



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

City Mulls New Positions

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The Yankton City Commission was in agreement during a budget session this week that it wants to support more events that improve the quality of life in the community and get more aggressive about promoting retail development.

However, the question came down to how best to accomplish those goals given limited budgetary resources.

During an hour-long discussion Monday, the commission debated the merits of creating an events coordinator position, a retail development position and other possible solutions.

Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson said he had been looking at a concept of the city holding a significant event approximately every month with an event coordinator responsible for organizing them.

Among the events he proposed the city could put on using paid staff were a concert in

Memorial Park the first Saturday in June that could also incorporate sports tournaments like three-man basketball, sand volleyball and horseshoes; expanding the Fourth of July celebration to include sports tournaments, a beer garden, food vendors and inflatable rides for children; and a two-day blues festival in August.

For the larger events, Larson said some of the costs could be recouped by bidding out sponsorships.

"We think there's value there," he stated,

saying naming rights could go for \$10,000, for example. "(Former City Manager Doug Russell) had a strong feeling we could sell some of these events pretty easily that way."

Questions arise if the city began to assist nonprofits with their events, Larson admitted. How revenues would be shared or shortfalls filled are examples, he said.

"Concept-wise, it was never to take over anybody's events in town, it was to supplement and add to what is already going on," Larson stated. "Will the events attract people

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Rule Allowing 85-Octane Gasoline Sales Sits In Limbo

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — The fate of a proposed rule allowing the sale of 85-octane gasoline in western South Dakota was left in limbo Tuesday when a state legislative committee could not gather enough votes to approve it or block it.

The Legislature's Rules Review Committee, which has the final say on rules passed by state agencies, reached an impasse after a series of tie votes on the issue. The panel then deferred further debate on the octane rule until its next meeting on Sept. 18.

During an investigation into allegations some stations were selling 85-octane fuel mislabeled as higher octane gasoline, the state Public Safety Department earlier this year discovered that state law technically prohibits the sale of 85-octane gasoline. Most car manufacturers recommend that gasoline with a minimum octane rating of 87 be used in vehicles.

The Public Safety Department, with the backing of Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, passed emergency rules making 85-octane gasoline legal anywhere in South Dakota until Oct. 7 to avoid a possible fuel shortage during the summer tourism season in western South Dakota, where the low-octane fuel has been used for decades. The department then proposed a permanent rule to allow the sale of 85-octane gasoline only west of the 102nd meridian, the western quarter of the state that includes the Black Hills.

The proposed rule also would require any pump dispensing 85-octane gasoline to carry a warning label stating: "Sub-Regular Octane — Refer to owner's manual before fueling."

Octane is a measure of fuel performance, with a higher level indicating better performance. Officials said 85-octane gasoline is generally intended for use in high-altitude regions.

Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, proposed that the legislative committee suspend the rule so the full Legislature could debate the octane issue when it convenes in January, but her proposal died on a tie vote. She said the rules allowing the sale of 85-octane gasoline could encourage low-income people to buy the less expensive fuel that could harm their vehicles' engines.

"We need to have more discussion on this very important issue to protect South Dakota consumers," Gibson said.

Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, then proposed approving the rule, but that suggestion also died on a tie vote.

Vehle said if permanent rules are not passed, the sale of 85-octane fuel will be illegal after the emergency rule expires in October. Companies that supply fuel to western South Dakota might stop shipping gasoline to the area until the 2013 Legislature takes action, he said.

"I don't think it's worth risking a fuel shortage in October, November and December to play chicken with the oil refineries and pipelines," Vehle said.

Jason Glodt, a policy adviser to the governor, said vehi-

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A LASTING ACHIEVEMENT



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

Margaret Hamilton of Avon is retiring as Bon Homme County Extension secretary next month after 31 years on the job. "Bon Homme County has always been a close-knit group, and we have all worked together quite well," she said.

Hamilton Retiring From Bon Homme Co. Extension Office

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

TYNDALL — Margaret Hamilton spent this year's Bon Homme County 4-H Achievement Days much as she has for the past 31 years.

As Extension secretary, she has spent Achievement Days filling out forms, putting entries in place and tallying results. And, of course, she answered questions and helped others as needed.

But first, Hamilton needed to do something for herself. The Avon woman shed a few tears, feeling a mixture of happy memories and sadness as she nears her Sept. 14 retirement.

"Last week was crying time for me," she said. "I had my Kleenex out, but now it's time to get to work."

Hamilton has been helping guide the Bon Homme County Extension office for more than three decades.

"When my son started kindergarten, I decided to go back to work," she said. "I was working at Cimpl's in Yankton in the accounting office when Lola Jenner, a Scotland lady, retired from the secretary position at the Bon Homme Extension office. I applied for the secretary job. We had 24 who applied, but they finally narrowed it to myself."

Did Hamilton think she would still be on the job? "I didn't plan on 31 years, but I enjoy it. I have been really lucky," she said.

Her involvement with 4-H began while growing up in

OUR TOWNS

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Florida. As Extension secretary, the Achievement Days schedule has been long — some years the workday ran from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. — but enjoyable, she said.

"This (Achievement Days) is the one time a year that we get to see everyone," she said.

Generations of Bon Homme County residents know her, but Hamilton has also been recognized at the state level for her work. In 1997, she was named Extension Secretary of the Year for South Dakota.

"I was overwhelmed by the recognition," she said. "My nomination was submitted by Martha Flammig-Grimme and Steve Sutera, who were our Extension agents at the time."

Flammig-Grimme said she considered Hamilton more than a co-worker.

"We worked together as a team. We never worried about Margaret — we could always count on her," Flammig-Grimme said. "But Margaret wasn't only my secretary. She is also one of my best friends. We came to work early so we could talk about our families and what was

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Trial Set For Former Wagner Police Chief

WAGNER (AP) — An October trial date has been set for the former Wagner police chief accused of failing to report a crime.

KSFY-TV reports that 44-year-old Jim Chaney appeared in court Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge.

Prosecutors say Chaney tried to cover up his girlfriend's methamphetamine use by hiding her used needles in his office. The City Council accepted Chaney's resignation shortly after news broke of the charge.

A jury trial has been set for Oct. 30-31. Chaney faces up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine if convicted.

Chaney's lawyer has asked that the trial be moved out of Charles Mix County.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Josh Svatos, general manager at RTEC, demonstrates how the company's new welding simulator will work. The Lincoln Electric VRTEX 360 Virtual Reality welding simulator will be used for Thursday's 2012 Virtual Welding Games at RTEC. Experience is not required for those who wish to participate.

Games Offer Virtual Spotlight

RTEC's Welding Games To Showcase New Equipment

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
news@yankton.net

The Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) is virtually taking education to a new level.

With a new Lincoln Electric VRTEX 360 Virtual Reality welding simulator, RTEC will be giving those who choose to participate in Thursday's 2012 Virtual Welding Games a chance to experience welding in a setting where there will be no sparks, no hot metal and no fumes. Instead, competitors will don welding gloves and a helmet that will immerse them in a virtual reality welding world through 3D stereo eye pieces and sound.

The games will be held Thursday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at RTEC, 1200 W. 21st St.

Josh Svatos, the general manager at RTEC, said the purchase of the welding simulator was possible be-

cause of a \$100,000 grant the company received.

"Now that we've got the simulator, what we're doing with the 2012 Welding Games is trying to create a synergy to get folks into the door to showcase what we're doing in terms of our educational offerings for the fall."

There will be five categories to participate in — middle school students, high school students, men, women and celebrities. The winner of each category will receive a prize, and competitors who earn the top three overall scores, regardless of category, will receive gold, silver and bronze medals.

Those who score 85-100 points will be entered to win a drawing for \$75 in Chamber Bucks, 70-84 points will be entered to win a drawing for \$50 in Chamber Bucks and 50-69 points will be entered to win a drawing for \$25 in Chamber Bucks.

Svatos said the games will also be used as a recruitment tool. There will be scholarship packets available at the event for Black Hills State University, Mitchell

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INSIDE TODAY



American Profile

* * *

U.S. Retail Sales Rose Solid 0.8% In July

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Americans boosted their spending at retail businesses in July by the largest amount in five months, a surge that could help lift the economy out from its slump.

Retail sales rose 0.8 percent in July from June, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. It was the largest increase since February and followed three months of declines, including a 0.7 percent drop in sales in June.

All major categories rose. Auto purchases increased 0.8 percent. Consumers also boosted their spending on furniture, electronics, building materials and sporting goods.

Stock futures rose after the report was released

The economy has shown some modest improvement in July. Employers added 163,000 jobs, the best month for job growth since February. Stock indexes are near their highs for the year. And consumer confidence rose for the first time in five months. The combination appeared to translate into more spending by consumers.

"Lower gas prices, a nice rally in stocks and stronger job growth ... helped boost consumer spending," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. She said the gain represented a good start for the July-September quarter but further improvement in employment would be needed to ensure further gains in consumer spending.

Retail sales totaled a seasonally adjusted \$403.9 billion in July, up 21.4 percent from the recession low hit in March 2009.

The retail sales report is the government's first look each month at consumer spending, which drives roughly 70 percent of economic activity.

The economy grew at an annual rate of 1.5 percent from April through June. That's not enough to lower the unemployment rate, which ticked up in July to 8.3 percent.