



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

SATURDAY • 07.28.2018 • \$2.00

NTSB SAYS LAKE CHANGED RAPIDLY FROM CALM TO DEADLY

A MATTER OF MINUTES

ALARM SOUNDED

Twice, tone signaled hull had taken on significant water

BY JIM SALTER AND JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS • Video and audio recordings from a fatal tourist boat accident in Missouri show that the lake went from calm to deadly dangerous in a matter of minutes, the National Transportation Safety Board said Friday.

The NTSB cited preliminary findings gathered from the video recorder camera system salvaged by divers after the duck boat sank July 19 at Table Rock Lake near

A FINAL CHECK

Recording indicates captain saw weather radar before trip

Branson. Seventeen of the 31 people on board died, including nine family members from Indianapolis.

The material was examined at a lab in Washington, but the agency has not yet analyzed the findings, and no conclusions about the cause of the accident, one of the nation's worst maritime accidents in recent decades, can be drawn.

The findings, though, paint a chilling picture of the final few minutes before the

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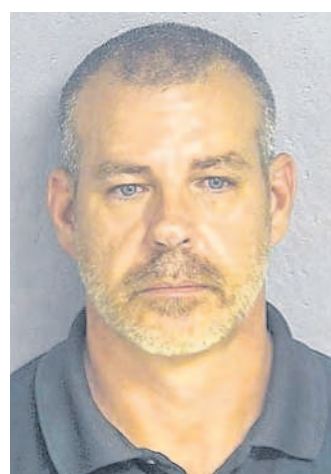


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MEMORIAL SERVICE

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders salute Bill Asher at his memorial service Friday. Asher, of the Affton area, died in the Branson boat sinking on July 19.

Story, A5



'THE WHEELS FELL OFF'

Texas County commissioners had heard rumors about problems with Sheriff James Sigman, but he denied them. Then he and his girlfriend, Jennifer Tomaszewski, were charged with several crimes.



Union issue is dilemma for some candidates

BY JACK SUNTRUP AND KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Pro-union forces have planted the black signs along rural roadways, in front of union homes and throughout urban corridors.

The signs say: "Vote NO on Prop A."

If a majority of voters on Aug. 7 vote "no," Missouri's "right to work" law — signed by then-Gov. Eric Greitens last year — will be scrapped.

That means several Republicans running in labor-friendly legislative districts face a dilemma: Do they side with the Republican establishment in the Aug. 7 primary, or do they side with the unions trying to overturn the law?

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AD CRITICIZED • Union attacks former official's appearance. A3



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"I am very surprised," said lifelong Houston, Mo., resident Marion Hensen, who reads about ousted Texas County Sheriff James Sigman's arrest while getting her hair done on Thursday at Delma's Hair Design. "I never met the man or her, but this is poor, poor, poor," Hensen said. "I don't think he should be sheriff here or anywhere ever again."

BY JESSE BOGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

EUNICE, MO. • The reaction to Danny Ross' bout with cancer perhaps speaks to what is best about communities such as this one in rural Texas County. After news spread that he was sick, and he'd need to make the long slog to St. Louis for treatment, friends stepped up to help.

They mowed his grass, checked on his cattle and dropped off enough firewood to get his family through two winters.

"That is just how people are around here," said Ross, 66, of tiny Eunice.

That sense of trust and belonging is being challenged. Not from a faraway place that many residents come here to avoid, or run away from, but by a neighbor — James Sigman, who was recently ousted from being the sheriff of Texas County.

Elected to office in 2012, Sigman, 48, faces a host of crimes, including robbery, assault, endangering the welfare of a child, unlawful use of a weapon, misuse of official information by a public servant and harassment. He's essentially accused of not doing anything to stop his girlfriend, Jennifer Tomaszewski, 38, from misrepresenting herself as a peace officer, putting area residents at

risk and abusing inmates.

Sigman hired her as a jailer in December 2016, about the time they began a romance together, according to court records. She was promoted to administrator of the 72-bed jail seven months later, which drew scorn from employees and inmates under her care.

Tomaszewski allegedly threatened to shoot an inmate in the head, which led to a grievance report that wasn't held on file. During an altercation with a mentally disabled inmate, she allegedly struck him in the

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U.S. economy grew at a brisk 4.1 percent rate last quarter

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON • The U.S. economy accelerated last quarter at an annual rate of 4.1 percent, the government estimated Friday, as consumers spent tax-cut money, businesses stepped up investment and exporters rushed to ship their goods ahead of retaliatory tariffs.

President Donald Trump said he was thrilled with what he called an "amazing" growth rate — the strongest quarterly figure since 2014

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Hudson Poncedeleon Weaver Webb

Cardinals reshuffle pitching staff

Most of the newcomers are in the bullpen — for now

SPORTS • B1

DeJong drives in 3 runs as Cards beat Cubs • B1

Twitter's stock plunges 20 percent • A7

City asks court to reject lender's NGA claims • A6

Flaming tornadoes burn California city • A8



GOP's tariff tight spot

INSIDE • A3

TODAY
83°/67°
MOSTLY CLOUDY
TOMORROW
80°/66°
SHOWERS POSSIBLE
WEATHER
BS



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Vol. 140, No. 209 ©2018