



Butte County Candidates Face Public Questions at Forum

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—Questions from the public took center stage May 7 as Butte County candidates gathered at Grap’s Burgers and Brews to face voters directly.

The room was filled with eager constituents ready to ask a variety of questions. The moderator for the evening was Tom Brunner. He took questions, passed the microphone and kept the event rolling along.

When anyone had a question, they simply stood up and asked, allowing any of the candidates on hand to respond. The candidates that were present were Cory Tolley and Dr. Doug Larson, both running for District 1 Butte County Commissioner. Annie Capp, running for Auditor, Stephanie Lippincott running for Register of Deeds and Jason Kari, incumbent running for District 5 County Commissioner.

There was a lot of information shared about property tax and sales tax and how complicated it is getting that information from the state.

A question was asked specifically to Stephanie Lippincott, who is running for Register of Deeds. She was asked what relevant experience she has for the position she is running to be elected to. She replied, “As my job was an assessor, I have the unique knowledge of knowing how to read legals. I also trained for a little while in sales, so I was



Candidates running for office in the upcoming June 2 election answer questions about where they stand on a variety of topics. From left: Annie Capp, Stephanie Lippincott, Cory Tolley, moderator Tom Brunner, Jason Kari and Dr. Doug Larson. Longbrake photo

able to understand and read the various deeds that came into our office. And I definitely have Julie and Mary Beth’s support and they were going to train me...so that is my experience.”

A few of the questions that were asked include: so there’s a lot of interaction in between the county and the city. How would you try and strengthen the county’s relationship?; And, there’s been a lot of talk back and forth about buying or building a new building for office space. What are your

thoughts on that, if you have any here?; What is your view about tiffs in general?

A question was asked to Annie regarding the recent legislation change altering the dates for school board and municipal elections to be aligned with either the primary or the general election time frames for this upcoming election.

“That legislation, it’s always been an option for the schools and the cities to hold their elections at the same time,

either combined with us on our ballot or just on the same days—they’ve always chosen not to do that. They’ve always held their elections in April and the reason for this legislation was trying to get a bigger voter turnout in those city and school elections,” explained Capp. “We have the same polling locations, everybody chose to combine with our election. So what that means is there’s one ballot... if you have an election for your school or your city, it will be on the county ballot, so there’ll be

one ballot.”
Capp was then asked to expound on what kind of ballot people will get for the primary election.

“So a primary election is to decide who’s going to go on the general ballot, right? So say you have four Republican governors running for governor, it’s just to narrow it down so they have one governor on that general election to run against whatever other party, a Democrat or Independent,”

Candidate Forum Contd. A3

A Year of Impact: Belle Fourche FFA Celebrates at Annual Banquet

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BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche FFA chapter invited family, friends, supporters, neighbors and community members to join in honoring the hard work and dedication of the FFA members at the annual banquet May 6 at the Community Hall.

Advisor, Austin Bishop kicked off the evening by welcoming everyone. “On behalf of the FFA Chapter, the Officer Team, I’d like to thank you for coming tonight to celebrate the incredible year that the Belle Fourche FFA has had!”

Following the introduction of the 2025–2026 Officer Team, the President of the Chapter, Atlee Olson called the meeting to order.

Following the meal prayer, dinner was served. The FFA Officers led the way, followed by the rest of the guests. A dinner of tacos, walking tacos or nachos was served along with

a variety of salads, desserts and drinks.

As everyone finished their meals the awards program began. The Officers presented the following degrees: Discovery Degrees, given to seventh and eighth grade members who participate in FFA activities; Greenhand Degrees, given to first year high school students who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the history and purpose of FFA; Chapter Degrees, this degree recognizes members who have completed coursework, maintained an SAE, participated in Chapter activities and demonstrated leadership; State Degrees, the highest honor the South Dakota FFA Association can bestow upon its members.

Recipients have dedicated several years to developing the SAE programs, building leadership skills, and contributing to their communities.

The Treasurer, Jazlyn Olson gave the end of the year report

highlighting \$1500 raised at the Burger Bash, \$3,000 raised at the annual coffee fundraiser, and the fruit sale where they raised over \$20,000. “The work of our members is what allows us to succeed,” she said.

Bishop came back to the stage to recognize the awards won at competitions by the Belle Fourche FFA Chapter this year. “Today, I want to focus, actually on a word, impact—defining this word, it is a strong sudden effect, influence or physical collision with one object against another, representing in a consequent change or result, producing and observing change. That is what this year’s chapter has done, this banquet is to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our members,” he shared.

The advisor then went on to discuss how all the grades worked hard, but it was the leadership and accomplishments of the senior class that

FFA Banquet Contd. A6



Advisor Austin Bishop talks with pride about his FFA team. Longbrake photo

“Chalk It Up to Kindness” Promotes Mental Health Awareness

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BELLE FOURCHE—The second annual Chalk It Up to Kindness event brought families and friends together at Herrmann Park on Saturday, May 9, highlighting mental health while enjoying outdoor activities.

The event was designed for both adults and kids, with many offerings geared specifically toward the younger crowd. “It is a family-friendly event—that’s what we’re trying to do, bring in a lot of kids,” explained Sonia Ribordy, chair of the Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk. “We’ve got our resource table and all the chalking supplies. There’s a Caterpillar Station, they can make caterpillars or bracelets, and we are encouraging them to put one green bead on each

of their bracelets, for mental health awareness—to promote that part. We’ve got the face-painting area, a temporary tattoo table—they’re mental health tattoos, and then there are journals with stickers. Journaling just really helps process stuff, so they can just decorate their own journal. Artemis has joined us and Second Chance Movement joined us too.”

There was also a station where Howard Uglund created balloon animals for the kids, and a bubble-blowing area.

The sidewalks all around the park had chalk art with inspirational and encouraging words and drawings created by event attendees. Chalk It Up to Kindness event was hosted by the Out of the Darkness Walk and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

to raise money for the walk and raise awareness about mental health and encourage everyone to check on each other.

The highlight of the day was the Pie in the Face fundraiser that pitted police officers against firefighters with whoever got pied the most winning the competition. They collected the plates as they were pied in the face. Detective Jason Huber represented the Belle Fourche Police Department while Don Ward and Zech Kari represented Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department.

For a donation one could get their hands on a pie, which was a plate full of whipped cream with sprinkles on top, and place it in the face of one of the volunteers. Some placed the pie with full force, while others

Chalk it Up Contd. A8



Chalk It Up to Kindness encouraged kids and adults to create positive messages and pictures on the sidewalk with chalk. Longbrake photo

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Ellis A. Tripp Sr., 84

Ellis A. Tripp Sr., 84, of Belle Fourche went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Ellis was born in Salina, Utah May 21, 1941. He was the oldest sibling of 3; born to William Turner and Helen Jane Tripp. Ellis met the love of his life, Mary Louise Burkley at a skating rink on April 5, 1958. It was love at first sight for both of them. They were married on December 16, 1960 in Belle Fourche and to this union 6 children were born Ellis Jr., Michael, Ricky, Misty, Cheri and Chris. He started his own business Ellis Enco on August 4, 1964, which has since become E.T. Sports, where all of his children and many grandchildren are working.

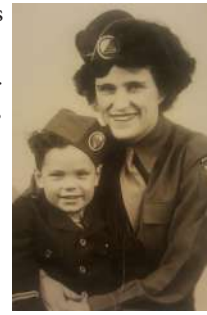
After the passing of Mary Lou on May 11, 2019, Ellis was lucky enough to find love again with Jeannie Hatch (Gough). They were later married and Ellis instantly gained a large extended family.

Ellis was a loving father, often working late in the evening to support his family. I remember many dinners being served at 9 o'clock, because we ate our family meals together- every night.

He was a member of the Moose Lodge #859.

As many know, his greatest passion was his AMC/ Rambler collection. He was a member of the Dakota AMC Club. The club was always wowed when he and Mary Lou would show up at each meeting in a different Rambler.

Ellis was a pillar within the community. It was comical to watch Scott Peterson and Ellis bid against each other at community fundraisers - both with a chuckle



coming from within. He was a very proud member of and supporter to his hometown, his church, and many charitable contributions.

Ellis was a great father, grandfather and great grandfather to all of his children.

He will be missed by his wife, Jean, his 6 children Ellis Jr. (Yvonne), Michael (Heather), Rick, Misty Emerson (Burt), Cheri and Chris (Heidi), all of Jeans family, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and many friends and family members not mentioned.

Those that went before him were his wife Mary Lou, his mother and father, William Turner and Helen Jane Tripp, his sister and her husband, Sandy and Bill Redmond, his brother Terry Lee Tripp, his grandson Robbie Rombough (Tripp) and many other relatives and family members.

A Visitation will be held Friday, May 8th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Belle Fourche. Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 9th at 10:30 am at the church. Interment will follow at Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche. Following the interment there will be fellowship and Sharing of Memories at the Branding Iron Steakhouse and Social Club.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the Compassion Cupboard PO Box 255, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

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



Virginia Gayle Wietgreffe, 83

Virginia Gayle Wietgreffe, 83, of Belle Fourche passed away Monday, May 11 at Monument Health Spearfish Hospital.

Virginia was born July 26, 1942 in Bristol, SD to Odine and Eunice Iverson.

She is survived by her husband Stan Bevier, 6 daughters, Janet Copp, Vonnie Lee, Dalene Rosser, Venica Quirk, Valonda Sargent and Dalonda Boring; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren and a stepdaughter Melinda Reid and stepson, Rick Bevier.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years Donald Wietgreffe, 3 grandsons Damian Copp, Duane Craft Jr. and Roland Boring.



An Open House/Visitation will be held Thursday, May 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Kline Funeral Chapel in Belle Fourche.

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



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Pastor's Perspective

This Perspective is archived from Rev. Chuck Aurand, September 2023.

"The Love of Christ"

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common." [Acts 2:42-44 NRSV]



went up, "These are outside of the grace of God."

Mercy me! Nobody told Paul this, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39)." In fact, no one bothered to tell Jesus that he should not love those who are troubled in their hearts. This is reflected in the Letter of First Peter 5:7, "Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you."

The truth of the matter is that persons thinking about suicide typically are good people who hurt. They just want the hurt to stop, only they don't know how to do this. Most suicides are impulsive and are attempted within 10 minutes of the decision to do it. The early church surrounded its members and friends. They checked in with one another. If we did this today, we could reach many good people in time. Offer ideas to stop the hurt. Offer the suicide prevention hotline 988 (phone or text). The AFSP offers training to assist individuals and communities.

For the Church today, there is never an appropriate time to point the finger at a hurting individual or family. It is always the appropriate time for listening, caring, sharing, praying, ...and referring to mental health professionals.

The love of Christ is for those who need it. No exceptions!

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) recently held a fund-raising walk in Belle Fourche. I was honored to offer an opening prayer for this event. While reflecting on our past walks and my brief military training in suicide prevention, it dawned on me how far the Christian Church has come over the years in this area.

In the past, in our collective wisdom, theologians equated Judas Iscariot's death with suicide (Acts 1:18-19) and proclaimed all suicide as sin. The problem with this is that falling and having your bowels explode isn't necessarily your choice. If you go with the Matthean version where Judas hangs himself (Matthew 27:5), well, this is a person who is in agony, who is hurting, and doesn't know how to make things right. At a time in his life when he needed his friends the most, they were not there for him. Yet, because of this, suicides have been condemned unmercifully—and even denied burial in church cemeteries. The shout

Isaiah 58:11

The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I ask for Your divine, angelic protection over my life, my family, and my loved ones throughout this week.

Protect us from harm, danger, and the hidden traps of the enemy.

As we go through our days, be our refuge and fortress, protecting our minds from anxiety and our hearts from fear.

I release all my worries to You, for I know You care for me.

Let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

You will have peace of mind when you can say...
"Everything has been taken care of."



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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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From A1 **Candidate Forum**

Capp. “I’d say a majority of our candidates are Republican, so if you are not a registered Republican, you’re not going to have any candidates to vote for, because we’re only trying to decide for those parties which one goes to the general election—unless you’re in the Newell School District. This time for this election, everybody will have something to vote for because of the ballot question.”

Additionally, there are a few Butte County candidates who are running unopposed, according to Capp, their name will not appear on the ballot. So Capp, Jason Kari and Chad Erk will not be on the ballot. “So when there’s no opposition, everybody will get a certificate of nomination, no opposition, following the election,” said Capp.

Capp told everyone there would be something for everyone to vote on, since there is a ballot question, Measure A. Brunner explained, “that’s something that will be on our ballot in Butte County, and it’s a simple yes or no—shall we require the County Commissioners to do an ordinance to prevent data

centers from coming to Butte County? ...the ballot very closely mirrors the petition that was signed by over 500 people and a very good cross section of Butte County signatures.”

Michelle Evans, local business owner, was a driving force behind Measure A. She was on hand to discuss the reasons behind why this is meaningful to her. She explained, “if you don’t know what a data center is—how many of you have iCloud? How many of you have Dropbox—anything that is on your phone goes into not the sky, but into a data center. It is a building full of servers, and they work all day and all night. They create noise, they create pollution, a whole bunch of things.”

After 500 signatures were gathered, the measure was put on the ballot to let the people decide what happens to their land and community. She said, “This measure asks a straightforward question—Measure A: should Butte County create an ordinance to prohibit the construction of data centers? A yes vote would require the County Commissioners to draft that ordinance. A no vote would be

leaving things as they are today.”

Evans maintains that this is not about stopping progress—it’s about giving our community time. Time to gather facts, learn from other areas and make informed decisions that protect our land, water and way of life. It would put a five-year moratorium on data centers.

Capp reminded everyone to get out and vote, noting that voter turnout is usually low, at less than 25 percent. Primary elections are June 2 and everyone will have something to vote on their ballot.



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Clockwise from Above: The community gathered at **Grap’s Burgers** to listen to candidates answer questions from the audience; Running unopposed for Butte County Auditor, **Annie Capp** answers questions asked to her; Running for **Butte County Commissioner for District 1, Dr. Doug Larson** gives his opinions to questions asked of him; Running for Butte County Commissioner District 1, **Cory Tolley** takes his turn at answering constituents’ questions; Small business owner **Michelle Evans** talks about data centers and her reasons on why she wants everyone to vote yes on Measure A in the upcoming election on June 2. *Longbrake photos*



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BELLE FOURCHE—Known for its quiet atmosphere, the public library broke its own rule of silence when the community gathered to celebrate the retirement of Library Director Wanda Nelson on May 8.

After giving 40 years of her life to the City of Belle Fourche, Nelson is ready to try something different. “Well, I think the first thing I’m gonna do is start cleaning out my house—I’ve got so much stuff there! We’re gonna travel and see our kids more,” shared Nelson. One of her first trips will be her first cruise. She said, “I am excited for the cruise, but I’m scared!”

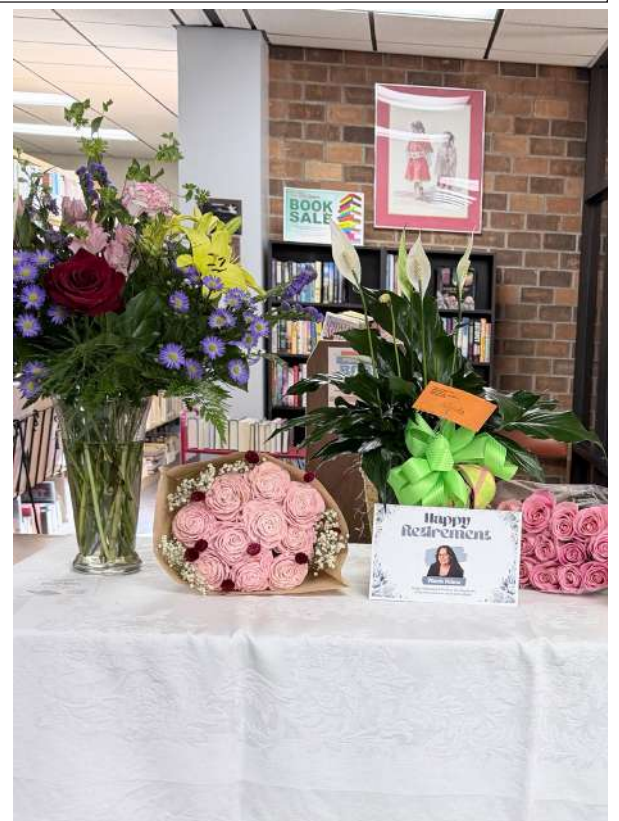
Nelson started at the library in 1986. “I started at the bottom,” joked Nelson. “I was a library aide and I’ve done all of the jobs here!” She has been the library director for the past ten years. During her time at the library, she has seen a lot of changes. She thinks the biggest change over her tenure was the advent of technology. “The biggest change was the library getting computerized, the digital stuff,” shared Nelson. “It just made things easier for us around here. It hasn’t been a hindrance, that is for sure. It’s been very helpful!”

It seems as though Wanda was the perfect person to lead the library through the new technological times. “...in 1997 or thereabouts...when

A Quiet Place Gets Loud: Celebrating 40 Years of Service



(L) Three **Library Directors** in one place: **Pat Engebretson, Wanda Nelson and Josh Abraham.** (R) All of the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts for **Wanda Nelson.** *Longbrake photos*



we got the computers, we got the first computers from the Bill Gates Foundation, and it was lucky for the library that Wanda was here, because she knows more about computers than I’ll ever know in my life—so she helped us out here,” explained Pat Engebretson, past library director.

During the retirement celebration, there was an opportunity for friends to

share stories about Wanda. The special guest speaker for the event was Engebretson. She shared, “So today, we celebrate Wanda and her years of service to the library and to the City of Belle Fourche...we wish her a happy retirement, and may she have lots of years to travel or just sit at home and do nothing... it’s been my honor to work with you all those years that we did, and it’s even a bigger honor to

be your friend, so all the best to you Wanda!”

Community member Stacey Raisanen shared, “I want to say the library has always been the most welcoming place in Belle Fourche for little kids...but I want to thank all the librarians too, for the care and compassion shown to help my kids become lifelong readers! You’re going to be missed a lot, but remember,

you can’t be missed if you don’t go away!”

After attendees shared stories about Nelson and tears were shed, everyone was invited to enjoy baked goods, grab a drink and visit with one another. A table displayed cards and flowers left for Wanda.

The library has hired its next director, Josh Abraham. “I’ve been here since last Monday, trying to learn as much as I can before Wanda’s last day,” he said.



High School Track Continues to Rearrange School Top 10 Performers

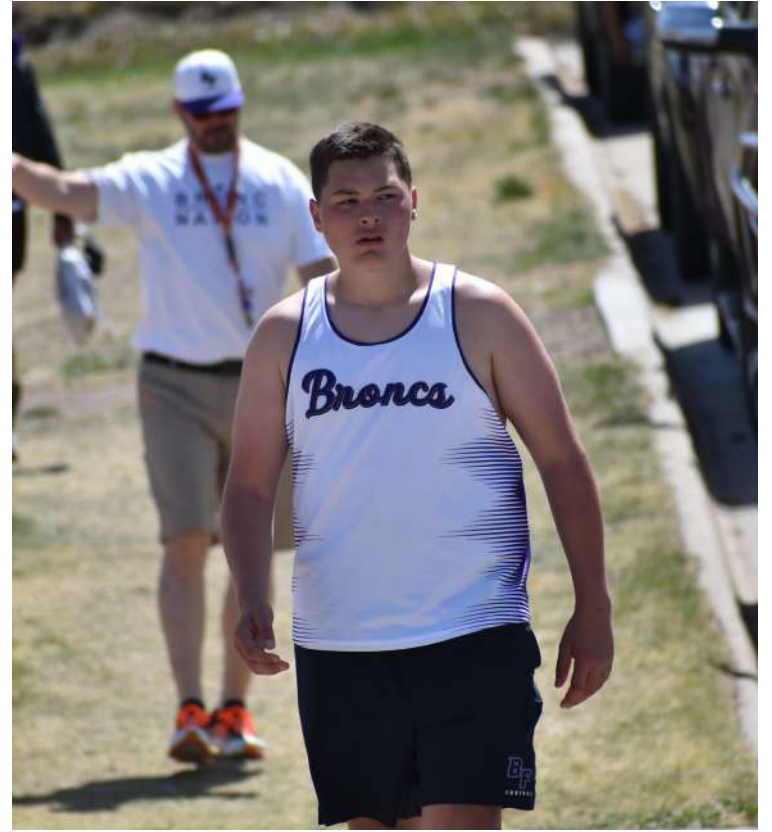
Kandi Tonsager
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The high school track and field team competed in the Black Hills Classic track meet in Sturgis on Saturday May 9th where they had an outstanding 22 personal records set along with 6 season best times for the athletes and 6 changes to their all time top ten school leaderboard. Among the new leader board positions are; Mya Nowowiejski moving to 3rd all time in the 200 meter dash with a time of 26.49, the girls 4x100m relay team of Jaz Olson, Ansley O'Brien, Ella Bryan and Mya Nowowiejski moving to 3rd all time on the school leader board with a time of 50.53, the girls 4x400m relay team of Mya Nowowiejski, Berklee Nore, Emersyn Carmichael and Ansley O'Brien moving to 4th all time with a time of 4:15.15, Nathan Hudson moving to 9th all time in the javelin with a throw of 100'3" and Colt Humbracht moving into 10th all time in the javelin with a throw of 96'2"

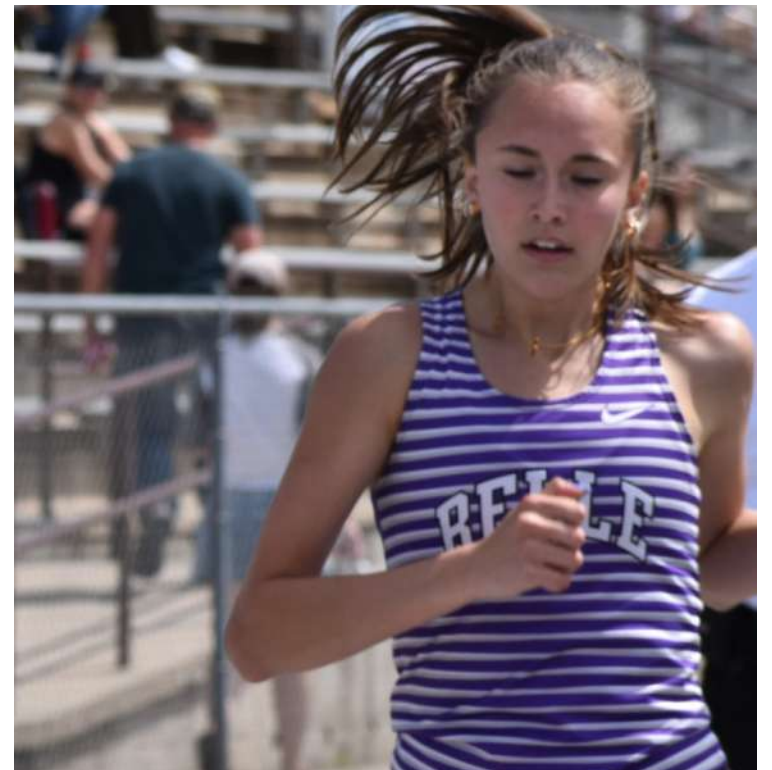
The Broncos have the Mountain West Invite in Lead and the Black Hills Conference Invite in Custer this week on their schedule with a final meet, the "Last Chance Invite", next week on Tuesday May 19th in Rapid City at O'Hara Stadium. State Track will be held in Sioux Falls this year on May 28-30th.



Above: **Ella Bryon** warming up. Below (L) **Carter Goeders** performing in shot put. (BR) **Ryder Roseland** preparing to throw. Tonsager photos



(Clockwise from Above) **Griffin Biehl** in relay; **Mya Nowowiejski** in competition; **Lady Broncs** between events; jumpers **Griffin Biehl** and **Slater Humbracht** catching some shade between events; **Misty Drieling** racing. Tonsager photos



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Middle School Competes in Season-Enders Track Meet at Black Hills Conference

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—On Friday May 8th, the Belle Fourche Middle School track and field team competed in their final meet of the season. The Middle School Black Hills Conference meet was held in Spearfish this year and consisted of the following teams; Belle Fourche, Custer, Douglas, Enning/Union Center, Hermosa, Hill City, Hot Springs, Lead-Deadwood, Rapid City Christian, Spearfish, St Thomas More, Stagebarn, and Sturgis Williams. The Broncos had many top performances in the meet.

A number of middle school athletes were able to move up to the high school team after the final middle school meet was completed and then were able to compete in the Black Hills Classic meet on the high school team on Saturday May 9th. A couple of those middle schoolers were able to help break records on the school leader board for top 10 of all time performances in the high school. These athletes were Berklee Nore, Emersyn Carmichael and Ansley O'Brien on the girls 4x400m relay team helping secure a spot of 4th all time for the Belle Fourche High School top 10 of all time leader board.

The top performances for the Belle Fourche Middle Schoolers at the Middle School Black Hills Conference Invite were as follows:

For the 7th grade boys, in the 100 meter dash Kellen Williams placed 1st and Gunner Walding placed 6th, in the 200 meter dash Kellen Williams placed 1st and Austin Ramirez placed 5th, in the 800 meter run Maddox Clarkson placed 2nd and Keaton Davis placed 9th, in the 1600 meter run Keaton Davis placed 8th, and in high jump Maddox Clarkson placed 2nd.

For the 8th grade boys, in the 100 meter dash Ben Raba placed 8th, in the 800 meter run Brux Hartman placed 4th and in the 1600 meter run Brux placed 2nd, in the 4x100m relay the team of Cole Mailloux, Devyn Perschbacher, Zane Baker and Bradly Dreiske placed 3rd, in the 4x200m relay the team of Oliver Carson, Oaklee Atkins, Kasen Lang and Devyn Perschbacher placed 8th, in the 4x400m relay the team of Ben Raba, Cole Mailloux, Blaine Moke and Bradly Dreiske placed 2nd, in shot put Ben Raba placed 3rd, in discus Kasen Lang placed 2nd, in high jump Max Coyle placed 2nd, Elijah Beatson placed 3rd and Zane Baker placed 5th, in Long Jump Blaine Moke placed 6th and Elijah Beatson placed 8th, in triple jump Elijah Beatson placed 4th, Cole Mailloux placed 7th and Max Coyle placed 9th.

For the 7th grade girls, in the 100 meter dash Emersyn Carmichael placed 4th, in the 200 meter dash AnnaBelle Dighton placed 7th, in the 400 meter dash Emersyn

Carmichael placed 3rd, in the 1600 meter run Aubyn Hartman placed 2nd, in the 200 meter hurdles Bryn Coyle placed 4th, the 4x200m relay team of Ruth Moore, Amelia Strickland, Jacey Nash and Malaya Rodriguez placed 7th, in shot put Malaya Rodriguez placed 9th, in high jump AnnaBelle Dighton placed 5th, and Charlie Huston and Emersyn Carmichael placed 9th, in long jump Emersyn Carmichael placed 2nd, AnnaBelle Dighton placed 5th, and Charlie Huston placed 9th.

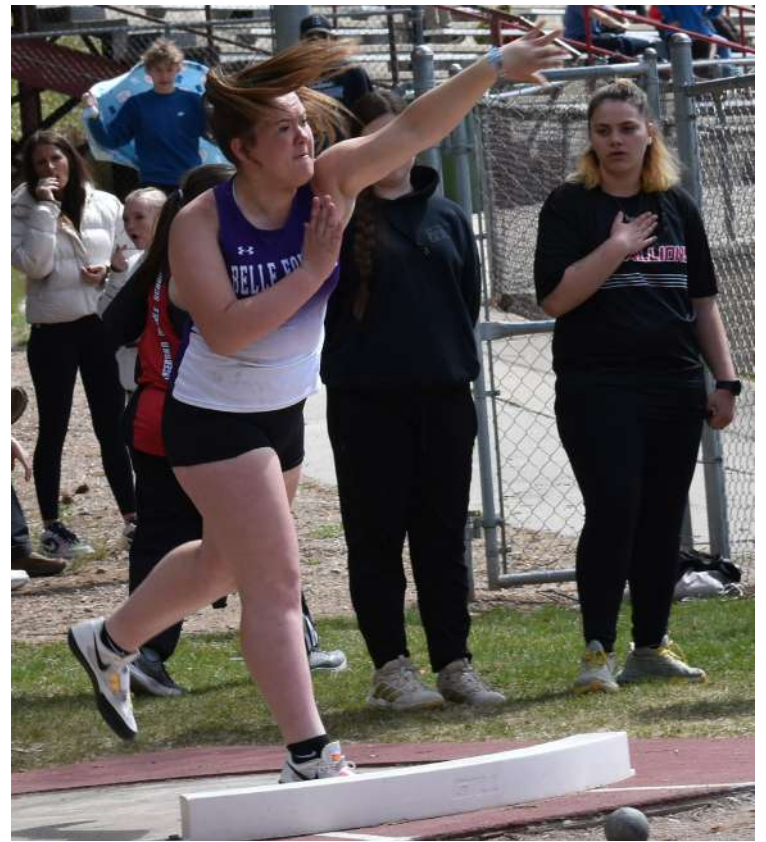
For the 8th grade girls, in the 100 meter dash Skylar Randolph placed 1st, Gracelynn Gaffoglio placed 7th and Lochlin Tibbs placed 10th, in the 200 meter dash Gracelynn Gaffoglio placed 5th and Lochlin Tibbs placed 6th, in the 400 meter dash Grace Long placed 2nd, Skylar Randolph placed 3rd and Natalie Lei placed 5th, in the 800 meter run Elise Roberts placed 2nd, in the 1600 meter run Isabela Torberson placed 3rd, Layla Drieling placed 4th and Piper Curran placed 5th, in the 4x100m relay the team of Irie McQueen, Kylie Bidwell, Skylar Randolph and Grace Long placed 2nd, in the 4x800m relay the team of Aubyn Hartman, Piper Curran, Isabela Torberson and Layla Drieling placed 1st, in shot put Charlie Merjil placed 2nd, in discus Charlie Merjil placed 3rd and Layla Drieling placed 5th.

Congratulations on a great season Middle School Broncos!

Good Luck
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Charlie Merjil throws a shotput. Tonsanger photo



Austin Ramirez set for relay. Tonsanger photo



Ben Raba runs down the track. Tonsanger photo



(Clockwise from Above) Berklee Nore high jumps; Boys' relay handoff; Maddie Rhoads takes off in the girls' relay race; 8th grade boys shotputters readying to throw; a Bronco hurdler gets some air. Tonsanger photos



Community Invited to Memorial Day Service at Pine Slope Cemetery

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—VFW Post 3312 in Belle Fourche invites the public to a special Memorial Day service on May 25 at 9 a.m. at Pine Slope Cemetery.

“We always do the Memorial Day service at the cemetery, and we’ve got a guest speaker coming from Arizona,” explained JayCyn Ager, VFW member. “He spent more than 30 years in the Coast Guard, and he’s flying up to be our guest speaker.”

Ager knows the guest speaker, Master Chief Petty Officer Steven M. Fields. “I served with him for five of his 30 years.”

VFW Post 3312 is hoping that by having a special speaker from farther away, more people will show up for the event. “We want more people to come. I mean, we get a pretty good turnout there, but the last couple years there hasn’t been as much and I’d like to get back to where it was when I was a kid. That place was packed for Memorial Day,” said Ager.

As a veteran, Ager takes his service seriously. “To me, it’s more of a duty, just because I feel that I need to—we need to remember the people.”

“Once you are in the military, it doesn’t end because you got out,” shared Chuck Lawless, VFW member.

“When you sign up (for the military), you don’t really know what’s going on, but when you get out, it’s a lifelong commitment, not just—I did my five years and I am done,” said Ager. “All the VFW, any member of any service really—it’s funny how if you were in the military and I didn’t even know you, you’re still my brother, because there’s a connection, there always is.”

The VFW is planning for a full service on Memorial Day. “We will have the music, the flags and the honor guard will have the three-round volley,” shared Ager. “It’s something that I enjoy doing.”

If you would like to help raise flags on the morning of Memorial Day, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. They have to raise and lower 140 flags. Arrive at the Pine Slope main entrance at 5:45 a.m., with flags going up at 6 a.m. The VFW uses Funeral Honor flags donated by families around Pine Slope Cemetery. The flags once draped the coffin or accompanied the cremains of a departed service member.

To take down the flags after the ceremony, meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Pine Slope main entrance. If the weather doesn’t cooperate and it is rainy, foggy, high humidity or no sunshine, the flags will not be raised.

Taps Across America will be played from Memorial Hill at exactly 3 p.m., joining other musicians all across the United States playing Taps at the same time.

Information on the Memorial Day guest speaker: Master Chief Petty Officer Steven M. Fields served more than three decades in the United States sea services, beginning his military career in the U.S. Navy from 1985 to 1989 before continuing with the U.S. Coast Guard from August 1990 until his retirement in July 2016. Rising to the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer, he served as an Operational Specialist with more than 16 years of sea time, providing operational command and control, maritime domain awareness and tactical expertise across a wide range of missions, including counter-drug and fisheries law

enforcement.

Throughout his career, Master Chief Fields served in numerous operational and leadership assignments, including aboard the USS Ranger, USCGC Venturous, USCGC Steadfast, USCGC Chase and USCGC Hamilton, where he held senior watchstanding and Combat Information Center leadership roles. His shore assignments included command center supervision, vessel traffic management in Seattle, housing program management in San Diego, Combat Systems Afloat Training Coordination for the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Area C4IT Program Manager. He also deployed in support of overseas contingency operations as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Patrol Forces Southwest Asia RAID Detachment.

Master Chief Fields’ service is recognized by numerous personal and unit awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard and Navy Commendation Medals, Coast Guard and Navy Achievement Medals and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, along with multiple additional honors. He is married to his wife, Amey, and recently celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary. Together they share five children and two grandchildren, and their son, Christopher, proudly continues the family tradition of service as an Operational Specialist in the United States Coast Guard.

For more information on Veterans Memorial Avenue of Flags, or if you wish to donate a Funeral Honors flag to be flown, you may Facebook message VFW Post 3312 or Wm. Blaine Anderson.



Master Chief Petty Officer Steven M. Fields will be the speaker for the Memorial Day program on May 25, 2026 at Pine Slope Cemetery. *Courtesy photo*

HELP WANTED

Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. has an opening for a **Lineman** at their outpost in Buffalo, SD. Preference will be given to a Journeyman Lineman. Applicants should have a high school diploma and have completed power line training. Position requires a valid South Dakota CDL and includes outside work in all types of weather, with irregular hours and overtime. Send or email resume, along with a Letter of Application by June 1, 2026, to Mike Stadler, Manager Electric Operations, Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 39, Bison, SD 57620. Email to mstadler@wrctc.coop. Grand Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity employer.

From A1 FFA Banquet

will leave a lasting impact.

“This Chapter sent 11 teams to the state competition with four fourth place finishes... in the top six and in just an amazing, tough competition,” said Bishop. Now the impact for some will not stop, if you keep track of our Chapter and you’ve been counting, we qualified (Nationals) nine members in seven different areas... we have another State Officer selected, Mr. Andy Pruitt, will serve as your 26–27 State Sentinel. Congratulations!”

The graduating seniors were honored and the Belle Fourche FFA Alumni and Red Water Youth Leadership Fund awarded two scholarships. The first one was for \$500 to Jazlyn Olson and the second one was \$1,000 to Atlee Olson.

The Belle Fourche FFA Chapter awarded Tim and Chandy Olson 2026 Business Friend of the FFA for their help and support throughout the year.

Producer of the Year is awarded to an area producer that has helped the chapter grow into the future. The 2026 Producer of the Year is awarded to the Garman Ranch.

For the third year in a row the Golden Owl Award was given to the Belle Fourche High School FFA Chapter Advisor, Austin Bishop. It is presented by the SD FFA Foundation for agricultural educators who demonstrate extraordinary dedication in the classroom in their communities.

The seniors had a special gift of gratitude to Bishop. They presented him with a quilt, handmade by Wendy Bowers. It contained signatures of every one of the graduating seniors. So that he has “a little piece of each of us to take with you. Thank you for everything you have done and everything you are. We are better because of you with all our love and appreciation, The Belle Fourche FFA Senior Class of 2026,” shared Jazlyn Olson.

The FFA Banquet wrapped up with the naming of the new 2026–2027 Officer Team. Parliamentarian, Kasey Dobesh; Student Advisor, McKenzie Rans; Sentinel, Branson Brink; Reporter, Aaliyah Lennon; Treasurer, Kale Williams; Secretary, Kate Blair; Vice President, Brooke Garman; and President, EC Blair.



Above: All of the senior FFA members surprised their advisor, **Austin Bishop**, with a special quilt containing the FFA Creed and all of their names. BL: **Tim and Chandy Olson**, 2026 Business Friend of the FFA. BR: A dinner of walking tacos, soft-shell tacos or nachos was served at the FFA banquet. *Longbrake photos*



Clifford Torberson takes time to sign the letters that are part of the appreciation baskets for all of the graduating seniors. *Longbrake photo*

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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



The Story of the Belle Fourche Theater Truffula Tree is Revealed!

The BFHS THEATER DEPARTMENT & CARR COATINGS OF BELLE FOURCHE teamed up to create the set feature most talked about in *Seussical the Musical* a week ago. I thought the audiences and members of our community would like to see how a Truffula Tree that held a bird, an egg, and an elephant came to life for the show!

May 25 & 26, Auditions for the BFACT Summer Production: *Minnesela, a Comedy of Western Proportions*

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!*

Middle School Band Concert - Photos



Middle School Students of the Month - April 2026



BFMS April Students of the Month: fifth graders Jose Rodriguez Stevens and Great Abraham; sixth grader Angelica Vetter; seventh graders Aurora Elk Nation and Jessa Johnson; eighth graders Jaxen Beane Copas and Audrey Jeitz. *Courtesy photo*

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From A1 Chalk it Up

barely touched the pie to the face of the victim they chose and ran away fast! The whipped cream was flying! The event brought a lot of cheers and laughter. "That's what we are doing, just trying to bring some awareness of mental health and having fun, it's a great day," shared Ribordy. "Taking care of your mental health and keeping people in a good place—we just want to encourage people to start conversations. Check on your family, check on your friends and get outdoors, get that fresh air and just have a fun day!"

After the plates were counted, the firefighters came out on top earning 29 pies to the face while the police officer earned 22. The event raised \$196, that will be used for the Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk scheduled for September 19.

PooterQ BBQ and Rollin in the Hills food trucks were onsite to keep everyone fed.



Brave participants on the receiving end of more than 50 pies to the face were **Zech Kari**, Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department; **Jason Huber**, Police Department; and **Don Ward**, Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department. *Longbrake photo*



Global Methodist Church **Pastor Sheri Fadley** prepares to pie firefighter **Zeke Kari**.



Howard Ugland made balloon animals for the kids who wanted one.



The **Belle Fourche High School cheerleaders**, who are raising money for their **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** trip, ran the face-painting booth.



Detective Jason Huber prepares for yet another pie to the face.



A tiny pie thrower took aim at **Detective Jason Huber** for a great cause.



Friends, family and neighbors enjoyed the day at the **Chalk It Up to Kindness Mental Health Awareness** event. *Longbrake photos*

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ST. ONGE LIVESTOCK Now Broadcasts our Sales live on the internet at WWW.CATTLEUSA.COM

Cattle Report - Friday, May 8, 2026

Just At 1500 HD Today Weigh Up Cows & Bulls Sold Fully Steady Bred Cows & Pairs Are In High Demand

Next Sale - May 15, 2026 - Weigh Up Cattle Sale, Opitz & Turn Out Bull Sale - 10:00 AM

Thank you for Marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

Bred Cows - Sold By The Head table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

Pairs - Sold By The Pair table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

Weigh Up Cows table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

Main cattle sales table listing various sellers, animal types, and prices.

Continuation of main cattle sales table listing various sellers, animal types, and prices.

Weigh Up Bulls

Weigh Up Bulls table listing sellers, animal types, and prices.

Friday, May 15, 2026

Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special & Opitz & Turn Out Bull Sale

10:00 AM - Weigh Ups

12:00 Noon - Feeder Cattle Followed By Bred Cows

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Sheep Report - Thursday, May 7, 2026

Just A Small Package of Lambs Today & They Sold Lower Slaughter Ewes Also Sold Lower Than Last Week's Sale

Next Sale - May 14, 2026 - Feeder Lamb Special - 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!

New Crop Feeder Lambs table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

Pairs - Sold By The Pair

Pairs - Sold By The Pair table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

Slaughter Ewes

Slaughter Ewes table with columns for seller, animal type, and price.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

May 14, 2026

Feeder Lamb Special

1:00 PM

Feeder Lambs

Feeder Lambs table with columns for animal type and price.

Plus More By Sale Time!

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

Watch Our Sales Live On Cattleusa!

2026 SHEEP SALES

May 21st - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

May 28th - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

2026 CATTLE SALES

May 22nd - Pair & Feeder Cattle Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

May 29th - Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

June 5th - Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

June 12th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

Saturday, June 20th - World Livestock Auctioneer Contest - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

2026 SPRING BULL SALE LIST

May 15th - Turn-Out Bull Sale

World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC)

June 17-20, 2026

June 18 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - St Onge Livestock BBQ & Contestant Draw at Spur Creek Saloon & Ranch, Newell, SD

June 20 - 8:00 AM - WLAC Competition Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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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

100 years ago Northwest Post May 6, 1926

Sixty-Two Chater Members
 Belle Fourche Chapter, No. 77, Izaak Walton League of America, held its first regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening at the K. P. hall. The local chapter starts out with a membership of sixty-two, and it is expected that the number will reach one hundred in the near future. At the meeting L. C. Lawley of Sioux Falls, supervisor of the state game wardens; Angus Saunders of Huron, deputy game warden, and P. L. Edholm, deputy game warden for the Black Hills district, together with Messer's, D. W. George, Alex Waugh, C. R. Lown and T. R. Matthews of the Spearfish chapter, were in attendance and each gave interesting little talks. The Belle Fourche chapter is co-operating with the Spearfish Waltonians in fixing up several "nursery" ponds on the Conrad Nuhn ranch, formerly the Hugh Carney ranch, where the little trout will be kept until large enough to be turned loose in the larger streams. A number of other propositions for promoting better fishing in this section are under consideration.

ANOTHER CREAM STATION Last week the North American Creamery company opened a cream station at the old city scales office with Louis Steinhauer in charge and this week Swift & Co. opened another station in the room north of McClanahan's shoe shop, formerly occupied as a taxi office. This ought to take care of all the surplus cream in this section, as there are now five separate companies represented in Belle Fourche.

Free Pictures at Iris On each Saturday afternoon during the month of May, a free picture matinee will be given at the Iris theatre. This arrangement has been made by the Belle Fourche Commercial club, and everyone in the trade territory is invited to come, bring the whole family and enjoy the fine programs. No tickets will be required, and there are no strings to the offer-just come!

75 years ago The Belle Fourche Daily Post May 6, 1951

IT MUST BE GOOD YEAR FOR BIG ONES It looks as if the big ones are biting this year. Latest to catch hefty trout were Vernon Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davis, who landed a 15 1/2 -inch trout along Redwater Thursday evening and Jim Dryden who came home with a

2 1/4 -pound Loch Leven that measured 18 1/2 inches.

TRUMAN REQUEST FOR FUNDS IS BUTCHERED

Washington, May 4 - The house of representatives took its strongest economy action of the present session tonight. It ordered a 10 per cent cut in a \$6,800,000,000 fund requested by President Truman to run 27 government agencies next fiscal year. Truman's emergency fund was the hardest hit. The representatives cut it a whopping 96 per cent - from 25 million dollars to one million dollars. Also slashed was federal aid for low-rent public housing construction. Money was voted for only 5000 housing units. The administration had requested 75,000. But the main money bill was passed. It carried \$6,114,000,000 to operate such agencies as the Atomic Energy Commission.

50 years ago Belle Fourche Daily Post May 7, 1976

Here Comes the Big Green Machine Make Way for the big green machine, Charles Cerney, on the fork lift, delicately balances a seven-foot high tower of a newspaper press from a truck bed here Friday morning. What you see in one part of the newspaper press currently being installed at The Daily Post. When in operation the 20-foot long press will print and fold 16 pages of The Daily Post at speeds up to 15,000 per hour. Unit prints from huge 1000-pound rolls. New unit will be located on lower level of Daily Post building. Press is being installed by Continental Printing Machinery Company of Overland Park, Kan. For lift and Charlie - were made available by the Lampert Building Center.

Butte Historical Group Hears About Preservation

Scott Gerloff, South Dakota Historic Preservation Center, Vermillion, was guest speaker at the spring membership meeting of the Butte County Historical Society held in Vale Monday evening. Too, reports on the recent Black Hills History Conference, Spearfish were given by three of the four high school students sponsored by the society and by their advisor, Vernon Holst, Vale, the society's vice president. They were Sharon Hushka, Belle Fourche High School; Mary Silvernagle and Micaela Algner, Newell High School. Unable to come was Vickie Boekhoff, Belle Fourche. They all termed the conference, a "one-in-a-lifetime experience," and expressed desire to go again. In other action,

Kenneth Wetz, vale, president; Keith Washburn, Belle Fourche, overall chairman of the 1976 Caravan Tour, which will be the Slim Buttes, Ludlow, Cave Hills and Reva areas. Gerloff showed a colored slide presentation of sites nominated or about to be of historic buildings and districts, statewide. It's hoped that suitable places oof like matter in Butte County can be located for him to look over when he returns in August. He emphasized that the Center's goal is to make them "useful and vital."

Clarkson Seeks Senate Post Spearfish - M. W. "Morrie" Clarkson, Spearfish, has announced his intention to seek the South Dakota senate for District 26, Lawrence and western Pennington counties. After graduation from Spearfish High School in 1930, Clarkson got a degree in chemical engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and by 1935 had completed work on an M. S. at the University of Utah. Since that time, he has been employed in many different fields. Until 1947, Clarkson worked as quality control metallurgist for Inland Steel in East Chicago, Ind. From there moving to Rapid City, he was involved in ranching and dairy farming until 1966. At that time, he returned to Spearfish to manage the Spearfish branch of the Bank of Belle Fourche. Presently, Clarkson, at 62, is semi-retired and acting as vice president and director of the Bank of Belle Fourche. He also sits on the boards of banks in Buffalo, South Dakota and Hettinger, N.D. Clarkson's long list f civic activities includes his being the first president of the Boys' Club in Rapid City where he still sits on the board of directors. He is a member of the Optimists Club in Belle Fourche, the Kiwanis Club and All Angels Episcopal Church in Spearfish. Formerly, Clarkson held a seat on the state highway commissions and currently he is in the middle of a seven year term on the South Dakota Building Authority Board for which he is vice-chairman. He and his wife Gless have three grown children and six grandchildren. In announcing his candidacy, Clarkson said that he realizes that there are no easy solutions, only intelligent choices and he is ready to accept the challenge of choosing intelligently for district 26.

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Opened in 1906 for John Pearson, the Pearson Opera House was for years the center of entertainment for Belle Fourche. Located on State Street, this theatre had a 45 by 40 foot stage, seven dressing rooms, a balcony and electric lighting, and was considered quite modern when it first opened. Besides plays, the Pearson Opera House hosted concerts, minstrel shows, lectures, and community events.



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The **Dakota Scout** is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Together, they have more than 30 years of combined experience in South Dakota journalism that have earned them reputations as dogged reporters who've not lost touch with their neighbors' sensibilities. Be in the Know!

Stay on top of what's happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you.



114 S. Main Ave. Ste B-4 Sioux Falls, SD 57104 605-413-3177
www.thedakotascout.com



2026	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
27	Stuffed Pepper Soup Grilled Cheese Dinner Salad	Beef & Cheese Lasagna Dinner Salad Garlic Toast	Hot Turkey Sandwich With Mashed Potato Gravy/ Corn	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Dinner Salad & Roll	Pork Roast Cheesy Potatoes Honey carrots Roll
4	Chicken & Rice Casserole with Steamed Broccoli Roll	Meatloaf & Gravy Baked Potato & Carrots Roll	Goulash with Cornbread Mixed Veggies Salad	Roasted Turkey Mashed Potato / Gravy Green Beans Roll	Chicken Sandwich Red Potato salad Peas
11	Roast Beef with Gravy Mashed Potato Green Beans Roll	Pork Loin with Rice Dressing & Gravy Peas & Carrot Roll	Ham & Bean Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Salad	Beef Spaghetti Dinner Salad Garlic Sticks	Parmesan Chicken Over Pasta Dinner Salad Garlic Stick
18	Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potato/ Gravy Green Beans	Beef Indian Taco Refried Beans Salad Chips	Sweet & Sour Pork over White Rice Asian Veggies	Meatloaf & Gravy Mashed Potato Green Beans Roll	Chicken Cordon Bleu Sweet Potato Mixed Veggies
25	Baked Chicken Roasted Reds Carrots Roll	Ham & Rice Casserole Cheesy Brussel sprout Dinner Roll	Swiss Steak Roasted Potato & Carrots Roll	Chili Cheese Dogs Steak Fries Dinner Salad	Hamburger Casserole Tater tots Dinner Salad Roll

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

Caramel Rolls - Friday Mornings - 7:30am - 10am



Join us M-F 11 am-1 pm
828 Kingsbury St. | Belle Fourche, SD

Don't miss the following events

5/1 - Coffee with a Cop and City Administrator (8:30am-9:30am)





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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OFFICE - 605-892-2655

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Auctioneer: 605-515-0337

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Market Rep: 605-544-3316

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Yard Foreman: 605-569-0114

BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615

MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597

BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553

FIELDMEN

SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961

TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513

JOHN HENRY BEARDSLEY -

406-853-4938

SCOTT ANDERSON - 406-351-1844

TREVOR GARMAN - 605-892-5972

"SERVING THE TRI-STATE AREA SINCE 1935"

Market Report - Thursday, May 7th, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Jpspear Cattle Co Bull Sale 60 Hd Averaging \$9900

WEIGH UPS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Graham Livestock Inc, Moorcroft WY	4	Black-Cow	1134	302.50	\$3,429.59
	1	Black-Cow	1215	242.50	\$2,946.37
William Or Suz-Elte Lewis, Newell SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1015	312.50	\$3,171.87
Danny Lanning, Alzada MT	1	Red-Hfrt	1140	305.00	\$3,477.00
Snook Land & Lvstk. Lc., Sundance WY	1	Black-Hfrt	1000	319.00	\$3,190.00
C&N Livestock Lc, Alva WY	1	Black-Hfrt	1095	304.00	\$3,328.80
Dennis Denson, Ashland MT	1	Black-Hfrt	1095	305.00	\$3,339.75
	5	Black-Hfrt	1149	285.00	\$3,274.65
John & Deb Mannetter, Sundance WY	2	Black-Hfrt	1098	305.00	\$3,347.37
Leroy Curren, Aladdin WY	3	Red-Hfrt	932	332.50	\$3,097.79
	2	Red-Cow	1070	265.00	\$2,835.50
	1	Red-Cow	1140	257.50	\$2,935.50
Consignment From MT	3	Black-Cow	1137	220.00	\$2,500.66
	2	Black-Cow	1213	217.50	\$2,637.18
	2	Black-Cow	1298	206.00	\$2,672.85
	1	Black-Cow	1365	189.50	\$2,586.67
	10	Black-Cow	1414	189.50	\$2,678.58
Brian W Or Harriet A Birkley, Osage WY	2	Black-Hfrt	1228	275.00	\$3,375.62
Hamilton Inc, Osage WY	2	Black-Hfrt	1035	312.50	\$3,234.37
	1	Black-Cow	1205	227.50	\$2,741.37
4 Lazy 3 Ranch Llc, Ekalaka MT	2	Black-Hfrt	1043	300.00	\$3,127.50
Jonnie Anders, Alzada MT	2	Black-Hfrt	1028	310.00	\$3,185.25
Neil Shuck, Vale SD	2	Black-Cow	1123	292.50	\$3,283.31
X Heart Ranch Inc, Aladdin WY	1	BwF-Hfrt	1050	320.00	\$3,360.00
	5	Blk/BwF-Cow	1563	189.50	\$2,961.88
	4	Blk/BwF-Cow	1340	190.00	\$2,546.00
Cross W Livestock, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Hfrt	1135	300.00	\$3,405.00
Ronda Cordell, Camp Crook SD	4	Black-Hfrt	1110	300.00	\$3,330.00
Travis Loehding, Ekalaka MT	4	Black-Hfrt	1083	310.00	\$3,355.75
Minow Ranch Inc, Olive MT	4	Black-Hfrt	996	327.50	\$3,262.71
Allen Olson, Box Elder SD	1	Black-Cow	1100	250.00	\$2,750.00
Teegan Truster, Ashland MT	2	Black-Cow	1063	252.50	\$2,682.81
Truster Inc, Ashland MT	13	Black-Hfrt	964	337.50	\$3,252.98
Steven Schuldies, Nisland SD	2	Black-Cow	1525	184.00	\$2,806.00
Riley Router, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Cow	1435	190.00	\$2,726.50
	3	Black-Cow	1145	275.00	\$3,148.75
Terry & Laurie Goehring, Buffalo SD	3	Black-Cow	1582	188.00	\$2,973.53
Ryan Router, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Cow	1530	188.50	\$2,884.05
Terry & Laurie Goehring, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Cow	1205	272.50	\$3,283.62
Carl Bruch, Sturgis SD	1	Black-Cow	1570	189.00	\$2,967.30
Ellisbry Ranch Llc, Sundance WY	1	Black-Cow	1305	225.00	\$2,936.25
	3	Black-Cow	1398	189.50	\$2,649.84
Bernard Or Laura Barnaud, Nisland SD	1	Red-Cow	1410	190.00	\$2,679.00
Brian W Or Harriet A Birkley, Osage WY	5	Black-Cow	1542	189.00	\$2,914.38
Seldo Inc, Boyes MT	1	Black-Cow	1345	190.00	\$2,555.50
	1	Black-Cow	1380	191.00	\$2,635.80
	1	Black-Cow	1525	189.50	\$2,889.87
	1	Black-Cow	1335	202.50	\$2,703.37
Trucano Ranch Inc, Boyes MT	4	Black-Cow	1458	190.00	\$2,789.25
	2	Black-Cow	1298	196.00	\$2,543.10
John & Deb Mannetter, Sundance WY	4	Black-Cow	1388	191.00	\$2,650.12
Dennis Denson, Ashland MT	6	Black-Cow	1490	192.00	\$2,860.80
	4	Black-Cow	1448	192.00	\$2,779.20
	1	Black-Cow	1275	225.00	\$2,868.75
	1	Black-Cow	1170	232.50	\$2,720.25
Sourdough No 2, Hulett WY	1	Black-Cow	1505	189.50	\$2,851.97

Bryan Or Jessica Riley, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Cow	1290	200.00	\$2,580.00
	1	Black-Cow	1040	300.00	\$3,120.00
Rafter Diamond Lip, Buffalo SD	13	Blk/BwF-Cow	1578	191.00	\$3,014.12
	5	Black-Cow	1398	190.00	\$2,656.20
	1	Black-Cow	1555	190.00	\$2,954.50
	1	Black-Hfrt	1035	302.50	\$3,130.87
	1	Black-Cow	1250	247.50	\$3,093.75
Perino Ranch, Newcastle WY	8	Char/Blk-Cow	1274	199.50	\$2,542.37
Bryce Sigman, Sturgis SD	1	Black-Cow	1020	302.50	\$3,085.50
BULLS					
Seldo Inc, Boyes MT	1	Black-Bull Df	2240	230.00	\$5,152.00
Andrew Cathey, Hammond MT	1	Black-Bull Df	2145	222.00	\$4,761.90
	1	Black-Bull Df	2020	237.00	\$4,787.40
	1	Black-Bull Df	2005	212.50	\$4,260.62
M W Cattle Co Llc, Newcastle WY	1	Black-Bull Df	2085	210.00	\$4,378.50

REGULAR SALE & TURNOUT BULL SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES

MAY 21, 2026

WUPS @ 10AM MT | TURNOUT BULL SALE TO FOLLOW

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Shane Moke (605) 641-7961

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Livestock Auction

COUNTRY PAGE CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

CORN BELT CLASSIC:

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE | JUNE 16, 2026

CATALOG: MAY 29, 2026, 5:00PM MT

VIDEO: JUNE 8, 2026, 5:00PM CT

WEEK IN THE ROCKIES:

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO | JULY 6, 2026

CATALOG: JUNE 19, 2026, 5:00PM MT

VIDEO: JUNE 26, 2026, 5:00PM CT

BIG HORN CLASSIC:

SHERIDAN, WY | AUGUST 17, 2026

CATALOG: JULY 31, 2026, 5:00PM MT

VIDEO: AUGUST 7, 2026, 5:00PM CT

PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & HORSE SALE SELLING ALL CLASSES

MAY 14, 2026

WUPS @ 10AM MT | PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT & HORSE SALE TO FOLLOW

FEEDER CATTLE

CAPP WILLIAMS-MT

65 BLK MXD FALL CLVS, 550#

BT SHOTS, NI, WEANED 30 DAYS

SAMS LIVESTOCK-WY

60 - 40 BLK STRS & 20 HFRS

650-700#, PC, BT SHOTS, NI, HR

JD & ANNIE AMDAHL-SD

60 BLK/BWF HFRS, 750-850#

PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, PRE-BREEDING SHOTS, WORMED, AMDAHL ANGUS & COOPER

HEREF GENETICS

DAN PATTON-WY

40 BLK HFRS, 700#, PC, BT SHOTS, BV, HR, PRE-BREEDING SHOTS

PAIRS

KODY DEVRIES-NE

35 BLK HFR PAIRS

BLK HFRS W/ BLK CLVS

DOUG & PEGGY LIVINGSTON-WY

30 BLK MXD AGED PAIRS

BLK COWS W/ BLK/BWF CLVS, CLVS VACC. & Banded, WORMED, FULL MINERAL PROGRAM

JEFF SHUCK-SD

10 BLK MXD AGED PAIRS

BLK COWS W/ BLK CLVS, TTM, MOSTLY BULL CLVS, ALL-NATURAL, NO BRANDS

MATT & MEGAN HARKLESS-SD

10 BLK 4YO-SM PAIRS

BLK COWS W/ BLK CLVS, COWS DRENCHED & POURED & PRE-BREEDING SHOTS, CLVS - VACC. & KNIFE CUT,

SHANNON WIGGERS -SD

8 BLK MXD AGED PAIRS

1 - BLK HFR, 5 - BLK 3YO, 1 - BLK SM, W/ BLK CLVS, CLVS BORN IN MARCH (200 LBS), CLVS - SHOTS & KNIFE CUT, NO BRANDS

VONDA SHUCK-SD

5 BLK MXD AGED PAIRS

BLK COWS W/ BLK/BWF CLVS, TTM, ALL-NATURAL, NO BRANDS

BRED COWS

MICHAEL MCPHERSON-SD

30 BLK/BWF MXD AGED COWS, BRED BLK, CLV NOW

ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

May 14, 2026	PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & HORSE SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT & HORSE SALE TO FOLLOW
May 21, 2026	REGULAR SALE & TURNOUT BULL SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & TURNOUT BULL SALE TO FOLLOW
May 28, 2026	PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT
June 4, 2026	WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
June 11, 2026	WEIGH-UP SPECIAL & HORSE SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
June 18, 2026	WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
June 25, 2026	WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES

RECEIVING STATIONS

Broadus, MT Travis Linch 605-892-5951	Forsyth, MT Scott Anderson 406-351-1844
Ekalaka, MT Travis Linch 605-892-5951	Jordan, MT Jason Bollinger 406-690-8344
Wyoming Dave Williams 406-975-6805	Wyoming Mike Greenough 307-620-2597



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Wednesday, May 13th through Tuesday, May 26th

Understanding the Data Center Ballot Question in Butte County



Michelle Evans
Business Owner

On the upcoming ballot, Butte County voters will decide whether to approve a resolution requiring county commissioners to create an ordinance addressing data centers.

Many residents believe decisions affecting land use, agriculture, and infrastructure should be made by voters, not solely through board or council action.

If approved, county commissioners have indicated the likely approach would be a temporary 5-year moratorium on new data center construction. This would allow time to study potential impacts and determine what, if any, long-term regulations fit the needs of Butte County.

A moratorium is intended

to protect residents, property owners, agriculture, and natural resources while those decisions are being made. It allows time for research, public input, and careful planning. This issue is being brought to a public vote because of its scale and long-term impact.

One of the most pressing concerns is water and power. Data centers require massive amounts of electricity and, in many cases, substantial water for cooling. These are not short-term demands—they are continuous, long-term commitments. As Butte County faces dry conditions and the possibility of drought, the question becomes not just how much water is available today, but what can be sustained years from now. Unlike development that can shift or scale back, these resource demands are difficult to reverse once in place.

Data centers are also large developments, often spanning hundreds of acres. The World Resources Institute reports the average site is about 224 acres, frequently located on

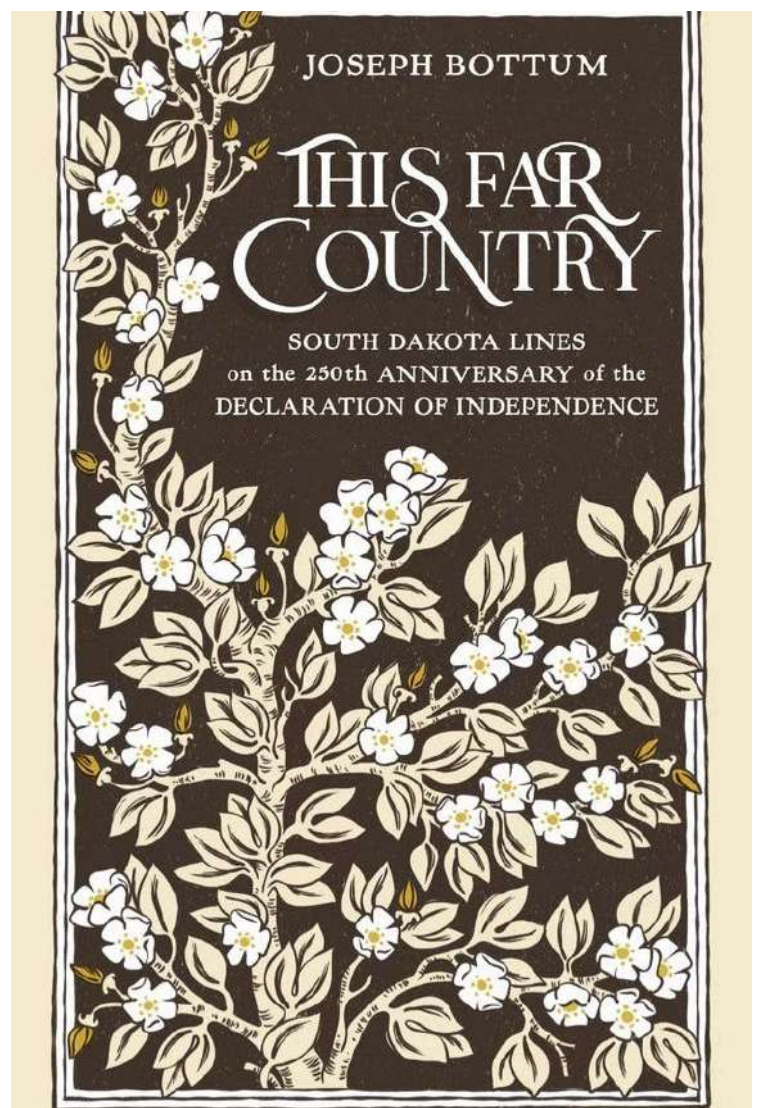
agricultural land.

There are also potential health considerations, including air emissions and continuous noise. For many, the long-term wellness of the community is just as important as economic benefits such as tax revenue.

A “Yes” vote would move the county toward drafting an ordinance, potentially including a temporary moratorium. A “No” vote would not adopt the resolution. Vote Yes on “A” to keep Data Centers Away. We encourage all Butte County registered voters to come out and vote on June 2nd. Any questions, please email buttecountydatainfo@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/buttedatacenter>



RED WHITE and BIRDIE
June 27th
9AM SHOTGUN START
REGISTRATION @ 8:00AM
9-HOLE TOURNAMENT
4 PERSON SCRAMBLE
MUST BE 21 TO PLAY
\$150 PER PLAYER
SAVE THE DATE
BLACK HILLS ROUNDUP
Chutes for Charity
HOSTED AT
BELLE FOURCHE COUNTRY CLUB
FOR MORE INFO
BEV: 605-210-1406
DENISE: 605-892-5445



America 250 SD, the group responsible in South Dakota for leading the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, has approved the state's contribution to America's Time Capsule. That vessel will be buried in Philadelphia on Independence Day this summer.

America's Time Capsule is the official, congressionally mandated time capsule, developed by scientists at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, preservation experts at the Library of Congress and the National Park Service to withstand 250 years underground.

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to Host Memorial Day Program

Sioux Falls, SD – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will host its annual Memorial Day program on Monday, May 25, 2026, at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, 2500 Minnekahta Avenue, Hot Springs. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. (MT).

Darren Russell, Fall River County Veteran Service Officer, will serve as the keynote speaker for the event. A local to the area, Russell dedicated 20 years of service to the United States Army before continuing his commitment to fellow veterans through advocacy and support. Since

his retirement from military service, he has worked to connect veterans with the benefits and resources they have earned.

“Memorial Day calls us to do more than lay wreaths and lower flags,” said SDDVA Secretary Jeremiah Schneider. “It calls us to carry forward the legacy of those who gave their last full measure by standing beside their families, lifting their fellow veterans, and living lives worthy of the freedom they secured for us.”

The public is invited to attend. For more information, please contact Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home at 605.519.5445.

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



May

14th - Perk Up the Pantry Event

15th - 11AM Well Plumbing Appreciation, 1 PM
Habeck Trucking 30 year Appreciation

17th - 11AM-1PMDowntown Bridal Market @ State
Street

18th - 6PM City Council

19th - 10AM AmericInn New Owner Coffee, 4:40
Chamber Mixer @ Weather Hat

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

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EXPANDED SUNDAY BRUNCH
“CHEF'S” DAILY LUNCH SPECIAL
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South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
1600 W. Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-204-9241
<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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.
Rick McCartney, 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: ebcfbf.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
The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon
Rev. Mike Weaver
Sunday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN

1100 Stanley Street
Open for in-house worship
Sunday Worship 10:AM with coffee
fellowship following the service.
Watch live-streamed services:
www.sjclbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

ST. ONGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday School and Worship
at 8:30 a.m.
www.bfsoucc.org

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

855 5th Ave.
Father Kevin Achbach, Pastor
Father Max Vetch, Pastor
Mass Times:
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.
Daily Mass: Tues. & Thurs. 12:15 p.m.
Confessions available one hour
before all Masses

SUMMIT OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Seventh and Summit
892-4630 or 892-4389
Pastor Rick and Diane Brennan
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship
Kidz Church Immediately Following
Wednesday: September - May
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
Kidz Alive (Kindergarten - 6th Grade)

VALE COMMUNITY COUNTRY CHURCH

Pastor Darla Dunn
402 Rosander St. Vale SD 57788
Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
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By John Newby

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

Your Community's Brand: Build It or Die

Here is a number every community leader should know: \$2.9 trillion. That is the total economic output generated by the U.S. travel and tourism industry in 2024 alone, supporting more than 15 million American jobs Globally, travel and tourism now account for nearly 10 percent of the entire world economy. That money does not distribute itself equally. It flows, with precision toward communities that have given people a reason to show up. If your community hasn't built that reason, you are not just missing out on a slice of the pie. You are watching the demise of entire community.

Let's get the definition of brand right, because most communities get it wrong. A brand is not a logo. It is not a slogan dreamed up at a chamber of commerce retreat. A brand is a perception or what other people genuinely think and feel about your community before they ever arrive. It is an emotional promise, ou shape it deliberately or the world shapes it for you, usually unfavorably.

The most powerful brands do not lead with location. They lead with feeling. When someone is planning a vacation or deciding where to relocate their family, they rarely begin by searching a map. They search for an experience first; fly fishing, craft beer trails, mountain biking, farm-to-table food, art scenes, outdoor adventure, and then they search for where that experience lives. Communities that understand this truth compete. Those that don't simply hope. Consider the evidence: ~30 percent of travelers say they chose a destination specifically because of a cultural or heritage attraction. The Kentucky Bourbon Trail drew 2.5 million visitors in 2023. A single, well-defined identity, bourbon heritage became an engine that moves millions of people across hundreds of miles. That is what a focused brand does.

Rural and small-town America is under siege. The 2020 U.S. Census was the first in history in which fewer people were counted in rural counties than in the prior census.



Over half of the nation's counties, home to a quarter of all Americans — lost population. The industries that once anchored these communities: manufacturing, agriculture, mining, have automated, globalized, or simply vanished. Younger generations are leaving, not because they don't love where they grew up, but because they see no economic future there. This is not destiny. It is a branding failure.

The communities that are reversing these trends share one thing: a clear, compelling, authentic identity that draws people in as visitors first, then as residents and business owners. Remote work has reshuffled the deck for the first time in decades. An estimated 35 million Americans now work remotely at least part of the time. For the first time in a generation, location is negotiable for a massive and growing segment of the workforce. Skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and young families are choosing where to live based on quality of life which is another word for brand. Communities that communicate a powerful sense of place are winning this competition. Communities that cannot articulate who they are will keep losing their best people to those that can.

The failure mode is predictable: a committee forms, a consultant is hired, a focus group convenes, and after six months of deliberation, the community produces a tagline broad enough to offend no one and inspire no one. "Gateway to Adventure." "Where History Meets Tomorrow." These phrases hang on banners and accomplish nothing. Focus groups and local politics are the enemies of great community brands. Focus groups water ideas down to keep everyone comfortable. Politics kills bold ideas before they can breathe. A brand built this way is a brand built for the room it was created in, not for the visitor, the remote worker, or the business owner you need to attract.

The second failure is overpromising. A brand must be grounded in reality. If your community brands itself as a culinary destination and

visitors arrive to find two chain restaurants, you have not just failed to attract them — you have poisoned the well. It takes years to recover from that kind of reputational damage. Great brands are built on great products. The brand comes second.

Effective community branding starts with an honest answer to a brutal question: What does our community do better than anyone within 200 miles? Not what you wish you were known for what you have, what is authentic, what is already here in some form waiting to be amplified. That answer should be specific, not generic. "Beautiful scenery" is not a brand. "The best whitewater kayaking between Atlanta and Asheville" is a brand. Specificity creates memorability. Memorability creates search traffic. Search traffic creates visitors. Visitors create revenue.

Once you know what you are, commit to it fully. Narrow the focus. Resist the temptation to be everything to everyone, because that path leads to being nothing to anybody. The travel and tourism market is brutally competitive; there are thousands of communities competing for the same attention. Only those with a distinct, defensible identity break through the noise. Build for the long term. A brand is a 10-year project, not a 10-month campaign. Where does your community need to be in a decade? What infrastructure, what events, what experiences, what businesses does that vision require? Work backwards from that future and build toward it deliberately.

And bring in outside perspective. The people who live inside a community are often the last to see it clearly. An outside lens guided by real market research, not assumptions can identify the authentic strengths that locals take for granted and the gaps that outsiders notice immediately.

Communities that delay this work are not standing still. They are falling behind. Travel & Tourism is projected to account for 1 in 3 new jobs created globally over the coming decade. The communities positioned to capture those jobs will be the ones with clear identities, loyal visitors, and magnetic stories. The rest will keep watching their tax base erode, their downtowns hollow out, and their young people leave. A community without a brand is a book without a plot. Nobody finishes it. Nobody recommends it. Nobody comes back. The choice is not whether

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He has served more than 40 years in education, community leadership and economic development, including roles with the South Dakota School of Mines Foundation, Belle Fourche Economic Development Corporation, Belle Fourche City Council and Belle Fourche Planning & Zoning Commission.

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Larry believes effective representation starts with listening. He is committed to accessibility, careful analysis, and long-term vision for South Dakota and the next generation.

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Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden, April 2026



Our warm, summer like days came to an end last weekend in preparation for a much cooler week. We received some moisture on a cool, cloudy Sunday which was welcome all over west of the river. We were happy to hear that Custer area received several inches of snow which will be a great help in preventing more fires. They certainly have had their share for this time of year. It is a love-

ly green hue in Central Meade County at this time. Some of the church crew went to Nellie's at Enning for lunch on Sunday. Jack Sellers and Darrell Wilcox, Sandy and Larry Rhoden, Lorie Hausmann and Bill Meirose enjoyed food and fellowship there. The Caden and Jori Smiley family also enjoyed lunch there on Sunday. They are expecting child #4 in October. Lorie Hausmann, and Larry

and Sandy Rhoden attended the Lincoln Day Dinner in Belle Fourche on Saturday evening. It was at a lovely venue south west of Belle Fourche. It was beautifully decorated and well planned out as they served a beef and mashed potatoes dinner and auctioned off desserts to raise funds. Governor Larry Rhoden delivered the invocation for the meal. Tom & Quinn Brunner and others provided a fine event and hosted many candidates who are running for office.

The final debate for the race for Governor was held on Monday evening at the Pavillion in Sioux Falls. It is a busy time for the Rhodens as Larry keeps busy with the many responsibilities of being Governor in all areas of the state. But he tries to stay engaged in what is happening at home as he works with his busy schedule. Larry will be singing with the Circuit Riders Quartet on Saturday at the Raymond Howie Funeral in Union Center. The funeral service begins at 10:00 am.

Amy Cammack is up and around after knee surgery. She has surpassed the 4 week mark so will hopefully be back to her very busy pace soon. Linda Opstedahl has recovered well from her illness and was in church on Sunday looking well and recovered. Time is flying by and before we know it, it will be May and school will be out. Vacation Bible School at Union Center will be from June 29 - July 2 for ages 5 and up. If you have questions or are interested in helping you may contact Melanie Cammack.

Capitol News

May 3, 2026

by Karen Odell

The grass is green at Capitol and on Tie Creek. Snow flakes were coming down on one day, this week, but they never reached the ground, and we got a little more moisture. Some people are still a little busy with calving, but that is coming to an end, and summer will soon be here.

Dick Albert went to the Hills on Wednesday. He had had some skin surgery, and was getting the stitches removed. They got a call from Erma's doctor, on Thursday, and scheduled an appointment for Friday in Rapid City, so they made the trip back to town that day, to be down there for that appointment, too. Dick went to church at the Catholic Church, on Sunday, and then went to Saloon Number Three for lunch.

He brought lunch home for Erma, too.

Doug and Julia Davis are still calving, but getting close to the end. On Wednesday, Amanda, Rory and Oliver came out to stay overnight at the ranch. Then on Thursday, grandsons, Rory and Oliver, stayed at the ranch, while Amanda went on to visit in Ekalaka. The boys made friends with a bum baby calf, and named it 'Dinny'. The two Great Pyrenees sheepdogs had brought their sheep in close to the house, and that gave them time to play with the boys, too. The big dogs were gentle with the little boys and helped them draw with chalk on the sidewalk. As it turned out, the dogs paws got chalked decorated, too. On Friday, Doug and Julia went to Spearfish to watch grandson, Keaton Davis, in a track meet. Keaton is a seventh grader. Doug helped shear at his brother, Dan's, on Saturday. Julia stayed home,

that day, to watch their last few heifers.

Dorothy and Dawn Padden went to Camp Crook, on Wednesday, for the Diligent Doer's Extension Club meeting at the Camp Crook Town Hall. Lynn Gustafson was the hostess for this meeting. Brenton Padden came home from college, on Friday, to spend the weekend. On Friday evening, Bryce and Dawn, Dorothy, and Brandon's family went to Kelly and Spring Padden's for an after-graduation party for Kalynn, that was held before graduation. Then on Saturday afternoon, they all went to the HCHS graduation at Buffalo, where Kalynn was part of the graduating class. Because it was the class of 2026, graduation was scheduled to begin at 2:26 in the afternoon.

Dorothy Padden got a special Mother's Day gift, this year. In the past, it had been a tradition that the Pad-

dens would brand on Mother's Day. That meant that mother (Dorothy) had to help round up cows, and also get dinner for all the branders. Dorothy usually was very glad when Mother's Day was over, but this year, they branded in small bunches during the week, and needed to sort and move cows before doing more branding. That gave Dorothy the day off, on Mother's Day. What a gift! Dorothy spent most of Sunday on the phone, enjoying the calls from all the family.

This week, Karen Odell visited with friends, all her kids and a couple of grandchildren. Micki, Jesse and Murphy were watching a huge orca swim past their house in Puget Sound. Mollie and Kyia went to a very elegant tea party for daughters and mothers. Sunday was JD's birthday, but I won't say how many years. Grandson, Murphy Hinds, earned his red belt in karate. Last week, Karen's grandson, Kellan Odell, a freshman at Mount Marty

University, had competed in the GPAC track finals in Nebraska. He had already earned a trip to the college nationals track competition in North Carolina, in javelin, but the big surprise, this week, was that a video of Kellan throwing the javelin at that meet had gone viral. The video on Instagram had 1.5 million views by this week. His highest scoring throw was ignored, while everyone wanted to see this one of him doing everything he could to stay behind the throwing line. After a great throw, all his efforts to stay behind the line seemed to be the most interesting of all.

Please continue to keep friends and neighbors in your prayers. If you are OK with yourself, you are safe anywhere, for comparison is the thief of joy.

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES

"Not Just Fun and Games"



by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel

Long ago, it was called "The three R's." Though based on

phonetic word beginnings, the term has withstood time as a summary of the foundations of education: reading, writing and arithmetic.

Deloris, Donald and Darlene began their education at country school in the 1950s, but when District #12 Country School closed, Erwin school became our new source for public education. The three R's were definitely part of the curriculum during all our growing-up years. Another R held high esteem in the eyes of students and teachers—recess!

Younger grades were given a fifteen-minute break mid-morning and mid-after-

noon and an hour-long playtime after noon lunch. Unless the weather was life-threatening, the time was spent outside. Plenty of playground equipment was available behind the school. But some of our best recesses were spent playing with something we brought from home.

In early grades, the girls may have been seen carrying dolls bundled in blankets. We probably tried to hush the noisier youngsters who were shrieking as they whirled on the merry-go-round. "Don't wake the baby!"

Babies were left, tucked in their cradles at home, when we brought jump ropes to school. We shared and took turns. The goal was to see how many jumps we could make before "missing." Sometimes two people swung a longer rope for someone to

jump in the middle. Adding another jumper elevated the challenge. Along with the skills of jumping, counting and rope-swinging, we learned rhythm and rhyme. Chanting a jump rope verse helped jumpers and rope-swingers keep in time. I recall "Cinderella, dressed in yella. Went upstairs to kiss a fella. Made a mistake and kissed a snake. How many doctors did it take? 1, 2, 3, 4..."

One day someone brought a different kind of jump rope. This was a complete circle and a bit stretchy, though we discovered yarn worked too. The rope was called "Chinese Jump Rope." Two people stood a few feet apart with the rope stretched between their ankles, forming a narrow rectangle. The jumper caught one side of the rope with her toes and did a series of steps. I think we made up

our own.

Delmer remembers a time when he and several of his classmates decided to bring their roller skates to school. Their plan was to skate down the long, narrow sidewalk that ran parallel to the street in front of the building. They strapped their skates on over their shoes, adjusted the pull-apart sections and the toe-holds with skate keys and took turns rolling down that sidewalk. There was enough of an incline that they picked up speed without any effort. By the time they reached the end, they were traveling pretty fast. Trouble was, skaters hurtled downhill only to come to a rather abrupt halt—in the grass! They learned that the landing was softer if they knelt down and held out their arms on the descent. Then they "walked" on skates back up the hill for another ride.

There was a time when the youngsters decided it would be fun to play marbles during recess. Some showed up with their pockets full of Shooters, Tigers

and Cat's Eyes. Delmer came home all excited one day, proudly displaying his new collection which he had won. Unfortunately, our dad was not so thrilled. He felt bad for the boy who had lost his marbles. Delmer returned them the next day.

Back then, we loved recess because it was fun. Today, researchers concur that recess is essential; it boosts academic performance, improves attention and teaches social skills. Turns out those recesses were more than just fun and games! Kruempel's ten published books are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.



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Roots #9 "The Legacy of Poppies"

Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com



During the springtime in France, brilliant red/orange poppies appear by the millions. May is the best month to find them in fields, creeping up through crevices, in back yards, ditches, and otherwise empty spaces. Poppies are magnificent flowers the world around.

In 1915, a poem titled "In Flanders Fields" captured the imagery of poppies blowing in the wind on a foreign battlefield. The setting was Belgium during World War I.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The poet, John McCrae, a Canadian soldier/poet fought in the second battle in a series of brutal battles known collectively as The Battle of Ypres in 1915. The conflict was between the Germans and the Allied Armies (Belgian, British, French, and a mostly volunteer Canadian Expeditionary Force). America did not enter the war until 2017.

McCrae, who was also a physician, survived the battle and spent several days afterward tending to the wounded. During the five engagements of the Battle of Ypres, estimated casualties may have surpassed one million.

McCrae does not describe what was likely a horrific scenario. The Germans had just begun using poisonous gas that caused death by painful asphyxiation. The allied soldiers had no forewarning or protective equipment. Much of the combat was hand to hand and took place in a somewhat confined area.

Rather than providing graphic detail, McCrae's poem is a very emotional tribute to fallen soldiers and an appeal never to forget them or the cause for which they fought. Although declined by the

first publisher, the poem went on to become enormously influential.

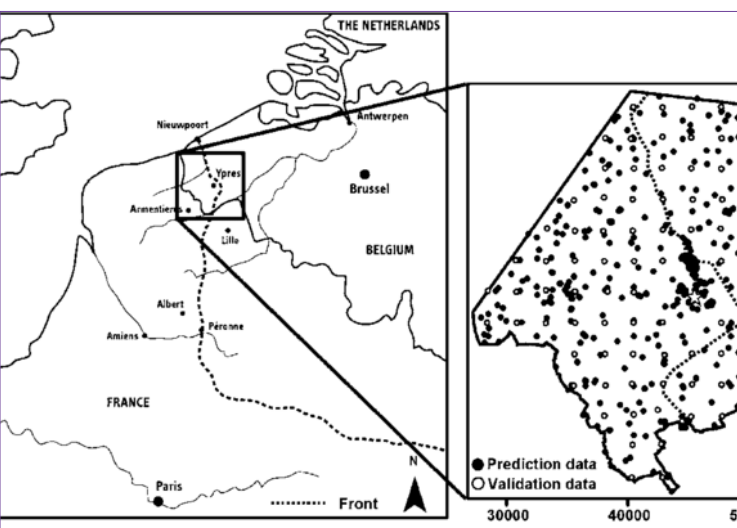
In 1918, an American college professor from the University of Georgia, Moira Michael was so inspired by McCrae's poem she wrote and published a poignant response. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Shall_Keep_the_Faith

Michael began a movement to manufacture silk poppies and sell them. The proceeds would go to help disabled veterans. She appeared at a YMCA Overseas War Secretaries' conference with a silk poppy pinned to her lapel. Michael then handed out silk poppies to several of the attendees. Thus began her campaign to turn the common poppy into a symbol for those who have died or suffered loss in war.

The National American Legion adopted the poppy as their official symbol of remembrance in 1920. Meanwhile in France Madame Guérin a French teacher and humanitarian proposed that all World War I Allied countries use artificial poppies, made by French widows and orphans, as an emblem for remembering those who gave their lives during

World War I. Sales of the poppies would raise money to support the French survivors and their families. Today, the Remembrance Poppy encompasses all conflicts that have occurred since. The first American Poppy Day was organized by Madame Guérin the week before Memorial Day in May 1921. Silk poppies were made by the widows and children of the devastated regions of France were used.

Unfortunately, John McCrae died from meningitis in 1918 and never learned the magnitude of the poem's influence. No doubt he would be pleased to know that the world has listened.



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: news@bellefourchebeacon.com Deadline is Friday before 5pm.

Belle Fourche Writers
Belle Fourche Writers May meeting schedule: The Monday editing meeting is Monday, May 4, from 2-4 PM. The regular May meeting is Saturday, May 23 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

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 opens Rocks and Minerals mini exhibit
The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center mini exhibit entitled, "Rocks and Minerals," is now open. The exhibit will be in the Visitor Center and include rocks and minerals to examine, storyboards, photos, geologic equipment, a microscope, books and guides, a touchscreen quiz and a take-home workbook on the subject for young people. There is no charge to enter the museum or see this mini exhibit which is up until June 12.

The Tri-State is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche. It can be reached by calling 605-723-1200.

The Tri-State Museum created some new exhibits and refreshed some older 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.

You are invited to join us for a meaningful and inspiring event in honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month. IN YOUR CORNER. "Every mind matters. Every life counts."

We are honored to welcome Nick Draine, a boxing coach, youth mentor, and community advocate, who will share his personal journey through mental health struggles and how he found purpose in mentoring youth and supporting others in the Sturgis community. His story is one of resilience, hope, and the power of having someone in your corner.

Event Details: Wednesday, May 6; 12:00 PM (Noon); 1428 Short Track Rd, Sturgis, SD; Lunch will be provided
This event is an opportunity to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and remind our community that support and connection can make all the difference. We encourage community members, youth, families, educators, and professionals to attend and be part of this important conversation.

Please feel free to share this invitation with others who may benefit from attending.
We hope you can join us for this impactful event as we come together to support mental health awareness.

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Rhoden, Hansen, Johnson, Doeden dig in as runoff chances grow for South Dakota GOP

An escalating barrage of campaign ads signals a volatile finish in South Dakota's Republican primary for governor – and the prospects of a potentially historic outcome.

While Congressman Dusty Johnson continues to hold the front-runner title in the race, the candidacies of Gov. Larry Rhoden, House Speaker Jon Hansen and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden in the June 2 primary remain viable. Uncertain and conflicting polling has odds of a runoff election as a real possibility.

Campaign spending and the political blitz flooding South Dakota's airways will intensify too.

"One might also expect endorsements from people the candidate trusts and for whom the voters will attribute a credible endorsement," said Michael Card, a retired political science professor who spent more than three decades teaching at the University of South Dakota.

Though crowded fields are not uncommon, no victorious gubernatorial candidate in modern South Dakota politics ever failed to earn the 35 percent of party voters' support necessary to advance to the November ballot.

Even a five-candidate GOP primary contest in 2010 avoided a runoff. That's when then-Lt. Gov. Dennis Dugaard easily won with 50 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff election with the second-place finisher – Brookings lawmaker Scott Munsterman.

Polling of likely Republican voters in this year's race shows a much more fractured electorate, and they signal the potential for a historic outcome.

Card, now a professor emeritus, says he expects the final weeks to feature more negative campaigning from the three candidates who have trailed Johnson in publicly released polls.

Card said the governor's race will drive Republican turnout, as well as municipal and school board races now being paired with the statewide primary.

But he doesn't anticipate the legislative change in election scheduling for city and school districts will affect partisan contests like the governor's race. The professor predicts a "roll off" for voters uninterested in local government, and contests for city and school board seats will continue to see lower turnout than statewide races.

"This will be an imperfect test of the hypothesis that lumping elections together will increase turnout," he said, saying Democrats and unaffiliated voters are still likely to stay home on Election Day because they do not have partisan primary contests to cast votes in.

The Sprint For the four men battling in the GOP primary for the party nomination to be governor, it's only Republican voters they need to court leading up to June 2.

And during their third and final debate Monday, April 27 – hosted by The Dakota Scout and broadcast by Sioux Falls Live from the Washington Pavilion in downtown Sioux Falls – the candidates sold themselves as the best vessel to ensure a conservative runs the state for the next four years.

Hansen, an attorney and veteran lawmaker from Dell Rapids, warned the

wrong choice would have consequences.

"You remember when Colorado was a red state? Then it slipped to purple. And now it's just as blue as any other blue state in the Union," he said. "I don't want that for South Dakota. But if we choose the wrong candidate in this election, that's exactly the path we're going down."

The abortion opponent also highlighted his street cred with social conservatives, telling voters that if they send him to the governor's mansion, they would be electing a governor "rooted in Biblical truth and conservative Republican principles."

Rhoden, who took over as governor when Kristi Noem was nominated to be secretary of Homeland Security, reminded voters that he was the only one on the stage who had served in the office. The Union Center rancher and longtime legislator pointed to his successes at shepherding property tax relief and a new men's prison through the Legislature.

Rhoden also contrasted his background with those of his opponents. He was the only one on stage who had made a living in agriculture. And he was the only one who had served his country in the military.

"And that's important to me — and it's significant in my heart — because one of the most distinct honors of being governor is being the commander in chief of the South Dakota National Guard," he said, noting that he was the first governor to have served in the South Dakota National Guard since World War II hero Joe Foss.



ABC - BC COALITION MEETING

With guest speaker Bill Elger from WPRC

"2026 Updates for the Marijuana and Drug Trends"

Join us for lunch and to learn about the new marijuana and drug trends.

When: Friday, May 15th @ noon
Where: Christian Life Center - 2020 Vista St
Please RSVP by 5/13

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courtney@sturgisabc.org
abc.butteco@gmail.com

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Candidate for SD House of Representatives - 28B
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Legal Finance Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.
511 6th Ave – City Hall – Council Chambers

Members present: Tricia Fowler, Dean Brunner, Gene Pesicka, Kristal Steeves
Also present: Mayor Randy Schmidt, City Administrator Jason LaFayette, Finance Officer Wayne Tonsager

- The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion Brunner, second Steeves to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- Community Input – This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business. Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes.
- Motion Pesicka, second Brunner to recommend approval of the Hitching Post's Malt Beverage License to serve at the Riverfest Event on Saturday, June 6, 2026, on the lawn area below the Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center. (A public hearing has been scheduled for May 18, 2026). Motion carried.
- Motion Steeves, second Pesicka to recommend approval of Ordinance 2-2026 – Budget Supplement. Finance Officer Tonsager explained to the Committee that the proposed ordinance was recommended by the auditors to facilitate payment of the Police Department Bond from the CIP Fund. Currently, the budget includes a transfer from the CIP Fund to the Police Department Fund, with bond payments being made from the Police Department Fund. The proposed ordinance would authorize the transfer of interest earnings from the Police Department Fund to the CIP Fund and allow the bond payment to be made directly from the CIP Fund. Motion carried.
- Informational.
 - Sales Tax/Budget Reports
 - Who Let the Dogz Out – Finance Officer Tonsager noted the payments are made quarterly
 - City Administrator LaFayette reported that the County Commission has requested temporary use of the City Council chambers for its meetings and has agreed to move them from Tuesdays to Thursdays to avoid conflicts with state driver's license operations. He added that Thursday daytime meetings will be in the chambers, evenings will remain in the courtroom, and while the start date is uncertain, this may increase Thursday traffic in the building.
- Motion Steeves, second Pesicka to adjourn at 5:35 PM. Motion carried.

CharUK Arts Center presents
Moving Beyond Bars
Reclaiming Identity Through Creative Expression

Moving Beyond Bars brings together artwork created by more than forty-five women incarcerated at South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre, South Dakota and the Women's Prison in Cassia, Florida. Directed by Suzanne Castello and Aelaine Albright, this intensive three-week arts residency engages participants in a multidisciplinary creative process that integrates visual art, movement and writing as pathways for reflection, healing, and self-expression.

April 1 - May 15, 2026
CharUK Arts Center of Mahiyia Lira
Pierre, SD 57702
Reception Thursday April 23, 2026 4-7p

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What Moves You?
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GRIT & GLORY
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DOUG LARSON

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1

COWBOYS TOO!

SPORT COATS

COWBOYS TOO!

JEANS



Board of Equalization Meeting
Butte County Courthouse
Butte County Courtroom
839 5th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Phone: 605-892-4485

THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION CONVENE AT 9:30 A.M. on April 28, 2026. Commissioners present were Erk, Brunner, Batterman, and Kari. Absent Ager. Also present were Director of Equalization Corey Somervold and Field Assessors Nancy Kindsfater and Stephanie Lippincott.

Chairman Erk called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Bruner, Second by Kari to accept the agenda as presented with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Members present took the County Board of Equalization Member Oath, notarized by Auditor Capp

Public Comments began at 9:34 AM with Sue Broadhurst speaking on the plat not on the April 21, 2026, agenda and misspelling.

DOE Corey Somervold presented findings to the County Board of Equalization.

Appeals for County Board of Equalization:

- DINOSAURS OF THE HILL CREEK MUSEUM, 1432 MILL ST, BELLE FOURCHE SD 57717. Corrected to HELL Creek Museum.
Assessor: DOE Somervold recommended no change to the assessed value
Owner: Walter Stein spoke on the museum, history, leasing of land for the museum, need for a loan, had to purchase, no plans to build on the property due to restrictions, and provided researched values on similar acreage for residential lots.
Brunner - asked about commercial property and combining land with the museum to make it all commercial property.
Erk spoke on the unfortunate consequences of paying a higher than assessed value, as it affects not only the property taxes of the purchased property but also the assessed values/taxes of surrounding properties.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman, to make no changes to the value of Parcel # 33.09.3.7. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

- DEYOE, SANDRA, PO BOX 82, NEWELL SD 57760
Owner: not present
Assessor: Spoke with Ms. Deyoe and explained the reason for value changes. Offered to reassess but was denied access. Recommending no change.

Motion by Batterman, Second by Kari, to make no changes to the value of Parcel # Parcel # 08.5.01.4. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

- STARK, VICKI D, PO BOX 52, NISLAND SD 57762
Owner: not present
Assessor: Pole Barn in poor condition. Was already valued at poor condition and valued as low as possible. Couldn't get hold of owner to reassess

Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari, to make no changes to the value of Parcel # 08.5.04.1. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.



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Salon: 605-892-3588

Upcoming events, for more information call: 605-892-2676
May
14th - Perk Up the Pantry Event
15th - 11AM Well Plumbing Appreciation, 1 PM Habeck Trucking 30 year Appreciation
17th - 11AM-1PMDowntown Bridal Market @ State Street
18th - 6PM City Council
19th - 10AM AmericInn New Owner Coffee, 4:40 Chamber Mixer @ Weather Hat
Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us on social media for all the information or visit our website

JOB OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT
BUTTE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
The Butte County Highway Department currently has an opening for a full-time Highway Crew Maintenance Worker. Great wage starting at 23.82/hour and excellent benefit package. No matter the weather- guaranteed work.
This person will be required to operate light highway equipment and perform maintenance on signs and cattle guards. Some heavy lifting is required. Job duties include working outdoors in inclement weather. CDL is a plus but not required. Other duties exclusive to the position will also be assigned and required.
It is essential to be able to pass a background check and pre-employment drug test prior to employment.
Application may be acquired between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the Butte County Highway Administration office located at 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD. An application can be requested by calling 605-892-4414.
Please send resume and application to:
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% Dwayne Heidrich
117 5th Ave
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
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Newell FFA Recognizes Members, Installs New Officers

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Friends and family members gathered in the Austin Auditorium to honor the Newell High School FFA members at the Annual Banquet on the evening of May 8. Chapter President Rowdy Wetz welcomed everyone to the event. “Good evening and welcome to tonight’s banquet. We hope you had a chance to chat with members and guests... We hope you enjoy tonight’s banquet and thank you for attending,” he said.

Following the opening ceremony and the official call to order, Bristol Bachman led the blessing before the meal. The officer team made their way to the food and led the way through the buffet line, getting their food first. Guests followed behind. The dinner included pork, baked beans and a selection of salads along with desserts and drinks.

During the meal the audience was treated to a talk from guest speaker Mr. Bill Kluck, sheep committee chair for the R-Calf USA. He took questions and provided answers following his presentation.

As everyone was finishing their meal, the FFA program continued with the presentation of awards. Wetz said, “it is an honor and privilege to see so many of our community members, parents and guests here. Tonight, we are showcasing everything that our chapter has accomplished this year.”

The recipients of the Discovery Degree were Lucille Ahart, Jessi Bachman, Cecilia Dennis, Dylan Evans, Victoria Ginsbach, Kyle Kenstler and Ayricka Schulte.

Those receiving the Greenhand Degree were Evelyn Ahart, Bianca Bierman, Jonah Branning, Arabelle Dennis, Samantha High, Lily Niles, Khloe Rivera, Justin Stranberg and Brendt Tift.

The recipients of Chapter Degrees were honored. They were Bristol Bachman, Jessica Raisanen and Orrin Youngberg.

There were three graduating



The new officer team for 2026-2027 are **Bailey Takes The Gun**, Reporter; **Kate High**, President; **Sorley Wetz**, Treasurer; **Bianca Bierman**, Secretary; **Evelyn Ahart**, Sentinel; and in front, **Orrin Youngberg**, Vice President. Longbrake photo

seniors who were honored and recognized by awarding them the FFA graduation honor cords. They were Jessica Raisanen, Rachel Stranberg and Rowdy Wetz.

“As you enter your glorious years of becoming an adult, let your upcoming year be filled with pride and confidence,” said Bristol Bachman.

Three honorary memberships were awarded. “Honorary memberships are farmers, community members and business people who are helping to advance agriculture, agriculture education in the FFA who have rendered outstanding service may be limited to honorary membership,” explained Bachman. Those

receiving this honor were Connie Weineke, Ashley High and Tyler Swan.

An important part of the FFA year-end banquet is the installation of new officers to replace the outgoing officer team. The new officer team for 2026-2027 are Kate High, President; Orrin Youngberg, Vice President; Bianca Bierman, Secretary; Sorley Wetz, Treasurer; Bailey Takes The Gun, Reporter; and Evelyn Ahart, Sentinel.

Throughout the evening guests could bid on a variety of items in a silent auction. All of the proceeds raised from the auction are given to a selected cause. This year the High family will receive the funds. Dan High

is the father of two Newell FFA members, Kate and Samantha. He was recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. The money raised will be used to help in that fight. “We do the silent auction to raise money to help someone in our community who may be going through some kind of struggle. This was an easy decision for it to go to the Highs,” shared Advisor Cheyenne Geppert.

The 2025-2026 Newell FFA members include Orrin Youngberg, Rowdy Franklin, Justin Stranberg, Brendt Tift, Evelyn Ahart, Khloe Rivera, Sam High, Jessi Bachman, Rachel Stranberg, Bianca Bierman, Dylan Evans, Tori Ginsbach, Kate High, Kiley

Link, Sorley Franklin, Cecilia Dennis, Lily Niles, Bailey Takes The Gun, Ayricka Schulte, Lucille Ahart, Bristol Bachman, Nevada Donahey, Hayden Johnston, Arabelle Dennis, Jessica Raisanen, Paul Raisanen, Jonah Branning and Kyle Kestler.



Photos Contd. D4

Mother’s Day Party Showcases Renovations at NVN Senior Center

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Mother’s Day is the perfect day to have a party! At the Newell Vale Nisland (NVN) Senior Center the ladies decided to do just that, host a party on May 9.

They set the stage for an inviting Mother’s Day gathering with tablecloths on all the tables, fresh carnation centerpieces, an entire table of desserts and a choice of punch, coffee or tea.

There was a table decorated with delicate tea sets, and they were giving out flowers to the mothers—they really thought of everything! “Oh, we just want ladies to come in and sit down and visit and enjoy themselves,” explained Marj Adams, President of NVN.

There was also lovely piano music that filled the room with Roxanne Neilan keeping the ladies entertained.

Another reason for the party was to take the opportunity to show off all of the renovations that have been made to the center.

If you haven’t been in to see the changes, it is definitely something you must see. A few of the recent changes include the ceiling has been redone, the walls have been repainted, the flooring has been replaced, there is a new roof on the building, the storage room has

been cleaned and repainted, the kitchen floor has been replaced and most recently the women’s bathroom, with two stalls has been redone with a new floor, and the two stalls have been remodeled into one room that is now ADA compliant.

The NVN Senior Center ladies would really like everyone to come and support the center and join in on a few of their upcoming activities while taking the opportunity to see all of the recent upgrades.

On Monday nights the center hosts bingo from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come visit, enjoy some snacks and possibly win a game of bingo or two.

May 26 is the next Pie Day at the NVN Center. Beginning at 10 a.m. fresh baked pies are available to purchase by the slice or whole. You can come in and enjoy the pie among friends or grab a slice to go. Roxanne Neilan plays the piano from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The ladies usually play cards during Pie Day. Come and join in on the fun!

The Senior Center is also available to rent as well.



(Above) Some of the lovely ladies enjoying each other’s company at the Mother’s Day Party at the NVN Center. (BL) Roxanne Neilan entertained everyone on the piano at the Mother’s Day Party. (BR) Beautiful tea sets decorated the Mother’s Day Party. Longbrake photos



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Reub finished farming down south on Monday and that evening Reub and I went to the pre-school to sixth grade concert at the elementary school in Scranton to watch our granddaughter Irelyn and grandson Dathan perform in the concert. We got to see a lot of friends who were also there for the entertainment and it was a nice night to be out.

Colt and Catherine Besler have a new baby boy. Declan Levi was born May 3 in Spearfish weighing 9lbs. 4oz. and is 22 inches long. Congratulations!

Mark Sivertson from the AFLC Development Team came to visit us Tuesday afternoon and we had a good visit before he left to go down to Bev and Iver Heier's place that evening for supper and to spend the night. I had a ZOOM call that evening with SDPRLCA with the 2026 Legislative Primary Candidate Video Survey, which was

really interesting.

Reub and I went to Hettinger Wednesday morning for my physical therapy session with Cole Miller because I'm still having a lot of pain in my right leg from my hip to the bottom of my foot. We ate lunch at the American Legion and then headed home too early for coffee in Reeder.

Casey went over to the Hackamore ranch on Thursday to help Clint Doll run cement in that nice weather. I got my South Dakota Magazine this week and it has a great story about the colorful brandings at the Hackamore ranch with the "fashion show" that started 50 years ago. I've been going to the Hackamore brandings since Reub and I were married 63 years ago and they are always very entertaining. Years ago Reub's uncle Claude Olson used to do a pit barbeque to feed the crowd with the help of his wife Inez, Sylvia Doll and his sister Martha Larson to feed the big crowd that showed up to help at the branding. The branding

became the start of the fashion season almost 50 years ago when Doug Doll got home late and in the chilly weather, all he could find in his pickup was a sport coat. Now you can't rope calves unless you are wearing a necktie, otherwise you can only wrestle calves and brand. There is a colorful picture of Clint Doll dressed in his shiny purple tailcoat, our great grandson Knox Olson is in a picture with Clint's son Beau Doll leading a horse, our son Casey is in two pictures branding calves, and a lot of friends and neighbors are also in the pictures of the story that Matt Gade wrote about last year's branding.

I had a ZOOM call Thursday evening with the SD Coalition of counties to hear what Justin McNeal had to tell us out running against Sen. Mike Rounds for his Senate seat in Washington DC and that was really interesting. Reub and I planned to go to Buffalo that evening for the National Day of Prayer meeting at the Civic Center that evening but my leg was hurting too much so we stayed home.

Reub and I went to Hettinger Friday morning so I could get a really painful MRI to see what was causing that terrible pain in my right leg. Dr. Kristy sent the information to Lesley Kling and when I met with her after the MRI she told me that I have a cyst in my back that's pressing on the nerve that is causing the pain in my

leg. She is sending me to the Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center in Rapid City to see if they can fix it for me.

Noreen (Hanson) Green, age 62 of Lodgepole, passed away on May 2 at the Monument Hospital in Rapid City, surrounded by her loved ones. The Service of Remembrance for Noreen Kay Green was Saturday, May 9, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bison with burial at the Bison Cemetery near Bison. Reub mowed Missy's lawn and our lawn with his riding mower on Saturday and Amanda finished mowing under the trees where the riding mower won't fit so everything looks pretty good out there right now with the trees getting leaves and the apple tree is blossoming. I'll have to get my gardens planted pretty soon.

Sunday was the first day with no Sunday School and the service starts at 9:00 for the summer now. It was also Mother's Day on Sunday and Linda Mohagen gave every mother there a four box of flowers to take home to plant in our gardens. Next Sunday Seminarian Dan Aiechele will have the church service and there will be a potluck dinner following the service.

I'll leave you with these Mother's Day jokes:
 *Everybody wants to save the earth; nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes.
 *If you feel tense and get a headache, follow the instruc-

tions on the bottle of aspirin: Take two tablets and keep away from children.
 *Happy Mother's Day! Without moms, where would we be? Probably with our hair still stuck in that water fountain drain. Just me?
 *I know how to do anything. I'm a mom.
 *99.9% of all questions from moms the day after Mother's Day begin with "Where did you put the..."
 *My kids brought me breakfast in bed on Mother's Day: an Egg McMuffin. I was just relieved that I wouldn't have to clean the kitchen.
 *Moms will clean up everything. Scientists have proven that a Mom's spit is the exact chemical composition of Formula 409. Mom's spit on a Kleenex - you get rust off a bumper with that.



Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

May 4, 1916

Word has been received from Martin Stolz that he has signed a contract with the Montrose, Colorado baseball team, of the Rocky Mountain League, to pitch for their team this season. He pitched the first game last Saturday and won by a score of 2 to 1. Many of Stolz's friends about Newell will greet the news with pleasure. Martin was the trusty southpaw on Newell's semi-pro team for 2 years and was in much demand throughout the Hills towns also.

A large number of dancers took in the leap-year dance at the Experiment Farm on Saturday evening, and all had a good time. A few lovers of the light fantastic went out to Castle Rock on Saturday evening to attend the leap-year dance and all also had a good time.

Judge McNenny, Deadwood, and Naturalization Officer Walter Casper, Minneapolis, were in Belle Fourche Wednesday hearing applications for final Naturalization papers. The following applications had been filed: W. T. Roberts (Wales) and Wm. Jas. Chase (Canada) both; Belle Fourche; Metleena Lahonen (Russia), Wm. Pugh (Wales), Arthur E. Richards (Canada), Sam Cash (Turkey), John Anderson (Sweden), Wm. Kuronen (Finland), Charles Kunsint (Finland), Abraham Marshly (Turkey) and John R. Ranto (Finland) all from Newell; Martinus Neilson (Denmark) Vale; Knute Olson (Norway) Hoover and Marie Deschamps (Canada) Castle Rock.

May 6, 1926

At a depth of 32 inches, which may have been the bed of an ancient river, Spencer Sheeley, from east of here, found a moss agate arrowhead that is different than from any ever found in this part of western South Dakota.

Wm. Kelley was a visitor in Newell Monday enroute to Sturgis to attend Circuit Court. Mr. Kelley was called as a witness in the White Case which is on the calendar for this term.

Dave Ducharme was in from his Moreau Ranch, having been also called Sturgis as a witness in the court case. Dave says he doesn't fancy this courting business just at lambing time.

It's apple blossom time again and the trees in some places are indeed a joy to behold. And can anyone think of a more wonderful scent than the fragrance of apple blossoms?

We have been informed that water has been turned into the ditches for irrigation purposes, which will relieve the project farmers, especially the beet men who will have to irrigate their beets up this year, unless we get rain before the water arrives.

May 7, 1936

Another progressive step was announced in Newell this week when Floyd Byrd revealed his plans to start regular garbage removal service. The plan is to maintain a regular pick-up of garbage each week in order that unsightly and unhealthy accumulations of garbage may be disposed of before becoming a nuisance. Customers desiring this service may obtain same by paying a monthly fee and setting out all garbage in acceptable waterproof containers. Byrd is already engaged in hauling farm laborers from Orman Dam to work along the Orman-Vale Route. The contract award was made by the Butte County Labor Board.

Angelo Napoli's Melody Orchestra Artists will play at the big free dance to be given at the Newell City Auditorium Saturday night. The dance is being put on by the Newell Community Club, the Ross-Kayras Post 123, American Legion and the Newell Jaycees. All veterans are invited to attend, bring their families and friends and otherwise enjoy this affair which is being staged as a "Welcome" back by the community to show their appreciation to veterans.

Dalmar Cox, Vale vicinity, was taken to Belle Fourche Hospital Tuesday evening to receive treatment for an infection

by Linda Velder

near the elbow caused by the bite of a poisonous insect. Dr. Threadgold lanced the wound and put a drain in it.

May 2, 1946

Another progressive step was announced in Newell this week when Floyd Byrd revealed his plans to start regular garbage removal service. The plan is to maintain a regular pick-up of garbage regularly each week in order that unsightly and unhealthy accumulations of garbage may be disposed of before becoming a nuisance. Customers desiring this service may obtain same by paying a small monthly fee and setting out all garbage in accessible waterproof containers. Byrd is already engaged in hauling water to Newell, and the past week was awarded the contract for hauling farm laborers from Camp at Orman Dam to work along the Orman-Vale route. The contract award was made by the Butte County Agriculture Labor Board.

Another Newell improvement is now underway at the Brodsky Cold Storage plant in the northwest part of town. J. C. Brodsky is remodeling the plant and will make use of present fridgeration equipment in the meat service being started and made available in this territory. The service will include complete processing of meat, from butchering and cutting to chilling and curing.

May 10, 1956

The Newell Explorer Scouts met at the City Hall Monday evening to begin their firearms shooting course. Crew Chief Harry Weakly, Policeman Walt Miller, Instructors Leonard Wilson and Vern Hafner conducted the training. High scores for the evening were; first place Donald Stomprud, 2nd place Lynn Kuchera, 3rd place Dick Wilson and 4th Richard Sletten. Boys present also included Eddie Weakly, Norman Williamson, Roger Caton, David Bliss, Jack Malcolm, Jerry Lee, Richard Loewel, Tom Fabricius, Harlan Robbins and Darrell Barber.



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All residents of the area are urged this week to look for and return capes and caps which formerly made up the Newell School Band uniforms. The capes and caps will be used to suit the "B" band and an insufficient number for such purpose have as yet been turned in, Supt. G. W. noted.

Dead fish which have washed up along shorelines as a result of winterkill are creating a stench and health problem which will have to be disposed of by private individuals, groups or municipalities. Game Director Elmer Peterson and State Health Department Dr. G. J. Van Heuvelon have indicated that their agencies do not have funds available to them for the removal and disposition of the dead fish and consequently, the matter is a local responsibility. Our Newell Golf Course Pond is prime example. The best method to clean up dead carcasses is to pick up, and burial is the only positive control as the temperature rises and flies come out of winter hibernation. Then of course the fly population needs to be eradicated by spray. Spray drifts can dangerously plague remaining fish life in public waters.

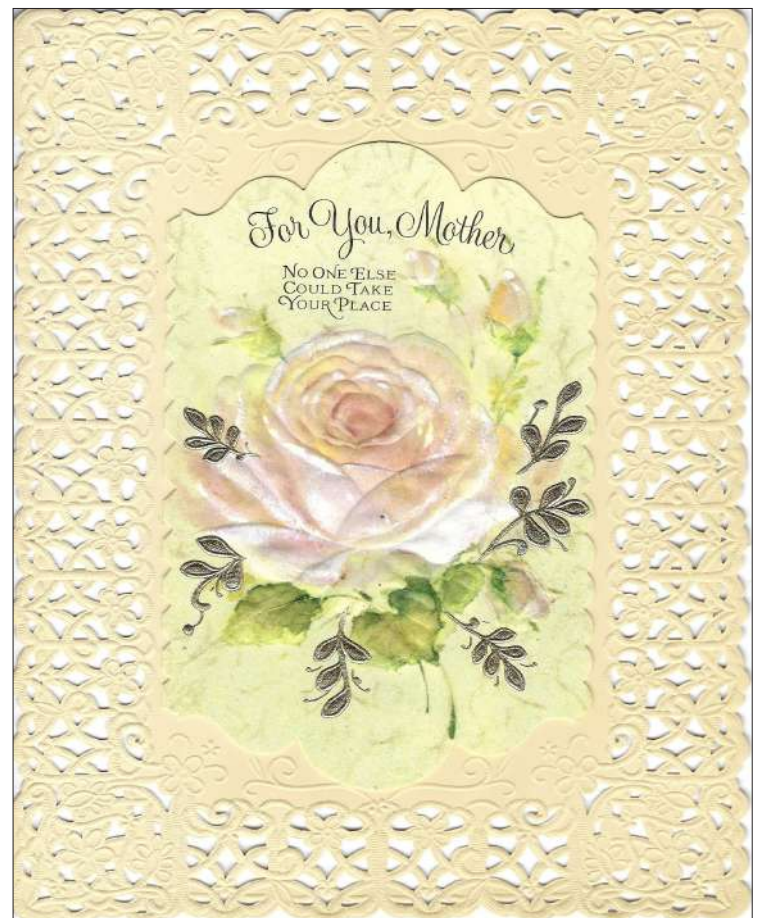
May 19, 1966

Three designs were chosen to have on shirts at a meeting of the Horse Creek 4-H Sheep Club held Monday evening at the LeRoy Helmer home. Twenty-two members were present and roll call was answered by submitting designs for the official 4-H emblem for

the club. Plans for a 4-H picnic were also discussed. The next meeting will be at the Doug Beckham home, with roll call to be answered by letting other members know how they have fixed up their mailboxes.

Mary Renelt, Secretary of American Legion Auxiliary issued a statement to are folks; Saturday May 21 will be Poppy Day in Newell, and every American is urged to wear a poppy on that day. It is the least we can do for those who gave their all for God and Country. She explained, in the spring of 1919 midst complete devastation, the poppies bloomed in abundance on the battlefields of France, where so many of our men had fallen in battle. The replica of this poppy has become an emblem of faith, faith which is being kept with all who died, through service of the living. Let us not forget the dead. Aid the living and Wear a poppy. The profit from the poppy sales, 100% goes to welfare relief for disabled service men and women, thus full filling the true meaning of the poppy.

The rural mailbox plays a part in the current "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. Postal carriers will check appearance, condition and mounting of estimated 18,000,000 rural boxes in US during the Mailbox Department in May for compliance with Post Office Regulations. Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, who has been in the forefront of this campaign has agreed that "attractive mailboxes do enhance our nation's highways".



(L) Mr. Martinson came to US in 1906 and in 1908, renounced forever Gustav V King of Sweden and received Naturalization certificate (R) Mother's Day card send to mom From Betty D., 1949.

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

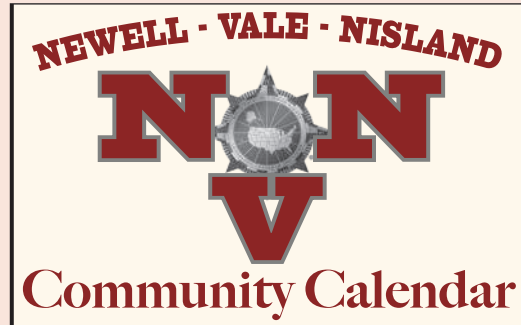
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Wednesday Evenings
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Newell School

Newell Library Hours
Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday
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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

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FFA Banquet Photos



(Clockwise from Above) Outstanding members for each grade starting with the eighth grade, **Lucille Ahart**; ninth grade, **Khloe Rivera**; 10th grade, **Hayden Johnston**; 11th grade, **Kate High**; and 12th grade, **Jessica Raisanen**; Newell High School FFA members standing to be recognized; Guest speaker for the FFA Banquet was **Mr. Bill Kluck**, sheep committee chair for **R-Calf USA**; Outgoing President **Rowdy Wetz** gives his farewell address. *Longbrake photos*

80th Birthday Celebration Held for Darlene Stapp

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NEWELL—Every birthday is special and worth celebrating, but reaching 80 is a milestone that calls for something a little extra! That’s exactly what the family of Darlene Stapp had in mind when they planned a special gathering of family and friends in Newell on May 9 to celebrate her 80th birthday. Born in 1949, Darlene has seen a lot of changes during her lifetime. But change is something she is used to, beginning with her move to Newell, a small place on the edge of South Dakota. It was a big change from where she grew up in Massachusetts. “Yeah, it was a big change, but I adjusted, that’s just what you do, you know, you just get on with it,” declared Darlene. She met her husband, Tom, when he was in the Navy. He was from Newell, so after they were married, they made South Dakota home. “My husband’s dad—they were raising pigs, and he threw me in the pen and told me to catch a baby pig, but he didn’t tell me how to catch

it! So I tried to catch it this way and that way, and finally, he says, ‘grab them by the back leg and flip them,’” shared Darlene. “Well, yeah, that was really easy after you learned how to do it! He was a character!” The Stapp family has deep roots in Newell. Darlene shared, “We used to live here when my husband was alive. He was raised here, and I lived here for 35 years with my husband.” She has since moved to Spearfish. Darlene and Tom have three children: Brian, Chad and Sundi. They have since lost both Sundi and Tom. Darlene has eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Much of her family traveled to Newell to spend her birthday with her. “That’s my two great-grandboys, they just met each other today,” shared Darlene. She worked for the Newell School District for 32 years as a special education paraprofessional. Darlene was happy with the turnout for her party. She said she got to visit with old friends from the school and the community too. “It



Darlene Stapp surrounded by her family as they celebrate her 80th birthday. *Longbrake photo*

was a good day, I’m glad! I don’t know about this 80, but so far, it’s doing good,” she said. “My friend from Spearfish, she was 80 on January 1 and she said, ‘No, we’re just going to be 79 plus, we don’t like 80!’” The party almost didn’t happen. Her first instinct was to say no when her son asked her about it. “First I told him no, I don’t want a party, don’t

have a party,” she said. Then around Easter, she suffered a heart attack. She was visiting her son Chad and his family, and lucky for her, he is a doctor and her daughter-in-law is a nurse. “So thank God they got me in. They did all that nonsense—I’m on three heart meds and doing good,” she said. But then she decided she was still alive, she survived

a heart attack and maybe a party would be fun! “Let’s do it! Let’s party, because I’m here to do it! Let’s celebrate life,” said Darlene. “My kids did a great job! That was lovely, I loved it!”

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