



WNAX AM&FM NEWS

October 24, 2018

Hunhoff/GOAC – security/jco

The Government Operations and Audit Committee of the South Dakota legislature meets tomorrow (Thursday) in Pierre.

The agenda includes an appearance by the Department of Public Safety to talk about the states terrorism preparedness and security for the Keystone XL pipeline project.

Committee Chair, Representative Jean Hunhoff says that discussion will be put off to the new session of the legislature.....(NEWS1)(briefing)(:27)

Hunhoff says it will give the new administration time to get up to speed on the issue.....(NEWS2)(Governor)(:09)

Hunhoff says the legislature needs to be involved in those type of security issues.....(NEWS3)(areas)(:23)

The committee will also get an update on child support collections and progress in the tech schools.

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570\1041 WNAX AM&FM NEWS

October 24, 2018

Kennedy/Meyer/climate change/jco

Candidates for District 18 legislative seats met in a forum this week in Yankton.

One of the questions was about climate change, and what the state is doing to prepare.

Senate candidate, democrat Craig Kennedy says there is agreement that change is underway.....(NEWS11)(caused)(:22)

Republican Roger Meyer also agrees.....(NEWS12)(career)(:13)

Kennedy, who has served two years, says the legislature has taken steps to counter climate change.....(NEWS13)(fleet)(:28)

Meyer says there should be more reliance on renewable energy.....(NEWS14)(of it)(:14)

The forum was sponsored by the Interchange Club and the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

October 8, 2018

Hunhoff/prison costs/jco

The next Governor in South Dakota and the 2019 session of the legislature will have to deal with rising numbers in the state's prisons.

The Corrections Department says that population is now hovering near four thousand, a record.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says there are limited solutions.....(NEWS11)(system)(:20)

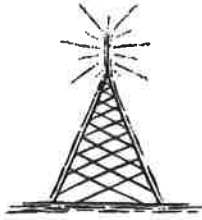
Hunhoff, a member of the Appropriations Committee, says there may have to be more modifications in criminal prosecutions.....(NEWS12)(approach)(:15)

Hunhoff says there are no easy fixes out there.....(NEWS13)(outcomes)(:15)

Most of the rising prison population is tied to illegal drugs.

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WNAX AM & FM News

Yankton, SD

October 4, 2018

Hunhoff/Regents Scholarship/jco

The South Dakota Board of Regents is making a needs-based scholarship their priority funding issue in the request to the 2019 legislature.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says they know the need is there.....(NEWS1)(money)(:14)

The Regents will request a four percent increase in their funding, which is about nine million dollars higher than this year. About three million of that would be dedicated to the scholarships.

Hunhoff says they would need a long term funding source.....(NEWS2)(consistently)(:19)

Hunhoff says most legislators agree with the necessity of the scholarship program.....(NEWS3)(source)(:10)

University presidents have said they would raise money to match the state contribution. South Dakota is the only state in the country without a needs based scholarship program.

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WNAX AM & FM News

November 29, 2018

Cwach/nursing homes/jco (sh-wok)

An incoming state Representative says nursing homes in South Dakota need more attention from the legislature.

Ryan Cwach of Yankton says recent nursing home closures show how serious the situation is.....(NEWS11)(crisis)(:16)

Cwach says the long term care payment system is unbalanced.....(NEWS12)(that)(:26)

Cwach says there needs to be immediate action, followed by a long term plan.....(NEWS13)(word)(:21)

Cwach, a democrat, was on the ballot for the first time.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

November 23, 2018

Cwach/SD House democrats/jco (sh-walk)

Democrats in the South Dakota House will have a small caucus in the next session but will be unified on most issues.

Ryan Cwach of Yankton won election to the House in District 18 earlier this month. He says when they choose their leadership, they also talked about their legislative plans.....(NEWS4)(side)(:15)

Cwach says democrats will look for coalitions where they can.....(NEWS5)(session)(:25)

Cwach says most issues that will be in front of them are not clear cut democrat or republican.....(NWES9)(always)(:24)

The 2019 session begins January eighth.



WNAX AM&FM News

November 21, 2018

Kennedy/Senate minority/jco

Senate democrats will have five members in their caucus when the 2019 session of the South Dakota legislature opens in January.

That's down one from their numbers in the past two years.

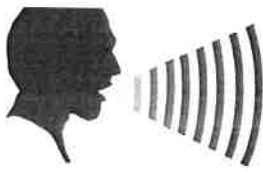
Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says they can still get things done.....(NEWS11)(accomplished)(:27)

Kennedy says democrats will continue to have open caucus meetings.....(NEWS12)(like it)(:05)

Kennedy will be assistant minority leader in the next session.

Senator Troy Heinert of Mission was elected democratic leader.

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570 WNAX News

Yankton, SD

November 15, 2018

Kennedy/ag land property tax/jco

Some counties may get a chance to try a modified version of property tax valuations.

The "Ag Land Assessment Task Force" of the South Dakota legislature met this week in Pierre.

Task Force member, Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says some landowners believe the current formula is not fair.....(NEWS6)(applied)(:19)

Kennedy says ~~they~~ task force debated some changes to land use definitions.....(NEWS7)(valuation)(:08)

Kennedy says there may be an expansion of ag land classifications.....(NEWS8)(formula)(:23)

Kennedy says they talked about a pilot program with ten to fifteen counties volunteering to try the new formula.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

November 12, 2018

Kennedy/agland oversight committee/jco

An interim committee of the South Dakota legislature will meet Tuesday (tomorrow) to get the final report on a new soil ratings study.

The Ag Land Assessment Implementation and Oversight Advisory Task Force has been watching the changes in property values and taxes since the system was changed in 2010 to a productivity model.

Task Force member, Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton, says complaints about property taxes have been on the rise.....(NEWS1)(forever)(:27)

Kennedy says the study from South Dakota State University may help suggest a direction for the task force.....(NEWS2)(session)(:14)

The task force is scheduled to take public testimony and discuss possible legislation.

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WNAX AM & FM News

November 8, 2018

Hunhoff/re-elected – xgr/jco

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton was re-elected to a third term in the South Dakota House this week, finishing second in the District 18 race to democrat Ryan Cwach (sh-walk).

Hunhoff, a long time member of the Appropriations Committee, wants to continue in that role.....(NEWS6)(interesting)(:14)

Hunhoff says they may see a battle of the budgets early on.....(NEWS7)(resources)(:23)

Hunhoff says their committee has made communications about the budget a priority.....(NEWS8)(information)(:16)

Hunhoff has served in the House and Senate since 2001.

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570\1041 WNAX AM&FM NEWS

November 7, 2018

Kennedy/Senate win/jco

Incumbent democratic Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton won re-election to the Senate in Tuesday's election.

Kennedy says it was a tough race.....(NEWS11)(good)(:12)

Kennedy defeated republican Roger Meyer by a margin of fifty-three to forty seven percent.

Kennedy says he wants to continue work on important issues.....(NEWS12)(that)(:13)

He says education and economic development are also important.....(NEWS13)(away)(:20)

Kennedy is a lawyer and a former states attorney.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

November 6, 2018

Cwach/House win/jco (sh-wok)

Voters in District 18 elected new comer Ryan Cwach to the South Dakota House.

He got over forty five hundred votes, for twenty eight percent in the four way race.

Cwach says he worked hard for the job.....(NEWS6)(difference)(:14)

Cwach says he has a number of issues in mind.....(NEWS7)(again)(:28)

Cwach says younger people can make a difference in the legislature.....(NEWS8)(politics)(:26)

Along with Cwach, incumbent republican Jean Hunhoff won re-election to the House.

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570\1041 WNAX AM&FM NEWS

December 19, 2018

Hunhoff/health provider spending/jco

A big portion of the state budget each year is spent on Medicaid, but for most healthcare providers, it doesn't cover all their costs.

Some nursing homes have closed, and several more are threatened due to rising costs, and too low payments.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says they need more information on how state dollars are spent on healthcare.....(NEWS11)(priorities):(20)

Hunhoff says they can't make effective changes without knowing how services are being delivered now.....(NEWS12)(services):(23)

Hunhoff says they can't increase funding without a clear picture of the outcome.....(NEWS13)(that):(16)

Hunhoff is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

December 18, 2018

Kennedy/ag land values/jco

Some bills are being filed for the 2019 session of the South Dakota legislature.

One bill (SB4) is from the Agland Assessment and Oversight Advisory Task Force.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton is a member of that task force.....(NEWS6)(property)(:23)

The task force has been watching the changes in ag property valuations and taxes since the state moved to a productivity model in 2010.

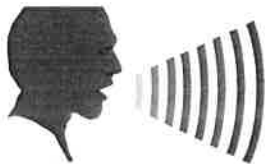
Kennedy says they are using a new study of land uses.....(NEWS7)(property)(:18)

Kennedy says it refines the production capability of ag land.....(NEWS8)(up with)(:27)

The bill would repeal many sections of the agland valuation law, to be replaced with new language that would be written in next years session.

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570 WNAX News

Yankton, SD

December 12, 2018

Stevens/SB 70 changes/jco

South Dakota Attorney General-elect Jason Ravensborg (rounds-berg) has said he wants to make changes to SB 70, a crime reform package that was passed in 2013. The bill allows judges more lee way in sentences for drug offenders and other nonviolent offenders.

Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton was a co-sponsor of SB 70, and says the reforms were aimed at putting violent offenders in prison.....(NEWS11)(incarcerated)(:20)

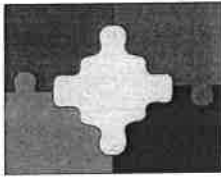
Stevens says it gave judges more sentencing options and guidelines.....(NEWS12)(to that)(:21)

Stevens says while any law could be adjusted, he doesn't want to see SB 70 gutted.....(NEWS13)(public)(:23)

Stevens did not run for re-election to the legislature this fall.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

December 12, 2018

Kennedy/education direction/jco

Members of the District 18 legislative delegation met with the Yankton School Board this week to talk about the upcoming session.

Senator Craig Kennedy says they are only getting hints of what Governor-elect Kristi Noem has in mind for education.....(NEWS21)(education)(:24)

Kennedy read to the board an excerpt from Noems campaign statement on education.....(NEWS22)(don't know)(:26)

Incoming Representative Ryan Cwach (sh-wok) also appeared before the board.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

December 6, 2018

Kennedy/budget reax/jco

South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard gave his last budget address to legislators this week. The Governor will finish his eight years in office when Governor-elect Kristi Noem is sworn in on January fifth.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says the budget speech was pretty direct.....(NEWS1)(there)(:18)

Kennedy says state finances look to be in pretty good shape....(NEWS2)(good)(:25)

Kennedy says the budget is just a suggestion at this point.....(NEWS3)(that)(:22)

Kennedy was re-elected to his second term in the Senate last month and will be assistant minority leader next year.

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WNAX AM & FM News

December 3, 2018

Hunhoff/Appropriations – FMAP/jco

The Appropriations Committee of the South Dakota legislature will get an update on the status of the Medicaid F-MAP program, or “Federal Medical Assistance Percentage.”

Committee member, Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, says that is a critical balance of federal funding.....(NEWS1)(saying)(:22)

Currently, federal funding pays about fifty five percent of Medicaid costs, or about five hundred fifty-one million dollars in 2017.

Hunhoff says that federal spending doesn't cover costs for health care providers.....(NEWS2)(providers)(:23)

Hunhoff says rural areas of the state are seeing the worst impacts.....(NEWS3)(areas)(:16)

Medicaid is the second largest piece of the state budget, following education.

(The committee meets Monday, 11:30 in Pierre)

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