

Residents Cleaning Up After Storm

BROOKINGS (AP) — Some residents in Brookings are cleaning up after a powerful storm with heavy rains and high winds rolled through the area. KELO-TV reports that a tornado warning was issued around 6:30 p.m. Thursday for the storm that knocked down trees, took out power and flipped mobile homes. Neighbors in the southwest part of town tell KSFY-TV that there was extensive damage to siding and fences in several neighborhoods. No injuries have been reported.

Algae Warning Issued For Nebraska Lake

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — State health and environment officials have issued a health alert for toxic blue-green algae at Willow Creek Lake in northeast Nebraska's Pierce County. Officials say in a news release Friday that the alert was issued following tests of the lake water. Skin exposed to the toxin from certain strains of blue-green algae can develop rashes and blisters. Someone who drinks water containing the toxin is at risk for headaches, nausea and muscular pain. Weekly water sampling has been conducted at 50 public lakes in Nebraska since the beginning of May.

Developers Alter Plans For Building

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Promoters of a mixed-use building and parking ramp in downtown Sioux Falls are retooling their plans after developers failed to reach a deal with landowners along Phillips Avenue. The proposal for a four-story building called "The Banks" will have a hotel, apartments, retail and office space, and a public parking ramp at the corner of 10th Street and Phillips Avenue. Sioux Falls Community Development Director Darrin Smith tells the *Argus Leader* that project backers were unsuccessful in acquiring the properties that house Skelly's Pub and Copper Lounge. The new plan calls for the building to be constructed on a city-owned parking lot.

Body Of Father Pinned Beneath Tractor

COMSTOCK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say the body of a Comstock man who'd been killed in a tractor accident was found by his son. Broken Bow radio station KCNI reports that the accident occurred Wednesday afternoon about two miles northeast of Comstock. Custer County Sheriff's Office investigators say 72-year-old Alan Drake was working on a road to a pasture and helping to remove trees when the tractor flipped over, pinning him underneath. Drake's son, Kevin, found his father's body in the pasture.

Man Accused In Stabbing Sentenced

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of stabbing a man in the back of the head has been sentenced to a year in prison. Twenty-year-old River Grey Bull, of McLaughlin, pleaded guilty in May to a federal charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. The incident happened Jan. 24 on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Authorities say officers could not initially find Grey Bull when they arrived at the scene, but later spotted him near a patrol vehicle. He allegedly had blood spots on his sweatpants. Grey Bull was also ordered to serve three years of supervised release. A federal public defender could not be immediately reached for comment.

Project Slows Traffic On NE Highway 50

PAWNEE CITY, Neb. (AP) — A chip seal pavement project is expected to slow traffic Friday on state Highway 50 in southeast Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Roads says the work will run for about 3.5 miles on a highway stretch north of Pawnee City. The department says chip seal is an application of an asphalt binder to a roadway surface, followed by an aggregate. The work is expected to take a day and will require the use of a pilot vehicle and flaggers.

Woman Assaults On Reservation

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A North Dakota woman accused of stabbing another woman on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation has been sentenced in South Dakota federal court. Twenty-seven-year-old Marissa Sitting Dog, of Fort Yates, North Dakota, pleaded guilty in April to assault with a dangerous weapon. Authorities say the incident happened on Feb. 22. Sitting Dog was sentenced to 18 months in custody, to be followed by three years of supervised release. A federal public defender could not be immediately reached for comment. The Standing Rock Reservation straddles the North and South Dakota border.

Nebraska Man Charged In Shooting

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — Dodge County prosecutors have filed charges against a 42-year-old man accused of fatally shooting his daughter's former boyfriend. Court records say Walter Campo was charged Thursday with manslaughter and use of a weapon to commit a felony. Jail records say Campo remained in custody on Friday. The court records don't list the name of an attorney who could be contacted to comment on Campo's behalf. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office says Campo confronted and shot 22-year-old Tyler Childs, of Fremont, on July 24 when Childs tried to visit his former girlfriend. She's been living with her parents a mobile home park about two miles northeast of Fremont.

Members Ask Educators To Speak Positively About K-12 Task Force

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

SIOUX FALLS — Two state legislators who chair the governor's Blue Ribbon task force on K-12 education said Friday they are optimistic but they asked school board members and school superintendents to be respectful in public about the panel's work. "If we derail this, it could be a long time before we have another opportunity," Rep. Jacqueline Sly, R-Rapid City, said during a panel discussion at the joint convention of board members and superintendents. "This is education's time to shine," Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, said. "I would be so sad if we squander this time that's ahead of us, the next six months." Soholt and Sly participated in a panel discussion with Becky Guffin, the Aberdeen public schools superintendent, and Eric Stroeder of Moberly, the new president for the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. All four are task force members. "Do something positive," Guffin said in response to a question about what she hopes will come from the work. She doesn't want it to cause fighting.

"I hope it's something we can come to grips with and be positive and move forward," Guffin said. The task force is looking at many topics such as the supply of teachers, South Dakota's last-place rank in average teacher salary, the state's methods of funding public schools and the schools' methods of educating students. Jim Heinert, who retired as Meade school district's superintendent in 2011, told the panel Friday that the first problem needing attention is restoration of \$50 million that the Legislature cut in state funding for schools in 2011. Stroeder replied that education in South Dakota has been on "a starvation diet" for many years. At another point, he said: "If they're convinced they're getting a good product, they're willing to pay more." Task force members held a dozen regional meetings in April, May and June. The full group gathered July 7 in Pierre and meets again on Aug. 19. Two more full meetings are scheduled for Sept. 9 and Oct. 1, with a possible meeting Oct. 29. Soholt said Friday the task force aims to issue a report in October so that legislation can be written for the 2016 session that opens in January. The final package probably won't win approval from legisla-

tors until the closing weeks in March. "Don't expect an early done," she said. Wade Pogany, the executive director for the school boards group, said there is some cynicism and skepticism about whether the task force can develop changes that will be acceptable, after more than a dozen previous studies and panels in recent decades. Said Guffin, "This time it does feel different." Soholt asked that people don't call the task force stupid. "Our goal is not to be disappointing. Our goal is to do something amazing for South Dakota," she said. Finding money will be up to the Legislature, Sly said. But there is also the challenge of using the money to make teaching more attractive. "What will be ways? That's where it's helpful to hear from people in the field," Sly said. "It's a huge problem we have in our schools when you can't find teachers to fill those classrooms or you have only one or two to choose from." Guffin said kids have more choices of careers than in the past. "The problem is very real," she said about the declining interest in teaching as a profession. "New jobs are created every day. We're in competition with that," she said.

SD Tribe Returns \$25,000 Donation

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A Native American tribe from South Dakota will return a \$25,000 donation from a charitable arm of the NFL's Washington Redskins, saying the team name is "derogatory and inappropriate." The tribal council of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe voted Wednesday to return the check, which was issued last month by the Washington Redskins' Original Americans Foundation to the tribe's rodeo association. "A lot of those in our community our opposed to accepting money from the Redskins, which to us is a racist organization; the term is derogatory and inappropriate," said Ryman LeBeau, the tribe's vice chairman and a councilman. "Their fans make a mockery of Indian culture, and that's just wrong." The foundation was created in March 2014 by team owner Dan Snyder following intensifying calls by Native Americans and other groups for the team to do away with its name. The team has maintained that it is meant to honor Native Americans, though a federal judge in June ordered the team's trademark registration be cancelled, saying there is ample evidence that the name may be perceived as disparaging. That ruling does not preclude the team from

using the word Redskins. It wasn't immediately known how many tribes have received donations from the foundation, but Redskins spokesman Maury Lane said the majority of tribes are happy to accept such help and typically put the money toward improving things like transportation, education and football camps. "The Original American foundation has been working with more than 50 federally recognized tribes, spending millions of dollars on more than 250 projects on tribal lands," Lane said. "Our mission remains to improve the quality of life on these lands without interfering with tribal governance." The Cheyenne Sioux's fair and rodeo board had passed a motion to allow Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier to seek money from the foundation but hadn't brought the check to council until this week, LeBeau said, adding that Frazier has met personally with Snyder and the charitable arm. Included in the motion voted on this week is language that bans Frazier from "unsanctioned communication" with the team or any group or person associated with it. Messages left at Frazier's office were not immediately returned. LeBeau, who says the central South Dakota tribe has

areas he feels need improvement, doesn't think it's right to accept money from an organization that many feel doesn't support them. "It just feels like they want to buy us off and keep us quiet," he said, noting that he knew of only a few people in the approximately 16,000-member tribe supported accepting the check. Lane maintained that the vast majority the foundation's donations are well-received. "This is definitely an anomaly," he said. Earlier this year, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah ousted a tribal chairwoman who was involved with the Original Americans Foundation for misconduct and ethical violations after accepting gifts of an autographed football and a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend a game in 2014. The foundation also donated two vans to the tribe, which ex-chairwoman Gari Lafferty has said are used to transport children and elders. Lafferty has disputed the tribe's allegations. In South Dakota, LeBeau said the issue is preventing from the tribe from tackling larger issues like drug and alcohol abuse and suicides. "This is just a (distraction) from working on the bigger solutions that will help our communities with the issues that are really affecting us, he said."

Still Time To Be A Highway Trooper

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says there's still time to apply to be a state trooper. The Department of Public Safety announced Thursday the deadline to apply is Aug. 14. The Highway Patrol says positions are expected to open in the next year. The application process begins early because training takes several months. Requirements necessary to become a trooper include having U.S. citizenship, being 21-years-old and being eligible to have a state driver's license, in addition to physical requirements. Applicants must also pass a written test, but certified South Dakota law enforcement officers don't need to take it. Col. Craig Price is the superintendent of the Highway Patrol. Price says there's rigorous training involved in becoming a trooper.

Yankton Middle School

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