



570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News
Yankton,SD

January 2, 2019
Hunhoff/Appropriations Committee/jco

State Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton will serve as Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Committee in this year's session.

The veteran lawmaker says she can put her experience to use.....(NEWS1)(that)(:26)

Hunhoff says while they have a budget from outgoing Governor Dennis Daugaard, they don't yet know the priorities of Governor-elect Kristi Noem.....(NEWS2)(that mean)(:22)

Hunhoff says they are ready to compare the differences.....(NEWS3)(her budget)(:28)

Hunhoff had previously served on the Appropriations Committee, and has also been Chair of the House Government Operations and Audit Committee.

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WNAX AM & FM News

January 8, 2019

Hunhoff/health provider workforce/jco

Finding more workers for healthcare providers, especially in rural areas, will be a priority during the 2019 South Dakota legislative session for Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton.....(NEWS11)(care)(:21)

In his final budget, Governor Dennis Daugaard proposed a two-point three percent raise for Medicaid supported healthcare workers. Hunhoff says the state has to do better.....(NEWS12)(incentives)(:10)

Hunhoff says another revenue source has to be developed to put more money toward those providers. She says pushing the federal government to more fully fund the Indian Health Service would be a good step.....(NEWS13)(Medicaid)(:22)

Several rural nursing homes have closed, and others are threatened due to the lack Medicaid funding.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

January 9, 2019

Kennedy/SoS reax/jco

South Dakota legislators heard Governor Kristi Noems first State of the State speech yesterday (Tuesday).

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says he liked the outlines.....(NEWS11)(toward)(:18)

Kennedy, the assistant minority leader in the Senate, says there were some omissions.....(NEWS12)(state)(:28)

Kennedy says he also wants more details on the funding behind the proposals.....(NEWS13)(today)(:18)

Legislators will now be focused on bill introductions for the next couple of weeks before they begin the intense round of budget hearings.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

January 9, 2019

Hunhoff/SoS reax/jco

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem gave her first State of the State speech to lawmakers yesterday (Tuesday) focusing on what she called "The Next Big Thing" in economic development, broadband expansion and workforce development.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton was impressed with the speech.....(NEWS6)(taking)(:12)

Hunhoff says she likes the priorities Noem was talking about.....(NEWS7)(there)(:20)

Hunhoff says they need more details in how Noem plans to pay for her plans.....(NEWS8)(future)(:20)

Noem says she will release her budget in the next two weeks.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

January 10, 2019

Cwach/tuition bill/jco (sh-wok)

A freshman legislator is considering a bill that could help more people deal with rising university tuition rates.

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says he is working on a bill that would let families save early for their child's college education.....(NEWS16)(tuition is):(21)

Cwach says he has been looking at a program in Florida that has been in use for years.....(NEWS17)(Dakota):(26)

Cwach says it would be a good option for those looking for a way to pay for higher education.....(NEWS18)(for you):(20)

Cwach says it would be under the IRS 529 program with tax benefits part of the attraction.

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WNAX AM & FM News

Yankton, SD

January 15, 2019

Cwach/nursing homes/jco (sh-walk)

More nursing homes in South Dakota are falling into a financial pinch. Several have closed in the past couple of years, and more could close this year.

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says the state needs to step up and help those facilities that are threatened.....(NEWS21)(care):(21)

Cwach says Medicaid payments don't cover costs for most nursing homes.....(NEWS22)(sustainable):(15)

Cwach says those needing Medicaid help often lose all of their assets in the process.....(NEWS23)(they need):(26)

Cwach says he is working on some bills for legislative consideration that would address short- and long-term issues with nursing homes.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

January 21, 2019

Cwach/online sale tax/jco (sh-walk)

The State of South Dakota began collecting sales taxes from online retailers on November first, but there has been no clear report yet on how much has come in.

Estimates have ranged from ten to fifty million dollars a year.

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says based on personal experience, he thinks the returns will be on the high side.....(NEWS11)(necessary)(:27)

The first two hundred thousand dollars in sales from an online retailer is exempt from the tax. Cwach says that may need to change.....(NEWS12)(exemption)(:24)

Cwach took part in his first District 18 legislative forum on Saturday.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

January 21, 2019

Kennedy/bill time/jco

South Dakota legislators return to Pierre on Tuesday after a four day weekend.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says there will be a lot of bills submitted this week.....(NEWS6)(activity)(:15)

Kennedy said there were just over one hundred bills introduced so far, with over five hundred bill requests outstanding.

Kennedy says his committees have had a number of bills go through.....(NEWS7)(that way)(:19)

Kennedy says all legislators will be listening to the Governors budget address this week.....(NEWS8)(point)(:19)

Kennedy took part in the District 18 legislative forum Saturday in Yankton.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

January 21, 2019

Hunhoff/budget work/jco

South Dakota legislators start their week on Tuesday and will listen to Governor Kristi Noems budget speech on Wednesday.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says while they want to hear the Governor's priorities, they will eventually write their own budget.....(NEWS1)(this)(:16)

Hunhoff, vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, says they have been asking department heads to defend their proposed spending.....(NEWS2)(making)(:13)

Hunhoff says they are concerned that there has not been any discussion yet on education or health care spending.....(NEWS3)(go to)(:22)

Hunhoff says the budget bill will not be presented until the final days of the session.

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570 WNAX NEWS

Yankton, SD

January 22, 2019

Kennedy/other issues/jco

South Dakota legislators will be debating more bills dealing with trans gender students, and subjects that should be taught in high schools.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says every legislator can introduce bills on any topic.....(NEWS1)(with)(:22)

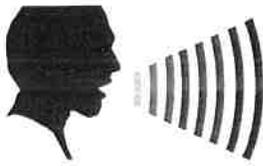
Kennedy does say he thinks there are more important issues.....(NEWS2)(decision)(:12)

Lawmakers are back in Pierre for four days this week.

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570 WNAX News

Yankton, SD

January 22, 2019

Hunhoff/border wall resolution/jco

The South Dakota legislature approved a resolution last week supporting President Trump in construction of a Mexican border wall. It took some debating and amending before it passed.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, who voted for the measure, says those resolutions have little impact.....(NEWS3)(down)(:16)

Hunhoff says voting for those resolutions is a way of getting cooperation for bigger issues later on.....(NEWS4)(her)(:26)

Another pending resolution would commend Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds for voting to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the US Supreme Court.

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WNAX AM&FM News

January 23, 2019

Cwach/nursing homes/jco (sh-walk)

With the prospect of more nursing homes closing in South Dakota, legislators are starting to look at the best way to slow that trend.

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says he is helping write a bill to find more money for the struggling facilities.....(NEWS6)(Medicaid):(09)

Cwach says it would use a combination of state and federal funding.....(NEWS7)(government):(12)

Cwach says even that bill is just a band aid.....(NEWS8)(there):(26)

Cwach says several more bills dealing with nursing homes will be introduced in the next few days.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

January 24, 2019

Kennedy/budget reax/jco

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem gave her first budget address to legislators yesterday (Wednesday). In it, she made recommendations for spending fifty-four million dollars more than what former Governor Dennis Daugaard had proposed in December.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says there were some good points.....(NEWS1)(education)(:25)

Kennedy says there are some issues that were not included.....(NEWS2)(there)(:22)

Kennedy, who is the assistant minority leader in the Senate, says democrats may have a formal response later in the session.....(NEWS3)(studied)(:13)

The budget will now be referred to the Appropriations Committees where it will be taken apart then reassembled for a final bill at the end of the session.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 4, 2019

Kennedy/economic development/jco

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton has been named to the state Board of Economic Development. He says he is looking forward to the assignment.....(NEWS1)(Yankton)(:24)

Kennedy says he has an interest in helping businesses expand.....(NEWS2)(opportunity)(:16)

Kennedy says the board makes decisions on allocating state grant and loan funds.....(NEWS3)(assume)(:18)

Kennedy, a democrat, is serving his second term in the state Senate representing District 18.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 4, 2019

Hunhoff/Appropriations process/jco

When South Dakota lawmakers return to Pierre tomorrow (Tuesday) they will be in day seventeen of the forty-day session.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says the Appropriators are working through the budget process.....(NEWS6)(information)(:23)

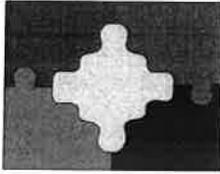
While official revenue reports are a few weeks off, Hunhoff says they have been getting projections from the Noem Administration.....(NEWS7)(recommendation)(:22)

Hunhoff, Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, says while agriculture lags, other sectors of the states economy are doing pretty well.....(NEWS8)(out there)(:25)

Hunhoff says they are still looking for performance measures from state agencies and departments.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

February 5, 2019

Cwach/good bills/jco (sh-walk)

While a few bills get most of the attention in the South Dakota legislature, there are dozens of others working through the system.

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says the good bills outweigh what he calls the "bad bills.".....(NEWS21)(in Pierre)(:09)

He says bills singling out trans-gender students are issues best left at the local level.....(NEWS22)(alone)(:15)

Cwach says there are other bills dealing with autism treatments and college funds that need attention too.....(NEWS23)(behind it)(:23)

Legislators will hit the halfway mark of the 2019 session this week.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 6, 2019

Hunhoff/Regents – budget/jco

The South Dakota Board of Regents presented their budget request to legislators last week, asking for a four percent increase and funds for a new scholarship program.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says that comes at a time of little student growth at the universities....(NEWS16)(bring)(:17)

Hunhoff says they want more information on the need for remedial classes.....(NEWS17)(area)(:19)

Hunhoff says increasing enrollment would take pressure off tuition.....(NEWS18)(closer)(:19)

Hunhoff says they will have more discussions with Regents staff before the end of the legislative session.

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WNAX AM&FM News

February 7, 2019

Kennedy/nursing homes/jco

Several bills have been introduced in the South Dakota legislature to avoid a funding crisis for nursing homes. Several have shut in the past few years, and more could follow due to low Medicaid payments.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says something will happen this year.....(NEWS21)(take)(:09)

Kennedy is a co-sponsor of a bill that would use a combination of state and federal money for a onetime eighteen million dollar payment.....(NEWS22)(also)(:19)

Governor Kristi Noem talked about a five million dollar plan and changes in payment schedules, but hasn't introduced a bill yet.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 11, 2019

Hunhoff/nursing homes – Medicaid/jco

Finding help for financially struggling nursing homes has become a major issue for South Dakota legislators.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says the problems are not confined to nursing homes.....(NEWS26)(see that)(:20)

A bill has been introduced to give nursing homes eighteen million dollars in state and federal funds. Hunhoff says that is only a short term fix.....(NEWS27)(dollars)(:17)

Hunhoff says they need the federal government to fulfil their promise of funding the Indian Health Service.....(NEWS28)(down there)(:24)

Governor Kristi Noem has proposed a five million dollar boost and changing the timing of Medicaid payments to nursing homes.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 10, 2019

Kennedy/ingestion felony/jco

A resolution is moving through the South Dakota legislature that would direct the Executive Board to create a task force to study alternatives to prison for those convicted of drug ingestion.

Resolution sponsor, Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton, says the state is one of very few that considers taking drugs a felony.....(NEWS1)(felony)(:19)

Kennedy says he got the idea for the study after talking to the head of the Department of Corrections.....(NEWS2)(a year)(:28)

Kennedy says the state needs to find a better, cheaper alternative.....(NEWS3)(lives)(:16)

The resolution passed through the Senate Judiciary committee, but hasn't been set for a floor hearing yet.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 15, 2019

J.Hunhoff/revenue estimates/jco

South Dakota lawmakers got the first revenue estimates of the session, which will be used to write the budget.

House Appropriations Committee-Vice Chair, Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, says there are some differences in the two estimates.....(NEWS26)(selecting)(:26)

Hunhoff says they want to be conservative in future budgets.....(NEWS27)(here)(:25)

She says the soft ag economy also plays into their planning.

Hunhoff says they will soon start filling in the budget blanks.....(NEWS28)(going on)(:19)

The revenue could add three to five million dollars to Governor Kristi Noem's budget estimate.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 18, 2019

Kennedy/presumptive probation/jco

A bill that would repeal provisions of presumptive probation will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee tomorrow (Tuesday) morning,

Currently, those convicted of a class 5 or 6 felony can be sentenced to probation as a primary punishment.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton, a member of the committee, says the law should be given more time to work.....(NEWS1)(did)(:19)

Kennedy says part of the problem with the law was there was not enough money for counties to follow through.....(NEWS2)(require)(:21)

Kennedy says judges already have wide discretion in sentencing.....(NEWS3)(that)(:23)

The bill is a priority of Attorney General Jason Ravensborg.(rounds-berg)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 20, 2019

Cwach/Dieter/nursing home study/jco

A bill calling for a feasibility study of long-term care costs and supports was debated in the South Dakota House Health and Human Services Committee Tuesday.

The sponsor, Representative Ryan Cwach (sh-walk) of Yankton, says beyond Medicaid, nursing home costs are crushing consumers.....(NEWS26)(way)(:11)

Larry Dieter, (dee-ter) with the Insurance Division of the Department of Labor and Regulation, opposed the bill.....(NEWS27)(Dakota)(:24)

Cwach says the bill doesn't call for any new system.....(NEWS28)(Dakotans)(:22)

After some debate, the committee voted eight to five to send the bill to the forty first day, killing it.

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570 WNAX NEWS
Yankton, SD

February 22, 2019
Kennedy/Pt Yankton resolution/jco

A resolution that would put a constitutional amendment on the 2020 ballot that would allow a single gaming license in the City of Yankton has been delayed several times and is scheduled now to be heard in the state Senate on Monday.

Senator Craig Kennedy says the delay is tied to ongoing negotiations.....(NEWS16)(have)(:23)

Kennedy says there are still conversations about the casino proposal.....(NEWS17)(idea)(:19)

Kennedy says he isn't sure how the resolution will fare in the Senate.....(NEWS18)(vote)(:02)

Backers of the casino plan have said they would be prepared to start a petition drive if the resolution fails in this year's session.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton,SD

February 25, 2019

Kennedy/cross over/jco

The South Dakota legislature starts the week with cross over day. All bills have to pass out of their original chamber or they are dead for the year.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says their side of the building has moved most of the critical bills.....(NEWS9)(days)(:09)

Kennedy says there are some important bills that need a decision.....(NEWS10)(act)(:14)

Legislators start the week with day twenty nine of the forty-day session.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

February 26, 2019

Cwach/ABA therapy – insurance/jco

A bill that would have required health insurance companies pay for ABA Therapy for children on the autism scale was defeated in a South Dakota House Committee last week.

Bill co-sponsor Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says the payments are already required under employer offered insurance.....(NEWS26)(loophole):(27)

Cwach says it is a very emotional issue.....(NEWS27)(Dakota):(18)

Applied Behavior Analysis helps children on the autism scale learn to better adjust to the people and environment around them.

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WNAX AM&FM News

March 4, 2019

Cwach/nursing homes/jco (sh-walk)

A bill sponsored by Representative Steven McCleerey of Sisseton providing up to eighteen million dollars to nursing homes was killed in a legislative committee.

Despite that, Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says helping nursing homes is still a priority.....(NEWS21)(system)(:19)

Cwach says while the Governor has proposed up to five million dollars in innovation grants, he isn't sure what those would do.....(NEWS22)(issue)(:24)

Cwach says their bill would have leveraged federal funds to help keep nursing homes open.....(NEWS23)(care)(:24)

Cwach says health care providers have told him that around twenty million dollars would just hold the system stable.

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WNAX AM&FM News

March 4, 2019

Hunhoff/budget – state employees/jco

Nailing down the final budget numbers will be the main priority for South Dakota lawmakers over the final days of the session.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, says they are concerned about hanging on to state employees.....(NEWS18)(individuals)(:23)

Hunhoff says they are also looking at the state health insurance plan.....(NEWS19)(together)(:18)

Hunhoff says a good base of public employees has to be a priority for state government.....(NEWS20)(filled)(:07)

Legislators are back in Pierre for four days this week, then three days next week. The final day of the session will be March 29th.

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WNAX AM & FM News

March 4, 2019

Kennedy/industrial hemp/jco

The bill (HB1191) authorizing the production of industrial hemp in South Dakota will be on the floor of the state Senate today (Monday).

Governor Kristi Noem again restated her concerns with the bill at her news conference last Friday. She didn't say if she would veto the bill if it passed.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says he doesn't know why the Governor is so strongly opposed.....(NEWS16)(point)(:11)

Forty-one states have authorized some type of production or use of hemp.

Kennedy says they see it as another option for ag producers.....(NEWS17)(let them)(:25)

Production of industrial hemp as a cash crop was authorized in the farm bill passed last year by Congress.

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WNAX AM & FM News

March 6, 2019

Hunhoff/budget bill/jco

South Dakota legislators will continue to negotiate on the state budget until the final day of the session.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, says there will be some changes.....(NEWS11)(direction):(12)

Hunhoff says there are some agreed on priorities.....(NEWS12)(negotiation):(16)

Hunhoff says there will be give and take with the dollars.....(NEWS13)(go on):(13)

Hunhoff says the budget bill should be on the floor next week.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton,SD

March 7, 2019

Cwach/silly bills/jco (sh-walk)

Many of the so called "nonsense bills" in the South Dakota legislature were voted down during the session, but may not be totally dead.

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says he thinks legislators are hearing from the folks in their districts.....(NEWS16)(bills)(:23)

Cwach says no bill every totally goes away until the final gavel.....(NEWS17)(about)(:16)

Cwach says there are legislative games being played.....(NEWS18)(pass)(:12)

Cwach says a number of those bills deal with trans-gender and other type of social engineering.

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WNAX AM & FM News

March 11, 2019

Kennedy/final days/jco

Most South Dakota lawmakers will spend the final three days of the main run of this year's session cleaning up unfinished bills.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says while he doesn't think there are any surprises lurking, it's always possible.....(NEWS6)(works)(:19)

Kennedy says most legislators have not seen any part of the budget.....(NEWS7)(yet)(:16)

Wednesday is the final day this week, with legislators returning for the last day of the session on March 29th.

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WNAX AM & FM News

March 12, 2019

Kennedy/xgr work/jco

South Dakota legislators are doing a lot of waiting as the final two days of the 2019 session unfold in Pierre.

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton says the veto of the hemp bill yesterday got everyone's attention.....(NEWS21)(that)(:14)

Kennedy says farmers could lose any advantage they might have if the state doesn't proceed with the hemp rules.....(NEWS22)(here)(:18)

Kennedy says hemp supporters could be a few votes short of an over ride in the Senate.....(NEWS23)(side)(:15)

The over ride attempt is first on the House calendar today, but that session has not yet started. (As of 11:45am)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

March 19, 2019

Cwach/xgr end/jco

The main run of the 2019 South Dakota legislative session ended in the early morning hours last Wednesday by passing the budget and leaving to avoid the incoming blizzard.

Democratic Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says he didn't expect that kind of ending.....(NEWS26)(happen)(:26)

The budget provides more money for nursing homes and Cwach says he wants to hear from the providers.....(NEWS27)(country)(:25)

Cwach says this is not the final solution.....(NEWS28)(approach)(:26)

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

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570 WNAX NEWS

Yankton, SD

March 22, 2019

Hunhoff/budget work/jco

South Dakota lawmakers put in a marathon final day last week Wednesday to wrap up the budget and avoid an incoming blizzard.

Representative Jean Hunhoff says the delay was connected to priorities and hemp.....(NEWS16)(of hemp)(:12)

Hunhoff, Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, says the veto of the hemp bill forced them to rewrite parts of the budget.....(NEWS17)(priorities)(:20)

Hunhoff says it came down to differences between the House and Senate.....(NEWS18)(upon)(:23)

Legislators return to Pierre for the final day of the 2019 session next Friday.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

March 26, 2019

Hunhoff/xgr – nursing homes/jco

South Dakota legislators this year included a ten percent increase in Medicaid funding for nursing home patients, which will be about an eighteen-million-dollar boost.

Representative Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says Governor Kristi Noem also included five million dollars in innovation grants.....(NEWS26)(them)(:21)

Hunhoff says it is one time money.....(NEWS27)(also)(:12)

Hunhoff, Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, says nursing homes have to change their management practices.....(NEWS28)(services)(:16)

About a dozen nursing home have closed in recent years, most connected to the low Medicaid reimbursement rate.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton,SD

March 28, 2019

Cwach/first year/jco (sh-walk)

Representative Ryan Cwach of Yankton says his first legislative session in Pierre was a learning experience, which he tried to put to good use.....(NEWS11)(online)(:12)

Cwach says despite some bills falling short, he plans to bring them back next year.....(NEWS12)(for sure)(:25)

Cwach, a democrat, says he promised new ideas.....(NEWS13)(capital)(:10)

Cwach says he didn't expect the final day to end at 3AM on a Wednesday morning.

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WNAX AM & FM News

Yankton, SD

March 29, 2019

Russell/Heinert/Kennedy/rebuke – emergency/jco

What started as a legislative resolution to rebuke South Dakota Congressmen Dusty Johnson for voting against President Trump's emergency measures to secure the US – Mexican border, turned into a flood emergency message.

The initial sponsor, Senator Lance Russell of Hot Springs thought it was important to get legislative intent on the record concerning the border situation.....(NEWS6)(January)(:27)

Russell says he agreed to a friendly hoghouse move by Senator Troy Heinert of Mission to insert language asking the states Congressional delegation to move quickly once a flood disaster is declared by Governor Kristi Noem. Heinert says the legislature needs to weigh in.....(NEWS7)(President)(:26)

Senator Craig Kennedy of Yankton moved for a do pass recommendation and unanimous consent.....(NEWS8)(Dakota)(:27)

The issue was debated in the Senate State Affairs Committee that met (Friday morning) before the final day of the 2019 legislative session.

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