camp with furnished rooms and housekeeping services.

In many cabins, several bedrooms share a living room, kitchen and gas grill. While it is still primarily shared accommodations, it offers a level of privacy and feels much more like a home.

"It's not just shoving people into beds anymore," said Shawn Duby, who manages the facility.

who shot and wounded a pig with two arrows at a suburban Philadelphia animal sanctuary. Officials said 600-pound Bette was shot was found last week with a 3-foot-long arrow in it.

RHODE ISLAND East Providence: A Superior Court judge has cleared former Mayor Joseph Larisa of allegations he violated state ethics laws by representing a client for free before the city's Probate Court while holding elected office.

SOUTH CAROLINA Pickens County: Middle school students will soon have two 3-D printers to use in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) studies, thanks to a donation from non-profit group Manufacturers Caring for Pickens County. The printers have a combined value of about \$5,000, *The Greenville News* reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA Emery: A \$19 million grain-handling facility being built here is a few weeks behind schedule in part due to rainy weather, but it is still expected to handle grain from the current harvest.

TENNESSEE Nashville: Four new songwriters — John Anderson, Paul Craft, Tom Douglas and Gretchen Peters — were inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame on Sunday, *The Tennessean* reported.

TEXAS Dallas: Another round of thunderstorms in North Texas has prolonged power outages, triggered flash-flood warnings and dumped hail on some parts of the region.

UTAH Murray: Police say a 37-year-old man drowned after being hit by a train while crossing a bridge.

Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board.

MARYLAND Salisbury: The third lawsuit in a month against the Salisbury Police Department

stranding 13 families who live above the bridge.