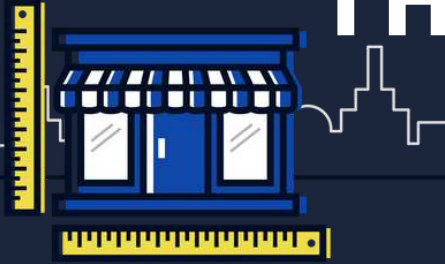


THE BUSINESS LEAD



SUMMER 2022



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

If you are searching for ways to connect with area students and present what your business is all about, The Bluff Country Collaborative can help.

From job shadowing to presentations, to mentoring opportunities, the BCC team can offer ways for you to connect with young adults and generate interest in career fields and career options in your industry through career connected learning.

What a great opportunity to build a bridge with students and potential future employees. Read more about BBC on page 2 and learn how to showcase your business!

BY MICHELLE ELLINGSON
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY
CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

To subscribe to the Business Lead Newsletter, contact City Hall at cityhall@caledoniamn.gov or call 507-725-3450

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BLUFF COUNTRY COLLABORATIVE-FUTURE FORWARD

The vision of the Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC) is to ensure the economic vitality of rural communities in Houston and Fillmore counties by integrating schools, employers, local government, and community resources in an effort to provide meaningful, hands-on experience to the next generation of workers. Hence, *FutureForward*.

FutureForward offers an easy way to support local economic prosperity, find and manage partners, set up and track career-connected learning activities, build relevant educator capacity and pipeline, and leverage young people's innovative and diverse ideas. What does this mean for your business?

By partnering with *FutureForward*, you can provide skill-based opportunities that support professional development and talent retention, attract and develop a talent pipeline, and leverage young people's innovative and diverse ideas.

Features include:

- Create a company profile with video and photo upload that showcase careers in your business.
- Post company-sponsored site tours, job shadows, student projects, internships, and teacher externships.
- Lead or partner on classroom instruction to bring real world relevancy to educational topics.
- Push notifications of events to students and educators for streamlined communication.
- Built-in direct message functionality between educators and business professionals.
- Easy "opt in" and "opt out" preferences.
- Business feedback tools and reporting.

But the best feature is, it's FREE to employers!



FutureForward™

Be a part of the career-connected learning experience by joining FutureForward™ for free today. Connect with the next generation of our workforce, build your workforce pipeline, and play a key role in helping students identify what career they want to pursue after high school.

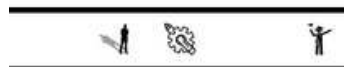
The overall experience was great. Giving students the ability to see that there are other opportunities besides college that are viable options for their future. It was both generalized and company specific, but gave students the ability to see how this company as well as industry operates.

- Teacher, Site Visit

source: bluffcountrycollaborative.com

This was a fun and value-added event for our store! We were excited to provide insight on the retail business and inspire future career opportunities to students in our community!

-Employer, Site Visit



BCC Industry Partners in Caledonia



MANUFACTURING TRENDS IN 2022

To be sustainable and overcome significant challenges post pandemic, manufacturers have been putting a focus on several key areas in 2022. Below is a list of current trends.

Additive Manufacturing: Additive Manufacturing (where materials are produced in layers using 3D printing) will transform manufacturing in coming years making for more viable processes at little cost. Using computer-aided-design (CAD) software or 3D object scanners, material can be added layer by layer in precise geometrics shapes. By contrast, when an object is created by traditional means, it is often necessary to remove material through milling or machining. Automotive production is already pursuing the 3D printing concept.

Increased Automation: Automation is crucial in addressing and compensating for the labor shortage. In addition, using automation can decrease or eliminate time consuming and error prone processes. Technologies like smart machines can help maintain consistency, increase quality, and improve uptime.

Securing Talent: As more automation comes into play, employees must be upskilled to work within an automated environment. Partnering with technical education institutions to develop employees for this type of workplace can help prepare employees for the future.

Predictive Maintenance: The results of a good predictive maintenance program includes reduced downtime and an increase in efficiency. Being prepared and proactive will better equip manufacturers to meet customer demand and successfully implement digital transformation. source: www.wolterskluwer.com

Old Buildings Renewed

The lot and a frame building at 123 E. Main was purchased in 1898 by C.H. Schansberg, Severt J. Solberg and John Solberg for their meat market business. In 1905 the frame building was replaced with the brick structure at a cost of \$7,500. Known as the Central Meat Market, the market became famous for its homemade sausage. At the back of the building was a hand operated elevator used to lift ice cakes up to the chill room.

Michael and Joseph P. Leighton became owners of the building in 1925. In 1930 the ownership façade was changed to read, "Leighton Bros." During the late 1930s and 1940s it housed the meat market and a grocery store run by Styrk Stenehjem.

In 1960 optometrist Dr. Arthur P. Zimmerman bought the building and lived in the upstairs apartment with his wife Stella. Ross Johnson and Charles Thomas rented the retail space for the Coast to Coast Hardware Store from 1958-1980. Then the franchise was sold to Elmer and Ruby Pohlman (who later moved to a new location on Kingston).

The next business in the building was Country Flowers run by Rick and Sue Haugstad from 1984-1988. When Rose Kramer started her flower shop located here, she changed the name to Country Rose Flowers and Gifts. In 1999 Ernie Hodges purchased the building from Stella Zimmerman and opened the 24 Hour Workout Center. The next owners of the Workout Center and building were Anthony and Carol Schiltz in 2006. The building was purchased by Jared Snyder in 2016 who then sold it to Michael and Sara Klug in 2019. The Klugs have restored the building façade and remodeled the interior for their insurance business - Klug Insurance, LLC.



Central Meat Market 1911
photo provided by HCHS



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Operated by Aaron Keopple, Precision Stainless, Inc. has been a part of the Caledonia community since 2016.

Located at 921 Industry Road, Precision Stainless Inc. manufactures standard fittings and custom stainless steel fabrication products. Products include clamp fittings, bevel seat fittings, I-line fittings, and tube O.D. fittings specifically for dairy, food, and beverage manufacturing, and bio-pharmaceutical industries.

All fittings are produced by skilled welders, craftspeople and technicians with an average of 15 years of experience in the stainless steel tube fitting manufacturing.



Klug Insurance 2022

Upcoming Events

Caledonia Community Picnic: Sponsored by Community Connections on June 11th at North Park beginning at 11:30am. Bring a dish to pass and your own drink and tableware. Meet your neighbors and make new connections!

Founder's Day Celebration: Founders Day will be celebrated June 16th through June 18th with a variety show, parade, car show, 5K run/walk, vendors, a children's fun fest, and music.

Community Pool Party: Meet at the pool on July 30th. Watch for details!

Music in the Park: Hosted by the Caledonia Chamber and the City of Caledonia at Gazebo Park. Event dates include June 28, July 12, July 19, and July 26.

National Night Out: August 2nd. More information will be provided as the date draws near.

Houston County Fair: August 17th through August 21st.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The property at 111 E. Grove Street, formerly The Ranch and owned by Lee and Elsie Babler in partnership with Tamiko Hubka Steele, is in the beginning stages of some magnificent renovations. By removing the existing exterior, the original brickwork was exposed to reveal the building's construction date of 1911. Plans for the building include a hair salon on the lower level with space for an Air Bnb on the upper level. Adjacent to the building stands a barn which will also eventually be renovated.

The Joshua and Claire O'Brien property at 115 E. Main continues to show significant progress with the completion of the garage behind the building. In addition, the front of the building has been removed to expose the interior. The next steps in the project include the plumber laying pipe for the bathroom, pouring cement for the new addition, and finishing the stairs for the apartment. Front windows from La Crosse Glass will be arriving soon.



The Ranch building exterior renovation included removal of the white facade to expose the building's original brick. The brick was then cleaned and restored.