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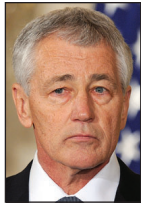
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Hagel Orders Security Reviews

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has ordered two sweeping reviews of military security and employee screening programs, acknowledging Wednesday that “a lot of red flags” may have been missed in the background of the Washington Navy Yard shooter.



Hagel

Two days after former Navy reservist Aaron Alexis gunned down 12 people in a shooting rampage inside the Navy base, Pentagon leaders struggled with whether a string of minor arrests, mental health issues and other behavioral problems should have been enough to strip him of his security clearance or deny him access to the secure facility in southeast Washington.

“Obviously, there were a lot of red flags,” Hagel told reporters at a Pentagon briefing. “Why they didn’t get picked, why they didn’t get incorporated into the clearance process, what he was doing, those are all legitimate questions that we’re going to be dealing with.”

But Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he still believes that those who have served in the military should not be stigmatized by having to answer questions about their mental health status on security clearance forms.

In recent years, Dempsey and other military leaders

REVIEW | PAGE 5

YHS Royalty



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The royalty for Yankton High School's 2013 Pioneer Days homecoming celebration was determined earlier this week by members of YHS's senior class. Chosen were, bottom from left: Hailey Luken, Anna Gulick and Molly King; second row: Abbey Van Meeteren, Susanna Kinsley and Brooke Wuebben; third row: Brandon Frick, Layne Droppers and Tanner Termansen; top row: Lane Sawatzke, Landon Withrow and J.J. Hejna. The “pioneer prince” and “pioneer princess” will be unveiled during the annual homecoming ceremony at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at the YHS/Summit Activities Center main gym.

SDSU Football Stadium Project Could Cost \$60M

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The new football stadium proposed for South Dakota State University would switch from grass to artificial turf, could cost at least \$60 million and would be the most expensive project undertaken at a state campus, members of the building committee said Wednesday.

The construction schedule calls for work to start in 2014 on the new stadium's east, south and part of the west sides while Coughlin-Alumni Stadium would remain in place for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. The west side of the new stadium would be finished in 2016 to be

ready for football games that fall.

The financing plan for the project remains fluid. SDSU president David Chicoine said the bonding amount could be reduced by attracting donations. A \$50 million bonding figure was mentioned during the discussion Wednesday.

The financial plan needs to be carefully vetted before approval is sought in December from the state Board of Regents, whose members oversee the state universities, said Jack Warner, the regents' executive director.

The regents will have the final word on whether the stadium proposal is submitted to the Legislature for consideration in the 2014

STADIUM | PAGE 9

Rocket Trajectory Links Syria To Attacks

Assad Denies Regime
Carried Out Chemical
Weapon Bombings

BY ZEINA KARAM AND EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The trajectory of the rockets that delivered the nerve agent sarin in last month's deadly attack is among the key evidence linking elite Syrian troops based in the mountains overlooking Damascus to the strike that killed hundreds of people, diplomats and human rights officials said Wednesday.

That evidence, however, was dismissed by Syrian President Bashar Assad, who denied that his regime carried out the Aug. 21 attack outside Damascus.

In an interview with Fox News Channel broadcast Wednesday, Assad blamed

terrorist groups for using chemical weapons and said Russia has evidence supporting his position.

“We have evidence that the terrorist group has used sarin gas,” Assad said, adding that the evidence had been turned over to Russia.

“Second, the Russian satellite, since the beginning of these allegations at the 21st of August — they said that they have information, through their satellite, that the rocket (was) launched from another area. So why ... ignore this point of view?”

The interview was conducted Tuesday in the Syrian capital of Damascus by former Ohio Democratic Rep. Dennis

SYRIA | PAGE 9



COURTESY OF SDSU

This image, released earlier this summer, is a conceptual drawing of how the stadium at South Dakota State University will look once renovations have been completed.

Removal Of Tanks Clears The Way For Development

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With the fuel tanks removed from the northwest side of the Meridian Bridge, it clears the way for future development of the site by the City of Yankton.

The City Commission agreed in May to acquire the Stern Oil property for \$130,000.

The tanks were removed last week, and City Manager Amy Nelson said Stern Oil is also responsible for removing the foundations upon which the tanks rested.

Gillas Stern of Stern Oil was not available Wednesday for comment on the project.

“We are very pleased that the timing of the property transfer worked out as well

as it did,” Nelson said. “It is truly a win-win situation where the owner was considering changes at the same time the city had plans in place for change.”

While Stern has agreed to remove the fuel tanks, it will be up to the city to demolish the buildings on the northern edge of the property. Nelson said it would be later this fall or the winter before the structures can be removed.

“The city's long-range land use plans for the area include a transition of use from industrial (such as the tanks) to a use more suitable for the riverfront/recreation area,” Nelson said. “In the short term, it will be good to



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The fuel tanks on the northwest side of the Meridian Bridge were removed last week. The remaining structures on the property will also be cleared.

TANKS | PAGE 13

Fiddle Contest Begins Friday

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Fiddlers from across the state the nation will descend on Yankton for the 41st annual South Dakota Fiddle Contest, hosted by the Fiddlers of South Dakota, at the Yankton County 4-H Grounds.

The event will run Friday through Sunday and feature contests for fiddlers as well as harmonica and accordion players. Anyone can enter for the different events up to 30 minutes before their event starts.

Fiddlers of South Dakota President Ken Nelson said the event will be a great opportunity for music lovers.

“If you're interested in good music, come on down,” Nelson said. “If you play a fiddle or play a guitar, bring it down for some of the jam sessions. We're open to everybody.”

Fiddlers of South Dakota Treasurer Kathryn

CONTEST | PAGE 14

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