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**Longtime City Attorney
Goetz Passes Away**

From P&D Staff Reports

James Goetz, who served as the city attorney for Yankton for nearly a half-century, passed away last Friday in Yankton. He was 86.

Goetz, who was born in Yankton and raised in Hartington, Neb., spent more than 60 years as an attorney. That includes serving as the city attorney for the City of Yankton for 48 years. He retired from the post in 2009.

His funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton. Burial with military honors will be held in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation begins at 5 p.m. tonight (Tuesday) at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton. For his full obituary, see page 3.

Sequestration

President Warns Of Risks

Cuts Would Carry Economic Uncertainties, Obama Says; No Movement Seen

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday said looming automatic spending cuts are already affecting the economy, while a top administration official warned that the nation's borders would be less secure if billions of dollars are yanked from the budget Friday.

"The uncertainty is already having an effect," Obama said. "Companies are preparing layoff no-

tices. Families are preparing to cut back on expenses. The longer these cuts are in place, the bigger the impact will become."

Despite the urgent rhetoric, there was no indication the White House and congressional Republicans were actively negotiating a deal to avoid the so-called sequester ahead of the end of the week deadline. The last known conversation between Obama and GOP leaders was last week and there have been no in-person meetings between the parties this year.

With Congress back from a weeklong recess, House Speaker John Boehner showed little willingness to move off his long-held position that the sequester be offset through targeted spending cuts, not the package of cuts and tax increases Obama supports.

"Mr. President, you got your tax increase," Boehner said, referring to the tax rate increases that took effect on Jan. 1. "It's time to cut spending here

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GIFTS FOR YANKTON AGENCIES



Representatives from the Yankton Homeless Shelter (above) and the Contact Center (left) were presented \$2,500 donations Monday as part of the America's Farmers Grow Communities program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The money was won by Cliff and Donna Madson of Yankton, who chose those two charities as recipients. This year, Monsanto will invest more than \$5 million in rural America through the program, which offers farmers the chance to direct donations to local nonprofits. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Couple Donates Prizes To Local Groups

BY DEREK BARTOS

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During a recent trip to Walmart, Carol Pooler walked the aisles in search of much needed items for the Yankton Homeless Shelter, knowing she wouldn't be able to afford everything that was necessary.

"I was just trying to get some things that we barely had the funds to buy," the shelter's director admitted.

Not much later, Pooler received a call notifying her that the homeless shelter had been chosen as one of two local recipients for a \$2,500 donation through the America's Farmers Grow Communities program.

Yankton's Contact Center was also selected.

"It brought tears to my eyes, I was so excited," Pooler said after receiving the donation during a ceremony

"This is absolutely wonderful. It will buy a lot of groceries for us and help a lot of people with utility bills."

JENNIFER ADAMSON

Monday afternoon at the Contact Center. "It came at a very needed time. We've been very busy setting records as far as shelter nights, and it's just so very appreciated."

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, the America's Farmers Grow Communities program each year gives farmers the chance to win a \$2,500 donation to direct to their favorite local nonprofit organization. This year,

Monsanto doubled the donations for counties that were declared disaster areas by the USDA due to the drought.

Cliff and Donna Madson of Yankton were chosen as this year's winners for Yankton County.

"We're happy we were chosen and could give it to them," Donna said. "These are two very good nonprofits here in town that help a lot of people."

Jennifer Adamson, director of the Contact Center, said she "couldn't be happier" after receiving the donation. The Contact Center operates the Food Pantry and also provides emergency assistance to individuals who need help paying for rent, utilities or medication.

"This is absolutely wonderful," Adamson said. "It will

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**Lease Deal With
City Saves Tyndall
Store From Closure**

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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TYNDALL — Thanks to a lease agreement with the city, a second-hand store that has donated more than \$71,000 to area needs will remain in operation.

The Tyndall City Council voted unanimously Monday night to enter a lease with the Bargain Shoppe, which planned to close Wednesday. With the agreement, the Main Street store will continue operating at its current city-owned site without interruption.

Bargain Shoppe board member LeAnn Kniffen of Tyndall said she was pleased with the new agreement.

"We will continue in operation on Friday, our next scheduled day," she said.

Since opening in November 2007, the Bargain Shoppe has donated funds to organizations in Bon Homme County. In addition, the store has also provided many in-kind gifts to various organizations and families in southeastern South Dakota.

The Bargain Shoppe is a non-profit organization comprised of all volunteers that sells donated items to the general public at a reduced cost. A committee-board oversees the operation and finances, with 100



The Bargain Shoppe — which has donated \$71,000 to area causes during the past five years — will remain in operation at its downtown Tyndall location, thanks to a new lease agreement with the city. The store had planned to close Wednesday.

percent of the proceeds going toward worthy causes.

"This (Bargain Shoppe) has been a wonderful organization," Kniffen said. "All five towns in the community have shared in the \$71,000, but we have also benefited the women's shelter in Yankton, the YMCA, the Marty (school), coats for Lutheran Social Services and shoes for Dakota Christian (for their service projects)."

Besides Kniffen, all other board members include Brenda Sturgeon of Springfield, Dorene Winckler of Scotland, and Jean Berringer, Willie Crews and Bonnie

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**Panetta Says He Will
Watch C-SPAN To Await
Senate Vote On Hagel**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has apparently had all the Pentagon farewells he can take.

The defense chief is working from his California home, awaiting the expected Senate vote on the nomination of former Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel to take over the Pentagon job.



Panetta

The Senate will vote on Tuesday on whether to move ahead on the nomination, according to a senior Senate Democratic leadership aide who spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions were private.

If Hagel hits the threshold vote as expected, the question is whether Republicans will allow an immediate vote on confirmation or demand that the Senate use the maximum 30 hours of debate before an up-or-down vote.

Pentagon spokesman George Little says Panetta will be tuning in to the C-SPAN Senate channel in the next few days, hoping that Hagel is confirmed. Panetta has been eager to retire to his walnut farm in Carmel for weeks, and already was fêted at two farewell ceremonies. But his plans have been repeatedly blocked by delays as senators battle over Hagel's nomination.

The Senate dispute meant Panetta had to attend a NATO meeting in Brussels last week that he expected Hagel would attend.

**City To
Pursue
Housing
Survey**

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Convinced there is a housing shortage in the community, the Yankton City Commission decided Monday to pursue a study of the situation with its local economic development partners.

Yankton Area Progressive Growth expressed an interest at its recent annual meeting in having a housing study done for the city, and the Yankton Economic Development Council is also on board.

Commissioner David Knoff said he has been told a shortage exists in the apartment and housing markets.



Knoff

"I keep hearing there is an apartment shortage, but no one is building apartments," he stated. "We're trying to figure out the disconnect. For me, that's an important part of the study. Why aren't people investing in building homes and putting up complexes? We know there is a shortage in that \$125,000-\$175,000 house range, which is hard to build."

He questioned whether infrastructure costs may be too high.

"What are other communities doing to fill those gaps?" Knoff continued. "Maybe we need to be thinking about something different."

Commissioner Paul Lowrie added that the study should examine the possibility of in-filling vacant or under-utilized portions of the city versus building out the edges.

"Not only does it help in cleaning up your community, but it also capitalizes on the infrastructure that has been paid for in the past," he said.

David Mingo, the community development director for Yankton, said studies done in other communities have helped in the development of strategies to address housing needs.

"(They also) provided a catalyst for private investors to pull the trigger on some projects," he added. "That was a benefit I didn't envision when I first started calling communities."

Mitchell is among the communities that recently completed such an analysis. City Manager Amy Nelson said approximately

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