

2017 DISTRICT - RADIO SPEAKING SCRIPT^a ROUND 2



INTERNATIONAL

A Taste For Pork Helped A Deadly Virus Jump To Humans

It was a balmy Sunday evening in early 1999, and Dr. Kaw Bing Chua hadn't had lunch or dinner. There wasn't time to eat. Chua was chasing a killer. And he thought maybe he had finally tracked it down. He slid the slide under the microscope lens, turned on the scope's light and looked inside. "A chill went down my spine," Chua says. "The slide lit up bright green, like bright green lanterns." Right there, in Chua's hands, was a virus the world had never seen before. And as he soon learned, it's also one of the most dangerous ones. Now Chua had enough of the virus to kill everyone in the lab. Maybe worse. The new virus — eventually called Nipah — is on the World Health Organization's list of viruses most likely to cause a global pandemic. It's the virus that inspired the 2011 movie Contagion. And just this past January, governments and philanthropists pledged hundreds of millions of dollars to develop a Nipah vaccine because it poses such a big threat. Back in 1999, Nipah was spreading across Malaysia. And Chua was the only one who knew it. But nobody believed him. Chua was still training in virology at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and didn't have clout or confidence. "I called my department head at his home. I said, 'Prof, please come. I want to show you something,' " Chua says. Chua's professor told him to throw away the experiments — that Chua was wasting time. But Chua didn't throw away the virus. Instead he packed it up and brought the samples to the U.S.

Banned Nerve Agent Killed Kim Jong Nam Within 20 Minutes, Malaysia Says

The nerve agent smeared onto the face of Kim Jong Nam, estranged half-brother of North Korean dictator Kim Jon Un, was administered in such a high dose it killed him within 20 minutes, according Malaysia's health minister. "The doses were so high and it did it so fast and all over the body, so it would have affected his heart, it would have affected his lungs, it would have affected everything," Subramaniam Sathasivam said at a news conference Sunday. Since Kim Jong Nam's death at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Feb. 13, speculation has swirled that the eldest Kim brother, who was exiled more than a decade ago, was assassinated by the North Korean government — a charge North Korea has denied. Suspicions were only stoked further with last week's revelation by Malaysian police that the poison used to kill him was VX nerve agent, which is classified as a weapon of mass destruction and banned by the international Chemical Weapons Convention. North Korea is not a signatory to the treaty, though, and NPR's Elise Hu reports the country is believed to have stockpiles of the chemical, along with up to 5,000 tons of various other agents. NPR's Geoff Brumfiel explains what makes the rare VX nerve agent so dangerous: "VX is among the deadliest chemical weapons ever devised. A colorless, odorless liquid, similar in consistency to motor oil, it kills in tiny quantities that can be absorbed through the skin. A relative of the nerve agent Sarin, VX disrupts communications between nerves and muscles. Victims of VX initially experience nausea and dizziness. Without an antidote, the chemical eventually paralyzes the diaphragm, causing suffocation."

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For Barcelona Activist Turned Mayor, The Anti-Corruption Goals Stay The Same

At the height of Spain's economic crisis a few years ago, protesters used to form human chains around houses to prevent authorities from serving eviction papers to homeowners who'd fallen behind on their mortgages. Often at the center of the crowd, with a megaphone, was Ada Colau. She was an Occupy activist who founded an anti-eviction group, organized protests in front of thousands of homes and banks and got hauled away many times by police. She was evicted from Spain's parliament in February 2013, when she interrupted a debate on banking laws with shouts of "Si, se puede!" — Yes, we can! — from the gallery. "It was very powerful. She had collected all these signatures to change the law, and she was yelling from the gallery and protesting," says Liz Castro, a longtime Barcelona resident and Catalan independence activist who respects Colau, even as she opposes her. "I found her very brave, making change happen, and motivating all these other people. I was impressed." Colau had become such a folk hero that she was invited back to the parliament later the same month to testify on Spain's economic crisis. Before she took the microphone, a spokesman for the Spanish bankers' association told the lawmakers that bankers played no role in the economic collapse — even though they did, and had to get a bailout from Europe. When it was Colau's turn to speak, her voice was shaking, but she minced no words. Now, four years after that confrontation, Colau is a politician herself — Barcelona's first female mayor — and the boss of the police who once handcuffed her. She was elected in May 2015 on a wave of anti-establishment anger fueled by Spain's economic crisis. Even though Colau, 42, has made the transition from grassroots activist to politician in charge, she says she feels like the exact same person with the same goals: to fight corruption, make government institutions more transparent and solve real problems. She's just got a different role now, she says. In an interview at her office at City Hall, Colau recalls how she felt at that 2013 parliamentary hearing. She says she hadn't planned to be confrontational. "My reaction was simply to say what I thought. Every day, I was with people who were losing everything, and this guy had no idea what was happening in our country!" she says, laughing. "So I spoke plainly, in a tone that you don't hear often in parliament." Since taking office, Colau has quadrupled public spending on social housing and fined mortgage lenders that kept foreclosed homes empty. She's banned new hotels in Barcelona's city center, which she says risks becoming a souvenir theme park, overrun by tourists. She also slashed her own salary and refused a government-issued Audi. She rides the metro to work instead. Colau's latest target is President Donald Trump. After Spain's conservative prime minister held a friendly phone call with Trump, Colau launched a social media campaign with the hashtag #NoenNuestroNombre — "not in our name." "He questions human rights and says sexist and racist things," she says. "You have to put limits on diplomacy with someone like that." In January, Colau joined an anti-Trump women's march in Barcelona, and says more are in the works. There's some irony here: Those who study local democracy say even though Colau's supporters and Trump's may be on the opposite sides of the political spectrum, there are similarities. They're people who've felt under-represented in politics, left out by elites — motivated by some of the same inequalities and fears that led Britons to vote to leave the European Union.

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NATIONAL

Fearing Climate Change Policy Under Trump, STEM Group Works To Get Scientists Elected

HOST: There's been a lot of talk about how the election of Donald Trump has sparked a new energy and engagement in politics on both the right and the left. We're going to hear now the story of a mobilization of scientists concerned that the Trump administration could upend years of work on climate change. Some scientists are worried about President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency administrator who's criticized EPA rules on climate change, clean air and water, and those concerns are prompting some scientists to move beyond just advocating for science to organizing and even running for office. One such group is called 314 Action which aims to prepare doctors, scientists, engineers and mathematicians to get more involved in politics. Its founder is Shaughnessy Naughton, a business owner with a chemistry degree who ran for Congress, albeit unsuccessfully.

SHAUGHNESSY NAUGHTON: Three, one, four are the first three digits of pi which is used throughout the sciences, and part of why I founded this organization was one of my observations from when I ran for Congress, I was really surprised at the lack of people with scientific or technical backgrounds. And I think we all benefit by having diversity of experience in government.

HOST: Well, so I'm thinking about the fact that physicians are actually well-represented in the current administration and have been in Congress for some time. I'm thinking about President Trump's nominee for Health Secretary - Tom Price is a physician. Former Congressman Ron Paul was a physician. His son Rand Paul, the senator, was an ophthalmologist. All of them are conservatives, and I'm wondering why is that?

NAUGHTON: Well, I think the nature of careers as, especially as independent practitioners for physicians, it does allow for greater flexibility and the ability to take time out of their career without being punished for it later. But what we are trying to do, although we include physicians in our umbrella group, we really want to bring people in from teaching, from research, from fields that are under-represented currently.

Google Spinoff Sues Uber, Saying Leader Of Autonomous Vehicle Unit Stole Key Designs

Waymo, the company that began as Google's self-driving-car project, is suing Uber — alleging that when Uber bought a startup founded by Waymo veterans, it also bought thousands of design files that had been inappropriately downloaded from its servers. In its lawsuit, Waymo cites forensic evidence as well as a vendor's email that it received by mistake. The startup in question is Otto, which was only months old when Uber bought it for roughly \$680 million last summer. Uber put Otto co-founder Anthony Levandowski in charge of its self-driving-vehicle effort, which includes both trucking — a field Otto had focused on — and personal vehicles. The problem, according to Waymo and Alphabet (Google's umbrella company) is that before he left, Levandowski "took extraordinary efforts to raid Waymo's design server and then conceal his activities." Waymo says Levandowski's actions were "part of a concerted plan to steal Waymo's trade secrets and intellectual property." Before it acquired Otto, Uber was "more than five years behind" in the race to develop reliable autonomous vehicles, according to the court filing.

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Former Labor Secretary Tom Perez Elected To Lead Democrats

LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO, HOST: The Democrats have a new leader. Members of the Democratic National Committee have elected former Labor Secretary Tom Perez to head the party. Perez has a lot of work ahead of him. Democrats are in the minority at all levels of government. And, as the race for the DNC chair showed, there's still a lot of tension between the activist and establishment wings of the party. NPR's Scott Detrow reports from Atlanta.

TOM PEREZ: Someday, they're going to study this era in American history. And they're going to study it alongside the Know-Nothing movements. And they're going to ask the question of all of us - where were you in 2017, when we had the worst president in the history of the United States?

DETROW: Opposing President Trump is something most Democrats can agree on right now. After that, it can get complicated. And last year's bruising primary battle can still linger. Take just one thing, big money in politics. It's something Keith Ellison talked about in his speech before the vote.

KEITH ELLISON: We believe that we would rather have a million donations of \$10 than 10 donations of just \$100,000. We've got to go to the grassroots, y'all.

DETROW: DNC members had just voted down a resolution that would've banned corporate political-action committees from giving money to the party. That's something a lot of grassroots activists cared deeply about. That's not to say Perez is a conservative Democrat or even moderate. In fact, as Labor secretary, he was one of the most progressive members of President Obama's cabinet. But the fact that Ellison's campaign stalled and failed and that so many high-profile Democrats endorsed Perez after Bernie Sanders backed Ellison left a lot of liberal activists frustrated. Perez was clearly mindful of this. He talked over and over about party unity, addressing it again after his win.

Trayvon Martin's death sparked a movement that lives on five years later

The African-American teenager's death at the hands of a neighborhood watch volunteer spurred a movement and gave rise to a rallying cry that resonates with many today: "#BlackLivesMatter." Martin, 17, was carrying iced tea and candy as he walked from a convenience store to the home of his father's fiancée in Sanford, Florida. Neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman spotted the teenager and called 911 to report "a suspicious person" in his neighborhood." A scuffle broke out, but there were no direct witnesses. Moments later, neighbors reported hearing gunfire. Zimmerman claimed Martin hit him, knocking him to the pavement. Zimmerman contends that he took out his gun and shot Martin in self-defense. Critics said Zimmerman was unjustified in confronting the unarmed teenager, particularly since Zimmerman disregarded a police dispatcher's advice to stop following Martin. In July 2013, Zimmerman was acquitted of a second degree murder charge, igniting protests. The image of Martin wearing a hoodie became iconic. Professional athletes donned hoodies, and protestors repeated the mantra: "I am Trayvon Martin" to express solidarity and outrage.

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WEATHER

- Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28. West wind 10 to 15 mph.
- Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south after midnight.
- Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 38. South wind 10 to 15 mph.
- Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. West wind 10 to 15 mph.
- Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow after 1pm. Increasing clouds, with a high near 30. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
- Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow before 7pm. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

STATE

Walker Signs Pro-Cheese Bill, First To Pass This Year

Gov. Scott Walker has signed into law the first bill to pass the Legislature this session, a measure designed to help Wisconsin's cheese industry. Walker signed the bill Thursday making it possible for tax incentives to be extended to help finance construction of a \$30 million cheese packaging and distribution plant in the village of Oostburg near Sheboygan. Plymouth-based Masters Gallery Foods is looking to construct the new facility. The new law will allow Oostburg to create a new tax incremental district to help subsidize construction of the 150,000-square-foot facility. It is expected to create 120 jobs over three years. Walker said the bill is good news both for the Oostburg community and the state.

EPA Gives Green Light To Revision Of Wisconsin Phosphorus Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved a Wisconsin program backers say will give the state more flexibility in meeting standards aimed at reducing algae growth in waterways. The issue dates back to former Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle's administration, when the state approved measurable standards for how much phosphorus could be released into Wisconsin waters. After Republican Gov. Scott Walker took office, he pushed to expand a so-called adaptive management approach that would give companies and publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants less costly ways of meeting the state targets. In 2014, the Republican-controlled state Legislature gave factories and the treatment plants up to 20 years to fully meet the phosphorus standard. The EPA said it received a variance request from the state last spring, and that approval took longer than usual because of the variance's complexity and novel approach. They also said it was the first variance submitted after the EPA revised its water quality standards regulation in August 2015. According to the federal agency, Wisconsin's program is unique because instead of pursuing maximum feasible treatment of wastewater to remove phosphorus, point sources like companies and municipal treatment plants are required to optimize phosphorus removal by existing wastewater treatment and direct money to controlling non-point sources of phosphorus elsewhere in the watershed, such as farms.

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Wisconsin Farmers Weigh-In On The End Of TPP

Wisconsin farmers have some mixed opinions about in the end of U.S. involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Among a series of executive actions taken this week, President Donald Trump officially withdrew from the multinational trade agreement, fulfilling a long-time campaign promise. The TPP has been controversial in the U.S. but many agricultural groups supported the Obama-era trade deal as an opportunity to increase exports. "There's only so much corn we can sell domestically and 99 percent of the consuming public is outside of this country and outside of this state," said Lizzy Schultz from the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association. "We are going to need to keep continuing to move forward with trade and its just going to be a little bit more difficult." Schultz said increasing ag exports would also mean more jobs in the U.S. But some Wisconsin dairy farmers are celebrating the end of the TPP. Producers have been critical of the trade deal, warning about the potential negative impacts of opening up trade on that industry. "We were looking at probably a lot more cheap dairy products coming into the U.S. than our dairy products leaving the country," said Darin Von Ruden, president of the Wisconsin Farmers Union. Von Ruden said farmers may have sold more products under the TPP, but at the expense of a lower pay price. "If there's a situation where the price that you receive for your product gets lower because of other nations having cheaper production costs, therefore driving farmers out of business, that's not what we're looking for," Von Ruden said. Both Schultz and Von Ruden said they hope the new administration will pursue new trade opportunities for farmers.

Trauma Counseling For Gun Violence Expands In Milwaukee

More children and families may receive counseling in response to exposure to gun violence and other trauma as a Milwaukee program expands. The Milwaukee Trauma Response Initiative began as a pilot project two years ago in a police district with the city's worst gun violence. After 240 families or children were referred for counseling last year, the city and Milwaukee County agreed to expand the effort to another high-violence police district. Milwaukee Alderwoman Milele Coggs said many people affected by gunfire don't make the headlines. "For every news story that you see, it is likely some child in that home, along that block or in that neighborhood, saw that violence, witnessed that shooting," Coggs said at a Tuesday news conference. Counselors say it's important to reassure children they did the right thing. Hendriel Anderson, psychiatric clinician at the Trauma Response Initiative, said reassure the kids right away. "If a child hid under the bed, or called 911, while the violence was occurring, I want that child to know that's exactly what I would have done, and that's what kept them safe," Anderson said. There were more than 100 fatal shootings in Milwaukee each of the last two years, and roughly 600 people are wounded by gunfire annually. Mental health professionals say children who witness violence may be more likely to commit violent acts when they grow up, unless they receive trauma counseling.

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Northern Wisconsin Lobbies Again For Half-Percent Sales Tax For Roads

Northern Wisconsin leaders are lobbying lawmakers and state agencies to insert language into the budget bill allowing them to ask voters whether they would support a half-percent sales tax to pay for local road repairs. But Wisconsin's transportation secretary says any new tax proposals will meet roadblocks from the administration. The state should allow the county to at least ask voters if they would approve the tax to fix roads, said Douglas County Board Chairman Mark Liebaert. "We need this ability on this half a percent sales tax because we're not going to be able to bond our way out of this," Liebaert said Tuesday during Superior Days at the state Capitol. "But, we bonded \$5 million, and we plan on bonding for \$26 million regardless of what happens with this half a percent sales tax." Douglas County is proposing to the Legislature insert language into the 2017-2019 budget for a pilot project that would allow only Douglas County to utilize the half-percent sales tax for road funding. The county has more than 300 miles of road to maintain and has budgeted around \$2 million each year to repair roads. At that rate, county officials claim it would take more than 50 years to repair its transportation infrastructure. Wisconsin's Department of Transportation Secretary Dave Ross said Gov. Scott Walker's administration is opposed to any new taxes or fees. "We need to make this a friendly place to live, and we need to try to reduce that tax burden, and so one of the ways to do that is to hold back any new taxes," Ross said. Walker's budget provides \$76 million for local roads, Ross said. Douglas County plans to borrow more for maintenance needs because even increased funding won't cover the cost of repairs, Liebaert said. A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced a bill last year that would have allowed local governments to ask voters if they'd support a half-percent sales tax, but it never reached the state Assembly floor for a vote.

SPORTS

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL: Rio has run end with loss to Barneveld

The Rio girls basketball program won 20 games and claimed its first conference championship in 10 years this season, but a regional championship wasn't in the cards, as the third-seeded Vikings had their season end with a 72-60 loss to No. 2 seed Barneveld in a Division 5 regional final on Saturday night.

Rio senior Dakotah Hutzler scored a game-high 23 points in the loss. Hutzler made four of Rio's nine 3-pointers in the game. Senior Samantha Junget made three from long distance and finished with nine points.

Teegan Pickarts led the Eagles (17-9) with 18 points. With the win, Barneveld advances to play in the sectional semifinal against No. 4 seed Fall River, who advanced with a 67-62 overtime win over top-seeded Black Hawk on Saturday.

BARNEVELD 72, RIO 60

Rio 27 33 - 60

Barneveld 34 38 - 72

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WIAA state wrestling: River Valley wins three Division 2 state titles

For Dustin Hatfield, Saturday was born from disappointment. "I came up short last year, and then this year in cross country, I came up short again," the River Valley senior said. "This was my time to get it done." Hatfield closed out a perfect senior season in dramatic fashion with a 4-2 sudden-victory decision over Delafield St. John's/Brookfield Academy's Aidan Medora in the 126-pound championship match in the WIAA Division 2 individual state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center. One of three River Valley wrestlers to win championships on Saturday, Hatfield was forced to settle for second a year ago and third at state cross country in the fall. This time, though, he had a good feeling. "I knew it was going to come up right," Hatfield said. "There's no way anybody was working as much as I was." As memorable as the finish was, Hatfield admitted it was a bit of a blur. Trailing 2-1, Hatfield managed an escape with 6 seconds remaining in regulation to force an overtime period. Then? A decisive moment of chaos. "I shot in, and we started scrambling on the edge of the mat," Hatfield said. "I just ... I don't know. I just got two out of it." The Blackhawks backed up Hatfield's win with victories from Shane Liegel at 160 pounds and Elijah Alt at 170. "It's what I've been working for all year," said Liegel, who defeated Oconto Falls' Nate Trepanier 5-4. "I don't think it's sunk in yet." Like Hatfield, Liegel's match ended with some drama. The River Valley sophomore gave up a tying reversal in the final 30 seconds, only to win with an escape at the buzzer. "I kind of did some sort of roll, got in a big scramble," Liegel said. "I honestly don't know what happened. They gave me an escape."

COMMERCIALS

Car maintenance help keeps gas costs in line

While it's always wise to conserve natural resources, the recent price of gasoline has made even the most wasteful people think twice. The pros at the national institute for automotive service excellence offer these tips for conserving fuel and saving money: monitor tires. If they're under-inflated or poorly aligned, your engine has to work harder. Less weight means better mileage. Remove excess items and store only essentials and emergency gear in your vehicle. Consolidate trips and errands. Observe speed limits and drive gently. Sudden accelerations guzzle gas. Use air conditioning wisely. It's all right to keep it on with windows closed at highway speeds, but turn it off in stop-and-go traffic. Finally, keep your engine tuned for top performance and maximum gas mileage. Some repairs should only be done by qualified professionals. Given today's high-tech engines, it's wise to have your car serviced by a-s-e- certified technicians. For more information, visit w-w-w dot a-s-e dot com.

Alcohol

How do kids get alcohol? From legal aged friends and even siblings. Talk with your kids and get a free copy of "let's keep talking" at millerbrewing.com Live responsibly...Miller Brewing Company. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.