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YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Obama Unveils Gun Violence Package

■ 23 Executive Measures Inked To Promote Info Sharing And To Rekindle Research Of Gun Violence

BY JULIE PACE AND ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Braced for a fight, President Barack Obama on Wednesday unveiled the most sweeping proposals for curbing gun violence in two decades, pressing a reluctant Congress to pass universal background checks and bans on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines like the ones used in the Newtown, Conn., school shooting.

A month after that horrific massacre, Obama also used his presidential powers to enact 23 measures that don't require the backing of lawmakers. The president's executive actions include ordering federal agencies to make more data available for background checks, appointing a director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives, and directing the Centers for Disease Control to research gun violence.

But the president, speaking at White House ceremony, focused his attention on the divided Congress, saying only lawmakers could enact the most effective measures for preventing more mass shootings.

"To make a real and lasting difference, Congress must act," Obama said. "And Congress must act soon."

The president vowed to use "whatever weight this office holds" to press lawmakers into action on his \$500 million plan. He is also calling for improvements in school safety, including putting 1,000 police officers in schools and bolstering mental health care by training more health professionals to deal with young people who may be at risk.



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS
U.S. President Barack Obama embraces Julia Stokes and other children who wrote letters to the White House about gun violence after Obama signed a series of executive orders about the administrator's new gun law proposals in the Eisenhower Executive Office building Washington, DC.

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NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D
During a Yankton Area Progressive Growth capital campaign kick-off Wednesday, organizers used signs built at Yankton's Dakota Trailer facility to show how much money has been raised. The goal of the fundraising drive is \$2.2 million.

YAPG Declares: 'Yes²!' They Can

Second 5-Year Growth Campaign Announced

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Organizers of a capital campaign aimed at expanding Yankton's economy publicly kicked off the effort Wednesday morning by announcing it was already well on its way to raising the \$2.2 million goal.

With the conclusion of Yankton Area Progressive Growth's Yankton Economic Success! (YES!) campaign this year, it announced the launch of a second five-year effort called YES²! during a breakfast at Minervas Grill and Bar.

Mike Dellinger, president of Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG), said it is crucial that Yankton's business community make an investment in the city's future.

"What we're really trying to do is stimulate the growth of Yankton into a wealthier, healthier and smarter community," he said. "We want people here to have a greater opportunity in their working careers to make more money, spend more money and save money. We want to drive opportunities through economics."

In the lead-up to making the campaign public, organizers said they have secured more than \$1.6 million in pledges. On average, investors in the previous

campaign have increased their commitments by 40 percent, according to Jay Werth, who is with National Community Development Services and is directing the Yankton campaign.

YAPG plans to use the \$2.2 million to:

- create a minimum of 300 primary jobs resulting in an annual payroll impact of nearly \$26.5 million by 2017;
- continue with land and building development, as well as other incentives to attract, expand and retain business in Yankton County;
- provide education and training opportunities to support the needs of area industry and business for

YES² | PAGE 11

YWCC To Host Mystery Dinner Theatre And Auction Fundraiser

BY DEREK BARTOS
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An event next month will offer a chance to have a good time to help a serious cause.

The Yankton Women's/Children's Center (YWCC) will be hosting a mystery dinner theatre and auction fundraiser Feb. 9 at the Hillcrest Country Club. Proceeds from "Heart to Heart With the Yankton Women's/Children's Center" will benefit the center's two agencies — the women's shelter and the Family Visitation Center (FVC) — which have become more financially

stressed as more individuals have taken advantage of their services in the past year.

In 2012, the YWCC saw 1,437 shelter nights — an increase of 62 percent compared to previous years. The FVC's numbers also rose from 39 visitations in May to 57 in November, with 108 visitations in December.

YWCC Executive Director Desiree Warren-Johnson attributed the growth to the center's effort to increase not only the services it provides, but also awareness throughout the community.

"The last few years have been

tremendous successes for the agency," she said. "That includes getting our new facility, partnering up with several other disciplines in the community to form the Sexual Assault Community Response Team, and holding different things throughout the year like the (domestic violence) vigil."

While the YWCC's numbers have gone up, its federal funding has not, Warren-Johnson said. Therefore, the center has had to look elsewhere to supplement its income.

"We are seeking the help of

DINNER | PAGE 5



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton Women's/Children's Center Executive Director Desiree Warren-Johnson (left) and Family Visitation Center Coordinator Lyndsay Evans are part of the team planning for "Heart to Heart With the Yankton Women's/Children's Center," a mystery theatre benefit that will be held Feb. 9 at the Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton.

S.D. Senate Approves Future Sale Of Mead Building

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A step was taken in the South Dakota Legislature this week to enable the sale of the Mead Building to the Yankton County Historical Society (YCHS).

The Senate approved a bill that allows the Department of Social Services to sell the historic structure to YCHS at the current appraised value of \$1.

"If and when the society would ever want to purchase the Mead Building, then that appraised value of \$1 is there," said Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R-18). "To me, this is a positive opportunity ... and makes it affordable."

She and the rest of her peers unanimously approved the bill.

In July, the YCHS signed a 20-year lease for the building with the state.

One of the terms of the lease is that YCHS must occupy the building by the end of 2018.



Hunhoff

The organization hopes to renovate the Mead Building into a cultural center and new home for the Dakota Territorial Museum. Currently, plans are to begin moving into the building in early 2018.

Once the renovation is complete, YCHS will have the option to buy the building.

"As long as I've been in the Legislature, there has been this continual discussion about the historical buildings on that (Human Services Center) campus," Hunhoff said. "The YCHS has) such a great vision for the future. This may help solidify public support to continue to contribute to and develop the Mead Building."

The three-story building was designed by Dr. Leonard Mead as part of the South Dakota Human Services Center campus. It was built in 1909 using Sioux quartzite and concrete, and features a marble staircase.

The Mead Building and much of the rest of the historic campus of the Human Services Center was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2009 list of the 11 most endangered historic places in America.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage