drainage project costs from July 2004 estimates.

linked to drainage improvements.

Rise in charges for management and design services from private firms.

increase from initial '04 price tag.

Drainage repairs jump \$6.31M

Street reconstruction costs drive up original estimate to nearly \$32M

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON

jsanders@argusleader.com

City engineers overlooked miltor Lyle Johnson told City Council and streets. members Monday afternoon.

another \$6.31 million that's now capital improvement plan. part of the bill for eight major drainage projects.

sewer backups for hundreds of homeowners. The city has secured low-interest state loans to cover lions of dollars in street work need- \$24.7 million worth of repairs, ed to upgrade storm sewers this including reconstructed water year and next, Public Works Direc- mains, sanitary sewers, lighting

Councilors also moved up \$1 mil-The mistake leaves councilors lion in sanitary-sewer work wondering where they'll find planned for later in the five-year

But the latest numbers reflect improvements. jumps in construction estimates as

MORE ONLINE

Read more about the city's plans to improve its storm sewer system and see maps of the eight project areas at www.sfdrainageprojects. com online.

What's more, the nearly \$32 mil-Heavy rains last May and June well as fees for the private engi- lion price tag might not be the final flooded basements and caused neering firms steering the one. Designs aren't complete for

any of the eight projects. And ... We did not put the effort into it more detailed information about that we should have." surface drainage in older neighborhoods might send engineers enough money to start on the back to the drawing board for half the work areas.

guess" at the total cost, said John- not going to address all those propson, who acknowledged his depart- erty owners' needs." ment's mistake.

for streets in each project," he said. "We were so focused on the pipe only that this purely was not set up with a total reconstruction in mind.

Johnson added that, while there's \$10.5 million worth of drainage projects that will give long-term bene-"I'm not even going to venture a fits, the master plan as it stands "is

That's largely because con-"We put in a small, token amount struction standards have changed since neighborhoods sprouted in four of the drainage basins slated

See PROJECT, page 6A



Andy Howes, city councilor, asked Monday, "Why didn't we allot more for the street project ... rather than run

the risk of

being stuck?"

TODAY'S BRIEFING

LIFE

Lyle Johnson,

public works

director, said,

"I'm not even

going to ven-

ture a guess"

cost of repairs

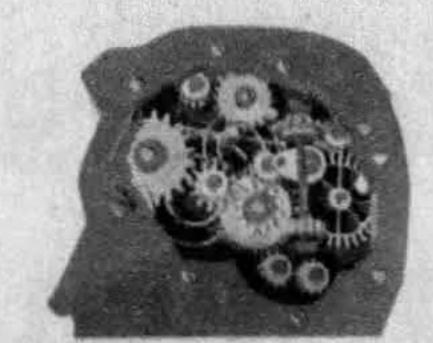
sewer system.

at the total

to the storm

Researching the brain

▶ A recent symposium of the world's most cerebral scientists predicted quantum discoveries about humans' most powerful resource: the brain. Smart pills, mental calisthenics and better treatments for ailments are among issues researchers hope to resolve in coming decades. 1D



No needles? Flu shot loses sting

▶ What if there were an ultrasound device that opened up your pores to let vaccine seep right in? A recent study shows that the method reduces the amount of vaccine needed as well as the fear of shots. 1D

SPORTS



Home runs in a slump

▶ Joe Mauer is on the leaders list for homers this year, but the Twins slugger is among the few slamming them out of the park: Home runs are down 8.8 percent from 2004. Is steroid testing the main reason? 1C

NATION & WORLD

PERFECT CRIME: A loophole makes it hard to try suspects in Idaho's part of Yellowstone Park. 2A

> JAMMED UP: Traffic really is getting worse. 4A

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny, rain Full report, 2A

50°

HIGH

70

| NDEX 36 pa | | iges | |
|------------------|------------|------|--|
| Annie's Mail 4D | Lotteries | 2B | |
| Business 6C | Movies | 5D | |
| Classified 6-12D | Nation | 2-6A | |
| Comics 4D | Obituaries | 4,6B | |
| Crosswords 11D | Opinion | 5B | |
| Horoscope 10D | Television | 5D | |
| L | Morld | 251 | |



RUSSIA CELEBRATES V-E DAY



Russian WWII veterans walk along Red Square before the Victory Parade in Moscow on Monday. Billboards featured medalbedecked veterans, and announcements on the subway thanked them for their hard-won victory in World War II. Monday's lavish ceremonies in Moscow were aimed at glorifying the men and women who fought six decades ago. St. Basil's Cathedral is in the background. More Stories on V-E Day, Page 3A.

Brandon might get convention center

Council OKs \$1.5M bond issue; public hearing is May 16

> BY MELANIE BRANDERT mbrander@argusleader.com

The owner of Holiday Inn Express in Brandon is proposing a new \$6 million hotel and convention center in the city just south of Interstate 90.

Kevin Johnson, Midwest Motels Management president Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites with a 400-seat convention center would be just west of the city's only hotel.



A drawing of the Holiday Inn Express that would be part of a proposed Brandon convention center.

Express would be converted plete the project next April. into a Comfort Inn once the in Mitchell, said the 68-room new hotel is built. A \$300,000 the latter franchise's design named the city Community of into Brandon's economy by will finish at month's end.

The current Holiday Inn break ground in June and com-"Brandon's really a commu-

nity on the move," he said, notremodeling project to match ing that Gov. Mike Rounds will inject more tourism dollars the Year. "They had \$38.45 mil-Johnson said he wants to lion (value) in building permits.

The community has been unbelievably positive, a 'What can we do for you?' attitude."

Local leaders say the project

See BRANDON, page 6A

City clerk to report to council

Members: Decision not in response to overruns

BY NANCY KELSEY

nkelsey@argusleader.com The Sioux Falls City Council on Monday night unanimously approved an ordinance to bring the city clerk's office back under its authority, reversing a decade-old decision.

The move comes weeks after Mayor Dave Munson admitted he bypassed the city

charter's spending rules to finish Phillips-to-the-Falls street construction and a railroad underpass at Pasley Park. Some council members have said they see the clerk as an advocate who could bring a strong financial background to analyze budgets and research complex issues.

Kavanaugh But several council members said Monday the ordinance is not a response to the recent city spending

controversy. Before the vote, council member Kevin Kavanaugh, a co-sponsor of the ordinance, said there have been recent "misleadings" on the reason for the switch.

He said it was "the prod- Beninga uct of several years of council discussion. ... In spite of what some may

think, this is not the result of mistrust." "I find the characterization offensive," he Councilors had discussed the ordinance

in private meetings in the weeks before Monday's meeting.

See COUNCIL, page 6A

U.S. attacks near Syrian border, killing 100 militants

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

Associated Press BAGHDAD, Iraq - Hundreds of American troops backed by helicopter gunships and warplanes swept into remote desert villages near the Syrian border Monday, hunting for followers of Irag's most wanted-terrorist and reportedly killing as many as 100 militants since the weekend operation began.

The U.S. military said some foreign fighters were thought to be among the insurgents killed in the first 48 hours of the assault, which began late Saturday in the border town of Qaim, about 200 miles west of Baghdad. At least three Marines were killed in the region, it said.

U.S. officials described the area as a known smuggling route and a haven for foreign fighters involved in Iraq's insurgency. The assault was the biggest U.S. offensive since the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah fell last fall.

Meanwhile, militants claimed in an Internet posting to have captured a Japanese man after ambushing a British security company's convoy in western Iraq. It wasn't clear whether that attack was related to the U.S. operation, which was about 80 miles away.

See IRAQ, page 6A

Brandon: \$2-per-room fee would help pay for project

Continued from 1A

increasing sales tax revenue, providing more growth opportunities and possibly attracting small conventions.

more than 30 full- and part-time off-season.

"With Brandon being the first real stop off I-90, there is a tremenmore tourist-friendly and fill the ments in the district. need for hotel room space."

lion for the convention center, City Administrator Dennis Olson said.

"It won't cost the city any money," he said.

Council members also authorized a business improvement district so a \$2-per-hotel-room fee can cials) wanted me to add 30 rooms be charged and Midwest Motels a year ago," he said. "We said we'd can use the extra money to pay off just as soon build a new (hotel)

bonds, Olson said.

May 16, Olson said. He anticipat- quet center." ed the first reading of the ordi-The new hotel would create occur June 6.

jobs next summer and 20 in the funded by people mostly out of South Dakota, said Charles inviting property," he said. town," Olson said. "How much Knapp, InterContinental regional sweeter can you get?"

dous opportunity to lure tourists incentives so he could pay off the which would expand the Express and their families, then attract bonds sooner, Olson said. A tax- chain's presence to 16 South small conventions as well," said increment financing district will Dakota cities. Mark Lindell, Brandon Valley be created on the land, allowing Area Chamber of Commerce coor- taxes from that district to pay off dinator. "It will make Brandon bonds issued to fund improve-

Johnson said he began his plans The City Council has approved last year while negotiating the chain and be built next to it, Knapp Express is always full. selling 15-year bonds up to \$1.5 mil- franchise transfer with InterCon- said. tinental Hotels Group, a Londonbased company that owns Holiday Inn Express. The new hotel will be funded through Johnson's busi-

"They (InterContinental offi-

because there is room for two. We improvement district is set for with an attached conference/ban-

nance to create the district would Suites, which will feature an said. indoor pool with a water slide, is franchise sales director in Fargo. Johnson agreed to forgo tax Another is planned in Sturgis,

Once built, the Brandon hotel will have a 10-year franchise.

felt the community could use more rooms based on what (Johnson) was doing already," Knapp said.

Brandon can support another hotel because Holiday Inn Express' occupancy rate is high, Johnson said. He declined to give statistics.

A convention center couldn't be A public hearing on the knew we wanted to do something added to the current hotel because it is landlocked between the interstate and the Tailgators The new Express Hotel and restaurant to the south, Johnson

"It would look like a long, big "It (the hotel charge) will be one of two that will be built in sliver, instead of a nice, open,

> Johnson said the convention center could hold 350 people for a banquet and 400 in a theater set- Brandon to stay at a local hotel ting. The facility would be used for banquets, weddings and corporate functions.

Kirs Monger, Tailgators general manager, said the new hotel and he thinks drivers probably would The Brandon project will be convention center would benefit stay in Sioux Falls because the unusual because a new hotel will her business and others in the distance from Brandon is short replace the current one in the city. She said the Holiday Inn and the larger city offers more

"We get a lot of customers from "They are replacing (the hotel) there," Monger said. "If people are Rachel, 21, of Crook, Colo., with a new building because they staying at a hotel for a convention, stopped for gas at Shop'N Cart on they always want another place to their 12-hour trip to take her

> competition for event space. Tail- stay wherever they would need to gators offers a room for business for the night. meetings and receptions along with the Municipal Golf Course, 977-3926.

but the restaurant has a 230-person capacity. Pizza Ranch also has a room available for meetings.

"There are going to be some (large groups) we cannot accommodate," Monger said. "They can look at the convention center."

Residents and tourists have mixed reactions about the project.

Terry Easton of Corson said the new facility would allow visitors to instead of one in Sioux Falls. He said businesses probably need large meeting rooms.

Rich Nelson of Sioux Falls said food variety.

David Tyree and daughter home from college in St. Paul. Monger said she welcomes Tyree said they probably would

Reach reporter Melanie Brandert at



Iraq

Continued from 1A

The offensive was being conducted by Regimental Combat Team 2, a joint force of about 1,000 Marines, sailors and soldiers commanded by the 2nd Marine Division, and expected to last several days in an area along the Euphrates River in the al-Jazirah Desert, said Capt. Jeffrey Pool, a Marine spokesman.

A senior military official in Washington said the offensive was targeting followers of Abu Musab al-Zargawi, leader of Al-Qaida in Iraq, who are thought to be operating in the remote region.

"This is an area which we believe has been pretty heavy with foreign insurgents from many different areas - Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine," said Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq. "That's a fairly porous area of the border because of the terrain. It is very difficult."

Acting on information from a captured al-Zargawi associate, U.S. forces moved into Qaim overnight Saturday, killing six insurgents and detaining 54 suspects, the military said in a statement. Local residents were providing a "wealth of information," about the insurgency and foreign fighters in their area, Pool said.

On Sunday, troops moved into villages in and around Obeidi, a town about 185 miles west of Baghdad, and started to pushed north across the Euphrates, according to The Chicago Tribune, which has a reporter embedded with the combat

"Our analysis is that there's a foreign fighter flow from Syria," Col. Stephen Davis, commander of Regimental Combat Team 2, told the Tribune. "The trademark of these folks is to be where we're not. We haven't got north of the river for a while."

The newspaper quoted some Marines as saying residents of one riverside town turned off all their lights at night, apparently to warn neighboring villages of the approaching U.S. forces.

The push comes amid a surge of militant attacks that have killed more than 310 people since April 28, when the new government announced.

At least four car bombs including two suicide attacks exploded in Baghdad, killing at least five people.

The militant group Ansar al-Sunnah Army said it had taken Japanese citizen Akihito Saito, 44, as a hostage, posting a photocopy of his passport, including his picture, on the group's Web site.

The group claimed its fighters ambushed a convoy of five foreign contract workers protected by a dozen Iraqi security men near Hit, 90 miles west of Baghdad. It claimed all were killed in the fight except for Saito, who it

said was "severely injured." An ID card posted on the Internet identified Saito as a security manager for Hart GMSSCO, a British-based security firm. Hart CEO Simon Falkner said in London that there was an ambush with casualties Sunday night involving Hart personnel.

Project: Changes top 15% allowed for contingencies

Continued from 1A

and Duluth Avenue, 11th Street and Phillips Avenue, and Pendar Lane. The Public Works Department plans another round of community meetings in those areas.

Members of the council's fiscal committee saw the figures Friday, when Johnson first relayed the updated costs. But they're still reeling from the news.

"I think we're still trying to get over the sticker shock," said Council Chairman Gerald Beninga. The committee is "not even close" to having a revamped payment package, he said.

Finance Director Eugene Rowenhorst said he'll meet this week with representatives of the South Dakota Conservancy District, which administers the State Revolving Fund programs.

"We'll have to go from there," Rowenhorst said. He reminded councilors of a concern initially raised four weeks ago.

As the council voted to issue bonds for the storm sewer, a local lawyer helping the city through the SRF process cautioned officials that the state could promise only to make the 2005 loans.

Should the state be unable to issue its own bonds in 2006, the The council will need to pass a city would be forced to find other separate resolution before the city funding sources for year two of can sign paperwork with the conthe drainage project. Without the servancy district or any other backup, the city could not let bids lender. for the full project amounts, and Rowenhorst said it's likely any needed before issuing city bonds. future agreements would contain a similar clause.

ey, and state leaders are becoming Works Department responded nervous that South Dakota's quickly after last spring's floods, largest city is getting more than its generating estimates in two share of cheap money.

"Why, then, did that never Howes' frustration with rising come up when they came down costs and anticipates the final cost here last year - with the explicit purpose of telling us why the SRF loans were the best deal for us?" asked Andy Howes, the council's estimate had no real contingency fiscal committee.

"This puts us in a more difficult ing costs, but the city's initial forposition now, and it's frustrating

for improvements: 13th Street and Kiwanis Avenue, 33rd Street Council: Several questions remain

Continued from 1A

Kavanaugh said the time was right to consider the ordinance because of the pending resignation of City Clerk Dianne Metli, who plans to leave her appointed post in January 2006.

Kavanaugh also said the closedsession meetings on the city clerk position were "legal and appropri-

"No one needs to apologize," he

The city's home-rule charter, passed in 1994, states that the council shall appoint the clerk, and the council has continued to do so. But in its first 100 days under the charter, the council voted to give the city attorney's office

after the fact," Howes said. "Why

didn't we allot more for the street

project and try to borrow more,

rather than run the risk of being

stuck with part of the project at a

The city will pay 2.5 percent

interest on the initial \$24.7 million

over 10 years. That low rate isn't

months' time. But he shares

Johnson said, is that the city's first

mula allowed only 15 percent to

will be even higher.

higher interest rate?"

responsibility for the clerk.

Councilor Kermit Staggers said the position is not one that he would characterize as a "chief of staff" or a highly paid person. He said pay would need to be moderate.

During her report to the City Council last week, Jennifer Holsen, the city's human resource director, said the pay grade probably will be at the same level as that of the exec- boss. utive assistant to the mayor.

The only council member to express hesitation about the ordinance was Gerald Beninga.

"Normally, I would not support this," he said. "I will have additional questions."

Those include questions about how the clerk would report to 2328.

eight council members, whether the restructuring might require adding staff members and a job description. After the meeting, Beninga said

the next step for the council is to

address those questions at informational meetings, with the hope of having them answered by June. Metli has told her staff that the only difference they'll see is a new

The position has been touted as one that will keep the council in touch with goings-on in the mayor's office and other city departments. Munson had no comment

Monday, saying only that "it's a function of the council." Reach reporter Nancy Keisey at 331-

cover changes in design and construction.

developing the eight projects included contingencies of 10 percent to 20 percent. "We should've added an auto-

By contrast, the private firms

matic contingency of 20 percent, and we'd have been right on tarlocked in for the additional costs. get," Johnson said. "That's our mistake."

accounted for, the overall plan is splitting 4-4 on whether to seek closer to a \$35 million total, John- the full amount through the SRF son said.

Formal action also would be sons the explanation doesn't loans. In a sense, the council must wash. The city's numbers are less start the borrowing process over than a year old, and Johnson's loan to pay for another big-ticket In addition, Sioux Falls is getting again, Councilor Vernon Brown department made the estimates a growing proportion of SRF mon-said. He noted that the Public knowing work would start a year later, Howes said.

Part of the reason for the gap, played "a huge part of the esti- rent conditions.

dard for fluctuations in engineer- "We've at least placed into question whether the whole project can be paid for with the low-inter-

Councilor Darrin Smith wonders how the Public Works Department could ignore the streets component. "If they'd told us last year that it

was going to take \$32 million, we would've approved it" to make necessary repairs, he said. "Why lowball it when you don't have to?" The council debated the issue

If all the contingencies are for nearly a month, ultimately loan. Mayor Dave Munson cast Howes said there are two rea- the deciding vote in favor of the

The city is using a separate SRF item, the \$31 million East Side Sanitary Sewer System.

The city can move forward with He credits Public Works for confidence in newer parts of town, developing engineering stan- Johnson said. While the same levdards that avoid such large-scale el of protection can't be guarandrainage problems in new devel- teed for those in older areas, opments. Still, Howes said, the Johnson said the work represents department significantly down- a "tremendous benefit" over cur-

"There still is a risk," he said, "We weren't told a major com- "and we have to go back and talk vice chairman and chairman of the plan. A 15 percent cushion is stan- ponent was left out," he said. to people in those neighborhoods about what they want."

Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at

Prosecutor will retry Ohio highway shooter

BY CARRIE SPENCER Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The mistrial for highway shooter Charles McCoy Jr. might make his lawyers less likely to accept a plea deal, even though second trials tend to favor the prosecution, experts said Monday.

A hung jury was declared Sunday after four

days of deliberations in the trial of McCoy, 29, charged with 12 shootings that terrified Columbus-area commuters over five months in 2003 and 2004. The defense had acknowledged he was the shooter but argued he was innocent by reason of insanity.

Prosecutor Ron O'Brien has said he will retry McCoy, who could have faced the death

penalty if convicted of murder for the November 2003 death of Gail Knisley, the only person killed in the shootings.

O'Brien, who maintains McCoy knew his actions were wrong, said he would decide Tuesday whether to drop the death penalty specification from the indictment because of all the medical evidence revealed at trial.

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or long term smoker, the hypnosis is designed so you ever think about smoking again, you will leave this seminar as a NON-SMOKER you may attend any Gorayeb Stop Smoking with no anxiety, no irritability and no weight gain. Seminar - FOR FREE - FOR LIFE.

Sioux Falls - Thurs, May 12 Two Seminars: 12 Noon - 2:45pm or 7pm - 9:45pm

Best Western Ramkota 3200 W. Maple (I-29, exit 81) Brookings - Wednesday, May 11 Evening Seminar Only: 7:00 pm until 9:45 pm

Fireside Restaurant @ Staurolite Inn 2515 East 6th St (I-29, exit 132) Registration begins 1 hour prior to seminar Cash, Check, Visa/MC, AmEx

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Wednesday May 11, 2005

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

TODAY'S BRIEFING

LIFE

In praise of women: Tributes forged in art

▶ It's called "a celebration of all things feminine." The works of 24 artists are on display at the Horse Barn Arts Center in Sioux Falls, in a tribute to women. From oil on canvas to cardboard and fabric, read about the artistic



LOCAL & REGION

form. 1D

Dell Rapids moves step closer to opt-out

▶ Dell Rapids needs to reduce class sizes and add teachers to meet state requirements, say school officials. Those are among the reasons why the school board has endorsed opting out of the state property tax freeze. Opt-out opponents now would have to gather 150 signatures on a petition to refer the issue to a public vote. 18

Check this out cheers for a library

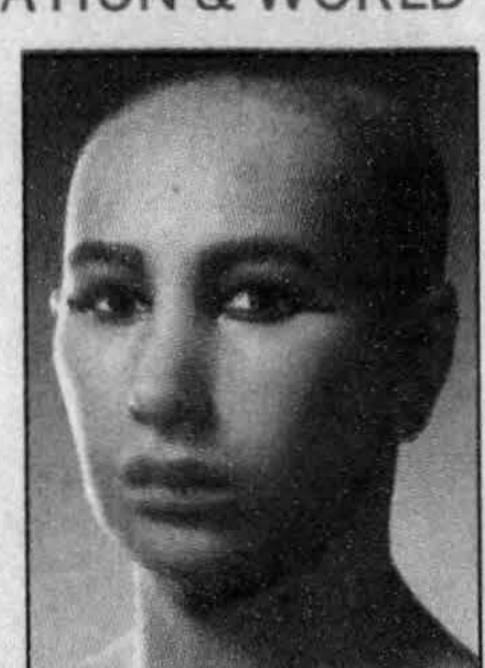
A new library branch is being greeted with the sort of enthusiasm usually reserved for "School's Out!" That uncommon excitement is bubbling for the opening of the Oak View library near Washington High School. What 'should we read into that? How about, cheers aren't only for athletics. 1B

BUSINESS

And now, a message for our shoppers

▶ If you can't stand lines, just wait. A Sioux Falls company is offering a diversion: closed-circuit television. OnDisplay Media Networks has hooked up with several convenience stores, two Burger Kings and a Lewis Drug. The innovation lets advertisers focus on specific groups of shoppers. 6C

NATION & WORLD



Have you seen this king? Tut's new look

In today's world, Tut might have been considered a pretty boy. But more than 3,300 years ago in Egypt, he was the king. He had a pointy head, prominent nose and rounded forehead with big eyes, say three forensic teams from different countries. Each used a CT scan to picture Tut. The results were strikingly similar. 4A

Bush halls Georgia as model for world

► Any country wanting to embrace democracy need only follow the example of Georgia. That was President Bush's message to a receptive audience in the former Soviet republic, as he saluted the Georgian people's independence. 3A

Some homeowners wary about 5-year drainage plan

Residents worry they won't get enough storm protection | 1.5 -

ONLINE

Do you consider drainage protection adequate for Sioux Falls residents? Offer your opinion in a forum and read previous articles at www.argus leader.com.

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON

jsanders@argusleader.com least \$6 million more than repairs. planned for major drainage bers and homeowners are now debating whether the city will get enough storm protection for the extra money.

improve the storm sewer sysdreds of homes and caused ters, but in half the project

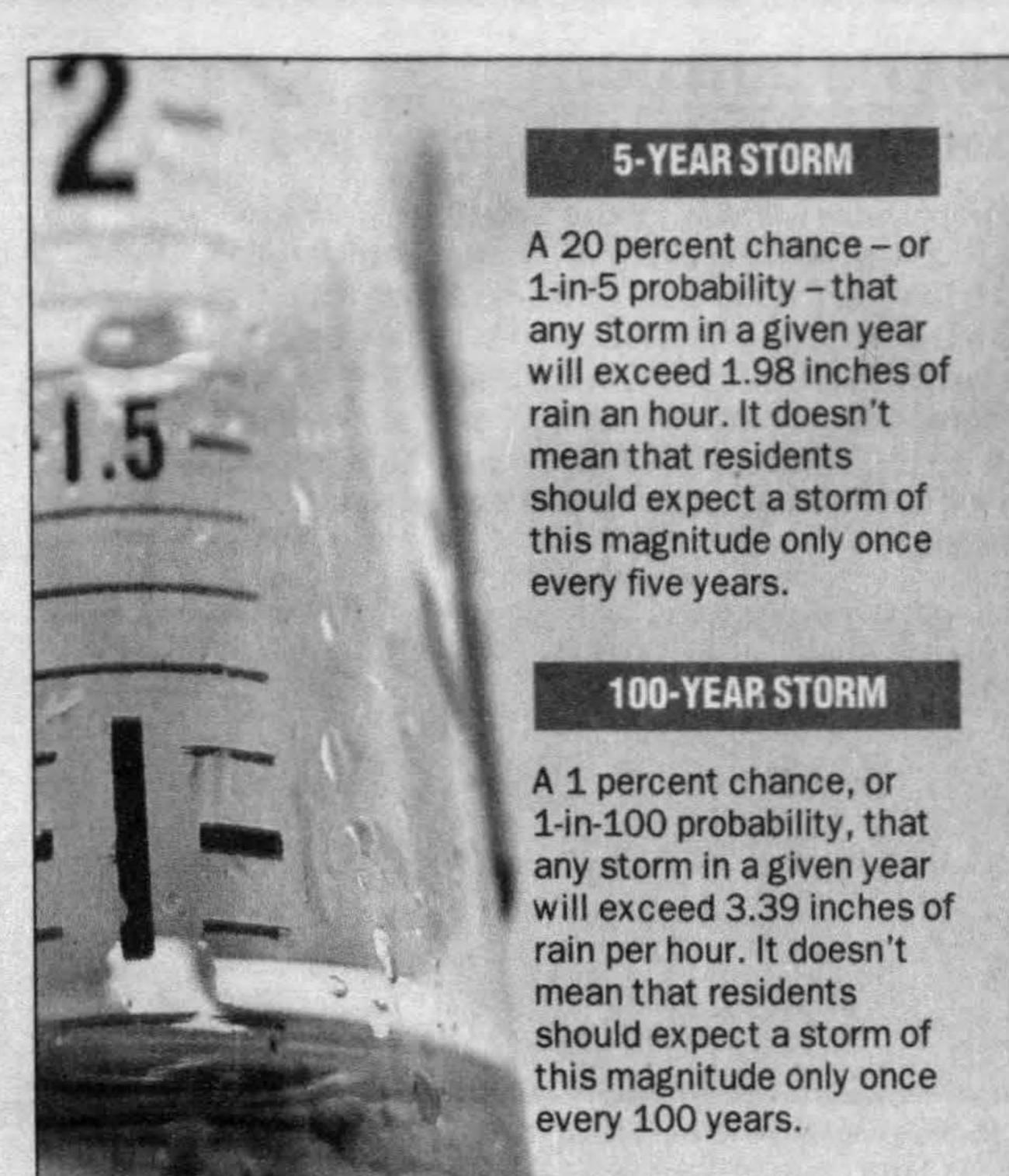
projects, City Council mem- learned that city engineers given year will drop more street work for the project The city drew up a plan to than originally thought.

Some homeowners, such tem in vulnerable neighbor- as Sid Oakleaf, wonder hoods after downpours last whether the project is worth May and June flooded hun- the cost. It will improve mat-

sewer backups in others. areas it will not afford more Councilors approved a state than the city's baseline of a Faced with a price tag at loan for the \$24.7 million in "five-year storm" - the term that describes the 1-in-5 But on Monday, they chance that any storm in a had miscalculated the cost of than 1.98 inches of rain per hour. In the other half, the and the upgrades would cost project designs will offer 100at least \$6.31 million more year protection when combined with the more modern

> surface drainage standards. "Why spend any money to tear up all these streets for a

See DRAINAGE, page 8A



SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL BOARD

Hoffman re-elected



STUART VILLANUEVA / ARGUS LEADER

Debble Hoffman is congratulated by Todd Vik and his wife, Tracy (not pictured), as Hoffman's husband, David, and Sloux Falls School Board member Joy Smolnisky look over election results Tuesday. Hoffman was re-elected to a second term on the board.

2ND TERM, WITH EASE

Incumbent Debbie Hoffman cruised to victory amid low turnout.

| CANDIDATE VOTE TOTAL | | % |
|----------------------|-------|----|
| ✓ Debbie Hoffman | 3,456 | 42 |
| Darin Daby | 2,152 | 26 |
| John Stratman | 1,753 | 21 |
| Amy Willis | 375 | 5 |
| Lora Barthelman | 228 | 3 |
| Adam Broin | 213 | 3 |

With all precincts reporting

10 percent turnout: low, but not a record

BY BRENDA WADE SCHMIDT

bschmidt@argusleader.com Debbie Hoffman was elected to a second

term on the Sioux Falls School Board, defeating five challengers Tuesday in a race that drew light turnout.

Hoffman received 42 percent of the vote, followed by Darin Daby with 26 percent and John Stratman with 21 percent. The perand Adam Broin were in the single digits.

A total of 8,228 voters went to the polls for a turnout of 10 percent, which is low but not

a record. Pundits agreed it is difficult to get voters to the polls in a year when the school board race is the only one on the ballot.

There is no city election this spring. Hoffman got 3,456 votes to win her second three-year term on the five-member board. The connections made as a lifetime resi-

dent of Sioux Falls paid off, said Hoffman, 44. "I have roots really deep in this commucentages for Amy Willis, Lora Barthelman nity, and I can't thank people enough," she

See ELECTION, page 9A

Air base closings revealed on Friday

Rounds makes case for saving Ellsworth

BY RANDY HASCALL

rhascall@argusleader.com

Gov. Mike Rounds made one final pitch for two South Dakota military bases Tuesday as the U.S. Defense Department decided it will release its list of recommended

base closings Friday morning.

Rounds met with federal officials privately in Washington, D.C., after a special group meeting organized by the National Governors Association to discuss base-closing procedures.

"Individuals involved in the process tell us the list is not yet complete," Rounds said in a telephone news conference afterward. "We continue to look for every single thing we can do. We don't know what else we can do that

www.argus leader.com.

Mike Rounds

ONLINE

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opinion on

Ellsworth's

chances in a

reader forum,

read previous

coverage and

follow devel-

opments on

the base

closings at

hasn't been done, but we continue to deliver lists of recommended base clos-

The Defense Department plans to ings to every congressional office about 8:15 a.m. CDT Friday, then e-mail members with summaries of the

See BASES, page 8A

Lewis and Clark prove a tough sell to tourists

But many S.D. businesses still expect a payoff

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

In Idaho, boxes upon boxes of Lewis and Clark refrigerator magnets occupy the back room of Dave Hunt's gift shop.

He wonders whether they'll ever

In Great Falls, Mont., dismal orders for advance tickets haunt an upcoming monthlong festival pegged to the bicentennial of the explorers' push into the Rockies.

And downstream on the Missouri River, Williston, N.D., hotel operator Tom Kasperson flatly assesses the effect of Lewis and Clark tourism on his business: "Zero."

In South Dakota, however, the first year of the Corps of Discovery Bicentennial received a mixed review from tourism officials, and

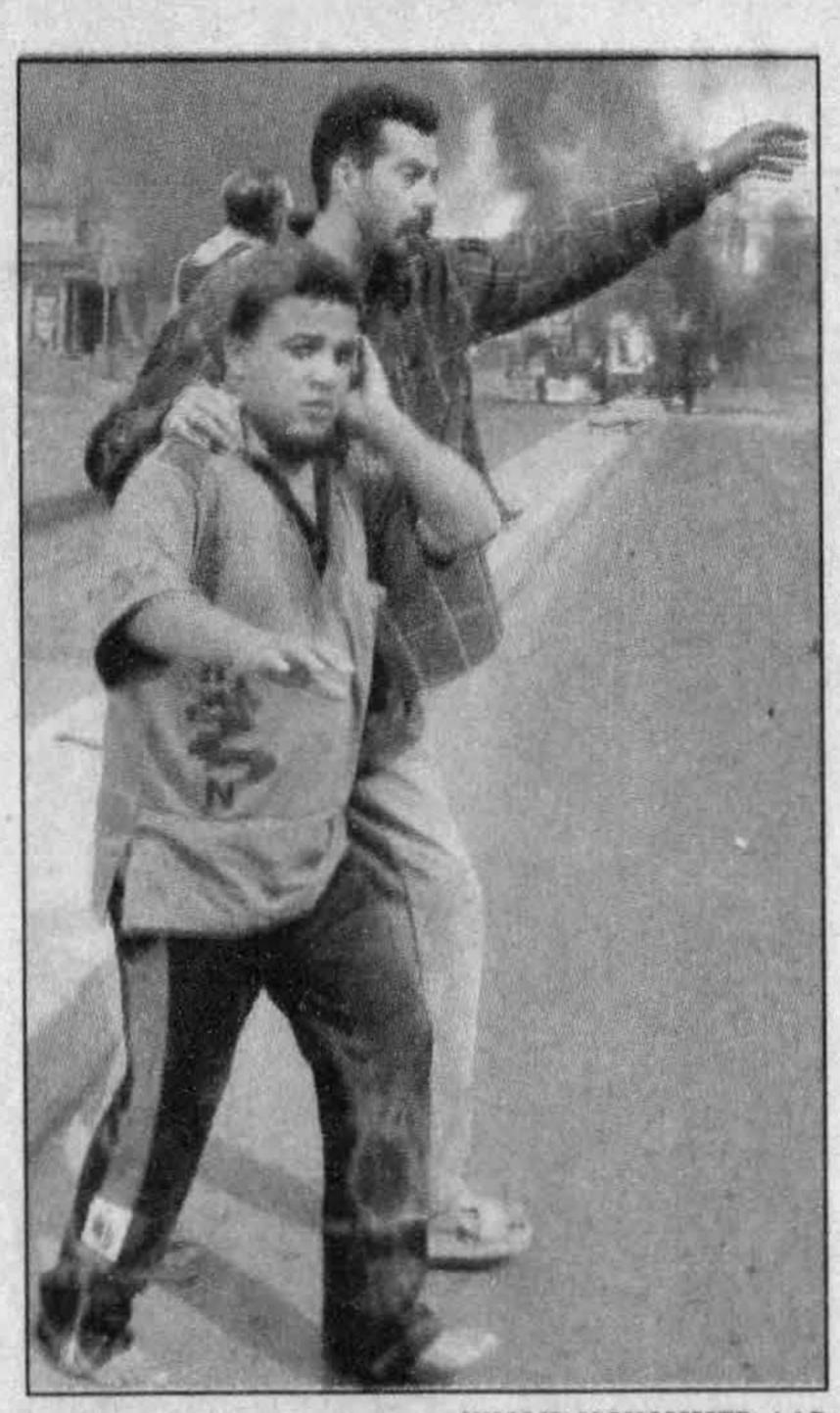
some communities in the state saw a significant boost in tourism related to the event.

"I know some events didn't see the numbers they were hoping for. Others went way beyond what they were expecting," said Kerry Frei, Lewis and Clark Tourism Manager for South Dakota Tourism.

Perceptions of how the Corps of Discovery bicentennial reverberates are all anecdotal because a National Parks Service report on tourism numbers has not yet been distributed, according to Kim Nelson, director of the Yankton Chamber and Visitor's Bureau.

Nelson's experience, though, tells her Yankton's seventh annual Lewis

See LEWIS AND CLARK, page 8A



KHALID MOHAMMED / AP

Iraqi men leave the scene after a car bomb exploded Tuesday in Baghdad, Iraq. At least five heavily damaged vehicles were found burning.

U.S. forces capture more militants in sweep of Iraq BY ANTONIO CASTANEDA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Hunpushed through a lawless region on the Syrian frontier Tuesday after battling past well-armed militants fighting from basements, bunkers. Insurgents kid- pounded their hideouts. ernor as a bargaining chip.

people were killed in two sive - the biggest U.S. attacks early today. A car bombing at a small market in Tikrit killed at least 24, and a suicide bomber in a line outside a police and army recruitment center in the northern city of Hawija killed 30, police said.

As many as 100 insurgents were killed in the first 48 hours of Operation Mata-

Split in al-Qaida 4A

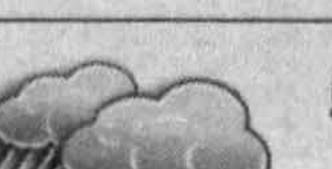
dreds of U.S. Marines dor, as U.S. troops cleared villages along the Euphrates, commanders said. Many of the dead remained trapped under rubble after attack planes rooftops and sandbag and helicopter gunships

napped the provincial gov- At least three Marines were reported killed in the Meanwhile, at least 54 first three days of the offenoperation since the siege of Fallujah six months ago.

The operation was launched after U.S. intelligence showed followers of terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi took refuge in the remote desert region along the border of Syria a haven for smugglers and insurgent suppliers.

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Full report, 2A © 2005 Gannett Co., Inc.





Drainage: More protection costly, administrator says

Continued from 1A

five-year event?" asked Oakleaf, n't plan for ripping out whose father built the house on streets and replacing South Duluth Avenue in 1951.

He said he would rather sell the In addition, engineers family home than fight water and failed to include a conworse in his basement for another tingency range allowing spring. Downpours last year con- for design and constructinued a tiring cycle, one he had tion changes. The differhoped would end with the city's ence takes the price tag plan to revamp the storm-sewer up to almost \$32 million. system in eight neighborhoods.

Oakleaf, 74, has become a That's my responsibility, reluctant expert on the topic. He and I take responsibiliknows, for example, that last ty," Public Works Direcspring's rains would have over- tor Lyle Johnson said. flowed a five-year system as surely as they did the one in place now. they appreciate his can-

City Councilor De Knudson's dor, but that it does nothfirst reaction this week was to ask ing to fix the problem. city staff whether they were "very, very sure that the five-year standard is good enough."

asking for some time.

Another concern is that the city's proposal in older areas might be a gamble by engineering standards. It's one that some homeowners in the city's most established neighborhoods aren't convinced is worth the risk.

Councilors, city engineers and residents now must work together in future meetings to decide codes for new developments their areas. Revised project designs, city buyouts of severely damaged homes and staying the course all are on the table.

Finance Director Eugene Rowenhorst has said he hopes to meet yet this week with representatives from the South Dakota Conservancy District, which can put the pipe in the ground, in-100 likelihood that in any single many drainage issues by loweradministers the SRF programs. but is it going to provide the same year, a storm will let loose more ing the street in his area. Johnson He'll request the additional benefit? No. You can't control than 3.39 inches of rain per hour. said from an engineering standmoney at the same 2.5 percent how those houses are built," rate. Time is critical, he told coun- Johnson said. cil members. He's heard "rumblings that the interest rates are going to move up."

Meanwhile, many homeowners said they feel as if they're in a holding pattern, dependent on the city's engineers to choose a course before hiring private work contractors.

A flawed report

Council members last month approved the final piece of a lowinterest, 10-year loan from the State Revolving Fund program \$1 million for a sanitary-sewer project scheduled for later in the fiveyear capital improvements plan.

But the city staff's report last July had serious flaws. Engineers overlooked millions in concrete

projects, instead using token amounts that didthem from curb to curb.

"We didn't do that.

Council members said

Beninga put a finer point on it told homeowners in one central ing structural or drainage-system Monday: "In some cases, this project area that a detention pond changes. It's a question Knudson's five-year program is not going to fellow council members might be meet every neighborhood's needs."

New vs. old houses

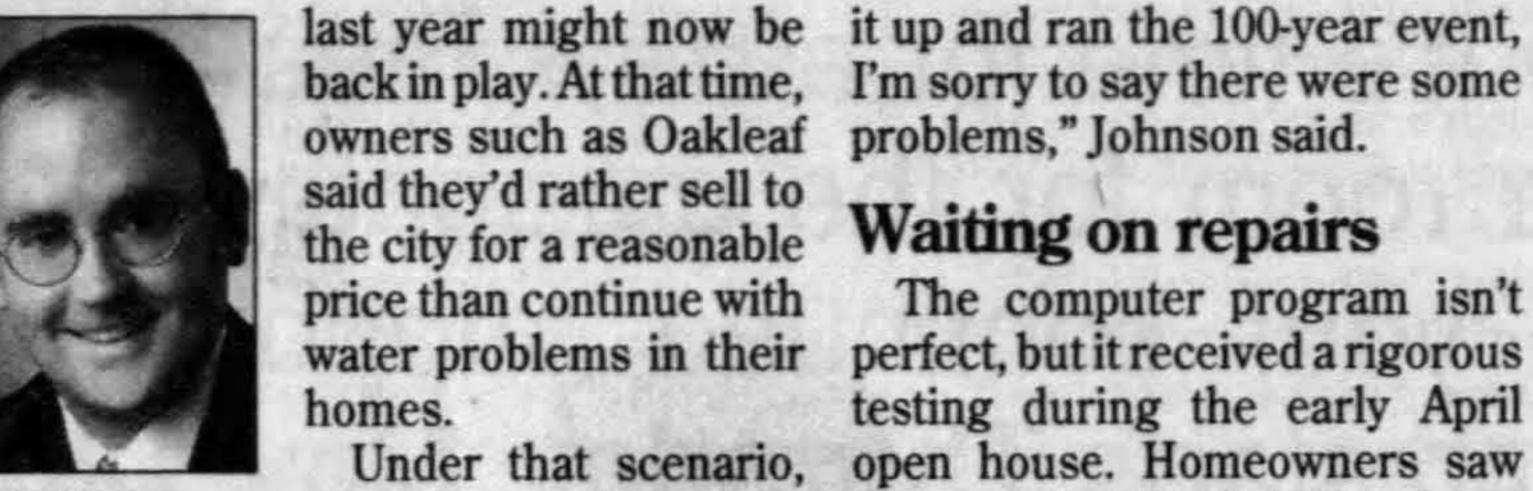
drainage basins clustered near 13th Street and Kiwanis Avenue, 11th Street and Phillips Avenue, Pendar Lane and 33rd Street and Duluth Avenue.

In contrast, the city's building types of homes allowed given the downspouts are needed. Engineers can't manipulate those above-ground variables without great cost in established neigh- 100-year standard because of all borhoods.

He told council members most Falls is preparing to do in the done?" older neighborhoods, given the changes in engineering standards. And his network of colworks directors in other communities? "I think most would say it's a mistake to try," Johnson said.

Homeowners want greater certainty that the city will do all it can do with the increased costs and last spring's would pose probto help waterproof their proper- everything to do with the pro- lems for older areas even after the ties. And the city doesn't want to ject's purpose, Johnson said: improvements. write off central sections of town Bringing problem areas up to the that would cover the \$24.7 million as unlivable for people who want city's five-year event standard, proposing is not going to do a lot revamp. They also moved up to double their living space with then testing those designs for a rainstorm like we had last a finished basement.

Council members realize that last year's storms were aberrations, rare in occurrence and intensity. But they say they must consider whether some of the work needed to complete the more drastic options discussed



Andy Howes



Lyle Johnson

could serve as neighborhood parks in dry weather and as detention ponds during rainy

the city would remove

those structures and cre-

would have needed to cover roughly 20 city blocks to have taken on the water dropped dur-

ing the two spring rains. Council Vice Chairman Andy Those neighborhoods lie in Howes remembers "not being going to do, it's hard to say our happy" with the five-year storm limitations, but he echoed Johnson's comment that a five-year cushion is more than those homes have now.

"They're having flooding and drainage problems in lighter which options are best for each of specify elevations, yard slope, storms, and bringing them up to this standard is going to help," water table and even how many said Howes, who also leads the fiscal committee.

"We were told it would be costprohibitive to bring them up to the the work that would need to be

mates have increased," Howes asked, "what do the neighbors ties below ground would be a cities will not attempt what Sioux feel about having the work serious mistake.

Homeowners' concerns

Possibly as early as next week, leagues - engineers and public public works will begin another series of open houses for homeowners in older neighborhoods.

The questions staff will ask of completing initial and alternate designs, private engineers steering the projects put each through the same computer model.

"They responded perfectly to a five-year event, but when we took

owners such as Oakleaf problems," Johnson said. Waiting on repairs

The computer program isn't perfect, but it received a rigorous testing during the early April Under that scenario, open house. Homeowners saw the model of the 13th Street and Kiwanis Avenue project area and ate green spaces that told Johnson its version of heavy rains matched what they had seen out their windows.

"I'm happy right now with where I live," said Edith Arneson, stretches. Johnson who lives within that project's warned the council that boundaries. She and her husband the option would be experienced flooding twice last expensive. And in some year, as well as in 2002 and 2001. cases, impractical. Dur- The Arnesons cleaned up each Council Chairman Gerald ing a February open house, he time but are waiting before mak-

> "I know there are some repairs that need to be done on our house, especially on our basement," she said. "But until the city figures out for sure what they're

> Oakleaf said engineers should have "done some due diligence" after presenting the numbers in late July. But he understands how these issues snowball.

"They got trapped," he said. "They were pushed to get some numbers out almost immediately. And then you've got to live by the numbers you throw out."

From the start, Oakleaf has argued the city is approaching the problem backward. The 100year storm should be the priority. "When you try to retrofit, you done," he said, describing the 1- he said, and the city could relieve "In light of how much the esti- point, fixing surface problems without addressing pipe capaci-

> "That is a reversal of the promises they made on what the results of this design and rework would be," Oakleaf said of city engineers. "It's a copout."

Johnson and several council members disagree, saying they were up-front from the beginning homeowners will have nothing to that future downpours as large as

"A system like the one we're against a 100-year storm. After year," Johnson said. "I think a lot of people looked at it as, 'I never have to worry about flooding again,' and I don't want to mislead people into thinking that."

> Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at 575-3629.

Lewis and Clark: Trekkers expected across S. Dakota

Continued from 1A

and Clark festival last August "was our most successful year ever. We had our highest attendance ever. Interest was very, very high."

increased tourism associated with Lewis and Clark, but it didn't match National Park Service projections, said Sarah Bryan, of the Fort Pierre Development Corp.

"What the National Parks Service told us was not close at all," she said. "We got around what we expected."

Bryan said although the park service projections in the bigger cities were right on track, "there was just no way all those people were coming to these little towns in South Dakota."

Even though the Lake Oahe portion of the Missouri River was Wurtz, co-owner of Elk Point's at historic low levels last summer, Pioneer Drug and its old-fashat Pollock, on the North Dakota ioned soda fountain. "Mostly it's border, the turnout at an October been families driving around, a Lewis and Clark festival "was couple of camping groups, couple great. They were very pleased of motorcycle groups. with that," Frei said.

associated with the bicentennial gives us an opportunity to talk," this summer. "We're still seeing and maybe they'll return home people traveling the trail for the and tell their friends about Elk bicentennial," she said.

"The signature events this year are in the Northwest, and a lot of nies have quit offering bus excurpeople have to come through sions. here to get to those."

The next big event associated with the Corps of Discovery will be a festival in Great Falls, Mont.

June 1 to July 4 June 1 to July 4.

The nation's observances kicked off in earnest in 2003. Bicentennial events will continue through September 2006 - 200 years to the month after Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and a weathered band of soldiers paddled back to St. Louis after 28 months in the western wilderness.

Millions of tourists were expected to embark on their own journeys of discovery. They held the promise of more travel trade and visibility for the thinly populated, economically stressed Upper Great Plains and mountain states.

But gasoline prices soared, media attention waned, and "Lewis and Clark fatigue," as some are calling it, set in.

So did reality. Despite historian Stephen Ambrose's prediction that one-quarter of the U.S. population would involve itself in the bicentennial, how many want to hightail to Williston, N.D. - honestly?

With the cross-country commemoration halfway complete, the tourism "certainly hasn't lived up to some of the predictions," conceded Steve Adams, superintendent of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.

Tourism, however, was never the bicentennial's sole objective, he said. Lewis and Clark interpretive centers will continue to serve as hosts of school field trips, improved parks and roads will

serve a traveling public, and Native American tribes hope to further discussions to set the historical record straight.

The Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota is host to two or three tour groups monthly. In the Pierre area, there was "We're geared up to educating the general public as to who we are," said Sherwin Zephier, who directs a tourism board for the tribe.

The real challenge awaited upstream, where the Missouri meandered past flat, lightly populated places never considered tourist destinations. Many towns, such as Elk Point, planned for years, pored through local history files and prepared roadside attractions for the bicentennial. "At first they were talking about

this huge bustle of people coming through town, but I never thought we'd see busloads," said Barb "Actually, we just like seeing

She expects an echo in tourism couples come in their cars. It Point.

As a result, some tour compa-



Bases: Rounds meets with chairman of panel

Continued from 1A

recommendations. Later that premier bomber, Rounds said, it morning, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is expected to discuss his recommendations

publicly. Rounds spent half an hour with the Base Realignment and Clo- South Dakota will need to contin- the task force on a lobbying trip sure Commission, stressing the ue working to make sure they in April. importance of Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City and the Air National Guard 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls.

He also met with Patrick O'Brien, head of the Defense Department's Office of Economic Adjustment, which distributes grants to help communities whose bases close.

Ellsworth and Dyess Air Force Base in Texas are the nation's two B-1 bomber bases. Ellsworth has 29 B-1s, and Dyess has 36.

"We believe both bases can survive," Rounds said. "We don't see it as a one-on-one challenge

between Dyess and Ellsworth."

As long as the B-1 remains a would be difficult to understand why the Defense Department would want to place all of the B-1s at one base.

If Ellsworth and the 114th Anthony Principi, chairman of Fighter Wing aren't on the list, efforts included accompanying unturned," he said. aren't added later in the process. The list goes to a nine-member until Sept. 8 to hold hearings, make changes and present a final report to President Bush.

The president has until Sept. and force the commission to submit another one.

If either of the South Dakota bases is on the list released Friday, the state will need to do everything it can to get it off the list, Rounds said.

Ellsworth is the state's secondlargest employer, and the base's

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population is equivalent to the sixth-largest community in South Dakota, the governor said.

Pat McElgunn, director of the Ellsworth Task Force, which has worked for years in support of that base, commended Rounds for his ongoing efforts. Those

"He did a great job at that time and got some time to talk pribase-closing commission that has vately with Principi today," McElgunn said. "Again, we continue to be cautiously optimistic."

McElgunn has invited the governor, Sens. Tim Johnson and 23 to accept that list or reject it John Thune and Rep. Stephanie Herseth to Rapid City for Friday's news conference.

"We've had our shoulder to the wheel and have done everything 2320.

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possible to make sure our story gets told and we get a favorable decision," McElgunn said.

Rounds said South Dakota's congressional delegation has been supportive and has done all

"We have left no stone

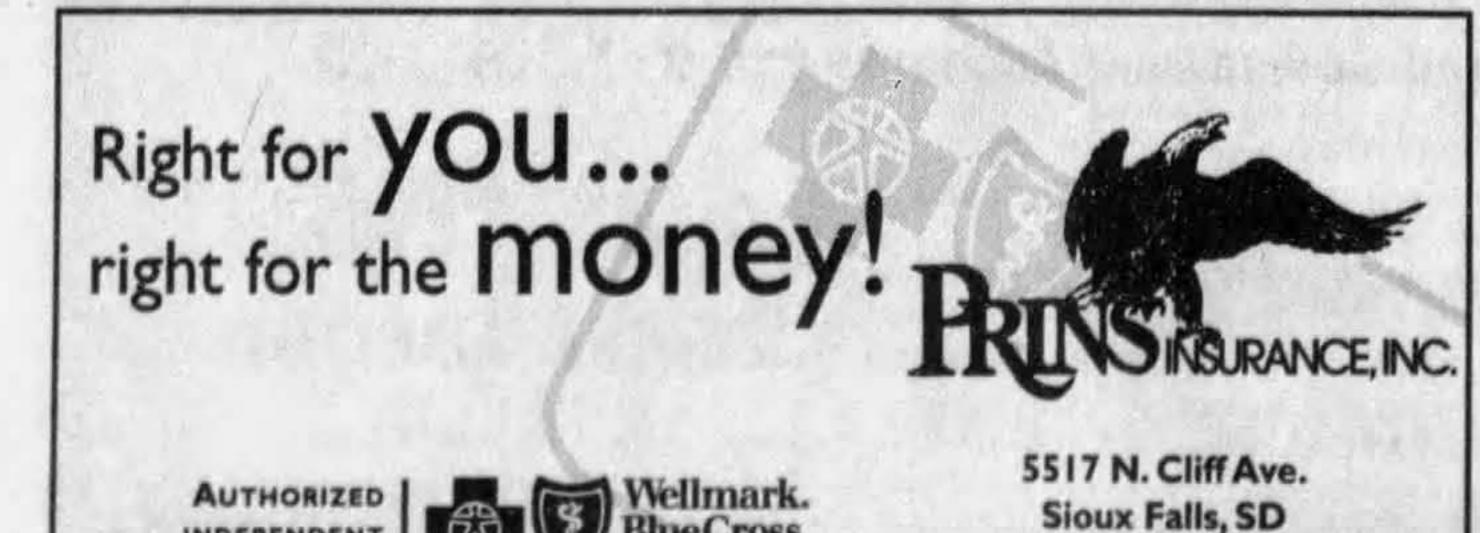
The governor said his discussions with O'Brien focused on services the office offers when a base is closed, as well as resources available when a base expands.

Grants are available to assist communities and states in their planning processes, Rounds said. Congress probably will make additional money available to those whose bases close, he said.

Reach reporter Randy Hascall at 331-

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