



570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News
Yankton, SD

February 22, 2016
Stevens/teacher funding plan/jco

Members of the South Dakota House will take another vote on a bill that would raise the state sales tax a half cent to fund teacher pay raises.
The bill got a majority of votes on Thursday, but fell one vote short of the forty seven needed for a two thirds majority.
Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton says he thinks the votes will be there.....(NEWS21)(sustainable):(21)

Stevens says despite what opponents say, there is no extra money available in the budget.....(NEWS22)(pay)((:20)
Stevens, who voted for the tax hike, says it is a tough vote....(NEWS23)(to us):(33)

The reconsideration vote is scheduled for this afternoon.

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570 WMAX NEWS

Yankton, SD

February 29, 2016
Stevens/Medicaid expansion/jco

South Dakota legislators may get a look at a proposal to expand Medicaid in the last days of the session.
Governor Dennis Daugaard will hold a news conference today to provide an update on the status of the expansion. The federal government sent a letter last week that indicated the Indian Health Service will pay most of the state costs.
Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton is doubtful....(NEWS16)(come out)(:07)

Stevens says legislators need to be involved in this type of policy question....(NEWS17)(soon)(:21)

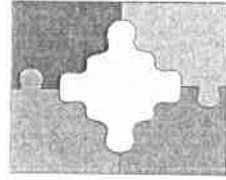
Stevens says he doesn't think there is enough time left to debate the policy changes....(NEWS18)(happening)(:30)

The expansion could extend medical insurance coverage for up to fifty five thousand people.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD



February 29, 2016

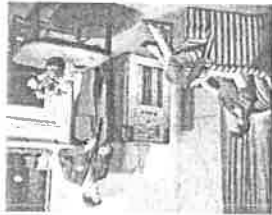
J.Hunhoff/extra money/jco

Legislative opponents to the sales tax increase have argued there is money available in the state budget that could be redirected to higher teacher pay.
Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton is a member of the Appropriations Committee.....(NEWS6)(Paul)((:18)
Hunhoff says there would be losers if those budget dollars are redirected.....(NEWS7)(those):(14)

Hunhoff says they will have a very tight budget when they try to wrap it up.....(NEWS8)(doing):(10)

Hunhoff says they may have the final budget early next week, but wouldn't be surprised if amendments take it down to the final day again.

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WNAX AM&FM News

February 29, 2016

County zoning changes/co

A bill that would make some changes to county zoning rules was before the South Dakota Senate Affairs Committee this morning. *Yesterday*

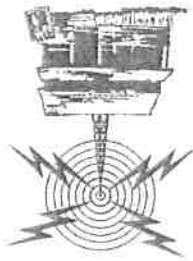
Bill sponsor, Representative Mark Mickelson of Sioux Falls, says the bill, HB1140, makes what he calls minor changes to procedures that would streamline the permitting process for livestock production facilities. He used Grant County as an example....(NEWS26)(small farmer):(18)

Brad Greenway, a livestock producer from Mitchell, says the costs escalate for producers along with the delays....(NEWS27)(the line):(16)

Dean Lockner of Ree Heights, opposed the changes, saying the current system works well....(NEWS28)(it is):(16)

The committee gave the bill a do pass recommendation on a six to three vote. The bill now moves to the Senate floor.

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WMAX AM&FM News

March 2, 2016

B.Hunhoff/1182 -1008/reax/jco

The South Dakota Senate approved a half cent sales tax increase yesterday designed to boost teacher pay. The final vote was 25 to 10 in favor of the bill.

Democratic Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton says it was a good step for kids....(NEWS6)(there)(:25)

Hunhoff says while democrats wanted a full penny increase, and taking it off food, they had to settle for a bill that could pass.....(NEWS7)(today)(:25)

Governor Dennis Daugaard vetoed HB1008, a bill that would have forced trans gender students to use bathroom and locker room facilities that matched the gender on their birth certificates. That bill had started a national reaction to the ramifications.

Hunhoff says there was a bad message in the bill....(NEWS8)(kids)(:13)
Hunhoff says the Governor did the right thing in vetoing the bill....(NEWS9)(for that)(:25)

Daugaard pointed to possible legal challenges as the basis for his veto.

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WMAX AM&FM News

March 7, 2016

B.Hunhoff/last week/jco

South Dakota legislators are back in Pierre for the final full week of the 2016 session.

Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton says most of the big issues are fairly settled... (NEWS11)(Dakota):(24)

Hunhoff says the budget pieces should come together during the week... (NEWS12)(issue):(21)

Hunhoff says while Medicaid expansion may be delayed, it is still in play... (NEWS13)(even):(14)

Committees are still dealing with a few bills, which all have to have final floor action by Wednesday. The last two days will be mostly for conference committees and final budget work.

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WNAX AM&FM News

March 7, 2016

J. Hunhoff/budget work/jco

South Dakota lawmakers are back in Pierre for the final full week of the legislative session.

The major work left is agreement on the budget.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton is a member of the Appropriations Committee. She says they are still waiting on a few bills.....(NEWS1)(budget):17)

Hunhoff says they will have to make adjustments to the current budget, and the one that starts on July first....(NEWS2)(here):18)

Hunhoff says they have been through most of the agency budgets, but there are still questions on some of the major ones.....(NEWS3)(corrections):26)

Legislators have reserved March 29th as the final day to deal with any vetoes, or unresolved bills.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

March 8, 2016

J. Hunhoff/budget negotiations/jco

Negotiations will be the key to the final few days of the South Dakota legislative session.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, a member of the Appropriations Committee, says not every program will survive intact....(NEWS6)or not):(25)

Hunhoff says it can be very difficult to restart a program if the funding is cut....(NEWS7)(away):(25)

Hunhoff says much of the fading federal funding has been used in human service programs....(NEWS8)(for that):(19)

Lawmakers plan to wrap up the main run of the session by Friday.

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WMAX AM&FM NEWS

March 11, 2016

J.Hunhoff/final budget/jco

South Dakota legislators will sign off today on a budget that spends just over four point eight billion dollars, and then adjourn the main run of the 2016 session.

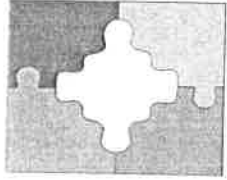
Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, a member of the Appropriations Committee, says they wrapped up the final details yesterday afternoon....(NEWS9)(rate):(18)

The budget process was changed this year to give legislators revenue projections about two weeks earlier in the session. Hunhoff says that helped them put the budget together....(NEWS10)(better):(18)

Hunhoff says there still could be adjustments to the budget, using SB159, the private school scholarship bill as an example....(NEWS14)(it is):(18)

Legislators will return to Pierre for the last official day of the session on March 29th.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News
Yankton, SD

March 14, 2016

J.Hunhoff/xgr wrap/jco

South Dakota lawmakers gave final passage to the state budget on Friday, and headed home before sunset.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says they managed to debate a number of important issues, including a sales tax increase.....(NEWS6)(prevail)(:10)

Part of the money raised from the sales tax increase will be used for property tax relief. Hunhoff says they still have an issue because that didn't apply to Ag property...(NEWS7)(this on)(:29)

Hunhoff says they had some emotional debates on social issues...(NEWS8)(this year)(:18)

Legislators return to Pierre for the final day of the session on March 29th.

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570 WMAX NEWS
Yankton, SD

March 16, 2016

B.Hunhoff/xgr reax/jco

Legislators are back in their home districts, looking at what the 2016 legislative session may or may not have accomplished.

Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton says passing the teacher pay plan was a good step, but may fall short.....(NEWS1)(seen):(18)

Hunhoff says he was disappointed that the Medicaid expansion plan stalled close to the end.....(NEWS2)(there):(14)

Hunhoff says they did take some steps to address poverty issues.....(NEWS3)(there):(21)

Hunhoff says he has not yet made a decision on running for another term in the Senate, but has petition forms on his desk.

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570/104.1 WYZZ AM&FM News
Yankton, SD

March 22, 2016

B. Hunhoff/run again... maybe/co

Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton is getting closer to
deciding on a re-election run this year.....(NEWS1)(don't
1?)(:12)

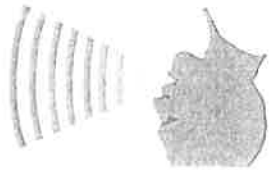
The filing deadline is a week from today. (29th)

Hunhoff, who was elected to the Senate in 2014, says he felt
like the legislature made some progress this
year...(NEWS2)(Pierre)(:23)

Hunhoff says there is a big commitment to serving in the
legislature...(NEWS3)(with)(:27)

Hunhoff along with Representatives Jean Hunhoff and Mike
Stevens spoke to a meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary
in Yankton last night.

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570 WYZZ-TV

Yankton, SD

March 22, 2016

Stevens/Ethics & Oversight

The South Dakota Auditor General has released a report into the GEAR UP program that was handled by the Mid Central Education Cooperative in Platte that was critical of the oversight by the state Department of Education of pass through federal funds. That cooperative is now the focus of a criminal investigation by Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton is Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and says the legislature has been reworking ethics and oversight laws....(NEWS21)(point):(31)

Stevens says while they can pass laws, the targets continue to move....(NEWS22)(today):(30)

Stevens says they can always look at other ways to avoid financial mismanagement...(NEWS23)(comes):(13)

The three people charged in connection with the financial issues at MCEC will make their first court appearance today. (Tuesday)

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WMAX AM&FM NEWS

March 23, 2016

J.Hunhoff/school funding/jco

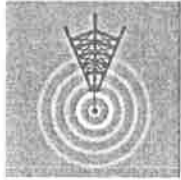
A number of small school districts in the state are concerned that the funding tabbed for teacher pay raises may not be what was promised during the legislative session. Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says they worked through the major details of taxes and the funding formula...(NEWS1)(workgroups):(27)

Hunhoff says school districts should continue looking at sharing services and programs where they can...(NEWS2)(that):(16)

Hunhoff says legislators do not want to push districts toward more consolidation...(NEWS3)(together):(29)

The Department of Education is holding meetings around the state to lay out details of the funding plan to school administrators.

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WMAX AM&FM NEWS

March 24, 2016

B.Hunhoff/Medicaid/jco

South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard shelved plans for expanding Medicaid during the legislative session, saying there were too many details to work through. He has mentioned the possibility of a special session to debate it. Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton, a strong supporter of expansion, says the discussions and negotiations are continuing...(NEWS16)(education):(18)

Hunhoff says he would like to see a special session fairly soon...(NEWS17)(there):(22)

Hunhoff says he thinks the expansion could be an economic lift for the state...(NEWS18)(myself):(14)

The expansion would extend Medicaid insurance coverage to about fifty five thousand people.

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WMAX AM&FM NEWS

March 24, 2016

Stevens/justice reform/jco

The South Dakota legislature passed major justice reforms last year, and added some juvenile justice changes this year.

juvenile justice changes this year.

Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton says it will take some time for the changes to become effective....(NEWS11)(of it):11)

will take some time for the changes to become

effective...(NEWS11)(of it)(:11)

Stevens says one of the goals of the reforms was to cut the number of people behind bars....(NEWS12)(of jail):17)

to cut the number of people behind

bars....(NEWS12)(of jail):17)

Stevens says there also has to be programs in communities to help offenders avoid going back to jail....(NEWS13)(passed):(27)

to jail....(NEWS13)(passed):(27)

Stevens says the legislature will monitor the progress and make changes as needed.

progress and make changes as needed.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News
Yankton, SD

March 25, 2016

J.Hunhoff/look ahead/jco

While South Dakota legislators have one more day of the 2016 session on the calendar, some are looking ahead to next year.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says since the state is so dependent on sales taxes, they will carefully watch the economy....(NEWS16)(work):(20)

Hunhoff says one of the big needs next year will be making sure health care providers can get paid for their services, especially for Medicaid patients....(NEWS17)(providing):(21)

Hunhoff says there are some services, like Medical Home, that are showing signs of success....(NEWS18)(that):(21)

Lawmakers return to Pierre next Tuesday for the final day of this years session.

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570 WMAX NEWS
Yankton, SD

March 28, 2016

Stevens/B.Hunhoff/SB159/jco

Governor Dennis Daugaard has signed SB159, a bill that would allow insurance companies to get a tax credit for contributing to organizations that provide educational scholarships.

There was some controversy connected to the bill because it was seen as the state subsidizing private schools.

At a recent District 18 legislative wrap up, Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton says he doesn't like potential dollars being diverted away from public schools....(NEWS21)(opinion):(33)

Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton says public dollars already go in a number of directions....(NEWS22)(does):(21)

Hunhoff says a small investment like this may pay off for a number of students and families....(NEWS23)(solution):(32)

Hunhoff says the scholarship money will go directly to students, who then can decide where they want to go school.

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WNAX AM&FM News

March 30, 2016

B.Hunhoff/no run/jco

District 18 Senator Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton has announced he will not seek re-election this fall.....(NEWS4)(else):(22)
Hunhoff had spent time in the Senate in the 1990s, then the House, and back in the Senate in 2014.
Hunhoff says they made a lot of progress in that time....(NEWS5)(summer):(29)
While democrats are a small minority in the legislature, Hunhoff says he doesn't feel that much frustration.....(NEWS9)(republicans):(16)
Hunhoff says he would not rule out another run for public office in the future.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

January 4, 2016

Becker/Gavins Point Repairs/jco

One thing that wrapped up with the end of 2015 was repair work on Gavins Point Dam. Flooding on the Missouri River in the spring and summer of 2011 caused damage to the structure itself, and areas downriver.

Dave Becker, Operations Manager for the Corps of Engineers at Gavins Point, says crews wrapped up in early December.....(NEWS1)(slab):(30)

Becker says it took quite a while to repair and update the spillway control gates.....(NEWS2)(done):(15)

The dam released water at up to one hundred sixty thousand cubic feet per second for several weeks in the summer of 2011.

Becker says it was a long and expensive process.....(NEWS3)(future):(13) Becker says they have some inside work planned at the power house this summer, and resurfacing of the crest road over the dam.



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WMAX AM&FM NEWS

January 29, 2016

Zuetenhorst/bald eagles/zp

Bald Eagle Days return this weekend to the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center near Gavins Point Dam.
Karla Zuetenhorst (zoo-ten-horst) is a Park Ranger with the Corps of Engineers.....(NEWS16)(:24) (up close)

Zuetenhorst says in addition to viewing Bald Eagles, there will be plenty of hands on activities for adults and kids...(NEWS17)(:23) (in the wild with)

Zuetenhorst says they have expanded this year.....(NEWS18)(:19) (Friday night programs)

Zuetenhorst says the programs are available on a first come first serve basis and seating isn't guaranteed, so arriving early is a good idea. Bald Eagle Days will be from 8am to 8pm today (Friday) and 8am to 4:30pm on Saturday and Sunday. The visitor center is south of Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska side of the river.

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570/104.1 WYZZ AM&FM News
Yankton, SD

March 9, 2016

Yager/Park Service river plan/jco

The National Park Service can now move ahead with plans for improvement to several public access areas in and along the Missouri National Recreational River.
Lisa Yager, (yay-grr) a biologist with the Park Service based in Yankton, says they have a "Finding of No Significant Impact" for their projects....(NEWS1)(plan):(17)

Yager says they will be working on a number of landmarks on the river...(NEWS2)(river is):(23)

Other work will take place at the Bow Creek Recreation Area, and Mulberry Bend, both downstream of Yankton.

Yager says they want to keep a balance between the wild and scenic river, and public access....(NEWS3)(setting):(28)

Yager says they are planning to start the work this spring, and have some improvement available later this summer.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

March 25, 2016

Becker/dam work/jco

Crest Road, that crosses over Gavins Point Dam near Yankton will be closed all of next week for maintenance.

Dave Becker, Operations Manager for the Corp of Engineers at Gavins Point says they have some routine repair to do.....(NEWS6)(there):(18) Becker says they also plan to resurface that road this summer....(NEWS7)(this year):(11)

Becker says they don't have a lot of major work planned in and around the dam this year, but are working on some future projects....(NEWS8)(this year):(33)

Repairs to damage from the flood of 2011 wrapped up last summer.

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WMAX AM&FM NEWS

February 19, 2016

Williams/Senate run/jco

Jay Williams of Yankton made it official ~~(today)~~ by announcing his intention to run as a democrat for the US Senate.
Williams says he has a message for republican incumbent Senator John Thune.....(NEWS4)(he do)(:23)
Williams says he won't be able to match Thune dollar for dollar in media exposure.....(NEWS5)(combat)(:20)
Williams says he thinks he can attract voters to his way of thinking.....(NEWS9)(time)(:24)
Williams was born in Gettysburg, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin. He has been a small business owner in Yankton since 1987. He also served on the Yankton School Board, and ran twice for the State Legislature.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

March 31, 2016

Kennedy/State Senate/jco

Attorney Craig Kennedy of Yankton has filed to run for the State Senate from District 18.

Kennedy, a democrat, says he has wanted to make a run for some time....(NEWS1)(well):(12)

Kennedy says it is the right time for him....(NEWS2)(of law):(17)

Kennedy says he has been following the issues that have been in front of the legislature....(NEWS3)(Dakota):(33)

Incumbent Senator Bernie Hunhoff announced earlier this week that he would not run for re-election this year.

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WNAZ AM&FM NEWS

January 14, 2016

Nickles/smoke detectors/jco

A recent apartment fire in Yankton pointed out the importance of working smoke detectors. When the fire broke out in one apartment, the alarms alerted those in the other apartments, and everyone was evacuated safely.

Yankton Assistant Fire Chief Larry Nickles says most smoke detectors have a life span, and do malfunction.....(NEWS1)(happened)(:26)

Nickles says carbon monoxide detectors should also be replaced and updated.....(NEWS2)(false sense)(:15)

Nickles says he has been working with state fire officials on ways to push apartment owners to check and replace smoke detectors.....(NEWS3)(stringent)(:19)

Nickles says most fire departments in the state don't have the time or manpower to do extensive checks of smoke detectors in apartment buildings.

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WMAX AM&FM News

February 19, 2016

Glanzer/scattered outages/jco

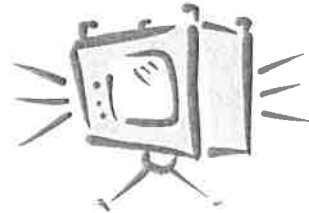
Some scattered power outages are being reported this morning on the north and northwest sides of Yankton.

Tom Glanzer with Northwestern Energy says strong winds are causing some power line issues....(NEWS9)(well)(:20)

Glanzer says there may be some power bumps on their system with the strong winds....(NEWS10)(performance)(:16)

Glanzer says they now have a real time outage reporting system on their website at northwesternenergy.com

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570/104.1 WNAX AM-FM News
Yankton, SD

March 15, 2016

Drug arrests/jco

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says multiple search warrants have been issued in a joint narcotics investigation in the Yankton area.

In a release, Jackley says agencies involved in the operation include Yankton Police, Yankton County Sheriff's Office, The Highway Patrol, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, FBI, IRS and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

Jackley says the investigation is ongoing and arrests are pending.

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