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SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

TODAY'S BRIEFING

LOCAL & REGION

Governors to hash out river wish list

► South Dakota will have a few extra governors next Monday when leaders of six states meet in Sioux Falls for a Missouri River summit. Gov. Mike Rounds will be seeking support from the leaders of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska and Missouri for his plan to hold more water in Lake Oahe and other reservoirs. **1B**

LIFE



Be good to your body with help of spas

► Are you so stressed out you worry you might internally combust? What you need is a good pampering, and there are plenty of places in Sioux Falls that offer spa treatments. A massage with warm stones. A wrap with herb-infused towels. A warm foot bath. Don't you feel more relaxed already? **1D**

BUSINESS

Big screens for the big game

► Television retailers are finding that the Super Bowl is good for business. Those old 25-inch vacuum tube TVs just aren't good enough for many football fans, who are updating to big-screen, HDTV sets. And KTTW, the local Fox affiliate, is getting in on the latest technology, too. It will broadcast the coin flip to the final play in high definition. **6C**



SPORTS

NFL hopes to avoid embarrassment

► And as you're watching the game on that shiny new set, you can be pretty sure of one thing: The half-time show is likely to be less racy this year. The NFL is working hard to ensure that nobody will have any sort of "wardrobe malfunction" on live TV. **1C**

NATION & WORLD

ENEMY COMBATANTS:

A federal judge has cleared the way for captives in Guantanamo Bay to sue the U.S. **3A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH **38°**
 Partly cloudy
 Full report, 2A
 LOW **23°**

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Unite behind democracy, Allawi urges



An Iraqi policeman delivers a ballot box of votes Monday from a polling station to a central collection point in Baghdad, Iraq.

Partial results of ballot in Iraq could be released as early as today

BY BASSEM MROUE
 Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Prime Minister Ayad Allawi urged Iraqis Monday to unite behind democracy in the wake of the country's historic elections, but al-Qaida's arm in Iraq vowed to press ahead with its "holy war" despite its failure to

stop the voting by millions of Iraqis.

Partial results could be released as early as today, though final results from the hand counting of ballots could take up to 10 days, election officials said. U.S. soldiers stood guard, and election workers cheered as trucks loaded with the

first batch of ballots from the provinces rolled into Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone for the next phase of the count.

Despite the lack of official totals from Sunday's election, officials in the main Shiite clergy-endorsed coalition claimed a large victory, which could

raise tensions with Iraq's Sunni Muslims, who are thought to have largely sat out the vote.

Insurgents struck back Monday, killing three U.S. Marines in a roadside bombing south of Baghdad. Guerrillas also issued a



Ayad Allawi

See **IRAQ**, page 4A

► **INSIDE:** For more on the Iraq election and other news, 4A

RECREATION CENTER

Goal: Make city active, connected



Sandra Pay and Doug Hajek stand along the third-base line fence Wednesday at Nelson Park. A proposed recreation center could be built in the park. A special City Council meeting will be held on Feb. 23 to discuss the proposal.

LLOYD B. CUNNINGHAM / ARGUS LEADER

Group hopes \$32.3 million facility would appeal to all

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON
 jsanders@argusleader.com

A Sioux Falls group hopes a new recreation center will coax people out of their homes, encouraging healthy bodies and a connected community.

The task force appointed by Mayor Dave Munson proposes a \$32.3 million facility to support youth activities, but the features wouldn't be reserved for just one

age group, said task force member Doug Hajek.

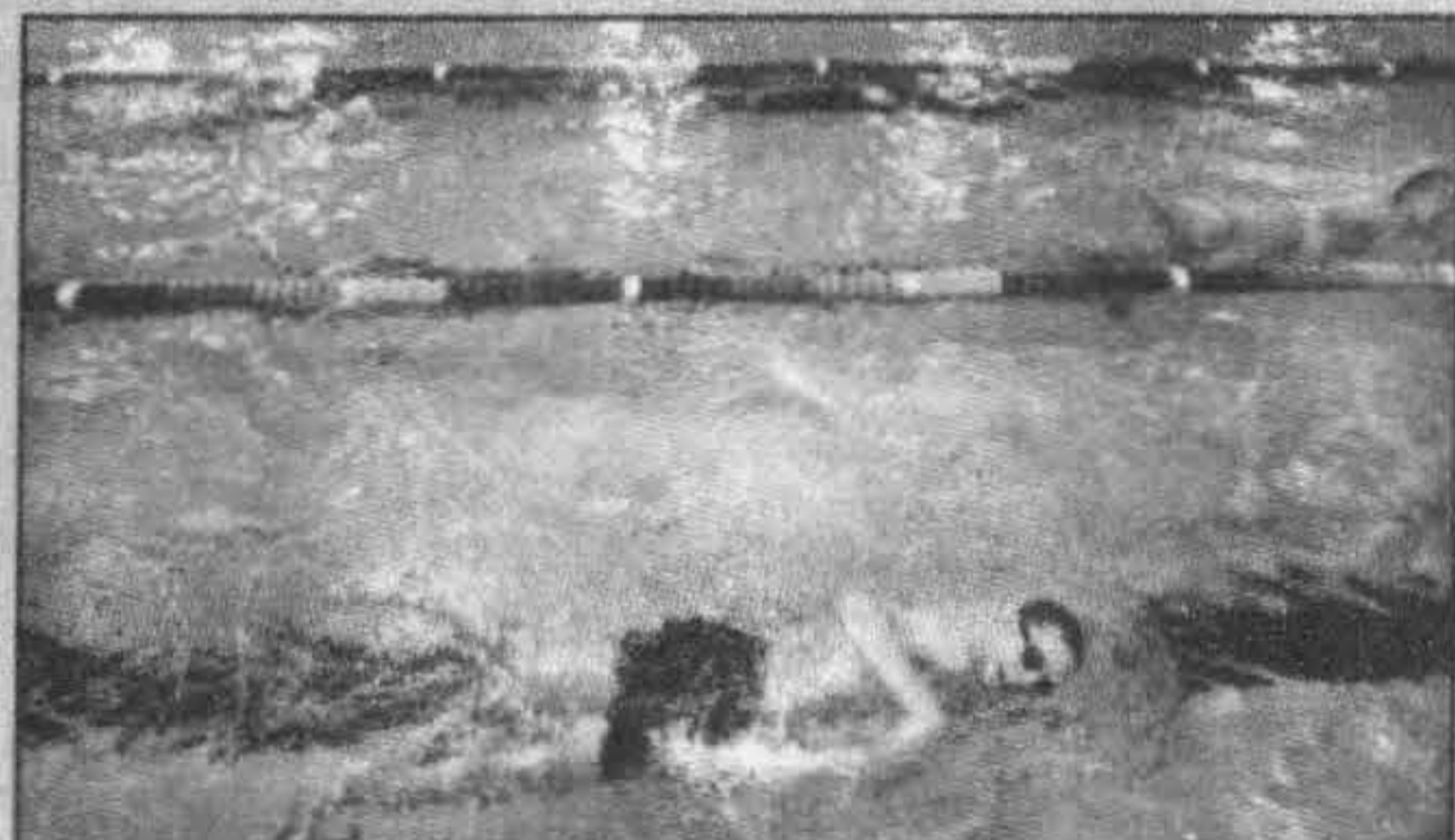
The task force has bundled the rec center with a downtown events complex and an overhaul of the Sioux Falls Arena at a cost of \$120 million. Hajek and others will pitch all three to the City Council at a special meeting Feb. 23. The package could be put to a vote in the fall. The events center grabs the most

See **REC CENTER**, page 6A

PRELIMINARY PLANS

A proposed recreation center at Nelson Park would cost the city an estimated \$32.3 million to build and would include indoor swimming, hockey and soccer facilities. Below is a look at features that residents could expect from such a center.

SWIMMING



Indoor, zero-depth leisure pool large enough for about 650 people, similar to the Laurel Oak Aquatic Center in southeast Sioux Falls. Also, an eight-lane, 50-meter indoor pool for school and swim club practices and competitions. A rope buoy could reconfigure the pool into three smaller areas for public open swims. Bleacher seating for 1,000 to 1,500 along 50-meter lanes.

ICE SKATING



Two indoor ice sheets, with one Olympic-sized rink and the other configured to National Hockey League standards. Bleacher seating for 1,500 to 2,500.

SOCCER

Two indoor fields, with bleacher seating for 800 to 1,300 spectators.



OTHER FEATURES

MULTIPURPOSE FIELD: Artificial turf, batting cages and basketball hoops, with possible future conversion to soccer or hockey. Could be used to supplement school space for wrestling or gymnastics.
WALKING/JOGGING TRACK: An elevated walkway encircling the soccer fields.
ADVENTURE GYM: Obstacle course and climbing wall for conditioning, firefighter training and other uses.
INDOOR PLAYGROUND: For use during regular hours as well as during practices,

games and tournaments.
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM: Tournament hospitality room with rental available for meetings, special events and displays.
CONDITIONING AREA: Exercise space with limited equipment.
RENTAL AREA: Equipment for rent.
SUPPORT AREAS: Staff offices, storage and mechanical areas.
WHAT YOU WON'T SEE: A standard basketball gymnasium or a fitness-club approach with extensive equipment.

Anderson to resign as head of BIA

'Famous Dave' says he can help Indians more as part of private sector



JIM MONE / AP

Dave Anderson will resign as head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs after one year in the job.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Dave Anderson is resigning as head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs after just one year on the job, saying he can do more to help Native Americans by working in the private sector.

Anderson, 52, earlier removed himself from decisions on tribal recognition and Indian gambling to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest. He founded Grand Casinos Inc., the former casino

management company for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, in central Minnesota, before leaving the company to launch his Famous Dave's barbecue restaurant chain in Minnesota.

"I have concluded that I can have the greatest impact to improve the future of Indian Country not by managing the day-to-day operations of BIA programs, but by focusing my time on developing private sector eco-

nomie opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs," he wrote in a letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, released Monday.

The BIA is part of the Interior Department. The resignation is effective Feb. 12.

Anderson was traveling Monday and unavailable for comment, said BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling. She did not have

See **ANDERSON**, page 6A

20 05 **INSIDE**

► See how much money candidates raised, spent. **5A**

► More news from Pierre. **1B, 3B**

► For continuing coverage, log on to www.argusleader.com.

Bill would place limits on PAC donations

Individuals could give up to \$5,000 to organizations

BY TERRY WOSTER
 twoster@midco.net

PIERRE — South Dakota campaign finance law should limit donations to political action committees the way it does money to candidates, ballot issues and political parties, a Watertown senator said Monday.

Republican Sen. Lee Schoenbeck persuaded the Senate State Affairs Committee to pass his bill that would cap individual donations to political action committees, or PACs, at \$5,000. That's five times the \$1,000 limit Schoenbeck wrote into his original bill, but it is a hefty clamp on PAC money compared with the current law, which has no limits.

"I'm trying to get people to quit using PACs as their personal checking accounts," Schoenbeck said during committee debate on the bill. "People are using PACs to avoid those (contribution) limits."

The bill, with the \$5,000 cap, passed 7-2. Next, it goes to the full Senate for debate, which could come as early as Wednesday.

Political action committees generally are defined as any two or more people who cooperate for the purpose of raising or disbursing money to influence the outcome of an election and who are not candidates for nomination, candidates for election, a political party or a candidate's committee.

See **SPENDING**, page 5A

JACKSON IN COURT



ROBERT GALBRAITH / AP

Michael Jackson leaves the Santa Barbara County courthouse Monday for a lunch break during the first day of jury selection in his child molestation trial in Santa Maria, Calif. Jury selection is expected to take a month or more.

FOR MORE ON THE TRIAL, SEE PAGE 5A AND PAGE 1D

Rec center: Other cities use tax-increment financing

Continued from 1A

attention, but the 210,000-square-foot rec center perhaps holds the greatest potential for drawing residents together and is popular among many sports and activities groups.

But selling one of the most expensive packages in Sioux Falls history and deciding how to finance it is a difficult undertaking. City councilors have pressed the task force for a strategy to pay construction and operational costs, but those numbers have not been released.

Coming together

Cities across the Upper Midwest are embracing the idea of building places where people can come together to play. Each city offers lessons, and task force members are using that background, including a 2003 visit and an independent consultant's report, to help develop features and a budget plan that could work in Sioux Falls.

Here's some advice from communities that learned about building — and financing — rec centers:

■ **Let form follow function.** Find out the community's needs, says Gavin Attwood, director of the profitable \$25 million Apex Center near Denver, but don't duplicate.

■ **Look at all the options.** The Chaska Community Center in Minnesota paid for its \$8.5 million rec center with tax-increment financing, which wouldn't raise property taxes.

■ **Be straightforward about financing,** even if it's hard talk. The parks and recreation director in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, says his direct approach helped residents decide on how to pay for and maintain their rec facility.

■ **Encourage residents to consider the big picture,** Attwood says. Show them how a rec center enhances the community, even for those who don't use it.

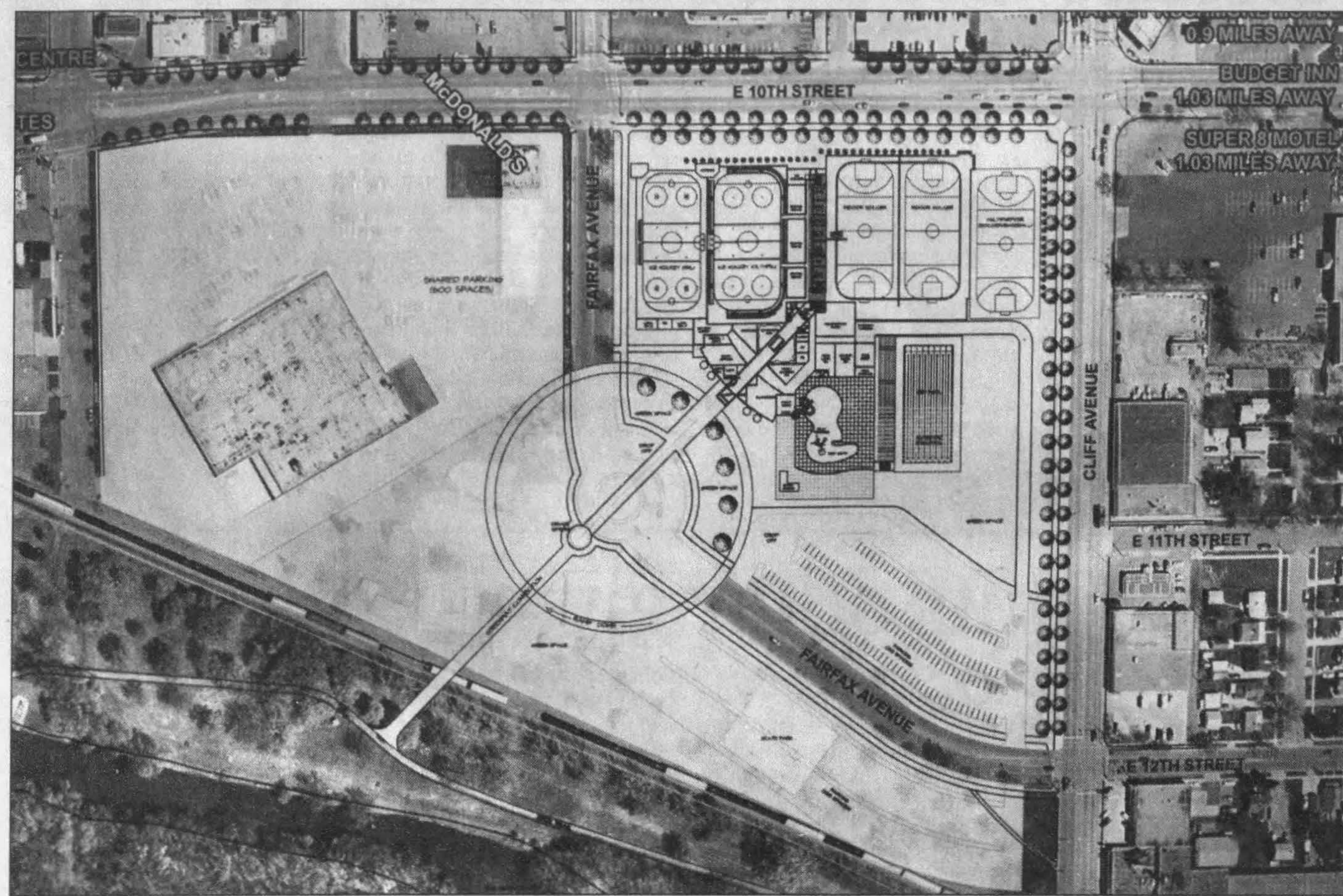
Planned amenities

The center would boast the state's only 50-meter indoor pool, which supporters say would enable the city to host competitive tournaments. A zero-depth leisure pool would be modeled closely after the city's successes in the Laurel Oak and Terrace Park aquatic centers. Other features include two soccer fields, a walking and jogging track, locker rooms and two ice rinks — one Olympic-sized and the other meeting National Hockey League requirements.

The preferred location at Nelson Park would relieve the city of a land-purchase deal and solve the question of how to replace the deteriorating Drake Springs Pool.

Morgan Claycomb, 15, is a competitive swimmer who says Sioux Falls needs a newer, bigger pool. She is one of more than 100 children on a team, and crowding limits practice in a 25-yard pool.

"Crowding is a major problem," she said. "We've had so many kids that joined. You're always on top of each other. ... It's really annoying. I speak from experience."



This is a conceptualization of what the proposed recreation center could look like.

Swim practice times are another problem in smaller pools, Claycomb said. She practices at least eight times a week and often early in the morning.

Building a new 50-meter pool has been the conversation piece for parents and coaches, too, said her mother, Karen Nash.

Just the other day, Nash said, she and her daughter's coach were talking about how little ones are trying to learn but that there is not enough space to do it right.

Heather Storm, 22, a USDSU student, is less enthusiastic about a new rec center and said she would get little use out of the facility.

"Isn't it basically stuff we already have downtown?" she said. "I'd rather see other stuff downtown."

Money would be better spent on attractions with more general appeal for families and others, she said.

Storm said she wonders where money for the rec center would come from. She said she can't afford a tax increase or a membership fee.

"I'm a student," she said. "I'm getting paid pretty minimally, so I can't afford it."

Form and function

Attwood, director of the Apex Center in the northwest Denver suburb of Arvada, praises the local task force for letting form follow function. The group's model assumes the city would run the rec center through its parks and recreation department.

"I think it's extremely wise to have a very clear vision of how they want to serve the community's needs," said Attwood, whose state-of-the-art building encom-

passes nearly 170,000 square feet and not only earns 100 percent of its budget, it turns a profit. "You don't want to duplicate what's already available."

That's why rec center plans don't include basketball gymnasiums or a fitness club with extensive cardiovascular and weight-training equipment.

"Some other communities might not have a Sioux Valley Wellness Center or an Avera McKennan Fitness Center or even a YMCA," said Bob Winkels, acting project manager who will receive up to \$107,500 for his work in the proposal stage. "This will be in virtually the dead-center of the city, even with the growth projected in the 2020 plan. There are families with lower- and middle-class incomes within walking distance, and the bike path system gives another entry point."

Working with city engineers and Koch Hazard Baltzer, a local design firm, Winkels drafted a site plan that gives an aerial view of how the rec center and its areas might fit into Nelson Park. It's only a footprint, though, with computer-generated models and artist's renderings yet to come.

"Right now, we're in a conceptual process, to see if it's possible and how it could happen," Winkels said. "We didn't want to give people the impression that this design already exists, or strand anyone in a particular creative direction. People want to visualize it, but if the City Council goes forward, we didn't want them to think this exact thing is what voters would be deciding on."

Paying for playing

Voters in the Cleveland suburb

of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, had to approve a permanent income-tax increase to build their \$17 million center. Tax revenues also generate 60 percent of the annual budget at the 83,000-square-foot facility, which opened in June 2000. Parks and recreation director Carl Guarnieri led the city's campaign and its honest and uncompromising view of public finances in the town of 15,000.

"When people invite me to speak, they kind of grumble afterward because I'm not optimistic," Guarnieri said. "I tell them, 'Please, be realistic. Look at your numbers.' It costs us a little over \$2 million a year to run this center, and with indoor pools, the utilities are very high. I want to be sure if a city is ready to do this, they go in with their eyes open so it doesn't cost friends their jobs, or mayors, their seats."

In 2003, an earlier task force visited the Chaska Community Center in Minnesota, which paid for its \$8.5 million rec center with tax-increment financing, or TIF. The tool is one of the many options Sioux Falls' group is considering, as it does not raise property taxes.

A tax increment is the difference between the tax revenue an area generates before and after a city designates it as a TIF district. Property appreciates over time, and TIF assigns to the development only the "extra" revenue taken in during a predetermined period. Revenues are distributed to school districts, counties and other taxing districts as if the TIF did not exist. They continue to receive a baseline under their own formulas.

Raising money to build Chaska's center wasn't the main con-

cern for a suburb of the Twin Cities with fewer than 15,000 residents. Finding a way to ensure the \$2.2 million annual operating budget proved more challenging. Members of a 2003 task force from Sioux Falls visited the Chaska site to gather ideas about features and financing.

"We knew our neighbors in Shakopee, for example, subsidized their center with \$500,000 annually just for operations," said Tom Redman, Chaska's parks and recreation director. "We knew that wouldn't work here, and Minnesota law doesn't allow a voter referendum for these types of issues." Instead, the tax increment generates revenue for a city enterprise fund, kept separate from general revenues.

Big picture

Task force members realize costs are an overlying factor for most taxpayers. But they urge people to look at the big picture and what the rec center will add to the city mix. Attwood with Colorado's Apex Center said some people will look for responsible ways to make progress happen, while others will look for excuses.

"If it's the argument of, 'I'm paying for it, but I won't ever use it,' you'll never win that," said Attwood, whose building is part of the 60-acre North Jeffco Recreational District. The quasi-governmental agency has the authority to collect property taxes and independently operates several building and parks. Bonds paid for the Apex Center's construction.

"I can't remember the last time I went to the library, and I help pay for that," Attwood said. "That's the way our society is set up. And if

TASK FORCE MEETING

A task force appointed to study the city's needs for an events and recreation complex will present its proposal for two separate centers to the City Council during a special meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 23. The meeting will be carried live on CityLink Channel 16.

The Council must approve construction, financing and management plans before any public vote on the projects. If the Council signs off, it must decide whether it will accept the task force's recommendation to package the centers in a single vote or allow people to decide the issues independently.

you're not using something that enhances your community, well, use it."

Sioux Falls is slightly behind the national trend of building rec centers, but committee members say they're driven by the public's needs, not the desire to keep up with the Joneses.

"The fact is, we're not keeping up with what the community expects and needs," task force member Sandra Pay said. "Sioux Falls can and should set its own standards."

Sioux Falls' \$32.3 million proposal grew from a 2003 task force that recommended a \$15 million recreation center. The earlier plans were on a smaller scale, but other factors helped double the costs. Project manager Winkels said the Sioux Falls Soccer Association had considered purchasing its own inflatable dome. The rec center itself would have been pieced together from sections of metal buildings on a concrete foundation.

"This isn't any of that," Winkels said of the most recent plan. "This is conventional construction, and that costs more, but it's also more permanent. It's a better-quality product."

At one point, the city thought it might be able to scrap its rec-center bill entirely.

The Sioux Falls Salvation Army applied for a grant from the Kroc Family Trust Foundation that would have paid for a rec center, but Sioux Falls wasn't among the communities selected.

Pay hopes the City Council will allow the process to go forward, turning over to the people the final say. If that happens, the task force plans to hold additional open houses and public forums to highlight final plans before a vote.

"I would hope that people will listen to what we have to say and work to understand," Pay said. "Then, if they decide they don't want it, that's their choice. But it needs to be an educated choice."

Reporter Nancy Kelsey contributed to this story. Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at 575-3629.

Anderson: Residents of state tribes express surprise at resignation

Continued from 1A

any more details on what Anderson wants to do in the private sector.

News of Anderson's resignation surprised tribal residents in South Dakota.

Steve Emery, senior attorney for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said he was "a little stunned."

"I think it's a loss," said Emery, speaking on his own behalf, not for the tribe.

Emery said Anderson made a number of visits to the Rosebud Reservation, even before he became head of the BIA.

"We found in Mr. Anderson a kindred spirit, someone from the reservation who saw that there were two things we really need to help ourselves: education and economic development. Not only for the tribe, but through entrepreneurship," Emery said.

"In that regard, he's a leader. We've seen him do his best. He did what he could with what he had. And he asked for more."

Emery said he hopes Anderson's replacement also will hail

from a reservation because that provides an understanding of how things work and how to make improvements.

Judith Petersen, public relations director for the Royal River Casino and Motel at Flandreau, said she wonders whether Anderson's resignation is related to the controversy over his refusal to get involved with Indian gaming issues.

"If he's not going to get involved, maybe he should step down," Petersen said. "I was kind of surprised he was placed in that position. I haven't heard a lot about whether he's done a good job or a bad job."

Petersen said Anderson's successor needs to be someone who's knowledgeable about Indian gaming and willing to get involved with the issue.

Norton said in a letter to Anderson that she accepted his resignation with "understanding and regret."

Department spokesman Hugh Vickery declined to comment further, except to say no successor has been chosen.

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