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Argus Leader

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SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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TODAY'S BRIEFING



Quintessential quads

► Sioux Falls is seeing a growing number of ATV enthusiasts, and it's small wonder. Not enough snow for snowmobiles? Free-wheeling ATV's pack that off-road thrill. And since the city allows converted vehicles on the street, drivers don't have to find a trail to find some fun. **1D**

Knitting: It's not just for women

► More men across the country are picking up their needles and starting up a sweater or a hat. Hip snowboarders like to fashion their own caps, and the relaxing hobby is taking hold on campuses and coffee shops. The Pettigrew Museum is offering a class in March in Sioux Falls. **1D**

SPORTS



Lincoln boys hit their stride

► They may not be ranked as high as - well, some other Sioux Falls high schools - but the Patriots have brushed off a shaky start to earn a respectable 8-5 record and a shot at making state. **1C**

LOCAL & REGION

Governor's mansion getting built

► Work on the residence for South Dakota's leader is ahead of schedule, with 75 percent of construction complete. When sheet-rocking and interior work are done, the Rounds family should be able to move in by July. One hitch: Only about half of the donations needed have turned up. **1B**

NATION & WORLD

► **CHURCH ABUSE:** Paul Shanley, the former priest accused in the most publicized scandal in the Boston Catholic diocese, has been convicted of sex abuse. **3A**

► **IRAQ:** A Kurdish party won the second-largest share of votes in a preliminary report. But good election news is dampened by mortar attacks that killed at least 30 in Baqouba. **6A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH **16°**
 LOW **3°**
 Light snow
 Full report, 2A

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MISSOURI RIVER WATER

Study: Pipeline not enough by 2017

In worst case, city will surpass its Lewis & Clark share after 5 years

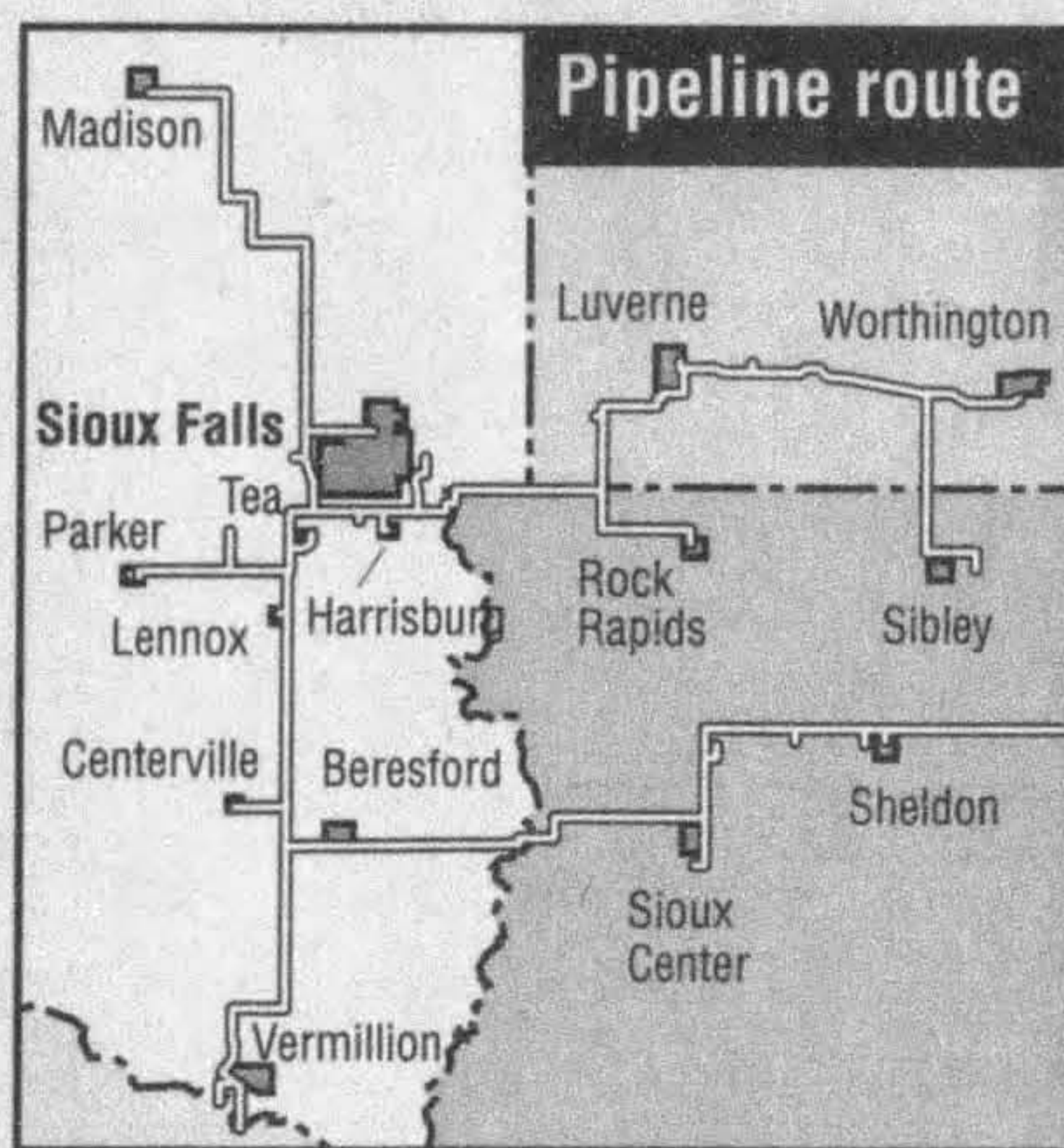
BY JENNIFER SANDERSON
 jsanders@argusleader.com

Sioux Falls will need to look beyond the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System for daily needs just five years after the pipeline is completed, an independent consultant told the City Council Monday night.

The city is set to receive 10 million gallons a day from the system starting in 2012. According to the study from Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc., Sioux Falls' growth will outpace its share of the pipeline's design capacity around 2017.

"The challenge is really an outcropping of your success," Steve Burian, the firm's chief executive officer, told councilors.

Meanwhile, the system's executive director floated a proposal to increase the initial size immediately, by 50 percent. That would free up another 17 million gallons a day, and it's unlikely Sioux Falls would have to outbid many other mem-



Source: Lewis & Clark Rural Water System

ber cities to get the extra amount. The other 21 communities already have indicated whether they'll need extra water.

"It's not a matter of giving the water to

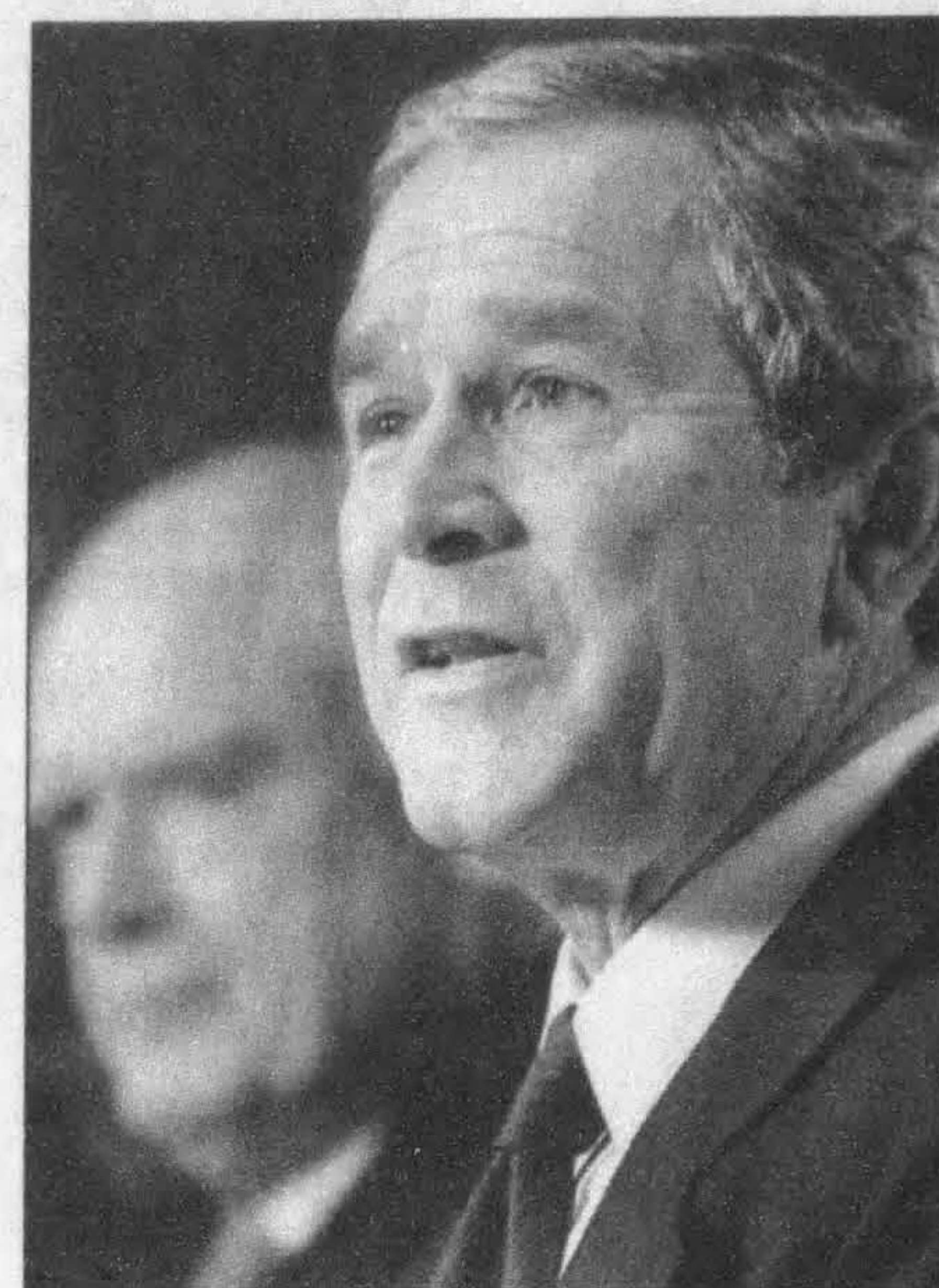
MORE ONLINE

For previous coverage of the Lewis & Clark pipeline project and the states' battle about water flow on the Missouri, log on to www.argusleader.com

Sioux Falls. It's whoever is willing to pay for it," said Troy Larson, director of the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System. He said the idea of expanding the pipeline's footprint has appeal because the system will need to upgrade its water treatment facilities five years into operation.

Councilors called the projections a worst-case scenario because the North Dakota firm used peak daily usage as a planning tool. City planners have known all along that Lewis & Clark is not a long-term solution in its original design, but

See **COUNCIL**, page 5A



RON EDMONDS / AP

President Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion spending plan Monday. At left is Secretary of Treasury John Snow.

President pitches \$2.57T budget

Plan reduces domestic spending by 1 percent

BY ALAN FRAM
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush proposed a \$2.57 trillion budget Monday that erases scores of programs and slices Medicaid, disabled housing and many more but still worsens federal deficits by \$42 billion in the next five years.

In one of the most austere presidential budgets in years - one that faces precarious prospects in Congress - Bush would give nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments less money in 2006 than they are getting this year. Overall, he would cut non-security domestic spending - excluding automatically paid benefits like Medicare - by nearly 1 percent next year. Bush said it was the first such reduction proposed by the White House since President Reagan's day.

Forty-eight education programs would be eliminated, including one for ridding drugs from schools. In all, more than 150 government programs would be eliminated or

See **BUDGET**, page 4A

MORE NEWS

► To view President Bush's proposed fiscal 2006 budget online, go to the Office of Management and Budget Web site at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/index.html.

► An analysis of the budget's effects: **SEE PAGE 4A**



PHOTOS BY LLOYD B. CUNNINGHAM / ARGUS LEADER

South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds (center) and Nebraska Gov. David Heineman (right) listen to North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven (left) question U.S. Fish and Wildlife representatives Monday at a conference hosted by Rounds in Sioux Falls.

Governors wrangle over river



Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer

Sioux Falls hosted leaders and representatives from eight Missouri River states Monday as Gov. Mike Rounds pressed to hold more water upstream this year in the face of drought.

But the conference Rounds summoned to seek compromise floundered in familiar disagreements. The group failed to agree on a new balance of interests on the river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls the water, yet Rounds wanted the group to agree to pre-

serve more. It seems, though, that even during drought, downstream states still want to navigate, and upstream states demand water for fishing, drinking and irrigation.

COMPLETE STORY, PAGE 1B

Four-year-old drives car to video store

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAND LAKE, Mich. - A boy drove his mother's car to a video store in the middle of the night, police said - and he's all of 4 years old.

Even though he was unable to reach the accelerator, the boy put the car in gear, and the idling engine provided enough power to take him a quarter-mile to the store at 1:30 a.m. Friday, Police Chief Doug Heugel said. Finding the store closed, the youngster began a slow trip home.

Weaving and with its headlights off, the car got the attention of police Sgt. Jay Osga, who thought it was a car that took off after being left running at a gas pump.

The car turned into the boy's parking lot and struck two cars, then backed up and hit Osga's police car.

That's when Osga discovered the boy inside.

"He knew how to go from forward to reverse," Osga said Monday. "The mother said she taught him how to drive by letting him sit on her lap and steer."

No charges will be filed, Heugel said. "He's 4 years old. His mom didn't even know he was up."



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stand Monday in front of a photo of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the presidential headquarters in Ramallah. Rice met with Israeli and Palestinian officials on her first visit to the region since taking office.

DAVID SILVERMAN / AP

Summit to herald a cease-fire

Sharon, Abbas to meet in Egypt for security discussions

BY JOEL GREENBERG and CAM SIMPSON
 Chicago Tribune

JERUSALEM - At the Middle East summit in Egypt on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are expected to declare a halt to violence after more than four years of fighting.

The planned cease-fire was reported by both sides Monday, on the same day that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced that the United States would send a security envoy to the Middle East to help the Palestinians strengthen their security forces, monitor the expected truce and potentially coordinate with Israel.

Rice, capping a 23-hour visit to Israel

and the West Bank, also said Sharon and Abbas had accepted invitations to meet separately with President Bush in the United States this spring.

But first will come today's summit at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, which will have the trappings of a peace conference, with the participation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

While the Israelis and Palestinians are expected to declare a halt to violence, they remain divided about what comes next, whether talks should become political peace negotiations or remain strictly discussions about security.



Israeli leader Ariel Sharon will meet today at a summit in Egypt with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. **ANALYSIS, SEE PAGE 5A**

See **MIDEAST**, page 5A

Ag subsidies, water projects would see cuts

BY MIKE MADDEN

Argus Leader Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - From a massive water project for Sioux Falls to payments to farmers and economic development grants around the state, many South Dakota programs face spending cuts under the budget President Bush proposed Monday for fiscal year 2006.

With the country at war and federal deficits rising, Bush's \$2.57 trillion budget proposal would trim most domestic spending by 1 percent and eliminate dozens of programs around the government. Federal debt would still grow by \$42 billion in the next five years, though. The cuts proposed for South Dakota projects were in line with others called for by the White House.

Defense spending would increase, but the budget includes no money for operations in Iraq or Afghanistan, which the administration says will be covered by a separate request. Homeland security was one of the few domestic programs to see almost no cuts.

See **S.D. EFFECT**, page 4A



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Sharon, Abbas to meet for Mideast peace talks

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak hosts today the first meeting of Israeli and Palestinian leaders since Mahmud Abbas, the new Palestinian leader, succeeded Yasser Arafat after his death. Also attending at Sharm el-Sheik is Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Events leading to Feb. 8 summit

Nov. 22 U.S. Secretary of State traveled to the Mideast to revive diplomacy	Nov. 30 Abbas reportedly ordered halt to anti-Israel incitement in government-controlled media	Dec. 6 Egypt exchanged an Israeli Arab prisoner for six Egyptians suspected of planning attacks on Israeli soldiers	Dec. 16 Sharon said the coming year could bring a "historic breakthrough" in relations	Jan. 13 Israel cut diplomatic ties after Palestinian militants killed six Israelis in Gaza	Jan. 21 Palestinian police took up positions in northern Gaza Strip to prevent attacks on Israel	Jan. 31-Feb. 3 Leaders of two militant Palestinian groups discussed prospective cease-fire with Egyptian officials
Nov. 11, 2004 Palestinian leader Arafat died	Dec. 2 Mubarak said Sharon is the region's best chance for peace	Dec. 27 Israel released 159 Palestinian prisoners	Jan. 26 Israel resumed diplomatic contacts with Palestinians	Jan. 30 Jewish settlers demonstrated against Sharon's evacuation plans	Feb. 2 Egypt invited Sharon, Abbas and King Abdullah II to a summit	Feb. 7 Israelis and Palestinians confirmed they'll declare an end to more than four years of fighting
Dec. 14 Egypt and Israel signed a U.S.-backed trade deal; Abbas said the 4-year-old uprising must end		Jan. 9, 2005 Abbas elected president, succeeding Arafat	Jan. 27 Palestinian leadership banned civilians from carrying weapons			



Council: Peak usage

Continued from 1A
engineers studying average daily use predict the pipeline could get Sioux Falls as far as 2027. Both time frames factor in varying degrees of drought and common conservation efforts, such as lawn watering restrictions. Burian said the later date is an accurate estimate, given a less extreme baseline.

"I don't think there was any one of us up here who didn't think we'd get more than five years out of this," said council vice-chairman Andy Howes, summing up the shock many councilors expressed earlier in the day. City officials heard the dire predictions in a formal presentation that began hours after Gov. Mike Rounds wrapped up his Missouri River Summit. Leaders from states along the route gathered in Sioux Falls to talk about the river's future.

Also on Monday, the White House released its 2006 budget, allocating \$15 million for Lewis & Clark. That's \$20 million less than South Dakota's delegation requested, and a notable gap from the roughly \$24 million needed annually to keep the project on schedule for 2012.

Federal money is planned to make up 76.2 percent of pipeline construction costs, with states picking up 9.7 percent. Altogether, members will be responsible for the remaining 14.1 percent, with Sioux Falls an important part of the mix. Because it will use much more water than any other member, the city will pay a greater proportion than other cities.

The options outlined in the city's \$50,000 AE2S study follow three formulas: Stick with Lewis & Clark but ask for expansion; construct an independent pipeline rooted in the Missouri River; or construct that pipeline and ask other cities to join. Capital costs for the city under those three options range from \$458 million to \$628 million, with a new pipeline as the most expensive. Those figures are in current dollars and forecast 50 years out from the pipeline's first usage until 2062.

The city now gets 26 million gallons a day from groundwater aquifers and wells in the area, along with suction intakes on the surface of the Big Sioux River. But those two means are interconnected, Burian said. As a result, both are affected during drought periods.

Burian recommends that the city stay with Lewis & Clark but formally request additional capacity, possibly with a resolution as early as next week. If Sioux Falls could secure the full amount, its total supply through the system would nearly triple - from 10 million gallons per day to 27 million gallons per day. In that scenario, the pipeline and nearby

CITY REPORT

CITY REPORT: Read the report from Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc. through links at www.siouxfalls.org. **LEWIS & CLARK:** Visit www.lcrws.org to read more about the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System and get updates on its progress.

water combined would meet the city's needs until about 2037.

Burian said Sioux Falls eventually will need to look at a stand-alone supply from the Missouri, perhaps rooted at Gavin's Point Dam near Vermillion. That would require a future use permit the city doesn't have, land rights and easements that could take years to secure and at least one new water treatment plant along the way.

The time to start that planning is now, Burian stressed, calling 2017 "right around the corner in terms of engineering time."

Leading up to the point Congress authorized Lewis & Clark, Sioux Falls had requested 40 million gallons a day from the project. Burian and Lyle Johnson, the city's public works director, explained the figure had to be scaled back because the federal government hesitates to fund systems it regards as city efforts. To be considered a regional project, Lewis & Clark could not dedicate so much of its supply to any one community.

If an expanded pipeline can accommodate the city's needs over a greater span, Larson said Sioux Falls could look at building a system with Lewis & Clark, not separate from it.

"If Sioux Falls needs far more water than anticipated, let's talk about it now, before the pipe is in the ground, because we're at the start of construction now," Larson said.

"If we're thinking we look beyond 2037, let's talk about one big pipeline rather than a second pipeline," he continued. "We have permits to pump an additional 45 million gallons a day, so why not make Lewis & Clark bigger?"

Johnson agrees with Burian's assessment that it will be more economical for Sioux Falls to continue with Lewis & Clark than to begin a new project with no hope of federal funding.

"I don't view this as a crisis, but I do think the report is a reality check," said Johnson, who reminded councilors that 2005 was designated as the lead-time deadline to decide whether Sioux Falls should begin its own project. "This isn't a walk in the park," Johnson said, "but it's better compared to going our own way."

Reach Jennifer Sanderson at 575-3629.

Bush pursues Mideast peace

Stakes high for his democracy agenda and for his legacy as president

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush is making a push for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. It's a goal that has frustrated American presidents for decades, yet administration officials believe conditions might be ripe for a breakthrough, with recent changes in the region and a new emphasis in Washington on spreading democracy.

Bush has four years left to build his legacy and no doubt hopes to see the Mideast peace that eluded predecessor Bill Clinton.

ANALYSIS

The administration plunged back into the peacemaking business on Monday, on the eve of a summit in Egypt between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas. The leaders will declare a cease-fire to end four years of fighting, said the two sides.

In Jerusalem, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced that Sharon and Abbas accepted invitations to visit the White House this spring. Rice also named a U.S. security coordinator to help train and equip Palestinian forces and to monitor the cease-fire. And she promised more than \$40 million in aid to the Palestinians during the next three months.

Abbas' landslide election last month as Palestinian Authority president, the Nov. 11 death of Yasser Arafat, Sharon's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and war weariness on both sides have led to an improved climate for peacemaking.

The Jan. 30 elections in Iraq also helped to reduce tensions across the region, U.S. officials suggest.

Rice cited "a time of optimism" as she met with both Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Longtime observers of the region were generally optimistic about the latest developments, but cautioned that the divide between Israel and the Palestinians remained wide.

Rice's decision to visit Jerusalem and the West Bank city of Ramallah on her first trip as secretary of state, her call for steps to be taken by both Israelis and Palestinians and the air of determination she projected is seen "as a good omen in the region," said Judith Kipper, a Mideast analyst at the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations.

"But that's still not progress. Progress has to be counted on the ground. And it's still very fragile, because both Sharon and (Abbas) have very serious internal problems," Kipper said.

Although Bush asserted in his State of the Union address that peace in the Middle East was "within reach," the scope of the U.S. role remains unclear.

Rice promised to visit the region often - predecessor Colin Powell seldom went - but she won't attend Tuesday's summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheik resort, where Sharon and Abbas will be joined by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Abdullah of Jordan. She suggested it was better for the sides to negotiate directly, with input from the neighboring Arab nations.

Also, her naming of Lt. Gen. William Ward as security coordinator fell short of assigning a full-fledged envoy to shepherd peace talks.

Still, Bush's invitation to Sharon and Abbas to come to the White House for separate meetings signaled a willingness to get more personally involved.

"What you're watching is a process unfolding where people are becoming more trustworthy," Bush told reporters at the White House on Monday, praising Abbas' commitment to fighting terror and Israel's help in allowing Palestinians to vote.

Bush's only previous effort to intervene proved disappointing: the "Red Sea Summit" of June 2003, when he presided over talks in Jordan between Sharon and Abbas. At that time Abbas had the title of Palestinian prime minister but held little power.

Sharon pledged to dismantle illegal outposts, Abbas renounced terrorism against Israel and both leaders embraced the U.S.-supported "roadmap" of steps to a two-state Israeli-Palestinian settlement. The process broke down when it became clear Abbas did not have Arafat's support.

Bush's increased involvement now, along with other recent developments, is "very encouraging," said Sandy Berger, who was President Clinton's national security adviser. But he said it will take "a very active American hand" to get both sides back to the negotiating table.

"It's important that we have some role here as facilitators, bringing the security people from the Israeli and Palestinian sides together so that when there are violations, there's transparency between the Israelis and the Palestinians," Berger said. "My sense is that the administration is willing to play that role."

Mideast: Palestinians want return to 'road map'

Continued from 1A

At a similar summit with Bush in 2003, there also were declarations about the need to halt violence, but several weeks later, the cease-fire fell apart, and each side blamed the other for violating the truce.

This time, however, Abbas is the Palestinian president, no longer in the shadow of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader who died in November.

Abbas has persuaded militant groups to suspend attacks, pending the declaration of a formal truce, and Israeli officials say they are prepared to release Palestinian prisoners, hand over security control in West Bank cities and make other gestures to boost support for Abbas among his people.

But there are fundamental differences about how to proceed from there.

For the Israelis, the Sharm el-Sheik summit is not meant to revive the American-backed "road map" peace plan and political negotiations but to reach agreement about security steps that will ensure quiet on the ground and ease a planned Israeli pullout this summer from the Gaza Strip.

On the Palestinian side, there are opposite expectations: a return to the road map and political negotiations about core issues of dispute, not just security steps.

The road map plan, drafted by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, outlines steps to halt violence and return to negotiations leading to a permanent peace agreement and the creation of a Palestinian state.

The first phase of the plan requires the Palestinians to crack down on militant groups and seize their weapons as Israel pulls its forces back from areas occupied in the current conflict, dismantles unauthorized outposts built by Jewish settlers and freezes settlement building.

Mark Heller, of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, said the disparity between Palestinian expectations and what Israel is willing to talk about has been a recurrent theme in relations between the sides.

"The Israelis are always looking at the shorter term, focusing on operational matters, while the Palestinians want to open up a political horizon," Heller said.

The Bush administration has backed Israel's demand for an end to violence first, and Palestinian security performance is likely to remain a top priority in the near future, rather than rapid movement toward political negotiations.

That trend was evident in the U.S. appointment of a security coordinator, rather than a diplomatic

envoy, who also would tackle a wider range of contentious issues.

Rice has not ruled out the appointment of a diplomatic envoy in the future but has said she does not think one is necessary now.

The "senior security envoy," Lt. Gen. William Ward, who is the Army's deputy commander in Europe, is to help Abbas consolidate and reform Palestinian security services, which Arafat intentionally kept divided to maintain his power.

Rice and State Department officials also said Ward's role will include setting up training for

recruits, monitoring inevitable flare-ups and potentially arbitrating disputes about security issues.

The naming of Ward and other U.S. diplomatic activity represent the clearest signal in nearly two years that the Bush administration is seriously re-engaging in Middle East peace efforts.

"We are back in with both feet," said a senior State Department official traveling with Rice.

At an airport news conference in Tel Aviv, Rice called it "the most promising moment for progress in recent years" between the Palestinians and Israelis.

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