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Facade Grants A Go

City Commission OKs Program To **Boost Downtown Revitalization**

BY ROB NIELSEN

rob.nielsen@yankton.net

In a step to help revitalize Yankton's down-town district, the Yankton City Commission is moving forward on a program to help business owners invest in their properties.

During its meeting Monday, the commission voted unanimously to enact a matching grant program to help with façade reconstruction.

Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson said the idea came from this year's budget

sessions. "This is something that

came out of our budget dis-

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cussion looking at a number of different ways where we can help foster more downtown revitalization," Nelson said. "The discussion came up that beyond property maintenance.

A Majestic Addition

Lowrie

beyond nuisance abatement, is there anything that we can do in assistance to existing downtown properties? And we brought forward a downtown façade grant program where we could work with members of the downtown who want to make improvements to the exteriors of their buildings, but maybe can't get there financially."

Nelson said business owners would have to go before a committee to have access to the \$15,000 available.

'This would be a 50/50 grant match — it

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ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D New Mitchell Technical Institute president Mark Wilson, left, speaks with Kolberg-Pioneer president Jeff May at RTEC's open house Monday. This event allowed community leaders to meet Wilson and discuss expanded program opportunities for students in the Yankton community.

New MTI President Welcomed At RTEC

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN alissa.woockman@yankton.net

Mitchell Technical Institute's (MTI) new president Mark Wilson was introduced Monday at Yankton's RTEC. The open house allowed for members of the community to meet the president and learn about the current partnership between MTI and RTEC.

In 2011, both partnered together to apply for a grant from the South Dakota Department of Labor. This grant gave them a chance to offer students an exclusive program in Industrial Maintenance Technology.

"It's a two-way street for both of us," said Josh Svatos, President and COO of RTFC Inc. "It just opens the



KELLY HERTZ/P&D Bishop Paul Swain blessed the Avera Sister James Care Center on Monday night. The evening allowed the public a first glimpse of the new facility, which will soon be occupied by Avera Yankton Care Center residents.

Avera Unveils Expansion

For St. James **Care Center**

BY REILLY BIEL reilly.biel@yankton.net

Residents of the Yankton Care Center have a new place to call home.

A blessing and dedication program was held Monday for the opening of Avera Sister James Care Center expansion project. The new living quarters are for current residents of the Avera Yankton Care Center, gifted to Mount Marty College. The Sister James Care Center is a new part of the Avera Sacred Heart Majestic Bluffs campus.

Residents were originally scheduled to move in Dec. 1, but that date was recently pushed back to Dec. 8.

The delayed move-in time hasn't deterred Tony Erickson, executive director of senior services.

"I feel good about where we're at," he said. "We have just a little bit more work to get done.

Most of that work involves the hospice care center, which wasn't available for viewing. The rest of the facility is near completion.

"We tried to create a community within a community," Erickson said, referencing the downtown aspect of the interior design. "When residents leave their homes, they can come to a community but still be inside the building while feeling like they're walking through downtown Yankton.

Monday's event included a tour of the facility. The new addition includes a hair

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COFFEE

KELLY HERTZ/P&D:

The deli counter is one of several new additions in the Avera Sister James Care Center. Other areas include a movie theater, hair salon, country store and pub.

A Stewart 'Snow Angel'

Dressed for the weather as well as for her role, Autumn Rouse of Yankton's Stewart Elementary School sings a lament to a "Snow Angel" lost to the clutches of a snowplow during the school's presentation of the program "Snow Biz!" Monday night at the YHS/ Summit Activities Center theatre. Stewart School fourth- and fifth-grade students offered up an homage to snowy weather — a fittingly timed program in the wake of last Friday's snowstorm that buried the Yankton area. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



doors that might not have been there before.

The one-year diploma program is designed to provide skills training for students who want to enter careers maintaining and servicing modern commercial buildings such as manufacturing plants, hospitals and schools. All courses are taught at RTEC in Yankton and can serve up to 12 students per year.

Students receive instruction in electronics, mechanical systems, hydraulics, programmable logic controllers and other systems necessary for the operation of large-scale buildings. Program graduates will also be certified in Leadership in Energy and En-

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CORRECTION

In Saturday's story, "Area Schools Show Decreased Numbers in Federal Aid For Student Lunches," a figure was incorrectly approximated for the Bon Homme School District. It was stated that the district showed a decrease of approximately 23 percent of students participating in free/reduced lunches from the previous year. That number is incorrect. That percentage is the amount of students who qualified for free and reduced from the previous year, and it did not take into account current student participation in the program or enrollment. Last year, the number of students who were enrolled in free/reduced lunches, taking into account a student enrollment of 522, is 43 percent. This would mean a decrease of 7 percent, not 23 percent. This would account for this year's 36 percent of students participating in the reduced/free meals program. We apologize for the error.

OF 15TH STREET



