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**Argus Leader**

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SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

**TODAY'S BRIEFING**

**SPORTS**



**Basketball brackets**

► Oklahoma State, with Big 12 tournament MVP Joey Graham, will head into the Chicago regional of the NCAA basketball tournament as second seed to the top-ranked No. 1 Illinois men. For the women, LSU, Tennessee, North Carolina and Michigan State share the top slots in an evenly matched competition. See the story and brackets, **1, 3-4C**.

**USD men headed for region finals**

► After a 73-68 win over Winona State, the Coyotes will face Metro State on Tuesday for a chance to go to the NCAA Division I Elite 8 tournament. **1C**

**LIFE**



**Student art at Falls Park**

► The Horse Barn Arts Center features a free show packed with 80 pieces from eastern South Dakota high schoolers. The gallery will show the artwork Wednesdays to Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. through April 3, which is awards day. **1D**

**BUSINESS**

**Get car fixed, shop for comics**

► Village Automotive and Dragon's Den will share quarters in the former Sioux Falls Tire and Service building after it's renovated. Both business owners say they'll have more room in the new space. To read about these and other area business changes, see Kelly Hildebrandt's column on page **6C**.

**NATION & WORLD**

► **PULLBACK:** Syria has reportedly withdrawn a third of its troops to its border with Lebanon, with plans for the rest to leave before that country's April elections. **3A**

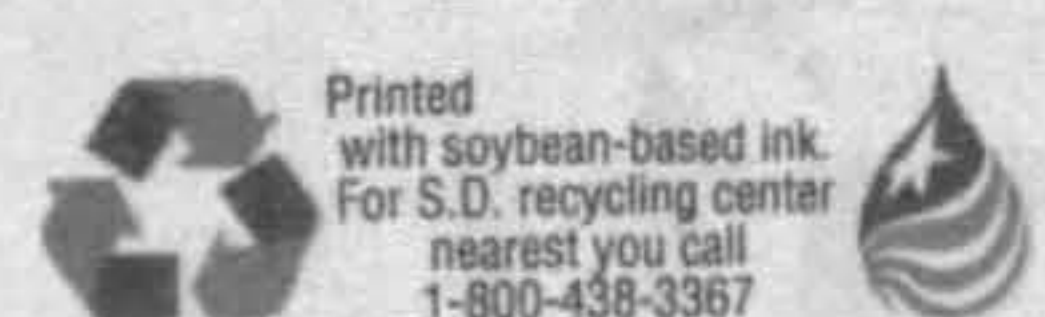
► **ENDURANCE TEST:** What's the surest way to make a college entrance exam even more draining? Add a 45-minute-long essay, which extended the SAT to four hours for 330,000 college-bound students Saturday. **2A**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

HIGH **32°**  
 CLOUDY  
 LOW **10°**  
 Full report, **2A**

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**Audit spurs council plan to tighten belt**

City overspent by \$655,000, dipped into reserves

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON  
 jsanders@argusleader.com  
 Prompted in part by multimillion-dollar overruns on Phillips to the Falls and other big-ticket projects, support is growing for a new city ordinance that would tighten spending restrictions.

The city of Sioux Falls balanced its 2004 budget, but only after dipping into reserves for two of its four major funds, a recent audit reveals.

Local leaders had braced for an \$8.6 million deficit in the general fund, the day-to-day operational pool whose

revenues come from property taxes and the first penny of city sales tax. Department heads helped trim that shortfall to \$655,000 before year's end.

City councilors agree the number vastly improves on the forecast figure, as well as the fund's \$1.7 million deficit in 2003. But most say it's not good enough, especially since the general



Darrin Smith

fund's first-penny sales revenues rose 7.5 percent from the previous year.

Another crucial fund, this one fed by the second-penny tax, saw a 7.7 percent increase in sales revenue from 2003 but finished \$6.85 million short. That second-penny money pays for items in the 5-year capital improvements plan, or CIP, and builds city infrastructure from sewer systems to community centers.

"Since when did spending nearly \$700,000 more than

See **AUDIT**, page 6A

**ONLINE**

To view the city's full annual report, visit [www.siouxfalls.org](http://www.siouxfalls.org) online and click on the "Finance" link in the left-hand column.

**INSIDE**

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Audit details, including how much revenues have increased and how much the city has in reserves.

**CITY COUNCIL:** Items on the agenda for tonight's meeting. See **PAGE 6A**

**Road debate highlights city annexation issues**

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON  
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When Duane Jackson bought his acreage in 1992, he couldn't see a southern city light from his side of the hill. Standing in his sunroom now, he can count hundreds of homes, the newest rippling out beyond 85th Street.

Jackson and his wife, Linda, don't mind the new houses going up to the west, either. The day is coming when their country home won't be in the country any longer. And then the retired



PAM Oil manager probably will dabble in real estate, selling off lots.

It's the street itself - the not quite 1,000 feet named

See **ROAD**, page 6A

**On a binge**

S.D. has high rate of those who drink large amounts of alcohol

BY PETER HARRIMAN  
 and NANCY KELSEY  
 Argus Leader

South Dakota and other Upper Midwest states are among those having the highest percentage of people who binge drink, a recent study shows.

The findings, contained in one of the most comprehensive national studies of drug and alcohol abuse, defines binge drinking as having five or more drinks at a sitting.

Among the findings:  
 ■ 54 million people, 22.8 percent of persons 12 and older, had participated in binge use of alcohol within the previous 30 days.

■ North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Colorado, Montana, Massachusetts and Rhode Island had the highest percentage of such drinking.

South Dakota experts suggest the culture of the region leads to binge drinking.

"Part of it is social acceptance," says Gilbert "Gib" Sudbeck, director of the state Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse for the Department of Human Services.

"Drinking in the Midwest is something people do," he says. "It's socially acceptable."

The study, done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, relied on 136,000 interviews conducted in 2002-03.

Its findings have great credibility in the public health field.

"Those are some of the top national studies in the country. Those are very good sources. They do very good stuff," Jeffrey Simons said. Simons is a University of South Dakota assistant

See **BINGE**, page 5A



**MORE ONLINE**

To voice your opinion about the prevalence of binge drinking in South Dakota and other states in the Upper Midwest in an online forum, log on to [www.argusleader.com](http://www.argusleader.com).

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER

**Daschle to join Dole at law firm**

Former senator to advise, lobby

**FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS**  
 WASHINGTON - Former South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle, following a bipartisan path blazed by many prominent members of Congress, is joining Alston & Bird as a special adviser in the law firm's legislative and public policy group.

Daschle, 57, the former Democratic leader in the Senate, told the *Washington Post* that he will start work today providing the Atlanta-based firm's corporate clients strategic advice about such issues as energy, health care, financial services, tax policy, trade and agriculture.

After the 2004 election, Daschle told the *Argus Leader* that he had no plans to become a lobbyist.

He was recruited by another former Senate leader, Republican Bob Dole, 81, who joined the firm as a special counsel in 2003.

Neither Daschle nor his new employer would discuss how much he will be paid. Other influential former members of Congress have drawn annual compensation packages of as much as \$1 million and higher after making such moves. Dole has been reported to earn \$800,000 to \$1 million annually, a range the Republican called "more or less" accurate in an interview with the *Post* Friday.

In December, Daschle told the *Argus Leader* that he would leave the lobbying up to his wife, Linda, leaving him to focus on speaking engagements and writing.

Daschle, whose record of taking on the Bush administration probably cost him support in South Dakota, was denied a fourth term in the Senate when Republican John Thune defeated him Nov. 2. Dole soon sought him out to offer condolences and plant the idea of working at Alston & Bird.



Tom Daschle

See **DASCHLE**, page 5A

**Police say gunman in church deaths upset about job, sermon**

BY JOHN DIEDRICH  
 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE - Armed with a handgun and two magazines of bullets, Terry Ratzmann walked into a religious service at a Brookfield hotel Saturday, and without a word spoken, cut down 11 fellow churchgoers in 60 seconds before one parishioner frantically asked him, "Why?"

Ratzmann fired a few more times before squeezing off the 22nd shot - the final one - into his head.

With eight people dead, three hospitalized and a 10-year-old girl released Sunday, authorities, friends and fellow churchgoers struggled with the question of why.

Investigators zeroed in on two facts: the end of Ratzmann's job at GE Healthcare in Waukesha County and a church service held Feb. 26 at the same Sheraton hotel.

Ratzmann, a regular at the Living

Church of God's hotel services, stormed out of that service, apparently angry over a sermon. The 44-year-old didn't return to a service until Saturday, this time with a gun.

A woman who knew Ratzmann for years described him as depressed, but authorities said Sunday that they had found no evidence of mental illness.

At the two-story home where Ratzmann lived with his mother and sister in New Berlin, police found a .22-caliber rifle and a box of bullets that matched those fired, along with three computers that held encrypted files. Detectives were trying to tap those files, hoping for more clues. No suicide note was found.

"At this time in our investigation,

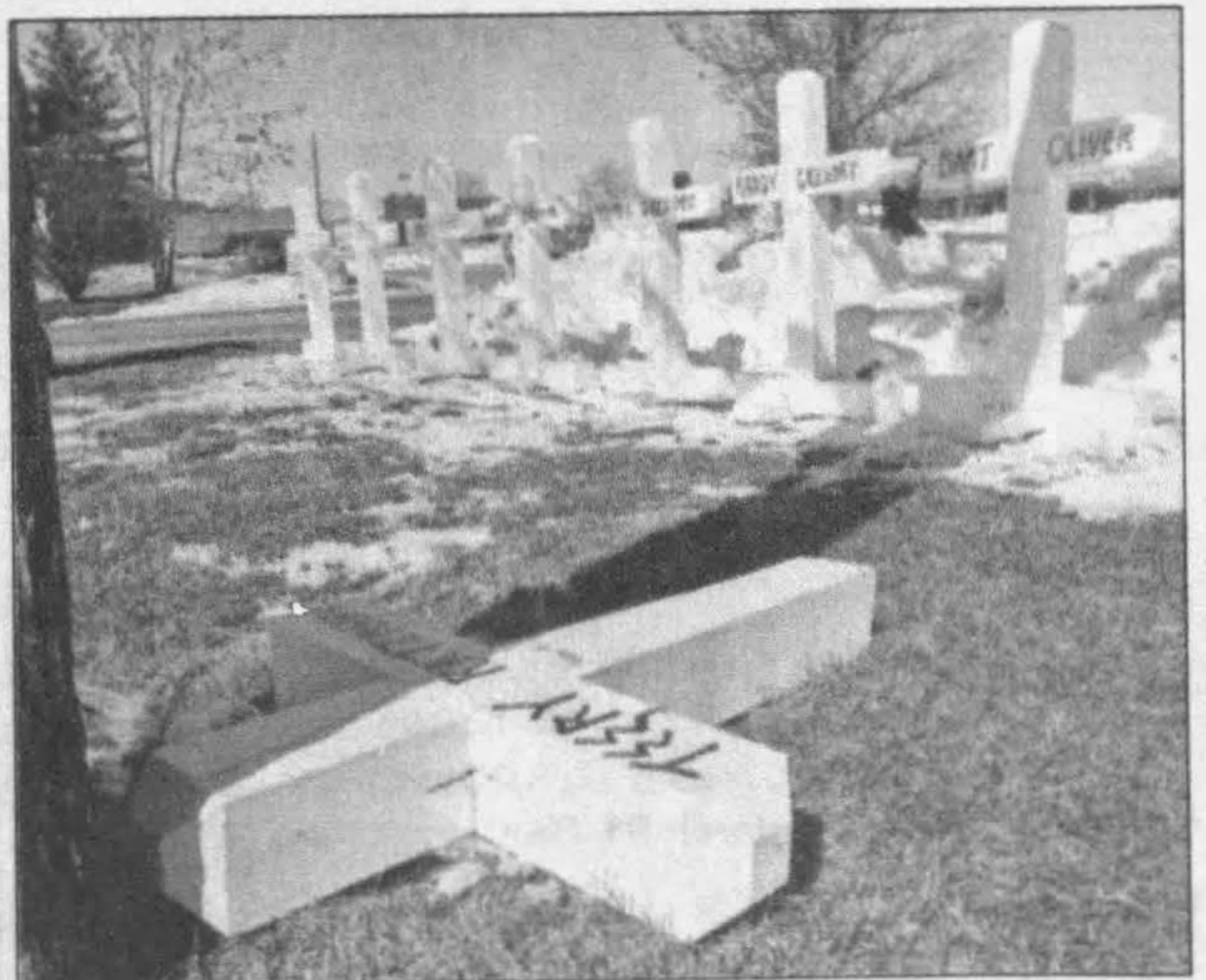
we have no clear motive," Brookfield Police Chief Daniel Tushaus said.

The dead were Randy Gregory, 51, the congregation's pastor, and his son, James Gregory, 16, both of Gurnee, Ill.; Harold L. Diekmeyer, 74, of Delafield; Gloria Critari, 55, of Cudahy; Richard Reeves, 58, of Cudahy; Gerald A. Miller, 44, of Erin; and Bart Oliver, 15, of Waukesha.

Marjean A. Gregory, 52, the pastor's wife, also of Gurnee, was listed in critical condition at Froedtert Lutheran Memorial Hospital. Angel M. Varichak, 19, of Helenville, and Matthew P. Kaulbach, 21, of Pewaukee, both were listed in satisfactory condition at Froedtert. A 10-year-old girl from Cudahy was released from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, a spokeswoman said late Sunday. Neither police nor Children's would



Terry Ratzmann



Crosses for the seven victims of a shooting stand outside the Sheraton hotel Sunday in Brookfield, Wis., with an eighth cross separated from the rest for the gunman, Terry Ratzmann.

See **SHOOTING** page 5A

