BURGUM ELECTED WGA VICE CHAIR

The Western Governors’ Association on Wednesday named Gov. Doug Burgum as vice chairman for the 2018-2019 year, on the final day of the association's three-day annual meeting in Rapid City, S.D. Burgum was elected to serve as vice chair under Hawaii Gov. David Ige, who was elected chairman for 2018-2019. The vice chairman has traditionally served as chairman the following year. The announcement was made by South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard as he completed his yearlong term as chairman. Burgum concluded the meeting by announcing the results of the governors’ work on policy resolutions. The 11 new resolutions include an updated resolution that incorporates the outcomes of the first year of WGA’s Workforce Development Initiative.
Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford welcomed more than 100 members of the National Association of Royalty Owners’ North Dakota chapter on Thursday to their annual conference in Bismarck, highlighting the important role that private mineral owners have played in oil and gas development in the Bakken. Sanford also spoke about the resurgence in North Dakota’s oil and gas industry, with oil production at 1.225 million barrels per day in April and expected to soon break the record of 1.227 million barrels per day set in December 2014.

Representatives from 13 states and Canada were welcomed Monday by Lt. Gov. Sanford to the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ 85th annual director’s conference in Bismarck. The agency directors -- including North Dakota’s own Game and Fish Director Terry Steinwand, who has served as the association’s president this past year -- advocate for states’ rights on fish and wildlife issues, provide educational resources and share information and ideas to benefit wildlife management and conservation. Participants also heard from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Greg Sheehan.
Lt. Gov. Sanford and other members of the UAS Integration Pilot Program strategic advisory committee met Tuesday to discuss efforts to integrate unmanned aerial systems into the national airspace. The committee was formed as a result of the North Dakota Department of Transportation’s selection as one of 10 participants in the U.S. DOT’s drone integration program. The group, which is tasked with guiding implementation, is comprised of leaders from government, the private sector and other stakeholders from around the state.

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR SECOND RECOVERY REINVENTED
Gov. Burgum and First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum are inviting stakeholders and the public to attend the second “Recovery Reinvented” on Sept. 5 in Fargo. The daylong event from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fargo Civic Center will feature state and national addiction and recovery experts who will focus on reinventing recovery through advocacy, recovery community resources implementation and the elimination of stigma surrounding the chronic disease of addiction. For more information and to register or volunteer for the free event, visit www.recoveryreinvented.com/rr18.