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Friday, April 1

FFA Little I in Brookings

Student Congress at Brookings

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, smile potato, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Cody Hanson, Jake McKiver, Melanie Rossow

Saturday, April 2

State DI Competition in Mitchell

Birthdays: Doug Doeden, Vera Musil, Randy Jaeschke

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, April 3

Birthdays: Adlyn Larsen, Haley Unzen, Marc Johnson, Randy Jaeschke, Sue Stanley

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Worship with Communion

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion and Baptismal Milestones

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, April 4

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza cruncher, baked beans,

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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SDSU, Lake Area Tech Partner on Agriculture Degree

RAPID CITY, S.D. – South Dakota State University will partner with Lake Area Technical Institute to offer students in Watertown an associate of science degree in agricultural science.

The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved a new transfer agreement paving the way for students at the Watertown site to complete an associate degree that is fully transferable, meaning that 60 credit hours could be applied to a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences at SDSU.

Lake Area Tech offers an applied associate of science (AAS) degree in agriculture, but most of the courses are considered technical in nature, with limited course-by-course transferability to bachelor-degree programs. With this change, Lake Area students enrolled in the tech school's AAS degree may pursue the associate of science degree from SDSU simultaneously, providing those graduates an additional pathway to a bachelor's degree.

SDSU officials said it is anticipated that most students completing the SDSU degree at Lake Area Tech will simultaneously complete the technical degree offered in Watertown.

The request is also geared to producing more graduates for South Dakota's agricultural sector, which is about 20 percent of the state's employment, according to the latest South Dakota Agricultural Economic Contribution Study.

Blood Drive set for April 12

Blood drive April 12th from 11:30am to 6pm at the Groton Legion. Call for an appointment Carol Osterman at 397-8498 or June Ackman at 397-8369

City of Columbia has opening for city finance officer and city maintenance worker. Call at 396-2655 apply before April 4th application deadline.

Come and go bridal shower for Sarah Geary, bride-to-be of Sam Thorson, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and at Target.

golden living

We now accept

Avera Health Plans

for out patient therapy.

1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365

Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

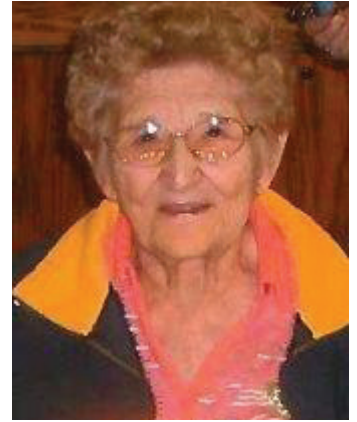
The Life of Thelma Rossow

Services for Thelma Rossow, 97, of Henderson, Nevada and formerly of Groton will be 11 a.m. on Monday, April 4 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, for one hour prior to services on Monday.

Thelma died Monday, March 28, 2016 at her home in Henderson.

Thelma Kathryn was born on September 20, 1918 in Verdon to Russell and Emma (Fredrickson) Hitchcock. She attended and graduated from Conde High School. She was united in marriage with Duane Rossow and together they had four children. Thelma worked for many years at Kessler's Deli in Aberdeen.



In earlier years, Thelma enjoyed bowling and flower-gardening.

Celebrating her life are her children, Judith (Emmet) Anderson of Chandler, Arizona, Gerald Rossow of Groton, Ginger Vickers of Henderson, NV and Debbie Rossow, of Henderson, NV. She is also survived by her six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, one grandchild, three brothers, one sister and a daughter-in-law.

Power Outage Last Night

The west side of Groton experienced several blinks and the homes along State Street were without power for a short period of time. An underground cable going up the pole at the west end of Second Avenue West and connected to a cutout was burned off and was moving in the wind, making contact with the ground at times causing the outages. Once the problem was found, it was quickly repaired.

The video of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting about the Dollar General store is posted on-line. Go to www.397news.com and click on the link on the right side of the page. To date, the video has been watched 309 times. That is above the 250 times it was watched on the Livestream.

The April 4th City Council Meeting will be Livestreamed at gdilive.com

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Today in Weather History

April 1, 1960: Heavy snow of 4 to 10 inches fell in the eastern half of South Dakota. Some highways were closed mainly due to the difficulty of plowing the heavy, wet snow. Power and phone failures of short duration were caused by the snowfall in the Aberdeen area, which received 7.5 inches, setting the record for April 1st. Snowfall with high water content aggravated floods that were currently in progress on the James, Vermillion and Big Sioux Rivers.

April 1, 2011: Snowmelt flooding in March continued across much of central and northeast South Dakota as the rest of the snowpack melted into early April. Many roads along with countless acres of crop and pastureland remained flooded. Roads, culverts, and bridges were damaged across the region. Several roads were washed out with many closed. Many homes were threatened with some surrounded by water. Rising lake levels in northeast South Dakota also threatened and flooded many homes. Many people had to use four-wheelers to get to their homes. A Presidential Disaster was declared for all counties do to the flooding damage. The total damage estimates, including March, were from 4.5 to 5 million dollars for the area. The flooding diminished across much of the area into May. The snowmelt flooding damaged many roads and highways, including U.S. Highway 81, throughout Hamlin County. Many roads were closed throughout the county. In the late evening of April 13th on U.S Highway 81, a car with four people inside went through a flooded area at a high rate of speed and ended up in the flooded ditch. They all got out with no injuries. The snowmelt runoff caused Lake Kampeska to rise to nearly 44 inches overfull. The lake flooded several roads and also threatened many homes. Sandbagging was done to hold off the rising lake. Waves and ice chunks did eventually do some damage to homes. Also, many boat lifts were damaged. Mud creek near Rauville also went slightly above the flood stage of 9 feet to 9.64 feet for a couple days in early April.

1875: The first daily newspaper weather map was published by the London Times. The first American newspaper weather map would be published on 5/12/1876 in the New York Herald. Weather maps would first appear on a regular basis beginning on 5/9/1879 in the New York Daily Graphic.






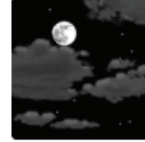

1960: The first weather satellite, TIROS 1 (Television and Infra-Red Observation Satellite) began sending pictures back to earth. The TIROS series would have little benefit to operational weather forecasters because the image quality was low and inconsistent. The most important understanding achieved from the new technology was the discovery of the high degree of organization of large-scale weather systems, a fact never apparent from ground and aircraft observations.

1973: Tornado touches down near Brentsville, Virginia, then traveled to Fairfax hitting Woodson High School. This F2 tornado injured 37 and caused \$14 million in damage.

1987: Forty-five cities across the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 37 degrees at Apalachicola, 34 degrees at Jacksonville Florida, 30 degrees at Macon Georgia, and 22 degrees at Knoxville Tennessee, were records for April.

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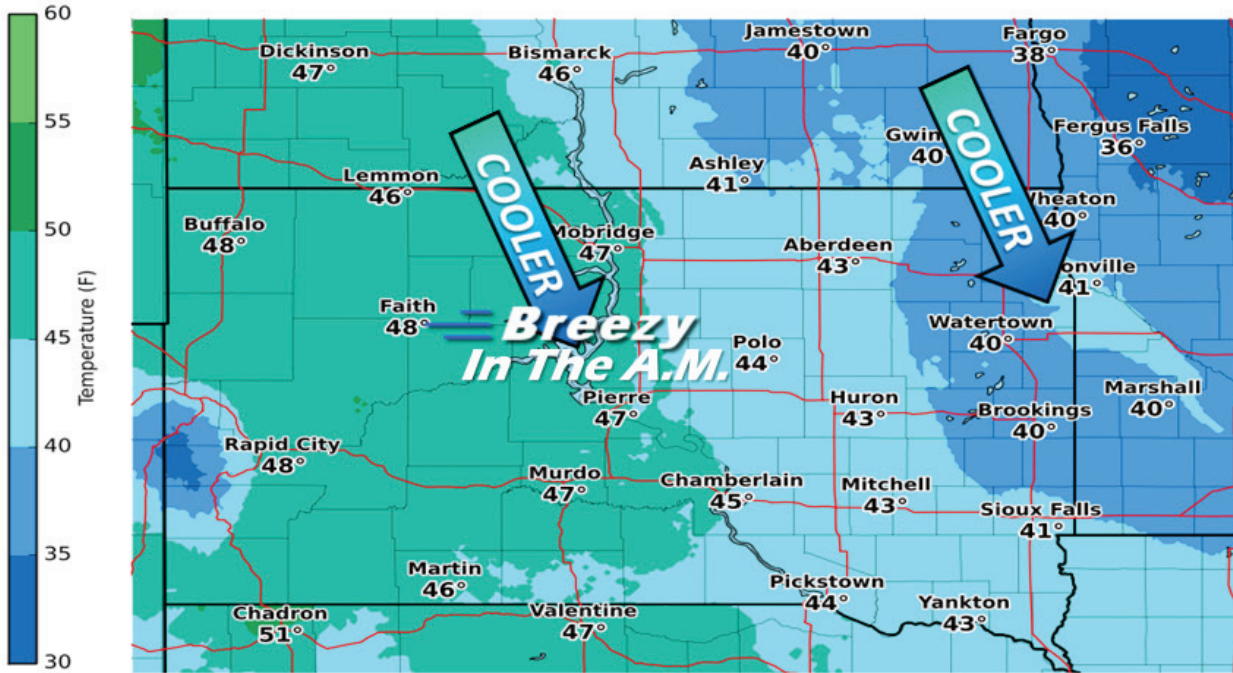
Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
20%				20%		
Isolated Snow Showers then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 43 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 51 °F



Cool Today With Snow Showers Ending




Cool Afternoon Highs Today Valid: April 01, 2016



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
04/01/2016 03:16 AM CDT

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Published on: 04/01/2016 at 5:00AM

Scattered snow showers across parts of central South Dakota and breezy conditions will end this morning. Some areas could see a light accumulation of snow from these showers. Otherwise, temperatures will be on the cool side of things today before a warming trend develops for the weekend.

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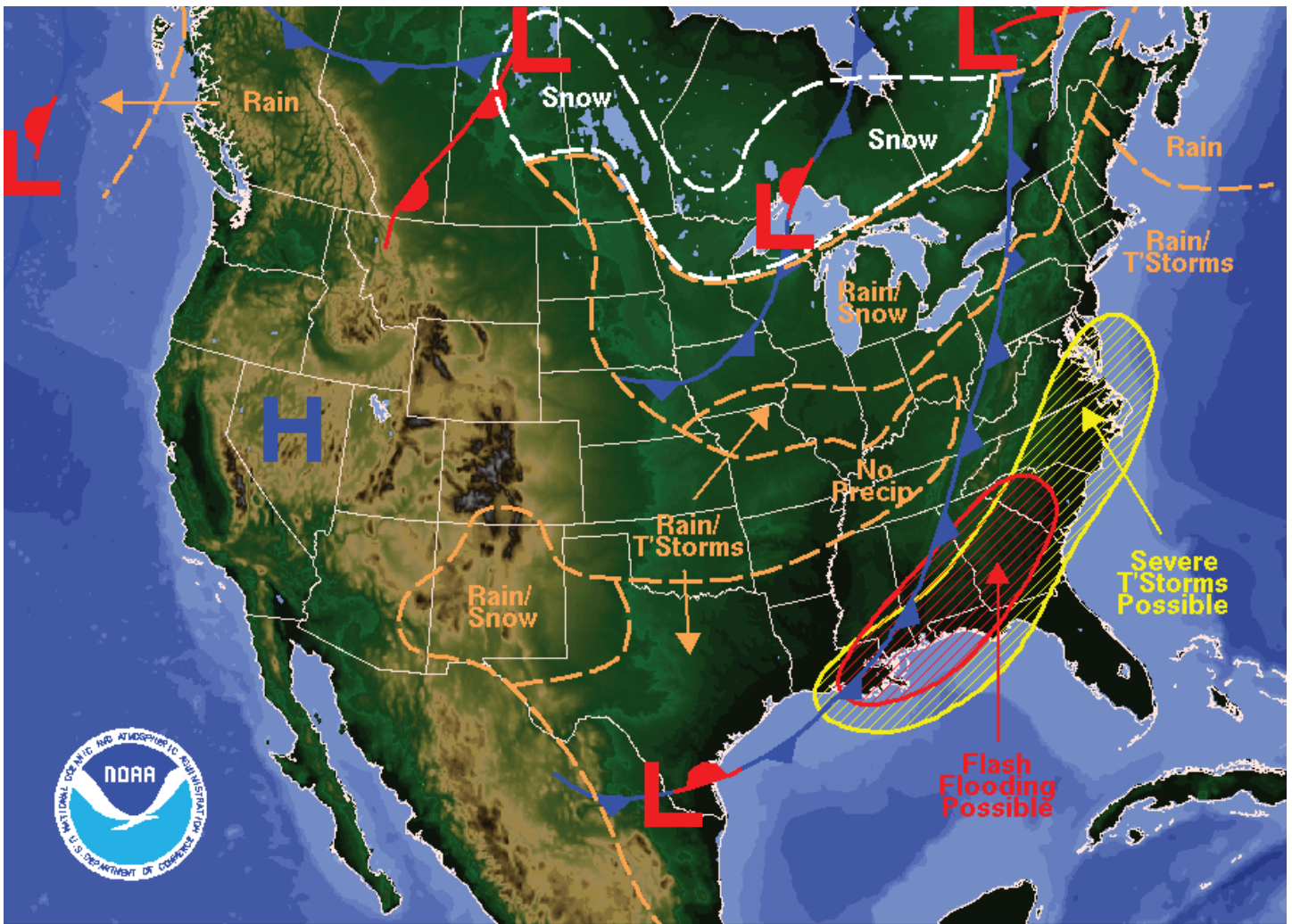
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 49.3
Low: 32.1
High Gust: 31
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 80° in 1928
Record Low: 0 in 1899
Average High: 49°F
Average Low: 26°F
Average Precip in April.: 0.04
Precip to date in April.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 2.22
Precip Year to Date: 0.95
Sunset Tonight: 8:02 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Apr 01, 2016, issued 4:11 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THINK!

A professor of philosophy was being wheeled into the operating room for a serious procedure. For several days before the operation he slept very little and spent most days in great fear. At last he came up with an idea that gave him some peace.

When removing the final layer of clothing before making an incision, the surgeon noticed a word written at the exact location where the surgery was to take place. Looking carefully he read: THINK!

Another philosopher once said, "Five percent of the population thinks; ten percent of the population thinks they think and the rest of the population would rather die than think."

A Psalmist once said, "I pondered the direction of my life, and I turned to follow Your laws. I will hurry, without delay, to obey Your commands."

Our thoughts are very powerful. They are the beginning of all that we say and all that we do. We seldom pause to ponder how frequently we react to the events of life rather than to act after we pause and pray and ask God for His guidance. Responsible Christian behavior comes from knowing and obeying God's instructions and commands.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to meditate on Your Word so constantly that Your teachings will fill our minds and guide our thinking. In Jesus' Name.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:59-60 I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.

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News from the Associated Press

South Dakota women to play Florida Gulf Coast for WNIT title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota women's basketball team will play Florida Gulf Coast University for the championship of the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

FGCU beat Michigan 71-62 in a semifinal matchup on Thursday night. USD on Wednesday night had downed Oregon 88-54 to advance to the finals.

USD will host the championship game. It's scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. The game will be broadcast on the CBS Sports Network.

Midwest economic survey index rises for 3rd time in 3 months

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Figures from a survey of supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states have risen for the third month in a row, suggesting more improvement in the regional economy.

A report issued Friday says the Mid-American Business Conditions Index rose to 50.6 in March from 50.5 in February and 48.3 in January. The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says a strong U.S. dollar and economic weakness among the nation's chief trading partners continues to slow regional growth.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

A look at charges filed in South Dakota visa program scandal

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's attorney general has filed criminal charges against a former state official in connection with a troubled program that aimed to attract investment dollars from wealthy immigrants in exchange for easier entry into the United States.

A quick rundown on the allegations and the history of the program:

THE CHARGES

Joop Bollen, 52, was charged Thursday with five felony counts alleging he inappropriately transferred for personal use more than \$1.2 million — on different occasions in 2012 — from a fund his company was supposed to maintain to protect the state from losses, though a court affidavit says money in matching amounts was largely put back in to replenish the money taken.

Authorities link the money transfers to purchases of an Egyptian artifact and bonds, and a loan to another person, among other uses. A state investigator said in the court affidavit that a nearly \$167,000 transfer does not appear to have been refunded.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said additional charges may be coming as authorities continue the investigation.

THE PROGRAM

The federal EB-5 visa program allows people to seek U.S. residency if they invest at least \$500,000 in approved projects. Bollen first led South Dakota's participation in the program as a state employee and later as the head of SDRC Inc., the private company he founded.

TROUBLED PAST

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen and former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary Richard Benda. The program came under public scrutiny in 2013 after Benda committed suicide as state officials prepared felony theft charges against him in connection with

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financial misconduct.

The investigation stemmed from allegations that Benda double-billed the state for flights and redirected \$550,000 in economic development money for his own use.

The FBI announced in June 2015 it had ended an investigation into the program in South Dakota and that the state's U.S. Attorney would not pursue any prosecution.

WHAT DOES BOLLEN SAY?

Bollen, of Aberdeen, declined comment to The Associated Press about the charges.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Bollen is scheduled to make his initial court appearance Friday in Aberdeen. The Governor's Office of Economic Development terminated its contract with SDRC Inc. in 2013 and now administers the EB-5 program. Since that move, there haven't been any new projects.

A U.S. immigration agency notified the state in September 2015 that it intends to terminate South Dakota's participation in the program. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services determined that South Dakota's regional center wasn't promoting economic growth and said administrators have failed to submit required information to the agency.

South Dakota's economic development office defended its ability to administer the program, saying problems flagged by the federal government stemmed from SDRC.

Professional Bull Riders return to South Dakota Friday

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Professional Bull Riders return to South Dakota for the second year in a row Friday.

The three-day event at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls will feature the world's top 35 bull riders. Riders from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and the U.S. will compete for a chance to win the \$30,000 event title.

In March 2015, 2004 PBR World Champion Mike Lee captured his first win of the year in Sioux Falls. Lee will return to defend his title at the First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard Invitational, alongside two-time and reigning World Champion, J.B. Mauney, as well three-time PBR World Champion Silvano Alves.

The event kicks off at 8 p.m. Friday.

Regents put USD in charge of University Center

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved the University of South Dakota to serve as lead institution at University Center-Sioux Falls.

The regents say the center will continue its longstanding multi-institutional collaboration that will allow students to enroll in academic programs offered by any of the state universities.

But under the new structure, University Center will emphasize a new focus on two-year associate degree programs that provide in-demand workforce skills while leading to bachelor degree completion.

Regents Executive Director Mike Rush says bachelor- and graduate-degree programs will remain available at University Center-Sioux Falls, based on local needs and demand.

USD, SDSU, and DSU have historically shared operational responsibility for the off-campus center.

Regents authorize limited multi-year contracts

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has modified its personnel policies to allow for the granting of multi-year contracts to certain head coaches, athletic directors and public university presidents.

Thursday's action lifts a policy that had been preventing the University of South Dakota from officially signing its new head football coach.

University of South Dakota officials in December announced the hiring of Western Illinois coach Bob

Nielson, and Nielson has been busy assembling his staff after agreeing to a \$255,000 annual salary. But Nielson was seeking a long-term commitment and state policy allowed only one-year contracts.

Michael Rush, the regents' executive director, said that in order for the state's schools to remain competitive when they recruit, the institutions must be able to offer longer-term contracts for such positions.

Sanford buys medical center from Minnesota city of Tracy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health has purchased Sanford Tracy Medical Center from the Minnesota city of Tracy.

Sanford has been operating the facility, which has been owned by the city. Under the agreement which takes effect Thursday, Sanford will now own the medical center buildings and grounds. Officials say employees will not see any changes as they were already employed by the health system.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

Tracy Mayor Steve Ferrazzano says it's a "win-win" for the town, as it will retain quality health care close to home while no longer having the financial responsibilities that come with owning a health care facility. Ferrazzano says the sale will free up taxpayer dollars for other projects.

Sanford is headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Fargo, North Dakota.

High court: AG's loan ballot measure explanation is valid

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The attorney general's office doesn't have to rewrite an explanation of a ballot measure that would cap short-term lenders' interest rates in South Dakota to include the industry's contention that it would drive those companies out of business, the state Supreme Court said in an opinion released Thursday.

The high court affirmed a circuit judge's ruling from last year upholding Attorney General Marty Jackley's written explanation for the initiative, which would cap interest rates on payday and car title borrowing at 36 percent annually. An opponent of the measure from the short-term lending industry challenged Jackley's explanation of the initiative, arguing that it doesn't correctly state the effect and purpose of the cap.

"I have worked to provide a fair, clear and simple summary of the proposed measure in order to assist our voters," Jackley said. "I am pleased that the Supreme Court has re-affirmed the fairness of my attorney general explanation."

Supporters say the ballot measure is meant to protect consumers from predatory lenders whose high-rate loans can trap people in debt. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau says a typical two-week payday loan can have fees that equate to an annual interest rate of nearly 400 percent.

Attorneys for Erin Ageton, an opponent of the initiative and an employee of a car title lender, argued that the explanation doesn't make clear that the proposal threatens the industry in South Dakota because the cap would prevent lenders from recouping the costs of providing loans.

Eddie Greim, an attorney for Ageton, said they are disappointed with the court's decision, but are "satisfied that the message is out." He said short-term lenders would have to close if the measure passes because it would limit them from earning enough to pay workers or rent storefronts.

"Voters know that this will shut down short-term credit, and they're not going to be fooled by the 36 percent limit," he said.

An attorney for Ageton has said that she is an employee of Georgia-based Select Management Resources. The company has financed a political committee pushing for a constitutional amendment to cap interest rates in South Dakota at 18 percent annually but allow higher ones if the borrower agrees to them. Critics say it's an attempt to put a loophole allowing unlimited interest rates into the state constitution.

Opponents of both initiatives are also challenging signatures turned in to the secretary of state's office to get them on the ballot for the November 2016 election.

Authorities identify victim of fatal crash in Jones County

MURDO, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified the victim of a fatal crash in Jones County. The Highway Patrol says 39-year-old Denny Steele, of Rapid City, lost control of his sport utility vehicle on U.S. Highway 83 Wednesday morning. The SUV rolled in the ditch about 9 miles south of Murdo. The patrol says Steele was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene.

\$43 million veterans home dedicated in Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs has dedicated the newly constructed Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

Officials including Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and state Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Zimmerman gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday.

The two-story, \$43 million building has 76 skilled nursing beds and 24 independent living rooms.

Residents have access to physical therapy, speech therapy, fitness, recreation, workshops and an auditorium. Community space in the center of the building on the main floor includes a chapel, cafeteria, postal service, pharmacy, barber shop and community room.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. WISCONSIN WAITS TO WEIGH IN ON TRUMP

Donald Trump has endured one of the worst weeks of his campaign as a crucial primary looms in Wisconsin, where a big loss would greatly reduce the frontrunner's chances of securing the delegates he needs to clinch the GOP nomination.

2. WHERE THE MINIMUM WAGE COULD SOON REACH \$15 PER HOUR

California and New York are poised to become the highest-paid minimum-wage states in the U.S., after governors reached deals with lawmakers to raise the lowest amount a worker can be paid to a record-shattering \$15 an hour.

3. NORTH KOREA NOT THE ONLY TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT NUCLEAR SUMMIT

Dozens of world leaders assembling for a Washington security summit will confront a disparate array of modern-day threats, ranging from government actors like North Korea to murkier groups like the Islamic State.

4. CONSTRUCTION FIRM'S OFFICIALS DETAINED IN KOLKATA

Indian police detain five construction company officials after an overpass collapsed onto a crowded Kolkata neighborhood, killing 23. Police said earlier that they were investigating company officials for alleged culpable homicide.

5. US HIRING COULD CONTINUE ITS STEADY RISE

The U.S. government issues its jobs report for March. Economists forecast another solid month of gains, which could provide a needed boost to wider economic growth for the rest of this year.

6. AP REVEALS KENYAN RUNNERS KEPT RACING DESPITE DOPING BANS

The Associated Press finds several examples, on different continents, of Kenyans continuing to compete while they were meant to be suspended for doping. Race directors are partly to blame.

7. CHICAGO TEACHERS PREPARE TO WALK OFF THE JOB

America's third-largest school district braces for an unprecedented one-day strike. The teachers say they want lawmakers to adequately fund education and other programs.

8. SOUTHEAST ASIA IS PARCHED, AND CHINA IS BLAMED

Critics of Chinese and Lao dams on the Mekong River blame the projects for worsening a historic drought in Southeast Asian countries downstream.

9. WHO FACES IMPEACHMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA

AP explains what's behind the movement to oust Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, and how it could play out.

10. WHY BASEBALL IS COLLECTING BIOMETRIC DATA ON PLAYERS

Sensors attached to players' bodies can track 39 metrics in an effort to refine pitchers' deliveries and stem the spate of torn elbow ligaments and surgeries. But players are concerned over who owns the data.

California, New York poised to raise minimum wage to \$15

ALISON NOON, Associated Press

JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California and New York are poised to become the highest-paid minimum-wage states in the nation after governors for both reached deals with lawmakers to raise the lowest amount a worker can be paid to a record-shattering \$15 an hour.

Gov. Jerry Brown said he will sign California's new minimum-wage bill Monday in Los Angeles after it passed the Legislature on Thursday.

Across the country in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo reached a tentative deal late Thursday with his state's top lawmakers to also raise his state's minimum wage to \$15.

The actions in two of the nation's most labor-friendly states come as the income divide has become a key issue across the U.S. in this presidential election year. President Barack Obama, who first proposed an increase to the federal minimum wage in 2013, applauded the states' actions and called on the Republican-controlled Congress to "keep up with the rest of the country."

"California takes a massive leap forward today in the fight to rebalance our nation's economy," said Art Pulaski, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

California's current \$10 an hour minimum wage is tied with Massachusetts for the highest among states. Only Washington, D.C., at \$10.50 per hour is higher. New York's minimum wage is \$9.

Democrats who control both legislative chambers in California hailed the increase as a boon to more than 2 million workers. Brown, also a Democrat, said it proves the nation's largest state can get things done and help people get ahead.

Republicans, however, echoed fears from business owners and economists that California's annual increases — eventually tied to inflation — will compound the state's image as hostile to business.

Assemblyman Jim Patterson, R-Fresno, said the increase would force small business owners to make layoffs "with tears in their eyes," ultimately resulting in less employment.

The increases would start with a boost from \$10 to \$10.50 on Jan. 1. Businesses with 25 or fewer employees would have an extra year to comply. Increases of \$1 an hour would come every January until 2022. The governor could delay increases in times of budgetary or economic downturns.

The tentative deal reached by New York officials Thursday would be phased in regionally in the nation's fourth-largest state. It would also eventually affect more than 2 million workers.

In New York City, the wage would increase to \$15 by the end of 2018, though businesses with fewer than 10 employees would get an extra year. In the New York City suburbs of Long Island and Westchester County, the wage would rise to \$15 by the end of 2022. The increases are even more drawn out upstate, where the wage would hit \$12.50 in 2021 and then increase to \$15 based on an undetermined schedule.

"This minimum wage increase will be of national significance," Cuomo, a Democrat, told reporters Thursday. "It's raising the minimum wage in a way that's responsible."

Cuomo had initially proposed a simpler phase-in: three years in New York City and six years elsewhere. The more gradual, nuanced approach was the result of negotiations with Republicans in the state Senate who worried such a sharp increase would devastate businesses, particularly in the upstate region's more fragile economy.

Brown was previously reluctant to raise California's base wage. He negotiated the deal with labor unions to head off competing labor-backed November ballot initiatives that would have imposed swifter increases