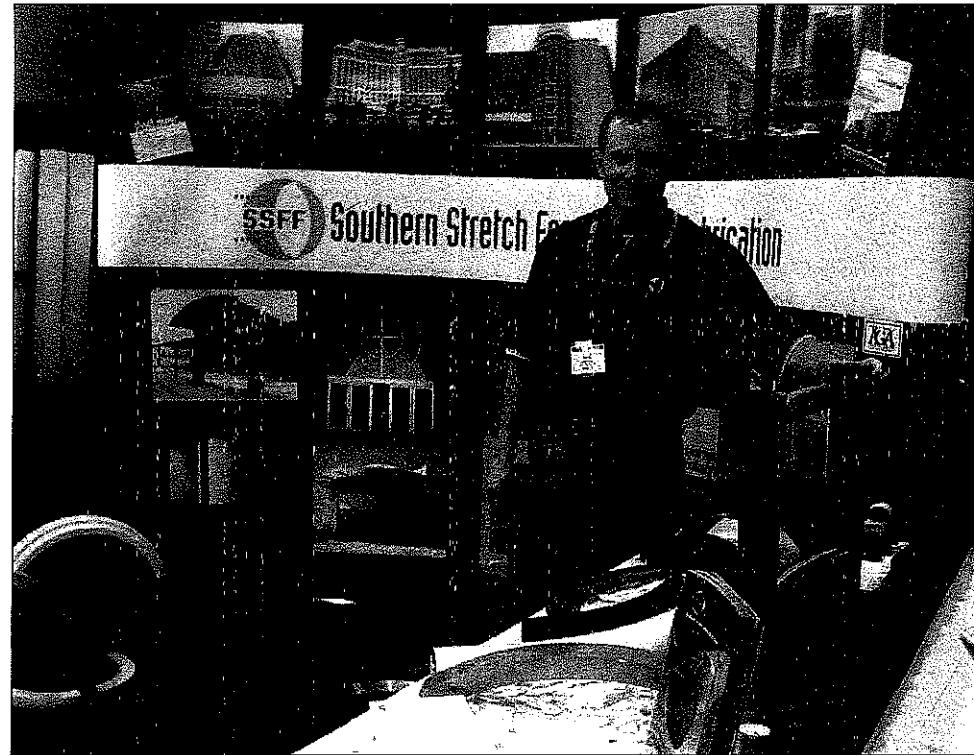


Strategic partnership with Linetec benefits both companies

jservi@thebusinessnewsonline.com

Curved metal allows designers to truly see the sky as the limit for architectural



David Arthur, founder and president of Southern Stretch Forming, displays some of his company's curved-metal work.

designs. With Linetec heavily involved in the architectural industry, it wanted to be able to add this level of customization to its offerings as well. Linetec originally thought that they could simply add metal specialists to their

company and be able to form curved metal, but quickly realized it wasn't that easy. So, the search began for a strategic partnership. They quickly realized that wasn't going to be as easy as they first thought either with

Rick Marshall, Linetec President adds, "For customers, dealing with curved metal is historically a big challenge — there often is more cost in freight shipping parts between extruder, stretch former, and finisher than

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Security Protecting Customer Information



Virtualtech

Website Design and Promotion, Inc.

to launch this initiative include Saint Mary's Hospital, Rhinelander; Sacred Heart Hospital, Tomahawk; Eagle River Memorial Hospital and Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff, and its clinics in Crandon, Eagle River, Laona, Rhinelander, Tomahawk, Woodruff, Owen, Thorpe and Stanley.

Additional work is under way to expand this program to other Ministry locations.

Veterans can determine eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program at www.va.gov/opa/choiceact or by calling the number on their Choice Card at (866) 606-8198.

Upon graduation, students will then complete an additional three to four terms of UIU coursework online, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in as little as eight months.

ThedaCare hospitals implement Pulsara

ThedaCare has implemented Pulsara — a standardized communication protocol that performs like an app — to simplify the response for ST-Segment Myocardial

Ascension Wisconsin

Bernie Sherry was named senior vice president of Ascension Health/Wisconsin Ministry market executive.

He will lead Ascension Wisconsin which includes Ministry Health Care and Affinity Health Care in Wisconsin.

Previously, Sherry served as chief operating



Sherry

• The Aspirus Health Foundation grant applications on a quarterly basis supports community-based efforts in its mission to advance the health of area residents. The next grant application is April 22. The Aspirus Health Foundation recently awarded \$12,500 to help fund community initiatives. See www.aspirushealth.org.

Nancy Barthel covers healthcare news at nbarthel@thebusinessnewsjournal.com

Stretch/Partnership reduces costs

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the cost of the parts themselves. Having stretch forming and finishing done at the same location saves customers significant time and costs in shipping and crating. It becomes a very easy sourcing decision for them — more importantly, it can give our customers a competitive advantage on projects with a lot of curved material.”

When asked what the future holds for the Wausau division of Southern Stretch Forming, Arthur said, “the third and fourth years should be performing like we expected since the first two years are often difficult — with putting resources into tooling, inventory, hiring and training.” According to Arthur this is the “fifth location we’ve opened up, so we’re familiar with process.” Being surrounded by multiple window manufacturers has been a blessing for Southern Stretch Forming and they’ve expanded beyond their relationship with Linetec since they’ve moved to the area.

Arthur said “the local window companies have been good to us and we now have several loyal customers.”

Even the customers they had worked with

“
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— David Arthur, president,
Southern Stretch Forming,
Wausau

previously from the area are happy now with the reduced shipping costs and extra service from a local provider.

Southern Stretch Forming describes their metal curving process as The Fine Art of Stretching Metal Without Making it Scream on their website. Stretch forming really came about with the need of the aeronautic industry to maintain precise dimensions throughout the curved metal process. This meant trying to eliminate any wrinkling on the inside of the curved arc.

First, aluminum, the most common metal,

is loaded into the gripper jaws, which are mounted on a swing-arm. Pre-stretching is next where the part is stretched to its yield point. Next, the part is wrapped around the form die while force is applied. Upon completion, it is released and the result is curved metal. It may sound simple in theory but requires advanced technology, precise machinery and most importantly, highly skilled operators.

Using this technique, they can produce scenic hotel skylights, eye-catching contoured signs, or customized skyscraper’s glass and metal facing. Local Wausau residents can get a glimpse of Southern Stretch’s work in the multiuse building called The Store at 3rd and Stewart Avenue. The round windows on the north end have curved window framing that was curved right down the road at Southern Stretch Forming.

Arthur has since become the sole owner of Southern Stretch Forming and it’s becoming a family affair with his daughter Ashley becoming active in the organization. Although, David wasn’t familiar with Wisconsin before opening up this new division, he now “really enjoys being in the city of Wausau and enjoys traveling up here.”

CoVantage goes to development

CoVantage Credit Union has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Treasury’s Community Development Institution Fund (CDFI). The grant is a result of CoVantage being a designated Community Development Financial Institution.

The CDFI grant awarded will be used to help existing businesses with the expansion, or creating a business.

The CoVantage Creates Opportunity grant will be combined with \$13-million in other funds to make an even larger pool of funds available to partner with businesses and give them access to this special source of funding.

Steve Wilder, senior vice president and chief commercial lending officer, said the grants “will give businesses an opportunity to grow and be successful. We look forward to creating long-term relationships with them.”

To qualify for a loan through the CoVantage Creates Opportunity grant, borrowers must meet certain income limitations and credit lending criteria. For more information on the grant or to apply, contact CoVantage at 398-2667.