



Belle Fourche Beacon

PROVIDING LOCAL NEWS FOR BELLE FOURCHE, BUTTE COUNTY and the TRI-STATE TRADE AREA
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Police Department Says Thank you

Police Department
Special to the Beacon

The Belle Fourche Police Department would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the individuals and businesses who made our annual Kids and Cops event a giant success!

Thanks to your generous monetary contributions, as well as donations of food, blankets, toys, and coats, we were able to impact over 191 individuals. Countless children received Christmas presents for themselves and their family members, and we were also able to provide groceries to numerous families and individuals in need.

Your kindness truly made a difference in our community, and we are deeply grateful for

Kids & Cops A3

“Annual Kids and Cops event a giant success! ”



Group photo of this year's Kids & Cops gathering at the Belle Fourche Runnings. Courtesy Photo

Test Your Knowledge During Trivia Night at The Hitching Post

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Do you happen to know that World War I started in 1914 or that the diameter of a basketball hoop is 18 inches?

Do you enjoy random facts that others may not care about? If you do, then trivia night at the Hitching Post Tap House might just be for you! Most Thursday nights you can find Amanda Kramp, owner of the Hitching Post, reading trivia questions to teams of participants. “This is a fun way to get people out—other people have bingo and things like that, but we didn’t know anybody having trivia nights.

A lot of people like to come out, get together and play trivia and socialize,” explained Tammy Westland, Hitching Post owner. A typical game starts around 6:30 p.m. and consists of three rounds and a final. Kramp said, “It’s always three rounds of 10 (questions) and then a Jeopardy type of question at the end—you can bet either none or all of your points.

Every winner gets 15% off their tab, and then we’re doing

a gift card to a local Belle Fourche business.” There is one more Thursday of regular trivia before league starts.

On January 30, 2024 Trivia League will begin and run for eight weeks. In League teams will pay an entry fee for up to 4 members. Scores will be tallied every week with the highest scores at the end of the 8 weeks being the League winner. “We will just total up their points the entire time keeping record of weekly scores,” explained Kramp. “We have had people score close to 200 points by the end.”

Winners will get the normal 15% off their tab and league winners will receive a fun gift basket. The Hitching Post has accounted for possible bad winter weather in their plans. “We know the people who typically come for league and have their contact information. We just send out a quick message to everyone saying we are taking the week off because the bad weather, we will start up

Trivia contd. A8



Amanda Kramp, owner of Hitching Post Tap House reads questions to the crowd during trivia night at the Hitching Post. Longbrake photo

Grossenburg Imp. Hosts Open House for Bill Huston Retirement

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Grossenburg Implement hosted an open house to honor the retirement of a long time employee, Bill Huston, on January 16.

Huston began working for Bentz

Equipment in 1989 in sales and in the shop. In 2019 when Grossenburg bought Bentz, he continued working for them. “When Grossenburg took over, I was still in sales, but then I went kind of jack-of-all-

Huston contd. A3



Long time employee Bill Huston is pictured with Grossenburg Corporate Sales Manager Clint Englehart at Bill's recent retirement party. Beacon Photo

Local Freshman Competes at National Make it with Wool Contest

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Belle Fourche High School freshman Kate Blair is on her way to Scottsdale, Arizona to compete in the National Make it with Wool Contest.

The Make it with Wool program, sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Association and the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association requires participants to sew, knit, or crochet wearable garments made from 100% wool blends or fabric containing at least 60% wool fiber.

To qualify for Nationals, Blair first competed at the District contest held at the Newell Ram Sale, followed by the State contest in Rapid City.

At State, “I competed against five or six other girls in my age group,” said Blair.

To prepare for the National

competition, Blair said that she had to get a nice hat to wear with her outfit, along with some nicer jewelry, “to try to dress up a bit more.”

When she gets to Arizona, “It’s a pretty set schedule.

We check in on our garments the first day we’re there, and we have workshops,” explained Blair.

“And we get to learn some more stuff about wool and sewing, and we get to meet a bunch of new people. I get to stay in a hotel room with three other girls.”

Blair will also get to go to Old Town for activities.

Mary Blair, Kate’s mother, noted that “her entire pants and shirt ensemble is made from wool that she and her grandma sewed together.”

Blair will compete in the Junior age group against contestants from 25 states.



Bronc Wrestlers Win Black Hills Conference

Bronc Wrestling
Special to the Beacon

Conry, Dighton, & Schreder Win Individual Titles

The Broncs win the Black Hills Conference Saturday, January 18th in Hill City with

a team score of 169.5, followed by Douglas/Rapid City/New Underwood with 160.5, Custer 133, Spearfish 116, Hot Springs 106, St. Thomas More 61, Lead-Deadwood 55, Hill City 26 and Mahpiya Luta (Red Cloud) with a score of 8. The last team champion-

ship of the Black Hills Conference for Belle Fourche was in 2008.

The Broncs had 3 champions taking 1st place, Cooper Conry at 113 lbs, Riley Dighton at 150 lbs, and Owyn Schreder at 165 lbs. Additional placers

Champs contd. A4



Bronc Wrestlers and coaches pose for team photo after winning the Black Hills Conference Championship last Saturday. (Hockenbary Photo--Additional photos A4-5 & A7)

Belle Fourche Livestock Under New Ownership

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—In somewhat of a surprise to cattle country, Belle Fourche Livestock Market has a new owner, Travis Linch.

A surprise, because the business was never for sale. When the idea to buy the sale barn came to Linch, he went to Baxter Anders, previous owner of BFLM, and convinced him to sell.

As owner of Travis Linch Trucking, LLC, he has spent a lot of time behind the wheel. Around 2020 Linch stopped driving and focused more on the business side of things. “I got out of the truck completely and I’ve been in the office.

This fits me better. I get to see people and I love this relationship with the ranchers,” explained Linch.

All of his experience and history is what drove his desire to purchase the sale barn.

With sale day every Thursday, Linch already has the January sales under his belt.

He said, “Oh, they were amazing. We actually had good numbers and lot of happy people! It was kind of fun, you know?”

I was pretty nervous at the first one but had good numbers and a lot of optimism in this market, so it’s pretty fun.” Linch attributes his success

thus far to the support he has received from the Anders and the community. “I thank Baxter and Skyler Anders for this opportunity, because without them selling to me, I wouldn’t be here.

They gave me this opportunity, so I want to do justice for everybody,” said Linch.

The support from the community so far has been so great that

Livestock Market Contd. A6



Travis Linch, new owner of the Belle Fourche Livestock Market pictured in the sale barn’s 1st floor office. Beacon Photo



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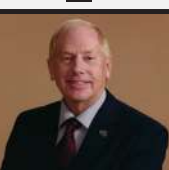
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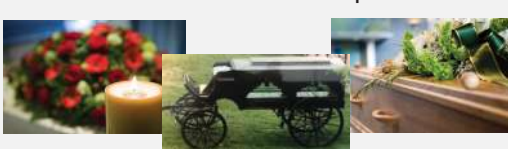
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Brian Kline
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Most of us intend on 'getting around to it someday,' but if your someday never comes, your loved ones will wonder if they made the right decisions for your final requests when it does.

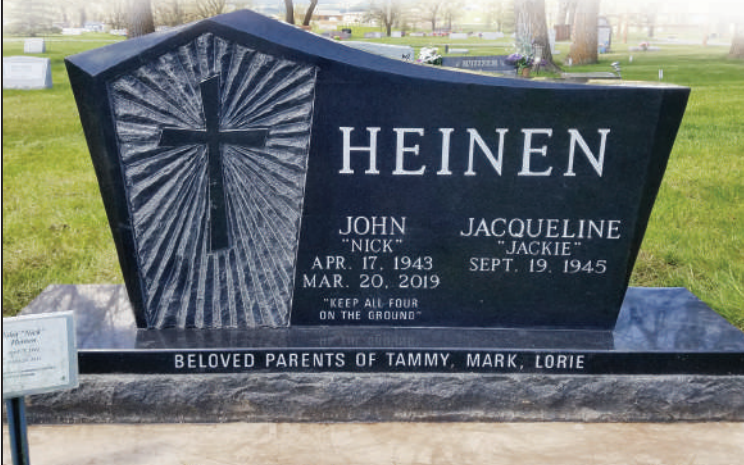
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Justin William Hogen 51

Justin William Hogen, 51, passed away January 13, 2025, at his home in Newell, South Dakota. He is survived by his father and stepmother, Dale and Kathy Hogen; brother, Tyler Hogen; and nephew, Eli Myers. Justin was preceded in death by his mother, Carol Peterson; and his sister, Misty Hogen. Private family services will be held at a later date. You may sign his online guestbook at www.blackhillsfuneralhome.com.



Harold David Haivala 87

On December 27th, 2024, the world lost a wonderful father, grandfather, brother and friend. Harold David Haivala, 87 of Belle Fourche, SD passed away at the Spearfish Hospital. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Irene (Bell). Harry was born on January 23, 1937 to Gus and Muriel Haivala of Buffalo, SD. He was the third son of nine children. After graduating from Buffalo High School, Harry joined the Air Force and married Irene in 1959. Their first son, Marty was born in 1961 in Spearfish, and Bryan was born in Phillip in 1965. The family soon moved to Belle Fouche, South Dakota where they lived for more than 50 years. Harry was a dedicated game warden with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department for 30 years. He began in Phillip, but spent most of his law enforcement career in Belle Fourche. He joined the South Dakota National Guard and climbed the ranks to retire as a Command Sergeant Major. His long military service took him to Germany, South Korea, Jamacia and Panama. After retirement, Harry became a part-time realtor with Century 21 for several years. Harry loved to hunt and fish. He always had the freezer stocked with wild turkey, pheasant, deer and elk. He served as a firefighter on the Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire department. He was member of the Belle Fourche Lions Club and volunteered on the Black Hills Roundup Rodeo Committee as Head of Security. Harry was a past President of the South Dakota Peace Officers Association, and later in life he gave tours at the Johnny Spaulding Cabin at the Tri-State Museum. After Harry retired for good, he and Irene spent winters in Mesa, Arizona, and enjoyed golfing, biking and socializing with friends from the United States and Canada. Harry was preceded in death by his wife, parents, and brothers, Paul, Kenny, Lenny, Jim and John. He is survived by his sons Marty (Carey) and Bryan (Kathy) and his grandchildren Jake, Sam, Sadie, Abby, and Daniel, and his sisters Mona Nussbaum and Leone Billmeyer and brother Gene Haivala. Funeral services will be held at 11am Saturday, February 1, 2025 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Belle Fourche, 717 Jackson Street. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Harry Haivala Memorial Fund (2417 N. 2nd St. Spearfish, SD 57783). Any money received will be divided between the Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department and the Spearfish Veteran's Monument. The funeral will be livestreamed and can be viewed on Harry's obituary page at klinefuneral-chapel.com An online guest book and video tribute will be available at klinefuneral-chapel.com.




Pastor's Perspective

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

"How God Evaluates Worship"

I n my experience, theological discussions about worship tend to focus on the cerebral, not the visceral on the mind, not the heart. "True" worship, we are often taught, is more about the mind thinking right about God (using theologically correct language and liturgy), rather than the heart's hunger for him.

But the words of our Savior resound the undeniable call to worship that transcends the intellect: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

We've been inclined to conclude that mind is the proper synonym for spirit here, but the Bible shows that heart is a better candidate. "In truth" certainly suggests participation of the intellect in worship, but it is inescapably second and dependent upon the heart's fullest release first.

This priority is usually held suspect. The heart is said to be governed by affections and thus is more vulnerable to deception than is the intellect. But to base worship on the intellect is to entertain a dual delusion: first, that the mind is less subject to deception than is the heart; second, that the mind is the main means to "contact" God in worship (note verses like Job 11:7: "Can you fathom the mysteries of God?").

Yes, human intelligence contributes to worship, but God's Word indicates he is not looking for something brilliant but something broken: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart these, O God, You will not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

The exercises of our enlightened minds may deduce God, but only our ignited hearts can delight him and in turn experience his desire to delight us!

To be more specific, I believe that to please God, worship must do four things.



1. True worship treasures God's presence. God welcomes those into his presence who want him. The quest may be one of desperation or of delight, of frantic need or of a loving hunger for fellowship, but the motivation is clear--and so is his pleasure with it.

In Exodus 33 and 34, a tender and powerful exchange takes place between God and Moses, spanning the range from an intimate face-to-face encounter to a dramatic declaration by the Almighty. Central is the cry of Moses: "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now your way, that I may know you and that I may find grace in your sight."

To which God replies, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Ex. 33:13-15). Shortly following this, God displays his glory to Moses--as sure a sign of his pleasure and presence as he ever gives (Ex. 40:33-38; 1 Kings 1:8-11).

I had been in pastoral leadership for nearly 15 years when my thinking about corporate worship was transformed.

Rather than tightly regimented gatherings, concerned over aesthetics, mechanics, and academic theology, we began to provide an unpressured portion of the service for free-flowing songs of praise and adoration. Within two years, our church began to experience God's glory and grace in new and more profound ways, an experience that continues still.

We've been vigilant in seeking constant renewal of the practice because we know that even the finest spiritual habits are vulnerable to the arthritis of ritualism--when form loses its focus. But with gentleness, the Holy Spirit has a way of drawing us back to our "first love"--to a renewed hunger and thirst for the Living God.

Isaiah 40:31 - But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Micah 7:7 - But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Romans 5:3-4 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 13:13 - And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Jeremiah 29:11 □ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 15:13 ~ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Hebrews 11:1 □ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Isaiah 40:31 □ But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Roots Grow Deep and Strong # 32
“ Education Savings Accounts!?!?”



Meg English

Contentious topics can appear during a South Dakota State Legislative. One such trend appears to discredit public education.

It’s a trend that reminds me of Medusa, a gorgon with multiple snakelike heads each purporting promises and reforms, each one with a different agenda.

I am referring to the school voucher snake head that purports tremendous benefits from restructuring the funding of public schools.

Some things look like a good idea on the surface, but closer inspection reveals cracks in the concrete. In fact, the closer one looks, the more cracks there are.

That’s why it’s important to do our homework.

Vouchers, also called Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) or Tuition Tax Credits have been around for a long time.

A voucher is a proof of purchase, like a receipt. A school voucher, or education voucher is a certificate of government funding students at school. Vouchers allow for parents to take funds allocated for the public education of their children and use it to pay for private school or homeschool expenses. In other words, the voucher system allows for “school choice.”

Of course, there are pros and cons to the legislative call to adopt a voucher funding system four South Dakota.

Pros:

- 1. Vouchers allow parents to choose the type of education that they believe will most benefit their child’s social, religious, racial, cultural, and academic well-being.
- 2. School vouchers im-

prove schools by forcing them to compete with one another and free market competition will keep schools accountable.

3. School vouchers will overcome inequities such as racial segregation by giving parents the choice of opting for less violent schools.

4. Vouchers offer students in failing access to better schools.

Cons:

1. Under a school voucher system tax dollars will be used to subsidize religious schools violating the constitutional mandate that church and state must remain separate.

2. School vouchers funnel money away from schools that are already struggling and redistribute it to private schools that will benefit middle class and upper middle-class children. School vouchers overlook the children who are in greatest need of educational opportunities.

3. School vouchers fail to accommodate, and support disabled and special needs children

4. There is compelling evidence that school vouchers do not improve academic performance and not enough evidence that they will improve the quality of public education.

Maybe it’s a good time to learn more about what the professionals have to say about vouchers.

School Administrators of South Dakota, South Dakota Education Association, along with Associated School Boards of South Dakota, the Large Schools Group, and South Dakota United Schools Association have all expressed strong opposition to school vouchers in South Dakota in this recent letter to the citizens of South Dakota:

Dear South Dakotans,

We are writing to our friends and neighbors as representatives of education-focused organizations. Our organizations are comprised of South Dakotans who have served South Dakota communities and their children for decades. We express our strong concern and opposition to the introduction of school voucher programs in South Dakota.

Voucher programs have many

names, such as Education Savings Accounts, Tuition Tax Credits, Vouchers, Grants, Tax Credit Scholarships, or Debit Cards. These programs divert critical funding away from your public schools, which serve as the lifeblood of communities across our great state. Our public schools are the foundation of our community’s future as schools in your community produce your next workforce and serve as the draw for our young people to come home and raise their South Dakota families.

Public schools are the cornerstone and pride of our communities, welcoming all children regardless of background, ability, or socioeconomic status. The divergence of South Dakota taxpayer dollars into private, alternative instruction (home school) or for-profit institutions undermines Article VIII of the South Dakota Constitution. Our communities have been built on our public schools’ ability to provide equitable, high-quality education for all children regardless of their

zip code. For generations, South Dakotans have respected individuals’ school choices, whether through open enrollment, private schooling, or alternative instruction (homeschooling), while maintaining their communities’ foundation through their public schools. Research indicates that voucher programs consistently fail to improve academic outcomes. Most recently, research from the non-profit Economic Policy Institute reports how “Vouchers undermine efforts to provide an excellent public education for all.” The research notably states, “Public education is worth preserving – it should be seen as one of the most important achievements in our country’s history and crucial for the social and economic welfare of future generations.” It also warns, “Paradoxically, even while they take resources away from public schools, many newly introduced voucher programs could result in more total state spending in coming years.” As educators and South Dakotans, we ask that we not dismantle a system that is the

bedrock of our communities as it provides all children with the opportunity to learn, be fed, be safe, and belong. Instead of dismantling the system that educates the majority of our children, we urge policymakers to focus on strengthening public education. Monies intended to build “another education system” should be invested in our communities and our K12 system. Let us reaffirm our collective commitment to our communities through our pride in public schools, which are an investment in our children and the foundation of our democracy.

Submitted,
School Administrators of South Dakota (SASD)
Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD)
South Dakota Education Association (SDEA)
South Dakota United Schools Association (SDUSA)
Large School Group
<https://www.garretsongazette.com/letter-to-the-editor-no-to-vouchers/>

South Dakotans should be advised to keep up with their homework in the coming legislative days and nights.

First City Council Meeting of New Year

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche City Council held its first meeting of 2025 on January 6. The Mayor’s Report included a Belle Fourche FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team procedure. For Community Input, Raymond Allen again mentioned several concerns including the placement of “No Parking” signs on Walworth Street, safety hazards at the 13th Ave. and National Street intersection, and the need for an emergency siren near Dacar Street.

The Chamber of Commerce reported that the Chamber has welcomed new board members: Michelle Jensen, Falina Selchert, and Matt Kruetz. The Chamber Mixer this month was held at Pasque Ladies’ Fashion on January 16.

Additionally, a Job Fair was held at the Chamber office and virtually on January 17 to support local businesses and job seekers. The Chamber’s Annual Banquet is also scheduled for February 28.

The Museum and Visitor Center reported that December visitation to the complex totaled 372, with visitors from 28 states and two foreign countries, bringing the 2024 total to 14,982. Attendance is expected to grow with the return of large First Saturday Brunches.

January already includes one small rental and a large event in March. Recent highlights include the first annual Gingerbread Festival (150 attendees), a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (35 volunteers), and a Family Fun Day on “The History of the Yule Log” (18 participants), the first event in the new addition featuring a pull-down screen.

The kitchen remains incomplete, with cabinetry awaiting a bid, and fundraising is planned for replacing museum carpeting. Re-

maining projects include stage work and exterior stair railings.

January events include a Poetry Event on January 11; the Inquiry Club’s 100-year celebration on January 14; a new Libraries Exhibit opening on January 18; Family Fun Day about maps on January 19; and the Arts Council’s Photo Contest and fully booked annual tea on January 25.

Parks and Recreation reported that upcoming plans include relocating the chlorine tank to protect equipment and updating the auditorium’s lights and sound system at the Rec Center. The Resolution Run was rescheduled for January 12, with future indoor backup plans. Youth Boys Basketball is active, adult volleyball registration is closing, and evening lap swims are now offered weekdays.

Middle School Madness is split into two Saturdays for safety, and CPR classes are set for late January.

Kathleen Fitzgerald-Ellis, Associate Director of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation, outlined the foundation’s efforts to support local nonprofits through grants, endowments, and consulting services.

They assist donors in developing impactful giving strategies and lead initiatives on food security and affordable housing. Fitzgerald-Ellis encouraged council members and local nonprofits to connect with the foundation to enhance community collaboration and expressed interest in working with professional advisors to promote charitable giving.

City Administrator LaFayette informed the Council about the API for the fire suppressant system, and it appears 86% of the costs are covered, with remaining expenses totaling approxi-

mately \$3,120 for installation, labor, and testing. At the ball fields, concrete will soon be poured for the footings of a new building, and old signage on Fifth Avenue will be removed to make way for new, smaller directional signs for secondary routes to improve navigation.

The public works building is nearly 90% complete, with city crews pouring concrete for additional storage space. Once finished, steel siding and handrails will be added. Additionally, work continues at the Tri State Museum, with Brent addressing punch list items from Kristi, and a meeting is planned with Brandon to resolve these outstanding tasks.

Councilperson Sowers clarified that the confusion regarding the time of the December 30 Special Council Meeting was the reason for his and other Council Members’ absence.

Councilperson Fowler informed the Council that constituents have reached out to commend the Public Works Department for their effective handling of the significant snowfall.

City Attorney Willert had no major concerns with the Tyler contract but noted the limitation of liability provision, which he generally advises against for construction projects.

He highlighted the importance of the data breach notification clause and found the indemnification clause fair. While the funding-out clause differed slightly from his usual approach, he considered it acceptable.

The next City Council meeting will be held on January 20 at 6 p.m.

Kids& Cops from A1

your support!
Additionally, we would like to thank all the Law Enforcement entities and volunteers that assist during these events! It is truly a wonderful experience for all involved!

Technology Inc.
Donald Chastain
Julie Scranton
Robert Boicourt
In Memory of Randy Austin
Runnings of Belle Fourche
Rhonda & Jerry Peterson
Clint Haffner & Nikki Hoyme
Frank the Pug
Donald & Katherine McCrabb
Nancy Henderson
Cheryl & Dale Fadley
Leverington Funeral Home
Shelly Wolfe
Carrie Hahne
Charles & Crystal Edson
Gail Markham
Joan Wilson
Ken Nelson
Samantha Hix

Huston from A1

trades—yard man, service advisor, bulk oil delivery, but I got out of the sales,” he explained.

When Grossenburg took over his old company, they honored his work years with them. “Counting Bentz, Grossenburg honored all my time with Bentz,” he said.

Huston was made for the work he spent his life doing. “Well, I grew up on a ranch and had ag background and I actually worked for the Massey Ferguson dealer in Sturgis when I got out of high school for five years until Sturgis closed.”

He spent ten years at the Home Stake Gold Mine before

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Black Hills Roundup
Levi Okeeffe- Ranch Rodeo
Toy Drive
Sandra Prante
Butte County
Lynn’s Dakota Mart
Grap’s Burgers and Brews

making his way to work in Belle Fourche.

Turning 69 in April, Huston decided it was time to start a new chapter. “Grossenburg’s was great to work for, it was just time to move on, he explained. “They are so family oriented.”

What comes next for the new retiree? Huston said, “For the next two weeks? Nothing!” After that he isn’t sure what he will do, but traveling is an adventure he would like to do with his significant other.

Time with his daughter and son will keep him busy. “I’m just gonna see what comes about,” he said.

Belle High School Honor Roll List

Senior “A” Honor Roll: Sydney Baker, Nora Bricker, Aleyah Carbajal, Kaydance Gallagher, Carlee Grady, Payton Jackson, Taya Kirstine, Alexandra Klocek, Rachel Lee, Lydia Main, Sara Mateos-Pato, Bailey Moke, Lily Nore, Kailey Nowowiejski, Viktoria Prosnanska, Alexandria Stevens, Drake Sutter, Alexa Swaney, Kaisa Tanninen, Isaac Voyles, Betsy Wilen, Radlie Williams

Senior “B” Honor Roll: Alexa Alarcon, Peyton Alexander, Levi Anderson, Hunter Baker, Braeden Chapman, Evin Gabbard, Maria Gonzalez Reyes, Alexis Hogan, Alli-

son Jewett, Shaun-Tey Kerr, Soren Kopp, Wyatt Lesmeister, Carter Lyons, Allie Mailoux, Asia Mazzotta, Chloe Merjil, Markus Overstreet, Brooklynn Roden, Alina Schafer, Owyn Schreder, Joselyn Shockey, Abigail Vissia, Selene Walker

Junior “A” Honor Roll: Ysabelle Angeles, Griffin Biehl, Nathan Bowers, Riley Dighton, Tegan Fredericksen, Reagan Hatling, Trinity Hostetter, Slater Humbracht, Emma Juelfs, Denali Larson, Justus Marshall, Joseph McLennan, Atlee Olson, Jazlyn Olson, Trigg Olson, Raif Parmeter, Syd Pelster, Corbin Rowe, Danielle Vetter, Kate Williamson

Junior “B” Honor Roll: Joshua Brill, William Bryan, Cierra Erhart, Urijah Hamilton, Adeline Hayes, Ashtyn Hight, Tucker Hughes, Riley Hunt, Garett Huston, Tyson Kracht, Leah Lambert, Aurora Larive, Emitt Lipp, Journee Littleton, (Contd. A6)



**Bronc boys
BB top
Bowman
County; Girls
fall by a Dozen**

Basketball
Special to the Beacon

Boys
Belle Fourche 56
Bowman County 43

Girls
Bowman County 43
Belle Fourche 31

The Bowman County boys started the game as cold as the weather outside and found themselves down 17-7 at the end of the 1st quarter and the Broncos would extend the lead to 23-8 before a Bulldog rally brought it back to ten at the half.

A brief rally by the Bulldogs cut the lead to 5 in the 3rd quarter, but the Broncos would rally and finish with the 13 point win.

On the girls side the Bulldogs would spur the Broncos in the 2nd and 3rd quarters to the tune of a 26-14 edge that provided the margin of victory for the game.

**Wrestling
Champs**

. Contd. From A1

the podium were, Caden Swaney at 106 lbs taking 3rd, Dylan Park at 126 lbs taking 4th, Garet Huston at 132 lbs taking 2nd, Koby Bowden at 138 lbs taking 2nd, Alex Norlin at 144 lbs taking 2nd, Spencer Bush-Graslie at 175 lbs taking 3rd and Lucas Tonsager at Heavyweight taking 3rd.

The Lady Broncos took 5th in the Black Hills Conference with Kyra Vandenberg taking champion at 100 lbs, Lia Mundt taking 3rd at 107 lbs, Aleyah Carbajal taking 4th at 126 lbs, Alexa Swaney taking 2nd at 138 lbs, and Joselyn Shockey taking 3rd at 152 lbs.

The Bronc wrestling teams took to the mats in two addition-



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al tournaments in the past ten days. On Friday, January 10th and Saturday, January 11th, they battled teams from North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana in Hettinger, ND.

The Varsity boys team had a great showing with Caden Swaney taking 8th at 107 lbs, Teedin Humble 8th at 121 lbs, Dylan Park 12th at 121 lbs, Garet Huston 7th at 127 lbs, Koby Bowden 5th at 139 lbs, Alex Norlin 2nd at 145 lbs, Riley Dighton 3rd at 152 lbs, Owyn Schreder 3rd at 172, Spencer Bush-Graslie 4th at 172 lbs, and Lucas Tonsager 4th at Heavyweight.

For the JV boys team, Porter Tysdal took 6th at 107 lbs, Nathan Hudson 3rd at 107 lbs, Clifford Torberson 6th at 139 lbs, Conner Kukla 8th at 139 lbs, and Kolby Tibbs took 1st at 152 lbs.

The Lady Broncos had a good day in Hettinger as well with Kyra Vandenberg taking 2nd at 100 lbs, Lia Mundt 2nd at 106 lbs, Aleyah Carbajal 5th at 124 lbs, Sofia Gonzalez 6th at 136 lbs, Alexa Swaney taking 1st at 136 lbs, Joselyn Shockey 3rd at 148 lbs, Abby Vissia 4th at 148 lbs, and Alexa Alacron Sanchez taking 4th at 155 lbs.

On Thursday, January 16th, the Broncos teams wrestled in a quadrangular at Rapid City Central with the boys winning over Douglas/ Rapid City Christian/ New Underwood 60 to 21, and over Spearfish 63 to 18.

The Broncos fell to Rapid City Central 22 to 53. The Lady Broncos fell to Douglas/Rapid City Christian/New Underwood 23 to 36, to Spearfish 12 to 59, and to Rapid City Central 24 to 36.

The Bronc teams wrestle next

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Broncs
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in Chadron, Nebraska on Saturday, January 25th. The following week will be Senior Night for the Broncos on Thursday, January 30th during a dual vs Sturgis hosted in Belle Fourche, followed by the Belle Fourche

Invite on Friday, January 31st and Saturday, February 1st. On Sunday, February 2nd the Belle Fourche AAU club will host The Bronc Dailey Tournament in Belle Fourche to wrap up the wrestling weekend.



Alex Norlin



Alexa Alacron Sanchez



Aleyah Carbajal



Birk Kraft

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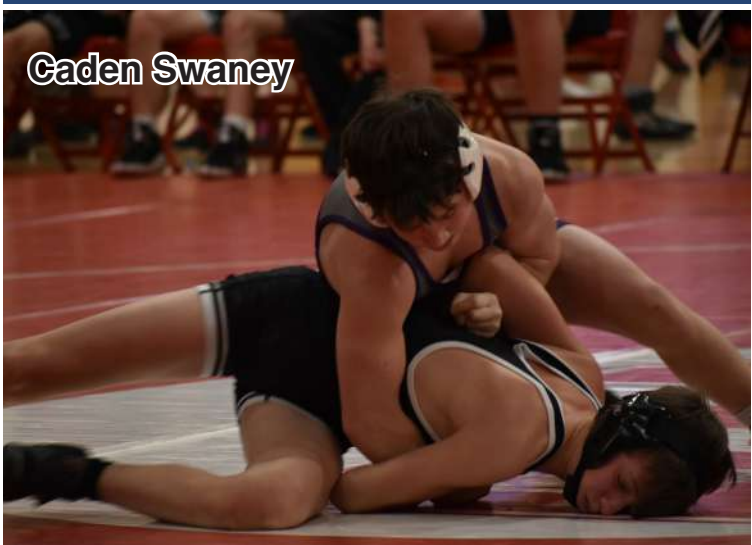
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Belle Fourche Welcomes Spiritual Runners

Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Runners participating in the annual Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run were welcomed in Belle Fourche on January 12. The Belle Fourche Police department was on hand to ensure the safety of nearly 100 youth completing the 400-mile journey as they passed through town.

The event that is held from January 8-14 every year begins in Nebraska and ends in Montana.

Originally, the Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run was organized as a tribute to Northern Cheyenne ancestors. Today after several years it has become a symbol of achievement and empowerment for native youth.

According to the official Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run media release "It is a forum for healing and wellness, youth leadership and empowerment, cultural and language preservation,

and environmental justice.

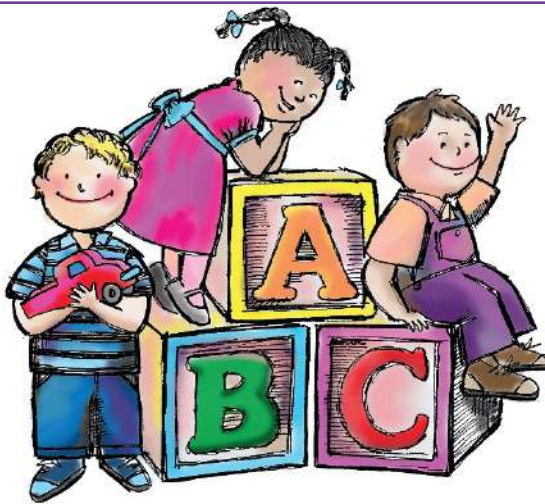
Youth gain a strong connection to the sacrifice of their ancestors. The run instills in the participants a sense of pride, greater self-esteem, a deeper respect for their identity, sincere appreciation and connection to their homeland, and to value life."

The purpose of the run is to commemorate the Northern Cheyenne breakout of Fort Robinson. Over the years participants have grown from 14 to 80-100 youth completing the journey from Nebraska to Montana in subzero temps.

(Additional Photos Page A8)



Young **Fort Robinson Spiritual Run** runners dressed for safety and cold weather, pose for a photograph. *(Courtesy Photo)*



Free Early Childhood Developmental Screening for children ages 0-5

The Belle Fourche School District in collaboration with SD Birth to Three, Badlands Head Start Prenatal to Five, and Families First invites you to attend.

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025
Time: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Where: North Park Elementary Early Intervention Classroom

Please call for an appointment
605-723-9139



Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



pro-
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The theater is getting very busy these next few months!

The Belle Fourche Middle School will soon be entering the theater for their March show, **Magic, a mysterious three-act comedy**. According to directors Reva Potter and Rachel Munce, over 60 students from sixth, seventh, and eighth grade auditioned last week. With this enthusiastic group, it’s going to be a fun production!

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 25th is a great time to find out about ways to join theater ductions. BFACT offers opportunities for actors, set builders, costume designers, lights & sound technicians, and tech crew backstage. According to BFACT, this year’s meeting will be a little different: Starting at 1pm they will have an Open House where the Board will speak about what it means to be a part BFACT as an organization, and you can ask questions. Then at 2pm they will start their Annual Meeting where you can learn about everything accomplished in 2024 Season and what is in store for 2025. The group will also hold Board of Director elections. This election is open to members, so you must be one to vote. can pay for your annual membership at the meeting itself. Individual memberships are only \$25. BFACT will also serve delicious snacks and drinks, so make sure to mark your calendars and learn how to get involved in for 2025 and into the future!.

Come support the BFHS theater and enjoy an entertaining show on Monday, January 27th at 7 PM at the Rec Center Theater. This year’s show is *The Customer is Always Wrong*, a comedy. According to director, Michael Kane, the show looks at the trials and travails of young job seekers, as they go through the interview process and get out into the working world, for the first time. But the interview process is just the beginning, as the show gives us a peek into what the kids have to deal with when it comes to a paying clientele. Audiences can expect a show that is funny, witty and a bit too realistic at times. *(more pictures/information on C2)*

Your presence at all the upcoming events is much appreciated, so don’t forget to add all these upcoming fine arts events to your calendars!

January 25th: BFACT Annual Meeting @ 1 PM at Venue 519

January 27th: BFHS One Act, The Customer is Always Wrong, free community performance @ BF Rec Center Theater, 7 PM.

Maybe YOU know what SHOW is UP next? Share your fine arts tidbits and upcoming events at bellelavenue@gmail.com.

I especially love the *juicy backstage dish and green room gossip!*

Mark your calendars, friends, so you don’t forget to Show Up!

From A1 **Livestock Market**

that Lynch feels a little over-whelmed from the kindness. “I am just super grateful for the support I’ve had, you know, it’s just really cool.

Everywhere I go everybody’s thrilled that a local owns it,” he said.

Lynch was born and raised in Belle Fourche and is proud of the deep roots he and his family have in the area. “My dad has one of the oldest truck companies around.

We are rooted in Belle Fourche and I don’t plan on going anywhere.” Lynch explained

that his dad started his trucking business in the 60s and he has spent much of his life building relationships with ranchers via trucking.

As the Livestock Market owner, Lynch plans to give back to the community through this new venture.

“I hope to support the community with this too. There’s a lot of money that comes to town on sale days and it supports our town, it makes our little town beautiful and helps the local economy,” he said. “I’m pretty proud of Belle Fourche!”

As of now, Lynch doesn’t have a whole lot of changes planned for the Livestock Market.

One thing he does plan on changing however, is the kitchen. “I’m gonna remodel the kitchen. I want to have that up and going. As a kid I remember it being plum full and it was a great thing.”

In addition to being a busy father of three—a 15 year old, 12 year old and a 5 year old—Lynch will continue to run his trucking company and his feed lot north of town.

Community Calendar

Belle Silver Lining Lunch Program

Every day of the week

11:00 am – 1:00pm Belle Silver Lining Senior Center;
828 Kingsbury St 605-892-6285

Belle Silver Lining is open so come and enjoy a different lunch menu Monday thru Friday.

\$7 suggested donation.

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Closed Monday; Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-4pm

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Check with the staff if you have items to donate.

AA Meetings

Meetings are held on

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays
at 8pm at 806 6th Ave, Belle Fourche.

Writer’s Group

Regular Meeting: Meeting will be Saturday, at 10 AM.

B F Public Library, 3rd Sat.as always.

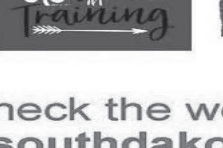
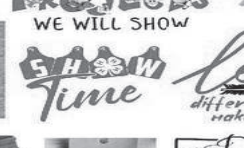
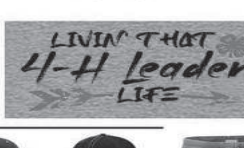
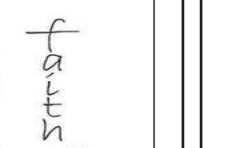
Any and all writers are invited to attend.

Meals On Wheels Program Ongoing

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Belle Fourche Beacon ‘Happenings’ and News Bytes Calendar

Tri-State Museum’s annual tea to be held Saturday, January 25.

The Tri-State Museum will hold its annual tea on Saturday, January 25 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the visitor center desk of the museum at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche or by calling the museum at 605-723-1200.

This year’s theme is “Hooray for Hollywood,” and the 10 tables will carry themes of various movies, as chosen by the table hostess.

All tables can be previewed before the tea from 1:30 to 2 p.m. and votes cast for the “People’s

Choice” table winner.

Beautiful gift baskets, specially created by Wilma Dick, will be won by someone at each table.

There will also be a special basket for the winner of the “People’s Choice Award.”

The event features elegant tea fare including scones with jam and Devonshire cream, cucumber and assorted sandwiches, palmiers, fruit pizza, relish trays and sweets, as well as fresh Earl Gray tea.

The tea benefits the muse-

um and its programming. It is typically held in September but was moved to winter when the work on the addition was not yet completed in autumn.

This will be the first tea to be held in the addition and will provide guests with an opportunity to see its amenities as well as view the museum proper, where there are new exhibits and a restructuring of existing ones.

If you would be willing to help with food for the event or would like more information, call 605-723-1200.

1903 Reader’s Theatre to hold auditions for “Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel”

Auditions will be held Monday, Feb. 3 and Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 6-8 p.m. at the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche for the next 1903 Reader’s Theatre production entitled “Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt

Hotel.”

The play is a comedy-mystery about the goings-on at the Don Pratt Hotel on a weekend in 1930, the year the hotel opened in Belle Fourche.

The hotel is swirling with ru-

mors about a secret poker game to be held in the hotel basement and about bootleggers who may – or may not – be in town. Central to the action is brand-new switchboard operator Myrna Chasley, who struggles to learn

her job, deal with her imperious boss, Mrs. Hirschfield, and handle calls between the colorful hotel guests.

The play will incorporate some history about the area, the hotel, national politics and Prohibition. A key prop will be a period hotel switchboard, used

onstage by Myrna, which comes from the museum’s collections.

There are roles for approximately nine actors: five women and four men. Adults of all ages are encouraged to audition, and previous theatre experience is not required. Typical of reader’s Contd. C2 “Happenings”



Capitol Building Pierre, SD

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Wednesday **January 15th** through Tuesday, **January 28th**

Cheyenne Crossing Named Restaurant of the Year

PIERRE, SD – Cheyenne Crossing near Lead has been selected as the South Dakota Retailers Association’s Restaurant of the Year. Presented annually, the award recognizes a restaurant with a reputation for excellence in food, service, and atmosphere. Cheyenne Crossing has been welcoming guests to Spearfish Canyon for 147 years.

The iconic business had its origins in 1878 as a stage stop for gold miners and weary travelers as they ventured through the rough terrain.

Over time, the stagecoach business gave way to a restaurant, convenience store, gift shop and catering company. Owner David Brueckner became the “steward of the house”, as he calls it, in 2005.

While fewer than three dozen people live in the tiny community, the business is a historic landmark with fans across the world.

They come for the friendly atmosphere and mouthwatering homemade meals.

“Listen to your guests, your customers to deliver on something that they can’t really experience anywhere else,” he explained.

“We pride ourselves on whole foods and good ingredients. We try to make a good experience with food, with hospitality, and we have many wonderful people that work here.”

In the store, visitors find gift items unique to the Black Hills, along with David’s proprietary spice blend, Heifer Dust. During the winter months, his cooking classes have become a popular draw.

After a fire destroyed the business in 2022, David brought the restaurant and store back to life in the same footprint. While construction

was underway, he grew the catering business and created a cookbook that showcases both customer favorites and area history.

More recently, he opened David’s Deli Delights in Deadwood.

Nathan Sanderson, Executive Director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, says Brueckner has continued the long tradition of hospitality at Cheyenne Crossing.

“Since before South Dakota achieved statehood, people have known that Cheyenne Crossing is a place they can find a great meal, friendly company and outstanding hospitality, and David Brueckner is building on that historic tradition.”

To learn more about David Brueckner and the Retailers Association’s additional award recipients, visit sdra.org/



Photos of **Cheyenne Crossing** from their website.



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Manager **Ambree Kirstine** recording matches.

Fort Robinson Run
From A1

Fort Robinson Run



(Top two)Runners passing through Belle Fourche on a dark cold January night



Belle Fourche Police Department was on hand to provide route traffic and ensure safety of the runners. (Courtesy Photo)



Commemorative Poster

BFHS Class of ‘93 Graduate Returns from Iraq after a Year Deployment



John Cole, Belle Fourche class of 1993 graduate returned home to Michigan after a year’s deployment in **Erbil, Iraq**. John a former Army Ranger is a member of the **Michigan National Guard** and had been in Iraq since January of 2024. As you can see from the super smiley faces the family was very glad to have John safely back in the United States. (From left) With the welcoming party: daughters **Cecilia, Isadora, Charlotte**, **John**, wife **Phaedra**, and son **Evan**. John and family live on a small farm west of Lake Michigan near Bloomindale, MI. (not pictured oldest son **Gavin**) *Courtesy Photo*

Pasque Ladies Fashions Hosts Chamber Mixer



The **Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce** held its monthly mixer Thursday January 16th. This month was hosted at **Pasque Ladies Fashions**. These are opportunities to meet with local businesses and also check out their business. The public is welcome to attend as well. These are held the third Thursday of each month. Please call **605-892-2676** with any questions! *Courtesy*





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Trivia From A1
again next week at the normal time,” said Westland. This past week, Thursday, January 16 trivia night had a good turnout with 11 teams competing. In addition to trivia the Tap House serves a variety of normal domestic beer, canned beer and of course, craft beer and wine.

If you get the munchies while straining your brain, they’ve got you covered with menu that includes Papa John’s Pizza, Anke’s Bakery Pretzel Bites, popcorn, chips and salsa and cake pops from Cake Pop Kitchen.



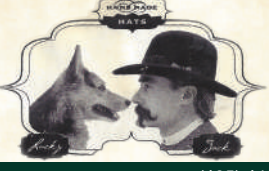
Hitching Post Tap House
7h • 🌐

The winners of last nights trivia! They won a gift card to **The Emporium- 605** and 15% off their tab! Thank you so much for coming... See more



You may recognize Beacon reporter, **Robbi Longbrake (R)**. Robbi along with husband **Daman** and daughter **Ryder Heitz** (also a Beacon reporter), who accompanied her when she attended **Hitching Post Tap House Trivia** night to do a story on the event. Not only did she do a nice article on the event the “family team” won first place!
At press time we had not received information on which family member had the most correct answers!

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Brooke Tupper ~ Office Mgr. 605-642-2200	Doug Dietterle ~ Auctioneer 605-788-2963		

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Lindsey Ranch, Newell SD..... 82..... Blk..... Str..... 534..... \$361.50
Lindsey Ranch, Newell SD..... 13..... Blk..... Str..... 496..... \$363.00
Duprel Ranch, Sturgis SD..... 69..... Blk..... Str..... 667..... \$315.00
Duprel Ranch, Sturgis SD..... 61..... Blk..... Str..... 563..... \$340.00
Duprel Ranch, Sturgis SD..... 10..... Blk..... Str..... 503..... \$359.00
Duprel Ranch, Sturgis SD..... 95..... Blk..... Hfr..... 601..... \$310.50
Minow Ranch Inc, Olive MT..... 89..... Blk..... Hfr..... 647..... \$300.00
Minow Ranch Inc, Olive MT..... 14..... Blk..... Hfr..... 590..... \$305.00
Minow Ranch Inc, Olive MT..... 18..... Blk..... Hfr..... 564..... \$321.00
Adams, Travis, Ashland MT..... 10..... Blk..... Hfr..... 591..... \$298.00
Anderson Ranch, Ten Sleep WY..... 29..... B/R..... Str..... 674..... \$275.50
Anderson Ranch, Ten Sleep WY..... 26..... Red..... Str..... 556..... \$300.00
Anderson Ranch, Ten Sleep WY..... 10..... Red..... Hfr..... 537..... \$314.00
Behrens Ranch Llc, Hermosa SD..... 30..... Blk..... Hfr..... 515..... \$334.50
Behrens Ranch Llc, Hermosa SD..... 10..... Blk..... Hfr..... 444..... \$347.00
Brence, Paul, Ekalaka MT..... 30..... Blk..... Hfr..... 555..... \$324.00
Brown, Roger, Fruitdale SD..... 45..... Blk..... Str..... 711..... \$291.50
Brown, Roger, Fruitdale SD..... 28..... Blk..... Hfr..... 676..... \$274.00
Brown, Ted, Dodson MT..... 14..... Bld..... Str..... 443..... \$381.00
Brown, Ted, Dodson MT..... 20..... Blk..... Hfr..... 451..... \$340.00
Dinstel, Bruce & Lori, Alzada MT..... 11..... B/R..... Str..... 405..... \$397.00
Eaton, Ben, Reeder ND..... 14..... Blk..... Str..... 751..... \$284.00
Eaton, Ben, Reeder ND..... 65..... Char..... Str..... 727..... \$296.00
Eaton, Ben, Reeder ND..... 85..... Char..... Str..... 724..... \$296.00
Eaton, Ben, Reeder ND..... 14..... Blk..... Hfr..... 721..... \$251.00
Erickson/Amy Stillwell, Kelly, Kadoka SD..... 20..... Bld..... Hfr..... 685..... \$284.00
Friesan, Royal, Hardin MT..... 11..... Blk..... Str..... 950..... \$232.50
Friesan, Royal, Hardin MT..... 15..... Bld..... Hfr..... 764..... \$247.50
J J Smeenk Ranch Llc, Newell SD..... 66..... Blk..... Hfr..... 383..... \$385.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT..... 30..... Blk..... Str..... 585..... \$343.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT..... 18..... Blk..... Str..... 492..... \$364.00
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD..... 15..... Blk..... Str..... 675..... \$310.00
Kc Ranch Llc, Rozet WY..... 17..... Red..... Str..... 535..... \$345.00
Kc Ranch Llc, Rozet WY..... 28..... Red..... Hfr..... 521..... \$327.00
Komes, Timothy J, Sturgis SD..... 23..... Herf..... Str..... 577..... \$307.00
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT..... 12..... Blk..... Hfr..... 1047..... \$213.00
Mader, Amie, Biddle MT..... 17..... Bld..... Hfr..... 574..... \$313.00
Mader, Amie, Biddle MT..... 17..... Bld..... Hfr..... 570..... \$313.00
Mader, Amie, Biddle MT..... 17..... B/R..... Hfr..... 451..... \$363.00
Miech, Tracy, Broadus MT..... 11..... Blk..... Str..... 566..... \$341.00
Murphy Cattle Co, Hermosa SD..... 12..... Blk..... Str..... 549..... \$344.00
Murphy Cattle Co, Hermosa SD..... 41..... Blk..... Hfr..... 616..... \$297.00
Niman Ranch, Chicago IL..... 25..... Char..... Hfr..... 848..... \$245.00
O Connor, Ry, Plevna MT..... 12..... Blk..... Str..... 609..... \$328.00
O Connor, Ry, Plevna MT..... 15..... Bld..... Hfr..... 536..... \$324.00
Oedekoven, Darrell Or Penny, Vale SD..... 21..... Bld..... Hfr..... 649..... \$277.00
Open Box Cattle Co Llc, Gillette WY..... 34..... Blk..... Str..... 578..... \$311.00
Rasmussen, Dean/Maxine, Camp Crook..... 54..... Bld..... Str..... 614..... \$325.00
Rasmussen, Dean/Maxine, Camp Crook..... 23..... Bld..... Str..... 531..... \$359.50
Rusley, Phillip, Baker MT..... 36..... Blk..... Hfr..... 559..... \$325.00
Rusley, Phillip, Baker MT..... 24..... Blk..... Hfr..... 470..... \$335.00
Ryan Xz Ranch Llc, Aladdin WY..... 61..... Bld..... Hfr..... 591..... \$306.00
Sc Livestock, Volborg MT..... 22..... Rbld..... Str..... 553..... \$326.00
Sc Livestock, Volborg MT..... 22..... Rbld..... Hfr..... 475..... \$336.00
Sedgwick, Seth, Ekalaka MT..... 17..... Blk..... Hfr..... 526..... \$325.00
Sedgwick, Seth, Ekalaka MT..... 16..... Blk..... Hfr..... 440..... \$350.00
Semlek Ranch Resources, Moorcroft WY..... 55..... Blk..... Str..... 635..... \$332.00
Semlek Ranch Resources, Moorcroft WY..... 34..... Blk..... Str..... 585..... \$351.00
Vore, Tom & Susan, Newcastle WY..... 31..... Char..... Hfr..... 734..... \$248.00
Waterland, Lucas, Ekalaka MT..... 29..... Bld..... Hfr..... 639..... \$284.00
Waterland, Lucas, Ekalaka MT..... 10..... Bld..... Hfr..... 547..... \$320.00
Wells, Gary, Forsyth MT..... 20..... Blk..... Hfr..... 657..... \$282.00
Wesley, T J, Oshoto WY..... 17..... Red..... Str..... 707..... \$281.00
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD..... 43..... Blk..... Str..... 647..... \$318.50
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD..... 17..... Blk..... Str..... 556..... \$356.00
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD..... 39..... Blk..... Hfr..... 613..... \$299.00
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD..... 12..... Blk..... Hfr..... 504..... \$320.00
Whalen, Matthew, Aladdin WY..... 12..... Bld..... Str..... 602..... \$332.00
Whalen, Matthew, Aladdin WY..... 21..... Herf..... Str..... 527..... \$342.00
Wheatcroft, Jb, Miles City MT..... 14..... Blk..... Hfr..... 614..... \$289.00
Weigh Up Cows
Anderson Rev Trust, Dwayne, Gillette WY 3..... Red..... Hfrette..... 1036..... \$181.00
Anderson Rev Trust, Dwayne, Gillette WY 1..... Red..... Hfrette..... 985..... \$192.50
Anderson Rev Trust, Dwayne, Gillette WY 1..... Red..... Hfrette..... 1035..... \$209.00
Anderson Rev Trust, Dwayne, Gillette WY 1..... Red..... Hfrette..... 910..... \$227.00
Behrens Ranch Llc, Hermosa SD..... 5..... Blk..... Cow..... 1190..... \$127.00
Behrens Ranch Llc, Hermosa SD..... 5..... Blk..... Hfrette..... 894..... \$226.50
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD..... 1..... Blk..... Cow..... 1310..... \$128.00
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD..... 1..... Blk..... Cow..... 1475..... \$129.50
Bontreger, David, Forsyth MT..... 1..... Bld..... Cow..... 1230..... \$134.00
Bontreger, David, Forsyth MT..... 3..... Blk..... Hfrette..... 861..... \$210.00
Cammack, Randy/Mary Ellen, Sturgis SD..... 1..... Red..... Cow..... 1490..... \$131.50
Clanton, Bret, Buffalo SD..... 1..... Red..... Cow..... 1490..... \$125.00
Clanton, Bret, Buffalo SD..... 2..... Red..... Cow..... 1375..... \$127.50
Clanton, Bret, Buffalo SD..... 1..... Red..... Cow..... 1590..... \$129.00
Courtney Ranch Inc, Alzada MT..... 1..... Red..... Cow..... 1620..... \$128.00
Curren, Leroy, Aladdin WY..... 1..... Red..... Cow..... 1195..... \$120.00
Curren, Leroy, Aladdin WY..... 6..... Rbl..... Hfrette..... 894..... \$195.00
Fix, Dusty, Ekalaka MT..... 3..... Red..... Cow..... 1676..... \$127.50
Fix, Dusty, Ekalaka MT..... 2..... Red..... Hfrette..... 1017..... \$185.00
Fix, Tim, Ekalaka MT..... 2..... Red..... Cowette..... 1220..... \$158.00
Fix, Tim, Ekalaka MT..... 1..... Red..... Hfrette..... 1055..... \$183.00
Fulton Ranch Llc, Broadus MT..... 7..... B/R..... Cow..... 1267..... \$125.50
Fulton Ranch Llc, Broadus MT..... 4..... Red..... Cowette..... 1227..... \$152.00
Fulton Ranch Llc, Broadus MT..... 1..... Red..... Hfrette..... 1080..... \$165.00
Fulton Ranch Llc, Broadus MT..... 3..... B/R..... Hfrette..... 1090..... \$172.00
Fulton Ranch Llc, Broadus MT..... 1..... Red..... Hfrette..... 630..... \$180.00

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605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, January 16, 2025
Over 1000 sheep for today
Lambs sold steady
Slaughter lambs sold steady to \$7 lower

Next sale - Jan. 23 - Feeder Lamb Special- Selling all classes of sheep and goats
Animals should be here by 10 AM so they can be weighed before the sale
Thank you for your business!

Feeder Lambs
Sarsland, Richard & Ruby, Ludlow SD..... 146..... Lamb..... 78..... \$280.00
Murnion, Ben, Brusett MT..... 47..... Lamb..... 76..... \$280.00
Murnion, Ben, Brusett MT..... 337..... Lamb..... 95..... \$194.00
Jensen, Andrew, Newell SD..... 12..... Lamb..... 60..... \$289.00
Jensen, Andrew, Newell SD..... 45..... Lamb..... 79..... \$269.00
Chapman, Beau, Bison SD..... 5..... Lamb..... 112..... \$187.00
Chapman, Beau, Bison SD..... 24..... Lamb..... 69..... \$288.00
Rausch, Tom, Hettinger ND..... 32..... Lamb..... 101..... \$197.00
Slaughter Ewes
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD..... 32..... K Ewe..... 165..... \$95.00
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD..... 17..... K Ewe..... 174..... \$89.00
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD..... 13..... K Ewe..... 147..... \$85.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD..... 11..... K Ewe..... 146..... \$95.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD..... 39..... K Ewe..... 134..... \$85.00
Kitzan, Josh & Heather, Nisland SD..... 8..... K Ewe..... 226..... \$85.00
Murnion, Jack, Jordan MT..... 17..... K Ewe..... 146..... \$95.00
Murnion, Jack, Jordan MT..... 41..... K Ewe..... 136..... \$85.00
Slaughter Bucks
Tauch, Jeff, Hammond MT..... 41..... K buck..... 196..... \$107.00
Willow Creek Partners Llp, Alzada MT..... 9..... K buck..... 197..... \$85.00

Friday, January 24, 2025
Bred Heifer & Feeder Cattle followed by Bred Cows
BT-Braning Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free
BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI-No Implants

Bred Hfrs & Cows
Rick & Tim Kleven – 100 Blk Solid To Short-Solid Mouth Cows – Bred Blk Or Herf – 3/20
Fruit Ranch – 90 Blk Solid To Short Term Cows – Bred Blk Sim – 4/1
Dane Dobesh – 55 Blk Bldy & Herf 4 To 9 Yr Old Cows – Bred Blk Or Herf – 4/21 For 45 Days
- 15 Blk Bldy Or Herf Hfrs – Bred Lbw Blk – 4/1
Tom & Susan Vore – 60 Blk 8 To 10 Yr Old Cows – Bred Blk Or Char – 2/15
Sleep Ranch – 45 Blk Mixed Age Cows – Bred Blk Sim – 4/1
- 20 Blk Hfrs – Bred Lbw Blk – 3/25
Elisbury Livestock – 50 Blk & Red Hfrs – Bred Blk – 3/10
Jim & Jean Smeenk – 45 Blk Short Term Cows – Bred Blk – 3/25
Bull Ranch – 20 Blk Hfrs – Bred Lbw Blk – 3/20
- 25 Blk Mixed Age Cows – Bred Blk – 3/20
Triple T Ranch – 40 Blk 8 To 10 Yr Old Cows – Bred Blk – 2/22
Mike Habeck – Dipserion – 40 Red Angus 4 To 9 Yr Old Cows – Bred Gil Red Angus – 3/15
Gary Harrington – 30 Blk Solid To Broken Mouth Cows – Bred Blk – 3/1
Steve Soelzer – 30 Blk 3 & 4 Yr Old Cows – Bred Green Min Angus – 3/10
Larry & Sandra Nelson – 25 Red Short Term Cows – Bred Red Angus – 4/15
Jensen Ranch – 20 Bred Hfrs – 1050# – Bred Blk Angus – 5/1 For 30 Days
Roger Joseph – 6 Blk Solid Mouth Cows – Bred Blk – 3/10

Plus more by sale time!

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Video Auction Time is Coming up very, quickly -
If you are considering filming your Calves or Yearlings for Fall Delivery
Contact Us For Your Video Marketing Needs

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS
Thursday, January 23, 2025
Feeder Lamb Special 1:00 PM
Feeder Lambs
MT – 600 Lambs – 80-90#
SD – 150 Lambs – 100-110#
SD – 70 Lambs – 90#
SD – 90 Lambs – 85#
WY – 330 Lambs – 90#
Bred Ewes
Fishhook – 100 6 Yr Old Ewes – Exposed To Wf Bucks In 12/10
30 Mixed Age Ewes – Wf Bucks – Mid Feb
Plus more by sale time!
Please have animals in by 10:00 AM
So they can all be weighed before the sale!

2025 SHEEP SALES
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

Attention to all Sheep & Goat Producers, it is required that every Male & Female animal over the age of 12 months have a scrapies tag in place to sell. These tags can be obtained by the producer for FREE by calling 1-866-873-2824. If they come to the sale barn without being tagged, you will be charged \$4/hd for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.

St Onge Livestock has a receiving station for the Gillette Area every Thursday. It is on Northern Drive in Gillette. Call Doug Miller at 307-660-0960 to let him know what is coming. You can unload all day every Thursday until 3 pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. You can also call Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259 & he can let them know your cattle are coming also.
THE BROADUS RECEIVING STATION IS TAKING CATTLE EVERY THURSDAY FOR OUR SALES ON FRIDAY. You can drop your cattle off every Thursday by 3pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. For more information, call Tyler or Brandy Escott at 406-421-5579 or 406-951-1666 or Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259.

2025 CATTLE SALES
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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Mick Harrison

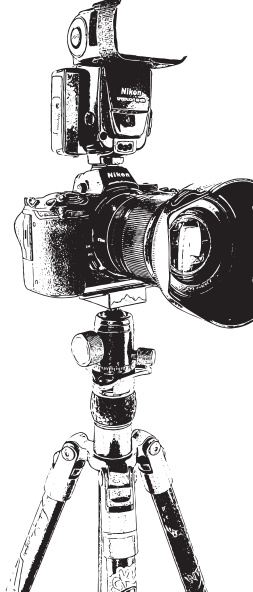
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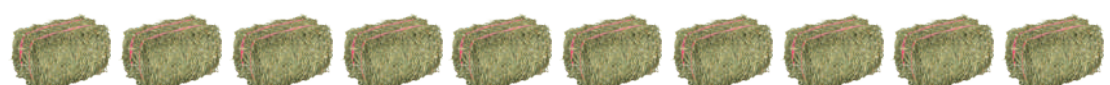
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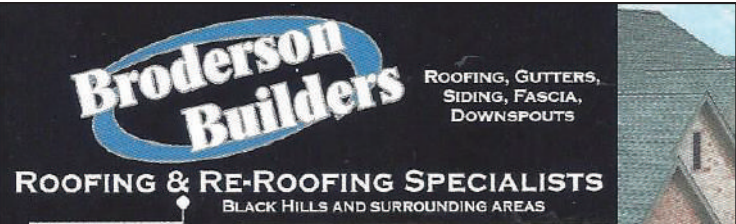
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CANDLES AND MIRRORS #14

By DeAnn Kruempel

“The Heartbeat of Our Communities”

“Step right up! Read all about it!” Do you remember the newspaper boys in the movies as they called out the latest breaking news? Headlines flashed on the screen. Presses churned out copies that spun in wild circles, with profound story titles announcing the end of the war, the destruction of the Hindenburg, the stock market crash. Newspapers have informed the public of world and local happenings since the invention of the printing press in 1440.

Atticus Finch read to his daughter Scout from “The Mobile Register” in To Kill a Mockingbird, highlighting the importance of reading and the father’s dedication to keeping his child informed. Movie and television stars were often depicted with wire-rimmed spectacles riding low on their noses, holding large sheets of newsprint in front of them

Our father also stressed the value of keeping abreast of world and local happenings. He and Mom read the paper nearly every day. We would hear the rustle and see the printed pages held up before them as they scanned their favorite sections. Most often they read after supper in their easy chairs. Sometimes on less-busy winter days, they would sit at the kitchen table. I remember them discussing what they called “the funnies,” the misadventures of Blondie and Dagwood, the escapades of Dennis the Menace, Family Circus, Li'l Abner and Little Orphan Annie. The folks’ talk piqued my curiosity and I began turning to the comics every day. I discovered Dick Tracey with his two-way wrist radio. Imagine that!

Mom enjoyed the women’s pages and often cut out recipes. Both parents read “Ann Landers” and sometimes



laughed at the quirky conundrums of her letter writers. The daily publication was not only a source of news, but also family entertainment. No matter what we read, my five siblings and I learned at a young age that we had better keep that paper in perfect

order and folded neatly when we were finished. Dad did not appreciate re-sorting the pages!

Once a week, the mail man delivered The De Smet News to our mailbox. Almost always there was a story about someone we knew. Back then, people liked to read about social gatherings: who visited whom, birthdays and anniversaries, people in the hospital. School event photos often covered several pages. Mom would cut out stories and pictures that pertained to our family. In my tub of keepsakes, there is a manilla envelope full of articles Mom saved for me. Articles about spelling contests and 4-H awards are mixed with obituaries of grandparents, aunts and uncles; they tell a life story.

Times have changed. We do different things for entertainment now than we did fifty years ago. People use different sources for information. The future of newspapers is uncertain. In some areas readership has declined. Postage has increased drastically. When businesses fold, advertising revenues dwindle. Smaller staff means less local news coverage. In the last twenty years, more than 2,000 small-town newspapers have closed.

Local journalism is the heartbeat of communities. Newspapers tell the story of the people and record it for future generations. They provide a place for dialogue. The information newspapers report is a binding force for communities, the eyes and ears of the public.

In the face of struggling publications, will parents still be able to clip stories of their children to tuck into their keepsake boxes? Will State Champs in 2040 be compared to those in 2025? Can we save our newspapers in spite of our changing world?

Several communities have taken steps to rescue their local newspapers, joining together with every possible resource to continue their publications. They made a

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Local.

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.

124 years ago
THE TIMES
 December 28, 1899

BRAND ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE TIMES will publish brand ads, in the following style, for \$2.00 a year, including subscription to the paper. Send in your order.

STRAYED—One black horse, weight 500, branded on left shoulder, and left hind quarter on left hip. Liberal reward for information. Jas. Cushing, Harding, S. D.

A. E. STUMBAUGH, Belle Fourche, S. D., left side and hip of cattle. Left shoulder of horses. Range, Fort of Indian Creek.

LOUIS MAY, S. D., left shoulder or left thigh of horses, left shoulder, side and hip of cattle.

S. W. P. SELLERS, Belle Fourche, on the left side of cattle, on left shoulder of horses.

on left side and hip of cattle.

R. S. STEVENS, Belle Fourche, left shoulder of cattle and horses.

EMIL LANGOLF, Belle Fourche, on left shoulder and side. Range, Crow creek and Belle Fourche

AL. ASHBY, Capital, Custer county, Mont.

on both hips of cattle.

left shoulder of cattle.

HOUSE BRANDS:
 ROY left hip & shoulder
 6S MT K
 AJ left shoulder brands.

100 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
 January 15, 1925

NORMAL BUILDING BURNED Early Morning Fire Destroyed Main Building at Spearfish Normal Tuesday

Early Tuesday morning of this week fire of unknown origin destroyed the main building at the Spearfish Normal, causing a loss estimated at \$300,000 with no insurance. The fire was first discovered shortly after one o’clock, and soon a stream of water was playing on the flames, but a bread in the supply pipe inside the building so weakened the water pressure that it was useless for fire fighting, and then a bucket brigade was formed, but all this was able to do was prevent the flames from spreading to the dormitory and other buildings. There are many theories as to the cause of the fire, all different, and it will probably never be known just how the flames did start. Some think from the oil room, others are of the opinion that it might have started from some of the electrical appliances in the domestic science room, and many other opinions have been advanced. Only a small amount of the equipment of the building was saved, this includes typewriters from the commercial room, and a portion of the equipment from the manual training, dramatic and physics laboratories. The school vault was located in the basement, and in just what shape the school records will be found will not be known until this cools sufficiently to allow the vault door to be opened. The library, pronounces the second best in the state, is a complete loss, this being estimated at \$50,000, but it would probably require a much larger sum to replace it, as the library comprised the collection of forty years,

difference. So can we. We can subscribe. We can buy copies. Most importantly, we must keep reading. Like Atticus Finch, famous people of the past, and our parents, we must teach our children and grandchildren the love of reading and the need to be informed. Example is the most powerful teacher.

Wire-rimmed spectacles are optional.

and contained some books that were almost priceless. The building destroyed was originally erected in 1883. One addition to it was built in 1887, and still another in 1907, the entire structure being two hundred forty feet in length, and housed the library, chapel, laboratories, classrooms and administrative offices. School has been dismissed for the balance of this week, but by the first of the coming week class room will be arranged in the gymnasium, dormitory, training school, and in the public school buildings of Spearfish to care for the needs of the students and faculty. President E. C. Woodburn of the normal states that there will be not let up in the year’s work, but all classes will be continued as though nothing had happened. This is the greatest fire loss ever sustained by this state.

A REAL EMERGENCY
 The fire at Spearfish normal Tuesday morning of this week creates a real emergency, not only for Spearfish, but for the entire western part of the state, and steps are being taken to meet the emergency at the earliest possible moment. Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held at the Commercial Club rooms in Belle Fourche with four gentlemen from Spearfish, Messrs. Bettleheim, Harkness, Chas. Cooper, and Mr. Cooper, the druggist, at which time the gentlemen from Spearfish were informed that Belle Fourche wanted to do all in its power to assist in getting speedy action on erection of a building to replace the one destroyed by fire. Our members of the legislature had already been advised by wire of this desire. Similar meetings were held at Deadwood, Lead, and Sturgis, and on Wednesday a meeting of the Associated Commercial Clubs was called at Rapid City to consider the matter, Messrs.. Dan McCutchen and R.L. Bronson attended this meeting as representatives from Belle Fourche. Deadwood, Lead, Sturgis, Hot Springs, Custer and Edgemont were also to send representatives. With an enrollment of approximately five hundred through the school year, and eleven hundred summer school students, the Spearfish normal is forging to the front as one of the leading teacher’s training schools of this part of the northwest, and as proof that it is deemed a real necessity, the state board of regents on Tuesday afternoon asked for a special appropriation from the legislature with which to replace the building..

75 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
 January 12, 1950
LOCAL WOMEN TAKE CROCHETING HONORS
 to Tri-State area producers, Mrs. John F. Dacar and Miss Marjorie Pedersen of Belle Fourche have been named

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by Mary Buchholz

among the winners which were selected from over 2,500 first prize winning crochet pieces contesting in the Eighth Annual Nationwide Crochet contest. The crochet work entered in the national contest had first won in local, county and state fairs before being eligible to enter the national contest. Mrs. Dacar was among those receiving honorable mention in the buffet and vanity sets classification. Marjorie Pedersen won honorable mention in the teenage girls’ classification.

BELLE FOURCHE IMPLEMENT FURNISHES HOSPITAL ROOM Refurnishing of another room in the St. Johns Memorial hospital addition has been assured following receipt of a \$770 check from the Belle Fourche Implement Co. The firm, owned by F. B. Roberts, Belle Fourche, and John A. Boland, Rapid City, will furnish a first-floor room with an 18th century style grouping in a mahogany finish. Besides the dining room, which will be opened to use soon after the installation of a service elevator, there remain 11 rooms that need to be refurnished at the local charitable institution.

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
 January 17, 1975
Break-In Losses Will Top \$1000 Police Chief John Tremaine said Thursday that loss and damage from Tuesday night’s break-in at the Piggly Wiggly Store here will run well over \$1000. Among items stolen were 100 stereo tapes, 50 cartons of cigarettes, 15 “Crick-et” lighters, a case of Schlitz beer, along with what appeared to be a random selection of grocery items. Intruders threw a beer bottle thru one of the front windows, crawled thru the hole, loaded two shopping carts, then went out the back door where they apparently loaded the stolen articles into a car.

Telephone Office To Close Here Jan. 22 Belle Fourche residents were reminded this week that the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company’s public office in Belle Fourche will be closed, effective Jan. 22. R. D. Hicks, local manager, explained that the public office closing is part of the company’s program to reduce expenses.

The Belle Fourche office has remained open to handle payment of customer bills; all other business transactions are referred to the Deadwood business office. “For the convenience of our customers, a payment agent has been established in Belle Fourche. Beginning Jan. 22, the First National Bank of the Black Hills, will accept payment of the telephone bills. Payment may also be made by mail.



COWBOYS TOO!

JEANS



COWBOYS TOO!

TODDLER

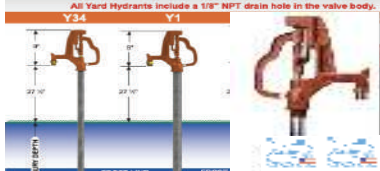
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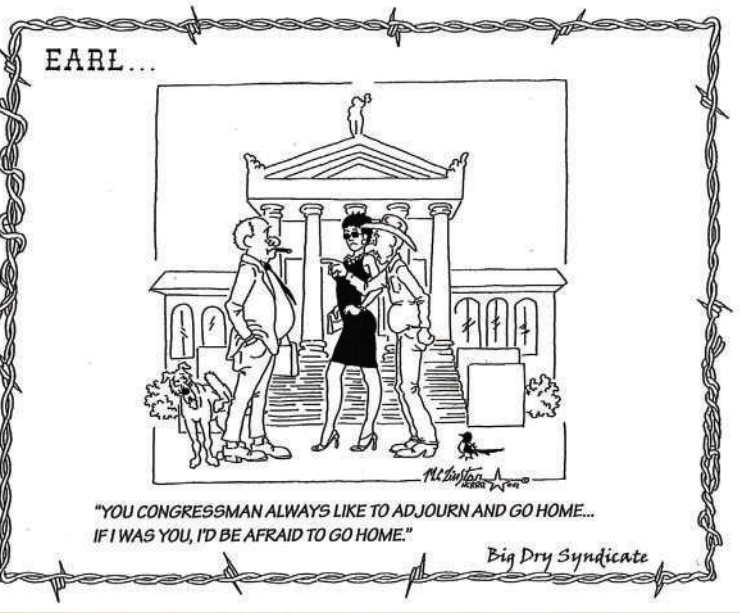
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Market Report - Thursday, January 16, 2025

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	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
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Charles Belch, Upton WY	15	Black-Brd Cow 3	1344	3300.00	\$3,300.00
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	9	Black-Brd Cow 5/6s	1460	3100.00	\$3,100.00
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	17	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1429	2850.00	\$2,850.00
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Two Tone Cattle Co, Spearfish SD	10	Black-Brd Cow 3/4s	1143	3100.00	\$3,100.00
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	20	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 5s	1331	2900.00	\$2,900.00
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	20	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 5s	1257	2900.00	\$2,900.00
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	21	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 5s	1268	2900.00	\$2,900.00
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	15	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1377	2700.00	\$2,700.00
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	13	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1359	2700.00	\$2,700.00
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	30	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Bm	1377	2450.00	\$2,450.00
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	30	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Bm	1373	2400.00	\$2,400.00
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	24	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Bm	1417	2400.00	\$2,400.00
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Ondriezek & Fligge, Upton WY	11	Black-Brd Cow 3s	1065	3000.00	\$3,000.00
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	4	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1386	2400.00	\$2,400.00
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Otiwahe Ranch, Boyes MT	9	Black-Brd Hfr Simx	1070	3035.00	\$3,035.00
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	19	Black-Brd Cow 3/4s	1216	3025.00	\$3,025.00
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	12	Black-Brd Cow 5/6s	1373	2600.00	\$2,600.00
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	18	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1473	2650.00	\$2,650.00
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Consignment From MT	44	Black-Brd Hfr	1050	3000.00	\$3,000.00
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	8	Red-Brd Hfr	1102	2500.00	\$2,500.00
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	6	Blk/Bwf-Brd Hfr	1024	2500.00	\$2,500.00
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Carson Hillard, Ekalaka MT	16	Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1312	2600.00	\$2,600.00
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	5	Rwf/Bwf-Brd Cow	1265	2400.00	\$2,400.00
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Wacy Ortmann, Wolf Point MT	12	Black-Brd Cow 3-6s	1306	3000.00	\$3,000.00
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	16	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow Sm	1480	2400.00	\$2,400.00
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Sam Ortmann, Wolf Point MT	9	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow Sm	1465	2300.00	\$2,300.00
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TI Burch Ranch Llc, Colony WY	3	Black-Brd Cow 3s	982	2800.00	\$2,800.00
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	3	Black-Brd Cow 5/6s	1323	2425.00	\$2,425.00
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	7	Black-Brd Hfr	781	2500.00	\$2,500.00
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	14	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1265	2150.00	\$2,150.00
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Warren & Greta Crawford, Sundance WY	8	Black-Brd Cow 3/4s	1022	3000.00	\$3,000.00
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	6	Black-Brd Cow 5/6s	1330	2700.00	\$2,700.00
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	2	Black-Brd Hfr	943	2800.00	\$2,800.00
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	2	Black-Brd Hfr	828	2400.00	\$2,400.00
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	4	Black-Brd Cow	1269	2650.00	\$2,650.00
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Darrell Or Jeanne Ennen, Rapid City SD	11	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1308	2300.00	\$2,300.00
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WEIGH-UPS

Luke Earley, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1475	132.50	\$1,954.37
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	1	Black-Cow	1545	125.00	\$1,931.25
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Taylor Vroman, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1170	183.00	\$2,141.10
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Claudia Vroman, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Cow	1270	132.00	\$1,676.40
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Douglas Schlabach, Keystone SD	1	Bwf-Cow	1805	125.00	\$2,256.25
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Everett Heinert, Hulett WY	1	Black-Cow	1450	127.00	\$1,841.50
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Jade Blackwell, Box Elder SD	1	Black-Cow	1245	128.00	\$1,593.60
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Consignment From MT	1	Black-Cow	1260	131.00	\$1,650.60
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Everett Heinert, Hulett WY	1	Bwf-Cow	1355	149.00	\$2,018.95
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Tim & Gayline Fortner, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1210	132.00	\$1,597.20
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Dave & Chase Hayden, Baker MT	26	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1263	132.50	\$1,673.83
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	18	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1144	145.50	\$1,664.76
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	3	Black-Hfrt	867	215.00	\$1,863.33
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TI Burch Ranch Llc, Colony WY	25	Black-Hfrt	886	215.50	\$1,910.19
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	1	Black-Hfrt	995	172.50	\$1,716.37
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	10	Black-Cow	1090	146.00	\$1,590.67
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	17	Black-Cow	1275	131.50	\$1,676.62
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Jay Phipps, Brusett MT	20	Red-Hfrt	870	220.50	\$1,917.24
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Lacy Williams, Broadus MT	3	Black-Cow	1215	121.00	\$1,470.15
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	1	Black-Cow	1405	130.00	\$1,826.50
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	1	Black-Cow	1385	133.00	\$1,842.05
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Twenty One Ranch Inc, Sundance WY	2	Red-Cow	1298	141.00	\$1,829.47
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	18	Red/Rwf-Hfrt	1028	196.50	\$2,019.58
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	1	Red-Cowette	1265	152.00	\$1,922.80
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	1	Rwf-Hfrt	910	217.00	\$1,974.70
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Brenden Casteel, Vale SD	1	Black-Cow	1430	133.00	\$1,901.90
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T C Outfit Lp, Vale SD	16	Black-Hfrt	1122	180.50	\$2,024.98
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Joe Fortner, Biddle MT	3	Black-Cow	1335	132.50	\$1,768.87
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Tom Riggs, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1465	132.00	\$1,933.80
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Two Tone Cattle Co, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Cow	1345	130.00	\$1,748.50
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Michael & Melanie Pittman, Belle Fourche	2	Black-Cow	1430	133.00	\$1,901.90
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Gary Bischoff, Alzada MT	18	Red/Rwf-Hfrt	829	214.00	\$1,774.41
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Gary Bischoff, Alzada MT	11	Red-Cow	1048	151.00	\$1,582.06
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Joe Fortner, Biddle MT	14	Black-Hfrt	1039	190.50	\$1,979.15
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	13	Black-Cow	1313	131.50	\$1,727.20
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	11	Black-Cow	1184	120.50	\$1,426.28
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	1	Black-Cow	1810	128.00	\$2,316.80
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Ronny Or Rhonda Casteel, Vale SD	6	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1268	123.00	\$1,559.02
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	1	Black-Cow	1340	130.50	\$1,748.70
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Jeff Swaney, Rozet WY	4	Rd/Blk-Cow	1331	124.50	\$1,657.40
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	1	Black-Cow	1285	141.00	\$1,811.85
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	1	Hfrt-Cow	1320	126.00	\$1,663.20
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Daniel Bird, Olive MT	5	Black-Cow	1181	145.00	\$1,712.45
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	2	Black-Cow	1143	145.00	\$1,656.62
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	8	Black-Cow	1316	126.00	\$1,657.68
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Ken & Karen Rogers, Sanders MT	11	Black-Hfrt	1073	181.00	\$1,941.63
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	1	Black-Cow	1245	151.00	\$1,879.95
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Tom Sparks, Plevna MT	7	Hfrt-Cow	1386	124.00	\$1,719.17
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Jensen Livestock Llc, Belle Fourche SD	6	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1460	134.50	\$1,963.70
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	4	Black-Cow	1401	127.50	\$1,786.59
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	5	Black-Cow	1299	131.00	\$1,701.69
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Wolf Ranch Llc, Hulett WY	1	Bwf-Cow	1315	145.00	\$1,906.75
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	1	Black-Cow	1590	131.50	\$2,090.85
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Charles Belch, Upton WY	4	Black-Cow	1329	133.00	\$1,767.23
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STOCK SHOW BRED SPECIAL

JANUARY 30, 2025

WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | BREDS @ 12 MT

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Jason Bollinger | 406-690-8344

Wyoming

Mike Greenough | 307-620-2597

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JANUARY 23, 2025

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DAYS, NO HFRS KEPT

JOHN BRUCH -SD

160 - 100 BLK/RED STRS & 60 HFRS

450-600# & 550#

PC, NI, ALL NATURAL, POURED

GARY BISCHOFF-MT

130 RED HFRS

400-450#

PC, NI

X HEART RANCH -WY

60 BLK HFRS

600-650#

PC, NI,



Auditions will be held Monday, Feb. 3 and Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 6-8 p.m. at the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche for the next 1903 Reader’s Theatre production entitled “Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel.”

The play is a comedy-mystery about the goings-on at the Don Pratt Hotel on a weekend in 1930, the year the hotel opened in Belle Fourche. The hotel is swirling with rumors about a secret poker game to be held in the hotel basement and about bootleggers

Belle Fourche Beacon ‘Happenings’ and News Bytes Calendar

1903 Reader’s Theatre Contd.

who may – or may not – be in town. Central to the action is brand-new switchboard operator Myrna Chasley, who struggles to learn her job, deal with her imperious boss, Mrs. Hirschfield, and handle calls between the colorful hotel guests.

The play will incorporate some history about the area, the hotel, national politics and Prohibition. A key prop will be a period hotel switchboard, used onstage by Myrna, which comes from the museum’s collections.

There are roles for approximately nine actors: five women and four men. Adults of all ages are encouraged to audition, and previous theatre

experience is not required. Typical of reader’s theatre, lines are not learned for the performance, as actors carry scripts.

Rehearsals will be Feb. 9-13, and performances at 7 p.m. on February 14 and 2 p.m. on February 15. The play is produced jointly by the Belle Fourche Arts Council and the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center. A silent auction and refreshments will be provided by the Arts Council members. Tickets will be \$2 per person.

For more information, call the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center at 605-723-1200. The Tri-State is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.



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Tri-State Museum opens mini exhibit about the history of calendars

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center of Belle Fourche will open a mini exhibit entitled “Calendars,” on Saturday, February 8 with a through-the-day reception of specially made cupcakes and beverages. There is no admission charge to attend.

“Calendars” examines the history of calendars from the ancient world to the modern one, including the origins of the names of days and months,

lunar and solar calendars, the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar and calendars of various cultures through time.

The exhibit includes storyboards, photos, a touchscreen quiz, a take-home packet and children’s books to read.

It will also include artifacts from the museum’s collections,

which include a wide variety of regional and local calendars through the decades.

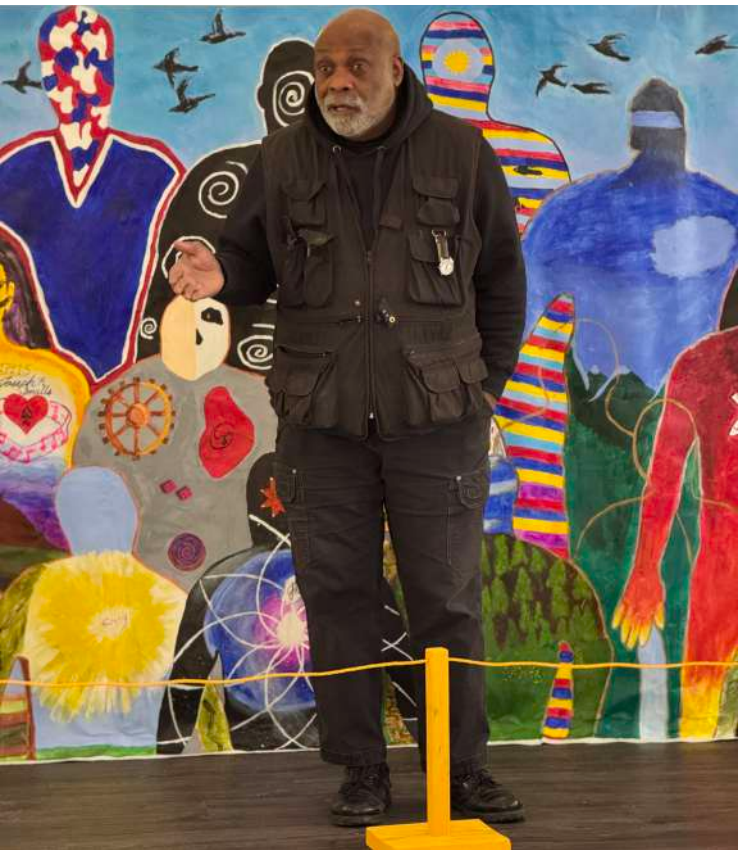
This exhibit will be in place through April 10th and can be found in the Visitor Center. For more information about “Calendars,” call 605-723-1200. The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.



The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater is excited about this year’s season! Join them on January 25th at Venue 519 for their Annual Meeting. Thinking about getting involved and supporting local theater? Membership is only \$25. BFACT also offers opportunities for actors, set builders, costume designers, lights & sound technicians, and tech crew backstage.



The BFMS Play is underway! Directors **Reva Potter & Rachel Munce** cast 65 amazing 6th, 7th, and 8th grade thespians in both acting and tech roles for the March production of the three-act comedic mystery, ***Magic***. *Courtesy Photos*



Lawrence J Diggs traveled from Roslyn, SD to express support for the “***I Believe Arts & Incarceration Touring Exhibition***” at the ***Bright Gallery*** in Belle Fourche on January 1st. Diggs has served as the Buddhist Prison Chaplin with the SD Dept of Corrections for ten years.

The 17-foot floor mural was created by 18 participants at the Mike Durfee State Prison, Springfield, in 2024. The project was funded in part by a @South Dakota Department of Health Innovations grant. Ari Albright, Creative Care, LLC initiated the project which will continue its tour through the state. *Courtesy Photos*



Ari Albright describes the “***I believe Arts & Incarceration Touring Project***” and the benefits of creative expression.



Ari Albright, Lawrence Diggs, Cathy and Clark Sowers, and the Jolleys. ***I Believe Arts & Incarceration*** Touring Exhibition



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Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

CONNECTION CHURCH (SBC)
613 Sixth ave., Belle Fourche
(605)-210-2150
Pastor Stephen Carson
Worship Pastor Ashton Rone
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
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(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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and on Facebook.
Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL
6th and Roundup
892-2446
The Rev. Evelyn Weaver
The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon
Rev. Mike Weaver
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ST. JAMES LUTHERAN
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www.sjlbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

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

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Father Kevin Achbach, Pastor
Father Francis Nsubuga, Assoc. Pastor
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Daily Mass: Weds. & Thurs. 12:15 p.m.
Confessions available one hour
before all Masses

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

**VALE COMMUNITY COUNTRY
CHURCH**
Pastor Darla Dunn
402 Rosander St. Vale SD 57788
Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
605-210-0512



Capitol News
January 12, 2024
Winter snow has
covered Capitol and
Tie Creek. We had
a couple of days

of wind along with the snow,
but the moisture was nice that
cleaned the air.
Dick and Erma Albert stayed
close to home this week. The
snow had drifted up, and Dick's
pick-up was still in the shop, so
they didn't get out until Friday,
for the Senior Citizen Dinner.
Erma stayed to play cards, and
then got a ride home, later.
They got someone to plow them
out, so on Sunday they went to
church. They joined the Helms,
and Erk families, and Father Bri-
an, for lunch at Saloon Number
Three. In the afternoon, Erma
talked to her sister in Texas, who
had snow even down there. Her
sister had to find a heater when
her electricity went off, but by
morning the electricity was back
on again.

Wade Pearson came out to Alvin
and Marlee Cordell's, on Tuesday.
Ryan Cordell and Charlie Selting
helped him sort and ship calves
to personal buyers. Will Sacrison
brought out a snowmobile for
Alvin, on Wednesday. Then, on
Thursday, Alvin made a trip to
Buffalo. On Saturday, Charlie
helped Alvin finish the corral
project at the Horton place. It
has been taking lots of time to
feed hay each day, and may be
a long winter. On Saturday eve-
ning, Alvin and Marlee went in
to Camp Crook for supper at the
Corner Cafe.
Lynn Gustafson went in to Camp
Crook, on Wednesday, for the
Diligent Doers Extension Club
Christmas meeting. Their usual
Christmas gathering had been
delayed due to the weather. The
meeting was held at the new
City Hall. Services at the Little
Missouri Church were cancelled
again, due to the blizzard condi-
tions.
Julia Davis had gotten the flu last
Sunday, and it lingered a couple
of days, but by the end of the
week she was back to work at the
courthouse in Buffalo. They went
to the Stock Growers' Meeting in
Buffalo, and heard some inter-
esting speakers in the afternoon.
A load of cake was delivered to
the ranch, and that afternoon
Doug made a trip to the Hills
for parts and supplies. Morgan
Buck had caught the flu, so they
encouraged him to stay home
and not share it at the ranch. The
wind had come up in the night,
early Sunday, like a real blizzard.
When they talked to Travis and
Amanda, they learned that Rory
and Oliver were out playing in
the snow in Alabama. Good

thing they took home their
winter snowsuits.
Ernie, Rachel and Tommy
Melum made a trip to town, on
Friday, to stock up on groceries.
They got supplies for Junior
and Shirley, too, so they are all
prepared for the long haul.
Dorothy and Dawn Padden had
been to Buffalo, on Tuesday,
for the girls' basketball games
against Hettinger-Scranton.
Then, on Wednesday, they both
went to the Camp Crook City
Hall for the Diligent Doers
Extension Club meeting. On
Friday and Saturday, Brandon
and Ashley Padden were coach-
ing wrestlers. Brandon, Brenton
and Brylen went to Hettinger,
North Dakota for a boys' meet,
while Ashley and Kanyn went to
Douglas, Wyoming for a girls'
meet, only a couple of states
apart. On Saturday the wind
average was measured at 25
mph for the day, and Bryce and
Dawn had fun at home trying to
keep from being stuck in drifts.
Dawn got herself out, a couple
of times, but had to have help
once, when Bryce had bales on
the tractor and loader. Bryce
just lowered the loader bale and
pushed her out on his way past.
One time, someone had gotten
three-fourths of the way up to
the main house, and then had
to back all that way back out
to the road. Taking out across
the pasture, and avoiding the
big drifts, proved to be a better
choice than taking on the piled
snow that had been plowed
before. By Sunday, the wind had
calmed to let feeding be a little
less exciting.
Karen Odell had a quiet week.
About a foot of snow covered
everything, so she stayed home
until Wednesday, when Chancey
Odell came over and plowed her
out. She got her mail and went
to Camp Crook to mail some
letters. Hywel has such thick
fur, that he loved the snow even
when the temperature reached
down to zero. There was snow
flurries during part of nearly
every day this week, and on Sat-
urday the wind came up again,
blowing things into big long
snow drifts. On Sunday, things
were still below ten degrees
all day, but the wind had died
down and the sun shone in the
windows so that the inside cats
could take a sun bath. Chancey
came over again to plow Karen's
road, and to clear the vehicles.
We may have some needed
moisture out of this snow.
It's bad enough for politicians
to use my hard-earned money
to go on trips to Europe, Africa,
and tropical islands, but it's
totally unfair for them to come
back.

connecting farmers to consumers
and providing education and
resources for sustainable agricul-
ture. ASAP's efforts have creat-
ed jobs and improved access to
fresh, healthy food in both rural
and urban communities.
Recognizing the crucial role
of leadership, many organiza-
tions are investing in leadership
development programs specifi-
cally tailored for rural commu-
nities. The Blandin Foundation,
for example, has worked with
rural leaders across Minnesota
for over 25 years through its
Blandin Community Leadership
Program (BCLP) and Blandin
Reservation Community Leader-
ship Program (BRCLP)
The Rural Development
Initiatives' Rural Community
Leadership Program (RCLP)
is another example, connecting
rural Pacific Northwest residents
to each other and to community
efforts. This program encourages
involvement, collaboration, and
collective action while building
fundamental skills.
Leadership matters immense-
ly in revitalizing small rural

communities. Effective lead-
ers serve as the driving force
behind community engagement,
resource mobilization, and
strategic planning. They help
communities identify their
unique strengths, build on their
cultural heritage, and create
a shared vision for the future.
As rural communities continue
to face challenges, investing
in leadership development
becomes increasingly critical.
By nurturing local leaders and
providing them with the tools
and resources they need, we can
empower rural communities to
chart their own path towards
vibrancy and sustainability.
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**.

Leadership - Cornerstone of revitalizing Your Community

In a time when rural
areas face numerous
challenges, effective
leadership emerges as
the critical factor in
steering these com-
munities towards a
thriving future. Rural
communities often grapple
with issues such as population
decline, economic stagnation,
and limited access to resources.
According to the National Main
Street Center, Main Streets in
rural America are more than just
thoroughfares; they represent
“the economic engine, the big
stage, the community’s living
room”
These areas tell the story of
who we are, who we were, and
how the past has shaped us.
However, many of these com-
munities have fallen into de-
cline over the past 50 years due
to shifting economic and social
forces. This is where strong
leadership becomes paramount.
Effective leaders in rural com-
munities possess a unique set of
skills and qualities that enable
them to navigate complex chal-
lenges and inspire collective
action. They understand that
revitalization is not just about
economic development, but
also about fostering a sense of



community, preserving
cultural heritage, and
creating a shared vision
for the future.
Research has shown
that leadership is a
significant predictor of
community success.
Liz Parham, director of North
Carolina’s Main Street Program,
emphasizes that “The more suc-
cessful towns have a champion.
The really successful ones have
multiple champions”. These
champions are individuals who
can mobilize their community
around a shared vision and
persevere through inevitable
setbacks. Effective rural leaders
employ several key strategies.
They articulate community
challenges in a way that encour-
ages participation and idea-shar-
ing from all members.
They intentionally work with
individuals holding diverse
perspectives to build social
capital and tap into available
resources. They leverage their
social capital to gather suffi-
cient people and resources to
accomplish community goals
and sustain efforts over time.
Successful leaders help com-
munities identify and capitalize
on their distinctive strengths.
For instance, the town of Todd

focused on a summer music
series, while Hayesville built a
bike trail to showcase its natural
heritage.
The Main Street Four-Point
Approach®, developed by the
National Main Street Cen-
ter, has been instrumental in
transforming how communities
approach revitalization. This
comprehensive, incremental
strategy has proven effective
across cities and states since
1977. It emphasizes: Economic
Vitality, Design, Promotion, and
Organization. This approach
has yielded impressive results.
Between 1980 and 2020, Main
Street communities have seen
\$89.57 billion in total reinvest-
ment, with 687,321 building
rehabilitations and 150,079 net
new businesses.
Several rural communities
have demonstrated the power of
effective leadership in driving
revitalization.
The HandMade in America’s
Small Town Revitalization Pro-
gram: This initiative works with
rural towns of under 2,000 res-
idents to revitalize physical and
civic infrastructure. By develop-
ing local leadership capacity and
providing technical assistance,
the program has helped commu-
nities like Todd and Hayesville
focus on their unique assets and
opportunities.
The Appalachian Sustainable
Agriculture Project (ASAP):
This program in the United
States has revitalized the re-
gion’s agricultural economy by

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"
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10" 12" 14" 16" 18" 20" 22" 24" 26" 28" 30" 32" 34" 36" 38" 40" 42" 44" 46" 48" 50" 52" 54" 56" 58" 60" 62" 64" 66" 68" 70" 72" 74" 76" 78" 80" 82" 84" 86" 88" 90" 92" 94" 96" 98" 100"

South Dakota Legislature: Property taxes, pipelines, prisons

Stu Whitney
www.sdnewswatch.org

The 100th session of the South Dakota Legislature in Pierre will be historic not just for its centennial landmark but because of transitions in power. Gov. Kristi Noem is scheduled to give her State of the State address Jan. 14 and then head to Washington for hearings on her nomination to become secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in the administration of President-elect Donald Trump. She can't be officially confirmed until about a week later, when Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden is expected to be sworn as South Dakota's 34th governor, just in time for a legislative session rife with Republican power shifts and looming budget battles. Even with these developments, the 2025 session in Pierre is more about issues than eras. Lawmakers are prepared to tackle the three Ps – property taxes, pipelines and prisons – as well as school vouchers, Medicaid funding and child care programs. It's hard to keep up without a scorecard, so here's a primer on what to watch for as the South Dakota legislative session opens Tuesday.

Raising sales tax to cut property taxes

Property tax relief is a hot topic in Pierre, given that total payments have increased by nearly 60% for residential housing and nearly 50% for commercial property over the past decade in South Dakota. The problem with cutting property taxes, which help fund local school districts and city and county governments, is that typically you need to backfill that lost revenue with general fund dollars to pay for education and reduce the local effort for school districts. Rep. Tony Venhuizen (R- Sioux Falls) has floated a proposal to increase the sales tax rate from 4.2% to 5%, which would raise an estimated \$280 million in general fund revenue. That money would be used to reduce the levy for owner-occupied homes to fund education at the local level to zero. "This is meant to start the conversation on property tax relief and to make the point that it costs a lot of money," said Venhuizen, whose plan is co-sponsored by Sen. Randy Deibert (R-Spearfish). "I'd say that property tax relief is easily the top issue that I hear about from other legislators." Raising the sales tax rate, which legislators temporarily lowered from 4.5% to 4.2% in 2023, would require a two-thirds majority vote in both chambers. It could encounter turbulence from limited-government leadership in Pierre, even with the property tax offsets elsewhere. The measure is also unlikely to win over Democrats, who are outnumbered by Republicans 31-4 in the Senate and 63-7 in the House of Representatives. Rep. Kady Wittman (D-Sioux Falls) noted that property tax relief does little to help low-income residents and non-homeowners who would be impacted by higher sales tax rates on purchases. "If you really want to impact every single South Dakotan in a tangible way, it would be better to look at removing the grocery tax," Wittman told News



Watch. "I think that would be a better utilization of our legislative powers." Voters rejected a grocery plan repeal on the 2024 ballot, but critics mainly derided the measure's overly broad language rather than the merits of eliminating the food tax. Venhuizen's property tax relief plan harkens back to 1995, when Gov. Bill Janklow pushed through a 30% property tax reduction, offsetting the lost tax revenue to schools by increasing the state's education contribution. The program also updated the state's education aid formula and established property tax caps. Rep. Will Mortenson of Fort Pierre, who served as Republican House majority leader the past two years, called the proposal "bold and clear-headed" amid all the property tax noise. "A lot of people have been talking about property taxes as a campaign issue, but to this point, any changes have been kind of around the periphery," Mortenson told News Watch. "This proposal would deliver substantial, noticeable property tax relief to homeowners across the state. I wouldn't make a guess as to whether it's going to pass or not, but I applaud (Venhuizen and Deibert) for having the guts to do it."

Proposal sparks school voucher debate

Lively debate is also expected on Noem's push for "education savings accounts" that would provide state money to help students enroll in private schools or help parents pay for homeschooling outside the traditional public school system. In her Dec. 3 budget address, the governor proposed spending \$4 million in ongoing state dollars to provide about \$3,000 per eligible student to offset the cost of private or alternative schools as a way to "prioritize education" in the state. In her budget explanation, Noem said the funds would initially be eligible for "South Dakota kids who need it most" but added that the program could later expand to make all families in the state eligible for payments. She said the program will create new options for parents and increase competition in the educational landscape across the state. The proposal was formally introduced on Jan. 8 as House Bill 1020 by House Majority Leader Scott Odenbach (R-Spearfish) and Senate Majority Leader Jim Mehlhaff (R-Pierre). The so-called school choice bill would allow the money to be used for tuition at private schools and "micro-schools" for materials for homeschooling or for entrance exam or virtual learning fees not covered by a local school district. Critics of the proposal — including several organizations focused on improving public education — said it is a veiled attempt to begin a school voucher program. Voucher programs in other states have resulted mostly from conservative-led efforts to enable more children to attend private, religious or charter schools or to expand home-schooling. Noem said her program would not reduce funding to the state K-12 system, though her proposed budget includes only a 1.25% spending increase for public schools, well below the recent inflation rate. Rob Monson, executive director



Gov. Kristi Noem speaks to legislators during the *State of the State* address on Jan. 9, 2024, at South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre. (Photo: Argus Leader)

Gov. Kristi Noem speaks to legislators during the State of the State address on Jan. 9, 2024, at *South Dakota State Capitol* in Pierre. (Photo: Argus Leader)

of the School Administrators of South Dakota, said during a Jan. 8 conference call that conservatives in the Legislature have been trying for years to create a voucher program. Monson said Noem's proposal, as well as other proposed measures such as House Bill 1009, will ultimately siphon funding from the public education system that serves all children regardless of income, race, ethnicity or disability status. Monson said backers of voucher programs try to demonize public education and claim it is failing and "indoctrinates" students, which he said is false. He and other public education backers also pointed out that private schools, alternative schools and home-schooled children do not have to undergo the same levels of transparency and accountability that public schools must meet. Monson said the new leadership in the Legislature appears to be more favorable to vouchers or Noem's proposed education savings accounts in the upcoming session, and he expects a big battle in Pierre. "We're going to see an attack this year, we believe, on the public school institution bigger than we have ever seen (in South Dakota)" he said.

Anti-pipeline forces target eminent domain

Republican populists are still feeling the energy from the 2024 election defeat of Referred Law 21, a "Landowner Bill of Rights" package that critics decried as more favorable to ethanol producers and carbon pipeline companies. Groups such as the Freedom Caucus and Dakota First PAC exploited the pipeline issue in GOP primaries by highlighting the votes of incumbent legislators, several of whom were defeated to set up the leadership shift. Though the fate of Summit Carbon Solutions' \$5.5 billion, 2,500-mile pipeline plan will likely play out in the courts and Public Utilities Commission hearings, expect more fireworks in Pierre. Jim Eschenbaum of the South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance told News Watch that the focus will be on tightening restrictions

on eminent domain, which involves taking private property for public use while requiring fair compensation. "I've heard people say that the interstate system couldn't have been built without eminent domain," said Eschenbaum, who is also running for chair of the South Dakota Republican Party. "But the interstate system was literally for the use of all, and it was for the greater good. This pipeline doesn't fit that description at all." Whether Summit Carbon Solutions qualifies as a "common carrier" under state legal parameters for eminent domain is being litigated in court and will likely play a large role in legislative debates. Property rights supporters will rally at the state Capitol rotunda on Jan. 13, the day before session opens. Republican legislators expected to attend include Speaker of the House Jon Hansen (Dell Rapids) and House Speaker Pro Tempore Karla Lems (Canton), both of whom are strident opponents of the pipeline project. Amanda Radke, a Mitchell rancher and ag representative who has emerged as a leader on the issue, will address the gathering. Eschenbaum said he will be on hand to emphasize the need to "clarify the limits of eminent domain." The movement will test the remaining influence of mainstream, pro-business Republicans, who have stressed the positive impact of eminent domain for large-scale development projects that create jobs and increase tax revenue for the state. "The thing that concerns me most is this "not in my backyard" sentiment bleeding over into other areas of commerce or industry," Mortenson said. "South Dakota has been viewed as a place where you can come and build something without the government getting in the way. I really worry that because of anger over the pipeline, some of these folks will go too far and cut off our nose to spite our face by blocking construction and development of businesses that could keep our small towns vital and allow other towns to grow."

Legislators take aim at Medic-

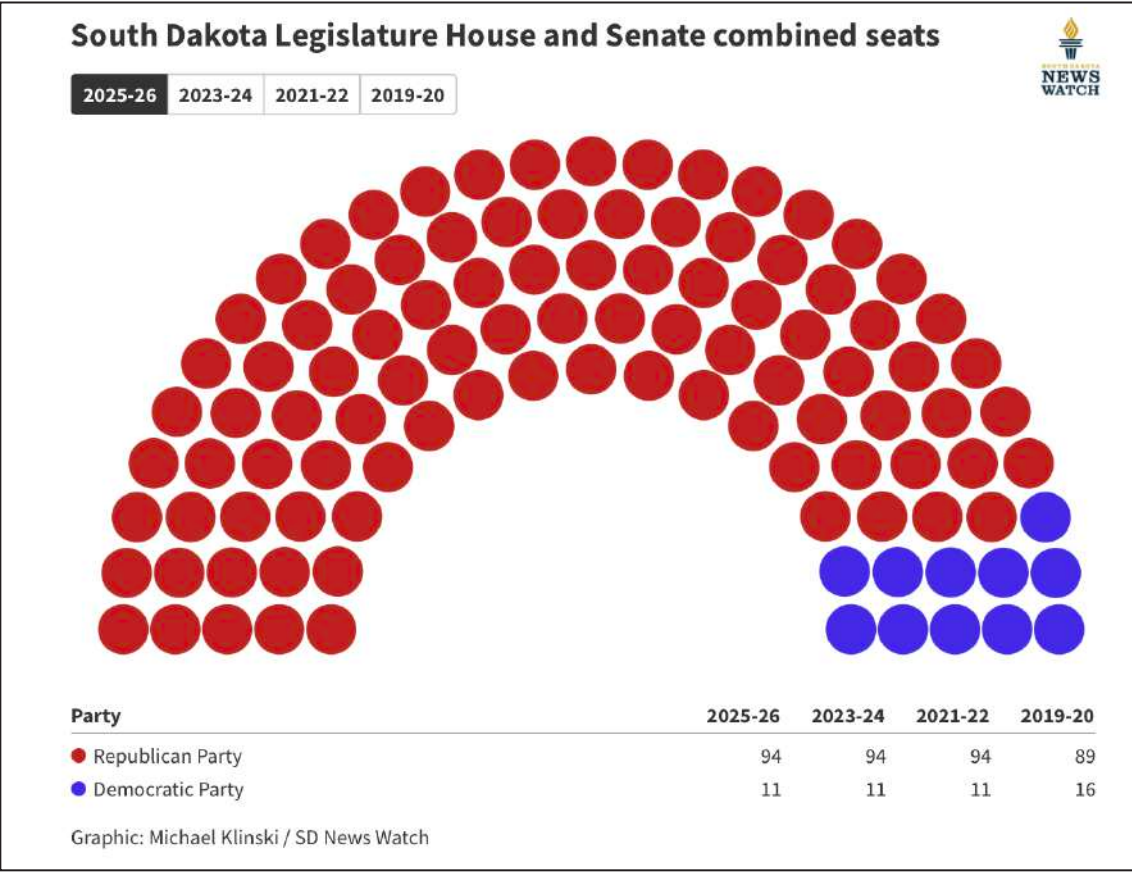
aid expansion

South Dakota voters passed Medicaid expansion in 2022, extending health care coverage to more low-income residents under the Affordable Care Act, with the federal government covering 90 percent of the cost. That arrangement will cost South Dakota about \$20 million each fiscal year if the matching rate remains the same. Venhuizen and Sen. Casey Crabtree (R-Madison) have put forth a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that ties Medicaid expansion in South Dakota to the level of federal assistance. If the federal matching rate drops below 90%, as some have suggested it could as the Trump administration looks to reform spending strategies, the South Dakota Constitution would no longer require the state to continue Medicaid expansion. "As things stand now, if they cut the match rate from 90% to 80% or 70%, we would have no choice," said Venhuizen. "We would have to come up with the money and pay it. So the point of this amendment is to say, if it drops below 90%, then it's up to the Legislature. We don't have to get out. If they drop it to 88% or 89%, we would probably stay in. If they drop it more than that, at what point does it become so expensive that the state can't afford it?" Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps cover medical costs for qualified individuals with limited income and resources. The Affordable Care Act in 2010 expanded Medicaid to include nearly all adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, which translates to an annual gross salary of about \$21,000 for an individual or \$43,000 for a family of four. South Dakota was one of the Republican-led states that resisted expansion, which meant childless adults without a disability were ineligible for Medicaid coverage regardless of income level. Many also didn't qualify for ACA subsidies to help obtain private coverage. In 2022, South Dakota became one of 40 states to expand Medicaid when voters approved

Legislature Contd. C5



State Rep. Tony Venhuizen, a Sioux Falls Republican, has floated a proposal to increase the sales tax rate from 4.2% to 5%, which would raise an estimated \$280 million in general fund revenue for property tax relief. (Photo: Submitted)



South Dakota Legislature: Continued from C5

Stu Whitney
.www.sdnewswatch.org
a constitutional amendment with 56% of the vote.

Two years later, Venhuizen sponsored a ballot amendment that could eliminate Medicaid benefits in South Dakota, subject to federal approval. That measure also passed with 56% approval.

Wittman criticized the latest effort, saying that measures that could eliminate Medicaid expansion in South Dakota altogether show a lack of regard for state residents that require assistance.

“I’m really tired of the South Dakota Legislature continuing to punish people who are vulnerable and marginalized and living in poverty,” Wittman told News Watch. “I really do not understand Rep. Venhuizen’s vitriol towards individuals that utilize this particular government support system. If this is truly about him wanting to make smart use of taxpayer dollars, I believe there are other places in our budget where he could focus his efforts and it would not further marginalize

an already vulnerable population.”

Budget battle for public broadcasting

Among the belt-tightening measures proposed by Noem in her budget address, cutting South Dakota Public Broadcasting’s funding by 65% has received a lot of attention.

The governor put the \$3.6 million budget cut in national terms when presenting her proposal, which earmarked \$1.9 million for SDPB in fiscal year 2026. The network had requested \$5.6 million.

“Currently, South Dakota has the third-highest per capita funding of public broadcasting of any state in the nation,” Noem said in her budget address. “We’ve been paying more than double the national average.”

SDPB, which relies on state funding and private donations, provides livestreamed coverage of state legislative hearings as well as South Dakota High School Activities Association championship events, in addition to its news, weather and commentary programming, which includes National Public Radio.



Students work on English assignments at **Sapa Un Jesuit Academy** on the **Rosebud Indian Reservation** in St. Francis, S.D. **Gov. Kristi Noem** has proposed a plan to provide state money to help students enroll in private schools or help parents pay for homeschooling. (Photo: Submitted)

“A cut of this size and scale will force significant reductions to all these important services,” the network said in a statement. “This cut is likely to disproportionately affect rural service, where SDPB’s programming is most valued.”

During her 2022 re-election campaign, Noem refused to participate in a debate sponsored by the public broadcasting network, with her team saying in a statement that “SDPB’s extreme leftward swing precludes the possibility of a fair debate.”

While her likely exit from Pierre might shield her from political fallout from the budget cuts, some lawmakers view it differently. Pulling support from something that serves as a conduit to legislative proceedings as well as statewide sports and fine arts events has caused some angst among constituents.

“It’s probably the cut that I’ve heard the most opposition to since the budget address,” said Venhuizen. “I know a lot of legislators are hoping that we can avoid that cut, but the reality of the budget situation this year is that it’s a zero-sum game. And so unless we have cause to increase our revenue estimate in a month, we’re going to have to find a dollar elsewhere for every dollar we

restore.”

Noem seeks to close prison deal

South Dakota Department of Corrections officials have informed legislators that the guaranteed maximum price for a planned new men’s state prison is \$825 million, higher than previous estimates.

That includes \$737 million in construction for the 1,500-inmate facility at the proposed site between Harrisburg and Canton in Lincoln County, making it the largest one-time capital investment in state history.

The fact that the prison involves “one time” dollars puts it on a different tier of budget discussion from ongoing expenditures such as health care and education funding, but the governor is looking to close the deal.

Noem’s proposal includes putting \$182 million in a prison fund that, combined with interest already accrued, would fully fund the project, a clear priority when it comes to shaping her executive legacy.

The Legislature has already committed \$87 million to build a new women’s prison in Rapid City, with a likely completion date of early 2026.

Some of the same lawmakers

who opposed the carbon pipeline project have expressed concern about the men’s prison site, which could lead to some interesting discussions in Pierre.

If the project goes through as planned, the outgoing governor will be justified in chalking it up as a win for her administration, said Mortenson.

“It’s not a popular thing to build a prison,” he told News Watch. “The public would rather spend this money on education or nursing homes or other things, but she saw a need. Our current facilities are falling short of their mission of rehabilitating people and being a Department of Corrections, not just a department of incarceration. She said, ‘You know what, we’ve got the money, let’s do something about it,’ and I give her credit for that.”

Bart Pfankuch contributed reporting to this story, which was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit organization. Read more stories and donate at sdnewswatch.org and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they’re published. Contact Stu Whitney at stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org



Jim Eschenbaum of the **South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance** listens to Democratic U.S. House candidate **Sheryl Johnson** talk about the carbon pipeline issue during a Sept. 18, 2024, meeting in Platte, S.D. (Photo: Submitted)

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A woman walks into the **South Dakota Department of Social Services** office on Aug. 22, 2024, in Sioux Falls, S.D. In November, South Dakotans voted to add work requirements to Medicaid expansion in the state. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

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Gov. Kristi Noem unscathed in Senate confirmation hearing to be Homeland Security secretary

Republican and Democratic senators say national security a bipartisan issue that should focus on protecting Americans

Jonathan Ellis
www.thedakotascout.com

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem breezed through her Senate confirmation hearing Friday, vowing to follow the laws created by Congress and to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

She also vowed to help President-elect Donald Trump make a 180-degree turn on the last four years of border policy.

Noem's hearing was largely an exercise in bipartisanship, with both Democratic and Republican committee members expressing the need for both political parties to work together to keep the United States safe. That tone was set by the ranking Democratic member on the committee, Michigan Sen. Gary Peters.

"Let's move away from this toxic political environment that we have in the country and celebrate what's great about our country in the spirit of brining the American people together," he said.

"It's a non-partisan role," agreed Oklahoma Republican Sen. James Lankford. "It is a national security role."

The hearing was a departure from some of the more confrontational hearings that have taken place this week for Trump's nominees, including defense secretary and attorney general.

Peters was joined by his fellow northern border state Sen. Margaret Hassan, D-N.H., to express concern about that border. While the focus of illegal immigration and national security threats have been on the border with Mexico, they said that the northern border was also a concern.

Noem pledged to work to secure the resources necessary to expand personnel and technology on the border – Hassan said remote parts of the border

don't have cell service – noting that the northern border has geographic challenges that the southern border doesn't have.

Hassan questioned why Noem had turned down federal cybersecurity grants through a program she had sponsored. The program had allocated \$1 billion for states over four years to apply for grants to help upgrade local government cybersecurity networks. Hassan said she was a sponsor of the program, and she asked why South Dakota was one of only two states to turn down the grants.

Noem responded that the grants included requirements that she expand state government and resources to accept them, which she declined to do. She also cited the South Dakota's in-house cybersecurity resources

Hassan said she had created the program to be streamlined and non-burdensome to states, but she said she looked forward to having a future conversation with Noem about why the South Dakota governor thought there were requirements placed on states.

The exchange was polite, and about as confrontational as Noem faced over the course of two and a half hours of questioning.

Cybersecurity – one of the areas overseen by Homeland Security – came up repeatedly during the hearing, and Noem talked about various Chinese-led hacking attacks. She mentioned the state's expertise in the area with Dakota State University, noting that the Madison, South Dakota school had trained employees used by the National Security Agency.

But other areas of Homeland Security were not touched on – with Noem expressing surprise near the end of her hearing that more questions hadn't been addressed about the Transportation Security Administration.

The dominant subject was on border security. Arizona Democratic Sen. Ruben Gallego

wanted assurances that Homeland Security would continue to assist small border communities with assistance. Those communities, he said, bear the brunt of immigration and often have scant resources, with just a few law enforcement officers. Gallego said Arizona border communities had used Homeland Security resources in the right way, unlike other places, and he cited New York state.

Gallego also expressed concern that a draconian deportation policy would have negative effects on the food industry, driving up inflation if labor was deported. He noted that South Dakota has an agricultural industry that might be affected.

Noem said the priority of the incoming administration is to deport about 425,000 immigrants with known criminal convictions, including murderers and rapists.

"That will be a focus we need to tackle right away," she said. The next focus, she added, would be on the population of immigrants with existing deportation orders.

New Jersey Democratic Sen. Andy Kim questioned whether Noem would be truly in control of border policy. He referred to public comments made by Trump saying incoming Border Czar Tom Homan would be in charge. That, he said, would be an intrusion on the duties of the Homeland Security secretary.

"I want to make sure we are empowering the next secretary of Homeland Security. . . I just raise that as a concern of mine," Kim said.

Homan has endorsed Noem to be the next secretary, and Noem said, "Tom and I work very well together." In the end, she said Trump would be in charge of border policy.

Democrats also wanted assurances that Noem would distribute disaster assistance dollars without regard to political bias, which she said she would do. The specter of the California wildfires that destroyed thousands of homes in Los Angeles was brought up several times Friday. Some Republicans have suggested that assistance dollars shouldn't come without conditions – they blame California's leadership for failing to take precautions and preparing for the wildfires.

Noem told Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson, who worried that unfettered disaster assistance created "moral hazard," that she wished California had better local leadership and that if it had better local lead-



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 before 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, business and leadership. They hailed from Howes, Union Center and Sturgis.

Our newly elected legislators are Teresa Jorgenson from southwestern 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 Community 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 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren 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 Quartet, 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 wonderful 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 moment 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 upcoming projects and events.

ership, the response to the fires would have been different.

Committee Chairman Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican who has been wary about government overreach and the dangers of the security state, introduced the hearing by warning about the powers of department his committee oversees.

The Department of Homeland Security is a creature of the post 9/11 terrorist attacks, when the federal government moved to house several distinct agencies under the roof of one department. The reasoning behind its creation was to streamline communication among the agencies – lack of communication was a pitfall to uncovering the 9/11 attacks before they occurred.

But Paul said the department – with 260,000 employees and

20 distinct components – was a "bureaucratic labyrinth." The department had failed Paul's past questioning to identify a list of its core functions.

"This mission drift is dangerous," Paul said.

Noem said the department would protect the First Amendment and discontinue a practice of monitoring social media companies for "misinformation" and of pressuring those companies to censor speech that government officials objected to.

Johnson also expressed doubts about the department, saying he would have opposed its creation 20 years ago. And he wished her luck in leading such a massive organization in a way that suggested she had a large job ahead of her...



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SCOUTING REPORT | the dry Missouri, decline of sunflowers, going soft

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Jonathan Ellis
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“What really impressed me,” said Justin Bergh, a mass communications professor at BHSU who directed the film recently interviewed by KOTA-TV, “is seeing how the process worked from farm to table. That’s one of the things that Jordan really wanted to bring to South Dakota.”

The 45-minute movie was shown in Spearfish on Jan. 16 at The Matthews Opera House & Arts Center. It will air on South Dakota Public Television on Feb. 6.

* * *

The six power plants on the Missouri River saw a decrease in the amount of hydropower produced in 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports. And given the dry conditions that have persisted at the start of this year, the Corps is predicting below-average production in 2025.

The 8.2-billion-kilowatt hours of electricity produced in 2024 were below the long-term annual average of 9.4 billion kilowatt hours. The Corps is forecasting 8.4 billion kilowatt hours in 2025. While down, it’s still enough energy to power millions of homes for a year.

Overall, the Missouri River runoff above Sioux City was 91 percent of average at 23.3-million-acre feet. This year’s forecast is lower, at 20.2-million-acre feet. That’s because dry or lower-than-average snowpacks in the Upper Missouri River Basin.

Mountain snowpack that accumulates in the Rocky Mountains and feeds spring runoff was accumulating at below-average levels at just 85 percent in the Fort Peck, Montana, area and 75 percent from Fort Peck to Garrison, Montana. That portends lower power generation for regional utility users and a complex situation for the Corps, which by law is required to balance several priorities with the dam system, including flood control, downstream navigation and environmental concerns.

“Winter releases from Gavins Point Dam will remain low during January and February in order to conserve water in the system, based on the guidance in the Missouri River Mainstem System Master Manual,” said John Remus, the Corp’s chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division.

“Weather and river conditions continue to be monitored, and releases from Gavins Point Dam will be adjusted to the extent practical to help mitigate any negative effects of the cold weather,” he added. “We know the importance of our operations to water supply.”

Corn production across the United States declined in 2024, while the annual soybean harvest was up, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. USDA released its 2024 Crop Production Annual Summary Jan. 10.

South Dakota farmers planted 16.8 million acres of land with principal crops, which include corn, soybeans, oats and wheat.



The corn-soybean breakdown mirrored the national numbers. Of the planted cropland, 5.9 million acres were for corn production, a decrease from 6.3 million acres in 2023. Although the number of acres devoted to corn production was lower, more corn was harvested than in 2023. That’s because the yield of corn per acre increased to 166 bushels, up from 152 in 2023 and 132 in 2022.

More than 5.4 million acres of land in the state were planted for soybeans, an increase of about 350,000 acres over the previous two years. The yield per acre was down slightly to 43 bushels – from 44 bushels in 2023. Still, the total soybean harvest was up.

Of note, sunflower production has plummeted nationwide, in part because the two leading states for production, the Dakotas, have seen sharp decreases. The number of acres planted for sunflower oil was about a third of what had been planted two years ago in the Dakotas. Nationally, sunflower plantings for both oil and seed were less than half in 2024 when compared to 2022.

“This decline is attributed to lower profitability compared with other oilseed crops, such as canola and soybeans,” USDA noted.

* * *

Add this last one to the list of stories that reveal the spreading rot of a soft, pudginess in the American character.

Rammy Assaf, a pediatric emergency doctor at the Children’s Hospital of Orange County in California, has developed a survey for children to measure their anxiety and mental health related to climate change. He administered the survey to 800 children – ages 12 to 17 – and their caregivers last year.

“When asked about their outlook for the future, the first words they will use are helpless, powerless, hopeless,” Assaf told KFF Health News. “These are very strong emotions.”

Assaf says he wants climate change questions included in routine mental health screenings in doctors’ offices and in other places where children get health care. The American Academy

of Pediatrics, meanwhile, has recommended that “counseling on climate change” be incorporated into clinical practices and medical school curriculum, KFF reports.

To those generations that grew up under the threat of instantaneous nuclear annihilation from our old commie menace, the Soviet Union – a threat that still exists, by the way – generations that grew up with bomb shelters and school exercises of taking cover under a desk, and who remember receiving “nuclear annihilation counseling,” the latest recommendation might seem a bit ludicrous.

But, no doubt, it will be an avenue to prescribe something to fix the littles’ man-manifested anxiety.



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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Galatea's beloved
5 Knave of clubs
8 Malay title of respect
12 Florida tree
13 Last Queen of Spain
14 Condition (suf.)
15 Cob (2 words)
17 Bone, Gr.
18 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
19 Claro
21 Youngster
22 Feline
23 Theme; music
28 Altar shelf
31 Axillary
32 Reverence
33 Dressed
34 Threefold
36 Small anvil
37 Eject
38 Serum (pret.)
39 Chance

DOWN

1 Middle Eastern abess
2 Heddies of a loom
3 Adjective-forming (suf.)
4 You (Ger.)
5 Phoebe

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SDO C RAM DIE K
ROUP NOPE ALE
INTL SERAGLIO
BED EGRESS
BARBEL SEE
ACE AID RACER
LEAH EANTORA
MAKER BAACIF
AUG BASKET
TROVER LAB
BONYFISHBOUT
LOA UMBO EASE
SSN LEES TAX

6 Anagram (abbr.)
7 Sea cow
8 P.I. peasant
9 Fluid
10 Proceedings
11 Want
16 Wound crust
20 Macerate

22 Horn
24 Scot. court officer
25 Punjab inhabitant
26 Pub fare
27 Vitamin A source
28 Railway (abbr.)
29 Article (Fr.)
30 Eastern daylight time (abbr.)
32 Craftsman
35 Asbestos (abbr.)
36 To or from a distance (pref.)
38 Phil. island
39 Richness
40 Son of Ruth
42 Wagon tongue
43 Knife
44 Endure
45 Mother of Brunhilde
47 Lance of King Arthur
49 Theater sign

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512 6th Avenue | Belle Fourche
March 15, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Photos, Games & Socializing 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
Dance 8:00 pm
(ends at 10:00 pm)

DINNER MENU

Chicken Alfredo
Salad
Dessert

Purchase tickets online by scanning QR code

PURCHASE DEADLINE IS MARCH 10TH

\$35 each

Sponsor opportunities available
Contact Mary Riley
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2025

JANUARY

For Information about Delivery, Call 892-6285
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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
30 Sausage Gravy & Biscuits Scrambled Eggs Asparagus	31 Liver & Onions or Deluxe Cheeseburger	1 Glazed Ham Sweet Potatoes Brussel Sprouts	2 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	3 Turkey ala King Veggie Medley Dinner Roll
6 Beef Tips & Gravy Roasted Potatoes Spinach Salad	7 Chicken Enchilada Soup Southern Corn, peppers & Rice Refried Beans	8 Liver or Deluxe Cheeseburger French Fries Mixed Vegetables	9 Pork Loin Scalloped Potatoes Green Beans Roll	10 Cheesy Beef and Mac Casserole Corn Bread Mixed Vegetables
13 Beef Lasagna Roasted Vegetables Tossed Salad Garlic Bread	14 Shredded Chicken Sandwich Cowboy Beans Potato Salad	15 Turkey Noodle Soup Tossed Salad Breadstick	16 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	17 Breaded Fish Sandwich Bacon & Pea Salad Sweet Potato Fries
20 Tortellini Soup Tossed Salad Breadstick	21 Tuna Noodle Casserole Broccoli Dinner Roll	22 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Arugula Salad	23 Ruben Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Creamy Brussel Sprouts	24 Turkey Pot Pie Roasted Zucchini Dinner Roll
27 Pancakes Scrambled Eggs Sausage Links Asparagus	28 Chicken Cordon Bleu Mushroom Risotto Romaine Salad	29 Club Sandwich Coleslaw Chips	30 Beef Stroganoff Egg Noodles Roasted Carrots Dinner Roll	31 White Chicken Chili Tossed Salad Corn Bread

Frozen Meals & Soups available.
\$5 meals or \$3 soup
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Look What's Cooking at Belle Silver Lining
Come Join us Every Day 11:00am-1:00pm
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B's Buzz

Supporting Sabrina Harmon

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

On the way to church this Sunday, I began to see the trees and buildings along the road and started to think about the last four decades we have lived in this area. I kept trying to remember what it was like without those trees or fences or buildings along the way. Surely, they all weren't there in the 1980s?

I first noticed the evergreen trees at Wilson Cemetery. As part of their 4-H community service, our kids would go and mow the cemetery. We could see all the headstones from the road. There were bushes that we trimmed and tried to keep neat. We only did it for a year or two, then on to other projects.

Now when I drive by, the trees are tall and you really can't see inside. How did that happen? I drive by nearly every day and it seems that the trees grew overnight! But my mind tells me, it's been more than 30 years, get with the program!

And there's a tree that is my favorite along that road. Every fall it turns a beautiful gold and yellow-signaling the beginning of the cool-down season. I have many photos of that tree and only when I compare them do I realize that it's grown taller and taller and fuller.

My mind turns to the possibility of no trees in this area. What about the trees along Horse Creek? At one time, maybe there weren't many and the land was more prairie grass than trees and fences. Do you suppose the early settlers thought they should keep going and not bother? I'm glad someone stopped and made this area their home. It's a good place.

As I thought about what this place looked like a long time ago, and all that has happened in the last 40 years, I can only come to the conclusion that this is where we are supposed to be. I look around and see what we have planted and nurtured and changed.

The trees that were in our yard when we moved here are now tall and full, bringing us shade and coolness in the summer. During snowstorms we can watch the branches bend and sway.

The white picket fence (yes, a white picket fence) is gone. The kids tied their dairy show calves to that fence for many years while they dried after having a bath for the fair. And I have a photo of our daughter Mary on her first day of Kindergarten standing by the gate waving good-bye. Such great memories!

Life is made up of all kinds of memories, good and bad. Some we want to forget, others we want to hang onto. But they form our lives and our outlook on the world. Sometimes our memories get stuck in our minds and won't let go. And then other times we can't remember the name of a person we've known for a long time.

I find myself trying to remember the special moments in my life. How my kids laughed when they were young. Or how it felt to sit and hug them when they were small. How did they sound when they first spoke? Or giggle when they learned to walk? Fortunately, the sounds in my head are still there and I can recall them most of the time.

I envy young parents now who have cell phones that can record the sounds of their youngsters. Be sure to take time to get out the phone and use it for recording those precious moments. And record your grandparents, aunts, and uncles. And cousins and friends. Be a nuisance and annoy family members. It will be a treasure to be able to hear their voices and see their faces.



People lined up to get a meal and donate to the fund.

Heitz photo

Community Shows Overwhelming Support

Ryder Heitz
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Sabrina Harmon, an invaluable member of the Newell community, recently suffered a heart attack and underwent triple bypass surgery. In response, the community immediately took action and started planning and hosting fundraisers to help Harmon cover medical bills. Last week, fundraisers were held on three days during the West River Tournament in the form of two soup feeds, a taco feed, and bake sales. Everything was available for a free-will donation.

Luaine Shaykett said, "We knew right away that she's helped the community so much and did so much for the kids, that we needed to do something to help her." Shaykett, along

with Judy Heisler and Betsy Burtzlaff, worked together to organize fundraisers. "When my house caught on fire, she did a fundraiser and helped out with my kids. And she's always doing something for someone," said Shaykett. "She is here for every kid, whether she has to give them the shirt off her back. She just does a ton."

In organizing the fundraisers, Betsy Burtzlaff got local businesses involved as sponsors. "Once people heard the businesses were involved, I had a lot of individuals that were involved. Some are donating just straight cash, some are donating items," explained Shaykett.

Patty Karas, along with the Lion's Club, is hosting another fundraiser—a roast beef supper—on January 26 at

the City Hall. Karas hopes that the community will show up for Harmon there. "She does so much, I mean, she's like my right hand," said Karas. "She's there for the kids, she's there for the community. If I ask her for something, she'll do it. So, it's time to pay it back." Newell Middle School students are also hosting a carnival in Harmon's honor in March.

"She's very giving," said Roxie Castillo, who helped serve food during the games. "Last year, my daughter went to the hospital, and she stayed there for two months. She was able to put us up with realtors for kids and stuff like that, so we could get gas money to go to her appointments. She helps everybody."

Harmon has been involved with the school district for

approximately 15 years. She founded and ran the H.O.P.E. after-school program for 10 years, currently directs the W.I.T. (Whatever it Takes) Coalition and is a member of the S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) team. She hosts programs for students, like Leadership Day and Freshman Impact, that serve to educate youth about everything from mental illness to drug and alcohol abuse. In the community, Harmon has been responsible for several Legislative Cracker Barrels, Lion's Club fundraisers, and local outreach programs. Her influence and positive impact on Newell's students and community are impossible to overstate.

As Luaine Shaykett said, "It's time to give back to her."



Luaine Shaykett and Roxie Castillo serve food to donors on Thursday evening, January 16, at the West River Tournament.

The donors for the Taco Supper on Thursday night. Several thank-you posters were hung, honoring those who helped with the meals and bake sales. Heitz photos



So now that I've thought about this, I'm going to go and annoy my family. I want to hear those words, "Oh, no, she's got her camera again!"



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

We missed Lane Kopren’s funeral last Saturday because I was sick so Reub took me to the walk-in clinic in Hettinger that day. Thankfully I was already starting to heal up and that was the first day I didn’t have a high fever so I didn’t get put on any meds. We didn’t spend much time outside that day because it was really windy.

It was 3 below when we got up last Sunday morning, but I felt good enough to go to church that morning and to the Gideon meeting at Coal Springs Church that afternoon. It was still chilly but it warmed up to six degrees that afternoon.

School started two hours late in Buffalo on Monday because of the icy roads from the almost a quarter of an inch of rain that we got. The rain made it a little slippery just getting to the chicken coop, but I managed to make it without tipping over. I keep a record of the moisture in Harding County for

the National Weather Service in Rapid City and when I added up the rain we got in 2024 it totaled 12.33 inches without the rain we got on Monday.

Tuesday, January 14th was the first day of the South Dakota legislature. In District 28 we sent Sen. Sam Marty, Rep. Jana Hunt and Rep. Travis Ismay to represent us in Pierre and you can watch what the legislators are doing in Pierre by going to sdlegislature.gov to see what committees they are on, what bills they are sponsoring, read the codified laws, and see the legislative calendar. Rep. Jon Hansen has been elected Speaker of the House and Sen. Chris Karr was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate. It probably won’t be long before Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden will be the new governor in South Dakota after Gov. Kristi Noem becomes the Secretary of Homeland Security.

It was a nice day with the temperature hanging right around 37 degrees when Reub

and I went to Hettinger Wednesday afternoon and we had coffee with the Prairie Pioneers in Reeder on the way home.

Thursday was a beautiful day and the 42 degree weather melted a lot of snow. It was fun doing things outside and my chickens enjoyed the warm weather when I let them out in the outside pen around the chicken coop. Casey went to Reva to get some stuff before he went to Buffalo for wrestling practice that afternoon.

It was cold and windy Friday morning so after taking care of my chickens I enjoyed sitting down and watching South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem’s confirmation hearing with Senators in Washington, DC for the job of Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security that President-elect Trump had appointed her to take that office. It was very interesting that even some of the Democrat Senators seemed to agree that our southern and northern borders need to be closed and the illegal

immigrants should be sent back to where they came from. Gov. Noem didn’t get near as much trouble from the opposition as decorated military veteran Pete Hegseth received at his confirmation hearing for the head of Department of Defense (DOD).

President-elect Trump has also picked Troy Meink from Lemmon to be the Air Force secretary. Troy is a top spy chief who previously served as a missile engineer. Troy has been the principal deputy director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) since 2020 and he grew up on his family ranch south of Lemmon. I’ve known his father Duane Meink for a long time and Troy will be a great fit with the new administration.

Casey went to Buffalo on Friday to take the wrestlers to a dual wrestling meet at Sully Buttes that afternoon and to a wrestling meet in Gettysburg on Saturday. It was really cold and windy on Saturday with a temperature of 5 degrees so I didn’t get much done outside except for taking care of my chickens and they don’t like the cold weather either. They aren’t laying many eggs and with the below zero weather over the next few days, I doubt that will improve.

Reub called his cousin Lance Olson Saturday morning to let him know that Reub’s brother Doug had given him some pictures of Check and Leck Olson that Reub wanted Lance to see out there in Great Falls, Montana. I took pictures

of them with my phone and finally figured out how to send the pictures to Lance. I usually have to get Amanda to help me send pictures but since she wasn’t here I finally got it figured out all by myself! Check Olson was Lance’s father and Lance and his brothers went to school in Buffalo before they moved out west. After I got it figured out I also sent pictures to Leck and Suzie (Decamps) Olson’s daughter Billie Dee Altman who lives in Portland, Oregon and is also Doug Doll’s cousin. I also sent some family pictures to Jim Williams, Grandma Hattie Olson’s great nephew who lives in Rapid City and used to work for us on the ranch.

It was 19 degrees below zero when we got up Sunday morning and I was pretty cold taking care of my chickens before church. The annual congregational meeting was held at the church after the congregation was served dinner by Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen with the delicious food cooked by Linda. Daron Tenold and Kent Wilkinson were termed out of the church council and Brock Besler and Brad Johnson were elected to replace them. By the time we got home from the church meeting, the temperature had warmed up to 4 degrees below zero!

The nicest place to be is in someone’s thoughts, the safest place to be is in someone’s prayers, and the very best place to be is in the hands of God.

Then and Now in Newell

“Looking Forward to our Past”

January 21, 1915
Peter Laitala spent several days last week at the Cave Hills Coal Company’s mine, in which he is a shareholder. He brought home a sample of the coal which is a fine grade of lignite coal. The company has made 2 drifts into the Hills, 200 feet east and is now going to cross section at the end of the drifts. They have a 6-foot vein.
Newell people may not always have to submit to having their Railroad Depot located out in the country. Congressman Martin has not forgotten the situation here, neither has the State Rail Road Commission



Cave Hills. Note the coal outcrop along the base where mining took

nor the Interior Department. Mr. Buchholz tells us, Mr. Smith has dug up a Virginia case that is almost exactly in points with Newell’s, where the railroad was forced to run trains into the town.

Henry Peters of Spearfish went to Pierre January 15, asking for an investigation of the conditions at the Spearfish Normal School. He declares that a party of students at that institution took him from his home on Wednesday night and attempted to tar and feather him for his criticism of the institution.

January 15, 1925
The singles and married men of the last Wizard Chess Club held a contest last Thursday evening in Judge Goff’s office, with the result that the singles had 9 wins to 5 for the marrieds. For the second time “Alkie” Hough led the hard-boiled bunch with 2 wins, which L. R. Chiesman did the best playing for the marrieds. Next Tuesday evening the Club will have some out-of-town competition when Vale will present some of their old-timers, including C. F. Mullenix, Henry Meyer, Lee Simmons and Rex Mullenix. The members of the club are having some enjoy-

able weekly meetings, and they would be glad to have any and all that are interested in chess show up next Tuesday evening.
Get your smoked glasses or tinted spectacles ready to view the eclipse of the sun on Saturday. South Dakota is outside the path of totally, but from all accounts about 75% of the sun’s surface will be obscured from view in this territory. The eclipse will take place at sunrise, or soon afterwards.
The Liberty Theater is undergoing extensive repair and improvements this week. The interior is being papered and otherwise renovated and improved in appearance and

comfort. Manager Youngberg is now giving his whole time and attention to the amusement place and is receiving increasing patronage. Now showing at the Liberty: Sunday is “Damaged Hearts” a summer romance of the Florida Everglades; Saturday Corine Griffith “The Common Law”; Thursday Viola Damon in “A Noise in Newboro” and showing “Miracle of the Jungle”

January 17, 1935
The Annual meeting of the Congregational Church was held Tuesday evening at the parsonage, beginning at 6:30 PM with a cafeteria lunch. Officers elected for 1935-36 were: Deacon (3-year term) G. P. Foster; Trustees Mrs. Guy Livingston and W. D. Buchholz; Clerk E. W. Altwater; Treasurer F. C. Youngblutt; Deaconesses Mrs. Alwater and Emma Van derBoom; Sunday School Superintendent Govert Van derBoom and Music Chairman Madge Milberg.

Walter Johnson has been busy the past week cutting wood on the Belle Fourche River at the Long place. Oscar Reppen was also out sawing wood to stockpile last week.
It’s one of the most natural

by Linda Velder
things in the world for the young of America to telephone. They are full of life, inquisitive, sociable, eager for good times and the telephone fits happily into their scheme of living. American young and old use the telephone more than people in any other country. Northwestern Bell Telephone Company is the telephone system of great size to provide quick reliable service to a great nation.
The Vale Firemen are going to present their minstrel show Tuesday evening, January 22nd the school auditorium. Let’s all turn out to enjoy good home talent.
A few young people met at the R. Holtry home on Sunday afternoon and spent a pleasant hour pulling taffy and making popcorn balls.

January 18, 1945
According to information from James E. McMurver, Acting Manager, the Veteran’s Bureau at Washington has been informed that 4 buildings will be ready for use at Ft. Meade for a soldier’s hospital February 15. A large number of nurses, attendants and mess attendants are needed for the hospital. Applications are now being taken for these positions.

Henry Jacobsen reports that Aviator Clyde Ice and son were out in Butte County last week and succeeded in cleaning out a nest of coyotes that had been feasting on the Rautro Bros band of sheep. The Ice fliers netted 7 head of male marauders southwest of Nisland; 5 head on the ranges of R. D. Nicholson and Howard Sheridan; 2 near the Burke and LaFayette ranges and 1 near Sulphur. The lack of ammunition is still holding up the work of predator control, although authority to purchase has been granted, negotiations are still underway in an effort to secure sufficient ammunition to permit further predatory animal extermination work.

A Bill is now before the State Legislature to restore Standard Time in this state. It is believed the measure will have little or no opposition and that we will soon be expected to turn the clocks back an hour, for good.

1955: Still searching for the bound copies (in a large book) of The Valley Irrigator.

January 14, 1965
The Newell High School auditorium has been approved as a Civil Defense fallout shelter with a capacity of 143, together with 4 other buildings in Belle Fourche, it was announced here Tuesday by R. P. Harman, Butte County



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Civil Defense Director. This increased the number of spaces to 9 shelters to 1482 persons. Dale Anderson, local Civil Defense Director, advised that the Newell School Board will be contacted to obtain authority to so mark the Austin Auditorium basement level as a shelter and stock some supplies so that it will be available for use in an emergency.
Vehicles owned by Robert

Fabricius, who recently returned home Friday from service in the US Navy. The front bumper, hood and radiator of the Lee vehicle was badly smashed, while the left side of the Chevrolet was bashed in. Damage to the latter was estimated at \$400 to \$500.
The Newell Office, First National Bank of the Black Hills, encourages and urges all customers to begin using their



Clyde Ice, well known aviator and “coyote exterminator” and sometimes dare devil
Newell Museum

Fabricius and Carl Lee, both Newell suffered considerable damage in a collision which occurred along Dartmouth Ave at its intersection with 6th Street Monday afternoon. According to City Police Foxley, who investigated the mishap occurred about 1:30 PM, when the 1949 Plymouth driven by Lee hit the left side of the Fabricius 1962 Chevrolet, driven north by Tom

Account Numbered deposit slips and checks starting immediately.
A Resolution condemning all types of gambling on High School athletic contests has recently been adopted of the South Dakota High School Athletic Association. In adopting the Resolution, the Board expressed the confidence that it reflects the thinking of all



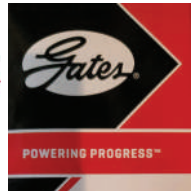
Austin Auditorium 1965, named as a Fall Out Shelter
Newell Museum

Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



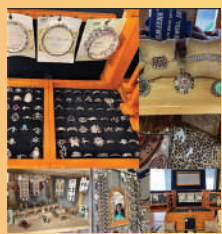
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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Saturday, January 25, 9:30 a.m.
Cracker Barrel Legislative Session, Newell City Hall

Sunday, January 26, 11-2
Newell Lions Club Lunch Fundraiser for Sabrina Harmon

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

Wednesday
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

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

Feeding South Dakota
Second Thursday every month, 1:30

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





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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

Menu is subject to change!
Middle School and High School have access to fresh Salad Bar

NHS Wrestlers Take to the Mats in Gettysburg

Newell had a great day at the Battler's Invitational in Gettysburg.

Dyson wrestled very well and placed 2nd. He has a love for throwing opponents during a match.

Bodie captured 5th. His quick movements were captivating.

Will gave it his all, but finished short of the placing rounds.

Next Saturday they wrestle in Chadron, Nebraska.



Support Local Business
From the Beacon / Irrigator.



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

Soup and Dessert

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NISLAND-What could be better than hot soup on a chilly night? Although the red line on the thermometer was barely visible, the atmosphere inside the Nisland/Arpan Fire Hall was welcoming and warm. The Ladies' Auxiliary was set up with a variety of soups ranging from Turkey Rice to Brisket and Barley soups. The table next to the soups was full of homemade desserts to top off the meal.

The crowd was small at the beginning of the evening, but grew to about 50 people at times before it was over. The soup was delicious and the company was hearty. During the feasting, tickets were drawn

for someone to receive a Fire Blanket, which could divert a small calamity. Several were given away.

The event was a fundraiser for the Nisland/Arpan Search and Rescue Fire Department. The Auxiliary holds five events during the year. In January it's Soup and Dessert, March is the Potato Topper dinner, a pie sale during the Brisket Feed at fair time, and a Bake Sale at Runnings in November. The pie sale was started at the Butte/Lawrence Fair to pay off the new fire hall and has continued after the hall was paid for. The Auxiliary will celebrate 20 years this year and area residents are encouraged to watch for a special event to celebrate.

According to Fire Chief Tom Lewis, there are 22 members on the fire department roster. "There's always room for more, though," he said. They are always ready to welcome newcomers.

Most of the firefighters are Fire Fighter 1 and 2 certified, with several training to be Wild Land certified. Two members are certified instructors, Josh Kitzan and Jeremy Butcher.

Nisland/Arpan has six trucks-a Type 3 Water Tender, A Rescue Truck, a Type 1 Fire Engine, and three Type 6 fire trucks.

It was hard to decide which of the nine soups was the best, but the Portuguese Bean was an excellent choice to start.



Members of the Nisland/Arpan Fire and Rescue Auxiliary served up several delicious soups. From the left, Addison Wich, Amber Wich, Sherry Wells, Courtney Rans, Sandy Heidrich, and Rhonda Vallery. The ladies are serving Tara Vallery. Betty Bruner photo

Local Teens Honored by SDAQHA



Rowdy Wetz and Sorley Wetz received recognition recently at the South Dakota Quarter Horse Association banquet. the two Newell high schoolers have helped with the banquet for several years and are part of the event staff. Pictured are Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden, Rowdy, National AQHA Director Jim Hootman, Sorley Wetz, and South Dakota Miss Rodeo 2025 Jordan Jensen. Courtesy photo

Congratulations

Kendra Johnson

Rachel Stranberg



ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM 2025

We Are Newell!



Newell students shine in many athletic events across the area.

Newell Public Library

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- High School diploma or equivalent
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- 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.

Newell HS Hosts WRT

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Newell High School hosted part of the 43rd Annual Boys West River Tournament as well as the 34th Annual Girls West River Tournament, January 14, 16 and 17. The final rounds move to Rapid City January 18 to crown the champions.

The long-standing tournament is unique because it is hosted in several different locations. Newell hosts part of the tournament and Hot Springs hosts games for both the boys basketball and girls basketball teams, and then all of the schools come together for the final championship and consolation rounds played in the Ice Arena at The Monument in Rapid City.

High School teams competing this year are Newell, Hot Springs, Faith, New Under-

wood, Moorcroft, WY, Upton, WY, Edgemont, and Oelrichs.

Newell boys and girls basketball teams started first round play against Moorcroft, WY. The boys team fell to the Wolves 73 to 9. The girls basketball team handed the Wolves a loss with a score of 62 to 51.

The second round pairing put the Irrigators against the Faith Longhorns. Newell boys struggled against the Longhorns and ended with a loss against Faith 63 to 12. Newell's girls basketball team also fell to the Longhorns after four quarters with a final score of 47 to 20.

With one loss and one win, the lady Irrigators moved on to Rapid City to play Hot Springs for third place.

Falling to both Faith and Moorcroft, the Newell Irrigator Boys Basketball team moved on to Rapid City to play Oelrichs for 7th place.



The Newell Irrigator Boys Basketball team prepares to play at the 43rd Annual Boys West River Tournament. Courtesy photo





We Are Newell!

3rd Place

West River Tournament

The Newell girls' basketball team received a third place finish at the West River Tournament. Courtesy Photo