

City

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would be 50 percent city and 50 percent the property owner,” she said. “They would bring an application to a committee which would be comprised of myself, a member of the commission, a member of Historic Downtown Yankton, a staff member from community development as well as from the Historical Society in town to make sure the things they’re wanting to do are keeping with the theme and character of downtown and also keeping with the parameters of the guidelines.”

Commissioner Nathan Johnson volunteered to fill the commissioner’s spot on the committee Monday night.

Nelson said she’s been questioned about the focus on downtown and said there’s a need for that focus.

“I did get the question from the public, ‘Why are you helping out downtown people? Why isn’t this offered to everybody?’” she said. “My response to that would be we are making a concerted effort to focus attention on downtown and understanding that it is part of the core of our community and the heartbeat of our community and that we really need to have some emphasis there.”

Community Development Director Dave Mingo said they’ve looked into similar programs around the region.

“We basically polled all the communities in South Dakota, and even some in Nebraska, that have these types of programs,” he said. “There’s a couple of minor differences in this program and what some other communities have done — some of the other communities are much more specific in describing design criteria and we were a little more general in our proposed guidelines.”

Former city commissioner and cur-



Nelson

rent downtown business owner Paul Lowrie addressed the commission Monday, saying he’s happy to see the city looking at ideas to move forward and offered some of his own advice.

“At least you’re starting with it, and I applaud you for that,” he said. “There should definitely be a lean toward the historic side of it.”

He added that the city should also be wary about covering soft costs, which include architectural consultation, design and other items.

“I would actually recommend that you don’t fund that type of thing,” he said. “My reasoning for that is because soft costs can get very big and very grandiose and not result (in something visible).”

Lowrie also suggested looking into façade easements.

“I know that the city has kind of shied away from façade easements,” he said. “I would recommend looking into that in the future. There was one done with the Charles Gurney Hotel and it works really well with projects where developments understand the different tax credit opportunities and it doesn’t cost the city anything.”

The grant will become available starting Jan. 1.

In other business Monday, the Commission:

- Approved an amendment to the design contract for a new water treatment facility.

- Approved a restriction on parking on Douglas Ave. between Anna St. and 31st St.

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GOP’s Tough Senate Map Faces Another Twist

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans’ plans to defend their Senate majority in 2016 just got a bit more complicated.

GOP Sen. David Vitter’s loss in Louisiana’s governor’s race over the weekend, and his decision to leave the Senate next year rather than seek re-election, creates an open seat that Republicans will have to defend. It’s a deep-red Southern state and the GOP will be heavily favored, but Democrats hope they might have a shot, especially with a newly elected Democratic governor, John Bel Edwards, as an unanticipated asset.

The Louisiana race is the latest wrinkle as Republicans face what’s already a tough Senate map next year. They are defending 24 seats, compared to 10 for Democrats, and seven of those GOP seats are in states President Barack Obama won in 2012.

Democrats are sounding increasingly confident they will pick up the seats needed to win back the Senate control they lost just last year. They need to net four seats if they hang onto the White House, since the vice president casts tie-breaking votes in the Senate; or five seats if Republicans win the presidency.

But Republicans insist they will keep Louisiana safely in their column and keep their majority, too. They point to strong incumbents in battleground states like Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Ohio, although Illinois and Wisconsin may be tougher for them to hold.

And although there’s talk of a primary challenge against New Hampshire GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte, who will face a tough general election against Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan, Republicans boast of steering clear of disastrous primaries that plagued earlier election cycles, most notably 2010 and 2012, when tea party Republicans with odd views on rape and even witchcraft emerged from primaries only to lose the general election.

Strategists of both parties make a few points about the Senate map:

— In Louisiana, Vitter’s loss in the gubernatorial race amid accusations of prostitution could have turned into an even bigger disaster for Republicans had he decided to run for re-election to the Senate. Democrats would have jumped at challenging such a damaged incumbent. Yet Vitter’s departure also creates an open seat that Republicans will now have to defend, with several candidates sounding eager to run. On the Democratic side, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu is most often mentioned and Democrats see an outside chance there, arguing that Republicans will at least have to work for it.

— As Ayotte positions herself for a general election in independent-minded New Hampshire she has broken with her party on a series of issues, including backing Obama rules on power plant emissions. That’s upset some conservatives in New Hampshire who are now talking about a primary challenge. That could significantly complicate Ayotte’s campaign, though national Republicans play down the threat.

Indeed Republicans argue that Democrats are the ones with problematic primaries, as their chosen candidates contend with vigorous challenges from the left in states including Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois.

— With Hillary Rodham Clinton likely to emerge as the Democratic presidential nominee, it’s going to matter, a lot, whom the Republicans select as their presidential candidate. Republicans dread Donald Trump or Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and sound most excited about Florida Sen. Marco Rubio with his forward-looking message and prospect for generational change.

— And, no matter what happens in 2016, it could all be turned upside down again two years later in 2018, when Democrats will be the ones defending vulnerable incumbents in competitive states.

President

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vironmental Design (LEED) standards, an internationally recognized green building certification system.

“They are going to get more hands-on work and probably have more opportunities that they didn’t get in their home schools,” Svatos said. “But more than anything, they get to look into what we have to offer here in Yankton.”

RTEC also serves as the location for MTI students to obtain their Class A commercial driver’s license through a 30-hour truck driving training course.

Wilson, a native of Rapid City, holds a Master’s degree

from the University of North Dakota and a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Valley City State University. He began his career as a technology instructor at the middle school and secondary levels. He was also an assistant state director and state supervisor of technology for North Dakota.

In 2005, he assumed the position of state director of the Office of Career Learning and Instruction. While there, Wilson lead the facility planning, bonding and campus expansion projects at all four of the state’s technical institutes.

Recently, Wilson has served as president of Western Dakota Technical Institute in Rapid City. Wilson assumed his duties as MTI president in July. Since then, he has been utilizing his past

experience to build the relationships needed to create better programs for students.

“There are some folks I have known over the years,” Wilson said. “Having the opportunity to sit down and have conversations on steps we can take to move forward has been a lot easier. You can’t really move forward unless you sit down with some ideas and try to get the right people involved.”

Mitchell Tech recently received approval from the South Dakota Board of Education for two new programs. Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) was added as a one-year program. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected job growth for LPNs is 25 percent nationally, and 11.5 percent in South Dakota. MTI also expanded

its Precision Technology Specialist program, which adds a GPS/GIS Mapping Technology diploma option. The school is currently preparing to bring one more program addition proposal to the board in the spring to expand the area of automation.

Along with expanding programs, MTI is developing farm power facilities.

“We will have some discomfort in some of our growth areas at first, but hopefully we can set the stage for expanding our trade center,” Wilson said.

Mitchell Tech plans to host Yankton Agriculture Day on Dec 4 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Yankton students, school administrators and industry leaders will be introduced to all of MTI’s agriculture instructors and

their program areas.

Wilson hopes that this event will allow the students, school board and industry members to meet the people within the programs and take some ideas for collaboration back to Yankton’s community.

Afterwards, Wilson plans to visit with Dr. Kindle and other community leaders to see what opportunities can arise in the fall of 2016.

“I think the earlier we can get students engaged in technical education and understanding the great opportunities that can happen at Mitchell Tech, the better off we all can be,” he said.

RTEC also partners with Yankton School District to make industrial technology beneficial for students to involve themselves in.

Yankton High School

offers dual credits opportunities for students participating in welding and computer drafting.

“Anytime you can get kids from the outlining communities in this facility taking classes, it results in workforce and economic development,” Svatos said.

The open house featured guests from the Yankton School District, Kolberg-Pioneer and Mount Marty College. Conversations centered on promoting the workforce of technical education.

“It’s a good chance for the community leaders to network and meet Mark,” Svatos said. “To see what we are doing here with Mitchell Tech and the future possibilities.”

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Bluffs

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salon, theater, deli counter, pub, dining areas and private rooms.

“It’s a step up from our building now,” said nurse coordinator Tessa Grutsch. “Residents will really like the private rooms.”

Residents will also have more freedom in choosing their meals.

“If they don’t want the meal served, they can go to the deli or the country store,” said Grutsch.

The residence is set up to have an old-fashioned, downtown area atmosphere in order to give the residents a feel of home. The spacious inside and outside areas will give them more room to roam.

“I think it’s like being in a resort,” Grutsch said. “They have more to choose with what they want to do for the day.”

The private rooms are an especially important feature, as some residents at the current facility have semi-private rooms.

“At least with a private room, residents have a place to call home,” said Erickson. “The rest of the facility has the features of a community. Visiting family members can take their loved ones to the deli and have coffee, to the pub and watch football, to the salon or the movie theater.”

The expanded center has been much-needed in the community for a while, even before Erickson began working with Avera in 2000.

“The vision for Avera Majestic Bluffs was to create a senior services community that transformed the 168 acres of land into a dynamic, world class senior community offering both vibrant living and a confidence of continuing care of seniors in our area,” Erickson said. “That goal is almost a reality.”

Regional president and CEO of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Doug Ekeren, stated that the Majestic Bluffs campus includes up to 252 permanent residents, making it the third largest community in the Yankton County.

“Today is more about bricks and mortar,” he said. “It’s about those people entrusted to our care and those who provide it.”

The guest of honor was Bishop Paul Swain, who provided the dedication and blessing to the facility.

“In the years I’ve been a bishop, I’ve learned to appreciate more and more the challenges of the healthcare ministry,” he said, recalling the kindness and professionalism he witnessed during his mother’s stay in hospice. “Avera has a special touch of representing the Benedictine and Presentation sisters. To keep going with that spirit is

unique to Catholic healthcare.”

He added, “This is a concrete exercise of mercy by reaching out to those with special needs. It’s not just a business, but a family in the fullest sense of the word. It is a great gift for this to be a sign of Christ’s mercy in the community.”

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1st Auction 8:30

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