

SDRC Alleges Defamation, Lost Revenue In EB-5 Suit

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A private firm that previously managed South Dakota's investment-for-visa program says the state defamed the company, caused it to lose revenue and interfered with its business relationships. SDR Inc., which oversaw the EB-5 visa program in South Dakota until 2013, filed a response last week to a state lawsuit, asked that the government's claims be denied and requested damages for the company. The state's October suit seeks records from SDRC

and recovery of state costs, among other requirements. The complicated EB-5 scandal has included state and federal investigations and an inquiry into the suicide of a former government official accused of contributing to its mismanagement. The litigation comes as the governor's economic development office is defending its ability to administer the program to a federal immigration agency. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services notified the state in late September that it intended to end South Dakota's participation, and Gov. Dennis Daugaard recently said

his administration wants to spare investors who might be harmed if it is terminated. Administration of the program went to the state after South Dakota ended its contract with SDRC in 2013. The Governor's Office of Economic Development cited terminating SDRC's contract and lawsuits against the firm as part of efforts to better manage South Dakota's regional center in its request to maintain participation in the program. The suit would compel SDRC to turn over all documentation about its management of the program for recruiting wealthy foreign investors for

projects in exchange for green cards. In SDRC's response to the lawsuit, the firm says it has turned over all required records to the state and says the state has improperly managed the regional center since taking over from the company. The state has said that problems flagged by the federal government stem from SDRC. SDRC also argues that the state wrongfully terminated the company's management contract without explanation. The contract termination in one instance cost SDRC more than \$1.5 million in revenue to promote a pork

plant project, according to the court document. SDRC argues the termination also caused revenue losses for other projects and says the state disrupted its business relationships, including with the Dakota Natural Meats LLC pork project. The state is seeking to require SDRC to make payments into a fund to protect the state from costs such as legal fees. It also wants to make SDRC approve an agreement that would prevent the firm from taking money out of a second fund without the state's permission.

Out On The Town

WJ Ranch 14th Annual Cowboy Christmas
(7 mi. south of Yankton, SD just off Hwy. 81)
Sat. & Sun., Nov. 28th & 29th
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Both Days

- Horse Rides Begin at 1pm Daily
- Trick Roping Shows
- Crafts For Kids
- Model T/Hayrack Rides
- Family Activities
- Refreshments

Hey Kids! See Me Saturday 1-3pm

Clothing, Primitives, Jewelry, Western Decor, Florals, Metal, Wood, Fabric, Christmas Decor, Food Gifts & Much More!

NO ADMISSION CHARGE!
See www.schiferlswjranch.com

YHS Choir Boosters Fundraiser
Christmas Cookie Walk
Tuesday, December 1st
YHS Commons
Purchase cookies before and after the YHS Choir & Orchestra Holiday Concert.
Cookie Sale Open 5:15-6:30pm & immediately following the 7pm concert. Raffle tickets available. Caroling by the Accapella Choir

Passing With Flying Colors
"Holiday Gift Idea"
A Hot Air Balloon Ride!
One Passenger \$200 NOW \$185
Two Passenger \$325 NOW \$300
Contact Wayne Hajek 660-3806 or 589-3806

STOP BY
FENSEL'S GREENHOUSE & GIFT SHOP
for your holiday shopping and some apple cider.
BLACK FRIDAY SALE, NOV. 27
20% STOREWIDE SALE
(excludes fresh flowers and plants)
EXTENDED HOURS FOR
Holidazzle, Thursday, Dec. 3
(we'll be open until 8 p.m.)
AND
Hometown Christmas
Friday, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18
(we'll be open until 7 p.m.)
For a delightful group or club evening outing before the holidays, call us for an appointment.
Hwy 81 • Freeman, SD • 605-925-4204

Experience
FREEMAN
South Dakota
ExperienceFreemanSD.com

One-Year Anniversary Celebration
Special Shopping Hours
Dec. 3 & 4 ... 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 5 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
WE'VE GONE BOGO!
Open to 8 Fridays for Hometown Christmas
Shop for unique, one-of-a-kind home decor and gifts at
394 S. Main in downtown Freeman.
605-925-4200
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
vintagevaultonmain.com

Holidazzle
Thursday, Dec. 3
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Enjoy an evening of shopping and holiday goodies at Freeman businesses and in-home businesses set up at select locations all around Freeman!
List of participating businesses at ExperienceFreemanSD.com
Click on Events/Freeman Events

DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3 Holidazzle Et Cetera Shoppe, Fensels, Kairos, Vintage Vault	4 Hometown Christmas Fensels, Kairos, Vintage Vault	5 Arboretum Holiday Brunch, Rawlins Piano Trio, Vintage Vault
6 Blue's Family Restaurant, FACC Winter Concert	7	8	9	10 Kairos	11 Hometown Christmas Et Cetera Shoppe, Cookie Walk, Fensels, Kairos, Vintage Vault	12
13 Blue's Family Restaurant	14	15	16	17 FA Yuletide	18 Hometown Christmas FA Yuletide, Fensels, Kairos, Vintage Vault	19
20 Blue's Family Restaurant	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 Blue's Family Restaurant	28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Year	2

Check Out The Full December Calendar At ExperienceFreemanSD.com; Go To Events

HOLIDAZZLE SPECIAL
Thursday, Dec. 3 • 5-8 p.m.
20% off All Global Gifts Items*
*excludes food and beverage items
Free gift wrapping & refreshments
Bring in a completed Holidazzle punch card and receive a FREE 1.5 oz. chocolate bar!
Friday, Dec. 11 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
ONE-DAY BAG SALE
25% off All Global Gifts Items
You Can Fit Into One Of Our Shopping Bags! *
*excludes food and beverage items
ET CETERA SHOPPE & GLOBAL GIFTS
302 S. Main, Downtown Freeman

A Jazzy Yuletide
December 17 & 18
Freeman Academy
Pioneer Hall
6:30 p.m.
Adults & Students (5-12): \$13
Students (1-4) \$6
K & Under: Free
Call for Reservations
By Dec. 10: 605-925-4237

Celebrate the Season In Freeman!
Hometown Christmas
FRIDAYS - NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11 & 18 • 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
CHRISTMAS TREE ON MAIN
4th and Main, Downtown Freeman
Freeman Chiropractic Solutions
Official Lighting at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 27
officiated by Mayor Sam Sorensen
LIVE NATIVITY
6:30-7:30 p.m. 4th and Main
Freeman Chiropractic Solutions
HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES
4th St. beside The Vintage Vault
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - \$2/person
FRIDAY VISITS WITH SANTA
Nov. 27, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Freeman Chiropractic Solutions
Dec. 4, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Freeman Public Library
Dec. 11, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Fensel's Greenhouse/Gift Shop
Dec. 18, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Freeman Public Library
STROLLING CAROLERS
EXTENDED SHOPPING HOURS

Blue's FAMILY RESTAURANT
Dine-In, Carry Out, Delivery!
(605) 925-BLUE
Cheese Pockets - Sundays
Fleisch Kuchele - Every Day
Pizza, Pasta, Chicken & More
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
(Tuesday - Closed)
175 E. 3rd St., Freeman

Holiday Events at the Kairos
Nov. 27: Black Friday Sales
Big Discounts!!!
Dec. 3: Holidazzle Event
Special Activities 5-8 p.m.
Dec. 10: Wine Club, 7 p.m.
RSVP - 605-925-4344
Dec. 11: Christmas Cup of Tea
Let us treat you to a fun night of appreciation.
Dec. 18: Holiday Floral Class
5:30 or 6:30 p.m.; Signup @ 925-4344
Kairos
A Double Shot of Inspiration
A Custom Inspired Boutique & Coffee/Cake Queen's Palace
239 S. Main, Freeman - 925-4344

'Tis the Season to be Savin'
Nov. 23-Dec. 12
10% OFF
All John Deere Clothing, Toys & Tools
Since 1882
Fred Hear
Hwy. 81, Freeman • 605-925-4241
www.deerequipment.com

1959
Schmeckfest
2016
Order Your Tickets Now
April 15-16 and 22-23
Celebrating the Germans-from-Russia traditions of the Freeman community.
Ethnic Meal, Displays, Demonstrations
...and enjoy a Freeman community theater production of Meredith Willson's popular musical...
THE MUSIC MAN
You can order meal & show tickets online at schmeckfest.com or for more information or a brochure, write Box S, Freeman, SD 57029

We invite you to visit Freeman!
Here are a few additional upcoming events:
Friday, Nov. 27
"Elijah" presented by the Swiss Choral Society, Salem Mennonite Church, 28103 443rd Ave., Freeman, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Holiday Brunch, Prairie Arboretum, 10 a.m. Tickets required; call 605-925-4204.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Rawlin's Piano Trio, Pioneer Hall, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 6
Freeman Area Childrens Choir Winter Concert, Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, 28103 443rd Ave., Freeman, 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Cookie Walk, Freeman Senior Citizens Center, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
We're proud to be part of the Freeman community; visit and see all we offer!
Mark Kasten, Agent
Freeman, S.D. 925-7353
www.markkasten.com