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**Argus Leader**

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SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

**TODAY'S BRIEFING**

**LIFE**  
**JazzFest to be broadcast Saturday**  
▶ Did you miss JazzFest or want a chance to see it again? You're in luck, as it will be broadcast again this weekend on S.D. Public Television. **1D**



**Tallgating means great food, friends**  
▶ Spark up the grill and throw on some grub. With football comes that celebrated fall gathering — the pregame fiesta. **1D**

**LOCAL & REGION**  
**Events center topic of citizen forum**  
▶ Sioux Falls residents gathered Tuesday to sound off and discuss the proposed city events center. **1B**

**Tribe seeks action on land-trust case**  
▶ The Rosebud Sioux Tribe wants a legislative committee to intercede in a federal court case regarding land trusts. **1B**

**SPORTS**  
**Madison golfers eyeing championship**  
▶ The Bulldogs' James Green (below) and his teammates aren't resting on their laurels after winning the title last year. **1C**



**BUSINESS**  
**Weigh station keeps truckers moving**  
▶ A new station offers a look at the future of transportation monitoring. It allows trucks to be weighed as they drive through. **6C**

**NATION & WORLD**  
**SENIOR HEALTH:** Two new studies have found that exercising regularly, even beginning at an older age, can improve health and reduce the potential for heart disease and Alzheimer's. **2A**

**HAITI MOVES ON:** With hundreds dead and their cities devastated, Haitians are sifting through what's left of their flooded communities. **3A**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
HIGH **69°**  
LOW **48°**  
Rain  
Full report, **2A**

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**BankFirst is sold to Minnesota firm**

Started in Toronto, S.D., company employs 220 here

BY KELLY HILDEBRANDT  
khildebr@argusleader.com  
A Sioux Falls-based financial company that has cut hundreds of local jobs in recent years is being sold to a Minnesota firm that is a fraction of its size. BankFirst Corp. announced Tuesday it is selling its operations to Minneapolis-based Marshall Bancorp. Terms of the deal were not disclosed and are subject to standard regulatory approvals, expected by the end of the year. Marshall officials won't comment on its plans for BankFirst's assets or employees until the acquisition is approved, but a company press release says it intends to retain

BankFirst's presence in South Dakota. Darrell Knudson, vice chairman of BankFirst, said the name will not be changed. BankFirst had nearly 800 employees in Sioux Falls as recently as 2001. See **BANKFIRST**, page 6A

**COMPANY PROFILES**

<p><b>BANKFIRST</b></p> <p><b>FOUNDED:</b> 1928 in Toronto, S.D. <b>HEADQUARTERS &amp; CHARTER:</b> Sioux Falls. <b>LOCATIONS:</b> South Dakota, Minnesota and Arizona. <b>ASSETS:</b> More than \$600 million. <b>EMPLOYEES:</b> Approximately 600, including 220 in Sioux Falls. <b>CEO:</b> George Lund. <b>ON THE WEB:</b> www.bankfirstcorp.com.</p>	<p><b>MARSHALL BANK N.A.</b></p> <p><b>FOUNDED:</b> 2002. <b>HEADQUARTERS:</b> Minneapolis. <b>CHARTER:</b> Hallock, Minn. <b>LOCATIONS:</b> Minneapolis; Hallock, Minn. <b>ASSETS:</b> \$75 million. <b>DEPOSITS:</b> \$60 million. <b>EMPLOYEES:</b> 24. <b>CEO:</b> Dennis M. Mathisen. <b>ON THE WEB:</b> www.marshall-bank.com</p>
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**A FESTIVE MUSEUM OPENING**



Native culture, color and celebration came together Tuesday in the nation's capital as members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota danced and performed for the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The Native Nations Procession on the National Mall included performances by more than 515 tribes, nine of them South Dakotan.

**20,000 Indians join in dance, celebration**

BY MIKE MADDEN and FAITH BREMNER  
Argus Leader Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON — It's one thing to study Lakota history in school. It's another to help make it. Six students from Red Cloud Indian School on Pine Ridge Reservation joined dozens of other American Indians from Pine Ridge — and thousands from across South Dakota and as far away as Chile — for Tuesday's opening ceremonies for the National Museum of the American Indian. "It'll give some non-Native Americans an opportunity to see what Native Americans have experienced throughout the years," said Sarah White, 17, a senior at Red Cloud. About 20,000 American Indians representing more than 515 tribes participated in the Native Nations Procession along the

**MORE ONLINE**  
For previous coverage on the Museum of the American Indian, log on to [argusleader.com](http://argusleader.com)  
▶ [Museum of the American Indian: www.nmai.si.edu](http://www.nmai.si.edu)

National Mall as thousands more watched. Singing, dancing and drumming broke out spontaneously along the route to the museum and the scent of burning cedar and grasses filled the air. "This gathering of nations in our capital city will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them," said Roger White Eyes, a Lakota studies teacher at Red Cloud who helped organize the school's trip.

See **MUSEUM**, page 7A



Aztecs dance Tuesday on the National Mall during the Native Nations Procession.

**Senate race spat shows growing role of patriotism**

Thune, Daschle both targets of protests

BY MIKE MADDEN and JENNIFER SANDERSON  
Argus Leader  
The relentless volley across party lines in South Dakota's U.S. Senate race is the kind of white noise that one analyst calls the "rat-a-tat-tat of American politics."

Occasionally, though, a shot rises to be heard and echoes sharply before fading. Sitting elbow to elbow with Democratic Sen. Tom Daschle on Sunday morning's "Meet the Press," Republican challenger John Thune had a national audience for his charge that the incumbent's words against the president "embolden the enemy" in America's war on terror. Days later, Thune's words had the power to interrupt activity at his office in Sioux Falls and in the Senate itself. While a few pro-Daschle veterans protested to a much larger group of Thune supporters, Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota led a partisan group of senators to the floor to defend the minority leader.

The events contribute to a growing conversation about patriotism in the 2004 elections. "We're at war, and certainly the American troops are extremely popular," said Bill Richardson, chairman of the political science department at the University of South Dakota. "Patriotism is an implicit, if not explicit, feature of the campaign between Kerry and Bush, and as we saw in (Sunday's) debate, it's trickling down to statewide politics."

See **PATRIOTISM**, page 6A

**Election 2004**  
**MORE ONLINE**  
For previous coverage on the Thune-Daschle race and to join a forum on the discussion, log on to [www.argusleader.com](http://www.argusleader.com)

**Motorcyclist doing 205 mph, a possible record**

WABASHA, Minn. (AP) — With a State Patrol airplane overhead, a Stillwater motorcyclist may have set the informal record for the fastest speeding ticket in Minnesota history: 205 mph. On Saturday, State Patrol pilot Al Loney was flying in southeastern Minnesota, watching two motorcyclists racing on U.S. Highway 61. When one of the riders shot off, Loney was ready. He clicked his stopwatch once when the rider reached a marker on the road and again a quarter-mile later. The watch read 4.39 seconds, which he calculated to be 205 mph. "I was in total disbelief," Loney said. "I had to double-check my watch because in 27 years I'd never seen anything move that fast." State law officers say it was probably the fastest ticket ever written. A trooper arrested the rider for driving without a motorcycle license and driving 140 miles per hour over the speed limit. No word on what the ticket cost him.

**Bush to U.N.: Freedom will find a way**

**FROM WIRE REPORTS**  
NEW YORK — President Bush on Tuesday called for a broad new international drive to secure Iraq and foster democracy there. At the U.N., Bush defended his decision to remove Saddam Hussein, whom he called an "outlaw dictator." Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi was among about 100 leaders to listen to Bush, who told them "freedom will find a way" in Iraq. The president offered no second thoughts, vowing to plow ahead with his strategy to root out terrorism. "In this young century, our world needs a new definition of security," he said, adding that national security is no longer confined to some "spheres of influence, or some balance of power," but rather within the "advancing rights of mankind."

**WHAT BUSH SAID**

Here are excerpts of what President Bush said in his annual address to the United Nations.

▶ **OF THE SLAYINGS:** "We will not allow these thugs and terrorists to decide your fate and to decide our fate."  
▶ **ON KEEPING TROOPS IN IRAQ:** "There is no safe isolation from terror networks or failed states that shelter them... there is no safety in looking away."  
▶ **ON STAYING THE COURSE:** "The proper response to difficulty is not to retreat. It is to prevail."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that lawlessness was a threat in many parts of the world. He cited relief workers, journalists and others in Iraq who've been killed. "No cause, no grievance, however legitimate in itself, can begin to justify such acts," he said. "They (such acts) put all of us to shame," he said. "Their prevalence reflects our collective failure to uphold the rule of law and instill respect for it in our fellow men and women."

RICHARD DREW / AP

**American hostage feared second killed in two days**

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS  
Associated Press  
BAGHDAD, Iraq — An al-Qaida-linked group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed Tuesday to have killed the second of two American hostages. The claim, posted on an Islamic Web site, could not be verified. Al-Zarqawi's group, Tawhid and Jihad, kidnapped two Americans — Jack Hensley and Eugene Armstrong — and Briton Kenneth Bigley on Thursday. Al-Zarqawi beheaded Armstrong, and on Monday posted a video of the 52-year-old man's death. The new posting followed the passing of the militants' 24-hour deadline for the release of all Iraqi women from prison, and after anguished relatives in the United States and Britain begged for the lives of Bigley, 62, and Hensley. "We do not have confirmation as of now that the body that has been found is Jack Hensley. We are still hopeful at this time that Jack Hensley is still with us," Hensley's wife, Pati, said. See **IRAQ**, page 6A

## Violence heats among Iraqis

Some fear civil war brewing as Sunnis, Shiites attack each other

BY HAMZA HENDAWI  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Sunni and Shiite clerics gunned down. Christian churches bombed. Hundreds of police killed, and Iraqi soldiers abducted and threatened with death.

Is Iraq heading to civil war? No way, say Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and many of his countrymen, who blame the bloodshed on foreign Islamic extremists.

However, as the death toll rises, some Iraqis are beginning to fear the unthinkable.

"We are not yet in a civil war," said Mahmoud Othman, a senior Kurdish politician and member of the former Iraqi Governing Council. "But if the ongoing violence is not contained, it will turn into an Iraqi-Iraqi war."

Many Iraqis put their faith in age-old ties among Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds to keep the peace—an understandable yearning, perhaps, since most Iraqis don't want to imagine things getting any worse.

But these ties, which are in large part confined to the cities, are fraying as security becomes more precarious and violence spreads.

"The lessons of Bosnia indicate that communities that have lived in relative harmony can embrace sectarian divisions overnight," warns a report by London's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

One result, it says, could be Iraq's fragmentation into a Kur-

## Good progress is reported in Iraqi security force training

BY THOMAS E. RICKS  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — So much progress is being made in training and equipping Iraqi security forces that U.S. commanders believe that the majority of the country will be under local control by the end of this year, a senior Pentagon official said Monday.

Army Lt. Gen. Walter Sharp, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon, also disputed the accuracy of some of Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kerry's new criticisms of the pace of training for Iraqi police.

Sharp, the head of strategic plans and policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Pentagon officials are closely monitoring the

training and equipping of Iraqi police and military forces, with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld being briefed weekly on the subject. Sharp said that Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the top U.S. commander in Iraq, has reviewed the training schedule for Iraqi forces, and also the planned delivery of equipment for them.

"He believes that based upon that ... he will be able to be at ... 'local control' for the majority of the country ... by the end of December," Sharp said. That control is not just a matter of having Iraqi security forces in place but also an assessment of the ability of local political leaders to govern and to oversee economic reconstruction efforts, he added.

dish north, Sunni center and Shiite south.

Scores of Shiite and Sunni clerics as well as Kurdish and ethnic Turkish politicians have been killed over the past year in what are widely believed to be sectarian-driven murders.

Sunni and Shiite mosques have been bombed in tit-for-tat revenge attacks and Christian churches in Baghdad also have been targeted. Growing num-

bers of Shiites and Sunnis fear being caught in the wrong place. Arabs are treated with suspicion in Kurdish areas.

Policemen and the Iraqi National Guard, playing a growing role in the U.S.-led anti-insurgency fight, have become a target of terror bombings. If U.S. military commanders go ahead with plans to deploy them in "no-go" Sunni areas, more Iraqi-Iraqi bloodshed is sure to result.

## Iraq: Car bomb hurts 4 U.S. soldiers

Continued from 1A

said in a statement read by family spokesman Jack Haley outside the family's home in Marietta, Ga.

"The nation's zealous sons slaughtered the second American hostage after the end of the deadline," the first statement said. It was signed with the pseudonym Abu Maysara al-Iraqi, the name usually used on statements from al-Zarqawi's group. Claims on this Web site have proven to be accurate in the past.

Earlier in the day, the brief statement did not give the name of the hostage killed.

Several hours passed on Tuesday after the initial announcement with the promised video proof failing to appear. On Monday, by contrast, the video of Armstrong's killing was posted within an hour of the initial statement claiming he was dead.

Late Tuesday, an expanded version of the statement saying a second American had been killed appeared on a different Web site and warned that Bigley would be

the next to die. It did not contain any new deadline, and its authenticity was not known.

Tawhid and Jihad — Arabic for "Monotheism and Holy War" — has claimed responsibility for killing at least seven hostages, including American, Nicholas Berg, who was abducted in April. The group also has said it is behind a number of bombings and gun attacks.

A host of militant groups have used kidnappings and bombings as their signature weapons in a blood-soaked campaign to undermine interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government and force the United States and its allies out of Iraq. The violence has already persuaded companies to leave Iraq, hindered foreign investment, led firms to drop out of aid projects, restricted activities to relatively safe areas and forced major expenditures on security.

The violence continued unabated. A car bomb wounded four U.S. soldiers on the road to Baghdad's airport Tuesday and

two Marines were reported killed in earlier attacks west of the capital, underscoring the inability of American forces to control key parts of Iraq 17 months after starting operations here.

Early Wednesday, U.S. aircraft and tanks attacked rebel positions as fierce fighting erupted in Baghdad's Sadr City slum, a stronghold of fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

## Patriotism: 'Get ready for more slugs'

Continued from 1A

On the Senate floor, Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., one of Daschle's closest friends in Congress, criticized Thune for his comments on "Meet the Press."

"There is no excuse for the challenger in that race suggesting that the Democratic leader in the Senate, my friend Senator Daschle, somehow is encouraging the enemy," said Dorgan, D-N.D. "That's below the belt."

### Politics as usual

Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, sees it differently. That "rat-a-tat-tat" is politics as usual, he said, and everyone "should get ready for many more slugs, from both sides."

Thune remains firm on his statements and said of the "literally hundreds of South Dakotans" he's talked to since the debate, "not one person has raised the issue." He said the attempt to elevate the moment is further evidence of Daschle's self-victimization.

"Is it predictable? I suppose so," Thune said. "They must be very concerned about how vulnerable his position is to take time on the Senate floor to attack me. If they want to waste the Senate's time that way, then bring it on. But I think they probably have more important things to do."

For Democrats, who watched the GOP sweep to victories across the country in 2002 during the debate over whether to authorize war in Iraq, pressing back against what they see as attacks on their patriotism is a matter of both personal pride and political survival. President George Bush has built growing leads over Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry since the Republicans finished their convention, which focused heavily on fighting terrorists.

### GOP cheap shots

But Democrats say some GOP leaders have gotten in cheap shots in the past few weeks. Vice President Dick Cheney suggested electing Kerry would make a terrorist

attack more likely, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said al-Qaida wanted Kerry to win.

Voters in North Dakota saw a similar drama in May. Republican Duane Sand called on his Democratic opponent, Rep. Earl Pomeroy, to denounce House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi for calling Bush's handling of the war incompetent.

Tuesday in Sioux Falls, about 70 Thune volunteers overwhelmed the pro-Daschle veterans with their own challenge. Backing Thune's position, they urged Daschle to vote for a pending constitutional amendment that would ban flag-burning.

They had readied their counter-protest mainly in the half-hour before Daschle's supporters arrived, hand-lettering tagboard with slogans such as "Old Glory is Not Kindling" and "Fight 4 Our Flag." Others worked outdoors, securing a giant flag from the first-floor roof to unfurl down the building's west side.

"Flag desecration has become an important symbolic issue, almost always associated with some form of protest or anti-war activity," said Richardson, the USD professor.

Daschle has called the flag amendment, S.J. Res. 4, a political ploy designed to play on voters' emotions. Johnson is among the joint resolution's 56 bipartisan co-sponsors. The House version passed in June 2003.

### 'Legislative priority'

"The flag desecration amendment is the No. 1 legislative priority for the American Legion," said Thune, who supports the resolution. "This is an issue that veterans in South Dakota and across this country care about."

But the amendment itself might be the only thing more symbolic than lighting the flag afire, according to USD's Richardson.

"Ratifying an amendment, state by state, is an extremely arduous process, and if we have to judge by past efforts, it's probably likely to fail," he said. "In the long view, a vote for or against the flag amendment is perhaps even more sym-

bolic because it's not going to have an operative effect."

Though linked by patriotism to the debate over when and how it's appropriate to disagree with authority, the flag amendment took a back seat to indignant rhetoric Tuesday on the Senate floor.

"We've reached this point where any criticism of our foreign policy leads to the charge that we are not being patriotic, leads to the charge that we would not stand up to defend America and leads to the charge that to some extent our troops would be demoralized by that criticism and that our enemies would be emboldened," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

### 'A leader or a victim'

Johnson noted that Daschle is a Vietnam War-era veteran, while Thune did not serve in the military. Democrats say Johnson faced equally unfair accusations during his own campaign against Thune in 2002, when Thune ran an ad questioning why Johnson voted against missile defense programs.

Republicans counter that Johnson's own comments earlier this year on "the Taliban wing of the Republican Party" put him in no position to point fingers.

Furthermore, they say Democratic voting records justify their position. Even Daschle admitted during Sunday's debate that his criticism of Bush on the eve of war was ill-timed. "The question is one about judgment," said Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn. "In times of war ... words have impact, and they have meaning, and we need to be sensitive to that. I didn't see Thune as criticizing his patriotism. He was criticizing his judgment."

Thune's party colleagues haven't rushed to his side, the candidate said, because there's no need.

"At some point, constantly playing the victim has to end," he said. "You're either a leader or a victim. And if you're a leader, you stand up and defend your record."

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## BankFirst: \$600M in assets

Continued from 1A

before an economic downturn hit the banking industry. After a series of layoffs, the company now employs 220 in the city.

But George Lund, the company's chairman and CEO, says things have improved and the company is being sold at a high point in its history.

"We had our best year ever in 2003," Lund said. "The results this year are just as impressive because we have a great team and a great business, and that kind of performance creates great value."

Executives of both banks have known each other for years. Though BankFirst wasn't actively looking to sell the company, Marshall's offer was an opportunity that came along at the right time, Knudson said.

According to the agreement, Marshall Bancorp will acquire BankFirst Corp., including its subsidiary bank and the ActionCard credit card portfolio and payment systems business.

The deal also includes the vacant Randall Foods building on 41st Street that BankFirst purchased in 2003.

BankFirst has more than \$600 million in assets — eight times Marshall's \$75 million.

The significant increase will create more growth opportunities for Marshall, said Dennis Mathisen, chairman and CEO.

"BankFirst and Marshall Bancorp's business strengths complement each other exceptionally well and create the opportunity for an even stronger presence in the financial services industry," he said. "Our philosophies are consistent, and we are confident cus-

tomers will benefit long-term from the added strength of the combined organizations."

BankFirst is a solid acquisition because it is a strong organization and reputation, said Marshall spokeswoman Jennifer Weichert.

Marshall Bancorp is a bank holding company whose chartered bank has full-service branches in Minneapolis and Hallock, Minn. It currently has \$75 million in assets and \$60 million in deposits.

Mathisen owns an affiliated agency, The Marshall Group, an investment banking company, also of Minneapolis.

BankFirst has about 600 employees nationwide, including the 220 in Sioux Falls. It began as a state-chartered bank in 1928 in Toronto, S.D. Mert Lund purchased the company in 1972.

Its retail banks are located in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Toronto, Chandler, Ariz., and Minneapolis. It has credit card service centers in Sioux Falls and Chandler.

BankFirst president and founder Mert Lund, who is nearing retirement, says the time was right to sell. "The timing for our family is such that this will allow us to move on to the next stage of our lives," he said. "We have had a marvelous run, and we look back with pride on the many accomplishments during our watch."

BankFirst began cutting jobs in November 2001 with 40 positions in Sioux Falls. Subsequent reductions included 110 jobs in Sioux Falls and Huron in 2002 and the closure in early 2003 of the Huron processing center, which eliminated 120 jobs.

Reach business reporter Kelly Hildebrandt at 331-2322.

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