

## Major Expansion Underway: Michaud Foods Breaks Ground on New 36,000-Square-Foot Industrial Campus – By Timothy Michaud



**PINE BLUFFS, WY** — On March 20, 2026, Michaud Foods celebrated a significant milestone in local economic development by officially breaking ground on a massive new 12-acre industrial campus in the Prairie View subdivision. Hosted by key supplier Applied Industrial Technologies of Cheyenne, Wyoming, the groundbreaking marked the beginning of construction on a sprawling three-building complex.

Supplied by B&C Steel Corporation out of Gering, Nebraska, the 36,000-square-foot campus will soon be the new home to three rapidly growing regional powerhouses: Rocky Mountain Snacks, JD Manufacturing, and SMT Aerostructures. Construction is slated for completion in late summer 2026, with all three businesses planning to move in by the end of the year.

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### **Rocky Mountain Snacks: Reviving a Classic**

Occupying 12,000 square feet of the new campus, Rocky Mountain Snacks is breathing new life into a beloved regional label that has been defunct since the late 1990s. The ambitious revival is spearheaded by 32-year-old entrepreneur Alisha Michaud, CEO and founder, who also serves as the executive director for both the Pine Bluffs and Burns senior centers, as well as the Pine Bluffs food pantry.

The new facility will feature a state-of-the-art kettle chip manufacturing line equipped with the latest automated food processing technology from neighboring tenant JD Manufacturing.

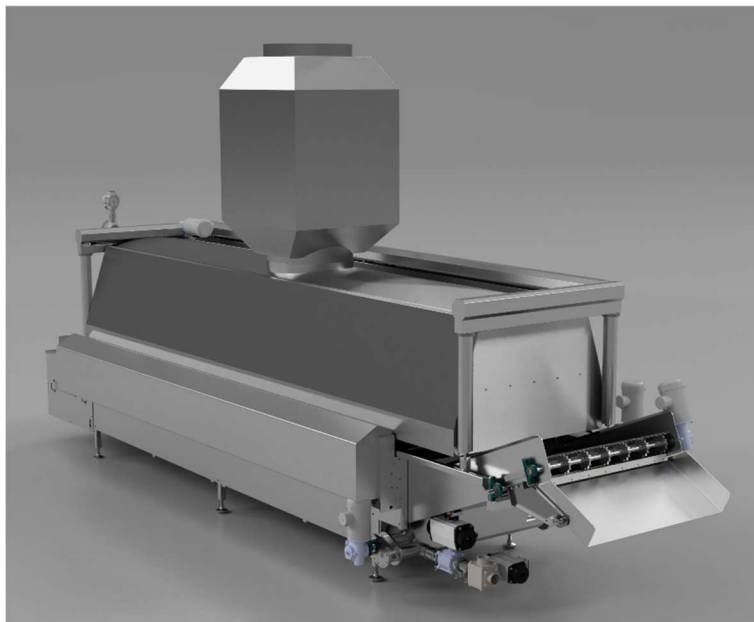
- **High-Capacity Production:** The initial launch will feature a 600 lb/hr automatic batch fryer capable of processing over 13 million pounds of potatoes annually.
- **Future Expansion:** Plans are already in place to scale up to four total batch fryers and expand the product line to include popcorn and pretzels.
- **Community Investment:** This project was made possible in part by a Resilient Food Systems Grant from the USDA—funding designed to boost value-added food processing in Wyoming—which will cover one-third of the building's cost.



### JD Manufacturing: Global Reach, Local Roots

Founded in 1999 by Jerry and Dennis Michaud, JD Manufacturing (JDM) has grown into a global leader in automated snack food equipment, specializing in kettle-style potato chip production. Now solely owned and operated by President Dennis Michaud, the company boasts equipment installations in 16 countries, with a particularly strong presence in the eastern United States, the British Isles, and Scandinavia. Having far outgrown their current

7,000-square-foot facility in Pine Bluffs, JDM's new 20,000-square-foot building will provide much-needed breathing room.



- **Workforce Expansion:** The larger space will comfortably accommodate their current team of nearly 20 full-time employees while allowing them to hire additional full-time fabricators.

- **Product Diversification:** The expansion will also enable JDM to diversify its offerings into hygienic conveying systems.

## SMT Aerostructures: Scaling the Heights of Aviation

Adding a critical aerospace component to the campus, SMT Aerostructures will occupy a 6,000-square-foot aviation parts manufacturing plant. Founded in 2020 by Steven Trumper and Mark Michaud, the company is rapidly becoming the go-to destination across the Mountain West for complex aircraft modifications and repairs. SMT already operates two Fixed-Base Operator (FBO) centers in Pine Bluffs and Cheyenne.

At their Cheyenne hangar ribbon-cutting on March 19, the company announced a strategic partnership with Carter's Avionics and Aircraft Maintenance.

- **Unique Capabilities:** SMT is now certified as one of the only pitot-static and transponder testing sites in the region, positioning itself as a true one-stop shop for aircraft maintenance.
- **Strategic Synergy:** In the new campus, SMT plans to team up with JD Manufacturing to share manufacturing resources, maximizing efficiency.
- **Prestigious Clients:** Driven by contracts with major organizations like Cal Fire and United Rotorcraft, SMT's growth is approaching critical mass.

