

As Seen in the **Argus Leader**
Raising the Roof

Lift Operation Creates 35,000 Square Feet for 2nd Floor

By Dalton Walker, dwalker@argusleader.com
Published September 15, 2010
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

One of Sioux Falls' larger buildings quietly grew 11 feet higher this week.

A large section of the ceiling at the former Sportsman's Warehouse building on Louise Avenue was raised to allow space for an additional showcase floor for new owner, HOM Furniture. The building is being renovated and is expected to open in February, said Paul Scharenbroich, showroom manager.

On Monday and some of Tuesday, workers helped raise the roof from 20 feet to 31 feet through a process called E-Z Riser, where steel sleeve-like beams are built around existing vertical beams, which are pushed up through the steel sleeve once the lifting equipment is activated. The entire process is similar to a lifting jack to change a car tire.

"This idea made a lot more sense for us than tearing the building down and starting over," Scharenbroich said. "Plus, it's a lot more green." The raised space adds an extra 35,000 square feet for a second floor to be constructed soon.

On Tuesday, little could be seen from outside of the building or from Louise Avenue. Most of the action was happening inside. Tarping draped from the edges of the raised ceiling where a new wall will be built in the near future to connect to an existing wall.

Toward the rear of the building, 30 existing beams were wrapped with the steel sleeves. Each beam was raised at a pace of 12 inches per hour. Each sleeve will remain as a fixture. The roof raising of this type is the first of its kind for the area, Scharenbroich said. He has 25-plus years of experience in Sioux Falls and at HOM Furniture.

Jeffrey Allen, president of New York-based Space Technology, was on site Tuesday. His team was in charge of the roof raising. He said his group never has raised a roof in the state. "We've done this all over the country," Allen said. "This is a very green process. There is no demolition involved."

HOM Furniture purchased the building last year and is set to split it up into three spaces, the largest being the furniture showroom. One of the two smaller spaces is leased by Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar, its second Sioux Falls location. A tenant for the other space has yet to be found.

The building will not resemble the Sportsman's Warehouse once completed, Scharenbroich said. Part of the outside already has been painted, and the front facade is getting a makeover. Once open, HOM Furniture will be three times the size of its store in the Shopko Plaza.



Photograph by Elisha Page / Argus Leader.
Bob Meisner of E-Z Riser works on one of the columns used to raise the roof in the old Sportsman's Warehouse. The building is being renovated for a new HOM Furniture Store.



Space Technology, Inc.
800-784-3150
www.ROOFLIFT.com



Exclusive Provider
E-Z Riser Process