

City

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\$28,000 was expended in that case.

She recommended the city take the lead in assembling a sub-committee that could include representatives from the city itself, the local housing authority, the Economic Development Council, Yankton Area Progressive Growth, Yankton County, and Planning and Development District III. The group would explore the parameters of the housing study, identify a funding source and possibly look at a plan of action for the community once the document is complete.

A motion to pursue creation of the committee for those purposes was given unanimous approval by the City Commission.

In other business Monday, the commission:

- changed wording in a newly-created policy for sponsorship and naming rights. Instead of a contributor providing a majority of funding to get naming rights for a facility or event, the commission decided there should be latitude to grant that ability for a significant contribution. What justifies a significant contribution will be decided on a case-by-case basis;
- heard about the success of a mobile learning unit put into use last year by the Regional Technical Education Center. It was purchased with a grant that was attained with the support of the city;
- decided to hold a work session next month to discuss a proposed sign ordinance. A public open house will also be scheduled;
- held a moment of silence in memory of Jim Goetz, who served as the city's attorney for 48 years; and
- announced the annual spring clean-up will get under way April 6.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)

Funds Available For Specialty Crop Projects

PIERRE — Interested in getting local foods into local schools, getting kids to eat more fruits and vegetables, or learning about honey production?

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) has a program for them. People involved in the specialty crop industry in South Dakota can now apply for select federal funding of projects that enhance the competitiveness of fruits, dried fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops and horticulture.

The funds can be used for projects that involve research, food safety, nutrition, promotion, distribution, best-management practices, and a variety of other uses to advance the specialty crop industry in South Dakota. Projects must be of benefit to more than one product or organization and must solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in South Dakota.

"These funds provide support for this

growing segment of South Dakota agriculture," said state Secretary of Agriculture Walt Bones. "We look forward to funding projects that have a broad reach across this sector of the industry."

SDDA has established the following priority areas for projects in South Dakota:

- School/Institutional promotion
- Local foods Initiatives
- Industry education
- Food safety

Applications may be submitted for projects outside of the priority areas. All applications are due to SDDA by April 9.

The Federal funds are part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant, a program funded in the 2008 Farm Bill.

For program guidelines, application forms, or other Specialty Crop Block Grant Program information, call SDDA at 605-626-3272 or visit <http://sdda.sd.gov>.

Tyndall

From Page 1

Davis of Tyndall.

Three of the six board members have served for the shop's entire existence. Kniffen said she plans to remain on the board, although she may scale back her activities. New board members will join the organization, while current board members will remain or at least stay for a transition period to train the new members, she said.

Kniffen also expressed appreciation to Vince Efta, who has allowed the Bargain Shoppe to use his property for storage space at no charge for the store's entire existence.

Much of the discussion at Monday night's meeting focused on the building's current usage and occupants.

The city owns half of the building, and the city property has been occupied by both the Cavalier Corner, which provided youth activities, and the Bargain Shoppe.

Despite the store's financial success, the Bargain Shoppe board announced earlier this month on its Facebook page that it would close after more than five years in operation. The board gave no specific reason for the closing.

At Monday night's city meeting, Mayor Dave Vavruska announced the Cavalier Corner has withdrawn from the building, and the Bargain Shoppe will now occupy the entire city-owned space.

A letter was distributed from the Cavalier Corner board of directors, announcing it has removed all of its inventory except for an ice chest and ice machine

that will be moved at a later date.

Under its lease with the Bargain Shoppe, the city will maintain ownership and full control of its property, pay all electrical costs, and cover maintenance, repairs and insurance. The Bargain Shoppe will continue paying \$250 monthly rent — which will go directly to the city — and cover the full costs for propane.

City attorney Lisa Rothschadl reiterated that the city retains ownership of its property under the new lease agreement.

"It's owned by the City of Tyndall — it's our (share of the) building," she said. "We can do with the building what we want. You can rent it to anyone, you can use it to support the Bargain Shoppe. But we own it."

Vavruska said the city will provide oversight of the property but not control the Bargain Shoppe's operation or the recipients of its funds.

"We will not tell them where to give their donations," the mayor said. "They can continue to give (the money) wherever they want."

Discussion was held on possibly needing some changes, such as a different sales tax license number than the one used by the Cavalier Corner. Rothschadl advised the Bargain Shoppe should check whether it needs to pay sales taxes as a non-profit organization.

The store originated as a "Horizons" community development project. Customers come from Avon, Springfield, Scotland, Tripp, Mitchell, Yankton, Beresford, Wagner and Niobrara, Neb., along with other communities.

The Bargain Shoppe serves area educational, health, safety, social and other needs. Donations have gone to Tyndall, Tabor, Scotland, Springfield and Avon schools and organizations, as well as entities outside Bon Homme County.

In addition, the Bargain Shoppe has given donations of goods to families in need after home fires and

vouchers for clothing to a local social service agency for families in need to come in and get free clothing/shoes/outer wear.

Volunteers provided 1,814 hours of service in 2012 so the Bargain Shoppe could be open for 752 hours of business. The trend continued in January 2013, when volunteers donated 242 hours of their time so the Shoppe could be open for 62 hours of business.

The volunteer hours are used to clean floors, set up displays and sort clothes by gender, size and color. Volunteers also set up seasonal displays for appropriate seasons, along with making signs and pricing items.

The center can always use more volunteers, even for a few minutes at a time, Kniffen told the *Press & Dakotan*.

"A shift consists of four hours, but volunteering could be something as simple as hauling items to Goodwill in Yankton or washing windows or scooping snow," she said. "Just think of the amount of time that you spend watching television or on the Internet. What's 20 minutes to volunteer at our store?"

After Monday's meeting, Vavruska expressed his support for the store.

"It think it does a very good job with a lot of (volunteer) man-hours," he said. "They do a lot of work that I didn't know about until I talked with Mrs. Kniffen."

The mayor told the *Press & Dakotan* that he thinks the new simplified agreement with the city will ensure a smooth operation for the Bargain Shoppe.

Kniffen likewise holds an optimistic view for the future.

"We started (this venture) with just \$20 in our checking account," she said. "The Bargain Shoppe benefits the whole county. The public doesn't want to see it close."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

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Help celebrate a new year of RiverWalk! The evening includes a sneak peek of the new sculptures, a nacho bar, drinks and fun. Committee members will be serving for tips and proceeds go to RiverWalk. For more information, call Katie at 660-5989.

"Ojibway River" by Chris Powell —one of the new 2013 RiverWalk sculptures.