

Diggin' it

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Lacy O'Neal of Colby, left, looked at a map of playa lakes with High-Plains Archeology Group president Nancy Arendt Sunday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The group had on display artifacts found at area playa lakes as part of Kansas Day activities Sunday at the museum.

Alito on his way to confirmation to be a Supreme Court justice

WASHINGTON (AP) son of an Italian immigrant and a longtime lawyer, prosecutor and judge, is poised to take his place as the 110th Supreme Court justice behind what is exvictory for a high court nominee in modern history.

Room, as at least 58 senators in the GOP-controlled Senate have stated their intention to back him for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's seat on the bench.

The 55-year-old U.S. appeals Court before his expected appearance at Bush's annual State White House East Room appearance on Wednesday.

Alito and Roberts are exservative era following the rekey moderate swing vote on issues like assisted suicide, campaign finance law, the death pen-

Samuel Anthony Alito Jr., the confirmation vote to focus on, in tions in our lives and allow the Services from 1952 to 1984. this election year, Bush's deci- expansion of power of the presi- Alito's sister, Rosemary, is a top sion to replace O'Connor with a dency," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, employment lawyer in New Jerformer Reagan administration D-N.D., who announced he sey. lawyer who worked to get the would oppose Alito after voting Supreme Court's landmark to end debate. pected to be the most partisan abortion rights decision Roe v. Wade overturned.

At most, six or seven Demo-Alito planned to watch his crats were likely to vote for confirmation from a television Alito's confirmation, the lowest in the White House's Roosevelt number of senators not in the elevated to that court." president's party to support a Supreme Court nominee in modern history. By comparison, Justice Clarence Thomas was confirmed in 1991 with a 52-48 vote behind the support of 11 Democourt judge was then to be crats who broke party ranks and quickly sworn in at the Supreme voted for President George H.W. Bush's nominee.

Liberal Democrats even tried of the Union speech Tuesday to rally support to filibuster evening with the White House's Alito on Monday. "It is the only other new Supreme Court judge, way we can stop a confirmation Chief Justice John Roberts. that we feel certain will cause ir-Alito will be ceremonially reversible damage to our counsworn in a second time at a try," said Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the Democrats' 2004 presidential nominee.

A bipartisan majority in the pected to lead the nine-member Senate blocked the effort. Thir-Supreme Court into a new con- teen Democrats who planned to vote against Alito on Tuesday tirement of O'Connor, the said he shouldn't be filibustered, court's first female justice and a even though they worried about the direction he would take the

Alito "would tilt that court in judge. alty, affirmative action and abor- a direction that will restrict per-

Kennedy spoke to the inevitamorning, saying in an appearance on CBS's "The Early Show" that "Judge Alito will be

Alito has assured senators that once on the court he would not have an agenda.

Several Democrats didn't believe him, and questioned him counsel Harriet Miers. intently at those five-days of At one point, his wife, Marthahearing room as her husband's supporters defended him from the Democratic questioning.

Court is infused with New Jersey connections. Born in Trenton as the son of an Italian imminecticut to receive his law de- his confirmation hearing. gree, graduating from Yale University in 1975. He worked as an assistant U.S. attorney and the U.S. attorney in New Jersey before becoming an appeals court

His late father, Samuel Alito sonal freedoms, strengthen the Sr., was the director of New www.supremecourtus.gov

Democrats were using Alito's role of government and corpora- Jersey's Office of Legislative

Alito was not the White House's first choice for the Supreme Court. Bush picked Robbility of the outcome Tuesday erts when O'Connor first announced she was stepping down

last vear.

After Roberts was promoted to the top spot after Chief Justice William Rehnquist died, the White House against passed over Alito for the vacant seat, instead selecting White House

Miers' withdrawal following a hearings after Alito would not barrage of conservative critidiscuss his opinions about abor- cism in late October finally tion or other contentious topics. brought Alito's name to the forefront, although he then had to Ann, started crying and left the contend with constant references as "Scalito" or "Scalialite," references to his judicial similarity to Justice Antonin Alito's path to the Supreme Scalia.

"I'm my own person. And I'm not like any other justice on the Supreme Court now or anybody grant, he attended Princeton else who served on the Supreme University. He headed to Con- Court in the past," Alito said at

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Flood victims frusrated with response

northeast Kansas residents hit by torrential downpours that caused major flooding in early October have been frustrated since in their efforts to obtain federal assistance.

"Everybody's been turning their backs on us," said Shirley Noll. She and her husband, Joe, were flooded out of the home on their farm near McLouth.

Jefferson County officials say about 100 houses had damage from waters that rose suddenly early the morning of Oct. 2. The flooding also caused damage in Atchison, Shawnee and Jackson counties.

Justin Pike of Rep. Jim Ryun's Topeka office said residents of the four counties have complained about the lack of federal flood asing problems to contact us," Pike

Jefferson County officials were told damage there did not meet guidelines that would make people eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sebelius Kathleen homeowners and businesses could apply for Small Business Administration disaster assistance loans.

first by the SBA that a loan officer Agriculture's Farm Services hadn't been assigned to them and Agency and Rural Development, as subsequently that it was up to their well as the SBA. county to initiate the process. County Commissioner Lynn Luck three of those agencies to cut down the flood claims. said was news to county officials.

The county officials also said they learned FEMA has no official guidelines specifically preventing local flood victims from receiving assistance from that agency. FEMA representatives told the Nolls Kansas hasn't requested aid from

"We go back to the starting point again because nobody seems to know anything," Luck said.

The commissioners plan to write the governor asking her to make an official request for FEMA funds, sistance. "We've asked people hav- although Luck wasn't optimistic.

> Officials in the offices of the governor and the Kansas adjutant general's office continue to say Jefferson County didn't match up with FEMA guidelines for assistance to individuals, so no request was made.

Ryun's office also isn't sure Shortly after the flood, Gov. FEMA funds can be made available, so Pike said other options being explored include a mixture of grants and loans that might be avail-

McLOUTH (AP) — Some The Nolls said that they were told able from the U.S. Department of

on the confusion," Pike said. "There is still something in the works."

Ryun, R-Kan., said in a written statement that he was disappointed "We've been working with all the SBA has been unable to process



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TB hits catttle

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) -Minnesota's cattle have lost a "tuberculosis-free" status, meaning producers will face restrictions on moving animals out of state.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture revoked the state cattle industry's TB-free status Monday after the recent discovery of a fifth infected beef herd in northwestern Minnesota.

The loss of the designation makes it more expensive and time-consuming for some of the state's cattle producers to move their animals across state lines.

The outbreak poses no danger to humans unless they drink unpasteurized milk, rub noses with or are sneezed on by an infected cow. The bacteria that causes bovine TB is not found in meat, and it is killed when milk is pasteurized.

Agricultural officials have responded by killing almost 4,000 cattle from five infected herds in hopes of stopping the disease before it can infect the rest of state's 2.4 million head.

The state can regain its TB-free status after a two-year waiting pe-

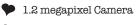
riod if no new cases are found. Minnesota's cattle industry employs about 3,850 people and annually pumps \$5.3 billion into the state's economy, according to the state Department of Agriculture.



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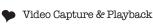
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