



Cold, Blustery, Light Snow

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75¢



SPORTS



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9 DAYS UNTIL
SPRING

SD Cash Projection May Come Up Short

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota likely won't see as much money come in next year as was projected when Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed his state budget in early December, state economists told the Legislature's budget-writing committee Monday.

Even though a growing economy is expected to boost the collections of sales tax, the state's largest general revenue source, collections from the bank tax and unclaimed property are predicted to fall, the economists said.

Jim Terwilliger, an economist for the governor's budget office, predicted ongoing general state revenue will be about \$8.4 million below projections for the current year and about \$6 million lower than expected for the next budget year, which begins July 1. Aaron Olson, a financial analyst for the Legislature, also predicted revenue will fall short of the December projections — by about \$6 million this year and \$4 million next year.

Though the projected shortfalls are a tiny portion of the nearly \$1.4 billion general fund budget, Senate Appropriations chair Deb Peters, R-Hartford, said the estimates are a "little sobering."

The Joint Appropriations Committee planned to make a formal decision later Monday or early Tuesday on how much revenue to expect, which they'll use to determine the size of next year's budget.

The House and Senate plan to pass the budget by Friday, the final day of the main run of this year's legislative session.

"It's going to come down to making changes in the governor's proposed budget in order to fund the Legislature's priorities," Peters said.

School districts and facilities that provide health care to low-income people through Medicaid hope lawmakers will give them more money than Daugaard has proposed. Peters noted that

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Texting Ban

Pierre Showdown Looms

Senate Issues Dare To House With Amended Bill

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Legislature's two sides are headed into a showdown over how tough to make a ban against texting while driving on South Dakota's streets and highways.

The Senate took the hard line Monday and adopted amendments that would make texting a primary offense — meaning law enforcement

could stop a motorist seen in the act — punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

The changes came from Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, who's been trying for years to get a texting ban passed into law. Other senators warned him the House of Representatives would kill the Senate version.

"Our opportunity is going to be lost for another entire year," Sen. Mark Kirkeby, R-Rapid City, said.

Last week a House committee killed Vehle's bill that was much softer. It sought a \$100 fine and would have made texting a secondary offense, meaning the motorist needed to be pulled over for some other violation before a texting citation could be issued.

The bill amended Monday by Vehle originated from House Speaker Brian Gosch, R-Rapid City. The House had passed Gosch's version last month. It called for a \$25 fine, a secondary offense and a repeal of the local bans adopted by eight

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Firefighters: Help Wanted

Yankton Fire Department Faces Rarity With Open Slots Available

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton Fire Department is looking for new volunteers — something its deputy fire chief is proud to say doesn't happen very often.

"We don't have a lot of turnover," Larry Nickles said. "In many places, they have a hard time keeping or getting volunteers. This is the first opening we've had in five years, and it's only because of retirement and a move to another city for a job."

The department is looking for two individuals between the ages of 21 and 45 who live within the Yankton city limits.

Also, Nickles said additional volunteers who reside in the Lewis and Clark Lake area are being sought.

"We only have four firefighters out there now," he stated. "We'd like to have seven to 10. The ones out there now do a good job of getting the fire trucks out (of the Lake Station on Highway 52 just west of 435th Avenue), so we haven't been too bad off."

Applications must be turned in by April 7. More information can be found at www.yanktonfd.com or by visiting Fire Station #2 at 201



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Local firefighters are shown battling a house fire west of Yankton last week. The Yankton Fire Department currently has two openings — a rarity, says Assistant Fire Chief Larry Nickles, because there is usually very little turnover in personnel.

West 23rd Street.

Selected applicants will have an interview with the Yankton Volunteer Fire Department Executive Committee.

As part of the interview process, applicants will be required to perform a standard physical ability test that will include (but not be limited to) wearing firefighter structural bunker gear, donning a self-contained breathing apparatus

with facemask, carrying a hose pack for a minimum of 50 feet and climbing a ladder while wearing gear.

If selected to become a member of the department, candidates will be required to pass a physical exam with a physician at the Yankton Medical Clinic. According to Nickles, the cost of the physical exam will be picked up by the department.

Candidates will be required to attend and com-

plete South Dakota firefighter classes, which will be held at the Yankton Fire Station No. 2.

Finally, each candidate will be secretly voted on for acceptance by the entire active body of firefighters after six months of employment. The candidate must receive a two-thirds majority vote in order to continue his or her

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Weld Done



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Josh Svatos (second from left) of Yankton's Regional Technical Education Center explains to Chauntele Wright, a Black Hills State faculty member, and Michael McDonald (far right), the Yankton County veteran services officer, how RTEC's virtual welding simulator works while John Darcy of the Mitchell Technical Institute demonstrates with the device Monday at the Technical Education Center. The demonstration was part of a daylong open house hosted by RTEC in support of its current Workforce Development Fund Drive, which lasts through the end of the month.

Yankton School Board

Teachers OK'd For Schools

BY DEREK BARTOS
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The Yankton School Board approved the addition of two elementary teachers to the district as part of several actions Monday night regarding personnel.

Beadle Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School will each add one fifth grade teacher beginning in the 2014-15 school year to keep class sizes manageable. Currently, the two schools both have three sections of fourth grade but only two fifth grade teachers.

"We would have well over 30 kids in each of the two classes, so it's something we need to do," said Yankton School District Superintendent Wayne Kindle.

Before approving the motion, board members noted that enrollment trends indicate that three sections will likely be necessary in the future, not only for the two fifth grade classes, but also for the other classes that currently have them.

The school board also approved replacing two part-time special education paraprofessionals at Lincoln Elementary with one full-time special education teacher.

The staff modification is necessary to better suit students' needs that have evolved during the past few years, said Kathy Wagner, YSD director of student services and special education.

"This is something I've had my eye on for a while," she said. "The numbers there are high. The last three years, we've ranged from 35 to 43 kids on a caseload for one teacher. That is astronomical in my mind."

The net increase in cost to the district from the change will be approximately \$20,000 from the special education fund, according to board president Jim Fitzgerald.

"This has nothing to do with adding

SCHOOL | PAGE 5

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