



Belle Fourche Beacon

PROVIDING LOCAL NEWS FOR BELLE FOURCHE, BUTTE COUNTY and the TRI-STATE TRADE AREA
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The Library Exhibit Opens at The Tri-State Museum

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Books can be an escape from reality, a way to learn and expand the mind, or simply a way to pass the time. Whatever reason one reads books, libraries are a great place to find them.

Have you ever wondered how libraries came to be? Libraries are about as old as the written language and the first ones didn't contain books as we know them today, but rather housed clay tablets.

You can learn all about the history of libraries and more at the Tri-State Museum's first Library A3

“January Winter Ball ”



Everyone who purchased a ticket or table to the **Spirit of Cheer & Dance, Inc. Winter Ball** gathered for social hour followed by dinner and activities. *Longbrake photo*

Winter Ball Fundraises for Spirit of Cheer & Dance

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Locals came dressed to the nines in fancy suits and sparkly gowns for the first annual Winter Ball on Friday, January 31 at the Community Hall.

The event served as a fundraiser for Spirit of Cheer & Dance, a Belle Fourche-based nonprofit organization that supports cheer and dance students in Belle Fourche and surrounding areas.

The Ball had music and dancing with DJ services provided by Katie Hammill and Sara Rosen-cranz. There was a silent auction with items like gift baskets, margarita mixes, and spice sets donated by local individuals and businesses.

The meal included spaghetti, salad, breadsticks, and cake and cupcakes which were donated by Millstone and SME's Treats. Drinks were available for purchase and provided by the Cowboy Back Bar.

Spirit of Cheer & Dance works to not only support cheerleaders

and dancers in the Black Hills, but also to provide financial assistance to those who may need it. President Carie Merjil and Vice President Carmen Barnes explained: “Anywhere from Black Hills State University, all the way to the high school, to Little Colts, all of them. Anytime they need pom-poms, uniforms, jackets, flags, anything. If a parent doesn't

have enough money to get them into their sport, we will help pay for that.”

“The other thing that we started two years ago, which we're super proud of, is we offer a scholarship to a senior every year. It's a Belle Fourche cheerleader or dancer,” Barnes continued. “So last year, we gave a dancer and a cheerleader

Cheer & Dance contd. A8



One of the displays at the **Tri-State Museum's** temporary exhibit called **The Library**. The exhibit is open until May 7. *Longbrake photo*

Elementary Literacy Night Fun

Toni Long

Special to the Beacon

We are excited to share that this year's Family Literacy Night was a tremendous success! On January 27th our school community came together for a

fun filled evening dedicated to promoting the joy of reading and learning.

Families enjoyed engaging activities and a lovely meal provided by the school. It was

Fun Night contd. A8



Lainey Densmore, Callie Llewellyn, and Madison Branning
(Courtesy Photo)

Harvesting the Honey

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

An invitation to participate in any part of the honey harvesting, bee-keeping process is better than any party, I could imagine. Bernadette Barnaud-Jensen, owner of Owl Creek Natural Products near Nisland, SD <https://www.owlcreeknatural-products.com> is a beekeeper

who appreciates the symbiotic relationship between bees and beekeepers. Last September when Bernadette invited me (or I invited myself) to participate in the honey extraction process, I RSVPed with pleasure immediately.

Sometime during the autumn,

Harvest contd C4



Owl Creek sells the honey as is, but also uses it to make a variety of honey flavored products. In fact, it is pure honey rather than sugar that flavors her collection of available jams and jellies. *English photos*

Amtrak Across the State?

Doug Cole

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

At this point in history there are only two states in the Union that do not have Amtrak passenger rail service: South Dakota and Wyoming.

A nonprofit organization named All Aboard Northwest exist for the purpose of advocating the continued development of passenger rail service. All Aboard Northwest advocates for the needs of rail passengers, especially on a regional scale

over state lines, and coordinates with infrastructure and transportation interests to strengthen relationships between existing groups to bring economic, environmental, and equity benefits to our citizens.

The Beacon has been in discussions with other parties interested in making Amtrak passenger rail a reality in South Dakota.

The line as propped would run on existing rail lines from

Amtak SD Contd.A8

Matt Kreutz Enjoys Giving Back

BELLE FOURCHE—As the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. When life handed Matt Kreutz some lemons, he turned them into a nice big pitcher of lemonade that he is more than happy to share with everyone!

“After basically 30 years of restaurant management in the food service industry, it's time for something different,” shared Kreutz.

His journey to a new career path started out of darker times. “I'm a graduate of DUI court and basically, if it hadn't been for that, I more than likely would have ended up spending some time in prison and who knows—I definitely would not have led a productive life.”

Kreutz is excited to share all



Matt Kreutz

that he has learned along his road to recovery with others that may need help getting sober.

“The 10th of November I start working towards a career in counseling for addiction and alcohol abuse,” he shared.

He plans to start a program through Compass Point Agency in Sturgis that will include practice and online classes at the same time.

“I'll be working in the Northern Hills area to include Belle Fourche and Spearfish, as well as Sturgis.”

He was given a second chance through the DUI court program in Lawrence County. “I'm in active recovery from alcoholism, but I'm an alcoholic,” he said.

“July 1, 2016 was the day of my last drink and September, 2016 was when I started participating in DUI court and then

Matt contd.A3

Local Author Spotlights South Dakota Life

SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA, January 10, 2025 - David Raber is excited to announce the release

of “The Disappearance of Al Vincent,” a crime murder mystery, in addition to “Life and Laughter

in Belle Fourche,” a collection of true, hilarious and reflective anecdotes about growing up in Belle Fourche, South Dakota from 1950-1965.

Gerald David “Dave” Raber was born and raised in beautiful Belle Fourche. He graduated with a degree in Journalism from the University of South Dakota, where he developed his writing

chops as editor of The Volante student newspaper. He served his country in the U.S. Navy as an officer

in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War, commanding three PT Boats. He worked for Ford

Motor Company in Seattle, then eventually opened a successful Ford dealership in Pendleton,

Oregon, where he raised a family. After years away, he recently moved back home and completed two books whose stories are based in the area. Both books are available now

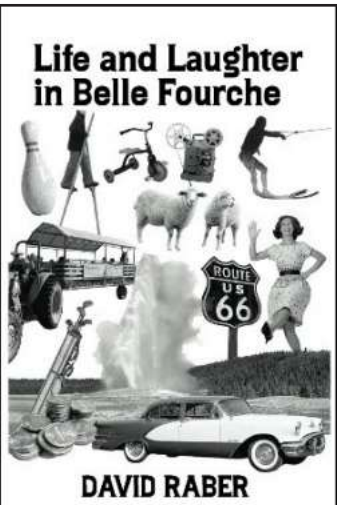
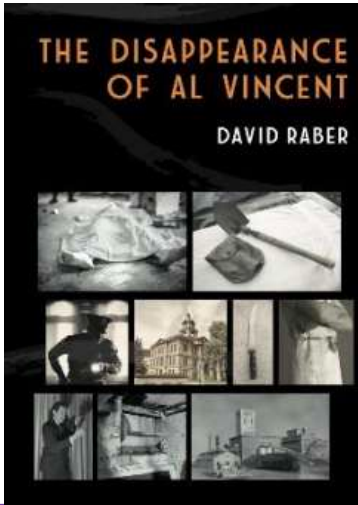
on Amazon.com. Mr. Raber will be scheduling book signing and reading events in March and April.

The books are perfect for residents who will enjoy the local connections and comedy that ensued in small town South Dakota during that period.

Special thanks to publisher Barry Raber, ghostwriter Anne-Wallis Droter, cover designer Stephanie

Johnson, and The Tri -State Museum and Kelsy Jade Photography for providing images for “Life and Laughter in Belle Fourche”.

Contact barryraber@gmail.com for more information.



David Raber



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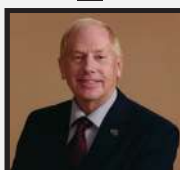
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Brian Kline
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Rose Marie Green 90

Rose Marie Green, 90, of Belle Fourche, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at her home surrounded by the love of her family.

Rose was born September 30, 1934 in Linton, ND to Anton and Rose Mary Burkhard. She was one of 13 siblings. Growing up with such a large family she developed a very deep love and bond with all, of her siblings. Family was always a priority for her and always brought her such joy when she was together with her family.

Rose attended Belle Fourche High School and that is where she met the love of her life James Green. She said she knew he was the one for her because he would always protect her. The two married in Belle Fourche on October 10, 1952. From this union they were blessed with two daughters, Kathy and SanDee.

Rose worked at the Royal Supper Club in Beulah, WY for numerous years, JC Penney's and finally Pioneer Bank and Trust for 24 plus years until her retirement. She truly enjoyed working at the bank where many friendships were formed. She always had a friendly smile for the customers and always enjoyed whipping up a new recipe to take to work to share with everyone.

Rose also had such a deep love and pride for her family. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to whomever needed one, family and friends. She was an accomplished seamstress and you could always find her at her sewing machine. She took great joy in creating unique sweatshirts, western attire or whatever someone presented to her for her to create. She also enjoyed refurbishing furniture or any other creative projects.



In 1986 and 1988, she was blessed with two grandchildren, Dally and Kaylee. It was always a joke that Don and SanDee better have the kids when they came to visit or they would be in trouble. She was so proud of her grandchildren and that love and pride continued when she was blessed with great grandchildren.

She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, Altar Society, Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department Auxillary and a Brownie leader.

Rose is survived by her two daughters, Kathy Caulkins of Belle Fourche, SD and SanDee (Don) Foster of Rapid City, SD; her grandchildren, Dally Foster (Brittney) of Rapid City and Kaylee Pearson of Rapid City; great grandchildren, Rylan, Cadence, Trinity, Gunnar and Madelyn; sisters, Victoria Baer of Bella Vista, AR, Jean Thompson of Paradise, CA and Antonia "Toni" Carpenter of Oroville, CA; a brother, Victor Burkhard of Sturgis, SD and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and beloved husband, James Green, and siblings, infant brother, Steven Burkhard and brothers, Frank and Sebastian Burkhard; her sisters, Irene Popke, Pauline Dacar, Frances Miller, Eva Lynch and Jeanette Smith.

The family will be announcing a celebration of her life at a later date. We will update the website and newspapers with service information.

An online guest book is available at klinefuneral-chapel.com

Pastor's Perspective

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

"The Grace to be Wrong"

I am becoming increasingly sensitive to the need for grace in believers which will allow them to be wrong.

Not to do wrong. But to be wrong.

There are far too few who simply acknowledge their own humanity when their own doings, calling, efforts, or sincere goals are called into question.

This past week I encountered three occasions where this grace was needed: at a gathering of men who were consulting together over a specific ministry to the Body of Christ; in a conversation over the radio, in which I was being interviewed on the subject of the believer and his willingness to acknowledge his failures;

It was in a private counseling session in which we discovered a man's preoccupation with his sense of God-given mission, to the point that he couldn't see the need for balance. He was too taken with his sense of the importance of what he felt he was supposed to do.

Our own sense of dimension on a matter is the key to balance, and the fact is that when something seems important or necessary to me, it tends to become ALL important... ABSOLUTELY necessary. Especially if God and His will are involved in the matter.

Thankfully, I am discovering a small but growing band of folks who are willing to trust the Lord to cover their imperfections whether it be in timing, in understanding, or in sense of urgency. I find that grace was powerfully present in the early Church. I hear the apostles and elders at Jerusalem say, concerning a decision that would reshape the Church's future, It seemed good : (Acts 15:28). Before they invoke the ultimate of divine authority, they simply says, "We thought a lot about it. It seemed good

to the Holy Spirit and to us." History confirms the decision they made, but I am most impressed by the non-authoritarian air with which the judgment was communicated.

Paul says twice in 1 Corinthians 7 that his counsel is offered as a concession, not as a commandment (v. 6); and that his directives concerning marriage and the single life were according to [his] judgment (v. 40). He does affirm that he believed himself to have the mind of the Holy Spirit on the subject, but again, the authority is exercised with wisdom. There is an apparent willingness to hearing others out on the subject.

I love Peter's capacity to not know as much as another brother, and still to love and trust that brother's words toward him. Second Peter 3:15,16 manifests a readiness to receive the gift of another's wisdom and expertise, without denying or having to hurriedly insist that you have received much already yourself.

Somehow, you and I experience a painful reluctance to utter the words, I don't know. Or, I may not be entirely right. It's hard for us to say these things and mean them with a truly teachable spirit.

Some matters, of course, are not negotiable. But my personal inclinations, however sure I might feel about them, must be kept available to modification within the circle of those who love me in Christ.

Such vulnerability is the only safety valve against the recurrent problems which rugged individualism has wrought in personal and family lives, in business and government matters, and in the Church of the Lord Jesus throughout history.

Let's keep hands joined in trust. Mine and yours may not be perfectly clean, but keeping hold will sure help us keep our balance.

Christian Life Center Valentines!



The Christian Life Center has a new idea for Valentine's Day...**ROSETTES!** The ladies of the church will be selling the Scandinavian delicacies Sun, Feb 9 from noon until 4pm (or sold out). The rosettes are \$8 per dozen & can be picked up at the Christian Life Center located at 2020 Vista Street in Belle Fourche. Preorders are suggested... please contact Marilyn (605-641-2733), Judy (605-569-2469) or Sally (605-641-3927).

Pictured, armed with rosette irons & a tray of rosettes (which were sampled for quality control & endorsed by the Christian Life Center official taste testers), are Judy Howard & Naomi Allender.



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Superintendent Speaks on School Vouchers

Meg Englsih
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Belle Fourche School Superintendent Orion Thompson has had deep concerns about House Bill 1020. House Bill 1020 is a proposal to add a separate line item to allow the state to offer public funds to private education. House Bill 1020 is commonly referred to as the ‘voucher’ bill.

The voucher model has other nomenclatures including Education Savings Accounts, Tuition Tax Credits, Tax Credit Scholarships or even Debit Cards.

House Bill 1020 specifically allows for parents to take funds allocated for public works and use the money to pay for private school or homeschool expenses.

Although House Bill 1020 was defeated by a 9-6 vote in the South Dakota House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 29th, voucher funding proposals have been around for a long time and are not likely to disappear.

During an interview last week, Thompson offered cautionary insight on House Bill 1020 and possible subsequent legislation.

Superintendent Thompson is not alone. Several state edu-

cational leadership groups have voiced strong opposition to the proposed legislation. These include 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, and Families for Alternative Instruction Rights South Dakota (FAIRSD).

Superintendent Thompson echoes the concerns presented by these groups. He is troubled by the misinformation that is circulating and would like to help the public understand what the voucher system is and is not.

He does not believe that student’s scores under the voucher system will improve as there is no convincing evidence.

He does not believe the voucher system is a panacea for racism or segregation.

He believes that the voucher model will continue to cost the taxpayers more and more and that

it will continue to siphon away from the public fund.

He notes in the current wording of the bill, there is minimal oversight to ensure how the funding might be used. He asks that people

take a hard look at what has happened in states that have adopted the voucher system.

Currently, school districts in South Dakota are funded from a composite of resources including local property taxes, a tax on utilities, a bank franchise tax, a wind farm tax, and other sources of local revenue. Each student is allocated a certain dollar figure depending on the school district that is paid directly to the district’s general fund.

House Bill 1020 does not seek to replace the current funding model, rather it proposes adding a new line item in the budget that will fund an “ESA” or voucher system.

Superintendent Thompson voiced his concerns. He described this aspect of the bill as a ‘gray’ area that does not specifically take funds from the education budget, but it does create a ‘new line item’ that will inevitably take funding away from all current line items.

In plain language he added, “Public schools and the communities they serve will be the losers if House Bill 1020 passes, and there will be more losers than winners.”

The losers would be the kids, of course. School sports, electives, music and fine arts, CTE opportunities, and afterschool programs is the beginning of a long list of offerings that local school districts provide that schools will not be able to afford.

Dedicated homeschool families will lose, as House Bill 1020 has the potential to mandate oversights that will undermine their rights of freedom to choose how these

groups prefer to educate their children. House Bill 1020 has been amended to exclude homeschoolers. They don’t want the funding because they don’t want the government oversight that inevitably comes with it.

Communities will lose. Gathering for sports events to cheer the kids with the community celebrating their hometown team may be a thing of the past.

Thompson was quick to denounce the argument that school choice is a benefit to parents. “Every person has school-choice. We have open enrollment. Any parent is free to choose to homeschool or to send their children to a neighboring district.”

What people have not been permitted to do is to take money away from the public works to do so.” The idea of public-school education will lose. Thompson asserts that allowing taxpayers to opt out of funding an institution as important as the nation’s public school system erodes the public’s level of investment in that institution.

What is most disconcerting is that public schools offer an educational foundation for kids, families and communities. It is the public schools will suffer.

“It’s important to understand that under the current funding program public money for schools supports public schools. I’ve been led to believe that many people are surprised when they learn that ‘public funds’ might be used for ‘private means’”.

Thompson understands that public and private schools are vastly different in purpose and oversight. Public schools serve the public. Private schools

serve special interests. Public schools are required to provide accommodation for kids with special needs in their mission to offer high quality education for everyone. While private schools are not required to adhere to the same myriads of government mandates. Public schools are held to stricter oversights.

“Private schools can deny services to students with disabilities. Public schools cannot. Private schools can deny services to low performing kids or to kids with behavior problems. Public schools cannot.” Thompson noted.

Communities need public schools.

Thompson went on to explain that taking money away from public works is not beneficial to society. “In society, people work together for the greater good of the community.” He offered the following incisive analogies. I don’t use county roads outside of town...maybe I need to get that money back so I can pave my driveway that only I use? Or maybe I plan to drive myself to the hospital if I need medical attention?

I could save tax money that might be used for ambulance services. And what if I don’t like the books in the library and choose to buy my own on Amazon?”

Superintendent Thompson’s cautionary dispatch that came across throughout our conversation is that taking money from public resources for private purposes is not only destructive to the common good; it’s wrong.

His eloquent words reiterate the sentiment of many others, “The process of “bleeding public education resources for private gain is tremendously concerning.” Especially when it is sold to the public as “a benefit to society as a whole.”

THE MORE YOU KNOW!

WEALTHY FAMILIES HAD THEIR PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION SUBSIDIZED

Between 75% and 90% of Voucher users in states like Arizona, New Hampshire and Wisconsin were already in private school before Vouchers were implemented. The disproportionate use of voucher programs by kids already in private school means taxpayers are left footing the bill for affluent families, and private institutions (including for-profit enterprises) walk away with unregulated and unaccountable handouts on the public dime.



Library from A1

porary exhibit of 2025 called The Library.

According to Jean Maher, Assistant Director this is the first time the museum has put together a library display. “Every year around November or December the whole staff brainstorm and we throw out ideas and we choose some that we think will work,” she said.

This exhibit can be found in the new addition. There is also an area for children to sit and read, color or do activities to have a more hands experience. Hand-outs that explain the Dewey Decimal System, and contain library word searches, library crossword puzzles, and

library hidden pictures, are available to take home.

The exhibit contains photos and storyboards with information about libraries in the Tri-State area, Thomas Jefferson and the Library of Congress, Sir Edwards Strict Rules for Librarians, and SD Traveling Libraries, plus many more topics. See curated artifacts and take a touchscreen quiz.

The exhibit runs until May 7, 2025, with the next exhibit already being planned and prepared.

“The next exhibit is on maps. We have quite a few antique maps, and also maps of Butte County that most people haven’t seen before,” explained Maher.

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Feb 8 - Soccer Tournament Day 2, Tri State Museum mini exhibit opens

Feb 9 - Soccer Tournament Day 3, Super Bowl Sunday

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Broncs Have a Busy Week at Home

Kandi Tonsager
Special to the Beacon

On Thursday January 30th, the Broncs held their Senior Night recognition before their dual with Sturgis Brown. Three Broncs and six Lady Broncs in the graduating class were honored.

The three Bronc seniors were Oscar Garcia, Owyn Schreder and Zachary Tonsager. The six Lady Broncs were Aleyah Carbajal, Sofia Gonzalez, Alexa Sanchez, Joselyn Shockey, Alexa Swaney and Abby Vissia. Both Bronc teams fell short to Sturgis in the dual.

Friday January 31st and Saturday February 1st, the Broncs teams hosted the annual Belle Fourche Invitational with 19 teams competing.

The Broncs placed 3rd as a team and had 7 of their 15 competitors place in the top 6. Caden Swaney at 106lbs placed 4th, Cooper Conry at 113lbs placed 3rd, Garett Huston at 132lbs placed 2nd, Alex Norlin at 144lbs placed 3rd, Riley Dighton at 150lbs placed 3rd, Owyn Schreder at 165lbs placed 4th, and Luke Tonsager at Heavyweight placed 6th.

Other competitors were Nathan Hudson at 106lbs, Dylan Park at 126lbs, Connor Kukla at 138lbs, Koby Bowden at 138lbs, Zach Tonsager at 175lbs, Spencer Bush-Graslie at 175lbs, and Oscar Garcia at 190lbs.

The Lady Broncs placed 7th as a team with 1 champion and 4 additional placers taking the podium. Kyra Vandenberg at 100lbs placed 1st, Lia Mundt at 107lbs placed 6th, Birk Kraft competed at 120lbs, Aleyah Carbajal at 126lbs placed 5th, Alexa Swaney at 138lbs placed 3rd, and Joselyn Shockey at 152lbs placed 2nd.

On Sunday February 2nd, the Belle Fourche AAU Club hosted their annual Bronc Dailey Invitational. The tournament had over 400 wrestlers competing. The club boasts 98 Bronc AAU wrestlers of their own this season with many competing and placing in the top 3 this weekend. The high school wrestling teams run tables, towel tap and referee for the AAU tournament to wrap up their 4 day stretch in their home gym.

The Broncs competed in a tournament in Chadron, Nebraska on January 25th with 8 placers taking the podium. Caden Swaney took 6th, Garett Huston 3rd, Riley Dighton 3rd, Owyn Schreder 5th, Spencer Bush-Graslie 5th, and Luke Tonsager 6th. For JV, Clifford Torberson took 5th and Kolby Tibbs took 2nd. For the Lady Broncs Kyra Vandenberg placed 2nd, Lia Mundt 4th, Aleyah Carbajal 3rd, Sofia Gonzalez 6th, Alexa Swaney 3rd, Joselyn Shockey 3rd, and Alexa Sanchez 6th.

The Bronc boys and girls compete next in Hill City on Saturday, February 8th for their last regular season tournament, followed by Regionals at The Monument in Rapid City on Saturday, February 22nd to try to earn their spot in the state competition the last week of February.



Senior Zachary Tonsager



Senior Abby Vissia



Senior Alexa Garcia



Senior Alexa Swaney



Senior Aleyah Carbajal



Senior Joselyn Shockey



Senior Oscar Garcia



Senior Owyn Schreder

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February 24th
1-4pm
United Methodist Church
Spearfish, SD



Clara has requested hugs in lieu of gifts



AAU Broncs Joey Tonsager, Brooks Linch & Easton Swaney



Alex Norlin at the Belle Invite.



AnnaBelle Dighton & Charlie Huston with Champion Brackets at Bronc Dailey



Garet Huston at Belle Fourche Invite



Luke Tonsager with a suplex throw



Nora Hodge & Mila Hudson battling at Bronc Dailey



Luke Tonsager with a suplex throw



Ref Riley Dighton holding up Bronc Logan Gleason over Bronc Jacob Nash at Bronc Dailey



Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



As you fill your brand new 2025 calendar, be sure to add the FINE ARTS events in our community and our schools.
SCHEDULE NOTE: The BFMS Band Concert has been rescheduled for February 10th at 6:30 PM.

Come join BFACT for their first ever **90's PROM FUNDRAISER on SATURDAY, MARCH 1st**. This event will be a blast from the past! Come dressed in your 90's best and bring your friends. While there you can enjoy a delicious pulled pork dinner and a full bar. There will be a DJ playing all the hits from the 90s. Also included: 90s trivia, vintage gaming, party games, photos booths and so much more! 90s' PROM Schedule: 6pm – Social Hour; 7pm – Dinner/Trivia; 9pm – Dance into the night! The best thing about this night is that all of the proceeds go right back into BFACT to help us put on our 15th Season of theater in Belle Fourche. Due to the sale of alcohol at this event, it is 21+ only. Only 125 tickets available, tickets are also available at the door the night of the event. Tickets are \$40/person or \$70 for two. See you there!

The Belle Fourche Fine Arts Boosters has two more big events on their calendar: The Junior/Senior Fine Arts Trip & the upcoming Community Variety Show. Eleven Juniors & Seniors will be traveling to Denver in February for a three-day weekend packed with theater, music & art. The trip is supported financially by the BF FAB, the students' fundraising/concession sales, & contributions from members of the community who donate to the fundraisers.

The Community Variety Show will be on May 4th, a Sunday afternoon, at the Belle Fourche Community Hall. This FUNraiser showcases local talent & the arts. If you have an act or art to share, contact the BF FAB at bfhsfab@gmail.com. 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!**

Feb. 10, Monday, BFMS Band Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 6:30 pm
MARCH 1, Saturday, BFACT's first ever 90's PROM FUNDRAISER - 6 PM to 12 AM, Belle Fourche Community Hall.
Mar. 14, Friday, MS Play, MAGIC, @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm
Mar. 15, Saturday, MS Play, MAGIC, @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm
Mar. 17, Monday, BFHS Band / Chorus Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm
Mar. 18, Tuesday, BFMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Spring Choir Concert, @ the Rec Center Theater, 6:30 pm
Mar. 29, Atomic Lobsters, Getting Our Acts Together, Belle Fourche Community Theater, @ the Rec Center Theater
April 7, Monday, BFMS/BFHS Jazz Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 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!



Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden February 1, 2025

We couldn't have asked for a better ending to January with temperatures reaching 60 degrees on Sunday. The weather man had been predicting a change by Sunday.

As of Monday South Dakota has a new Governor, Larry Rhoden. He was sworn in on Monday and delivered his State of the State address on Tuesday. All four of his sons were there including Kalen and Liz Rhoden and children. His siblings John, Dan, and Lorie were in attendance either Monday or Tuesday, or both. Sister in laws, nieces and nephews were. In attendance as well. On Wednesday he announced his pick for Lt. Governor and on Thursday the legislature voted unanimously to approve of the appointment. It was a very busy week and ended with Larry and

Sandy attending the Bull Bash on Friday night and then the horse sale on Saturday. Larry and Sandy then visited the Rainbow Bible Ranch booth as well as Cammack Ranch Supply and others. Larry came wet from Pierre and after attending the Stock Show & Rodeo he headed back to Pierre on Saturday. The March for Life took place on Sunday and he spoke at that event at the Capitol.

There was pot luck dinner after church in Union Center on Sunday as that day marked the first Sunday of the month.

There seems to be a bug going around that has been hanging on and not letting go of some families.

Hopefully, friends and family and those who wish to attend the Inaugural festivities will

all be healthy by Saturday, Feb. 8 this weekend. Because of it being a short notice inauguration, personal invitations nor tickets are not required. The swearing in will be on Saturday at 1:00 pm. At 6:00 doors open for the Inaugural ball. The grand march is at 7:00. At 9:15 there will be a motorcade for whoever would like to join in and it will go over the beautiful new Missouri River, looping East River to West River into Ft. Pierre and back. Those who wish to continue in the celebration will then go to the Ramkota just after coming back over the bridge. The Capitol Ball is a formal affair so it should be a fun time to dig out that long dress or special tie. It looks to be a fun celebration.

February is the month that we think of love more so than most. Red and pink hearts can be seen everywhere. May they remind us to speak a little kinder and show more grace to those we love in the days ahead.

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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.

Belle Silver Lining

Thrift Store

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

Belle Silver Lining Senior Center 828 Kingsbury St.
605-892-6285

For your shopping pleasure.

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.

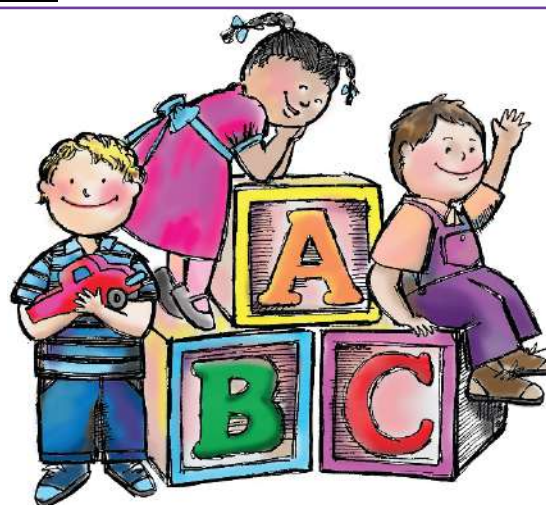
B F Public Library, 3rd Sat. as always.

Any and all writers are invited to attend.

Meals On Wheels

Program Ongoing

11:30am-12:30pm Monday through Friday
1500 Mill Street • 605-723-5036



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



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Sturgis, SD 57785

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F: 605.702.9206

Belle Fourche

511 National
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

P: 605.723.0185
F: 605.723.0186

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Belle Fourche Beacon 'Happenings' and News Bytes Calendar

The Beacon Happenings Calendar is public service listing of meetings, events, and things to do in and around Belle Fourche. Happenings announcements may be sent to: news@bellefourchebeacon.com Deadline is Friday before 5pm.

First Family Fun Day of New Year: Marvelous Maps BELLE FOURCHE—Sunday, January 19 was the first Family Fun Day of the new year at the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center. From 2 to 4 p.m., families learned about "Marvelous Maps," including facts like who invented maps and how maps have changed over time. Everyone got to make their own map as part of the activity. The event also included a book drawing, other crafts, and a take-home workbook for the attendees. As always, refreshments were served. The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center hosts Family Fun Days every month. The next Family Fun Day is scheduled for February 16 with the theme "A Day for Wolves." Admission is \$2 without a membership and free for members, and reservations can be made by calling 605-723-1200.

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.

Tri-State Museum Rural Expressions Photo Contest Reception

Judging and reception of the BF Arts Council's third annual Rural Expressions Photography Contest. Photos will have been on exhibit in the museum during the previous week. Visitors may vote for People's Choice awards. Buffet offered. 5-7 PM Saturday, February 22



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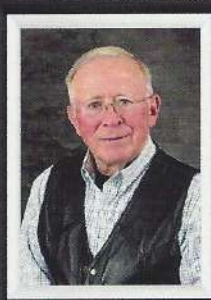
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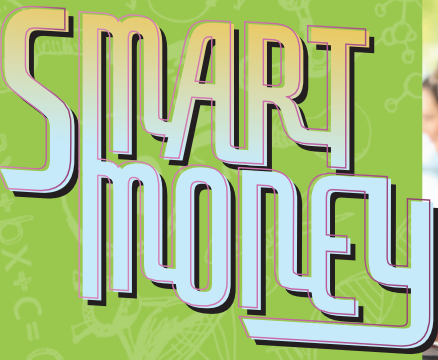
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Wild Rose Traveling Art Shop

For those who appreciated creative expression time, The Belle Fourche Public Library was the place to be on January 25.

Wendy Rogers owner of The Wild Rose Traveling Art Shop was available with all the supplies to make beautiful, personalized bookmarks.

The Wild Rose Traveling Art Shop is a service that brings people the joy of creativity

through art parties.

Wendy designs an art project and brings all the supplies to make it.

She demonstrates different techniques and offers lots of instructional assistance.

Wendy's goal is for each participant to take home a beautiful meaningful work of art that brings them joy and inspiration.



Everyone had a great time making bookmarks at the *Belle Fourche Public Library* with Wendy Rogers' *Wild Rose Traveling Art Shop*.



One can never own too many bookmarks! *Courtesy Photos*



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*Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Next two weeks** Wednesday **January 29th** through Tuesday, **February 11th***

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Cheer & Dance From A1 \$500 each.” The organization hopes to build on that scholarship amount. “This particular event tonight is going to the scholarships.

We’re hoping to keep building to go higher up, so we haven’t decided if we’re doing \$500 or \$750 this year.

It just depends on where we’re at,” said Barnes.

This year was the first rendition of the Winter Ball, and the turnout was impressive with 144 of 200 available tickets sold. “We really love that our little town of Belle Fourche is all involved. They’re very, very, very much involved in all of our stuff that we do,” said Merjil.

Recently, the Belle Fourche community came together to raise \$35,000 to send Belle

Fourche cheerleaders to New York for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. “We were lucky, the Spirit of Cheer & Dance.

We were able to give each of those cheerleaders \$500 for their trip,” said Merjil.

Follow Spirit of Cheer & Dance on Facebook for information and updates!



Silent auction items were donated by local business and individuals to raise money for **Spirit of Cheer & Dance, Inc.** Longbrake photos



DJs for the Winter Ball were **Katie Hammill** and **Sara Rosencranz**.



(L) Vice President, **Carmen Barnes** and President, **Carie Merjil** dressed in their beautiful ball gowns for the Winter Formal fundraiser. (C) **Krystel Cazer**, Treasurer, greets everyone and took tickets for the evening’s events. (R) It wouldn’t be a **Winter Ball** if there wasn’t a few selfies, would it?



From A1 **Fun Night** was wonderful to see so many parents and children participating in hands-on activities. Among those activities were the Making Words With “Sandcastle” and the Estimation Jar contests.

Contest winners that are BF Elementary students were awarded the privilege of eating at “The Fancy Table”, with a friend of their choice.

The following were the winners for each contest: Estimation Jar Winners- Treyton Vetter, Ronin Dunavant, and Andrew Thompson.

Making Words with “Sandcastle” Winners- Cactus Vig, Callie Llewellyn, Zendaya White Buffalo, Hank Janish, Ronin Dunavant, and Pedro Salazar.

Thank you to all the teachers, volunteers, and families who helped to make this night unforgettable. We look forward to continuing to foster a love of reading and learning in our students and their families in the months to come!



Reed Ruzicka and Cactus Vig (Courtesy Photo)



Hank Janish, Juelz Lahoe, Oakley Roberts, and Andrew Thompson (Courtesy Photo)

From A1 Amtrak SD

Sioux Falls to Rapid City, then south to connect with Denver.

We are also advocating a northern spur that would include connecting Sturgis and Belle Fourche (which includes closer access for Lead/Deadwood as well).

The benefits to Tourism and

Economic development would be enormous to the state in terms of sales tax revenue and rail line upgrades that would be beneficial to our existing ag and industrial rail line shippers.

In addition to the local community’s activities that will develop in support of the effort

It can have far reaching benefits comparable to the building of the Missouri River Dams and the development of the Interstate Highway system.

The Beacon will do it’s best to keep you informed as the situation develops in our legislature and Congress.

ABC Butte-Lawrence County Coalition

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Bill Elger, Prevention Resource Coordinator at Youth and Family Services in Rapid City engages members of the ABC Butte-Lawrence County Coalition during their January meeting.

Recreational marijuana is illegal in South Dakota. However, since the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill even occasional patrons of convenience stores may have noticed that products containing CBD and synthetic THC take up more and more display space.

Plentiful supplies of oils, vapes, gummies, edibles and topicals promise a panacea of health benefits. And they are available at convenience stores, specialty shops, on-line, and of course at local dispensaries.

For the past five years South Dakota retailers have legally been permitted to offer a

growing range of products that purport to reduce pain, inflammation, promote relaxation, treat sleep deprivation, symptoms of serious disorders such as heart disease, diabetes...and the list goes on.

Convincing information touting the healing benefits is available on retailers’ packaging, and plenty more can be found on the usual online resources. Suffering from pain or other debilitating symptoms? Want to feel better? Who wouldn’t?

William (Bill) Elger agrees. Bill is a Prevention Resource Coordinator at Youth and Family Services in Rapid City. “It’s a challenging time to go about life.” He said in a recent interview. “People want something to make them feel better, when life doesn’t go well.”

However, Bill contends that the availability of these products is alarming.

He was present at the January meeting to provide some insight

into some dangers associated with the use of CBD and THC. “CBD has become very popular.” He said candidly. “Mental health is important in the equation.” The audience was a group of educators, law enforcement, mental health specialists, and concerned citizens. “CBD is marketed as a wellness product, and it doesn’t come with the legal and social risks associated with THC. However, there’s some gray area about how “safe” and “legal” these products might be.”

The attentive audience took notes and asked questions. Growing awareness and appreciation for the uncertainties of cannabis, and the safety of its use for medical treatment are concerns for agencies such as the ABC Butte County Coalition.

Bill Elger is one of four Prevention Resource Coordinators in South Dakota and a regular guest speaker at the ABC Butte





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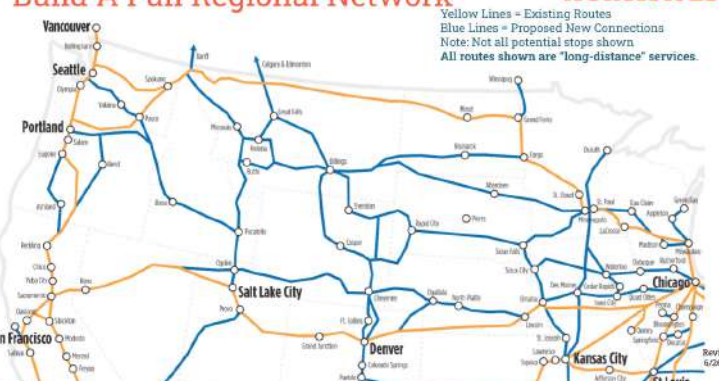
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Note: Not all potential stops shown
All routes shown are “long-distance” services.



Bill Elger, Prevention Resource Coordinator at **Youth and Family Services** in Rapid City engages members of the **ABC Butte-Lawrence County Coalition** during their January meeting. *Courtesy photo*

County Coalition Meetings in Belle Fourche.

He wears suit jackets with comfortable shoes for these presentations.

The 2018 Farm Bill legalized the cultivation of hemp. Thereafter, South Dakota legalized the sale and production of hemp-derived THC and CBD. Hemp and marijuana are both cannabis plants. The difference is that hemp contains 0.3 percent or less THC,

while marijuana contains more than 0.3 percent THC. Hemp is often used to manufacture fiber for rope and to a lesser extent for the extraction of THC and CBD.

Both THC and CBD are purported to have certain health benefits. But the important distinction is that THC has psychoactive properties, while CBD does not.

Bill Elger noted, one serious

ABC Contd. C-3

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Ray Pepin ~ Fieldman: 605-892-5072
Tyler Escott ~ Fieldman: 406-853-5690
Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654

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Cattle Report - Friday, January 31, 2025

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Market is still on fire!

No Sale - Feb. 7 - Visit the Black Hills Stock Show
Next sale - Feb. 14 - Feeder Cattle Special - 9 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Barbero Inc, Boyes MT	73	Blk	Hfr	660	\$316.00
Barbero Inc, Boyes MT	23	Blk	Hfr	563	\$336.50
Losing, Larry & Norma, Baker MT	18	Blk	Str	566	\$355.00
Losing, Larry & Norma, Baker MT	51	Blk	Hfr	630	\$309.50
Losing, Larry & Norma, Baker MT	15	Blk	Hfr	524	\$345.50
3l Dunning Cattle Llc, Otter MT	11	Blk	Hfr	470	\$355.00
Barlow, Eric Or Elizabeth, Gillette WY	16	Red	Str	390	\$427.50
Blue Gate Solutions Llc, Gillette WY	10	B/R	Str	459	\$400.00
Caines Land & Livestock, Hyattville WY	28	Blk	Str	541	\$358.50
Carter, Bryan, Piedmont SD	1	Herf	Bull	895	\$234.00
Geis Brothers Llc, Gillette WY	10	Blk	Str	446	\$415.00
Geis Brothers Llc, Gillette WY	24	Red	Str	449	\$385.00
Gergen, Anne, Broadus MT	10	Blk	Str	574	\$351.00
Giacometto, Tom, Broadus MT	29	Char	Str	502	\$386.00
Giacometto, Tom, Broadus MT	12	Char	Str	407	\$412.00
Giacometto, Tom, Broadus MT	18	Char	Hfr	458	\$370.00
Janssen, William, Volborg MT	13	Blk	Hfr	644	\$303.00
Johnson, Josh & Jennifer, Buffalo WY	13	Bbld	Hfr	619	\$315.00
Julson, Jake, New Underwood SD	14	Blk	Hfr	522	\$340.00
K3 Cattle Company Llc, Rozet WY	1	Blk	Bull	815	\$257.50
Kluver, Kirby Or Frieda, Forsyth MT	48	B/R	Hfr	520	\$348.00
Kretschman, Kelby/Lacey, Arvada WY	26	Blk	Str	696	\$314.50
Kretschman, Kelby/Lacey, Arvada WY	49	Blk	Hfr	683	\$290.00
Mackaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD	27	Bbld	Str	488	\$358.00
Mackaben, Ronny, Broadus MT	46	Blk	Str	592	\$317.50
Mackaben, Ronny, Broadus MT	24	Mix	Str	590	\$306.50
Mackaben, Ronny, Broadus MT	10	R/Ch	Str	659	\$310.00
Medearis, Tyler Or Jordan, Plevna MT	18	Red	Str	559	\$339.00
Nielsen Jr, Jack, Greybull WY	31	Bbld	Str	608	\$348.00
Nielsen Jr, Jack, Greybull WY	20	Bbld	Hfr	553	\$330.00
Peegee Ranch, Arvada WY	17	Blk	Str	592	\$344.00
Schmidt, Rocky, Buffalo SD	13	Red	Str	724	\$276.50
Sparks, Thomas, Plevna MT	22	Herf	Hfr	475	\$320.00
Spear E Ranch, Olive MT	11	Blk	Hfr	901	\$261.00
Stadheim, Larry, Hettlinger ND	23	Herf	Hfr	421	\$316.00
Wigen, Mike, Otter MT	17	Str		590	\$345.00
Wigen, Mike, Otter MT	10	B/R	Str	707	\$291.00

Bred Hfrs & Cows - Sold By The Head

K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	34	Blk	Hfr	977	\$3,300.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	22	Blk	Hfr	1045	\$3,000.00
Fruit Ranch, Broadus MT	30	Blk	Broken	1377	\$2,475.00
Fruit Ranch, Broadus MT	40	Blk	Broken	1376	\$2,485.00
21 Ranch Inc, Sundance WY	36	Rbld	Hfr	977	\$2,950.00
Gaskill, Kenneth, Volborg MT	13	Blk	Solid Short Solid	1233	\$2,550.00
Gaskill, Kenneth, Volborg MT	21	Blk	4-5	1060	\$2,950.00
J J Smeenk Ranch Llc, Newell SD	29	Blk	Broken	1247	\$2,250.00
Masteller, Terrance & Craig, Rozet WY	10	Blk	Mix Aged	1360	\$2,300.00
Sandra Holcomb, Larry, Buffalo SD	17	Red	Mix Aged	1362	\$2,375.00
Semiek Ranch, Llc, Moorcroft WY	11	Blk	Broken	1513	\$2,575.00

Weigh Up Cows

21 Ranch Inc, Sundance WY	1	Rbld	Hfr	910	\$247.00
Amdahl, Jd, Piedmont SD	1	Blk	Cow	1345	\$140.00
Amdahl, Jd, Piedmont SD	1	Blk	Cow	1690	\$136.00
Amdahl, Tim, Piedmont SD	1	Blk	Cow	1690	\$134.00
Arithson, Drew, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Hfr	1045	\$183.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD	10	Bbld	Hfr	1126	\$206.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD	1	Blk	Hfr	1210	\$201.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD	4	Bbld	Hfr	1268	\$187.00
Bauer, Casey, Union Center SD	1	Bld	Hfr	1140	\$186.00
Bauer, Casey, Union Center SD	1		Cow	1590	\$136.00
Boomsma, Dennis, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Hfr	920	\$236.00
Boomsma, Dennis, Box Elder SD	4	Blk	Cow	1247	\$133.00
Boomsma, Dennis, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Cow	875	\$131.00
Boomsma, Dennis, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Cow	1055	\$129.00
Boomsma, Dirk, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Hfr	1015	\$216.00
Cady, Larry & Deb, Ashland MT	1	Blk	Hfr	915	\$239.50
Cahoon, Jeanette Or Dan, Sonnette MT	1	Blk	Hfr	1150	\$203.00
Cordell, Rhonda, Camp Crook SD	1	Blk	Hfr	1090	\$187.00
Dejong, Doyle Or Lorie, Box Elder SD	7	Bbld	Hfr	917	\$228.00
Dejong, Doyle Or Lorie, Box Elder SD	4	Blk	Cow	1327	\$139.00
Dejong, Doyle Or Lorie, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Cow	1615	\$132.00
Dejong, Kelsie, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Hfr	1025	\$187.50
Dejong, Kelsie, Box Elder SD	1	Blk	Cow	1435	\$133.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Cowette	1260	\$144.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Cow	1385	\$140.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	6	Blk	Cow	1248	\$138.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Cow	1460	\$122.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	1	Rbld	Cowette	1300	\$143.00
Gilger Ranch, Dd, Boyes MT	1	Blk	Cow	1345	\$127.50
Jacob/Kimberly Dalby, Roger, Gillette WY	1	Blk	Cowette	1315	\$150.00
Glines, Natalie, Camp Crook SD	1	Blk	Hfr	975	\$239.00
Grieves, Jd, Upton WY	1	Blk	Cow	1450	\$139.50
Grieves, Jd, Upton WY	1	Blk	Cow	1545	\$137.50
Grieves, Jd, Upton WY	1	Blk	Cow	1355	\$137.50
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD	3	Blk	Hfr	1066	\$220.00
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD	1	Red	Cowette	1380	\$146.00
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD	1	Blk	Cow	1420	\$139.50
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	3	Blk	Cowette	1203	\$150.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	2	Blk	Cow	1242	\$129.00
Helkenn, Wade E, Upton WY	1	Blk	Cow	790	\$122.50
Helkenn, Wade E, Upton WY	1	Blk	Cow	1295	\$120.00
Hutchinson Trust, Aladdin WY	1	Red	Hfr	830	\$192.50
J Six Enterprises, Seneca KS	1	Blk	Hfr	865	\$205.00
J Six Enterprises, Seneca KS	1	Blk	Hfr	895	\$200.00
J Six Enterprises, Seneca KS	1	Blk	Cow	1230	\$125.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	1	Blk	Hfr	870	\$246.00
Konechne, Jim A, Rapid City SD	1	Blk	Cow	1495	\$140.50

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Sheep Report - Thursday, January 30, 2025

Lambs sold \$3 to \$6 higher
Medium & thin ewes sold \$15 higher & fleshy ewes sold steady
Bred ewes sold steady

No Sale Feb. 6 - Go visit the Black Hills Stock Show
Next Sale - Feb. 13 - Bred Ewe Special - Selling all classes of sheep & goats
Animals should be here by 10 AM so they can be weighed before the sale
Thank you for your business!

Bred Ewes - Sold by the head

Schmidt, Cleve, Belle Fourche SD	46	2-4yr	164	\$260.00
Schmidt, Cleve, Belle Fourche SD	79	4-6yr	165	\$250.00
Schmidt, Cleve, Belle Fourche SD	96	4-6yr	172	\$215.00
Thompson, Pat, Buffalo SD	22	2-4yr	176	\$270.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	36	S-Ss	174	\$210.00

Feeder Lambs

Brandt, Stetson, Granville ND	47	Lamb	81	\$231.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	32	Lamb	90	\$207.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	12	Lamb	110	\$198.00
Erk Ranch, Newell SD	18	Lamb	54	\$280.00
Erk Ranch, Newell SD	10	Lamb	76	\$242.50
Miller, Harold Or Lorie, Newell SD	86	Lamb	95	\$205.00
Miller, Harold Or Lorie, Newell SD	408	Lamb	115	\$178.00
Murnion, Fred, Cohagen MT	16	Lamb	68	\$275.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulett WY	18	Lamb	77	\$242.50
Phillippi, Renetta, Hammond MT	72	Lamb	85	\$221.00
Ryen, Jack, Prairie City SD	12	Lamb	63	\$275.00

Slaughter Ewes

Erk Ranch, Newell SD	32	K Ewe	153	\$116.00
Erk Ranch, Newell SD	53	K Ewe	138	\$103.00
Erk Ranch, Newell SD	10	K Ewe	165	\$93.00
Gaugler, Drew Or Erin, Lemmon SD	12	K Ewe	122	\$98.00
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	11	K Ewe	209	\$85.00
Kuhbacher, Tyson, Gillette WY	10	K Ewe	194	\$90.00
Murnion, Fred, Cohagen MT	43	K Ewe	157	\$116.00
Murnion, Fred, Cohagen MT	17	K Ewe	138	\$103.00
Murnion, Fred, Cohagen MT	14	K Ewe	182	\$93.00
Storm, Scott, Meadow SD	18	K Ewe	156	\$116.00
Veal Black Angus, Meadow SD	9	K Ewe	163	\$116.00
Veal Black Angus, Meadow SD	15	K Ewe	172	\$93.00
Veal Black Angus, Meadow SD	87	K Ewe	215	\$88.00
Veal Black Angus, Meadow SD	1	K Ewe	211	\$50.00
Williams, Rigny, St Onge SD	10	K Ewe	114	\$103.00

Friday, February 7, 2025

No sale due to the Black Hills Stock Show

2025 CATTLE SALES

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=

2025 SPRING BULL SALES

February 21st– Lewis Brothers Angus Bull Sale
March 28th– Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale
April 4th – Ck Bar Ranch Sim-Angus Bull Sale
April 11th – Cactus Cattle Company Angus Bull Sale
April 18th – Baker Lemar Angus Bull Sale
April 25th – Jordan Cattle Co Sim Angus & Angus Bull Sale
May 16th – Turn-Out Bull Sale

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

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

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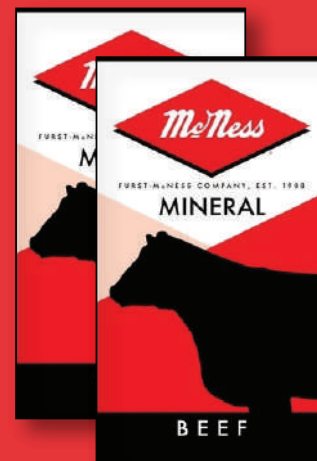


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Looking Back in Belle

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

124 years ago

THE TIMES

February 1, 1900

RICH MINING DISTRICT Land Once Sold for \$2,500,000 Could Now Bring \$10,000,000

Lead, S.D. Jan. 30- One of the richest mining districts in the northern Black Hills is found north of this city in what is known as the North Lead mining district. All of the ground was at one time bonded to John Pierce, of Sioux City, and one of the largest mining deals ever attempted all but went through. The ground was placed for \$2,500,000. The same ground could not be purchased now for \$10,000,000. The Grantz strike has created renewed interest in the district as well as the discovery of rich shoots of wolfram ore in some of the old mines. It will take \$1,000,000 to buy the Grantz four claims, which were listed in the Pierce deal for about \$25,000. There are numerous old river beds, rining through the district, which are filled up with a cement formation carrying from \$5 to \$40 a ton gold. Grantz has such a cement bed running from one end to the other of his Hadden Fortune claim, which is 150 feet wide, 40 feet deep and has an average value of \$10 per ton. This same cement bed extends south several thousand feet. It was worked in the early years in the Durango mine, where \$80,000 worth of ore was taken out in a month's time. One of the richest mines n the Hills is the Harrison, which is located on the south end of this cement bed. There are numerous shoots of godl bearing ore, which are capped with wolfram, and gold ore will average \$80 to the ton. Regular shipments of about eight cars are made each month. The Reddy is also a rich mine. The Durango, which is owned by the state inspector of mines and association, contains considerable wolfram ore.

News in the Area Last week's TIMES, in noting the visit of L. C. Gass says that the blackleg is prevalent along the Little Missouri. May I take kindly exception to this? Early in the season J. J. Zimmerman last a few head, about the sometime Mrs. Hutchinson lost one, and last week Mr. Gass lost three or four. These are all the cases I have heard of this season, even provided they were all due to what is called blackleg.

100 years

The Northwest Post

February 5, 1925

CELEBRATE 106TH ANNIVERSARY Grandma Stevens Survives for One Year Over Half of Second Life's Allotment

On next Sunday, February 8, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Mitchell, of Minnesela, 3 miles east of Belle Fourche, Grandma Catherine Sophia Stevens, long distinguished as South Dakota's oldest citizen, will celebrate her 106th birthday anniversary. As upon former occasions, this remarkable woman will hold a reception during the day for her

hosts of friends throughout the Hills. A report for the Lead Dailly Call interviewed Grandma Stevens the other day and the following story was the result: "To recall memories of over a century ago when the Great American Desert was in its infancy, a proverbial expression for waste lands, when the momentous discoveries of Lewis and Clark in the northwest — where she now makes her home — were hardly completed; such is the unusual privilege of Mrs. C. S. Stevens who resides with her daughter on a ranch a few miles from this city.

On February 8, Mrs. Stevens will celebrate her 106th birthday. Despite her age, she is active in body and mind and takes great pleasure in conversing with neighbors or acquaintances about her early life or in discussing current topics. She is erect, supple, and her face, which deeply lined, offers no marked indication of the fact that she is well on to the second of the allotted four score and ten year span of life. "What do I think of bobbed hair?" She repeated the question wit what might easily be called a twinkle playing about the corners of her eyes. "Why we had bobbed hair when I was a girl. Surely its all right if one likes it. I see now it is quite a fashion." "Do you suppose I can live to be as old as you? I don't see why you can't." was the quick response, "that is, if you behave yourself." "How did you live to be so old?" The question seemed to start a reverie in the aged woman's mind, and it wasn't until it was repeated the second time; a few minutes later she replied "My life is not in my hands," she said slowly. "It is in the Lord's. I get down the old Bible once in a while still, and I can read it some. It is right. My time is in the Lord's hands." "Would you like to live another hundred years? At this she looked amused. "I really don't know," she replied. "They say the first hundred is the hardest. I guess they are right." She smiled at her own joke> "But really, I don't know. I'm not tired of life. I've had hardships and sick spells to. But the Lord brought me through."

Mrs. Stevens' wit and intense religious nature are two of her dominant characteristics, according to her children. Of Scotch=Irish parentage she was born on February 9, 1810 at Greensboro, Nova Scotia. Her maiden name was Catherine O'Grady. She was the youngest child of four. She was brought up in the strict Presbyterian style, and still bears a deep affection for the church of her childhood. In 1883 she came west via. Quebec and Bismarck, to Crook City, Dakota Territory to take up a homestead. Though alone, she made the trip without mishap. No Indians were encounter, she declares, though the stage which preceded the one in which she rode west from Bismarck had been harassed the day before. Arrived in the Black Hills region, she flied on a homestead and lived on it two years. She returned to Nova Scotia, but after a short period returned to the Hills and has made her home here ever since.

Mrs. Stevens' husband died in 1890. To them were born nine children, six of whom are now living. The eldest is Harriet Woodard, of Adrian, Michigan,



by Mary Buchholz

aged 2. Thirty-one grandchildren and thirty-two great grandchildren are living. C. H. Stevens of Lead is a son, and Mrs. George Forum, also Lead, is a grand-daughter.

75 years ago

The Daily Post

February 3, 1950

Roy Wood Again Heads Show Group

Ray Wood was re-elected president of the Tri-State Fair and Sales Association, parent organization of the Black Hills Round-Up at that group's organization meeting Wednesday. Lon Newell was re-elected vice president, R. A. Smiley will serve again as secretary and R. F. Voyles was re-named treasurer. Frank Evans has been selected as grounds chairman for the 1950 show. R. A. Smiley will serve as chairman of the 1950 Round-Up committee, with Lon Newell as vice-chairman. All members of the 1949 Round-Up committee were re-appointed for 1950, with the exception that Russell Olmsted has been named to replace Bob Bartelt in the music department and K. F. Olsen and Laurence Weyler have been added to the committee.

SERVE NOTICE OF AIR SERVICE TO BLACK HILLS PORT Pierre, Feb. 2 — Western Airlines has notified the South Dakota state aeronautics board that it plans to begin serving the Black Hills airport at Spearfish after March 1. The airline suspended service there several years ago because of inadequate facilities. The field has since been improved..

50 years ago

The Belle Fourche Daily Post

February 1, 1975

Interesting Trip 16 Make Chamber Journey to Pierre

It was a long day, but an interesting one," is the why some participants described Thursday's Chamber of Commerce sponsored bus trip to Pierre. Sixteen persons made the trip, which included a visit with the governor, lunch with area legislators, observation of legislators, observation of legislative committee activities and a brief glimpse of the legislature in session. The group left here at 6 a.m. Thursday and were in Pierre by 11:10. Twenty minutes later they were conferring with Gov. Richard Kneip, who was presented a letter inviting him to attend the Black Hills Roundup at Belle Fourche this summer. Rep. G. F. Mortimer met the group when they arrived at Pierre and directed them to the governor. Following the visit with Gov. Kneip, the group had lunch with legislators from this area — Rep. Mortimer, Rep Harold Millett, Senator John Riedy and several Meade county legislators. Also on hand for the luncheon was Ritchie Cornell, a Belle Fourche high school student who is serving as a legislative page for the first few weeks of the session. Kelly Blake, formerly of Belle Fourche, but now with the department of school and public lands and Joyce Hollingsworth, former Belle Fourche resident, also joined the group at the luncheon. Visits to committee meetings and the legislative session took up the afternoon. The party left Pierre about 5 p.m. and stopped at Philip for supper. Stopping by for a visit

there were Mr. and Mrs. Woody Woodall, former Belle Fourche residents and the parents of Bill Husband, proprietor of Beckers Drug, who was on the trip. Husband grew up in Philip.

Making the trip were: Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lakso, Alfred

Sorenson, Mr. and Mrs. Bed Paradis, Robert Wagner, Larry Ross, Jackie Peitz, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Day, Bill Husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gale Ballenger, Kathy Goddard, Chamber Secretary Naomi Swanson and Chamber President Ed Denham.

CANDLES AND MIRRORS #16By

DeAnn Kruempel

“When Overalls Could Stand”

It's Monday morning. The sun is shining. Delmer informed me via text that it is five degrees in De Smet, South Dakota. On a similar January day nearly 70 years ago, our mother would have said, "It's a good day to get the laundry done."

The Maytag ring-er-washer handled the washing part, but the amazing thing about winter laundry back then was how the clothes were dried. Barring snow showers or howling blizzards, Mom almost always hung the clothes out on the line. And Monday was almost always "wash day."

The first load was the whites, washed in good hot water. Bundled in winter coats and boots, I followed Mom out to the clothesline. She set her wooden apple basket down in the packed snow path. The canvas clothespin bag she had tucked into her basket came out first. She hooked it over the heavy wire and it worked in Goldilocks fashion (just right!), sliding along so the wooden clothespins were always just in her reach. Dish towels, hankies, whitey-tidies and bed sheets were soon clipped onto the icy line. I watched as they moved in the wind, flapping gently for a few seconds, then turning stiff and barely moving. Mom grinned as she saw the question in my eyes. "They'll freeze dry," she said.

Her hands had to be cold, but she kept on, working as quickly as freezing fingers allowed. Soon the basket was empty and we trudged back inside for the next batch. She did the same with the loads of colored clothing and finally the darks, the jeans and overalls.

There were three strong wires on our clothesline that were fastened on to three T-shaped wooden posts. Around fifteen feet of wire draped between each of the two sections. They ran parallel between the house and the yard fence. Some winters, the wind carved mountains of snow under the lines. The guys shoveled a wide



path to clear the way. The clothesline was a critical part of life on the farm, especially before we got a clothes dryer. Fortunately, the same path led to the outhouse, which was also a critical part of farm life.

Darkness set in early on winter nights, so before chore time Mom headed out to bring in the clothes. All of my siblings remember helping. Frozen stiff, it wasn't like they would fluff back into the basket! Carefully extracting them from the clothespins and the wire, we carried in the bigger items like wooden boards in front of us. Our mother laughed as she stood a pair of Dad's striped overalls next to the cookstove to finish drying. Towels and aprons were laid on chairs or on a wooden drying rack.

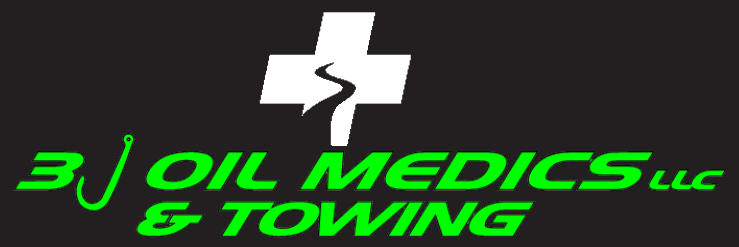
It didn't take long for the cook stove to dry everything into softness, but in the meantime, the house was filled with the freshest, most amazing scent ever to be experienced by human noses—the smell of dried-in-fresh-cold-air laundry.

Others must have also appreciated the scent, for manufacturers have tried to emulate the heavenly fragrance. Candles, soaps, dryer sheets and detergents have ingredients that are supposed to remind us of those days of freeze-dried clothing. "Fresh Linen," "Clean Cotton," "April Fresh," "South Dakota Winter," (Sorry, I got carried away!) all try to imitate Mother Nature's powers.

They are not the same, but they do, however, conjure up a fun picture in my mind—a picture of Dad's striped overalls standing up all by themselves next to the kitchen stove.

Read More!

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



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**Shaine's
Riddle of the Week:**

There's one "sport" in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?

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OFFICE - 605-892-2655

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Auctioneer: 605-515-0337

COLLIN GIBBS

Auctioneer: 406-939-0645

DAN PIROUTEK

Market Rep: 605-544-3316

BRIAN SCHMIDT

Yard Foreman: 605-569-0114

FIELDMEN

BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615

MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597

BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553

SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961

TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513

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SCOTT ANDERSON - 406-351-1844

RILEY LESH - 406-697-0573

TREVOR GARMAN - 605-892-5972

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Market Report - Thursday, January 30, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Cathy Ranch, Hammond MT	22	Blk/Bw/Brd Hfr	1062	3450.00	\$3,450.00
	25	Black-Brd Hfr	1070	3450.00	\$3,450.00
	6	Black-Brd Hfr	972	3450.00	\$3,450.00
	19	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1582	3050.00	\$3,050.00
	15	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow Bm	1543	3050.00	\$3,050.00
	10	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1537	3000.00	\$3,000.00
	9	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1479	3000.00	\$3,000.00
Brian Budmayr, Belle Fourche SD	30	Black-Brd Hfr	1032	3050.00	\$3,050.00
	5	Blk/Bw/Brd Hfr	1040	3050.00	\$3,050.00
Schaefer & Smith, Harrison Ne	21	Black-Brd Hfr	1128	3275.00	\$3,275.00
	20	Black-Brd Hfr	1159	3275.00	\$3,275.00
Cross W Livestock, Ekalaka MT	22	Black-Brd Hfr	1111	3225.00	\$3,225.00
	24	Black-Brd Hfr	1136	3225.00	\$3,225.00
	20	Black-Brd Hfr	1142	3225.00	\$3,225.00
	21	Black-Brd Hfr	1141	3225.00	\$3,225.00
Sparky Ross, Jordan MT	30	Black-Brd Hfr	1031	3100.00	\$3,100.00
	35	Black-Brd Hfr	1073	3100.00	\$3,100.00
	26	Black-Brd Hfr	954	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	25	Black-Brd Hfr	983	2950.00	\$2,950.00
Ra Smith Ranch Llc, Buffalo SD	33	Black-Brd Hfr	1007	3300.00	\$3,300.00
Thomas Ranch Inc, Belle Fourche SD	28	Black-Brd Hfr	845	2825.00	\$2,825.00
	33	Black-Brd Hfr	843	2825.00	\$2,825.00
Cody Fettig Cattle Co, Bismarck ND	19	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	1123	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	23	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow 3/4	1232	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	35	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow 5/6	1321	2875.00	\$2,875.00
	27	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow 5/6	1396	2825.00	\$2,825.00
	14	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1296	2300.00	\$2,300.00
	17	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1431	2450.00	\$2,450.00
	18	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow 3/6-L	1251	2850.00	\$2,850.00
	10	Black-Brd Cow Sm-L	1401	2475.00	\$2,475.00
Spur Land & Livestock Llc, Newcastle WY	9	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	1264	2900.00	\$2,900.00
	8	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1421	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	8	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1473	2750.00	\$2,750.00
Justin Madsen, Volborg MT	40	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1306	2350.00	\$2,350.00
Sams Livestock, Weston WY	10	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	1195	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	15	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1389	2900.00	\$2,900.00
	6	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1316	2350.00	\$2,350.00
Cole & Lindsey Cook, Forsyth MT	9	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow 5/6	1470	2850.00	\$2,850.00
	9	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow Sm	1384	2400.00	\$2,400.00
Swenson Operating Llc, Sundance WY	16	Red/Rw/Brd Cow Bm	1319	2225.00	\$2,225.00
Mike Or Derrick Richter, Whitewood SD	11	Blk/Bw/Brd Cow Sm/Bm	1412	2450.00	\$2,450.00

FEEDER CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
John Bruch, Sturgis SD	46	Black-Str	684	307.50	\$2,104.03
	60	Red-Str	638	316.00	\$2,016.60
	31	Black-Hfr	607	296.00	\$1,796.52
	27	Red-Hfr	578	324.00	\$1,872.60

WEIGH-UPS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Richard & Ken Jesse, Broadus MT	2	Blk/Bw/Cow	1208	176.00	\$2,125.20
	1	Black-Cow	1700	144.50	\$2,456.50
	1	Black-Cow	1385	141.00	\$1,952.85
Wade Helkenn, Upton WY	1	Bw/Cow	1260	154.00	\$1,940.40
	1	Bw/Cow	1350	134.00	\$1,809.00
James McKinzie Jr, Sheridan WY	1	Char-Cow	1375	142.00	\$1,952.50

Gregory Or Kathy Wetz, Vale SD	2	Bw/Cow	1815	141.00	\$2,559.15
Padden Land & Cattle, Camp Crook SD	6	Black-Cow	1398	132.00	\$1,844.70
Tom Wilson, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Cow	1390	141.50	\$1,966.85
Kevin Reindl, Custer SD	1	Black-Cow	1875	141.50	\$2,653.12
	1	Black-Cow	1320	138.00	\$1,821.60
Cole & Lindsey Cook, Forsyth MT	9	Black-Cow	1365	140.50	\$1,917.82
	3	Black-Cow	1463	142.00	\$2,077.93
Ronald A Adam, Sturgis SD	1	Black-Cow	1325	140.00	\$1,855.00
Spur Land & Livestock Llc, Newcastle WY	10	Black-Cow	1356	140.50	\$1,905.18
	4	Rd/Blk-Cow	1623	142.50	\$2,312.06
	1	Black-Cow	1450	142.50	\$2,066.25
Cross W Livestock, Ekalaka MT	6	Black-Hfr	1108	214.50	\$2,377.37
Dave Nisley, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1805	139.50	\$2,517.97
Cody Fettig Cattle Co, Bismarck ND	6	Blk/Bw/Cow	1545	142.50	\$2,201.62
	7	Char/Blk-Cow	1359	141.50	\$1,923.38
Justin Madsen, Volborg MT	4	Black-Cow	876	233.50	\$2,046.04
	1	Black-Cow	1255	160.00	\$2,008.00
Ted & Patricia Svoboda, Hulett WY	1	Black-Bull	1415	135.00	\$1,910.25
Frank J Nies, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Cow	1720	142.50	\$2,451.00
	1	Black-Cow	1535	138.00	\$2,118.30
Burdick Ranch, Baker MT	19	Blk/Bw/Cow	1569	142.00	\$2,227.53
	4	Black-Cow	1160	177.00	\$2,053.20
	6	Black-Cow	1327	149.00	\$1,976.73
George Birtic, Belgrade MT	7	Black-Cow	1501	142.50	\$2,138.51
	1	Black-Cow	1620	137.00	\$2,219.40
Travis Or Julie Hurst, Buffalo SD	17	Black-Cow	784	261.50	\$2,051.23
	17	Black-Cow	858	230.50	\$1,976.87
	4	Black-Cow	1036	193.00	\$1,999.96
	2	Black-Cow	1223	150.00	\$1,833.75
Hs Cattle Company Llc, Recluse WY	1	Char/Blk-Hfr	1445	142.00	\$2,051.90
Clint Krambeck, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Cow	1320	140.50	\$1,854.60
	1	Black-Cow	1415	141.50	\$2,002.22
	1	Black-Cow	1595	141.50	\$2,256.92
	1	Black-Cow	1795	141.50	\$2,539.92
	3	Black-Cow	1423	143.50	\$2,042.48
Justin Madsen, Volborg MT	2	Black-Cow	1415	140.50	\$1,988.07
Steve Or Renee Mcamis, Belle Fourche SD	5	Blk/Bw/Hfr	821	231.50	\$1,900.61

CATTLE USA

You can now view and bid on our sales online by visiting CattleUSA.com

RECEIVING STATIONS

Broadus, MT
Travis Linch | 605-892-5951
Ekalaka, MT
Riley Lesh | 406-697-0573
Brett Loughlin | 605-210-0615

Forsyth, MT
Scott Anderson | 406-351-1844
Jordan, MT
Jason Bollinger | 406-690-8344
Wyoming
Mike Greenough | 307-620-2597

NO SALE THIS WEEK!

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

**FEEDER CATTLE & BV REPLACEMENT
HFR SPECIAL**

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | FEEDERS @ 12 MT

****ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS****

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

High Plains Commodities Offices

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

February 20, 2025	BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
February 27, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
March 6, 2025	BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
March 13, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
March 20, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
March 27, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
April 3, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
April 10, 2025	BRED CATTLE & PAIR SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS & PAIRS @ 12 MT
April 17, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
April 24, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 1, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
May 8, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 15, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 22, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
May 29, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT

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COWBOYS TOO!
JEANS

NOTICE OF AUCTION

**Land in Butte County
80 ACRES**

**Auction to be held
February 10th, 2025 at 4 o'clock
606 Rosander Road, Vale, SD**

COWBOYS TOO!
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BELLE FOURCHE, SD
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**WITH THE WINTER SEASON, THE BELLE FOURCHE POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT
DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE PUBLIC ON THE BELLE FOURCHE
CITY ORDINANCES CONCERNING SNOW REMOVAL.**

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

**Please contact Clint Haffner-Belle Fourche Code Enforcement Officer at 605-892-4354
or visit www.bellefourche.org with any questions.**

Shop Services include:
300 Ton Press Brake, 5ft Roll to make pipe, Angle Iron Roll, Tubular Roller, and a CNC Plasma Table
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Barber / Cosmetologist
605-601-JACK (5225)
Jack The Clipper
Located in The Belle Fourche Business Plaza
1401 5th Ave Ste A - Belle Fourche, SD 57717

**Send us your News
and Photos!**



Area Church Schedules

BLACK HILLS GOSPEL ASSEMBLY

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

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CONNECTION CHURCH (SBC)

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

EMMANUEL BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST

807 8th Ave. 892-4178
Pastor Tim Smith
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15am
Morning Worship - 10:30am
Wednesday: Salt and Light Youth -
Kindergarten -12th grade
5:00pm Soup & Sandwich
5:30pm - Salt and Light

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

892-3402
www.bfsoucc.org
717 Jackson St. Sunday:
9:35 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

901 Laurel St. Whitewood
(605)-920-1959
Reverend Jill Jennewein
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

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

LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

(ABA) · 2.2 miles east on Hwy 34
723-1092
Sunday: 10 a.m. worship service

NEW COVENANT PCA

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

NEWELL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

308 4th Street, Newell SD, 57760
605-456-2544
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00am

NISLAND INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

NORTHERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

NORTH POINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10959 Kellem Lane, Spearfish
Sunday Services: 9AM and 10:30AM

PRAIRIE HOME CHURCH

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

RANGELAND MINISTRIES CHURCH

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

RED WATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Belle Fourche Rec Center
Sun: 9:30-12:30.
Contact: Nathan Thompson
605 569-3057

SALVATION ARMY OF THE NORTHERN HILLS

120 Ryan Rd., Spearfish
605-642-0924
Envoys: Tim and Peggy North

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 11 a.m.
Worship Nursery available
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.,
Learning and Discovery Study

SPEARFISH ADVENTIST® CHURCH

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

SPEARFISH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

920 N Main Street, Spearfish
Sunday Service 10 a.m. in person
and on Facebook.
Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL

6th and Roundup
892-2446
The Rev. Evelyn Weaver
The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon
Rev. Mike Weaver
Sunday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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Sunday Worship 10:AM with coffee
fellowship following the service.
Watch live-streamed services:
www.sjlcbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

ST. ONGE UNITED

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

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SUMMIT OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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

VALE COMMUNITY COUNTRY CHURCH

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



Capitol News
January 26, 2025
A little snow fell
nearly every day,
this week at Capitol
and on Tie Creek,

but it was only about an inch each day. The wind built up the snow, and drifts are building. Ronda Cordell hasn't been on the road much, because of the winter weather we have been having. She canceled twice on taking Cuddly to the Belle Vet Clinic for spaying. Now it has been moved back to February, so the week may be nice, but it may turn bad that day. On Monday, it was twenty degrees and felt good to sit close to the heater, and watch some of the Inauguration, which was held inside where it was warm. The weather has been extreme everywhere. It's been a good time to have to get taxes in order. Tuesday was better, so Ronda drove in to Camp Crook to pick up some sand for her chickens. Terry Cordell had brought some up from the sandbar at the river. Ronda went on to Buffalo and ate at the Blossom 'N' Brew. On Friday, Ronda attended the Faye Kennedy funeral. There was a good ground blizzard much of that day. The shifting snow was deep in her driveway entrance when she came home. Luckily, Clint Zolnoski was filling bale feeders at her house. He came to pull her through the drift. The cold and wind has been kind of miserable, but Ronda doesn't mind seeing the snow. At least it makes a person feel good to know we can get moisture of some sort. She was afraid moisture around here had been forgotten. Maybe there will be rain when it gets warmer. Dick and Erma Albert made a quick trip to town and back, early in the week. On Friday, Dick rode to Belle Fourche with John Helms, so that he could finally bring home his pick-up that had been fixed. John had to go early, so Dick was back to Buffalo in time take Erma downtown for the Senior Citizen dinner. Erma stayed afterward to play cards. She didn't win any of the games, and that makes up for the day she won them all. They both went to mass at the Catholic Church. Seven students from Buffalo, and seven from Bison, are preparing for Confirmation and stayed after church for lessons. Confirmation Sunday will be in February, and all fourteen will be confirmed at the Buffalo church.

Alvin and Marlee Cordell also stayed in, after feeding on Monday, to watch the Inauguration. On Wednesday, Alvin went in to Camp Crook for the Cemetery Board Meeting. On Thursday,

Alvin and Marlee went to Belle Fourche for Marlee's chiropractor appointment. We had lots of snow, but on up the Norwegian Cut Off the snow disappeared and Belle Fourche didn't have any. On Saturday, Charlie Castle headed west on the snow mobile. After getting north of Karen Odell's, he broke down. Alvin rescued him, later, and got things back home. Bruce and Lynn Gustafson hadn't been anywhere this week. It was a good week to stay home. They did get out on Sunday, to church at Little Missouri. Doug Davis had a meeting in Belle Fourche, on Wednesday. He just made a down and back trip. On Friday, Doug and Julia went back to Belle Fourche to watch Keaton and Kellan Davis play basketball. It is great fun to watch the little boys play. On Saturday, Mattie Buck came out to the ranch with Morgan Buck, and they both helped Doug work cows. Dale Moncur stopped to visit with George Davis, on Sunday. Then he went on to visit at Junior and Shirley Melum's for a while, too. It was good to see him in the neighborhood again. Ernie, Rachel and Tommy make regular visits there, too. Dorothy Padden has had a quiet week. On Saturday, she went with Dawn to Lemmon for the Buffalo basketball games. It was time for the Little Moreau tournament. The Buffalo girls won first place, and the Buffalo boys placed third. Brandon Padden had taken the boys wrestling team to Killdeer, that day. Ashley and Kanyin Padden made a trip to Pierre for girls' wrestling, where Kanyin placed second. They went on to Chamberlain for the next girls' wrestling, where Kanyin placed first. It was a good trip. Karen Odell spent the cold days at home, too. She watched internet videos of the Inauguration events on Tuesday. Chancey Odell came to plow her out twice, and it was a good thing, because on Sunday, she needed the propane truck to visit. Doug Stieg came out and only had to use four-wheel-drive while leaving. Karen got to visit with high school classmates, Bill Foulkes, back in Ohio, and Cody Odell, Mollie and Kyia Smith, and Micki Odell. It is good to hear their voices and find out what they are doing. Jeff and Amanda are both very busy at the hospital and on the base. Karen watched lots of internet news and also went to church on the internet. Being open minded is a good thing as long as you keep at least half of your brains from falling out.

Lawrence J Diggs traveled from Roslyn, SD to express sup-



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



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



MELLING & ROSELAND
Law, PC

South Dakota Office:
1409 5th Ave.
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Phone: (605) 723-1659
Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net

North Dakota Office:
602 Adams Ave., Suite 1
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone: (701) 567-2418
Fax: (701) 567-4290
Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net



ATOMIC LOBSTERS
FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH
MARCH 29
BELLE FOURCHE REC CENTER



Dead?
Adapted by David Ives
SEPTEMBER 12 - 14
BELLE FOURCHE REC CENTER



ROAD DARTS
CHARLIE
AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
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unemployment rate and a 35% poverty rate. These statistics paint a grim picture of the comprehensive decline that can follow when downtowns are hollowed out. Addressing the issue of empty buildings requires a multifaceted approach. Some communities are taking innovative steps to revitalize their downtowns. In Wynoka, Oklahoma, a group of citizens banded together to purchase and renovate empty buildings, creating a model for community-driven renewal. Other strategies include implementing vacant building ordinances, offering targeted incentives for improvements, and creating public-private partnerships to repurpose abandoned spaces. The reuse of vacant buildings can be a powerful tool for economic development. Cities like Phoenix, Arizona have implemented programs specifically aimed at promoting the reclamation of existing spaces. These initiatives not only breathe new life into empty buildings but also preserve the unique character and history of small-town downtowns. In conclusion, empty buildings are far more than just eyesores; they are existential threats to the viability of small-town downtowns. The economic, social, and psychological costs of these vacant structures are immense and far-reaching. However, with concerted effort, innovative thinking, and community engagement, it is possible to reverse this trend. By addressing the issue of empty buildings, small towns can reclaim their downtowns, restore their economic vitality, and rekindle the sense of community that is the heart and soul of rural America.

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

Empty buildings are a silent scourge ravaging small town downtowns across America, leaving a trail of economic devastation and community decay in their wake. These vacant structures, once bustling hubs of commerce and social activity, now stand as stark reminders of a bygone era, their empty windows staring blankly at passersby like the hollow eyes of a corpse. The impact of these abandoned edifices extends far beyond mere aesthetics. They are cancerous growths on the economic and social fabric of small towns, metastasizing to affect every aspect of community life. The economic toll of vacant buildings is staggering. Abandoned properties result in an estimated \$1.15 billion annual loss in property taxes, with \$255 million of that in Chicago alone. This massive shortfall in tax revenue cripples local governments' ability to provide essential services and maintain infrastructure. Empty storefronts also create a vicious cycle of disinvestment. As businesses close, foot traffic decreases, making it harder for remaining establishments to stay afloat. This downward spiral quickly turns a once-thriving downtown into a ghost town. In Youngstown, Ohio, the deindustrialization left 6,000 vacant buildings in 2013, accompanied by rising crime rates and declining public services. Vacant buildings act as a contagion, infecting neighboring properties with decreased value. Vacant properties cause losses in property values that can amount to millions. This domino effect can trigger a wave of foreclosures and abandonment, further exacerbating the problem. The aesthetic blight of empty buildings sends a powerful negative message to both residents and visitors. As



noted by the Preservation Leadership Forum, a deteriorating building can significantly hamper a community's ability to attract new residents, businesses, and investment. Empty buildings are magnets for crime and pose significant safety hazards. They strain local resources as municipalities struggle to maintain these properties and respond to associated emergencies. A community can spend staggering on services related to vacant and abandoned properties that include code enforcement, police and fire dispatch. The National Vacant Properties Campaign defines these problematic properties as those posing threats to public safety or where owners neglect basic financial duties. These structures not only endanger residents but also burden local governments with costly nuisance abatement and crime prevention efforts. The most insidious effect of empty buildings is their impact on community morale. These vacant structures symbolize neglect and apathy, eroding the sense of pride and identity that is crucial for small town vitality. Empty storefronts suggest unsafe conditions, complacency, and a lack of community pride. This psychological toll can be devastating, leading to a loss of confidence in the overall economic performance of the region. When residents lose faith in their downtown, they're more likely to take their business elsewhere, further accelerating the cycle of decline. Sprawl also undermines the traditional role of downtowns as community centers but also increases infrastructure costs. Moreover, the abandonment of downtown buildings often coincides with broader economic challenges. It has been found that having many abandoned buildings correlate with a 7.3%

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Harvesting the Honey-Contd.

From A1 **Harvest**
Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
Honey is removed from the top of the hives and the hive are provided with sufficient food supplies to “winter over” for the following season. The removal is gentle and unceremonious so as not to disturb the bees too much.

The keepers “keep” the bees safe and nourished during the winter with plenty of ventilation in a bee-friendly environment often indoors in exchange for the bountiful gift of golden honey.

Beekeepers are expected to have respect for bees. It’s a time-honored, tradition in world folklore.

A familiar custom of telling the bees takes place when beekeepers inform their bees about significant events in their lives, such as deaths, births, marriages, and other major occurrences.

The tradition is thought to have roots in Celtic mythology. When telling the bees, the head

of the household or “goodwife” would knock gently on the hive before sharing the family’s news softly and solemnly.

Beekeepers must also be willing to work hard as the task of honey removal is labor intensive. Once the bees are safe in their winter home, the keeper must remove the wax cappings on the honeycomb cells. A hot knife may be used, but if there are many hives, beekeepers are likely to invest in a capping machine where the frames are placed on a conveyer belt and a blade removes the cappings more efficiently.

Although the machine is a little noisy, the liquid honey will flow easily from the comb into a long vat so long as the temperature is warm enough in the processing room.

Once uncapped, the frames are placed upright in a cylindrical centrifugal machine called a honey extractor that spins the frames to extract the honey from the frames. The honey travels down to the bottom of the extracting tank and is then

pumped into a holding tank. Once the frames have been spun and honey has been removed, the beekeeper will store the frame in the ‘super’ or box to use the frame of the comb for the following season. The natural beeswax has myriad uses.

After extraction, the liquid honey is allowed to settle for a few weeks in a closed bottling tank before it is ready to put in containers. The time to settle allows the wax, which is lighter in weight than honey, to come to the top of the bottling tank. After a few weeks, the beekeeper simply plugs the bottling tank in to heat it just enough to bottle the honey but only enough to bottle it. Heating honey too high makes it lose its nutrients. Keeping the honey below 95 degrees ensures that the honey keeps its pollens, enzymes, antioxidants and propolis. Bernadette Jensen prides herself in selling ‘raw’ honey which is honey that is unfiltered and heated below 95 degrees.

By many standards, honey is regarded as a divine gift.

Without the bees, there is no honey. The custom of telling the bees underscores how bees were seen which was important members of the community and the household.

Bernadette created Owl Creek Organics and Natural Products in 2015. She is a firm believer in the benefits of healthy eating. Raised on a family farm, that has always produced organic food, she appreciates the bees and is proud to continue the tradition. Other than her bees and garden, one of her favorite things is product development and creating new products, but not just creating ANY products. The products she creates are the results of extensive research and experimentation. Once the pH is measured in her jams and the honey is ‘aged’ enough to make flavored honeys, the products must pass the tasting test of her official “sommeliers” Sommelier is a French word for a trained specialist who samples and approves of wine, or other products before they are offered for sale. Bernadette’s official sommeliers are her family members including her young-

est brother Francois, her father Bernard, her Mother Laurie and her husband, Brandon. “Having several honest sommeliers before they are offered to customers to sample your product before you start selling it is key.” She noted.

Owl Creek Products are available online, at the Townsquare Farmer’s Market in Grand Forks during the summer, at the European Christmas Market in Saint Paul, every weekend in December, at Bernie’s in Grand Forks, at Pride Dairy in Bottineau, ND, at Lueders in Spearfish & Belle Fourche, SD, at Staple and Spice in Rapid City and at Lynn’s Dakota Mart in Sturgis.

The Owl Creek Organics store at 12130 Sagebrush Rd. Nisland, SD 57762 is open for seasonal events. More information is available at Phone & E-mail (605) 569-1051 or email owlcreekorganics@gmail.com

Although it is still the dead of winter in western South Dakota, one can imagine the bees preparing to make honey again soon.



(from L) Following extraction, pieces of beeswax rise to the surface; The honey extractor centrifuge machine; Each hive contains several frames. The frames are removable; & A frame removed from the hive with capped cells



(L) A few necessary tools for extracting honey; Honey fresh from the extractor has pieces of beeswax that will be filtered out in stages. The beeswax has a variety of uses; The honey is filtered in three stages; & The frames as they appear in the hive.



(L) Bernadette Jensen demonstrates how the cells are capped by hand to show how the bees take capping the cells seriously; Bernadette places the frames in the centrifugal machine that spins the hives to help the honey flow from the cells; Like any food gathering or preparation gathering honey involves quite a lot of clean-up; & The job is not finished until the frames in all hives have been processed. Bernadette demonstrates how to gently separate the hives.

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The BFHS One Act Cast & Crew for the production **The Customer is Always Wrong** entertained the local community crowd on Monday, Jan. 27th. They competed at Regional One Act Competition on Wednesday, Jan. 29th and hosted the event at the **Belle Fourche Area Rec Center** under the leadership of Director, **Michael Kane**, and Assistant Director, **Kyah Trainor**. The large number of characters in this one act production were played by 16 BFHS thespians: **Lily Tippmann, Iva Hale, Kaeli Thompson, Logan Willert, Avery Mastin, Derek Scott, Zach Gerbracht, Dillon Streeter, Tim Thompson, John Hale, Denali Biegert, Tace Hartman, Trevor Welles, Sonja Cropper, Ember Shannon, and Denali Biegert**. The crew included **Hunter Brown, Madison Dalton, and Madisyn Carson**. *Courtesy Photos*



pulled pork dinner, full bar, and a DJ playing all the hits from the 90s. Also included: 90s trivia, vintage gaming, party games, photos booths and so much more! Only 125 tickets available - get your tickets online at bellefourcheact.com or at the door the night of the event. Tickets are \$40/person or \$70 for two. See you there!

Reading scores fall again for South Dakota fourth graders

State still outpacing national average in latest 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress

Joe Sneve
www.thedakotascout.com

Reading scores slid again for South Dakota’s fourth and eighth graders in 2024.

But in releasing its rankings this week on the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often referred to as the Nation’s Report Card, the South Dakota Department of Education noted students in those grade levels are still outpacing national averages.

“These tests are a good measure of where we are compared to the rest of the nation,” Secretary of Education Joe Graves said this week. “In that regard, South Dakota students are doing well. But our work in education is never done.”

Average scores are reported

on a NAEP scale that ranges from 0 to 500, based on student performance on state tests.

Assessing reading and math proficiency among fourth and eighth graders across the country every two years, the 2024 rankings show South Dakota’s eighth graders scored higher than the national average in both reading and math, while fourth graders also outperformed the national average in math.

In 2024, the average score of fourth-grade students in South Dakota on math assessments was 240, compared to the national average of 237. The average score of eighth-grade students in South Dakota was 260, higher than the national average of 257.

Though scores for fourth grade readers in South Dakota were on par with the national average, South Dakota’s score dropped from 218 in 2022 to 214 in 2024.

Other takeaways from the

report card:

Fourth grade math: 79 percent of students performed at or above the NAEP Basic level, with 42 percent reaching NAEP Proficient.

Eighth grade math: 71 percent of students scored at or above NAEP Basic, while 33 percent reached Proficient.

Fourth grade reading: 60 percent of students achieved NAEP Basic or above, with 28 percent scoring at the Proficient level.

Eighth grade reading: 70 percent of students met or exceeded NAEP Basic, while 29 percent scored at Proficient.

To address falling reading scores, Graves pointed to a new state literacy initiative that uses phonics-based instruction, which the Department of Education rolled out last year.

“In the long term, we believe this effort will help to boost test scores — but even more importantly — literacy among our next generation.”



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Influenza hitting South Dakota early

Whether seasonal flu has peaked remains to be seen

Jonathan Ellis
www.thedakotascout.com

South Dakota's influenza season is in full tilt, with a surge in statewide cases coming earlier than historically reported by the Department of Health.

The question is, has the worst of flu season passed or is a late winter spike in influenza yet to come?

"I don't know if we've peaked quite yet," said Dr. Matthew Jahraus, an internal medicine hospitalist at Sanford Health, noting that new influenza cases have plateaued, giving him optimism that a downward trend is ahead.

"It's still a little bit uncertain," he said.

In three of the past four years – including the 2024-2025 season – historic influenza peaks have come earlier than usual. Usually, cases peak in February, according to DOH data.

Dr. Chad Thury, a family medicine doctor at Avera Health, said the Avera system has seen an average flu season. "Avera hospitalizations for

flu-related illness are following the state's reporting trends with a decline over the past two weeks," Thury said. "We continue to see an upswing in total flu cases with a 30 percent test positivity, Type A influenza is currently the dominant virus strain.

The incidence of influenza is still high, much like we see in typical influenza years." South Dakota and North Dakota registered moderate caseloads of influenza through mid-January, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the CDC data tend to lag. Neighboring states of Minnesota and Nebraska had very high caseloads, while Iowa registered high caseloads.

"It is hard to predict when we will reach the peak of the influenza season, but February has been the most common month for the peak during the past 40 years," said Department of Health spokeswoman Tia Kafka.

Since 2017, according to DOH data, an average of 37 South Dakotans a year have died from influenza.

Six people have died from influenza this season – including three in the last week – out

of 9,691 positive infections. Those numbers were updated on Jan. 29. There were also 482 people hospitalized.

Those numbers have kept the hospital census up at Sanford, said Jahraus. The hospital has seen high turnover with new admissions and discharges.

Jahraus said that running at high capacity is not uncommon.

"We're full a lot of days in terms of bed capacity," he said.

Influenza A can be more focused on attacking an infected person's respiratory system than Influenza B. The B-strain is sometimes more focused on the digestive system, Jahraus said.

He encouraged people to get this season's influenza vaccine to build tolerance to the virus. Those with underlying conditions, including heart disease and diabetes, should get tested early because anti-virals can be prescribed to diminish the severity of an infection.

Influenza isn't the only respiratory virus in circulation. RSV and COVID-19 are also widespread. Twenty-nine deaths have been attributed to Covid this season..



Photo by CDC on Unsplash

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South Dakota governor says no plan made about potential 2026 run

Union Center Republican could seek full term or 'ride off into the sunset'

Joe Sneve
www.thedakotascout.com

PIERRE — "The answer is no."

That's how Gov. Larry Rhoden responded this week when asked if his selection of Tony Venhuizen for lieutenant governor is a tell as to whether he'll enter the 2026 gubernatorial election.

The plain spoken, Union Center rancher added that he hasn't even determined if he'll put his name on a GOP primary ballot.

"I have no reason to not be honest with you," Rhoden told The Dakota Scout Wednesday after announcing Venhuizen's nomination to succeed him as lieutenant governor.

While that revelation puts to rest months of intrigue about who the pick would be, it also

sparks new questions about how it'll affect the next election cycle. That's due to speculation among South Dakota politicians that Venhuizen had been a contender to either be lieutenant governor in a potential Dusty Johnson administration — the four-term congressman is believed to be gearing up for a gubernatorial run of his own.

A congressional run for Venhuizen, who is also not talking about any future campaigns, had also been floated inside the state Capitol.

The scenarios will hinge on Rhoden, who said Venhuizen will be loyal him.

"I will say that when I picked a lieutenant governor, I had to be comfortable that regardless of what the future holds — whether I serve two years and ride off into the sunset back to my ranch or decide to run — whatever the choice is, I wanted someone that is all in for me."

Venhuizen nodded in agreement.



(Austin Goss/The Dakota Scout)



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BFACT Shows for 2025 Season



VIEWPOINT | A smarter way to license lawyers, serve the public good

By Neil Fulton, University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law

Lawyers committed to public service are critical to keeping South Dakotans safe, productive, and free. Public sector lawyers serve in many roles across South Dakota every day.

Judges in federal, state, and tribal courts resolve cases affecting the lives, property, and freedom of South Dakotans every day. State's attorneys and public defenders make sure that the careful balance of preserving individual liberties and bringing just prosecutions is preserved. Lawyers in agencies at all levels of government help South Dakotans do business effectively and fairly. This work is being done by public sector lawyers in South Dakota's largest city to our smallest towns.

It is important for all of us. Accordingly, it is important that we find ways to encourage young lawyers to pursue public service. The South Dakota Supreme Court is considering a creative pilot program to provide one such incentive. This proposed program would allow a small number of graduates from USD Law each year to participate in a program that provides rigorous practical training in law school, careful vetting for competence and ethics, and a commitment to public service after graduation. This proposal would make South Dakota not the first state, but at the forefront, to adopt a creative approach to attorney licensure to address a professional need in that jurisdiction. How lawyers get licensed is, admittedly, not something most South Dakotans need to spend much time thinking about. It is unquestionably important that we have a system to assess the professional competence



of new lawyers that reliably protects the public while fairly offering applicants a path into the profession. It is possible to do both things through our traditional bar examination. But it is also possible to explore an alternative path to licensure for a small group of lawyers that also encourages and rewards public service.

The proposed rules before the South Dakota Supreme Court would create a five-year pilot program to do this. It would allow up to ten law students per year to be admitted to the bar based on a full semester placement in public service. During that placement, these applicants must develop a portfolio of written legal work that will be assessed by the Board of Bar examiners and successfully complete the ethics examination and character and fitness review that are currently part of admissions. The applicants would also have to agree to work in public service with federal, state, local, or tribal government entities or South Dakota's two legal aid services for at least two years after graduation.

This plan is modeled on a similar program that has enjoyed immense success in New Hampshire for more than fifteen years. It is also like a program that has just begun in Oregon and that is under consideration in several other jurisdictions. Each of these other jurisdictions

use a combination of assessment of a portfolio of written legal work and placement rather than the traditional bar examination to assess professional competence. South Dakota's proposal is unique in limiting access to this pathway to new lawyers committed to public service. Ideally, this will encourage law students to consider public service and expedite entrance to the profession for those who do. Participants in the New Hampshire program who have reviewed South Dakota's proposed rules have complemented this approach as innovative and promising.

There are many important and rewarding places for young lawyers to go to work, Serving the public in the many ways that public sector lawyers do is a particularly important and rewarding choice. There is no perfect form of assessing new lawyers for licensure. South Dakota's proposed pilot program of licensure based on public service placement and portfolio assessment can provide a fair and reliable mechanism to do so. Combining these two important ideas, incentivizing public service and carefully assessing the professional competence of new lawyers, is an idea of great creativity and promise. The Supreme Court and many lawyers and judges who have worked to develop this proposal should be complimented and congratulated.

Working together to bring this proposal to reality is an exciting opportunity to help serve the legal needs for all South Dakotans.

Neil Fulton is the dean of the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law. This piece expresses the views of the author and not those of USD or the South Dakota Board of Regents..

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4 Levy
8 Shabby woman
12 Citizen (abbr.)
13 Outbreak
14 Wings
15 Edenic
17 Spoken alphabet letter
18 Parasitic insects
19 Slave of Sarah
20 Calif. wild plum
22 Building (abbr.)
24 Leave port
25 Strauss opera
29 Gone by
30 Trail
31 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
32 Abnegate
34 Arabian chieftain
35 Ice mass
36 Irish poet

DOWN

1 Exclamation
2 Fr. business abbreviation
3 Male horse
4 Battle
5 One (Ger.)
6 Sun
7 Eye inflammation
8 Mar
9 Few (pref.)
10 Maori seagoing canoe
11 Stag
16 Small bottle
19 Handbook (abbr.)
20 Munich's river
21 Learned person
22 Support
23 Flavor
25 River through Florence and Pisa
26 Round Table knight
27 Hole
28 Rhine tributary
30 Bulrush
33 Lactic (2 words)
34 Fr. month
35 Simple organism
37 Nab
38 One of the Parcae
39 Of the ear
40 Small armadillo
42 Greek letter
43 Duke (fr.)
44 Social affair
45 Belonging to (suf.)

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ENIGMA CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "H" = "I"

"IR XIU CYDFHLDHRJ MHOIRJ
CYDFHLDHRJ OPMRJ."
— NRKWPCHK VMPKZDHK

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Popular opinion is the greatest lie in the world."
— Thomas Carlyle

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E089

an evening in Paris

March 8, 2025

Father Daughter Dance

Belle Fourche Rec Center
1111 National St. | Belle Fourche

Schedule of events

PHOTOS & SOCIALIZING 6:00 PM

GRAND MARCH 6:30 PM

DINNER 7:00 PM

DANCE 8:00 PM
(ENDS AT 10:00 PM)

Dinner Menu

CHICKEN ALFREDO
SALAD
DESSERT

\$35 each

Purchase tickets online by scanning QR code
PURCHASE DEADLINE IS FEB. 25TH

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W

The Emporium

OFFICE EMPORIUM

Mother Son DANCE

Belle Fourche Community Hall
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

\$35 each

Purchase tickets online by scanning QR code
PURCHASE DEADLINE IS MARCH 10TH

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2025

FEBRUARY

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3 Chicken Cordon Bleu Creamed Spinach Garlic Bread	4 Zuppa Toscana Soup Salad Bread Stick	5 Hawaiian Pork Loin Roasted Vegetables Dinner Roll	6 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	7 Chicken Enchilada Refried Beans Garlic Vegetable Saute
10 Honey Pepper Chicken Mac and Cheese Asparagus Dinner Roll	11 Kielbasa, Peppers & Onions Parsley Noodles Dinner Roll	12 Ground Beef & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Dinner Roll	13 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Salad	14 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Turkey & Bacon Wrap Garlic Bread
17 Roast Beef Country Green Beans and potatoes with bacon Dinner Roll	18 Chicken Stir-fry Rice Asian Vegetables Egg Roll	19 Baked Ham Cheesy Potatoes Roasted Vegetables Dinner Roll	20 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	21 Chicken Noodle Soup Salad Breadstick
24 Pulled Pork Sandwich Southern Pea Salad Sweet Potato Fries Chips	25 Swedish Meatballs Egg Noodles Green Beans Dinner Roll	26 Fish Taco Tangy Coleslaw Smokey BBQ Corn	27 Liver and onions OR Deluxe Burgers French Fries Mixed Vegetables	28 Chicken Spaghetti Roasted Zucchini Brussel Sprouts & Butternut Squash Breadstick

XXX♥

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The Valley Irrigator

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More Instruction Time

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-During the January Newell School Board meeting one of the topics discussed was the school calendar for SY2025-2026. Board Member Todd Youngberg brought up that several schools in the west river area had changed the number of hours for school instruction. Belle Fourche and Buffalo had dropped 22 and 30 hours respectively and Faith had increased their instruction hours by 10. The State requires 988 hours of instruction while at this point Newell does 962.5 hours.

Youngberg suggested that making the classroom days from seven periods to six periods would increase teacher-student facetime and bring instruction hours to 999 hours. He said that it would need more study, but was something to consider.

“It’s a work in progress,” he said.

Along those lines, the report from the Strategic Planning Report spoke to several hurdles the school is facing. The first hurdle is found in balancing curriculum and finances. It is important to improve academics but the cost must be counted.

The committee desires to add a Guidance Counselor to the staff. Potential help could be available through BH Special Services.

Board Member Kristin Bonefield said, “Our second goal is to improve the culture of the school.”

The Building and Grounds committee reported that the group is focused on updating the parking lot, mainly on the water shed and pavement. There needs to be changes in the down spouts to direct water away from the lot. There are better ways to manage the water, they reported.

A question from the audience was asked as to why money should be spent on a parking lot when money was needed for curriculum. It was noted that funding for the projects comes from two different funds.

Bonefield gave the main reason for updating the parking lot is water damage and updating the handicap parking.

A resolution was passed against school vouchers, following the Associated School Boards. The funding could take funds from public schools.

Dr. Pandi Pittman said, “Our goal is to provide education to every child.”

The second reading of several policies was approved and will be voted on at the next board meeting.

Discussion was centered around Policy GCDB which addresses Criminal Background Checks. Youngberg said that he had several phone calls from people who questioned paying for fingerprinting and backchecks and the cost. Numbers are being “crunched” to test how much the district can handle the cost. The policy reads that “the District shall pay any fees charged for the cost of fingerprinting or the criminal background investigation for any person whose employment with the District or status as a volunteer is subject to the requirements of this section.” The caveat is that the person must pass the background check to be reimbursed.

The School Board election date was set for Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Three board members’ terms are being decided on-Tyrel Bonnet, Sara Brunner, and Dawn Gardner. Each is for a three-year term.

The next regular school board meeting will be February 10 at 6 p.m.

Legislative Cracker Barrel



There were only a few available chairs at Newell City Hall during the recent Cracker Barrel session.

Betty Bruner photo

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-Newell City Hall was filled with concerned citizens interested in hearing what the four legislators had to offer concerning the newest legislative session. One legislator was a returning law maker with several years of experience, while three are freshmen representatives.

The Cracker Barrel was hosted by the WIT Coalition and the Town of Newell, giving an opportunity for residents of the area to quiz their local representatives.

Sam Marty from District 28 is the returning legislator who lives north of Mud Butte and is a member of the South Dakota Senate. He is a member of the Senate Ag Committee, Education Committee, and Military Affairs. He noted that the Sparsity Bill has not held up well in the past.

Freshman House Representative Travis Ismay, District 28B, is from the Vale area and is eager to make a difference in the laws of South Dakota. He has introduced two bills into the house. One is HB1087, which holds county commissioners for their actions. He says this gives the citizens a tool to hold county commissioners accountable. The other bill is HB1088 which gives stricter punishments for drug dealers that kill people as a result of illicit drugs.



Freshman Congresswoman Jana Hunt had interesting information to share with the audience. To her right are MC and Butte County Commissioner Dan Brunner, Senator Sam Marty, Representatives Travis Ismay, District 28B and Kathy Rice, District 29.

Ismay is on the Ag and Education committees.

Kathy Rice serves District 29 which includes Sturgis and Faith areas. She has introduced a resolution to take cell phones out of the classroom, but to still allow local control. She is a member of the Ag and Education Committees, also. Her emphasis is directed toward cottage industries and having a safe product for local grocery stores, etc. Rice would also like to address the process of firing

school employees for using the “wrong pronoun” during school hours.

Rice add that she would like to see school board members make it clear what party they are affiliated with and add it to the voting process. However, a Newell School Board member challenged her with the idea that since she was a federal employee, that would cause problems in some employment areas.

Freshman Congresswoman Jana Hunt is co-sponsor one of Sam Marty’s bill. She is a member of the Judiciary and Ag committees. She has introduced a resolution concerning CO2, but admits that she does need to do more research. Hunt represents District 28A.

Homeschooling and the voucher system, HB 1009 and HB 1020, were hot topics for the audience with opinions coming quietly and thoughtfully. Marty pointed out that the voucher system has a \$4 million budget and that it will take \$1million to implement the process.

Newell School Board member Kristin Bonefield noted that a voucher system/homeschooling could pull students out of public school. This in turn, would pull funds from the community.

The voucher would compete with public schools and compromise high needs students, according to Newell School Superintendent Dr.

the importance of the public investigating each bill they are interested in. He asked that the public email him with their name, subject/bill number, and a brief message. Rep. Hunt echoed that saying that an individual should be sure to understand the bill.

Medical Marijuana was also a topic on the minds of some of the audience. Dale Simanton asked about SB 1055. Rep. Ismay said that a person could not get a prescription for medical marijuana because it’s against Federal law and FDA approved.

According to SD Codified Law 44:90:02, a “practioner may issue a written certification to a resident of South Dakota.” The certification must contain, among other information, that the “patient has a debilitating medical condition” and that treatment options have been discussed. An application then is required with the applicant’s information and a fee for an ID card. A prescription is not written, only certification.



Patty Aurand, Community Mental Health, spoke to the legislators concerning Medicaid. Dan Brunner, Sen. Sam Marty, and Rep. Travis Ismay listened intently to her comments.

Betty Bruner photo

HB1019 was brought up by Stockgrowers Executive Director Doris Lauing. This bill would increase sales tax, which essentially causes taxes to go up. The Stockgrowers Association believes the bill will help the million-dollar homes, but not the agriculture producers. An increase in sales tax will hurt agriculture.

Rep. Hunt said that the tax is directly related to the school levy and that property taxes stay in the county.

The State Library was also discussed with Rep. Ismay telling the public that there is a fee that is being collected that can’t be spent and is being swept into the General Fund. This fee is allocated by the Governor. He is proposing that the excess money be put into the State Library.

The State Library is used to great extent by small schools such as Newell for research by

students.

Don Tishmack asked the legislators to consider a bill that gives Gold Star families, Veterans and National Guard members free state park entrance. He was told that a bill is in progress.

A bill outlining a Convention of States has passed the Senate and is destined for the House State Affairs Committee. Rep. Hunt said that there were “bigger fish to fry” at the moment and there are unintended consequences surrounding a Convention of States.

The Senate bill has been scheduled for a hearing in the House with the Senate voting a majority of “Do Pass.”

Hunt also encouraged the public to read the Consent Bills, which are bills that are approved with a “blanket vote” and with no debate. She asked that the public read and notify the legislators with their thoughts and concerns.

She said there were a lot of urban versus rural issues. She

will “stand up” for West River mentality and again asked that the public keep them informed and accountable.

Rep. Ismay again urged his constituents to email him at Travis.ismay@sdlegislature.gov.

“Research the bills,” he said. And then let him know any thoughts.

He also thanked everyone for coming and said he appreciated their input.

Senator Sam Marty said that this was the “most hopeful” he had been in a long time and valued the legislators who have taken time to read the bills.

MC Dan Brunner concluded by saying that the Cracker Barrel discussion had been refreshing.

There will be another Cracker Barrel in Newell February 26 at the Newell City Hall.

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

This was a pretty warm week for January in the middle of winter. We didn’t get any snow, but the warm weather melted some of the drifts we had around here.

We started the week off by going to Bible study at Lester and Sharon Longwood’s last Sunday evening with Jim and Lucy Anderson and Ben Wiechmann. Susan Gunn had planned to come but she had a flat tire on her vehicle so she couldn’t come. I still had to put the pickup in 4 wheel drive through a bunch of ice on the way home over the gravel roads on the way home.

It was 36 degrees on Monday when Casey and Taz went up to work on Dalton Mellmer’s house that day. I got to go down to Reva to pick up Copper and Knox off the school bus. Beau Doll stayed in town for basket-

ball practice so he didn’t come home on the bus.

Taz and Casey went back up to work on Dalton Mellmer’s house again on Tuesday and I got to pick up Copper, Knox and Beau Doll off the school bus in Reva that afternoon. Beau was coming down with the flu so he didn’t make it to school on Wednesday.

There are more deaths to report: Harold David Haivala, 87 of Belle Fourche and formerly from Buffalo, passed away at December 27 at the Spearfish Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 1, at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Belle Fourche. 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.

Linda Hathaway’s niece,

Amanda Mary Dutton, age 39 of Tempe, Arizona, passed away peacefully at her home on January 17. Amanda is survived by her daughter, Evr and son, Kado of Tempe, Arizona, and her parents, Mel (Marcia) Dutton of Faith. In lieu of flowers, a “Go Fund me” has been established for her children.

John Wegner, 87, from Dickinson and formerly from Reeder, passed away January 16 at CHI St. Alexius Hospital in Dickinson. His Funeral Service was Saturday, January 25, at St. John Lutheran Church in Dickinson.

Earl Erickson, 88, of Hettinger, passed away peacefully at the Western Horizon’s Care Center in Hettinger with his family at his side on January 27. Service of Remembrance with Military Honors for Earl was Sunday, February 2, at the Hettinger Lutheran Church.

Dorothy (Olson) Holt, age 95, of Ralph, passed away on Wednesday, January 29, at the Five Counties Nursing Home in Lemmon. Funeral services for Dorothy were held on Saturday, February 1, at the Slim Buttes Lutheran Church in Reva with burial next to her husband Tony in the Holt Family Cemetery near Ralph. Dorothy was the grandchild of Ole Olson, who was Reub’s Grandfather Delos Olson’s brother, and she was also Reub’s first grade teacher at the Olson School just east of

our ranch. Dorothy’s father Bill Olson built the Glendo Ranch Store on our east ranch for my great grandparents after the first Glendo post office burned down. Dorothy was a wonder woman who so talented in everything she did from sewing, cooking and building things and she was a strong Christian.

Reub and I made a trip to Hettinger on Wednesday and stopped in Reeder on the way home to have coffee with the Prairie Pioneers. We took a picture of the Reeder Homeguards that we found going through some of Grandma Hattie Olson’s old pictures. The picture was taken during WWI with 42 soldiers dressed in uniform standing in the street in Reeder. None of the people recognized any of the soldiers in the picture, but I wish Reeder had a museum because that would be a great place to leave the picture. Taz and Jace Jenson were taking pictures of the bulls they are going to sell in March in the bull catalog. The hay grinder came down after dark that evening just after Casey got home from wrestling practice. Bill Holt called us that evening to let us know that his mother, Dorothy Holt, had passed away that day.

Galen Niederwerder came up to visit with Missy about their insurance Thursday morning and then came over to see Reub and me and go through our insurance on our pickups. We had him stay for lunch with us and had a real good visit

with him. Galen is married to my cousin Donna (Wilkinson) Niederwerder and it would have been fun to have her come with him because I showed him several pictures of Wilkinson relatives that she’s never seen. One was of our Great Grandfather Charles Wilkinson while he was in the Minnesota Senate in 1911, a picture of our Grandmother Lydia Wilkinson’s brother Gustave (Schmidt) Smith who died in France in WWI, and a picture of our Great Grandmother Caroline Schmidt. Thad came up from Prairie City Thursday evening to have me cut his hair and his beard. I trimmed both his hair and his beard and Santa Claus just disappeared!

Casey took the wrestlers to Belle Fourche on Friday for the tournament on Friday and Saturday while Taz went back up to Reeder to work on Dalton Mellmer’s house. When Reub got back from feeding the cows, he saw one of my hens had flown over the fence and was running around the yard. Knox and River came out to help him catch her and Knox was able to grab the hen and they put her back in the chicken coop. I called Teri Dee and thankfully she’s healing up after her hip surgery and her bout with influenza.

For those of you that might wonder why there are so many law suits in our time, here is your answer. We have 5% of the world population and 66% world’s attorneys.

Then and Now in Newell

“Looking Forward to our Past”

February 4, 1915

If your husband stays out late at nights and is averse to explain, don’t scold him, but try tactics a Butte County woman worked successfully. The said husband came late, tried the door but it was locked. From within he heard the whisper of his wife through the keyhole, “Is that you Willie?” Now his name is not Willie or anything like it, but since that time he has been sticking around home nights closer than a burr to a mule’s tail.

The firemen’s dance on Saturday evening was largely attended in spite of the inclement weather and all enjoyed

ucation in meeting assembled, that any pupil found smoking or bringing tobacco or cigarettes on the school grounds, shall forthwith be suspended until such times as the board may see fit to reinstate said pupil, after proper application has been made by the pupil, his parents or guardian”. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

January 31,1935

Municipal, county and state authorities, planning boards and other public agencies in South Dakota have been asked to co-operate in the compilation of an inventory of works projects which is being

by Linda Velder

2 weeks or more.

Tomorrow is Ground Hog Day when the little rodent is supposed to make his first appearance in the new year. If he observes his shadow, he holes up again for 6 weeks more of winter. Animal instinct may have it all over the human weather profits, but don’t bank on this homely axiom. His pigship, for instance might be so poor and skinny that he wouldn’t make a shadow.

PFC Fred Lopez, who is stationed at Westover Field, Mass, tells his sister, Mrs. Victor Norlin of having to spend Christmas Day in the barracks, because the crew, or what is left of it, were recently restricted to the field. His plane had crashed last week, killing 3 of the crew and injuring 3. One is still missing. They were on a night mission and had previously made a forced landing, made repairs and returned to field, while coming in for a second landing, engine No 3, “ran away”, they overshot the field, so took up again. Then engine No 1 caught fire and No 2 was running away. They did everything they were trained to be done, made their way over the Bombay door, said “a prayer” and dropped through. PFC Lopez hit the ground, 2 men landed in a swamp all unhurt. They headed back to the plane to help. It was an exciting experience. Lopez is the son of Mr. & Mrs. S. C. Lopez former Newell residents, now of Cheyenne, Wyo.

January 6, 1955

Delinquent water accounts received the attention of Newell City Commissioners at their regular meeting Monday evening, with members noting that water should be shut off when accounts become delinquent and that a re-connect charge should be made after such an account is paid. The board instructed the City Auditor to certify delinquencies.

January 13, 1955

Wilbur Knaub hit 14 field goals as the Vale Beetdiggers edged a battling Faith team, 57 to 52 at the Vale gymnasium Tuesday night. Faith held the first quarter lead of 12 to 10, but Vale tied it up at the half 28 to 28. Vale outscored the Longhorns in the final minutes to run the score to 57 to 52. Jerry Nedella was second high scorer for Vale with 13 while Fonder had 14 for Faith as did Jordan and Forester. Vale will host Hulet Friday night at Vale.

January 20, 1955

Mrs. Jake Zwetzig, clerk in the Ben Franklin Store at



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Newell, received news this week that she was one of 4 winners in this sales zone to win a prize in the Helene Curtis Industries. Mrs. Zwetzig was notified by letter that she had won a Benrus “Embraceable” wristwatch as a 5th prize winner in the national contest built around sales of the company’s shampoo, “Spray Net” hair spray and other toiletry products.

purchased from Mrs. Lyman Bruce, Mrs. Hugh Caton, R. D. Long, Art Noste and Bob Fabricius or any business downtown.

January 28, 1965

The 72-piece St. Olaf Concert Band will play premiere performances of two compositions on its 1965 tour of 16 cities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. At each concert, “Psalm Fifty” composed by the late F. Melious Christianson as



Two beautiful Kentucky Thoroughbred horses. Brood mares were also as important as Stations. Newell Museum

themselves to the fullest. Wald’s Orchestra furnished excellent music for the dancers and it is estimated that the boys cleared about \$50. Morris Briggs came over from Nisland and played trombone with the orchestra.

The Wyoming lower house of the Legislature passed a bill prohibiting convicted murderers from inheriting estates and from receiving benefits from their victims which had been carried on the lives of their victims. It will also probably be passed by the Senate.

January 29, 1925

With the object of encouraging the raising of cavalry stock, the government shipped a thoroughbred Kentucky station to Newell to be handled under government regulations.

Elmer Milberg went to Deadwood on Saturday as a member of the basketball team. The boys had a bad trip, getting stuck in the snow drifts and encountering bad roads and as a consequence were worn out due to shoveling and pushing. When they reached Deadwood at 8:00 o’clock, they were unable to put up their customary peppy game and wore the willow home.

At a special meeting of the Newell Board of Education, a vote was taken that the following Resolution be adopted and enforced: “Whereas, some of the boys persist in smoking and bringing cigarettes and tobacco on the school grounds: “Be it resolved, by the Board of Ed-

undertaken by the Public Works Administration and the National Resource Board. The purpose of the inventory is to obtain before March 1st up-to-date information as to available projects which might be useful in connection with the President’s program for work relief and the development of national resources. Projects are to be listed in order of their relative importance according to needs and benefits.

Mrs. J. Hosfelt has been appointed as a committee of one to check and hold the patterns of the Extension Club, which have been used in the demonstrations. Anyone wishing to use the patterns may find them in her possession.

The South Dakota House of Representatives approved the bitterly disputed Ore Tax bill today, by a vote of 73 to 30. Advocates of the measure, which would place a levy of 10% on the value of all ore at the surface, less deductions for production to that point, were jubilant over the result. Anti-ore tax interests will concentrate now on stopping the measure in the Senate, where it probably will not come up for final action before the mid-season recess, February 1 to 5.

February 1, 1945

Dr. O.H. Clark yesterday reported the quarantine was raised on all homes with Scarlett fever cases. No new cases have developed during the past



The 1955 Vale Beetdigger Basketball Team. The Beetdiggers were always a tough team. Newell Museum

January 27, 1955

Youth dance Saturday night, January 29 at IOOF Lodge Hall, boys and girls to and including 6th graders will dance 7:00 to 9:00 PM and 7th graders and up will dance from 9:00 PM on, to music by the Rhythm Five, sponsored by Westerners Range Management Club and is chaperoned by Rebekahs. A charge of 25 cents per couple and 15 cents for singles and lunch served to all for 25 cents each.

February 3, 1955

Tickets went on sale this week for Newell’s biggest home talent production, the 6th Annual PTA Fun Night, announced by General Chairman Mrs. R. C. Johnson, February 11 & 12 at 8:00 PM at Newell High School auditorium. It will include a 3-Act comedy-farce “Cheerio, My Deario” directed by Charles Marlow with Jerry Kuchera as stage manager, also popular songs and stunts by the “Western Singers” and music preceding by the “Rhythm Five” Orchestra. Pie and coffee will be served in the gymnasium following each evening’s performance. Tickets can be

arranged by Miles H. Johnson, director of the St. Olaf Band is one of the favorite works of the famed St. Olaf band, will be presented at each concert. Jack Laumer, sophomore music major, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Laumer and Newell High School grad is solo trumpeter in the 1965 Concert Band.

Friends surprised Felix Rittberger at their home on his birthday, Saturday. After participating in a bountiful supper brought in by these friends, the group spent the evening visiting, playing cards and listening to recorded music.

An adult education typing class will be offered beginning next Monday at the Newell High School, it is announced by Superintendent Don Heil. The class will be at 7:30 PM in the typing room on the second floor of the main building. There is still room for additional enrollment in this class and as everyday business becomes more mechanically oriented, it behooves adults to learn to type. Heil added, the Conversational Spanish Class offered did not show enough interest to proceed.

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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Newell City Commission
Monday, Feb. 10, 5 pm

Newell School Board
Monday, Feb. 10, 6 pm

PreSchool Screening
Tuesday, Feb. 18 Newell School, call Shannon 605-456-0102

MS Fundraiser
Tuesday, Feb. 18

FFA Fundraiser
Thursday, Feb. 20 Newell Ag/

Science Bldg
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,



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NHS Superintendent Dr. Pandi Pittman questioned the legislators about school vouchers and other pertinent information that are important to schools.

She pointed out that school vouchers had the potential for taking funding dollars from local schools and urged the law-makers to consider their votes carefully.



Support Local Business From the Beacon / Irrigator.

FEBRUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Asian Chicken, Oriental Veggies, Fruit, Milk Tomato or Broccoli Soup	4) Biscuits & Gravy, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Fruit, Milk	5) Pancakes, Sausage, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Pizza, Corn, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk Chicken Tortilla Soup	6) Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Turkey or Ham Subs, Potato Wedges, Fruit, Milk	7) NO SCHOOL
10) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Snap Peas, Fruit, Milk	11) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Mac & Cheese, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk	12) Muffins, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Nuggets, Sweet Potato Fries, Fruit, Milk Broccoli Cheese Soup	13) Waffles, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Pigs in a Blanket, Beets, Milk	14) NO SCHOOL VALENTINE'S DAY
17) NO SCHOOL	18) Bagels, Omelets. Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Patty Sandwiches, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk Turkey Noodle Soup	19) Pancakes, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Nachoes, Corn, Fruit, Milk	20) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Cubano Sandwiches, Baked Potatoes, Broccoli Salad, Fruit, Milk	21) NO SCHOOL
24) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Lasagna, Bread Sticks, Fruit, Milk	25) Maple Baked French Toast, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Fresh Rolls, Fruit, Milk	26) Breakfast Taco, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Taco Salad, Corn, Fruit, Milk	27) Croissant Sandwich, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Alfredo, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	28) NO SCHOOL

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



Menu Sponsored by:

Newell Hardware & Supply

320 Girard - Newell SD

605-456-2312

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



B's Buzz

There are times that we have to change the direction we are headed. Not because it's the wrong direction, but because there's a better path. I believe that there are different paths to follow for each of us, and the hard part is that we can't always go where we want to go.

The hard part is trying to go along the trail laid down by our parents or siblings or even our spouses. Anyone that been a part of a family knows what I mean.

When you're young, Mom and Dad direct your steps. As you grow, teachers and others try to get us to go the way they think we should. And then we get married and we blend our paths with our spouse.

And that's probably the hardest part. Two people who have different backgrounds and different ideas about life. Ideas about making money, cleaning the house, children, all kinds of "stuff" that gets in the way of living together in harmony.

The key word is "harmony." Today, I was listening to some beautiful music full of harmony. The voices were all different. One was louder. One softer. There was one that was a little hoarser than the others. Young voices and older ones. But they

made music that made my heart sing, too.

And that made me think about life. We are all singing a song that can blend together to make our hearts sing. Ah, even now my heart swells with the music of harmony.

When our son, Daniel, was little and we had to travel to Minneapolis for surgery, the only radio station we could get as we crossed western South Dakota was PBS radio. There was mostly classical music played as we sped across the state. Dan would ask me to play that "stair-steppin" music. To his little heart, the music was fascinating as the notes blended to a soothing sound.

Isn't life like that? Up one day, down the next, sometimes in between. It ebbs and flows. We crash with the waves and float on top. We can dance and we can sit and soak it all up.

It takes a lot of practice to make a song sound wonderful. It takes a good ear to listen to how others are singing. If you want to blend with the harmony of being, then you will need to work and listen. You need to hear what others are thinking and sense what others are feeling.

As you watch a group blending their sounds together, when they are really good, watch how they lean into each other and take their cues from the one beside them.

That's what life is like. Leaning into each other and feeling what they are feeling. Why do they do the things they do? Why do they think the way they think?

Wanted - Gently Used Clothing

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-The Newell FFA students are doing a First Annual Gently Used Clothing and Shoe Drive to benefit the community. Donations are being accepted February 1-13 and can be dropped off at the Ag Science Room or office. Make a difference to people in the community by cleaning out your closets.

The drive will

have different sizes and styles for men, women, and children. Check out the Ag Science

Room on February 20 from 3:45 to 6 p.m.

If you have any questions contact an FFA member or Cheyenne Geppert at Newell School.

It's almost Spring, it's time to clean out the closet and support Newell FFA!





MS BB Boys Fundraiser

NEWELL-A raffle is being held by the Middle School Boys Basketball team members. They are raffling a leather knife case and a custom belt donated by High Quality Saddles, LLC.

The belt can be ordered to fit or a choice of one that is already made.

The drawing for the items will be at the last home game on February 18. There is no need to be present, but you don't want to miss the game!

The items can be shipped anywhere. Payments can be made via Venmo Ashely High@highqualitysaddles, marked as Basketball Raffle. Please include how many tickets and which drawing you want each ticket to be entered.

There will also be a separate jar of tickets available for the belt and knife case.

The raffle is sponsred by the Newell School District and Newell Irrigator Booster Club.



Newell Wrestlers Hit the Mats



NEWELL-The Newell Irrigator wrestling team headed to Lemmon January 28 to join with 12 other teams. Their skills were shown throughout the meet.

Dyson added another first-place win for the year.

Bodie manhandled his way also to a first-place.

Will wrestled his way to a third.

The next home meet is scheduled for February 4. Courtesy Photo