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SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

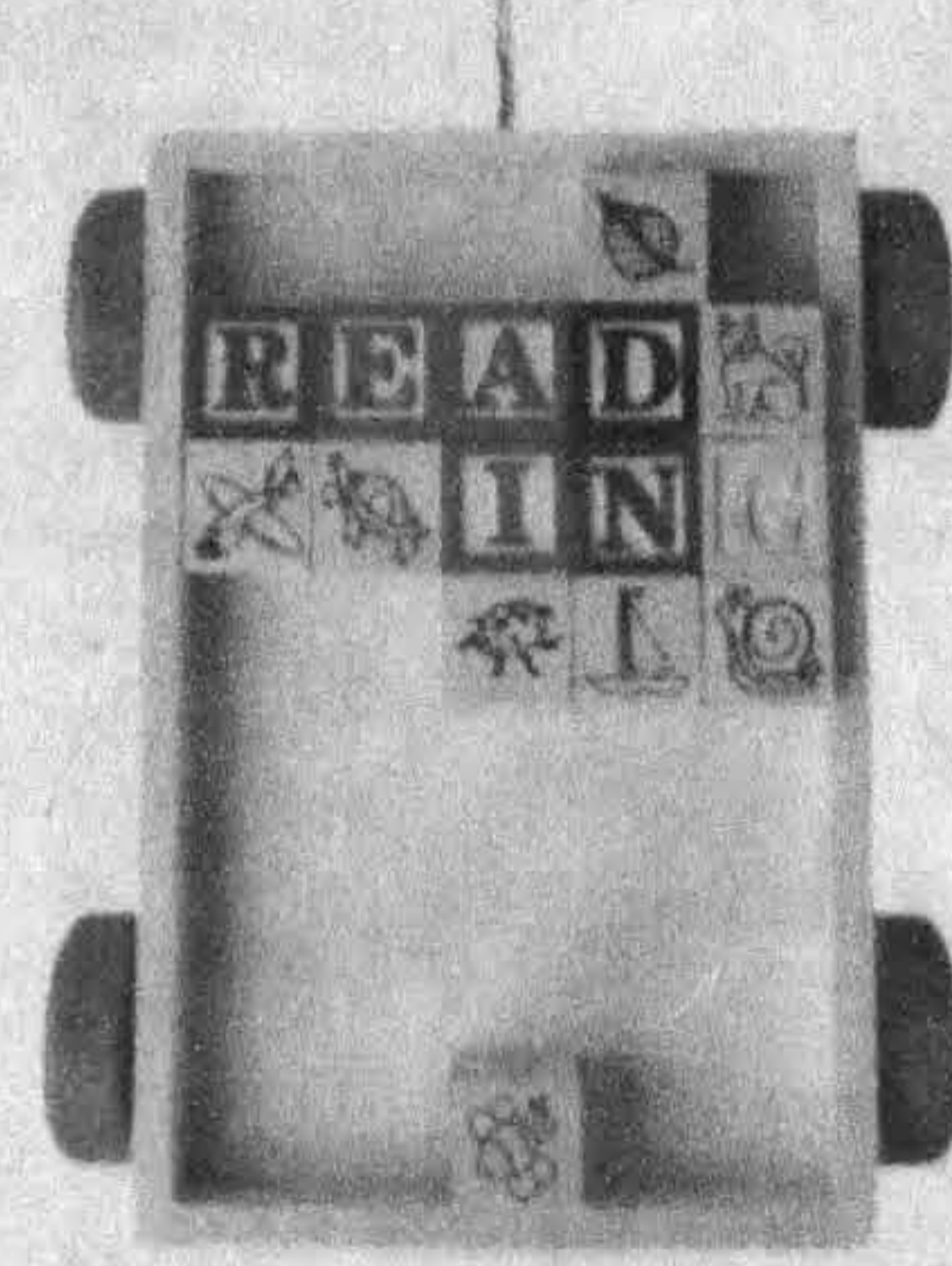
TODAY'S BRIEFING

SPORTS

ABC apologizes for 'Desperate' plug

► ABC apologized for a steamy intro to "Monday Night Football" after receiving complaints about the spot which featured a naked Nicollette Sheridan jumping into the arms of Terrell Owens. **1C**

LIFE



Helping kids learn to read early

► Patience and daily reading as well as starting early will help your kids learn to read, which is key to success in school and later in life. Find tips on helping kids learn to read. **1D**

BUSINESS

Inflation concerns as wholesale prices rise

► Wholesale prices saw their biggest increase since 1990 - mainly due to higher prices on fuel and food - driving concerns about increased inflation. **6C**

LOCAL & REGION

600 on hand for Janklow appeal

► A crowd heard the former representative's lawyer ask to have his client's record cleared. The arguments before five circuit judges will lead to a ruling next year. **1B**

NATION & WORLD

► **DASCHLE SUCCESSION:** Harry Reid of Nevada is the new Senate minority leader. While he recognizes the balance of power has shifted, he says, "We're going to draw some lines in the sand." **3A**

► **HOLY EBAY?** The offer of a 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich with an image of the Virgin Mary on it drew bids of more than \$16,000 before it was yanked, fearing it was a joke. The sale reopened after the Web site was reassured. Bid by Nov. 22. **2A**

► **FATTY FOODS:** New research suggests the cancer-causing acrylamides found in french fries and other fried starchy foods are at levels too low to affect the typical American, who eats 24 pounds of fries a year. **3A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH **59°**
 LOW **34°**
 Partly Cloudy
 Full report, 2A

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Dairy expansion rejected

HOW THEY VOTED

Minnehaha County commissioners voted 3-2 Tuesday to reject a permit for Greg and Doug Ode to expand their dairy farm.

AGAINST THE PERMIT: John Pekas, Anne Hajek and Carol Twedt

FOR THE PERMIT: James Zweep and Robert Kolbe

WHAT'S NEXT

Commissioners said the dairy did not meet the legal definition of a confined animal feeding operation, making it ineligible to expand. The Odes' lawyer said they have not decided whether to challenge the ruling in court.

Family proposed 700-head operation near growing residential area

BY PETER HARRIMAN
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The Minnehaha County Commission turned down Greg and Doug Ode's request to dramatically expand their dairy farm between Sioux Falls and Brandon, voting 3-2 Tuesday before an overflow crowd of more than 200 people.

Opposition to enlarging the dairy from 50 to nearly 700 animals had focused on concerns about odor control and groundwater contamination from animal waste. But in voting against the conditional-use permit, Commissioners John Pekas, Anne Hajek and Carol Twedt looked to a more fundamental question: whether the Ode dairy even

qualified as a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) and was thus eligible to expand.

Ultimately, they decided it did not. The site of the proposed CAFO for 650 milkers and 45 dry cows is within a water source protection district. The ordinance establishing such districts prohibits new CAFOs in them and allows only for the possibility of expanding those that existed before the ordinance took effect on May 26, 1998.

The ordinance defines a CAFO as a livestock venture where the equivalent of at least 50 1,000-pound cows are

See **DAIRY**, page 7A



JASON MCKIBBEN / ARGUS LEADER
 Doug Ode (right) whispers to his brother, Greg, during Tuesday's Minnehaha County Commission meeting. The family's request to expand their dairy farm east of the city was denied by a 3-2 vote Tuesday. More than 200 people - both supporters of the Odes and area opponents - were on hand.

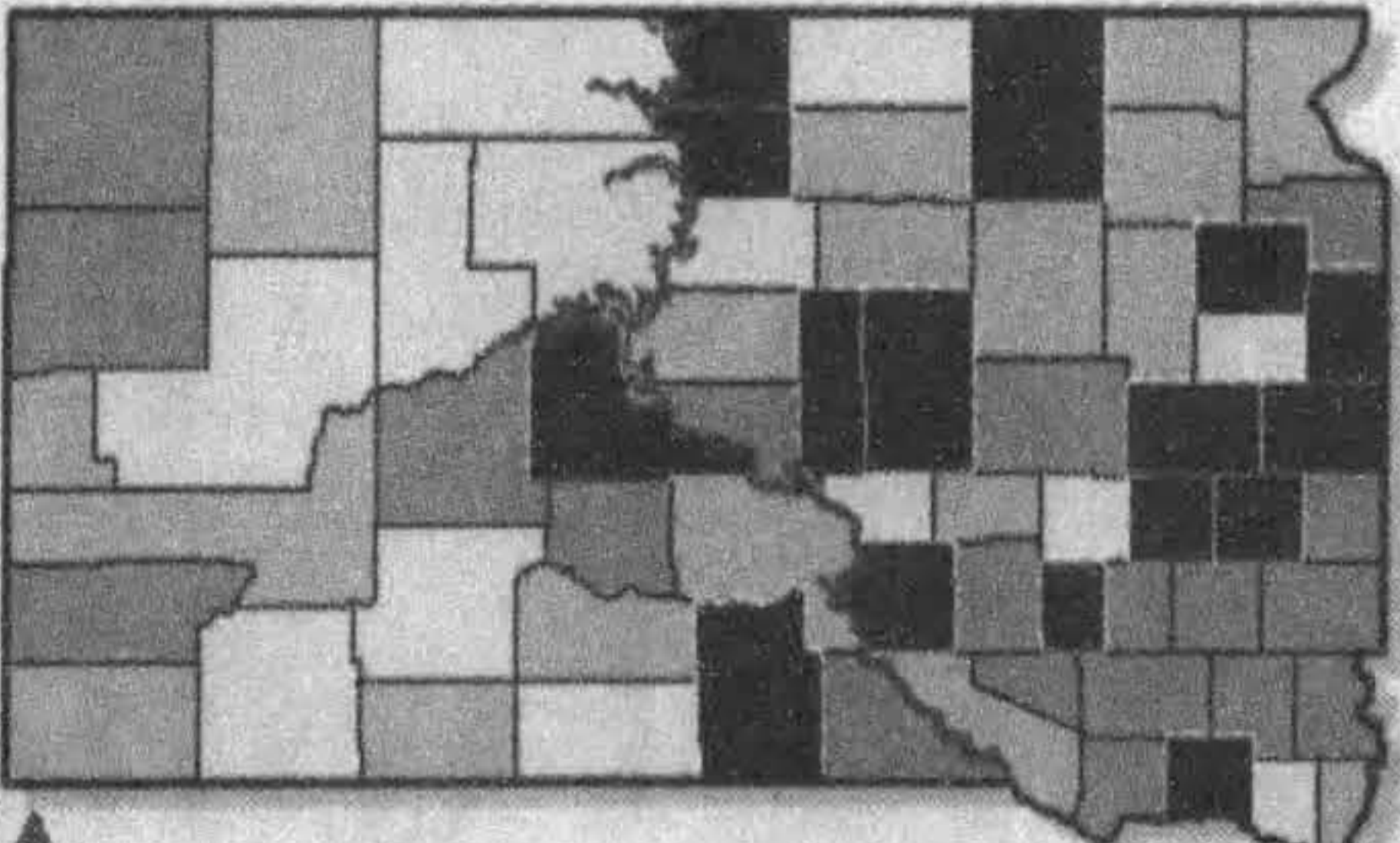
STATE IS TOP DAY CARE USER



LLOYD B. CUNNINGHAM / ARGUS LEADER
 Brooklyn Peterson colors flowers for a numbers exercise Tuesday afternoon at Apple Tree Children's Center in downtown Sioux Falls as preschool teacher Jenna Robinson works with Noah Schwab, 4, across the table.

Working parents in South Dakota

Percentage of children in South Dakota age 6 or younger who live with a single parent who works or in a household with two working parents.



INSIDE

► County percentages for the above map. **4A**

MORE ONLINE

To learn more and for parental resources, log on to www.argusleader.com

Study: S.D. not doing part to foster early development

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON
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South Dakota claims the highest percentage of young children in day care, but a new study contends that the state grossly underfunds early childhood development.

About 73 percent of the state's children ages 6 and younger spend their weekdays at a sitter's, according to a report from the University of South Dakota. Funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the study pegs childcare as a \$124.5 million industry in the state. That includes money linked to licensed, registered day cares, as well as federal funds associated with Head Start and the state's overhead in the licensing process itself.

Those closest to the project say the figure is a conservative estimate because it doesn't count common but unlicensed

resources, such as an informal church or community co-op, a grandparent or the neighbor.

Nearly half of South Dakota's youngsters are in paid day care, a natural consequence of another of the state's top-of-the-heap distinctions: South Dakota is home to America's greatest percentage of working women and, at nearly 82 percent, far outdistances the national average of 69 percent.

Researchers say those factors, along with the knowledge that children are most open to learning from birth to age 5, should encourage South Dakota to be a nationwide leader in yet another area - quality early childhood development programs.

"We're starting to see states look at it as

See **DAY CARE**, page 4A

City drops park-swap plan near Billion Auto

BY MELANIE BRANDERT
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A group of Sioux Falls residents who campaigned to save Dan Dugan Park celebrated their efforts Tuesday when the city announced it was abandoning plans to relocate the neighborhood park.

"It was the right thing to do," said Marybeth Tarabelsi, who lives on South Prairie Avenue. "The case we were pleading - you can't take something away from us that's free for something that may not happen."

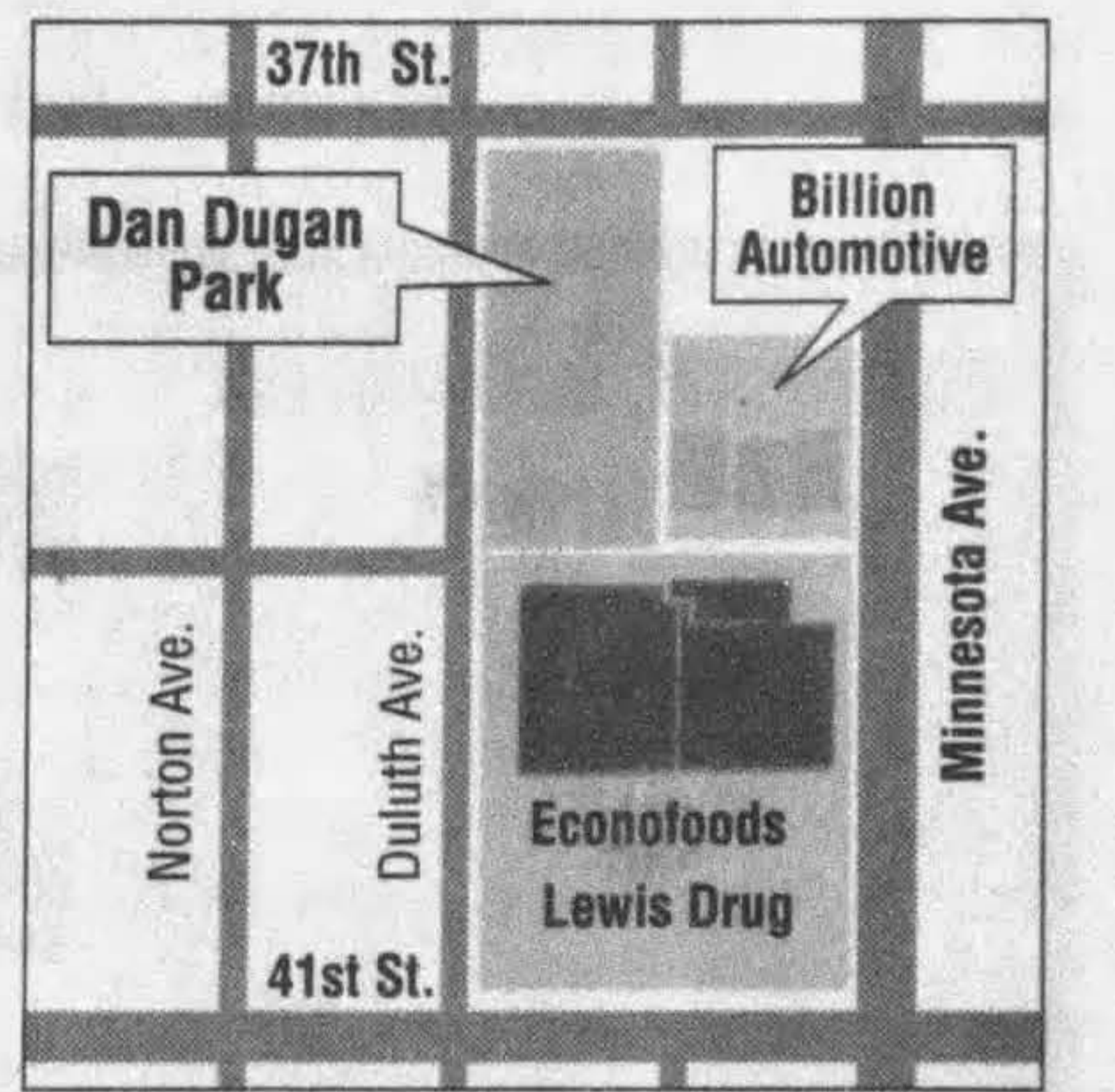
The city had been working with Augustana College and Billion Automotive on a proposal to swap the one-block-wide city park that runs from 37th to 39th streets on Duluth Avenue for land at an undetermined site on the city's south edge to develop a new youth athletic complex. Billion would have acquired the park property.

The city had considered replacing Dugan with a new neighborhood park on 37th Street between Grange and Walts avenues on land owned by Augustana.

"After we started looking more specifically at requirements to relocate the park, the decision was made not to pursue the idea further," Parks and Recreation Director Mike Cooper said Tuesday.

Those requirements included moving the park and getting another parcel

See **PARK**, page 4A



Marty Two Bulls / Argus Leader

Despite objections, Specter judicial chair seems assured

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON - Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., on Tuesday night appeared to have secured the chairmanship of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee.

But as the Pennsylvania senator arrived Tuesday on Capitol Hill, the challenge he faced was all around.

Anti-abortion demonstrators were holding a prayer vigil outside Senate office buildings to rally opposition to his long-cherished dream of chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee. Inside, conservative groups were bombarding senators with phone calls and e-mails bearing a single message: Don't let Specter take charge of the committee with authority over President Bush's judicial appointments.

But Specter had one of Washington's most powerful



Arlen Specter

forces on his side - the Senate's tradition of seniority. And tradition clearly helped his cause. Although the fight will not be resolved until the new Senate chooses its committee leaders early next year, Specter appeared to advance his case Tuesday. After a meeting with all Judiciary Committee Republicans, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, who must step down because of term limits, said: "I'm for Arlen. Nobody in the meeting was against Arlen."

The battle has already laid bare the powerful forces roiling the Republican Party. Conservatives who helped reelect President Bush are

demanding that the party respect their wishes in legislation and appointments, while a diminished band of more moderate Republicans insist they too are crucial to the party's electoral dominance.

The committee chairmanship is particularly important now because the advanced age of so many of the Supreme Court justices makes it likely that Bush will have an opportunity to appoint at least one new justice in his new term.

Specter, the Judiciary Committee's most senior Republican after Hatch, came under attack from conservatives for remarking shortly after the Nov. 2 elections that Democrats would make it difficult for President Bush to win Senate confirmation for anti-abortion judgeship nominees.



Margaret Hassan last month pleaded on a video aired by TV station Al-Jazeera with Britain's Tony Blair to withdraw troops from Iraq "and not bring them to Baghdad" because "this might be my last hours." "Please help me," she said.

INSIDE

- **MOSUL:** Soldiers retake stations.
- **IRAQI DEAD:** Fellow Muslims bury Fallujah dead. **5A**

British aid worker believed killed

BY MARIAM FAM
 Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Margaret Hassan, an aid worker kidnapped after decades of helping Iraqis, was believed murdered, her family and aid officials said Tuesday after Al-Jazeera television said it received a video showing a hooded militant shooting a blindfolded woman in the head.

Hassan was believed to be the first foreign female hostage killed in Iraq's wave of kidnappings. More than 170 foreigners have been abducted this year, and at least 34 killed. One woman - a Polish-Iraqi citizen - remains captive.

Hassan's family in London said the longtime director of CARE in Iraq was likely the victim, and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said analysis of the video showed Hassan has "probably been murdered, although we cannot conclude this with complete certainty."

CARE said it was in mourning for the 59-year-old Briton, a veteran humanitarian worker known around the Mideast for her concern for Iraqis - particularly during the years of U.N. sanctions, whose effects on children she vocally denounced.

"To kidnap and kill anyone is inexcusable," Straw said. "But it is repugnant to commit such a crime

See **AID WORKER**, page 4A

Day care: Workers leave because of low pay

Continued from 1A

an industry, and that's sort of a new experience," said Randy Steufen, research director at USD's Business Research Bureau.

Hospitals and nursing home facilities experienced a similar shift in recent decades. Business sense became the basis for networks of nonprofit centers who took on pivotal roles in local economies. That's long been the model for more straightforward industries, such as the state's \$16.8 billion-a-year force in agriculture or its \$1.66 billion-a-year impact from visitor traffic.

Though not yet near those levels, childcare does have a "ripple effect" through a person's life and home economy, according to USD's business school dean, Mike Keller. He acknowledges that it might yet take a while before people move away from the idea of childcare as a function of home and community and see it as a business.

How the money's spent

Many who work with children say the government's investment is misplaced. The majority of childcare centers operate on private tuition from parents. A few receive federal or state money for Head Start or Early Head Start.

But the South Dakota Coalition for Children notes that only about 4 percent of local, state and federal dollars spent on education and development will reach kids by the time they turn 5. For every \$1 of public money spent on school-age children, 13 cents goes to the pre-kindergarten set.

"Right now, about 90 percent comes from parents and the other 10 percent is from state or federal sources, and it's not nearly enough," said Dawn Worlie, executive director of Apple Tree and Montessori centers in Sioux Falls. "These children are going to grow up quickly, and they are our future. We have to take care of them now."

Judy Jacobs, director of United Day Care centers downtown and

BY THE NUMBERS

A new report from the University of South Dakota, funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, pegs child care as an industry that contributes more than \$100 million a year to the state's economy. Below is a look at some of the key findings, along with resources to help you learn more.

63.7 PERCENT: South Dakota working women with children 18 or younger.

57.5 PERCENT: Nationwide working women with minor children.

73 PERCENT: South Dakota children ages 6 or younger living with a single, working parent or in a two-earner household — the highest in the nation.

26 PERCENT: Those 6 or younger in paid child care nationwide.

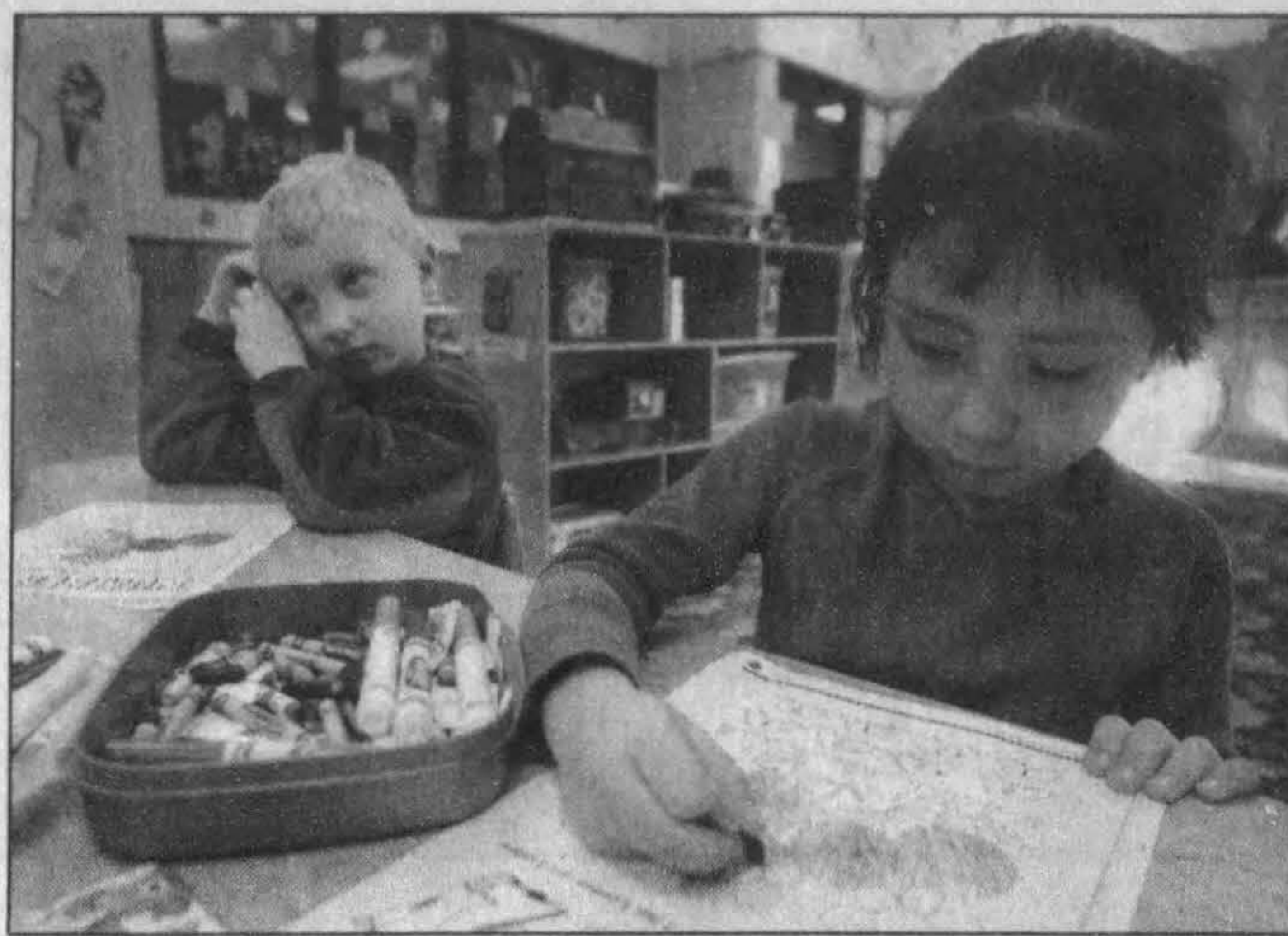
47 PERCENT: Those 6 or younger in paid child care in South Dakota.

2,430: Number of licensed, registered child care workers in South Dakota.

\$15,120: Those workers' average annual income.

34,345: Children served annually in South Dakota.

60 PERCENT: National turnover average for child care providers.



LLOYD B. CUNNINGHAM / ARGUS LEADER

Aby Ray, 5, colors two flowers as she participates in a number-color exercise at Apple Tree Children's Center downtown. Troy Knecht, 5, waits for his next instruction. Apple Tree downtown provides daycare to about 115 children daily.

CAT and PET scans, science has the power to prove what parents, teachers and developmental specialists have known all along.

Gera Jacobs, who specializes in brain research in childhood development, said the person a child will become is undeniably tied to his early experiences.

Technology allows scientists to see connections taking place in the brain. Jacobs, who also is a professor of early childhood development at USD, said it's now possible to track the number of synapses — spaces between neurons where information fires across.

"At birth, the human brain has 50 trillion neuron connections," she said, and that number grows exponentially in the first year to 1,000 trillion. The window of opportunity is narrow. Emotional control and socialization skills form in the first two years of a child's life. Math and logic foundations are set by age 3 or 4. Motor skills and second languages extend through year five, with only vocabulary as a whole getting a decade to develop.

"We can form connections all our lives," Gera Jacobs said, but those connections come with

greater ease and in greater numbers during the first 5 years.

That crucial period can be disrupted, as well, and early setbacks have devastating and long-lasting effects.

"The brain actually forms differently, with a different number of synapses in different parts of the brain," when children are exposed to stress, trauma or neglect, Gera Jacobs said.

Workers discouraged

The study, titled "The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in South Dakota," reinforces the idea that lasting relationships with day care workers can give children the structure and continuity they need. Yet the nationwide turnover rate for childcare professionals is closer to 60 percent, said Kay Ballard, executive director of the Sioux Falls Citibank Family Center. She reports a 22 percent turnover at her own site.

Childcare workers become discouraged by low salaries, reduced benefits and scarce vacation, experts say. The study reveals that providers make an average of \$15,120 a year in South Dakota, far below pay in many other indus-

COUNTY BY COUNTY BREAKDOWN

Percent of children ages 6 or younger with working parents in South Dakota, by county.*

Aurora: 74.7 percent	Jackson: 50 percent
Beadle: 75.1 percent	Jerauld: 63.6 percent
Bennett: 65.2 percent	Jones: 73 percent
Bon Homme: 76 percent	Kingsbury: 82.2 percent
Brookings: 80.8 percent	Lake: 81.2 percent
Brown: 80.6 percent	Lawrence: 67.9 percent
Brule: 81.6 percent	Lincoln: 79 percent
Buffalo: 45 percent	Lyman: 70.9 percent
Butte: 76.7 percent	Marshall: 69.2 percent
Campbell: 81.4 percent	McCook: 75.6 percent
Charles Mix: 66 percent	McPherson: 54.5 percent
Clark: 63.8 percent	Meade: 61.1 percent
Clay: 60.5 percent	Mellette: 62.2 percent
Codington: 82.9 percent	Miner: 80.6 percent
Corson: 60.6	Minnehaha: 75.8 percent
Custer: 78.6 percent	Moody: 77.7 percent
Davison: 79.6 percent	Pennington: 70.3 percent
Day: 64.9 percent	Perkins: 68.1 percent
Deuel: 81 percent	Potter: 56.7 percent
Dewey: 58.4 percent	Roberts: 66.6 percent
Douglas: 73.7 percent	Sanborn: 60 percent
Edmunds: 61.7 percent	Shannon: 59 percent
Fall River: 68.4 percent	Spink: 70.6 percent
Faulk: 66.1 percent	Stanley: 85.4 percent
Grant: 76.5 percent	Sully: 71.4 percent
Gregory: 79.1 percent	Todd: 56.4 percent
Haakon: 78.9 percent	Tripp: 80.6 percent
Hamlin: 51.6 percent	Turner: 78.6 percent
Hand: 91.5 percent	Union: 70.7 percent
Hanson: 75.5 percent	Walworth: 82 percent
Harding: 77.6 percent	Yankton: 79.9 percent
Hughes: 72.6 percent	Ziebach: 51.5 percent
Hutchinson: 76.3 percent	Statewide: 73 percent
Hyde: 85 percent	

* Young children living with a single parent who works or in a household with two working parents.

tries — work forces that typically couldn't be on the job without dependable child care.

"We need to keep it affordable for parents, but if you're making \$7 an hour for 40 hours a week, childcare almost exceeds what you bring home," said Judy Jacobs of United Day Care Centers. "It's a wash for some people, but they need to work to keep their health insurance."

Only Vermont has a higher concentration of childcare workers compared with other occupations, but no state's childcare providers reach even 1 percent of overall workers. That's despite the fact that those directly served — children ages 12 and younger — make up more than 18 percent of the total population in South Dakota

and nationwide. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that childcare providers comprise nearly one-fourth of the state's workers in the more narrowly defined "personal care and services" category.

The childcare industry represents what Keller, the business school dean, calls "a great convergence of economic development and family values." Both deserve healthy investments, he said.

"It's necessary to have good people available to work, and that can't happen without quality child care," Keller said. Without greater options for parents, employers and government stand to "deplete the work force," he said.

Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at 575-3629.

Aid worker

Continued from 1A

against a woman who has spent most of her life working for the good of the people of Iraq."

In an emotional appeal on Al-Jazeera, Hassan's Iraqi husband, Tahseen Ali Hassan, said he had heard of the video but did not know whether it was authentic.

"I appeal to those who took my wife (to tell me) what they did with her. ... I want my wife, dead or alive. If she is dead, please let me know of her whereabouts so I can bury her in peace," he said, his voice choked with tears.

The video shows a hooded militant firing a pistol into the head of a blindfolded woman wearing an orange jumpsuit, said Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout. The station received the tape a few days ago but had not been sure of its authenticity until recently, he said.

"We invited British diplomatic officials to come and view it," he told The Associated Press. "It's now likely that the image depicts Mrs. Hassan."

Ballout said the station would not air the video and would not broadcast any acts of killing, outside war. Al-Jazeera has been under pressure not to show videos of kidnapped foreigners.

Hassan was abducted in Baghdad on Oct. 19 on her way to work, the most prominent of more than 170 foreigners kidnapped in Iraq this year. Her captors issued a series of videos showing her weeping and pleading for Britons to act to save her.

In one video, she begged British Prime Minister Tony Blair to withdraw troops from Iraq and calling for the release of female Iraqi prisoners.

Park

Continued from 1A

of land.

Tarabelsi and other neighbors who opposed the plan had circulated petitions, gathering more than 2,000 signatures. They held a neighborhood picnic to raise awareness, and some posted signs on their property, calling for the park to be spared.

Residents said Dugan Park is frequently used by soccer, baseball and softball teams and neighborhood kids.

Cooper would not say whether the neighbors' sentiment was a factor in the decision. He said the cost of relocating the park was not a factor.

Loren Koepsell, Augustana's vice president of finance and administration, said he learned of the city's decision Monday from Cooper.

"He did not give any reasons,"

Koepsell said.

Both entities had agreed on general terms but not final details, Koepsell said.

"There had been some stipulations on how long the college was willing to commit," he said. "We talked about several things. But there was never a firm commitment."

College officials hadn't talked with the city in the past month, he said.

Dave Billion, president of the Billion chain, said he was satisfied with the outcome. He said he was told the city and college could not agree on acceptable terms.

"We were never the ones really driving it," Billion said. "We were asked if we were interested in purchasing the place. It was apparent the city and Augustana could not get together. That's OK."

Billion said he has no other plans to seek land in the area of his dealerships on Minnesota Avenue. He will take ownership

of Econofoods property at 41st Street and Minnesota on Dec. 1, when redesign plans start for his company's expansion.

"I'm kind of sorry that people's concern level was raised to the point it didn't have to," he said. "Everyone thought we were trying to push the deal through. If it

(the park) wasn't available, we wouldn't have become the purchaser."

Tarabelsi said she was most proud that her 4-year-old son, Dante, who sometimes accompanied her as she distributed petitions, gained a valuable lesson in the process.

"When I told my son the park was going to be saved, he said, 'Mom, we saved it. We petitioned,'" she said. "He learned you can go out there and do your best."

Reach reporter Melanie Brandert at 977-3926.