



Showers, Thunderstorms Likely

9 a.m.: 56 | 3 p.m.: 64 | DETAILS: PAGE 2

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U.S. Begins Airstrikes

Strikes Part Of Expanded Military Campaign Against ISIS

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and five Arab countries launched airstrikes Monday night on Islamic State group targets in Syria, expanding a military campaign into a country whose three-year civil war has given the brutal militant group

a safe haven.

Using a mix of manned aircraft — fighter jets and bombers — plus Tomahawk cruise missiles, the strikes were part of the expanded military campaign that President Barack Obama authorized nearly two weeks ago in order to disrupt and destroy the Islamic State militants, who have slaughtered thou-

sands of people, beheaded Westerners — including two American journalists — and captured large swaths of Syria and northern and western Iraq.

U.S. officials said the airstrikes began around 8:30 p.m. EDT, and were conducted by the U.S., Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi

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Rounds: Benda Is To Blame For EB-5

Statements Written In Response To Audit Committee Inquiry

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — In two letters released Monday answering questions from legislators, former Gov. Mike Rounds said former Cabinet member Richard Benda was the only state government official who acted illegally in the EB-5 foreign investment program established during his administration.

"I cannot speak to the singular actions of Mr. Benda," Rounds wrote. "Sadly, we will never know what he did."

"What we do know is the attorney general had summoned a grand jury. The attorney general has stated that his investigation found no evidence of involvement from additional state officials."

"What occurred was an isolated incident with a single state employee — allegedly taking place before and after his employment with state government."

"The attorney general has clearly stated I was not a target of his investigation."

Rounds' two letters and additional pages of answers to specific questions will be discussed Wednesday by members of the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee.

Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, is the committee chairman. He decided to ask Rounds and Gov. Dennis Daugaard for written answers to questions rather than request they make personal appearances.

Tidemann asked Joop Bollen, who ran the EB-5 program for state government, to testify but Bollen offered to supply written answers instead.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson through an intermediary declined the committee's invitation to comment about whether a federal investigation was under way.

A subpoena from a federal grand jury in March 2013 sought eight sets of information from Daugaard's administration, including Benda's overseas trips involving EB-5 investor recruitment while he worked for Rounds.

The subpoena triggered a state investigation. Benda died Oct. 20, 2013, of what investigators determined was a self-inflicted shotgun wound to the abdomen.

None of the information about the federal and



Rounds

Up In The Air



PHOTO: DAVE TUNGE/DAKOTA AERIALS
This scene of Yankton High School's homecoming football game last Friday night with Aberdeen Central was shot by Dave Tunge of Yankton's Dakota Aerials. Unfortunately, the skies filled with something else besides airplanes and camera lenses by halftime, as thunderstorms rumbled through the area, causing a postponement of the game. Action was halted at halftime with Aberdeen Central leading 20-17. No decision has been made about when (or where) the game will be resumed. For details, see page 7.

City To Open Bids On New Ladder Truck

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The Yankton Volunteer Fire Department (YVFD) is a step closer to acquiring a new piece of equipment to keep the fleet up to date.

YVFD chief Tom Kurtenbach said the timing of the replacement of the department's ladder truck is a little later than normal.

"The truck's being replaced a year later than we normally would," Kurtenbach said. "We try to go every 25 years as a replacement schedule for that."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) usually recommends replacing them every 20 years."

Kurtenbach said the delay was largely due to the nearly \$1 million a brand new fire truck costs.

"Because of the cost, we went 25 (years) on this one," he said. "It's going to be close to \$1 million. Until we get the bids, we're not going to know for sure, but I don't expect it's going to be very much under that."

Designs for the new ladder truck were finalized two weeks ago and will be open for bidding on Oct. 1.

Kurtenbach said the new apparatus will have a few new features that were unavailable 25 years ago when the old unit was purchased.

"On the new apparatuses — especially the aerials (ladder trucks) —

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Yankton Applies For Transportation Grant

BY ROB NIELSEN
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An extension of the Yankton's biking trail system took another step Monday, as the Yankton City Commission voted to apply for a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant for the first phase of the Fox Run Trail System.

City manager Amy Nelson said the TAP grant can be for up to \$400,000 and that it can be reapplied for on each phase.

"One of the things that makes this a good project for the (Department of

Transportation) is not only is it connecting our current trail system — we have a long-range plan for the other phases, which would be applicable for funding if this grant continues in the future," Nelson said. "These would be projects that would be eligible in the future should this program continue in the future — which we believe it will. It also connects the school, which is certainly an issue in that area."

One proponent of the trail system is State Sen. Jean Hunhoff, who was

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Bernie Hunhoff addresses Lincoln Elementary students during their kick-off event celebrating South Dakota's 125th Birthday.

S.D. History Celebrated At Lincoln Elem.

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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History came alive for the students of Lincoln Elementary School in Yankton Monday, when local publisher, author, historian and legislator Bernie Hunhoff came to the school to share stories of South Dakota's history.

"We want our students to study the history of the state of South Dakota," said principal Paul Struck. "South Dakota is a large state geographically, but in terms of the people in it, we are like one big family. We want our students to understand that and take pride in their home state."

Hunhoff, who shared a slide show of historical photos from South Dakota's early statehood with the students, said that giving the students a sense of place and, hopefully,

pride in South Dakota history was what he hoped to help instill in the students.

"Without a sense of place, kids grow up and don't know what it took to give them what they currently have," he said. "I want the kids to be able to grow up recognizing what a great state we live in. Having that sense of importance will be huge in making them want to come back after they are out of school and return to make their homes here."

Hunhoff, who serves on the nine-person state wide commission to generate ideas for celebrating South Dakota's 125th anniversary, said the anniversary of the state is a gold mine for educators who wish to teach their students about the history of the state.

"South Dakota is just a baby of a state," he

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