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# Lawmaker urges recall

Lindholm, a veteran, says issue of troops overseas is personal

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Last month, Rep. Tyler Lindholm, R-Sundance, penned an op-ed in the Star-Tribune that seemed out of the line that a Majority Whip of the Wyoming House of Representatives would typically scribble.

Its contents? An appeal to

Washington — and to Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney — to end a foreign war neither he nor any of his colleagues in Cheyenne had any role in starting.

"Our people, especially my fellow veterans and their families, are tired of endless wars," Lindholm wrote. "It's past time we bring our troops home from foreign entanglements in Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the globe."

The op-ed seemed in character for Lindholm, whose topics of interest typically include subjects like stockholm

and corporate law, adhering to what some around the capital have described as a "live and let live" brand of politics. But, for the five-year serviceman in the U.S. Navy, ending the U.S. military's decades-long involvement in the Middle East, and the ongoing conflict he'd left behind in that dozen years ago, was "personal," he told the Star-Tribune in an interview this month.

Toward the end of his military service in 2010, he said, "there was a solid agreement on why we should stay," keeping a consistent presence to stabilize a region

that had suffered from years of war, political upheaval and decades of foreign intervention.

"Now, it's 2019, and I have a 33-year-old wife, five years from now, could possibly serve in the same war her dad, Dad, and — Jesus Christ," he said. "I think we've stretched out legs a little too far on this deal. There are lots of arguments to be made, like bringing democracy to these people but ... clearly, they don't want democracy. We've tried. We've given it to them on a silver



Rep. Tyler Lindholm, R-Sundance, left, talks with Rep. Michael Greer, R-Wyoming, right, during the Wyoming Legislature's 2018 session in Cheyenne.

PHOTO BY RECALL, Page A12



ALAN BREWER, USA TODAY

A pedestrian walks along West Yellowstone Highway near David Street Station in May 2018 in downtown Casper. The Old Yellowstone District has many properties that are considered brownfields, or properties that might be contaminated with hazardous material.

# City targets contamination

Assessments are first step to revitalizing downtown properties

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Liz Becker walks down Midwest Avenue. She's changed her shoes.

"These aren't walk-in," she says, laughing.

The high heels she wore earlier that day might have made the walk over the broken pavement in this as-yet undeveloped portion of the Old Yellowstone District difficult.

She is guiding a group of conference attendees through Casper's downtown, pointing out recent developments and plans for the future. The conference the group is attending is about an Environmental Protection Agency program that helps communities assess and clean up contaminated, and then

difficult to repurpose, properties. This is also why Becker, the City of Casper's community-development director, is guiding the group through downtown.

As she walks, she points to a dozen or so plots of land where EPA-funded environmental site assessments have been or will be conducted.

The funding — \$400,000 — came from a 2006 EPA brownfields assessment grant, a program that helps municipalities like the first step to revitalize potentially contaminated properties.

First, what is a brownfield? A brownfield is a property that, because of past use, might be contaminated with hazardous material, and because of that contamination will be difficult to redevelop.

These sites can be anything from former auto body shops to abandoned factories to homes with asbestos or lead paint. Much of the properties in the 300-acre Old Yellowstone Dis-

trict are considered brownfields because of the area's proximity to the former Amoco refinery, Becker said.

Before any of these properties can be repurposed, they need to be assessed, which is where the EPA grant helps. The assessments come in two phases. The first phase takes a historical look at a property: reviewing records, interviewing current and former owners and conducting visual inspections. If there is reason to believe the property is contaminated after Phase I, the next phase requires taking soil samples to measure contamination levels.

This process is important for a number of reasons.

"It's important for financing for one thing," Becker said, because rated brownfields' approval loans for development projects without a Phase I assessment.

But the first phase alone costs about \$1,000. The next phase could cost tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars. If that

assessment shows contamination, the cost of cleanup could put a developer back tens of thousands of dollars more.

Because of the financial risk, developers tend to be reluctant to invest in brownfield projects.

"Some data says you lose half of your developers with just the possibility of contamination," Mark Walker said.

Walker is a project manager and program associate for Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields program, which serves as a liaison between the EPA and communities that want help assessing and cleaning up potentially contaminated land. He said properties can sit vacant for years, even decades, because developers don't want to incur the cleanup costs.

That's what makes the EPA grants so powerful, and the EPA's goal is just as much redevelopment as it is environmental cleanup, he said.

PHOTO BY BROWNFIELDS, Page A12

# Rocket attack hits near US Embassy

GARIN ARDOL CARINA AND RAJESH K. SHUKLA  
 Associated Press

BAAGHDAD — A rocket was fired into the Iraqi capital's heavily fortified Green Zone Sunday night, landing less than a mile from the sprawling U.S. Embassy, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

The apparent attack, which Iraq's state-run news agency said did not cause any casualties, came amid heightened tensions across the Persian Gulf, after the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region this month to counter an alleged, unexplained threat from Iran. The U.S. also ordered nonessential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq.

It was the first such attack since September, when three mortar shells landed in an abandoned lot inside the Green Zone.

A spokesman for U.S. Central Command, Bill Brown, condemned an explosion outside the U.S. Embassy compound and said Iraq Security Forces are investigating the incident.

A State Department spokesman said "a low-grade rocket" landed within the International Zone near the U.S. Embassy and there was no significant damage or impact on any U.S.-initiated facility.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack that took place at least an hour after Baghdad residents were issued evacuation orders by the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Mosab Al-Sayid, a top Saudi diplomat on Sunday, said Saudi Arabia does not want war but will not hesitate to defend itself against Iran, after the kingdom's energy sector was targeted last week amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf.

Abdul-Fattah, the minister of state for foreign affairs, spoke a week after Iran oil tankers — two of them Saudi — were targeted in an alleged act of sabotage off the

PHOTO BY IRAC, Page A12

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