

BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



As the spring snow rolls in, workers at the rail siding of the Belle Fourche Industrial & Rail Park carry on.

Board of Directors Meeting

May 13, 2020

Time: 7: 00 a.m.

Location: 5th & Grant Plaza
608 5th Ave, Belle Fourche

How to File an Unemployment Claim

April 24, 2020

Time: 12 Noon

Career Learning Center of the
BH Facebook Live with Kevin
Dary, SD Department of Labor

Leadership Belle Fourche

May 13, 2020 - **CANCELED**

Time: 7 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Course Topic: Day of
Excellence



The Belle Fourche Chamber will gladly act as a conduit for any information that needs to get out to the community. Through their Facebook page, website and emails to the membership, they can share your announcements, store hours, specials, needs and changes. They can also post information about persons doing deliveries, stores offering online shopping and payments, etc.

Phone: 605-892-2676

Email: director@bellefourchechamber.org or events@bellefourchechamber.org

Over the past several weeks, communities across the country have had to make quick decisions about how they could remain as “open” as possible while following safety guidelines to best insure health for those they serve.

“business as usual”

**Hollie Stalder, Executive Director
Belle Fourche Economic Development**

As our country works to navigate it's way through a pandemic, at the community level, business owners have had to make changes to insure the safety of their employees, customers and their families.

In our community, many businesses serve the very essential ag industry, which is in full swing at one level or another year round.

Zach Westberg, Vice President of Operations at New Generation Supplements corporate office in Belle Fourche, says their emphasis on safety has always been a top priority. New measures, put in place over the past several weeks, took their high level of safety up even higher. These steps were imperative to insure the safety of their operations and protection of their employees and product.

New Generation Supplements has put in place and strictly adhered to the CDC guidelines with multiple notices in work areas and on all entrances and exits such as: keep 6' social distance at all time, no more than 3 people in the breakroom at a time, and, employees only in facility operations areas. In addition, they have secured designated areas for specific employees to that job, limited access to the plant, and cleaning of areas as employees go in and come out of a work area. They have added a new section to their safety manual, all pertaining to operations and safety with Covid19.

With the plant being locked down to outside people, the safety staff designed a designated area for the large number of trucking folks to enter and submit paperwork to keep them and the facility operations safe.



Zach said he's been proud of the staff and the way they are managing the new guidelines. He said he's always amazed to see his people take such pride in their work, especially during these challenging times. These people know, appreciate and understand their customers, the ag community.

The third expansion of their Belle Fourche facility has been underway for several months. The expanded facility is enclosed now. Construction continues with the Covid19 safety guidelines outlined for all on the property. The expansion will house a new employee break room, research facility, labeling center, packaging and maintenance room.

Our community is working. Doing the right things out of honor and respect for one another. "Business as usual" will look a little different for a while. That kind of change has never been too much for us in the history of our great nation and Belle Fourche.

Thank you for all you are doing!

With respect and gratitude,

Hollie



The Belle Fourche Development Corporation office is open for the week of April 20-24. We ask that all nonessential business be conducted by phone or email. All regularly scheduled meetings and gatherings for this week will be done remotely through electronic communications. We will send out weekly updates in our newsletter and through our social media (Facebook: [Belle Fourche Development Corporation](#)). Any special announcements will be posted the same way. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions at 605-892-5065, or email at director@bellefourchedevcorp.com

Stay well and safe.

Local Pipe Manufacturer To Stay Open During COVID-19 Crisis



Company taking extra precautions to keep plant open and workers safe.

BELLE FOURCHE - Pipeline Plastics, LLC, based in Westlake, Texas, but with a plant located on the west side of Belle Fourche, has announced that the company is currently certified as an “Essential Business” by the federal government. This means that the federal government has declared manufacturing an essential industry and exempt from closure orders because the products they produce are deemed essential to overcoming this pandemic. This includes water and natural gas piping among other things.

President & COO Mike Leathers commented, “Our priority is to keep our employees safe. We are taking extra precautions to work safely within CDC recommended guidelines, and ensuring any employee affected by the COVID-19 virus has benefits to reduce the financial hardship of not being able to work from home.” Leathers stated that current plans are to run the plants 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We are grateful that we can keep our employees working with full paychecks, while also supplying the products needed in times of national emergency. We are taking every precaution to keep everyone safe and healthy.” states Josh Pickett, Plant Manager in Belle Fourche, SD. The company has plants located in Decatur, Texas, Belle Fourche, South Dakota, and Levelland, Texas.

With over 500 years of leadership and extrusion expertise, their manufacturing team is highly trained and focused on providing products that meet or exceed industry standards and specifications. The company prides itself on having the highest quality products available and sees themselves as the water pipe of the future.

Pipeline Plastics, LLC, founded in 2011 and a portfolio company of SCF Partners since 2019, is a Westlake, Texas-based manufacturer of high-performance polyethylene pipe used primarily for water infrastructure in oil and gas, mining, industrial and municipal applications (www.pipe.us). SCF Partners (“SCF”), founded in 1989, provides equity capital and strategic growth assistance to build leading energy service and equipment companies that operate throughout the world. The firm is headquartered in Houston, Texas and has additional offices in Calgary, Singapore and Aberdeen. SCF currently oversees approximately \$2 billion under management and has built more than 70 platform services companies, completing over 400 growth acquisitions, through partnerships with energy services & equipment entrepreneurs. For additional information about SCF, please visit SCF’s website at www.scfpartners.com.

Published in the Belle Fourche Beacon April 8, 2020.



ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses.

Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards.

- For a top-line overview of the program [CLICK HERE](#)
- If you're a lender, more information can be found [HERE](#)
- If you're a borrower, more information can be found [HERE](#)
- The application for borrowers can be found [HERE](#)

A special thank you to our Belle Fourche banks for helping their customers navigate these programs.

NEW LOAN PROGRAM

GOVERNOR NOEM'S SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND is now available. Just go to this website – sdgoed.com. A full guideline of loan parameters and eligibility requirements can be found here. Loans will be issued based on approval on a first come, first serve basis.

For questions about the application, contact GOED's our main office at 605-773-GOED (4633) or goedinfo@state.sd.us. Be advised that they anticipate a high influx of applications and are working as quickly and diligently as possible to assist their partners in a timely fashion. You can also call any of their regional staff members: BH Region: Hannah Downs: (605) 381-4225.

GOVERNOR NOEM'S SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

Appropriate Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be a small for-profit or non-profit business as defined by SBA, but with less than 250 employees
2. Physical presence in South Dakota
3. Established prior to March 2020
4. Provide a written acknowledgement from a South Dakota bank and/or certified public accountant that the applicant has made statements or otherwise provided information or evidence that supports applicant's claim that applicant's business has suffered a material negative impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Have a personal credit with a minimum score of 650; lower requires a special exception
6. Demonstrate 1:1 debt coverage ratio with the new debt factored under normal circumstances

Loan Details:

1. Amount:
 - Min: \$5,000
 - Max: \$75,000
 - Maximum of 3 months operating expenses
2. Terms:
 - Interest rate: 0%
 - Fees: none
3. Amortization:
 - No payments for initial 6 months
 - Maximum term of 60 months (prefer shorter term for smaller loans)
 - Automatic Payment Required
 - No pre-payment penalty
4. Security:
 - Personal guaranties for any owner with at least a 20% share of the business
 - A blanket security agreement
 - Loan over \$25,000 may require additional collateral (mortgage, etc)
 - Loans will be made directly to small businesses

Loan Agreement Terms:

- Proceeds from the loan must be held in a separate bank account at a bank in South Dakota.
- Applicant must provide regular expenditure reports to GOED documenting that the use of proceeds were used for normal recurring operating expenses.
- Any funds remaining in the account after 3 month period will be paid back to GOED.
- Proceeds may not be used for any distributions or dividends to owners.
- GOED makes no assurances as to how approval or denial of this application will impact the applicant's ability to pursue other financing from the SBA or any other source.
- As a subfund of REDI, these loans will be subject to annual audit by Department of Legislative Audit
- Board of Economic Development will review Eligibility Requirements and Loan Terms; a public monthly report will be provided to them on loan activity.
- Loans will be approved by the Commissioner of the Governor's Office of Economic Development*
- All application materials are confidential. Name of all loan recipients will be a public record.

GOED expects high demand for these loans, and applications will be evaluated on a "first come, first served" basis.

**after consultation with the Credit Review Committee*

\$ FINANCIAL FRIDAYS



Career Learning Center
of the Black Hills

SOUTH DAKOTA
STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Join us on **Facebook Live!**



For **financial tips**, tools, and resources during these challenging times

Noon MT / 1 PM CT

CLC Facebook Page: facebook.com/clcbh

4/17 **What Now? Financial Tips and More to Help You Navigate COVID-19**



Tracy Palecek, Black Hills Area Community Foundation

5/15 **Steps You Can Take to Weather This Financial Emergency Part 2: Q & A**



Bonnie Spain, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Black Hills

4/24 **How to File an Unemployment Claim**



Kevin Dary, SD Department of Labor

5/22 **Stimulus Payments and Unemployment: The Effect on Other Benefits**



Barry Gravatt, SD Benefits Specialist Network

5/01 **Steps You Can Take to Weather This Financial Emergency**



Bonnie Spain, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Black Hills

5/29 **COVID-19: The Impact on Small Business and Resources Available**



Matt Stone, Small Business Development Center

5/08 **The CARES Act: What You Need to Know**



Congressman Dusty Johnson
(Schedule permitting)

Learn more at clcbh.org/financial-fridays

For more information, contact: Nikki Hoyt,
nhoyt@clcbh.org

Partner in the South Dakota
WEEK OF WORK
April 20-24, 2020



This initiative will provide 10th grade students in South Dakota an opportunity to explore their career interests and be matched with work experiences provided by employers.

As a business, you can gain exposure for your industry, impact career awareness and engage with your potential workforce.

When you invest in youth, you invest in your future.

Toolkits exist to easily guide you through the process of hosting a:

- Job shadow
- Facility tour
- Classroom presentation

REGISTER @ SDWeekofWork.com to express your interest and be matched with students.

10,000 copies of this publication produced by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation at \$0.05 per copy.

