



# Five NFL teams that could stumble early

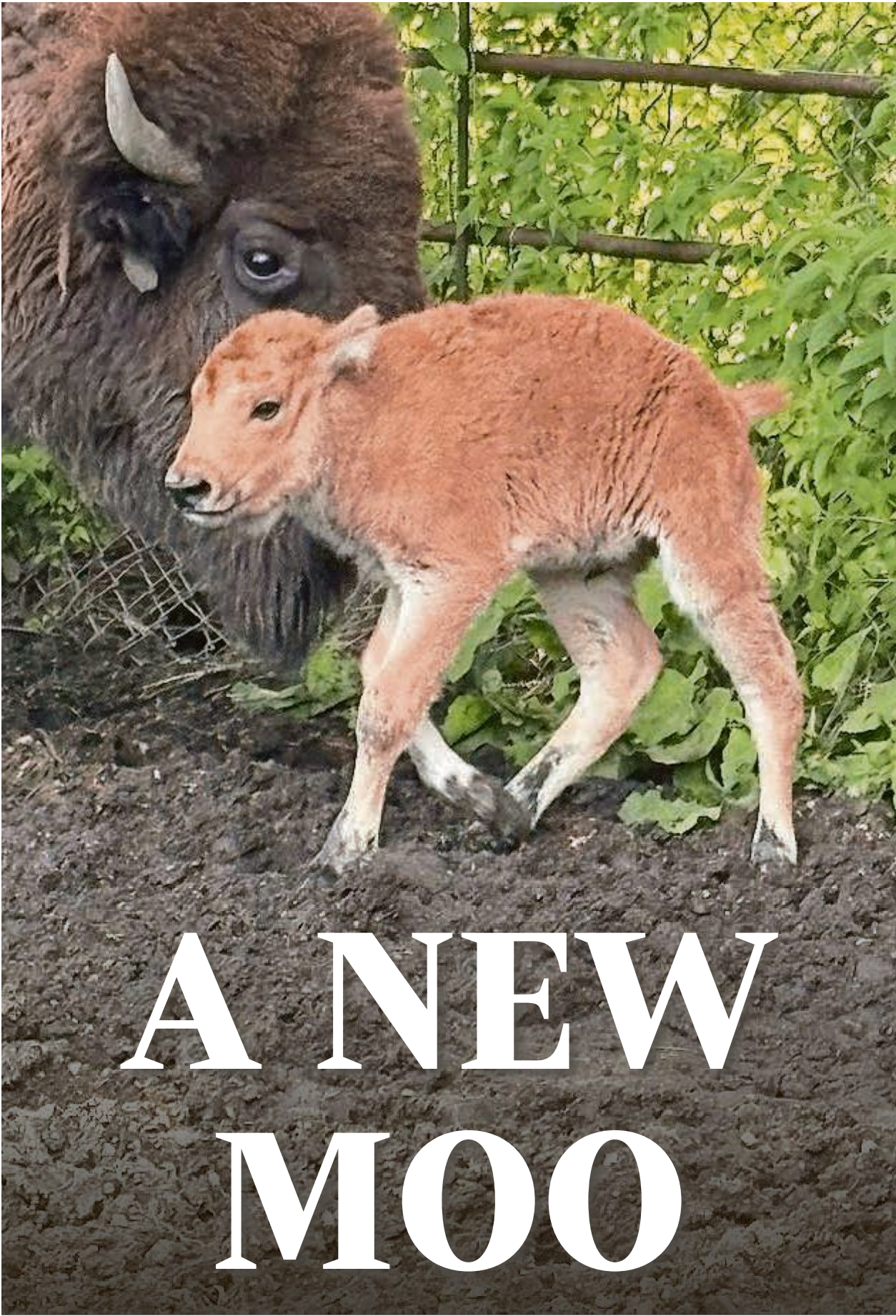
SPORTS, 1B

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# WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 | THEPUBLICOPINION.COM

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Bison calf with its mother at Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown, South Dakota. PROVIDED BY BRAMBLE PARK ZOO

## Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown welcomes bison calf

Watertown Public Opinion  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bramble Park Zoo welcomed a new bison calf Sunday night, Aug. 24. This calf is part of an important conservation effort to protect the future of North American Bison, the zoo’s release stated.

Last fall, the Smithsonian National Zoo sent two bison females to Bramble Park Zoo to join the zoo’s “genetically valuable” bull. This pairing was recommended by the North American Bison SAFE—Saving Animals From Extinction—and the Species Survival Plan

programs. Bringing the bisons together helps strength bison genetics and restore native prairie habitat.

The North American Bison is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, with its population considered Critically Depleted, the zoo’s release states. According to Bramble Park Zoo, every calf born helps add to the genetic pool and supports a healthier, more stable population for future generations.

Bramble Park Zoo is located at 800 10th St. NW. The zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

## SD state representative killed in farm accident

SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Leaders in the South Dakota House of Representatives are honoring the memory of Rep. Richard Vasgaard, R-Centerville.

Vasgaard died this week at age 75 in a farm accident, according to multiple media reports. Republican House leaders issued a statement Wednesday evening.



Vasgaard

Speaker of the House Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, said Vasgaard brought “humility, wisdom, and a steady voice” to the House chamber.

“His service was marked by an unwavering dedication to the citizens he represented,” Hansen said, “and to the agriculture industry he and his family worked in.”

House Speaker Pro Tempore Karla Lems, R-Canton, served alongside Vasgaard in District 16, which includes land in Lincoln, Turner and Union counties.

“While the experience and steady perspective he brought to Pierre will be missed, it is an irreplaceable loss to District 16 and his Turner County community,” Lems said.

House Majority Leader Scott Odenbach, R-Spearfish, added that Vasgaard was “liked and respected by everybody.”

“His love for farming and for South Dakota was as strong as anybody I’ve ever seen,” Odenbach said. “He will truly be missed.”

## Company wants to bring \$750M wind farm to western SD


Joshua Haiar  
South Dakota Searchlight

A company is asking South Dakota regulators for approval to construct a \$750 million wind farm in western South Dakota that would produce up to 300 megawatts — enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes.

The proposal from Philip Wind Partners, a subsidiary of Chicago-based Invenergy, would be in a 70,000-acre area of privately owned land in Haakon County about 15 miles north of Philip, which is about 85 miles east of Rapid City. Plans call for up to 87 turbines and up to seven miles of electrical transmission lines.

According to the application, the project would create about 200 construction jobs and 12 long-term jobs. Over 30 years, the company anticipates more than \$85 million in payments to landowners, over \$50 million in property taxes, and over \$10 million in state and local sales taxes.

See WIND FARM, Page 3A



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