

St. Patrick's Day Twist!



Benedictine Awareness Week activities had a St. Patrick's Day twist on Tuesday, as MMC community members came together to paint a green Benedictine Cross in the middle of campus.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

VCDC

From Page 1

VCDC is using every right we have and (every) opportunity to market the building," said VCDC executive director Nate Welch.

"We are aggressively going out and trying to find people because we want somebody in this building. We want to make sure we get something going with it."

Welch views the unused center as an opportunity. "We did have this building for one specific purpose, and those plans didn't pan out," he said. "But it's nice we're able to pivot and turn. This building is an amazing asset for us. We expect to use it for recruiting."

The VTC carries a great deal of flexibility, Welch said.

"This is basically a state-of-the-art office building," he said. "It has so many different functions to it, that it can either house one large company, multiple small companies or two companies at a time."

The VTC is considered a turn-key operation, Welch said.

"The building is fully up and operating and could be moved into right away. This provides such a great opportunity because, if a business wants to move and wants to move now, time is not a deterrent," he said. "It's now a motivator and asset. It very much opens up immediate interest from companies that don't want to wait."

The VTC layout uses an open concept, starting with the front doors opening into a large reception area, Welch said.

"Because of the central entrance location, it would allow for businesses to share a person to take calls, direct visitors and provide access to different areas, if they wanted," he said.

"It's wide open right now, but (it) could be divided into at least two sides with the two wings right away. Or if someone wanted a smaller space, the building was designed and utilities are already in place to 'cut up' the building into sections where everyone can have control in their own systems but rent smaller space at a time."

"This flexibility is a great asset to the versatility in the building," he added.

The technology center could be divided many different ways, Welch said. The two large office wings each

contain nearly 11,000 square feet of open office space, as well as up to seven private offices in each. The two wings can also be split into — and up to — three separate full offices to accommodate multiple tenants.

The building is equipped with three-phase power as well as technology wired throughout the structure, Welch added.

"It also has security access to close off different parts of the building, if multiple tenants are in there. It's equipped with multiple bathrooms and even showers," he said. "It has a commons/break area and a training room that can be divided by a diving wall."

The center's biggest asset is its flexibility to handle nearly any situation, Welch said.

"The list of attractions to the building is long, but some of the highlights are the technology throughout, the diversity of the building as well as an ability to even add on, if needed," he said.

Welch declined to list the rental charge for tenants. The VCDC does remain open to selling the building, he added.

"We look at and consider all types of offers for either leasing or purchasing the building," he said. "There are so many different factors that play into those rates and numbers. I can't put a specific number on them at this time."

HITTING THE MARKET

The VCDC is marketing the building in different ways, Welch said.

"One way is having it listed on the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) website of available office spaces in South Dakota. We are marketing it locally, and we will consider marketing it regionally through a broker in the coming months," he said.

"Our office and our conversations in our everyday business allow us to make sure and provide information on the building right away as well."

"Even having the annual (VCDC) banquet at the VTC on Tuesday was a way of our marketing. Now, we have hundreds of people who have seen the inside of the building and see how great it is. They are also our advocates and some possibilities (for tenants) as well."

Welch remains open to the types of businesses who could occupy the technology center.

"There are certainly some different types of sectors that are more attractive to this kind of building," he said. "But again, with the versatility of the building, it is very customizable for us to be able to now look out for the best opportunities, rather than just one or two sectors."

The VCDC holds certain expectations when it comes to marketing the technology center, Welch said.

"The main key we are looking for will be good companies, with good paying jobs, whether part time, full time or a little of both," he said. "Those are the businesses we like to attract, and we continue to work hard at doing so."

ACADEMIC ISSUES

Besides use of the VTC, the lawsuit between the VCDC and Eagle Creek raise another issue.

The lawsuit won't affect an academic partnership between Eagle Creek and the University of South Dakota, according to the Volante campus newspaper.

The student-run paper reported on the situation in a November edition.

Jim Moran, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said an Information Technology Consultant Academy is still expected to open this summer for students, the Volante reported.

The academy combines four undergraduate courses, an internship, the possibility of employment and the opportunity to pursue a Masters in Business Administration (MBA), the campus newspaper noted. The various aspects are all designed to meet Eagle Creek's workforce needs.

"Our relationship with Eagle Creek still exists," Moran told the Volante. "We're so looking forward to them working with us to potentially hire more of our students."

In addition to its partnership with Eagle Creek, USD always seeks to provide more opportunities for its students, Moran said.

"We're looking to partner with other industries besides Eagle Creek, and we're open to the interest of other IT companies who see this as a potential for hiring our students," he told the Volante. "This was never designed as something exclusive."

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

When it comes to business recruitment, USD stu-

dents also comprise a large labor pool for interested companies, Welch told the *Press & Dakotan*.

"They are a huge part of that marketing!" he said.

"The USD students — whether full time students looking for good part time jobs or graduating students looking to stay in Vermillion after college — we work very hard at growing the employment opportunities for them, because it all helps in the end."

The VCDC also looks at surrounding communities in the region for its labor force, Welch said.

"The Vermillion area, which includes Yankton, (is) a huge asset to us for workforce availability," he said.

The City of Vermillion isn't involved with the VTC project. However, city officials are looking at the role that the technology center could play in future community development.

City Manager John Prescott sees the advantages of having the building ready for any parties seeking an immediate site.

"I would say that having a facility like the VTC available is helpful when companies are considering the community," he said.

"It is a beautiful building that is well suited for a lot of office applications. Having an available facility can be an advantage when a company is looking to expand or relocate and time is limited."

Mayor Jack Powell sees the VTC as one of many projects now underway to improve Vermillion's business climate and quality of life.

"I think that Bliss Pointe (housing development) will have a significant impact as we try to attract people to live here," he said. "The new pool and upgrades to Prentiss Park should also provide amenities for future residents."

While the current lawsuit with Eagle Creek represents a bit of a bumpy ride, Welch said he believes the VTC ultimately will represent a large asset for Vermillion and the region.

"Whether it's this week, next week, this month or in a year, that opportunity will come," he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

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‘Wine And Dine’
Event Slated Tonight

The Center of Yankton will host its annual "Wine and Dine" event tonight (Saturday) at The Center, 900 Whiting Drive, Yankton.

The Social/Wine Tasting begin at 5:30 p.m., with hor's d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. and a live auction at 7:45 p.m. A silent auction will run from 5:30-7 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Meals on Wheels program, Center activities and equipment needs.

For more information, call (605) 665-4685 or email OA@thecenteryankton.org/.

City To Discuss Parking Ordinance

From P&D Staff Reports

The Yankton City Commission is set to discuss a proposed ordinance to allow some downtown parking spaces to be use 24 hours per day on weekdays for hotel patrons during its meeting on Monday.

The commission will also discuss a number of bids.

The commission meets at the Technical Education Center Monday at 7 p.m.

Elks Lodge To Celebrate New Home

The Yankton Elks Lodge will hold of formal installation of officers Saturday, April 11 in the new lodge home at 504 West 27th Street.

Installation ceremonies for incoming Yankton Elks Lodge officers and trustees for 2015-2016 are at 6 p.m., and will begin the events slated for the annual Elks Purple Ball dinner and dance

Members of Yankton Elks Lodge are reminded to secure dining reservations for themselves and their guests by April 3 if they plan to dine at the Purple Ball. Remind lodge officials if you have multiple guests in the event a table must be reserved for your guests.

Incoming Exalted Ruler Steven Pietila and his slate of officers and trustees will be installed to serve during the ensuing fiscal year which began April 1.

James L. Van Osdel, outgoing exalted ruler, will reveal recipients of several awards during the program. These awards serve to recognize efforts made by members and their spouses on behalf of the lodge during the past year. These awards will include Yankton Elks Lodge Officer of the Year, Elk of the Year and Yankton Elks Lodge Citizen of the Year.

Christian Home Schoolers To Meet

Christian Home Schoolers will be meeting at 10 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the Yankton Community Library.

Students will be presenting a memorized Bible verse as well as something they have earned over the last month.

During student free time, parents will meet to discuss teaching strategies and upcoming field trips.

Those interested in or already homCorps invites public to Missouri River operations meetings.

Grandparent Scam Resurfaces In SD

PIERRE — Attorney General Marty Jackley is telling South Dakota seniors to be leery of telephone calls from someone claiming to be their grandchild or other family member and requests money for a critical situation.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division is again seeing an increase number of complaints from seniors who have been receiving these types of calls from a purported grandchild in need of money.

In this scam, the caller poses as a grandchild and uses a plea for help and a sense of urgency when asking for a wire transfer. If the scam works, the victim will wire money and by the time the senior realizes what happened, the money is long gone and most likely not recoverable. In addition, these scam artists are avoiding national chain stores for wire transfers.

Tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- Ask several personal questions including something that only a grandchild would be able to answer like a nickname, name of a family pet or special family tradition. This will help determine if this is a fraud or not.

- Call another family member or the grandchild directly with a number that is familiar to you.

- Do not fill in the blanks for the caller. If the caller says, "This is your granddaughter," ask "Which one?" or "Where are you calling from?" The caller is looking for answers that will assist them in the scam.

If you believe the call is fraudulent then contact your local law enforcement agency. Those who have already sent money should contact the Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or by email at consumerhelp@state.sd.us.

OBITUARIES

Mary Morrill

Funeral services for Mary Morrill, 73, of Santee, Nebraska will be at 2 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2015, at Oyate Oyanke Community Center in Santee, Nebraska, with the Rev. Pat WhiteHorse-Carda officiating. Burial will be in Howe Creek Cemetery at Howe Creek, Nebraska.

Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. today (Saturday) and continue

until service time on Monday, with wake services on Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center in Santee. Military Honors will be provided by the Walter Cody John Honor Guard and Flandreau American Legion Post 70.

Brockhaus Funeral Home in Niobrara, Nebraska, is in charge of arrangements.

Mary died Thursday, March 19, 2015, at her residence.

Send an on-line
sympathy card at
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

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Located at 5th & Walnut Presents

The Requiem
Sunday, March 29, 3 p.m.

UCC Adult Choir

Directed by Jennifer Powell, Accompanied by Chamber Ensemble, Piano & Organ
This is a beautiful new composition by Mark Hayes, and was first performed two years ago in Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, New York

Everyone welcome! Please join us for a reception immediately after the concert in Pilgrim Hall.