



# Belle Fourche Beacon

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VOL. 6 ISSUE 8

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday February 22, 2023

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## Lincoln Day Dinner a Success!

**Butte County Republicans**  
[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)

The 2023 Butte County Republican Lincoln Day dinner was well attended and a huge success.

Updates from State Republican Party chairman, John Wiik and PUC Commissioner Chris Nelson were heard along with a silent and live auction that made for a very enjoyable evening.

The crew at Grap's Burgers and Brews served up a great roast beef meal and several homemade desserts were auctioned off.

Considering this was the first Lincoln day dinner held in over 20 years the event attracted guests from across the state and many local enthusiastic patriots as well.

The event is named after Abraham Lincoln as the first elected president of the Republican Party who helped found and shape the party.

Thank you's were extended to all who donated and attended.

## Republican Lincoln Day Dinner/Event



Butte County Republican Chairman Tom Brunner pictured with some of Saturday nights dignitaries at the Butte County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner. (from left; Brunner, Attorney General Marty Jackley, PUC Commissioner Chris Nelson, State Party Chair State Sen. John Wiik, State Sen. Mary Fitzgerald, and PUC Commissioner Kristie Fiegen. - *Courtesy Photo*

## BFSD School Board Recognized This Week



The current Belle Fourche School District Board of Education gathered for a group photo prior to their regular meeting on Feb. 13 at the school's administrative offices. From left: **Mike Tyn-dall, Jade Larson, Tara Knapp, Tammy Clem, Board President, Nita Justice, Greg Krajewski** (standing) and **Scott Reder, Board Vice President** (seated).

## February 20-24 is South Dakota School Board Recognition Week

**BELLE FOURCHE** - The week of Feb. 20-24 is South Dakota School Board recognition week. Gov. Kristi Noem signed an Executive Proclamation declaring the week as a time to recognize the men and women who dedicate their time and energy to serving on your locally elected school board.

At the board's regular meeting on Feb. 13 Dr. Steve Willard, BFSD Superintendent, thanked the board for their dedication and service to the Belle Fourche community.

"It's time consuming to be on a board and to guide the school district in our policies and meetings and I just want to say thank you," Willard said.

Each board member was presented with a Belle Fourche School District hoodie with each board member's name printed on the back.

Willard also read from a

certificate issued by Lisa Snedeker, president of Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD). "In recognition of dedicated leadership in public education and for improving achievement for all public-school students, Associated School Boards of South Dakota honors the Belle Fourche School District," the certificate read.

ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany urged all community members to join in the show of support for their school board.

"The week presents all of us the opportunity to show our appreciation for the work of public school board members," Pogany added. "We want to celebrate the elected leaders of public-school districts for their tireless service to the students, staff members and communities they serve."

## New School Year Calendar Approved for '23-'24

### Beacon Staff

[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)

**BELLE FOURCHE** - The Belle Fourche School Board gave its unanimous approval to the 2023-24 school year calendar during its regular meeting on Feb. 13 at the district administrative board room.

Next school year is scheduled to have 156.5 classroom school days, 7.5 professional development days, and two days of parent-teacher conferences for a total of 166 days in session.

The district's 166 days puts them near the middle of what is typical in the state of South Dakota, according to Dr. Steve Willard, School Superintendent.

"Most five-day schools are at 178 days," Willard said.

Mathew Raba, BFHS Principal said the minimum number is

quite a bit lower.

"There are a couple of districts in the state with 144 days," Raba said.

For next school year the first day of school will be Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023. The last day of school is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024 with a half-day scheduled.

High school graduation is slated for Saturday, May 18, 2024.

Thanksgiving break will be Nov. 22-24 with school resuming the following Monday.

Christmas falls on a Monday this year. Next school year's Christmas break will begin on Friday Dec. 22 and school will resume on Wednesday morning Jan. 3, 2024.

There will be no school on Mar. 29 and Apr. 1, 2024 in observance of Good Friday and Easter.

## BF Writers Present Work at Matthews Opera House Author Talks Series



A group of local supporters turned out at the Matthews Opera House Author Talks series on Tuesday, February 6 in Spearfish. The Belle Fourche Writers will present at the Author Talks next on March 7. (*Photo courtesy Eric Beeman*)

## Evan Vissia Signs with College to Play Baseball



Evan Vissia, a senior from Belle Fourche High School, signed with Dakota College at Bottineau, on February 13 to further his baseball career. Evan Vissia is the son of Wade and Angela Vissia and has been playing baseball for the last fourteen years. Being a catcher, he has been playing since he was about four or five years old and slowly fell in love with the sport. All of the friends and bonds he has made through baseball formed this love, and "Every time I put on my uniform or glove, it always spreads some joy in my life," according to Vissia. With his signing, Evan Vissia plans to play baseball in Bottineau, North Dakota to further develop his baseball skills for two or three years at this Junior College. He then hopes to transfer to D1 at a university and study business. Although undecided, Vissia wants to major in either small business management or accounting. Left to Right: **Randy Doran, Wade Vissia, Evan Vissia, Angela Vissia, and Abby Vissia.** *Beacon Photo*





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## Obituaries

### Paul Lewis 79

Long-time Butte County dairyman has milked his last cow and gone on to the heavenly pasture. Paul James Lewis passed away on February 10, 2023, at Monument Health Rapid City Hospital surrounded by loved ones.

Paul was born November 21, 1943, on the family farm near Newell to James and Clara (Dell) Lewis, the fourth of the couples' eleven children. He would reside in Butte County for the next seventy-nine years, two months, and twenty days.

From an early age, Paul was interested in animals and assisting with farm chores. He worked on various dairy farms, including the family's, from the age four or five until retiring in 2008. Over his sixty-plus-year career, he milked herds as small as eight and as large as two-hundred-fifty plus. He would also raise hogs and sheep, in addition to farming. As a youth, Paul loved his pony and would take any chance to ride it, even to the outhouse.

Paul attended school in both Newell and Vale. During an accident with his pony, he severely cut his neck. This injury caused him to miss many days of school and he had to repeat the first grade. Despite this setback, he graduated from Vale High School in 1962.

He was an active Beetdigger as part of the football, basketball, and track teams. Paul lettered in basketball and track and represented Vale at the state track meet in the mile. He played tuba and bass horn in the marching band. He was the lead in the school play "Cradle Troubadour," which also featured his baby nephew Todd Koan. He was a Future Farmer of America member, participating in crop planning, range judging, and animal judging. He would use his animal judging skills to pick the Kentucky Derby winner more years than not, often betting chores with his sibling or children.

On August 12, 1967, Paul married Diana Verry. They lived in Belle Fourche and Nisland before returning to the family farm in Newell. Born to the couple were four children. He taught all of them to drive, including how to pull trailers and the dreaded parallel parking.

Paul was an avid sports fan throughout his life. He played community basketball, baseball, and softball. He later coached community and youth teams for baseball, softball, basketball, football,

and soccer. He was a booster for Newell athletics, even after his children had graduated, cheering on cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great nephews, and anyone in maroon and white.

Paul was baptized in 1973. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was often heard in the barn as he loved to sing if the radio wasn't playing. His musical preferences ranged across multiple genres, but leaned towards songs to which he could dance.

Paul was struck by lightning three times in his life, a one-in-twenty-seven-million occurrence. Despite beating these odds, he never won the lottery. However, he was lucky at games of chance like Yahtzee, which he played daily the last few months of his life. Friends will remember Paul for his card playing skills, and his claim the Nine of Spades was the ugliest card in the deck.

In his later years, Paul enjoyed driving around to check on the neighbor's livestock and crops. During the winter, the drives changed to deer and antelope spotting expeditions. He also enjoyed finding the best holiday light displays.

Paul is survived by his wife, Diana; daughters, Fonda, Wendy, and Ashley Lewis, all of Newell; his son, Bradley and daughter-in-law, Jennifer of Loveland, Colorado; grandchildren, Danette and Spencer Bradford of Pueblo West, Colorado, and Abigail and Eli Ethridge of Fort Collins, Colorado; great-granddaughter, Sadie Bradford; eight siblings, Ellen Koan, Amelia Forde, Lottie Lindall, Bonnie Lewis-Noble, William, Benjamin, Edward, and Adam Lewis; a herd of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and a gaggle of friends.

Welcoming Paul home are his parents, James and Clara Lewis; brother, Louie Thomas Lewis; sister, Clara Rose Buttram, grandparents, and numerous beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Services were held Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Kinkade Funeral Chapel in Sturgis. Burial followed at Hope Cemetery in Newell.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).



## Pastor's Perspective

*This week's Pastor's Perspective is provided by Rev. Sheri Fadley, BF United Methodist Church*

### “Something New is Springing Forth”



“See the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I declare them to you.” ~Isaiah 42:9

In 1894, the first Methodist church was established in Butte County. Over the decades since then, Methodism has experienced changes, and these were reflected in the local congregation. At the beginning of this year, the Belle Fourche congregation began a new chapter in their lives. They have changed their affiliation from the United Methodist Church to the grassroots movement that is becoming the Global Methodist Church. The congregation made this shift soberly by educating themselves and prayerfully considering which path the Lord was guiding them to.

There are theological distinctions that are bringing these changes to Methodism. The Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church has chosen the traditional theological path rather than the progressive path. The best way to describe these differences succinctly is to say that at the heart of traditional theology is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that primarily and foremost looks to the Bible and the Holy Spirit where we faithfully journey with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through a transformational and maturing life. Our interactions with the world are as Jesus said in John 17: we live in the world but are not ‘of’ the world.

There are many building blocks in traditional theology that include the means of grace found in regularly worshipping God with your church family;

prayer and Bible study; Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; sacrificially giving of your time and resources. Along with these foundational elements Global Methodists believe that the covenant of marriage is between one man and one woman and friendships don’t cross into sexual activity. Global Methodists believe in the sanctity of all life from conception to natural death. Our worship services are guided by the Christian liturgical calendar, and we will enter into the season of Lent this Wednesday by observing Ash Wednesday services.

There are three key structural and administrative differences between the UMC and the GMC. The GMC is a proponent of keeping the large church administrative structures small so that resources can stay in the local community for the local church to do ministry in their own “backyards.” The GMC bishops will have term limits and when their term is over as a bishop, they will return to serving a local congregation. The local congregation will have more say about who their pastor is and how long that pastor serves them.

We want to thank our friends in the Belle Fourche Ministerial who prayed for us during this transition. Their support and encouraging words mean a lot to us. We are truly blessed to have such a compassionate and practical ministry group in our community. We believe that God is in the midst of doing something new, not just for us, but for our whole community. All of the congregations in town would be blessed to meet new families. The Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church would be honored to greet new folks as well.


### Revelation 21:4

☐He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.☐

### Lamentations 3:21-23


☐Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.☐





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Cat enthusiast **Addie Jeitz** shows off her pink cheetah craft. *Beacon Photo*

### Butte/Lawrence 4-H Bytes

**Sarah Jeitz**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Applications to attend the National 4-H Conference in Arlington, VA are due to the State 4-H office no later than Friday, Feb. 24.

2023 Pennington County 4-H Shootout will be held Saturday, Mar. 11 at the Walter Taylor 4-H Building, 601 E Centre St. in Rapid City. Registration will be from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Register ahead of time for a guaranteed shoot time. Cost is \$5 per shooter per class. All participants must be enrolled in a South Dakota 4-H shooting sports program.

All 4-H members, families, alumni, and supporters are invited to attend 4-H night with the Rapid City Rush on Friday, Mar. 17. Discounted tickets can be purchased at <https://fevo.me/3Xi6MTc>.

Support the 4-H program and fill the rink with green!



## VENDORS WANTED!

Register by March 1st for  
Early Bird Rate: \$40/booth  
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Event: Wellness Fair  
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Grandma, I didn't get the menu you have to hit the "send" button!



### Mason Jar Kitchen

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## Lunch Menu

Thurs 2/23: Tater Tot Casserole  
*Soup: Chicken Noodle*

Fri 2/24: Hot Turkey Combo  
*Soup: Beef Barley*

Mon 2/27: Meatloaf Dinner  
*Soup: Ham & Bean*

Tues 2/28: Beef Noodle Casserole  
*Soup: Chicken Tortilla*

Wed 2/22: Ham & Scalloped Potatoes  
*Soup: Wisconsin Cheese*

## Family Fun Day Goes Feline for February

**Sarah Jeitz**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center hosted a Family Fun Day with the theme of "Crafty Cats" on Sunday Feb. 19. About 40 visitors enjoyed an informational video detailing cat species, big and small.

Following the video, Nikki Hoyme gave a short presentation on caring for domestic cats, highlighting topics such as feeding, playing with, and cleaning up after a pet cat. Hoyme provided information about the West River Spay/Neuter Coalition, emphasizing the important role that spaying and neutering cats plays in lowering the feral cat population

and overpopulation of cats in general.

Code Enforcement Officer Clint Haffner joined Hoyme, explaining to attendees the issues the city faces with homeless cats, particularly in winter when the animals are in need of a warm place to stay.

Haffner also highlighted the importance of vaccinating their pets. "On April 22, from 8 to noon, is our rabies clinic at the Belle Vet Clinic over on Summit Street. Rabies shots will be given at a reduced cost of \$7," says Haffner. "There will be a lot of people there, it'll be busy. The best thing to do is keep your dog on a leash or keep your cat in a carrier, and other than that, it's pretty fast

and efficient."

The fun wrapped up with a variety of cat themed crafts, a book drawing, and a drawing for a plush cat donated by Nikki Hoyme.

For more information on low cost spay and neuter options through West River Spay/Neuter Coalition, visit [www.spayneutercoalition.com](http://www.spayneutercoalition.com) or call 605-593-5500.


Family Fun Day is held the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at the Tri-State Museum at a cost of \$2 per attendee, or free with museum membership. The Family Fun Day theme for March will be Over the Rainbow.



Children and their families "Fun Day" attendees work hard on their cat crafts. *Beacon Photo*



Family Fun Day attendees enjoy an educational video about cats. *Beacon Photo*



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**Event Calendar**

**February 23rd** - Business Day at the Legislature in Pierre

**February 25th** - Cracker Barrel @ Branding Iron 1:30



**More information at:**  
**[bellefourchechamber.org](http://bellefourchechamber.org) or call 605-892-2676**

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**Bronc Boys BB Finish Season- Regionals Next**

**JIM TRIMBLE**  
[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)



The Belle Fourche Broncos boys are winding down their regular season with three contests in the last week traveling to Sturgis, Newcastle, and Faith. Sturgis charged out to a 22-6 first quarter advantage and stretched the lead to 38-18 at half time. Belle settled down on defense in the third and closed the gap 42-32 after three stanzas. Sturgis returned the favor in the fourth quarter and cruised to a 62-37 win.

Anthony Budmayr paced the Broncos with 12 points and Nolan Wahlfeldt added 9. Belle had a cool night shooting as they only made 26%. Budmayr led Belle on the boards with 6 caroms with Wahlfeldt and and Anthony Staley with 5 clears each. Sturgis was victorious in the JV game 69-60 over Belle.

Rance Bowden bombed in 25 points for Belle and Payton Dvorak added 15.

Belle turned the tables in their next game at Newcastle gaining a 62-34 victory. The Broncos led the Dogies at all quarter stops and led 40-13 going into the lockers. The big lead gave the Broncos the luxury of playing some more underclassmen in the game. Belle placed four players in double figures with Wahlfeldt leading the way netting 15 points followed by Budmayr with 13, Jet Jensen 11, and Staley 10. Belle shot better knocking down 38% of their attempts with Jensen hitting 3 from behind the arc. Staley ripped down 9 off the glass to lead Belle in rebounding and Budmayr added 7. In the JV game the Broncos handled the Dogies 49-17. Rance Bowden and Carter McKenna led a balanced Belle scoring attack with 8 points each.

The Faith Longhorns exploded for 31 second quarter points

on route to a 86-53 romp over the Broncos. Belle kept it close the first quarter trailing 23-16 but the hot shooting Longhorns pulled away each quarter for the victory. With the win the Longhorns are now 18-1 on the season.

Anthony Budmayr had a good night scoring 22 points including 5 treys. Tatin Yackley added 10 counters and Jet Jensen contributed 9. Most of Belle's scoring was from behind the arc as they knocked down 12 while only hitting 5 field goals inside the arc. The JV's lost a tight one to Faith falling 48-42. Rance Bowden poured in 18 to lead the Broncos while Payton Dvorak and Carter McKenna chipped in with 9 each.

The Broncos game scheduled on Tuesday with Sundance was forfeited by Sundance, so Belle awaits word on who they will play in the upcoming regional tournament. Belle finishes the regular season with an 8-12 record.

**Bronc Girls BB Prepare for Regionals as Season Ends**

**Jim Trimble**  
[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)

The Belle Fourche girls basketball team finished the season with a host of games. The Lady Broncos made a trip east river to play Flandreau in the Corn Palace Classic on Friday the 10th then headed to Henry to play Florence/Henry on Saturday. The Broncos then hosted New Underwood on Tuesday before heading to Faith for their regular season finale.

In the Corn Palace, the Broncos dropped a 58-39 game to the Flandreau Fliers. Flandreau led at all quarter stops and held a 26-20 lead at intermission. "We got within 3 points with 3 minutes left in the third quarter but they went on a 7-0 run to end the quarter," said Broncos head coach Bill Burr. "Good teams are hard to come back on," he added. Mataya Ward led the Broncos with 11 points on 7-8 shooting at the free throw line. Dylan Stedille and Chloe Crago added 8 and 7 points respectively.

Against Florence/Henry a team with only one loss on the season the Broncos played a back and forth tight game but F/H came out on top 51-47. The Falcons held a 25-23 lead at half but the Broncos nursed a 37-36 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Ward tallied 14 points and was a perfect 6-6 from the charity stripe. Crago chipped in with 11 and Grace Clooten added 10. "I think this is one of our best games we've played this season. We just couldn't get over the top in this game," said coach Burr. "We are improving every game and the way we played I'm excited for the playoffs." In the JV game the Lady Broncos prevailed by a 30-19 score. Lily Nore led the way with 13 points.

The Lady Broncos defeated New Underwood defeated New Underwood 43-24. Ward again led the Broncos attack with 12 points and McCarty and Crago added 9 and 8 respectively.

The Broncos finished their regular season on a high note as they defeated Faith 55-42.

Belle shook off cold shooting first quarter where they trailed 13-9 but rebounded and led 26-23 at the half. Belle outscored the Lady Longhorns 29-19 in the second half to put the game away.

Mataya Ward controlled the paint for Belle scoring a game high 23 points. She was followed by Chole Crago with 15 and Lily McCarty with 8. TyAnn Mortenson tallied 15 for Faith and Kambelle Schauer added 13. "We had a slow start but a good finish and now we are ready for regionals to start," said head coach Burr. The Broncos finish the regular season 13-6.

Belle now heads to regional play where the two teams left standing will enter the SoDak 16 with a chance to play in the state tournament. The Broncos are the number 3 seed and will host Hot Springs in Belle on Tuesday and with a win there will likely face number 2 seed Rapid City Christian for a chance to go to the SoDak 16.



Anthony Budmayr brings ball upcourt. Hallie Budmayr Photo



Tatin Yackley shooting, Anthony Budmayr rebounding. Hallie Budmayr Photo



Jet Jensen drives past defender as Anthony Staley #32 sets a screen. Hallie Budmayr Photo



Rance Bowden #12 drives the lane; Payton Dvorak #20 rolls down the opposite side.. Hallie Budmayr Photo



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**WELCOME TO THE TEAM DR. COLTON!**

We would like to introduce **Dr. Colton Backhaus, DC, CSC** to Belle Chiropractic. He hails from Bismarck, ND where he spent much of his youth rodeoing and raising horses with his parents. He is a BHSU graduate and while attending he was a proud member of the college rodeo team. While there he had the incredible experience of qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo three different times. After completing his undergrad, he continued to Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, MN to attain his doctorate in chiropractic. While there he also gained knowledge and expertise in strength and conditioning with the Human Performance Center. He is very excited to start his career in Belle Fourche as he has missed both the rodeo culture in this area and the Black Hills. Dr. Colton is a strong addition to Belle Chiropractic as he possesses more than one approach to manipulating the spine & extremities. He also has his certification in acupuncture, dry needling, and strength & conditioning which will add more diversity to the practice. **We are excited for Dr. Colton to join us!**

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4th Grade Girls Braided Ballers Win Gillette Tournament



The 4th grade Girls "Braided Ballers" won their second tournament of the season in Gillette. The girls opened the tournament by blitzing the WYBA-Sky 24-5 and dropping the Daredevils 23-13 in Saturday's games. On Sunday, they met the Daredevils in the semi-final contest and beat them again 14-5 before winning the Championship over the Gillette Sting 11-6. The Ballers are coached by **Jamie Burke and Heidi Nash**. Back Row: **Maya Miller, Emersyn Carmichael, Alayna Norlin, Kyler Schmidt, & Jacey Nash**. Front Row: **Adrianna Bishop, Tierney Kudlock, Adilynn Burke, & Molly Miller**. *Courtesy Photo*

Region 4A Wrestling Results & State Qualifiers

**Kandi Tonsager**  
Special to the Beacon

The Broncos competed in the Region 4A Wrestling tournament on Saturday February 18th at Rapid City Central High School. The tournament placed out to sixth, with the top four placers in each weight bracket qualifying for the State tournament.

Fifth and sixth place finishers for the Broncos were, Alex Norlin at 120lbs with a fifth-place finish, Riggin Lutter at 126lbs with a sixth-place finish, Jory Olson at 132lbs with a sixth-place finish, Owyn Shreder at 145lbs

with a sixth-place finish, Lucas Green at 182lbs with a fifth-place finish, Andrew Tonsager at 170lbs with a sixth-place finish, and Gunner Geib at 195lbs with a fifth-place finish.

Your Bronc 2023 State qualifiers are Logan Tyndall at 106lbs with a fourth-place finish, Toarin Humble at 113lbs with a fourth-place finish, Riley Dighton at 138lbs with a second-place finish, Thomas McCoy at 152lbs with a third-place finish, and Luke Tonsager at 220lbs with a fourth-place finish.

The Lady Broncs have a separate criterion for state tournament seedings. The top sixteen girls, based off their record in head-to-head competitions, qualify for state. Four Lady Broncs met the criteria to qualify for state, Kyra Vandenberg at 106lbs, Hailey Rodriguez at 113lbs, Alexa Swaney at 126lbs and Izzabella Ramos at 142lbs.

The South Dakota State Wrestling Tournament will be held Thursday February 23rd through Friday February 24th at The Monument in Rapid City.



Thomas McCoy



Andrew Tonsager



Toarin Humble



Luke Tonsager



Riley Dighton



Owyn Schreder



Alex Norlin



Logan Tyndall

Wrestling Photos Courtesy Kandi Tonsager



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**BELLE FOURCHE**

EST. 1993

Feb. 21 | Girls B&B Varsity 1st Round Playoffs @ Top Seed

Feb. 23 | Girls B&B Varsity Semi Finals @ Top Seed

Feb. 23 - 25 | Wrestling State A @ Rapid City

Feb. 25 | Boys B&B C Tourney @ Custer

Feb. 28 | Boys B&B 1st Round Playoffs @ Top Seed

## GO BRONCS!

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## BELLE FOURCHE SCHOOL MENU

Wed, Feb 22nd

**BRONC Breakfast:** Long John  
Juice/Fruit/Milk

**Lunch:** Grilled Cheese with Tomato Soup  
or Chicken Sandwich  
Fruit/Veggie/Milk

Thurs, Feb 23rd

**BRONC Breakfast:** French Toast Sticks  
Juice/Fruit/Milk

**Lunch:** Goulash or Bosco Sticks  
Fruit/Veggie/Milk

Fri, Feb 24th

**BRONC Breakfast:** Cini Minis  
\*K-4 Pancake Sausage Stick  
Juice/Fruit/Milk

**Lunch:** Hot Ham & Cheese Melt or Cheeseburger  
Fruit/Veggie/Milk

Mon, Feb 27th

**BRONC Breakfast:** Muffin Top & Yogurt  
\*K-4 Cereal  
Juice/Fruit/Milk

**Lunch:** Italian Dunkers or Ham, Egg & Cheese Biscuit  
Fruit/Veggie/Milk

Tue, Feb 28th

**BRONC Breakfast:** Breakfast Pizza  
Juice/Fruit/Milk

**Lunch:** Mac N Cheese or Hot Dog  
Fruit/Veggie/Milk

**Send us your News and Photos!**

[News@BelleFourcheBeacon.com](mailto:News@BelleFourcheBeacon.com)

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# WEST

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These U-10 Boys were Champions at Rapid City’s Winter Classic; 2nd place in Belle Tourney; and Semi-Finalist (out of 13 teams) in the Spearfish Winter Classic, losing in overtime to Sturgis to advance to the championship. Back row: L-R- Goalie- **Steven Hancock**, **Kelton Streeter**, **Braxton Randolph**, **Eli Woxland**, and **Hayden Allart**; Front Row: L-R- **Aiden Tope**, **Owen Dacar**, **Nash Kirstine**, and **Caleb Cherveney**; Not Pictured: **Hunter Salazar**; Head Coach: **Kirsten Woxland**; Assistant Coaches: **Ryan Cherveney** and **Cindy Giacometto**. *Courtesy Photo*

### BF Middle School Students of the Month for January 2023



These are the Belle Fourche Middle School students of the month for January 2023. From left: Clayton Tanninen (8th grade); **Saxton Stiefvater** (6th Grade); **Mya Nowowiejski** (7th Grade); **Josephine McCord** (7th Grade); **Benjamin Raba** (5th Grade); **Berklee Nore** (5th Grade). Not pictured are **Bella Welles** (6th Grade) and **Riley Owen** (8th Grade). Congratulations to all from the Beacon! *Beacon Photo*



Your Bronc 2023 Wrestling State qualifiers are **Logan Tyndall** at 106lbs with a fourth-place finish, **Toarin Humble** at 113lbs with a fourth-place finish, **Riley Dighton** at 138lbs with a second-place finish, **Thomas McCoy** at 152lbs with a third-place finish, and **Luke Tonsager** at 220lbs with a fourth-place finish. Lady Broncs met the criteria to qualify for state, **Kyra Vandenberg** at 106lbs, **Hailey Rodriguez** at 113lbs, **Alexa Swaney** at 126lbs and **Izzabella Ramos** (not pictured) at 142lbs. *Kandi Tonsager Photo*



Riggin Lutter





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- Cat Litter Packaging Technicians **\$24/hr**
- Colony Class A CDL truck drivers  
- doubles endorsements - weekly local hauling, home at night! **\$25/hr**
- Colony Haul Truck Mechanic Tech **\$25/hr**
- Colony West Operator Technician **\$24/hr**
- Colony West Maintenance Technician **\$26/hr**
- Mining Technicians (Scraper Operators) **\$26/hr**
- Belle/Colony Maintenance Mechanic  
(Must have own tools) **\$26/hr**
- Stockpile Operator **\$25/hr**

Interested applicants can review our current job openings and apply for positions online, or submit a resume for consideration at: [Mineralstech.com/careers](http://Mineralstech.com/careers) or by scanning the attached QR code.

A full benefits package is offered which includes medical, dental, & vision insurance, 401 K savings plan, short term disability & life insurances, paid holidays, personal & sick days, vacation, & educational assistance programs.

# WE'RE ON THE MOVE!



We will be relocating our Northern Hills office from our current location in Spearfish to the same building as Barker Law Firm in Belle Fourche starting February 1, 2023. Our new address is:

**10956 SD Highway 34 • Belle Fourche, SD 57717**

Our phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

**LYNN JACKSON**  
ATTORNEYS

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**LOCATIONS & TIMES**

- **BELLE FOURCHE REC CENTER**
  - Monday, 2/27 from 9:20-10:00 am
  - Tuesday, 2/28 from 8:40-9:20 am
  - Thursday, 3/2 from 4:20-5:00 pm
  - Monday, 3/6 from 4:20-5:00 pm
- **STURGIS COMMUNITY CENTER**
  - Tuesday, 2/28 from 1:40-2:20
  - Monday, 3/13 from 5:00-5:40

**ALL INDIVIDUALS WELCOME**



## Trucking Company Seeks CDL Driver for Local Haul

Habeck Trucking in Belle Fourche is currently looking to fill driver position for local haul. Applicant MUST hold a class A CDL, have a clean driving record, be local to the area, have a strong work ethic, the ability to follow a schedule, and be able to lift 50 lbs on occasion. Pneumatic experience a plus but will train the right person. Working shift is approximately 10 hours per day, 5 days per week; occasional weekends may be required to meet customer load quota.

Please stop at  
Habeck Trucking  
10689 SD Hwy 34  
to pick up an application.

## Classified Ads

Date Towed: January 23, 2023  
Description of Vehicle: 2022 Ameratrail Trailer AC2628TOB (Silver)  
Location Towed from: MM 79 US 212 Ashland, MT  
Contact Information: Call Plains Towing and Recovery @ 605-892-3712 within 30 days with proof of ownership to claim this unit.

## Classified Ads

Date Towed: January 23, 2023  
Description of Vehicle: 2022 Onslow Bay 27 Offshore Edition (White)  
Location Towed from: MM 79 US 212 Ashland, MT  
Contact Information: Call Plains Towing and Recovery @ 605-892-3712 within 30 days with proof of ownership to claim this unit.



**Sand Creek Printing in Belle Fourche Has Moved!**

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**Print Mark-et**

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- Cake Pans
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- Pie Tins
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**prairieplainscabinets@gmail.com**

## SD Public Universities and Technical Colleges Partner for Student Career Exploration Camps

PIERRE, S.D. – In a cooperative effort with the South Dakota Board of Regents and the South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota's rising 7th and 8th grade students will have an opportunity to participate in free, five-day career exploration camps this summer. 2023 is the second year South Dakota's Career Exploration Camps will be offered, with greater capacity for students.

Hosted on South Dakota college campuses, these camps will expose students to various career paths through fun, engaging and hands-on learning. Throughout the week, campers will spend time on university and technical college campuses and visit area businesses to see careers in action. By the end of camp, students will have a better understanding of themselves, their career interests and how their education prepares them for professions.

"We look forward to building off the success of last year's inaugural career camps by part-

nering with our state's technical colleges again this summer to offer more camps and a wider variety of career opportunities," said South Dakota Board of Regents Executive Director Dr. Brian Maher. "We're excited to showcase career options to our state's middle schoolers and highlight the possibilities students have right here in South Dakota."

"This unique partnership among our public universities, technical colleges, and the Department of Education signifies a united approach to providing opportunities to our state's young people so they can identify potential careers early on and narrow their focus as they move forward through their K-12 education," said Secretary of Education Dr. Joseph Graves.

These career exploration summer camps are provided at no expense to students in South Dakota. The camp dates and locations are listed below. Those interested in learning more about what to expect or to apply

can visit: ourdakotadreams.com.

### **2023 SUMMER CAMP DATES & LOCATIONS**

June 18-22 | University of South Dakota + Southeast Technical College

June 25-29 | Black Hills State University + South Dakota Mines + Western Dakota Technical College

July 9-13 | Black Hills State University + South Dakota Mines + Western Dakota Technical College

July 9-13 | South Dakota State University + Lake Area Technical College

July 9-13 | Northern State University + Lake Area Technical College

July 9-13 | Dakota State University + Mitchell Technical College

This opportunity is being administered by the South Dakota Board of Regents and funded with federal dollars available to the South Dakota Department of Education through the American Rescue Plan.

**YOU PROBABLY  
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A TOASTER.  
SO HOW ABOUT  
\$500 CASH  
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Banks used to give away toasters to get your business. We thought you would like something from our vault a little better - like up to \$500 in cash.

Seriously, here's how you can put your hard-earned savings and Money Market deposits to work earning a 1% Cash Bonus\*. It's as easy as making toast!

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Learn more about our Get Paid Bonus promotion when you call, email or message our Contact Center through Online Banking.

With the extra 1% you'll be earning at Highmark, you can buy whatever toaster you want.



**highmarkfcu.com/GETPAID**  
**605.892.4631**

\* For new money only which is defined as money not currently on deposit at Highmark Credit Union.



Bronc team singing the school song following the win against New Underwood Thursday night at Belle.  
Laurie Ward Photo



Grace Clooten defending lane against New Castle last Tues night in New Castle; Dylan Stedillie in background. Laurie Ward Photo



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**We appreciate your business. Call any one of us any time if you have stock to sell. We are glad to come to your ranch.**

Justin Tupper ~ Cattle Yards Manager  
605-680-0259

Randy Searer ~ Auctioneer 406-480-1974  
Tim Tetrault ~ Fieldman: 605-642-9792 •  
605-641-0328

Ray Pepin ~ Fieldman: 605-892-5072  
Tyler Escott ~ Fieldman: 406-853-5690  
Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654

Casey Humble ~ Fieldman: 605-490-9829  
Kelly Baker ~ Fieldman: 605-569-3007  
JL Driskill 307-660-5422

**ST. ONGE LIVESTOCK Now Broadcasts our Sales live on the internet at [WWW.CATTLEUSA.COM](http://WWW.CATTLEUSA.COM)**

**Cattle Report - Friday, February 17, 2023**  
1100 bred cows & hfrs sold \$\$ higher to a packed house  
  
Next Sale - February 24th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special -- 9 AM  
Thank You For Marketing With St Onge Livestock!  
**Lewis Brothers Bull Sale Results**  
Avg on 29 Fall Bulls - \$8,068  
Avg on 113 Yrig Bulls - \$7,217  
**Bred Hfrs & Cows - Sold by the Head**  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....19Blk.....SS.....1448.....\$1,850.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....19Blk.....SS.....1407.....\$1,850.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....27Blk.....Solid.....1388.....\$1,900.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....22Blk.....Solid.....1316.....\$1,975.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....22Blk.....Solid.....1306.....\$1,975.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....50Blk.....4-5 Yr...1303.....\$2,250.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....12Blk.....4-5 Yr...1287.....\$2,250.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....30Blk.....4-5 Yr...1182.....\$2,250.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....34Blk.....4-5 Yr...1171.....\$2,275.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....30Blk.....Hfr.....999.....\$2,050.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....17Blk.....Hfr.....982.....\$2,050.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....25Blk.....Hfr.....961.....\$2,150.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....23Blk.....Hfr.....956.....\$2,150.00  
Ellsbury Livestock LLC, Sundance WY.....15Blk.....Hfr.....1222.....\$2,110.00  
Ellsbury Livestock LLC, Sundance WY.....9..Blk.....Hfr.....1222.....\$2,110.00  
Hogen, Dr Dale Or Kathy, Newell SD.....19Blk.....3 Yr.....1142.....\$2,225.00  
Hogen, Dr Dale Or Kathy, Newell SD.....10Blk.....3 Yr.....1130.....\$2,260.00  
Hogen, Dr Dale Or Kathy, Newell SD.....10Blk.....3 Yr.....1058.....\$2,260.00  
Hogen, Dr Dale Or Kathy, Newell SD.....2..Bld.....3 Yr.....1162.....\$2,225.00  
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX.....27Blk.....Hfr.....935.....\$1,825.00  
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX.....45Blk.....Hfr.....926.....\$1,825.00  
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX.....35Blk.....Hfr.....876.....\$1,550.00  
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX.....10Bld.....Hfr.....955.....\$1,875.00  
Bonefield, Michael, Nisland SD.....1..Blk.....Broken 1680.....\$1,300.00  
Bonefield, Michael, Nisland SD.....2..Blk.....Solid.....1625.....\$1,675.00  
Bonefield, Michael, Nisland SD.....10Blk.....Solid.....1585.....\$1,725.00  
Bonefield, Michael, Nisland SD.....19Blk.....4-5 Yr...1428.....\$2,000.00  
Bonefield, Michael, Nisland SD.....1..Blk.....Broken 1095.....\$1,200.00  
Gaskill, Bill, Volborg MT.....1..Blk.....4-5 Yr...1590.....\$1,525.00  
Gaskill, Dan, Volborg MT.....1..Blk.....4-5 Yr...1620.....\$1,500.00  
Gaskill, Dan, Volborg MT.....6..Blk.....Broken 1467.....\$1,375.00  
Geier, Marlin D Or Mary, Osage WY.....20Blk.....Hfr.....1083.....\$2,060.00  
Geier, Marlin D Or Mary, Osage WY.....12Blk.....Hfr.....1060.....\$2,050.00  
Geier, Marlin D Or Mary, Osage WY.....25Bld.....Hfr.....1092.....\$2,150.00  
Keil, Reggie Or Sebbie, St Onge SD.....17Blk.....Broken 1375.....\$1,450.00  
Keil, Reggie Or Sebbie, St Onge SD.....4..Blk.....S-SS.....1365.....\$1,300.00  
Riley, John & Mike, Volborg MT.....5..Blk.....Hfr.....1055.....\$2,000.00  
Riley, John & Mike, Volborg MT.....15Blk.....Hfr.....1045.....\$2,000.00  
Riley, John & Mike, Volborg MT.....25Blk.....Hfr.....987.....\$2,050.00  
Schmid, Joe, Ekalaka MT.....77Blk.....Hfr.....877.....\$1,475.00  
**Weigh Up Cows**  
Amdahl, Tim, Piedmont SD.....1..Herf.....Cow ....1580.....\$79.50  
Baker, Gary Or Nancy, Hermosa SD.....1..Blk.....Cwette 1275.....\$88.00  
Baker, Gary Or Nancy, Hermosa SD.....3..Blk.....Hfrt.....1248.....\$92.00  
Baker, Gary Or Nancy, Hermosa SD.....2..Blk.....Hfrt.....1052.....\$119.00  
Baker, Jeff, Piedmont SD.....1..Herf.....Cow ....1235.....\$85.00  
Baker, Travis, Hermosa SD.....1..Blk.....Cow ....1300.....\$86.50  
Baker, Travis, Hermosa SD.....1..Bld.....Cow ....1510.....\$82.50  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....1..Blk.....Cow ....1665.....\$86.00  
Bar Bar V Livestock, Newell SD.....8..Blk.....Cow ....1388.....\$88.50  
Birkley, Brian, Osage WY.....2..Blk.....Hfrt.....1365.....\$93.00  
Carlisle, Bill, Ekalaka MT.....4..Bld.....Cow ....1437.....\$88.00  
Colgan, Thomas C, Hermosa SD.....1..Blk.....Cow ....1215.....\$90.00  
Cuka, Gerard, Belle Fourche SD.....5..Blk.....Cwette 1172.....\$89.00  
Cuka, Gerard, Belle Fourche SD.....3..Blk.....Cwette 1060.....\$89.00  
Emerson, Ronald Or Janette, Hermosa SD.....1..Red.....Cow ....1405.....\$81.50  
Gaskill, Dan, Volborg MT.....3..Blk.....Cow ....1470.....\$87.50  
Gaskill, Dan, Volborg MT.....3..Blk.....Hfrt.....1138.....\$99.50  
Geier, Marlin D Or Mary, Osage WY.....1..Blk.....Hfrt.....1050.....\$118.00  
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD.....1..Blk.....Cow ....1395.....\$84.00  
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD.....1..Blk.....Cow ....1270.....\$83.50  
Grub1, Mary Elizabeth, Sturgis SD.....1..Bld.....Cow ....1555.....\$86.50  
Heart Tail Ranch Lip, Belle Fourche SD.....2..Blk.....Cow ....1467.....\$84.00  
Hogen, Dr Dale Or Kathy, Newell SD.....1..Bld.....Hfrt.....1235.....\$100.00  
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD.....1..Blk.....Hfrt.....1255.....\$99.00  
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD.....3..Blk.....Hfrt.....1106.....\$112.50  
Rahja, Bob, Whitewood SD.....1..Blk.....Hfrt.....1030.....\$116.00  
**Weigh Up Bulls**  
Ahrin, Lee, Rapid City SD.....1..Blk.....Bull.....1950.....\$114.00  
Ahrin, Lee, Rapid City SD.....1..Blk.....Bull.....1945.....\$109.50


Diamond Hook Ranch, Ashland MT.....1..Blk.....Bull.....1775.....\$111.00  
Bonefield, Michael, Nisland SD.....1..Blk.....Bull.....1760.....\$119.00  
Diamond Hook Ranch, Ashland MT.....1..Blk.....Bull.....1160.....\$120.00  
Jorensen, Dale D (Barney) Or Dawn, Sturgis SD. 1 Char.....Bull.....1970.....\$117.00  
Jorensen, Dale D (Barney) Or Dawn, Sturgis SD. 1 Char.....Bull.....1670.....\$111.50  
Geier, Marlin D Or Mary, Osage WY.....3..Herf.....Bull.....2243.....\$114.00

**Friday, February 24, 2023**  
**Feeder Cattle Special**  
**8:00 AM - Weigh Ups    12:00 Noon - Feeder Cattle**  
BT-Branding Time Shots    PC-PreCondition Shots    DF-Drug Free  
  
BV-Bangs Vaccinated    NI- No Implants  
  
**Feeder Cattle**  
B Qtr Circle Ranch -- 150 Blk Mostly Hfrs -- 525-550# - BT, PC, Weaned  
Richard & Stacy Harrison -- 105 Blk Strs & Hfrs -- 550-700# - BT, PC, BV  
Jack Duprel & Sons -- 100 Blk & Herf Strs -- 675-750#  
SD Consignment -- 100 Blk & Red Strs & Hfrs -- 450-600# - BT, PC  
Guy Howell -- 90 Blk Strs & Hfrs -- 500-550# - Weaned  
Phillip Rusley -- 60 Blk Hfrs -- 550-650# - BT, PC  
Bill Carlisle -- 55 Blk & Bldy Hfrs -- 550-625# - BT, PC  
Tim Komes -- 50 Mostly Herf Hfrs -- 550-600# - BT, PC, Weaned, BV  
MT Consignment -- 30 Strs -- 675# - BT, PC, Weaned  
Reed Vandervort -- 15 Blk Strs & Hfrs -- 600-700# - BT, PC, Poured, Weaned  
Reggie Keil -- 10 Blk Strs -- 650-700# - BT, PC, Weaned  
**Plus More By Sale Time!**

**2023 CATTLE SALES**  
**March 3rd -- Bred Heifer & Bred Cow Special -- Selling All Classes**  
**March 10th -- Feeder Cattle & Replacement Heifer Special -- Selling All Classes**  
**March 17th -- Bred Heifer & Bred Cow Special -- Selling All Classes**  
**March 24th -- Feeder Cattle & Replacement Heifer Special -- Selling All Classes**  
**March 31st -- Bred Heifer & Bred Cow Special -- Selling All Classes**  
**April 7th -- Grass Cattle & Replacement Heifer Special -- Selling All Classes**

**2023 SPRING BULL SALE LIST**  
**March 31st -- Wilson Simangus Bull Sale**  
**April 7th -- Kammerer Angus & CK Bar Ranch Bull Sales**  
**April 14th -- Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale**  
**May -- Turn-Out Bull Sale**

**St. Onge Livestock**  
**We are reps for**  
**SUPERIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION**  
  
Video Auction Time is Coming up very, quickly -  
If you are considering filming your Calves or Yearlings for Fall Delivery  
**Contact Us For Your Video Marketing Needs**

  
**St Onge Livestock has a receiving station for the Gillette Area. It is on Northern Drive in Gillette. Call Doug Miller at 307-660-0960 to let him know what is coming. You can unload all day every Thursday until 4 pm. You can also call Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259 & he can let them know your cattle are coming also.**  
**We also have a receiving station at the Broadus Yards, Broadus, MT. You can drop your cattle off every Thursday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. For more information, call Brandy Escott at 406-951-1666, Tyler at 406-853-5690 or Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259.**

**Attention to all Sheep & Goat Producers, it is required that every Male & Female animal over the age of 12 months have a scrapies tag in place to sell. These tags can be oBTained by the producer for FREE by calling 1-866-873-2824. If they come to the sale barn without being tagged, you will be charged \$2hd for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.**

**NEWELL SHEEP YARDS**  
**1-800-409-4149 • 605-456-2348**  
**FAX: 605-456-2436**  
**Barney Barnes Sheep Yards Mgr. - 605-641-2333**  
**Auctioneer: Cody Tupper 605-569-3589**  
**Fieldman : Gilbert Wood 605-456-2400 605-641-7100**  
**Fieldman : Dustin Vining 605-354-9966**

**Sheep Report - Thursday, February 16, 2023**  
Lamb market was steady today  
Slaughter ewes sold \$10 to \$12 lower  
Bred ewes sold steady  
  
Next Sale - February 23rd - Feeder Lamb Special - 1 PM  
Animals should be here by noon so they can be weighed before the sale  
Thank You For Your Business!  
**Bred Ewes- Sold by the head**  
Bowers, Tom & Jim, Broadus MT.....27.....3-4 Yr Old Ewes.....189.....\$250.00  
Fishhook Ranch, Prairie City SD.....50.....5-6 Yr Old Ewes.....179.....\$175.00  
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD.....108.....2-4 Yr Old Ewes.....192.....\$300.00  
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD.....50.....2-4 Yr Old Ewes.....192.....\$330.00  
Metcalfe, Tyler Or Pama, Hay Springs NE.....10.....Sld Ewes.....146.....\$185.00  
Ono Ranch, Ismay MT.....99.....2-3 Yr Old Ewes.....120.....\$250.00  
Ono Ranch, Ismay MT.....79.....2-3 Yr Old Ewes.....120.....\$170.00  
**Feeder Lambs**  
Bowers, Tom & Jim, Broadus MT.....109.....Lambs.....112.....\$135.00  
Darling Creek Ranch LLC, Meadow SD.....15.....Lambs.....96.....\$149.00  
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD.....275.....Lambs.....106.....\$146.00  
Horman, Jeff, Belle Fourche SD.....21.....Lambs.....91.....\$149.00  
Jensen, Andrew, Newell SD.....33.....Lambs.....75.....\$175.00  
Mahaffy, Ronnie, Newell SD.....106.....Lambs.....115.....\$136.00  
McGuen, Levi, Broadus MT.....14.....Lambs.....63.....\$171.00  
Sabo, Wyatt Or Denise, Reva SD.....19.....Lambs.....63.....\$175.00  
Sabo, Wyatt Or Denise, Reva SD.....64.....Lambs.....80.....\$167.00  
**Slaughter Ewes**  
Dale Edwards Inc, Broadus MT.....28.....Klr Ewes.....171.....\$68.00  
Dale Edwards Inc, Broadus MT.....20.....Klr Ewes.....154.....\$64.00  
Ono Ranch, Ismay MT.....28.....Klr Ewes.....118.....\$61.00

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**March 9th -- Feeder Lamb Special -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**March 16th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**March 23rd -- Bred Ewe Special -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**March 30th -- New Crop Lamb Special -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**April 6th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**April 13th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**April 20th -- Bred Ewe Special -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**April 27th -- New Crop Lamb Special -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**May 4th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**May 11th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**May 18th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**May 25th -- New Crop Lamb Special -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**June 1st -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**June 8th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**June 15th -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**June 22nd -- Regular Sheep Sale -- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats**  
**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR BUSINESS!**

**EXCLUSIVE OP-ED: South Dakotans want the food tax cut**  
*Dakota Scout guest column by Kristi Noem, South Dakota Governor*

The people of South Dakota have enjoyed tremendous economic growth in recent years. Their incomes have risen faster than just about anywhere in the country. But they are not immune to the effects of historic inflation. The cost of food at home has increased by 19 percent in just the last year – even the fastest rising incomes in the country can’t keep up with that.

I have made eliminating the sales tax on groceries my number one priority this legislative session. This is the right tax cut at the right time to give South Dakotans the relief they need.

And let me be clear: not just any tax cut is good enough. The grocery tax cut is the right thing to do.

My team has conducted new polling to see which tax cut the people of South Dakota want, and I am giving you the very first look at this new data. South Dakotans have spoken clearly – they greatly prefer the grocery tax cut to other potential options.

75 percent of South Dakotans support eliminating the sales tax on groceries, and 50 percent are very supportive. When informed of the pros and cons of various tax cut proposals, 58 percent of South Dakotans choose the elimination of the sales tax on groceries. By comparison, only 29 percent choose a reduction in property tax burden, and a meager 3 percent choose to lower the overall sales tax rate.

93 percent of South Dakotans stated that inflation is significant for them and their families. 95 percent say that their household grocery bill has been impacted by inflation. In fact, 76 percent have changed their grocery shopping habits like switching to cheaper brands.

For those who are worried about our ability to afford this in the long-term, we must keep in mind how much stronger South Dakota’s financial situation has gotten in recent years. In the last full fiscal year before I took office, our state’s budget reserves were a very solid \$176.4 million. By this last fiscal year, they had grown to more than double that: \$422.6 million.

Our state’s financial situation is strong enough to afford this tax cut. South Dakota has \$397 million available ongoing budget revenues even before we cut taxes. We can deliver a tax cut while still supporting important priorities like increasing funding for our kids’ education and raising reimbursement rates for community care providers. So as the legislature is entering more serious budget discussions, they should respect the will of South Dakotans and deliver this tax cut.

How much is enough? How much money does state government need to keep for itself before we return it to the taxpayers? With nearly \$400 million available in ongoing revenue growth, the grocery tax cut is the right tax cut at the

**Farm Mutual Insurance Companies Merge**

On January 1, 2023, Harding & Perkins Farm Mutual Insurance Company merged with Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Lincoln County, South Dakota.

Harding & Perkins Farm Mutual was started by a group of nine men in the Ralph, South Dakota area in 1912. Their purpose was to provide affordable fire insurance to the residents in their community. As the company grew, extended coverage and liability were added to the coverages they provided and they became a statewide company.

The insurance industry as a whole has been hit especially hard in the mid-west by wind and hail and even two derecho storms with hurricane force straight line winds. The result of several years with extreme losses found Harding & Perkins Farm Mutual in need of a new reinsurance company.

Because the whole area has been affected by these storms, we were unable to locate a reinsurance company that could offer the coverage we are required to have in place.

In August, we were approached by Steve Zoss from Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Lincoln County of South Dakota to explore the idea of merging with their company.

They are located at Canton, in the very southeast corner of South Dakota and were interested in spreading their concentration of risk.

Both companies took the idea of merger to their Board of Directors. The idea of merger was met by unanimous approval from all Directors and several board meetings followed.

A notice of special meeting and the merger proposal were sent to all the members of each company. Membership meetings to explain the situation and vote on the merger were held. The proposal was unanimously approved by members present at those meetings. A hearing was held at the Division of Insurance in Pierre in December, which officially completed the merger.

Harding & Perkins Farm Mutual has provided its members with insurance coverage for 110 years. We are pleased to have our farm mutual insurance coverage continue on into the future with the merger with Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Lincoln County.

Together we are a stronger farm mutual company. They will offer additional insurance coverage options along with the coverages Harding & Perkins

stay. Our new businesses are here to stay. The new housing developments are permanent, so are the rising incomes, and so are the new careers of the future.

And this tax cut isn’t a partisan issue – both 75 percent of Republicans and 76 percent of

**Governor Contd. B8**





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## The Good Stuff

by Jim Thompson



*Jim Thompson takes motivational stories that listeners and readers send him and incorporates them into the program. It has been on the air for more than 10 years.*

My sources are plentiful after these many years of radio talk shows and newspaper columns. But the best remain my friends, who have sources that I may never see. Today from long time rodeo friend Jim Whiting something on aging:



### Growing Older Has Its Perks

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great.

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now. Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

*If you can't remember things like this, I suggest you cut it out and read it to your friends. jt :)*

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation. The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it". I don't have gray hair... I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise. If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees. Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet. Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway? Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice. At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for. I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. Now, I'm wondering... did I send this to you, or did you send it to me?



## STAT OF THE WEEK

# \$19,583

THE COMBINED AMOUNT OF MONEY IN SADDLE BRONC RIDING AND BULL RIDING, INCLUDING GROUND MONEY, STETSON WRIGHT HAS WON SO FAR THROUGH COMPETING IN HIS BRACKETS AT THE SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO. THE RODEO CONCLUDES FEB. 25.




## WORLD STANDINGS

AA: STETSON WRIGHT .....	\$88,480
BB: ROCKER STEINER .....	\$33,237
SW: WILL LUMMUS .....	\$30,028
TR-HD: ANDREW WARD .....	\$38,565
TR-HL: BUDDY HAWKINS II .....	\$38,565
SB: STETSON WRIGHT .....	\$52,809
TD: WESTYN HUGHES .....	\$30,433
SR: COLE PATTERSON .....	\$24,669
BR: STETSON WRIGHT .....	\$47,129

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## Cowboys Aim to Cash in at Lucrative Winter Rodeos

FORT WORTH, Texas – Winter is bitter, ornery. It teases with sunrises, then betrays with teeth-chattering temperatures. Winter builds character, a time to measure the previous season's rest and recovery.

Winter in rodeo brings tests, warmth, and cold-hard cash. As the calendar flipped to February, eyes become affixed to some of the sport's biggest events like the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, RodeoHouston and La Fiesta de los Vaqueros in Tucson, all part of the Playoff Series.

"I try to bank on these winter rodeos as my set up for the entire year," said bareback rider Caleb Bennett, a 10-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier. "To be able to capitalize, win the right amount of money, it is huge. You want to be able to come out of winter run with as much money as you can in as few rodeos as possible."

The big events, so competitor friendly with their hospitality, purses, and convenience, make the winter a fascinating proposition. Houston is nearly a \$2 million rodeo. San Antonio is a whisker behind at nearly \$1.5 million. A good four or five days at winter events can change everything for a young cowboy and allow them to plan strategically in the summer.

"For sure," said 19-year-old



tie-down roper Riley Webb. "There's a lot of money to be won before the summertime grind starts. I had \$20,000 last year in Reno and \$19,000 after Denver (this year). It's huge. I am definitely not even close to relaxing. I want to keep the hammer down and keep going at it. But it obviously helps the confidence."

An interesting dynamic surfaces in the winter. Time off has left cowboys ready and driven. Some are motivated after watching the NFR on TV. Others are poised to put their stamp on the sport. And a bevy are finally healthy. It proves a delicious mix at events that allow for multi-day stays and reward consistency.

"The competition is stiffer. As far as the mindset, you are aware that guys are coming out hungry. Maybe they just missed out on some goals. So, you must have the hammer cocked and ready to go," said veteran steer wrestler Kyle Irwin. "And it's not just the competition. There are some unique things with the cattle. Some are fresh, and others are stiff. You have to be ready for a lot."

Bennett agrees. The freshness of the season brings him back to the beginning.

"You get a little bit of both with young guys coming into the sport and others who are determined to improve," Bennett

said. "But for me, it fuels my fire. A lot of these guys want it badly, and it makes me want a championship that much more."

The winter also is a reminder not to change for some competitors. Steer wrestler Tyler Waguespack is a four-time world champion. In some ways, the calendar has days not months, competitors have faces not names.

"I feel like the competition is the same every year. It's just as hard at Cody, Wyo., with one bullet as San Antonio. But I really do like to pull up to a rodeo and know you have multiple options to make money," Waguespack said. "San Antonio is one of my favorites. You get multiple times to compete. And these winter runs, you can spend several days in a row there and have the average accumulate. But, for me, the mindset doesn't change. You still have to make your best run."

Kaycee Feild is a six-time world champion bareback rider. The winter has provided rocket fuel for some of his best seasons, creating "momentum and confidence." Last year, he won the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, with a 91.5-point ride on Calgary Stampede's Agent Lynx. It's a memory impossible to forget.

"That was a horse that dips, dives, and swoops. I was able to win that ride," Feild said. "Something like that really tees you up for the season."

All the competitors rave about the hard work of the winter

## Two-time NFR Qualifying Bull Rider Jordan Hansen Out with Injury

Bull rider Jordan Hansen, a two-time qualifier for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2017 and 2019, is out of action with a left shoulder injury.

Hansen suffered the injury after his 88-point ride on Rafter G Rodeo's Bumpstock on Feb. 1 at the Fort Worth (Texas) Stock Show & Rodeo to win the wild-card round at Dickies Arena.

"I dislocated my left shoulder, my riding arm, and I'm not sure if there is any other damage on it or not," said Hansen, 29. "I'm waiting to get an MRI to find out if there is anything else wrong."

Hansen described what happened from his point of view on his ride.

"Right when I landed, I kind

rodeo committees. They made it clear the little things impress them in a big way – having rides to the airport, places for family to hang out, food and even autograph sessions. Those are things – besides the big payouts – that make the winter feel a lot less cold.

"The winter is where it all starts. And I just really enjoy the process," Feild said. "You go to these rodeos, and we've seen the great competition and

the horses change so much. I love training and knowing I will get a chance to get on a horse that can deliver a score in the 90s. To get on that ride and look at those full grandstands, it's the best feeling. It's like going to Disneyland."

**THIS WEEK**

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

San Antonio, Texas





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## News & Notes From The Rodeo Trail

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association® (PRCA) recently announced that 505 Southwestern has become a National Partner of the PRCA. “505 Southwestern is extremely proud to partner with the PRCA for the 2023 rodeo season,” said Sam Carson, President, 505 Southwestern. “We share a common history with strong roots in the American West and fervently believe in the importance of supporting agriculture. We also both believe in keeping things exciting – whether that’s by adding some green chile to ordinary foods or watching a cowboy at a PRCA rodeo. Our brands bring people together through affordable and flavor-

ful experiences and like most things – even the rodeo goes better with green chile!” As part of the new agreement, 505 Southwestern will become the Official Green Chile and Salsa of the PRCA’s Xtreme Bulls. During the upcoming season, 505 Southwestern also will be activating the World’s Largest Green Chile Roaster in Reno, Nev., Salinas, Calif., and Pendleton, Ore. “We are thrilled to have 505 Southwestern join the PRCA as a national partner,” PRCA CEO Tom Glause said. “505 Southwestern has strong ties to the American West and the PRCA promotes the western way of life, so this is a great fit.”

## WISDOM FROM OUT WEST!

*The Opinions of Robert Dennis.*

*A self-employed, rancher, saddle maker, poet, picker and chopped liver. [rdennis@gwtc.net](mailto:rdennis@gwtc.net)*



### Let’s Get Real About a Few Things

One of the most iconic and brutal scenes in a movie or television show is in Lone-some Dove when an Army Scout is trying to take a horse away from some young cowboys. One of the young men is holding on to the horse and won’t let go, while an old, crusty Army scout is on a horse and whipping him with a quirt. The young man is the bastard son of Captain Call, an old retired Texas Ranger. He sees what is taking place, from a distance, mounts and rides his horse into the Scouts horse, knocking him off the horse and proceeds to beat the holy hell out of him using a branding iron and smashing his face into an anvil.

All of this takes place for

several reasons. But the essence of it is summed up when Call is pulled out of the fight by his lifelong friend Captain Gus McRae. Call looks at the crowd and announces, rather sheepishly, “He was acting rude. I won’t tolerate rudeness in a man.”

Wow.

To us today, in a “civilized society”, it is appalling. We don’t see things like this and most would not do it. I grew up in a time where men, and boys, settled their differences with fists. It was accepted and understood. Usually there were enough people watching to stop it from getting out of hand. Usually, when it was a couple boys, you might get

a bloody nose and some hurt feelings, but that was about it. I grew up hearing of fist fights that went on for a long time and even was around at least one where both parties had to go to the doctor to get bandaged up, afterwards. It was ugly. Appalling.

Now we are a “kinder, gentler” society, supposedly. I understand that most of us agree with that and think it is right and good. We were all admonished to not fight when we were younger. It was so ingrained in men and boys not to fight, and I so took it to heart, when I was a child that when the time came and I had to fight as a young man, I remember I couldn’t hit my opponent in the face. Guess who won that time!

I watched some fisticuffs in high school. I never liked it. The worst was when it was two young women. Ugly! Hideous! I was raised to believe that women were of a higher order

then men and didn’t do such things. I since have learned that girls fought and still do, but mostly with their words.

And now I see young men raised to be the same as those girls. There are a lot of keyboard warriors out there. They will say terrible things from the back of a keyboard. And no one ever really calls them to task, for their rudeness. Or shows them the error of their ways, by inflicting some physical pain on them. I don’t think that has served us well.

Some will tell you we are on the brink of the third World War. I am not sure. Maybe we always will be until it actually happens. But few people go to war anymore. Few people see any kind of hurt and carnage caused by actual fighting. With fists or knives or guns. Except in the movies and on TV. And so we become disassociated with it. It becomes common place. Few know what it feels

like to wake up the next morning after an actual fight. The disappointment and pain and hollow spot inside your gut. Win or lose.

Violence is ugly. So is rudeness. But maybe it’s time for all good men to no longer tolerate rudeness without an honest answer, in todays world. Perhaps a small bit of ugly and violence could stop others from randomly being rude and not having to answer for it. Perhaps more would be kinder and gentler if they found out what can happen if they are not. Physical pain can be a very good reminder of not letting it happen again, and one will take steps to assure we don’t have it happen again. Peace and love is all well and good as long as everyone does it. But when peace and love are not practiced I think it behooves all of us men, to step up and show them why peace and love is a good policy.

Just my opinion and you sure don’t have to agree with it.



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## Capitol News



KAREN ODELL

Last Sunday, Ronda Cordell fell asleep in her easy chair at the end of the Super Bowl, and missed the decision-making play of the game, and she also missed sending her news for the week, so we'll add it in this week.

Ronda spent Monday morning on the phone with WRCTC, trying to figure out why her land line has not received long distant calls from various phones in the Tri-State area. She felt these calls had been mainly from Belle Fourche, Spearfish and Rapid City, but one that Friday, had been from Billings, Montana. They gave Ronda a temporary 800 number, and then had the person in Billings call her. That person could only get through with the 800 number, so WRCTC knew the problem was not local, but with the long distance carriers of those calling. Clint and Denise Zolnoski have had the same issue with their calls. So far, cell phones have been successful in calling, but businesses and medical facilities don't use cell phones, so it has been quite an inconvenience. Wolffy's, in Camp Crook, has been the place to go on recent Wednesday's. Darla Hamel had delicious burritos this week. Darla also finds it enjoyable to get out and visit a little, too. Several other people agreed. On Thursday, Ronda headed to Belle Fourche at six-fifteen a.m. She dropped off Boozer and Leilah at the Belle Fourche Vet Clinic for further evaluation, while Ronda had eye and chiropractor appointments. The next day, Ronda attended Darlene Carter Rose's funeral service in Ekalaka. After the luncheon at the church, she stopped by Justin Kerr and Krista Huntley's for a visit, and to pick up a file cabinet. After returning home, Ronda had to go to Belle Fourche again, because Leilah was very sick. Ronda stayed overnight, as a guest of Alfreda Davis, and picked Leilah up a noon on Saturday, after an IV treatment was finished. On Sunday, Ronda went in to the Little Missouri Church Soup Supper at the Camp Crook Area Community Center.

Dick and Erma Albert made a trip to the Hills for supplies, on Wednesday. On Friday, they went to the Senior Citizen Dinner. This week they were celebrating the birthday of Kay Ovitz, and Kay had sent delicious cheesecake for everyone. Jack brought the cheesecake, but did not bring Kay, because she was not feeling well, so we

are hoping she is better, and got some of her own cheesecake. Dick and Erma went to church, on Sunday, and stayed afterward for a meeting and a pot luck lunch.

Alvin and Marlee Cordell spent nearly the whole week in Arizona. They had been invited down to visit Rod and Renee Bisgaard, who spend their winters in the south. It was sixty-five degrees when they left Rapid City on their flight, and it was fifty degrees when they arrived in Mesa. The southern states have been having a cold winter, but still the weather was great for sight-seeing. They toured a museum in Scottsdale, and got to go to an Arizona State basketball game in their huge sports center. They visited other little towns, and had a wonderful time. They got back home late on Friday. On Sunday, Marlee, Tawni and the kids, went to church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook. That evening, Alvin and Marlee went to the Little Missouri Soup Supper in Camp Crook.

Some of the helpers at the Little Missouri Soup Supper were: Doug Davis, Bruce and Lynn Gustafson, and Jane Teigen from the Capitol area. There was a good crowd, the food was great, everyone got to visit with neighbors, and there were lots of things to choose from in the silent auction. Shirley Melum has been doing some reading, this week. Junior and Shirley went to Ekalaka for the Darlene Davis Carter Rose funeral on Friday. They went over to the Lutheran Church for refreshments afterward, and got to visit with friends there. Then, they visited with Dean Parks, John and Karen Neece, Fay Kennedy, Marty Carroll, and Virginia Ludwick. On their way home, they stopped to visit Gene Odell, so they had a great day of catching-up with many friends.

Gene Odell had a good check-up in Rapid City, this week, so things are going good for him. The Paddens spent Monday bangs vaccinating their heifers. On Thursday, Bryce, Dawn and Dorothy went to Belle Fourche for a tax appointment. They enjoyed a great lunch at The Stadium. Brett and Stacey Padden came, that day, to spend a few days with Dawn and Bryce. They all went to the Darlene Davis Carter Rose funeral in Ekalaka on Friday. Then Brett and Stacey did such good work helping them with chores, that they would have been invited

to stay longer, but possibly the predicted bad weather may have encouraged them to get back home to Laurel, Montana. The Paddens have finally just officially started calving, but somehow they already have a calf or two from their heifers. Dawn remembered one year when they got the strangest April Fool's Day calf. Somehow one of their cows had a longhorn calf. As it turned out, that year, they got at least two more longhorn calves. Maybe there was a phantom longhorn bull moving across the area, that year.

Charlie Odell took a loader part to Tyler at Wolffy's, on Monday, to have it welded. Tuesday, was a blizzard and Charlie fed cake every day. On Wednesday, he replaced the loader part. He went to the Hills on Thursday for supplies and groceries. On Friday, he inspected cows for Wade Pearson and Kent Williams. He went to Buffalo to get a load of cattle cake on Saturday. Karen Odell is still getting Capitol News books ready for publication as ebooks. That, and arranging bookshelves, is keeping her busy during the bad weather. Shirley Melum is helping her work on a quilt, too. On Saturday, Charlie and Karen got to watch their grandson, Kellan Odell, wrestle in the South Dakota 3A high school regionals. He is a sophomore at Mitchell, and had a great last match of the season. It is wonderful that grandparents got to see his matches on YouTube, and his aunts and uncle could see them, too, although they were far away in three different directions. On Sunday, Charlie and Karen went to church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, where Karen played piano for the hymns. That evening they went back to Camp Crook for the Little Missouri Church Soup Supper, where they enjoyed seeing and visiting with many good friends.

Let's all keep Donna Lewis in our prayers.

Here is another bit of Capitol history that the Urlachers sent. The Capitol Post Office was established in June of 1891. It was first situated at the ranch home of Bernt Martin and Inger Melum at Capitol. Bernt served as postmaster for four years. Then Inger took over the job and was postmistress from 1895 until 1914.

Here is an historical question. Did you ever notice that you never see an advertisement for celery?



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**Central Meade County News**



**By Sandy Rhoden**

Folks sure did enjoy the few days of warmer temperatures we had last weekend. However, we are bracing for a couple of colder days where the forecast includes snow.

Last week Kaye and Dean Andrews and Delbert and Georgi Ann headed to Marcus for an "All you can eat" pancake supper at the Marcus Church's annual fundraiser. They were greeted by friendly folks and were served pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, juice, etc. Some of the greeters included Dean Wink, Cody Weyer, Tucker Hudson, De King and Jade Hlavka. The women were in charge of proving a good sampling of maple syrup, chokecherry , and blueberry syrup. They all had a fun evening of food and fellowship.

The gang at the Red Owl Hall enjoyed their Valentines Day Dinner served by their Matre D's for the evening. They served up a great roast beef dinner and it was enjoyed by all who attended. It was a great community event.

Those from the Community Baptist Church of Union Center and many in the rural Meade and Sturgis community continue to hold Bill Meirose up in prayer. He lost his wife, Val, to cancer on February 7 and her Memorial Service was held last Wednesday in the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Sturgis. Satisfying Val's wishes, Bill gave the message, along with her brother who is a priest, at the memorial

service. There was a family burial service that morning at the National Cemetery. Lunch was served directly after the memorial service. Bill has bravely continued to deliver Sunday morning services throughout the journey of his wife's passing. This Sunday's service was a great message of hope from his heart. We continue to be fed and taught as a congregation while holding him up in prayer as he faces these very difficult days ahead.

Donna and Floyd Cammack hosted grand children, Calvin, Kristi and Ryder Cammack and Valerie and Dustin Seaman and family on Sunday afternoon after all attended church services. It was Donna and Floyd's first meeting of their great grandson, Ryder Lee Cammack.

The legislative session continues with three weeks to go. This is the time when there is a lot of excitement in Pierre and many bills that are still alive go through the second half of the process before they become law. The legislative session is only about 38 days long out of 365 days in the year, so legislators are very part time employees of the state. However, these laws that are made carry on sometimes for a lifetime and can have a great affect on South Dakota. There was a cracker barrel in Piedmont on Saturday where there was a good turnout. Folks were able to ask questions while listening to what is happening in Pierre. We thank our Dist. 29 legislators for taking a good share of their day and traveling the many miles like Senator Dean Wink does to attend. Dean traveled over 115 miles one way while Representative Gary Cammack traveled about 65 miles from Union Center. Rep. Kirk Chaffee was the closest but took the time to be there as well.

The World's Largest Steer can be found in Baker, Montana, at the O'Fallon Museum. Weighing in at 3,980 pounds, he grew to be 5'9" tall and 10'4" long. Born March 23, 1923, just east of Baker, Montana, the steer lived for 15 years and 4 months. Raised by Jack Guth, a former jockey, the steer toured local stock shows and circuses when he was alive.



[illegible][illegible]



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We learned last week that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) lied to America and the rest of the international community about the route and purpose of their balloon. The House voted yesterday to criticize their actions. I can't say that I am surprised by the lie—in reality, the balloon is just one incident of surveillance that likely didn't gain them much more data. The CCP has been surveilling us for much longer than two weeks, and by many standards, much closer to the ground than a balloon—close enough that they're in your pocket.

It's a much more subtle threat—TikTok—and millions of Americans have it downloaded on their cellphone alongside their most personal information. A spy balloon, viewable by most of America, is an easy physical object to call out for surveillance, but TikTok may pose a much more real and present threat to Americans.

TikTok gathers personal and private data on your life—your face ID, voice recognition, passwords, text messages, Google searches. You name it, the CCP probably has access to it. More than that, the content the CCP promotes on TikTok user devices in China is vastly different than the content promoted on American user devices. An article from Forbes details

The season begins with a performance from the BHSU Band on Saturday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Meier Recital Hall in Spearfish. Later that month, Black Hills State University will be home to the Choral Festival March 27 with entertainment and events all throughout the day.

The music department's April itinerary kicks off with the Northern Hills Chamber Chorale on April 2 at 2 p.m. The choir will be performing April 16 at 2 p.m. before tour-

the educational videos seen on China-based accounts and the videos promoted for American users stirring up divisive political views or encouraging violence, theft, and self-harm. After months of pushing my Block the Tok bill to my colleagues, Congress understood the threat TikTok poses to national security and banned TikTok on federal devices. This is a step in the right direction, but far from the end goal.

China has been surveilling and collecting data on America and other countries for decades. Their government doesn't honor personal freedoms or the right to privacy. We know they are always watching, and even though the spy balloon last week was a very overt surveillance technique, we need to remain vigilant in addressing the threats the CCP poses and combatting their influence over American citizens, supply chains, and our government.

That's why the Select Committee on China is so important. This week, we had our first official meeting—great timing to start laying out our priorities and plans for this Congress, addressing the 360-degree threat the CCP poses. I am honored I get to work with the Select Committee to keep America safe.

ing across the state from April 17-19. Back in Spearfish, the orchestra will perform April 21 at 7 p.m. Soon after, on April 22, the Spring Band returns with a performance at 7 p.m. The Jazz Band will round out the week with a concert April 23 at 2 p.m. The spring semester comes to a crescendo with the Spring Music Festival April 29 on the campus green.

For more information, contact  
Dr. David Berberick at David.  
Berberick@BHSU.edu

## WPRA Barrel Racing

### 2023 Pro Rodeo World Standings

(last updated 2023-02-13)

Rank	Name	Hometown	Money Won	Rodeos Attended
1	Jackie Ganter	Abilene, TX	\$36,768.10	15
2	Brittany Pozzi Tonozzi	Lampasas, TX	\$25,973.96	6
3	Sissy Winn	Chapman, TX	\$23,158.33	10
4	Ilyssa Riley	Hico, TX	\$18,502.74	9
5	Hailey Kinsel	Cotulla, TX	\$17,806.88	4
6	Lisa Lockhart (G)	Oelrichs, SD	\$17,650.46	5
7	Jordon Briggs	Tolar, TX	\$15,967.22	3
8	Erin Wetzel	Plant City, FL	\$14,973.60	15
9	Tiany Schuster	Krum, TX	\$14,648.58	14
10	Kelly Allen	Stephenville, TX	\$14,368.22	13
11	Ivy Hurst	Springer, OK	\$13,325.03	4
12	Emily Beisel	Weatherford, OK	\$12,162.57	6
13	Abigail Knight	Charlo, MT	\$11,912.58	4
14	Stephanie Fryar	Waco, TX	\$11,388.06	12
15	Sara Winkelman	Big Lake, MN	\$11,297.37	9



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2023 - 2024  
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Shellyalzada@gmail.com  
Doug Cole,  
Doug@bellefourchebeacon.com  
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Sales@bellefourchebeacon.com

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Contact Bailey Sadowsky

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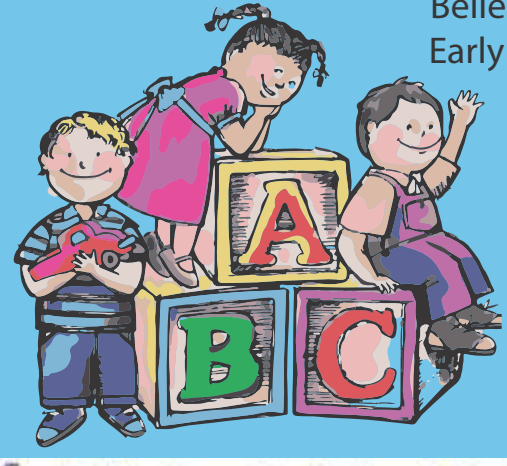
**Butte County Historical Society 2023 Calendar**  
A Gathering of Hometown Heroes from the War Years

The Butte County Historical Society 2023 Calendar has been released! It is on sale at Sand Creek Printing for \$10.

The calendar features the stories of Veteran heroes from the Butte County area, including Johnny Spaulding, Rosemary McMahon, Ed Petranek, Don Smith, LeLund Kahler, Robert Voyles, LeRoy Clarkson, Leo Larrabee, Harold Brost, Leroy Hill, Neva Pluimer, and George Rundle.

Their stories encompass service from the Civil War through the Vietnam War. Janet Jensen of the BCHS enlisted teachers and students at the Belle Fourche Middle School to conduct research, collect photos, and write the articles for this years' calendar.





Belle Fourche School District's Community Early Childhood Developmental Screening  
For children ages 0-5

Date: Friday February 24, 2023  
Time: 8:30 am to 2:00 pm  
Where: North Park Elementary Early Intervention Classroom  
Please call for an appointment  
605-723-9139

**Belle Fourche School District**  
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## Bullock Community Players

present **"The Beverly Hillbillies"**,  
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**SHOWTIME**  
7pm March 3rd & 4th;  
2pm March 6th @  
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**Tickets are \$10 and go on sale Feb 21st @ Pioneer Bank & Trust in Buffalo, SD and Dakota Community Bank in Bowman, ND. Tickets also available at the door.**



Concessions available  
Bullock Community Facebook page has more information.



## Belle Fourche FFA Annual Fruit Sales!



Sales will be from February 10<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>

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**Belle Fourche**  
**Kindergarten**  
**Screening**

Date: Monday, March 13th  
Time: 8:00—3:00 pm  
Location: North Park Elementary



- You **MUST** bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records.
- Children must be five years old on or before September 1st 2023.
- Appointments required—call North Park @ 723-3379 to schedule an appointment ASAP.
- Appointments generally last one hour.
- Current Kindergarten students will not have school this day.



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You can watch live or after the event.



### From B1 Governor Noem

Democrats support eliminating the grocery tax. It's about delivering basic relief to every single South Dakotan, rather than picking winners and losers. This tax cut would deliver the greatest benefit to folks on a fixed income, like senior citizens, who are least equipped to handle skyrocketing inflation. And it would help single moms who are struggling to put food on the table for their kids.

Other tax cuts fall short for a number of reasons. The property tax ideas that have been brought forward only help South Dakota homeowners – by contrast, every South Dakotan eats food, so the grocery tax cut helps everyone. In fact, 80 percent of those surveyed in our poll were homeowners. So even homeowners prefer eliminating the sales tax on groceries.

By a similar token, an overall reduction in the sales tax rate would not be felt as directly as the grocery tax cut. South Dakotans will see the direct impact of the elimination of the grocery tax every single time they go to the grocery store. This makes it a very transparent

tax cut. On the other hand, a small reduction in the overall sales tax rate will not be noticed on individual trips to the store. It's not enough of a change to make a real impact on the people of South Dakota.

If the legislature makes a different tax cut this year and in two years the people repeal the sales tax on groceries on the ballot – which is what will happen because the desire to eliminate this tax is so high – how will we pay for both? The responsible thing to do is to give South Dakota residents the tax break they want and deserve. Let's give them the freedom to choose how they want to spend their hard-earned money.

I will continue to do everything in my power to get the grocery tax cut across the finish line. The people of South Dakota want it. The people of South Dakota deserve it. I am committed to eliminating the sales tax on groceries for the people of the state that I love. As the people's elected representatives, the men and women serving in the South Dakota Legislature should hear this message loud and clear.

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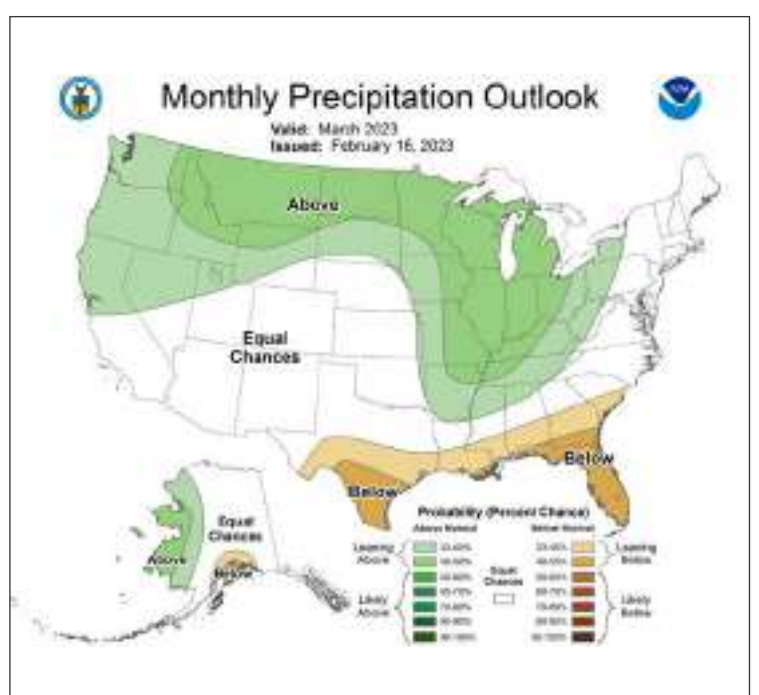


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Mike Greenough  
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*Local.*

This is what Belle Fourche looked like as you entered the city from the south in the 1940's. The top of the courthouse is visible above the treetops in the center right of the photo.



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## Area Church Schedules

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL**  
6th and Roundup - 892-2446  
The Rev. Evelyn Weaver  
The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests  
Deacon Rev. Mike Weaver  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER**  
2020 Vista St - 892-4767  
Dan Carlson, Pastor  
Paul Howard, Pastor  
Sunday Schedule:  
Long Term Care Service 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday School: All ages 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hour: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
1105 Todd St.  
John Allred, Bishop  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament Meeting  
Sunday School:  
1st & 3rd Sundays, 11 a.m.  
Priesthood Meeting, Relief Society,  
Young Men and Young Women:  
11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

**Emmanuel Baptist**  
902 Lawrence St. - 723-6899  
Andy Anderson, Pastor  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. Sunday Worship  
Men's Bible Study  
10am every Wednesday  
Services Streamed Facebook Live  
website: ebcbf.org

**CONNECTION CHURCH (SBC)**  
613 Sixth ave., Belle Fourche  
(605)-210-2150  
Pastor Stephen Carson  
Associate Pastor Chad McCord  
Worship Pastor Ashton Rone  
Sunday Worship: 8:45 or 10:15 am

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
807 8th Ave. 892-4178  
Pastor Tim Smith  
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15am  
Morning Worship - 10:30am  
Tuesday: 10:00am Ladies Bible Study  
Wednesday: Salt and Light Youth -  
Kindergarten -12th grade  
5:00pm Soup & Sandwich  
5:30pm - Salt and Light

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**  
892-3402 • www.bfsoucc.org -  
717 Jackson St. Sunday:  
9:35 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
901 Laurel St. Whitewood  
(605)-920-1959  
Reverend Jill Jennewein  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

**LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(ABA) • 2.2 miles east on Hwy 34  
723-1092  
Sunday: 10 a.m. worship service

**NEW COVENANT PCA**  
1120 North Fifth Street, Spearfish  
642-1122 - Luke Bluhm, Pastor  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship Service  
**NEWELL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**  
308 4th Street, Newell SD, 57760  
605-456-2544  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30am  
Sunday School: 9am  
Youth Group (Age 13-18):  
Wednesdays 6pm

**NORTHERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
5 miles south of Belle Fourche on  
Hwy 85 • 642-7167  
Calvin Chapman - Int. Minister  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

**NORTH POINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
10959 Kellem Lane, Spearfish  
Sunday Services: 9AM and 10:30AM  
**NISLAND INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
On Hwy 212 in Nisland  
(605) 257-2356  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship: 10:45 a.m.  
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and Bible Class, 10am Worship  
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Worship Service: 10:45am  
Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

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Belle Fourche Rec Center  
Sun: 9:30-12:30.  
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605 569-3057  
Sermons: fightintheshade  
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*“Building Main Street, not Wall Street”* — by John Newby

## More Facts, Figures, and Logic for Local Spending

I have previously discussed some of the points in this week’s column over the past three years. This week however, I chose to put them together to help stress the critical nature of what being local means for a community. Never have our locally owned businesses been under more pressure. As this pressure continues to mount, local businesses will come under even more stress.

Crisis is always the mother of invention, innovation, and change. Let this crisis be a clarion call to action for each of us. There is no better time than now for communities, chambers, and businesses to come together to reinvent their future. We saw many shop-local campaigns during the holidays. While a great start, this needs to be a year-round endeavor on steroids. Now is the time to educate your community on the dire need for a truly local effort



on a non-stop basis. The result of being local is so much more than just revenue. While revenue is important, it is the many other ingredients that elevate a community on so many levels. Being local needs to be in the DNA of your community. Here are a few other ingredients and by-products of being truly local.

First, numerous studies show dollars spent with locally owned and operated businesses recirculate throughout your community between three and seven times. This is compared to those same dollars being spent with national chains, which circulate only once. With a 10% sales tax, one million dollars spent with big boxes and chains will return \$100,000 in sales tax to your community. That same one million dollars will return between \$300,000-\$700,000 when being spent with locally owned businesses. How will that impact the jobs and vibrancy in your

community?

Second, additional studies show owners of locally owned businesses support local causes, local organizations, and local charities by approximately a 3-to-1 margin over businesses with outside ownership. The foundations of many communities are often built through active volunteerism, non-profit organizations, and civic groups. This is a vital component in any thriving community.

Third, owners and managers of locally owned businesses are 4X more likely to be involved in leadership, politics, chambers, and so forth in their communities than are the owners and managers of out-of-town owned businesses.

Fourth, a recent study shows a community’s poverty rate is directly linked to the percentage of prosperous locally owned businesses. Put another way, the greater percentage of your retail dollars taking place with chains or out-of-town owners within a smaller or midsize community, the higher the poverty rate is expected to be. Bottom-line, the more local innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurs there are, the greater

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	1		4		6	7		
						4		
	8							9
	4	9		2				
		5	9		1			8
	2		6	7		1		
	6						1	
						8	2	
7	9							5

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

## ENIGMA CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are an excellent brain game for all ages and a great way to practice your word skills. Each letter stands for another letter. Here's the key:

"XM DVXDOE XDIW WLM ZMEW TDI

WR XVI DI MVMSWYRI

FINRBWFIOWMVO, LM IMHMB BFIJ."

— XYVV BRUMBQ

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Vegetables which do not reach men have not been made to do so." — Voltaire

C10

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

1. Malignant  
2. Softly  
3. Man  
4. 23rd  
5. High school  
6. 14th  
7. 15th  
8. 16th  
9. 17th  
10. 18th  
11. 19th  
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91. 99th  
92. 100th

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

QBI AVE QTB  
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A I R P L A N E S O A P  
L I D E N A C T I C S  
T A D I T A N A  
M E T O L M O N A R C H  
A B A S C A R I L I A  
A B S C O N D S A Y I D  
M A R C H U D  
F A A D E F E R A J G  
I A N A H A L N O T E  
X I T I I I I T U A N  
L A D P I O H T S

### DOWN

1. School course  
2. Dryly, very  
3. In Caucasian  
4. Spoke

5. 1st  
6. 2nd  
7. 3rd  
8. 4th  
9. 5th  
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92. 88th  
93. 89th  
94. 90th  
95. 91st  
96. 92nd  
97. 93rd  
98. 94th  
99. 95th  
100. 96th

### Puzzle Answers on D4

the average household income will be. Additionally, when this innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem is supported by the entire community, average household incomes will go even higher.

Fifth, the more local businesses your community has, the greater uniqueness it offers. Few people vacation in locations ripe with chains and big boxes. You can find that sea of sameness in any community around the country. Uniqueness brings tourism, tourism brings new dollars, and new dollars bring increased revitalization and growth.

How can this critical educational process improve? Demand that your local media go about the task of educating their community to the power of a truly local DNA. Explain to them that without a vibrant community with an expanding business base, their media company is also at risk. I have never seen a vibrant media company in a dying community. From there, news-media companies and the community can build common synergies strengthening the foundation of

both. You can't always control the economic climate in which you operate, but you can certainly control your direction and path by adjusting your sails to the economic headwinds you are in.

Common synergies are a gift we can ill afford to ignore. By ignoring this gift, we are missing out on an opportunity that can change the dynamics within the communities we live. When a community, the businesses, chamber, and media combine their efforts – victory can be had. When we ignore this gift, future generations, our children are at risk. How we proceed forward now will determine our future.

*John Newby is a nationally recognized Columnist, Publisher, Community, Business, Media, Strategic Consultant & Speaker. His "Building Main Street, not Wall Street," column is enjoyed by 60+ communities around the country. As founder of Truly-Local, he assists community and business leaders in building synergies that create vibrant communities. He can be reached at: info@Truly-Localllc.com.*

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# Show Up

by Belle LaVenue

Snow is on the horizon this week, but some warm and friendly fine arts activities await you no matter what the temperature! Now I encourage all to check out all the upcoming fine arts events these next few months as we pull ourselves closer to spring.

**The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater (BFACT) 2023 SEASON was announced on Saturday.** Looks like there will be a show for everyone! The BFACT Lineup includes: Pride and Prejudice, May 12, 13, 14; Mama Mia!, July 27, 28, 29, 30; The Northern Hills Theaters Getting Our Acts Together in late August; and a spooky Halloween show in October! Audition dates will be announced soon! The BFACT Board saw a few changes also. Contact these folks to volunteer, to donate, or to find out more about local theater: President- Nathan Schreier, Vice President- Nathan Thompson, Secretary- Heather Pittman, Treasurer- Kelsey Gronlund, Members at Large- Angela Hastings. Allie Juso Verry, and Sharon Thompson.

**FEBRUARY 25th: OPENING of EXHIBIT for MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:**The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will open a new mini exhibit entitled “Make Some Music: the History of Instruments Around the World,” on Saturday, February 25th with a free reception. Storyboards, photos, artifacts, touchscreen quiz, kids books to read, free take-home workbook. The exhibit will focus not on typical orchestral instruments, but on unusual instruments from cultures around the world.

**FIRST SATURDAY BRUNCH MARCH 4th: March First Saturday Brunch is about Dig at Soap Suds Row.** The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a First Saturday Brunch on March 4 entitled “The Archaeological Dig at Soap Suds Row.” The presentation will be provided by Belle Fourche native and archaeologist Katie Anderson, who participated in the dig for artifacts left by the laundresses who were once employed at Ft. Meade.Brunch at 10 a.m. is \$5 per person or free with membership; presentation at 10:30 is free to all. Reservations are required. Call 605-723-1200.

**BELLE FOURCHE FINE ARTS BOOSTERS TALENT & VARIETY SHOW ADVANCE TICKET SALES - Support our fine arts programs and students:** BFHS fine arts students are selling advanced tickets to the show as a fundraiser for their upcoming fine arts trip to Denver. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes pre show activities @ 1 PM - free games for kids, complimentary snacks, live music, cakewalk, silent auction, and more! At 3 PM the main show features local musical, instrumental, and comedic performers. Contact the FINE ARTS BOOSTERS if you are ready to share your talent - and for a good cause! Acts of all kinds can still join the show, so get your act together and contact Belle Fourche FAB at bfhsfab@gmail.com to be part of a FUN community event!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for these upcoming Fine Arts Events:**

- **April 30th - GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER - for the FINE ARTS BOOSTERS ANNUAL COMMUNITY VARIETY SHOW!**
- **MARCH 9 - Center of the Nation Concert Series presents: DAN MILLER’S COWBOY MUSIC REVIEW** Best of Cowboy and American at the Rec Center 7pm
- **MARCH 17 & 18 - BFMS PLAY - A 3-ACT Travel Through Time.**
- **MARCH 30, 2023 - Center of the Nation Concert Series presents: TAKE 3 - High Energy w/Violin, Piano & Cello** at the rec center 7pm.
- **APRIL 24 - Center of the Nation Concert Series presents: HOW SWEET IT IS! Tribute to James Taylor** at the rec center 7pm.
- **MAY 12, 13, & 14 - Pride and Prejudice, Belle Fourche Area Community Theater**

Maybe YOU know what SHOW is UP next? Share your fine arts tidbits and upcoming events at [bellelavenue@gmail.com](mailto:bellelavenue@gmail.com). I especially love the juicy backstage dish and green room gossip! Mark your calendars, friends, so you don’t forget to **Show Up!**



“Chopping Ice” by Sentel Schreier - Judges’ 1st Place & People’s Choice in the “People Category” of the Belle Fourche Arts Council Photography Contest.

## Salvador Dali’s Surreal Train Station

**Meg English**  
[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)

This story is about the Spanish artist Salvadore Dali and one of his many famous, but obscure works, “Gare de Perpignon”. Gare is the French word for train station. Perpignon is a good-size city in southern France, on the Mediterranean coast.

Dali was inspired to render this perception of the train station in Perpignon after experiencing a vision of “cosmogonic ecstasy” there in 1963. At this time Dali proclaimed the Gare de Perpignon to be the “Center of the Universe”.

“The station of Perpignan is destined to become one of the most important cosmic places in the Dalinian cosmogony,” Dali explained.

Two years later, the painting was revealed. By this time in his life, Dali was 66 and well known for flamboyant, eccentric and ostentatious behavior. Boastful and haughty he wore an upturned waxed moustache, a long cape and carried a walking stick. Dali was often accompanied by his pet ocelot, Babou.

Dali was known to avoid paying at restaurants. He would draw illustrations on the checks he wrote with the intention of making the checks too valuable to cash. Apparently, the scheme worked well.

The painting depicts recognizable features of the train station in Perpignon, with Dali’s characteristic surreal distinctions. Note the locomotive coming out of nowhere, the references to Christianity. (Dali was a Catholic and agnostic at the same time). Among the figures in the painting is an ordinary traveller presumably waiting for a train and a farmer with a fork thrust into the ground.

Several artistic techniques are noteworthy including attention to symmetry, the use of light and predominance of earth tones.

Dali represents himself in the painting too. He appears twice, once at the center of the image seen from below with arms spread out and again at the top

of the painting. One would think that southern France might be at least moderately temperate even in winter. Not so. Winter is often characterized by lashing rain, strong winds and bitter cold. Heating is very expensive in Europe and public buildings, including train stations are not heated.

Although moderately enclosed, the Gare de Perpignon is home to hosts of pigeons, some transient characters, and occasionally children asking travellers for money. Travellers are warned to be wary of pickpocket thieves. A lack of available, accessible and clean public restroom facilities is another serious comfort issue. Train stations are not places you would normally want to spend a

lot of time winter or summer. Sometimes travel is interrupted by a strike. In this event, trains shut down and travellers are left to their own devices, meaning more time spent at the train station...waiting and now more desperate for a restroom.

However, once on a train and away from the station, train travel in France is typically efficient, comfortable, affordable and a pleasant way to see the countryside. Also, train cars are heated and there is room to stretch out or find a place to sit in the warm sun. Perhaps Dali had a fine sense of humor. Maybe he was just trying to capture what it feels like to wait for a train? Maybe his “cosmotic” experience was real. Maybe all three.



Perpignon Platform 2 at the Gare de Perpignon. . Meg English Photo



Gare Perpignon Outside photograph of the Gare de Perpignon. Note Dali’s image of himself atop the building. Meg English Photo

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A statue of Salvadore Dali, the Surrealist Spanish artist who in 1963 declared the Perpignan Train Station the “Center of the Universe” Meg English Photo



Train Station Dali’s painting of the center of the world, The Gare de Perpignan. . Meg English Photo







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## Lawmakers maneuver for advantage in budget negotiations

*Revenue forecasts could determine support for tax cuts*

**Jonathan Ellis**

[jonathan@thedakotascout.com](mailto:jonathan@thedakotascout.com)



A group of South Dakota lawmakers settled on revenue numbers for next year's budget in a game of chicken that could foreshadow where there's support for tax cuts in the Legislature and where that support is soft.

The 10-member joint subcommittee included five members of the Senate and five from the House. House members favored estimates that showed the state taking higher amounts of tax revenue, while Senate members leaned toward more conservative estimates.

With the promise of a walleye dinner slipping away as the evening got later Tuesday, the two groups of lawmakers repeatedly broke into their respective camps before coming back to negotiate compromises.

Eventually they settled on a \$2.38 billion budget of ongoing general fund revenues for fiscal year 2024, which begins on July 1. But by the time a final compromise had been made, the walleye dinner, sponsored by South Dakota chiropractors, was coming to an end.

Those numbers were adopted by the full Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

The amount of revenue growth for the state over the last couple of years has been jaw dropping to some lawmakers, who are more familiar with modest growth each year. The revenue estimate adopted Tuesday for 2024 is more than a quarter-billion dollars than the revenues the state received in 2022.

And that's why many lawmakers and Gov. Kristi Noem say it's time for a tax cut.

Noem is pushing a repeal on the state sales tax on groceries, while other proposals call for an across-the-board reduction in sales tax, or a reduction in property tax.

Reading tea leaves

Lawmakers had two estimates to pick and choose from: One from Noem's Bureau of Finance and Management, presented by State Economist Derek Johnson, and one from the Legislative Research Council's Jeff Mehlhaff, the LRC's chief fiscal analyst. The two estimates were more than \$116 million apart.

House lawmakers preferred more of the revenue estimates from the LRC's \$2.4 billion budget while Senate members leaned toward the BFM's \$2.3 billion estimate.

The estimates differed in a couple of key areas. Mehlhaff predicted that outstanding federal stimulus money, roughly \$3.1 billion for construction projects, would continue to drive revenue increases in the contractor's excise tax, while inflation would also continue to be part of the state's revenue increases.

"Inflation isn't going away," Mehlhaff said. "It's going to be here for the long run."

The LRC estimate projected the state receiving \$14 million more in lotter revenue, most of that from video lottery. Mehlhaff said that increased income for South Dakota residents has driven increases in lottery revenues.

Johnson, however, said the nation is expected to go into recession. Though mild, there were "yellow lights" associated with a recession and growth.

"We expect that slowing – still growth, but slowing growth," he said.

Johnson differed with Mehlhaff on federal stimulus spending, arguing that the spending is already baked into the inflation formula.

How long is the gravy train?

The surge in revenues, said Rep. Tony Venhuizen, won't last forever. "Somewhere it's going to end. It can't go on," the Sioux Falls Republican said.

But Venhuizen and the other four House members on the committee favored higher revenue estimates in next year's budget.

Sen. Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton, said the state has billions to spend on construction projects because of federal stimulus dollars. But she questioned whether labor shortages would hinder that spending.

"How much building will there actually be?" she asked.

Rep. Mike Derby, R-Rapid City, said big out-of-state contractors are bringing workers into South Dakota to complete big construction projects, including work at Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is preparing to expand its mission as a home base for the new B-21 bomber.

"The free market will get those jobs done," he said.

Rep. Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls, said lawmakers have repeatedly settled on estimates that were later eclipsed by revenue increases. He predicted that would happen again.

"Our job is to be as accurate as possible," he said.

Following the compromise vote on the final revenue estimate, Sen. Dean Wink said he thinks Senate members are more concerned about what will happen in the next 16 months, which the 2024 budget includes. If indeed a recession does hit, it could have a negative effect on revenues.

"If you go into recession, people do not have the money they thought they were going to have," Wink said. "Some lose their jobs."

## “The Scout at the State Capitol”

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



## Voucher measure fails, but school officials put on defensive

*Student proficiency ratings in reading, math questioned*

**Jonathan Ellis**

[jonathan@thedakotascout.com](mailto:jonathan@thedakotascout.com)

Where other state education lobbies have failed, South Dakota's have prevailed.

And they prevailed again Wednesday over a proposal that would have introduced taxpayer funded vouchers to South Dakota. Those vouchers would have enabled parents to receive money for accredited private schools equal to what the state pays for each student, which is expected to be about \$7,000 next year.

But while the bill, sponsored by Rep. Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, failed 11-4 in the House Education Committee, there was a different feel to Wednesday's defeat. As if momentum shifted.

School officials were put on the defensive, asked to account for why public school students in the state have low proficiency ratings in reading and math, particularly among Native Americans.

"Do you think we have work to do, and if so, what needs to happen?" Rep. Tyler Tordsen asked Wade Pogany, the executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota.

Pogany responded that a 51-percent proficiency rating in reading doesn't mean that students aren't having success. And he said educators were not "settling" on student achievement.

"That's not true," he said. "We're wanting to improve every day."

Later in the hearing, Tordsen, a Republican from Sioux Falls and an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, said he was a product of the state's public schools, and he said his two sons would likely attend public schools.

But he also said that he'd been watching proficiency ratings for years. While 51 percent of all students were proficient in reading, only 21 percent of Native Americans were proficient. In math, 23 percent of all students were proficient, but just 12 percent of Native Americans. Those numbers constitute failure, he said.

"We can do better, and we need to do better," Tordsen said.

"We've got to get creative soon."

Really soon," he added.

Rep. Scott Odenbach, R-Spearfish, noted that the state spends a billion dollars a year on education.

"Fifty-one percent proficiency means the other half are not proficient," he said.

In years past, education groups have argued that a voucher system in South Dakota would not benefit rural communities that don't have access to private schools. They've also argued that South Dakota's open enrollment system allows students to choose among public schools, or, if they have the resources, a private school.

And those arguments won the day again on Wednesday.

"If you vote for this bill, you will harm public schools and the children they serve," Pogany said.

Once fully implemented, the Legislative Research Council estimated that a voucher system would cost about \$45 million a year. Hansen argued the state has enough money to give public schools an 8 percent budget increase next year as well as enough to fund the voucher program.

"Choose all of the above," he said. "Choose public schools. Choose non-public schools. Choose home schooling."

Rep. Tim Reisch, the former corrections secretary, compared the proposed vouchers to transferring a prisoner to a private prison. While the state pays \$177 a day for a prisoner, the only savings the state would realize by not having the prisoner in-house was in a few dollars for food and medication. The absence of that prisoner would have no impact on what the state pays for staffing and the overhead of running a prison.

The same would happen for schools who saw some of their students depart for private schools, along with their state aid checks.

"They're just basically getting by as it is," he said of public schools. "We can't do this."

Rep. Stephanie Sauder, a Bryant Republican and retired teacher, said South Dakota's existing system enables students to pick where they want to go to school.

"They have the right to choose, as far as I'm concerned, right now," she said.



Appropriations Committee members deliberate the state budget. (Dakota Scout Photo)

## Noem's China-inspired ag land panel gets early blessing from hesitant Senate committee

*Committee keeps bill alive to give governor time to address litany of concerns raised by opposition*

**Joe Sneve**

[joe@thedakotascout.com](mailto:joe@thedakotascout.com)

Farm groups, banking organization and realtor associations aren't on board yet with a plan to give Gov. Kristi Noem veto powers over private land transactions involving agricultural land and foreigners.

But their concerns about unintended consequences, government interference and market volatility that could come with the creation of what's being called the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) — South Dakota are outweighed by national security threats that demand action now, according to lawmakers who gave their stamp of approval to the governor's proposal Tuesday.

"This is an issue that we cannot leave in the hands of the federal government," Sen. Erin Tobin told her colleagues on the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, which unanimously recommended approval of Senate Bill 185. "And when I go back to my district, those people feel the same way. We owe it to them to dig through this and figure it out."

The measure would create the seven-member board that would vet land swaps involving foreign entities before making a recommendation to the governor's office, which would decide whether to allow the transaction to go through.

And though it earned resounding support in committee, some senators who agreed to move the legislation ahead did so with the understanding that the points made by the groups in opposition during more than an hour of public testimony will be addressed in the bill before final passage.

Those include enforcement challenges that reviews made by CFIUS would create at the county level, particularly for register of deeds offices that traditionally are the last step in a land transaction process.

Stanley County Register of Deeds Patricia Duffy told the committee that the way the proposed law is set up now, her office would be responsible for determining if a land transfer is subject to CFIUS review. But making such a determination is beyond the scope and ability of what those elected officials do now.

"We're concerned that we'd be asked to do something that is not possible for us to do. We want to comply with the new law, but we're not sure how we could comply with this provision," she said. "It seemingly sets up a check in a system of checks and balances, but that check occurs too late in the process to be of real value."

Duffy said as written, the register of deeds would need to flag transfers for CFIUS review. However, by the time a transfer gets on

the radar of the register of deeds, it's all but final, she said.

"By the time a deed reaches our office, money's already changed hands and the buyer and seller have likely gone their separate ways," Duffy said. "To undue a property transfer at this point would be very complicated. In order to prevent a foreign entity from acquiring land, the issue should probably be addressed earlier in the property transfer process."

Representatives of the banking, real estate and agriculture organizations worried a review process would slow down private transactions and be a drag on land values. And Senate Bill 185 also comes with questions about constitutionality and efficacy given the legislation is limited to agricultural land only, not other land types that could also be used by enemies of United States seeking to gather military intelligence within South Dakota's borders, they said.

"I'm the only one in the room that has Ellsworth Air Force Base in my backyard ... but this bill raises a lot of concerns," Sen. Randy Deibert said. "This is a complex bill and I think maybe 35 people should be weighing in rather than seven (Senate committee members). So I don't have a problem moving this to the floor. It just needs a lot of work before I'll support it."



Rep. Jon Hansen, Dell Rapids, offers testimony in House Education committee. Photo from Dakota Scout

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## Hello from the Capitol in Pierre

Legislative Report from: Representative Neal Pinnow, District 28B

Rep. Neal Pinnow

neal.pinnow@sdlegislature.gov

*Republican, 1st Term: New Member, District: 28B*  
*Countries: Butte, Harding, Perkins*  
*Occupation: Owner/Operator of Hausauer Seamless Products LLC*  
*Mailing Address: 311 6th Ave. W Lemmon, SD 57638*  
*Capitol: 605-773-3851*

The 2023 legislative session has reached the 25th day and continues to remain very busy as we near the crossover mark. Crossover day is when all the bills from each chamber have to been heard and have final action to either pass or kill the bill so they can be sent to the opposite chamber for their second hearing. If you have comments or questions, contact me at neal.pinnow@sdlegislature.gov and please put 28B in the subject line. By doing placing 28B in the subject line, this will draw my attention to your email and I will make sure those are priority over the hundreds of other emails that we receive on a daily basis.

This week has been filled with many discussions regarding the 2024 revenue and expense budget. A few of the budget requests that have already been approved include: HB1034 – property tax refunds for the elderly and disabled; SB41 – housing infrastructure; HB 1026 – appropriation for the expenses incurred for wildland fire

suppression; HB 1027 – appropriation related to the expenses resulting from disasters within the state; SB 12, SB 13, SB 14 – granting spending authority for the SDNG for the construction of a field maintenance shop in Watertown and construction of the Sioux Falls Readiness Center. The legislature continues setting budget numbers and work toward the determination which tax cut proposal will be able to be afforded within the state’s 2024 and ongoing budgets.

The House of Representatives has continued work in strengthening our elections process. HB 1124 ensures that our automated tabulation machines are safe, reliable, and cannot be tampered with during the election process. We need these machines to accurately and quickly deliver the results of elections and keep confidence high among the electorate. HB 1165 tightens up absentee voting, making it easy to vote and hard to cheat. We limited the use of drop boxes and made sure that our absentee ballot process has integrity.

Eminent domain and property rights conversations have been strong and very active in the last week. HB 1230 and HB 1133 were both passed by the House of Representatives to help strengthen landowner rights. These bills are a clash between property rights and progress but help provide protections against the use of eminent domain and strengthens the negotiation process between landowner and project consultant.

I also have continued efforts to

help strengthen our EMS Association with SB 101 which will enhance the efforts of our EMT’s and paramedics. HB 1007 which would move emergency medical services to a Class B designation within the SD retirement system. Mental health, education and community support provider funding are also at the top of the list of concerns. I will have a better feel for these categories as we reach final budget projections.

I have had the pleasure of have visits from the Faith High School, Newell High School and the Butte Country School at the Capitol the last couple weeks. It was my honor to welcome them and get to share some time with them on the floor. Thank you and please feel free to reach out to me at the email above. If you make it to the Capitol, please send me an email and we will set up a time to visit.



Rep. Neal Pinnow

## Things Are Not Always As They Seem

*“Democracy is a system for people who are not too sure they are right.”*  
*E.E. Schattschneider*  
**Sen. Brent “B.R.” Hoffman**



Brent.Hoffman@  
In any given session, your state legislature considers about 500 bills and resolutions. A fair number of bills,

some good and some bad, will suffer an early death in committee. Some may be resuscitated the following year while others move forward and eventually earn the hard-fought title of codified law. And then there’s House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 6007.

HCR 6007 seems harmless at first glance, filled with “whereas” language and a positive-sounding title: “Affirms the importance of the constitutional legislative oath of office.” But as I’ve learned in politics, things are not always as they seem, and it depends on who you ask.

First, I should say, I take an oath very seriously. Raising your right hand and swearing an oath before Almighty God

is a serious proposition. It’s important and can represent a life-changing commitment. Serving in the military, both as enlisted and officer, I’ve taken a few oaths, administered many others, and each one resonated in my heart. A few years ago, I administered the oath to my own son when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Most recently, I took the legislative oath with my family present for the occasion, and it was meaningful and memorable beyond words. So I found puzzling why HCR 6007 would ask me to affirm the legislative oath again, as if the first oath was irrelevant or meaningless. Imagine being asked to affirm your oath to your spouse a second time, right after the honeymoon, just to make sure you’re serious. It’s redundant and nonsensical, even insulting.

But it gets worse, as the resolution was poorly-written, with missing words and run-on sentences. Given the lofty subject matter, you’d expect better, especially when you learn it passed out of the House on a vote of 62-8. Also, if you’re thinking we have more important issues to focus on

than a redundant resolution... things like education, crime and taxes...you’d be right.

That said, I suspect my colleagues in the state senate just wanted to be done with HCR 6007. A few warned me I’d be “post carded” for my NO vote, funded by people who only pay attention when it suits them. Sure enough, it passed (22-12) despite my opposition, and the following day, I received some enlightening emails. One questioned my patriotism. Another criticized my judgment and conservative values.

As the session moves along, there will be other, far more important bills to consider, and with each one, we disappoint someone. I’m sorry if I disappointed you on this one, but there will be other chances. We’ll probably see it again next year.

*The author, Brent “B.R.” Hoffman, served a career in the military, surviving the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. He’s a published author and occasional newspaper columnist. He currently serves as a state senator for District 9, which includes western Sioux Falls, Hartford and Wall Lake.*

## Constitutional amendment would open up South Dakota primaries to all voters

State political parties right now limit who can participate in biennial primary elections

Joe Sneve

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A group of political activists want all South Dakotans to be able to participate in partisan primary elections.

A campaign committee calling itself South Dakota Open Primaries filed paperwork with the South Dakota Legislative Research Council Wednesday that seeks to place a constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot. It would force the state’s political parties to allow any registered voter to participate in biennial primary elections.

“We believe that primary elections in South Dakota should be open to all voters regardless of political affiliation,” said Joe Kirby, a registered Republican chairing the campaign committee. “Under our current system, too many South Dakotans are excluded from the primary process. It’s time to let all voters vote.”

State law right now allows political parties to exclude

non-members from participating in primaries. The South Dakota Democratic Party allows Democrats and independents to vote in the nomination process that precedes general elections. However, the state GOP does not allow non-Republicans to participate in its primaries.

The proposed ballot initiative seeks to establish a top-two open primary system for candidates running for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, governor, state Legislature and county elective offices. If successfully placed on the 2024 ballot and adopted by voters, all the candidates would compete in a single primary open to all South Dakota voters. The two candidates that receive the most votes would advance to the general election. Party affiliation of candidates, or lack thereof, would be indicated on the ballot, according to the organization.

Others involved in South Dakota Open Primaries are De Knudson, a former member of

the Sioux Falls City Council, and Thomas Dempster, a Republican who served in the state Legislature and on the Minnehaha County Commission.

The board of directors of South Dakota Open Primaries is composed of Kirby, Knudson, Dempster, and Drey Samuelson, former chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson.

The South Dakota Legislative Research Council has 15 work days to review the text of the proposed constitutional amendment and provide comments to the sponsors. After that, the sponsors must file their final initiative text with the South Dakota Attorney General and the South Dakota Legislative Research Council in order to receive a ballot title, a ballot explanation, and, if necessary, a fiscal note.

To qualify for the November 2024 ballot, South Dakota Open Primaries would need to collect signatures from about 35,000 registered South Dakota voters.

## The Scouting Report:A weekly digest

Buffalo Bill CPR hero, poverty decreases, leopard rampage, author debate

Jonathan Ellis

jonathan@thedakotascout.com



When Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed from cardiac arrest during his Jan. 2 game against the Cincinnati Bengals,

South Dakotan Nate Breske rushed to the field to help save him. Breske, the lead trainer for the Bills, helped perform CPR on Hamlin. The quick actions of the medical staff are credited with saving Hamlin’s life.

Hamlin last week partnered with the American Heart Association to promote CPR training. The association’s goal is to make CPR widespread, so it’s not just trained medical personnel who can save someone whose heart stops.

Breske is a Webster, South Dakota native who played quarterback at Northern State University, where he led the team to a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championship in 1999.

Prior to taking the head trainer job at Buffalo, Breske had been a trainer with the Chicago Bears and San Francisco 49ers



Nate Breske

The average poverty rate in South Dakota dropped to its lowest number in more than a decade, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Over the past three years of 2019-2021, 10.2 percent of the state’s population was in poverty. That’s down from a high of 14.1 percent during the three-year period of 2009-2011.

The U.S. average was 11.2 percent over that three year period of 2019-2021. South Dakota ranked 26th in the nation.

Mississippi had the highest rate of 18.1 percent. New Hampshire had the lowest rate of 5.6 percent.

When measured from 2009-2011, 80 percent of the states had lower poverty rates in 2019-2021. Two significant events likely play a major role in those numbers: 2009 was the onset of the Great Recession. And by 2020, the federal government was injecting what would become trillions of dollars into Covid relief funding.

But with rising inflation, in part because of all the federal stimulus spending, poverty rates could be heading in the other direction.

Local governments in South Dakota collected more than \$11 million in fines and fees in 2020, equivalent to about \$12.53 per person living in the state, according to a recent study from the Reason Foundation, a free market organization.

That per-capita number put South Dakota 34th in the nation for the burden it places on residents through fees and fines. Top of the list was New York, whose residents paid an equivalent of \$69.60 per person. Connecticut came in last at just \$2 per person.

The study analyzed data reported by local governments to the U.S. Census Bureau. It warns that an overreliance on money collected through the legal system can become “exploitative.”

“The primary responsibilities of the legal system are to promote public safety and to provide for justice,” the report says. “Pressure to raise revenue, at best, undermines and, at worst, directly conflicts with those responsibilities. When incentives are misaligned, police departments and court systems become more concerned with taxation by citation than carrying out their core functions. Such conflicts of interest can undermine the legitimacy of the criminal justice system.”

Lawmakers in states that are pushing for more electric vehicle use and an end to fossil fuels are cracking down on cryptocurrency mining because it uses so much electricity, reports Plu-

ribus News. Data centers, which were once welcomed because they brought high-paying tech jobs, are also becoming targets.

New York enacted a two-year moratorium on new crypto mining operations, and lawmakers in Washington and Oregon have bills aimed at making sure the crypto mining and data centers can’t find ways around clean energy laws.

“We’re really focused on data centers and crypto mining because they’re so gargantuan. These giant users should be held accountable individually,” says Oregon Rep. Pam Marsh. The Democrat is sponsoring legislation that would make crypto and data centers meet the state’s schedule for reducing fossil fuels.

“Crypto mining,” writes Austin Jenkins of Pluribus News, “is the process of generating new cryptocurrency by solving complex math problems using high-powered computers. The mining process serves to ensure the accuracy of the blockchain ledger that undergirds a cryptocurrency’s network.”

Other measures aim to stop these industries from power companies in other states that don’t restrict fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, in related news, North Dakota lawmakers have set aside \$3 million to use in litigation against Minnesota, which passed legislation to make its energy sources 100 percent free of carbon emissions by 2040. Most of North Dakota’s energy is produced from coal, and about half of that electricity is sent to Minnesota.

The Minnesota legislation would stop the importation of North Dakota’s coal generated electricity. North Dakota officials, including Gov. Doug Bur-

gum, argue that the legislation violates the U.S. Constitution’s interstate commerce clause by regulating energy companies across state lines.

Chaos broke out in a courthouse in Ghaziabad, India after a leopard wandered inside the building and began mauling people, the Times of India reports. People began throwing chairs at the adult female after it attacked two lawyers on the third floor of the courthouse outside the chief magistrate’s office.

The leopard then retreated to lower floors where it continued to attack others. The incident occurred in the afternoon, and the courthouse, which sees as many as 10,000 visitors a day, was filled with litigants, lawyers and court staff.

The animal was eventually confined to the first floor after onlookers piled furniture into possible escape routes.

Forestry officials were brought to the scene, and the leopard was found hiding under stairs. After lighting fires to scare the cat away from exits, they hit the leopard with three tranquilizer darts. It took 45 minutes for the leopard to fall asleep.

The leopard was injured in the confrontation. So too were six people, including two lawyers and a constable who suffered serious injuries.

Ghaziabad is located near a forest which is home to leopards. The animals are considered to be “near-threatened.”

A loyal reader takes issue with Jon’s assertion that Joseph Bottum is “arguably” South Dakota’s most prestigious living author. The reader offers his own nominees.

Pete Dexter, former newspaperman and National Book Award novelist for “Paris Trout,” as well as the author of other novels. Dexter is currently writer in residence at the University of South Dakota.

Science writer Sam Kean, a Sioux Falls native who now lives in Washington, D.C. Kean has written several books and his articles have appeared in prestigious outlets.

Biologist and novelist Dan O’Brien, who raises American bison in western South Dakota. He is the winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Award.

In the end, it is nice our state has enough human capital to have this debate.

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## Tax cut proposals near debate as new revenue estimates released

*Some lawmakers wary about what inflation, federal  
spending mean for long-term budgets*

**Jonathan Ellis**

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Lawmakers on the Joint Appropriations Committee got revised revenue estimates on Tuesday, and if you suffer from arithmophobia – a fear of numbers – that committee was no place to be.

The final revenue estimates for next year are one of the most important components of any legislative session. But they are even more important this year, as competing proposals to cut taxes are waiting in the wings.

“This is a big day for us,” said committee Chairwoman Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton.

Tuesday’s forecasts from the Bureau of Finance and Management and the Legislative Research Council set the benchmarks for where those proposals could land. Some lawmakers on the Appropriations Committee expressed caution about where the state’s finances could be headed after two years of record revenues. Those revenues have been fueled by federal stimulus spending and accompanying inflation.

“At some point in time, the wood pile is going to come to an end,” Sen. Jim Bolin, R-Canton, said. “We’re not going to have these resources anymore.”

Rep. Lance Koth, R-Michell, said it troubled him about how the state’s finances could look in the next few years if taxes are cut now.

“What if we get back to normal, which I’m going to

suggest at some point we will,” he said.

State Economist Derek Johnson predicted the country would enter a mild economic recession this year. That would cause growth to slow in South Dakota.

“As that pertains to South Dakota, we don’t expect that to be as severe, if at all in South Dakota,” he said.

Sales tax revenues, which grew at more than 12 percent the last two years and are expected to grow by 8.7 percent this year, would decrease by 4 percent next year if the Legislature votes to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries, which Gov. Kristi Noem is asking the Legislature to do.

Johnson, who works for the administration, included the cut on groceries in his revenue estimate. Jeff Mehlhaff, the LRC’s chief fiscal analyst, did not include the grocery cut in his estimate.

Johnson’s presentation included a graph that showed how closely growth in personal income of South Dakota residents mirrored growth in sales tax revenues for the state, sales tax being the biggest revenue source for the state. But in the last two years, income and tax collections had diverged sharply: Income growth fell, while sales tax revenues remained high.

It was an anomaly from past years.

“This can’t continue,” Johnson told lawmakers. “The sales tax collections can’t continue to

## South Dakota could join the vast majority of states with post-election ballot audits

*Issue divides county auditors, while some say it  
doesn’t go far enough*

**Jonathan Ellis**

jonathan@thedakotascout.com

PIERRE – South Dakota lawmakers hope to quell concerns about the integrity of the state’s elections with a bill that would establish post-election ballot audits.

That bill passed the full Senate Monday. But it also faces competing legislation in the House and calls from some that it doesn’t go far enough.

“I first want to say, I believe our elections in South Dakota are safe and secure,” Sen. David Wheeler said when introducing the bill on the Senate floor Monday.

But Wheeler, a Huron Republican, added that South Dakota is one of a handful of states that do not have post-election audits, and while the type of audits vary, they are considered a best practice when it comes to election security.

Among some voters, election security became a pressing issue following the 2020 presidential election. From drop

boxes to ballot harvesting to the integrity of voting machines, a

group of activists who predominantly supported former President Donald Trump have called for a review of elections across the country. South Dakota continues to use paper ballots, which are then counted by machines. But some question whether those machines are accurate and whether the computer-generated results can be trusted. That’s where an audit by manual recount could come into play. Wheeler’s bill would require that 5 percent of a county’s precincts be subject to a manual recount, focusing on the two closest statewide races. “This bill is a simple move of providing a last check on our system,” he said. The bill has split the state’s county auditors, with some supporting and some opposing. In testimony last week, Beadle County Auditor Jill Hanson said her office doesn’t like the idea

of manually counting ballots, but she’s willing to do it if it stops the heated rhetoric of the last couple of years regarding election integrity.

On the other side, Lyman County Auditor Deb Halverson asked lawmakers to slow down and give it a year so the issue can be studied. Halverson said she was concerned the one-size-fits-all concept won’t work for rural counties. Secretary of State Monae Johnson, the state’s top election officials, is also studying the issue.

Meanwhile, Hartford resident Cindy Meyer criticized the bill last week because it broadcasts which races will be subject to an audit. She contended that those should be chosen at random, because smaller down-ballot races can also be subject to irregularities.

Sen. Casey Crabtree, the Senate majority leader, told Senate members Monday that if they want an audit in place before the 2024 election season, they needed to vote to get the process started this year and not wait until the next legislative session.

The bill passed 34-0.

have not been spent,” he said.

The federal dollars and the inflation that accompanied them leave some lawmakers worried that state revenue growth is artificial. Meanwhile, Bolin warned that besides consumers carrying record credit card debt, the state will be on the hook for a big budget hit with Medicaid expansion.

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School Board

**Personnel and Policy Discussions**

**Betty Bruner**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-The Newell School Board held lengthy deliberation on several personnel policies, approved contracts, and accepted four resignations at the February meeting. Board members also heard the results of the recent audit done by Ketel Thorstenson.

Jeff Yennie, Ketel Thorstenson, reported that there would be no change in the school audit process. He suggested that the system of tracking capital fixed assets should continue to be done. He said that several years ago, the process had not been followed so it was difficult to compare previous years, but the school was doing a good job now of tracking assets. Overall, he said, it was a good, clean audit.

The first reading of Policy GDPD: Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff led to some discussion in determining the method of dismissal of support staff. The policy reads that if an employee does not give a two-week notice, the "school district reserves the right to withhold compensating the employee for unused sick, vacation and/or PTO leave acquired during the current school year of the resignation. The "employee cannot use PTO/annual leave as a two-week notice."

Board member Todd Youngberg felt that the board shouldn't take PTO once it had been given. However, Superintendent Andrew Fergen had met with support staff members on at least two occasions and had gone over the policy sentence by sentence. Part of what had been added was that the school board will act on the request as a final decision. Fergen said that he had taken into consideration

**School Board D2**

## Honoring Locally Elected Education Leadership



Newell School Board Members who serve the district unselfishly and stay apprised of the workings within the school are, left to right, Todd Youngberg, Dusty Braun, Chairman Tyrel Bonnet, Lisa Wendt, Brianne Bonnet, Chad Lawson, and Sara Brunner. - Photo Betty Bruner

## School Board Recognition Week

**Betty Bruner**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

South Dakota School Board Recognition Week is the time to recognize the men and women who dedicate their time and energy to serving on the locally elected school board. Recognizing our local school board is an opportunity to publicly thank the men and women who serve on our school board.

"We want to celebrate the elected leaders of public-school districts for their tireless service to the students, staff members and communities they serve," said ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany.

Serving as Newell School Board members are Todd Youngberg, Dusty Braun, Tyrel Bonnet, Lisa Wendt, Brianne Bonnet, Chad Lawson, and Sara Brunner.

The Board is responsible for setting the vision and goals for the district and strive to provide a quality education for the students. The board hires quality educators, adopts policies and evaluates student progress while keeping the best interest of students in mind.

The Newell School Board members are the link between the school and community. Whenever you have an opportunity, thank a school board member for their service to this area.

## Love Was in the Air

**Krystal Tesche**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL -- The High Plains restaurant has done it again, providing an unforgettable experience for the residents of Newell and far beyond. People made the trek from all over the Black Hills, including Rapid City, Lead and Deadwood to enjoy the unique tasting menu crafted by owner Shelby Stiles and soon to be husband Clade Schuelke. They traveled the area experiencing different styles before putting their own twist on one especially for us.

The limited seating event was sold out before it even began, rolling both reservation times into one to ensure that the experience wasn't overshadowed by the time-consuming process of a five-course meal that included Pork Belly Thai Salad, Lobster Risotto Milanese, Pan Roasted Cornish Hen, Beef Wellington and wrapped up with a Panna Cotta Alla Valentine. The meal was enhanced by the strategic pairing of a variety of wines that highlighted the distinct flavors and regions that the dishes originated from. Along with the delectable dishes and savory wine, the ambiance was set with none other than the sensational Humbletown, a musical duo from Rapid City.

The wait staff worked hard to create an unforgettable environment and pleasurable setting for a romantic meal. One such couple was Todd and Jill Weber that hailed originally from Deadwood before settling down in Newell last fall. They shared that they are celebrating their 10-year wedding anniversary this year and are excited that such an amazing venue was available to spend their special night together. It was a pleasure to meet the Weber's,

**Love in the Air D2**

Happy Birthday to you Joe,  
He keeps so busy but never slow.  
Up early mornings with the alarm,  
off to his job then back to the farm,  
with his family, there are chores to do,  
country living is what he enjoys too.

Enjoy your birthday  
February 23  
We love you,  
Your Family.

Todd and Jill Weber, newcomers to the area, enjoyed the night of fine dining at High Plains restaurant on Valentines day. -Tesche photo

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<div><b>Kraft Macaroni &amp; Cheese Dinner</b> 5.5-7.25 oz Selected Varieties <b>\$1.15</b></div>	<div><b>Gorton's Fish Fillets Fish Sticks or Shrimp</b> 9-24.5oz Selected Varieties <b>\$6.99</b></div>	<div><b>Malt O Meal Family Size Cereal</b> 21-30 oz Selected Varieties <b>\$3.99</b></div>	<div><b>Gain Dishwashing Liquid</b> 21.6 oz Selected Varieties <b>\$2.29</b></div>	<div><b>General Mills Cereal</b> 8.9-12 oz Selected Varieties <b>2/\$6</b></div>	<div><b>Xtra Laundry Detergent</b> 56-67.5 oz Liquid Selected Varieties <b>2/\$5</b></div>





If you have events for the NVN calendar, please contact Colleen Brunner at colleenbrunner@gmail.com

South Dakota Lions Foundation: Last year the lucky winner of our Buffalo Hunt Raffle from Colorado gifted the prize to his daughter for her 18th birthday - here she is after a successful hunt at #timberlakeelkklodge this past fall. The drawing for our second annual hunt is coming up February 15th so get your ticket today! To learn more and buy tickets visit <https://sdlions.org/get-involved/buffalo-hunt/>.

Feb. 23: Beginners gardening class, AJ Farms 605, Starts at the farm at 5:30. Call or email for more information or to register. 605-569-0687, E: [ajfarms605@gmail.com](mailto:ajfarms605@gmail.com)

Feb. 24: Family formal at the Newell school. 6-8 p.m. Sponsored by the PTO.

Feb. 25: Legislative Crackerbarrel, 9:30 a.m. at Newell city hall, 108 3rd.

Feb. 25: Newell Community Club Meat Raffle at Newell Bar, 4 p.m. Must be 21 to play.

Feb. 26: 5-7 p.m. Vale Pancake Supper. Vale Community Hall.

Feb. 27: BBB-Regions, see school website for time/place.

Feb. 28: BBB-1/4 finals, see school website for time/place.

Feb. 28: Pie day at the NVN Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mar. 2: GBB-SoDak16, see school website for time/place.

Mar. 3: BBB-Semi-finals, see school website for time/place.

Mar. 4: Whistle Stop Market, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. NVN Senior Center. Call 605-641-5510 for more info or to register.

Mar. 4: Going away party for Dennis, Cathy and Dave Capp, Bowman Hall-Belle Fourche, 1-4 p.m.

Mar. 7: Feeding SD distribution, 1 p.m. at NVN Senior center

Mar. 18: Spring vendor event-Vale Country Church 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Mar. 24: Lions pancake supper to benefit the NVN Center. 5 p.m.

## Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



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### From D1 School Board

ation the ideas of support staff members.

An addition to the policy was added by board members that “if an employee is dissatisfied with the Superintendent’s actions regarding suspension, dismissal or resignation, the employee may appeal to the Board for a review of their case.”

A prolonged discussion concerning the Head of Maintenance/Custodian position ended with no action being taken. Board members discussed the pros and cons of making the position an hourly wage, comparing surrounding other South Dakota schools of similar size. Wages were varied and the board decided that more time was needed to finalize the position.

Board Member Lisa Wendt

rescinded her previous motion made in January to approve paraprofessional positions for Marieta Perkins and Angie Thorstenson for 2022-2023. Marieta Perkins had declined accepting the opening. The board then hired Thorstenson as a paraprofessional for the remaining school year.

Following an executive session, the Board renewed the following contracts for 2023-2024:

Pre-K-Kylee Sandgren  
Kindergarten-Jada Jones  
Elementary-Cierra McTaggart  
2nd Grade-Jackie Clements  
3rd Grade-Laurie Parker  
4th Grade-Kyle Sanderson  
MS LA-Luaine Shaykett  
MS LA & Math-Cheryl McCann  
MS Social Studies, HS Fitness and 6th-7th Science-Anna Erk  
8th and HS Social Studies-Wyatt VanderVorst  
HS LA-Dalena Craig

HS Art-Benjie Panican  
HS Science-Elizabeth Burtzlaff  
HS Math and Physical Science-Donald Decker  
CTE-FFA-Tracy Austin  
K-12 Music-Adhara Banias (signed contract 2/6/23)  
CTE-Industrial Art-Trev Tiedler  
K-12 PE & Health-Scott Wince  
SPED Teacher-Molly Moes

There are openings for First and Fifth Grade, K-5th Grade Title, and two SPED openings. The Board accepted the resignations of Michelle Stockert, Title teacher; Ronda Price, First Grade; Jennifer Stomprud, music; and Paul McLaughlin, effective immediately.

The approval for the bid for the flooring for the Ag/Science, high school, and Austin Auditorium-ESSER III was set until the next regular Board meeting.

The next regular school board meeting will be Monday, March 13 at 6 p.m.

## Weight Room Opens to Public

Colleen Brunner  
[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)

NEWELL – The brand new \$100,000 weight room at the Newell school, that had its grand opening this year with Governor Kristi Noem in attendance, is now open to the public. However, you can’t just use it anytime.

According to Superintendent

Andrew Fergen, the school will immediately begin opening the weight room to consumers with a \$40 pro-rated fee through the remainder of the 2023 year. Beginning in fall of 2023-2024, the room will be open for a \$125 fee, which would include a key fob and access from 5 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. daily while school is in session, and 4:30 to 10 p.m. On days when there

is no school, Saturday, Sunday and Friday’s when no school is in session, the room would be open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Patrons can get a lease for the room through the Newell school district business office, located in the main high school building on the first floor. A key can be obtained for \$100, or the electronic fob for \$125. The renewal date will be on July 1 and run through the school’s fiscal year starting on that date.

The weight room is in the basement level of the high school building. It consists of six stationary bikes, two ellipticals, 10 cable pull weight stations and a monkey bar set. For more information you can contact the school at 605-456-2393, business office extension at the voice prompt.



Newell’s new weight room at the high school. - Courtesy photo

### THANK YOU!

#### From the Beacon / Irrigator.

In an age when small town newspapers are closing the Beacon and Irrigator are thriving and it’s because of you. Your support of local businesses, local advertising dollars and the willingness of community members to contribute alongside the efforts of our staff, all come together to make it work. We’re Newell-Vale-Nisland proud!

### From D1 Love in the Air

who purchased a ranch on Old US Highway 212 where they own and operate Shiloh Equine Rescue and Sanctuary.

Everyone that braved the weather was welcomed with warm smiles and helpful attitudes as always. Shelby would like to make sure to thank all of her crew as well as the gracious customers that made this evening unforgettable. She also mentioned that this is just the beginning of events that her and the High Plains team are eagerly planning and they are shooting for around one a month to keep things interesting.

A way to check out all of these upcoming events is to check out their Facebook page as well as following them on Instagram for detailed descriptions. They also boast tantalizing daily specials that they change up on a monthly basis.

Shelby continued to say “It is so neat to have the kinds of responses we have gotten for the new things we’re trying in the community. Our local patrons are our best advocates and the reason we can keep trying out the creativity that

we’ve dreamt of bringing to our restaurant. From everyone here at High Plains, we thank you for your continued support and can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

The community thanks the entire crew for this enchant-

ing evening, as well as all of the other things the owners do in the community. (See the Shaykett fundraiser article) From benefits, to specials, to just being available, they are the definition of the big city experience with small town heart.



Humbletown, a musical duo from Rapid City, played some special romantic music for the special Valentines dinner on February 14 at High Plains. - Tesche photo

### Newell School Menu Feb 22 - Mar 2

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB 22

Lunch: Tangerine Chicken, Oriental Vegetables, Tropical Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk

#### THURSDAY, FEB 23

Breakfast: Egg/Sausage Croissant, Cereal, Juice, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Lunch: Sweet Potato & Bean Chili, Corn Bread, Pears, Fresh Fruit, Milk

#### MONDAY, FEB 27

Breakfast: Overnight Oats, Cereal, Juice, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Lunch: BBQ Beef Sandwich, Broccoli, Pears, Fresh Fruit, Milk

#### TUESDAY, FEB 28

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs & Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Lunch: Pizza Crunchers, Corn Bread, Pears, Fresh Fruit, Milk

#### WEDNESDAY, MAR 1

Breakfast: Breakfast Wraps, Cereal, Juice, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Lunch: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Tropical Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk

#### THURSDAY, MAR 2

Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Juice, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Menu Sponsored by:



**Newell Hardware & Supply**  
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## Grand River Roundup

**Betty Olson**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Last Monday was a beautiful day, with the temperature of 58 degrees and no wind. We don't see that often in February in the middle of winter! Trig came home from the Black Hills that morning after watching the Super Bowl on television in Deadwood with his college friends and Pete and Jeff Larson also came to watch it. Reub helped Taz and Trig move pairs across the road over the creek to the shed up on the hill back of the barn before Trig had to leave for his job in the oil field.

There are more deaths to report. Father Bryan Sorensen lost his sister last week. Valerie (Sorensen) Meirose passed away from an illness on February 7 in the Sturgis Hospice Unit. Her funeral was at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Sturgis on Wednesday, February 15.

Gwynne (Tim) Smith of Lodgepole lost her father. James Leo Fulton Jr. (Cy) age 97, of Bowman, died at Southwest Healthcare on Thursday, February 16. Funeral services for Cy will be on Saturday, February 25, at the Bowman Lutheran Church in Bowman with burial

to follow at a later date.

It was cold and windy on Tuesday, February 14, Valentine's Day. Taz went to Winner that morning and it snowed while he was gone, but he didn't run into any snow until he got to Meadow on the way home.

Linda Mohagen hosted Ladies Aid at the church that afternoon with a delicious lunch to follow. Harding County let school out at 2:00 that afternoon because of the snow. After I got home I was on a Zoom call with Stu Cvrk, chairman of the Bon Homme Republicans, and a lot of other conservative Republican County Chairs from 17 different counties. That was very interesting!

School started two hours late in Buffalo Wednesday morning because of the snow. Reub and I went to Hettinger for my eye appointment with Dr. Kludt and found that the reason my eye was sore is because I have an infection in my eye. Dr. Kludt gave me eye drops to put in my eyes every two hours for the first two days and then four

times a day for the next seven days. They sting a little, but they seem to be working.

How many of you get Range Magazine? I just finished reading our last issue and it should be required reading for every legislator in all the western states and those representing us in Washington, DC. There is an article called "Where's the Beef" that tells about what the big four packers are doing to the cattle market and making it bad for America's farmers and ranchers. There are other good articles, "Fake Meat" and "The Secretary of Frankenmeat" that should be read by every rancher and every politician who represents ranchers.

Amanda took the little people up to her folks' place on Friday because Starla Jensen was watching Keen for Kami and Jace. There is nothing that Copper likes better than to help take care of her little cousin Keen and they all had a lot of fun. Starla brought them home Saturday morning.

Six ladies from the church

went to the Women's Retreat on Friday and Saturday. Linda Mohagen, Bev Heier, Linda Hathaway, Becky Holt, Mary Lu Holt and Teddi Carlson attended the Women's Retreat in the Black Hills and they had a wonderful time.

Casey and Missy spent Saturday in Lead for the regional wrestling tournament and four of the Harding County wrestlers qualified for state, which will be next week in Rapid City.

Sunday was Sandy Dan's birthday and the weather was certainly different from when he was born in 1979. There was so much snow and horrible weather that we weren't able to get out to the highway for two weeks before he was born. Reub managed to get the road open to the highway that morning and I went into labor that afternoon. Reub hauled me to the hospital in Hettinger and Sandy Dan was born late that afternoon. The next morning I heard the weather report that there was another blizzard moving in. Reub's parents' car was at the garage in Hettinger getting fixed and I called the garage to see if it was ready. It was, so I had them bring it up to the hospital. I wrapped little

Sandy Dan in a warm blanket, took him to the car and headed home. The highway wasn't bad until I got to Reeder and headed south. Going down Highway 79 was like going through a tunnel because the snow drifts on both sides of the highway were higher than the car and that's when the blizzard rolled in. I was the last vehicle down the highway and could hardly see where I was going. It was a good thing that I had called Reub to let him know we were headed home because Reub and Pastor Phil Rokke were waiting for us at the mailbox and helped me get home. It was two weeks before we were able to get out to the highway again. I've done lots of stupid things, but that was my worst decision. Thank God that He brought us home safely!

I'll leave you with this I got from Dave Penn:

\*Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

\*Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.



Grand River - C. Begeman photo

## Then and Now in Newell

### “Looking Forward to our Past”

by Linda Velder

February 14, 1963  
Jon Malcolm, son of Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Malcolm of Newell and Senior student at Colorado State College at Ft. Collins, is spending this week in Rapid City where is attending the American Society of Range Management meetings. This week Malcolm and 3 other students from Colorado State competed in a range plant identification contest. Results of the contest to be revealed later this week. Jon spent overnight Tuesday at the home of his parents and returned to Rapid City for further competitions.

The bid of Lambert Lumber Co, Newell for construction of a 40x72 bus shed at a price of \$2457.23 was accepted by the Newell District Board of Education Monday evening, it is hoped the vehicle shed may be built west of the old white grade school building along 3rd Street. In additional business, the board authorized purchase of Lots 23, 14, 15 and 16 of Block 5, City of Newell to complete a square of lots west of the football field. Keith Carr, Prairie City submitted 2 bids in 2 different types of construction; \$4919 and \$5612 respectively.

Stanley Hanson and J.D. McGinnis, two 18year-old young men, were apprehended here Monday night by city Police Don Moore and Evert Munroe and turned over to Butte County Sheriff George Hafner charged with petty larceny. When arraigned before County Justice Elmer Conner on the charge of theft of 10 hub caps, each was fined \$75 and costs sentenced to 30 days in jail. When the youths were taken in, they had 58 hub caps, a radio, a pair of fender skirts and jumper cables. Jack Dawson and a group of bowlers had noted suspicious activities and a possible crime and blocked them in until authorities were notified.

February 12, 1953  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nebo of Flandreau arrived here about a week ago and are visiting at the home of her brother and family, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Seaman. Cpl. Gary Seaman, US Marines Corps. arrived here Tuesday morning from San Diego, California, for a brief visit at the Seaman home.

Practice has started on there annual Newell Grade School Operetta, which will be presented Friday March 6. It was announced this week by Supt G.W. Austin. The Primary operetta will include grades 1-2- and 3 “A Happy Week” under direction of Mrs. Lee Engle and “Behind Castle Walls” (or “In Old Mexico”) by 4-5 and 6 grades under the direction of Mrs. Arne Lund.

Rita, Karen and Rex Lungren accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Fenton, of Nisland; to the James Davis home at Camp Crook Sunday where they will spend several days while their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Lungren are working on their new home at Vale. They have moved into the basement while finishing the rest.

February 18, 1943  
First Lt. Peyton Nelson, husband of the late Rose Clark Nelson, was in Newell for a short time Monday. Lt. Nelson was in Algeria with the US Forces at the time of his wife's death. He had been out 2 days with his command in a drive against the Nazis when he was called back to Algiers, and received orders to return to the US to form a unit for establishment of a training camp in Oregon, to which state he has now gone.

A continuation of the recent Rummage & Food Sale, for the benefit of High School Band, will be held next Saturday, February 20, in the store

room formerly occupied by the Violett Café. The sale will be in progress from 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM. Coffee, and lunches served throughout the day. Anyone having donations for this sale, please notify Professor Burns Taft or some band member.

Sheriff R. Hill stated today that in compliance with the laws, his office has started making levies against the personal property of delinquent taxpayers of Butte County. Sheriff Hill stated there are over 500 taxpayers still delinquent in payment of the 1941 taxes or prior and that every effort will be made to make prompt collection. A letter has been sent out, warning taxpayers that the next step taken by that office would be to levy on the personal property of the delinquents. These letters have brought in large numbers, who have made settlement, thus avoiding additional expenses incident to collection which must be paid by the delinquent payer.

February 16, 1933  
Dr. Clark was called upon to reduce fractures from 2 ladies this week. Mrs. Edward Jacobsen of Hoover suffered a dislocation of her right arm when she fell off a horse and Mrs. Paul Kenstler of Moreau, sustained a fractured leg when she fell off a ladder. Both accidents happened on the February 13.

Ole Stetter and George Maass were busy Saturday evening and for several days there after, when a fire hydrant rear of the Dr. Francis house was broken from disconnection sometime late Saturday night. Considerable water escaped before the supply at that end of town was shut off.

Friends in this section of the state are sympathizing with Senator W.R. Gardner of Buffalo in the passing of his wife last



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This is a photo of an anniversary display for Newell in 1912. The displays were brought in from local residents depicting early history of the community.

Thursday. Mrs. Gardner died in the family car while she was leaving her home to go down to answer a telephone call from Mr. Gardner at Pierre. She died of heart failure, it is reported.

February 15, 1923  
Quote an epidemic of influenza has been sweeping the Horse Creek neighborhood and beyond lately. Little Harley Hill has been on the sick list for several days past. Most activities in the Arpan community have been postponed on account of scarlet fever.

As near as I can remember, it was late in December; I was strolling down the street in maudlin pride, with my heart all in flutter. I lay down in the gutter, and a pig came up and lay down by my side. While I lay there in the gutter, with my heart in a flutter, a lady passing

by was heard to say, “You can tell a man that boozes, by the company he chooses.” And the pig got up and slowly walked away.

The local post of American Legion has again secured the booking of the famous war pictures: “Flashes of Action”. This time the boys and those who are so anxious to see this picture are assured that there will be no slip in the presentation. The show is scheduled for next Thursday evening February 22.

February 13, 1913  
The yearly celebration of Newell's birthday took place at the Newell Hotel, Friday evening February 7 under the auspice of the ladies of the Congregational Church. A band of Lady Minstrels furnished much amusement. Mr. Fry, disguised as the famous lady baritone, brought down the house. Lining pictures of noted people and a guessing contest made up the program followed by refreshments. A goodly crowd was present and all had a merry time.

Dr. Oscar Clark arrived in Newell Tuesday afternoon and will take up the practice of medicine here. Dr. Clark comes highly recommended as a physician. He will for the present occupy Dr. Lloyd's office.

The debate at the Arpan Literary Society for Saturday, the 15th is: “Resolved that women suffrage should be universal” Miss B. Caples will lead the affirmative side and W.E. Briggs has charge of the negative. The Literary Society has decided to edit a news paper, known as the “Arpan Booster”.



Here is a photo of the Newell High School Band in 1943. They raised money through rummage sales, etc., to purchase new uniforms. Band leader Burns Taft is on the right flanked by Supt. G.W. Austin, extreme right.



Solutions to Puzzles on C3



Yoga Day  
Feb 22

Answer to Sudoku

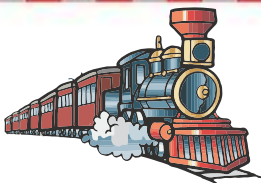
9	1	3	4	8	6	7	5	2
2	5	6	3	9	7	4	8	1
4	8	7	5	1	2	3	6	9
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6	7	5	9	4	1	2	3	8
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8	6	2	7	5	4	9	1	3
5	3	4	1	6	9	8	2	7
7	9	1	2	3	8	6	4	5

PHOTO SOLUTION: We always want the best man to win an election. Under scrutiny, he never fails. - Will Rogers

S	L	U	R		S	N	A	P		B	U	B
C	E	D	E		A	I	R	E		E	L	A
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National Children's  
Dental Health  
Month



WHISTLE STOP MARKET

1st Saturdays | 9 am - 2 pm  
3rd St. Newell, SD | Senior Center  
Starts Oct. 1----Every Week Thru April 2023

Next Market: March 4th, 2023  
Repurposed Furniture, Handcrafted Items,  
Vintage Finds, Antiques, Collectibles, & Much  
More!  
Call Patti Karas (605) 641-5510 for booth info.  
This is a Newell Senior Center sponsored event.

Ladies fall to Timber Lake

Colleen Brunner  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL – February 10 was a tough night for the Newell Lady Irrigators. They fell to the Timber Lake Panthers with a final score of 63-54. The girls fought hard and Taylor Gaer had an exceptional night with six three-pointers and Jaelyn Wendt pounded in 22 points, but single-digit scoring by the rest of the ladies had Newell coming up just a little short.

The first quarter saw the hometown team score 15 points coming from five different players. Gaer put in the first two of her six and Macey Wendt also hit from three-point land. A field goal each by Rachel Erk, Jaelyn Wendt and Kim Johnson left Newell down 20-15 at the buzzer.

The second quarter was exciting as the Irrigators hung in there, just four points shy of Timber Lake at 14-10. The half-time score was 34-25. Two field goals from Jaelyn were the only scoring besides Gaer, who tossed in two more treys, one at nearly half-court which had fans and visitors gasping.

The two teams were nearly even with the Panthers outscoring the Irrigators 12-10 in the period. Jaelyn picked up the

pace with four field goals and one at the line on a foul shot. Rachel Stranberg tossed in a field goal while Kim Johnson hit one of two at the charity stripe. At the end of three periods the score stood at 46-35 with the Irrigators trailing.

Timber Lakes Carlie Lawrence had put the push on with 8 points in the first quarter and another trey in the second. Shay Kraft tossed in five in the first and three of four at the line in the second to give Newell the edge. The rest of the Panther players pretty much fed the ball to these two players.

The final period saw Newell pick up the pace with 19 points, outscoring Timber Lake at 17. Gaer put in two more from the arc and went 100 percent at the line with two of two for her total 20 points. Wendt tossed in four buckets from inside the arc or under the bucket, even under heavy pressure. She added one more at the line on a foul shot to give her 22 points in the game. A lone basket by Stranberg still wasn't enough to pull even and the ladies fell to the visitors 64-54.

Q: N-15 25 35 54. TL-20 34 46 63. Erk-1 0 0/1 2, Stranberg 2 0 0/2 4. J. Wendt-10 0 2/3 22. Johnson 1 0 1/3 3. M. Wendt 0 1 0/0 3. Gaer 0 6 2/5 20.



Jaelyn Wendt was a force under the bucket on Friday, February 10 against Timber Lake. - Brunner photo

Newell Boys Basketball

Panthers Prevail Over Irrigators

Colleen Brunner  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL – The Timber Lake Panthers made their presence known to the Newell Irrigators as they outscored them at every turn during the hometown contest on February 10 game. The Panthers prevailed with a score of 70-42.

Newell started things off with

four points each by Will Jeulfs and Colton Burtzclaff in the first quarter. The Irrigators put no other points on the boards. Meanwhile Timber Lake hit 12 points, mostly by Tristan Dupris with a trey put up by Brady Sandquist. At the end of one period of play, Newell was down 12-8.

Timber Lake pushed it hard in the second quarter, outscoring

Newell by 10, 19-9. That gave them a 31-17 lead at the half. The Irrigators points came from two Juelfs field goals and a field goal each by James Duncan and Devon Jones, who also hit one of four at the charity stripe.

Duncan got in gear early in the third period after the teams switched ends of the court. He seemed to like that basket better as he nailed two treys. Burtzclaff remained strong, putting in two field goals and two for two at the line. But the Panthers still outscored Newell 19-13 in the period, giving them a twenty-point lead at the end of three, 50-30.

Burtzclaff continued to hold things together, but having few subs, while Timber Lake subbed several players with their sizable lead, caused Newell to fall behind. Burtzclaff hit three more inside the paint, along with one of two at the line. Jones went to the line as did Justin Yates who hit one of two, causing a rousing cheer from the Newell student section. But it was too little too late, as the visitors went home with the win, 70-42.

Q: N 8, 17 30 42. TL 12 31 50 70. Duncan 2 2 0/0 10, Yates 0 0 1/2 1, Jones 1 0 3/11 5, Youngberg 0 0 0/2 0, Juelfs 4 0 1/2 9, Burtzclaff 7 0 3/4 17.



Colton Burtzclaff nails two points of his 17 against Timber Lake on February 10. - Brunner photo

Newell Wrestling

Irrigators Show Heart at Regions

Krystal Tesche  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

LEAD – The Newell wrestling team is something the Irrigator community should be proud of after their performances on Saturday, February 18, in Lead. The Gold Diggers hosted the regional meet this year with 16 class B teams. The day started with Charlie Clements and Jay Tesch wrestling third in their respective classes. Charlie tapped the shoulders, pulling off a win right off the bat at 120 pounds.

After a hard fought battle, Tesch his second match after a bye in round one in the 126-pound class.

The older Tesch brother, Gavin, pulled out all the stops and went into his second round 1-0 by fall weighing in at 160. Bodie VanDerBoom (106), Joe Eaton (113), Jorey Clements (220) and Colton Niles (285) rounded out the rest of the second round where VanDerBoom fell by pin; Eaton lost by decision; Clements wrestled hard but ultimately lost by fall in one minute thirty five seconds.

Colton Niles was victorious by a fall in twenty-two seconds. Charlie and Gavin both left round two with a record of 1-1 with one loss each.

The third round resulted in Bodie with a bye, Joe, Charlie, and Jay with impressive wins by fall, while Colton won by decision. Gavin finished his day in the third round with a loss and record of 1-2. Van-

DerBoom, Joe, Charlie, Gavin and Jorey all earned a chance at wrestle backs.

Bodie and Charlie made their way into the 5th and 6th place matches, where Bodie ended with 5th by pin, but Charlie fell to his opponent and ended the day at 6th. Jay's and Joe's day ended at Mat #1 during wrestle-backs with records of 1-2 each. Jorey worked hard and finished with a 0-2 on the day. Colton Niles pushed through to the state qualifying match and is officially a first-time state qualifier with an epic win by fall in the third period.

The season may not have ended the way that most of the team wanted, but the fans in the stands couldn't have been prouder of how far these boys have come this year. Dylan VanDerBoom did a great job

bringing these young men into their rhythm and was helped, when possible, by previous state qualifier and Irrigator alum Chase VanDerBoom. Troy also rounded out the Boom coaching trifecta by lending a hand when needed and encouraging wrestlers of all skill levels to do their best.

Kelsi Clements, BeJae Tesch and Liv Loehner will be attending the state meet with Colton and the gang as wrestling managers. They have been the silent glue for this team when helping with every practice, keeping stats and lending a helpful word to all involved. To the parents, friends and all the families that have supported this team without fail, you make Irrigator Nation what it is. Good luck at state Colton on February 23 through 26 in Rapid City.



Colton Niles came through the region wrestling tournament with a trip to state secured, the only Newell wrestler to do so. It is his first trip to state. - Tesche photo



(Left) Bodie VanDerBoom snagged a fifth-place finish at regions in Lead on Saturday. (Right) Charlie Clements wrestled hard but ended the region tournament in sixth. - Tesche photos



(Left) Jay Tesche ended his wrestling season with a 1-2 record at regions. (Right) Plans to reach the mat at the state tournament next year is where Gavin Tesche is focused as he wrapped up his wrestling season at Lead in the region tournament. - Tesche photos







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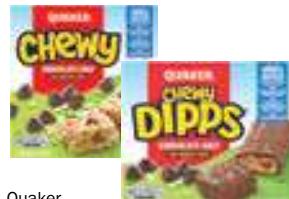
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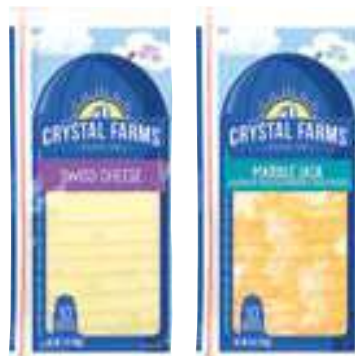


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5 Chicken Pot Pie Garden Salad, Peaches, Jello Jewels	6 Stuffed Peppers Baked Potatoes Green Beans Pears Oatmeal Raisin Cookie	7 Pork Chops in Mushroom Gravy Wild Rice Veggie Medley Spiced Apples	8 Turkey Noodle Soup Veggie & Cheese Sandwich Mixed Fruit Molasses Cookie	9 Chicken Enchiladas, Refried Beans Mexicali Corn Fruit Cocktail, Sour Cream Raisin Bar	10 Pork Roast & Gravy Roasted Potatoes & Veggies, Grapes	11 Beef Stroganoff Egg Noodles Broccoli French Bread Peaches
12 Tater Tot Pizza, Garden Salad Mixed Berries Chocolate Pudding	13 Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Maple Roasted Brussel Sprouts Cranberry Sauce	14 Lasagna Cali Veggies Garden Salad Garlic Knot, Pears Valentine Cookie	15 Chicken Parm Linguini, Italian Blend Veggies Peaches	16 Taco Salad Black Beans & Corn, Pineapple Key Lime Pie Bar	17 Deluxe Cheeseburger Potatoes Wedges Cole Slaw Watermelon	18 Bacon Mac & Cheese Broccoli Apple Sauce Peanut Butter Bar
19 Chicken Chili Garden Salad Corn Muffin Pears	20 Baked Ham Sweet Potatoes Asparagus Dinner Roll Apple Crisp	21 Meatloaf Baked Potato Stewed Tomatoes Spinach Pineapple	22 Turkey & Rice Bake Asparagus Biscuit Peaches Lemon Torte	23 Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Mixed Fruit	24 BBQ Pork Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Green Beans, Oranges Poke Cake	25 Beef Stew, Garden Salad, Focaccia Bread Fruit Cocktail
26 Spilt Pea & Ham Soup, Grilled Cheese Sand. Winter Spinach Salad with Cranberries	27 Deluxe Chicken Patty Sandwich Broccoli Cheese Soup Pears Snickerdoodle	28 Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Dinner Roll Apple Salad	<div>Look What's Cooking at Belle Silver Lining</div> <div>Come Join Us for Lunch Every Day 11:00am - 1:00pm 828 Kingsbury Street, Belle Fourche, SD</div> <div></div> <div>For Home Delivered Meals, please contact Karen or Laura at (605) 892-6285</div> <div>Menues are subject to be changed without notice</div>			



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