BURGUM, SANFORD SURVEY TORNADO DAMAGE IN WATFORD CITY

After a tornado devastated the Prairie View RV Park in Watford City early Tuesday morning, Gov. Doug Burgum, Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford and Maj. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard, surveyed the tornado damage that evening and met with local officials and some of the estimated 200 people displaced by the storm to discuss local response efforts and needs. Sanford, a Watford City native who was mayor of the city from 2010 to 2016, and Dohrmann, who oversees the state Department of Emergency Services that has been coordinating tornado response with local officials and the American Red Cross, joined the governor in touring the RV park, where the EF2 tornado destroyed 122 structures including RVs, mobile homes and outbuildings. For more information about response and recovery efforts, visit www.ndresponse.gov.
First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum visited Washington, D.C. to continue her advocacy efforts to reinvent recovery and eliminate the shame and stigma of addiction. Helgaas Burgum joined a group of advocates to push for a holistic approach to the disease of addiction, standardized treatment provider licensure, and strategies to increase awareness and end the stigma surrounding addiction. The First Lady met with Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, Surgeon General Jerome Adams, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA).

Gov. Burgum addressed the Office of Management and Budget’s annual meeting on Tuesday, thanking agency members for their important work and stressing the agency’s key role in reinventing government, one of the administration’s five strategic initiatives. The governor also congratulated OMB on being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2017 by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, and recognized the five employees who worked on OMB’s award-winning comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). It’s the 26th consecutive year OMB has received the award.
Lt. Gov. Sanford chaired a meeting of the Northern Plains Unmanned Systems Authority in Grand Forks on Thursday. The group is tasked with overseeing the FAA testing site and providing expertise in its operations. The meeting came just days after the first trans-Atlantic flight of a medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft from the Grand Sky commercial UAS business and aviation park, a partner of the test site. The MQ-9B SkyGuardian remotely piloted aircraft, owned by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., took off from the company’s Flight Test and Training Center near Grand Forks and flew 24 hours to Royal Air Force Fairford in Gloucestershire, United Kingdom.

Gov. Burgum spent part of Friday unearthing a bit of North Dakota history as he participated in the North Dakota Geological Survey’s annual fossil dig in the Dickinson area. The Geological Survey is hosting fossil digs at four sites this year: near Bismarck, Dickinson, Mandan and in the Pembina Gorge near Walhalla. While in the Medora area, Gov. Burgum also was interviewed by adventurer Richard Wiese, host of PBS’s “Born to Explore,” for an upcoming episode about North Dakota’s most popular tourist attraction, Theodore Roosevelt National Park.