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PLAIN TALK



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The roar inside the DakotaDome was deafening at times, thanks to Coyote Crazies that made up part of the crowd of more than 5,000 Saturday to witness basketball action between rivals South Dakota and South Dakota State. Read more about the outcome of this thrilling match-up between the two rivals on page 05.

(Photo by David Lias)

City council tours Eagle Creek building's progress

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Although the building that is currently under construction behind the old Pamida building will house Eagle Creek Software Services exclusively, it has been designed to have maximum flexibility for the future.

That's what Steve Howe, executive director of the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce & Development Company, told members of the Vermillion City Council.

The council members took a tour of the unfinished facility during a special meeting over the noon hour Monday.

"This building will meet the needs of Eagle Creek, and they had some significant influence on the design, but it was not designed for single-purpose use," Howe said. "It was designed so we could subdivide it out and give us the most opportunity to make sure that the building is sustainable for the long run."

"The last thing we want is a building that was built for one tenant, something happens, the economy changes down the road, and then we have a building that is unmarketable. When it gets done, this building is going to have tons of flexibility with minor modifications," he said.

The building is set to be finished on May 1, and Howe said the Eagle Creek officials are "very excited" to move in.

The Eagle Creek building is shaped something like the letter T, Howe said.

"The way we have the doors set up, you could subdivide that and have two tenants off of each one, and they would have access to a common

conference room if that was needed," he said. "It's going to be similar on both sides. The wings are going to be designed the same. They have these pods that are both an office and a conference room."

There are three pods in the building overall, he said.

"This meets the needs of Eagle Creek, because they have ... teams that work with clients, and they need to get out of the main cubicle space and into a private conference room to work on projects," Howe said. "Then they have the frontline managers and project managers, so these pods were for them."

"The way they'll work in a situation where you have to have multiple tenants, with very little modification, we could be running a hallway down one of these walls and separating these pods out, and actually have three tenants, allowing them not only the cubicle space, but an office and conference room for each pod," he said.

However, Eagle Creek is going to be the building's only tenant, he added.

Another area of the building that lends itself to multiple users is the training area, which has a beam down the middle of the ceiling so that it can be subdivided into two training rooms.

The city council members got to look at all of the sections of the building, from the common areas like break rooms and rest rooms, to the utility room, which will be bigger than most.

"When we were looking at the buildings, one of the big

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TIF plan for Bliss Pointe called 'big step'

By Travis Gulbrandson
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The Vermillion City Council took another "big step" in the Bliss Pointe development district project Monday.

That night, council members approved an agreement between the city and the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce & Development Company (VCDC) to provide repayment to Tax Increment District (TIF) #6 bondholders.

"Thanks very much," Mayor Jack Powell told the council when they approved the plan. "That's a big step."

Back in August, the council had approved the project plan for TIF #6, the purpose of which was to assist the VCDC with construction of infrastructure to serve approximately 77 lots in the first phase of the Bliss Pointe development.

Financing of the infrastructure improvements will come from a \$1,732,000 private placement bond that was purchased in equal shares by CorTrust Bank, First Bank and Trust, First

Dakota Bank, the Dakota Hospital Foundation and the University of South Dakota.

City Manager John Prescott said the bond proceeds will cover street, water, sanitary sewer and street light construction, while the city will be responsible for storm sewer installation costs.

Private bond proceeds will be repaid from property tax collections in the TIF district, Prescott said.

"The bond proceeds will be transferred from the city to the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce & Development Company," he said. "Then, when the TIF funds are generated, the county will collect property taxes, and transfer those to the city, and those will be used to repay our five partners who are helping to bring about this improvement in the community."

The infrastructure must be complete by Sept. 30, or the city has the option to terminate the agreement.

The plan was passed unanimously by the council.

Preparedness goal of Disaster Training Day on USD campus

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Medical response is one of the most important parts of dealing with disaster situations, and last week, more than 300 college students came to Vermillion to learn about dealing with such a crisis.

Friday, Jan. 31, was the day of the 11th annual Disaster Training Day, which was held in the Lee Medical Building on the USD campus.

"It gives a well-rounded overview of disaster life support functions and organization," said Bill Chalcraft, program administrator for the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH).

The day gave the approximately 320 health care students from USD and SDSU an opportunity to take a number of breakout sessions on such topics as anaphylaxis, immunization, triage and psychiatric first aid.

The students also could become certified in Core Disaster Life Support (CDLS) from the National Disaster Life Support Foundation.

"It's very informative," said Jessica Wineland, a nurse practitioner student with SDSU. "It's awesome to know that those resources are there for us if something were to happen, and it's really awesome that South Dakota utilizes its students to respond to those disasters, so that there's enough hands on deck."

"It's amazing what they can put in one day, especially with all the inter-professional students that are here, to be able to make sure that the state and the community is prepared if a disaster occurs. They really cover all the bases," said first-year USD med



Two college students learn how to give an injection at an immunization station at the annual Disaster Training Day, which was held last week in the Lee Medical Building on the USD campus.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

student Collin Michels.

The sessions were led by USD faculty, DOH employees, physicians and first responders.

Bridget Nichols, an instructor with the USD School of Health Sciences, nursing, facilitated one of the immunization stations.

"It's going well," Nichols said at the midpoint of the day. "We're finding that the students are collaborating nicely, and the ones that haven't done it before are learning from those who have."

Dr. Matt Owens of the Redfield Community Memorial Hospital was one of the lecturers for the CDLS course, which took four hours.

"Some of the major issues we talk to our students about are personal preparedness and personal safety," Owens said. "Things like triage, how to sort patients based on the severity of illness. We talk about the disaster system. Public health is a huge part of this, the kind of support systems they can plan on, and basically the interplay between local, county, state and federal response to disasters."

Along with CDLS certification, students were given a chance to register with the Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers in

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