



By Alan Dale
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The lawsuit between the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) and Eagle Creek Software Services awaits a hearing date for the time being.

As for the IT Academy at the University of South Dakota things continue on as planned despite the lawsuit the VCDC filed against Eagle Creek last month for a breach of contract and a failure to pay over \$150,000 in missed rent and expenses.

Currently, Eagle Creek is holding operations at 1215 Cherry Street following their non-move into the \$4.2M building located at 1012 Princeton Street.

Prior to moving to Cherry Street, Eagle Creek worked out of the Beacom School of Business on the USD campus as over 40 employees toiled away for approximately six months before nixing the move to Princeton.

Whispers in the community voiced concern that the lawsuit and Eagle Creek's alleged failure to comply to contract stipulations with the VCDC would affect relations between the company and potential labor force coming out of



A currently unoccupied building at 1215 Princeton Street is a big part of the problem facing Eagle Creek Software Services who was supposed to move into the building this summer. Unpaid rent and other issues have led to the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company to file suit against the company.

USD's IT programs. Not so fast.

"USD is on the sidelines with what's going on with the city and Eagle Creek," Tena Haraldson, director of marketing for USD said. "We are basically taking a wait-and-see attitude."

Heraldson and Jim Moran, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the university, both see a potential relationship between the school and Eagle Creek, but the academy's well-being is no where married to the presence of the software company or not.

"We are actively pursuing other participants in terms of IT and that was always the intention," Moran said. "We are just moving forward and trying

to get students hired out of the academy. We have other companies that are interested and by doing this we will increase the opportunity for our students to not only help the economy in Vermillion but across the state. If we can have our kids graduate and work in (Vermillion) it can only help with economic development and quality of life in the community."

Eagle Creek has offices in Pierre and expressed interest in expanding into the Eagle Creek market.

"They wanted to hire trained people with software knowledge and have working experience on the job," Haraldson said. "They came to us, and said they wanted to bring

jobs to Vermillion so how could they set up additional training with people they could hire."

The IT Academy was set up through the governor's economic development office. They facilitated the university, Eagle Creek, and Vermillion working together.

"We are going ahead offering the courses and the regents said to expand the program in five of the six public universities so any one can take the courses now," Haraldson said. "We are planning on doing it. Whether our students are committed to work at Eagle Creek or not, there is a big demand for software consultancy."

Academy graduates can be in demand with a

number of companies. "Our education courses are not solely dependent on Eagle Creek," Haraldson said.

Moran echoed that sentiment.

"As with a lot of other programs we want to make sure our education programs are what the expectations of the industry standards are and that our students have the competencies moving into the potential employment areas," Moran said. "Ideally as we would envision things that this is a place that builds qualified employees."

Approximately 15 students completed the academy program last summer and this spring they are trying to increase that number heading into the meat of the program. The academy provides students with a set of competencies to move out into the work force.

A course is planned for the spring as a prep for the summer intensive course work. There they work on programming and toward a computer science degree. The academy also welcomes returning adults to the educational system looking for a change in career direction, according to Moran.

The spring prep course

can be a springboard for the four course workload over the summer.

"It is geared toward the motivated student," Moran said. "For dedicated students it is manageable."

Eagle Creek's presence helped the program since they addressed issues and aided development in the software industry.

"We are looking forward to working with them and others in the future," Moran said. "Right now I have no more information of what their future is, but what we'd like to have is a place interested in our students."

"If one says they aren't hiring that loses some of the potential for our students. When Eagle Creek is more in a hiring mode we are more than happy to work with them."

What the academy is trying to do is to look into getting multiples employment businesses involved with the program so as not to be dependent on any one company.

"I know Eagle Creek has interviewed a number of students that have gone through the academy," Moran said. "We are working to just get our students the competencies to get ready for employment."

BUNYANS

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Bunyan's, Schoellerman had several ideas.

"We were going to make it a dive bar, make it look like one," Blaine Schoellerman said. "And then we built that beautiful bar and everyone was like, 'wow this looks really nice' and it ended up being a really nice bar."

The bar itself is unique furnished piece, that helps add to the appeal of the new building.

"It's all clay county wood," Blaine Schoellerman said. "It is hand cut."

The new building also helped Bunyan's become a more diverse business and space for the public.

"When you come in here, we make it feel local," Heidi Schoellerman said "A family can sit over there and you're not right next to the bar."

Still situated at the same location on Main St. the menu still boasts its famous fish and burgers.

"We hand bread our own fish and hand patty our own cheese burgers," Blaine Schoellerman said. "That's why our burgers are so good."

The old menu is the staple of dishes, but the Schoellermans have added some new items to keep it fresh for their patrons.

"We added the pig wing burger and jalapeño burger," Heidi Schoellerman said. "We also added funnel cake fries."

In regard to the menu, the Schoellerman's still know their best source, is the local source. They listen to their customers, and try to bring items that are suggested by the people.

Aside from cold drinks and delicious food, the Schoellerman's are dedicated to using Bunyan's as a platform to help the community.

"We have a prom every year and that's really fun," Heidi Schoellerman said. "We raise money to go to a certain charity; we've done the backpack program and things like that."

Bunyan's also contributes to the community by selling

raffle tickets for the annual Pheasant Banquet.

"We try to do a lot for make a wish," Blaine Schoellerman said "And the pheasant banquet."

Community involvement goes beyond fund raisers and events for Bunyan's. They are part of a pool league, and also help with parties and special events.

"Bunyan's birthday party is coming up, and all are welcome," Schoellerman said. "That is Dec. 20th."

The Schoellermans are happy to serve the needs of the Vermillion area, but having a friendly place for people to gather.

"Good food good service and a friendly atmosphere," Schoellerman said. "That is what we do best."

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DINING

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Downtown Holiday Stroll

Thursday, Dec. 4th
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Stroll through these stores in Downtown Vermillion and fill out your Christmas "Wish List"

- * Blue Monarch
- * Nook n' Cranny
- * Sharing the Dream
- * Lumo Studios
- * The Spa at Wynie Mae's
- * Willson Florist and Gift
- * True Value
- * Infinite Variety

"Wish List" sheets will be provided so you can give them to your family and friends. Get what you REALLY want this year.

Appetizers and beverages will be served at each location.

Esther Lounsbery
will celebrate her 90th birthday

on
December 12, 2014

Greetings may be sent to:
205 Walker #138
Vermillion, SD 57069

Shop with
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December 10, 11, 12 & 13 at
The Front Porch
in downtown Vermillion
Four days only...10AM-6PM

Quality sheepskin gloves, slippers, wheel covers, hats, sheepskins and multicolor pet bed wool rugs.

Come see us at The Front Porch
&
Merry Christmas!

Adult Programs for December

EDITH B. SIEGRIST
VERMILLION PUBLIC LIBRARY

All events held in the Kozak Community Room

DECEMBER

3 Wednesday, December 3rd
Artists & Authors series
Author Travis Gulbrandsen
7 pm

5-6 Friday & Saturday, December 5th & 6th
Edie's Book Shoppe
10-4 pm

13 Saturday, December 13th
Picture This series
Self-Publishing and Poetry Reading with Montana poet BJ Buckley, 2-4 pm

Holiday Hours:
The library will be closed on Dec. 24th, 25th, and Jan 1st. We will be open from 2-6 pm on Friday, Dec. 26th, and from 10-5 on Dec. 31st.

FOOD FOR FINES

The library will be accepting donations for the Vermillion Food Pantry in exchange for library fines. During the weeks of **December 1st-13th**, bring your donation of food items into the library, and we will happily waive your fees (with the exception of any damage or replacement fees). The Vermillion Food Pantry is particularly in need of donations of **soup/chili, tuna or canned meats, jam/jelly, pasta sauces, and boxed meals.**

Warmest wishes for a Happy Holiday season!!

6th Annual Parade of Lights

"The Spirit of Christmas"
Friday, December 5th, 2014 • 6:30 p.m.
Downtown Vermillion

Community Christmas Tree Lighting - Friday, Dec. 5th
At the end of the parade please join Santa and Mrs. Claus as they light the community Christmas Tree at Ratingen Platz on the corner of Main and Market Streets.

Stockings for Soldiers - Friday, Dec. 5th
After the tree lighting, children and parents are invited to the Vermillion Public Library with Santa and Mrs. Claus for "Stockings for Soldiers", an opportunity to make ornaments to take home and to decorate a stocking for a soldier serving overseas or in the VA Hospital. Sponsored by the Vermillion Public Library.

Pictures with Santa - Saturday, Dec. 6th
Bring your children to Hy-Vee from 12:30 to 2:30 for a FREE indoor picture with Santa by Peterman Photography.

For more information please contact the VCDC office at
116 Market Street • 605-624-5571

Vermillion
AREA CHAMBER & DEVELOPMENT COMPANY