



SPEARFISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**BUSINESS
NEWSLETTER** 

Volume 7, Issue 6 | June 2022

Monument Health Announces Major Spearfish Expansion Projects



Monument Health Northern Hills Market President Thomas Worsley announces \$80 million in Spearfish healthcare expansion projects

Monument Health announced two major construction projects in the Spearfish area. In one of the projects, the Spearfish Hospital campus on Main Street will nearly double in size. In the other, Monument Health will build a new multispecialty clinic off Interstate 90 Exit 17 near the Elkhorn Ridge neighborhood at the eastern edge of Spearfish. Together, the projects represent an \$80 million investment in Spearfish area health care.

“With population growth, medical advances and the growing need for specialty care in the Spearfish area, the time has come for a health care transformation in the Northern Hills,” said Paulette Davidson, President and CEO of Monument Health. “This community deserves nothing less.”

“Of all the elements of the Spearfish Hospital project, the one most critically needed is the expansion and relocation of the Emergency Department,” said Thomas Worsley, President of Spearfish Hospital and Hills Markets. The department will move to the south end of the hospital, with a dedicated North Avenue entrance.

The new clinic will be built along U.S. Highway 85 will be a single-story, 37,000-square-foot building offering easy access to specialized medical care to include Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Massage Therapy, Sports Medicine, Orthopedics, Podiatry, Ear-Nose-Throat/Allergy, Audiology and Dermatology for residents of the Northern Hills. Several existing Spearfish clinics, departments and offices will be consolidated into the new building.



The Monument Health Foundation is committed to contributing \$6 million toward the Spearfish projects. The Foundation has \$3.5 million in existing funds, and a campaign has been launched with a goal of raising the remaining \$2.5 million specifically earmarked to expand the Spearfish Hospital's Emergency Department.

[Learn More Here](#)

Childcare Challenges Discussed

at Recent SEDC Lunch & Learn



SEDC hosts Child Care Panel Discussion with the Spearfish business community

SEDC hosted a Child Care Panel Discussion at our quarterly Lunch and Learn on May 19. The panel of local experts included Karley LaFountain, Director of Prairie Hills Child Care; Barb Cline, Executive Director of Prairie Hills Transit; Kayla Klein, President and CEO of Klein Visioneering Group; Kirk Easton, Superintendent of the Spearfish School District; and Lyndsay Schreiber, Director of Human Resources at Pioneer Bank and Trust.

The panel discussion centered around the growing childcare needs of the Spearfish community, how they relate to workforce, and ways in which such needs can be addressed. The event concluded with community input in which healthy and construction conversation about potential solutions was had.

The insights shared will greatly help SEDC and our community partners to identify opportunities to resolve the issue of a lack of available child care options in Spearfish.

[See Child Care Desert Map](#)

Apply Now for the 2022 SEDC Women in Leadership Scholarship

Deadline to Apply is June 24!

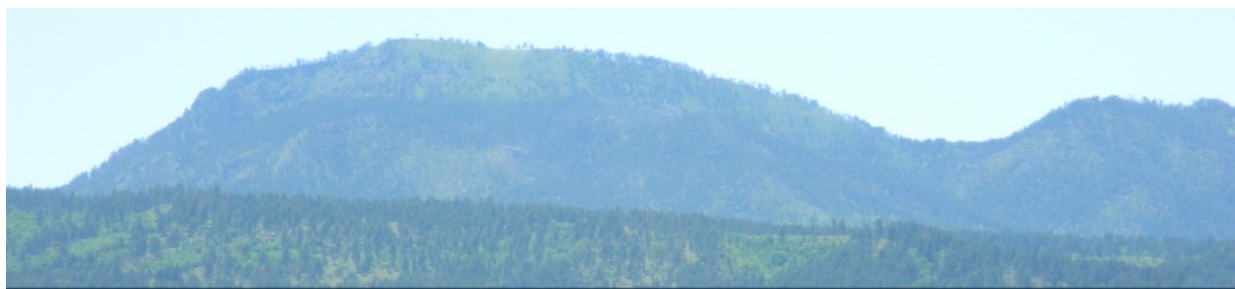
South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity (SD CEO) West Women's Business Center will be hosting their 9th Annual Women in Leadership class on July 26, 27, and 28 at The Barn at Aspen Acres.

SEDC will be offering a scholarship to cover the full cost of attendance, valued at \$299, for one woman employed at an SEDC member business in Spearfish. The deadline to apply is June 24 at 5:00 PM.



[Download Application](#)

[Program Details](#)



SPEARFISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT 

Spearfish Sasquatch

Eric Schmidt is the Owner and General Manager of the Spearfish Sasquatch Baseball Club. “I’ve always had a passion for both business and baseball,” Eric said. “The idea of merging the two, in the town that I love to call home nonetheless, is truly a dream come true.”



Originally from a small town in Iowa, Eric has called Spearfish home ever since attending Black Hills State University where he earned a B.A. in Business Administration and Management in 2005. Before being hired as the GM of the Sasquatch in 2018, Eric spent 15 years at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center & Lucky’s 13 Pub as the Director of Marketing & Human Resources. In February of 2020, after two years of working as the GM of the Spearfish Sasquatch, Eric purchased the baseball club along with a few silent partners.

“Once we identified this opportunity, we quickly formed a group of Spearfish locals who all shared the same passion for keeping this awesome form of family entertainment in our community for years to come,” he said of his fellow co-owners.

The Spearfish Sasquatch employ up to 40 part-time staff and interns each summer with a mission “to provide the entire Black Hills Region with an affordable, family-friendly, evening entertainment option in the form of summer collegiate wood bat baseball.” But the Spearfish Sasquatch are so much more than the highest level of baseball in the region, Eric pointed out. “We strive to create an experience at the ballpark each and every night by combining baseball on the field with theme nights, promotions, fireworks, music and more off the field.”



For an example of how the Spearfish Sasquatch go above and beyond to make the experience fun and memorable, just look at their game-time menu. Some unique fan-favorite foods that are served at the games include a “Squatch Dog”, which is an all-beef hot dog topped with barbeque pulled pork, bacon bits and nacho cheese, a “Sasquatch Mini Helmet” filled with Leone’s Creamery ice cream, and an ice-cold “Sasquatch Summer Ale” brewed specially for the baseball team by Crow Peak Brewing Company here in town!

Only a month or so after purchasing the Spearfish Sasquatch Baseball Club, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the team to cancel their 2020 season. “It was definitely a challenge to navigate through that first year as owners, but we came out of it with smiles on our faces and were able to bounce back to have our most successful year to date in 2021,” Eric shared. Attendance has grown from 11,000 to 13,000 to 15,000 in the first three seasons, the latest of which the team won their division and made it to the Championship Series! “Nothing makes me happier than seeing a ballpark full of cheering, laughter, smiling faces and the icing on the cake is someone coming up to me and simply saying, “Thank you for having this team in Spearfish,” he expressed.

Aside from providing the Spearfish community with a great experience at every game, the Spearfish Sasquatch Baseball Club supports various nonprofit organizations and local businesses by fundraising through ticket sales, selling 50/50 raffle tickets at games, and donating silent auction items or funds to a wide variety of events throughout the Black Hills. “Since our inception in 2018, we have given over \$125,000 in cash/in-kind contributions to various efforts,” Eric shared proudly.



Eric’s goal is to turn Spearfish Sasquatch baseball games into a must-see event here in Spearfish. One of the must-see aspects of the games, especially for children, is the team’s mischievous mascot: a blue sasquatch named Samson! “Even if you don’t like baseball, that’s ok,” encouraged Eric. “Come anyway, and I promise you’ll have a good time!”



The Spearfish Sasquatch play over thirty evenings each summer at the Black Hills Energy Stadium in Spearfish. Check out their 2022 Schedule to find a game to attend and support the team. “If you haven’t been to a game yet,” Eric said, “come visit us this summer. You won’t regret it!” Go Squatch!

[Spearfish Sasquatch Website](#)

Do you want to be featured in the Business Spotlight?

Simply fill out the short form below! Your business must be an SEDC member to be selected. If chosen as the Business Spotlight of the Month, you will be asked to answer a questionnaire and provide a photo to be used in an upcoming newsletter and on our Facebook page.

[Business Spotlight Interest Form](#)

SEDC Welcomes Summer Intern,

Morgan Roberts

Spearfish native Morgan Roberts begins Summer Internship with SEDC

Spearfish Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) is happy to welcome Morgan Roberts, a 2019 graduate of Spearfish High School, as a part-time intern in the office this summer. Morgan will be a senior this fall at the University of South Dakota (USD) studying economics, accounting, and finance. Morgan is involved on campus as a Resident Assistant, President of the United Nations Association, National Communications Coordinator for the Residence Hall Association, and a Junior Annalist in Coyote Capital Management. During her time at Spearfish High School, Morgan was Captain of the Debate Team, Founder and President of the Future Business Leaders of America Club, and a member of the Knowledge Bowl, Cross-Country, and Track.

Prior to this internship with SEDC, Morgan gained valuable work experience through the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) as the Economic Development Intern in the spring semester of 2020. During her time there she assisted with a workforce housing initiative and researched new applicants in the process of moving their business to the Vermillion area.



During her time at SEDC this summer, Morgan will work alongside SEDC staff on a wide variety of economic development projects and initiatives. "I have loved growing up in Spearfish, and I am so excited to use my skills and experience to give back to the Spearfish community while learning more about the practical application of my business degrees," said Morgan. "I enjoyed my time with the VCDC and cannot wait to get more hands-on experience with SEDC!"

"We are delighted to have Morgan on the team," said Kory Menken, SEDC Executive Director. "Internships are a great way for students to strengthen their leadership talents, their ability to work well with different groups of individuals, and their skills in seeing projects through from start to finish. Additionally, interns can bring with them novel perspectives and fresh ideas."

Could Your Business Use An Intern?

**Apply for a part-time intern from BHSU for
this upcoming fall semester before July 15!**

Applications for Fall 2022 Semester interns from Black Hills State University (BHSU) through the BHSU-SEDC Workforce Internship Program are open until



Internships offer not only educational experience for students, but also employment opportunity for businesses. This program aims to address current workforce shortages as well as create a pipeline of sustainable employment between our local university and Spearfish businesses.

If your business would like to host a BHSU intern, contact SEDC to get started.

Program Information

Employer Application

High Plains Western Heritage Center Participates in Internship Program

Through the BHSU-SEDC Workforce Internship Program, both High Plains Western Heritage Center and BHSU student gain value

The following article from Dr. Bill Bosche appeared in the May 2022 Issue of High Plains Western Heritage Center's *How Time Flies* monthly newsletter. Dr. Bosche writes about Black Hills State University student Samantha Wickham who worked with him on updating the museum's archive documentation system through the BHSU-SEDC Workforce Internship Program.

In the last few months, we were fortunate to have the help of Samantha Wickham at our Western Heritage Center. Samantha was here as a BHSU student intern under a grant jointly sponsored by Black Hills State University and Spearfish Economic Development Corporation. She is a graduating senior and her work with us assisted her in that final lap of her education.

While with us, Samantha helped us update records in our museum database and, along with several volunteers, added pictures to the records, helped locate items in our museum, located records of loaned items, and helped us update hard copies of loaned and donated items. Needless to say, she knows a lot more about newer technologies than a lot of us old-timers and this was helpful to us in several ways.

Her cheerful and competent help will be missed by those of us who had the opportunity to work with her. We wish Samantha well in her life and career and



are looking forward to the next student this summer sponsored by the same grant from BHSU and SEDC.

Samantha Wickham with
volunteer Linda Lester

"I love working here and love all the volunteers; I'll really miss everyone," Samantha expressed.

"We are very happy to have had her with us," Karla Scovell, Executive Director of the High Plains Western Heritage Center, told SEDC. "Thank you so much for providing this great opportunity for the student and the help for us! We are looking forward to [hosting another BHSU intern in] June."



SPEARFISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**THE MORE
YOU KNOW** 

How to Announce an Employee Departure

Indeed.com | February 7, 2022

Employee turnover is a normal part of the business world. Some amount of preparation is necessary when an employee leaves a company, including announcing it to the rest of the staff. An employee departure announcement should be professional, concise, descriptive and include information about what the remaining employees can expect going forward. Follow these steps as you draft your email:

1. Address the office

Begin by addressing it to the appropriate party or department. Depending on the size of the organization, you might send the letter to the entire company or just to the employee's department. It's thoughtful to notify the departing employee's department or direct reports that they are leaving before drafting and sending the announcement to a wider list of recipients.

2. State the purpose

Begin the body of your email by stating your purpose, which is that an employee is leaving the company. Be sure to include the name of the employee.

3. List the leave date and other relevant details

The most useful detail to include is an effective date. This is the employee's last date of employment with the organization and gives coworkers time to prepare for their leave. You may choose to include additional details about the employee's departure, particularly if they are leaving for a positive reason, like continuing their education or career advancement. However, it is often best to leave out personal details to allow the employee to share that information themselves.

4. Offer information for next steps

The purpose of an employee departure letter is not just to notify the company of the employee's departure, but to also provide them with information about what they can expect. This is a great time to notify the company that you will be hiring to fill the position or that you have already found a replacement. You might also include information about what employees should do with communications or job tasks that would normally go to the departing employee.

5. Include information about a farewell event

It is important to announce an employee's departure as soon as possible. This gives their fellow employees time to prepare and to make plans to attend any farewell events. If your organization has decided to hold a gathering to say goodbye, include details about the time, date and location of the event.

6. Express gratitude

End the letter by thanking the departing employee for their time or contributions. Regardless of the reason behind the resignation, it is usually a good idea to keep a departure announcement positive. Touch on the employee's positive traits and professional achievements. You can express any appreciation for the employee's work with the company and invite other employees to do the same.

[See Templates Here](#)

SEDC Staff Member to Pursue Further Education

**SEDC Marketing and Administration Coordinator
Cayley Schmitt to pursue graduate degree**

The SEDC Board of Directors wishes SEDC Marketing and Administration Coordinator Cayley Schmitt the best as she pursues her Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. Her first class on campus will in fact be on Economic Development!

A 2020 graduate of Black Hills State University, Cayley has provided outstanding service to the SEDC Board and



membership over the past two years. From helping the Spearfish business community navigate through the pandemic and witnessing record-breaking growth to developing a new internship program and launching several new marketing initiatives, Cayley has been a valuable member of the SEDC team. "Cayley will be greatly missed, but we wish her nothing but the best in her exciting new endeavor," said SEDC Director Kory Menken.

Job Application Open

BY THE NUMBERS

Spearfish City Reports:

BUILDING PERMITS	2022	2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
New Residential	16	10	54	57
New Commercial	1	1	7	2
Total Permits	41	48	170	215
Total Dollars	\$23,820,418	\$6,218,526	\$52,255,973	\$28,770,835

SALES TAX	2022	2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
2nd Cent Sales Tax	\$396,924	\$417,842	\$2,136,153	\$1,978,821
Hospitality Tax	\$49,824	\$55,664	\$283,979	\$273,648

SD Dept. of Labor Reports:

Labor Force	2022	2021
CITY OF SPEARFISH		
Total Labor Force	6,322	6,044
Total Employed	6,201	5,861
Total Unemployed	121	183
% Unemployed	1.9%	3.0%
LAWRENCE COUNTY		
Total Labor Force	13,545	12,908
Total Employed	13,263	12,507
Total Unemployed	282	401
% Unemployed	2.1%	3.1%
NORTHERN HILLS (BUTTE, LAWRENCE, MEADE, & PENNINGTON COUNTIES)		
Total Labor Force	91,422	89,350
Total Employed	89,420	86,543
Total Unemployed	2,002	2,807
% Unemployed	2.2%	3.1%

BUILDING PERMITS AND SALES TAX ARE BASED ON THE MOST RECENT CITY OF SPEARFISH REPORTS FROM MAY OF 2022

LABOR FORCE DATA IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT SD DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & REGULATION REPORT FROM APRIL OF 2022

GOED Releases New Video on Spearfish Development



Cayley Schmitt

Marketing & Administrative
Coordinator



South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development showcases Spearfish in latest feature community video

Spearfish, a beautifully scenic community positioned on the edge of the Northern Black Hills is located in western South Dakota along Interstate 90. Spearfish's economic development is everchanging and continually growing.

"To keep up with and, more importantly, stay ahead of future growth, SEDC is focusing not only on its traditional business retention, expansion, and recruitment priorities but also on its workforce development strategies. We are working closer than ever with our local colleges and school district to address the workforce needs of our business community," Kory Menken, Spearfish Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Executive Director, said in the video.

Spearfish is home to hundreds of businesses in a variety of industries and is working hard to bring more growth to the town. Menken said, "SEDC's target industries are outdoor product companies, light industrial, advanced manufacturing, value-added agriculture, healthcare, and professional services."

To help both new and existing businesses, the community has developed programs to help with growth. The Spearfish Economic Revolving Fund (SERF) helps with land acquisition and related development, building, remodeling, and the purchase of equipment. Other options that businesses could take advantage of are the Capital Loan Program and the Entrepreneurial Loan Program, both of which provide gap financing opportunities, and the Business Façade Rehabilitation Loan Program, which assists with renovation costs.

Menken concluded, "GOED has played a role in a variety of different projects including Spearfish Brewing, Sawyer Brewing, Pacific Stainless Products, and Creekside Bean and Vine to name just a few. GOED is one of SEDC's closest partners. We look forward to continuing to partner with GOED on addressing key economic development issues including talent attraction and workforce housing.

[See More Here](#)



Legislative News Updates

USDA Challenged

Thune advocates for South Dakota Producers and Proactive Forest Management in the Black Hills.

[Read More](#)

Forest Survey

Lawrence County Commission commits up to \$100,000 over the next four years to address the potential decline in timber production in the BHNH.

[Read More](#)

Beef Packing

Rounds introduces resolution directing FTC to investigate anticompetitive practices and allegations of antitrust law violations in beef packing industry.

[Read More](#)

Apprenticeships

Labor Department offers funding for new apprenticeship programs.

[Read More](#)

Childcare Funding

Governor Noem is making available additional grants to assist childcare providers licensed and registered with the SD DSS.

[Read More](#)

County Commission Race

Flanagan, Sleep, Jennings capture Lawrence County Commission general election ballot spots.

[Read More](#)



Local Development News

Black Hills Pioneer:

[Construction on Spearfish CTE center underway](#)

[Monument Health plans major expansion of hospitals](#)

[Reconstruction at Main and Federal looks to smooth out stacked sidewalk](#)

[Students get down to business](#)

[\\$28 million development project slated for Spearfish](#)

[Spearfish showcases Sky Ridge](#)

Other:

[Sky Ridge workforce housing program adjusted to 2022 standards](#)

[New digital features available for utility customers in Spearfish](#)

[Spearfish nonprofits earn grants through South Dakota community Foundation](#)

[City Planner Jayna Watson retires after 18 years of service to Spearfish](#)



Get Involved In The Community!

D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery Day
Hosted by Grace Balloch Memorial Library
Wednesday, June 15 | 1:00 to 3:00 PM
D.C. Booth National Fish Hatchery
[Learn More Here](#)



Canyon Acoustic Series
Hosted by Spread the Tunes
Every Wednesday Night | 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Spearfish City Park
[Learn More Here](#)



Wednesday Night Music Series
Hosted by Spearfish Creek Wine Bar
Every Wednesday Night | 8:00 - 10:30 PM
Spearfish Creek Wine Bar
[Learn More Here](#)



Downtown Friday Nights
Hosted by DFN
Every Friday Night | 5:30 to 9:00 PM
Main Street Spearfish
[Learn More Here](#)



Spearfish CommUNITY Event
Hosted by Spearfish Rec & Northern Hills Training Center
Tuesday, June 21 | 4:00 to 9:00 PM
Spearfish Rec and Aquatics Center
[Learn More Here](#)



2022 Yellow Jacket Classic
Hosted by Stadium Sports Grill
Saturday, June 25 | 1:00 PM
Spearfish Canyon Golf Club
[Learn More Here](#)



Women in Networking Luncheon
Hosted by SD CEO
Tuesday, June 28 | 11:30 AM
The Joy Center
[Learn More Here](#)



Gone Fishin' Mixer
Hosted by the Spearfish Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, June 30 | 4:00 - 6:30 PM
Ruby's Garden at DC Booth Fish Hatchery
[Learn More Here](#)



Irrigating Spearfish Valley - History Talk
Hosted by Grace Balloch Memorial Library
Thursday, June 30 | 6:00 PM
Old City Hall
[Learn More Here](#)



Spearfish 4th of July Parade
Monday, July 4 | Noon
Main Street
[Learn More Here](#)



Spearfish Canyon Half Marathon & 5K

Please share your upcoming events with [Cayley Schmitt](#), SEDC Marketing Coordinator, to be included in the upcoming SEDC monthly newsletters.

Share The News!

Did you know that our monthly electronic SEDC Business Newsletter is

**ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, COST-EFFECTIVE,
AND EASY TO SHARE?**

Keep your employees informed on local business happenings
by sharing this email with them!

Past SEDC Business Newsletters can also always be found
on the SEDC Website under the News tab.

[SEDC Newsletter Archives](#)



[Become an SEDC Member Today!](#)

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Let's Be Friends!



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