

HHS

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Schmidt said using the recently vacated building helps the Humane Society avoid some of the toughest cost hurdles.

"We had hired a consultant to do a planning study for us last spring," she said. "When we finished with that study, we realized that the construction of a new facility was a bigger project financially than we'd envisioned. We were looking at how to bring a new shelter into the community faster than the anticipated deadline of having

to raise \$1 million-\$2 million to build a new facility, so this kind of fell into our laps."

Schmidt says little work has been done so far on the 8,500 square-foot building, but tentative plans are to start off adding laundry and pet-cleaning facilities by mid-spring, build cat and dog kennels by the end of the summer, and to hopefully have the transition complete either by the end of 2014 or sometime in 2015. The timeline will depend on the speed of fundraising.

A solid estimate for renovation costs is expected to be made available within the next 30 days, but Schmidt said a rough estimate is around \$700,000-\$800,000 including cost of buying the building it-

self. Around \$300,000 has been raised so far since 2010.

The facility will provide many advantages over the current 1,000 square-foot shelter on Burleigh St. according to Schmidt, who said demand has outgrown the current location.

"(The new) facility allows us to move faster than anticipated," she said. "The growing pains at our current location are just immense. It's been a struggle in 2013 to have enough space for what we're doing. Three years ago, the shelter was taking in 70-100 animals, and (now) we're topping 350."

The current facility is only able to house around 30 cats and other small domesticated animals while dogs must be

fostered at the homes of volunteers throughout Yankton and Clay counties.

The goal of the new facility is to be able to shelter more than 800 animals over the course of a year. Tentative plans are to have 20-30 dog kennels and 40-50 feline kennels on site as well as free space that can be shifted as needed.

"We'll also have the opportunity to have some space in that facility that we can modify for emergency purposes," Schmidt said. "Some weeks, it may be storage or a home for a dog and puppies another week."

Plans also include dedicated veterinary facilities, community space that can be

used for events such as pet training sessions, offices, adoption spaces and outdoor green space for dogs to run around on.

"It's more space than we probably need, but we'll grow into it as the years come," she said.

Schmidt added the benefits of the new space will extend to members of the community as well as the animals they shelter.

"We lack the ability to allow volunteers to operate at their desired levels right now because of our facility," she said. "We don't have the space to let 30 kids from the high school or any of the universities to come in at one time and volunteer. I think that's a big bonus for this

(new) facility: the ability to let the community come in and interact with the animals. It's good for the animals to have that interaction and it's great for those in the community who want to do it."

A meet-and-greet will be held Saturday featuring 12 dogs available to adopt. The event will be held at the new facility from 10 a.m.-noon.

For more information on the Heartland Humane Society, visit <http://www.heartlandhumane.org>.

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Economy

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Economics, said. "2014 could be the year where the recovery really starts to gain some ground."

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Thursday that its index of manufacturing activity slipped to 57 in December from 57.3 the previous month. But that's still the second-highest reading since April 2011. And any reading above 50 signals growth.

The ISM's measure increased for six straight months through November.

A measure of new orders rose to the highest level since April 2010. And a gauge of hiring increased to its highest level since June 2011. Indexes of production and manufacturers' stockpiles fell.

Separately, construction spending rose 1 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$934.4 billion, the Commerce Department said. That's the highest in more than four years.

Spending on home and apartment construction rose 1.9 percent to the highest level since June 2008. And commercial project spending increased 2.7 percent, led by office, communication and transportation projects.

The reports add to other hopeful signs that 2014 could mark a turning point for an economy that has suffered through fits and starts since the recession ended.

Dales said the economy faces fewer barriers this year. Steep spending cuts or tax increases, which held back growth in 2013, are unlikely. Europe's economy is picking up slightly after a long recession. And U.S. consumers have more money to spend, thanks to greater hiring and last year's stock market surge.

Dales forecasts the economy will expand 2.5 percent this year, up from just below 2 percent in 2013. Other economists expect growth will top 3 percent in 2014. It hasn't been above that level for a full year since 2005.

The ISM survey followed other reports showing a healthier U.S. manufacturing sector.

Factory output rose in November for the fourth straight month, according to the Federal Reserve. And demand for long-lasting goods jumped in November, the government said last week, evidence that businesses are investing in facilities and equipment.

Survey

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organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor, while a score below that suggests decline.

Goss, who oversees the survey, said businesses tied to agriculture continue to report softer economic conditions, but transportation firms partially offset that weakness with strong job growth.

The overall employment index fell to 48.7 in December from November's 51.2.

Business managers remain concerned that inflation could be a problem in 2014. In December, the inflation index increased to 63.6 from 61.6 in November.

The inventory index climbed to 51.3 in December from November's 48.1. Goss said that's another optimistic signal.

The other components of the December index were:

— Export index declined to 55.6 in December from November's 56.4.

— Import index slipped to 47.2 from November's 53.5.

— New orders improved slightly to 57.4, up from 57.2 in November.

— Production or sales increase to 56.8 from November's 53.3.

— And delivery lead time grew to 52 in December, up from 50.7.

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