



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • February 12, 2025

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Belle City Council Meeting

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The City Council held its first meeting of the month on Monday, February 3. The Mayor's report included a presentation from Mark Kirkeby with the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Kirkeby mentioned plans for replacing the bridge over the Belle Fourche River next year, citing that the bridge is 67 years old. "What we're seeking is your partnership," he said to the Council.

There was no Community Input at this meeting.

The Chamber of Commerce announced upcoming events, including a Lunch & Learn on February 19 from 12-1 p.m.; a Mixer at The Outlaw on February 20 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.; and the Annual Banquet on February 28.

Additionally, Casino Night will be held on March 22, featuring entertainment, with sponsorships available until Feb. 13.

The Oath of Office was admin-

istered to Adam Spates after the Council approved Police Chief Ryan Chervený's recommendation that Adam Spates be hired as a full-time Certified Police Officer for the Belle Fourche Police Department.

Councilperson Schmaltz informed Council he would be able to teleconference into the meeting on February 18. Councilperson Sowers inquired regarding the Hay Creek Bridge, sidewalk assessments, and the lighting on Ziebach Street. Additionally, he requested to be excused from the meeting scheduled for February 18, 2025.

City Engineer Hardy provided an update on the bid openings for the upcoming water-line project. City Administrator LaFayette introduced the new Landfill Superintendent Shawn Gallagher.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, as City offices will be closed for President's Day on Monday.



Adam Spates takes the Oath of Office as a Certified Police Officer for the BFPD. Courtesy photo

New Mini Exhibit at Tri-State Museum: Calendars

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Have you ever wondered about the history of calendars, or even why we use calendars as the best way to keep track of time on a yearly scale? Then head down to the Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center to check out their latest mini exhibit on calendars.

"We live and die in a set period of time. To understand our mortality, we want to grasp the concepts of past, present, and future. So, we measure time and have done so since the earliest days of prehistory," explains one of the exhibit's information placards. The earliest calendars were born about five thousand years

ago, while writing and counting systems were being developed. The exhibit displays artifacts including calendars from past years dating from all the way back to 1940, examples of ancient calendars like the Babylonian Calendar, and placards with all kinds of historical information and facts about how the calendar we know today has developed throughout history. There are take-home activity packets with calendar-themed coloring pages and puzzles for kids, and an interactive screen that you can use to test your knowledge on calendars. "Kristi (Thielen) does all the storyboards. She does all the research and writes every-

Calendars contd A8



One of the artifacts shows the *Babylonian calendar*. The Babylonians were avid followers of astrology. Heitz photo

What Happens When the Beacon Can't be Printed?

Doug Cole

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

After close to eight years of publishing the Belle Fourche Beacon you come to realize anything that can happen will happen.

This past week a circumstance occurred that we had not imagined possible before.

It required the Beacon to come up with a plan of action when you are unable get your paper printed,

The Rapid City Journal, who prints the Belle Fourche Beacon due to a corporate internet "glitch" were unable to print any news papers.

In addition to being the printing source for the Beacon and their

own Rapid City Journal the press operation prints eight other publications per week.

The problem was with their nationwide internet communication. The glitch prevented Rapid City from the ability to print anything, but the repairs had to be made somewhere else in the Lee Enterprise nationwide News network.

Our printing schedule is customarily Monday mornings, so we arrived as usual, prior to 8 am ready to receive the Beacon 'hot off the press' only to learn they were on hold and waiting for the repairs to be made elsewhere.

No Printer Contd.A3

"Inquiry Club Reaches Century Mark"



Mary Ellen Warren, Marilyn Johnson, Jan Stinton, Patty Moe, Mary Buchholz, Jan Gilger, Sheila West, Sandy Baker, Gladys Irion, Char O'Dea, Harlene Hill, Nina Nachtigall, Alberta Krush, & Edna Doherty Courtesy Photo

The Belle Fourche Inquiry club celebrated their 100th anniversary Tuesday January 13, 2025 at the new addition to the Tri-State Museum.

In the club's history, the original members of the club would share books with club members and then give the book

to the new city library. Other projects the club supported was helping the John Burns Memorial hospital and needy families in town.

A Relief Committee was very active with clothes, fruit and even a washing machine. Oranges were bought for a

baby for quite a while, then it was suggested that each member can a jar of tomato juice for the baby instead.

The club still supports the community's needs thru the Compassion Cupboard and has a Christmas meal and gift exchange.

First Steps for the Human Library Project

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
A few weeks ago, Todd Keller had an idea. It was idea that had been evolving for some time. He wanted to organize a "human library". Belle Fourche seemed an ideal place for it.

The Human Library Organization (HLO) <https://human-library.org> hosts events where readers can "borrow" human beings for conversations or presentations.

And yes, it's a real organization that started in Copenhagen in 2006. The primary function of the HLO is to help people better understand others.

Every "human" book from the bookshelf, should represent



605-892-6285
a group in society that is often the subject of prejudice, stigmatization or discrimination. It's about getting to know people from diverse backgrounds, learning from them, and building relationships.

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

ences, schools, and universities.

The very first human library event will take place in Belle Fourche at the Silver Linings Senior Center on March 21st.

Todd is pleased to announce that some erudite "human" books have come forth to volunteer and share their stories, expertise, wisdom. The event is free and open to the public.

"A human library is very much like a regular library where people can go to check out books. The difference is that all the books are human volunteers". Todd explained carefully, "Each volunteer is a book. Each

Human Library contd.A8



Barb Uhrig (Courtesy photo)

Artwork by Holly McAnlis Featured at Hitching Post Tap House

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Can you imagine the skill, patience and attention to detail it would take to paint intricate drawings on a turkey feather? Because that is exactly what this month's featured artist at the Hitching Post Tap House does!

Holly McAnlis of Holly's Hobbies 10x has her original artwork lining the walls of the Hitching Post Tap House this month. All of her work is one of a kind and

original based on the fact that it can't be reproduced. Each image is carefully created on a turkey feather and then mounted to make a beautiful decoration.

The loss of her helper and love, her husband, created the shift to her new medium. "I originally started doing just wood stain art on the top of furniture," explained McAnlis. "When my husband passed away, I really couldn't do the furniture completely by myself

because some of them were big pieces, I couldn't get them moved around and they needed repairs—he always helped me with that. So I started thinking I needed to start painting something smaller."

McAnlis uses Unicorn SPiT to create with, it is a gel stain and she has been painting on turkey feathers for four years. "I met this lady that invented this product called Unicorn SPiT gel stain and it comes in

Artwork Contd.C2



Artist Holly McAnlis creates art on turkey feathers. This was a custom creations made from a reference photo. She uses Unicorn SPiT gel stain. Courtesy photo

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Brian Kline
Owner

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Paisley Grace Moody 9



On January 28, 2025, Paisley Grace Moody, at the age of 9, danced into the loving arms of Jesus.

Paisley Grace was born on January 8, 2016 to Ky and Emily Moody. She was the most wonderful big sister to Olivia and Rowan. From the moment she entered the world, Paisley has been a one of a kind spirit. She had music and Jesus in her heart.

Paisley loved all things horses, music, and anything that her daddy loved to do. She was famous for saying the craziest, funniest, and unfiltered things. Paisley's one liners will be the heart of stories about her. She loved riding horses with her Aunt Aubri and "Ole Mimus", taking walks and riding bikes with Grandfather Max, golfing with Papa, cooking with Grandma Katie, learning about Jesus with Carolyn, having play dates with Sophia and Landon, hugging Kallie, playing Nintendo games with Merm, making fun of Uncle Fencer's mustache with Aunt Baylee, teasing Uncle Fencer and Hunter, playing air hockey with her sister Olivia, cuddling with her sister Rowan and favorite dog Ace, and singing at the top of her lungs with her mommy. There isn't one person who came in contact with her that doesn't have something funny to say.


Most of all, Paisley loved her family and friends. She had the gift of gab and would fill every room with her joy. Her laughter filled the hearts of everyone around her. Paisley always found the positive in every situation. She was the ultimate showman and loved to put on a performance for anyone who would watch.

Paisley is lovingly survived by her parents Ky and Emily; sisters Olivia Ryan and Rowan Rebecca; Papa (Tim Bauer), Grandma Katie, Mimi (Denise Wallace), Grandpa Lee, Grandpa Max, and Grandma Amy Moody; aunts and uncles Spencer, Baylee, Lexus, Aubri, Daniel, Nyssa, Colby, Garion, Tryn, Hunter, Kallie, Julie, Ben, Colleen, Andy; cousins Drevyn, Natilee, Braiden, Torrah, Chloe, Colden, Everlee, Mylah, Valerie, and new baby girl Haven "Grace" Moody, Kaitlyn, Russell, new baby boy Merm, Gabby, and Ella, along with many other extended family members and friends.


Paisley joined an amazing group in Heaven: grandparents Harold & Phyllis Bauer, Dixie Moody, Janet Emmett, Wallace Emmett, Jim Cullen; baby cousin Nash Hahn; friend Nick Sukstorf; first family dog Tucker; along with many other extended family members. We know she found Jesus right away to tell him about everyone she loved. Paisley is still talking to all of us down here, letting us know she's around.

The funeral service was held at Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Interment at Pine Slope Cemetery, followed by a Celebration of Life at Silver Spur Ranch, west of Belle Fourche.

We acknowledge and appreciate all of the support near and far during this difficult time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Adrienne Dee Huckins (Beals) "RenDee" 77



Adrienne Dee Huckins (Beals), "RenDee", 77, of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 7, 2025, in her beloved room at Rolling Hills Nursing Home.

RenDee was born on July 29, 1947, in Belle Fourche to Robert Neal and Doris LaVonne Beals. She grew up on a sheep ranch north of town, where she learned the values of humility, resilience, and hard work. She attended grade school at the Owl Creek School, a one-room country school, before continuing her education at Belle Fourche High School. She later pursued an education in Business Administration and went on to serve her community in many ways—working for the state, managing the Lariat Motel, and spending many years as a trusted legal assistant to a local attorney.

More than any title or job, RenDee was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, wife, daughter, and friend. She was known for her kindness, unwavering optimism, and ability to see the good in everyone she met. A true people person, she loved to be social and cherished her faith, pouring her heart into the United Methodist Church, where she was a proud and long-time member of the choir. With a beautiful soprano voice, she found joy in music and shared that joy with others.

RenDee had a lighthearted spirit and a deep well of love. She was funny, forgiving, and strong in the quiet, graceful way of those who endure life's hardships without complaint. A tough ranch girl at heart, she moved to town to raise her boys and build a life of her own. She was married twice, first to Leigh Merriman, with whom she had her two sons, and then to the love of her life, Gary Robert Huckins. She loved God, good conversation, and—on occasion—a nice glass of red wine.

In 1997, RenDee was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, but she refused to let it define her. She worked long past the doctors' expectations, never once feeling sorry for herself, always looking forward to tomorrow. She faced every challenge with dignity and perseverance, embodying a quiet strength that inspired all who knew her.

She is survived by her sons, Michael (Kelly) and Robert (Miranda) Merriman; stepchildren, Derek (January) Huckins and Nicole Eastman; grandchildren, Benjamin, Alexander, and Tatum Merriman; brother, Eric (Maureen) Beals; sister, Robin Wilkins; niece, Keri Beals; nephew, Steven (Lila) Beals; and great-niece, Madison Beals.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her wonderful, loving husband, Gary Robert Huckins; and her beloved pets, Tippy and Scruffy.


RenDee's warmth, laughter, and unwavering faith will be dearly missed but forever remembered.

A service will be held at the Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church on February 12 at 10:30 AM, followed by a brief ceremony at Pine Slope Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest beside Gary. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church.

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

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Rolling Hills Nursing Home, who provided her with love and care for nearly a decade.

May RenDee's memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved her.



Christian Life Center Valentines!



The Christian Life Center had a new idea for Valentine's Day...**ROSETTES!** The ladies of the church sold the Scandinavian delicacies Sun, Feb 9.

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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VIEWPOINT | Congressional term limits put people over politics

Guest column by Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt



Taylor Rehfeldt

As a wife, mother, health-care professional, and lifelong advocate for South Dakota families, I've always believed public service is a privilege — not a career. My time in office has reinforced the urgent need for congressional term limits to restore integrity, accountability, and fresh leadership.

Our state is built on hard work, accountability, and community values. Growing up west river and now raising my family east river, I've seen firsthand the importance of protecting our way of life. But too often, Washington operates in a different reality — where career politicians stay in office for decades, disconnected from

the struggles of families, small businesses, and rural communities. Without term limits, power stays concentrated in the hands of a few, while constituents wait for action on critical issues like quality healthcare, mental health resources, and protecting our children — priorities I've fought for throughout my time in office.

Our government was meant to be led by citizen representatives — not lifelong politicians. When politicians stay in office too long, they lose touch with the people they serve. As the prime sponsor of House Joint Resolution 5002, I'm leading the fight to bring real accountability and fresh leadership to Congress. South Dakota has always set the standard for principled leadership, and we must continue putting families first.

South Dakota leads by example. Our citizen legislature operates under term limits — and it works. As a former Assistant Majority Leader, I've seen what can be accomplished when leaders focus on solutions instead of personal ambition. Congress should follow South Dakota's lead and implement

term limits to restore trust in government.

Opponents of term limits argue that experience is invaluable and that elections serve as a natural check. But we know better. Incumbents have built-in advantages that make it difficult for new candidates to compete. Long-term incumbency breeds complacency, special-interest influence, and a system focused on reelection — not results. Responsible term limits would level the playing field, ensuring a government that reflects the people — not entrenched politicians.

Just last week the House passed HJR 5002, taking a crucial step forward. Now, we need your help. Contact your legislators and tell them to support this resolution. This isn't just about Washington — it's about protecting South Dakota's future and ensuring the next generation has leaders who serve with integrity.

Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt serves in the South Dakota, representing District 14 in the state House, and is a healthcare professional.

LETTER | State library cuts will cost South Dakota taxpayers

We are four former South Dakota State Librarians. We strongly urge the South Dakota State Legislature to vote NO on the proposed changes (House Bill 1041) to the South Dakota State Library and the corresponding state statutes. The current staff of 21.5 employees are some of the most efficient civil servants in state government serving as a resource for over 500 libraries. The South Dakota State Library is one of the smallest state libraries among their 50 state counterparts. Yet, they are highly regarded and appreciated by the communities they serve.

In 2006 a thorough review by an out-of-state expert-consultant was conducted. This led the way for modernization, down-sizing and much greater efficiencies. (See 2006 Bushing Report) At that time, staffing was at 37, then reduced to 27, which was again reduced a decade later to the current 21.5 staff to pay for a new, less costly and more technologically advanced "overlay". This new system, named South Dakota Share-IT, allowed the State Library to link all participating libraries with no cost to the local school or public library. The end result is that patrons can discover what each library has for their physical holdings. For example, a search by a patron in Lemmon Public can see what Siouxland Library has and a student at Aberdeen High School can locate a specific book title, which SDSU has. This has resulted in over 71,500 inter-library loans between and among South Dakota libraries in 2023. What tremendous use of resources and savings for local communities. The state's

universities and a few larger public libraries are also members of the international OCLC network. However, without the State Library's connecting software and their librarians who manage it, most of the state will go dark. The information isolation will be devastating to local schools and communities, particularly rural areas. Without access to magazine articles through subject databases and access to books held by hundreds of linked South Dakota libraries, individual research and inter-library loan will be severely curtailed.

In short, the proposed drastic reduction of personnel and budget cuts would severely limit the State Library's capacity to support K-12 schools, homeschoolers, public and academic libraries. Additionally, the economic impact overtime would be crippling, again most especially to rural schools and communities. This ill-advised legislation will not save tax-payers' money. In fact, it will most likely have the opposite effect, costing tax-payers more money but with limited access to fewer resources, trainings and services.

We strongly urge South Dakota lawmakers to reject HB 1041. Restore full funding (including accepting annual federal funds) to support the amazing work of the State Library. School boards and community leaders. The State Library is an efficient, cost-effective, trusted and valuable resource for all South Dakotans.

Daria Bossman, State Librarian, 2012 - 2021
Dorothy Liegl, State Librarian, 2004 - 2007
Suzanne Miller, State Librarian, 1999 - 2004
Jane Kolbe, State Librarian, 1986 - 1999.

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.

Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center's March First Saturday Brunch is "A Hitch in the CCC"

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a First Saturday Brunch on Saturday, March 1 with a presentation by historian and author Jim McKeown entitled "A Hitch in the CCC."

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a hallmark program of the FDR administration and offered young men a chance to get into the outdoors, learn new skills and help create campgrounds, parks, roads, trails, and forests. The CCC not only benefited the country but shaped the lives of those who participated in it.

Brunch at 10 a.m. is \$5 per person or free with membership. The presentation at 10:30 is free to all. Reservations are required, whether for brunch or to watch the presentation. Call 605-723-1200.

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

1903 Reader's Theatre Presents "Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel"

The 1903 Reader's Theatre Company will present a short mystery-comedy entitled "Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel" on Friday Feb. 14th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m.

The play is set in the 1930s in the new Don Pratt Hotel of Belle Fourche, during the era of Prohibition and at a time when rumors swirl about high stakes poker games being played in the basement of the Don Pratt. The play has a cast of nine and a running time of approximately 45 minutes.

The 1903 Reader's Theatre Company is a product of the Belle Fourche Arts Council and houses out of the theatre in the Tri-State Museum

and Visitor Center. A silent auction of items will take place during the play's run and the winners announced after the final performance on Saturday. The silent auction benefits the BF Arts Council.

Refreshments will be available for donation; admission to the play is \$2 per person or free with museum membership.

For more information about this production or how to be in future such productions, please call 605-723-1200. The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center's February Family Fun Day is "A Day for Wolves"

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a Family Fun Day on Sunday, February 16 from 2-4 p.m. entitled "A Day for Wolves."

The event will include a film about the lives of wolves and their importance to the environment and a short presentation about "Three Toes," the museum's resident wolf. There will also be crafts, a drawing for the book, "Face to Face with Wolves," and a free take-home packet about wolves. Refreshments will be served.

Admission is \$2 per person or free with membership. Reservations are helpful; call 605-723-1200. The Tri-State Museum is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

Friday and Saturday February 21 and 22 14th Annual Fox Family Shooting Match.

Hosted by Butte County 4-H Shooting Sports at 608 5th Ave Belle Fourche

Registration/Friday Check-In 8AM to 2PM. Saturday Check-In 8:00AM-11:00AM

First line at 9AM. Fee is \$5.00 per shooting event. Targets are provided. Bring your own equipment in not a BC4455 member. Awards at approximately 2PM on Saturday.

For questions, please contact adcowboyi@man.com

The *Human Library project* will launch its first presentation on March 21, 2025 from 2 - 4 at the Silver Linings Senior Center in Belle Fourche.

No Printer from A1

Following an entire day of thumb twiddling and nose scratching, our courier, Hunter Anderson, returned to Belle to await notice of when we could return.

The next morning we were instructed that repairs had not been made, they had no knowledge of when the might be, and that they would inform us if/when they would be back up and running.

We had received nothing by our deadline for weekly distribution and posted up the paper

for online access (this week's edition was built and transmitted as usual prior to Monday morning print schedule).

We had never ever considered "no printer available" as a possible occurrence. The online only edition that came out, is available in that format every week.

As the world moves more and more into computer and cell phone communication and access to 'up to the minute' news, the Beacon was forced into accepting the only available course of action.

Having gone online only has

forced us to work on improving our online access and create a more easily accessible format for mobile devices.

We will produce and execute 'online only' issues in the future, but they will be planned and steps formulated to allow subscribers who so desire, access to printed renditions of the news. When you don't receive a paper at present you may check with Print Mark-et and BF Chamber of Commerce to pick up a copy.

Watch for updates and improvements as they develop.

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



Feb 13 - Connection Church Ping Pong
Tournament

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day

7PM Auditions "Poker, Paisley, and the Don Pratt
Hotel"

Feb 15 - 9AM Ladies Breakfast, 2PM Auditions
"Poker, Paisley, and the Don Pratt Hotel"

Feb 16 - 2PM Family Fun Day @ Tri State Museum

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



Wrestlers Compete in Final Regular Season

Kandi Tonsager
Special to the Beacon

On Saturday, February 8th, a select number of Bronc wrestlers competed in their final regular season tournaments.

The boys competed in Hill City at the Black Hills Classic while the girls competed in the Lady Dogie Classic in Newcastle.

Taking to the mats for the Broncos, Caden Swaney had both a win and loss by fall and a win and loss by major decision at 106 pounds. Porter Tysdal competed at 106 pounds with a loss by fall and by major decision. Nathan Hudson competed at 113 pounds with two falls. Teedin Humble competed at 120 pounds with 2 falls and a win by major decision. Dylan Park competed at 126 pounds with a fall, a tech fall loss and a win by fall. Koby Bowden competed at 138 pounds with a fall and a loss by decision. Clifford Torberson competed at 138 pounds with 2 falls and Oscar Garcia competed at 190

pounds with 2 falls.

The Broncos had two placers at this tournament. Riley Dighton placed 2nd at 157 pounds with a win by fall, a win by tech fall, a win by fall and a loss by tech fall in the 2nd place match. Owyn Schreder placed 3rd at 165 pounds with a win by fall, a loss by decision, a win by decision, a win by major decision, a win by tech fall and a win by decision in the 3rd place match.

The Lady Broncos took 7 wrestlers to Newcastle, Wyoming with all ladies taking the podium! Kyra Vandenberg worked her way through 4 rounds of competitors for 2 wins by fall, a tech fall and a major decision to earn her 1st place finish. Lia Mundt had 2 falls, a win by medical forfeit, and 2 wins by fall over competitors for her 3rd place finish at 105 pounds. Birk Kraft battled through 6 rounds of wrestling with 4 falls, a win by decision and a win by fall for her 4th

place finish at 120B weight class. Aleyah Carbajal won by fall in 5 matches, with one loss by fall for her 2nd place finish at 125 pounds. Sofia Gonzales had 3 falls, a loss by decision and a win for her 4th place finish at 135A weight class. Alexa Swaney had 4 wins, 3 by fall, and a loss by fall for her second place finish at 135A weight class. Joselyn Shockey went 3 and 1 with major decisions and a win by tech fall for her 4th place finish at 145 pounds.

This was the last match for many wrestlers. The Broncos Varsity teams have a week-end off to get ready for their Regionals competition at The Monument in Rapid City on Saturday, February 22nd. Top 4 placers in each bracket will earn their spot to compete in the South Dakota State Wrestling competition, also at The Monument in Rapid City February 27th, 28th and March, 1st.

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LOOK WHO'S



BYRON DAVIS IS TURNING EIGHTY!

Come have a piece of cake with him on Saturday, February 15th from 1pm-3pm at AmericInn in Belle Fourche



Come join BFACT for their first ever 90's PROM FUNDRAISER on SATURDAY, MARCH 1st. This event will be a blast from the past including a delicious 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 belle-fourcheact.com or at the door the night of the event. Tickets are \$40/person or \$70 for two. See you there!



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 multi-school 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.



BFACT is excited to announce the shows and dates for its 15th Season!

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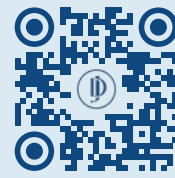


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BELLE FOURCHE

BRONCS (11-5)

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Regan Hatling gets in a shot.



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Clara has requested hugs in lieu of gifts



Denali Larsen fights to get in the zone.

Regan Hatling gets in a shot. Jamie Hockenbary basketball photos



56

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Harvey Walding gets a chance to shoot.



Gavin Pearson flies to the basket.

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JEANS



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.

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!

Actors & Tech crew needed for an upcoming COMMUNITY SHOW!! Belle Fourche Community Theater will be participating in Getting Our Acts Together (GOAT), A Night of Northern Hills One-Acts again for 2025! GOAT is an evening of four one-acts: one by the Historic Homestake Opera House from Lead; one by the Matthews Opera House in Spearfish; one by the Sturgis Community Theater; and one by Belle Fourche Area Community Theater. Each night will be held in a different location, so each theater group gets a chance to perform in a new space and give that community a chance to see a show by other local theater groups. You won't want to miss this one-of-a-kind show! The Belle Fourche performance night is March 29th.

AUDITONS for the BFACT show, Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth, will be February 25th & 26th at 6:30 PM in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Theater.

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!
(More on page (A4))

Gov. Larry Rhoden pushing for tax relief for homeowners

Governor delivers remarks at first legislative press conference

Austin Goss

austin@thedakotascout.com
PIERRE — South Dakota's governor is confident that he and the Legislature can deliver on property tax relief before the session adjourns in March.

Speaking during his first official legislative press conference since becoming governor last month, Gov. Larry Rhoden said that a property tax work group — made up of lawmakers from each chamber as well as members of his staff — met for the first time Monday.

And with the deadline to file new bills passing on Wednesday, the State Affairs Committee from each legislative chamber introduced a "vehicle bill" just before the deadline. Those bills can be filled later in the session with property tax legislation.

In the House, that measure is House Bill 1234. The Senate's is Senate Bill 216. They join a bevy of other proposals brought by individual lawmakers intended to get at the problem.

"Our conversations have focused on owner occupied," Rhoden explained, offering the first look into what his proposal would look like. "When you talk about property taxes there is always talk about avoiding shifts... But I remind people that in the past few years there has already been a shift... From other classes onto owner occupied."

The topic has been one at the front of mind for lawmakers for at least a decade, and even more under the microscope the last several years. Since 2020, at least two summer study committees devoted to looking into the topic have met, one as recently as this past

year. Last year, an effort to limit valuation increases on single-family dwellings was defeated in the Senate.

As the pressure on lawmakers to make changes has mounted since the COVID pandemic, so too has the rate paid by property owners risen. A memo from the state's Department of Revenue shows that all of South Dakota's 66 counties have seen steep increases in the dollar amount of owner-occupied valuations since 2020. The hikes particularly impact the state's young, potential homebuyers, and its oldest — both of which face a higher risk of being priced out of the market, or their existing residences.

Though plans for relief are targeted at residential properties, Rhoden isn't looking to shift that burden back over to other classes of property, namely agricultural.

"When housing values went up, that created a shift

from the other two classes, agricultural and commercial," Rhoden said. "There has been a shift, and we are looking at a solution that may help bring that back into balance."

Across the bipartisan work group, one solution that has resurfaced is one brought by Sen. Randy Deibert and former Rep. turned Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen, which would raise the state's sales tax rate in order to lower property taxes. GOP legislative leaders, though, say that like Rhoden — they're skeptical of a tax shift.


"I don't discern within our caucus, many of whom are conservatives and most of whom didn't run on raising taxes, a desire to do that," said House Majority Leader Scott Odenbach. "I've been very public in commending the two sponsors of that measure for getting the discussion going... They didn't do that saying they are locked into one way."

But the House majority leader isn't ruling anything out, either.

"There is more than one way to skin a cat," Odenbach said. "Certainly owner occupied is the worst. Maybe we stop the bleeding this year, and then try to do something broader next."

It is a behemoth of a topic that will put Rhoden's young governorship to the test, but if there is one administration that has the chops to pull it off, his lieutenant governor believes it's this one.

"There is nobody in this building who knows more about property taxes or has a longer history of working on this issue than Gov. Rhoden," Venhuizen told reporters. "He's carried major property tax reforms throughout his career. He knows this issue backwards and forwards, and he knows how to work with lawmakers and work through challenges to broker a deal... This is the perfect opportunity to get this done, this year."



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Registration will be from 6:00-7:00pm.

Good Shepherd Clinic is a free medical clinic for adults, ages 19-64, who do not have or qualify for insurance or have insurance and meet our other eligibility requirements. Medical services will be available on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius Street parking lot (below 825 W. Main Street).

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

For more information contact:
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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;
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Belle Silver Lining is open so come and enjoy a different lunch menu Monday thru Friday.
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AA Meetings
Meetings are held on
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays
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Regular Meeting: Meeting will be Saturday, at 10 AM.
B F Public Library, 3rd Sat.as always.
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CBH CO-OP
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CBH CO-OP Continues Commitment to Members and Local Communities with Over \$2 Million in Returns for 2025

STURGIS, SD – February 2025 – CBH CO-OP remains dedicated to reinvesting in its members and local communities, returning over \$2 million in patronage and equity in 2025.

- In 2024, CBH CO-OP:
- Paid more than \$2.3 million through equity retirements, estate settlements, and the cash payout of 2023 patronage
 - Issued nearly \$1 million in 2023 CBH Coop equity.
 - For 2025, the Board of Directors has approved:
 - To pay over \$2 million for equity retirements and the cash distribution of 2024 patronage.
 - To issue \$400,000 in 2024 CBH Coop equity.

“This shift toward a higher cash payout highlights CBH CO-OP’s financial strength and commitment to our members,” said Todd Reif, CBH CEO. “Just a few years ago, our model allocated 70% to equity and paid out 30% in cash. Over the last couple of years we have been fortunate enough to return more cash to our members while maintaining long-term financial sustainability.” Unlike traditional businesses, cooperatives operate with a

member-first philosophy, where profits are distributed to the owners and reinvested back into the CO-OP and the communities they serve.

CBH CO-OP’s equity is currently being retired over a 10 year period, ensuring continued support for its members and the cooperative’s long-term success.

CBH CO-OP remains committed to supporting rural communities, local businesses, and agricultural producers across Wyoming and South Dakota. Through cash patronage, equity retirements, and ongoing investments in its communities, CBH CO-OP continues to strengthen its impact on the region.

For more information on CBH CO-OP and membership benefits, visit www.cbhcoop.com.

About CBH CO-OP
 CBH CO-OP is a member-owned cooperative serving farmers, ranchers, and communities across Wyoming and South Dakota. With a focus on quality fuel, propane, feed, and retail services, CBH CO-OP is dedicated to delivering value to its members and reinvesting in the communities it serves.

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Human Library From A1

Each with a particular interest and background. The book will talk about a topic and the readers can ask questions, and the book will respond.” With quiet, unassuming composure Todd added something profoundly simple, “There will always be someone out there who needs what you have to give.”

As of this writing, there are three scheduled talking books who will speak at the first Human Library Event Presentation on March 21st at the Belle Fourche Senior Center form 2-4 PM.

The speakers Barb Uhrig, Margie LaDue, and Colleen Brunner are venerable women with regional roots.



Margie LaDue (Courtesy photo)



Colleen Brunner (Courtesy photo)

From A1 **Calendars** thing,” explained Jada Udager, Collections Archivist. “But when it comes to the actual artifacts, then with our collections, I have information on some things.” She explained that some of the calendars in the exhibit were donated, while some were already contained in the collection.

Udager shared a variety of ways that artifacts come into the museum. For this exhibit, Bob Williams, a Belle Fourche local and a museum volunteer, brought in some calendars from his father’s furniture store from years ago. A family from Arizona discovered boxes of memorabilia from Belle Fourche and decided to

Barb Uhrig is a Newell artist. She is also a Shepard who has raised purebred Cheviot sheep for the past 35 years or so. Barb fell in love with the Cheviot breed. She adored their alert clean faces and beautiful legs. Barb also shears each one herself using only her hand shears or blades. She vaccinates, sorts, selects breeding pairs and helps the sheep in lambing.

Shearing with blades is an art. The process helps Barb know which fleece she wants to keep and which she will use to spin or use for felt work. Barb started Art in the Barn Fleece and Fiber Festival in 2010 to show and to involve the public in the sheep industry. She especially wants to involve the youth.

She has been involved with the Make it with Wool, the Newell Ram Show, several county fairs as a wool judge and superintendent and has won numerous fleece awards at the SD State fair and the national sheep show in Missouri.

Margie LaDue was born and raised in Perkins County. She married Gary LaDue in 1965. They just celebrated their 60th anniversary. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. These days Margie and Gary live near Newell SD-

Margie was an elementary school teacher for 33 years. Her career began in rural Perkins County and in Bison SD where she spent 25 years teaching second graders. During these years she shared the story of Hugh Glass with her students. That was instrumental in writing the children’s book, “Crawl into the Night”, the story of Hugh Glass. Based on the real event, Margie takes the liberty of imagining how the events took place. She hopes you enjoy her adventure story as much as she enjoys send it back to the museum.

“They sent me, like, nine boxes of things, and there’s a lot of calendars in there, and a lot of greeting cards,” said Udager.



The latest mini exhibit at the **Tri-State Museum** is about calendars. *Heitz photo*

sharing it.

Colleen Brunner now 71, was raised in southeast Montana has fond memories of shopping in Belle Fourche back in the 1960s. She and her husband Bruce raised four children on our farm/feedlot in Nisland, SD. They now have 12 grandchildren scattered from Spearfish to Sioux Falls to Texas to Canada. Today, Colleen works from home providing seamstress services as well as crafting items for sale. She is an officer in the Newell Improvement Corporation charitable organization and assists with two different food distributions in the eastern part of Butte County.

Her first memory of Belle Fourche is of her father and mother, Roy and Kay Richards, bringing her and her four siblings to Belle Fourche for Christmas shopping. Colleen recalls “Dad took us into the Bank of Belle Fourche, parked us on the foot riser by the teller booths while he obtained \$20 for each of us kids. The kids walked State Street shopping in the many stores, Frey’s Hardware, Beckers Drug, J.C. Pennys, Gambles and a host of others. All the while Christmas carols played from the speakers set high atop the buildings. “The stores stayed open late, and magic was in the air while the Christmas decorations glistered up and down the street.” Colleen remembered.

The Human Library event promises to be a rich experience on March 21st. Todd Keller invites anyone who is interested in participating in a Human Library event or who have questions to feel free to contact him at 605 569-2689 or email jnixon269@gmail.com or leave a message at the Silver Lining Center.

The calendar mini exhibit will run through the second week of April, with the next mini exhibit planned to be about the Fire of 1895.

Checking on the Money

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE-During the regular meeting of the Butte County Commissioners February 4, several comments were brought up that questioned the money trail at the county.

Commissioner Tom Brunner urged the commissioners and county staff to make purchases within the county. He said it would benefit the county to buy local.

During Public Comment Sue Broadhurst questioned where county money is going for things that in her opinion shouldn’t be paid for by the county. She also noted that there seemed to be too many employees in the Auditor’s Office. Even though the county business has gotten bigger, Broadhurst felt that the office had gotten too large.

“Taxes are raised because of spending,” she said and noted that each department needs to use money more wisely.

Dale Simanton pointed out that the roads in the county are in “terrible shape” and need

to be rebuilt. He had recently traveled the Orman Road and said that it was not only rough, but dangerous.

He thought that the Highway Committee should be made up of two people who know roads and how to take care of them. There has been more work in the basement of the Administration Building. The carpet has not been completed yet but is getting closer to finish.

Auditor Annie Capp explained that property tax bills had not been sent out at this time because of errors in processing.

The commissioners signed a resolution in opposition of the mandatory electronic id (MEID) livestock tags. Presently, the federal government has implemented a mandate to use a system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter by using an electronic EID system. According to the resolution the mandate is “far overreaching, intrusive, and potentially circumvents privacy laws, threatening the livelihood of independent cattle and bison

producers” and that “the Butte County Commissioners vehemently opposes the implementation of any EID mandate by the USDA, with the suggestion that funds currently earmarked for this program be reallocated to efforts to restore import standards that protect all livestock producers and consumers from introduction to foreign animal disease.”

Commissioner Brunner explained that Meade County had adopted a similar resolution, but Lawrence has resisted.

“This goes back to the Stockgrowers and NCBA having opposing views,” he said. According to Brunner, the resolution really doesn’t have any teeth, but it does tell ranchers they are supported in this county.

Commissioner James Ager added, “Leave it up to stock growers to decide what to use.” Calvin Fickbohm commented, “We’ve had lots of systems in place for years,” and they still work.

A quote was approved by the commissioners for labor and material required to replace the control panel in the transfer switch for the generator at the courthouse.

The \$9,900 quote does not include rerouting the feeder pipe or installation of a new transfer cabinet. The generator is important to power the courthouse in times of electrical outages. The Sheriff’s Department and Dispatch are housed in the building and are essential for use in an emergency event. The next Butte County Commission meeting will be Tuesday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the Butte County Courthouse.

Edward Jones



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Please call Butte County Equalization at (605) 892-3950 or visit <https://www.butesd.org/director-of-equalization> for more information.

Respectfully Submitted: *Cristina Wilson*
Butte County Director of Equalization

Special Concert
February 16th

Sunday February 16, 2:00 pm-

“American Treasures,” a special concert celebrating the lively and diverse music of America, will be performed at the **Spearfish United Church of Christ**. Performers include **Rodney Garnett, Katrina Garnett, flutes; Nancy Roberts, soprano, and Janeen Larsen, pianist.**

The hour-long concert will include refreshing arrangements of folk songs, spirituals, jazz, and songs from music theater.

Donations for the Northern Hills SOS (Sources of Support) are appreciated.



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 Leon Minor - 75 Strs - 675-750#
 Ivan Cranston - 75 Herf & F-1 Strs & Hfrs - 575-675# - BT, PC, Poured, NI - No Hfrs Kept
 Jack Duprel & Sons - 70 Blk & Red Strs - 700-800# - BT, PC
 Dale Knutson - 70 Blk & Red Strs & Hfrs - 700-800# - BT, PC
 Heier & Schuchard - 65 Blk Hfrs - 625-675# - BT, PC, Poured, BV
 Tim Komes - 60 Herf & Few Blk Baldy Hfrs - 550-600# - BT, PC, BV, Poured, Weaned
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 Pearson Ranch - 30 Blk F-1 Hfrs - 650-725# - BT, PC, No Brands, BV - Replacement Type
 Mike & Karen Dirks - 30 Blk F-1 Hfrs - 600-650# - BT, PC, BV, No Hfrs Kept
 Wolf Ranch - 25 Blk F-1 Hfrs - 625-675# - BT, PC, BV - Replacement Type
 Jim Geis - 20 Blk F-1 Hfrs - 550-600# - BT, PC, BV - No Hfrs Kept
 Darrel & Kristi Steffes - 15 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 600-650# - BT, PC, Hfrs-BV
 Roger Joseph - 10 Mostly Blk Strs & Hfrs - 650-700# - BT, PC

Plus more by sale time!

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February 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 February 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 March 7th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 March 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 March 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 March 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 April 4th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 April 11th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 April 18th - Pair & Bred Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
 April 25th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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 February 27th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 March 6th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 March 13th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 March 20th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 March 27th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 April 3rd - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 April 10th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 April 17th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 April 24th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 May 1st - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 May 8th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
 May 15th - New Crop Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
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 March 28th - Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale
 April 4th - Ck Bar Ranch Sim-Angus Bull Sale
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 April 18th - Baker Lemar Angus Bull Sale
 April 25th - Jordan Cattle Co Sim Angus & Angus Bull Sale
 May 16th - Turn-Out Bull Sale

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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.

141 years ago
Deadwood Pioneer-Times
May 14, 1884

Demores This is the name that has been given to the new town that has been established in the forks, just above the junction of the Belle Fourche and Redwater. Surveyor White returned yesterday from the new city, having completed the survey and the plats will be completed in a few days. We are informed by the management that as soon as the material can be delivered on the ground a hotel and four or five buildings for stores will be erected. A gentleman in this city received a letter from the Marquis DeMores yesterday, in which he stated that he had just concluded arrangements for placing a stage line on the road from Medora to the new town of DeMores. He also stated that he was then corresponding with parties in regard to the building of a railroad from Medora to the Hills, and he confidently some good news in a few days. From another source we learned that an engineer corps was now in the field making a preliminary survey from Medora, with DeMores as the objective point.

140 years ago
Deadwood Pioneer-Times
May 22, 1885

Leaking Out For reasons best know to themselves, all parties interested in the Daedwood and Redwater railroad, maintain the greatest reticence here at home concerning their plans and prospects, but are less circumspect when abroad, judging by an article in the Pierre Signal, which paper having interviewed W. L. Smith during that gentleman's recent to that city, publishes a lengthy article relative to the proposed road, in part as follows: "Some five years ago a charter was obtained for this narrow guage railway to run it to the Hay creek coal fields, 35 miles northwest of Deadwood. The road was surveyed severla times and estimates of its constuction furnished. This was done by the then owners of the Hay Creek coal fields. Since that time work has been steadily pushed upon the coal mines and title to several thousand acrea has been acquired. The principal owners now are New York, Philadelphia and St Paul capitalists. The principal mover in this project is Mr. Seth Bullock, of Deadwood. The main tunnel in the coal mine is in several hundred feet in a horizontal vein of coal seven feet thick. Shafts at various points penetrate several paralld veins. The ain vein, however, is a very superior grade of bituminous coal which ahs the appearance of hard coal and cokes beautifully. There is enough coal in sight to supply the entire northwest. The railway will now be pushed to completion this summer. In converation recently with Mr.

Smith, the constructing engineer, he informed us that the iron and supplies would begin to be laid at once. The iron from Pittsburg will go in via, the N. P. R'wu., and down at DeMores, Bullock's new town on the Belle Fourche, at the mouth of Hay creek, this being 160 miles from Medora, on the N. P. R.R. The ties will be got out in the Hills at an average cost of 16 cenets each.

The Marquis DeMores has recently been successful in interesting capital to build a broad guage road from Medora to DeMores. About 50 miles of this will be completed in 1885 and the remainder in 1886. At DeMores the broad gauge will receive coal from the mines nine miles distant." In the main, the above corroborates previous declaration of the TIMES and much else to which we are not at liberty to refer. That work will speedily begin on the grade is assured from semi-official sources and that it will be pushed to early completion, may reasonably be assumed. As already stated by the TIMES, on authority, the road will be in operation by the first of November.

138 years ago
Deadwood Pioneer-Times
May 21, 1887

Marquis DeMores Bagged New York, May 19 - Marquis DeMores was arrested today on an order issued by Judge Donahue, based upon an affidavit of Samuel Grimshaw to the affect that in his belief the marquis was about to leave the country, and had disposed of all his property with intent to defraud his creditors. Grimshaw had a suit pending against DeMores for \$30,000 damages, for breach of contract. He claims he contracted to assist the marquis or the Consumers' Meat company to obtain control fo the retail butcher stalls in New York, and was to be paid in stock and made one of the directors of the company. He atteges he carried out his part of the agreement and spent large sums in advertising the great co-operative schemes, but has found that the marquis has no syndicate of capisslists backing him, as he claimed, and that the whole scheme has fallen through. He therefore seeks to recover damages. The marquis furnished \$2,500 bail and was released.

The MARQUIS DeMORES
Lucy Peterson's "Lines from Long Ago" Belle Fourche Bee published in the Butte County, South Dakota A History, 1988.

Eight years before Belle Fourche was founded there was a nucleus of a village on what is now Fourth Avenue, north of the railroad tracks. It began with a stage station on a line established from Medora, Dakota Territory, to Deadwood by the Marquis DeMores, who had located a cattle ranchand the



by Mary Buchholz

town of Medora, named after his wife, on the Little Missouri River. Stations on stage were located at distances apart which were the mileage considered a fast driven tema could negotiate without rest and food. Hardly was the station on the Belle Fourche River in operation until a nearby "whiskey emporium" was in full swing with gatherines of thirsty cowboys and others. At the time Minnesela was the only town in the area north of the Black Hills. The women of that little town would be "dry." When the Medora-Deadwood stage line station was located on the river instead of at Minnesela, the residents of that town were peeved. To add to their chagrin, there was the saloon, only three miles away - not far on a good cowpony.

The Marquis DeMores, who had established the stage line with the expectation of its becoming an important passenger, freight, and mail line, was descended from one of the noble families of France. He was educated in England and had served in the French army as a cavalry officer. He was tall, well proportioned and attractive and was gentlemanly and courteous with a pleasing friendly personality. He had come into Dakota Territory in the early 1880's planning to go extensively into cattle raising on the range and building a large slaughter house to compete with the beef trust. The stage line proved unprofitable. He was unable to get the mail contact on which he had depended for income. There were no surfaced roads, no bridges on creeks and gullies. In wet weather the strip of gumbo was impassable and in winter months at times snow diles deep in drifts. After a few trips the stage line ceased to exist. He tried many other schemes while in Dakota, all of which ended in failure. DeMores returned to France in the early 1890's. He finally died in the Tunisian desert in 1896 when he was led into an ambush while working on his latest scheme, uniting the Mohammedans against the English.



Lucy Peterson, writer & journalist

CANDLES AND MIRRORS #18

By DeAnn Kruempel

"One Good Egg Deserves Another"

It's so cold my chickens are layin' frozen eggs!" Buck and Roy told corny jokes between their guitar strumming refrains of Cripple Creek. It was called "Pickin' and Grinnin'" and was a regular feature on the TV series



Hee Haw. It's been pretty cold in Iowa, but I have yet to find a frozen egg this winter. I do remember occasionally finding one in our chicken coop when we were growing up. It had split open and I could see the frozen white part inside. Mom put it in a cup and poured cold water to thaw it. It was baked into the next batch of cookies. "Waste not, want not," Mom quoted. Buck and Roy and Mom remind me of old jokes, idioms, phrases and stories. I can't help but scratch up some more—about chickens!

My chickens seldom let an egg freeze because they suffer from empty nest syndrome. Yes sirree, Foghorn Leghorn! The girls in my coop have a hen party every time they decide to deposit their precious nest eggs. Goldie shimmies into the middle nest box. She preens and tucks in a wisp of soft down to feather the nest. Eventually, she plops out a big brown egg. In typical Mother Hen fashion, she sits on it a while and ponders the age-old question, "What came first, the chicken or the egg?"

Meanwhile, back in the coop, Mattie has a cackleberry about to drop and is thinking that Goldie is lollygagging. Heaven forbid that Mattie use one of the empty nests. She neglects Dad's sage advice: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

"She thinks she rules the roost!" Mattie clucks as she waddles, clinching more than her teeth. "I don't mean to ruffle your feathers, Goldie, but I'm walking on eggshells here!" Mattie is getting madder than a wet hen.

Counting her chickens before they are hatched, Goldie sits. At last, she stands, stretches, and stately struts off the nest. Mattie decides one good egg deserves another and rushes in to deposit her speckled brown egg next to Goldie's. The old biddy also remains on

the eggs for a while. It is quite warm and cozy in the nest with three hen fruit snuggled beneath. She fantasizes about Rooster Cogburn. What's that? Had she said his name out loud? Dolly just popped her head in and tittered gleefully that Mattie had her stories scrambled. Then Dolly had the nerve to ask if Mattie was ever going to leave the nest. "You're no spring chicken, you know!"

"Well, if that doesn't just stick in your craw!" thought Mattie as she raised her hackles and glared at Dolly. Some hot chicks thought they were all that and a box of Chicken in a Biscuit. Mattie warmed the eggs a bit longer. Finally, she sauntered off the nest. With a cocky grin, she went eye-to-eye with Dolly and told her she walked like a roly-poly penguin! Then, as quick as you can say "sunny side up," Mattie flew the coop.

Now we know why the eggs don't freeze. All the girls lay in the same two nests. And they take their time doing it. Though some may seem a bit henpecked, they get along quite well, cackling happily because even on the most frigid days, they have something to crow about.

Chickens are also famous in children's literature, though the stories are not all they are cracked up to be. Chicken Little cried, "The sky is falling!" one too many times. I think dumb clucks are scarce as hens' teeth, but Chicken Little did end up with egg on her face.

Then there was the Little Red Hen. She woke up with the chickens. She took her children under her wing. She never chickened out. She free-ranged. She crossed the road. "Why?" you ask. To make you grin! Think of more common chicken sayings. If you can, the yolk's on me!

More to Cackle About!
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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Please call Butte County Equalization at (605) 892-3950 or visit <https://www.buttesd.org/director-of-equalization> for more information.

Respectfully Submitted: Cristina Wilson
Butte County Director of Equalization





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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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FEBRUARY 20, 2025

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Paul Howard, Pastor
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Morning Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

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5:00pm Soup & Sandwich
5:30pm - Salt and Light

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www.bfsoucc.org
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10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

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i42-7167
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10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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PRAIRIE HOME CHURCH

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Worship: 11 a.m.

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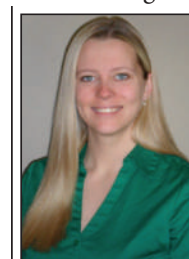
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Capitol News
February 2, 2025

Capitol and Tie Creek are still snow-covered, and we are glad for the moisture. It seems the Tie Creek valley has more snow than those areas around us. Dick and Erma Albert got down to the Hills, from Buffalo, on Monday, for a Doctor's appointment. After that, they went to the Senior Dinner on Friday. Erma stayed afterward to play cards, that afternoon, but by Sunday, Erma had gotten the cold that has been going around, so she stayed home from church. Dick went to church, and then to Saloon Number Three for lunch, while Erma had some nice hot soup to help her throat. Julia Davis went to work in Buffalo, on a couple of days this week. Doug went to the annual church meeting at Little Missouri Church, on Monday night. On Wednesday, Doug went to the Harding County Fair Board meeting in Buffalo. They got to meet at the new library, and use the new meeting room there. Junior and Shirley Melum have been staying close to home during the icy weather. On Sunday evening, Rachel and Tommy stopped down to bring them some groceries from town. Ernie's family had been to Baker for church that day. Kevin and Lisa Olmsted came from Billings to visit at Dorothy Padden's, on Thursday. They stayed until Sunday, and then hurried home to beat the rain and snow that was predicted. Dorothy and Bryce went to Buffalo, on Friday evening, to see the girls' basketball games. The three games against Hill City had been postponed during bad weather, and now they finally got to play those games. Boys' and Girls' wrestling was held at Belle Fourche, so for once, Brandon and Ashley could coach at the same location. Dawn went down to Belle Fourche, on Friday, to watch the wrestling, then on the way home, she went through Buffalo to see some of the basketball. On Saturday, after chores, Bryce, Dawn, Dorothy, Kevin and Lisa went back to Belle Fourche to see the championship matches, and all of the kids did very well. Kanyyn Padden won first place in the girls' division. Ronda Cordell drove to Ekalaka through areas of ground blizzard, on Monday, to join in the birthday get-together at the Wagon Wheel for Ronda, Lu Strangford, and Trish Bishop. All three had birthdays this week. Marion Kerr joined Ronda for a late lunch or early supper, before Ronda headed home. The asphalt was warm enough to cause snow to stick to the road, especially from Trails End to the Belltower Hall, causing an icy, slushy mess. In a few places, drifts were fingering across the highway. The worst

spot, though, was at Ronda's mailbox, where she ended up stuck. Luckily, Clint Zolnoski was at her house with the tractor, doing some feeding, and he got her unstuck, as he went home. On Thursday, Ronda met Diane Wear at the Highway 323, and rode to Spearfish with her. Diane treated Ronda to birthday lunch at the Pizza Ranch after her appointment. Then they went on to Walmart before heading north. It was a beautiful day, and the roads had all thawed off. On Friday, Ronda had to make a trip to Baker. She stopped back in Ekalaka for lunch at the Wagon Wheel on her way home. The road was thawed off that way, too, and Clint had snow-blown the mailbox area, so she had no trouble getting home. Ronda was a supper guest with Linda Hannah on Saturday. Clind and Denise Zolnoski's family left for Dickinson, North Dakota, on Friday. Darby turned eight that day, so several girls joined them for Darby's birthday party and sleepover. On Saturday, Darby's team played in a basketball tournament there. Karen Odell had a quiet week. On Tuesday, she went to Camp Crook to mail some letters, get stamps, and retrieve some groceries at Wolff's. On a couple of days, she looked out to see Chancey Odell plowing her out again. The winds came up each day and began new drifts. On Saturday, she got to visit with a high school classmate in Ohio. He had visited with Karen's brother, Jim Evans, and reported that Jim was doing ok. Karen got to watch Carson Odell in wrestling at Mitchell on the computer. Kyia Smith had been selected for a special honor choir at her school. She had to audition for the choir, and Karen got to see the videos of her concert, that was very impressive. Karen also got to see Kyia playing her viola with the beginning orchestra. That, too, showed so much accomplishment for such young players. During the weekend, Micki, Jesse, Rowan and Murphy Hinds made a trip to the mountains, where Murphy had skiing lessons. Mollie Smith was refinishing lamps and Jeff and Amanda Odell had a nice warm day to relax in the sun, in Iowa, while Karen had snow and ice at Capitol. Kenna wore designer jeans to church that had belonged to her Grandma. (Hard to believe Karen could ever fit into those), but Kenna looked very stylish, and said she got lots of compliments. America was not founded so that we could all become better. It was founded so that we could all become whatever we please. Better is not a free gift. It signifies the extent of our efforts toward self-respect.



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Pedaling to Prosperity: How Bicycle Tourism Transforms Rural Economies

While I have written about biking in the not so recent past, I bring it up again as I am aware of many communities wrestling with this rising and healthy sport. As with anything worth having, it comes with growing pains and a need to work together to solve any issues. But as many smart communities that have learned to work together, they have benefitted immensely by doing so. Rural communities and regions across the country are struggling in many ways, finding ways to reverse these trends is imperative. In the rolling hills of rural America, bicycles are becoming powerful engines of economic revival. Small towns once facing economic decline are discovering that two-wheeled tourism can breathe new life into struggling communities.



attracted outdoor enthusiasts from across the country. What was once a declining logging and mining region now sees substantial tourism revenue, with bicycle-related economic activities generating an estimated \$1.5 million annually.

Contrast these above success stories with communities that resist bicycle tourism. Some rural municipalities take the view that cycling events are disruptive, they are concerned about road usage, they don't want potential traffic interruptions and perceive there is minimal economic returns. These towns and communities often maintain traditional and even outdated economic development strategies, missing opportunities to diversify their revenue streams. While they are trying to avoid these events, others have embraced them and benefit economically.

The economic benefits extend beyond event weekends. Communities that embrace cycling infrastructure create year-round attractions. Permanent bike trails become magnets for recreational tourism, attracting cyclists, families, and outdoor enthusiasts during multiple seasons. Towns like Bentonville, Arkansas, have completely transformed their economic landscape by investing in world-class mountain biking trails, attracting international mountain biking competitions and becoming a global cycling destination.

Successful bicycle tourism requires strategic investment. This means developing comprehensive trail systems, creating cyclist-friendly infrastructure, training local businesses in hospitality, and marketing the

community as a cycling destination. Municipalities that view these investments holistically see the most significant returns. Economic data consistently demonstrates the potential. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, bicycle tourism generates approximately \$96.5 billion in national economic activity annually. Rural communities that strategically position themselves can capture meaningful portions of this growing market.

However, successful bicycle tourism isn't just about infrastructure. It requires community commitment. Local governments must collaborate with cycling organizations, invest in trail maintenance, develop supportive policies, and create welcoming environments for cyclists.

The social benefits complement economic gains. Bicycle events bring diverse groups together, create community pride, and offer opportunities for local volunteers and businesses. They transform perceptions of rural communities from declining regions to dynamic, innovative spaces. Not every community will become a cycling destination, but those willing to reimagine their economic potential can find remarkable opportunities. By viewing bicycles not as recreational accessories but as economic development tools, rural towns can pedal toward sustainable futures. The message is clear: in an era of economic uncertainty, sometimes the path to prosperity is just two wheels wide.

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.

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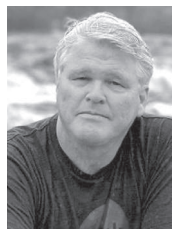


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Ballot measure battle could curtail South Dakota's direct democracy

Stu Whitney
www.sdnewswatch.org



Has South Dakota soured on direct democracy? The answer to that question will be partly answered during the 2025 legislative session, as Republican lawmakers continue a recent trend of trying to restrict the state's first-in-the-nation initiative and referendum process.

In the spirit of such laws, the people will ultimately determine the fate of a South Dakota system that dates to 1898 and has led to progressive reforms such as increased minimum wage and Medicaid expansion in a deeply conservative state.

The power of residents to amend the state constitution through the petition process was added in 1972.

Michael Card, emeritus professor of political science at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, calls this power "the gun behind the door," allowing a given percentage of state residents to propose a law or amendment that must be approved at the polls by a majority vote.

The guiding principle is that "direct democracy" – which also allows existing laws to be challenged through referendum, as seen with the carbon pipeline debate in 2024 – provides a check on the "representative democracy" power of state legislators.

The Republican super majority in Pierre has frequently pushed back, passing laws to make it harder to get initiated measures and constitutional amendments on the ballot and raising the voting threshold for measures to pass.

'Death by a thousand cuts'
Most prominent among the 2025 proposals is House Joint Resolution 5003, which would raise the percentage of voters needed to pass constitutional amendments in a statewide election to 60%.

That would match Florida and Illinois for the highest voting threshold among the 18 states that allow for constitutional amendments through the initiative process.

The resolution passed the House by a 61-5 vote on Jan. 22 and appears headed to the 2026 ballot, where a simple majority of voters can pass or reject it. Similar attempts to raise the voting threshold failed at the polls in 2018 and 2022.

Legislators have been more successful curtailing the

process with statutory changes in Pierre. From 2018 to 2024, South Dakota passed 11 laws to make direct democracy more difficult, the most of any state, according to Ballotpedia.

These restrictions include petition deadlines, circulation requirements and allowing for the revocation of signatures. Another joint resolution proposed this year would increase the number of signatures required to make the ballot, from 5% to 10% of the general electorate for initiated measures and from 10% to 15% for constitutional amendments.

"They're attempting to orchestrate the death of direct democracy by a thousand cuts," said Rick Weiland, whose Dakotans for Health organization has been a frequent sponsor of ballot measures, including unsuccessful abortion rights and grocery tax repeal efforts in 2024. "They keep trying and trying because when people organize and use their voice, they become a threat to the political establishment."

Federal courts have rolled back some of the restrictions as First Amendment violations, recognizing petition circulation as core political speech.

Holding amendments to higher standard

Rep. John Hughes of Sioux Falls, the Republican sponsor of House Joint Resolution 5003, said his proposal is meant to highlight the difference between initiated measures, which impact state statutes, and initiated amendments, which change the state constitution.

"I think all of us would agree that a constitution is different than a statute," Hughes told House State Affairs committee members at a Jan. 17 hearing. "It's intended to be much more permanent. It's meant to be a fundamental expression of the near universal agreement of the people of South Dakota as to the rights, duties and values that we hold to."

Republicans have criticized the use of initiated amendments for policy provisions such as Medicaid expansion, which passed in 2022, and legalization of recreational marijuana, which passed in 2020 but was overturned by the South Dakota Supreme Court for violating the state's single-subject rule.

Nathan Sanderson, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, said his group supports the joint resolution because policy programs that involve budget fluctuations are best handled within state statutes.

"(Our association) has always believed that the constitution

should be reserved for a philosophy of governance, not for specific policies and programs," Sanderson said. "Amending the constitution can only be done every two years and is not a very good way of handling nuanced policy."

Do voters have ballot measure fatigue?

Card, who has authored several studies on direct democracy, told News Watch that the arguments from Hughes and Sanderson don't fully explain the reasoning behind the latest attempt to restrict the process in South Dakota.

"I think it's being cast as something other than what it really is," Card said of the joint resolution. "What it's really about is that the Democrats with a small minority (23% of registered voters) are doing what is popular with the citizenry in terms of proposing initiatives. The real intent is to limit the ability to pass some of these laws."

But Hughes alluded to "fatigue" among voters toward ballot measures, with an average of nearly six measures on the ballot every two years since 2000. The highest during that period were 11 in 2006 and 10 in 2016.

Of the 122 measures that made the South Dakota ballot since 1985, 52 were successful, for a winning percentage of 43%.

Three of the most liberal measures on the 2024 ballot – abortion rights, grocery tax repeal and recreational marijuana legalization – all failed with less than 45% of the vote.

The only successful measures were populist (property rights groups rallying to refer a bill they saw as pro-pipeline) and staunchly conservative (allowing work requirements for Medicaid expansion, stemming from the Legislature). But Card pointed out that even residents who don't agree with many of the issues being put forth "aren't going to give up a right that they have."

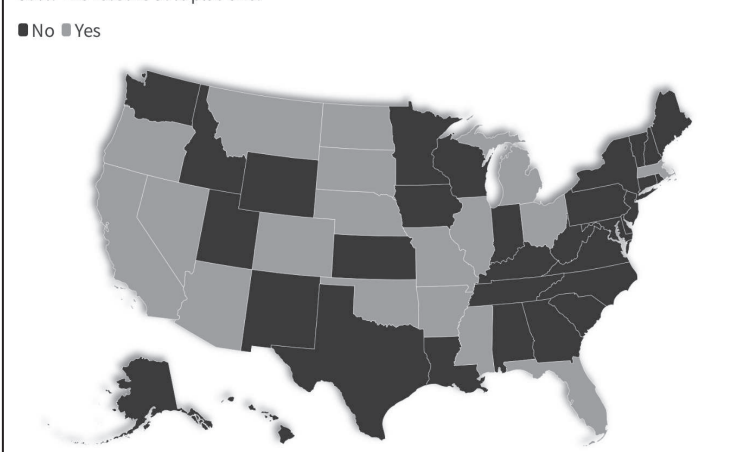
Voters in 2022 strongly rejected Amendment C, which was placed on the primary ballot and would have required a 60% vote for ballot measures that raise taxes or spend \$10 million in general funds in their first five years. That amendment, viewed as a preemptive strike against Medicaid expansion, managed only 33% of the vote.

Four years earlier was Amendment X, which came out of a legislative task force and would have required a 55% vote to approve constitutional amendments. That effort failed with just 47% support.

South Dakota blazes

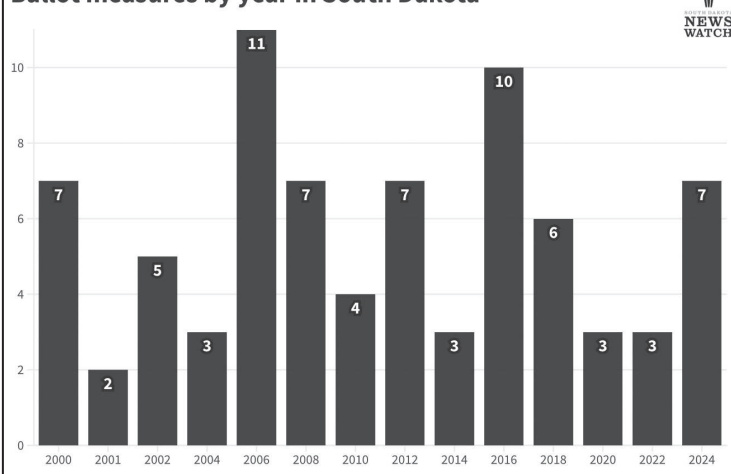
States that allow initiatives and referendums

Florida (60%), Illinois (60%) and Colorado (55%) all have voting thresholds above 50%. The rest are 50% plus one.



Source: Council of State Governments • Graphic: Michael Kliniski/SDNewsWatch
Note: Some of these states have other provisions such as needing a certain percentage of voters in each congressional district. Nevada requires a majority vote in two consecutive general elections for a constitutional amendment to pass.

Ballot measures by year in South Dakota



Source: South Dakota Secretary of State's Office • Graphic: Michael Kliniski / South Dakota News Watch

new ballot trail

It's hard to assess the future of direct democracy in South Dakota without understanding the past, including the decision by voters in 1898 – nine years after statehood – to adopt the system of initiated ballot measures and referendums.

Several days after that election, the Omaha (Nebraska) Bee newspaper noted that South Dakota rejected women's suffrage on the same ballot, observing that the state's voters "were of the opinion that one experiment at a time was enough."

The newspaper also noted that South Dakota's system was partly based on the Switzerland model of allowing citizens to vote on how the country is run.

"That it has been at least fairly successful in the little country where it originated is true," wrote the Omaha Bee in an editorial. "But (in America), the process has been looked upon by practical men as a pretty but impracticable theory. Other states will be satisfied to let South Dakota stand the cost of the experiment."

The Chicago Record newspaper was more supportive of the direct democracy principle, framing it as a way for rural voters to have more say in their state's legislative affairs, especially at a time when monied interests were gaining power as part of the rise of corporations and corruption in the Gilded Age.

"Of late there has been a growing tendency on the part of legislatures to submit to popular vote measures of importance relating especially to larger cities," the editors wrote in an editorial. "The people of South Dakota, however, have put into operation a plan whereby the popular will can be given expression in law regardless of the indifference of the legislative body."

'No interference' with people's rights

This power of the people was elevated in 1972 with Amendment E, which expanded the resident petition process to include constitutional amendments in South Dakota.

In the House State Affairs hearing, Hughes incorrectly

stated that this occurred in 1888 and that it "passed by a slim margin of our voters." Actually, the change was approved by 67% of the vote when introduced in 1972.

The amendment, which also included provisions for calling constitutional conventions, was initiated by the Legislature and a constitutional revision commission. It was approved 67-2 by the House and 34-0 by the Senate before going on the general ballot.

Hughes told News Watch that he was referring to Amendment A from 1988. But that was a procedural change that removed the requirement that the Legislature enact a measure proposed by voters before it could be placed on the ballot. Lawmakers had no choice but to "vote" for the measure under this formality, which ruffled feathers politically.

"It eliminates a bit of red tape," then-Legislative Research Director Terry Anderson told the Argus Leader at the time of that amendment. "It also makes it abundantly clear that there can be no interference with the people's right to initiate laws."

The amendment passed with 52% of the vote.

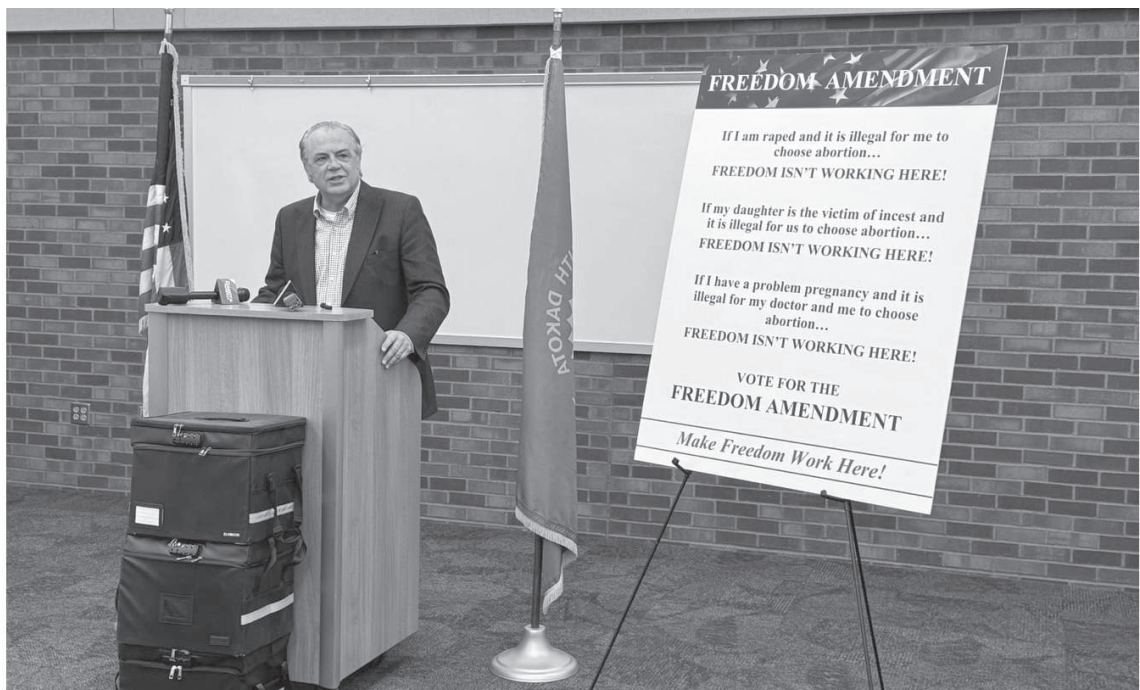
Progressive causes take hold. As the makeup of the South Dakota Legislature trended heavily Republican over the past 15 years (GOP legislators currently outnumber Democrats 95-9), direct democracy became a way to circumvent Pierre and take progressive issues to the polls.

One successful campaign was Weiland's push to raise the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$8.50 per hour in 2014, with future raises for inflation. Initiated Measure 18 passed with 55% of the vote.

When the Legislature voted in 2015 to exempt workers under age 18 from the required wage, Democrats gathered petitions to refer the law and more than 7 of 10 voters supported the referral, upholding the minimum wage.

"The message from the people was simple: Hands

Ballot Contd. C5



Dakotans for Health co-founder Rick Weiland speaks at a press conference May 1, 2024, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Weiland's group sponsored a ballot amendment to enshrine the right to abortion in the South Dakota Constitution. The measure was voted down. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

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Gov. Rhoden's Inaugural Address

**By: Gov. Larry Rhoden
February 8, 2025**

Mr. Chief Justice, honorable members of the Supreme Court, Lt. Governor Venhuizen, senators, legislators, constitutional officers, family, friends, and my fellow South Dakotans:

Good afternoon! Before I begin, I want to thank our people for this honor. Our state is great because "Under God, the People Rule." It is truly an honor to serve our people as Governor. And as a former Guardsman who served for six years, it is a great honor to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the South Dakota National Guard. South Dakota has given so much to me and my family. I'm a fifth-generation South Dakotan on my mom's side and a fourth-generation South Dakotan on my dad's. My roots are in South Dakota – and I'm never leaving.

About a week ago, I was at Longhorn Steakhouse out in Rapid City. An older rancher walked up to my table and asked, "you Larry Rhoden?" I said, "Yes I am." He said, "Well, it's good to meet you. You built me a couple sets of branding irons a few years back, and they work great!" I can think of very few things that he could have said that would have made me feel better.

The truth is, we are all called to serve one another. Everything that we do for each other should be done to the best of our ability.

If we work hard and put others first, things tend to work out. If we do a great job, it will stick with people. But we don't do these jobs to be remembered. We do them because it's right. Public service requires someone to step up and do the right thing on behalf of the people.

100 years ago, another governor gave his inaugural address to the South Dakota Legislature. Carl Gunderson had grown up a farmer. Before he became Governor, he served five terms in the South Dakota Senate, then as Lieutenant Governor for four years. Does that sound familiar to any of you? When he delivered his inaugural address, he spoke of many things that might be familiar to us. He talked about

the ups and downs of agriculture; how property taxes are too high; how we need to find ways to make government more efficient. Some of the specifics are different today, but the basic needs facing our state are very much the same. I want to read you one paragraph from the end of his speech:

"The solution of South Dakota's problems will not come through legislation. The tendency toward state and federal supervision, inspection, and regulation has resulted in a lessening of the spirit of self-reliance. We look to government for too much aid. We need a revival of the spirit of the 'covered wagon.'

The spirit that traveled by covered wagon in the early sixties across the prairies of Iowa to the Dakotas; the spirit that made its home temporarily in the 'dugout,' the 'sod shanty,' and the log cabin along the streams. It was the spirit that came more to give, than to receive; the spirit that served humanity and the future of a great state."

My goodness, those words still ring true today. That same spirit of the "covered wagon" brought my own family west to South Dakota more than 100 years ago. Through the generations, my family passed down that same spirit that "came more to give, than to receive." Service runs strong in our veins. And it runs every bit as strong in the veins of my own children.

Governor Gunderson's statue sits out in front of the Governor's Residence. He's sitting on a hay bale fixing a wagon wheel. He was a down-to-earth South Dakota man. And when his time serving as Governor was finished, he went back to farming.

Many of you probably didn't know who Carl Gunderson was. And 100 years from now, folks might not remember who Larry Rhoden is. If we remember that, making the best decisions for our people suddenly becomes a lot easier.

I promise to be a Governor who remembers that the solution to our problems will not come through legislation. Rather, it will come from providing our people the opportunity to do right for their families. I promise to set a tone of civility and respect, and the example will start from the top. I pledge to govern with openness and responsiveness.

My focus will always be to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. I want to keep South Dakota strong – strong families, strong businesses, and strong institutions. I want to keep South Dakota safe – with low crime and respect for law enforcement. And I want to keep South Dakota free – freedom will continue to be our calling card as long as I am governor. I will extend a renewed hand to everyone in our state: East River and West River; small towns and big cities; and yes, our tribal communities. I will be available to discuss the challenges that you face and how we can turn them into opportunities.

I believe that the distinction between challenges and opportunities is largely one of perspective. A challenge is many times an opportunity not yet recognized or realized. Whenever I have a task in front of me, I try not to look at it as an obstacle to be overcome. Rather, if I look at it as an opportunity to achieve something, the task at hand becomes a lot easier.

I want that same mindset to be the foundation of everything that we do during my administration. Five years ago, Govern-

nor Kristi Noem declared South Dakota "Open for Business." That bold stand was put to the ultimate test during COVID. We overcame that challenge and turned it into South Dakota's greatest opportunity. Now, I want to apply that same approach to all of our work. I want to keep South Dakota "Open for Business." But more than that, I want our state to be "Open for Opportunity." That means opportunity for families to do what is best for their kids; opportunity for our communities to respond to whatever unique situations they're facing; opportunity for kids graduating high school to go into whatever college or career field is right for them; opportunity for farmers to be able to keep earning a strong living so that they can pass that farm down to their kids; opportunity for every hard working South Dakotan to seek out better and higher paying jobs; opportunity for our businesses to keep growing at a tremendous rate. When we protect opportunity in South Dakota, we pave the way for better jobs for my children and grandchildren – and yours. We create new educational opportunities that don't pit this group against that group, but instead allow every child to suc-

ceed. We don't build new prisons just to lock more people up; instead, we use those facilities as an opportunity to get people back on their feet and contributing to our society. Opportunity is not limited by my vision, or even the vision of anyone in this Rotunda today. It is as broad as the South Dakota prairie and as high as Black Elk Peak. If we all link arms and pledge to chase down opportunities together, our state will be in pretty good shape. And if years from now, someone remembers the work that we did together, then that's just a bonus.

I want to thank my family for giving me this opportunity to serve. I especially want to thank my wife, Sandy. She has been my most loyal supporter and chief confidant for almost 44 years. I would not be here today without her love and support. I want to thank the Good Lord for putting me in the position to serve as your Governor. And I want to thank the people of South Dakota. Thank you for trusting me with this honor. And thank you for celebrating with me and my family. Thank you. May God bless you all. And may God continue to bless the great state of South Dakota.



Governor Larry Rhoden delivering his inaugural address in the Capitol in Pierre.

Rhoden appoints veteran lawmaker to fill House vacancy

Opening occurred in Sioux Falls district after Tony Venhuizen elevated to lieutenant governor

The Dakota Scout
www.thedakotascout.com

PIERRE — Gov. Larry Rhoden filled a legislative vacancy Wednesday that he created when he selected former Rep. Tony Venhuizen to be his lieutenant governor.

Rhoden leaned on former Sen. Jack Kolbeck to fill the District 13 vacancy in the House. Kolbeck, 73, had previously served eight years in the Senate before opting not to run for a seat in the House last year.

He joins Rep. John Hughes and Sen. Sue Peterson in representing the southern Sioux Falls district.

"I worked with Jack for years as presiding officer of the state Senate," Rhoden said in a statement announcing the selection, referring to his time as lieutenant governor. "He has



Jack Kolbeck

a steady head on his shoulders and will be a strong partner to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free."

Kolbeck served District 13 in the State Senate from 2017 to 2024, including as Majority Whip from 2023-2024. He has worked for more than 50 years in the malt beverage industry and has been the Key Accounts Manager for Beal Distributing since 2002.

He graduated from South Dakota State University with a bachelor of arts in economics

and political science in 1974. Kolbeck serves as a board member and Region 8 Director for the National Beer Distributors.

He is a board member and past president of the South Dakota Beer Distributors Association. He is a board member of both Call to Freedom and the Abbott House of Sioux Falls. He is president of the 50-and-over Sioux Falls Men's Slow-pitch softball league.

"I want to thank Gov. Rhoden for appointing me to the District 13 open seat to the House of Representatives," he said in a statement. "I look forward to working with Gov. Rhoden and Lt. Gov. Venhuizen. I appreciate all the support I received from so many people on my behalf."

Jack has been married to his wife Muriel for 46 years. They have 3 children Kimberly, Jacquelyn, and Alex. They have 10 grandchildren.

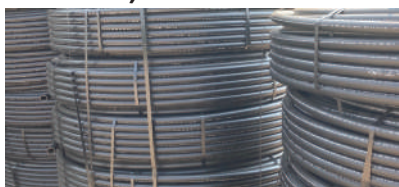
They have been residents in Sioux Falls for 50 years. They have been members of Central Church since 1978.

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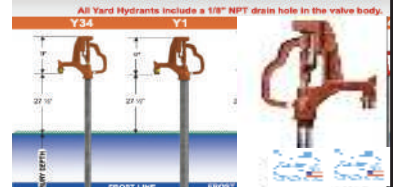
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said Weiland, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for U.S. Senate in 2014. South Dakota's minimum wage is currently \$11.50 per hour, higher than neighboring Minnesota (\$11.13).

Two years later came Initiated Measure 21, a bipartisan effort that targeted payday loan outlets and other predatory lenders by establishing a maximum interest rate of 36% on their loans.

The group faced aggressive opposition from the Atlanta-based owner of North American Title Loans and other payday and car title lenders, who were accused of luring low-income customers into high-interest loans.

Veteran political strategist Steve Hildebrand, who served as former President Barack Obama's deputy campaign manager in 2008, was one of the key organizers behind IM 21, which passed with 76% of the vote.

"I've never been more proud of anything in my 30 years of political experience than trying to cap the interest on payday lending," Hildebrand said during the campaign. "It's time to stop treating our low-income families like dirt."

Out-of-staters fueled Marsy's Law

Those seeking to dial back direct democracy point to cautionary tales such as Marsy's Law, a 2016 victims' rights measure passed in South Dakota as a constitutional amendment as part of a nationally coordinated campaign.

The law was marred by unintended consequences. In some cases, law enforcement was unable to share information with the public in order to assist in solving crimes. There were also instances of alleged offenders being held longer behind bars because victims weren't available to be notified of a bond hearing.

A legislatively referred constitutional amendment was placed on the ballot two years later to fix some of the problems and passed with 80% of the vote.

The original measure was funded by California tech billionaire Henry Nicholas, who took up the cause of victims' rights after his sister, Marsy, was shot to death by an ex-boyfriend in 1983. He spent \$2 million to orchestrate the campaign in South Dakota, including ads featuring TV personality Kelsey Grammer, whose sister was murdered in 1975.

"They made some mistakes," said former Republican state legislator Mark Mickelson, who helped spearhead the follow-up amendment. "They didn't consult stakeholders and they had some language issues. No one on the ground was comfortable with what was being proposed or how it would be implemented."

Mickelson also helped orchestrate Amendment Z, a 2018 measure requiring that constitutional amendments involve only one subject "and that multiple proposed amendments to the constitution be voted on separately."

That amendment passed with 62% of the vote and became the basis for the South Dakota Supreme Court overturning the passage of legalized recreational pot two years later.

The ruling found that Amendment A, the 2020 marijuana measure, "contains provisions embracing at least three separate subjects, each with distinct objects or purposes," referring to recreational marijuana, medical marijuana and hemp.

South Dakota used as

'laboratory'

Hughes mentioned out-of-state influence as a key factor in his quest to make it harder to pass constitutional amendments. The state's simple majority provision and affordable advertising rates are cited as reasons that national advocacy groups view South Dakota as fertile ground for ballot efforts.

"My experience going door to door is that there is a weariness over (advertising) paid for by millions of out-of-state dollars to reshape and remold our state constitution," Hughes testified at the Jan. 17 hearing. "It's only because we have the 50-plus-one majority that we're a target for being used as a laboratory for the emergence of new values and new ideas that many South Dakotans do not share."

He pointed to Amendment G, the abortion rights measure placed on the 2024 ballot by Dakotas for Health. The campaign received a late influx of donations totaling \$750,000 from Think Big America, a progressive advocacy group funded by Democratic Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker.

Not mentioned at the hearing was the fact that the anti-abortion campaign, led by groups such as Life Defense Fund and No G for SD, received a \$500,000 donation from The Concord Fund, a Virginia-based nonprofit connected to conservative judicial activist Leonard Leo, as part of its effort to defeat the amendment.

Chase Jensen of Dakota Rural Action, which helped spur a grassroots petition effort that led to anti-pipeline forces rejecting Referred Law 21, said higher voting thresholds could lead to less involvement from everyday residents and more influence from wealthy political action groups, the opposite of Hughes' intent.

"With the unprecedented concentration of wealth in society and politics today, we believe that raising the threshold of votes wouldn't deter out-of-state money," said Jensen. "It would only open the tap even further."

'What about your politicians?'

Weiland, who served as an aide to former Democratic U.S. Senate Leader Tom Daschle, has become closely linked to direct democracy through his work with progressive organizations such as Dakotans for Health and Take it Back.

He finds the argument against out-of-state money ironic given the story behind Initiated Measure 22, a successful 2016 ballot effort that revised lobbying and campaign finance laws while establishing a state ethics commission after several state scandals.

Republican legislators, decrying sloppy and confusing language in the law, sought a preliminary injunction and later repealed the measure with an emergency clause that ensured it could not be sent back to voters. That experience spawned another reason for petitioners to prefer constitutional amendments over initiated measures - they're impossible for the Legislature to overturn without getting the permission of voters.

As for the out-of-state money argument, Weiland called it hypocritical.

"You don't like ballot measures getting funded by out-of-state interests?" he said. "Well, what about your politicians? All of our federal politicians have millions of dollars in their campaign accounts, and I can tell you that all of that money didn't come from South Dakota."

Weiland and Rapid City lawyer Jim Leach, who represents Dakotans for Health, have submitted wording for potential 2026



A woman prepares to fill out her ballot at a voting precinct inside the American Legion building in Valley Springs, S.D., on Nov. 5, 2024. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)



Former Republican state legislator Mark Mickelson helped orchestrate Amendment Z, a 2018 measure requiring that constitutional amendments involve only one subject. (Photo: Argus Leader)



Life Defense Fund co-founders Leslee Unruh (second from left) and Jon Hansen (second from right) check on election results at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls, S.D. on Nov. 5, 2024. Life Defense Fund opposed the abortion rights measure, which was defeated. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

Dakota continues, Leach said "we plan to keep fighting to preserve the rights of citizens to propose and vote on the laws they're going to be subject to."

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

One would prevent legislators from amending or repealing a resident-enacted ballot measure for seven years after it becomes effective, except by a three-fourths vote of both the House and Senate, followed by a vote in the general election.

The other would require that changes to a law that impacts the state's initiative and referendum process would have to be approved by voters on a general election ballot.

As the push-and-pull battle over direct democracy in South

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Is South Dakota required to provide ambulances to 911 callers?

By Megan Luther - February 05, 2025

No. South Dakota hasn't declared emergency medical services, or EMS, to be an "essential service," meaning the state and county governments aren't required to provide them.

For example, residents in rural areas may call 911 for an ambulance, but it may not arrive due to distance, high demand or other reasons.

South Dakota is among the majority of states that don't require emergency medical services, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan organization that serves legislators and staff.

In January 2025, South Dakota state Rep. Eric Emery, a Democrat from Rosebud, introduced a bill co-sponsored by Republican legislators that would have required cities and counties to provide EMS, but it failed to make it out of committee.

In 2020, Nebraska declared emergency medical services to be an essential service and is one of at least 15 states to do so.

You might need an ambulance, but your state might not see it as 'essential'

South Dakota one of 37 states without such a designation.

When someone with a medical emergency calls 911, they expect an ambulance to show up.

But sometimes, there simply isn't one available.

Most states don't declare emergency medical services (EMS) to be an "essential service," meaning the state government isn't required to provide or fund them.

Now, though, a growing number of states are taking interest in recognizing ambulance services as essential — a long-awaited move for EMS agencies and professionals in the field, who say they hope to see more states follow through. Experts say the momentum might be driven by the pandemic, a decline in volunteerism and the rural health care shortage.

EMS professionals have been advocating for essential designation and more sustainable funding "for longer than I've been around — longer than I've been a paramedic," said Mark McCulloch, 42, who is deputy chief of emergency medical

services for West Des Moines, Iowa, and who has been a paramedic for more than two decades.

Currently, 13 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws designating or allowing local governments to deem EMS as an essential service, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a think tank that has been tracking legislation around the issue.

Those include Connecticut, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

And at least two states — Massachusetts and New York — have pending legislation.

Idaho passed a resolution in March requiring the state's health department to draft legislation for next year's legislative session.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Wyoming this summer rejected a bill that would have deemed EMS essential, according to local media.

States have the authority to determine which services are essential, required to be provided to all citizens," said Kelsie George, a policy specialist with the National Conference of State Legislatures' health program.

Among those states deeming EMS as essential services, laws vary widely in how they provide funding. They might provide money to EMS services, establish minimum requirements for the agencies or offer guidance on organizing and paying for EMS services at the local level, George said.

The lack of EMS services is acute in rural America, where EMS agencies and rural hospitals continue to shutter at record rates, meaning longer distances to life-saving care.

"The fact that people expect it, but yet it's not listed as an essential service in many states, and it's not supported as such really, is where that dissonance occurs," said longtime paramedic Brenden Hayden, chairperson of the National EMS Advisory Council, a governmental advisory group within the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"It forces it as a state question, because the federal government has not taken on the authority to require it," said

Dia Gainor, executive director for the National Association of State EMS Officials and a former Idaho state EMS director. "It's the prerogative of the state to make the choice" to mandate and fund EMS.

In states that don't provide funding, EMS agencies often must rely on Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements and money they get from local governments.

Many of the latter don't have the budgets to pay EMS workers, forcing poorer communities to turn to volunteers. But the firefighter and EMS volunteer pool is shrinking nationally as the volunteer force ages and fewer young people sign up.

Overhead for EMS agencies is expensive: A basic new ambulance can cost \$200,000 to \$300,000. Then there are the medicine and equipment costs, as well as staff wages and farther driving distances to medical centers in rural areas. More financial support

There isn't a sole federal agency dedicated to overseeing or funding EMS, with multiple agencies handling different regulations, and some federal dollars in the form of grants and highway safety funds from the Department of Transportation. Medicaid and Medicare offer some reimbursements, but EMS advocates argue it isn't nearly enough.

By contrast, police departments are supported and receive funds from the U.S. Department of Justice along with local tax dollars, and fire departments are supported by the U.S. Fire Administration, although many underserved areas also rely on volunteer firefighters to fill gaps.

"We need more if we're going to save this industry and [if] we're going to be available to treat patients," Hayden said.



South Dakota Democratic state Rep. Eric Emery, a paramedic, is the EMS director of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Reservation. He is advocating for better support for EMS in his state. (Courtesy of Rosebud Sioux Tribe Communications Department)

Emery and his colleagues respond to a variety of critical calls, from heart attacks to overdoses. They also provide care that people living on the reservation would otherwise get in the doctor's office — if it didn't take the whole day to travel to one. Those services might include taking blood pressure measurements, checking vital signs or making sure that a diabetic patient is taking their medicine properly.

Nevertheless, South Dakota is one of 37 states that doesn't designate emergency medical services as essential, so the state isn't required to provide or fund them.

While he and his staff are paid, remote parts of the reservation are often served by their respective county volunteer EMS agencies. It would simply take Emery's crew too long — up to an hour — to arrive to a call.

"Something I wanted to tackle this year is to really look into making EMS an essential service here in South Dakota," Emery said. "Being from such

a conservative state that's very conservative when it comes to their pocketbook, I know that's probably going to be a really hard hill to climb."

Ultimately, Wingrove said, officials need to value a profession that relies on volunteers to fill funding and staffing gaps.

"We're looking for volunteers to make decisions about whether you live or die," he said.

"Somehow, we have placed ourselves in a situation where the people that actually make those decisions are just not valued in the way they should be valued," he said. "They're not valued in the city budget, the county budget, the state budget, the federal budget system. They're just not valued at all."

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The fact that people expect it, but yet it's not listed as an essential service in many states, and it's not supported as such really, is where that dissonance occurs.

- Paramedic Brenden Hayden, chairperson of the National EMS Advisory Council

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Immigration crackdown comes to South Dakota

By Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News
Watch Feb. 06, 2025

Here is a snapshot of some of the ways the immigration issue is playing out in the Rushmore State, with details below:

The Minnehaha County sheriff confirms that more federal immigration detainees from South Dakota are showing up in the Sioux Falls jail.

Misinformation about immigration enforcement is rampant, and many immigrants in Sioux Falls are worried for their freedom, one advocate said.

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson said that people from other countries who are here legally should have nothing to worry about amid the increase in federal immigration enforcement.

The Sioux Falls School District, the most diverse school system in the state, is trying to assure parents and students that education will continue as normal.

A Rapid City Mexican restaurant is fighting back against false rumors that the eatery was raided by federal immigration officers.

Milstead: Immigration enforcement on rise in SD

Efforts to apprehend illegal immigrants with criminal warrants have stepped up in South Dakota since Trump took office, and it's likely that some illegal immigrants without criminal charges are also being detained, said Minnehaha County Sheriff Michael Milstead.

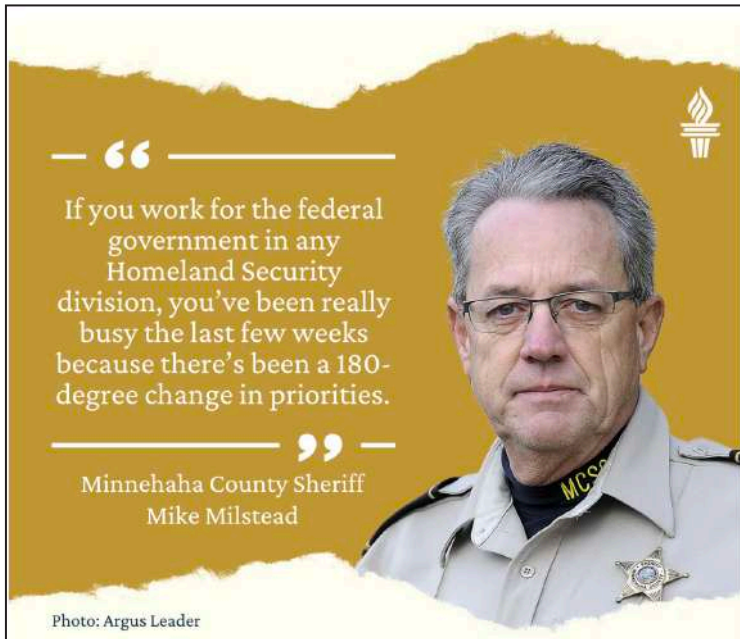
In a two-day period in the last week of January, six people on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees were brought to the Minnehaha County Jail for processing and holding for up to 48 hours, he said. Of those six detained locally, at least two were known to have active local warrants, Milstead said.

Even though he has no hard data, Milstead said he expects that many more illegal immigrants have been detained in recent weeks in South Dakota, either those held at the Minnehaha County Jail or some who were immediately sent to ICE facilities outside the state. Milstead said that as federal authorities apprehend immigrants with criminal warrants, they are also arresting anyone they encounter who is not in the country legally.

Milstead said his department has had two immigration-related federal partnerships in place for years. In one cooperative effort, information on foreign arrestees is shared with federal authorities and in the other, fingerprints of those individuals are shared with ICE.

"There has been no sweeping change in what we do, but in fact, we've seen a significant increase in those ICE holds and it's obviously because of the change in the priorities of the new (Trump) administration," he said. "If you work for the federal government in any Homeland Security division, you've been really busy the last few weeks because there's been a 180-degree change in priorities. And the priority now is to apprehend those individuals who pose a danger to our community."

Milstead, who chairs the drug



enforcement committee of the National Sheriff's Association, said he recently met with top immigration and drug enforcement officials from the federal government.

One goal of stronger immigration enforcement is to reduce the flow of drugs, particularly fentanyl, into the country at international borders in the southwestern U.S., to the north with Canada and on the Florida coast, he said.

"While they're two different issues, immigration enforcement and drug enforcement, we know they are related," Milstead said. "We know (drug cartels) are targeting migrants coming across the border to carry these drugs, and targeting them for human trafficking, child exploitation and labor trafficking, or anything else they're doing to try to build their cartel infrastructure."

Milstead said local and county law enforcement officers are not empowered to conduct immigration investigations on their own, but his agency will continue to assist federal authorities in their efforts. Milstead said he is working with community leaders in Minnehaha County to share what he knows about the ongoing immigration enforcement efforts. An extensive video he released on social media recently to answer questions about local immigration enforcement has tens of thousands of views, he said.

"There was a lot of misinformation out there," he said. "We were hearing stories that the police and sheriff's offices were swooping in and dragging women and children out of homes, and that just isn't the truth."

Advocate: Immigrants worried across the state
Sioux Falls immigration attorney and civic leader Taneeza Islam said that even though she has not heard of any major immigration raids or sweeps in South Dakota, many immigrants are fearful they might be somehow caught up in the immigration crackdown.

"People are terrified," she said. "They're not going to work, they're not sending their kids to school, they're not getting medical services, they're not going to social events such as soccer practice or other events."

Islam is the CEO of South Dakota Voices for Peace and also is an organizer of the South Dakota Dream Coalition, a consortium of groups that advocate for underserved populations,

including immigrants.

Islam said she has heard from many immigrants who are worried they might be targeted by federal authorities. Most concerns have come from Sioux Falls but also in other areas of the state, including from employees of hotels and construction firms in particular, she said.

Misinformation being spread on social media about the severity of the crackdown is leading to greater anxiety, Islam said.

"There's a lot of fear but also an exponential amount of disinformation and misinformation that everyone is seeing on social media. And that is exacerbating the fears," she said.

Islam and her advocacy colleagues have posted some online videos, in both English and Spanish, to provide accurate information to the community. One video was the sit-down with Sheriff Milstead that has received significant audience engagement.

The biggest message Islam wants to send right now is for immigrants to know their rights under the law, including to demand a warrant from a federal agent trying to enter a property and to know they can remain silent and request an attorney.

"Our position is that we can't outpace misinformation, but what we can do is provide true and accurate information," she said. "(And) if we can make ICE follow the rules and laws, then everyone will be within their rights."

Sioux Falls schools tempering concerns

The Sioux Falls School District has taken steps to alleviate concerns or fears that students or parents might have amid the heightened focus on immigration enforcement in the state and nation.

District spokeswoman Dee-Ann Konrad told News Watch that the school district wants everyone to know that the district has a commitment to teach all students regardless of any outside forces or messaging.

"We want to make sure our families know that we are here for teaching and learning and we're going to do that regardless of everything that's happening in the political world and with law enforcement," Konrad said.

The Sioux Falls school system, where an estimated 106 languages are spoken, is highly diverse in student population. The 2024 district demographic report indicates that 44.6% of the 24,201 students in 2024 were non-white, including

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Hispanic students that made up 16.5% of the overall enrollment. onrad said the district does not survey parents or students about their legal immigration status when developing its demographic reports.

"We have no need to ask that question because we're required by law to educate all students and we will do that," she said. "We try to make sure our (district employees) are controlling what you can control, and that is that when kids show up at school, we can love them and teach them."

In Huron, legal immigrants worry

Diana Vianey Pineda, a 31-year-old native of Guerrero, Mexico, came to South Dakota in 2015 to work at the Dakota Provisions meat processing plant in Huron. She and her husband started their own piñata business, Piñatas La Mexicanas, in 2021. Pineda was part of an influx that gave Beadle County the highest percentage of Hispanic residents in the state at 14.3%. She told News Watch that Hispanic residents are on edge because of recent immigration crackdowns.

"Unfortunately in Huron, we are having a big problem," she said. "The Hispanic community does not go out, for fear of being detained by immigration, even if they're legal."

Rapid City restaurant fights ICE rumors

Owners of a Mexican restaurant in Rapid City took to Facebook to counter rumors that it had been raided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The owner of Albertano's Mexican Restaurant posted a message on Facebook on Jan. 28 labeled "FALSE INFORMATION" and went on to say that other social media postings about a government raid at the restaurant were not true. "It has come to our attention that people are posting things that ICE took our employees and ICE has been to our premises. This information is totally false. I don't know what intention people are doing this because we've been the only Mexican restaurant mentioned in this whole thing," Maria Santana wrote.

The post also noted that "just because we are Mexican does not mean we are undocumented."

The Facebook post by Albertano's has since drawn more than 200 likes and 50 comments, many from customers who said they support the restaurant and will continue to patronize it, perhaps with more frequency.

"I have not been to your restaurant yet, but I will make a point of it in support of you," one woman posted. "So sorry people have targeted you for misinformation."

Rep. Dusty Johnson: Only illegal immigrants need worry



Taneeza Islam is a Sioux Falls, S.D., immigration attorney and advocate who says the recent immigration enforcement crackdown is causing stress for immigrants in South Dakota. (Photo: Courtesy South Dakota Voices for Peace)

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson told News Watch that foreigners who are in the country legally should not be worried about law enforcement actions.

"Americans who are here illegally, understand they're here illegally," Johnson said Saturday in an interview with News Watch in Rapid City. "Every day I'm talking to people who were not born in America, and those people were here legally. Overwhelmingly, the sense I get from them is that they know they don't have anything to fear."

The Republican said that ICE has focused its deportation efforts on illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds.

"A substantial proportion of the people they have picked up have been folks with criminal records," he said. "I think ICE has done a good job of getting in and understanding who has been here has been adjudicated, who has been found guilty and who has not been deported because of the policies of this (former President Joe Biden's) administration. So I do think they've been trying to do some pretty good work in targeting."

"Sanctuary city" bill moves forward quickly

Lawmakers from both chambers of the South Dakota Legislature have passed a bill that would prevent the state or any municipality from enacting laws or ordinances that prevent law enforcement agents or residents from cooperating with federal immigration officials or that grants an illegal immigrant legal status.

Senate Bill 7 was passed 35-0 by the Senate on Jan. 24 and carried 62-6 in the House of Representatives on Feb. 3. The measure seeks to prevent the creation of so-called sanctuary cities, which in some other states have become local safe havens for undocumented immigrants. As of Feb. 4, the measure awaited only the governor's signature before becoming law.

Hispanic/Latino population by county (2020)

Click or tap on county to see data (by percentage).



Source: US Census • Graphic by Michael Klinski / SD News Watch

*A Flourish map



Sudoku February 7, 2025

Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 5, 3, 8, 6, 2, 5, 9, 6, 8, 9, 3, 5, 8, 2, 5, 6, 7, 2, 4, 8, 4, 9, 7, 1



Shepherd of the Hills Church 825 W Main Street in Lead

Good Shepherd Clinic

Next Clinic: Thursday, February 13th & Thursday, February 27th Registration will be from 6:00-7:00pm.

Good Shepherd Clinic is a free medical clinic for adults, ages 19-64, who do not qualify for or have insurance and meet 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

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

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

Crossword Edited by Will Shortz

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Make reference to, 5 Person with a twisted mind, 10 Uncomfortable health class subject, for short, 14 Onetime "Jeopardy!" host, 15 Stared creepily, 16 Dorito, e.g., 17 Obsolescent classroom wall fixture, 19 Give a makeover, 20 Gone up, 21 Drink of choice for Captain Jack Sparrow, 22 Martial art that uses bamboo swords, 23 Chilly treat, 25 Hopsotch locale, 27 Slimeball, 29 Rather warm, as a firelit room, 30 U.F.O. crew, 31 Mouse's bigger cousin, 33 Burden, 34 Achieved, as a victory... or how you might describe 17-, 25-, 47 and 55-Across, 37 Stadium chants, 38 "Wise" bird, 39 Brand of motor oil, 42 Frog sounds, 44 Name on dictionaries, 47 Need for playing pool, 49 Overthrow, 50 Slender instruments, 51 Female name that's a body part spelled backward, 53 Strategically taps the ball into the infield, 54 Slimming surgery, for short, 55 Recreational rock climbers, 57 "Q... queen", 58 "Remember the ___!", 59 "... dat", 60 Captain Hook's right-hand man, 61 Poet whose first two initials stand for "Thomas" and "Stearns", 62 IDs written on applications, for short, 10 Makes an oopsie, 11 Washington's M.L.B. team, informally, 12 ___-squat (a whole lot of nothing), 13 Give the heebie-jeebies, 18 Door opener, 22 Reeves of "The Matrix", 24 Go down the slopes with a chute, 26 Drew funny little pictures, 28 Lass, 32 One end to a boxing match, for short, 34 "Phew!", 35 Warms up, 36 "Gro-o-oss!", 37 Black-and-white dessert that's sliced, 39 Pot smokers, 40 Experimental effort, 41 Pushes down, as with the thumb, 42 Style for Picasso, 43 Use TikTok, say, 45 Spanish newborn, 46 Small gushes, 47 Coke and Pepsi, but not Sprite, 48 Oahu neighbor, 52 Tickle Me ___, 55 Sweetie, 56 One of three in an ellipsis.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACIDTRIP SASHA PANORAMAS UNITE APPLETAINT SNARL CRACK FEUD EGAD HIRE BANDIT EGO EST AINTIAWOMAN ANGL SEMITONE WAXING SONOMA MINIMOON NEE ODDSANDENDS MBA REV LOUPES LAOS MOOS STAG AURAS OPIUM CLASSMATE NELLA HITPIECES SINAKY SEIASTAIRS

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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 Sponsor opportunities available Contact Mary Riley 605-892-3411 Purchase tickets online by scanning QR code PURCHASE DEADLINE IS FEB. 25TH! \$35 each PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE BY SCANNING QR CODE \$35 each DINNER MENU Chicken Alfredo Salad Dessert Sponsor opportunities available Contact Mary Riley 605-892-3411 Thank you Sponsors AMERICAN COLLOID COMPANY A MINERALS TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY The Emporium OFFICE EMPORIUM

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Table with 6 columns (MON-FRI) and 5 rows of meal options. Includes dates 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and meal descriptions like Chicken Cordon Bleu, Zuppa Toscana Soup, Hawaiian Pork Loin, etc.

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B's Buzz

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Do you love flowers? And candy? And love notes? It's almost Valentine's Day and hopefully you will have something from your Valentine. The big question is-what if you don't get anything for Valentine's Day? You wake up on that day, looking forward to sharing the day with your "special someone" and then there's nothing there. No flowers. No chocolate. No love note.

Now what happens? There are a few things you can do. You can be depressed, that doesn't help. Or you can throw a fit. That gets you nowhere. Or you can keep going and enjoy the day and think about the person you love most.

I have learned in all my years (and there's a bunch of them!) that just because there's nothing special on Valentine's Day it doesn't mean my "true love" doesn't care.

Sometimes he comes in with a special rock he found as he walked to the tractor. He was thinking of me as he also was thinking about cows. I'm not sure if it's because I remind him of his cows;) And there are times when he comes in just to say "Hi" and then heads out again.

You see, I have learned that it's the everyday little things that are the most important. Although, flowers and candy are really nice, if I spend time thinking about not getting them, then I have missed the best part of life-living each moment to the fullest.

This thought occurred to me as I was once again driving down the road to somewhere other than home. It's a thing that happens far too often, but it does give me lots of "thought time."

I thought about the first Valentine's Day I had with my boyfriend and how disappointed I was that there were no flowers or candy. I married that boyfriend and things haven't changed much for some 50 years. Of course, there have been holidays that I have gotten the symbols of the holiday. But I discovered that if I counted on that, I would be disappointed. So, I grasp at the little things that happen in our lives.

It's more important to spend our thoughts on the little stuff and hang on to them. Remember when you first met? Or when your kids were little? What is the funniest thing that happened while you doing everyday life?

Precious time is lost when we live in the past or in the future. We are told that constantly, but it's hard. The past has formed us. The future dreams keep us looking forward. So, they are not useless. But to enjoy and embrace the present is a wonderful possibility.

Embracing the moment can calm our hearts and open our minds. But we have to see what is all around us! Life is fleeting and the ones we love can disappear in a moment! Love them now and hug them tight! Even when we aren't very happy with them. They belong to us!

I think I'll go hug my guy and see if he has any rocks for me! (Maybe if I start hinting now, he'll get me flowers, too. Or maybe not) That's ok, I need more rocks!



Thanks to Willow Creek



Mike Koelker and Connie Humble pose with Willow Creek Hub manager, Sean Salisbury as they gave his company special thanks for a sizable donation to the Newell rodeo grounds grandstand. Betty Bruner photo

Committed to Clean Energy

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-The wind farm east of Newell has had several owners, and is now owned and operated by Ørsted, a Company whose headquarters are in Denmark. There is an office in Newell with hub-manager Sean Salisbury at the helm. Salisbury was on hand to explain the workings of the wind farm located near Newell, better known as Willow Creek Wind Farm. It has been owned by Ørsted since 2020.

The electricity generated by the 38 windmills is sent to the Elk Creek line, which is directly connected to Newell and the surrounding area. It is used by Black Hills Energy and Butte Electric.

Locally, the Ørsted Techs spend their time trouble shooting the wind farm. The two men handle the maintenance on the towers besides troubleshooting.

Salisbury explained that the company strives to minimize impact on the county roads

and endeavor to keep up the maintenance work. The roads surrounding the towers are not restricted space and the public is allowed on the county roads. Ørsted has established roads to the towers separate from some of the county roads to minimize using the county roads.

The Denmark company owns 11 onshore wind farms across the US, generating 3,000 Megawatts of "clean, affordable power" according to the website.

Ørsted is credited with a sizable donation to the

community towards the rodeo grandstands. Salisbury said that they are extremely committed to the local area and want to volunteer their time and talents to the NVN area. The local techs look forward to keep donating money and time to the area.

"Whatever needs done, we want to be a part of it," said Salisbury.

As a Sturgis native, he looks forward to being a part of the Newell community. The two techs are also natives of the area.

Special Thanks to the Community

Betty Bruner

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NEWELL-The Chase the Ace Committee has undertaken raising funds for the new grandstand at the Newell rodeo grounds for a few years. Although it's been awhile since

the last Chase the Ace has been held, it has made an impact on the fundraisers held.

The first Chase the Ace was held in 2021 and the last one in 2023. During those two years or so, more than \$40,000 were raised including other donations.

The committee wanted to highlight some of the exceptional donators to the cause. Special thanks are given to Ørsted and the people of Newell and the surrounding area who gave from their hearts to make the grandstand a reality. Mike and Lorrie Olson helped a great deal with the Chase the Ace project that usually took place at the Newell Bar.

Many of the businesses of Newell gave towards the project also. And without Amanda



One of the early Chase the Ace winners, Norma Martin. Courtesy photo

Lewis, the news of the winners would not have made it on Facebook.

The committee is pleased with the outcome of the Chase the Ace project. Although at this point more money is still needed to bring the project to

completion with a cover and other needs, the bleachers should be ready for use by Labor Day or perhaps sooner.

The old grandstand has been moved and the new is yet to come. It's been a dream for a long time.



The old grandstands are gone from the Newell rodeo grounds and the new bleachers should arrive during the summer.

Betty Bruner photo

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

It started out a little chilly this week with a temperature of 5 below zero Monday morning, but it kept warming up the rest of the week.

Casey and Missy and Taz and Amanda and the kids all went to Dickinson Sunday morning for Copper's basketball game so Reub and I were the only ones that made it to church that morning. That was the Sunday we had coffee and goodies after church and we still had so much left over after Dorothy Holt's funeral on Saturday that we still had to take a lot of it home because there was just too much for us to eat down

there. Dorothy Holt's granddaughter Cassie (Holt) and Ben Pearson's baby was born late Sunday night in Bismarck. Otto David Pearson was born February 2 and he weighed in at 7 lbs. and 13 oz. Little Otto made Bill and Becky Holt proud grandparents! Congratulations to this wonderful family.

It was cold and windy Monday morning and the roads were icy when Taz left early that morning for the rodeo at the Stock Show in Rapid City. Reub had the flu all the night before but he was feeling better that morning so he was able to go out and feed the cows. I got to go down to meet Clint Doll at his mailbox to pick Copper

and Knox up from school that afternoon, which is my favorite job.

Eleanor (Boe) Ingalls, 94, of Maurine, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Aspen Grove Assisted Living in Sturgis. Eleanor was Hugh Ingalls wife and her funeral was at First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis on Thursday, February 13. Her family has our sympathy.

The temperature was 5 above when I went to go quilting down to the church Tuesday morning and the wind was blowing the snow around. I joined Patsy Wilkinson, Lori Besler and Linda Mohagen for a fun day of visiting and quilting and Linda Mohagen gave me a much needed hair cut before I left for home. Casey and Missy went to Buffalo that afternoon for wrestling practice and to watch the Harding County girls play basketball against Lemmon. Taz and Amanda took the little kids with them and picked up Copper and Knox from school to watch the basketball game too. They were happy that Harding County won.

There were some really interesting articles in the February 1 issue of the Tri-State Livestock News. On the front page was a story about the hearing that Charles and Heather Maude will have in April for the charges the U.S. Forest Service has brought against them for where the fence is on 25 acres

of National Grasslands that has been in the Maude family for a long time and the fence has always been in the same place it is now. There is also a good article about the wonderful trick rider Rosemary Tope Seymour and her sister Fidelia who entertained people with their trick riding at rodeos all over. The late Bud Longbrake article in the Tri-State told of Bud's six trips to the National Finals Rodeo, talked about his rodeo friends and his family. Bud was a great saddle bronc rider and is sadly missed around here. Every rancher and everyone living in the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming should subscribe to the Tri-State.

The weather warmed up to 20 degrees when Reub and I went to Hettinger for his appointment with Mary Eggebo Wednesday morning. We ate lunch in town and visited Jerry Verhulst at the nursing home that afternoon. I forgot to bring the picture of 42 Reeder Homeguards standing in the street in Reeder with their military uniforms on during WWI that we found in Reub's Aunt Mary (Olson) Parks stuff that I was going to give Jerry to put in his building in Reeder that contains a lot of history of this area. We stopped in Reeder on the way home to have coffee and a delicious dessert with the Prairie Pioneers.

We found another picture in Mary Park's stuff of Fred Howard's store in Ralph with a

bunch of cowboys on horseback and some old Model T cars that look like they are getting ready for a rodeo. Years ago, when Jack and Lenore Hutton ran the store in Ralph, that's where we went to get our groceries. Now the old store is abandoned and falling down so bad that you can't walk into it. I wish Ralph had a museum because I'd love to have this picture where everyone could see it!

Reub and Taz went over to the Nash ranch Thursday morning and had some good visits with Roger and Judy Nash, Dale and Dennis Nash. I was a little upset with them because they didn't take me along, but at least I got to go to Reva to pick Copper and Knox off the school bus that afternoon.

Casey left on Friday to take the wrestlers to a wrestling match in Hill City on Saturday. It snowed hard all day on Friday and I had to put the pickup in 4 wheel drive just to go to the mailbox over at the highway that afternoon.

The weather was a lot better on Saturday with no snow or wind and a high of 10 degrees. Taz left early that morning for the rodeo in Bismarck so Missy and Reub did the chores. Taz got home early enough to do the late chores that afternoon.

On Sunday, February 16 at 5:00 Slim Buttes Lutheran is showing a movie "Unsung Hero" and everyone is welcome to come. Hope you all have a happy Valentine Day!

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

February 11, 1915

The ravages of coyotes infected with the rabies have placed the rural sections of the State and the Legislature has been asked to make a heavy appropriation to wipe out the pest. Bounties on coyotes are now paid by the State and County. A fund of \$80,000 is asked for this year. The alarming reports of rabies among coyotes have endangered the livestock of the State. Many of the ranchers are fencing their yards as protection for their families.

Are you need of help? The Community Club is prepared to supply you with any kind

minute of his visit.

Circuit Court last week in Meade County, R. E. Tescher, who was charged with grand larceny was of taking cattle from a herd belonging to various cattlemen that was being summered on the gumbo by Leslie Boe. He was found guilty by the jury and sentenced to a term of 7½ years in the State Penitentiary. His accomplice, Jack Mahar was charged in connection for same crime, being another link in the gang to get the cattle out of the country into North Dakota. The jury was out all night, disagreed and he was bound over to the next term of Court.

Sam Bober has installed a scariying machine in his seed house. Scarifying clover and alfalfa seed insures perfect germination. Better seeds make better crops. Bober seed is graded and tested for germination by the agronomy department of the State College.

The house on the Beyer Aune farm northwest of town was entirely destroyed by fire at 2:00 A. M. The house was occupied by Charles Yoder and family, and they lost most of their personal effects. It was a well-built structure, costing originally \$2,100. The house was insured for \$1,100 through the Buchholz & Richards Agency.

February 7, 1935

The 8th grade has been studying stocks and bonds in arithmetic. They had a contest divided into two groups, with Virginia Brodsky and Barbara Wiest as group leader. Barbara's side won; so, Virginia's side will have to treat them to a party.

Robert Ward, a Newell High School graduate and now attending Yankton College, escaped injury and probable death last Friday when he was extricated from a coal pile, where he had been buried while unloading a rail car of coal. Ward was plunged into the coal bin when the trap door on the car opened suddenly. The fellow students dug him out and aside from a few minor scratches no one was injured.

The Junior High chorus is practicing for a recital to be given on March 8. The program will consist of chorus numbers, solos and quartets. While final selections are being made for the High School music festival, the boys' and girls' glee clubs are working on some numbers for their spring concert. Pauline Wiest is accompanist for the glee clubs.

February 8, 1945

Mrs. Betty York and Miss

by Linda Velder

Deva Hannan were hostesses at a waffle supper Sunday evening at the home of Mrs. Max Huffman, honoring Mrs. Phillis Habeck on the occasion of her birthday. Seven guests were present, and a pleasant evening was spent socially after the supper hour. Mrs. Huffman displayed a purple heart medal she recently received from the War Department, for shrapnel wounds which her husband received in the Belgium-Luxembourg Theater.

A good time is in the prospect for young and old at the dance Saturday night at the IOOF Hall. Feature of the evening will be plenty of old-time dances to give the "dad" and "mom" a change to strut their stuff and the "kids" will get to give a few new ideas for their rug cutting.

It was a quick trip, but not exactly an uneventful one for Mr. & Mrs. Harry Devereaux, formerly of Hoover, now of Rapid City and Henry Jacobsen of Castle Rock. Their flight to Ft. Worth, Texas, to attend the National Wool Growers' Convention was uneventful and speedy. On the flight back, things didn't start happening until they hit South Dakota. As they approached within a few miles of Pierre, the plane's motor quit at about 3000 feet and below could see nothing but the jagged hills of the Missouri River breaks. The pilot circled slowly until he spotted a small field and set down the plane and gently too, the craft came to a stop just a few feet short of a fence. The group hiked a mile to a ranch house and caught a ride into Pierre. Jacobsen was considerably worried when the motor "conked out", but the trusty pilot was very calm about the whole affair.

February 10, 1955

Kenneth Beug, Vale grain farmer, dropped dead Monday afternoon after climbing the steps to the IRS Office in the Federal Building in Deadwood to file his Income Tax returns for the past year. Witnesses said Beug slumped over in the hallway outside the tax office after stopping briefly at the Forest Service Office on the first floor. The Deadwood Fire Department resuscitator was used but several efforts failed. He is survived by his wife Edith, sons Kenneth and Ronald, parents Mr. & Mrs. Eric Beug and 2 brothers Raphael and Donald.

All are invited to the Second Annual Pancake Supper in the Congregational Church social room, in Newell, Saturday, February 19. Serving from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The menu and courtesy donors are:

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Trisco Pan Cake Mix- Tri-State Milling Co; Waffle Syrup- A. E. Staley Co; Cookies-Manchester Biscuit Co; Tomato & orange juices -Nash-Finch Co; Coffee-MJB Coffee Co; Swan Sausage-WHC, Bill & Keith Swan; Lily Butter & Ice Cream - LaBelle Creamery Co; Peaches -Black Hills Mercantile Co; Milk-Sunshine Dairy. Come, eat

freezes the station at its present status and will continue until a reassessment of its research and economic value by both Congress and US Department of Agriculture.

Drilling was resumed on the new city water well southwest of town Tuesday night after a shut-down about 10 days for repairs of a gear on the



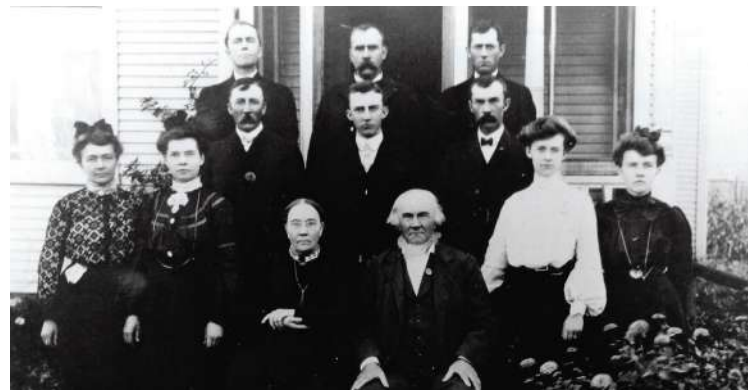
January 1965, "Battle of the Bands" Paul Hopp playing with the Black Hills Teachers College Band and Jack Laumer playing with the St. Olaf Band. This was quite an event Newell Museum

you want. Farm hands; man & wife as renters; clerks; girls for general housework, etc. If you are in need of any kind of help, contact the secretary who will give you a full description of the class of employees to be had. These people are experienced in their line and are also well recommended.

Miss Ruth Vallery, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. P. P. Vallery of Snoma, recently received a photograph of her uncle Henry Vallery, taken with his team of 6 dogs, in Ruby, Alaska. Mr. Vallery had been engaged in mining in that country for the past 10 years and the photo was the first word received from him by his brother or family during all that time, not knowing if he had succumbed.

February 5, 1925

Toar F. Johnson returned last week from a month's visit to his old home near Aurora, Illinois, to take part in a family reunion on the occasion of his father's 100th birthday anniversary, which took place December 27. Few people indeed are privileged to partake in such an event, and it is needless to say that Mr. Johnson enjoyed every



Peter Johnson Family: Front Row: Betsy & Peter 2nd Row: Anne, Belle, Lena, Betsie 3rd Row: John, Henry, Nels 4th Row: Albert, Toaar, Charley Toar helped his grandfather celebrate his 100th Birthday Newell Museum

all you want: adults 75 cents, children 50 cents and families (regardless of size) \$2.50. Supper prepared and served by the men of the First Congregational Church for Building Fund Benefit. Arne Lund is kitchen chairman assisted by Wm Swan, Alphonse Johnson, Herman Shipley and R. C. Johnson.

Butte County Agent Kenneth Leslie spent Saturday at the Riley Price ranch near Hoover, attending a meeting of the Zeona 4-H club. Carl Ruby and Arlys Baker are the leaders of the club. Of course, the best part of the meeting was two good demonstrations: one by Lois Price on baking rolls and by Richard Sletten on tractor safety, in addition to the two delicious meals prepared by the Riley's'. Other 4-H members attending the meeting were: Marilyn Sletten, Donald Gibson, Benny Ruby and Phyllis Gibson.

February 4, 1965

Superintendent Carl Erickson of the US Newell Field Station reported receiving a phone call that the April 1st deadline for closing of the US Field Station has been canceled and there will be no transfers either of personnel or properties from the station until a later date. Agriculture Research Service officials and a committee in Washington, DC explained this

rig. Employees of the Materi Exploration Co had reached the 2100-foot test level yesterday and plan to drill to approximately the 2600-foot level.

A thief or thieves following the same pattern as that exactly of 8 weeks previously, broke into the 212-79 Service-center sometime Tuesday night to make off with between \$40 to \$60 in change and a few packages of Winston cigarettes. The back door, mounted with a heavy clasp and chain, forced open and broken and the inner door was broken. The intruders this time added cigarettes to the loot. The cash, according to Cy Colegrove, operator of the station, was removed from the cash register and the cigarette and pop machines.

Miss Sue Schipke entertained 11 guests at a bridal shower in honor of Gaylene Varland at the Byron Schipke home Saturday afternoon. Appropriate games were played with Judy Milberg and Karen Edlund winning the prizes which were presented as gifts to the bride. Miss Varland opened her other gifts and after a social time, lunch was served by the hostess. Gaylene is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Varland, Newell, who is to become the bride of David V. Morell, son of Milton Morell of Fairpoint next Saturday in Sturgis.

Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



- **Automotive and Pickup Repair Shop**
- **Sturdevant's Parts Store**
- **Oil Lube & Filter Service**
- **Gates-Belts & Hoses & Custom Hose building + We sell all classes of Tires & do Tire repair!**



Here's What's Happening in Newell!

PaperPie Learning Book Fair
Thursday, February 13 1-6 p.m. Newell School Multipurpose Room

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.

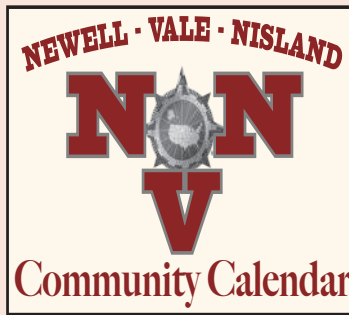
Wednesday
Story Time with Patty
Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 11 a.m. All ages welcome

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, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



212/79 Service Center



Fuel for the vehicle, fuel for you, and even gifts available from JT Boutique



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Newell Hardware & Supply

320 Girard - Newell SD

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Menu Sponsored by:

From the Superintendent



The Newell sixth and seventh graders have been

working diligently with Mrs. Erk to prepare for the Science Fair. The Science Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 12th with judging and projects on display. The awards will be presented on Thursday at 8:00 am in the Physical Education gym. Award winners will have the opportunity to advance to the regional competition at the School of Mines in Rapid City.

On Thursday, eighth grade students will be involved with the Business Fair. With the guidance of Mrs. Erk, students have developed a product and will present their creations in the gym through Thursday

morning. Feel free to shop in and enjoy some creations.

On February 13th, we will be hosting Parent Teacher Conferences from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. Students will have an early release from school at 12:00 pm. Conferences are a great opportunity to learn about your child's progress as well as ways to influence learning beyond the classroom. Parents and guardians have a huge impact on a child's learning. Understanding your child's progress will help you advance their learning. We also have online programs that can be used at home to reinforce learning. Feel free to

ask teachers about the various learning options.

A book fair will also be held in the multi-purpose room during conferences. A wonderful selection of books will be available for your child. Literacy is a powerful blessing in a child's life.

Thursday morning the Juniors and Seniors will travel to Sturgis for the annual Career Fair. Excellent opportunities for our students to experience various employment opportunities as well as post secondary education.

Newell Irrigators will be hosting Timberlake on Friday. The evening will include Parent's night. Join these young ladies and gentlemen as they host

their final home game of the season. The Newell wrestlers will travel to Bennet County on Saturday and the Middle School boys' basketball team will head the opposite direction to Harding County.

Newell Irrigators have been working hard this year. Join us in our celebration of activities.



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

Newell FFA Goes to Welding Competition

NEWELL-The Newell FFA students headed to a welding competition at Western Dakota

Vo-Tech to show off their skills. Dyson won seventh place out of over 80 welders.

Earlier they connected at the Black Hills Stock Show.



School Board Recognition Week

The Newell School District will join districts across the state to thank school board members for their leadership and service to our local school district and community during South Dakota School Board Recognition Week from February 17-21, 2025.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to honor our school board for their unwavering commitment to shaping the future of our children and developing our community." Superintendent Dr. Pandi Pittman said.

The men and women serving Newell School District are Tyrel Bonnet, Sara Brunner, Kristen Bonefield, Amber Erk, Dawn Gardner, Dean Johnson, and Todd Youngberg.

This group is responsible for setting the vision of and goals for the district and strives to provide a quality education for

our students. The school board also hires quality educators, adopts policies and evaluates progress while always keeping the best interests of our students in mind.

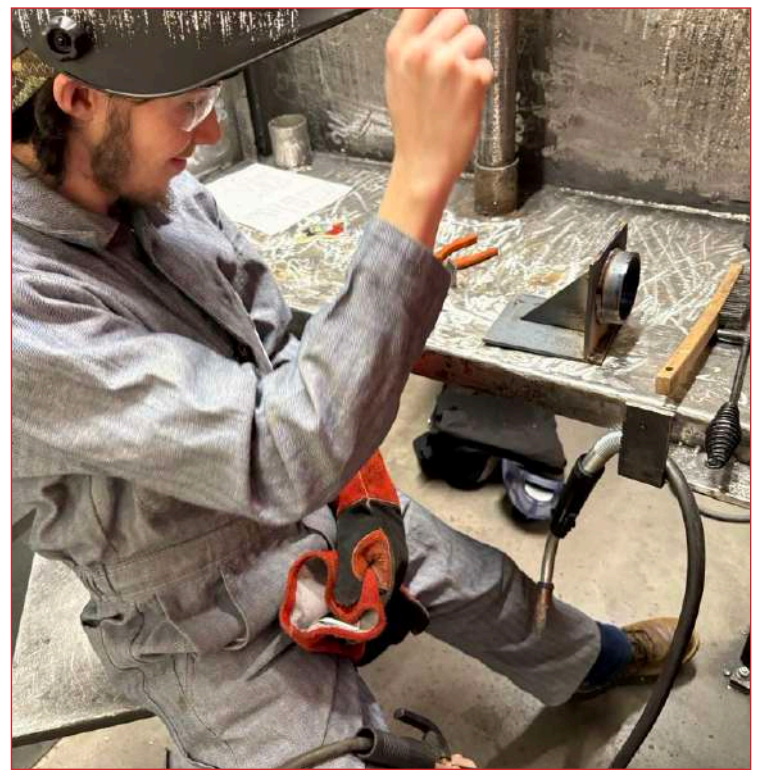
During School Board Recognition Week, the Newell School District invites students, staff and community members to take part in thanking its school board members.

"As elected leaders, school board members play a vital role in bridging the gap between our schools and the community, ensuring that both voices are heard, and our shared goals are achieved." Superintendent Pittman said. "They dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the success and well-being of our students, staff, and community, always going above and beyond."



Newell FFA attends Rapid City Stock Show 2025

We Are Newell



Justin Yates showing off his welding ability.

Courtesy Photo



Newell Athletic Highlights

Congratulations

★

Kendra Johnson
 Rachel Stranberg



ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM 2025

We Are Newell!

