



Belle Fourche Beacon

PROVIDING LOCAL NEWS FOR BELLE FOURCHE, BUTTE COUNTY and the TRI-STATE TRADE AREA
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Moving the Money

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE-The Butte County Commissioners met December 30 to handle the last commission meeting of 2024. The main crux of the meeting was to adopt budget supplements through an Increase in Spending Authority for 2024. A total of \$1,292,010 was supplemented from Cash Reserves during the process of the meeting.

The budget supplements from the Commissioner Contingency Fund included \$68,000 to the Commissioners Fund, \$16,000 to the Information Tech Fund, and \$200 to the Ambulance Fund.

Budget supplements from Cash Reserves were broken down to 13 categories. These funds included Commissioners, Elections, Auditor, Gen Gov Buildings, Equalization, Information Tech, Sheriff Office, Regional Juvenile Detention, Emergen-

Butte County A3

ABC Coalition Youth Team Gathers Momentum for 2025

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

“ABC” in ABC Coalition of Butte County stands for “Action for the Betterment of our Community. The organization’s vision statement describes their altruistic aspirations:

“Action for the Betterment of our Community, through a strong and involved coalition, envisions communities where all have equal access to resources and opportunities resulting in the ability to achieve the highest quality of life.”

The membership of ABC Coalition of Butte County consists of area community members, professional mental health advocates, law enforcement officers, and a team of conscientious, forward thinking high school teenagers.

The December ABC Coalition meeting was presented by representatives of a group of recently trained the ABC Youth Coalition Leaders (YLC).

In keeping with the philosophy of the ABC Butte County Coalition, a group of interested high school students was

invited to a leadership training meeting in October. Here, the teenagers were taught to consider how they might help make their school and community a better, safer place to live for everyone.

At the training the teenagers were taught how to evaluate the interests and concerns of the high school student body. They were taught how to identify specific areas that would help their peers, school, as the larger Belle Fourche community. They were offered goal setting instruction, demonstrations on how to prepare strategic plans, and practice with establishing timelines. The kids were encouraged to get to know their teammates, to enjoy learning experience and to have fun too.

There were four main areas of concern discussed: school and community involvement, law and vehicle safety, mental health, and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

The School and Community involvement group was presented by Jazlyn Olson and Lexi Pickett

They focused on a plan for

ABC contd. A8

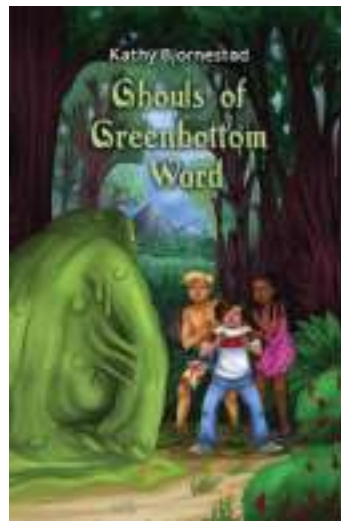


The ABC Youth Leadership Coalition presentation team, left to right: Justus Marshall, Lynley Seaman, Jazlyn Olsen, Lexi Pickett, John Hale, Danielle Vetter. (Photo Courtesy of ABC Coalition)

Belle Fourche Author Takes Young Readers into Fantasy World of ‘Ghoul’s

(Reprinted with permission from The Rapid City Journal, December 12, 2024. Author: Tanya Manus)

Author Kathy Bjornestad relishes a good escape from reality, and her newest book offers young readers a fun, fantastic escapade.



The Belle Fourche author’s new novel, “Ghoul’s of Greenbottom Ward” journeys into a world of fairies, night gnomes, and adventure.

Bjornestad is a retired school librarian and language arts teacher who enjoyed teaching middle grade students and likes writing for them, too. “Ghoul’s of Greenbottom Ward” follows 11-year-old twins Mira and Bastien Morales on a harrowing escape. Mira and Bastien, from Guatemala, were meant to die in a locked moving van on the Texas-Mexico border. Instead, a fairy creature transports Mira, Bastien, and two other children to the broken world of Arkenia.

There, Bastien falls under the power of a dark fairy, while Mira and her new friends Keeya and Simon discover their magical powers and unite against

Ghoul’s Contd.A3

“Art is a powerful source for healing, reinforcing our shared humanity.”



The traveling “I Believe: Arts & Incarceration” Exhibition was on display at the Ariadne Albright’s Bright Gallery in the former Emmanuel Baptist Church on Lawrence Street New Year’s Day. Ariadne is an art instructor at the University of S. Dakota.

I Believe: Arts & Incarceration Exhibition

Ariadne Albright
Special to the Beacon

“Art is a powerful source for healing, reinforcing our shared humanity.” — Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General.

Hosting a recent stop of the *I Believe: Arts & Incarceration* exhibition at The Bright Gallery in Belle Fourche on New Year’s Day was a simple and rewarding way to start 2025.

My brother, Tony Albright, questioned my timing due to the football lineup, and after the opening, my son, Cyrus, ventured, “Where did all these people come from?”

Yet, I’m deeply grateful to the attendees from Rapid City, Spearfish, Sturgis, Bison, Roslin, and Belle Fourche, who navigated the cold roads and joined us

for the morning reception.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

The touring exhibition, partially funded by a project grant from the South Dakota Arts Council, was installed at the former Emmanuel Baptist Church, now serving as my studio, gallery, and classroom space.

Attendees explored over 40 artworks—drawings, paintings, and written statements—created by incarcerated individuals from the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield.

These pieces were the culmination of artist residencies supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the

South Dakota Department of Health Innovation Grant, the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, and the South Dakota Arts Council. Collaborating with Suzanne Costello, Creative Director of Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater in Minneapolis, we shared visual arts, movement, and writing exercises twice daily for 2 and 3-week-long residencies, offering the 40+ incarcerated participants challenging experiences to build their art-making techniques, critical thinking skills and emotional resilience.

This initiative amplifies the voices of those often unheard, fostering creativity, self-reflection, and hope as part of their rehabilitation journey. The ex-

I Believe contd.A8

2024 New Year’s Eve Teen Blast was, simply put...a BLAST!

Belle Fourche’s New Year’s Eve Teen Blast was...in short, a BLAST!

The free event was hosted by the Christian Life Center; but, endorsed and supported by the

entire Belle Fourche community. After a sloppy joe meal, the fun began.

The chaperones were totally entertained by teenagers competing in the fast and furious

“Nine Square in the Air” (volleyball-like game), field hockey, board games, cornhole, foosball, ping pong and card

Teen Blast Contd.C2



Some of the participants at Christian Life Center Teen Blast group together for the camera. Courtesy Photo

The Human Library, Coming Soon to Silver Linings

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Imagine a human library where patrons can check out human experts. From such a ‘human’ library one could presumably check out a real live laplander to learn about raising reindeer. Or even a professional party planner for advice on planning a wedding. What better way to learn than from a face-to-face conversation with a real live human expert?

Of course, the idea is absurd... But is it really?

Todd Keller might have agreed until he came across an article on The Human Library Organization a few years ago. The Human Library project is a real thing. It began in Copenhagen in 2006. <https://humanlibrary.org>

In a figurative sense, the Human Library Organization (HLO) hosts events where readers can “borrow” human beings for conversations or presentations.

The primary function of the HLO is to help people better

understand others. Every “human” book from the bookshelf, should represent a group in society that is often the subject of prejudice, stigmatization or discrimination. It’s about getting to know people from diverse backgrounds, learning from them, and building relationships.

Throughout the world the HLO is active on six continents and in over 80 countries and on six continents. The HLO hosts events in libraries, museums, festivals, conferences, schools, and universities.

Todd liked the idea of the Human Library model. He

continued to think about it. However, it was not until his work as a travelling lab tech took him to Fort Peck, Montana that he experienced a real understanding of how it might work.

During the 18 months he lived in Fort Peck, Todd became acquainted with various people and elders at the Fort Peck Community College. <https://www.fpcc.edu>

“I learned from what I called “impromptu human libraries” during my time on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana. I learned a lot

Human Library Contd.A6





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Brian Kline
Owner

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**Renee Bisgaard,
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605-641-9242**



Bryan Dean Lessly 65

August 14, 1959 - December 25, 2024

Bryan Dean Lessly, aged 65, passed away on December 25th, 2024, due to complications from liver cancer.

Bryan was born on August 14, 1959, in East Los Angeles, CA. He graduated from Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids, IA, earned an Associate Degree from York College in 1979, and a Bachelor's Degree from Abilene Christian University in 1982. His career included working as a sportscaster for KWVL in western Iowa and later becoming the Founder and CEO of Western Sky Media in Spearfish, SD.

He married Cathy Hill on November 5th, 1982 and shared a life filled with joy, love, faith and two children, Ian and Hannah. Bryan was enthusiastic about life, with hobbies that included studying weather phenomena, stargazing, exploring NASA programs, and outdoor activities such as hiking, jeeping, fishing, and water skiing. He was a talented musician, playing piano and guitar, and enjoyed singing. Bryan, like his father, was also a pilot.

Bryan's faith was central to his life. He led singing at his local churches wherever he lived and at larger gatherings across Iowa and South Dakota. Bryan taught Bible classes, preached sermons, and was a dedicated scholar of scripture and Biblical history. Bryan also served as an Elder for several years in his local Spearfish congregation, Northern Hills Church of Christ.

Bryan is survived by his wife Cathy Lessly, his children Ian Lessly and Hannah Lessly, and his parents, Roger and Betty Lessly. He is also survived by his siblings and their spouses: Terry Lessly (Debbie),



Joan Kramer (Brian), Sheryl Simpson (Scott), and Lynda Brewster (Jeff), as well as numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, extended family members, church family, and friends.

He is preceded in death by a loving group of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and friends who will welcome him into eternity.

A Celebration of Life was held on January 3rd, 2025, at Countryside Church, 625 Woodland Dr. Spearfish, SD 57783.

For those unable to attend, live-streaming details will be available at: <https://bryanlessly.wixsite.com/inmemory>.

The family would like to express gratitude to High Plains Western Heritage Center– Karla Scovell, City of Spearfish Mayor John Senden, Spearfish Economic Development - Kory Menken, Monument Health, John T. Vucurevich Cancer Care Institute.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the following:

- High Plains Western Heritage Center <https://www.westernheritagecenter.com/>
 - South Dakota Kids Belong <https://www.facebook.com/sdkidsbelong/>
 - Northern Hills Church of Christ <https://www.northernhillscocf.org/>
 - Spearfish Foundation for Public Education <https://spearfishschools.org/>
- I am the resurrection and the source of all life; those who believe in Me will live even in death. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never truly die. Do you believe this?*
– John 11: 25-26 The Voice

Donald Gene Bagley 85

Donald Gene Bagley (AKA Grandpa) passed away on December 17, 2024, at Ft. Meade VA Medical Center. Don was born July 4, 1939 in Madison, SD to Laverne Bagley and Greta (Thorsness) Bagley. Growing up with three brothers provided him with many colorful stories from their childhood. As a boy he spent time playing sports and pheasant hunting with his brothers, activities that he enjoyed for many years. He graduated from Lake Preston High School in 1957 and served in the U.S. Navy for four years before returning home to South Dakota.

He married his love and partner, Karen Anderson, in 1963. The couple remained in Madison until Don graduated from Dakota State College with his teaching degree. They started their family there, and then Don began his long teaching and coaching career. He taught in Emery and Hitchcock before moving to Newell in 1974, where he and Karen raised their family.

Don taught a variety of subjects for high school and middle school while also coaching football, basketball, and track. He was a well-respected and much-loved teacher and coach and was fortunate to be able to coach his children, Jackie and Dan, as well as grandchildren, Shelby and Taylor. Don also taught driver's education in Newell, even past his retirement, and probably taught half the population of Butte County to drive.

Don was a football fan, especially of his Minnesota Vikings. Most Sundays would find him watching them, often with family members. He also spent many falls pheasant hunting East River with his brothers and other family members. He enjoyed fishing, and when his brother, Bob, moved to Orman Dam, they spent countless hours on the lake.



Grandpa Don was very involved with his three grandchildren, Shelby, Taylor, and Caitlyn. He rarely missed a school activity or sporting event, always providing encouragement from the sidelines. His home was always open to them and their friends.

Don was always willing to lend a hand to anyone who needed help, family, friends, and neighbors. You could count on him for anything. Since they were such fixtures in the school and community, his and Karen's home was a hot spot at Halloween, attracting over 200 trick-or-treaters every year.

After retirement, Don was a regular at the Newell Fitness Center, and worked out regularly, including at his retirement home in Rapid City. He also enjoyed spending time with his best buddy, Remington, his miniature Daschund.

Don is survived by his daughter, Jackie Bagley (Cocoa Dietrich), Spearfish; granddaughter Shelby (David) Frederiksen, Rapid City; grandson Taylor Smith, Rapid City, granddaughter Caitlyn Bagley (Scott Chipman), St. Cloud, MN; great-grandchildren Quinn and Bennett Frederiksen (Rapid City); brother Dick (Scharell) Bagley, Lewisville, TX; brother John (Ula) Dean, Tampa, FL; sister-in-law Sharon Bagley, Arvada, CO; daughter-in-law Robin Englehart-Bagley, Sturgis, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen; infant daughter, Marcia; son, Dan; brother, Bob, as well as his parents and grandparents.

The family and close friends are holding graveside services at Black Hills National Cemetery at 10 am, January 17, 2025.

Black Hills
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

Pastor's Perspective

This Another Perspective is from the archives of Foursquare Pastor, the late Dr. Jack Hayford

“Guidance”

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. -Psalm 119:105

All of us are too inexperienced to try to make it through life without a guide. God's Word is that guide. Psalm 119 unfolds many of the features of God's Word, showing how dynamically and practically it will assist us in all of life's circumstances.

However, no single verse clearly illustrates this more than verse 105, which shows how God's Word lights the way, giving direction for each step (“to my feet”) and giving wisdom for long-range plans (“to



my path”). Joshua links the regular application of God's Word to life as the most certain way to both success and prosperity in living (Josh. 1:8). Further, Psalm 119:130 notes the wisdom God's Word gives to the “simple,” reminding us not to make decisions based on humanistic ideas or senselessness. Proverbs 6:23 reminds us that the reproofs of God are essential for our lives. Let God's Word guide, correct, instruct, lead, teach, and confirm. Do not hasten ahead without it!

“Purity”

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” -James 1:25

Purity of life is not a quest for perfection as much as it is a quest for liberation from those things that may inhibit effectiveness and reduce power-filled living. This text shows the Word of God as a means of reflection, a mirror into which we are to look and see ourselves. The call is not only to heed what we see and accept the Bible's corrective instruction; there is also an unwritten lesson here: we should avoid the

temptation to see (and judge) others, being careful to not analyze what they ought to do, in place of focusing on what we need to do.

Second Corinthians 3:18 also likens God's Word to a mirror but describes the picture seen as no less than the Lord Jesus Himself. Thus, the Bible shows us Christ's likeness in order that we may measure our conduct and character against His and allow God to shape us into Christ's image.

Today, ask the Lord to use His Word in your life so that you will be “conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29).

“Unashamed Works”

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” -2 Timothy 2:15

The Bible, God's inspired Word, is the only conclusive source of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of ultimate realities. It is a fountainhead of truth and a gold mine of practical principles, waiting to liberate and enrich the person who will pursue its truth and wealth.

Paul's instruction to “be diligent ... a worker” has been applied by Christians throughout the centuries as a directive to study the Word of God. The only

way to healthy, balanced living is by “rightly dividing” God's Word. The ability to rightly apply God's Word is the result of diligent studying.

Psalm 119:11 further urges memorizing the Word of God as a mighty deterrent against sin. Memorizing Scripture provides an immediate availability of God's words as a sword, ready in witnessing and effective in spiritual warfare.

As we continue to pour God's Word into our hearts, let it “dwell in [us] richly” (Col. 3:16), today and every day!

“The God-Breathed Word”

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” -2 Timothy 2:15

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Roots Grow Deep and Strong # 30

“Hansel and Gretel”



Meg English

There’s a dark and a sunny side of life.

Historically, children’s literature offers some of both, although the preferred delivery has been a softened treatment of difficult subjects. Better to protect children from potentially damaging unsavory literary content than to expose them to life-long trauma.

However, there’s another school of thought too. If hardships are a fact of life, it’s better to provide children with some exposure to bad things that can happen in life through stories. In this way, young people will be better prepared to cope with life’s ups and downs. Consider classic fairy tales.

Many fairy tales as we know them today have been deliberately altered to render them appropriate for children. Most original fairy tales are derived from medieval folk tales. Remember, in medieval times, the concept of childhood was not fully appreciated. Children were just small adults.

One classic familiar fairy tale, “Hansel and Gretel” includes some disturbing details that are hard for storytellers to palliate without substantially changing the story.

Little Hansel, and Gretel, are the offspring of a poor woodcutter. Their mother has died. Times are hard and the woodcutter’s second wife argues with her husband, the woodcutter.

Stepmother: (unkindly) “Those kids eat too much. It’s me or them.”

Woodcutter: “But they are so little cute. I like them. If we could keep them a little longer, they will soon be grown enough to sell into slavery.”

The not very nice stepmother persists until the woodcutter agrees to her egregious plan

to take the children on a Sunday outing where they plan to abandon the kids in the woods. What they do not realize is that little Hansel and Gretel have overheard their conversation.

Hansel, being forward thinking had gathered a collection of white pebbles and used them to mark their way through the woods. The white pebbles glowed in the moonlight and the children were guided safely back to their home.

Woodcutter “OK.” He says if somewhat reluctantly. “Kids, we’re going on a little hike in the deep dark woods, before lunch. It’s good for the circulation.”

Gretl: “Sure, Dad. That sounds fun.”

Hansel: “But I’m hungry. Couldn’t we have lunch first?”

Stepmother: “No. You’re too fat.”

Gretl: I’m hungry too!

Stepmother: “You’re too fat too.

Woodcutter: “Yes, that is food for thought indeed! Come children! See the lovely scenery!”

Hansel: (Suspicious) “Hmm…Is this like the walk we took last week when Gretel and I became lost and miraculously found our way home in the moonlight thanks

to the white pebbles we placed along the route?”

Stepmother: (Scornfully) “You may each have a small piece of bread.”

And so, the selfish parents led Hansel and Gretel into the forest for a second time. This time, Hansel used the bread to place breadcrumbs on the trail to mark their path. He held little Gretel’s hand.

Hansel: “Don’t be afraid Gretel. God will take care of us now.”

Hansel’s council was fortuitous as the birds had eaten all the breadcrumbs and the children were truly alone.

The children wandered in the woods for three days, until a dove who leads them to a sunny clearing. Here the starving children come upon a little house made of carbohydrates. The walls are bread, the roof is cake and the windows and glorious, bright-colored high fructose corn syrup.

Hansel and Gretel ate and ate until an elderly woman emerged from the little house. She took pity on the children and invited them inside where she fed them more nutritious food.

Elderly Woman: “You kids sure were hungry. Here have some more corn bread and gravy. I like a little fat. Makes the meat taste better.”

Before Hansel and Gretel

could react, the not so kind elderly woman revealed her identity. She was really a witch with carnivorous tendencies.

She grabbed Hansel and tried to lock him up so that she could fatten him for her feast. She enslaves and starves Gretel.

Elderly Woman: Here sweetie! Have some crab shells! You’re not worth eating!

Finally, the witch decides it’s time to eat Hansel. She’s so hungry she thinks that little Gretel would taste good after all. She lights the oven to cook Hansel for dinner and asks Gretel to come over to see if the oven is hot enough. Gretel may be small, but she recognizes an opportunity when she sees one. Gretel quickly pushes the witch in the hot oven, bolts the door shut and leaves the witch to burn to death. Immediately she frees Hansel and fortuitously, they discover that the witch had a hoard of jewels and precious stones. They are rich!

With the help of a beautiful white swan, they were returned to their father the woodcutter. The stepmother had died.

The woodcutter was very remorseful and so happy to see Hansel and Gretel his parental abuse was instantly forgiven. And yes, they all lived happily ever after.

The moral: There’s always been a dark and sunny side of life. Forgiveness is a virtue. Forgive but don’t forget.

Butte County from A1

cy Management, County Fair, Wheel Tax, Debt Service, and Fire.

The Commissioners Department Fund was \$5136,152.25 over what was budgeted last year. Items for the shortfall included a Special Assessment, Legal Fees that were higher than expected, the sale of land fees, higher utilities, and the cost of the 2021-2022 audit.

Election Department was supplemented because of larger absentee envelopes and higher postage, additional election workers, and the post-election audit.

Publishing was higher than previous years, along with payroll benefits and insurance rates. Also, a computer and office supplies for a new employee added to the needs of the Auditor’s Funds.

There were repairs done in the Administration Building that included a furnace and AC. The commissioners had voted earlier to replace the HVAC system in the courthouse which came to \$802,035.05.

The new website and access control and audio/video system added to the Information Tech Department.

The county fair had several upgrades done during the year. A new fence and tubing for the rodeo grounds and upgrades to the electrical system were also part of the bill.

The commissioners had decided to aid the local fire departments which added to the fire budget.

The ledger balance as of December 24, 2024 was \$6,988,596.58.

Commissioner Karrol Herman served her last meeting after being on the commission for eight years. She was honored with a plaque made in part by Sheriff Fred Lamphere. Commission Chair James Ager expressed his appreciation for her years of service to the county and the people I surrounding area. He noted her “unwavering dedication” to the county.

A resolution was passed to provide for the cancellation of liens issued by Butte County after it was determined uncollectable for 17 individuals. The accounts were deemed uncollectable because of death, bankruptcy, or other circumstances.

The next regular meeting for the Butte County Commission was Tuesday, January 7.



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

Jan 8 - Vale Ag Fair in Vale

Jan 9 - EDC Annual Meeting, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Jan 10 - 7:30AM Coffee and Caramel Rolls @ Belle Silver Lining, 11AM Innovative Nonprofit FREE Workshop - Spearfish

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

“Ghouls” from A1

vading ghouls. Mira’s challenge is to conquer the ghouls and save her brother before he becomes a changeling. “I had a lot of fun creating all the monsters,” Bjornestad chuckled.

“Ghouls of Greenbottom Ward” is available at Henry’s Books in Spearfish and online from major retailers including Amazon, Target, Walmart and Books a Million. Writing for middle grade readers poses creative challenges, Bjornestad said. “I think a lot of middle grade fantasies are too long,” she said. “Eighty percent of kids are intimidated by lengthy books. ... I wanted to do something that was a simple fantasy, and I wanted to make it multicultural. These kids in the book come from different parts of the world and they all come together and become a friend group.”

Bjornestad said she wanted “Ghouls” to be about friendship and discovering your “superpower.” Bjornestad said the book is a story she hopes will appeal to kids who are strong readers, and that “Ghouls” will entice kids who struggle with reading to

pick up the book and give it a try sophisticated as when you get into older kids’ books. You have to watch how difficult you make the vocabulary, and the themes can’t get too mature,” she said. Bjornestad has been a fan of science fiction and fantasy since reading “The Hobbit” when she was growing up. Her first middle grade novel, “The Amazing Sunny York” is a historical novel set in the 1980s, with a plot unhampered by cell phones, social media and the internet, she said.

The heroine of “The Amazing Sunny York” has a jailbird mother who moves herself and Sunny to a small Wyoming town after an incident rocks their family. The novel tells of Sunny’s journey towards forgiveness and acceptance, and reinforces the idea that change is possible for everyone. Bjornestad is a part of South Dakota Humanities Council’s 2024 Speakers’ Bureau, and she presents hourlong programs for schools and libraries about “Ghouls of Greenbottom Ward” and “The Amazing Sunny York.”

Her programs are best suited for grades three through six, and Bjornestad hopes to make more presentations to schools and libraries next spring, she said. The Speakers Bureau is an affordable way for schools and libraries to provide programming for their communities, she said. Bjornestad also hopes to schedule more book signings at libraries and bookstores in the Black Hills. “When you actually get out there to those events and start talking to people about what you’ve done, it’s very fulfilling,” Bjornestad said. “I love

to meet people.”In addition to her middle grade fiction, she’s written two books of poetry for kids, “Rhymes from the Reef” and “Bugs in the Backyard.”Bjornestad has won awards for her writing including a Wyoming Fellowship for Creative Fiction and an honorable mention for the Neltje Blanchan Award.

She’s published several essays in “Christian Science Monitor Weekly,” and has been published in such anthologies as “Pasque Petals,” “Passionfruit Review” and Scurfpea Publishing’s “Green Elephant.”Though she loves writing for kids, Bjornestad’s current project is a sci-fi trilogy called Genesis Planets.

The trilogy is for slightly older readers – “new adults” ages 18 into their 20s. The protagonists of the Genesis Planets books are ages 18 and 20.“I love fantasy and sci fi,” Bjornestad said. “I don’t want to write too much about real life. I like escapism. I love speculative fiction.”The trilogy merges speculative fiction, romance, sci fi and fantasy. The first book, “Persephone Rising,” explores a dystopian Chicago of the future.

The next books are a “space opera” and an exploration of colonizing a new planet.“There’s an overarching arc for the trilogy that has to do with saving Earth. Climate change is always a big topic on my mind,” Bjornestad said. While the adult books’ topics are serious, Bjornestad is a fan of happy endings.“You have to read through three of my books, but Earth gets its happy ending,” she chuckled.

She hopes to debut at least the first book in her trilogy at the Wild Deadwood Reads festival in June 2025.Bjornestad’s building a community of writers and book lovers. She’s in the process of helping an adult writing group in Belle Fourche compile an anthology. As part of the Speakers Bureau, she offers a program for adults about navigating the complex world of self-publishing. “Writers love to help each other.

There’s so much to learn, and it’s always changing,”

Bjornestad said.

She loves connecting with readers and writers through her free online newsletter, which gives updates on what she’s writing, a calendar of her upcoming events, plus an article and tips about writing.

And for anyone who wants to write a book, Bjornestad’s advice is to just do it.“For people who are thinking about being writers themselves or jumping into self-publishing, the first thing is to make sure you have a good book. It also takes a little bravery. It’s kind of stressful and scary, but you can only research so much. You have to go for it. Know you’re going to make mistakes, and you won’t figure out everything all at once, and little by little you learn more and more,” she said.

To learn more about bringing Bjornestad to a school or library as a guest speaker, to sign up for her newsletter, or to find out more about her books, go to her website, redheadswrite.net



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Bronc Wrestlers on the Move Over Christmas Break

Kandi Tonsager
Special to the Beacon

On Monday, December 30th, the Broncs headed to the Harding County Invitational where they took 2nd in team scores, had 6 placers on the podiums and 4 champions taking home their brackets.



Sofia Gonzalez

Caden Swaney and Porter Tysdal competed at 106lbs, Teedin Humble at 120lbs, Dylan Park at 126lbs, Koby Bowden at 138lbs, Clifford Torberson at 144lbs, and Oscar Garcia-Avina at 190lbs. At 132lbs Garet Huston took 4th place and at 150lbs Riley Dighton took 2nd place on the day.

Your 4 champions taking 1st place spots on the podium for the Harding County Invitational were Cooper Conry at 113lbs, Owyn Schreder at 165lbs, Spencer Bush-Graslie at 175lbs and Lucas Tonsager at 285lb Heavyweight division.

On Saturday, January 4th the Lady Broncs competed in the Spearfish Girls Invitational where they took 4th in team scores and had 5 placers on the podiums.

Abby Vissia competed at 145lbs and Alexa Alacron competed at 152lbs. Kyra Vandenberg took 3rd at 100lbs, Lia Mundt took 2nd at 107lbs, Aleyah Carbajal took 3rd at 126lbs, Alexa Swaney took 2nd at 138lbs, and Joselyn Shockey took 2nd at 152lbs.

Next up for the Bronc wrestling teams is a tournament in Hettinger, ND on January 10th and 11th.

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Riley Dighton



Porter Tysdal



Joselyn Shockey



Lia Mundt



Jaidyn Way



Lady Bronc Captains Aleyah, Alexa, & Joselyn.



Future Broncs -AAU Wrestlers look on at home triangular- Hodge, Swaney, Krul, Carbajal, Streeter. Tonsager Photos



Sofia Gonzalez

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Bronc Captains **Luke Tonsager & Riley Dighton**



Jaidyn Way



1st career pin for **Oscar Garcia-Avina**



Abby Vissia checking in.



Alix Norlin



Caden Swaney



Clifford Torberson



Lia Mundt gaining control.



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From A1 **ABC** “Enrichment Day” scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2025. Activities suggested were a cornhole tournament, cooking classes, arts and craft classes, yoga, and others as well as ABC related classes such as informative presentations on drug overdoses and alcohol poisoning as well as Drug Free pledge activity.

Law and Vehicle Safety was the topic presented by John Hale and Justus Marshall

The team identified some safety issues such as kids not wearing seatbelts, speeding through parking lots and vehicle vandalism. Suggested solutions included: daily seatbelt checks, candy rewards for wearing seatbelts, regular law enforcement policing of the school parking lot, adding speed bumps and providing students with daily reminders to lock their cars.

Danielle Vetter described some of the solutions her group suggested to improve mental health. More information about mental health was focus

topic another was prescribed fun activities to break up the monotony of the school year. This group suggested plans for Valentine’s Day activities as well as different activities to do during Mental Health Week in April.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs group discussion was led by Lynley Seaman

This group expressed strong opposition to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. They came up with ideas to promote the elimination of these substances in the community with their main target groups being middle school, and high school adolescents. However, they also noted that elementary kids also need prevention interventions. Suggestions included prevention and avoidance information and activities for the elementary school. Another idea was to help kids connect with nature rather than substances.

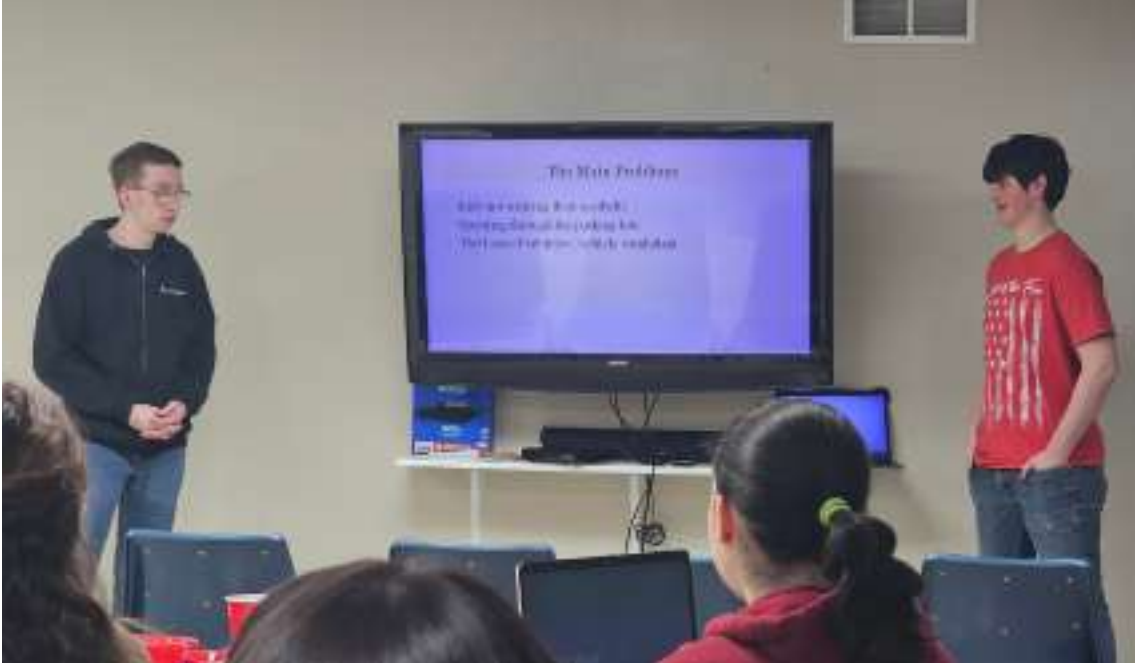
Although only one to two members of the larger YLT group were available to share at the December ABC Coalition meeting, their presentations demonstrated the thoughtful creative initiative of the larger group of ABC Coalition Youth Leaders.



Lynley Seaman explained how ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) are closely related to mental health issues. (Photo Courtesy of ABC Coalition)



Jazlyn Olson and **Lexi Pickett** present information about how school and community are vital entities in augmenting the practice of good mental health strategies. (Photo Courtesy of ABC Coalition)



Law and vehicle safety as they relate to community safety was a topic presented by **John Hale** and **Justus Marshall**. (Photo Courtesy of ABC Coalition)



Danielle Vetter shares her expertise on the critical nature of mental health awareness in the community. (Photo Courtesy of ABC Coalition)





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Josh Bunney, Manager

I Believe From A1 exhibition includes documentation photos and video shorts that capture the process and impact of these residencies, offering a glimpse into the transformative power of art.

Transformative Power of Art

“Art is a powerful source for healing, reinforcing our shared humanity,” Dr. Vivek Murthy’s words resonate deeply with this work. This exhibition is more than a collection of art; it’s a testament to the potential of creativity to heal and connect. It allows viewers to engage with the voices and experiences of incarcerated individuals through their artistic expressions.

One attendee at the John A. Day Gallery in Vermillion shared, “Beautiful and eye-opening. This work is so important, and I can’t wait to see what grows from this program.”

An inmate participant at Mike Durfee State Prison remarked, “It felt like a safe place to be vulnerable, honest, and expressive. Thank you! Please come again!”

Gallery Talk and Insights

The event began with a prayer and personal comments from Clark and Cathy Sowers of Belle Fourche. Buddhist Prison Chaplain and South Dakota Humanities Scholar Lawrence Diggs joined us from Roslin to share his perspective on working with the incarcerated for over a decade and developing the inmate-led Compassionate Outreach Group (COG).

During the gallery talk, I shared Creative Care’s mission and impact by partnering with USD Researcher Clara Pierskalla and Criminal Justice Professor Jenna Borseth, who administered pre and post-surveys to the men using Patient

Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) that demonstrated a decrease in depression and through the Texas Christian University (TCU) Criminal Thinking Scales showed significant improvement in participants’

ability to self-regulate their emotions and response to life’s events. Visitors seemed deeply engaged, reflecting on the stories behind the artwork and the role art plays in healing and connecting us to those serving time.

About the Exhibition

I Believe: Arts & Incarceration will continue touring South Dakota and tribal communities through 2026. It provides a platform for incarcerated individuals to share their voices, inspire dialogue, and contribute to their rehabilitation journey.

The next stop will be at the Waterfront Gallery in Pierre during the 2025 Legislative Session, running from January 14 to March 10, with a reception scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025.

In spring 2025, the exhibition will visit the Heritage Center in Pine Ridge and The Dahl Art Center in Rapid City, featuring opening talks by Dr. Craig Howe of the Center for Ameri-

can Indian Research and Native Studies and South Dakota Artist Laureate Dale Lamphere.

For more information about I Believe: Arts & Incarceration and other Creative Care projects at The Bright Gallery, please contact Ariadne at creative-carellc@hotmail.com or Web-sites: www.creativecare.org, www.illc.com and thebrightgallery.com.

Please consider joining us at one of the upcoming locations. Your attendance supports our goal to share art’s power and connect our communities with stories that reflect resilience, humanity, and hope.



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Cattle Report - Friday, January 3, 2025

2200 cattle for the first sale of 2025
Market still on fire with lots of demand!
Weigh up cows & bulls \$1 to \$3 higher

Next sale - Jan. 10 - Bred Cow Special - 9 AM
- 9 AM Weighups, 12 Noon Feeder Cattle followed by Bred Cows
Tank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Brence, Charles & Greg, Ekalaka MT	76	Blk	Str	751	\$300.75
Brence, Charles & Greg, Ekalaka MT	77	Blk	Str	739	\$302.75
Brence, Charles & Greg, Ekalaka MT	27	Blk	Str	643	\$318.00
Brence, Charles & Greg, Ekalaka MT	45	Blk	Hfr	641	\$297.00
Brence, Charles & Greg, Ekalaka MT	21	Blk	Hfr	557	\$318.00
Baker, Mike J, St Onge SD	11	Blk	Str	526	\$354.00
Baker, Mike J, St Onge SD	24	Blk	Str	436	\$387.00
Baker, Mike J, St Onge SD	20	Blk	Hfr	445	\$336.00
Battle Creek Cattle Co, Rapid City SD	28	Red	Str	597	\$323.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD	10	Blk	Str	587	\$331.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD	12	Blk	Hfr	548	\$311.00
Boardman, Jeffrey, Gillette WY	69	B/R	Str	535	\$340.00
Boardman, Jeffrey, Gillette WY	16	B/R	Str	424	\$351.00
Boardman, Jeffrey, Gillette WY	45	B/R	Hfr	449	\$328.00
Boardman, Jeffrey, Gillette WY	73	Rbld	Hfr	515	\$320.00
Clark, Merle J, Hulet WY	28	Blk	Str	515	\$358.00
Clark, Merle J, Hulet WY	21	Blk	Str	437	\$385.00
Clark, Merle J, Hulet WY	19	Blk	Hfr	465	\$332.50
Dobesh, Dane, Belle Fourche SD	11	Bld	Str	522	\$353.00
Dobesh, Dane, Belle Fourche SD	22	Herf	Str	555	\$324.00
Gaskill, Dan, Volborg MT	31	Blk	Str	558	\$336.00
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	13	Blk	Str	580	\$333.00
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	42	Blk	Str	482	\$377.00
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	22	Blk	Hfr	455	\$334.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	27	Bbld	Hfr	485	\$332.00
Hutton Land & Livestock, Devils Tower WY	34	B/R	Str	564	\$338.00
Hutton Land & Livestock, Devils Tower WY	11	B/R	Str	445	\$340.00
Hutton Land & Livestock, Devils Tower WY	29	Red	Hfr	571	\$298.00
Joslyn, Scott, Gillette WY	30	Blk	Hfr	516	\$327.00
Kimsey, Kennedy Or Beth, Moorcroft WY	59	Blk	Str	549	\$359.00
Kimsey, Kennedy Or Beth, Moorcroft WY	22	Blk	Str	467	\$384.00
Kimsey, Kennedy Or Beth, Moorcroft WY	22	Blk	Hfr	495	\$320.00
Lambert, Bill & Or Marcia, Osage WY	21	Red	Str	503	\$343.00
Larson, Quinn Or Jennifer, Gillette WY	48	Bbld	Hfr	505	\$346.00
Larson, Quinn Or Jennifer, Gillette WY	18	Rbld	Hfr	491	\$311.00
Lawrence, Edward, Alzada MT	15	B/R	Str	515	\$357.50
Lawrence, Edward, Alzada MT	24	Blk	Hfr	500	\$335.00
Riggs, Tom, Broadus MT	10	Blk	Str	549	\$347.00
Roush, Rusty A, Gillette WY	10	Blk	Hfr	410	\$347.00
Russiff, Barry, Olive MT	16	Blk	Str	620	\$313.00
Russiff, Barry, Olive MT	11	Blk	Hfr	711	\$241.00
Ward, Shane, Edger MT	24	Blk	Str	588	\$334.00
Ward, Shane, Edger MT	13	Blk	Str	419	\$400.00
Ward, Shane, Edger MT	47	Blk	Hfr	521	\$324.00
Ward, Shane, Edger MT	28	Blk	Hfr	403	\$355.00
Wood Argyle Llc, Hot Springs SD	25	Rbld	Str	396	\$385.00
Wood Argyle Llc, Hot Springs SD	23	Red	Hfr	458	\$330.00
Wood Argyle Llc, Hot Springs SD	18	Red	Hfr	383	\$346.00

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Foothills Ranch Inc, St Onge SD	2	Blk	Hfr	1005	\$191.00
Foothills Ranch Inc, St Onge SD	1	Blk	Cow	1330	\$88.00
Fuller, Mike, Gillette WY	5	Blk	Cowette	1275	\$150.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	9	Blk	Hfr	993	\$191.50
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	1	Blk	Cowette	925	\$135.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	1	Blk	Cow	755	\$127.50
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	4	Blk	Cow	1295	\$123.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	4	Blk	Cow	1225	\$115.00
Hansen, Wyatt Alex, Fruitdale SD	1	Blk	Hfr	1105	\$173.00
Hansen, Wyatt Alex, Fruitdale SD	1	Blk	Cow	1260	\$120.00
Hansen, Wyatt Alex, Fruitdale SD	5	Blk	Cow	1299	\$118.00
Hewett, Luke, Hermosa SD	2	Blk	Cow	1540	\$127.00
Keim, Ben, Hulet WY	1	Blk	Hfr	935	\$195.00
Keim, Ben, Hulet WY	2	Blk	Cowette	1165	\$147.50
Kinghorn, Ray, St Onge SD	1	Herf	Cow	1330	\$127.00
Kinghorn, Ray, St Onge SD	1	Herf	Cow	1390	\$116.00
Lawrence, Edward, Alzada MT	1	Blk	Cowette	1205	\$157.00
Lawrence, Edward, Alzada MT	1	Blk	Cowette	1145	\$136.00
Lawrence, Edward, Alzada MT	7	Bbld	Cow	1462	\$126.00
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January 23rd - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
January 30th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 6th - No Sale - Check Out Sheep Day At The Black Hills Stock Show
February 13th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 20th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 27th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

2025 CATTLE SALES

January 17th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
January 24th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
January 31st - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 7th - No Sale - Visit The Black Hills Stock Show
February 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 7th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 4th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 11th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 18th - Pair & Bred Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 25th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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Friday, January 10, 2025

Bred Heifer & Cow Special
9AM - Weigh Ups, Cows, 12 Noon - Feeder Cattle followed by Bred Cows
BT-Braning Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free
BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI- No Implants

Bred Heifers

Marlin Geier - 137 Blk & Blk Baldy Hfrs - 3/10 For 21 Days
- 40 Blk & Blk Baldy Hfrs - 4/10 For 21 Days
Kimsey Ranch - 50 Blk Bred Hfrs - 1000# - 3/10 For 60 Days
Jensen Ranch - 20 Red Hfrs - Bred Blk Angus - 5/1 For 30 Days

Bred Cows

Rittberger Dugan Estate - Dispersion - 105 Blk Mixed Aged Cows - Bred Blk
Enoch Schaffler - 49 Blk 3 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk - 3/25
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SCOUTING REPORT | Salmon help from North Dakota

Jonathin Ellis
jonathan@thedakotascout.com

A weekly digest of interesting local, state, national and even international developments

Officials with South Dakota Game Fish & Parks turned to their counterparts in North Dakota to help restock Lake Oahe with chinook salmon this winter. That, after slightly more than 400 climbed the concrete fish ladder at the Whitlock Bay Salmon Spawning Station. That's less than half of an average year, says fisheries biologist Robert Hanton. So, South Dakota turned to North Dakota for help in getting more eggs, Hanton tells KCCR Radio. Both the Dakotas and Montana have a tri-state confederation when it comes to chinook

salmon fisheries along the Missouri River. "Over the 40 years these chinook salmon programs have been going, we have worked as a tri-state work group because in years when one state's run has been low, the other states can help out to make up the egg shortage and bridge the gap," Hanton said. The spawning station, which is open in October, tries to harvest enough eggs to restock Lake Oahe with as many as 250,000 young salmon each year. The salmon thrive in Lake Oahe's deep, cold waters, feeding on rainbow smelt and lake herring with their sharp teeth. But they cannot reproduce naturally in Lake Oahe. The fish that climb the spawning station ladder are segregated into males, females that are not ready for spawning and females

with ripe eggs. Once the eggs have been harvested and fertilized, the fish are sold for private consumption. There is a daily limit of up to five for anglers. While numbers were down this year, Hanton said 2025 should bring increased numbers. "These fish live two to four years," Hanton said. "The majority are 3 years old when they return to us, and then a year of that is actually in the hatchery. So, we had a low stock year, which meant a low return of fish to work with. 2023-2024 you'll see our number of salmon we stocked in Lake Oahe greatly increase. Going forward, our long-term goals and our stocking strategy is to stock around 500,000. With the number of eggs we collected this year, we should be able to hit that mark."



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Looking Back in Belle

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.

On December 31, 1999, the United States, in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, officially hands over control of the Panama Canal, putting the strategic waterway into Panamanian hands for the first time.

Crowds of Panamanians celebrated the transfer of the 50-mile canal, which links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and officially opened when the SS Arcon sailed through on August 15, 1914. Since then, over one million ships have used the canal.

Interest in finding a shortcut from the Atlantic to the Pacific originated with explorers in Central America in the early 1500's. In 1523, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V commissioned a survey of the Isthmus of Panama and several plans for a canal were produced, but none ever implemented.

U.S. interest in building a canal was sparked with the expansion of the American West and the California gold rush in 1848. (Today, a ship heading from New York to San Francisco can save about 7,800 miles by taking the Panama Canal rather than sailing around South America.)

In 1880 a French company run by the builder of the Suez Canal started digging a canal across the Isthmus of Panama (then a part of Colombia). More than 22,000 workers died from tropical diseases such as yellow fever during this early phase of construction and the company eventually went bankrupt, selling its project rights to the United States in 1902 for \$40 million.

President Theodore Roosevelt championed the canal, viewing it as important to America's economic and military interests. In 1903, Panama declared its independence from Colombia in a U.S.-backed revolution and the U.S. and Panama signed the Hay-Bu-

nau-Varilla Treaty, in which the U.S. agreed to pay Panama \$10 million for a perpetual lease on land for the canal, plus \$250,000 annually in rent.

Over 56,000 people worked on the canal between 1904 and 1913 and over 5,600 lost their lives. When finished, the canal, which cost the U.S. \$375 million to build, was considered a great engineering marvel and represented America's emergence as a world power.

In 1977, responding to nearly 20 years of Panamanian protest, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panama's General Omar Torrijos signed two new treaties that replaced the original 1903



agreement and called for a transfer of canal control in 1999.

The treaty, narrowly ratified by the Senate gave America the ongoing right to defend the canal against any threats to its neutrality. In October 2006, Panamanian voters approved a \$5.25 billion plan to double the canal's size by 2015 to better accommodate modern ships.

Ships pay tolls to use the canal, based on each vessel's size and cargo volume. In May 2006, the Maersk Delys paid a record toll of \$249,165.



Photos Courtesy Ferman and Barb Clarkson's 2024 trip to the Panama Canal.

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CANDLES AND MIRRORS #13

By DeAnn Kruempel

“Cooking Up Warm Memories”

Most of my recipes require preheating the oven to a certain temperature before baking. As I start to mix the dough, I press two buttons in the top panel of my stove. The fire ignites. Within five minutes the appliance beeps to let me know it has reached the set temperature.

A few more steps were involved back when our mother fired up her cookstove more than 60 years ago. There were no switches, buttons or controls. First, she adjusted the draft on the chimney. Then she crushed a few sheets of newspaper and tucked them into the top part of the firebox which she had removed with the special handle that fit perfectly into the round burners. She added chunks of split wood and a few handfuls of corn cobs. She lit a match and held it to the paper to get the fire going. She replaced the top section of stove and the two heavy burners. Forty-five minutes later, Mom opened the oven door just a bit and stuck her hand in for a five-second temperature test. Cookstoves back then did not come with beepers because women came with built-in hand thermometers.

Our cookstove sat regally in the southeast corner of the kitchen. Two long handles and a “Monarch” insignia plate sparkled on the white enamel front. The top surface was a thick sheet of black cast iron. Mom and her daughters bustled around that huge metal box before meals and on baking days. The appliance also heated the kitchen and a good share of the house when north winds whirled.

It was the kids’ job to keep plenty of fuel in the “cob box” next to the stove. At the end of the day, Donald or Delmer would carry in an armload of wood they had chopped. The girls took turns filling an aluminum tub with cobs from the pile left from corn shelling. Delmer was not very old when he used his “truck,” the red wagon, to haul two wooden baskets of cobs.

Everyone in the family contributed in some way to the care and feeding of that old cookstove, but my siblings and I remember the delicious, warm



feeling of home that came from it, especially in the weeks and days before Christmas.

Early in December, Mother assembled dried fruit, nuts, molasses and spices and blended them into a dark, rich batter for fruit cake. Citron, cinnamon and cloves

permeated the air as the round cakes baked.

Our family of eight, plus guests and gifts required mass quantities of cookies to be stockpiled in giant glass jars and metal canisters. Each kind produced its own wonderful aroma as they reached golden perfection in the oven. There were soft molasses cookies and Mom’s melt-in-your-mouth sugar cookies. The girls all helped make filled raisin wafers and salted peanut cookies. We frosted cut-outs and spooned jam into thumbprints. Delmer’s favorite were chocolate chip. Mom never seemed to notice the drastic “settling” that occurred in that particular jar!

Our mother’s Scandinavian heritage meant a family love for lefse. She mixed potatoes, butter, sugar and flour, then rolled pieces of the dough into thin rounds. My sisters carried them to the stove to bake—directly on top! Each puffed a mouth-watering potato-flour steam as it baked. My sisters flipped them over once and transferred to a plate when they were done. The lucky cooks got to eat the few that ended up with holes or crispy edges.

But times have changed. Today we bake lefse on special grills. I don’t haul wood or cobs to fuel my gas range. A beeper replaced the cook’s built-in hand thermometer.

My trusty stove still emits amazing aromas, especially close to Christmas, but nothing can compare to the memories of the old cook stove in the corner and all the ways it warmed us. More Happy Memories!

All of the stories from Kruempel’s previous columns have been published into books to keep you smiling and remembering! Those four books, along with her historical fiction series, “Promises to Keep,” are available on Amazon and make great gifts. Contact the author at deannkruempelaauthor@gmail.com.





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January 23, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
January 30, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS
@ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
February 6, 2025..... NO SALE THIS WEEK!
February 13, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
February 20, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS
@ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
February 27, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
March 6, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS
@ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
March 13, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
March 20, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
March 27, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
April 3, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
April 10, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & PAIR SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @
10 AM MT, BREDS & PAIRS @ 12 MT
April 17, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
April 24, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 1, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH
UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
May 8, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 15, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 22, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 29, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT



Thank you for being a part of an incredible year for South Dakota Kids Belong - helping vulnerable children in our communities! In the past year, we have seen our team and mission grow, leading to more kids being in safe and loving homes. We had a record number of new Foster Friendly businesses, faith communities, WRAP teams and finalized adoptions in 2024.

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- All sidewalks must be cleaned within (24) hours of the last snowfall. Upon the failure of the owner of abutting property to remove snow or ice from the sidewalks the City may provide for removal and tax the removal expense by special assessment against the abutting property.
- No person may park or allow to remain parked any vehicle or trailer on any street designated as a snow route during snowfall or prior to the time said street is cleared of snow by the City. Vehicles or trailers parked on snow routes in violation of this section may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.
- Please bring your pets inside during the cold weather.

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Teen Blast From A1

games. The laughter was loud and contagious as the various friendly competitions took place.

Prizes, cash donations and many, many local gift cards were generously donated by various businesses and individuals...which, of course, delighted the high-school attendees.

Throughout the evening Pastor Dan Carlson could be heard often, in his most professional announcing voice, calling out names to “come on down and pick out your prize!”.

Josh Brown, a guest minister from Rapid City, gave a wonderful, inspirational talk as he engaged the youth in his message.

Two local police officers, Officer Wallace Eddy and Sara Fitzgerald, probably heard all the noisy laughter going on at the church and dropped by to see where the noise was coming from.

The new year was welcomed in with a hilarious indoor snowball fight which, somehow ended up with Pastor Paul Howard vigorously defending himself against hundreds of soft, flying cotton-ball giant snowballs targeted on him.

Because the event was so successful and provided a safe New Year’s Eve environment for the high schoolers, the Christian Life Center plans to hold another event at the end of 2025.

The Teen Blast was a success because of the support and generosity of the Belle Fourche community...and, like the saying goes...it takes a village to raise a child.

The Christian Life Center is proud to be an active part of that village and invites any high schoolers to join their Wednesday evening youth group.



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New Year’s Teen Blast Photographs



Area Church Schedules

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

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER
2020 Vista St
892-4767
Dan Carlson, Pastor
Paul Howard, Pastor
Sunday Schedule:
Long Term Care Service 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School: All ages 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

EMMANUEL BAPTIST
Meet at Americinn Conference room
Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School 10am church
Men's Bible Study 10am at
the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
Call for location.
website: ebcbf.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 Jennewein
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

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

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

NEW COVENANT PCA
1120 North Fifth Street, Spearfish
642-1122
Luke Bluhm, Pastor
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship Service

**NEWELL CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**
308 4th Street, Newell SD, 57760
605-456-2544
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00am

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

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

**NORTH POINT CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
10959 Kellem Lane, Spearfish
Sunday Services: 9AM and 10:30AM

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

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

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

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920 N Main Street, Spearfish
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Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

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Watch our Sunday service
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Father Francis Nsubuga, Assoc. Pastor
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Daily Mass: Weds. & Thurs. 12:15 p.m.
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before all Masses

**SUMMIT OPEN BIBLE
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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



Capitol News
December 29, 2024
This has been a
beautiful December
week at Capitol and
on Tie Creek. The

weather has been mild with a
tiny bit of moisture, and we are
glad for every drop.

The Christmas Eve Can-
dle-Lighting service at the
Methodist Church in Camp
Crook brought hope, and a feel-
ing of joy, to all who shared it.
We thank Rock Tarter for being
leading narrator, Mary Tarter
presented the Scripture readings
of the Christmas story, and the
whole congregation joined in
responses.

Karen Odell played piano for
the many and varied Christmas
carols and songs. The singing
voices joined in, making the mu-
sic especially dramatic, exciting
and beautiful, and in everyone
we could see the feeling of love
that Christmas has brought to
us all.

Karen Odell got to visit with all
her children and grandchildren
on Christmas Day. She also got
to visit with her brothers in
Ohio, and cousins in Florida. On
Friday, Karen got to see grand-
son, Carson Odell, in his middle
school winter concert at Mitch-
ell, because she could watch it on
YouTube.

She enjoyed Carson's voice as
an announcer for the program,

especially because he has a
voice similar to his dad's, who
did some radio announcing,
and his great uncle, Ron Evans
who announced Ohio Northern
University football, basketball,
and even tournament volleyball
for about thirty years.

Carson is very lucky, because
Mitchell has an especially great
music program for all ages,
bringing out the creative abil-
ities of so many students, and
especially raising math scores
through musical influence.

Karen Odell would like to
thank everyone at Capitol and
on Tie Creek, for sharing their
lives and stories for you to read
throughout this year. It is an es-
pecially wonderful gift to share
our lives.

It is a gift from the heart.
People all the way across this
country enjoy reading about our
lives here. They don't read it just
for entertainment. They don't
read it because the stories are so
beautiful.

They don't even know many
of the people. They don't read it
because it is so captivating. They
don't read it because they know
us, or because we are special in
any way.

They read The Capitol News
because it is a way of coming
home.

Happy New Year to everyone,
and Welcome Home,
from Karen Odell

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden January 5, 2025



It is officially winter
in Meade County
with an additional 6
or so inches of snow
since Christmas. The
prairies are white and

we've been experiencing single
digits. As of Sunday the snow was
light and beautiful, but as we all
know in this part of the world we
live in, we are a strong wind away
from a blizzard.

School is back in full swing as
the holiday vacation came to an
end on Monday. The legislative
session is coming up, but not be-
fore January 14 which is the latest
day possible to start session. It
begins on the first Tuesday after
the first Monday of the month
of January. This January 1 was a
Wednesday this year.

Meade County, Dist.29, will
be represented by three first
time legislators. We lost Dean
Wink, Gary Cammack and Kirk
Chaffee who were all strong in
agriculture, tax structure, busi-
ness and leadership. They hailed
from Howes, Union Center and
Sturgis.

Our newly elected legislators
are Teresa Jorgenson from south-
western Meade County, with
John Carley and Cathy Rice from
the Piedmont/Summerset area.
Dean Wink and Gary Cammack
were honored at the Meade
County Republicans meeting
held on Thursday night in Sturgis
for their leadership and service as
our state legislators. Kirk Chaffee
was not in attendance. Prayers
went up for our newly elected
legislators.

Funeral services were held for
Elsie Matt on Saturday at the
Central Meade County Commu-
nity Center on a very cold, brisk
day. Despite the cold there was
a very nice turnout of family and
friends. She was 94 years old at
her passing and the mother of 9
children. Many of her family of
24 grandchildren, 55 great grand-
children and 2 great grandchil-
dren were in attendance. Harold
Delbridge officiated and shared

some good memories of Elsie
and the family. She was known
as having the gift of gab, and
was spunky, friendly and funny,
yet determined and enjoyed
being surrounded by family and
friends. Having started out her
marriage with kerosene lamps,
gas lanterns, wood cookstove and
a well with a pulley and rope
for their water, and raising kids,
cattle and other livestock with
meager luxuries over the years,
she and her husband Arnold
felt that their best crop was
'family' that grew 5 generations
deep. Besides being a hard
worker, Elsie was involved in
the community and church and
also wrote the Boneita News
column for the Sturgis Tribune
for many years.

The Circuit Riders Quar-
tet, who sang three music
selections, consisted of Larry
Rhoden, John Rhoden, Dennis
Hall and Caden Smiley. Elsie
would have been pleased. A
lunch of many salads, desserts,
beef and ham was served after
the services.

The crew with the CMC
Community Center did a won-
derful job, as usual, of directing
traffic and providing the family
with a wonderful service. We
send out condolences to Elsie's
children and families. We were
blessed to know her.

I would like to take a mo-
ment to thank and let the CMC
Board of Directors know how
much they are appreciated for
the care of the building and
the business they take care of
to maintain and run a public
facility as they do. The building
seems to be just as maintained
and cared for as it was when it
was new in 1993. Thank you all
for your service.

A pot luck dinner was held
after church in Union Center
on Sunday. It began to snow
but the roads were still drivable.
A church business meeting was
held on Monday to discuss up-
coming projects and events.

Send us your News and Photos!

News@BelleFourcheBeacon.com

social media badges, and regular
updates about their collective
impact on the community.

Remember that building
a strong local economy is a
marathon, not a sprint. These
initiatives should be viewed
as long-term investments in
community vitality rather than
quick fixes. The most successful
programs maintain momentum
through regular communication
of successes and continuous
adaptation to changing commu-
nity needs. The success of these
initiatives depends on consis-
tent execution and community
buy-in. Communities that have
implemented similar compre-
hensive approaches have seen

average increases of 15-25%
in local spending within the
first year, with compounding
benefits as programs mature and
become embedded in communi-
ty culture.

John Newby is a nationally
recognized Columnist, Speak-
er, & Publisher. He consults
with Chambers, Communities,
Business & Media. This column
appears in 60+ newspapers and
media outlets. As founder of
Truly-Local, he assists cham-
bers, communities, media, and
businesses in creating synergies
that build vibrant communities.
He can be reached at: **John@
Truly-Local.org**.

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Building a ‘Shop Local’ Mentality in 2025

Revitalizing local
shopping requires a
coordinated effort com-
bining modern digital
strategies with tradition-
al community building.
Here are a few things
your community can
do to make 2025 a more ‘shop
local’ friendly community

Establish a unified digital
presence by creating a shared
online platform for local
businesses. Despite rising tech
costs, smaller communities can
leverage affordable solutions
like Shopify’s collective mar-
ketplace features, which typi-
cally cost \$29-79 per merchant
monthly. Having a single portal
where residents can browse and
purchase from multiple local
shops simultaneously removes a
major barrier to local shopping.
Include features like real-time
inventory, in-store pickup
options, and delivery partner-
ships with local services makes
shopping locally as convenient
as using major sites.

Implement a communi-
ty-wide rewards program that
incentivizes local spending
through point accumulation
across different businesses.
Communities like Traverse City,
Michigan have seen 20-30%
increases in local spending after
launching such programs. The
key is making rewards substan-
tial enough to drive behavior
change – offering 3-5% back in
“local dollars” that can be spent
at any participating business
creates a virtuous cycle of local
spending.

Organize monthly themed shop-

ping events that create
excitement and urgen-
cy. Beyond standard
sidewalk sales, consider
creative approaches like
“Local Food and Artisan
Nights” where restau-
rants partner with local
craftspeople, or “Shop Local
Scavenger Hunts” where partic-
ipants visit multiple businesses
to complete challenges and win
prizes. These events typically
boost participating business
revenues by 25-40% compared
to regular days.

Partner with local schools
and youth organizations to ed-
ucate the next generation about
the importance of local com-
merce. This could include field
trips to local businesses, entre-
preneurship programs where
students create and sell products
locally, and school fundraisers
that partner exclusively with
local vendors. Communities that
implement such programs report
higher long-term local shopping
engagement from families with
school-age children.

Create a “Local Business
Development Fund” through a
small voluntary surcharge on
local purchases (0.5-1%). This
fund can provide micro-grants
to help existing businesses im-
prove their storefronts, launch
marketing campaigns, or expand
their services. It can also offer
startup capital to entrepreneurs
looking to fill gaps in the local
market. Even a small communi-
ty of 20,000 people can generate
\$100,000-200,000 annually for
such initiatives.

Develop a comprehensive

“Buy Local” media campaign
that highlights the tangible
benefits of local shopping. For
example, studies show that
for every \$100 spent at local
businesses, \$68 stays in the
community compared to \$43 for
chain stores. Create compelling
visual content showing how
local spending supports specific
community improvements, jobs,
and services. Share weekly spot-
lights on local business owners
and their contributions to the
community.

Leverage technology to create
a local business directory app
that includes real-time up-
dates about sales, events, new
inventory, and special offers.
Include features like push noti-
fications for personalized deals
and a social component where
customers can share reviews and
recommendations. Such apps
typically see 30-40% adoption
rates in smaller communities
when properly promoted.

Organize quarterly “Local
Business Summit” events where
business owners, community
leaders, and residents can dis-
cuss challenges, opportunities,
and strategies for improving
the local shopping experience.
These meetings should result in
actionable plans with specific
goals and metrics for success.
Communities that hold regular
stakeholder meetings show
15-20% higher year-over-year
growth in local business reve-
nues.

Create a “Local First” pledge
program for both businesses and
consumers. Businesses commit
to sourcing a certain percentage
of their supplies locally when
possible and participating in
community events. Consumers
pledge to shift a specific por-
tion of their spending to local
businesses. Make the pledge
tangible by providing partic-
ipants with window decals,

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Dusty Johnson: House must act on ‘Trump agenda’ after speaker drama averted

Jonathan Ellis
jonathan@thedakotascout.com

South Dakota rep plays role in negotiating a peaceful outcome in gavel vote

After a long first day of the 119th Congress Friday, South Dakota Rep. Dusty Johnson says the path is open for a Republican majority to begin crafting legislation to send to his GOP colleagues in the Senate.

But that path, he conceded, is narrow.

While the GOP controls a majority following the November election, it can only concede

a single vote to get anything passed in the 435-member chamber, due in part to President-elect Donald Trump nominating three Republican congressmen to cabinet positions.

The tenuousness of that majority was on display when the GOP elected Louisiana Rep. Mike Johnson as speaker of the House. Initially, Mike Johnson did not have enough votes. But two Republicans switched after the first roll call, giving him a one-vote majority.

All 215 Democrats voted against Mike Johnson. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee celebrated the outcome, portending the

chaos that followed his ascension as speaker in 2023 when Republicans deposed former Speaker Kevin McCarthy in a civil war that stopped business in the House for days.

“Here we go again,” a DCCC spokeswoman said in a release. She accused House Republicans of failing to “getting down to the business of lowering costs, securing the border and protecting individual freedoms.”

But then, two of the holdouts changed their votes, giving the speaker the gavel again. Trump’s endorsement of Mike Johnson was key. Had Trump, who enjoys “near unanimous support from the Republican

base” not endorsed, the outcome would have been different, said South Dakota’s Dusty Johnson.

“This is a team sport, and Donald Trump is the quarterback of the team, so him expressing his strong support for Mike Johnson was incredibly helpful,” he said.

Johnson played a role in the outcome as one of the negotiators between Republicans who supported the speaker and the holdouts, who were angry with Johnson for negotiating a short-term spending bill at the end of 2024 that contained what they contended was government bloat. NOTUS, a nonprofit news organization covering national politics, cited a source who said Dusty Johnson was “‘uniquely well-spoken’ and critical in convincing Freedom Caucus holdouts to back (Mike) Johnson.”

Dusty Johnson declined to elaborate on his role in the negotiations in an interview with The Dakota Scout, other than to acknowledge that he used his relationship with GOP members across the spectrum to help negotiate a peaceful outcome.

“It feels good to be of use and to be productive, and it was a good day because Mike Johnson’s going do a good job,” he said.

With chaos averted, Dusty Johnson said the path is open to begin work on securing the agenda that Trump won a successful term on. While the Senate, which is now under the

control of South Dakota Majority Leader John Thune, will begin work on confirming Trump’s cabinet and judicial nominees, the House will start putting together a spending package that can pass the Senate’s parliamentary reconciliation process, which allows passage of a budget bill with a simple Senate majority.

Johnson said that members of the House are in talks with the Senate parliamentarian to determine what items can be considered in a reconciliation bill. He said he expects that those will include many of the elements that House Republicans passed in a sprawling immigration bill that the Democratic-controlled Senate refused to bring to a vote in the last session.

“We’ve got to rollback the ridiculous regulations,” he said. “We’ve got to pushback on the Chinese communist party. I think South Dakotans have a very limited tolerance right now for D.C. nonsense. They expect us to get our work done and that’s why I was glad to have a leading role and making sure that we got the speaker elected on the first ballot.”

However, he conceded, the very narrow path forward will be tricky to navigate.

“This is going to be a really difficult environment where we’ve got a number of colorful members and an incredibly tight margin, but failure is not an option,” he said. “I mean, we absolutely have to secure the Trump agenda.”..



Point I Time for a new direction in American politics, government

Guest column by Dale Froehlich

With the latest election results, all federal power bases — the Presidency, Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court — as well as many states (governors, legislatures and courts) are majority controlled by conservative Republicans. But I view the election of Donald Trump as the worst decision that American voters have ever made, certainly in my lifetime — and likely in the history of our great nation.

Trump is surrounded by autocrats and anarchists. With this election, many of the normal Constitutional checks and balances could well be vaporized. This action is a convincing turn toward the Dark Ages and the possible death of the American democratic experiment.

As Ben Franklin famously said more than 240 years ago, we have created a “Republic” (representative) form of democracy, so long as we can keep it.

Too many voters have now risked it all. After thinking about it for well over a month, I have decided to write this essay setting forth my thoughts. I see myself as a part of the resistance for several reasons:

It’s the right thing to do. All democratic citizens should always oppose anarchic, autocratic behavior.

I want to be of assistance to other like-minded citizens.

Since the days of Newt Gingrich and his infamous “Contract with America,” these Republicans have consistently refused to compromise or be any part of the normal democratic, legislative process. Republican conservatives typically come on board only at the last moment to save the entire government from going down the drain. They have aligned themselves with Christian Evangelicals — often hypocrites, given the teachings of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, they have weakened our great nation by exempting the wealthy — corporations and privileged — from their fair share of our federal tax burden.

I believe the government should be sized and should grow at the same rate as changes in our population or in our economy. If you look at the last 30 to 40 years, federal spending has grown about 2.8 times —

Democrats favoring domestic programs, and Republicans favoring military and national security. Both parties spend despite the downturn in tax revenues. The U.S. population has grown about 1.5 percent and real GDP. GDP averages growth of 2.5 percent annually, nowhere near the 4.0 percent annual of the 1990s. Historically public debt leads to revolution and/or decay.

That’s part of the reason why the federal government is largely paralyzed, unable to make important decisions. And in my mind, neither party deserves to be saved. But I would favor the creation of a brand new party: some combination of the philosophies of Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt. Perhaps it could be called the “Fair Play Party,” dedicated to justice and fairness, truth, decency, integrity and being trustworthy.

We, the people, should re-align ourselves with the Jeffersonian ideals of “equality for all” and the “pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness.” I would like to see our nation return to the enlightened virtues of inclusion, freedom and meritocracy. Every citizen should have the opportunity to prosper, to grow, to create and to be fully human. Certainly many people will display differing skills, talents and energies, but privileges and honor should go to those who work to achieve them, not to those who are already wealthy, have status, and are simply awaiting or enjoying their inheritance. These kinds of ideals can be equally embraced by both liberals and conservatives, by those with a strong work ethic and by those with a deep spiritual core.

When I look at the current Republican Party, I mostly see a cult of loyalty favoring Trump, his family and friends, and those driven to self-preservation based on “fear-based” issues. Republicans say they want to “go back,” to “Make America Great Again” compared to some ill-defined idyllic past. Democrats say they want to “go forward” to be more progressive. As I see it, Republicans most often say that they want to help themselves; while Democrats say they still strive to help others.

Regardless, I believe we need

to assure that all citizens — particularly our youth — are well educated and better informed about their civic duties and responsibilities. I believe we can all agree that our borders need to be secure, and that we should honor our obligations (treaties or otherwise) in support of our allies around the world. I think we would do well to engage open markets and trade around the world. History clearly indicates that a policy of protectionism and isolation more typically leads to conflict and warfare. I do not believe in war — except as a last resort in the protection of our freedom, our liberty. I am devoted less to nationalism — even under the guise of patriotism — and more to collective collaboration and cooperation whenever and wherever possible.

Many Republicans approach their vote as a matter of faith, as a matter of religion. If the Republican Party has endorsed it, then just as their church, they will blindly support it. I have not witnessed much deep thought as the traditional Republican Party has morphed into a Trump cult. I believe that most Republican voters have good solid core values as human beings, but seem to be easily manipulated by various “talking heads,” by social media, by influencers, by fear-based concerns against those they deride as “elites.” They do not trust the mainstream media, which seems to be disappearing, or the experts, scientists, intellectuals, academics or anyone more than 50 miles away from



Dale Froehlich

home. They do not really trust institutions, non-profits or otherwise that they have not had direct contact with.

I believe the real challenge facing America is to secure the mental engagement of all voters. How should we best keep all citizens more broadly informed so that their core human values can come to the forefront. Our nation desperately needs good leadership. I don’t think future leaders should come from among the elite, from among our Boomer generation, or from traditional institutions. I feel that we need a younger person, of common ancestry, who is at once well informed and at the same time devoted to the broad range of core American values. That leader must have charisma (compare when Ukraine was attacked, then a young person-ality, named Zelensky, stepped forward). We need someone who is thoughtful, both a good writer and a good speaker, with

excellent people skills...a person effective in delivery of complex programs (Compare JFK and Lincoln).

It would be most important to me that our future leader have personal integrity and conviction. It would be important that such a person focus on representing our entire nation, moving forward. My conviction is that we should honor our capitalist society, we should respect everyone’s ability to engage and compete fairly.

But we should ask our markets and our governments to work hand in hand for the good of the people. We have had enough finger-pointing, enough blame, enough status quo. I think America could have a bright, glorious future if we could all align and stand together, shoulder to shoulder.

Dale Froehlich is a longtime resident of Sioux Falls, retired attorney and a 50-year member of the South Dakota State Bar..

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New Year's Teen Blast Photographs





VIEWPOINT | Counterpoint: Trump-era brings clarity, moment of truth

Column by Neal Tapio

www.thedakotascout.com

In the greatest comeback in American history, President Donald Trump was given a mandate to Make America Great Again. To suggest that Trump will erode trust in the federal government and federal institutions is ludicrous. Maybe we need a reminder of just how rough of shape America is in. Here are just a few examples.

Debt and deficit: America is approaching \$40 trillion in debt and finished 2024 with nearly a \$1.9 trillion deficit. This cannot continue.

Government targeting political opponents: The entire federal government was weaponized to go after President Trump in what many call an attempted coup of a sitting US President. The CIA, the FBI and the Department of Justice were weaponized to go after President Trump with illegal wiretapping, multiple investigations on made-up Russian collusion charges, two impeachments and most recently, eight simultaneous lawsuits against a former sitting president.

Censorship of free speech: In 2019, the FBI had a copy of the Hunter Biden laptop and knew it wasn't Russian disinformation one year before the election, yet 51 intelligence officers claimed it was.



With that information, social media companies, in conjunction with the FBI, censored any mention of the New York Post Hunter Biden laptop story one month before the election based on the false claim that it was Russian misinformation. This was definitely orchestrated election interference. After the election, President Biden set up a "disinformation committee" that worked with social media companies to ban free speech. This disinformation committee was used to censor any negative mention of the Covid vaccine and offenders had their accounts taken down.

Corona virus lies: The Covid 19 virus was created in a US Government-funded lab in the United States. Apparently, gain of function

research of the virus was continued in China and was released somehow to the public. Our government tried to say it came from a Chinese wet market. Dr. Anthony Fauci knew this all along. There are so many lies surrounding Covid that the federal government has destroyed trust in the medical system for generations to come.

Election fraud: An election with mail-in ballots, remote ballot boxes, no signature matching requirement and no physical ID is idiocy. To claim simple election requirements are racist is race baiting for the purpose of fraud.

LBGTQ lawfare: President Obama made law fare against Christian conservatives a standard practice. The Obama Department of Justice encouraged lawfare against Christian small business owners who baked wedding cakes or hosted weddings at their private venues. The targeting was so specific to Christians that they targeted James Dobson, the soft spoken Christian pastor who hosted the radio program Focus on the Family. They labeled him a leader of a hate group for defending marriage between a man and a woman. Additionally, the DOJ instigated the entire transgender debate by promising to sue any local school district that did not adopt the DOJ transgender bathroom language.

The plan to turn America into a

Democrat plantation: The immigration policy of the Obama and Biden administrations was meant to change the demographics of America. Open border policy allowing millions of migrants to cross our border each year was a negotiating tactic to get Republicans to come to the table to pass mass amnesty for 10-20 million illegal aliens, thereby creating a permanent Democrat majority, just like Democrats did in California. Of course, Chamber of Commerce business leaders loved the cheap labor as well, so weak Republican politicians came close to passing amnesty and rewarding illegal aliens with a pathway to citizenship.

The business of endless war: The Bush-Cheney/Clinton/Obama policies of endless wars were good for the military industrial complex, but were completely based on lies. It turned out Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with Sept. 11. The Iraq War was about oil. President Bush claimed all people yearned to be free. It turns out not all people yearn to be free – many cultures have a tribal, political or religious operating system that is incompatible with freedom and democracy. Regime change done in the name of democracy, and the dozens of coups around the world instigated by our CIA, is a crazy foreign policy that has done incredible damage to the reputation of America around the world.

The destruction of American manufacturing: While NAFTA and other trade agreements were sold

as good for the American consumer, honorable and decent paying American manufacturing jobs were shipped overseas.

The Green energy scam: CO2 is not a poisonous gas that needs to be regulated. Wall Street carbon credits are a worldwide grift beyond comprehension. Burying CO2 to appease California liberals who have vowed to outlaw the sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines in 12 years is yet another government grift project.

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity policy: Not only has wokism failed DIE-infested businesses, the education system and state and local governments, the American military has been turned into a social experiment. A four star admiral is a transsexual. Further, Wall Street hedge funds are pushing social credit scores that force businesses to participate in this nutty ideology.

Fake news: No-one has done more damage to the institution of the mainstream media than Donald Trump. He single-handedly exposed the media as nothing but a propaganda arm of the Deep State and establishment. For this, we should be eternally grateful.

Instead of criticizing President Trump, we should simply thank him for his leadership and his willingness to fight, fight, fight to rebuild America.

Neal Tapio is a Watertown business owner, a former state senator and the 2016 South Dakota State Director for Donald Trump for President.

Gov. Kristi Noem budget includes \$7M tax grab

Joe Sneve

www.thedakotascout.com

South Dakota retailers could take a financial hit as part of Gov. Kristi Noem's plan to counter slumping tax revenues while standing up some new spending programs.

While calling for more than \$70 million in cuts to state spending during her annual budget address to lawmakers last month, the second-term Republican proposed doing away with a long-standing tax incentive program for retailers that remit sales tax to the state electronically.

"This collections process is now normal business practice, and this

incentive is no longer necessary," Noem told the Legislature, saying the sales tax collection allowance was established in 2013 to motivate businesses to file their monthly sales tax bills using a then still-fledgling online remittance system.

That made sense then, she said, but as technology has evolved, it's prudent for state government to also adjust, particularly in a fiscal environment where resources are limited and needs are great, she said.

Eliminating the program, which allows retailers a 1.5 percent credit for the taxes remitted, would create an estimated \$7 million annually in

state revenues. But that'd also be a \$7 million hit to South Dakota businesses, part of the reason why business owners around the state and their representatives at the state Capitol oppose changes to the sales tax collection allowance program.

Chief among them: The South Dakota Retailers Association, a leading business industry organization in the state that helped earn support for the current iteration of the program during former Gov. Dennis Daugaard's first term.

During a recent appearance on The Dakota Scout's Scouting Report podcast, SDRA Executive Director Nathan Sanderson noted the credit is capped at \$70 a month

for businesses that remit sales taxes electronically — totaling \$840 a year.

And though that might not seem like a ton of money, burdening businesses with that additional bill merits debate, particularly with its juxtaposition with other new spending proposals being pushed by Noem.

"There's a lot of these cuts that are going to be discussion points, and you can't fund a new program with the dollars we have available without finding cuts somewhere," Sanderson said, referring to multi-million-dollar cuts to the Board of Regents, South Dakota Public Broadcasting, and social welfare programs while also calling for a \$10 million school safety grant program and \$4 million for education savings accounts.

Should lawmakers decide to sacrifice the incentive for other spending ambitions, it wouldn't be the first time.

According to SDRA, South Dakota first established a collection allowance in 1990 when Gov. George Mickelson pushed to increase the frequency at which retailers remit sales taxes from bi-monthly to monthly.

To compensate retailers for the added cost of monthly sales tax remittances, the 1.5 percent rate with a \$70 cap was set.

That lasted five years until Gov. Bill Janklow eliminated the program as part of his property tax

relief reforms. But the program was reinstated about a decade later under Gov. Mike Rounds with the caveat that it wouldn't kick in until a tax relief fund reached \$10 million.

As that benchmark neared in 2013, Daugaard's administration proposed an early start for the collection allowance specific to electronic filings, which passed and allowed the Revenue Department to begin the collection allowance on Jan. 1, 2014.

Today, retailers acknowledge they don't need to be enticed to file their sales taxes electronically anymore.

But after a decade of benefiting from the program, its elimination would amount to a tax increase, said Chris Verhoek, owner of the Country Corner Convenience Store in Estelline.

"That's a big deal," he said of the \$840 yearly hit the program's elimination would cause his bottom line. "In any business, every dollar counts at this point."

Verhoek, who also serves as president of his local school board, said the proposal is "hard to swallow" because it's coming from a "pro-business governor."

"By paying an extra \$840, that's \$840 in wages I can't give out, or \$840 for advertising or buying something for my business that I might not be able to afford now."

When asked why the elimination of the sales tax collection allowance shouldn't be considered a tax hike, Noem spokesman Ian Fury did not respond.



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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

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New Year's Teen Blast Photographs



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	1		3			8		
		4	9		2			5
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825 W Main Street in Lead

Good Shepherd Clinic

Next Clinic: Thursday, January 9th
& Thursday, January 23rd
Registration will be from 6:00-7:00pm.

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The Spearfish clinic will continue to provide medical, emergency dental, counseling, and resource services on Monday nights at Our Savior's Lutheran church, located at 1020 State Street.

For more information contact:
Phone: 605-717-2080
Email: director@goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com
Website: www.goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Sausage
4. Soup
8. Tail up!
11. Poultry disease
12. Negative
14. Fishy
15. International
16. Hairer
18. Hair
20. Fat
21. Fish-whaler
24. Papal coin
25. Hole-in-one
26. Aard
28. Senior
32. Daughter of
33. Lohan
34. Belonging to
36. I
38. Aard
39. Aard
40. Sheep's cry
41. Coot
42. Molehill
43. Molehill

DOWN
1. Hindu life
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5. Eggs
6. Alien
7. Saur
8. Ring
9. Ancient Gr
10. Cycles
11. Garden
12. Famous
13. Goddess
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	6	7	8	9	10
	Beef Tips & Gravy Roasted Potatoes Spinach Salad	Chicken Enchilada Soup Southern Corn, peppers & Rice Refried Beans	Liver or Deluxe Cheeseburger French Fries Mixed Vegetables	Pork Loin Scalloped Potatoes Green Beans Roll	Cheesy Beef and Mac Casserole Corn Bread Mixed Vegetables
	13	14	15	16	17
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	20	21	22	23	24
	Tortellini Soup Tossed Salad Breadstick	Tuna Noodle Casserole Broccoli Dinner Roll	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Arugula Salad	Ruben Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Creamy Brussel Sprouts	Turkey Pot Pie Roasted Zucchini Dinner Roll
	27	28	29	30	31
	Pancakes Scrambled Eggs Sausage Links Asparagus	Chicken Cordon Bleu Mushroom Risotto Romaine Salad	Club Sandwich Coleslaw Chips	Beef Stroganoff Egg Noodles Roasted Carrots Dinner Roll	White Chicken Chili Tossed Salad Corn Bread

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B's Buzz

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

It's time! School starts on Monday! Am I excited? You bet! I've really missed the little munchkins (and the big ones, too). Grinning faces and stories to hear. I've even missed hearing "I don't like that!"

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas vacation and is ready to start the new year. It's been a good vacation, but I'm ready for the hustle-bustle of cooking and paperwork (sigh) that goes with it.

I spent some time planning and dreaming of food the kids would like and still be within all the guidelines we need to follow. Not always an easy task, but worth the effort when they are pleased with what is served on their tray.

Which reminds me of times when our kids were little and it was meal time. You must realize first that it waay back in the 1980s and 1990s and things were a little different than now.

School lunch had lots of good things to eat like cheese bread and homemade rolls that weren't whole wheat. Of course, when they came home with recipes from school, we had to try them, too. Sometimes there were just as good and sometimes not so much.

We always ate as a family, sitting around the table and enjoying (mostly) each other's company. Since our oldest daughter was a diabetic, the meal was well-rounded-meat, veggie, a starch or carbohydrate. Little or no sugar, and wonderful cold fresh milk. We had a gallon container plus two - two-quart pitchers we put our milk from the dairy in to. After it set for part of a day, the cream would come to the top and one pitcher would have the whole milk and the other was the "skim" milk. It wasn't really skim milk, just with less cream. So good!

Our kids knew they had to eat everything that was served, and usually did without protest. However, I have found out since then that some of the meals I thought were their favorites because they ate it so well weren't really their favorites.

While visiting with someone about how well the kids ate when they were little and one of their favorite meals, I was quietly corrected by our middle daughter.

"Ah, Mom. We didn't really like that. We just knew we wouldn't get anything else and we were hungry!"

So, the truth is out. But I must say they worked hard and knew the importance of eating what was served.

Now as adults, they can choose what to put on their plates. I can only hope they

Throwing Bags Across the Hall



Luke Bonefield watches as Rex Wulf tosses his bag across to the opposite board.

Betty Bruner photo

First Annual Cornhole Tournament

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-It may have been cold outside, but Newell City Hall was buzzing with 16 teams ready to throw down and get ready for the First Annual Cornhole Tournament held Saturday, January 4. Newell Community Club sponsored the event to encourage another reason to get social this winter. A sloppy Joe lunch was hot and ready for hungry players and the Newell Bar was set up for those who had a thirst.

The 16 teams started off at 1:30 to the sound of thump

learned how to be gracious and eat what's there.

Sometimes I look back and wonder how in the world I ever planned two to three meals a day for six people or more! Now I can hardly think of anything to cook for supper for two of us! I'm so thankful for leftovers and a husband who doesn't mind eating the same thing for days!

What's on your plate? Too much? Too little? Just right? There are times when I've eaten and not realized what I ate. My goal this year is to be mindful of what's on my plate. And I don't mean just food, but everything in life.

But first, I'm going to go have a hot dog. And maybe some milk. It won't be the same, but it will be cold!

along with moans and soft yells of "did it!"

Overall, it looked like everyone was having a good time competing against each other as they tossed the regulation "bean bags" from one side of the room to the other. There were teams of husbands and wives, grandparent and grandchild, fathers and sons, and friends. It was a great time of fun and competition.

The cornhole boards were purchased from Scheel's last year when the importance was realized that everything needed to be uniform and consistent. The bags are also all alike and regulation size.

There is an American Cornhole Association that is active throughout the US. South Dakota has a state tournament about this time of year at various areas of the state. This year's tournament is in Sioux Falls and draws a big crowd.

Here's the Beef-Correction

It was brought to our attention that \$1,000 was donated for the processing of the beef to Newell School by the Butte/Harding/Lawrence County Farm Bureau board. Not the Farmers Union. Our apologies and big "Thank You!" to those members.

According to Sherry and Kurt Hocking, there are leagues throughout this area just like there are bowling leagues or dart leagues. It can be a very serious sport.

The tournament held on Saturday is just the beginning of a regular event. Watch for details for tossing the bags in March.

Following the regular tournament play a Blind Draw was begun. The cost was \$10 per person with 18 signed up. The names were then mixed and

drawn for teams. It was winner take all with Jack Strain and Trayer Schmidt winning \$180.

Winners of the contest were First-Rich and Chad Cordell \$308, Second-Rex Wulf and Marty Schuelke \$158, Third-Luke and Kristen Bonefield \$50.

Second Place winners Wulf and Schuelke donated their money back to help pay for new bags. Jack Strain donated \$60 of his winnings from the Blind Draw back to help pay for bags also. Robert Boylan donated \$100.



Sixteen teams attended the First Annual Cornhole Tournament held in Newell.

Betty Bruner photo

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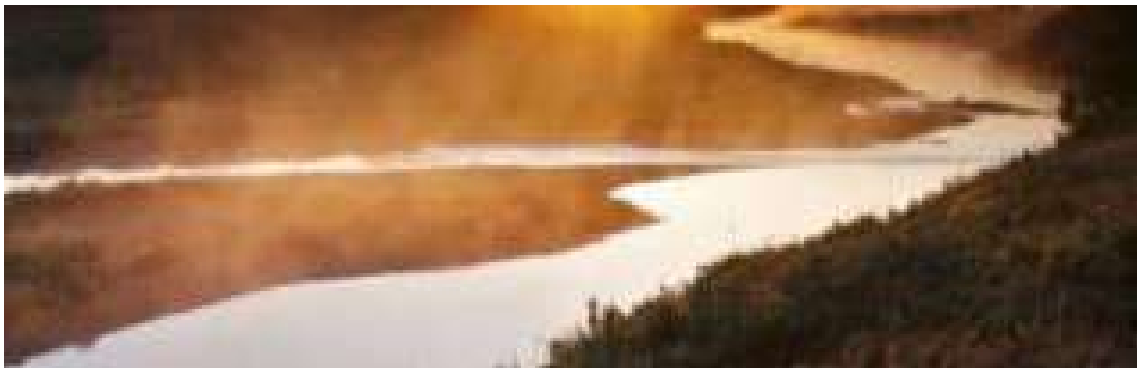
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Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

This was a cold and snowy week with a high temperature of only 33 degrees on Monday. It rained and then snowed all day Monday with the temperature dropping to below freezing before evening.

Casey went in to Buffalo early Monday morning for the wrestling tournament that was held in Buffalo and the roads were really icy after all that snow and rain.

We lost some good friends this week. Gary Vance, age 81, of Faith, passed away on Sunday, December 29, in Rapid City. His funeral was Friday, January 3, at the Faith Community Center in Faith with Rev. Harold Delbridge officiating and burial at the Faith Cemetery. Gary took good care of us when he used to run the sale barn in Faith and we really miss him.

Lola “Vonnie” Foster, age 83, passed away at the Five

Counties Nursing Home in Lemmon on Tuesday, December 31. Her Service of Remembrance was Saturday, January 4, at Indian Creek Lutheran Church south of Meadow with burial at the Gallaway Cemetery near Meadow. Vonnie used to let me and Ryan Maher put up our campaign signs on the old schoolhouse building on her land along the highway between Meadow and Faith when we were running for office. She was such a sweetheart.

Harold Heupel, age 84, of Bison, passed away on Thursday morning, January 2, at the Western Horizons Care Center in Hettinger. Cremation has taken place and memorial services are pending with the Evanson Jensen Funeral Home in Lemmon. I didn’t get to know Harold until we moved from Prairie City to Bison when I was in the second grade and he was a nice guy. All these families have our sympathy.

This Tuesday was New

Year’s Eve. We used to celebrate New Year’s Eve by going to a dance somewhere and greeting each other at midnight. This year us old folks celebrated by going to bed after watching the 9:00 news. On New Year’s Eve I always remember my Great Grandmother Caroline (Kjos) Hallan when she spent New Year’s Eve with us in Prairie City when I was just a little kid. She was 100% Norwegian and Grandma Hallan celebrated by helping us to wash all the walls, floors and cleaning everything in the house before we were able to go to bed. I remember my Mom and my sister Judy, who was even younger than I was, helping Grandma as much as we could. I don’t have enough Norwegian in me to do anything like that!

Wednesday was New Year’s Day and Taz and Amanda and the kids went up to Ron and Starla Jenson that afternoon to celebrate with

Amanda’s family after Taz and Jace worked their bulls that day. Casey went to Buffalo for wrestling practice and we just went to bed early again. It sure is funny how times change as you get older, but I did celebrate by reading Hugh Ingalls’ wonderful book “My Life and Stories I Recall” that I enjoyed both days.

Reub and I went to Hettinger on Thursday after the roads were less icy, but since it wasn’t on Friday we couldn’t have coffee in Reeder with the Prairie Pioneers on the way home. We did get to see Jim Brown in Hettinger though.

Lanie and Matt Klug and their kids came down to the ranch on Friday to help these guys wool-blind the sheep. Copper, Knox and River were happy to see their cousins and when I stopped over at Missy’s that afternoon to visit Lanie and Matt three of Taz’s kids were taking naps at Grandma Missy’s house too.

All of Casey and Missy’s kids came home Friday evening to celebrate Christmas and the New Year at their house on Saturday. It was -1 degree below zero when we woke up Saturday morning, but after the chores were done we all gathered at Casey and Missy’s warm house to celebrate Christmas together with Lanie and Matt and kids; Taz and Amanda and kids; Bryce, Braxton and Argus; and Trig and Dakotah. Casey had to clean the snow away from our garage for us to get the pickup

out so we could get to their house because it snowed all day and the ground was deeply covered with the white stuff.

It snowed all night and when I went out to take care of my chickens Sunday morning the snow was up above my snow boots and I had a hard time just getting to the chicken coop. Although sometimes it’s a struggle to take care of the chickens I’m glad we have them after hearing on the news Sunday morning that the average price for a dozen eggs in this country is \$8.97! The price of everything has gone up, but at least we can eat all the eggs we want without having to worry about the price.

Everybody on the ranch went to church Sunday morning over the icy roads and then Bryce, Braxton and Argus headed back to Rapid City, Trig and Dakotah drove back out to Wyoming, and Amanda, Matt and the kids came home to pack up and head back to North Dakota. Lanie drove our pickup to church over those icy roads for us and Casey drove it home for us. Thankfully, we didn’t have anywhere else to go that day so we just came home and relaxed.

I’ll leave you with these New Year’s Day quotes:

*Youth is when you’re allowed to stay up late on New Year’s Eve. Middle age is when you’re forced to. - Bill Vaughan

*A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. – Anonymous

Then and Now in Newell

“Looking Forward to our Past”

December 31, 1964

Wm Keil, Vale was the winner of a Knipco F-98 portable farm heater, in the recent “Gold Rush Sweepstakes” sponsored by the Dutton Lumber Company of Vale. The sweepstakes included the mailing of gold cards by Dutton’s to farmers in the area to introduce the new K-965 Knipco Heaters which were on display there. They were invited to bring their cards into the store and Keil ended up with the winning number and the new heater.

Mrs. Edna Baker and her pupils of the Storm School presented their Christmas program Monday evening to parents and a few guests. After the



Guy Tucker's Sheep in barn yard at the Tucker Ranch near Nisland, 1920's

program, Christmas treats were passed out and a gift exchange was held. The mothers and pre-school children were also presented with gifts. Mrs. David Ruff and Mrs. Robert Ruff and Robbie, of Vale attended the program to watch nephews and grandchildren, the Erk children participation.

There will be but a single contest in the Annual Belle Fourche Irrigation District election next Tuesday, at which 3 Directors are to be named, according to the number of nominating petitions which have been filled out for such positions. The contest will be between present Director and President of the Board, David Lungren, Vale and John Bentz, Jr Nisland in Division IV (Vale District). Unopposed will be Ed Breidenbach, Newell for the 2-year term, to succeed himself in completing the term of Floyd Riggs in Division VII (Newell District) and Byron Schipke, Newell for 3-year term in Division III (Horse Creek District) to succeed Clem Velder was named to the Board in 1962 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Wm Yuill, has declined re-election.

December 30, 1954

Several Butte County sheepmen scored top money at the Sioux City Stockyards last Monday: lambs which scored at the top: Leo Ahonen, Newell

183 head choice fat Westerns; Guy Tucker, Nisland 223 of choice fat Westerns; John Keil, Belle Fourche 212 choice lambs; Nestor Kivimaki, Newell 191 head of fat Westerns and J. O. Fenton, Nisland with 173 head of fat woolled lambs, all selling at \$18.50.

Guests over the Christmas weekend at the Carl D. Anderson home were Mr. & Mrs. Curt Satzinger and son of Philip; Mr. & Mrs. Merle Hade and family of Rapid City; Mrs. Bob Fischer of Rhinelander, Wisconsin and 2nd Lt. Kenneth Anderson of Mather Air Force Base near Sacramento, California who will spend several days at the home of his parents.

December 28, 1944

Mrs. F. Lyn Gladstone and baby daughter returned Tuesday to resume residence in Newell. Word received Capt. F. Lyn Gladstone, who is stationed in the West Indies – probably Puerto Rico says he manages to enjoy a few hours on the beach, once a month and it’s nice, but he would really like to see some snow and frost for a change, he is rather homesick for snow. He sends greetings to all Newell folks.

Draft Boards throughout South Dakota have been directed to lighten up. A directive from State Selective Service Headquarters in Rapid City instructs the Boards to review the agriculture deferments of registrants 18 through 25 years of age and to review the classification of registrants 26 through 29. Boards are told to cancel deferments of registrants 26 through 29 not in actual war production or agriculture. Boards are advised to put all joy-jumpers into 1-A immediately.

Thirty-seven head of sheep were either killed outright or fatally injured last Friday when a loaded truck driven by Carl Gerber of Cedar Canyon plowed into the herd of sheep belonging to J. E. Hammontree, Ed Breidenbach and Donald Sherbon, which was being trailed to Newell to the rail head. The accident happened

by Linda Velder

on Highway 212 just east of the Willow Creek Bridge. The 3 owners were with their sheep on the road, but the air was filled with snow and visibility poor. Gerber assumed full responsibility and made satisfactory settlement with the owners to cover the loss.

January 3, 1935

Deputy Sheriff Arnold was called east of Vale about 15 miles last Saturday to investigate a mysterious fire found burning inside an empty barn, but which was just smoldering. A few horses were also found shot and killed in the nearby pasture but as yet no clue has been found to the guilty party.

Mrs. Kenneth Viken and baby have been very sick. The baby is somewhat better, but they took Mrs. Viken to Rapid city for an ex-ray examination, thinking she might have a mastoid. Mrs. N. A. Viken is also ill and has been taking treatments at the Rapid City Hospital for several days.

The Brighton (Colorado) newspaper give a glowing account of the athletic ability of Jimmie Counter, son of James C. Counter, former Newellite. The son made an outstanding record in football this year as member of the Colorado University team. Mrs. Adolph Johnson, who called our attention to the write-up, stated that Jimmie was the first boy child born in Newell after the city was established.

January 4, 1945

The candle-lighting service honoring our men in the Armed Forces, will be held at the Congregational Church this Sunday evening, January 7th at 7:30 o’clock. The service was postponed from New Year’s Eve because of the storm.

The American Red Cross Safety & First-aid Standard Course will be given at the Newell School house every Wednesday evening starting next Wednesday, January 10th at 7:30 o’clock. Anyone desiring to take this course should see Herbert Loewell or Harry Townsend before that date, or come to the school house.

Four cases of scarlet fever were reported yesterday at the Henry Cundy farm northwest of town. Dr. J. L. Chassell of the County Board of Health was here and ordered the 4 cases to be segregated from the other children, Mr. Cundy was quarantined to outside the home. One other scarlet fever case developed several days ago at the Clarence Smith home.

January 1, 1925

The Central Western



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South Dakota Realty Association, recently organized here, announced reduced passenger rates to home seekers over the Western ¾ of the state from all railroads lines operating in this territory. The rail roads are delighted with the newly organized association in securing new settlers for western and central South Dakota. Rail roads in offering “immigrant cars” and other inducements to home seekers to come to this portion of the state.

Bank Notes: S. H. Aos, formerly employed in the Livestock Exchange Bank here, is now with the First National Bank of Rapid City; Mrs. Aos left Saturday to join her husband there; W. E. Shoberg who for sometime employed as bookkeeper in Reclamation State Bank of Newell, departed today for Rapid City, where he has a similar position in the Pennington County Bank; depositors of the defunct First State Bank received their dividend checks the first of the week, the payment amounting to 10%. and depositors in the Farmers State Bank of Nisland received a 20% payment.

According to the best knowledge of Drs. G. D. Weaver and C. C. Lipp, Veterinary at South Dakota State College, the poultry disease, fowl cholera, which caused New York authorities to place an embargo on live poultry from several western states including South Dakota. This disease does not exist in this state and no affected birds have been submitted to the animal laboratory for examination. So, the disease must develop in

transit. In view of these facts, they believe the embargo on South Dakota poultry is unjust, but still recommended disinfect poultry cars, fattening pens and collecting stations.

January 6, 1915

Mrs. Harvey Beckham, who is learning to drive their new car, had a narrow escape and nearly precipitated Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Joe Richards into the ditch.

This week the family of Rev. D. M. Brown moved from the Congregational parsonage to the Gerrans’ house on east 7th St. They had intended to go to Minnesota but decided to remain here ‘till spring. Mr. Brown leaves at once for his new field of labor in Faulkton.

Wm Mern; Arthur Guffey; John Uren and Wm Uren were arrested to allegedly had stolen 3 hogs December 29 from the Day Glover place to the value of \$30. Warrants of arrest were issued by J. C. Milner; C. A. Wood; F. A. Grant and T. Koepp. The hogs were recovered hidden in a hay stack. The group were arrested and brought to Newell by Sheriff Hantz to stand before Deputy State’s Attorney Malvin and Deputy Sheriff Meskil. When the case came up before Justice Kirkham at Belle Fourche, the defendants confessed that the pigs had been taken as a josh and that they intended to return them. No evidence was found against Guffey or Mern, so were released. The young Uren’s were ordered to return the pigs; which they promised to do



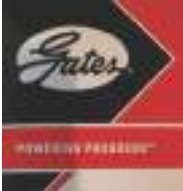
Left to Right: Max Piefer “Gummer”, Chas Long, Josh Guffey. Arthur Guffey and “Red” Mern not pictured. Josh is a brother to Arthur Guffey. The Guffey family was well known in Butte and Meade Counties as “Horse Thieves”, unusual for them to steal hogs. Newell Museum

Newell Service Center

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Here’s What’s Happening in Newell!

Saturday, January 11, 6 pm
First Responder Dodgeball Tournament, Austin Auditorium
Area Fire Departments

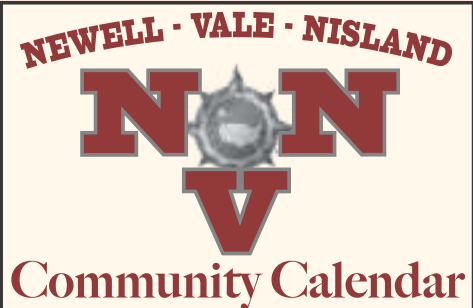
Wednesdays
Story Time with Patty
Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 11 a.m. All ages welcome

Whistle Stop Market
First Saturday of every month through April, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Newell Senior Center

Feeding South Dakota
Second Thursday every month, 1:30

Newell Library Hours
Open Monday, Wednesday,

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



212/79 Service Center



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 6) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk Tomato or Broccoli Soup	7) Hashbrown Eggs, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Salisbury Steaks, Gravy, Fresh Rolls, Fruit, Milk Cheesy Mac Soup	8) Pancakes, Sausage, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Sloppy Joes on WG Bun, Corn, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk Chicken Tortilla Soup	9) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Spanish Rice, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	10) NO SCHOOL
13) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Hot Dogs, Chips, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	14) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Tomato Soup, Kale Rumble, Fruit, Milk	15) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Cheese Sauce, Broccoli, Fresh Rolls, Fruit, Milk	16) Turkey Wraps, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chili, Sweet Rolls, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk Broccoli Cheese Soup	17) NO SCHOOL
20) Long Johns, Donuts, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Spaghetti & Meatballs, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	21) Bagels, Scrambled Eggs. Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Corn Dogs, French Fries, Fruit, Milk Pepperoni Pizza Soup	22) Blueberry Muffins, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Italian Pasta Bake, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk	23) Quesadilla, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Patty Sandwiches, Corn, Fruit, Milk	24) NO SCHOOL
27) Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Ropa Vieja (Shredded Beef over Rice), , Fruit, Milk Turkey Noodle Soup	28) Maple Baked French Toast, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Turkey Stuffing Casserole, Corn, Milk	29) Breakfast Taco, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Beef Straganoff, Noodles, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	30) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Tater Tot Casserole, Fruit, Milk	3) NO SCHOOL

Everyone is cordially invited to the annual

Vale Ag Fair on January 8th 2025.

The event will start at 10AM and end at 2PM

A free lunch will be served from 11AM to 1PM

Many area vendors will be in attendance
Hope to see you at the Vale Community Hall
at
409 Rosander Rd.



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Open Mon-Sat 7:30 AM-5:30 PM/Sundays 11 AM-3 PM

Newest Butte County Fire Department

There are six Butte County Fire Departments, the newest is Butte Volunteer Fire Department found north of Belle Fourche in the northwestern part of the county.

The department covers 552 square miles or in other words 353,280 acres. This area is covered by 40 members, with over half of them being red carded. To be red carded, the member must have taken additional training and are able to fight fires on government land such

as BLM or Forest Service areas.

The department has 14 Type 6 trucks, one Type 3 tactical tender, one 1,500-gallon tender and one 5,000-gallon tender. Most of these trucks are owned by the firefighters themselves and are then leased to the department.

The volunteer firefighters train as often as they can, and continue to do so to gain as much knowledge as possible to better serve and protect not only the county, but wherever they

can lend a hand.

What does it take to keep a volunteer fire department going? It takes heart and dedication. It takes a family willing to support that department, whether it be purchasing raffle tickets or a simple monetary donation.

They can't do it on their own. Your support means a lot to the volunteers of Butte Fire Department and all the volunteer fire departments of Butte County.



Courtesy Photo

More on the 1st Annual Cornhole

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Even the cold and snow couldn't keep cornhole players from braving the icy roads to play a few rounds of the game with fellow enthusiasts. Though most players were from the local area, a couple did come from as far away as Piedmont. It was nice and warm in Newell City Hall where rows of cornhole boards were lined up for the tournament.

The day was for fun, cash prizes and a good cause. The tournament was a fundraiser for the Newell Community Club to purchase more cornhole equipment and to benefit the community club, explained Morgan Wulf, event coordinator.

A total of 16 teams made it to the 1st Annual Cornhole Tournament on January 4. Considering the weather in the area, the turn out was good.

Wulf said, "We were think-

ing that it was either gonna be a big bust or a good turnout, so it's good for the weather!"

The entry fee was \$40 a team with the Community Club keeping 20 percent to cover expenses and raise money and then paying out 80 percent for prize money. The first three places were paid money. "First place is \$307.00 for the team, second place is \$153.00 and then third place is \$76.00," said Wulf.

The Community Club also sold sloppy joes with pork and beans and potato chips for \$7.00 as a fundraiser as well.

"We'll reimburse whatever we paid for food and then the rest of it will just go to the community fund," explained Wulf.

The Community Club plans to make this event a yearly thing, however are considering having more tournaments in the mean time.

"We wanted to see how this first one went and I think that

we have a fairly good turnout," said Wulf.

"We might do this again next month and maybe make this kind of a winter type event for the Community Club—just to get people out to do things, because winter months we aren't doing a lot."

Wulf said the Community Club would like to reach people from other communities to invite them to come to Newell and participate in the Cornhole Tournaments.

"We had three teams that were going to come from Bison, and didn't, obviously, because of the weather. I think we can bring in people from outside of the community pretty easily, which is good, because that brings money to our town, right? That helps our gas stations and grocery store and restaurants and so that's really our goal to try to get people to come and do both," explained Wulf.



Cornhole players, at the Newell Community Club's 1st Annual Cornhole Tournament, wait for their turn to play.

Longbrake photo

Newell Public Library

Now Hiring

Part-time Library Director

- Must be comfortable working with the public, especially children
- High School diploma or equivalent
- Proficient in Word, Xcel, Outlook and willing to learn other programs
- Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-12pm and 12:30pm-5pm
- Wage depending on experience and qualifications

Pick up applications at the library, Newell city office or online at TownofNewell.org under Forms and Applications and return to library with resume.

SD Counties Attempting to Block EID

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

During the December 3, 2024 Butte County Commission meeting, Calvin Fickbohm requested that the commissioners consider passing a resolution in opposition of the Livestock Electronic Identification program. He pointed out that the tags, required by the USDA, would be a burden on small operations, outlining the cost, a lack of tags, and the effectiveness of current practices.

At that commission meeting nothing was decided by the Butte County Commissioners. However, since that meeting four South Dakota counties have approved resolutions calling for elected officials to stop the federal mandatory ID program, according to the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

SDSG animal identification committee chairman Kenny Fox of Belvidere Harding, Perkins, Jackson, and Haakon counties have approved resolutions that will stop the federal program.

Under the rule that was initially announced last April and went into effect November 5,

the following classes of cattle and bison are included-sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months or older, dairy cattle of any age, and cattle and bison of any age used for rodeos, shows, or exhibitions. These animals are required to have visibly readable EID tags for interstate movement.

There have been others who made multiple efforts to overturn the USDA ruling and have failed over the past eight years. R-CALF USA, US Cattlemen's Association and several others are among them.

According to Fox, the majority of respondents from the most recent public comment period were in opposition of the rule.

A joint resolution in Congress to block the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) rule mandating the EID eartags has been put before Congress. Resolutions of disapproval were also filed under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), a tool Congress created to overturn certain federal agency actions.



EID to be used by sexually intact cattle and bison over 18 months old and all dairy cattle and cattle and bison used for rodeos, shows, or exhibitions for interstate movement.

Courtesy Photo



Cornhole teams get serious about their play as they compete for cash prizes by finishing in the top three places out of 16 teams.

Longbrake photo

