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**Dec. 15
10 shopping
days to Christmas**

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City To Wait On Fox Run Options

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The Yankton City Commission will continue to explore options for turning the financial situation at Fox Run Golf Course around, and commissioners aim for 2017 for solid action.

The commission has been fielding a number of options, ranging from hiring additional staff to bringing in groups to help oversee operations and make capital improvements on the course.



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During the commission's regular meeting Monday night, Commissioner Jake Hoffner said a stronger 2015 is a sign that the situation is improving and that he favors additional full-time staff for the clubhouse.

"We have lost less money this year and I think it tells us that something is starting to work," he said. "I think if we start farming it out, it's not necessary at this point. In certain cases, I'd like to privatize certain things, but in this case, I think it fits into that park matrix

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'Now Is The Time For K-12'



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton School District's meeting Monday featured a discussion of the upcoming 2016 legislative session beginning Jan. 12. District 18 Sen. Bernie Hunhoff and Rep. Mike Stevens addressed the problems in funding sources for education.

School Board, Lawmakers Discuss Issues Looming In Pierre This Winter

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
alissa.woockman@yankton.net

The Yankton School Board received a visit from District 18 Sen. Bernie Hunhoff and Rep. Mike Stevens Monday night to discuss the upcoming 2016 legislative session and the issues that will impact education.

The big concerns between both representatives and the board members are the funding sources for K-12 education.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students published its final report early November. The goal is to raise South Dakota's average teacher pay from \$40,023 to \$48,000 with \$75 million in new revenue.

Many ideas have surfaced as to how the state can generate that money. When the legislative session

begins Jan 12, proposals for these solutions, good and bad, may come too quickly for officials.

"I'm afraid if we open all those cans of worms, we have 151 school districts — one person's inequity is another person's band budget," Hunhoff said. "If we try to fix all these inequities as a precursor to actually fixing the root problems, we aren't going to do it in 38 days. I'm hoping we can narrow the discussion."

According to South Dakota Budget & Policy Institute, state schools have only 75 percent of the funds per student that neighboring state school districts have to educate children.

One solution to the funding problem is eliminating individual revenue sources. For example, accord-

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KYB Looking To Recycle Holiday Lights

BY REILLY BIEL
reilly.biel@yankton.net

People who don't want their Christmas lights anymore have an alternative to putting them in the garbage.

From now through Jan. 15, Keep Yankton Beautiful (KYB) is partnering with Yankton Goodwill to have a used lights and decorations drive, in which unwanted Christmas lights or decorations can be brought to Goodwill for proper disposal. Unwanted decorations like ornaments can also be brought in and resold.

According to KYB director Paula Hallberg, the project came about as the

organization's board members were going through their own holiday decorations and discovered they had more than they needed.

"We decided to bring what we didn't need to Goodwill, as well as lights that didn't work anymore," she said.

They decided to make it a community-wide project, one that is beneficial for both homeowners and the environment.

"If lights are put in the garbage, the chemicals leak out into the groundwater," Hallberg explained. "It takes a lot of those to make a difference, but when



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Hats Off To The Holidays

These members of the Yankton High School Cadet Band got into the holiday spirit when they donned their seasonal headgear for their performance at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre Monday night. It was part of the YHS bands' holiday concert, with songs performed by the Cadet, Symphonic, Concert and Pioneer Jazz bands. Selections presented Monday ranged from "Silent Night" and "We Three Kings" to "A Country Christmas." (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



South Dakota State University President To Step Down

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota State University President David Chicoine is stepping down to teach in the university's economics department, the state Board of Regents said Monday.

The board said Chicoine, who has been in the role since 2007, will leave the post around July 2016 — or sooner if a

replacement is found. Regents President Randy Schaefer said in a statement that the school has "flourished" under Chicoine.

Chicoine, who graduated from the university in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness, said his proudest achievements as the school's leader have involved helping

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