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**Argus Leader**

Thursday • March 3, 2005

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

**TODAY'S BRIEFING**



**Dudes, move over: Girls want air time**

► "There's nothing cooler than a girl who can snowboard good." That sentiment from Jacob Jones, the snowboard school director at Great Bear Recreation Park, reflects the reaction to the growth in snowboarding among girls. Participation was up 69 percent from 2001 to 2003. And for girls who have caught the bug, there's still a month of snow season left. **1D**

**LOCAL & REGION**

**Clyde Twiggs: Tribute to perseverance**

► Mourners who honored Clyde Twiggs remembered more than a downtown hot dog vendor. He would not give up, no matter his chances, columnist David Kranz writes about Twiggs' many bids for City Council. "I have something to say," Twiggs, who died Saturday, would tell people, "and I always think it is possible that I can win." **1B**

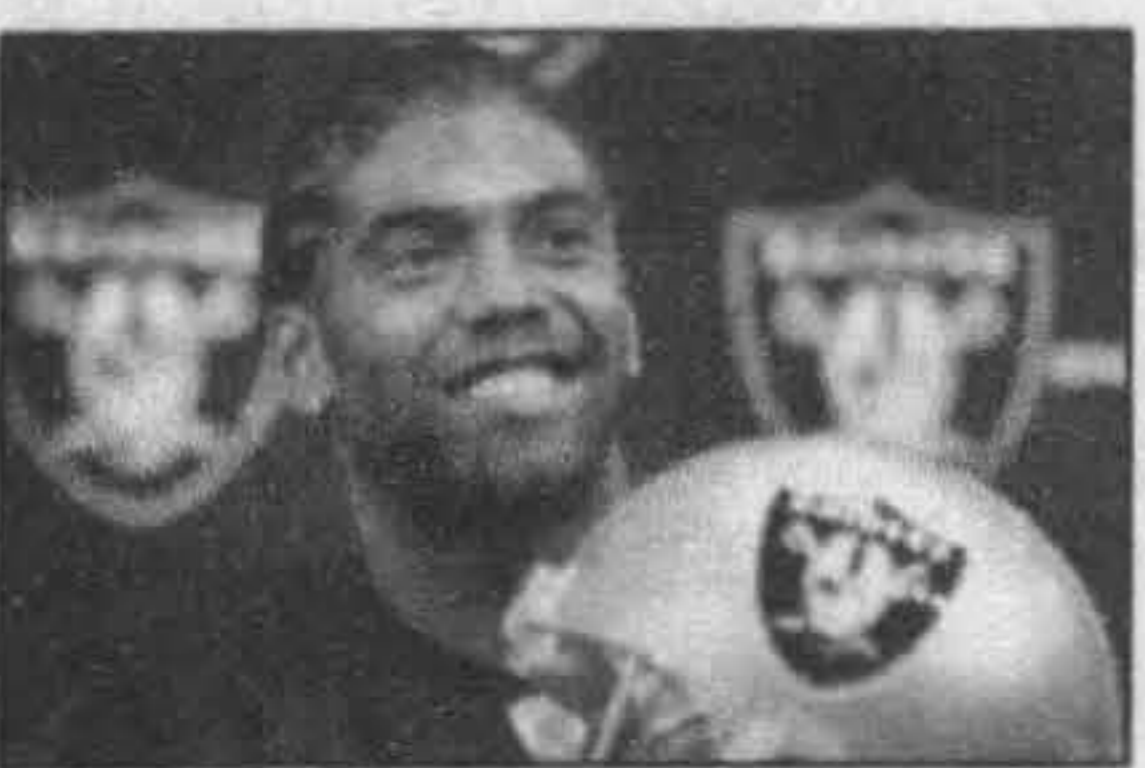
**Premature babies find health in Giraffe**

► For babies born as much as 18 weeks early and sometimes the size of a can of pop, an emerging trend is providing hope. More hospitals are turning to Giraffe Omnidubs, which are covered for needed heat without isolating moms from their babies. **1B**

**SPORTS**

**Augustana wrestlers look out for No. 1**

► It's not like Augustana College hasn't wrestled with championship form before on the mats. But no other Augustana wrestling team has been top-ranked in NCAA Division II. Read about what the Vikings think of their chances to capture a national title on March 11-12 in Omaha. **1C**



**A renegade receiver fit for silver & black**

► So now that his trade from Minnesota to Oakland is official, do you think Randy Moss looks the part? Depending on your outlook, the Vikings have lost maybe the best receiver in the NFL for little return, or they have rid themselves of a headache. Find out what Moss says about the trade. **1C**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

HIGH **50°**  
 Partly cloudy  
 LOW **28°**  
 Full report, 2A

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# Judge bars import of Canadian beef

## Order delays plan to reopen border

**STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS**  
 A federal judge Wednesday blocked the reopening of the U.S. border to cattle and expanded beef imports from Canada because of mad cow fears. The U.S. Department of Agriculture had planned to reopen the border beginning Monday. But following arguments from livestock interests that the government's plan is premature, U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull granted a temporary court order preventing it from going into effect for at least 10 days. South Dakota's congressional delegation hailed the decision as buying time to reconsider whether to reopen the border. "It's a very positive development," said

**ONLINE**

For previous stories about mad cow and imports of Canadian beef, go to [www.argusleader.com](http://www.argusleader.com).



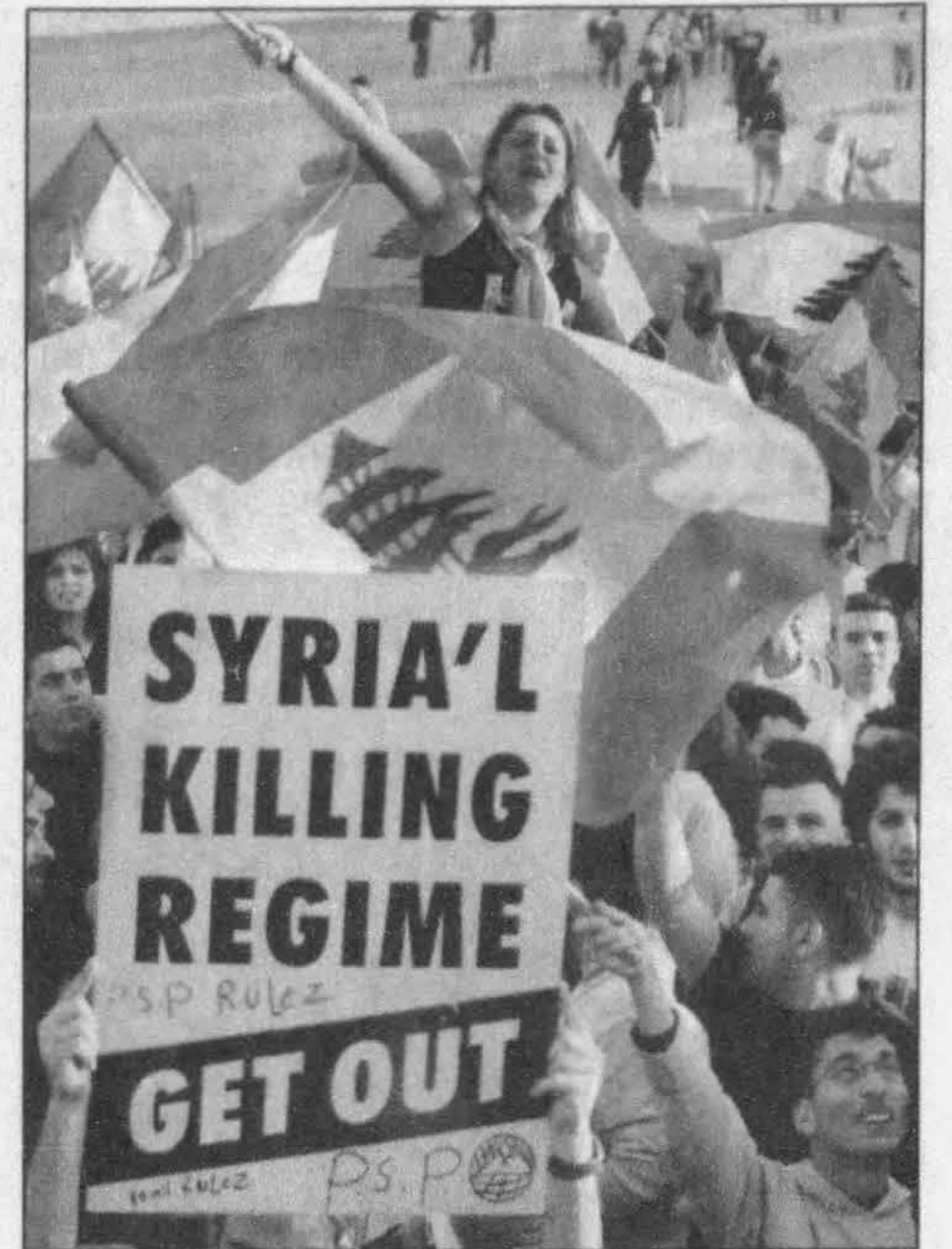
Rep. Stephanie Herseth. "It slows things down and allows us to answer all the new questions raised by the testimony before the House Ag committee." R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January, seeking to block Canadian cattle and beef imports. The Billings, Mont.-based ranchers' group

contends the USDA plan poses a risk to consumers and U.S. cattle producers. The cattle organization had asked the judge to keep the USDA from implementing the plan until the lawsuit is heard. Cebull ordered lawyers for both sides to prepare for a trial in that case.

The group's lawyer, Cliff Edwards, told Cebull in court Wednesday it would be "insane" to allow the import of cattle from a country that has already reported two new cases of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, this year.

"This boils down to plain old common sense," he said. A lawyer for the government, Lisa Olson, maintained that the plan was as safe as it possibly could be and is based on science.

See **CANADIAN BEEF**, page 6A



Lebanese youths wave national flags during an anti-Syria demonstration Wednesday in Martyr's Square in central Beirut. President Bush demanded that Syria get out of Lebanon.

# Bush insists Syria pull out of Lebanon

## U.S. seizes on unrest to press case for withdrawal of troops

**FROM WIRE REPORTS**  
 WASHINGTON - President Bush lashed out at Syria on Wednesday, as the administration outlined a three-pronged strategy to increase pressure on Damascus to quickly pull its troops and intelligence services out of Lebanon.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia have joined the international effort behind the scenes and are trying to broker a plan for Syria to withdraw its more than 14,000 troops in Lebanon, preferably within the next two months, U.S. and European officials said. The Arab diplomatic effort is an attempt to keep confrontation between Syria and other countries from escalating.

Bush applauded the strong message sent to Syria when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier held a joint news conference Tuesday in London. "Both of them stood up and said loud and clear to Syria, 'You get your troops and your secret services out of Lebanon so that good democracy has a chance to flourish,'" Bush said. Syrian President Bashar Assad is expected to hold talks today in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to discuss the proposal and his plans, a State Department official said.



George W. Bush

**INSIDE**

► **ANALYSIS:** What effect will growing international pressure have on Syria?  
 See **PAGE 4A**

See **SYRIA**, page 4A

# S.D. scholarship shortfall blamed on poor reporting

**BY TERRY WOSTER**  
 twoster@midco.net

PIERRE - Incomplete school reports led to a shortfall in funding the scholarships designed to keep high school graduates in South Dakota, according to the head of the state Board of Regents.

Opportunity Scholarships went to 827 of South Dakota's 2004 high school graduates, but the state had planned for only 650. That left the program short for this spring's payments and for next year's sophomore class and incoming freshmen. Legislators are trying in the final days of the

See **SCHOLARSHIPS**, page 6A

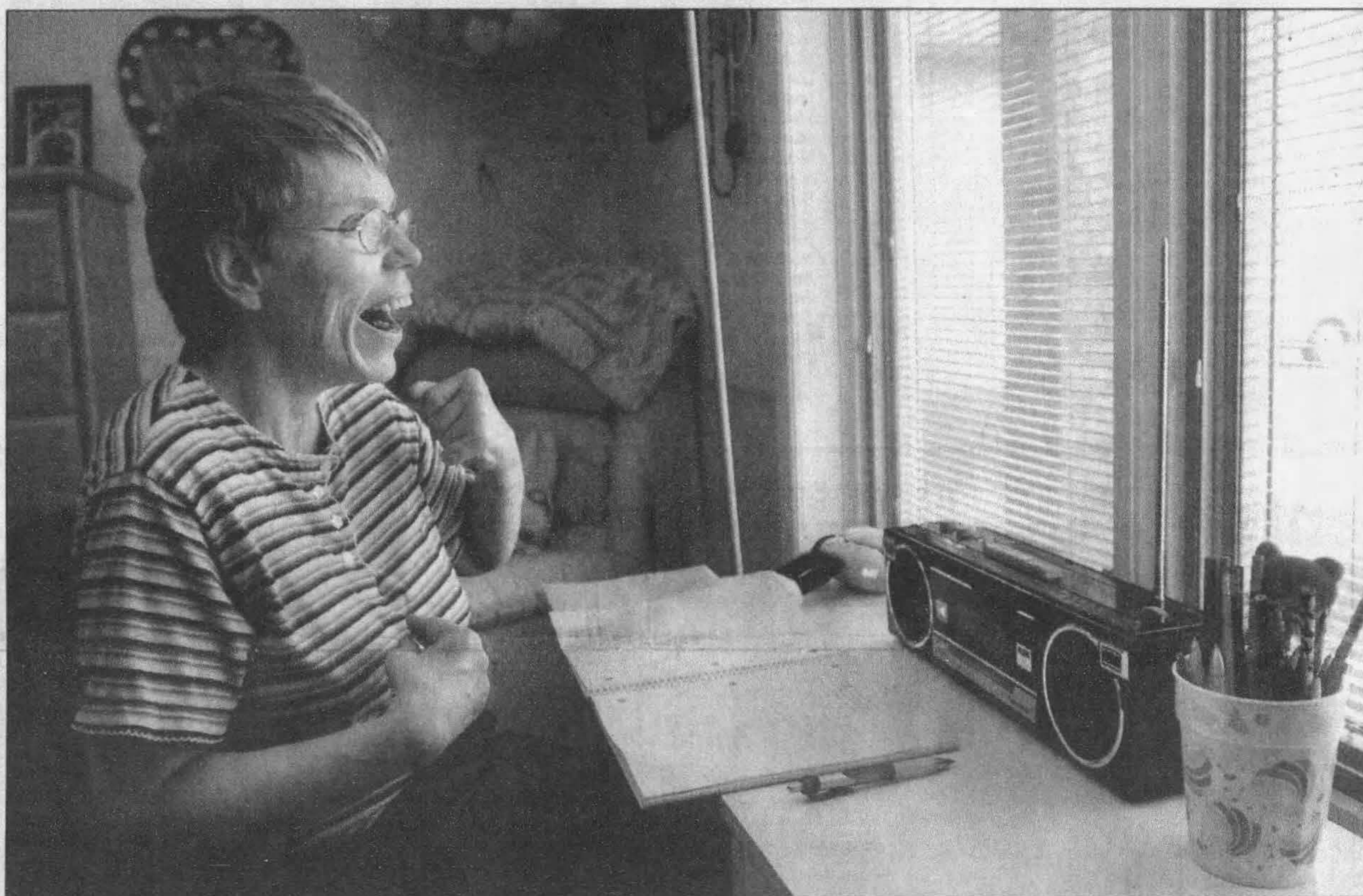
**ONLINE**

Offer your opinion in a reader's forum about the program and see a full list of recipients at [www.argusleader.com](http://www.argusleader.com).

**INSIDE**

► Scholarships Q&A: **6A**  
 ► More about Legislature: **3B**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS**



Mariys Bakker watches activity on the street outside her bedroom window Feb. 15 in a group home in southeast Sioux Falls for adults with disabilities. Budget cuts might eliminate some of the grant money that helps provide for such housing.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER

# Proposed cuts would sever lifelines, advocates say

**BY JENNIFER SANDERSON**  
 jsanders@argusleader.com

From her desk at the window, Mariys Bakker can see cars in the street and kids on bikes and families walking their dogs.

Bakker, 53, welcomes the distractions while she coaxes photos into an album's plastic sleeves. Her fingers don't always work the way she wants them to. But she's at her window, in her room, inside her home, and there's comfort in knowing she needn't rush to get it right.

Bakker lives with five other adults in a six-bedroom house built with money from Community Development Block Grant funds. In its 30 years, the CDBG program has helped fund South Dakota water systems and medical clinics, repaired family homes and helped low-income parents return to school. But some worry that hard work will be undone if Con-

gress approves President Bush's 2006 budget. The plan would eliminate the \$4.7 billion CDBG program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, consolidating it with 17 other federal programs into a \$3.7 billion budget under the Department of Commerce.

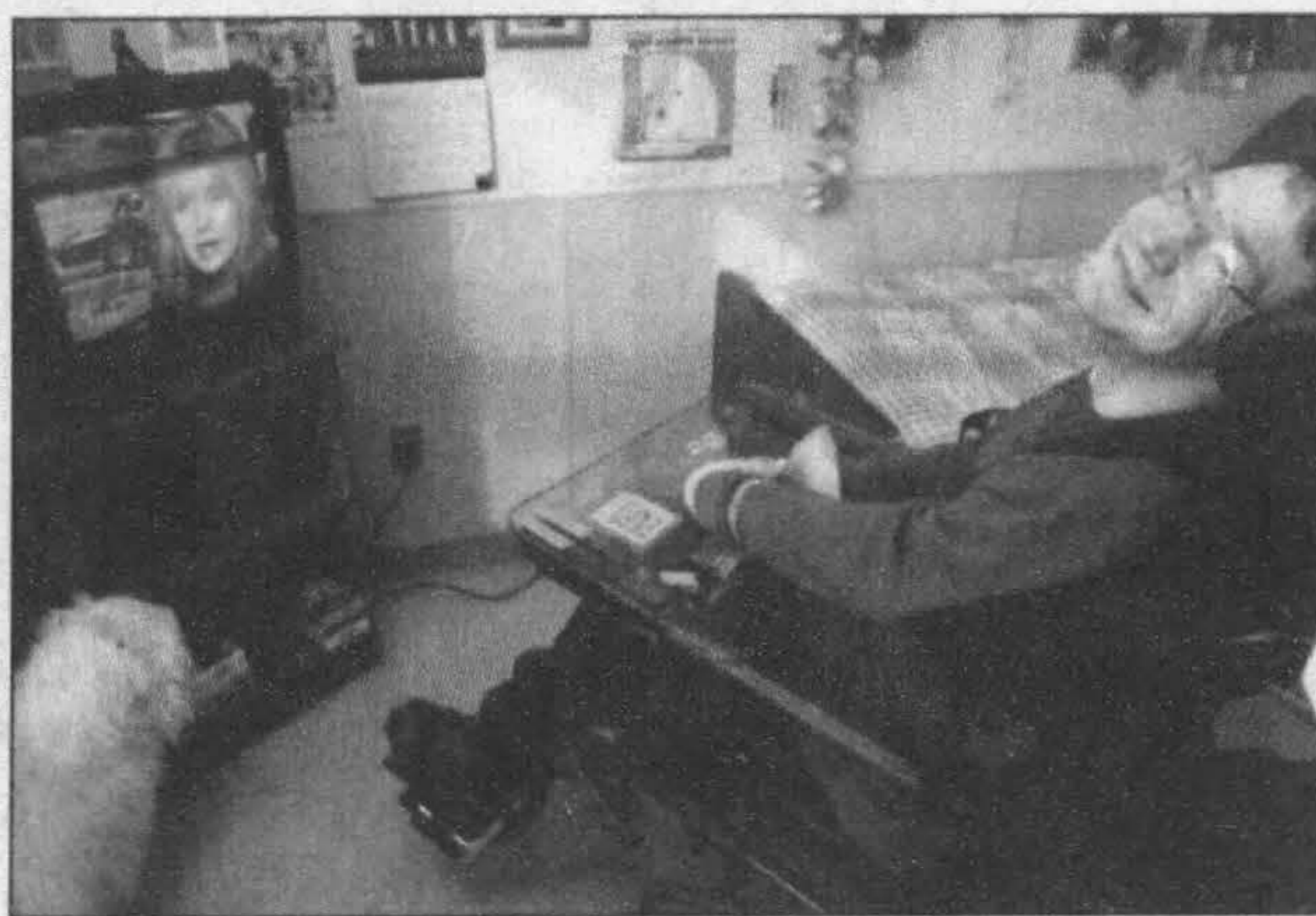
Sioux Falls' Community Development office could lose as much as half of its \$2 million overall budget. That's because the new umbrella initiative, called Strengthening America's Communities, would target areas with high unemployment rates and sluggish economies. Full guidelines aren't yet available, but it's clear efforts aimed at job training and business development would receive priority.

Randy Bartunek, director of community development for the city, said Sioux Falls' success in both categories



Randy Bartunek

See **GRANTS**, page 5A



Randy Johnson watches television in the group home.

**TRACKING THE MONEY**

Where money from Community Block Development Grants goes in the Sioux Falls area:  
**SIoux EMPIRE HOMELESS COALITION:** \$5,000 to cover administrative costs for the annual one-day count and survey of the homeless population (553 on Sept. 22).  
**EMERGENCY MOBILE HOME REPAIR:** \$11,921 in three-year, diminishing loans to eliminate potentially life-threatening building code shortcomings.  
**YMCA:** \$13,300 toward summer camp scholarships for 266 children from low-income households.  
**INSIDE:** See a detailed list and a story on opposition to President Bush's plans to cut block grants. **PAGE 5A**

# Two more bombings in Iraq, targeting police recruits, kill 14

**FROM WIRE REPORTS**  
 BAGHDAD, Iraq - The relentless insurgent campaign against Iraqi security forces killed 14 more in two bombings Wednesday in what has become a battle of wills between recruits lining up to defend their country and attackers who view them as traitors.

The number of U.S. military deaths in the Iraq campaign rose to 1,500, the military said early today, after a soldier was killed in Babil

province in the so-called "Triangle of Death" south of Baghdad.

Better security in Baghdad helped keep Wednesday's death toll down compared with Monday's attack in which, according to the top U.S. commander, a suicide attacker in Hillah exploited weak security in driving a bomb-laden car into a crowd of police and military recruits, killing 125. "It was well-scouted," Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. forces

in Iraq, told members of Congress in Washington on Wednesday, referring to the Hillah attack. The recruiting center there "showed itself to be vulnerable," he said.

Iraq's leading fugitive, terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the Hillah attack and one of the Baghdad bombings in an Internet declaration.

Iraqis continue to line up for jobs in the army and police despite repeated attacks and threats.

"This explosion will never make me leave my job as a policeman, and I will continue," Ali Ghanim Mijbass, 25, said from a hospital bed after being wounded Monday.

Meanwhile, attempts to forge a coalition government faltered after two days of talks over Kurdish demands for more land, delaying the planned first meeting of Iraq's parliament. The Kurds also are concerned the Shiite alliance will try to establish an Islamic state.



Gen. John Abizaid says the U.S. needs to do better in training Iraqis to protect their troops. **MORE: 4A**

# Grants: Housing help jeopardized, advocates say

Continued from 1A

leaves little chance that local projects would qualify for the reinvented programs.

"We'd have no decisions to make other than, 'With the meager amount we'd have left, what do we do?'" Bartunek said. The changes also would mean "major cuts" in his staff, he said.

The city, which received \$980,000 last year, is one of about 1,100 local governments that get direct CDBG entitlements. It's also within the almost 40 percent of CDBG recipients claiming a poverty rate lower than the nation's average. A cut of that size means roughly 420 grantees would lose funding next year. There's no guarantee that entitlement communities or even entire states would receive money under new guidelines.

The sweeping reform is part of Bush's effort to halve the record national deficit by the time he leaves office. Eliminating overlapping programs would get taxpayers more for their money, proponents say. Republican Sen. John Thune stresses the plan is a beginning, not an end point. He said he'll work to ensure that South Dakotans "receive the federal assistance they need to grow jobs."

Many who work daily on the problems said the approach is imbalanced. They said HUD is a highly efficient agency and make the case for Commerce's development programs to move under the much larger agency.

"Economic development is more than job creation. It's providing a healthy, safe environment for people, and CDBG funds help do that," said Steve Harding, program manager for the Governor's Office of Tourism and Economic Development. He oversees how the state's CDBG money is dispersed and expects a spirited fight from Housing and Urban Development.

"This is just a proposal at this point, but HUD is going to resist it," Harding said. "It's a popular program because it gets money back to local government to serve local needs. There will be a strong lobby at the federal level to keep it. ... It's a concern for the state, but I think the effect would be felt more at the local level. It's just made a huge impact nationwide."

Some of those projects serve communities' most basic needs. Rapid City and Sioux Falls get their money directly from the federal government. So does each tribe. Harding's office handles the rest, awarding \$7.4 million in CDBG grants statewide last year. Water treatment and pipeline efforts make up the bulk of those

projects, he said.

Recent awards through the governor's office include \$409,000 toward a child development center in Pierre, \$515,000 for water-system upgrades in Custer and \$232,500 to help build a fire hall in Britton.

In Sioux Falls, Bartunek said 100 percent of grant money has benefited low-income residents. It's one of three national criteria for the program, which also strives to serve urgent needs and reduce slums and blight.

Bartunek has focused on building ownership in a community one home at a time. But families with limited means often begin to slide when costly repairs can't be covered. It doesn't take long for a home to fall into disrepair when the water heater or furnace goes out in the winter, or when a hail storm ravages a roofline.

Bartunek said families in those situations typically stay in the home, figuring it's cheaper than relocating to pay rent somewhere else. He worries that if Bush's budget passes, he'll have to decide between putting scant resources into fixing up existing homes or replacing them through the Neighborhood Revitalization project when they finally become unliveable.

Replacing dilapidated homes now is paid for through a separate federal program, the HOME Investment Partnership, which granted Sioux Falls \$558,550 last year. The city itself contributed \$120,000 to buy eight ramshackle structures and build new houses for sale to those who meet income guidelines.

"We are allowed to use HOME money for the single-family home rehab, but we'd basically have three programs left," Bartunek said. "Those are rehab, revitalization and emergency mobile-home repair. We wouldn't have enough money to do everything we're doing now."

Waiting to act until families are forced out is unacceptable to both Bartunek and Shireen Ranschau, executive director of the Sioux Falls Housing and Redevelopment Commission. In addition to owning 26 homes and providing rental assistance, Sioux Falls Housing runs Family Self-Sufficiency. That CDBG program, administered through Bartunek's office, grants up to \$1,000 in annual tuition to adults who go back to school. Limited reimbursement for those who must travel to learn also is available. More than 100 adults took part last year.

Ranschau predicts the administration's plans would do more harm than good in the big picture. She sees an irony in the push to



Jamie Jo Johnson has customized her room in a Sioux Falls group home with paint and family photos.

CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER

## Where the block-grant money goes

Where Sioux Falls' Community Development Block Grant money went last year. Unless otherwise indicated, homeowners had to be at or below 80 percent of the median family income to qualify. That translates into a maximum annual income of \$48,400 for a family of four.\*

**SINGLE-FAMILY REHAB:** \$491,335 in no-interest deferred and low-interest repayment loans to maintain homes in a decent, safe and sanitary condition.

**REPAIR AFFAIR:** \$5,474 for accessibility modifications to houses owned and occupied by seniors or people with disabilities. Money went to the Home Builders Association for changes in households at or below 50 percent of median family income (\$30,250 or less for a family of four).

**HOME MODIFICATION:** \$29,833 to make accessibility modifications in rental units occupied by those with disabilities. Money was paid to the Prairie Freedom Center for Independent Living.

**FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** \$66,600 to Sioux Falls Housing and Development to provide tuition and other assistance to 106 adults.

**INTER-LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION:** \$3,296 for the 10 households in the Eviction Prevention Program and \$5,000 toward staffing at Heartland House, where 29 families received transitional housing. Also, \$5,000 toward the child development program, serving nearly 100 children from low-income families.

**HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER:** \$5,000 toward staffing at the center, where 289 people went through the potential homebuyer education

program.

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS:** \$5,000 toward personnel costs for the Mentor Mom program, which matches mentors with pregnant teens and teen mothers.

**RAPE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE CENTER:** \$5,000 toward the Women's Empowerment program for counseling and other assistance to 263 new users.

**TEDDY BEAR DEN:** \$5,000 for staffing costs in a program serving 261 new participants. Low-income pregnant women and mothers of children 18 months and younger earn supplies by redeeming points for regular doctor visits, a drug-free lifestyle and parenting classes.

**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE:** \$5,000 for personnel costs in serving 147 children. Trained volunteers advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court proceedings.

**DAKOTABILITIES:** \$7,500 for upgrades to the main facility serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

\*CDBG and Home Investment Partnership funds combined in 2004 to provide \$378,222 of non-interest deferred loans (up to \$8,000 each) for qualifying households to use as gap financing for a home purchase.

Not included in this list: \$662,260 for three facility projects in 2004 funded with CDBG money from 2001-2003 (Sioux Empire Housing Partnership, the Carroll Institute and Children's Inn).

home came from a CDBG award.

The other half is in the form of a low-interest, 30-year loan through the CDBG program. Bakker and her housemates, including 25-year-old Jamie Jo Johnson, pay rent and grocery costs from monthly disability checks. Many also earn money through jobs in a DakotAbilities workshop. Occasionally, Johnson splurges to expand her video collection - "Spider-Man" and the Backstreet Boys already are favorites - or to add more Vikings memorabilia to her lavender-and-butter room.

Bartunek said loan repayments through all CDBG projects brought in \$300,000 last year, in addition to the \$980,000 in direct CDBG money. That amount, a real return on local CDBG investments, naturally must decrease

across time if the program can't offer future loans. The city's CDBG award is down almost \$50,000 this year, to \$932,000.

"These are our most disadvantaged people, and they're not going to fit into a business model for community development," said Prunty, whose agency cannot use clients' Medicaid funding for food, shelter or clothing. "We don't have another source to apply for housing money. If there is a duplication in services, I'd like someone to help me find it."

Prunty added she'd give back her tax cut if CDBG money would be saved.

"Enhancing the lives of people with disabilities should be a national priority," she said. "These cuts just don't reflect my values."

Reach Jennifer Sanderson at 575-3629.



Shireen Ranschau

# Stress causes women to get fat

Gains in weight typical in middle age

BY MARILYN ELIAS  
USA Today

Bruising experiences in middle age - the cruel boss, ill parents, divorce - cause women to gain weight, and it's not only because they eat more or exercise less, a large study reports today.

"Under stress, people conserve more fat, and we think that may be what's going on here," says psychologist Tene Lewis of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. She and co-author Lynda Powell are expected to report findings from the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN) at the American Psychosomatic Society meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

The study tracks the health and mental health of premenopausal women from their 40s through menopause. Researchers asked more than 2,000 women about unhappy life events they had experienced in the past year. They also gathered information on diets, exercise habits, smoking and menstrual periods.

But even after taking into account many factors that could influence weight, four years later the women who faced lots of stress weighed significantly more than the less stressed. The more bad things they reported in the year before the study, the more weight they had gained over the four years, the researchers found.

That doesn't mean diet or exercise don't matter, Lewis says. But the link between personal trouble and weight gain held for all middle-aged women, regardless of race, income and education.

## Post-menopause

Stress may be particularly lethal for women after menopause, says psychologist Elissa Epel of University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine.

Epel's earlier research showed that younger women with a large proportion of their fat in the abdomen area had more chronic life stress than women who put on weight at the hips, which is less dangerous to the heart.

Estrogen causes more fat to be stored in the hips, Epel says. And when women's estrogen levels plunge after menopause, "it's a double whammy, because they not only gain, but they gain in a more dangerous place. They go toward the male pattern in fat-storing."

Diet also probably played a role in putting on the weight, Epel says. "You just don't crave carrots when you're stressed. You want comfort foods that are high in fat and sugar."

Women can't control many typical midlife stressors, such as ailing parents, she adds. But building strong friendships and developing new goals and priorities often can help curb stress, Epel says.

Exercise also is a great stress reliever, Lewis says, "and it helps you lose weight, so it's a two-for-one. But whatever relaxation techniques work for you and improve your mood, those are the ones to do at this time of life."

## Congress cool to shifting grant program to Commerce

BY LAURIE KELLMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Lawmakers on Wednesday balked at President Bush's plan to cut community block grants for cities and move the program to a different department - a change his own housing secretary said he opposed.

"We made our case. We believe that clearly Housing and Urban Development could manage the program," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson told the House Financial Services Committee. "Commerce was decided to be the agency."

Overruled by the White House, Jackson was left Wednesday to defend the administration's proposal to move the \$4.7 billion grant program to the Commerce Department and cut it to \$3.7 billion.

The proposal got an icy reception from lawmakers of both parties Wednesday, indicating it faces long odds as Congress decides which elements of Bush's 2006 budget blueprint to keep or cancel.

The Community Development Block Grant program, established in 1974, provides federal money to more than 1,000 municipalities. The money is used for everything from cleaning up lead in old

buildings to improving water and sewage facilities. The program is aimed mainly at low-income neighborhoods.

Lawmakers said they fear that putting the program in the Commerce Department, with its emphasis on economic development, could end the program's most valued quality: giving municipalities authority to spend the grants as they see fit.

"As far as I'm concerned, there's a huge difference" between agency missions, said Rep. Gary Miller, R-Calif. "I don't see any reason at all to send it over to Commerce."

Generally, counties with at least 200,000 residents and cities with at least 50,000 res-

idents automatically receive a grant each year. The federal government must sign off on a municipality's plan for spending the money to assure that it benefits low-income residents.

The development grants have been a perennial - but usually unsuccessful - target for potential budget savings for Republican administrations back to President Reagan.

Last year, Bush's budget applauded the flexibility the program gives local officials for using the money but also complained that the grants are spread so broadly, the program's primary goal - revitalizing fading neighborhoods - often is not met.

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