



KC Group Set For Riverboat Days Tonight
River City

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Wanted: Tuition Freeze

S.D. Regents Look To Keep Costs Stable For On-Campus Residents

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Board of Regents wants to freeze tuition and fees for on-campus resident students in its 2015 budget proposal.

The regents' draft budget, approved Thursday during a meeting in Sioux Falls, would keep students' costs stable by increasing state funding to cover an expected \$6 million that's due to inflation and a rise in the costs of salaries, bene-

fits and health insurance claims.

The original proposal sought a \$4.6 million increase, but board members asked staff to allow for an expected 15 percent jump in state health insurance claim costs.

Dean Krogman, the board's president, said the regents don't want to be in the position of having to later consider a tuition increase because it didn't plan for higher health costs.

"What we have to hold true to is that freezing tuition," Krogman said.

The proposal will go to Gov. Dennis Dau-

gaard, who can make changes before he submits it to the Legislature.

Krogman said the state is self-insured for its health benefits, so the anticipated jump would be in claims, not premiums.

Regent Harvey Jewett said he worries that a 15 percent jump estimate may be too low, as many in the industry are looking at claim costs rising 30 percent or higher.

He said it would be hard to go back to the

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SPORTS



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INSIDE



USA Weekend

* * *

Tepid Retail Sales Raising Doubts About Economy

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — Bleaker outlooks at retailers like Wal-Mart and Macy's are raising doubts that consumers will spend enough in coming months to lift the still-super U.S. economy.

Though the economy is growing steadily, Americans are being hampered by weak pay, higher taxes and tepid hiring. Sluggish overseas economies are also slowing sales for U.S. retailers. It's a picture the Federal Reserve will weigh in deciding whether to scale back its bond purchases as soon as next month.

"Consumers aren't going to start spending with abandon until we see much stronger job and wage growth," says Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo.

Average weekly paychecks have grown just 1.3 percent since the recession ended more than four years ago. Over the past 12 months, pay has trailed even low inflation. That's partly why spending has remained lackluster and why many Americans may be postponing purchases at department stores so they can buy cars, homes and other costly necessities.

Americans increased their spending at an annual rate of just 1.8 percent in the April-June quarter — down from a 2.3 percent rate in the January-March period. Consumer spending is expected to

ECONOMY | PAGE 11A

Officials Seek ATV Ban For Ditches Near Yankton

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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After attempts to find other solutions, local officials are requesting that the South Dakota Transportation Commission ban off-road vehicles on two segments of highway ditches near Yankton.

Last October, the commission tabled the proposed ban and instead asked area representatives of the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and the Southeast South Dakota ATV Association to discuss alternate plans.

Off-road vehicles have damaged vegetation and caused ditch erosion.

"Between the three groups, we just couldn't come up with an alternative to get (ATVs) out of the right-of-way and to stop the damage they were causing," said Ron Peterson, the Yankton-area engineer for the SDDOT. "At the DOT, our primary goal is safety and the preservation of infrastructure. When we see these things happening, we don't like to enforce a ban like this, but we're forced to in order to protect the taxpayers' investment."

Driveways are probably getting the worst damage, according to Peterson.

"I've had a number of business and home owners down there call me about the damage to their driveways," he said. "They're looking at options of pouring concrete at significant expense. I've told them to wait and see what happens with the ban before they start trying to do things they shouldn't have to."

The Transportation Commission will consider the proposed ditch closures at its meeting on Thursday, Aug. 22, beginning at 9 a.m. in Room 200 of the Becker Hanson Building, 700 East Broadway Avenue in Pierre. People interested in presenting data, opinions and arguments for or against the proposed rules may do so in person at the hearing or by sending comments to: Operations Support, South Dakota Department of Transportation, 700 East Broadway Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

The areas being considered for the ban are:

- Highway 50 from Ferdig Avenue to Belair Road, from near mile marker 385 to

ATV | PAGE 3A

A Mighty Wall-op



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dr. Ryan Maderak, an assistant professor of physics at Mount Marty College, takes a mighty swing with a gold sledgehammer at a wall inside MMC's "Old Library" Thursday as part of the "ground blessing" to commence a new \$3 million renovation of the facility. The project will provide a new home for science and nursing students currently studying and working in Bede Hall.

MMC Swings Into Action

\$3M Renovation Project Will Benefit Sciences, Nursing

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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When it came to launching the new Avera Science and Nursing Complex, Mount Marty College officials and donors took their best swing.

The \$3 million renovation project for the Old Library and former Mount Marty High School building begins today (Friday). Completion of the first phase is scheduled for August 2014, with the second phase started upon completion of the first phase.

The project will provide a new home for science and nursing students currently studying and working in Bede Hall, constructed in 1936.

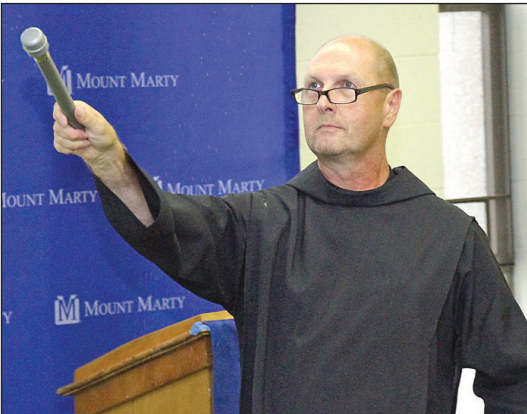
But first, Thursday's "ground blessing" ceremony in the Old Library building allowed audience members to take a whack at an Old Library wall with a golden sledgehammer.

MMC President Joseph Benoit, donning a hard hat and safety goggles, sought out the first person to put the hammer down.

"A college president with a hard hat and sledgehammer is a scary thing," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

After a pause, Duane Frick stepped forward for the first swing.

"I'm not afraid of it," joked Frick, who along with Dick Kulbel represented the Otto Ullrich Trust Fund



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Rev. Tom Wordekemper, Mount Marty's campus chaplain, sprinkles holy water in the Old Library as part of the "ground blessing" of the facility in preparation for a \$3 million renovation project scheduled to begin today (Friday).

benefiting the complex's new botanical laboratory.

Once the ice — or more accurately, the wall — was broken, others got into the spirit of the moment. Next came Pam Rezac, the CEO of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital of Yankton, which provided the seed money for the MMC renovation project.

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her·voice YANKTON STAYCATION GIVEAWAY

Staycation Package #1:

Best Western Kelly Inn.....	One Night's Hotel Stay
Fox Run Golf Course.....	One 18 Hole Round with Cart & 3 Range Tokens
Summit Activities Center.....	\$50 Gift Certificate
Avera Sacred Heart Massage.....	\$60 Gift Certificate
Xtreme Salon & Spa.....	\$50 Gift Certificate
The Old Lighthouse.....	\$50 Gift Certificate
Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce.....	\$50 in Chamber Bucks

Staycation Package #2:

Fox Run Golf Course.....	One 18 Hole Round with Cart & 3 Range Tokens
Summit Activities Center.....	\$50 Gift Certificate
Avera Sacred Heart Massage.....	\$60 Gift Certificate
Riverfront Events Center.....	One Night's Hotel Stay
Xtreme Salon & Spa.....	\$50 Gift Certificate
The Old Lighthouse.....	\$50 Gift Certificate
Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce.....	\$50 in Chamber Bucks

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All entries must be received by Tuesday, August 20, 2013. See hervoiceonline.com for rules and information.

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