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Argus Leader

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CAMP LEIF ERICSON

Treehouse expansion shaping up for 2029



Boys tumble out of an inflatable bounce house at Leif Ericson summer camp on June 23, 2021, in Sioux Falls.
ERIN BORMETT / ARGUS LEADER

Vanessa Carlson Bender
Sioux Falls Argus Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sioux Falls business scene is bustling, regularly showcasing a dynamic blend of new ventures, expansions and next chapters that reflect the city's ever-evolving economic landscape.

Staying in the know about it all can prove challenging for the city dubbed the fastest-growing in the Midwest since 2020. More than 300,000 people currently live in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area today.

The Argus Leader is here to help provide as many regular updates as we can about Sioux Falls metro area openings, closings and everything in between. We call it, "Let's Talk Business," a snippet of what's coming and going throughout the

"Queen City."
Here's the latest:

YMCA to build Treehouse expansion for Camp Leif Ericson

The Sioux Falls YMCA is moving forward with a major expansion at Camp Leif Ericson at 2301 E. 26th St. in Sioux Falls.

The project involves the planning of a 12,000-square-foot indoor programming building called The Treehouse, which would allow the camp to offer year-round activities for the first time.

Backed by a \$1 million lead gift from longtime board member Tyler Haahr and his wife, Michelle, plus a \$20,000 contribution from Bank Midwest, the project aims to begin construction in fall 2028 and open in part of 2029.

The Treehouse was approved as a Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce appeals campaign for the fall of 2027.

Designed with flexible space for nature and art activities, along with a covered deck on three sides, The Treehouse will help the YMCA serve more kids during holidays, non-school days and bad-weather stretches.

Parts of Camp Leif Ericson are located in a floodplain, with notable flooding occurring in 2024 and in 2019.

The organization hopes to raise \$10 million overall (\$8 million for The Treehouse and \$2 million for improvements surrounding the 60-acre camp).

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U.S. and Iran trade strikes

Escalation in fighting
pushes oil prices higher

**Jana Choukeir and
Eman Abouhassira**
REUTERS

DUBAI – The United States struck bridges and an airport in Iran on July 17 and Tehran responded by hitting a power and desalination plant in Kuwait, as the warring foes risked further escalation by expanding their targets to include infrastructure.

In the contested Strait of Hormuz, where the renewed conflict has again cut off global energy supplies from the Middle East, U.S. Marines boarded a tanker, and another ship was reported to have been hit by a projectile. Another vessel was boarded by armed men off Yemen, though one maritime security source said the incident appeared to be an act of Somali piracy rather than linked to the war with Iran.

Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. President Donald Trump has threatened to launch broad-based air strikes on Iran's infrastructure and has also declined to rule out a ground assault on Iran's coast or islands.

U.S. officials have said attacks on southern Iran are designed in part to give Trump options. Such moves risk provoking Iran to escalate in turn by hitting the vital infrastructure of vulnerable neighboring Arab states, or having its allies in Yemen further disrupt global energy supplies by attacking shipping from the Red Sea.

In the latest strikes, the U.S. military's Central Command included "military logistics infrastructure" in the list of targets it said it had hit, the first time it has mentioned infrastructure in more than a week.

Iranian state media said at least five bridges had been struck in the south. Seven people were reported killed in attacks on bridges in the southern port of Bandar Khamir, where the train station was also hit. An airport was reported hit further east and away from the coast in Iranshahr, in a province bordering Pakistan.

Reuters could not verify the reports, which also described other deadly attacks including one which killed a woman and wounded her child in the port of Bandar Abbas.

In response, Iran announced

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Trump revisits election security claims

President alleges China
role in 2020 elections

Phillip M. Bailey and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address sought to further sow distrust in U.S. elections, claiming broad vulnerabilities with voting systems and potential for interference from other nations.

Trump specifically pointed to China,

alleging it interfered with the electoral process in 2020.

"Every American deserves to know that when they cast their vote, that vote will be counted accurately in a system, and that is to make that system secure – one where cheating and interference are not just difficult, but virtually impossible," he said. "Unfortunately, the system we have today falls catastrophically short of that standard."

The president said newly declassified documents will show China tried to undermine the 2020 election in several

ways, including compromising U.S. voter data. He also said Americans have for years been "blatantly lied to" by the government about the security of election infrastructure, such as voting machines and ballot-counting systems.

"They're vulnerable and they're easily compromised, and people within our government knew that," Trump said.

Yet most of the documents released by the White House did not support the president's sweeping assertions about

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President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address alleged China interfered with the electoral process in 2020. SAUL LOEB/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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