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Hikes Offer 1st Exercise Of The New Year

BY REILLY BIEL
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Those looking to begin their New Year's resolutions with exercise can start off on the right foot.

On Friday, Jan. 1, Lewis & Clark Recreation Area will be hosting a First Day Hike at its Welcome Center. Starting at 10 a.m., there will be a guided bird watching hike in the park followed by a presentation on birding. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. A fitness hike will follow at 11 a.m.

This is the third year of the bird hike and the first year for the fitness hike. Both hikes will take place at the East and West Midway campgrounds in the park.

According to district park manager Shane Bertsch, both hikes were scheduled on the same day to offer different options for the hikers.

"The first hike is for bird watching and seeing what kinds of birds are available this time of year," he said.

Birds expected to be seen include woodpeckers, finches, cardinals, nuthatches and potentially eagles.

The bird watching hike is expected to be no more than an hour. The presentation afterwards is designed to increase the participants' knowledge of birds and bird watching.

"It will give individuals tools to identify common birds seen here and to answer their questions," said assistant park manager Tonna Hartman.

The fitness hike is also an option for those looking to start off the New Year outdoors.

"People should get 22 minutes of physical activity each day," Bertsch said. "We want to start off the year with promoting that and having people get outdoors and enjoying what we

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CLARIFICATION

In the *Press & Dakotan* story (Dec. 24) regarding the two home invasion incidents in Yankton, it should have been clarified that while the incident on Locust St. was ruled a targeted event, the incident on Cedar St. was a random act by the perpetrators, and that residence was not targeted beforehand.

Juvenile Reforms Loom

SD Changes Are Intended To Reduce Commitments Of Youths

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Big reforms take effect for South Dakota's juvenile justice system in 2016. More money will be spent on community services for young offenders. Fewer youths will be placed at state and private facilities.

If the changes work, state government will see a net savings and will cut incarceration numbers by half.

The Legislature adopted the broad package of changes last winter.

The recommendations came from the state courts system, the state departments of social services and corrections, prosecutors, counse-

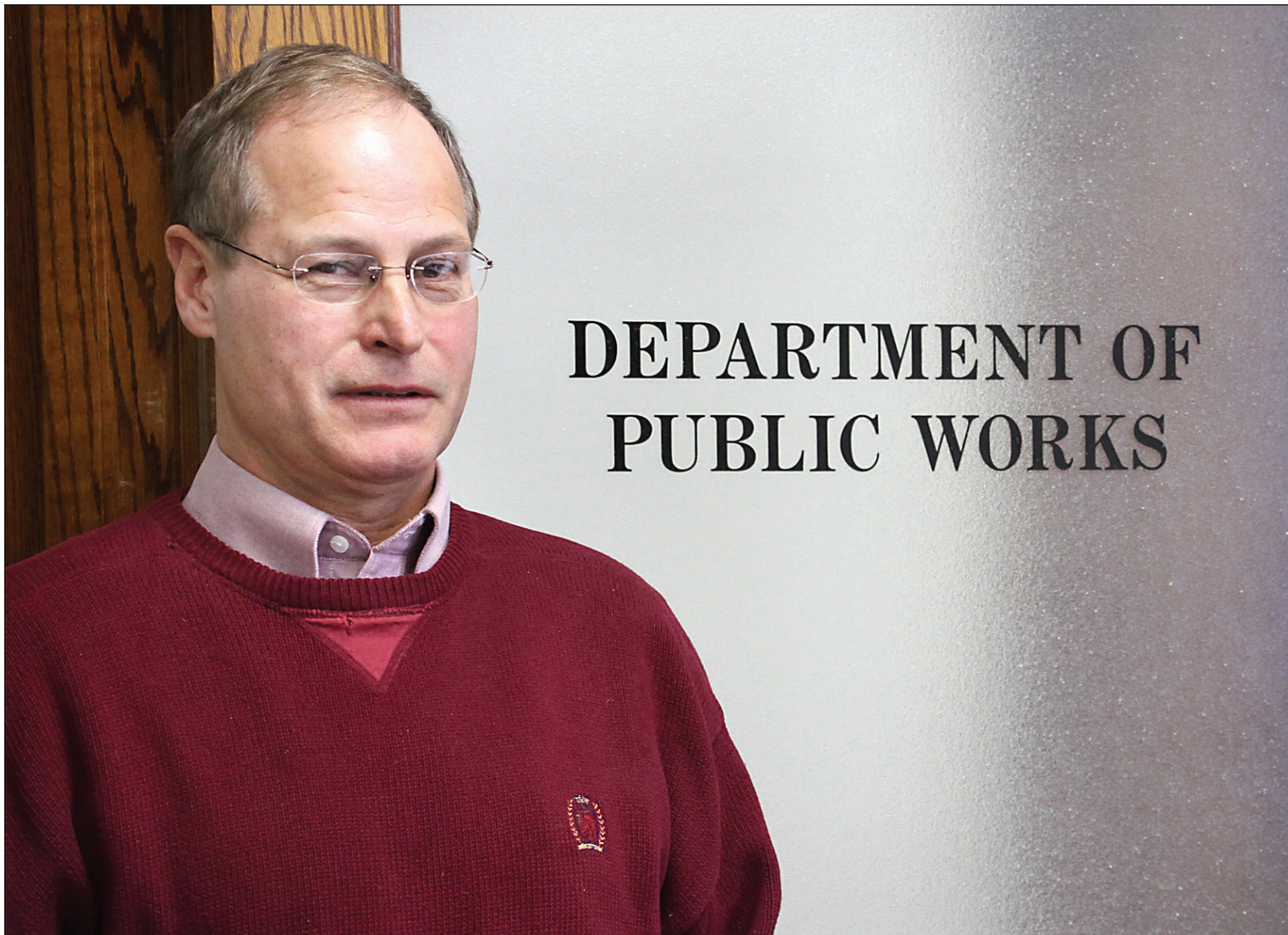
lors and others who work with youth in times of trouble.

A similar approach to reforms for adult offenders won approval from the Legislature two years ago and is showing success.

The hope is the juvenile reforms would

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Closing The Door



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton Public Services Director Kevin Kuhl is retiring Dec. 31 after 25 years with the City of Yankton. Kuhl has overseen numerous changes and upgrades with city services during his time on the job. "The hardest part of retiring is like they say when you die, 'Your in-basket won't be empty.' When you retire, not all the projects will be done," he said.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Preservation Commission Prepares For New Funds

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Yankton County's recently appointed Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hit the ground running Monday with plans on what its new levy will amount to in 2016.

The historic preservation ordinance, which was approved by 56 percent of voters in 2014, allows county money to be designated towards projects that restore and preserve the county's history. The HPC was established more than a year ago by County Commission for the purposes of restoring the Mead building.

At Monday's meeting, County Auditor Patty Hojem reported a \$90,000 budget for the committee to spend in a calendar year. The amount the fund will accumulate from taxes and interest is approximately \$87,836. The money will be carried over yearly and will begin to generate in January.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton County's Historical Preservation Committee member Crystal Nelson explains future prospects for the committee in 2016. With taxes from the new historic preservation ordinance coming in, committee members are planning how to properly designate the funds and how to maximize the effects of the money distributed.

According to Hojem, it will be a special fund under historical preservation that is not limited to the Mead building project, but includes any project that works to preserve history. All money designated will go through the County Commission for approval and be submitted to the selected projects throughout the year.

HPC members voted on designat-

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Kuhl Retiring From City After Years Of Change

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Public Services Director Kevin Kuhl has been serving the City of Yankton in some capacity since he came to town in 1991, but Dec. 31 will mark his last official day on the job.

Despite his impending retirement, Kuhl said he's still more accustomed to looking forward than looking back at his tenure.

"One thing I haven't done a lot of is look back and reflect on what's happened until I got to this point in my career," Kuhl said. "But I still like to look forward. The hardest part of retiring is like they say when you die, 'Your in-basket won't be empty.' When you retire, not all the projects will be done."

Kuhl initially held the position of city engineer before taking over for Gene Hoag, who retired as public services director in 1999.

Kuhl said a desire for a more settled career helped guide him to Yankton.

"For a number of years, I had a career as a consulting engineer in Colorado that was fast-paced, fast-growth and I worked in a lot of different communities," he said. "On the

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