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86 Seniors Take Their Final Walk as BFHS Students

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—One by one, the graduates emerged onto the track at Lou Graslie Field on the morning of May 16, dressed in purple or black caps and gowns as they made their final high school walk to their seats.

The sun was shining on the ceremony, although the wind showed up in full force, taking a few of the graduates' caps with it as it blew. The class color is periwinkle, the class flower is lily, and the class song is "Vienna" by Billy Joel. The motto for the class is, "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory," by Dr. Seuss.

The Belle Fourche High School Band, under the direction of Micah Pennel, played "Pomp and Circumstance" for the senior processional. Pennel also directed the senior choir members in singing the National Anthem, accompanied by Lucy Cole.

High school principal Mathew Raba welcomed everyone to the ceremony and discussed how he has seen many of the graduating class grow up over his past 17 years. "Graduates that sit before me today—they are talented athletically, academically, artistically, musically, and have shown the ability to show empathy to their peers and others around them. They are role models, leaders, and will be successful at anything they put their mind to. The future of our community, state, nation, and world is in your hands and I'm confident you will do great



The Class of 2026 participates in the graduation cap-throwing tradition. Longbrake photo

things," he said. "Join me now in recognizing our graduating class, their families, and our faculty with a well-deserved round of applause."

Raba introduced senior class president Andy Pruitt to give the opening dedication. "Good morning, everyone. Today we celebrate more than grades, awards, or diplomas. We also celebrate growth, determination, and the long path that brought us here. As Annette Funicello once said, 'Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful,'" he shared. He went on to

congratulate the Class of 2026.

Superintendent Orion Thompson gave the official welcome address. "First of all, I want to thank everybody here for coming and supporting these fine graduates. This is as much your day as it is theirs, and I think it is amazing to see this type of representation as we go through this commencement." He went on to remind the graduates it took 12-plus years to get to this day, so enjoy it to the fullest.

The Belle Fourche High School Choir, under the

direction of Pennel, sang "Someday Is Today" by Andre J. Thomas. Cole provided piano accompaniment.

Special recognition was given to each of the honor groups as Raba called individual names and asked students to stand for the following honor groups:

Honor Graduates—who have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 throughout their high school career; High Honor Graduates—who have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 throughout their high

school career; National Honor Society members—selection to the National Honor Society is a prestigious achievement, and members are chosen by a faculty committee at Belle Fourche High School. Selection is based on their demonstration of excellence in the four foundational pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character; and finally, the Regent Scholars—this is a significant academic achievement. To earn this distinction, students must

Graduation Contd. A8

Candidates Share Views at Forum Ahead of June 2 Primary

Robbi Longbrake

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BUTTE COUNTY—Whatever It Takes Coalition (WIT) invited area candidates on the June 2 primary ballot to Newell on May 12 to introduce themselves and explain why they should receive voters' support. State, county, and local school board candidates traveled to Newell to meet with voters at the Newell City Hall.

Sabrina Harmon, WIT director, welcomed everyone to the event. "I greatly appreciate you showing up. This is something that's very near and dear to my heart, because I hate to admit when I was 18 years old, I probably didn't even know the people that I voted for...so I try to make sure I know who I'm voting for and know what their values are, so thank you for coming out," she said.

Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to pick up a sample ballot to see who and what would be on the ballot to

prepare for the June 2 election. The sample ballot was also used as the speaking order for the event. "I'm going to give each person a few minutes to tell us why we should vote for them," explained Harmon. "Everybody off of the ballot has been contacted either by their mail that's through the Secretary of State's website, their Facebook page, their website, they've all been contacted—giving them the opportunity to come to this event or to send a video or to send a letter..."

Running for United States Senator Justin McNeal was first to speak. He is running against incumbent Mike Rounds.

Mike Rounds was next on the list. He did not provide a video or letter but did email a quick note that said, "we hoped we would have a chance to get a video filmed today, but had armed services and intel hearings. Thank you again for the invitation and offer. We hope the event goes well."

Running for United States Representative are Marty Jackley and James Bialota. Jackley sent a video. Bialota didn't make it to the event.

Running for South Dakota governor on the Republican ticket are incumbent Larry Rhoden, Jon Hansen, Dusty Johnson, and Toby Doeden. Rhoden addressed the group via a pre-taped video. Jon Hansen sent a letter for Harmon to read on his behalf. Johnson did not reply in any way. Doeden was present in person to address the audience himself.

State senators running for District 28 were both on hand to speak to citizens from the area. Sam Marty went first, followed by Ryan Maher.

State House of Representatives for District 28B Larry Schmaltz and Travis Ismay were both on hand to speak to their possible voters.

The two candidates running for one open Newell School

Candidate Forum Contd. A3



United States Senator candidate Justin McNeal speaks. Longbrake photo



Mike Habeck stands by one of his newer trucks. Longbrake photo

Built From Scratch: Habeck Trucking Celebrates 30 Years

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Family, friends, employees, and even past employees gathered at Habeck Trucking Company's truck shop a few miles outside of Belle Fourche on May 15 to celebrate the company's 30th anniversary.

The truck shop was transformed into a celebratory space decked out with gold and black balloons, black and gold tablecloths, fancy hors d'oeuvres, a variety of drinks, and a 30th anniversary cake. One of the newer Habeck trucks, freshly washed and polished, was also on display.

Thirty years in business is quite a milestone for any company, but owner Mike Habeck started his trucking business all on his own.

"Well, we've done this for 30

years since I went and started on my own in the trucking business—so that was actually in February of 1996," he said.

"Of course this isn't like a second generation or anything, we just started from scratch—sometimes you know, you hear about trucking companies that have been around longer, but it might have been passed down, and my dad was a rancher...but he didn't like trucks, he wasn't a trucker."

Habeck started his business with one truck and was all the way up to 35 trucks at one time. He has since downsized. "Now we're back down to nine...I just decided it was more headache than I wanted, and so we kind of put it back down to this size—I'm kind of a micro manager, so it's a lot easier for me to sleep at night when I feel like I get a little better control," he explained.

The company makes long hauls and local hauls. Some of his trucks go from one end of the country to the other. Belle Fourche has been the perfect central location for his trucks that make those long hauls because it is just about in the middle of the runs. When needed, drivers can swap out and finish the run. "Most of our trailers, our primary lanes will go out to Oregon and Washington and back to states like Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio," said Habeck. "So it's a lot of back and forth—most of the time when these guys are coming through here, they're loaded, and occasionally, if they want to be home for a few days and they live here, we just swap a guy that's already been home, he takes the load on, that's

Habeck 30th Contd. A6

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Naida Louise Keiry, 95

Naida Louise Keiry, age 95 of Nisland, South Dakota, went home to Jesus on February 14, 2026. A Celebration of her life will take place at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at the Nisland Independent Community Church.

Memorials are preferred to Village Missions. Born September 18, 1930 in Nisland, SD, Naida was third of five children to John and Rosa Bentz. She attended the Langdon country school and graduated from Nisland High School. Naida met Oliver William Keiry while attending Rockmont Bible College in Denver, Colorado. The couple were married on June 10, 1951 at the Nisland Church. To this union, four children were born. Bill and Naida lived in Colorado a few months, returned to this area, and worked for John Bentz Sr. for two years.

They purchased a neighboring farm in 1954. The couple raised sheep and started their dairy farm in 1960. Naida loved the agricultural lifestyle: gardening, canning, preserving bountiful vegetables; rais-



ing chickens and feeding calves. She spent time in the kitchen cooking and baking for her growing family of four children.

The Keirys attended First Baptist Church in Belle Fourche for a number of years. Later on, they joined the Nisland Independent Church. Both were very active in numerous positions. Naida was especially prone to kitchen help. A relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing Him was important to Naida.

Survivors include: Cheryl (Steven) Gilmore, Nisland; Stephen (Kela) Keiry, Nisland; Stewart (Barb) Keiry, Meeteetse, WY; son-in-law, David Hoag, Seward, NE; 11 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers, John Jr. and Laurence; two sisters, Faye Allen and Audrey Friedel; daughter, Christine Hoag; and granddaughter, Rebecca (Gilmore) Flood.

Carol Johnston, 66

It is with mixed emotions of sorrow and profound peace that we announce the passing of Carol Ann Johnston, age 66 of Belle Fourche, who died Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Monument Health Spearfish Hospital.

Carol was born March 6, 1960, in Deadwood, SD to Arthur and Margaret Johnston. The Johnston family moved to a variety of places while Carol was small child including Missouri, Kentucky, Nevada and California while her father Art worked construction.

The family lived in Idaho Springs, CO for the longest before settling in Spearfish, SD in approximately 1974. Carol's family started a trucking company that her brother Mike owns and operates to this day. In her childhood years, Carol was a Brownie in the Girls Scouts and played clarinet in the school band. Carol enjoyed many things in her youth, including time with friends and family, travel, various art, and photography, but the pastime she loved most was dance. She excelled as a country swing/Jitterbug dancer and attended many events with the live music and friends she loved so much.

Carol worked a variety of jobs in her life but was most proud of being a Hoist Operator for the Homestake Gold Mine. Carol spent her retirement days with her beloved cats Calie and Bella and special friends. Carol found a deep love for plants/gardens of any kind and in her later years, found a love for Christ. She attended services at her church in Belle Fourche whenever she could. Her witty sense of humor, chatty nature and stubbornness created an eventful journey in life, Carol never met a stranger.

Carol was the mother of two children: her daughter, Trish, or her "Christmas Baby" born December 12, and three years later welcomed her son, Randall, or her "Birthday Baby", who she proclaimed was the best birthday present she ever received as they share the



same birthday. Carol later welcomed her grandchild Vin. Her grandson was the "sunshine" of her life, and she could be counted upon the show her brag book of photographs of him to anyone who would take a moment to view them.

Carol lived a life that was uniquely hers. While some of her relationships throughout her life faced their undeniable challenges, ultimately her children and loved ones were blessed with the time and grace to work through differences, find forgiveness, and make amends. That chapter of healing brought peace to her family's hearts, and they are grateful for the moments of connection they shared in her final time on this earth. Trish and Randall would like to thank those that loved their mother through her life's journey.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia "Trish" (R.C.) Johnston of Belle Fourche; son, Randall (Thavy Em) Johnston of Fresno CA; grandson, Vin Garza of Belle Fourche; brother, Michael Johnston of Belle Fourche; Special Friend, Annie (Justin) Bush of Belle Fourche; several cousins, extended family members and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her Mother, Margie; Father, Art; Grandparents; Great Grandparents; as well as several beloved Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins.

A celebration of her life and journey toward healing will be held at a later date where all who knew her, and who believe in the power of grace and redemption, are welcome to attend and share happy stories and memories, as Carol most wanted to be happy in this life!

Arrangements are with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Friends may leave written condolences online at: www.LeveringtonFH.com

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Family and Friends of Peter 'Pete' M. Ferguson are respectfully invited to attend a celebration of life, which will be held at St. James Episcopal Church in Belle Fourche on June 6, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Cremation arrangements were under the care of Isburg Crematory of Spearfish.

Kathryn Edwards, 87, passed away March 17, 2026 in Spearfish, SD. Graveside services will be held **May 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Black Hills National Cemetery.** The family then invites everyone to join them for a celebration of life service at 12:00 p.m. at the Vale Community Hall in Vale. You may sign her online guestbook at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

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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.**

Taking the time to make advanced funeral or cremation planning is a caring and responsible thing to do. Planning now, while we have the time to consider every option, can remove significant amount of the emotional and financial stress that every family must eventually face.

Kline Funeral Chapel offers an array of Burial and Cremation Packages to suit any budget.

Pastor's Perspective *This Perspective is from the 2019 Archives.*

"The Heart of the Mind"

"I go with my gut," says one. "I have a plan," says another. We all know people who are more "gut" or "mind," meaning they listen to one more. Impulsive versus planner, snap decision versus analytical, they do seem opposites. But must they be?

Philippians 2:5 says have the mind or attitude of Christ that as He counted others more important than Himself so should we. This sounds like classic gut versus mind: when you serve someone do you plan it out or act? Why not both? The word for mind or attitude is a Greek word that literally combines both the gut feeling and the analytical thinking of our attitudes, bringing an inner feeling into outward action. It's a thought out gut feeling or impulsive analysis.

Why does this matter? When we can serve someone we must be aware of that gut feeling to act but also think about the best way to serve one another. God isn't after only our heart or our mind, but says to love Him with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Our challenge is to, with God's help, make the two meet and emulate Jesus with the entirety of who He made us to be, our mind & heart working together to serve Him & each other. What do you think about that?

Acts 17:26
And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.

Prayer for the Week
Dear Lord, Thank You for fearfully and wonderfully creating each of us. Thank You for giving us worth in Your eyes. Help us live as the one You uniquely intended us to be. Help us abide instead of strive, living peacefully and joyfully as heirs to Your Kingdom and co-heirs with Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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From A1 **Candidate Forum**

Board position were both on site to address the audience; they are Todd Youngberg and Kurt Hocking.

In Butte County, there is an Initiated Measure A on every Butte County voter's ballot. It is a resolution to create an ordinance to prohibit data centers in Butte County. The state's attorney explanation is: the resolution would require that the Butte County commissioners create an ordinance prohibiting the construction of data centers in Butte County, South Dakota. From the initiative: A vote "Yes" will adopt the resolution and require the Butte County commissioners to draft an ordinance prohibiting data centers. A vote "No" will not adopt the resolution.

County Commissioner Chad Erk was at the event to give his opinion on Measure A. "... kind of here to talk about this amendment. So an individual passed around a petition to have the commission create an

ordinance to stop data centers from going up in Butte County. So a Yes vote would be to have five government individuals decide what's going to happen on your personal property. A No vote protects personal property rights," he said. "She had very good intentions when she circulated this petition to create this ordinance. I'm not a fan of it, because the downside to it is it is an attack on personal property rights I feel. So a Yes vote is we'll let the government say what can and can't happen on our ground, and a No vote is keeping them out of it."

Finally, Annie Capp, an incumbent running for reelection to Butte County Auditor, informed the voting public about the voter registration deadline of May 18. She also discussed absentee voting. "So absentee voting, per law, opens up 46 days before any election. So it is open right now, if you are planning on not being in person voting on June 2, you can come to my

office anytime between now and June 2, closing of business, June 1, and you can vote absentee."

Capp also informed everyone of a recent law change regarding when school and city elections must be held. "They used to be able to pick between April, June and November, and that changed, the law so they can only choose June or November now, so they're in alignment with the county and state elections... hopefully that'll improve for voter turnout. Our voter turnout in our primary elections is really dismal, so I hope you all turn out and make sure you vote."

Following the introduction and discussion, the audience was invited to stay after, snack on provided food and drinks, and question the candidates in person. All of the candidates stayed and visited with those in attendance.

kotatv.com has the full candidate statements from the Newell candidate forum on its site if you want to listen.

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(Clockwise from Above) The candidate forum had a good turnout; Butte County commissioner **Chad Erk**, running unopposed, discusses **Initiated Measure A**; State senator District 28 candidate **Ryan Maher** spends time talking with attendees; United States senator candidate **Justin McNeal** visits with potential voters. *Long-brake photos*



FFA State Sentinel, Andy Pruitt

Meg English

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Belle Fourche High School Senior Andy Pruitt is looking forward to his new role as a State Future Farmers of America (FFA) officer.

In April, Andy was named South Dakota State FFA Sentinel state convention in Brookings.

"The two-day interview process began with a simple application mostly consisting of personal information," Andy explained. "This application was due April 1st and a week later nineteen candidates all met on the DWU campus in Mitchell. The interview consisted of six rounds of varying length and intensity."

The FFA State Sentinel is one of several officers who make up the state FFA student leadership team. Those officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel.

Th other officers are from throughout the state. "We have two from Sturgis, one from Lake Preston, one from Brookings, and one from Madison."

Specifically, Andy's role as State FFA Sentinel includes the responsibility of assisting the president in maintaining order, making

sure that meeting guests and presenters are comfortable and welcomed. It's very much a people person job, but also a job that requires attention to details. For example, the meeting equipment must always be up to speed and in working order and of course there must be refreshments.

Andy is a people-person and considers himself to be well-suited for the job. "As past leaders have told me, the best sentinels are distinguished by their strong handshake and smile."

Andy described his ambitions for his tenure in office.

"My appointment as State Sentinel is a huge honor and means more than I can easily put into words. I mainly seek to empower students to be passionate about FFA and agriculture. There is no shame in loving what you do and doing what you love. I look forward to furthering the FFA mission of premier leadership, personal growth, and career success."

State officers serve on a one-year term, and may only serve once in either their freshman or sophomore year of college. The main duties of state officers require us to spend most of the year traveling the state running

leadership camps and workshops, visiting chapters across the state, and acting as representatives of the student body and association within South Dakota. The team will also attend the annual national FFA convention in Indianapolis, IN.

The summer will be busy, as will the fall and spring. "The team will be together for leadership camps, Governors Ag Summit, State Officer Summit, as well as multiple trainings. Overall, we spend a significant amount of our time together through our term."

In addition to his leadership role Andy will be pursuing a degree in Ag Business at South Dakota State University. After college he is interested in a career in accounting or business administration. He is confident that what he has learned in FFA will serve him well. In future endeavors.

"Initially I joined FFA at the suggestion of my friends, and I didn't know what to think. But after putting some time into the organization, I realized just how much I was receiving in return, and it motivated me to discover everything else the blue jacket had to offer. FFA is more than just a youth leadership organization, it is a family and a welcoming home for all students."

Andy's family has connec-



State FFA Sentinel **Andy Pruitt** of the Belle Fourche FFA Chapter. *Courtesy photo*

tions in agriculture. His mom Audrey Pruitt recently became the Butte/Lawrence County 4-H education specialist. Dad, David Pruitt works as a Senior Application/Business Analyst for Black Hills State University and owns and operates PooterQ, a local catering business that specializes in barbeque. Andy has two

brothers David Alexander, and Austin.

"I will only serve as the sentinel through the end of my term next April. Next spring the applications will reopen and another group of candidates will step up to the plate for state office, and upon conclusion of the next state convention, my term will end and a new sentinel will be installed."

High School Track and Field Competes in Mountain West and Black Hills conference

Kandi Tonsager
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On Tuesday May 12th the Broncos competed in an unlimited entry track meet in Lead at the Mountain West Invite, allowing for all athletes to enter in multiple events. Many Broncos were able to set personal records and season bests. The following highlights from Coach Wattier on the meet were:

For the boys; Caeyn Howard, Raif Parmeter, Tate Thomsen, Maliky Rodriguez, and Cole Mailoux all ran PRs in the 100m dash; Chris Jewett, Griffen Biehl, and Maliky Rodriguez ran PRs in the 200m dash; Slater Humbracht ran a PR in the 400m dash; Colt Humbracht PR'd in the discus, and Charlie Houck had a seasons best throw. Iin Aidan Keil's first meet after coming back from an injury from basketball season, he had a jump of 6'0" in the high jump, this matches his PR and will qualify him for the state track meet! Gabe Raba, Marcus Fetty, Colt Humbracht, and Ryder Roseland had PRs in the shot put. Gabe Raba's toss of 46'7" moves him to 5th all time in school history! The boys 4x800m Relay of Nathan Hudson, Clifford Torberson, Thad McKenney, and Griffen Biehl ran a seasons best time as well.

For the girls; Mya Nowowiejski, Grace Long, and Avery Coyle all ran PRs in the 100m dash. Mya's time of 12.87 moved her to 6th all time on the schools top 10 list! Betsy Moore ran a PR of 17.59 in the 100m Hurdles, this moved her to 10th all time in school history! Berklee Nore and Avery Coyle both ran PRs in the 200m dash, Misty and Layla Drieling both ran season bests in the 800m run! Mckenzie Rans had a seasons best in the triple jump, and in Mikka Dunavant's first time ever triple jumping she moved to 10th all time in school history with a jump of 32'5"! Lucy Merjil had a PR in the shot put! It was a great meet for the Broncos.

On Thursday May 14th the team competed in The Black Hills Conference Meet hosted in Custer. The Boys team finished 7th in team standings while the girls finished 4th.

Highlights from Coach Wattier from the meet on the boys side were; Gavin Pearson, Caeyn Howard, and Blaine Moke all ran PRs in the 100m dash, Tate Thomsen and Blaine Moke ran PRs in the 200m dash, Clifford Torberson ran a seasons best in the 1600m run, Gabe Raba is your conference champ in the

boys discus! Joseph McLennan, Emmitt Lipp, and Ryder Roseland all had PRs, Charlie Houck had a seasons best throw, Tate Thomsen had a PR in high jump, Tegan Fredrickson and Hayden Mitchell had PRs in the long jump. Joseph McLennan had a PR in the shot put improving on his spot in school history to 6th. Charlie Houck had a seasons best and Cole Mailoux had a PR in the triple jump. The boys sprint medley of Slater Humbracht, Raif Parmeter, Caeyn Howard, and Gavin Pearson ran a seasons best time of 3:50.30. This moved them to 10th all time in school history! The boys 4x200m Relay of Slater Humbracht, Raif Parmeter, Caeyn Howard, and Gavin Pearson ran a seasons best time of 1:34.72. The boys 4x800m Relay of Nathan Hudson, Griffen Biehl, Clifford Torberson, and Thad McKenney ran a seasons best time of 9:10.20.

For the girls, Mikka Dunavant and Ella Bryan both ran PR's in the 100m dash, Ansley O'Brien and Betsy Moore both ran PRs in the 100m Hurdles, Betsy's time of 16.94 moves her to 7th all time in school history, Ansley's time of 15.23 makes her the new school record holder taking over the long standing record held by Cathy Coyle in 1978 with a time of 15.40. Mya Nowowiejski ran a PR in the 200m dash. Her time of 26.25 improves on her 3rd spot in school history. It also moves her to 8th place in SD Class A! Emersyn Carmichael ran a PR in the 400, while Grace Long ran a seasons best time, Berklee Nore and Ansley O'Brien both jumped 5'1" in the high jump which was a PR for Berklee and tied Ansley's PR! Lucy Merjil and McKenzie Rans both had PRs in the javelin, Ella Bryan had a PR in the long jump of 15'7" which moved her into 10th place in school history. Mikka Dunavant had a PR in the triple jump, and McKenzie Rans had a seasons best! Mikka's jump of 32'11" moved her to 7th all time in school history! The girls 4x200m Relay of Jaz Olson, Ansley O'Brien, Berklee Nore, and Mya Nowowiejski are conference champions! They ran a seasons best time of 1:47.25. This moves them to 3rd all time in school history!

One meet remains on the schedule ahead of State. The "Last Chance Invite" in Rapid City at O'Hara Stadium is scheduled for this week, weather permitting. State track is being held in Sioux Falls May 28th-30th this year with the Broncos looking forward to a hopeful group of qualifiers.



Ansley O'Brien Sets new achool record in the 200m hurdles previously held by Cathy Coyle from 1978. Tonsager photo



Gabe Raba competes in shot put. Tonsager photo



Griffen Beihl jumps. Tonsager photo



(L) Ben Raba comes out of the blocks. (R) Griffen Biehl & Chris Jewitt competing in Relay. Tonsager photos



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Superintendent's Corner

R. Orion Thompson
Special to the Beacon

As we enter the final stretch of the school year, there is a great sense of pride in all that has been accomplished across the Belle Fourche School District. The year is wrapping up on a strong note, highlighted by a beautiful and meaningful graduation celebration that honored the hard work and dedication of our seniors and their families. We now look forward to finishing the school year strong with students in all other grade levels as they complete their final learning experiences and prepare for a well-deserved summer break.

Even as the school year comes to a close, our District is already moving forward with purpose. This summer will be a busy one, as we "sprint" into several important capital projects at both the High School and Middle School. These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining and enhancing facilities that support high-quality teaching and learning for every student.

We are also excited about the new staff

members joining our team this fall. Their addition strengthens an already dedicated group of educators and support staff. Most importantly, we are confident our students will return to classrooms where caring, skilled professionals are ready to support their academic growth and personal development.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to the parents and families of our students. Your partnership is essential in helping prepare children not only for academic success, but also for the social and life skills that are developed along the way. Your commitment makes a meaningful difference.

A very special thank you goes to the certified and classified staff of the Belle Fourche School District. Your dedication, professionalism, and care for students do not go unnoticed. You are the heart of what makes our District such a strong place for children to learn and grow.

I also want to recognize our administration and School Board members. Your leadership, service, and support provide the structure and direction that allow our schools to continue moving forward. You are a vital part of the work we do each day.

While we are proud of what we have accomplished, we also remain committed to continuous improvement. We will keep working to raise expectations, strengthen opportunities, and ensure that the time students spend in our schools is meaningful, challenging, and rewarding. This mindset will continue to raise the bar and support even higher standards for our future Broncs.

Finally, a reminder to families: children entering kindergarten should be registered as early as possible so we can prepare appropriately for their arrival. New families to the District are encouraged to register through our Administration Office/our online system. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to call, 605-723-3355, we are happy to help.

Enjoy the summer ahead, and thank you for a great year.

It's a Great Day to Be a Bronc!

R. Orion Thompson, Ed.S
Superintendent of Schools

Belle Fourche School District 9-1
2305 13th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-723-3355 ext. 1



"Be yourself, unless you can be Batman then....always be Batman"

Good Luck TO ALL BRONC ATHLETES



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Misty & Layla Drieling took 1st and 2nd place at the Mountain West Invite in the 800m run. Tonsager photo



Emmit Lipp in shot put. Tonsager photo



1600m relay team of Emersyn Carmichael, Skylar Randolph, Grace Long & Betsy Moore. Tonsager photo



Gabe Raba competes in shot put. Tonsager photo



800m run winner Layla Drieling & 1600m run winner Abbey Clendening. Tonsager photo

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From A1 Habeck 30th

kind of how we keep that food flowing.”

The trucking company also does short hauls around the local area. “This customer we have now, Solmax over in Spearfish...we’re on contract with those guys, and it makes you feel a little more secure,” Habeck explained. “We also got a couple of pneumatic tanks, three of them, so we haul a lot of bulk bentonite.”

A few refrigerated trailers are part of the fleet as well. “All the shiny trailers that you see are all refrigerated trailers. They’re insulated and they got diesel units on the front that run the cooling. We do a lot of food grade, perishable foods and frozen. We haul a lot of ice cream, meat, frozen fruits—anything that’s perishable goes in those, and we go all over the country.”

The different types of trucks and lengths of hauls have been a carefully curated plan for Habeck. “One thing you learn when you’re in the trucking business is all good things come to an end sooner or later, so you just kind of got to be ready for the next good thing,” he shared. “You have to adapt. I learned early on, don’t throw all your eggs in one basket because then if something goes wrong, you’re in trouble. So we diver-

sified a little bit.”

Habeck Trucking currently has 13 employees. As of right now, Mike has no plans on retiring. He says he wouldn’t know what to do with himself. “I’ve slowed down a lot compared to the way I used to go, and as long as we could still have a few trucks and I’ve got some control over what’s going on—I don’t really plan to retire,” he said.

Habeck has two daughters. One of them, Sam, works in the office at his trucking company. His other daughter, Mikayla, worked for him in the past but wasn’t super fond of the work and has since gone on to own her own business in Belle Fourche. His wife is musician Ja’net Eastman, and he gushes a little bit when he talks about her and the albums she has made. He is definitely a proud husband and father.

He shared that it wasn’t his idea to have the 30th anniversary celebration. “I didn’t really do this, you know, it was more my daughter and my wife that said we should do something...I didn’t know how it would go or anything, so they kind of instigated having a little 30-year celebration just for that reason.” It seems as though his wife and daughters are just as proud of him as he is of them.



(Clockwise from Above) The community came together to support Habeck Trucking; Friends, family, and neighbors enjoy each other’s company at the Habeck Trucking celebration; Habeck Trucking celebrated 30 years in business. Longbrake photos



(Clockwise from Above) Lee Capp takes his serving duties very seriously!; A big tank full of ice and drinks was available for anyone who was thirsty; Locals stopped by to enjoy the food served during Customer Appreciation Day at Wells Plumbing. Longbrake photos



Good Food and Gratitude at Wells Plumbing

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—For the past six years, Wells Plumbing and Farm Supply has invited the public into the store for a special day of appreciation. This year, the event was held on May 15. “We try to do it once a year, just to tell all of our customers thank you and we appreciate them, and we appreciate the community,” explained owner Bill Jewett. “We invite EMS, we invite the city workers and the Chamber. Not everybody can make it, but if they can, we’re sure here!”

A lot of planning and preparation goes into the event. Employees make sure there is something for everyone and they spend time cooking pulled pork, mac and cheese, baked beans, and pasta salad. Plus, Lynn’s Dakotamart brings in fried chicken and potato wedges. There is also a variety of drinks on hand.

The appreciation day is scheduled to include the lunch hour to encourage people to stop in without taking extra time off. “Well, that way, if somebody takes a lunch break, they can stop by and just say hi and grab a quick bite to eat,” said Jewett.

Wells Plumbing and Farm Supply has been in the Belle Fourche area since 1948, when Jack Wells started the business. In 2019, Jewett took over the business. He has two partners, Brian Hammerbeck and Pat Hall. “We just want to continue what Jack built here and we’ve grown a bit, but Jack set the foundation, and he was always known for his customer service, and we want to continue that,” shared Jewett.

Jewett says they are very appreciative of their customers and thankful for the community. They try to give back whenever they can. “We want to support our community and we want to give back, and it’s all about the kids in our opinion,” explained Jewett. “So, anything for the kids, we try to get behind—whether it’s theater or football or 4-H or whatever, it doesn’t matter!”

Stop by and check out this business if you haven’t had a chance to do so yet. They have something for everyone! Jewett shared, “We’re very thankful we live in such a wonderful community!”

Belle Fourche Senior Finishes Second Place in Rising Star of the West Competition

Stevens High School senior Sakurako Tinant is the winner of the 20th annual Rising Star of the West scholarship contest sponsored by KOTA Territory and Monument Health. The four finalists in this year’s contest each delivered four on-air commentaries which were rated by both on-line viewers and a KOTA Territory panel. Tinant was picked as this year’s best by a combination of those groups. She receives a \$4,000 college scholarship.

Belle Fourche High School senior Alexis Pickett finished second in this year’s contest and wins a \$2,000 scholarship.

Stevens High School senior Sylvie Mortimer took third place and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Stevens High School senior Elena Braun finished fourth and is the winner of a \$500 scholarship.

KOTA Territory TV general manager Chris Gross says, “We saw another impressive group of Black Hills high school students this year. We are thrilled to be able to feature them and help further their education.”

“The students receiving these scholarships are already part of our community, and one day, many of them will be the caregivers, neighbors and leaders who shape it,” said Trina Allen, Vice President of Human Resources for Monument Health. “Supporting that journey is something we take real pride in.”

Tinant joins Ireland Larsen, Melissa Rothe and Amanda Rothe from Douglas, Janesa Bakeberg, Annelise Ewing and Kaitlyn Hemmingson of Spearfish High School, Shad Christman of Lemmon High School, St. Thomas More’s Caila Brennan and Audrey Cope, Lead-Deadwood’s Jordon Barthel, homeschool students Rae McKee of Nemo and Emma Smith of Rapid City, Gavin Brucklacher of Philip, Elliot Hendrix, Noah Storm and Jessica Benson from Stevens High School, Katherine Kvale from Bison, Sierra Hilgenkamp from Wall and Custer’s Quinn Lewison as winners of the Rising Star of the West scholarship contest.



Belle Fourche Senior Alexis Pickett finished second place in the Rising Star of the West contest. She won a \$2,000 scholarship. Courtesy photo

Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



Upcoming: YOUTH THEATER CAMP sponsored by BFACT & the BFMS SUMMER JAM PROGRAM during June. The dates will be June 9-16 & 20-23. Students in grades 5th to 9th are encouraged to sign up with JAM for their spot in the camp! There is no cost.

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater (BFACT) is hosting a COSTUME Workshop May 21 at 7 PM. BFACT costumer, Crystal Woods, will be leading this 90 minute FREE experience with one of the most interesting & impactful parts of theater! According to BFACT this workshop covers the foundations of costume theory to the final fitting. Participants will explore how to design for both individual actors and an entire cast. Learn how to work with different body types, enhance character through thoughtful design, and collaborate effectively to bring a director's and actor's vision to the stage. This hands-on workshop will guide you through building a costume from start to finish, including basic fittings and simple alterations. You'll also dive into the power of color in storytelling—how it can shape mood, define character, and communicate emotion to your audience before a single word is spoken. No need to register: SHOW UP at 7 PM on May 21st at the BF Rec Center Theater.

BFACT has auditions scheduled for their Summer Production: Minnesela, a Comedy of Western Proportions. All are welcome to come to auditions May 26 & 27 at 6:30pm in the Rec Center Theater. According to BFACT, this show is a western comedy with a flexible cast size. There is the possibility of being cast in multiple roles. You don't need to bring anything for auditions, just yourself. The show itself will be on July 24 – 26. These auditions are open to anyone Middle School age and above, though there are not many roles for young people. If you are interested in helping with tech of any kind, please come to auditions. If you have any questions, or are unable to make the audition dates but still want to tryout, feel free to message director@bellefourcheact.com or call 605.645.3255.

The BFMS & BFHS Fine Arts departments are ending the year with other entertaining events! Check out the pictures from the BFMS Band Concert! The BFMS Choir Concert will be featured next week. **Your presence at all the upcoming events is much appreciated, so don't forget to add all these upcoming fine arts events to your calendars!**

May 21, Thursday, BFACT Costume Workshop, BF Rec Center Theater, 7 PM
May 26 & 27, Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM: 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!*

BFMS Band Concert Photos



BFMS Band students received certificates and pins of recognition at their Spring Concert. Bronc MVP Awards: L to R, 8th Grade - Casey Strickland, Lauralee Dreiske, & Tayleigh Wooldridge; 7th Grade - Blake Willert & Claire Fickbohm; 6th Grade - Lola Hoffman & Abby Schwede. Bronc Spirit Awards: Paisley Featherston, 7th Grade; Gigi Harr, 8th Grade; & Everly Uttecht, 6th Grade. The BFMS 6th Grade Band brought the energy as all sections were featured in the "Popcorn Prelude" song.



(L) **BFMS Band Director Jacquie Bratcher** recognized her eighth grade band members who have devoted one to three years to the program. 7th & 8th Grade Choir students who attended Bandmasters in March and received Superior ratings. L to R: Adalyn Savery, Adalyn Clem, Gracie Harr, and Daniel Eddy. (R) **MVP Choir Student Awards** were presented by Choir Director Karlee Gusso at the BFMS Spring Concert: 6th Grade MVPs: Aubyn Hartman & Everly Uttecht; 7th Grade MVPs: Amelia Strickland & Blake Willert; 8th Grade MVPs: Lauralee Dreiske & Titus Thompson.



Costume Workshop

FREE WORKSHOP

MAY 21 AT 7 - 8:30PM: BF REC CENTER AUDITORIUM

into the world of theatrical transformation in this dynamic workshop of design and storytelling. Discover how costumes do more than dress character—they bring stories to life.

the foundations of costume theory to the final fitting, participants will learn how to design for both individual actors and an entire cast. Learn how to work with different body types, enhance character through thoughtful design, and collaborate effectively to bring a director's and actor's vision to the stage.

hands-on workshop will guide you through building a costume from start to finish, including basic fittings and simple alterations. You'll also dive into the power of color in storytelling—how it can shape mood, define character, and communicate emotion to your audience before a single word is spoken.

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From A1 Graduation

complete a rigorous course of study, including four units of English, four units of math, four units of science, three units of social science, two consecutive years of the same foreign language or two years of career technical education coursework, and one unit of fine arts. In addition to meeting these requirements, students must complete all coursework with no grade lower than a C and maintain a cumulative B average throughout high school.

This year's salutatorian was Denali Larson with a grade point average of 4.235. She plans to attend the University of Wyoming and major in psychology. She addressed the audience, letting them know that she was terrified of public speaking and warned of the possibility of breaking out in hives as a result. She shared, "I know everyone here had a different journey in high school and each struggled through their own experiences. We will probably never fully understand the journey that every one of us is on. So, congratulations for enduring on your own and getting to this point. While all our paths look different, every single one of them matters."

Valedictorian this year was Tegan Fredericksen with a

grade point average of 4.24. He plans to attend Oberlin College in Ohio and study chemistry and biochemistry. Fredericksen addressed his fellow graduates and told them how now that they have reached the end of their high school career they can start to see how much the past four years have changed them. "These last few days and even weeks have been surreal, to say the least. And I don't think it was until today that it finally hit me, this morning is the last time that I can say I'm a high school student," he shared. "I cannot put into words how special these four years have been for me. I am thankful for each and every one of you, for all the experiences I have had and all the things I have learned."

Raba made the presentation of the Class of 2026 and School Board President Nita Justice made the presentation of diplomas to 86 graduating seniors.

After all of the graduates received their diplomas and found their way back to their seats, they changed their tassels from the right to the left to signify graduation, and then a few of them tossed their graduation caps into the air in celebration. Family and friends made their way to the graduates to celebrate the accomplishments with them.



Belle Fourche High School Class of 2026 with the audience watching. Longbrake photos



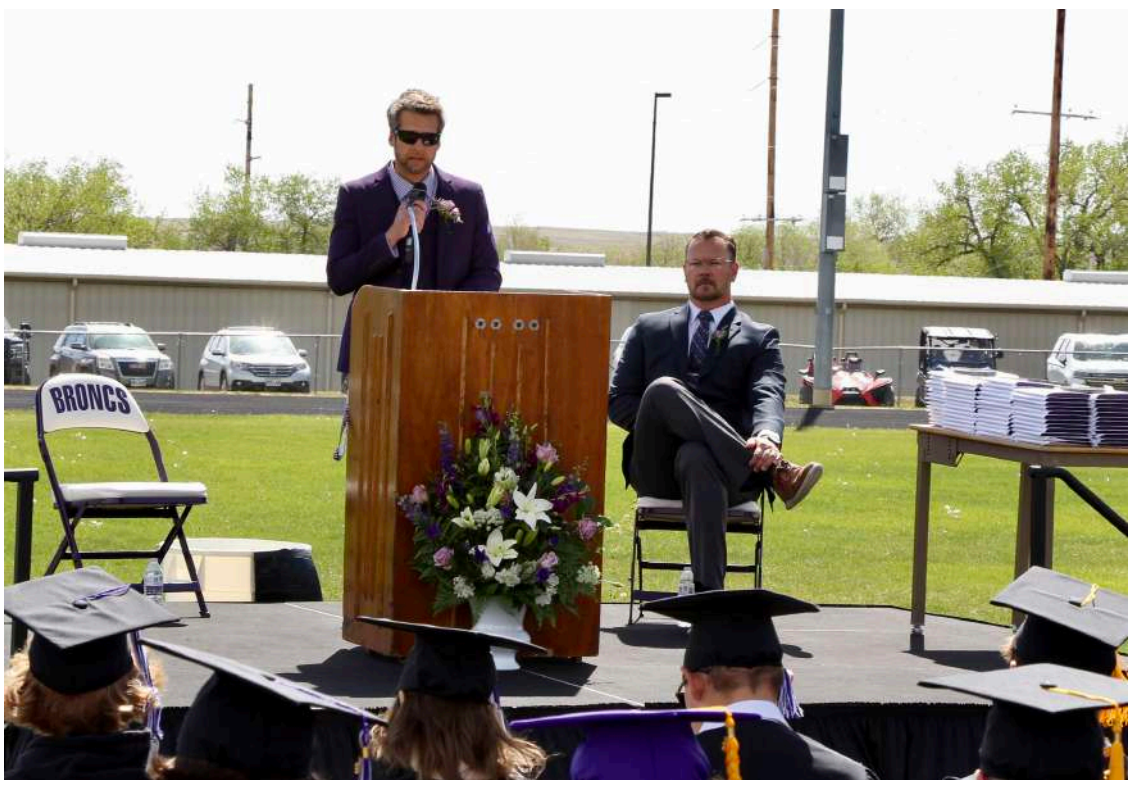
BFHS senior choir singing the National Anthem under the direction of Micah Pennel.



School board president Nita Justice presents diplomas to the graduates.



Valedictorian Tegan Fredericksen speaks to his fellow classmates.



High school principal Mathew Raba addressing the crowd, with Superintendent Dr. Orion Thompson seated on stage.



After the ceremony concluded, hugs and best wishes were shared among graduates, family, and friends.



Salutatorian Denali Larson addresses the graduates.



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Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654
JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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Cattle Report - Friday, May 15, 2026

Weigh Up Cows & Bulls \$3 To \$5 Higher
Light Test On All Other Classes

Next Sale - May 22, 2026 - Pair & Feeder Cattle Special - 9:00 AM

Thank you for Marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Table listing various cattle sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

Weigh Up Cows

Large table listing numerous cattle sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

Table listing various cattle sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

Weigh Up Bulls

Table listing various cattle sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

2026 CATTLE SALES

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

Attention to all sheep & goat producers. It is required that every male & female animal over the age of 12 months have a scrapie tag in place to sell. These tags can be obtained by the producer for FREE by calling 1-866-873-2824.

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Fieldman: Gilbert Wood 605-456-2400 605-641-7100
Fieldman: Dustin Vining 605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, May 14, 2026

Smaller Run Today & All Classes Sold Lower

Next Sale - May 21, 2026 - Regular Sale- Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats - Start Time 1:00 PM

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

Feeder Lambs

Table listing various sheep sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

Replacement Ewes - Sold By The Head

Table listing various sheep sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

Slaughter Ewes

Table listing various sheep sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

Slaughter Bucks

Table listing various sheep sales with columns for name, sex, age, and price.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

May 21, 2026
Regular Sheep Sale
1:00 PM
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 28th - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

Friday, May 122, 2026

Pair & Feeder Cattle Special

9:00 AM - Weigh Ups

12:00 Noon - Feeder Cattle Followed By Pairs & Bred Cows

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

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Beau Rourke - 32 Blk 2 To 7 Yr Old Cows W/ Blk Calves At Side
Bill & Will Lambert - 30 Red Short Term Cows W/ Red April Calves At Side
Stinson Livestock - 20 Blk Mixed Age Cows W/ Blk Calves At Side

Plus More By Sale Time!

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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St Onge Livestock has a receiving station for the Gillette Area every Thursday. It is on Northern Drive in Gillette. Call Doug Miller at 307-660-0960 to let him know what is coming. You can unload all day every Thursday until 3 pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. You can also call Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259 & he can let them know your cattle are coming also.

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

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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 Belle Fourche Bee May 20, 1926 FAVORABLE LEGISLATION FOR PROJECT Reclamation Relief Bill Has Passed Both Houses and Senate, Charges Off Million Dollars

A telegram received yesterday by the Bee from Congressman Williamson brings the glad tidings that the reclamation relief bill for the Belle Fourche project had passed both the house and senate. The telegram says, "Reclamation relief bill has passed house and senate. Charges off on Belle Fourche project over one million dollars. Supplemental contract expressly validated." This means that almost a half million dollars of construction errors, and non-irrigable lands, and over a half million dollars additional on lands that are unproductive on account of seepage and other causes, the total amount being over one million dollars. However, should these lands listed as unproductive be later reclaimed and become productive, the construction charges will again attach to the lands. Secretary Buchholz of the Water Users, Secretary Bronson of the Commercial Club of Belle Fourche, Secretary Myers of this state and George Wright of Huron spent several weeks in Washington in February working on this legislation.

Business Around the State Camp Crook - George Bonefield was in recently and we took occasion to get first-hand information about that fossil he recently unearthed near his ranch. He had a letter from the director of the state museum at Vermillion stating that a crew from that institution will probably be out here in June to make excavations, and that work will likely require two years' time. It is estimated that the mammoth expected to be recovered weighs approximately thirty-five tons and will make a displacement equal to a fair-sized room.

MEMORIAL DAY This year Memorial Day falls on Sunday. As usual the Legion will have charge of the services which will be held at the Legion hall, starting at 10 o'clock, and all the denominations in town will participate. Efforts are being made to secure a prominent speaker. After the service at the Legion hall, there will be a parade to the court house, where waiting cars will take all to the cemetery for a

short service and decorating of the graves, which will complete the service.

75 years ago Belle Fourche Bee May 17, 1951

Roth Is Picking Up Round-Up Brahman Buckers in Texas Harley Roth, owner of the Ox-Yoke rodeo ranch near Tilford, is now in Texas to arrange shipment of the Brahma bulls which will be used in the Black Hills Round-Up here July 3-5, Secretary Joe Koller said yesterday. Last winter Roth attended a bucking bull sale at the Kinsley ranch near Houston, and managed to outbid several southern rodeo stockmen for 15 of the "best-by-test" brahmas at the sale, Kollar said. At the meeting of the Round-Up committee Monday night tentative plans were made to stretch a mesh wire fence between the chutes and the track railing to confine the bulls to a smaller area for the bull fighters. It will be the first year the bull-fighting has been made one of the main Round-Up attractions.

Hardtop on 30 Miles US 212 Is Contracted Thirty miles of bituminous surfacing on US Highway 212 from Mud Butte to east Maurine in Meade county, will be completed this summer under bids accepted by the state highway commission last week. Including both base course and bituminous surfacing, the project calls for 14 miles of the new construction from Mud Butte to Maurine and 16.5 miles of bituminous surfacing from Maurine east.

The bids were part of a total of \$1,649,252 on 110 miles of state and county highway construction.

Enters 1st BEE Any person hoping to win the merchandise prize being awarded by this newspaper in connection with the coming Sixtieth Anniversary celebration will have to dig deep into the archives. Already submitted by Homer T. Couch is a quite-well preserved copy of the first issue of The Bee, published on May 27, 1891 as the first newspaper in the then new town of Belle Fourche. Couch, who with his wife resides on the ranch nine miles west of Belle Fourche on which his father files a preemption claim in 1888, found the original first issue in a trunk left him by his parents. The senior Couches had come to Deadwood in 1887, arriving there May 16. They came north later and stayed that summer at a ranch on Sourdough

flats, which is a part of the present Walter Massey place. After putting in a small crop, raising a garden and hauling hay to the Hills, they returned to Deadwood for the winter. They came back in the spring to file on the present homestead. For those who still have hopes of winning the merchandise award for the oldest Butte county newspaper brought to this office prior to June 3, there may still be some copies of the Butte County Star, published in Minnesela in the 1880's.

Penfold, Leslie, Broadhurst, Clary in State Track Meet Tommy Penfold, Kenneth Clary, Tom Broadhurst and Cleve Leslie, accompanied by Clar Lilevjen and Dan Hejde, left early this morning for Huron to enter the state track meet there Friday and Saturday. Penfold is to run in the open 100- and 220-yard dash, while the four boys make up a half-mile relay team. They will return Sunday afternoon.

50 years ago Belle Fourche Bee May 21, 1976

Local Government Meeting Stated At Belltower Residents of Carter county, Mont. And other rural areas "interested and concerned about local government and taxes" are invited to attend the Communities Education Program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary at the Belltower Hall Wednesday, May 26, it was announced this week. Featured speaker will be R. A. "Dick" Mader of Gillette, who will talk about "Regionalism."

Livestock Owners Are Reminded of Per-Head Records Butte county livestock owners were reminded about the procedure on livestock assessments by Larry Christiansen, director of equalization, this week. Christiansen pointed out that since the 1976 legislature saw fit to postpone implementation of the per-head, per-day tax, there has been some confusion for owners of cattle, sheep and buffalo. For 1976, livestock is being assessed according to value just as it has been in other years. The tax becomes due Jan. 1, 1977 and is payable in the same manner as personal and real estate taxes. However, starting this year the owner is to maintain records of number of day cattle, sheep or buffalo are owned.

MELLING & ROSELAND Law, PC

Erin L. Melling
 Attorney at Law
 Licensed in SD, ND, and MT

Aaron W. Roseland
 Attorney at Law
 Licensed in SD and ND

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 Belle Fourche, SD 57717
 Phone: (605) 723-1659
 Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net

North Dakota Office:
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 Hettinger, ND 58639
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June 18	Camp Comfort
June 25	Dakota Country
July 2	Williams & Wright
July 9	Jessica Loobey
July 16	Brandon Jones
July 23	Wilt Brothers
July 30	Tim Zach Band
August 6	JJ Kent w/ Aces & 8's

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	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2026	27	28	29	30	1
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	5	6	7	8	
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	12	13	14	15	
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	19	20	21	22	
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	26	27	28	29	
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



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



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Market Report - Thursday, May 14th, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Table with columns: PAIRS, HD, DESC, WT, BID, \$HEAD. Lists various livestock items and their prices.

Table with columns: FEEDER CATTLE, HD, DESC, WT, BID, \$HEAD. Lists feeder cattle items and their prices.

Table with columns: WEIGH-UPS, HD, DESC, WT, BID, \$HEAD. Lists weigh-up items and their prices.

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Table with columns: WEIGH-UPS, HD, DESC, WT, BID, \$HEAD. Lists weigh-up items and their prices.

Table with columns: Name, Location, Weight, Price. Lists various livestock items and their prices.

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REGULAR SALE & TURNOUT BULL SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES MAY 21, 2026 WUPS @ 10AM MT & TURNOUT BULL SALE TO FOLLOW VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE TURNOUT BULL SALE CATALOG

PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES MAY 28, 2026 WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE 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 PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT June 11, 2026 PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT June 18, 2026 PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT June 25, 2026 PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS/FEEDERS @ 12PM MT

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MEMORIAL DAY May 25th, 2026 Pine Slope Cemetery, Belle Fourche, SD 6:00 - Raise Flags for Avenue of Flags (weather permitting) Volunteers Welcome 9:00 - Memorial Day Program at Memorial Hill or the Inclement Weather Building behind Memorial Hill 2:30 - Review Flag Folding for Flag Recovery Volunteers Welcome 3:00 - TAPS ACROSS AMERICA 3:05 - Recover Flags immediately after TAPS is played Volunteers Welcome

40 Years of Advocacy 4 Decades. 1 Mission. Countless Children Served. A Momentous Celebration! Sunday, June 7; 4:00 - 7:00 PM Spearfish Public House Northern Hills Area CASA is commemorating a legacy of advocacy-40 years in the making. Please join us as we highlight this special occasion with food, entertainment, and powerful stories from CASA volunteers, board members, and professionals who are true champions for children. Together, we continue to change the lives of victims of child maltreatment in 8 counties of western South Dakota. MUSIC | CAKE | IMPACT 1986 1996 2006 2016 2026

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Wednesday, May 13th through Tuesday, May 26th

Data Centers in Butte County

As technology continues to evolve, so does the conversation regarding the development of data centers. Our cell phones have

become our cameras, our banking, communication for email and text, and use of numerous apps depending on how we choose

to do shopping, healthcare, social media and many other tasks to make our lives "easier"

The first computer filled a large room, and now we can fit terabytes of data on a jump drive the size of our thumb. Data centers, in

similar fashion, have evolved too. We now have technology working in smaller spaces and using closed loop systems for less

water consumption. Our area in and around Belle Fourche and Butte County does not have the infrastructure for a large-scale data center (ie: AI Center or a large scale or hyperscale data center). We do

have the capacity for a smaller scale center that could support healthcare, financial and manufacturing sectors. This size of data center uses the equivalent of a household's use of water per

year, in a closed loop system that recirculates the fluid for cooling.

In the 2026 South Dakota legislative session, SB 135

addressed several concerns in what is titled "the Data Center Bill of Rights for Citizens"

Here are a few excerpts pertaining to electricity, water and tax exemption:
Electricity:

1. The operator of a data center shall pay for all costs associated with the provision of electricity to the data center

2. A provider of electricity may not: (1) Increase fees, rates, or surcharges imposed on residential customers for the purpose

of financing, offsetting, or subsidizing a data center's infrastructure costs, service demands, or utility consumption; or

3. Allocate to residential customers any cost associated with the distribution, generation, or transmission infrastructure, or

any other cost attributable to the data center.
Tax Exemption:

4. The state, or any political subdivision of the state, may not authorize or grant any tax exemption to a data center.
Water:

5. There is lengthy provision on water – read the entire added legislation here: SB 135 – Section 5 & 6

a. <https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/305469.pdf>

Here is what is on the ballot for the Butte County primary in June:

Title: Resolution to Create an Ordinance to Prohibit Data Centers in Butte County

States Attorney Explanation: The resolution would require that the Butte County Commissioners create an ordinance prohibiting the construction of data centers in Butte County, South Dakota.

This is a very broad resolution and includes small, local, small business serving data centers too. These small data centers pay

property tax, employ people (the data center provides the service of storing the data so the business who utilizes them can

proactively grow their business and the employees with it). They pay sales tax. In the setting of property rights, this does not

honor property rights for Butte County residents who are interested in selling land.

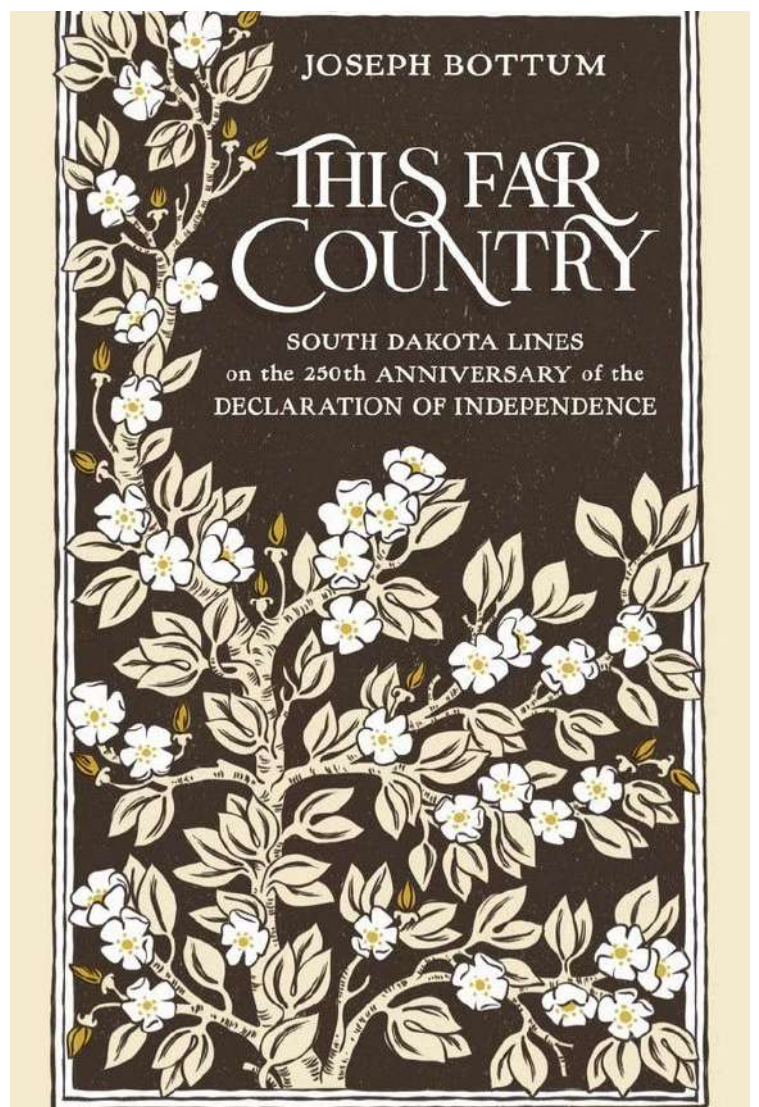
Education is key, and balance in our system is important. We can establish ordinance that can be beneficial for businesses,

property owners and our resources. Let's work together to do this.

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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
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Chutes for Charity
HOSTED AT BELLE FOURCHE COUNTRY CLUB
FOR MORE INFO
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DENISE: 605-892-5445

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.



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.

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Friday- June 19th
Starting at 6 PM
Fireworks After Game
Belle Fourche CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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



May

21st - 12PM Lunch & Learn @ Grap's, 6PM County Forum @ Venue 519, Trivia @ Hitch N Post, Burger Night @ Moose Lodge

22nd - 6PM LIVE Music @ Hitch N Post

Happy Memorial Day Weekend

26th - Minnesela auditions

27th - 12PM Highland Senior Solutions Talk @ Belle Silver Lining

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

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.
10913 Sourdough Road, Belle Fourche
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
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605-892-2405
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Sunday School 9:30 am
Small Groups & Studies
schedule online at
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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

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Pastor Darren Purdy and
Pastor Marveen Gentillon
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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
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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
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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.
605-210-0512

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By John Newby "Building Main Street, not Wall Street" The Clock is Running. Is Your Community?

Your community is losing ground right now. Not next year. Now! While you're reading this, decisions are being made by investors, by young families, by entrepreneurs about where to put their money, their energy, and their futures. Most of them will not choose your town. Not because your community lacks potential, but because no one has made a compelling case that it has a future worth betting on.

That's not a funding problem. It's a leadership problem. Here's what the data tells us: Financial investment alone does not revive communities. Study after study shows that community self-perception — how residents feel about where they live directly drives civic participation, volunteerism, voter turnout, and local economic activity. Communities with low self-esteem don't just feel worse. They perform worse, measurably, across nearly every metric that matters.

Voter turnout is the canary in the coal mine. When a community stops believing, people stop showing up to the polls, to city council, to local business openings. Apathy is not laziness. It's a rational response to a place that appears to have no future. And the economic consequences compound quickly: local businesses lose customers, property values stagnate, and tax bases erode leaving fewer resources to address the very problems driving people away. So, what breaks the cycle?

Two things: Vision. And leadership willing to act on it. This is where most communi-



ties stumble. Leaders talk about vision constantly. Few have it. Research consistently shows that fewer than 10% of any population readily adapts to significant change. Of that group, only about a third roughly 3% are true visionaries willing to lead before consensus exists, before the outcome is certain, before the critics go quiet. Do the math on your community. In a town of 10,000, you're looking at perhaps 300 people truly open to transformational change and only a few dozen capable of driving it. That sounds discouraging. It shouldn't.

Because every community that has ever turned itself around did it with exactly that group. Every thriving downtown that was once written off. Every rural community that became a destination. Every mid-sized city that reinvented its economy after a major employer left. None of them waited for majority buy-in before they started. They found their visionaries, gave them room, and moved. The American story itself was written by a persistent, stubborn minority who refused to accept the world as it was. That's not myth — it's pattern.

What visionary leaders understand that others don't is this: perfection is the enemy of progress. They don't wait for the perfect plan, the perfect climate, or the perfect moment. They know that "good and moving" beats "flawless and stalled" every time. Setbacks sharpen them. Criticism doesn't redirect them. They've already accepted that the path forward is messy, and they've

made their peace with it. The communities that are winning right now share a common trait: they stopped mourning what they lost and started building what comes next. They identified the people in their midst willing to lead without guarantees, and they empowered them. They stopped recycling the same strategies that created their problems and had the courage to try something genuinely different. According to the National League of Cities, communities that proactively engage residents and cultivate local leadership consistently outperform comparable communities on economic development benchmarks — not because they had more advantages, but because they acted while others deliberated.

Your community has those people. They may be frustrated right now not because they don't care, but because no one has told them their vision matters, that the risk is worth taking, that the community will stand behind them when they step out front. That's the message that changes everything. The communities that thrive in the next decade won't be the ones with the most money or the best location. They'll be the ones that found their visionaries early, backed them loudly, and moved with urgency. The U.S. Small Business Administration consistently finds that locally-owned businesses recirculate a significantly larger share of every dollar within the community compared to national chains meaning that investing in local vision isn't just civic pride, it's sound economics.

The question isn't whether your community can be better. It can. The question is whether there are leaders willing to say so out loud, and whether the community is willing to follow. Find those leaders. Be one. The clock is already running.

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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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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden



Temperatures last week were very spring like and pleasant on the days that were not windy. By early Sunday morning we received a small amount of moisture, just enough to wet the ground, and temperatures were much cooler. Folks spent Sunday night watching weather reports as there were tornado alerts for that evening in different parts of the state.

On Saturday, June 13 there will be Men's Coffee & Rolls morning at the Community Baptist Church in Union Center.

Vacation Bible School in Union Center will take place from June 29 - July 2. For more information please con-

tact Melanie Cammack.

Condolences go out to Norman Hanzlik and family in the loss of Norm's brother, Maurice 'Moe' Hanzlik. On May 23rd there will be a burial at 11:00 am at the Fairpoint Cemetery. The family would love for friends to join them to share a light lunch afterwards at the Community Baptist Church in Union Center around noon. If anyone would like to bring a side or dessert that would be welcome. There will be a time of remembering and sharing stories. All are welcome.

Election Day is coming soon which will be on Tuesday, June 2. There are many races taking place and many important decisions being made. Hopefully, voters start

today to take time to research every candidate to elect the best for our communities and state. Leadership matters and we in South Dakota enjoy living in a great state that is envied by many across the nation. Hopefully, we are able to keep it that way.

On Wednesday, May 27 at 6:30 pm there will be a Pray for Rain/Praise Service at the New Underwood Community Center. It is non-denominational. You may bring bars/cookies for fellowship afterwards.

A week ago, Ryer Rhoden, son of Levi and Hillory Rhoden had a four wheeler accident where he sustained a serious head injury. He was flown to Denver, Colorado and is under great care there. His doctors are impressed with his responses

and improvements. Please keep him in your prayers for full and complete healing as he has a week to go before he can come home. Also, please hold up Levi and Hillory and their families in your prayers through this journey.

For anyone who would like to meet the Governor, he will be at an event at the Knuckle Saloon on Friday, May 22 at 5:00 pm. He will be attending the event at the National Cemetery at the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday. Having served in the Army National Guard, Larry Rhoden is now the South Dakota Commander in Chief of the Army National Guard. Larry comes from a family of service that reaches back to the Revolutionary War, WWI, WWII, Vietnam to Desert Storm and he served in the 842nd Engineering Unit in Sturgis. This title of Commander

in Chief he says, is probably the greatest honor he has had as Governor.

On Thursday, Larry and Sandy Rhoden will be at Copper Coffee in Union Center at 9:00 for a visit over coffee with folks before heading to Faith. All are welcome. It will be a good time to get familiar with the nice little coffee shop that we find so little time to visit.

Memorial Day is the time when we remember those who are no longer in our lives. And we honor the memory of those who fought for our freedom so we could live in this free country in the most free state, South Dakota. Be sure and thank a veteran who is still here this week, as we honor those who sacrificed much for our country. Have a blessed Memorial Day!

Capitol News

May 17, 2026

by Karen Odell

The weather at Capitol, and on Tie Creek, has been the typical undecided variety. It was in

the 80's on a few days, then turned cool again. The week was pretty dry, but things are still green. We are still wondering when we can start putting out plants outside.

Erma Albert has spent a few days in the hospital in Rapid City. Dick says that she is feeling much better, and will be home soon. Dick went to church on Sunday at the Catholic Church in Buffalo. Then he had lunch with the Helms family at Saloon Number Three.

Last week, Bruce and Lynn Gustafson went to a senior reception in Buffalo. This week, Bruce spent much of this week doing his own cooking. He spent days at work out at the ranch, and then did some cook-

ing for himself when he got home. Lynn went to Alabama for her niece's graduation, but will soon be back home.

Ernie Melum went to the Rod Bickerdyke funeral in Buffalo, this week. On Saturday, Ernie, Rachel and Tommy had lots of company to help them with branding. There were friends and family from Baker, people from their church, and the Donahey family who came to help. It was great to have that big job done.

Dorothy, Bryce, and Dawn Padden went to the Eighth Grade Graduation in Buffalo, on Tuesday night. Dawn went to Timber Lake for the LMC track meet, on Thursday. On Saturday, Bryce, Dawn and Dorothy went up to Medora, for the wedding of Morgan and Sterling Lee. The wedding was outdoors where the Medora Musicals are held, and the weather was beautiful for the wedding. The reception was indoors, and it was

great, too, because everyone got inside just before the wind began blowing, so the huge crowd of people had a wonderful day. Romela and George Heady had come up from Arizona to visit and attend the wedding. Everyone came back to the ranch on Sunday. Connie Smith came on Sunday to decorate graves at the Camp Crook Cemetery, and she will stay until Monday. Romela and George will stay to visit a few days longer, too.

Ronda Cordell has been busy for the past few weeks getting ready for branding. She has set up things in the barn for branding whether 'rain or shine'. She has been lining out food for the several days of branding, and getting help for the job. Ronda went to Ekalaka for propane and cover crop seed, on Wednesday. She stopped for lunch at the Wagon Wheel. Thursday was the first day of actual branding.

Their crew, Thursday, consisted of Jason Berg, Jake Reynolds, Toney and Linda Hannah. Curt and Carsen Zolnoski, Brayden Secrest and Ronda. On Friday, Caden Zolnoski came from Rapid City to help, bringing motorcycle friends, Ryan Wood and Adam Odland. Chad and Roudy Zolnoski arrived late Friday evening to help. They stayed on through Sunday, helping with branding of calves each day. Clayton and Tristen Reynolds, from Ekalaka, helped on the weekend. On Sunday morning, Ronda was glad to be branding in the barn. The 'shirt sleeve weather' of the prior days was gone. The branding pot heat felt quite good. The miserable wind outside sucked the smoke away.

Karen Odell had a typical quiet week. She visited with her cousin, Ralph Anderson, and all her kids. They are still considered her kids, even though her grandchildren are reaching college age. She learned about some of her friends in Ohio.

Then on Saturday, her niece, Martha Nau, sent a message that Karen's sister-in-law, Patsy Evans, had passed away. Karen was in sixth grade, when her brother, Ron, married Patsy. Karen was the only daughter in her family, and Patsy was an only child, so Karen and Patsy became sisters. When Karen was a high school senior, Patsy was expecting her first baby. The school was across the street from Patsy's house, and because Patsy was alone during the day, Karen was on notice to leave school, run across the street, and get help or drive Patsy to the hospital, if she was needed. As it turned out, Tommy was born in the middle of the night, and Karen didn't get to leave school to help out. This week, Karen got her mower running, and did some mowing.

Mark Twain reminded us that we are all born ignorant, but we must work hard to be completely stupid.

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES #34

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel

"Beautiful Noise"



All it takes is a small, seemingly insignificant sound. The

whisper of wind through the trees. The pounding of wings as a bird escapes from her nest. Distant "peeps" from the back aisle when entering the farm supply store. Rain pounding on the roof. A lone cow mooing from a remote pasture.

Noises from our childhood act as powerful memory triggers in adulthood, especially if those noises were linked to specific emotions. Pressed between the pages of my mind are the sounds of the farm. I especially remember stepping off the bus to be

greeted by the whirring and clicking of the windmill, chickens cackling in the henhouse and calves calling to their mothers in the barnyard. It was not noise to me, but the happy, gentle music of home. Different sounds bring back different memories for everyone, even for siblings.

The baby chick babel at the farm store opens memories pressed between the pages of my mind. I sit on a straw bale next to Mom in the brooder house. We quietly watch the balls of fluff scurry from heat lamp to feed to water. In my heart song I can hear the tiny feet pitter-pattering on the straw-covered cardboard that lined the floor. I can feel the warm

softness on my face as I hold a baby chick close. Few words were spoken in that small building many years ago, but those happy moments come back to me time and again.

Deloris and Dorothy recall the windmill sounds. Though the noise varied according to the strength and direction of the wind, it provided a constant background cadence for the other melodies that fled in and out of the song. A cow would call to her calf far out in the pasture. Today when the north wind brings me a similar sound from a few miles away, visions of new life on the farm flash into my mind. I see baby calves and lambs frolic in their pastures. Fluffy tails of twins and

triplets wag in unison as the babies enjoy the milk bar.

Occasionally I hear a clunking sound—metal on metal. The sound opens a book of memories: swinging high in the branches of the tree swing as the breeze carries the distinctive sound of small metal doors closing. Behind me in the hog pasture the little pigs are finding grain in the feeder. They have learned to lift the hinged trough covers with their snout, gobble grain and let the cover flop down. The sound added percussion to the music of the farm.

When we hear a noise similar to a sound from our childhood, we can be transported back in time, recalling images and emotions triggered by the noise. Everyone's memories are different, as well as the sounds that initiate them. Researchers believe that sounds experienced

during adolescence are especially memorable throughout life.

What noises take you back to your growing-up years? Animal calls? Bird song? Music? Nature? Machines?

Whatever sounds trigger your memories, I hope they come back to you like a favorite song and fill your heart with happy, beautiful memories. I hope they make you smile.

The author's column appears in a growing number of Midwest newspapers. Kruempel compiles and publishes the column stories every year. She has also published a historical fiction series, "Promises to Keep." Her ten books are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.

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Roots #62

“Happy Mother’s Day Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis”

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com



“Motherhood is the state of being a mother. A person enters motherhood when they become a mother. This most commonly happens when their child is born, but it can also happen through adoption or by marrying or becoming a partner to someone with children. Motherhood is a gender-specific version of the term parenthood.” (Dictionary.com)

Mothers’ Day, an established tribute to mothers is typically celebrated the first Sunday in May.

Mothers’ Day, an established tribute to mothers is typically celebrated the first Sunday in May.

Anna Marie Jarvis, the founder of the Mother’s Day tradition, wanted to set aside a day for families to honor their mothers because she believed a mother is “the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world”.

Ann Marie Jarvis never married or had children of her own, but she was very proud of her mom, Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis.

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis was truly a remarkable woman, worthy of her posthumous status as the first Mother’s Day mother.

Born in Culpepper, Virginia in 1832, Ann gave birth to between 11 and 13 children. (There seems to be some uncertainty in the recorded biography regarding the exact number of children). However, most of the children succumbed to childhood diseases such as measles, typhoid, diphtheria, common in Appalachian communities in the mid-nineteenth century. Only four survived to adulthood.

Throughout her life Ann embraced Christian ideology. She taught Sunday School and served as superintendent of the Primary Sunday School Department at the Methodist church for twenty-five years.

Perhaps, Ann embodied the idealized concept of motherhood that was a standard, albeit rather complex paradigm during her lifetime. According to the prevalent nineteenth century construct of motherhood, mothers and women were the same. All women were maternal by nature, and all women were happiest when surrounded by babies.

However, Ann defied the stereotype.

Throughout her childbearing years and until her death in 1905, Ann was a consummate social activist. Likely inspired by the deaths of her own children, the fight to reduce the scourge of infant mortality became Ann’s life mission. She was a gifted public speaker, and an organizer who appealed to other mothers to join what were called mothers’ clubs.

Under Ann’s leadership the mothers’ clubs were well-received and quite effective in drawing attention to public health crisis of high infant mortality.

Club members also reached out to mothers and families in their homes to demonstrate how home sanitation might improve overall health. The clubs also raised money to buy medicine for families with sick children.

The mothers’ clubs even sought political reform by demanding that milk be inspected for contamination before there were state oversights.

During the Civil War, Virginia was a region profoundly divided by the war. However, Ann’s mothers’ clubs provided aid to both Confederate and Union soldiers. The mother’s clubs fed and clothed all soldiers and nursed those who suffered from diseases as well as war injuries.

After the war, Ann with her trademark zeal, continued to inspire social reform. She was a popular public speaker who often lectured to church groups and other organizations on subjects such as ‘Literature as a Source of Culture and Refinement’, ‘Great Mothers of the Bible’, ‘Great Value

of Hygiene for Women and Children’, and ‘The Importance of Supervised Recreational Centers for Boys’ and Girls’.

Given Ann’s impressive achievements, it is not difficult to appreciate Anna’s desire to honor her mother by establishing a national commemoration day set aside for all families to pay tribute to their own mothers.

The process wasn’t easy. There was resistance from Congress in 1908, when some members joked that creating an official Mother’s Day would lead to creating a Mother-in-law’s Day.

Finally, in 1914, Anna’s ten-year mission met with success when President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional resolution officially making the second Sunday in May national ‘Mother’s Day’.

To this day, Mother’s Day as an official commemorative day remains ‘Mother’s Day’. Anna Maria Jarvis was very clear about the position of the apostrophe. In her words, “Mother’s should be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world.”

Although Ann Marie Jarvis, was successful in founding the Mother’s Day celebration, she became increasingly disgruntled by what she regarded as commercialization of Mother’s Day. Anna Jarvis was fervent that mothers should be honored through hand-made cards and was vociferous in her efforts to end commercialism around Mother’s Day.

During the 1920s and following her mother’s example, Anna Marie Jarvis organized boycotts of Mother’s

Day events that she regarded as commercial. She also threatened lawsuits against greeting card companies and other organizations.

In 1923 Anna Jarvis protested at a candy makers’ convention in Philadelphia and in 1925 at a meeting of American War Mothers. She even protested the sale of carnations to raise money by the American War Mothers. Subsequently, Anna Jarvis was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Anna was so distraught over the way Americans observed the holiday that in 1943 she started a petition to have Mother’s Day recalled.

Sadly, just five years later, Anna died in a sanitarium, penniless. Ironically, her bills were paid by the same greeting card companies and florists she rallied against. Her hard-fought opposition to commercialism was ultimately pointless, but Mother’s Day lives on.

What Mother’s Day means depends on what Motherhood means. It is a highly connotative term.

When my oldest son was in kindergarten, I accompanied his class on a field trip to a nature center. Five-year-olds are full of hugs, and I love it when they know how to make themselves comfortable. When one of his classmates found solace on my lap during a tiring presentation, my son admonished her, “That’s my mom. Get your own.”

To my older son, a five-year-old child at the time, maternal affection is a commodity, in his case not to be shared.

Like my young son, I can’t help thinking Anna Jarvis’s perception of motherhood was mainly shaped by what

motherhood meant to her as a child. As I noted, Anna never married or had children of her own. Certainly, the child’s perspective of motherhood will always be part of the motherhood paradigm. However, the daughter’s reverence for motherhood is different from that of the adult mother.

The latter suggests that motherhood is more universal than personal. Adult Motherhood is about nurturing. It’s about communal oversight for the well-being of everyone’s children; it’s about fostering strays; it’s about providing health care, nourishing food, and safe spaces to grow for all kids. It’s about appreciation of the short window of time that childhood offers to provide a sound beginning for all.

Perhaps the official placement of the apostrophe in Mother’s Day would be better placed. Perhaps nurturing children is not the sole responsibility of one mother. Perhaps, Mothers’ Day (note the placement of the apostrophe) conveys a better sense of the communal commitment to foster sound beginnings.

Incidentally, the little girl who rested in my lap on that Kindergarten field trip ignored my son’s declaration. She stayed where she felt safe, and fell asleep.

Cards, chocolates and carnations will always be welcome tokens. Recently, I overheard my adult oldest son remark in some casual conversation “My mom is a good woman.” Thank you for that Ty. That’s all the Mothers’ or Mother’s Day card I will ever need.

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 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 of 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.

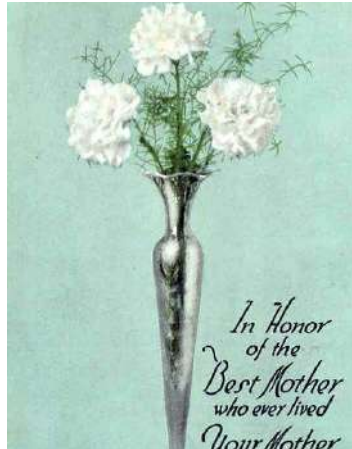
The Tri-State Museum created some new exhibits and refreshed some older ones. The changes occur in the mercantile and a new “transportation” exhibit in the center of the museum. In the mercantile, the case that has exhibited dolls features a new collection of 12 dolls from the museum’s extensive Millicent 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. Also, in the mercantile is a mini “haberdashery,” filled with vintage men’s clothing and toiletries. “We’ve had a number of exhibits about women’s and children’s apparel, but nothing that focused on men,” said Collections Archivist Jada Udager. “We thought this was a chance to feature artifacts we’ve not featured before.”

Across the floor from mercantile is the museum’s collection of salt and pepper shakers. The museum has so many of these that the entire four-shelf case could be completely refreshed. Some of new novel shakers include a lock and key, loaves of bread – and a little green alien in a spaceship. A new exhibit in the museum’s mid-section is “Transportation: From Stagecoaches to Trains to Cars.” This exhibit includes images plus artifacts such as spokes for wagon wheels, a lady’s travel case, a miniature car and a vintage model stagecoach crossing a “path” with grass on either side of the roadway. There is also a brick roadway made of the few surviving bricks from Belle Fourche’s brick factory.

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



Above: Mother Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis (mom). Below: Mother Anna Maria Jarvis (daughter); Early Hallmark mother’s day cards.



THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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!

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Community Teamwork Makes Intersection Safer

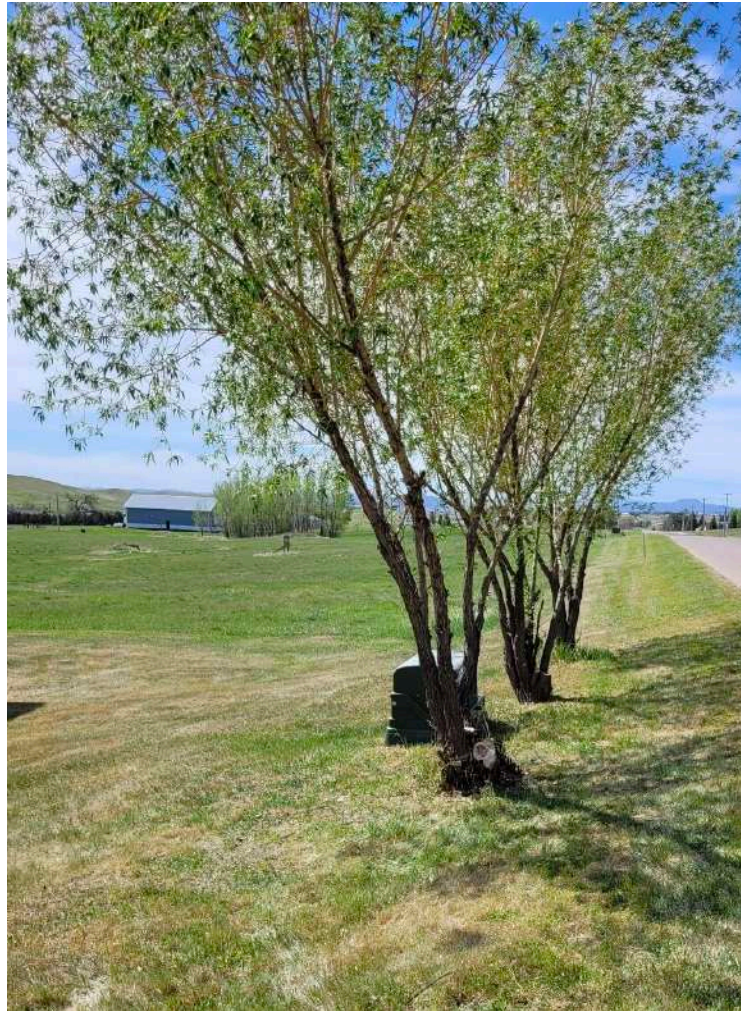
Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE— Finding small ways to leave a big impact is what happens when United Way and Monument Health team up in Belle Fourche. A few members gathered together to take care of some arising community needs on the morning of Saturday, May 16.

On the corner of 13th and Dacar, the trees were becoming overgrown and obstructing the view on the corner. This was a problem that a few helpful local volunteers were eager to address. Clint Haffner, Nikki Hoyme, Suzanne Campbell, and Vernon Talkington gathered to trim and cut down branches in order to make the intersection more visually friendly to all those who drive along the streets.

The crew used the chainsaw skills of Monte Talkington on this project. Residents from the area are very pleased with the work and stopped by the working volunteers to thank them during the project. Even those on foot who walk the area on a regular basis appreciated the work and said it made a difficult intersection much safer.



The nicely trimmed trees after the work was completed. Longbrake photos



Clint Haffner, Nikki Hoyme, Suzanne Campbell, and Vernon Talkington spend their Saturday morning cleaning up Belle Fourche; Monte Talkington puts his chainsaw skills to good use



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Chokki 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 Ocala, Florida. Directed by Suzanne Costello and Aradine Albright, this interactive week-long 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
Chokki Arts Center of Mahiyo Lira
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
Reception: Thursday April 23, 2026 6-7p

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Tri-State Museum 10AM-2PM



Good Shepherd FREE CLINIC
Shepherd of the Hills Church
825 W. Main Street in Lead
Next Clinic: Lead - May 28
Registration: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Free Clinic provides quality medical and emergency dental care to financially eligible northern Black Hills residents, ages 19-64. Medical services will be available at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius Street parking lot (below 825 W. Main Street).

Good Shepherd Free Clinic-Spearfish is open Monday nights at 1020 State Street for medical and emergency dental services.

For more information contact:
Phone: 605-717-2080
Email: gsfreeclinic@gmail.com
Website: www.gsfreeclinic.org

DOUG LARSON
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1



26.729.44

101st Legislative Session

135



2026 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Bill 135

Introduced by: Senator Karr

1 An Act to protect residents from increased utility costs and utility shortages caused
2 by data centers and clarify authority to regulate data centers.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. This Act is known as the "Data Center Bill of Rights for Citizens."

5 Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 49:

6 For purposes of this chapter, "data center" means a centralized repository for the
7 dissemination, management, processing, and storage of electronic data and information.

8 Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 49:

9 The operator of a data center shall pay for all costs associated with the provision
10 of electricity to the data center.

11 A provider of electricity may not:

12 (1) Increase fees, rates, or surcharges imposed on residential customers for the
13 purpose of financing, offsetting, or subsidizing a data center's infrastructure costs,
14 service demands, or utility consumption; or

15 (2) Allocate to residential customers any cost associated with the distribution,
16 generation, or transmission infrastructure, or any other cost attributable to the
17 data center.

18 Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 49:

19 The state may not preempt or otherwise limit the authority of the governing body
20 of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision to adopt ordinances and resolutions
21 limiting, prohibiting, or otherwise regulating the construction, development, or operation
22 of data centers.

Underlines indicate new language.
Overlines indicate deleted language.

26.729.44

2

135

1 Section 5. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 49:

2 The state, or any political subdivision of the state, may not authorize or grant any
3 tax exemption to a data center.

4 Section 6. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 49:

5 Prior to commencing operation in this state, the operator of a data center shall
6 provide notice of projected water consumption to each local water provider in the area in
7 which the data center is proposed to be located. Each water provider receiving notice
8 pursuant to this section shall determine whether the data center's projected water
9 consumption is compatible with the local water supply and issue that determination in
10 writing to the operator. The operator shall present a copy of each notice and determination
11 to the Board of Water Management.

12 If the board receives a determination from each applicable water provider that the
13 data center's projected water consumption is compatible with the local water supply, the
14 board must issue, to the operator and the general public, a written statement that the
15 operator has satisfied the requirements of this section.

16 Notwithstanding the board's issuance of a written statement pursuant to this
17 section, the data center may not consume an amount of the local water supply exceeding
18 limits established by order of the board, after allocation to residential and essential public
19 services. In establishing allocation limits under this section, the board shall seek to ensure
20 water availability and prevent disproportionate use of water by data centers.

21 Section 7. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 49:

22 The operator of a data center that is authorized to operate in this state pursuant
23 to this chapter, shall, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Board of Water
24 Management, submit to the board a semi-annual report regarding the data center's water
25 use. The report must contain average usage data and certify compliance with this section.
26 The board shall make the usage data contained in the report available to the public.

Underlines indicate new language.
Overlines indicate deleted language.

OFFICIAL COUNTY ELECTION BALLOT
BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA
(June 02, 2026)

The following resolution was proposed by petition for submission to the voters. This resolution will not become effective unless approved by majority vote.

Title: Resolution to Create an Ordinance to Prohibit Data Centers in Butte County

States Attorney Explanation: The resolution would require that the Butte County Commissioners create an ordinance prohibiting the construction of data centers in Butte County, South Dakota.

To vote use a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square in front of "Yes" or "No."

Yes A vote "Yes" will adopt the resolution and require the Butte County Commissioners to draft an ordinance prohibiting data centers.

No A vote "No" will not adopt the resolution.

Source: 42 SDR 178, effective July 1, 2016.

General Authority: SDCL 12-1-9(2).

Law Implemented: SDCL 7-18A-11, 7-18A-14, 7-18A-21.



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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:

Butte Co Hwy Dept.
% Dwayne Heidrich
117 5th Ave
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

The position will remain open until it is filled.
Butte County is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

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Newell High School Celebrates Class of 2026 Graduation

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—The end of a high school career can be both exciting and bittersweet. That feeling may be even stronger when a graduating class is made up of only seven students. That seemed to be the case during the Newell High School graduation on Saturday, May 16, as tears and laughter filled the ceremony.

Outgoing seniors Sarah Erk, Michael Lawson, Miya Mialloux, Tayla Neely, Jessica Raisanen, Rachel Stranberg, and Rowdy Wetz made their way into the Austin Auditorium in either white or maroon caps and gowns. They walked in to “Pomp and Circumstance.” Those seven students made up the Class of 2026 for the ‘Gators. Their class motto is, “If we wait until we are ready, we will be waiting the rest of our lives,” by Lemony Snicket.

Class colors are black, gold, and silver, with the class flower being a maroon dahlia. The class song is “Dancing in the Dark” by Rihanna. Ushers were McKenzie McTaggart, Soumeyilla Togola, Paul Raisanen, and Orrin Youngberg.

Dr. Pandi Pittman, superintendent and high school principal, welcomed everyone to the graduation ceremony. She then introduced the graduation speaker, Wyatt Vander Vorst.

Vander Vorst is the social studies teacher at Newell and was chosen by the graduating class to be the speaker for the occasion. “Good afternoon everyone, thank you for being here and Class of 2026, you made it...so I guess that I don’t have a lot to say that I haven’t already told these seven people that have totally made an impression on me.” He went on to talk about adversity and sacrifice and how what you learn from



At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, the **Class of 2026** explodes confetti over the audience to celebrate. *Longbrake photo*

those times can make you stronger. He said that life wouldn’t always be easy but you can learn from those hard times.

A senior slideshow was created by Michael Lawson and contained senior pictures as well as baby pictures of the graduates. Each student picked their own theme song and motto for the display. As each graduate name and picture came up on the screen, the audience cheered.

Following the slideshow, the senior class presented red roses to those in their lives who have played a special role. Hugs, tears, and

emotions highlighted this tradition.

Salutatorian Jessica Raisanen gave a speech and let everyone know that she did not like to speak in public but would do it for this special occasion. She went on to talk about the ups and downs her class endured through the years. “Our class has been through a lot together... it is hard to imagine that we were once a class of 19. Most of us have been here since elementary, and though we didn’t always get along... all of us have worked hard to get this far and I am personally very proud of our class,” she

said.

Valedictorian for the Class of 2026 was Sarah Erk, and she addressed her classmates and the audience. She discussed the support that she received from her mom and dad and how much it meant to her. She went on to talk about how individual teachers and coaches impacted her life. “Even though it was tough and there were a lot of hard times, I wouldn’t change it because I wouldn’t be where I am today... We are all stronger because of what we faced, all of us have made changes. Good luck on your journey... and may your true friends and

supporters always be there for you,” she said.

Tyrel Bonnet was responsible for the presentation of diplomas, and Pittman presented the Class of 2026. The graduates switched their tassels from the right to the left directly after receiving their diploma while still on stage. After finding their seats, the graduates exploded confetti cannons over the crowd in celebration. The recessional was to their class song, “Dancing in the Dark” by Rihanna.

Photos Contd. D4

Emu Steals the Show at Newell Public Library

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Books are vital in helping you to escape into the world of imagination. But what happens when the library brings imagination to real life? That is what the Newell Public Library did when it hosted a real live emu for story hour on May 8.

The weather finally cooperated and the emu, named Galahad, got to come to town and meet all the excited kids and adults too! The third time is a charm in this case, as previous attempts to bring the bird to town were postponed due to bad weather. But finally, the much-anticipated meeting with the emu happened and the weather was warm and sunny.

Jenny Morse, Galahad’s owner, lives right outside Newell and takes in unwanted animals. “I have a female also, a lot of the animals on my farm are from when people pass away and of course, family doesn’t want anything to do with the animal, so they come to my house,” she shared. “So the female belonged to a petting zoo up in Lead, and when he (owner) passed away, they looked all over for a home, so I took her!”

Kids got to learn all about emus in person. There was an real, huge ostrich egg for kids to touch and see. Morse explained that emu eggs are similar in size and have shells that are super thick and the colors are not white, but they’re a beautiful dark blue, green. “One egg is equal to about 10 chicken eggs,” she said. “The female comes along

and she lays the eggs and then the male comes along sits on the nest and he hatches the babies and raises them, it is the same with ostriches.”

We also learned that the emu actually has wings. Morse showed everyone Galahad’s wings.

You can find quite a variety of animals out at Morse’s place. “I’ve got the two emus. I got two alpacas, a goat and a Jacob sheep and ducks and chickens and cats and dogs and a peacock,” she said.

Patty Karas, who leads story time at the Newell Public Library, arranged for the animal visitor to come to the library. “I found her phone number and called her, and then she just tells me she’s got an emu and she’s got an alpaca and I’m going, ‘oh my gosh,’ because I used to read to the kids books about those animals.”

Stop by the Public Library and check out a book about emus! Or alpacas!

The Library is gearing up for their summer program. Library Director Matt Clausen shared, “So for the summer reading program, the theme this year is Unearth A Story—so like dinosaurs, archeology, that kind of stuff.”

The summer reading program will kick off on Friday, June 5 with a visit by the Museums of the Hell Creek Museum. You can expect to see and touch some fossils and hear a presentation.



(Above) Jenny Morse introduces her emu, Galahad, to the excited crowd gathered to learn about him. (BL) Meeting Galahad is really a special event. (BR) Galahad, just checking everyone out. *Longbrake photos*



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Taz hauled some cows to Faith Livestock Monday morning while Casey got the semi he bought at Tim Olson's sale hooked up to the trailer so the guys can haul cows to pasture this week. Josi Jensen stopped to visit that afternoon and she brought Keen and Kage down to play with their little cousins and the kids sure had fun. I was supposed to get a call from Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center to set up my appointment to work on the pain in my right leg, but they never called so I had to call down there and they can't get me in until May 27.

Tuesday was the last day of school in Buffalo and the 8th grade graduation was that evening. Amanda took the twins to town with her while she was working for her sister Josi Jensen at her chiropractic office so I got to go down and meet Kelli Doll at her mailbox at 1:30 to pick up Copper, Knox and River

Lu and bring them home. Casey, Taz and Missy hauled cows up to our Horse Creek pasture that day and that took a long time.

I had a good visit with Mary Jean Jensen Wednesday morning and she told me that there will be a meet the candidates for sheriff and county commissioner meeting in Perkins County in Lemmon on May 27 at 7:00 at the Lonesome Dove and in Bison on May 28 at 7:00 at the Grand Electric social room. I won't be able to attend the one in Lemmon, but hopefully we can go to the one in Bison. We went to Hettinger that afternoon to get stuff from Runnings and White Drug where Reub always gets a squeeze from his cousin Roxie Finck. We stopped in Reeder on the way home to have coffee with the Prairie Pioneers which is always fun.

We went down to Spearfish on Thursday to get some new weed spray that Tim Milliren suggested to Reub that it would help get rid of the

leafy spurge. I had a ZOOM call that evening with the SD Coalition of Counties to listen to Monae Johnson who is running for Secretary of State in South Dakota again.

Reub and I went down to the Reva Hall on Friday to have lunch at noon and listen to the candidates running for office like Jon Hansen who is running for governor, District 28 Sen. Sam Marty, 28B Rep. Travis Ismay, and 28A Jana Hunt. A good crowd showed up to eat lunch and listen to the candidates speak about what they believe in and why they are running so it was a fun afternoon. All the candidates were headed down to Belle Fourche for another meeting that evening. Everyone else here on the ranch had left for Medora, North Dakota that afternoon for the practice for Sterling Lee's wedding up there where the twins are the flower girls at the wedding on Saturday.

Reub and I went to the high school senior graduation in Bison on Saturday and got to see Rosemary Wiechmann graduate with the rest of her class after she has spent so much time in Denver, Colorado, with doctors dealing with her cancer. She was looking very good and we got to visit with a lot of her relatives that we hadn't seen for a while. Thank God that she was able to be there with the rest of her classmates. Rosemary's mother, Ruth

Wiechmann's uncle, Coach John Stiegelmeier, who was a longtime South Dakota college football coach, was the guest speaker and he gave a wonderful speech that held the interest of everyone in the crowd.

Seminarian Dan Aiehele and his family came to church Sunday morning so Dan could give the sermon because Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen were up in North Dakota that day. Iver Heier led the service before Dan gave his really good message. Several new families came to church at Slim Buttes Lutheran that morning and they stayed to have the potluck dinner with us. We were able to visit with Dan, his wife and their six kids and all the rest of the families that brought their kids so all those little people sure had fun while the older people were visiting. That evening Reub and I went down to Prairie City to celebrate Esther Burkhalter's graduation at Pastor Brad and Jennifer Burkhalter's house and we got to visit with a huge crowd of friends who also came to Esther's graduation while we were fed some delicious brownies and ice cream.

Did you know that May 17, 1776 was when Benjamin Franklin called everyone to spend the day fasting and praying for the Declaration of Independence that was written by the Constitutional

Convention delegates. Pastor Henry Mohagen printed in the church bulletin about choosing the right moral system that the third president of the United States of America wrote:

Thomas Jefferson: it should first take a general view of the moral doctrines of the most remarkable of the ancient philosophers of whose ethics we have sufficient information to make an estimate. I should do justice to the branches of morality they have treated well, but point out the importance of those in which they are deficient. I should proceed to a view of the life, character, and doctrines of Jesus. His system of morality was the most benevolent and sublime probably that has been ever taught, and sublime probably that has been ever taught, and consequently more perfect than those of any of the ancient philosophers.



Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

May 11, 1916

A letter from Congressman Gandy, advises us that Secretary Lane has transmitted to the chairman of the Public Lands Commission of the House, a favorable report on the Newell Townsite Bill and the Commission has authorized a favorable report to the House "after the location of this townsite literate was sent out wherein the statement was made that the Government will conduct a sale of lots and with the proceeds streets will be constructed and every possible means taken to improve and beautify the city."

John H. Cudahy, the newly appointed chief clerk for the local irrigation project, arrived Monday from Denver and expects his family to arrive in the next few weeks. Robert B. Smith, current clerk, expects to leave with his family next week to take up his new position on the Yuma Project in Arizona.

The score of the baseball game at Vale Sunday is too big for space we have at our disposal so; we will simply say that Newell was embarrassingly defeated.

May 13, 1926

A white turkey has almost broke up housekeeping for Joe Pridgon and his wife in Vale. As he was nearing home with a load of furniture, the turkey flew out of the grass and frightened the team of mules that he was driving, causing them to run. Joe was thrown from the load, one wagon wheel passed over Joe's right leg. The mules continued to run until they eventually reached the Belle Fourche River. When in attempting to go up the too steep bank, on the opposite side, the wagon turned over and the load of furniture was dumped in the river. A table, a washtub and a boiler floated downstream and the cookstove was half buried in the soft mud near the bank.

The Empire Club met with Mrs. John Stoddard Thursday afternoon. In response to roll call the members gave touch-

ing tribute to their mothers. Carnations were presented to each mother at the opening of the program. Mr. Ellison gave his garden demonstration, which was most interesting and instructive on summer pruning and grape pruning were especially beneficial. A delicious 2-course lunch was served by the hostess at the close of the session. Twenty members and guests were present. Four new names were presented at this meeting for membership.

To Whom It May Concern: You are hereby notified to stop dumping junk or refuse of any kind on land described as follows NE1/4 of Section 25, T9N, R 5 E, namely, the Omar Merrell quarter adjacent to Newell Golf Club.

May 14, 1936

Mrs. Anna Fredlund is having an addition built onto the small cottage on her farm completed, Mrs. Fredlund and daughter Adel will occupy this house, leaving the entire large house for Mr. & Mrs. Albert Fredlund and family. Paul Dahlman is doing the carpenter work.

The Newell Boy Scouts have been asked to police the Golf Course Lake and see that no fishing is done until June 17th, after which the lake will be thrown open for fishing 2 days a week, Wednesday and Sunday. The Scouts have also been asked to prevent anyone swimming on the west shore of the lake where gravel beds have been prepared for the fish during spawning season. As soon as the spawning season is over the restrictions will be lifted.

The Vale Junior Class gave a banquet Thursday evening for the Senior Class at the school auditorium. Decorations were in blue and white in the form of a covered wagon. Speaking and musical numbers made up the program. Other guests included all the teachers, Supt. & Mrs. J. O. Norton and Mr. & Mrs. F. A. Gammons. Following the banquet, the doors

by Linda Velder

were unlocked and a public dance followed.

May 12, 1946

Word from Mrs. Emma Christian, formerly of Newell, now of Tacoma, Washington and has a new office job. She reports seeing Willis Howard recently and that occasionally she sees Mr. & Mrs. Dick Anderson, the Scotts, the Theno's and Nancy McGee. She writes she is "always happy when Monday comes bringing the "Irrigator" so she can find out what has happened back home".

Use of airplanes as planned in this year's grasshopper campaign depends completely upon the extent that farmers and landowners in this territory join in the bait spreading and poisoning campaign, R. M. Thomas and Les. Iverson of the Bureau of Entomology stated here this week. Planes are necessary to cover some 700 miles of ditch banks on the irrigation project, but these will be taken away unless 100% cooperation in the baiting program is secured. Use of planes is 3 times as expensive as spreading by hand.

Dr. O. H. Clark would like to make the following statement: He wishes to emphatically correct the rumor regarding his retirement from the practice of Medicine. He has not retired and will continue as he has for a third of the century until July 1st when he expects to take a much-needed vacation and hopes that it may not be necessary for him to resume his professional work here, and his farm is NOT FOR SALE.

May 17, 1956

The Civil Defense Unit at Newell was recently alerted to a cyclone warning and remained on such alert from 9:02 PM to 1:00 AM the following morning, Local Civil Defense Director



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Chas Lawell reported Tuesday. The alert was called from the Rapid City Filter Center, when the cyclone activity was reported at Miles City, Montana and headed this way. Planes and radar checked the conditions until the danger passed. Had it hit here, the fire siren will sound when there is imminent danger of a cyclone on the community. For additional warning, Newell has 12 volunteers who cover the town by called warnings on a block by block system

Final tests, picnics are planned for area schools end next week. At Newell High School Commencement Exercises: Valedictorian Jerry Ann Long and Salutatorian Joan DeGarlais other graduates are Harlan Palo, Daniel Fredlund, Eldora Viken, Marjorie Burke, Beverly Koan, Barbara Milberg, Jack Kivimaki, Judy Ollila, Jeanne Viken, Richard Fabricius, Delbert Barber, Emma Kuntz, Paul Knutson and Walter Sundstrom, at Vale High School graduates are Jordice Aker, Carolyn Edwards, Donna Fritz, Delores Greenwaldt, Marion Lungren, Janet MacKrell, Etta Mae Seieroe, James Scheeler and James Wetz and at Nisland Valedictorian Mae Mattesen Co-Salutatorian Faye Mutchler and Shirley Ollila other graduates Jerry Elenberger, Frank L. Albertson, Larry Beacham, Robert Keil, Larry Norlin, Linda Harvey and James Shevling.

May 26, 1966

Now serving in Viet Nam and living in Saigon are Capt. & Mrs. William Austin Hill. Capt.

Hill is in the Air Force, and his wife 1st Lt. Marjorie Burke Hill is in the Air Force Nurses Corps. Capt. & Mrs. Hill were married in the Air Force at Plattsburg Air Force Base, New York. She is the daughter of SD State Senator & Mrs. Alfred Burke of Newell, and he is the son of Mrs. Wm A. Hill Jr. of Burlington, New Jersey.

Mr. & Mrs. Vern Hafner and daughters Joann, of Laramie and Gail recent NHS grad, are planning to leave Friday by plane for Boston, Mass to attend graduation ceremonies at Boston University. Dan Hafner is a member of the graduating class. He has been accepted by Harvard Medical School for entrance of his education in that field. Miss Dorthea Edwards will also leave on the same plane with the Hafner's and go to Woods Hole, Mass to visit her sister Kit, Mr. & Mrs. George Calef and daughter Celene.

In conjunction with Deadwood's 90th Anniversary, the Twin City Saddle Club challenges all comers to a Pony Express Race from Mt. Rushmore to Deadwood on Saturday June 11. Two local teams have already entered the competition, but the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce needs other Black Hills area teams to compete in the unique event. The race is open to individuals as well as organizations. June is a lovely month in the Black Hills, so everyone is invited to make this a family affair and enjoy a few days' vacation together in this area.



(L) Loading Poison to Eradicate Grasshopper Infestation, 1946. (R) 1956 NHS Graduating Class.

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Pie Day at NVN Senior Center
May 26 • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Last Tuesday every month

Feeding SD at Dakota Life Center
June 11 • 2 p.m.–3 p.m.
Second Thursday every month

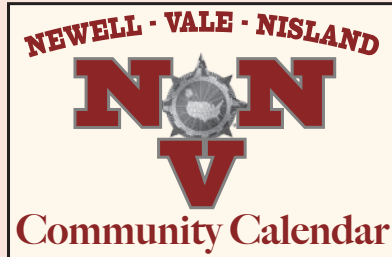
Newell Area Economic Group Meeting
June 3 • 6 p.m.
First Wednesday every month

NHS Athletic Banquet
May 21 • 6 p.m.

Newell Commission Meeting
June 8 • 5 p.m.
Second Monday every month

Elementary Basketball Camp
May 25-26 • 5 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

School Board Meeting
June 8 • 6 p.m.
Second Monday every month



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Graduation Photos



Miya Mailloux walks in the senior procession to "Pomp and Circumstance." Longbrake photo



Valedictorian Sarah Erk gives an emotional address to her classmates. Longbrake photo



The graduates form a receiving line following graduation. From left: Rachel Stranberg, Rowdy Wetz, Sarah Erk, Michael Lawson, Miya Mailloux, Tayla Neely, and Jessica Raisanen. Longbrake photo



After receiving his diploma, Michael Lawson stops on stage and shows everyone it is signed. Longbrake photo



Graduating seniors from left: Sarah Erk, Michael Lawson, Miya Mailloux, Tayla Neely, Jessica Raisanen, Rachel Stranberg, and Rowdy Wetz. Longbrake photo



Graduation speaker Wyatt Vander Vorst addresses the Class of 2026. Longbrake photo

Congratulations, Sarah Erk!

Class of 2026's Top 1 Percent Honored

The Class of 2026's top 1 percent of graduating seniors were recognized recently at the 36th Annual Academic Excellence Recognition luncheon for their academic achievements throughout their high school career.

Governor Larry Rhoden's office and the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) honored students identified as the top one percent of their senior class, from the state's Public, Private and Tribal/BIE schools on Monday (4/27).

Students designated as their high school's honoree(s) received a certificate, a commemorative South Dakota pin and the opportunity to meet and have their photo taken with Lieutenant Governor Tony Venhuizen.

"All of you are being honored today because of the impressive things you have done," Lt. Gov. Venhuizen said. "Being in the top 1 percent of your class is truly remarkable. It shows a willingness to work hard. I feel very optimistic about our future."

A sentiment echoed by ASBSD President Shane Roth of De Smet.

"The hard work and dedication these students have put towards their education has been an investment, an investment in their future," Roth said. "As the best and brightest in South Dakota, we hope to see you become the next generation of leaders in South Dakota."

"We need talented and skilled people like yourselves to share your creative ideas and solutions to continue to push our great state forward."



Sarah Erk proudly displays her certificate next to Lieutenant Governor, Tony Venhuizen. Courtesy photo