



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Copies can be printed at QQP; Chamber office; Home office 1208 8th Avenue, Belle Fourche

VOL. 9 ISSUE 6

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • February 18, 2026

\$1.25

Belle Chamber Celebrates Businesses at Annual Banquet



The Community Hall was full of Chamber Members supporting each other at the 115th Anniversary of the founding of the organization while listening to motivational speaker **Jenn Landis**. Longbrake photo

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Once a year, the Chamber of Commerce shines a spotlight on local businesses, honoring their successes at the Annual Banquet.

This year's celebration took place February 13 at the Community Hall.

The theme for the night was Frost & Flame and that theme

will run through all Chamber of Commerce events for the year.

Doors opened at 5 p.m., welcoming guests for drinks and conversation before the festivities began. The Outlaw staffed the bar, which was popular throughout the evening, with a long line of guests waiting to grab a drink.

High Plains Restaurant, Newell, SD catered dinner. Salad, roasted potatoes, beef

brisket and lemon chicken were served buffet style.

Chamber Volunteer Mike Reade gave the blessing before the meal.

While folks were finishing their meals, Guest Speaker Jenn Landis took the stage. "I've been sitting over here at this table, just looking around at all of the conversations and the buzz and the excitement and energy in the room tonight, and I kept thinking

about the deep roots that are represented in this room—how so many of you built businesses from the ground up and they have created this fabric of community across Belle—and because of that, I'm honored and I'm inspired by the fact that I get to talk to you today about the very thing that makes all of that possible," she said. "Community—the right people in the right room at the right time with an open and

willing heart to serve and to be seen—so that's what we're going to talk about tonight!"

Landis went on to explain the difference between networking and community, explaining, "If networking is about, what can I get? Community is about, how can I serve?"

And I think there's this beautiful opportunity for us as business leaders and owners to

Chamber contd. A8

February Students of the Month



February Students of the Month: 5th grade, **Evie Funk** and **Casey Kokinos**; 6th grade: **Jaxon Millett**, **Dre'Elle Giroux**, and **Chaylee Carr**; for 7th grade: **Annika Bonebrake** and **Gavin Atkinson**; 8th grade: **Braylee Barrera**.

Western Dakota Technical College Weld to Win

Meg English

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On Tuesday, February 3rd Belle Fourche took 18 welders to Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) to their annual Weld to Win Welding Competition.

Belle Fourche students took 6 of the top 10 places at the competition. This was a great day, and I could not be any

prouder of these young men and women.

Belle Fourche is turning out some very skilled young men and women welders. WDTC instructors are impressed as to how many young lady welders Belle Fourche is bringing to their competition and the skill level they have. WDTC instructor Troy Barry said "Between Ayse and now your

group this year you guys are producing some skilled young women."

Ayse would be Ayseluna Hockenbary, a 2023 BFHS graduate, who has won welding competitions for WDTC in SkillsUSA.

She place 4th at Nationals and made it through the first round of the SkillsUSA World competition.

Folding Fun at Family Fun Day



Friends and families work together at **Family Fun Day** to fold paper and create **Origami** art. Longbrake photo [more on A7](#)

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Can you imagine turning a blank sheet of paper into a frog that actually hops, simply by folding it in just the right places? That's exactly what participants discovered at this month's Family Fun Day, where Tri-State Museum staff taught the art of origami on the afternoon of February 15.

The word origami is from Japanese, with ori meaning folding and kami meaning paper, which is exactly what everyone at the event spent the day doing!

Museum Director Kristi Thielen welcomed everyone to the class. "Origami is a really interesting art that probably came from Korea and then navigated its way to China and to Japan... It was originally done only by high society and it was considered rather a lofty art form

often used for ceremonial purposes only," she shared. "It became so popular that it became a recreational art form for everybody to enjoy!"

The room full of families that showed up to learn how to create shapes out of paper seemed to enjoy learning about the art form as they carefully folded each paper and saw their creations take shape. For the first project, everybody followed along with a short video that gave step-by-step instructions on how to fold an origami snapper puppet. The puppet included big teeth and a mouth along with eyes and a nose.

After that, participants followed instructions to create a few more art pieces. During the folding there was conversation and laughter as everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Cookies and drinks were available to consume.

A fun take-home packet about the art of origami was given out, and the book *The Origami Book for Kids* by Lila Folds was given away to one lucky kid. Hudson won the drawing and received the book. For kids in the third through fifth grade, a special class to learn all about groundhogs is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Students get to create their own groundhog!

There will be a chance to win a book as well as activities and a presentation. If you know of anyone who would love to learn about groundhogs, make sure to preregister with the Museum by calling 605-723-1200.

Thielen explained that the Tri-State Museum can no longer get flyers into the Spearfish school system, so if anyone from that area would like to be notified about upcoming events at the Museum, please call and get added to the mailing list.



Back row: **Mr. Hartwell**, **Mason Nehl**, **Tucher Hughes**, **Kasey Dobesh**, **Zion Morales**, **Nathan Hudson**, **Alexa Stone**, **Makien Browning**, **Carmen Beguin**, **Alexis Jewett**, and **Renae Norman**
Front row: **Silas Carson** took 4th place, **Conner Crowser** took 6th place, **Roenn Ruzicka** took 7th place, **Chloe Crowser** took 8th place, **Kate Blair** took 9th place and **Meghan Jordan** took 10th place. (More Photos ??)

LEAVE IT UP TO

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James Andrew Mickelson Sr. 91

James Andrew Mickelson Sr., 91 of Belle Fourche died February 9, 2026, at Rolling Hills Healthcare in Belle Fourche.

Jim is survived by his son, Jim Jr., daughter Kim Crosswait, and grandchildren Clayton Mickelson, Ben (Bailey) Mickelson, Jesse Mickelson, Emma Mickelson, Cloe Mickelson, and Rachel Crosswait, sister Patsy Deinstel, Rapid City, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Deanna in 2012, son Kerry, parents, Andy and Jessie Michelson, his sisters, and brothers-in-law Marguerite and Les Kleven, Marilyn and Richard Elenberger,



brother-in-law Ralph Deinstel, and niece Michelle Deinstel Martell.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Friday, February 27th at 10:00 am at the Newell Evangelical Church in Newell, SD with Reverend Tom Martin officiating. The funeral will be livestreamed and can be viewed on James's obituary page at klinefuneralchapel.com.

Arrangements are in the care of Kline Funeral Chapel of Belle Fourche. An online guest book is available at klinefuneralchapel.com



Carol Trebelcock 74

Carol Trebelcock, age 74 of Belle Fourche, died Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the Rolling Hills Healthcare Center in Belle Fourche.

The funeral service will be held 10:30am Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Visitation will be held prior to the service. Interment will take place at Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis.

Carol Meisenheimer was born April 16, 1951 in Waertown, South Dakota. She was the daughter of Elmer and Lillian (Wittrock) Meisenheimer. Carol



attended a country school and was a graduate of the Watertown High School. Carol worked for several years at the Memorial Hospital in Watertown. In 1990 Carol was united in marriage to Kenneth Trebelcock. Following their marriage, they lived in Belle Fourche. Kenneth died May 25, 2009. For the past several years, Carol has lived at the Rolling Hills Healthcare Center in Belle Fourche.

Carol is survived by her sister, Joyce Schiralli of Hugo, MN.



Margarete "Gretel" Cadwallader 93

Margarete "Gretel" Cadwallader, age 93 of Belle Fourche, died Saturday, February 14, 2026 at the Monument Health Spearfish Hospital.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 10:30am Friday, February 20, 2026 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Interment will take place in Pine Slope Cemetery.

Margarete Bruder was born September 14, 1932 in Trier, Germany. She was the daughter of Franz and Paula Bruder. She was united in marriage to William Cadwallader in October of 1958 in her hometown of Trier Germany. Bill served in the U.S. Air Force for many years and that brought them together. During his military career, Bill and the family lived in many places throughout the world, including Germany, California, Nevada, and Colorado. Margaret became a U.S. Citizen in 1963, two years after they moved back from Germany. In 1976, Bill retired from the Air Force and the family moved to Belle Fourche. In 1997 Bill and



Margarete moved to Texas, and then returned to Belle Fourche in 2013.

Margarete's nickname was "Gretel". She was a devoted mother, during all those years of raising the family with Bill. She loved to knit and crochet, and she made many things like tablecloths and doilies. She loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren very much. She will be missed greatly by all of her family.

Margarete is survived by her husband, William of Belle Fourche; 3 daughters, Gabriele (David) Powell of Boerne TX, Connie (Galen Zurcher) King of Powell WY, Paula (Wade) Woods of Belle Fourche; 6 grandchildren, Ricky, Dennis, Erin, Michael, Holly, Billy; 9 great grandchildren, Taylor, Aiden, Xavier, Anthony, Ryan, Tristan, Ashton, Zayleigh, Morgan, and one on the way.



Pastor's Perspective

This Perspective is from the archives of Four-square Pastor, the late Dr. Jack Hayford

"A Pilgrimage to Secure Boundaries"

"Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever... Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." (Genesis 13:14b-15, 17)

My visit to Israel at the end of 2002 marked the first time that I have ever referred to one of our trips to the Holy Land as a "pilgrimage," but it was just that—a mandate from the Lord to go and pray in Israel.



37:9,14), praying that there would come an outpouring of the Spirit according to Zechariah 12:10: "I will pour on Israel the Spirit of grace and supplication, and they will look upon Me whom they pierced."

In the North, we built the Altar of WORSHIP (Zechariah 14:16-18), praying in intercession that all who worship the Lord now in spirit and in truth would become a token invoking further grace, including breaking the drought in this land.

In the West, we built the Altar of PRAISE (Psalm 113:1-3), praying praise to drive back the darkness; praise for what has begun; and praise that Israel's boundaries not only be secured but expanded in her mission to mankind.

I gained three convictions from this divinely appointed visit to Israel. First, the Spirit of prophecy is ready to come upon people who will rise in faith, obey with action, and work with discernment. Second, the Spirit of life is breathing with force ready to break down walls and bring salvation.

Finally, the Spirit of harvest is calling for a cadre of prayer warriors who will resist the Adversary and contend for God's boundaries of intended blessing.

More than ever, there's reason for us as the people of the Lord to let our hearts be quickened with anticipation and stirred with a sense of accountable duty. We are called to occupy until Jesus comes, and that responsibility centers on intercessory prayer and a faithful life of service that shows the love of God in everything we do. As the world faces uncertainty, let us march forward in full confidence that He has called us to action in prayer that will result in the securing and expansion of boundaries of intended blessing in our world and in each of our lives.

Psalm 48

We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God. Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, in the city of our God. His holy mountain is fair and lifted high, the joy of all the earth. On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place, stands the city of the great king. In her palaces God has shown himself to be a sure refuge. For behold, the kings of the earth assembled and swept forward together. They saw, and were dumbfounded; dismayed, they fled in terror. Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in labour, as when the east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

As we had heard, so have we seen the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God: God has established her for ever. We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple. As with your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is full of justice. Let Mount Zion rejoice and the daughters of Judah be glad, because of your judgements, O Lord. Walk about Zion and go round about her; count all her towers; consider well her bulwarks; pass through her citadels, That you may tell those who come after that such is our God for ever and ever. It is he that shall be our guide for evermore.

*We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God.
Father of lights,
raise us with Christ to your eternal city,
that, with kings and nations,
we may wait in the midst of your temple
and see your glory for ever and ever.*

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website: klinefuneralchapel.com

Brian Kline
Owner

Most of us intend on "getting around to it someday," but that someday never comes and we leave our family wondering whether or not they did the right thing. **It doesn't have to be like that.** It's not pleasant to be reminded of our own mortality; we can laugh, cry, or do a little of both. Regardless of how we prefer to deal with the big questions of life, **it always works out for the best when we face things head on,** especially in regard to such a sensitive issue.

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Forum buys Pierre and Madison newspapers

Carson Walker
carson.walker@sdnewswatch.org
The Capital Journal in Pierre and Madison Daily Leader were part of Wick Communications' sale of its six Midwest newspapers to Forum Communications Co.

Forum, headquartered in Fargo, North Dakota, is a fifth-generation, family-owned media company with more than 30 newspapers, television stations and digital platforms across the region.

It also operates the Mitchell Republic newspaper and a printing plant in Sioux Falls as well as Sioux Falls Live, an online news and sports site.

And last year it bought what is now Midwest Sports+, which provides shows and live-streamed play-by-play of high school and college games, including University of Sioux Falls football and basketball.

Forum's South Dakota broadcast properties include KNBN-TV, the NBC affiliate in Rapid City, and two Sioux Falls stations, KWSD-TV (now KSFL-TV) and KCWS-TV.

"With the acquisition of these six news titles, Forum Communications will secure its place as the largest

news-gathering organization in the Upper Midwest," Bill Marcil Jr., president and CEO of Forum Communications, said in a news release announcing the purchase.

Brookings adds 2nd newspaper

Months after fears that Brookings was going to lose its only newspaper, the city that's home to South Dakota State University is now a two-paper town.

Josh Linehan, the former editor of The Brookings Register, and his wife, Nichole, have started publishing the Brookings Beacon, which is printed at the Forum plant in Sioux Falls.

The Beacon offers digital and weekly print subscriptions. "The community response has been genuinely overwhelming," Josh Linehan said. "Brookings keeps growing and there's a real hunger for both strong, local journalism and quality advertising space."

The Register was one of four newspapers abruptly shuttered but quickly reopened last year after being purchased by Champion Media, a family-owned community newspaper company based in North Carolina. It also acquired the Huron

Plainsman, Redfield Press and Moody County Enterprise at Flandreau.

Rapid City Post starts weekly print edition

The Rapid City Post, which started posting a digital version online in March, has begun publishing a weekly printed newspaper that's distributed at no cost around the region and by mail for a subscription.

The Post is owned and operated by The HomeSlice Media Group, which runs six Black Hills radio stations and the state's largest podcast network.

"We're taking a lot of our audio content and turning it into print," said Chris Hornick, managing editor. "We've been generating content for decades. We're just new at print."

Lakota Times ceases print publication

Meanwhile, a newspaper that has served South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for more than 20 years ended its print publication but plans to continue creating content for its website, Facebook page and app.

The Lakota Times posted on Jan. 14 that it was going to cease publication entirely. But on Feb. 6, owner and publisher Connie Louise Smith said she has decided to try to keep operating by publishing on the paper's digital platforms. An annual subscription for all access is \$65.

"People were calling. It made me feel good," she said. "We're taking a cut in pay until I can find out what type of revenue can come from online."

The Times is the official/legal newspaper of the Oglala and Rosebud Sioux tribes, Oglala Lakota County Schools, Oglala Lakota County, Bennett County and the Lakota Nation Invitational.

Update: This story was updated Feb. 6, 2026, after the owner of the Lakota Times decided to continue posting content on its website, Facebook page and app.

still has one of the highest number per capita.

SDNA changed its bylaws a few years ago to allow new media organizations like South Dakota News Watch and another statewide nonprofit, South Dakota Searchlight, to join.

Other startups include three newspapers that publish both online and print editions where Gannett-owned papers still operate: The Dakota Scout in Sioux Falls, started by two former Sioux Falls Argus Leader reporters, and the Aberdeen Insider and Watertown Current, owned by Aberdeen businessman Troy McQuillen.

TV news
In commercial television, Nexstar Media Group Inc., which owns KELO-TV in Sioux Falls, said it plans to acquire Tegna Inc. to form a new company that would serve 80% of U.S. households, if approved. (Tegna is comprised of Gannett's former broadcast and digital division.)

Besides the CBS affiliate that serves the entire state, KELO operates keloland.com, South Dakota's top news website. Nexstar also provides local news from KCAU-TV, the ABC station in Sioux City, Iowa.

Nexstar said the merger would help ensure that local news and programming continues from trusted, local sources and a diversity of local voice and opinion.

Local TV streaming
KELO also has started streaming more programming on its website, a smartphone app and services like Roku, Fire

FORUM COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY MARKETS



The state of South Dakota media: Cuts, closures and new voices

Carson Walker
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Not too long ago, most people's local and statewide media choices were largely limited to three TV stations, a newspaper or two and a slew of radio stations offering a variety of programming.

Recent developments in South Dakota illustrate how changing reader habits are rewriting the state's media landscape.

"There was a time when it took 20 years to happen what's happened in the past couple of weeks in South Dakota," said Dave Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota NewsMedia Association.

Here are recent changes in the state's media landscape, which includes legacy organizations as well as so-called digital-first organizations like South Dakota News Watch. It is not exhaustive and does not delve into the financial and audience habits that led to the changes.

Recent changes to radio, TV and newspapers

SDPB people and programming cuts
South Dakota Public Broadcasting last week announced that it will reduce its staff by 25% across its programs and services in response to a \$2.2 million annual cut in federal funding.

The radio program "In the Moment" and TV program "South Dakota Focus" were eliminated, and output of "Dakota Life" on TV and educational resources will be reduced. DPB said it will prioritize news of open government and access to the Legislature. And it will continue its coverage of high school athletic championships and fine arts events. The network will also keep all its TV and radio transmitters to maintain 98% of statewide coverage.

"This is the hardest decision we've ever had to make," said Julie Overgaard, SDPB executive director, adding that she hopes to restore some of the staff through fundraising efforts.

Four newspapers saved by new owner

As the SDPB changes unfolded, four newspapers that were abruptly shuttered weeks earlier found new life when a new owner bought the properties.

Champion Media, a family-owned community newspaper company based in North Carolina, said it was acquiring and restarting The Brookings Register, Huron Plainsman, Redfield Press and Moody County Enterprise at Flandreau.

"Every community deserves a newspaper and a voice and we feel fortunate to be able to help provide that," said CEO Scott Champion.

Other newspaper changes
The challenges of delivering a printed product have increased significantly recently because the U.S. Postal Service now processes much of South Dakota's mail in surrounding states.

Some newspaper subscribers wait a week or more for editions printed only a few miles away, Bordewyk said. "So it's making that ad worthless and causing advertisers to pull away," he said, adding that skyrocketing costs for labor, newsprint and other expenses also weigh on bottom lines.

"The news ecosystem in South Dakota, as it is everywhere, is at an inflection point." — Dave Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota News Media Association

About 75 of the roughly 100 newspapers in the state have reported delivery problems.

Larger, corporate-owned newspapers have had to cut resources because of heavy debt loads, but the issue for most smaller operators is razor-thin margins, Bordewyk said.

"I fear their delivery is being changed in such a way to the point where they won't be able to restore it," he said.

When a local news source closes, the impact is twofold, Bordewyk said.

"Connectivity: Connecting people to know what is going on in the community and to have a trusted, reliable source for news. Accountability: Having an independent source of journalism that reports about local government, what the school board and city council (are) doing and reporting to the community. If you don't have those two things, I believe a community will suffer," he said.

About 40 South Dakota newspapers closed over the past 30 years, but the state

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TV and Apple TV.

"What you see a lot of broadcast companies trying to do is meet the viewer where they are," said Gary Weitman, Nexstar's chief communications officer. "It's not designed to replace or move anything off broadcast."

South Dakota's other major local TV news provider, Gray Media, broadcasts on KSFY-TV (ABC), KDLT-TV (NBC) and KTTW-TV (FOX) in Sioux Falls under Dakota News Now, on KOTA-TV (ABC) and KEVN-TV (FOX) in Rapid City as KOTA Territory News and on KTIV-TV (NBC) in Sioux City.

Chris Gross, KOTA Territory general manager, said his stations are adding to their streaming efforts to include more detailed coverage of news stories and severe weather. "We can be live on there more in depth without breaking into over-the-air programming," he said.

KNBN-TV, the NBC affiliate in Rapid City, was bought last year by North Dakota-based Forum Communications Co., which previously purchased two Sioux Falls stations, KWSD-TV (now KSFL-TV) and KCWS-TV.

Forum also operates the Mitchell Republic newspaper and a printing plant in Sioux Falls as well as Sioux Falls Live, an online news and sports site.

Forum's latest acquisition was MetroSports TV, which it has rebranded Midwest Sports+ to provide shows and live-streamed play-by-play of high school and college games, including University of Sioux Falls football and basketball.

KNBN doesn't have a separate news app, but some sports from KNBN and

KSFL will feed into Midwest Sports+, said Mary Jo Hotzler, Forum's chief content officer.

"It's all very interconnected with what we're doing. You'll see (sports writer) Matt Zimmer on Sioux Falls Live and he'll have stories and columns covering the Jackrabbits, but you'll also see him on Midwest Sports+," she said.

Commercial radio

Another company innovating how it delivers content is The HomeSlice Media Group.

It runs six Black Hills radio stations and the state's largest podcast network and launched The Rapid City Post, a digital newspaper with more than 16,000 email subscribers that will soon have a print edition, said Brad "Murdoc" Jurgensen, chief revenue officer and executive producer.

"Our primary vision of The Rapid City Post is free, ad-supported, locally staffed community media with strong journalistic standards, available to everyone as they like to digest it," he said.

A map of the current state and looking ahead
In response to readers asking about media changes, South Dakota News Watch created the interactive Google Map below that lists all traditional and new media organizations as well as blogs and other sources of information in the state.

"The news ecosystem in South Dakota, as it is everywhere, is at an inflection point. The traditional models for gathering news and advertising, that model has been broken up in large part. And these new ways to provide that news and information, streaming and through apps that replace the traditional model, it's really in some respects, it's exciting," Bordewyk said. "Not to mention what AI (artificial intelligence) is going to do."

"Opportunities exist, and how communities respond and engage will be fascinating."



Wrestlers Dual Moorcroft

Kandi Tonsager
 news@bellefourchebeacon.com
 On Tuesday February 10th, the Broncs wrestlers traveled to Moorcroft, Wyoming for a final season dual. Duals are great for additional mat time for the wrestlers with an understanding of the many open weight classes not conducive to an overall team score win. The wrestlers saw many good matches and gave the Wolves a great Senior Night. Up next for the Broncs

wrestlers is the regional tournament at Central High School in Rapid City on Saturday February 21st. Teams in our region include; Lakota Tech, Little Wound, Pine Ridge, Rapid City Stevens, Rapid City Central, Douglas/Rapid City Christian, Spearfish, and Sturgis. Wrestlers who earn top four places in their weight classes will move on to compete in the state meet.



Captains Under the Spotlight- Koby Bowde, Riley Dighton, Garet Huston, Luke Tonsager.



Charlie Huston



Swaney with a throw



Kyra Vandenberg



Caden Swaney



Lia Mundt



Riley Dighton.



(L) Chrliie Huston



(C) AnnaBelle Dighton



Cooper Conry



Bronc BB Hosts 3rd Annual Belle Classic

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Over Valentine's weekend the Belle Fourche Broncos hosted the 3rd annual Belle Fourche Classic basketball tournament.

Teams in the tournament included, Little Wound, Tiospaye Topa, Kadoka, Upton, Timberlake, Lead-Deadwood, Oelrichs

and Belle Fourche. The Bronc boys played Oelrichs with a win 85-14. The Lady Broncos played Rapid City Christian Comets falling short with a final score of 28-55 for the Varsity team. The Broncos teams travel to Wall on February 20th to take on the Eagles. The Lady Broncos will then

travel to Douglas for a tournament the 21st for their last regular season match up ahead of Regionals. The boys have an additional week of regular season including hosting Faith on the 27th, followed by a tournament in Custer the 28th of February before their run at Regionals as the season winds down.

Lady Bronc Basketball Action



Nehl with ball, Larson & Hatling.



Center court tip off.



Scramble for the ball



Rhys Pearson.

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JV Action



Father of the Bride plays March 6,7,8

Bullock Community Players are hard at work on their 23rd Annual Play, Father of the Bride, which goes into production, March 6, 7, 8 at the Bullock Community Hall.

Production dates Friday and Saturday will show at 7 p.m. and Sunday a 2:00 matinee.

Everyone will be able to identify and laugh along with this hilarious comedy set in the 1950's.

"The actors and crew are doing a tremendous job of putting the somewhat complicated production together" according to director, Paula Richter. "They never cease to amaze me with their creativity and dedication."

She added that the Bullock Tonight pre-show act is really fun, too.

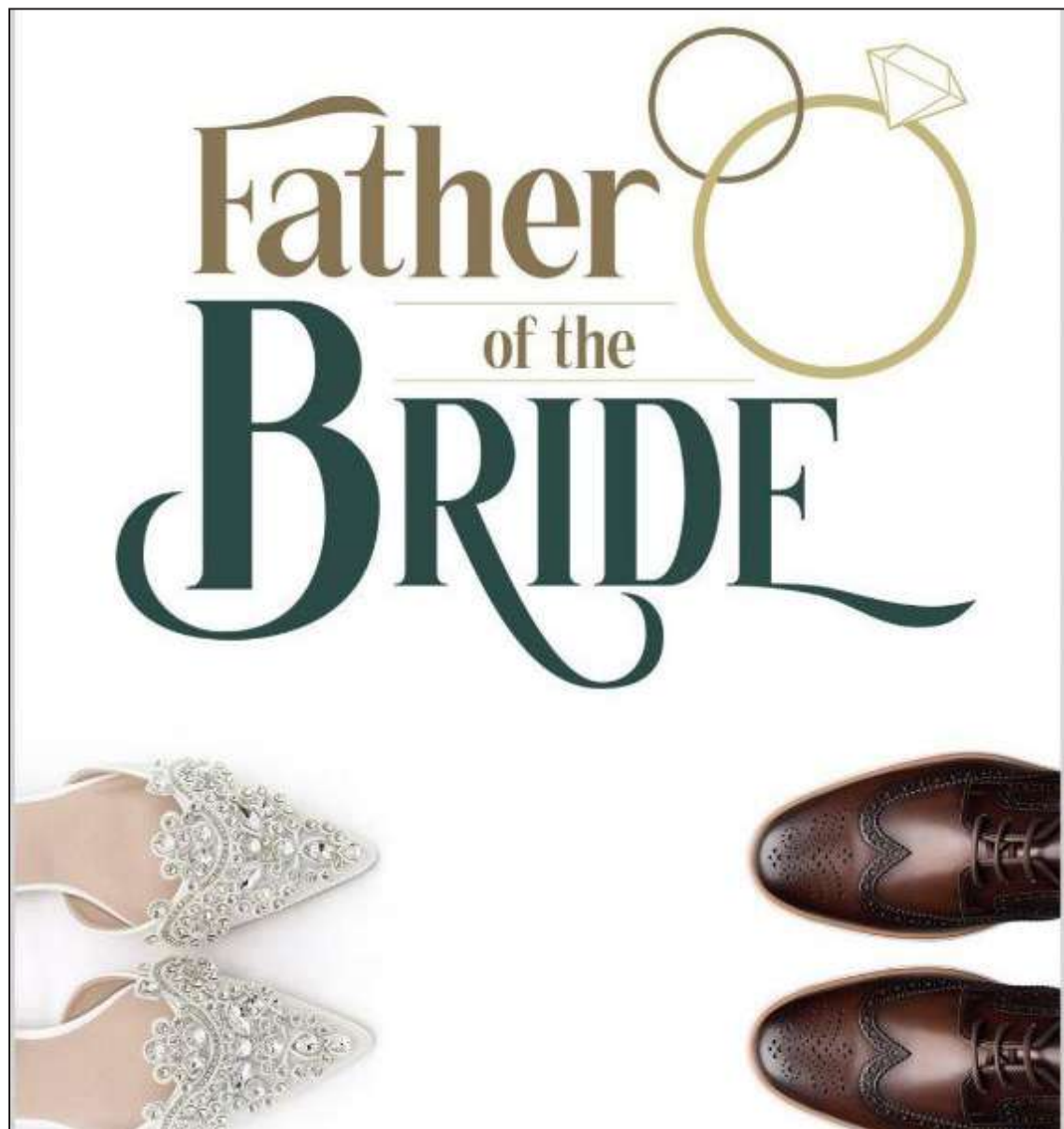
We were so fortunate to get dance choreography from Pat

Palczewski of Scranton, ND.

Advance tickets go on sale February 23, at two locations: Pioneer Bank & Trust in Buffalo, SD and Dakota Community Bank in Bowman, ND.

Mark your calendar and pin your gps to Bullock Community Center, 10930, Ladner Rd., Buffalo, SD.

For further information call 605 375 3171 or 605 797 4484.



The 2026 Lawrence County District 31 Legislative Cracker-barrels:

Will be held Saturday, February 28th at the Deadwood Gulch (304 Cliff St, Deadwood).

Will be held at 10:00 AM.

The District 31 Lawrence County Cracker Barrels are organized by the Spearfish and Deadwood Chamber of Commerce to give the community an opportunity to meet with our elected officials.

Legislative Crackerbarrels in your area offer access to your local legislators, as well as the chance to hear their answers on a variety of legislative topics. Each elected official will give an update on the committees they serve and bills that have been introduced. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions in writing at the event.

Senator Deibert, Representative Odenbach and Representative Fitzgerald have been invited to sit as a panel to give updates on the current legislative session.

Our legislators are also available at that time to answer questions from the audience. The events are free to attend.

For more information, contact the Spearfish Chamber 605-642-2626 or the Deadwood Chamber 605-578-1876.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2026
12:00 PM

Featured Speaker:
Crystal Hanson of Belle Fourche Counseling will share information about the services and support available in our community.

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Tuesday Mar 10, 2026
6 - 7 p.m. MT

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- Feb 17 - Philip
- Feb 19 - Kadoka
- Feb 26 - Lemmon
- Mar 5 - Hill City
- Mar 10 - Belle Fourche
- Mar 12 - Faith
- Mar 17 - Winner

Time and Location Details Available in Registration.

Join a one-hour gardening workshop in one of seven locations. Open to all skill levels!

Registration is \$10. Participants will receive gardening resources, enjoy snacks and drinks, and have the chance to ask questions and share ideas with others.

Questions? Contact: Nick Volesky | nick.volesky@sdstate.edu | (605) 394-1722

Contact Info

Audrey Pruitt
4-H Educator
605-892-3371
audrey.pruitt@sdstate.edu

Cindy Riley
Extension and 4-H Program Assistant
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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



SHOW UP
by Belle LaVenue

As you fill your 2026 calendar, be sure to add the FINE ARTS events in our community and our schools.

Come join BF Fine Arts Boosters for the Community Variety Show on March 1st, Sunday afternoon, at the Belle Fourche Community Hall, from 2:30-4:30 PM. This FUNraiser showcases local talent & the arts. If you have an act or art to share, contact bfhsfab@gmail.com or text 303-856-4835. Artists & performers of all kinds & ages are INVITED: Entries are due by February 22nd. All proceeds support Belle Fourche fine arts students & programs.

The Belle Fourche Middle School Theater has begun practices for their show **VOLTAGE - a suspenseful robot comedy**. The show will be on March 13 & 14 in the Rec Center Theater. Set building is underway as the tech crew creates a view of the future onstage. In addition to drama coaches Reva Potter & Rachel Crittendon, volunteers Terry Hoscheid as tech director and Colleen Anderson as costumer are helping the students bring the story to life.

Belle Fourche Community Theater opens their season with **A Night of One-Acts**. It will be an evening of four one-acts March 27 - 29. The one acts and the directors are "Dissonance" & "What's Going On", directed by Arianna Scherer; "Will You Be My Nemesis?" directed by Crystal Woods; "Adapted & Destroyed: A Tale of Storytelling Gone Wrong" directed by Sharon Thompson.

Your presence at all the upcoming events is much appreciated, so don't forget to add these upcoming fine arts experiences to your calendars and be ready to **SHOW UP!**

Feb. 25 & 26, Tuesday & Wednesday AUDITIONS for the BFACT show, **Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth**, 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Theater.

MARCH 1, Saturday, BFACT's first ever 90's PROM FUNDRAISER - 6 PM to 12 AM, Belle Fourche Community Hall.

Mar. 13-14, Friday & Saturday, MS Play, **VOLTAGE**, @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm

Mar. 16, BFHS Band / Chorus Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm

Mar. 17, BFMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Spring Choir Concert, @ the Rec Center Theater, 6:30 pm

Mar. 27-29, A Night of One Acts, Belle Fourche Community Theater, @ the Rec Center Theater

April 13, BFMS/BFHS Jazz Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm

April 24-26, BFHS Musical - **Suessical!**

Maybe YOU know what SHOW is UP next? Share your fine arts tidbits and upcoming events at 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!**



Geno Pesicka, member of the Belle Fourche Area Community Theater and long-time local actor (Willy Wonka), spent time with the sixth grade cast members of the BFMS upcoming show, **VOLTAGE**, sharing theater skills and advice.



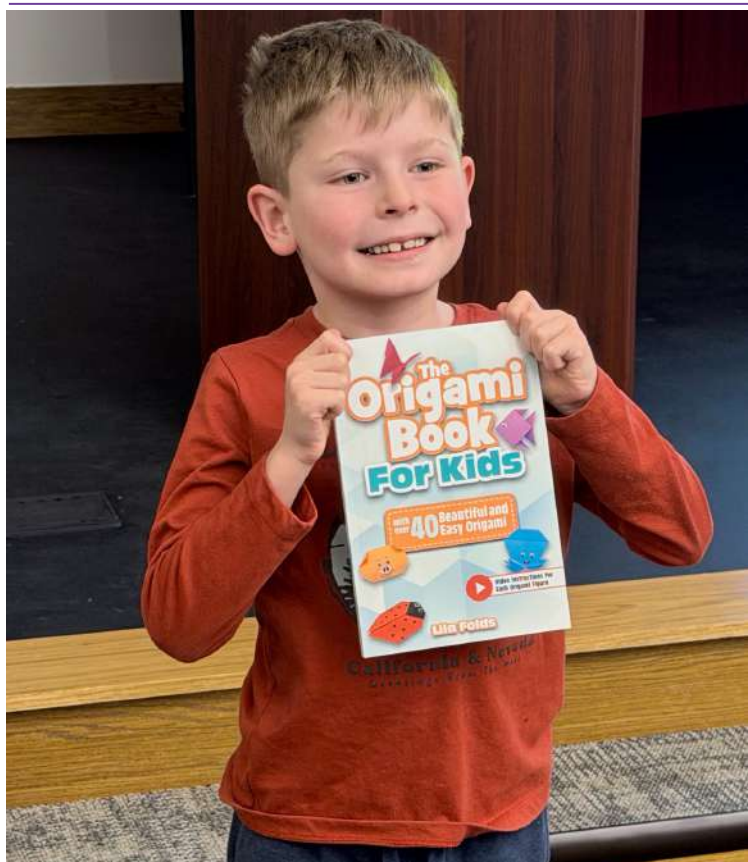
(T) Origami intricate folds take great care & concentration; (B) Samantha Comes, Program and Events Assistant helps a Family Fun Day participant with intricate folds in the origami art project.

THE BELLE FOURCHE FINE ARTS BOOSTERS PRESENTS

The Belle Fourche Community Variety Show & Art Exhibition

A CELEBRATION OF OUR LOCAL ARTISTS & PERFORMERS
Sunday, March 1, 2026 2:30 - 4:30 PM
Tri-State Museum
\$10 for Adults - \$5 Students
Enjoy complimentary SWEETS & SNACKS!
Fun for kids - art table & art contest prizes!
Every ticket entered into the prize drawing!
Want to Join the Show & Share your Talent?
Artists & Performers of ALL Kinds & Ages are INVITED- Entries are due by feb 22nd

CONTACT BF FAB TO JOIN THE SHOW OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
bfhsfab@gmail.com or text 303-856-4835
All proceeds support Belle Fourche fine arts students & programs.



(Above) Hudson was the lucky winner of the book drawing at the February Family Fun Day. (below) Origami Art participant shares her finished snapper puppet. Longbrake Photos





From A1 Chamber

bring it together and say why do they have to necessarily be exclusive," she said. "We can create what I call slingshot partnerships that take the best of community and bring that into the business that we conduct."

The speaker went on to discuss building slingshot partnerships and how with them you can do incredible things. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michaela Horn presented a recap for the year 2025.

A few of the highlights included the tourism report from the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center—visitation was up by 4,000 for a total of over 19,000 visitors to the area.

A sales tax report that saw an increase in sales tax collections in Butte County by 5.9 percent.

An Economic Development Corporation report that saw 21 new businesses opening in Belle Fourche in 2025. "It has been truly exciting getting to know our new members and just as meaningful connecting with our long established businesses in our community.

As our community evolves, the need for your business has changed, and the Chamber

has really enjoyed serving as a place to teach, as a place to connect and showcase our growing and renewing members," shared Horn.

The last feature of the Banquet was the presentation of awards to outstanding members of the community. The Faye Kennedy Award recognizes individuals dedicated to serving the Belle Fourche community. The outstanding nominees for this year were Nikki Home, Nancy Cole, Bryan Aspen, Terry Hoscheid and Monument Health United Way Team. This year's winner was Monument Health United Way Team.

The next award was the Spirit of Belle Fourche Award. It celebrates a Chamber Member business or employee for an outstanding customer service experience by going the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction.

The nominees for this award included Monument Health United Way Team, Hitching Post Tap House, Scott Reder and Deb Leverington. The winner of this award was Hitching Post Tap House.

The Ripple Effect Award is given to a business or organization that has positive and impactful improvements in Belle Fourche. Nominees were

Pearson Block Hous and CBH CO-OP. This award was given to CBH CO-OP.

The Business Hall of Fame is a prestigious honor given to a local business that has given back to the community, thrives on their mission statement, has proven leadership skills and provides a healthy workplace culture. Nominees for the Business Hall of Fame included Center of the Nation Wool and The Branding Iron Steakhouse. The winner of this honor was Center of the Nation Wool.

The closing note was given by board chairman Cassie Pannone. She thanked everyone for coming and gave special recognition to Director Michaela Horn and Assistant Director Brianne Bonnet. She also thanked the Chamber Members. "As we look ahead, I believe our best days are still in front of us.

We have the passion, we have the stability, we have the people and we have a community that believes in working together. I can't say it enough—thank you for the support this year," she said.

Following the program, a birthday cake celebrating the Chamber's 115th birthday was cut and served. The cake was made by SME's Treats.



Chamber celebrated 115 years in existence with cake; below Chamber Director Michaela and Assistant Chamber Director Brianne Bonnet were thank for their tremendous work and were presented flowers. All photos on this page are Courtesy of Hunter Anderson, Blackheart Photography



Chamber meeting attendees are checking in ahead of the 5:30 pm start time.



Chamber regular volunteer Mike Reade who gave the opening prayer is pictured with wife Louise;



attendees had nothing but good to say about the event dinner.



(L) "Faye Kennedy" award winner Monument Health United Way Team;



(R) Hitching Post Tap House received the "Spirit of Belle Fourche" award



(L) CBH Coop was named the "Ripple Effect Award" recipient.



(R) Center of the Nation Wool was named to the Business Hall of Fame. Larry Prager accepting the award.

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Cattle Report - Friday, February 13, 2026

Feeder Cattle Market Was Higher & Higher!

Next Sale - February 20th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - 9 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Table with columns for seller, animal type, sex, color, and price. Includes entries like Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY and various other breeders.

Table with columns for seller, animal type, sex, color, and price. Includes entries like Mackaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD and various other breeders.

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Sheep Report - Thursday, February 12, 2026

Lambs Sold On A Higher Market
A Lot Of People Looking For Bred Ewes & They Sold \$ Higher
Fleshy Ktr Ewes Sold Steady & Medium Ewes Sold \$40 Higher

Next Sale - February 19th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats - Start Time 1:00 PM

Animals should be here by 10:00 am so they can be weighed before the sale
Thank you for your business!

Table with columns for seller, animal type, sex, color, and price. Includes entries like Anderson Ranch Co, Ten Sleep WY and various other breeders.

Table with columns for seller, animal type, sex, color, and price. Includes entries like Kitzan, Josh & Heather, Nisland SD and various other breeders.

Table with columns for seller, animal type, sex, color, and price. Includes entries like Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD and various other breeders.

Table with columns for seller, animal type, sex, color, and price. Includes entries like Dalton, Brandon, Lusk WY and various other breeders.

Friday, February 20, 2026

Bred Hfr & Cow Special

9:00 AM - Weigh Ups

12:00 Noon - Feeder Cattle Followed By Bred Cows

BT-Branding Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free BV-Bangs Vaccinated NH-No Implants

Bred Cows

Fruit Ranch - Age Disperion - 37 Blk 7 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk - 4/3
- 40 Blk 8 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk - 4/3
- 75 Blk Short Term Cows - Bred Blk - 4/3
- 25 Blk Hfrs - Bred Blk - 4/20

R & J Cattle - 130 Blk 3 To 7 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk - 4/10 For 75 Days
Wt Qtr Circle - 120 Blk & Few Red 4 Yr To Short Term Cows - Bred Blk - 5/1
Arledge Ranch - 45 Blk Hfrs - Bred Lbw Blk Angus - 3/25 For 45 Days - Holte Raised

Plus More By Sale Time!

2026 CATTLE SALES

February 27th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 6th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 13th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 20th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 27th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 3rd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 10th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 17th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

St Onge Livestock has a receiving station for the Gillette Area every Thursday. 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 3 pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. You can also call Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259 & he can let them know your cattle are coming also. THE BROADUS RECEIVING STATION IS TAKING CATTLE EVERY THURSDAY FOR OUR SALES ON FRIDAY. You can drop your cattle off every Thursday by 3pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. For more information, call Tyler or Brandy Escott at 406-421-5579 or 406-951-1666 or Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

REGULAR SALE

1:00 PM

Please Have Animals In By 10:00 AM
So They Can All Be Weighed Before The Sale!

2026 SHEEP SALES

February 26th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 5th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 12th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 19th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 26th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 2nd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 9th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 16th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 23rd - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 30th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 7th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 14th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 21st - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 28th - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

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 \$4/hd for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.

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Local.

Looking Back in Belle

These articles come from newspaper microfilm from the Belle Fourche Public library, using a new microfilm reader and printer. The photographs are from the Tri-State Museum.



by Mary Buchholz

chilled to some extent, but none the worse for their experience.

50 years ago The Belle Fourche Bee March 5, 1976

Three Are Held in Shooting Incident Three Belle Fourche youths were being held here yesterday on charges growing out of a shooting incident early Thursday morning when some 16 shots were fired at two city police officers. Christopher Beane, 18, Belle Fourche, appeared before Magistrate Glen Shevlin Friday morning on a charge of assault with intent to kill. Magistrate Shevlin appointed Nel Carsrud, Sturgis, to serve as Beane's attorney. Shevlin refused to set bond because Beane is being held for probation violation. He was on probation following a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Meanwhile, two 17 year-old youths were arraigned before Circuit Judge R. E. Brandenburg in connection with the shooting incident. Bond was set at \$2500 each. States Attorney Leroy Hill is asking that the 17 year-olds be transferred to adult court for prosecution. A hearing on this request is scheduled for 9 a.m. March 5. Meanwhile, Beane's case continued until Monday to give Beane time to consult with his attorney. Arrest of the three took place less than 18 hours after the shooting incident occurred at the corner of State and Fifth about 2:20 a.m. Thursday. State's Attorney Hill said the investigation and arrest of the three coincided with the discovery of three 14 year-old Sturgis girls who had been reported as runaways from their home since Feb. 17. Officers secured a search warrant late Thursday that enabled them to search the home of Art Beane where they recovered three .22 caliber rifles which were alleged to have been used in the shooting incident early Thursday. The states attorney said charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor have been filed against Arthur Beane.

Assistant Police Chief Heb Lurz and City Patrolman Dan Rogers were fired upon early Thursday when they responded to an anonymous call which reported some shooting near the Bank of Belle Fourche. The officers say they narrowly miss being struck by some of the .22 hollow point slugs as the officers turned onto State Street from Eighth Avenue. It was later determined that the shots had come from near the northwest corner of the Johnny Spaulding cabin. Neither of the officers was hit, but one bullet passed thru the car in front of their faces and two just missed the tops of their heads. Two other shugs crashed into the red light on top of the car and two others went thru the open window on the passenger side to the car and struck the cage behind the driver's seat.

New Citizen The United States has a new citizen. This is a daily occurrence, but the circumstances are different. A daughter was born Monday, March 1 to Mr. and Mrs. Wim Waltman at Dallas, Texas, according to a phone call received here by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scheinost. Mrs. Waltman will be remembered as Dorothee Berends of Holland, Belle Fourche's third foreign student under the American Field Service program. During the year Dorothee was in the States, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scheinost were here host parents. This is the second child of a foreign student born in the States. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Ivar Fett was born in Rapid City while he was receiving his advanced education. Mrs. Fett was Aud Willcock, Belle Fourche's first foreign student, hosted by A.L. Ericsson's.

123 years ago The Chicago Live Stock World April 15, 1903

Special Belle Fourche, S. D. The first annual meeting of the Northwestern Stock Growers' Association was a great success. The whole population of the range was here and lauded the movement in good style. The new officers are: Russell Uhler, Aladdin, Wyo, president, T. L. Ackerman, Belle Fourche, S. D., vice-president, George A. Ross, Belle Fourche, secretary, D. R. Evans, Belle Fourche, treasurer. Retiring officers were H. M. Behymer, president, Aladdin, Wyo., P. J. O'Conner, vice-president, Belle Fourche, S. D. The report of the secretary showed the association, although less than one year old, to be in a flourishing condition. In ten months it has gained a membership of 540, representing 46,000 cattle, 10,000 horses and 10,000 sheep. A proposition to join the National Live Stock Association was deferred until the next meeting. It was decided to seek the co-operation of the sheep interest and a resolution was adopted appointing a conference committee of three with sheepmen. It was also decided to appoint a committee of our members, tow cattlemen and two sheepmen, who are empowered to appoint a disinterested party as arbitrator in case of disputes arising between the two interests.

100 years The Belle Fourche Bee March 4, 1926.

RELIEF FOR LOCAL PROJECT O. and M. Must Be Paid for 1926-27 28 - No Construction Charges for Three Years As a result of a recent conference with Secretary of Interior Work and Reclamation services officials, a plan has been worked out whereby a more liberal policy will be adopted for the operation of the Belle Fourche irrigation project. Those who have given this matter much study are of the opinion that the new plan is a just one to all parties concerned and should have the support of every land owners and others who are interested in the success of the project. This plan provides for the payment of \$1.15 per acre operation and maintenance if 1925, \$40,000 to be paid prior to May 15, 1926; \$1.25 per acre operation and maintenance in 1927, \$50,000 to be paid prior to May 15, 1927; \$1.50 operation and maintenance in 1928, \$60,000 to be paid prior to May 15, 1927. Water will not be turned into canals until the amount specified has been paid to the government, and no water will be delivered to lands on which the operation and maintenance charges have not been paid as above noted. No construction charges will be required during these three years, 1926-27-28, from those who pay the operation and maintenance charges each year as stated above. Secretary R. L. Bronson of the Commercial Club of Belle Fourche arrived Sunday from Washington, D. C., where he, in company with Secretary W. D. Buchholz of the Belle Fourche Valley Water Users Association, had spend four weeks working on the program for the Belle Fourche project. Senators Norbeck and McMaster, Congressman Williamson, Secretary of Agriculture Myers of this state and George Wright of Huron were also in Washington and worked hard on securing the program which it is believed is fair to the water users as well as to the government. The original plan prior to these gentlemen being called to Washinton, called for the payment by the water users on the Belle Fourche project of \$210,295 before water would be delivered for the year 1926. This would have been a real calamity,



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10979 US Highway 85 Belle Fourche • (605) 892-2503



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE EATIN' BUT WHATS EATIN' ON YA

Prime Rib every Friday & Saturday ready at 5:00!
 Daily Drink Specials
 Coldest beer in town
 Full bar and wine list
 High quality beef and chicken
 Full service catering Restaurant with seating for 110
 Event equipment rental



Upcoming events, for more information call: 605-892-2676



February

- 19th - 3PM Estate Planning @ Grap's Burgers, 5:30 Moodle Lodge Burger Night
- 21st - 7PM BFACT Appreciation Night @ Branding Iron
- 27th - Dueling Pianos @ Community Hall

Casino Night March 13th

Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us on social media for all the information or visit our website



Medicare advice you can trust

Here to help you with your Medicare decisions.

CONTACT ME TODAY



Kerbi Bowden
 605-892-2306 ext 103
 35 5th Ave
 Belle Fourche, SD
 kbowden@fedts.com

W-2022541 09/23 Y0156_WMCoopPrtAdIASDV2_C FVNR 1023

Keller Williams Realty Black Hills



Alan Kindsfater
 Broker Associate

(605) 210-1162
 email: alank@kw.com



501 Grant Street Belle Fourche, SD
 Licensed in SD & WY

<https://www.bhhomeandland.com>

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Shaine Odell
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- Pole Barns
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- Lumber
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buffalohardwarestore.com

2026

FEBRUARY

For Information about Delivery or Frozen Meals, call 892-6285
 Milk & Fruit Served with all meals
 Menu subject to change based on availability.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2 Chicken & Rice Bake Creamed Spinach Garlic Toast	3 Zuppa Toscana Soup Dinner Salad Bread Stick	4 Hawaiian Pork Roasted veggies & Potato with Dinner roll	5 Meatloaf Mashed Potato & Gravy Peas & Carrots, Roll	6 Chicken Enchilada Black beans & corn with Spanish Rice
9 Honey Sesame Chicken Buttered Noodles Asparagus Roll	10 Beef Braut & Sauerkraut With Onions & Peppers Pasta Salad	11 Ground Beef & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Cheesy Broccoli, Roll	12 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato & Gravy Dinner Salad	13 Ham & Broccoli Cheddar Soup Dinner Salad
16 Roast Beef With Gravy Potato & Bacon & Green Beans Roll	17 Meatloaf Mashed Potato & Gravy Corn Roll	18 Pork Stir Fry with Rice Asian Vegetables Egg Rolls	19 Baked Ham Cheesy Potatoes Green Beans with Bacon Roll	20 Fish options
23 Pulled Pork Sandwich Coleslaw, Baked Beans Chips	24 Swedish Meatballs Egg Noodles Mixed Veggies, Roll	25 Chicken Nuggets Roasted Brussels Sprouts & Carrots Fries	26 Liver & Onions or Cheeseburgers Fried Potatoes Dinner salad Roll	27 Fish options
				27 Beef Taco OR Fish Taco Cilantro Rice & Black Beans

Look What's Cooking at Belle Silver Lining
 Come Join us M-F 11 am-1 pm
 828 Kingsbury St. | Belle Fourche, SD
 Menu subject to change or modification.



Don't miss the following events

2/3 Bingo at Branding Iron Balls Roll 7pm | 2/11 - Chartiable Giving 12pm | 2/26 Writing Workshop 12pm
 Meat Raffle benefitting Belle Silver Lining at Circle Lounge 2-4pm 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/4, 4/18

SEND US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS
news@BelleFourcheBeacon.com
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 \$52 online or local
www.bellefourchebeacon.com



Toll Free: 800-894-8684

Office: 605-892-2655

Fax: 605-892-3142

18662 Livestock Road • Belle Fourche, SD 57717 • www.bellefourchelivestock.com

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TRAVIS LINCH

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CELL - 605-892-5951

OFFICE - 605-892-2655

JADE HARPER

Auctioneer: 605-515-0337

COLLIN GIBBS

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DAN PIROUTEK

Market Rep: 605-544-3316

BRIAN SCHMIDT

Yard Foreman: 605-569-0114

FIELDMEN

BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615

MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597

BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553

SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961

TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513

JOHN HENRY BEARDSLEY -

406-853-4938

SCOTT ANDERSON - 406-351-1844

RILEY LESH - 406-697-0573

TREVOR GARMAN - 605-892-5972

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Market Report - Thursday, February 12, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

FEEDER CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Anders Cattle Co Llc, Rapid City SD	67	Black-Str	849	370.75	\$3,147.50
	73	Black-Str	861	370.75	\$3,191.24
	78	Bwf-Str	780	388.00	\$3,025.40
Brown Ranch Llp, Marmarth ND	76	Bwf-Str	822	369.00	\$3,033.81
	48	Blk/Bwf-Str	710	408.50	\$2,901.62
	39	Herf-Str	757	369.25	\$2,795.88
	69	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	769	363.00	\$2,790.89
	22	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	668	389.00	\$2,596.57
Dan Or Mary J Zimmerschied, Cantile WY	73	Black-Str	577	491.00	\$2,830.98
	26	Black-Str	489	537.50	\$2,626.51
	63	Black-Hfr	534	461.00	\$2,460.13
	25	Black-Hfr	465	512.50	\$2,382.10
Homestead Cattle Co, Terry MT	60	Blk-Str	908	350.00	\$3,179.16
	60	Blk/Bwf-Str	878	359.00	\$3,152.31
X Heart Ranch Inc, Aladdin WY	57	Black-Hfr	654	448.00	\$2,930.86
	9	Black-Hfr	591	450.00	\$2,657.50
Glenn L Clabaugh Rev Trust, Gillette WY	51	Red-Hfr	846	365.00	\$3,086.75
Gaer Ranch, Newell SD	64	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	550	462.00	\$2,542.08
Frank Hagen, Ashland MT	24	Black-Hfr	590	442.50	\$2,612.59
Jason Kuhbacher, Broadus MT	36	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	558	464.00	\$2,590.66
Peter Sobotka, Whitewood SD	20	Blk/Bwf-Str	662	450.00	\$2,977.87
	4	Blk/Bwf-Str	571	467.50	\$2,670.59
	7	Black-Hfr	592	425.00	\$2,516.60
Kuhbacher Ranch Inc, Moorcroft WY	16	Black-Hfr	1034	304.50	\$3,147.76
Ross Or Barbara Delzer, Belle Fourche SD	9	Char-Str	590	477.50	\$2,817.25
	10	Black-Hfr	676	404.00	\$2,729.02
	8	Char-Hfr	611	419.00	\$2,561.13
Mobley Land Inc, Olive MT	48	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	485	510.00	\$2,472.43
	25	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	414	532.50	\$2,206.68
	8	Blk/Bwf-Str	360	590.00	\$2,124.00
Sams Livestock, Weston WY	40	Black-Str	591	480.00	\$2,836.80
	13	Black-Str	535	504.00	\$2,696.40
Ginger Harrington, Ekalaka MT	27	Black-Hfr	566	462.50	\$2,617.40
	19	Black-Hfr	499	500.00	\$2,493.42
Paul Palczewski, Ludlow SD	71	Black-Hfr	579	459.00	\$2,657.67
	9	Black-Hfr	468	503.00	\$2,355.71
Roger Or Penny Gunderson, Buffalo SD	30	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	609	432.00	\$2,630.16
	11	Rwf-Hfr	615	391.00	\$2,406.42
Gilbert Rittberger, Newell SD	12	Black-Hfr	672	406.00	\$2,726.96
WEIGH-UPS					
6 Creek Farms, Ekalaka MT	39	Black-Cow	1555	177.50	\$2,760.80
	14	Black-Cow	1333	186.50	\$2,485.77
	1	Black-Cow	1505	170.00	\$2,558.50
	1	Black-Cow	1415	170.00	\$2,405.50
Gunderson & Hausman, Buffalo SD	16	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1285	194.00	\$2,492.29
	23	Bwf-Cow	1483	177.00	\$2,625.75
	16	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1364	180.00	\$2,455.31
	8	Black-Cow	1244	193.50	\$2,407.86
Darrell & Leanne Hohn, Deadwood SD	1	Black-Cow	1410	179.00	\$2,523.90
Tom D Trusler Jr, Ashland MT	1	Black-Cow	1300	177.00	\$2,301.00
Harry Tavegia, Osage WY	3	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1053	301.00	\$3,170.53
Rodney & Zachary Steele, Sundance WY	5	Red-Cow	1443	179.00	\$2,582.97
Busenitz Land & Cattle, Hulett WY	24	Black-Cow	1591	177.00	\$2,816.51
	5	Black-Cow	1584	177.00	\$2,803.68

Wade Pearson, Aladdin WY	3	Black-Cow	1525	173.50	\$2,645.87
Joe Fortner, Biddle MT	9	Black-Cow	1396	183.00	\$2,553.86
	4	Black-Hfr	1131	210.00	\$2,375.62
	1	Black-Cow	1320	181.00	\$2,389.20
	3	Black-Cow	1465	176.00	\$2,578.40
Cjr Ranch Llc, Gillette WY	9	Rd/Blk-Cow	1395	181.00	\$2,524.95
	4	Rd/Blk-Cow	1223	192.50	\$2,353.31
	1	Black-Cow	1275	183.00	\$2,333.25
Steven Schuldties, Nisland SD	3	Black-Cow	1472	178.00	\$2,619.56
Bar 69 Angus, Belle Fourche SD	3	Black-Hfr	1300	228.00	\$2,964.00
	2	Black-Cow	1723	180.00	\$3,100.50
Kevin Buchholz, Belle Fourche SD	34	Black-Cow	1511	179.00	\$2,705.53
	3	Black-Cow	1142	212.00	\$2,420.33
	1	Black-Cow	1210	176.00	\$2,129.60
BULLS					
Douglas & Adelia Cuka, Vale SD	1	Xbrd-Bull	1805	235.00	\$4,241.75
Sand Rock Angus, Broadus MT	1	Black-Bull	2240	212.50	\$4,760.00
Tom Riggs, Broadus MT	1	Black-Bull	2035	205.00	\$4,171.75

High Plains Commodities Offices
 Belle Fourche Livestock Market, LLC.
 Stop in or Call 1-800-888-1432
 Kim Kling - Kem Kjerstad

CATTLE USA
 Sales broadcast live on www.cattleusa.com.

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

February 19, 2026	STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
February 26, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 5, 2026	BRED COW & HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 12, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 19, 2026	BRED COW & HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL WUPS @ 10 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 26, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10 AM MT
April 2, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL
April 7, 2026	BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
April 9, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH BULL SALE
April 16, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL
April 23, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
April 30, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & J SPEAR CATTLE CO BULL SALE

STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL
FEBRUARY 19, 2026
WUPS @ 10 AM MT | BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

BRED HEIFERS	ODIS & EDITH HEWSON -SD
TODD FAMILY-WY 60 BLK BRED HFRS BRED BLK, 40 HD - A'ED TO ABS DYNAMIC, A'ED - CLV 3/10 - 1 DAY, 20 HD - BULL BRED TO LBW BULLS, BULL BRED - CLV 3/20 - 30 DAYS, HR, REPRO SHOTS, Poured, FULL MINERAL PROGRAM	20 BLK/BWF BRED HFRS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1, A'ED TO ABS TRUE GRIT (SEXED SEMEN - BULL CLVS), CLEANED UP W/ BLK BULLS
AVERY & GRAHAM -WY 45 BLK BRED HFRS BRED BLK, CLV 3/3 (2 - 21 DAY CYCLES), BRED TO LBW BEARTOOTH ANG BULLS, HR, REPRO SHOTS, Poured	LOYD WEAVER-SD 6 BLK/RED BRED HFRS BRED LBW BLK BULLS, CLV 4/20 - 30 DAYS, HR, Poured, SCOURGUARD, GENTLE
CLARK RHINEHARDT -MT 25 BRED BLK HFRS, 900-950# BRED BLK, CLV 3/20 - 45 DAYS, BRED TO LBW KIMM ANG BULLS, HR, Poured, SCOURGUARD, ULTRAMIN	PAUL PALCZEWSKI -SD 150 BLK 3YO-SM BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/1
THOMAS RANCH -MT 25 BRED BLK HFRS, 900-950# BRED BLK, CLV 5/10 - 10 DAYS, BRED TO LBW HIDDEN PRAIRIE RANCH BULLS , REPRO SHOTS, Poured	RUSSELL GUYER-MT 50 BLK MXD AGED BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 45 DAYS, CB
ELLSBURY RANCH-WY 24 BLK BRED HFRS BRED HEIFER, 12 HD - CLV 3/26 - 20 DAYS, 12 HD - CLV 4/15 - 20 DAYS, BRED TO LBW FREDRICKSON RANCH BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, Poured, CAKE BROKE	DAN & MARY ZIMMERSCHIED -WY 40 BLK/BWF MXD AGED BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/20 - 90 DAYS, HR
	ROB SORENSON-WY 40 BLK MXD AGED BRED COWS BRED CHAR, CLV MAY/JUNE
	ROD & CORRINE SCHAFFER -MT 25 BLK/BWF SM BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 45 DAYS
	ODIS & EDITH HEWSON -SD 15 BLK/BWF 3-5YO BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1, A'ED TO ABS TRUE GRIT (SEXED SEMEN - BULL CLVS), CLEANED UP W/ BLK BULLS
	RITTEBERGER BEEF -SD 15 BLK ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/22, BRED TO BLAIR ANG BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, Poured

FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
WUPS @ 10 AM MT | FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

****ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS****
 ON-LINE BUYERS REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY NOON PRIOR TO SALE DAY.

RECEIVING STATIONS

Broadus, MT Travis Linch 605-892-5951	Forsyth, MT Scott Anderson 406-351-1844
Ekalaka, MT Riley Lesh 406-697-0573	Jordan, MT Jason Bollinger 406-690-8344
Wyoming Brett Loughlin 605-210-0615	Wyoming Mike Greenough 307-620-2597

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A revolutionary improvement in plastic tank design, offering exceptional strength comparable to concrete tanks.

Suitable for use as septic tanks, pump/trash tanks, cisterns or rainwater (non-potable) storage/harvesting tanks.

500, 1000, 1500 • 1 or 2 compartment stock

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MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM | SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM | CLOSED SUNDAY

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ROUNDUP

Want to work for the Beacon?

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Mail letter of interest to: PO Box 576 Belle Fourche, SD 57717

or email: news@bellefourchebeacon.com



Jack Scholl, Weather Hat, & wife Jenny at Chamber banquet



Mayor Randy Schmidt was the lucky winner of the Chamber's 50/50 drawing. Hunter Anderson Photos

BELLE FOURCHE COUNTRY CLUB

TOURNAMENT LINE-UP 2026

REGISTER ONLINE
No Deposit Needed

Early Bird	April 25th-26th	3 Person Scramble \$ 185 PER PERSON
Women's Open	June 13th	2 Person Scramble \$ 160 PER TEAM
Member Guest	July 31st- Aug 2nd	2 Person Chicago \$ 220 PER PERSON SKINS & DUCES INCLUDED
Club Championship	August 23th	Individual \$ 60 PER PERSON SKINS & DUCES INCLUDED
Couples Tournament	September 6th	2 Person Campman \$ 180 PER COUPLE \$ 150 PER COUPLE <- MEMBE<- NON-MEM
Triple Crown	September 19th-20th	2 Person Teams \$ 180 PER PERSON 3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

HORSE RACE TO END

<https://www.bellefourchecountryclub.com/tournaments/> 605-892-3472

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN?

RACQUETBALL ROOM RECREATION

PICKLEBALL	WALLYBALL	VOLLEYBALL	BADMINTON
DISC GOLF	CORN HOLE	SOCCER	SPEED STACKS
VELCRO CATCH & TOSS	JUMP ROPES	SPIKE BALL	HULA HOOPS
RACQUETBALL	FOOTBALL TOSS	LITTLE TIKES BASKETBALL	DOODGEBALL
PING PONG	FOOS BALL		BOARDGAMES
			VIDEO GAMES

ASK AT THE FRONT DESK FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE GAMES!!

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<p>\$19.99</p> <p>Bota Box Wine several varieties 3L</p>	<p>\$19.99</p> <p>Lord Calvert Whisky 175L</p>	<p>\$19.99</p> <p>Black Velvet Whisky 175L</p>
<p>\$49.99</p> <p>Pendleton Whisky 175L</p>	<p>\$19.99</p> <p>Windsor Whisky 175L</p>	<p>\$29.99</p> <p>Bacardi Superior White Rum 175L</p>

Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Two weeks!**
Wednesday, February 18th through Tuesday, March 3rd

Position: Full-Time Director of Equalization and Planning
Reports to: Butte County Commission

Summary of Duties: The county Director of Equalization is responsible for confirming that all property in the county is accounted for on the tax list. They are also responsible for guaranteeing that these properties are all assessed in an equal and uniform manner.

Salary: \$66,901.43 Annual
Hours/Week: 40 hours per week M-F

Education Required: High school diploma required.

Abilities/Skills:
A successful applicant will have the ability to obtain the South Dakota CAA certification within one year, with prior property assessment or appraisal experience preferred, and experience with typical office software, such as Word, Excel, and Outlook. Advanced Excel experience preferred.

Additional Information: The work environment is split between typical indoor office duties and outdoor inspection of property activities. Travel will be required for certification and training.

Benefits: SDRS Retirement, Health insurance, Holidays, Vacation, Sick Time

Applications and a detailed job description may be picked up at the Auditor's office at the Butte County Administration building, 117 5th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

Interested individuals can apply by submitting an Application, Resume, and Cover Letter addressed to the Butte County Auditor, Attn: Annie Capp, 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Phone 605-892-4485. Email: auditor@buttesd.org

SPEARFISH SD – The 2026 Lawrence County District 31 Legislative Crackerbarrels will be held February 28th at the Deadwood Gulch (304 Cliff St, Deadwood). Event will be held at 10:00 AM.

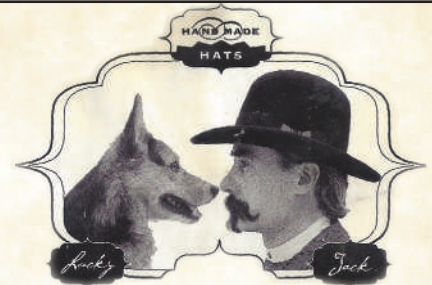
The District 31 Lawrence County Cracker Barrels are organized by the Spearfish and Deadwood Chamber of Commerce to give the community an opportunity to meet with our elected officials.

Legislative Crackerbarrels in your area offer access to your local legislators, as well as the chance to hear their answers on a variety of legislative topics. Each elected official will give an update on the committees they serve and bills that have been introduced. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions in writing at the event. Senator Deibert, Representative Odenbach and Representative Fitzgerald have been invited to sit as a panel to give updates on the current legislative session.

Our legislators are also available at that time to answer questions from the audience. The events are free to attend.

For more information, contact the Spearfish Chamber 605-642-2626 or the Deadwood Chamber 605-578-1876.

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Area Church Schedules

BLACK HILLS GOSPEL ASSEMBLY
1/2 Mile east on Hwy 34
210-1374
Kenny Riley, pastor
Sunday: 1 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 p.m.

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

CONNECTION CHURCH (SBC)
613 Sixth Ave., Belle Fourche
(605)-210-2150
Pastor Stephen Carson
Worship Pastor Ashton Rone
Sunday Worship: 8:30 or 10:15 am

EMMANUEL BAPTIST
Meet at Americinn Conference room
Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School 10am church
Men's Bible Study 10am at the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
Call for location.
website: ebcfb.org

FIRST BAPTIST
807 8th Ave. 892-4178
Pastor Tim Smith
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15am
Morning Worship - 10:30am
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 Jennwein
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Sheri Fadley
1804 7th Ave. Belle Fourche
605-892-2405
Worship: Sunday 10:30 am - FB Live
Sunday School 9:30 am
Small Groups & Studies
schedule online at
www.bellefourchegmc.com

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: 10:00am

NISLAND INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CHURCH
On Hwy 212 in Nisland
(605) 257-2356
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:45 a.m.

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

PRAIRIE HOME CHURCH
1701 Hwy 212, Newell
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m.

RANGELAND MINISTRIES CHURCH
Alzada, MT
Sunday: Worship: 10:00am
Mark Leverington, Lay Pastor

RED WATER CHURCH OF CHRIST
Belle Fourche Rec Center
Sun: 9:30-12:30.
Contact: Nathan Thompson
605 569-3057
Sermons: fightintheshade

SALVATION ARMY OF THE NORTHERN HILLS
120 Ryan Rd., Spearfish
605-642-0924
Envoys: Tim and Peggy North
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School: 11 a.m.
Worship Nursery available
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.,
Learning and Discovery Study

SPEARFISH ADVENTIST CHURCH
290 W Highway 14
Pastor Darren Purdy and
Pastor Marveen Gentillon
Join Us This Saturday
Morning Prayer: 9:00am
Sabbath School: 9:30am
Worship Service: 10:45am
Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

SPEARFISH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)
920 N Main Street, Spearfish
Sunday Service 10 a.m. in person
and on Facebook.
Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL
6th and Roundup
892-2446
The Rev. Evelyn Weaver
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Wednesday: September - May
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By John Newby

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street" Overcoming the Poverty Mindset

There is an old parable about a fisherman who catches a bucket of crabs. A curious observer notices he never puts a lid on the bucket. When asked why, the fisherman smiles and says he doesn't need one—whenever a crab starts to climb out, the others drag it back down. That image, replayed in miniature every day across America's struggling communities, is what a poverty mindset looks like in practice. It is not a symptom of empty bank accounts. It is a habit of thought—and habits, unlike geography or demographics, can be changed.

A poverty mindset—as it applies to community and downtown revitalization—is not about being poor. It is about letting the memory of scarcity govern every future decision. Consider a homeowner who refuses to replace a rotting front porch because the repair costs \$2,000, yet watches the home lose \$15,000 in appraised value over the next three years. The math is not complicated; the barrier is psychological. The same logic plays out in city halls and boardrooms every week.

Research on economic development consistently shows that communities willing to make strategic public investments generate far greater private returns. Studies examining Business Improvement Districts—defined geographic areas where property owners pool



resources to fund shared improvements—found that participating areas saw measurably stronger retail sales and property values compared to adjacent corridors that took no action. The communities that did nothing, citing the cost of participation, paid for their caution in a different currency called continued decline.

Think of community decay the way a doctor thinks about an untreated infection. In its early stages, the intervention is cheap, and the recovery is fast. Left alone, the infection spreads—and the cost of treatment multiplies with every passing month. Downtown vacancies follow exactly this pattern. One empty storefront signals uncertainty to the next potential tenant. Two vacancies create a visible gap that erodes foot traffic. By the time a block is half-empty, the cost of reversing that decline is many times greater than early intervention would have been.

Urban economists have documented this cycle in enough detail to put numbers to it. Commercial property values in distressed downtown corridors frequently decline at a rate that far outpaces any short-term savings achieved by deferring maintenance, skipping marketing budgets, or forgoing event programming. Every dollar not spent proactively today tends to cost several dollars in remediation tomorrow—a return on inaction that no rational investor

would accept, yet communities accept it routinely because the poverty mindset frames spending as a risk rather than an asset.

Blame is rarely productive, but understanding is. A scarcity mindset among civic leaders is not born of laziness or bad intent—it is born of exhaustion. Leaders who have watched their downtown lose anchor tenants, their tax base erode, and their grant applications get rejected year after year develop a very reasonable defense mechanism: they stop expecting things to work. That expectation of failure becomes a self-fulfilling forecast. Bold proposals get quietly shelved. Outside investors sense the hesitation and move on. The community concludes, once again, that nothing works here—without recognizing that "here" was never really given a real chance.

Behavioral economists describe this as "loss aversion"—the well-documented human tendency to weight the pain of a potential loss roughly twice as heavily as the pleasure of an equivalent gain. In community development, loss aversion shows up as an almost paralyzing reluctance to invest public resources in anything that carries visible risk. The cruel irony is that doing nothing is itself a high-risk strategy; it carries risk of a slower, quieter variety that never triggers an alarm.

Communities that break the cycle share common traits that precede every tactical decision they make, they replace a deficit narrative with an asset narrative. Instead of focusing on what they lack, they identify and amplify what they have. A struggling town stops apologizing for not being a big city and starts marketing its walkable waterfront and authentic character to remote workers priced out of

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metropolitan areas. A shrinking agricultural community stopped lamenting the decline of commodity farming and repositioned its historic grain elevators as cultural landmarks drawing heritage tourists.

None of those pivots required the communities to pretend their challenges did not exist. Realism is not the enemy of optimism. A credible, specific vision—one that acknowledges obstacles while charting a concrete path through them—is far more powerful than either blind cheerleading or habitual pessimism. The vision must be earned through honest assessment of local assets, market realities, and community capacity. When it is, it becomes a persuasive argument.

The crab bucket example only works as long as every crab accepts its logic. Once a community chooses to climb—to invest in itself, tell its own story, and refuse to treat decline as destiny—becomes the most powerful kind of evidence there is: a living counterexample. The poverty mindset cannot survive too many of those.

John A. Newby, author of the "Building Main Street, Not Wall Street" column, assists communities and their local media companies combine synergies allowing them to not just survive, but thrive in a world where truly-local is lost to Amazon, Wall Street chains and others. His email: john@360MediaAlliance.net.

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Capitol News
February 15, 2026
by Karen Odell

It is nearly like spring at Capitol and on Tie Creek, but we may see more colder weather next week. The winter Olympics are on TV to keep us entertained, while in our warm living rooms. Ronda Cordell is now down to having two physical therapy sessions each week. Next week will be the last one. Early in February, Ronda Cordell made a phone call to a high school classmate, Kathy Ahart Noteboom. Kathy and her husband had moved to Spearfish from Arizona, and Ronda hadn't seen her in nearly forty years. Kathy had been attending Belle Fourche High School when Ronda transferred there from Spearfish, as a sophomore. Back then Kathy's father, Neal Ahart, was a minister at the little country church that was located a couple mile straight north of Gustave, South Dakota. In those days, sometimes, Ronda's parents

would have her ride back for school in Belle Fourche with Rev. Ahart. Ronda and Kathy became close friends until the Ahart's move to Phillip, South Dakota, where Kathy attended her senior year. After that, they still sort of kept in contact. Both were married. Kathy's first child, a son, was born the day after Ronda's first born, Chad. Now, after the call, they got together for lunch at the Pizza Ranch, then drove to the Noteboom's new home where they did some catching up on the past. A couple of weeks ago, Jason Berg, Jake and Ryell Reynolds joined Ronda for lunch before doing brisket tagging on yearling heifers in the afternoon. Curt, Caden and Carsen Zolnoski came from Rapid City to help with the tagging. It was a perfect day for the work. The Zolnoskis spent the night at the Clint Zolnoski's. Then, they came up on Saturday morning to help brisket tag some yearling bulls, before they headed home. Curt had had a complicated stomach surgery the

prior week, so he had the light detail of running the hydraulic levers on the chute. Ronda had watched the Super Bowl to see the commercials. She didn't even enjoy the game, but thought, as it ended, that Seattle's kicker actually had won the game for them. On Thursday, Ronda dropped Cudley off at Belle Fourche Vet for a checkup, while she went on to her physical therapy appointment. Curt Zolnoski came to Spearfish and they had lunch together. Dick and Erma Albert's daughter, Heather, her husband Stan and granddaughter Amra came to visit them on Monday. On Tuesday, Erma went to Spearfish, where she was scheduled for a CT Scan. On Friday morning, Heather's family started for home. Then Dick and Erma attended the Senior Citizen dinner. It was Fern Giannonatti's birthday, and they celebrated with cake and ice cream. Erma stayed to play card and got a ride home with Maggie, afterward. On Sunday, they

attended church, and then had lunch at Saloon Number Three. The town was full of visitors for the high school wrestling meet. Alvin and Marlee Cordell went to Spearfish for a business appointment, on Monday. Marlee stayed in town, and on Wednesday, went to an appointment in Rapid City. She borrowed granddaughter, Rhys's car to come home. On Saturday, she and Alvin took the car back, and got to watch some basketball games at a Belle Fourche tournament. They went to church in Camp Crook, on Sunday. Alvin has been using the Bobcat for cleaning sheds, and getting ready for calving. Wade Pearson hauled in wood chips, and then Alvin puts a little hay on top to make some nice bedding. Lynn Gustafson and Linda Matthews made a trip to Bowman to the beauty salon, on Monday. Then on Tuesday, Bruce and Lynn went back again to Bowman for a tax appointment. Lynn went to the 'Cyber Support Meeting' at the Camp Crook Community hall, on Wednesday, that was presented by West River Telephone. That evening, Bruce went to Ladner for Bible Study at the church. On the weekend, Bruce and Pete Anderson made a trip to the Hills to do some shopping. Pete attended church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, and Bruce and Lynn went to church at Little Missouri Church, on Sunday. Bryce Padden has been coaching wrestling in Ekalaka again this winter, while Brandon and Ashley go in the opposite direction to coach wrestling in Buffalo. Dawn Padden is always busy taking action pictures with her camera, and putting all the kids on her Facebook page. She has caught some incredible action shots. This weekend was the Buffalo invitational wrestling tournament, and there was a big crowd attending at the school. Family cars and vans had come from all directions and distances. Cody Odell came to visit Karen Odell, on Thursday night. He still had his elk hunting license that had not been filled, and this was one weekend he had available, so

that he wouldn't miss Carson's wrestling, or Kellan's indoor college track events. Alvin Cordell had promised to take Cody in search of an elk, on Friday and Saturday, and as it turned out, Cody's really good long-distance shot in the first half-hour of the hunt brought down a big cow elk. That afternoon, he took Karen out for a ride in the side by side for some exploring. On Saturday, he did some heavy lifting things for Karen, and they had delicious elk steak for supper. The butchering took a lot of time and extended into Sunday. On Sunday, Chancey Odell came over for to visit, and to bring Karen a small freezer, that Cody helped him with. Cody headed back home in the afternoon. Karen's granddaughter, Kyia Smith, was playing volleyball in Minnesota, and Mollie sent videos of some of the action. Her team is progressing well. Karen had gotten the sad news from her niece, Martha, that her brother, Ron Evans had passed away. He had taught Karen to play baseball and especially to bat. He was a left-handed pitcher and had been called up by the Detroit Tigers in the 1950's, but he chose to finish his college at Ohio Northern University. He became a math professor at ONU and was the 'voice of ONU' for nearly 50 years, when he was stadium announcer for college football and basketball, and even announced the college volleyball finals that was held at ONU one year. Karen learned to bat left-handed, because she was taught by her brother, Ron, and she, in turn, also taught three of her kids to bat left-handed, too. Karen learned by hitting curve balls, fast balls, knuckle balls and anything he threw at her. She will miss him so very much. Remember, there will be a 'Games Night' at the Camp Crook Community Center, on Thursday evening. Come and eat and play dominoes or many other games of your choice.



Central Meade County News
By Sandy Rhoden February 15, 2026

The weather this week has stayed unusually mild and quite warm for February in the western half of the state. While moisture will be extremely welcome before spring we continue to enjoy the dry roads for easy travel, easier feeding and calving and much more. On Monday of last week the rural 8th graders visited the Capitol as well as the Governor's residence in Pierre. Sandy Rhoden joined them at both the mansion and the Capitol where they were able to have a photo and then enter the office of the Governor, Larry Rhoden. Larry gave them some high points of the history of the beautiful Governor's reception room that was previously the private office. The public is now able to come in and enjoy the beauty of the room where special bills are signed and photo opportunities take place. They also got to meet our Secretary of State and go into her office to see the original state seal stamper that was made at the time of statehood. Linda, the head CEO of the mansion, and the First Lady made sure each student had a fresh baked bag of cookies to take with them on their ride home. Principal Shelby Mickelson and Missy Urbaniak accompanied the students. The Valentines Day Dinner served up by the Ma'tre D's of some Red Owl Community men was a success on Saturday

night. Their tables were full and the food served was top of the line. The couple who likely enjoyed it the most was Floyd and Donna Cammack of Stoneville. As of Sunday, February 15 they have been married for 74 years. Every Valentines Day dinner for them is extremely special. We hope to hear that they attended this same event next year. Larry and Sandy Rhoden made it back in time to catch dinner at Nellie's on the way home from Pierre on Saturday. Doug and Annie Simmons were there dining out on Valentines Day as well. They were able to also attend church in Union Center before Larry headed back to Pierre Sunday afternoon. Before church started Kathryn Spring was able to hold her great, great granddaughter, Naomi Kathryn. Naomi is the daughter of her great granddaughter Taline (Spring) Sandine. Speaking of Kathryn Spring, all are invited to help Kathryn celebrate her 95th birthday next Sunday, February 22 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Community Baptist Church fellowship room in Union Center. Announced in church was Kathryn's birthday, Donna and Floyd Cammack's 74th anniversary and Darrel and Monica Wilcox's 53rd anniversary that was on February 8. Also, Shirley Baker was back in church after having knee surgery and is recovering well.

Shirley expressed her thankfulness for all the prayers and well wishes throughout her procedure and recovery. There have been a number of tragedies involving some young people in west river, including the young man who lost his life in Sturgis and the young man who broke his back while skiing. Please raise up these families if you are a prayer warrior. Many are going through tough times right now. No matter how many hard things we are hit with, there is always hope for the future and bright spots in our lives. Jesse and Sarah Lewis Rhoden became proud parents to their fourth child on Wednesday, February 11 in Sturgis. Her name is Ruby Marilyn, weighing 7lbs. 4.5 oz. This little gift was greatly anticipated by her older siblings, Ladd, Sully and Bucky and is the 8th grandchild of Larry and Sandy Rhoden of Union Center. They reside in Sturgis, making their new and permanent home now in the Boulder Canyon area. This little blessing puts smiles on the faces of all of her family, which also includes her maternal grandparents, Chuck and Judy Lewis of Boulder Canyon..

Legals

Position: Full-Time Deputy Auditor
Reports to: Butte County Auditor

Summary of Duties:
The Sworn Deputy Auditor's main emphasis will be on Local, State, and Federal financial reporting. Other duties include maintenance of County asset inventory, insurance, and leases, administering and training the Financial, Payroll, and Human Resources Software (Tyler Incode). The Deputy Auditor will perform Auditor duties in the Auditor's absence.

Salary: \$23.87-\$29.49 DOQ
Hours/Week: 40 hours Mon-Fri

Education Required: GED/High School Equivalent - Bachelor's degree preferred

Abilities/Skills:
A successful applicant will have knowledge of accounting principles and financials, strong numerical aptitude and attention to detail, skills in Microsoft Office, leadership skills, supervisor experience, knowledge of Insurance policies and claims process, written and verbal communication skills, time management, and organizational skills

Benefits: Retirement, Health insurance, Holidays, Vacation

Applications may be picked up at the Auditor's office at the Butte County Administration building 117 5th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

Interested individuals can apply by the submission of an Application, Resume and Cover Letter addressed to the Butte County Auditor, Attn: Annie Capp, 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Phone 605-892-4485. Email: auditor@buttesd.org

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BUTTE COUNTY SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Butte County Courthouse, Belle Fourche, SD on March 19, 2026 at 10.00AM (MT). A list of tracts available for lease may be obtained at the Butte County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD, 57501-5070 at (605) 773-3303. You may also visit the SPL website www.sdpubliclands.sd.gov. Phone bidding will be allowed on a recorded conference line at 1-848-777-1212 with access code of 18892020# Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR 2025 BUTTE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that on the 03rd day of March 2026 at the hour of 09:45 a.m., the Board of Butte County Commissioners will be in session at the Butte County Courthouse in the City of Belle Fourche at 839 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota for the purpose of considering and adopting a supplemental budget to cover expenses of certain functions of County Government that were not provided for in the Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2025.

Budget Supplements from Cash Reserves (Increase in spending authority over original approved budget)

Account Number	Description	Amount
101-161	Gen Gov Buildings	\$ 232,000.00
101-153	Court Appointed Atty	\$ 6,400.00
201-311-435	Hwy Road and Bridge - Minor Equipment	\$ 69,000.00
206-750	Wheel Tax	\$ 1,100.00

At such time all interested persons may appear, either in person, or by representation, and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of such supplemental budget.

Dated at Belle Fourche, South Dakota this 13th day of February 2026.

Board of Butte County Commission
/s/ Chad Erk, Chairperson

ATTEST: /s/ Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

Published on Wednesday, February 18th, 2026
Published on Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

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“Banned or Challenged?”

Meg English news@bellefourchebeacon.com



“Congress shall make no law respecting establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition of the Government for a redress of grievances.”

The First Amendment guarantees the right to express one’s personal point of view. This works both ways. One can say something and someone else is free to say what they think about what you said.

The latter right is exercised frequently when groups or individuals find certain reading material objectionable. But sometimes that goes beyond expressing an opinion. Efforts to remove books from library shelves and schools are surprisingly common. Books are usually challenged on the grounds that they are socially, politically, or sexually offensive.

However, The First Amendment guarantees that no individual has the right to limit another individual or group’s access to reading material. When any group or individual demands the removal of a book from a library or school, they may be violating the First Amendment by restricting the rights of others to access certain books. A lot depends on whether the library or school is a public or private entity. First Amendment protections extend to the reading ma-

terials available to children and teenagers. Parents may choose to monitor what their children read, but in general they may not tell other people’s children what they may or may not read. And they most certainly can’t expect public agencies to step in and prevent others from reading or seeing that material.

Supreme Court Justice William Brennan in Texas vs. Johnson said, “If there is a bedrock principal underlying the First Amendment it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable.”

There is a difference between banned and challenged books. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials.

Historically, books that have been banned or challenged over time often remain mainstream later. For example, “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain has been and still is on various lists of banned books since its publication in 1865. During the 1950s the NAACP objected to the ‘racist’ tone of the novel. Never mind that that the novel is a staunch argument against racism. Sometimes those who object to books might want to read more carefully or at least do a little research.

“The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck was ordered burned in St. Louis Missouri after its publication in the 1930s. The Anchorage School Board banned “American Heritage” dictionary in 1987 because it contained “objectionable” words. “The Merriam Webster

Dictionary” can also be found on lists of frequently challenged books.

Children’s books are also targets of book challenges. “Sylvester and the Magic Pebble” by William Steig was challenged by the Illinois Police Association and 11 other states in 1977 because it portrays policemen as pigs.

The children’s book, “Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?” was challenged in January 2012 by the Texas State Board of Education because, due to a lack of due diligence, board member Pat Hardy had confused the author of the book with an obscure Marxist theorist with the same name. Written by Bill Martin Jr. and illustrated by Eric Carle, the book is designed to help toddlers associate colors and meanings to animals.

“A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeline L’Engle is a story about the battle of good and evil. It has offended many parents on religious grounds.

“The Diary of Anne Frank” has been banned on multiple occasions. One notable banning occurred in 2010 when a school board in Virginia determined that the book contained homosexual themes that are not age appropriate.

Even Louisa May Alcott’s classic Little Women has been challenged.

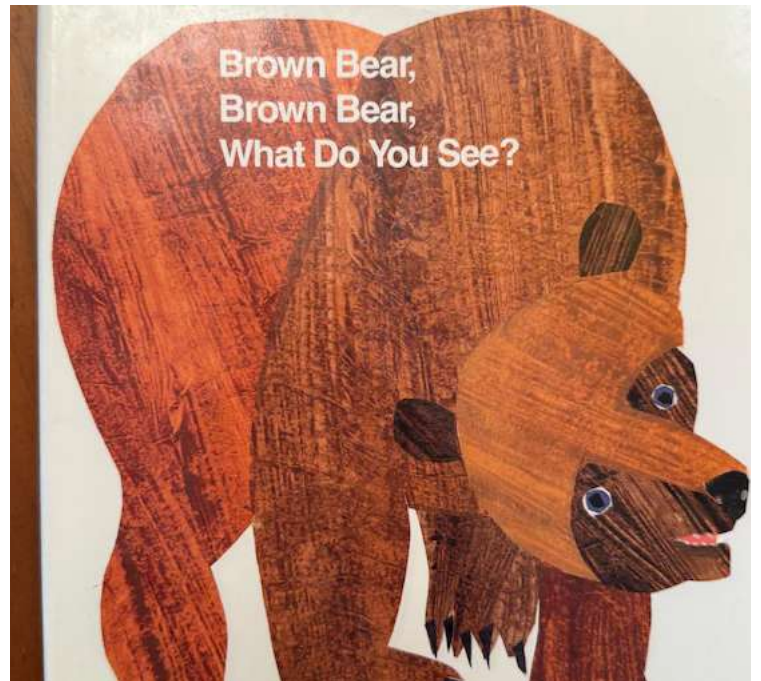
According to the American Library Association approximately 85 percent of the challenges to library materials receive no media attention whatsoever, meaning that self-appointed censors in America generally work under the radar.

The books mentioned here represent only a small fraction of efforts to limit the First Amendment Rights of others, by people who believe that everyone should accept only

their values.

Freedom of speech remains a core difference between America and repressive regimes such as Iran, North Korea, and the Taliban to name a few. Many people who want to ban a book don’t actually read it. They may have been told what’s in the book or have seen selective excerpts that are out of context.

As a high school literature teacher, I found that the surest way to engage students in a book is to tell them not to read it. It’s a strategy that works every time.



Belle Fourche Beacon 'Happenings' and News Bytes Calendar. The Beacon Happenings Calendar is public service listing of meetings, events, and things to do in and around Belle Fourche. Happenings announcements may be sent to:

Belle Fourche Writers

Belle Fourche Writers February meeting schedule: Saturday, February 21 from 10 AM to Noon. All writers are invited to attend! Meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

Belle Fourche Recreation Center

Notes from Belle Fourche Rec Center Aquatics Manager: As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! My email is listed below as well as the Rec Center front desk number collin@bellefourche.org 605-892-2467

March Events

The 3rd-6th Youth Girls Volleyball Camp starts March 3rd. Register by February 24th for the early bird rate!

Youth Strength & Cardio kicks off March 6th. This class targets 6th-9th grade kids, teaching them how to use the weight and cardio machines and gets them set up on a beginner training program.

Classes

Water-walking - This class is held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 - 8:15 am. This class involves walking in waist-deep to chest-deep water. Water resistance provides a low-impact, full-body workout that strengthens the core while also improving cardiovascular health.

Silver Splash - This class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 - 12:15 pm.

Silver Splash is part of our Silver Sneakers program. It involves a series of low-impact workouts with specially designed Boogie Boards. This class is great for core strengthening and for cardiovascular health.

Aquafit - We will hold Aquafit every Monday and Wednesday night from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. This class is higher intensity than what we currently offer. The workouts all involve using either dumbbells or foam weights. The class is designed to target multiple different muscle groups while also strengthening your core. 605-892-2467 bellefourcherec.com

Tri-State Museum

Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center offers new exhibits. The Tri-State Museum spent January freshening some exhibits and creating other new ones. The changes occur in the mercantile and a new “transportation” exhibit in the center of the museum.

In the mercantile, the case that has exhibited dolls features a new collection of 12 dolls from the museum’s extensive Millicent Henderson collection. These new dolls are from the 1940s-1980s and include a Madame Alexander doll, a Romanian doll and a distinctive burlap doll of Central American origin.

Also in the mercantile is a mini “haberdashery,” filled with vintage men’s clothing and toiletries. “We’ve had a number of exhibits about women’s and children’s apparel, but nothing that focused on men,” said Collections Archivist Jada Udager. “We thought this was a chance to feature artifacts we’ve not featured before.”

Across the floor from mercantile is the museum’s collection of salt and pepper shakers. The museum has so many of these that the entire four-shelf case could be completely refreshed. Some of new novel shakers include a lock and key, loaves of bread – and a little green alien in a spaceship.

A new exhibit in the museum’s mid-section is “Transportation: From Stagecoaches to Trains to Cars.” This exhibit includes images plus artifacts such as spokes for wagon wheels, a lady’s travel case, a miniature car and a vintage model stagecoach crossing a “path” with grass on either side of the roadway. There is also a brick roadway made of the few surviving bricks from Belle Fourche’s brick factory.

This exhibit also includes a basket with vintage postcards from places across the U.S. and abroad, which can be examined by visitors.

There is no admission charge to visit the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center, which is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche. For more information, call 605-723-1200 or visit the website at www.thetristatemuseum.com

Tri-State Museums holds “Groundhogs!” class on February 21, 2026

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a class on groundhogs on Saturday, February 21 from 10 to noon for third-fifth graders. This class will be taught by Programs and Events Assistant Sam Comes. Students will learn about groundhogs, their habitat and cultural significance. The class will include a PowerPoint, a video, paper activities and a craft to make a groundhog. There will also be a drawing for the book, “Groundhog,” by Samme Jacknell.

Admission to the class costs \$2 or is free with museum membership. All students must pre-register by calling 605-723-1200. This is the second of monthly classes that will be held in 2026. To obtain a rack card listing all the classes, stop in at the museum or call and one will be mailed to you.

Belle Fourche Arts Council to hold third annual Photography Contest

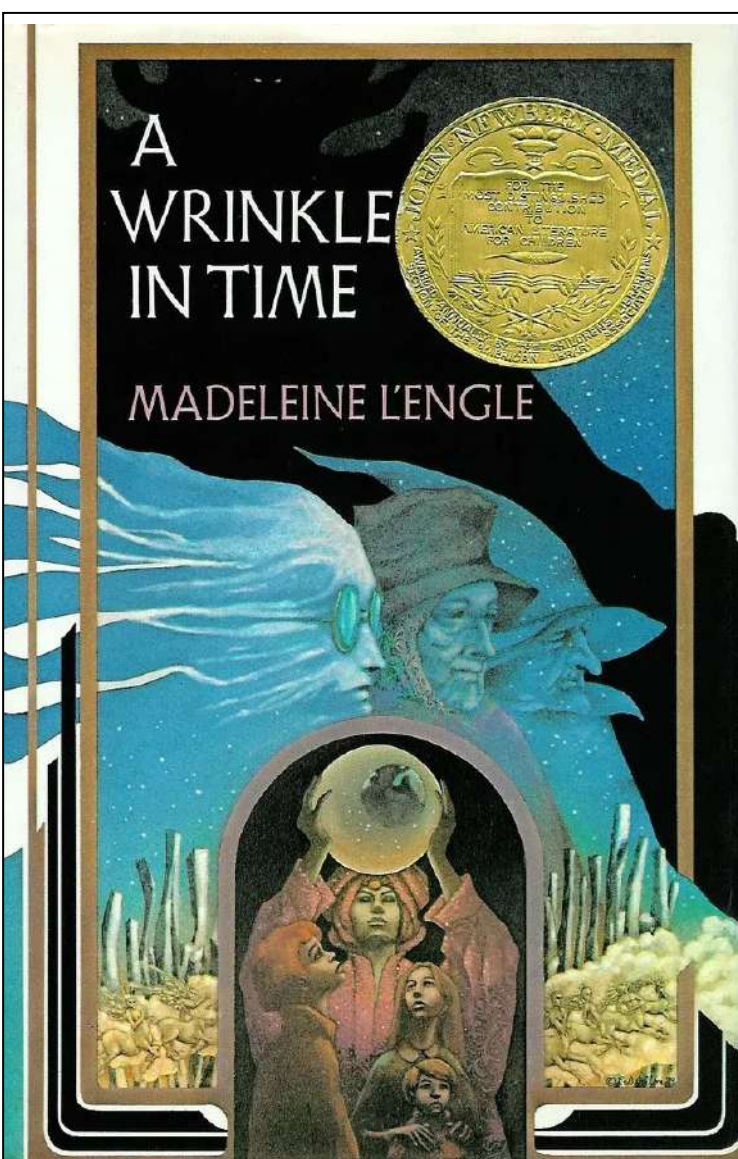
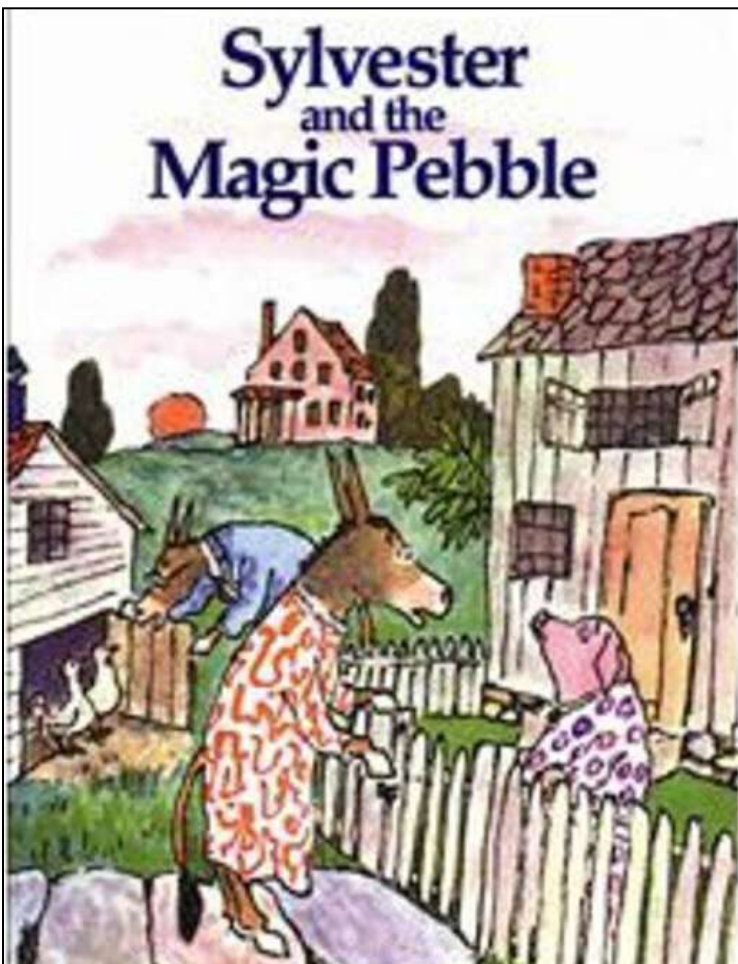
The Belle Fourche Arts Council will hold its third annual “Rural Life Expressions” Photography Contest in February, with the final judging and public reception to take place on February 28 from 5-7 p.m.

Submissions can be made through February 20, and participant categories include Under 18 and Adult. Subject categories include Landscape, People and Animals. There is an entry fee of \$20 per entrant and this covers four submissions, with two maximum per category.

Prizes will be awarded for each subject category: 1st place - \$175; 2nd place - \$100; 3rd place - \$50. There will also be awards for People’s Choice for each subject category.

Entries will be on exhibit in the Tri-State Museum gallery from February 24 through February 28 and prizes will be awarded at the Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center reception on Saturday, February 28 5-7pm. Entry forms and additional info, available online at http://www.rurallifeexpressions.com.

Mail or drop-off entries to: Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center, 415 5th Avenue. If sent via mail, the postmark date must be no later than February 20, 2024. For additional information, please call 605-723-1200.



Donated Organ Hits All the Right Notes on Valentine's Day

Dance Party

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Newell City Hall was the recent recipient of a fancy 500-pound organ. And luckily there is a Newell resident who knows how to play such a magnificent instrument. And when the two come together, the residents of Newell and the surrounding area are treated to a wonderful listening experience.

Valentine's Day was the perfect occasion to dust off the organ and get Marty Jump to play it for a Valentine's Day Dance and Music party at the Newell City Hall on February 14.

The organ came to the City of Newell via Susan Hency and Cindy Riley as it was their aunt, Kay Milberg, who is the original owner of the organ. "Our aunt, Kay Milberg from Newell, could no longer play it and she wanted to give it to somewhere where people could enjoy it," explained Hency.

"Well, Marty Jump, Susan Hency and Cindy Riley got together and decided to do this, so it was kind of last minute," explained Tara Tennis, Newell Mayor.

Marty Jump added, "And I told Susan and Cindy, I said, we just cannot let this sit here for a year being unused. And so we thought of Valentine's Day and since this came on Saturday, that's why we did this!"

Hency also grew up in Newell and made a special trip from Rapid City to enjoy the Valentine's Day Dance and Music on her aunt's organ. "My husband grew up here, I grew up here. My folks used to have the bowling alley here in town



Marty Jump playing a variety of music on the magnificent organ that was recently donated to the City of Newell. *Longbrake photo*

and my dad was an American Family agent! I spent my whole life here," she said.

The gift is a nice addition to the town. "We're pretty blessed to have them donate this to the city, so hopefully we can do this quite often," shared Tennis. "It is good to just remember the Milbergs because they were a big part of our community for a long time."

The newest musical addition to the City of Newell has the perfect person to play it! Marty

Jump has been learning the ins and outs of the organ. "This instrument is so magnificent! It is just the most quality thing I've ever played on. I spent a lot of hours down here just trying to master everything—I am not close to mastery, you know—but I have experience on an organ. This is just so incredible and it'll do so many things that I'm gonna have to look it up online because I don't have the manual. I'm thankful for every second that I've spent at this

organ," explained Jump.

Jump spent two hours on Valentine's Day playing all types of music for the small crowd that gathered. A few danced while all enjoyed the music. There were snacks and drinks for those that came.

"We'd like to do this every few months—just to utilize the new organ," said Tennis. "We're very blessed to have Marty play!"

"It's fun! People don't have to dance, they can sit and visit.

But we're really hoping to get a better turnout next time," said Jump. "I think we've got the quality of music that people are looking for—we know what kind of music they like—we're trying to accommodate all that, you know!"

The organ has all of the bells and whistles. Jump explained that there is even a button that will clap for you if the audience forgets to!

Dance Photos Contd. D4

Veterans Support Presentation at Monthly WIT Meeting

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—The monthly meeting of the Whatever It Takes Coalition (WIT) took place at the Newell Christian Fellowship Community Hall on Tuesday, February 10.

Sabrina Harmon, WIT Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting. "We're actually a prevention and education coalition, and we try to do anything in the community to help educate or make it a better place for them," she said.

The meeting presentation was given by Jody Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator with the Black Hills Health Care Systems, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She said, "Thank you to Sabrina for having us all get together, because there's nothing like a good night to get a bunch of veterans together in one room!"

Smith spent the evening discussing ways to help veterans. Her program focused

on combining community and clinical interventions for suicide prevention. "I want to minimize risks in our community so we can help veterans, one on one," she said. "When we have one suicide in our community, it affects 135 people." She then went on to explain how one death affects the family, friends, church members, coffee groups, neighbors, and anyone that person comes in contact with on a regular basis. And in turn, those people may become sad, depressed, anxious, start drinking, and end up going down the same road.

Developing a safety plan is important to success in stressful situations. Smith told everyone about the mobile app called Safety Plan. The app is free and confidential. It is designed for anyone who has had thoughts of self-harm. The app "helps you make a step-by-step action plan to keep yourself safe during a crisis, share your plan with loved ones, and use tools to

manage distress."

Safety Plan is an app that allows you to use it on your own. "So say I'm having a horrible day, I'm depressed, I want to isolate—who's the first person I'm going to call on that safety plan," said Smith. "I'm going to call my mom—mom had a really horrible day or I just lost my dad—I need to talk to somebody—if that doesn't turn it around, your safety plan is going to be on there. It's going to give you, like, three other people you trust, maybe some guys you're in American Legion with, or the VFW."

Another resource that Smith discussed was calling 988. "So that's our Veterans Crisis Line, but anybody can call 988."

In the month of January 2026, in Butte County, 20 people called 988. "Okay, look around, that's like everybody in this room, 20. So that's just in one month—you have 20

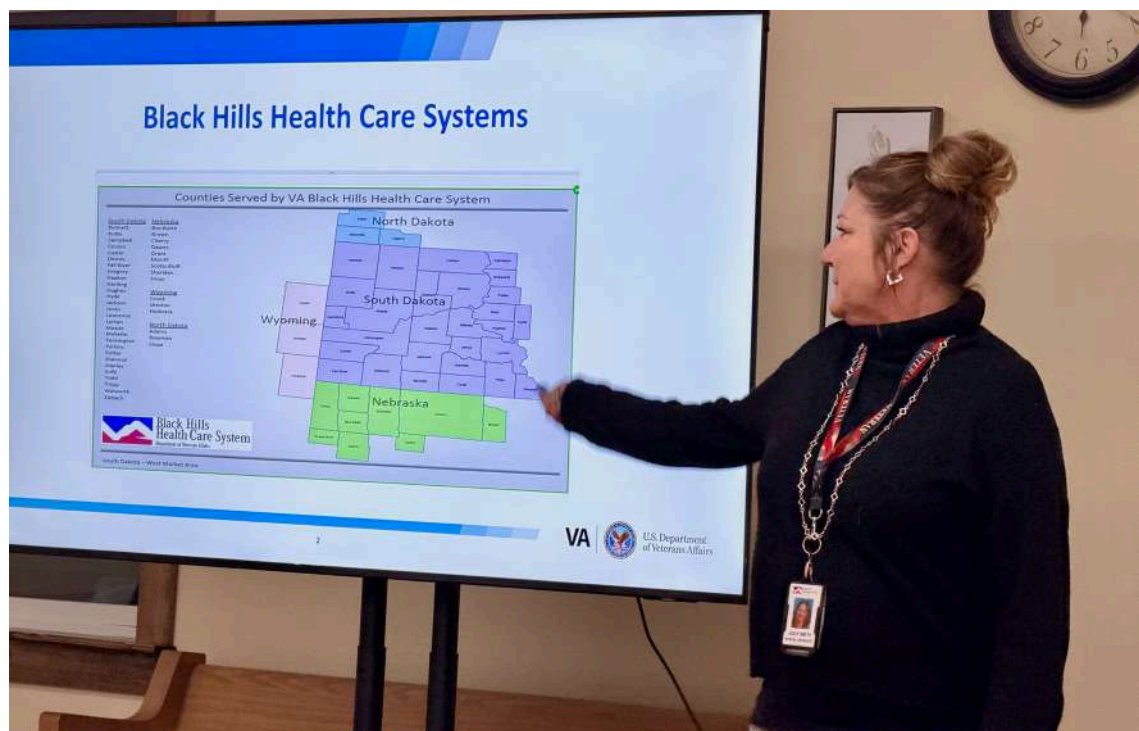
WIT Meeting Contd. D3



WIT Coalition meeting attendees listen to the presentation and participate in the discussion. *Longbrake photo*



Break time! Half-way through the presentation Jody Smith gave everyone a **pie break!** Time to grab some dessert and another drink to finish the night. *Longbrake photo*



Jody Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator with the Black Hills Health Care Systems, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs gives a presentation at the monthly WIT Coalition meeting. *Longbrake photo*

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

My email got hacked and I hope not many of you got that awful scam email that was supposedly from me on Monday asking you to buy a gift card for a friend and 'I would reimburse you for it as soon as possible'. I got emails from Rep. Dusty Johnson, Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen, a lot of friends and several other people that I had email addresses for. When I found out about that I had been hacked I called Sapphire Softech Solutions and, thankfully, they got the mess cleaned up for me!

Missy went with me to the church for Ladies Aid Tuesday afternoon. Teddi Carlson was the hostess and Lori Besler, Bev Heier, Margareta Hanson, Patsy Wilkinson, Becky Holt, and Lila Teigen joined us. Amy Johnson wasn't able to come, Linda Mohagen was up in North Dakota and Sue Klempel was sick. Missy and I went

over to the Reva Store to get groceries before coming home.

Reub and I went to Lemmon Wednesday morning to have Attorney Jim Elsing write new wills for both of us because we had our old ones written when our children were just little kids. In both of our old wills we wanted my late sister Judy to take care of them for us and a whole lot of the rest of the wills no longer applied to anything we wanted now. Before leaving Lemmon, we went to Olson's Furniture and Reub bought me a new recliner with both heat and massage for Valentine's Day after my old recliner had fell apart and I'm really enjoying it.

Our grandson Taz came up here with the tractor Thursday morning to take the new recliner out of the pickup to put in our living room for me and then he hauled my old broken recliner down to the dump. That afternoon Taz

brought the wood splitter over here to split some big logs so Reub could put the split wood into the trailer and the side-by-side to burn in the woodstove. I don't know what us old people would do without Taz around here. Casey left that day to take the Harding County wrestlers to a tournament on Friday at Bennett County. Jace Jensen came down to see Taz late that afternoon and they looked their bulls over because they're getting ready for their bull sale in Ralph on March 6th.

Billy "Bill" L. Freitag, 74, of Dickinson, passed away at his home on Saturday, February 7. Funeral Services for Bill were held on Thursday, February 12, at the Hillside Baptist Church in Dickinson with burial in the Bowman Cemetery.

Mary (Wilber) Jacobi, 86, of Bowman, ND, passed away on February 7 at the Southwest Healthcare Services in Bowman. Memorial Services for Mary were held on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Krebsbach and Kulseth Funeral Home Chapel in Bowman.

These families have our sympathy.

Jace and Kami Jensen brought their little boys Keen and Kage down to play with Taz and Amanda's kids on Friday because they were

going to Dickinson that day. It was such a beautiful warm day that all the kids had a wonderful time playing together outside. It was warm enough that I washed some big rugs and hung them on the line to dry outside, which didn't take long.

Missy, Taz, Amanda and all their kids went down to Sturgis on Saturday for the grade school basketball tournament and when I talked to Missy after she got home it sounded like everything went well. Copper is in the 3rd grade and her class was the youngest class that was playing.

Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen were up in North Dakota on Sunday so Iver Heier led the church service and Bill Holt gave the sermon and both of them did really well. We're so thankful we have them to fill in when Pastor Henry is gone. All the Sunday School kids handed out Valentine cards they had made to all of the congregation and they had made so many Valentines that both Reub and I each got two Valentine cards.

Reub and I went to the Gideon meeting at the Coal Springs Church Sunday afternoon for the membership event where potential members were invited to attend and the quest speaker was Jeff Miller, a Gideon from

Rapid City who explained to everyone what the Gideons do and the benefits of being a Gideon member. After Jeff Miller spoke, Becky Paul told what the Gideon Auxiliary does when the women join the Auxiliary. After the meeting was over we were fed a delicious supper with all kinds of food and some great fellowship, which was a good thing because with regular meeting and the meeting that followed explaining what the Gideons do and how to join it was way after dark when we got home in time for me to lock my chickens up and get the last of the eggs using a flashlight to find the eggs. It was a really interesting day to spend with a lot of good friends.

With all the fun little people around here, I'll leave you with this:

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he was ill, and asked, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Little Johnny groaned and responded, "I have a pain in my side, I think I'm going to have a wife."

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

February 10, 1916

On February 12th there will be a St. Valentine's Day basket social and dance at the Kumpula School House on Horse Creek. Good music and a good time are assured to all. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the evening. Don't forget the date, Saturday, February 12th.

Nels Morell, who had been suffering from a case of blood poison, was able to leave the Newell Hospital, the first of the week and return to his ranch home near Fairpoint.

The weather bureau today issued a warning of probable avalanches in the higher Hills and neighboring states, also possible floods on the downhill slopes.

Mrs. E. Huffmer is prepared to do dressmaking and pressing of ladies and gents' suits and general repair work. She will guarantee work to be well done and your patronage is appreciated. She is located over the Christian Store.

February 11, 1929

Louis Knowles, teacher in Predatory Animal Control, recently graced the top of his office table. It is the pelt of Three-toes, famous Harding County wolf, who for nearly a decade was the most widely known "killer" in western South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and southeast Montana.

Three-toes was trapped July 23rd by Clyde Briggs, Government Trapper. During his long career the animal destroyed, thousands of dollars' worth of livestock and easily held first rank among "killers" of the state. His principal prey was sheep and cattle, but on one occasion he killed a 6-year-old stallion. He was easy to track, one of front feet had only 3 toes, the foot having been mutilated in a trap in which he had been caught but chewed off his toe to free himself. Many hunters tried to trap or poison Three-toes, but none were successful.

Newell basketball team journeyed to Rapid City Friday night, where they were defeated to the tune of 26 to 2. Newell was unable to locate

the basket and made their 2 points on free throws.

Instead of wedding bells we heard cow bells and other noises around Vale last Friday night. Vale School Professor Kyle went to Nisland after school on Friday evening and brought his bride back with him. His pupils helped celebrate the evening.

The ladies of the Altar Society met with Mrs. Exenberger on Tuesday with 6 members and 1 guest present. The Altar Society will serve dinner and supper in the Del Monte Café building, on Saturday, February 27th. A complete change of menu to enjoy. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Hafner on March 9th.

February 6, 1936

Sportsmen of Newell are learning that many pheasants are dying from starvation caused by the deep snow and bitter cold weather. One rancher reported seeing 6 dead birds in a distance of less than a mile. Anyone interested in saving the birds by providing them with food, get with N. B. Bratton, who already sent out several sacks of corn to be placed at various points in the vicinity of Newell.

J. E. Hammontree drove lambs to the Vale Stockyards last Thursday to be shipped out by rail on Friday, but on account of the storm, the lambs did not go out until Monday morning.

Mr. & Mrs. E. W. McLennon made a trip to Belle Fourche last Saturday with several crates of eggs. They report that they are getting 12 dozen eggs a day now.

Charles Marish, US Mail carrier on the Twilight Route, hired the Arthur Severson airplane on Monday and delivered mail to the Twilight Post Office. The plane was brought to Newell by George and Fred Hight, of Belle Fourche and were piloted on the Twilight trip by George Hight. Following that trip Fred Hight took Dr. Clark to Mud Butte to attend to Mrs. Dan McGillivray, who was suffering from a paralytic stroke. Although the plane was equipped with skis, the pilot

by Linda Velder

was unable to get the plane off the landing field; so the north end of Main Street in Newell was used as a runway.

February 14, 1946

Newell Cribbage Club players are requested to bring card tables and crib boards for the cribbage contest with the Fruitdale Club at Newell's City Hall next Wednesday evening, February 20 by 7:30 PM.

Ned Gearheart, agronomist for the U & I Sugar Company, was a Newell visitor yesterday and called at the Valley Irrigator office in company with Henry Halls, county fieldman for this district. Mr. Gearheart will make permanent headquarters at Belle Fourche.

Merle Young of Sturgis is the new pilot on the Antelope Bus Lines through Newell. Upon adoption of the shorter schedule, the layover is now at Sturgis. A. W. Symonds of Newell gave up the driver's job.

George Sitts, the captured mankiller, told of stealing the army automatic revolver, a can of honey and other food from a ranch house between Sulphur and Newell. The ranch house must have been on the Maguire Bros place about 20 miles east of Newell and a short distance north of Highway 212. No one had been living in the house, since Misses Isabel and Mary had moved to Newell a month ago. The men Charles, Frank and Ed have been staying with their sheep at Ed's place in the Fairpoint vicinity.

February 16, 1956

Fred and Ernest Gardn-With a 4-0 win over Gambles, Stolnack Trucking moved to within a point of the leader, Belle Dairy in the Newell Valley Bowling League. At our local alley, bowling last week; Hafner Wool defeated Dairy 3 to 1, Butte Electric topped Baroid by a like count and Lampert Lumber Co rolled over Valley Implement company. Joe Bonnemann had a 212 plus 23 for the game honors and Harold Nelson posted a 592 for high series. Standings: Belle Dairy 14-6; Stolnack's



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13-7; Hafner's 11-9; Valley Implement 10-10' BEC 10-10, Gambles 9-11; Lampert 8-12, Baroid 6-14.

Unapproved solicitations in Newell, status of the proposed Newell Lake and maintenance of business hours to better serve the public were among the matters discussed at the regular meeting of the Community Club at the Skyroom of the Cove last Wednesday evening. President Douglas Eickelman presided over the meeting. N. M. Holmes chairman of the Band-Aids reported \$1000 in cash collected and \$325 in pledges have been secured toward the new band uniforms. Correspondence from the engineer of the State Game, Fish & Parks Department relative to the proposed lake north of town was reviewed and it appeared that the Newell community is wholehearted to adopt the state project.

Police Lt. Francis Quinn former Newell resident who passed away at Reno, Nevada, had made an enviable record as a police officer, according to the Nevada State Journal, Reno newspaper. Concerning Lt Quinn, Reno Police Chief T. R. Berrium stated, "He was one of the most capable and commendable men to have ever served on the Reno Police Department.

Has dealt a great personal loss to me and the men in my department." In his 11 years on the police department, Lt. Quinn was President of the Reno Police Protection Association, Reno Chapter No 13, International Footprint Association and a member of the Nevada Peace Officers Association. Several years ago, Lt. Quinn suffered wounds when he sought to capture a gunman at a popular downtown casino. Walter Mil-

berg, his classmate of 1940, attended the funeral and was an honorary pallbearer.

February 17, 1966

Ron Bunney took over management of the Brown Swiss Milk Company Station in Newell succeeding Lorman Lange who resigned such position to accept employment as apprentice lineman for Butte Electric Coop here. Bunney, son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bunney of Newell, is also well known here and is relocating from Sidney, Montana with wife and children. They have purchased a mobile home. Lange has managed the station here for about 5 years, went to work for BEC last Monday.

Allene Washburn and Janet Stumpf were named this week as candidates for Newell Future Farmers of America Sweetheart, who will be presented and giving a sweetheart jacket this Friday evening at the Annual Sweetheart Ball sponsored at Newell High School.

The ball will follow the Douglas-Newell basketball game, is being held as a kick-off to National FFA week, observed February 19-27, the week of George Washington's birthday out of respect and admiration to the first president and farmer in whose progressive way FFA youth seek to follow.

The Lead Rifle Team narrowly defeated the Newell Rifle Team here Thursday night by a 1522-1514 count. Scorers for Newell: Gary Velder 384; Clem Velder 371; Vern Hafner 348; Mel Duville 306; Carl Haak 374; Dale Anderson 336 and Don Moore 360. Lead shooters Milo Alexander 350; Lloyd Osloond 369; Richard Lauser 347; Jerome Hall 384; Marjorie Hall 353 and Jerome Harvey 388.



Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Newell Clinic now open at the Newell Evangelical Church
Call 605-204-9497

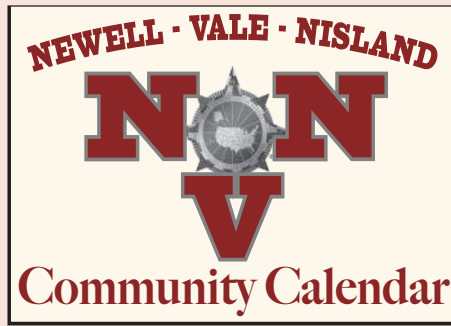
Feeding South Dakota
Second Thursday every month,
1:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evenings
Summer Campus CleanUp
Every Wednesday, 4-6 p.m.
Newell School

Newell Library Hours
Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mondays
Monday Night Bingo at the NVN
Senior Center 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BH Farmer's Market
Second Tuesday each month,
4:30, Nisland Town Hall



Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



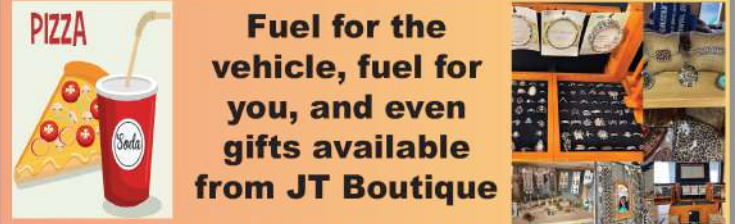
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2) Tornadoes, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Shredded Turkey & Gravy on Flatbread, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk	3) Egg Omelet, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Pizza Wraps with fresh veggies, Fruit, Milk	4) Pancake Turkey Wraps Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Meatball Subs, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	5) Biscuits & Gravy, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Grilled Cheese Sandwich or Tuna Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	6) NO SCHOOL
9) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Goulash, Peas & Carrots, Fruit, Milk	10) Long Johns, Fruit, Milk Chicken Nachos, Roasted Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	11) Pancakes, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Corn Dogs, Potatoes, Fruit, Milk	12) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Parmesan, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	13) NO SCHOOL
16) NO SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S DAY	17) Hashbrown Eggs Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Patties, Green Beans, Broccoli Salad, Fruit, Milk	18) Long Johns, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Sloppy Joes, Mixed Veggies, Fruit, Milk	19) Breakfast Quiche, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Nuggets, Spicy Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	20) NO SCHOOL



Celebrate Recovery Support Group is now meeting at **Emmanuel Baptist Church**

Every Friday at 6:30 pm.
10913 Sourdough Rd.
Come for potluck on the last Friday of each month.



WIT Meeting From D1

people out here in Butte County that need services, that need help," said Smith.

Another number that was discussed during the evening was 211. "Call 211, it's everything you need. Need health care? You need help finding somebody to help take care of your kids? You are a shut-in? You don't drive and you don't have enough food in your home? You need help? Call 211 and there's going to be somebody in the community, or somebody from Rapid City or a church, that is going to reach out to you and get you what you need," explained Smith. Smith shared that communities working together with the VA play a critical role in preventing veteran suicide.

Local veterans Kevin Groves and Pastor Lance Putnam took a few moments to address the group. They gathered information regarding interest in coalition building. "If you're interested in getting together to do something—then we'll kind of have a coalition to start with, to start getting some phone numbers

together, some people together. And just take this from a brainstorming view at this point in time," explained Groves.

Putnam added, "The other thing we were talking about is just having events for veterans to get together—I know we've gone fishing a number of times out here on the reservoir or we're going to go out shooting today on Kevin's ranch, anybody want to come out and just hang out with each other?"

They both agreed that they don't have all of the answers at this point but want to grow the coalition with others who are interested so they can work together to minimize risks in the community.

A dinner of soups and sandwiches was offered to those in attendance along with a variety of pies for dessert. Drinks were also provided.

The next monthly meeting of the WIT Coalition will take place at 11:30 a.m. on March 12 at the NCF Community Hall. The topic will be updated drug overdose information. Free lunch will be provided and all are welcome to attend.



A variety of hot soups and cold sandwiches were provided at the start of the WIT Coalition monthly meeting. Longbrake photo

Valentine's Day Dance



Top left: A look at all of the buttons and keys and layout of the organ. Top right: Girl Scout cookies were for sale at the Valentine's Day Dance and Music in Newell. Left: Area folks turned up to enjoy the music, the holiday, the snacks and good company on Valentine's Day in Newell. Longbrake photos



PASQUE

LADIES FASHIONS

Spring Arrivals

502 STATE STREET BELLE FOURCHE