



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Mail to: Belle Fourche Beacon, PO Box 576, Belle Fourche 57717
Extra Copies can be available at Print Market, 614 State Street • Home office 1208 8th Avenue, Belle Fourche



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VOL. 8 ISSUE 7

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • February 19, 2025

\$1.25

BELLE FOURCHE SENIOR TO BE FEATURED IN RISING STAR OF THE WEST CONTEST



Jack Caudill
Specials to the Beacon

Belle Fourche High School senior Wyatt Lesmeister will be featured as part of KOTA Territory News' Rising Star of the West scholarship contest Wednesday February 19th on KOTA Territory News at 6:00 and 9:00. Lesmeister qualified for the contest by submitting a short video of himself to KOTA Territory News.

Lesmeister is one of the semi-finalists who will be seen through March 14th. His one minute commentary will be aired and then placed on www.kotatv.com for viewers to watch and rate. One competitor from each week will then advance to the final round in May. The winner from that group will receive a \$4,000 college scholarship, with a total of \$7,500 in scholarship money awarded from KEVN Black Hills FOX and Monument Health.



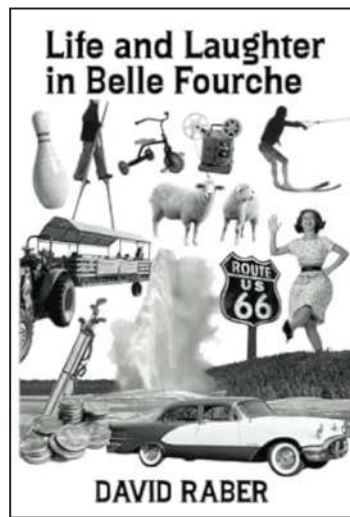
"Raber, Reading and Writing" event to be held at the Tri-State.

Come to a special literary event entitled "Raber, reading and writing," which will feature writers, readings and conversation about the importance of writing. It will take place Saturday, March 15 from noon to 2 p.m.

David Raber will lead-off with readings from his new book "Life and Laughter in Belle Fourche." He will also sign books for sale in the museum gift shop.

The Belle Fourche Writers will read their works, discuss their organization and explain how people can join their group. In 2024, the Belle Fourche Writers published their second anthology, Life's Landscapes which will be available for sale at the event. The need to encourage writing – including of journals and diaries – will be discussed by museum staff, as materials like this are needed for research archives to

be used in decades to come. Those interested in hearing readings and those interested in writing are encouraged to attend, no matter what your age or experience! See the museum's "The Library" exhibit while you are here. Refreshments will be served.



Healthy Heart & Teeth



Our 1st graders learned what makes their heart and teeth healthy!! Thank you to our amazing PE teacher who always makes movement engaging for our students and to Jackson Dental for the insightful visit and goodie bags! Courtesy Photo

What?!? No Beacon Again?

Doug Cole
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Not having a Beacon February 5th because of a printer foul up was not anything planned for.

When the Beacon was first started in 2018 it was printed every other week, and the same pattern was repeated some in 2023 and again first half of 2024.

To continue successful operations, at the time those patterns were a necessity. The work required to build, create, and operate the Beacon was such that producing the printed version on an everyother week basis was the needed schedule.

It is taken as a complement when folks are mad, or disappointed when they don't get a Beacon.

For the first time since starting the Beacon in 2018 we have a family commitment that will prevent us from having a printed Beacon on February 26.

There will be an online edition as, we will be attending son John's "Welcome Home from a year with the National Guard in Iraq" and his 50th birthday party. Return to print the next week.

Thank you for your most appreciated support of the Belle Fourche Beacon!

"1903 Reader's Theater"



At the end of the play *Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel*, the cast members came out for a final bow. The cast includes from left: Blaine Anderson, Wayne Gilbert, Michael Meeken, Julie Walkins, Toi Flick, Joan Gerken, Bobbe Ward, Dennis Walkins, and Angela Hastings. Longbrake photo

Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—1903 Reader's Theater took the audience on a journey back in time to the happenings in 1930s at Belle Fourche's own three-story luxury hotel called the Don Pratt Hotel on February 14 and 15.

Poker, Paisley and the Don Pratt Hotel was presented in five acts that spanned a weekend in the 1930s, the play was filled

with humor, history and a little mystery. Trying to figure out who the heck was the mysterious Paisley pulling all the strings was fun as the play progressed.

The original play was written by Tri-State Museum Director, Kristi Thielen for this very occasion. She has done over 75 productions. "I've been a playwright since 1980, that's how I got into the museum business.

I worked with a number of theaters—written and directed—and I had a performance that took place at the Journey, they saw me there. Eventually I was hired and learned to do museum things, too," explained Thielen. "But I'm not a museum person who wrote a play, I'm a playwright who worked their way into the museum!"

Written just a month ago,

1903 Theater contd. A8

Dakota Petals Flower Shop is Open for Business

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—There is this cute little shop on State Street that recently opened and when you walk through the door of the shop you are met with the most delightful smell. It is a sweet flowery fragrance that fills the air, and it is heavenly. One could say it is because it is a flower shop, but it is more than that.

Dakota Petals opened their doors December 20, 2024 and perhaps it is an opening that was meant to be.

After working as a florist off and on for the past 15 years, Erica Douglas, owner got the itch to start creating flower arrangements again. "This fall, I kind of got a hankering to do it again and so I opened up in October, just doing online and phone in orders," she explained. "It was serendipitous, because about three weeks later, on the night of the election, November 5, I got a phone call from my realtor saying that the Hutchinson family would like to accept the offer I made on this building a year ago. This had been completely out of my mind, so I kind of sat there in disbelief."

After the shock wore off, she and her husband decided to jump

at the chance to have a flower shop on State Street. In the past Douglas had a few shops that were off the beaten path and didn't get a lot of foot traffic. "I've never, ever had the opportunity to have a shop in the heartbeat of town, I'm so excited! I cannot wait to be a part of the community. I love the people coming in and looky-looky and just see-

ing what we have and making conversation. It's exactly what I wanted," said Douglas.

It is an older building, but the Douglas family has a plan for its future. "It's a 125 year old building. There's a lot of work that needs to be done. We're going to be residing and re-insulating the whole thing. We're building a kitchen in the back,"

Dakota Petals contd. A8



Dakota Petals owner, Erica Douglas gets fresh flowers out of the cooler. Longbrake Photo

Two State Street Businesses Partner Up to Offer Galentine's Day Fun

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Valentine's Day is one day out of the year where we can celebrate our

love for our significant other and family members, but more recently the day before—Valentine's Day Eve—has become widely known as Galentine's Day, a day for celebrating our

best gal pals!

This year Belle Flower and Co. and Pasque Ladies Fashions teamed up to hold special evening hours and events to honor the relationships we have with our best friends on February 13.

Michelle Evans, Pasque Ladies Fashions, explained, "I was talking with Brittany from Belle Flowers and she goes, I'm doing it! I'm like, You know what? Let's do it! We do a lot of stuff together and Galentine's Day just gives us an excuse to be with our girls."

Each store had its own unique offerings. Belle Flowers had a variety of vendors in store along with free drinks and a 10 percent off discount on shopping.

"I just thought it would be a good event for ladies to come and celebrate Galentine's Day with their girlfriends," said Brittany Wilkinson, Belle Flowers and Co.

And the gals showed up! "It was crazy, people were here before 5:00 p.m.," said Wilkinson. Ladies shopped and stood in line to experience the special offerings that included tattoos

Galentine's Day contd. A7



Michaela Horn from the Belle Fourche Chamber was the official Cupid at the Pasque Galentine's Day event. She made mocktails and handed out goodies. Longbrake photo

Thank you

for making our Valentine's Day a success!

We at BELLE FLOWERS + CO are grateful for serving the community.

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Brian Kline
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Rose Marie Green 90

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An online guest book is available at klinefuneralchapel.com



Violet Smoot 93

Violet Smoot, 93, of Wall, South Dakota, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, February 6, 2025. Her final day on Earth was filled with the joy of baking a cherry pie, enjoying a walk in the sunshine, and spending time with family.



Even in retirement, she kept herself busy with friends and family quilting, having coffee at the Drug Store, playing bingo and card games, putting together puzzles, attending Wall High School sports events, and taking an occasional trip to Deadwood to play slots. Violet stayed active well into her later years, camping on the Badlands Wall with her son, Kim, at age 89, hunting for the perfect Christmas tree to cut with great grandchildren in the Black Hills, and traveling to Minnesota for Christmas and cards at age 93.

Violet was born on December 18, 1931, on the family ranch near Conata, South Dakota, to Christ and Emily Huether. She was a cheerleader at Quinn High School in Quinn, South Dakota, where she graduated in 1949. Following high school, Violet attended Black Hills Normal School, earning a teaching certificate. She returned to Conata to teach in the rural school, starting her lifelong commitment to hard work and service.

On June 8, 1952, she married John Smoot of Wall, South Dakota and to this union a daughter, Barbara, and two sons, John William "Bill" and Kim, were born. After John and Violet divorced, Violet remained dedicated to raising her three children on her own in Wall. She worked tirelessly to provide for them, instilling in them the values of responsibility, independence, and resilience.

Violet was known for her strong work ethic. In her earlier years, she worked in various hospitality jobs before starting at Shelton's Variety Store. In April of 1985, she began her career at Wall Drug Store, where she worked for nearly 30 years. She took pride in her role in the Boot Department and enjoyed the trips to buy merchandise. Violet considered no one a stranger and enjoyed meeting the many interesting travelers and college and foreign students that came to work at the Drug Store each year. She finally decided to retire at the young age of 81.

Family was the cornerstone of Violet's life, and she cherished the moments spent with her loved ones. The annual Huether Family Reunion in Wall was an event she eagerly anticipated each year, relishing the opportunity to reconnect with both immediate and extended family. Holidays were a time for warmth and laughter, often spent surrounded by her children and grandchildren, playing Hand and Foot or any card game that came her way. Violet's adventurous spirit also led her to travel, creating cherished memories on trips to Laughlin, Nevada with her sisters, California with Barb, Oklahoma with Bill and to Kansas to see Kim. These travels and countless visits over the years strengthened her bonds with those she held dear.

Violet was a dedicated member of the First Lutheran Church in Wall, where she gave her time and support to the community. Though she may not have been overtly sentimental, her quiet determination and steadfast nature left a lasting impression on those who knew her.

Violet will be lovingly remembered by her children, Barbara Williamson, Belle Fourche, South Dakota, John William "Bill" Smoot, St Onge, South Dakota and Kim (Debbie) Smoot, Wall, South Dakota, her sisters, Delja Hoffman, Wall, South Dakota, and Marge Martin, Rapid City, South Dakota, her brother Leroy Huether, Redondo Beach, California, her grandchildren, Tyler Williamson, Hulett, Wyoming, Lisa Gareis, Denver, Colorado, Staci Kaltenbach, Rochester, Minnesota, Rory Smoot, Rochester, Minnesota, Dustin Smoot, Spearfish, South Dakota, Jana White, Rapid City, South Dakota and Marli Schippers, Rapid City, South Dakota, as well as 19 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Ruth Pourier, Rosanna Shaffer, Phyllis Kilpatrick, Kathryn Lyle, her brother William "Sonny" Huether, and her grandson, Christopher Smoot.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring at Wall, South Dakota and Inurnment will take place at the Wall Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Wall High School Athletic Complex.

You may sign her online guestbook at www.blackhillsfuneralhome.com.



Thomas 'Gene' Eugene Secret 89

Thomas 'Gene' Eugene Secret, 89, passed away at home with his wife by his side in Spearfish, SD on February 8, 2025. He was born on June 11, 1935, the third of four children, to Fred and Minnie Secret, in Farmington, NM.



Buford, Dakota Territory. He received a 61-year pin from the Masons. He was also a member of the Naja Shrine in Rapid City where was a regular volunteer driver for the Shrine bus that picked up children and took them to the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. He had some great stories about those trips.

In 1947 the family moved to Sturgis, SD where Gene lived until joining the US Navy in 1952. He served in the Korean War on an ammunition ship and on an icebreaker in the Arctic Ocean, leading to a lifelong desire to return to Alaska.

In 1956, after enlisting in the US Army, he met the love of his life, Marilyn Hudson. They were married on June 10, 1957, at Hereford, SD and promptly left for Ft. Polk, Louisiana, beginning a life of travel. He served in Germany and at a number Army bases with their four children born in South Dakota, Colorado and Hawaii. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The final two years of service he was instructor in the ROTC Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

Gene retired from the Army in 1972 and in 1974, returned with the family to Sturgis, SD. He worked as a welder, gunsmith and finally on the crews working to decommission the Minuteman missile sites in Western SD.

With Marilyn by his side, they enjoyed an active retirement with the long-awaited Alaskan trip, visits to Australia, Ireland, other European countries and most of the states in the US. His family grew with grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Gene and Marilyn would arrive unexpectedly to spend time with them. He just shook his head at having 25 great grands and one on the way. Close to his heart were the members of Charlie Company platoon he led on his second tour of duty in Vietnam 1970. The reunions were held in cities around the US and enjoyed continuing brotherhood.

He was a member of the Sturgis Masonic Lodge #47, the Powder River Masonic Lodge #135, Broadus MT, and the Yellowstone Lodge #88 at Ft.

Gene and Marilyn bred and raised Arabian horses. Each colt was a favorite and was handled gently from birth. Gene rode in parades around the region with the Naja Shrine Cowboy unit for many years.

Always interested in creating things, he learned wood turning from his brother-in-law and became an avid woodworker, creating beautiful items that he would not sell, but would give away in a heartbeat.

The Midwest Honor Flight was the highlight of 2022 when he was excited and proud to make the visit to Washington DC with hundreds of other veterans in the company of his son.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn, four children: Marian Alderman (Wayne) Spearfish SD, Patty Weatherford, Gillette WY, Gene Secret (Kim) Spearfish SD and Roger Secret (Sheri) of Black Hawk SD; Eleven grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Brother-in-law Mike Carney and lifelong friend Alvina Meirose.

Gene is preceded by his parents, Fred and Minnie Secret, sister and brother-in-law Florence and William (Billy) Swesey, sister and brother-in-law Punky and Bob Barden and sister Effie Carney.

Services will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at Kinkadee Funeral Chapel. Burial with military honors will follow at Black Hills National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital.



1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Every-one who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Obituaries - contd. on A5

SCOUTING YESTERDAY | South Dakota skeptics spell end for state-backed cloud seeding

Dan Gehlsen

www.thedakotascout.com

A quarter century after South Dakota tried its hand at rain-making and hail suppression, the state Weather Modification Program faced a funding crisis.

South Dakota lawmakers 50 years ago this week were debating the merits of the initiative launched four years earlier, with the Rapid City Journal reporting on Feb. 13, 1975, that members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations were preparing to med the program.

That year, legislators serving in South Dakota's 50th Legislative Session faced increasing pressure from a group called Citizens Against Cloud Seeding that argued the state's attempt at weather control may have actually decreased rainfall in drought-stricken areas of the state.

Cloud seeding reportedly first took place in 1946 in the United States, carried out by two General Electric Company scientists who used dry ice pellets to alter the ratio of ice crystals and cold-water droplets in a cloud, a key factor in its ability to make rain, according to the National Science Foundation. A smoke of sodium iodide was later found to have the same

effect on ice crystal formation.

Cloud seeding started in South Dakota as early as 1950, and by 1953 a state commission was established to oversee the process. More than a dozen counties had created their own cloud seeding programs by 1971 when the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the creation of a state office and director of weather modification that would work in cooperation with the counties.

The program's budget quickly surpassed more than \$1 million per year. The state funds covered 75 percent of seeding costs with the participating counties footing the bill for the remaining 25 percent.

According to Burton Ode, chairman of the South Dakota Weather Improvement Association, a pro-weather modification citizen's group at the time, there was the potential to create \$3.7 million in increased agricultural yields, while at the same time preventing up to \$3.3 million worth of crop hail damage in the 45 counties that eventually took part in the program.

Weather modification funding survived the 1975 Legislature, but lawmakers killed the program and it's funding the following year.

Leo Ritter, an employee with the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources that oversaw private cloud seeding following the dissolution of the state program, said that the effectiveness of cloud seeding proved hard to convey to the public, according to a May 11, 1978, article in the Argus Leader.

"With cloud seeding, you can only offer so much and it got to be an issue. The results were not visual to farmers and ranchers," he said, referring to the drought-stricken years of 1974 and 1975. "They couldn't see that extra tenth or even hundredth in the gauge because they may have been expecting more."

Studies showed rainfall in areas participating in the program increased by 9 percent and hail was suppressed by 20-40 percent between 1972-76, according to the South Dakota Weather Improvement Association.

"Those five years starting in 1971 we had the largest and best weather modification program in the world," Ode said in the Argus Leader article, which also reported Harding County was the last county in the state to seed clouds..

Are more elderly South Dakotans working?

Yes!

A growing number of South Dakotans continue to work past retirement age.

In 2018, a quarter of South Dakotans 65 and older were in the labor force. Five years later, that number climbed to 29%, above the national rate of 19%.

As of July 2024, 18% of South Dakotans were 65 and older. That's up from 14% in 2010.

From 2000-2020 the nationwide share of workers 60 and older doubled, due in part to the aging population and falling birth rates.

Other contributing factors include employers shifting away from pension-type retirement plans, which encourage workers to retire at a specific age, and the Social Security system raising the age for when workers can receive full benefits from 65 to 67.

Numbering roughly 11 million today, the older workforce has nearly quadrupled in size since the mid-1980s.

But, as prior Pew Research Center analysis has shown, the growth in the older workforce

is driven by more than sheer numbers.

The share of older adults holding a job today is much greater than in the mid-1980s. Some 19% of adults ages 65 and older are employed today. In 1987, only 11% of older adults were working.

The increase is driven in part by the growth of the 65-and-older population. The bulk of the Baby Boom generation has now reached that threshold.

As the employment rate among older adults has gradually risen since the 1990s, employment among younger workers has followed a different pattern. Jobholding among 25- to 64-year-olds peaked at 77% in 2000, fell during the Great Recession and has rebounded somewhat since then.

Until 2000, this was offset by rising employment among women. Women's employment rates peaked around 2000, so overall jobholding among the younger population has not returned to its 2000 level.

Several factors have contributed to the growing share of older adults who are working.



Planes used for cloud seeding. Photo: South Dakota State University



Photo: South Dakota State University

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.

The Belle Fourche Writers will read their works, discuss their organization and explain how people can join their group. In 2024, the Belle Fourche Writers published their second anthology, Life's Landscapes which will be available for sale at the event.

The need to encourage writing – including of journals and diaries – will be discussed by museum staff, as materials like this are needed for research archives to be used in decades to come.

Those interested in hearing readings and those interested in writing are encouraged to attend, no matter what your age or experience! See the museum's "The Library" exhibit while you are here. Refreshments will be served.

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

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.

The Butte County ABC Coalition meeting will be Friday February 21st at noon. Our YLT members will be presenting on the Humanity Launch they attended at the Middle School and the CAD-CA conference they attended last week!

Anyone interested in welcome to attend. Lunch will be served. Christian Life Center, 2020 Vista Street Belle

Fourche Contact information. Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 19th 605-644-6522. Abc.butteco@gmail.com

Fox Family Shooting Match 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

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

ASSESSMENT NOTICES ARRIVING MARCH 1, 2025

Assessment notices will be arriving in your mailbox so please check your assessment notice for an Owner-Occupied Classification. Call the Director of Equalization if this property qualifies but does not have it. Complaint on your assessment may be made to your local Township or Municipal Board of Equalization by filing a written notice of appeal with the clerk of the local board of equalization no later than March 13, 2025 (postmarked by deadline is considered timely) or by April 1, 2025 for County Board of Equalization.



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



Feb 19 - Lunch and Learn 12PM @ Grap's

Feb 20 - Estate Planning @ Belle Silver Lining, 4:30 Chamber Mixer @ Outlaw Bar

Feb 21 - 5PM Angel Store @ BF Global Methodist Church, 6PM Ping Pong Tournament @ Connection church

Feb 23 - 3PM Movie Afternoon @ Belle Silver Lining

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Soccer Sportsmanship and Leadership Award

Soccer
Special to the Beacon

From Ryan Chervany, representing the Belle Fourche Soccer Association:

"Each year we give out an award to a senior girl and boy who exemplifies the spirit of Belle Fourche Soccer by showing good sportsmanship, always being eager to volunteer and being a good role model to the youth of the program.

The Sportsmanship Award is typically awarded to those seniors, who show a positive attitude, and possess leadership within their team, and set a positive example to soccer players of all ages. They show good sportsmanship throughout the outdoor and indoor season."

The Belle Fourche Soccer Association (BFSA) has been a cornerstone of youth soccer in Belle Fourche since the early 1980s, providing opportunities for children ages 4-18 to develop their skills, embrace sportsmanship, and build lifelong friendships. The program has thrived through the dedication of volunteers, support from local busi-

nesses, and small community donations. BFSA also plays a crucial role in supporting the Belle Fourche High School junior varsity and varsity soccer teams.

Challenges and Growth
BFSA has traditionally been self-reliant but faces facility limitations that restrict its ability to host larger tournaments. In recent years, participation has soared to record levels, with players ranging from 5 to 18 years old. To accommodate this growth, efforts have been made to enhance soccer facilities and create a better experience for both players and spectators.

Center of the Nation Indoor Blast

The Center of the Nation Indoor Blast is an annual indoor soccer tournament organized by BFSA, first held in 2011. The 2025 tournament marked the 14th annual event, taking place from February 7 to February 9, 2025, at the Belle Fourche Rec Center and South Park Elementary School.

Over the years, the tourna-

ment has grown tremendously in popularity, now attracting nearly 70 teams from across a three-state region. Over the course of a single weekend, the event brings approximately 2,000 people into the community, providing a significant boost to local businesses, restaurants, and hotels.

The tournament has also expanded to include adult divisions, featuring men's, women's, and co-ed competitions. It has become a fun and competitive event that draws former high school players back from college, turning the tournament into a mini-reunion for many past athletes. With the continued rise of indoor soccer, the need for additional gym space has become increasingly evident, ensuring the tournament's future success and continued growth.

If you need anything else or have anymore questions want specific information, please reach out to me!

Thank you,
Ryan Chervany

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Two Belle Fourche High School soccer players recently received the coveted "Soccer Sportsmanship and Leadership Award".

The award is presented to a high school senior who has shown great leadership skills and good sportsmanship on and off the field. Both Lydia Main and Drake Sutter exemplify what the award represents and have been great mentors and examples to the other soccer players, the fans and the Belle Fourche soccer program. *Courtesy Photo*

Voice of Democracy Contest Award



Veterans of Foreign Wars Quarter Master Blaine Anderson hands the 5th place State Voice of Democracy Contest award to Belle Fourche High School Senior Thomas Long with District 10 American Legion District 10 Commander Dwight Griffiee. *Courtesy Photo*



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Hugh E. Ingalls 95

Hugh E. Ingalls, 95, of Maurine, SD, died Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, at Monument Health Sturgis Hospital. His loving and devoted wife of 74 years, Eleanor, died eight days earlier.

Hugh was born Dec. 29, 1929, in Faith, SD. He was the second of five children born to Lawrence and Marie Ingalls.

Hugh experienced hardships early in his life. His mother died when he was 9 years old, and the Depression made life difficult for the family. As a result, Hugh grew up shouldering responsibilities beyond his years. The values of honesty, hard work, perseverance and a striving for excellence instilled in him by his family and his faith in God enabled Hugh to let hardships help shape him into an effective and inspiring leader and a kind and generous person.

He attended grades 1-8 at Royal Center School in Meade County and graduated from Sturgis High School and South Dakota State University. While attending SDHU, Hugh became a pilot and enjoyed owning and flying airplanes throughout his life.

Hugh has been widely recognized in the state cattle industry and nationally as a "true stockman" who volunteered to promote the cattle industry and the Angus breed. Cattlemen across the state sought his leadership in local and state organizations, respecting his honesty, integrity, calm disposition and skill in handling challenges.

He served more than 40 years as a delegate to the National Angus Convention. He also served on the board of directors of the Central States Fair and the Black Hills Stock Show and helped lead the Livestock Committee for 20 years, acting as "Livestock Ambassador" to thousands of cattlemen.

Hugh also served many years on school boards, as a 4-H leader and in his local church. Hugh and Eleanor together built a legacy of hospitality and excellence. They instilled these same values in their six children.

Hugh received many awards over the years, including South Dakota State University's Eminent Rancher award and the Black Hill Stock Shows Stockman of



the Year and Silver Spur awards. He was an American Angus Association Heritage Foundation inductee.

This past September, Hugh was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. In his induction speech, Hugh humbly thanked the many great partners throughout his life, including family, neighbors and associates. First and foremost, he thanked Eleanor. "She has been by my side through both good and challenging times," he said. "I would not be here receiving this prestigious award without her love and support."

Beyond the accolades and awards, Hugh was a loving and caring husband, parent, grandparent, neighbor and friend. He was guided by his faith in God and his savior Jesus Christ. He was honorable and always tried to do the right thing and be there for others. He was humble and kind. He loved people. He will be greatly missed.

Hugh is survived by his six children: Marie (Daniel) Shilling, Peggy Rahn, Dan Ingalls (Monica Oregon), Kenny (Dana) Ingalls, Beth (Terry) Hotchkiss, and Laila (Phillip) Brownlee; 18 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Elaine (Neal) Rowett and Virginia Brandt; sister-in-law Jean Lewton, Sandi Boe and Connie Boe and brother-in-law George Boe; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death his wife Eleanor, his parents Lawrence and Marie Ingalls, his sister and brother-in-law, Mable and Calvin Stomprud, brother and sister-in-law Dale and Marie Ingalls, brother-in-law Mike Brandt, stepmother Ann Ingalls, and son-in-law Fred Lambing.

A memorial has been established to Cedar Canyon Bible Camp. Donations can be directed to Kinkade Funeral Home or sent to Cedar Canyon Camp, in care of Prairie Home Church, 17010 US Highway 212, Faith, SD 57626.



Eleanor (Boe) Ingalls 94

Eleanor (Boe) Ingalls, 94, of Maurine, SD, stepped into glory on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, at Aspen Grove Assisted Living in Sturgis, SD.

Eleanor LaVonne Boe was born Sept. 18, 1930, in a farmhouse near Vale, SD. She was the fourth of ten children born to Rudolph and Opal Boe.

She grew up on the farm with her parents, her grandparents and many brothers. As the only girl in the family at that time, Eleanor enjoyed special treatment from her Norwegian grandparents who lived in an adjoining part of the house.

When she was 8 years old, two important events happened. She finally got a sister to add to her 5 brothers, and the family moved to a ranch near Colony, Wyoming. In addition to doing lots of chores, Eleanor recalled many days spent playing in the Wyoming hills, returning home when her mother rang a bell on a post in the yard.

About 1942, the family moved back to the farm near Vale. Three years later when she was in high school, her father bought a grocery store in Vale, and the family moved to town. Along the way, three more brothers were added to the family.

Eleanor attended high school in Newell and Vale. Among other activities, she was on the basketball team and played coronet in the band. Because her mother was not always well, Eleanor regularly fixed meals for their family of nearly a dozen people. During her senior year, Eleanor and her brother Bryce took turns taking days off from school to run the grocery store and the boardinghouse above the store. In this situation and so many others throughout her life, she proved herself to be willing to do whatever job needed to be done.

After graduating from Vale High School in 1948, Eleanor attended an accelerated teacher-training program at Spearfish Normal School. She began her first year of teaching a few weeks before she turned 18.

During the fall of her second year of teaching, she met Hugh Ingalls at a community dance in Vale. Eleanor recalled saying to a friend, "Who's that good looking guy? He must be from California." Hugh's dashing good looks and his kindness quickly won her over, and the two began dating. Her students used to tease her when her cowboy pilot buzzed over their school in his little red and white airplane.

Eleanor and Hugh were married at the First Lutheran Church in Newell on June 1, 1950. After a honeymoon trip to Yellowstone National Park, the couple moved into a small house along Horse Creek, just below Horse Butte in northwest Meade County. Children soon followed, starting with Marie then Peggy, Dan, Kenny, Beth and Laila.

While the family was growing up, Eleanor sewed her own clothes as well as most of her children's. She raised a large garden and did lots of canning. She was a master at stretching a dollar, which was especially important during the lean early years. She taught her children how to cook and sew and made sure they had access to piano lessons, even if it meant driving them



the 75-mile round trip to Faith.

Eleanor was an active partner in the ranch operations. She ran the windrower and moved cattle. She paid bills, kept the books, and assisted Hugh any way she could as they acquired land and grew their Black Angus herd. Eleanor put a lot of food across the table, feeding hungry ranch hands, neighbors and relatives who would squeeze around the expanded table in her tiny kitchen.

Eleanor was also involved in her church and the community. For many years she taught Sunday School and could be counted on to help with whatever project the church had going. She especially enjoyed several years of leading after-school Bible clubs in area schools. She loved teaching, and one year in the mid-60s she even dusted off her teaching certificate when she was asked to step in after a teacher left partway through the year. She went back to college that summer and taught another full year.

Eleanor loved to tell stories (she was a Boe, after all!), and she loved to laugh. She sometimes couldn't contain her laughter, especially after successfully bluffing in a card game.

She cherished spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her siblings and her friends. Most of all, she loved Hugh. She supported and stood by him through good and challenging times, during periods of timely rains as well as droughts and blizzards. She enjoyed being with him and sharing their lives together. They would have celebrated their 75th anniversary this coming June.

When she was diagnosed with a heart condition in December, Eleanor remained positive. "I've lived a great life," she said. And as she looked toward her future, she told those around her, "It's gonna be okay. And even if it's not okay... it's still okay." Her faith in God was very strong, and she was not afraid. She knew that her Lord and Savior would welcome her with open arms.

Eleanor died peacefully in her sleep while holding Hugh's hand.

Eleanor is survived by her husband Hugh, her six children: Marie (Daniel) Shilling, Peggy Rahn, Dan Ingalls (Monica Obregon), Kenny (Dana) Ingalls, Beth (Terry) Hotchkiss, and Laila (Phillip) Brownlee. Eighteen grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Jean Lewton and brother George Boe; four sisters-in-law: Sandi Boe, Connie Boe, Elaine (Neal) Rowett, and Virginia Brandt; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Rudolph and Opal Boe, her brothers: Bob, Ivan, Kenny, Bryce, Art, Norman and Dale, and her son-in-law Fred Lambing.



Bryce Knudson

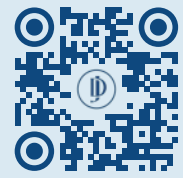
Bryce Knudson passed away peacefully on February 10, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was born on October 15, 1949 in Davidson, Saskatchewan. He will soon, he leaves behind a family who gone too cherish his love, laughter, and larger-than-life presence: his beloved wife of 46 years, Deb; their three children, Kristy (Jason) of Port Orchard, WA, Stephen of Billings MT, and Danika (Ben) of Justin, TX; three grandchildren, Grayson, Owen, and Braya; niece, Kim (Mark) and family of Thorsby, AB and nephew, Cory (Vanessa) and family of Istanbul, TR. A man with a goofy sense of humor, Bryce had a knack for pulling pranks and telling the kind of silly jokes that made everyone groan and laugh at the same time. His mischievous spirit was



evident from a young age - perhaps most notably in his school days when he gave his teachers a run for their money. That is what makes it all the more ironic (and fitting) that he later became an educator himself, pouring his wisdom and wit into shaping young minds. He left a lasting impact on countless students from Saskatchewan to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Wyoming, and South Dakota. In retirement, Bryce enjoyed his years working at Menards in Yankton, SD where he enjoyed getting to know his fellow employees and many store patrons. Beyond the laughter, Bryce was a man of deep faith, a kind soul with a heart as big as his smile. He lived with generosity, warmth,

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Look Who's Celebrating!

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Clara has requested hugs in lieu of gifts

LOOK WHO'S



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and an unwavering belief in the goodness of people. Whether he was cracking a joke, offering a helping hand, or sharing his wisdom, he made the world a better and brighter place. He found joy in life's simple pleasures - gardening, visiting family, attending mass, baking bread, working on puzzles, and watching old detective shows in his rocking chair. Above all, he loved his family. He was endlessly proud of his children, celebrating their successes and supporting them through every challenge. His love and encouragement will remain with them always. Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the countless lives he touched. His love, laughter, and legacy will remain in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be missed more than words can express, but his family takes comfort in knowing he is at peace and watching over them with that familiar twinkle in his eye. Bryce was preceded in death by his parents, Anita and John Knudson, and his sister Lavonne Knudson. There will be no memorial service as was Bryce's wish. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor his memory by sharing a joke, a memory, or simply spreading kindness - just as he did every day. Donations may be made to the American or Canadian Cancer Society. Rest in peace, Bryce. Your love and laughter will echo in our hearts always.



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.

JOIN the latest Belle Fourche Area Community Theater for their next show, the one-act production of *Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth*, AUDITIONS will be next week, February 25th & 26th, at 6:30 PM in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Theater. This show is part of *Getting Our Acts Together* (GOAT), A Night of Northern Hills One-Acts. 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.

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

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

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

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

FEB. 25 & 26, Tuesday & Wednesday AUDITIONS for the BFACT show, *Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth*, 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Theater. 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!



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



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 bellefourcheact.com or at the door the night of the event. Tickets are \$40/person or \$70 for two. See you there!

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Community Calendar

Belle Silver Lining Lunch Program
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 Belle Silver Lining is open so come and enjoy a different lunch menu Monday thru Friday.
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Belle Silver Lining Thrift Store
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AA Meetings
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 at 8pm at 806 6th Ave, Belle Fourche.

Writer's Group
 Regular Meeting: Meeting will be Saturday, at 10 AM.
 B F Public Library, 3rd Sat.as always.
 Any and all writers are invited to attend.

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World Day of Prayer service is scheduled for Friday, March 7, in Belle Fourche. Global Methodist Church will host to the event with music by The Pickers beginning at 12:30 , program at 1 p.m.

Christian women in the Cook Islands have written the script this year . Prayer, Bible readings, hymns are featured. A lunch will follow. The public is invited.

This marks year 98 of services that are held globally on the first Friday of March in 170 countries. Each year a different country prepares the program. Local churches rotate as the host.

Planning meetings are being held every Friday at the church. Readers, ushers and hosts are needed. Women interested in being a part of the program are invited to come to the planning sessions.



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From A1 Galentine's Day

by Duende Ink, Saldare Permanent Jewelry and therapeutic massages by Kecia Miller Massage Therapy.

Pasque Ladies Fashions also had vendors geared toward pampering the ladies.

Michaela Horn with the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce dressed as cupid and handed out chocolate candy treats and whipped up drinks for everyone. Mojito mocktails and Cherry Limeade mocktails were on the menu.

Marybeth Runnels of Digits Nail Spa PLLC offered hand massages and specials and Gloriann Ruby offered personalized Valentine's Day cards.

Selfies with your besties while holding a giant Polaroid Valentine's Day frame rounded out the festivities.

The store also offered a 10 percent off discount for any purchases made.

Wilkinson recently returned

from the buyer's market and was excited to share all of her new spring finds with Galentine's Day participants.

"We found new brands that are exclusive to us, so nobody in the zip code can carry those brands. We found a lot of good deals, good brands, and good quality stuff.

We're excited to bring in a bunch of new lines, and that's pretty much what is displayed right now—most of the new stuff we found down there. We have more coming in soon," she said.

Evans explained that Pasque will be showing off the new spring styles at their spring fashion show scheduled for March 20, 2025.

"March 20th is going to be our spring fashion show, it's the first day of spring."

So much is happening for both businesses in the upcoming weeks. "We have events all the time, so just follow us on Facebook," said Wilkinson.



Kecia Miller of Kecia Miller Massage Therapy provided massages to the participants of the Galentine's Day event.



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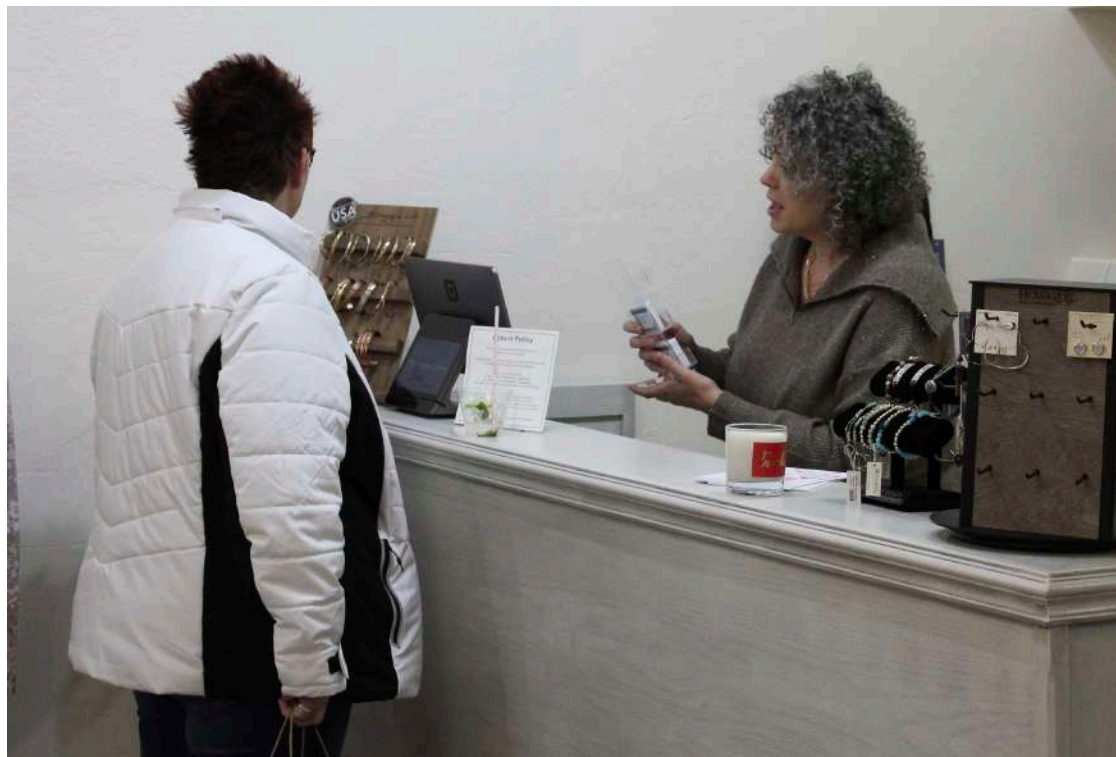
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<p>\$19.99</p>  <p>Black Velvet Canadian Whisky 1.75 L</p>	<p>\$19.99</p>  <p>Bota Box 3 Liters Several Varieties</p>	<p>\$23.99</p>  <p>Smirnoff Vodka 1.75 L</p>

Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Next two weeks** Wednesday **February 12th** through Tuesday, **February 25th**



Galentine's Day at Belle Flowers and Co offered a variety of unique booths, including a tattoo booth offered by Duende Ink. Longbrake photo



Michelle Evans helps shoppers at the Pasque Ladies Fashions Galentine's Day event.



Ladies and their best pals enjoyed drinking, visiting and shopping at the Galentine's Day event at Belle Flowers and Co. Longbrake Photos

1903 Theater From A1 Thielen used her museum experience and knowledge to craft the piece. “I’ve heard from several people that there has always been a lot of talk

about poker games in the Don Pratt—somebody said to me there were ranches that actually changed hands at the games, but they didn’t know names and by now it’s lost to time anyway,”

said Thielen. “I just went with that and I did know from an exhibit we did on prohibition that there had been bootlegging in the area, so I tied those things together, and then some history of the Don Pratt and that’s how I came up with it!”

The concept of Reader’s Theater helps to save a little time in the production and performance of a play. The actors on stage are allowed to keep the script and refer to their lines as they act out the scenes. “We just met Sunday and got our scripts and then we spent four days together,” explained cast member Angela Hastings. “That’s why it’s great being Reader’s Theater, you know, you don’t have to memorize you just kind of flow!”

The Reader’s Theater was directed by Kristi Thielen, Kim Reausaw was responsible for Sound, Jean Maher was House Manager and Shane McGraw was in charge of Lighting. The cast was: Mrs. Hirschfield, Angela Hastings; Bernice Tallman, Bobbe Ward; Gladys Randolph, Toi Flick; Alice Randolph, Julie Walkins; Myrna Chasley, Joan Gerken; Wes Dunlevy, Wayne Gilbert; James McCandless, Blaine Anderson; Roy Stingley, Michael Meeken; and Henry Althorpe, Dennis Walkins.

The stage in the new addition at the Tri-State Museum housed the set for the Belle Fourche Arts Council’s 1903 Reader’s Theater. One of the main props on stage was an authentic switchboard that was used to direct all of the hotel phone calls in the play, but it was an actual piece of history that dates back to the 1930s. It can be seen at the Don Pratt exhibit in the museum.

In addition to the play, a silent auction was set up along the side walls with all funds raised going to benefit the Arts Council. Angela Hastings was in charge of overseeing the auction and helping to gather items to be auctioned. “We’ve been doing auctions for about the past 12 years for Fine Arts Boosters and Area Community Theater and Arts Council, we just gather stuff through the year,” she said.



Wes Dunlevy, played by **Wayne Gilbert**, spends his time on the phone trying to set up a poker game in the basement of the Don Pratt Hotel. *Longbrake photos*



Mrs. Hirschfield, played by **Angela Hastings** and **Bernice Tallman**, played by **Bobbe Ward** discuss the problems happening in the **Don Pratt Hotel**.



A silent auction to benefit the **Belle Fourche Arts Council** was set up in the **Tri-State Museum** during the **1903 Reader’s Theater** event.

From A1 Dakota Petals

explained Douglas. “We’re also going to redo the front of it so it’s going to look bright and shiny and new for Main Street! I’m thrilled to be in here!”

The coolers are full of flowers and the shelves are filling up. The entire case full of fine chocolate is ready.

Douglas hopes to offer a one-stop gift shop atmosphere along with her flower shop. “I want to

carry unique brands. I’m working with a lady in Pennsylvania, an Amish gal, regarding spices and some home cookery things. I’ve got the chocolates, I’ve got herbal teas.

I just really want to keep it very gift centered. You know, balloons, chocolates, flowers, plants, gifts to pamper. But still keeping it classic flower shop,” explained Douglas.

Douglas wanted to offer something a bit different from

the other businesses in town, so she decided to offer high quality chocolate out of Minnesota.

“People seem really excited about the chocolate, so that’s great,” she said. The shop offers truffles for \$2.50 each or you can buy bulk chocolate by the pound.

“We have gift boxes and we have all the all the accessories to make a really polished and beautiful gift,” she added.

After the commercial kitchen

is finished in the back of the building, about 50 percent of the chocolate will be made in house.

“Since I’m going to be using the kitchen very sparingly, a few hours a month to get the chocolate out, we’re going to be renting out the commercial kitchen to other small businesses that need that for certification purposes,” said Douglas.

Dakota Petals business has created two new full-time position in Belle Fourche and hopes to add more as things get going. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:00

a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This store is a drop off and pick up location for Speedy Delivery—a Midwest only shipping company.

Douglas expressed, “I’m just so grateful to the Hutchinson family for this opportunity, this does make me very happy!”

She is a busy mom of four kids, Calvin, Winston, Sophia and Esther and is married to Doug. “My husband is such a great guy,

I just want to publicly thank my husband for all the support he’s given me and all of my endeavors through the years. I couldn’t do it without him!”



Dakota Petals offers a wide selection of high quality silk flowers for any occasion. Owner **Erica Douglas** can help you with all of your floral needs. *Longbrake photos*

Edward Jones



Shannon L. Rolando
Financial Advisor
1407 5th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Bus. 605-569-7979 • Fax 855-221-2509
shannon.rolando@edwardjones.com
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Josh Bunney, Manager



Following her performance as **Bernice Tallman**, **Bobbe Ward** was presented with flowers from an impressed audience member.



Some of the cute items for sale at the newly opened **Dakota Petals** on State Street.

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JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

ST. ONGE LIVESTOCK Now Broadcasts our Sales live on the internet at WWW.CATTLEUSA.COM

Cattle Report - Friday, February 14, 2025

2000 head today!
Market still on fire!

Next Sale - Feb. 21 - Bred Heifer & Cow Special
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Leffingwell Ranch, Broadus MT.....	76	Blk	Str	734	...	\$..297.50
Leffingwell Ranch, Broadus MT.....	20	Blk	Str	627	...	..328.00
KC Ranch LLC, Rozet WY.....	73	Red	Str	655	...	..326.00
S & L Sheep Ranch Inc, Alzada MT.....	42	Blk	Hfr	776	...	..277.00
Andrews, Dean Or Kay, Red Owl SD.....	21	Blk	Hfr	629	...	..300.00
Cranston, Ivan & Jennifer, Moorcroft WY...	14	Herf	Str	660	...	..303.00
Cranston, Ivan & Jennifer, Moorcroft WY...	10	Herf	Hfr	663	...	..284.00
Cranston, Ivan & Jennifer, Moorcroft WY...	25	Herf	Hfr	640	...	..289.00
Dirks, Michael T & Karen E, Hulet WY.....	21	Bld	Hfr	625	...	..321.00
Dirks, Michael T & Karen E, Hulet WY.....	10	Bld	Hfr	498	...	..357.00
Duprel, Jack, Sturgis SD.....	80	B/R	Str	854	...	..267.00
Geis Revocable Trust, James, Aladdin WY 16	...	Bld	Hfr	656	...	..307.50
Grubl, Ronald, Sturgis SD.....	24	Char	...	618	...	..284.00
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD.....	35	Bld	Str	650	...	..324.50
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD.....	12	Bld	Str	645	...	..324.50
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD.....	26	Blk	Str	507	...	..385.00
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD.....	24	Bld	Hfr	545	...	..347.50
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD.....	11	Bld	Hfr	449	...	..347.50
Heier, Iver J, Prairie City SD.....	66	Blk	Hfr	662	...	..296.00
Hutchinson Trust, Drew/Judy, Aladdin WY 57	...	Red	Str	490	...	..391.00
Hutchinson Trust, Drew/Judy, Aladdin WY 11	...	Red	Str	387	...	..440.00
Hutchinson Trust, Drew/Judy, Aladdin WY 12	...	Red	Hfr	366	...	..405.00
Knutson, Dale, Vale SD.....	25	Blk	Str	700	...	..301.00
Knutson, Dale, Vale SD.....	12	Rbl	Str	750	...	..284.00
Knutson, Dale, Vale SD.....	27	Blk	Hfr	685	...	..280.00
Komes, Timothy J, Sturgis SD.....	13	Bld	Hfr	715	...	..285.00
Komes, Timothy J, Sturgis SD.....	45	Herf	Hfr	629	...	..283.50
Lewis, Phil, Gillette WY.....	10	B/R	Hfr	467	...	..327.50
Minor, Leon, Nisland SD.....	65	Blk	Str	742	...	..294.00
Pearson Ranch, Aladdin WY.....	10	Bld	Hfr	720	...	..298.00
Pearson Ranch, Aladdin WY.....	15	Bld	Hfr	710	...	..312.50
Penner, Tony, Newell SD.....	18	Blk	Str	655	...	..312.00
Penner, Tony, Newell SD.....	10	Blk	Hfr	558	...	..320.00
Ridley, Tee, Whitewood SD.....	21	Mix	Hfr	574	...	..279.00
Ridley, Tee, Whitewood SD.....	16	Bld	Hfr	593	...	..316.50
Ridley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT.....	10	Blk	Str	621	...	..333.50
Scoles, Robert, Broadus MT.....	14	B/R	Hfr	452	...	..346.00
Shaykett, Alan, Nisland SD.....	35	Bld	Hfr	549	...	..344.00
Shaykett, Alan, Nisland SD.....	10	Blk	Hfr	446	...	..362.50
Steffes, Darrell, Vale SD.....	12	Blk	Hfr	587	...	..324.00
Wolf Ranch, Hulet WY.....	25	Bld	Hfr	673	...	..315.00

Weigh Up Cows

Brown, Roger, Fruitdale SD.....	3	Blk	Hfrette	1133	...	..178.00
Brown, Roger, Fruitdale SD.....	13	Bld	Hfrette	1044	...	..200.50
Bruner, Chuck, Newell SD.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1665	...	..160.00
Cahoon, Jeanette Or Dan, Sonnette MT ... 1	...	Red	Cow	1230	...	..140.00
Cahoon, Jeanette Or Dan, Sonnette MT ... 1	...	Blk	Cow	1185	...	..153.00
Cahoon, Jeanette Or Dan, Sonnette MT ... 2	...	Bld	Cow	1487	...	..159.00
Cahoon, Jeanette Or Dan, Sonnette MT ... 1	...	Blk	Hfrette	890	...	..221.00

2025 CATTLE SALES

- 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

Friday, February 21, 2025

Bred Heifer & Cow Special

9 AM - Weigh Up Cows, 11 AM - Bred Cows & Hfrs
1 PM - Lewis Bros Bull Sale
BT-Braning Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free
BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI-No Implants

Complete Dispersion

Chris Meccage - 238 - 3 Yr Old To Short Term - Bred Blk - 4/1
-23 Blk Bred Hfrs - Bred Lbw Blk - 3/15
-31 Blk Replacement Hfrs - 550-625# - Bt, Pc, Bv
-15 Bulls

Bred Hfrs & Cows

Randall Inc - 50 Blk Hfrs - Bred Blk - 3/8 - For 2 Cycles
Arledge Rch - 40 Blk Solid - Short Term Cows Bred Blk - 3/25
Bob Hagedom - 32 Blk Bred Hfrs - 1000-1100# - Bred Lbw Blk - 3/12 - 2 Cycles
S & L Sheep Rch - 28 Blk Bred Hfrs - Bred Lbw Frederickson Blk Angus Bulls - 3/25
Roy Hendrickson - 20 Blk Cows - Bred Angus - 4/20 - 60 Days - Poire
Riley Ranch - 11 Blk St Cows - Bred Blk - 3/20 - 60 Days

Plus more by sale time!

2025 SPRING BULL SALES

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

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

17TH ANNUAL ST ONGE LIVESTOCK CONSIGNMENT MACHINERY AUCTION

Sunday, April 27, 2025
St Onge Livestock parking lot, St Onge, SD 57779
Starting at 10:00 am - Tractors will sell at 1:00 pm
NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS



Auction conducted by BLACK HILLS AUCTION COMPANY
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Terms of the sale are cash, bankable check or credit card. Announcements made the day of sale take precedence. Not responsible for accidents. Concessions will be available.

2ND ANNUAL SPRING COIN, GUN & WESTERN MEMORABILIA AUCTION

May 10 & 11, 2025
Moose Lodge, Belle Fourche, SD
MAY 10th Currency Auction - MAY 11th Gun & Western Memorabilia
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Sheep Report - Thursday, February 13, 2025

Smaller run today
Lamb market was steady to \$10 higher
Not enough slaughter ewes to establish a market

Next Sale - Feb. 20 - Bred Ewe Special - Selling all classes of sheep & goats
Animals should be here by 10 AM so they can be weighed before the sale
Thank you for your business!

Feeder Lambs

Kitzan, Josh & Heather, Nisland SD.....	24	Lamb	62	...	\$ 292.00
Kitzan, Josh & Heather, Nisland SD.....	8	Lamb	86	...	\$ 242.00
Parks, Leroy, Nisland SD.....	103	Lamb	98	...	\$ 208.00
Robinson, Kruse Or Bailey, Ralph SD.....	48	Lamb	90	...	\$ 219.00
Robinson, Kruse Or Bailey, Ralph SD.....	259	Lamb	107	...	\$ 194.00
Robinson, Kruse Or Bailey, Ralph SD.....	35	Lamb	127	...	\$ 167.00
Smith, Amber, Broadus MT.....	10	Lamb	78	...	\$ 247.00
Smith, Amber, Broadus MT.....	12	Lamb	102	...	\$ 207.00

Slaughter Ewes

Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD.....	2	K Ewe	185	...	\$ 90.00
Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD.....	3	K Ewe	143	...	\$ 84.00

Slaughter Bucks

Domogalski, Mike, Whitewood SD.....	2	Kbuck	292	...	\$ 91.00
Renno, Mervin, Newell SD.....	2	Kbuck	257	...	\$ 91.00

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, February 20, 2025
Bred Ewe Special 1:00 PM

SD Consignment - 270 2-5 Year Old Ewes - Bred Blk Face Bucks - 4/1

Please have animals in by 10:00 AM
So they can all be weighed before the sale!

2025 SHEEP SALES

- 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
- May 22nd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- May 29th - New Crop Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

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

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SATURDAY, APRIL 5
VENDORS WANTED

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Contact Tessa for more info
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2 Shows in 2025
HILL CITY ANTIQUES • RAILROAD & COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE

March 14, 15, & 16
September 26, 27, & 28
Saturday 9-4 • Sunday 10-3
Friday Night Preview 5-7

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Looking Back in Belle

These articles come from newspaper microfilm from the Belle Fourche Public library, using a new microfilm reader and printer. The photographs are from the Tri-State Museum. The library has a card-file of all the obituaries found in their newspaper collection.

124 years ago
THE TIMES
December 28, 1899
PROCESS FOR TREATING LOW GRADE ORES That of a Philadelphia Promises to Bel a Boon to Black Hills Mine Owners COMPANY NOW BEING ORGANIZED Will Make Numerous Tests on the Discovery – Belief It will Save Enormous Quantities of Worthless Ore Deadwood, S. D., Nov. 28 – Dr. J. A. Ogden, of Philadelphia, Pa., has discovered a process for treating low grade ores in the Black Hills that is destined to work a revolution in the present ore treating methods. He is an inventor and discoverer of considerable reown. For the past year he has been in the Black Hills experimenting and making tests on the low grade ores found in the northern and southern Hills. He has erected a small experimental plant about seven miles from this city, down Whitewood creek and for the past twelve months he has been quietly working on this process. His plant is on the creek, which is filled with the old tailings that have come down from the Homestake mills in past years. The Ogden process is very simple. He has a 10-horse power engine, a dynamo with a capacity for generation 150 lights and a number of cyaride tanks. The ore is first pulverized to a fine mesh, 80 being the best. It is then run over a roaster, which eliminates the sulphur. The ore is then carried to a bin of a magnetic separator which are made alive by the electricity from the dynamo. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the ores in the Black Hills are pyritic in nature. The tailings that come from the Homestake mills contain as high as 90 per cent iron. When the ore is let out onto the wide belt. In the Ogden process, the magnets attract all of the grains of iron tight, which are carried guicly to one side where it is dropped as soon as it gets out of the magnetic tfield. There are millions and millions of tons of ore in the country that will not pay to mine and reduce the values because of the low grade. A great per cent of this ore is pyritic in nature. By the Ogden process the iron can be taken out of the ore at the mine, thrown away, the values left in the product concentrated and increased enough to make the ore sufficiently rich to haul to the smelter. The Homestake, Holy Terror, Clover Leaf and other mining companies have had

their mining experts witness some of the experiments that have been make by the inventor at his little plant. Dr. Ogden is now organizainga a company, which will be backed financially by some of the greatest capitalists in the Black Hills.

100 years
The Belle Fourche Bee
February 12, 1925.
OFFICER SAVES POST OFFICE Mrs. Wm. Matthews has received a copy of the Miami, Fla., Evening Bulletin, which gives the following account of the action of a former resident of Belle Fourche, Oscar Peterson, a son of Frank Peterson, who now lives on the Jas. Henderson ranch east of Belle Fourche. The article from the Miami paper follows: "Quick action by Town Police Officer Oscar Peterson perhaps saved the town from another big fire Sunday morning when he discovered smoldering mail sacks in the rear of the Miami postoffice at 7 o'clock. In making his rounds, Mr. Peterson went in the postoffice. There was an odor of burning cloth. Investigation revealed that a pile of mail sacks near the stove were smoldering. First calling the fire department, the officer then broke through the general delivery window of the office and reached the fire. Shortly thereafter the fire department arrived. The 10 burned sacks had been thrown out the back door by that time, however, and no chemical was used nor no hose laid. Fire Chief Mortie Graham asks that all persons, upon observing a fire, do as the efficient town officers did Sunday morning – first call the department, then go to fighting the flames."

75 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
February 16, 1950
Triplets First Birthday Mary Katherine, Margaret Ann and Marilyn Carol, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Cornish, enjoyed the first anniversary of their birthday yesterday. The little girls are all well and healthy and are learning to walk around chairs and furniture but do not strike out alone as yet. They are not the only babies in the family, however, as they have a little sister, Michele Marie, who is three and one-half weeks old.

HOSPITAL GETS NEW ROOM AND ELEVATOR Only seven rooms remain to be refurbished at the John Burns Memorial Hospital here following a gift by Mr. and



by Mary Buchholz

Mrs. Walter Cunningham, and installation of the new service and freight elevator has begun. Manager Jack Rogers said the hospital had received a check from Cunninghams for \$829.40, the cost of furnishing room 201 on the second floor in a Heppkwhite grouping. The cage and other materials for the elevator, which will open the basement kitchen to use were brought to Belle Fourche Tuesday, Rogers said. Installation is expected to take about two weeks. Present kitchen equipment will be moved as soon as the installation is completed, and meals will then be served to the hospital stall in the new dining room and food conveyed to patients on the upper floors by the elevator.

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
February 14 1975

Wick to Address Historical Group Ned Wick, novelist in residence at Black Hills State College, Spearfish, will be the quest speaker at the Butte County Historical general membership meeting Sunday. Wick will talk on the history of the Northern Black Hills Also on the program will be a musical skit by Bo Williams and his daughter of Fruitdale. During the business meeting, members will select the route the 1975 Caravan Tour will take in September. There are four possibilities – Aladdin and the coal fields; Slim Buttes and the Cave Hills; Bear Butte; Camp Sturgis and the old Fort Meade Cemetery, and Newell townsite, Horse Creek and the U. S. Experiment Farm.

Wrestlers Face Test This Week Climax of the first year of wrestling activity for Belle Fourche will come this weekend at Sturgis when Coach George Curtis takes his crew to the section 4-A wrestling competition at Sturgis Friday and Saturday. Unlike basketball, the wrestlers competition is on an individual basis. If a boy is good enough, he can go to the top regardless of the fate of his teammates. The four top places in each of the weight classes in regional competition will be eligible to compete on a state level. Seeding (or matching) of 4.A section wrestlers will take place at Sturgis tonight with Coach Curtis and Athletic Director Ed Petranek representing Belle Fourche at the pairing.

CANDLES AND MIRRORS #21

By DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel
"A Kid in the Candy Dish"

I was alone in the house. Quite suddenly, I became really, really hungry for a piece of candy. Mom said when we got hungry for something, it probably meant that our body needed the nutrients in that food. Therefore, I was certain my body needed candy!



missing lemon drop. I slid the dish back to its spot, quite disappointed that none of the treats were even close to my favorites. If my body needed candy to fill a nutritional deficiency, it would sure be nice to enjoy the takings. I started to wonder if Dad purposely chose the sweets he knew I didn't like, maybe to crunch my temptation to snoop in the candy dish. As the youngest, most spoiled child, this was difficult to swallow.

I pushed the stool over to the corner cupboard where Dad kept the candy dish. The steps pulled out from under the seat. I listened to make sure no one was coming in and climbed up the steps onto the counter. Dad pretty much controlled the candy dish. He had never said it was off limits to the kids, but some things were just understood. After meals sometimes he would bring the pretty container to the table and offer us a piece. He might encourage us with, "candy rots your teeth out." Then he would supposedly prove his point by removing his teeth. As if he ate a lot of candy growing up! During the Great Depression, I am sure candy was never on the grocery list. Was there even a grocery list?

The dish was clear glass, with ribs that extended from the center like spokes. A pointed handle on the cover begged to be lifted. I could see blurry red, yellow and white through the fluted glass. Checking again that I would not be caught in my covert candy surveillance, I lifted the cover. Three cellophane packages lay around the edges of a small stack of ribbon and filled candies left from Christmas. I only liked the filled kind with raspberry centers. They were all gone. The ribbon kind was too big to snitch. The bags were opened with tops folded over. Lemon drops, white peppermint lozenges and French burnt peanuts waited. The peppermint circles tasted like chalk in my opinion. The peanuts with the rough, hard coating were disgusting. I reached for the bag of lemon drops. The cellophane rattled like breaking glass as I pilfered one yellow drop. Likely, Dad would not notice a

I closed the cupboard, scrambled down the steps of the stool and rushed to put it in its place. Mom walked into the kitchen. I am pretty sure I had lemon-flavored guilt dripping from my quickly rotting teeth. She didn't seem to notice. She tied on her apron. "I'm hungry for baked apples. DeAnn, can you bring some apples from upstairs?"

I was suddenly hungry for baked apples, too. "Sure, Mom. Can we sprinkle red hots on top?"

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



Original Hillside School

Hillside School New Home Bike & Walking Path Belle Fourche

New School Location Belle Fourche

Butte County Historical Society continues to meet and hosts a historical tour every year. The Society's dues are \$5 and can be sent to Janet Jensen 197 Jensen Rd Belle Fourche, SD 57717

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The **Dakota Scout** is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Together, they have more than 30 years of combined experience in South Dakota journalism that have earned them reputations as dogged reporters who've not lost touch with their neighbors' sensibilities. Be in the Know!

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

Buffalo HARDWARE 216 Main St. Buffalo, SD 57720 605-375-3322 www.buffalohardwarestore.com

Shaine's Riddle of the Week:

Four cars come to a four-way stop, each coming from a different direction. They can't decide who got there first, so they all go forward at the same time. All four cars go, but none crash into each other. How is this possible?

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Closed Sunday

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Answer: They all made right-hand turns.

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CROSSROADS Family Style Restaurant 16 N 5th Ave. Belle Fourche, SD 605-892-2270

Pizza Hut 1824 5th Ave. Belle Fourche, SD 605-892-2671

ASSESSMENT NOTICES ARRIVING MARCH 1, 2025

Assessment notices will be arriving in your mailbox so please check your assessment notice for an **Owner-Occupied Classification**. Call the Director of Equalization if this property qualifies but does not have it. Complaint on your assessment may be made to your local Township or Municipal Board of Equalization by filing a written notice of appeal with the clerk of the local board of equalization no later than March 13, 2025 (postmarked by deadline is considered timely) or by April 1, 2025 for County Board of Equalization.

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



Toll Free: 800-894-8684

Office: 605-892-2655

Fax: 605-892-3142

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	BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615 MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597 BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553	SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961 TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513 JOHN HENRY BEARDSLEY - 406-853-4938	SCOTT ANDERSON - 406-351-1844 RILEY LESH - 406-697-0573 TREVOR GARMAN - 605-892-5972

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Market Report - Thursday, February 13, 2025
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

FEEDER CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
TI Burch Ranch Lc, Colony WY	97	Blk/Bwf-Str	590	348.50	\$2,055.97
	32	Black-Str	481	391.00	\$1,879.85
	49	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	485	359.50	\$1,744.30
X Heart Ranch Inc, Aladdin WY	57	Black-Hfr	658	301.00	\$1,981.05
Ennen & Anstine, Rapid City, SD	99	Blk-Hfr	643	291.00	\$1,871.80
Joe And Jane Burke, Newell SD	48	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	622	298.00	\$1,853.18
	8	Black-Hfr	490	350.00	\$1,715.00
George & Jean Etchemendy, Douglas WY	71	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	538	350.00	\$1,883.83
	11	Black-Hfr	457	373.00	\$1,705.62
Leroy Curren, Aladdin WY	31	Red-Hfr	513	347.50	\$1,782.33
	13	Black-Hfr	559	336.00	\$1,877.72
Quarter Circle U Ranch, Birney MT	15	Red-Str	509	377.00	\$1,918.93
	10	Red/Rwf-Str	442	420.00	\$1,854.30
	30	Red/Rwf-Hfr	462	358.00	\$1,653.36
	9	Red/Rwf-Hfr	383	387.50	\$1,483.26
George & Bobetta Etchemendy R, Lost Sprin	40	Red-Str	615	336.00	\$2,065.56
	17	Rd/Blk-Hfr	540	339.00	\$1,831.59
Tim Draine, Biddle MT	14	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	681	283.00	\$1,928.44
Lila Or Wes Butts, Sundance WY	20	Black-Hfr	433	390.00	\$1,687.72
Jason Koehn, Nisland SD	9	Black-Str	808	260.00	\$2,100.22
Snook Land & Lvstck. Lc., Sundance WY	9	Black-Str	643	312.50	\$2,008.68
Steve & Sue Tucker, Newell SD	9	Rd/Blk-Str	683	285.00	\$1,945.91
	6	Black-Hfr	635	291.00	\$1,847.85
Sd Consignment	10	Black-Yrfg Hfr	1096	201.00	\$2,202.96
Steve Or Renee Mcanis, Belle Fourche SD	4	Blk/Bwf-Str	410	426.00	\$1,746.60
	5	Black-Hfr	569	320.00	\$1,820.80
	7	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	484	365.00	\$1,767.64
Reed/Jamie Vandervoort, Piedmont SD	8	Black-Str	659	297.50	\$1,959.78
	10	Black-Hfr	585	310.00	\$1,811.95
WEIGH-UPS					
Consignment From SD	1	Black-Cow	1190	177.00	\$2,106.30
Chris Gnerer, Volborg MT	5	Black-Hfr	894	237.00	\$2,118.78
	1	Black-Cow	1195	135.50	\$1,619.22
	1	Black-Cow	1300	139.00	\$1,807.00
Drake Burch, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Cow	1315	140.00	\$1,841.00
Reed/Jamie Vandervoort, Piedmont SD	1	Black-Hfr	1160	186.00	\$2,157.60
Rodney & Janis Steele, Sundance WY	4	Red-Cow	1528	153.00	\$2,337.07
	2	Red-Cow	1560	143.00	\$2,230.80
Darrell & Leanne Hohn, Deadwood SD	1	Black-Cow	1395	152.00	\$2,120.40

Spyness Enterprises, Moorcroft WY	1	Red-Cow	1390	139.00	\$1,932.10
	1	Red-Hfr	1045	192.50	\$2,011.62
	1	Char-Hfr	895	227.50	\$2,036.12
	1	Black-Hfr	885	227.50	\$2,013.37
	1	Red-Cow	1320	137.00	\$1,808.40
	1	Black-Hfr	980	217.50	\$2,131.50
Zachary Or Knystal Steele, Sundance WY	4	Red-Cow	1283	157.00	\$2,013.52
	1	Red-Cow	1635	156.00	\$2,550.60
	3	Red-Cow	1528	155.00	\$2,368.91
	1	Red-Cow	1070	192.50	\$2,059.75
Dan Patton, Newcastle WY	1	Black-Cow	1375	148.00	\$2,035.00
BULLS					
Ben Garman, Belle Fourche SD	4	Black-Bull Drug Free	1806	165.00	\$2,980.31
	4	Black-Bull Drug Free	2246	162.50	\$3,650.15
	2	Black-Bull Drug Free	1885	157.50	\$2,968.87
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1470	163.00	\$2,386.10
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1870	157.50	\$2,945.25
Snook Land & Lvstck. Lc., Sundance WY	3	Char-Bull Drug Free	1855	173.00	\$3,209.15
Douglas & Adelia Cuka, Vale SD	1	Xbrd-Bull Drug Free	1705	190.00	\$3,239.50

BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL
FEBRUARY 20, 2025
WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | BREDS @ 12 MT

BRED HEIFERS KENNETH TALCOTT INC - MT 24 BLK BRED HFERS BRED TO PYRAMID & CS ANG., CLV 4/1 - 21 DAYS, HR, SCOURGUARD	BRED COWS TAFT RANCH-WY 20 BLK 3-6YO BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/20 - 55 DAYS, SHOTS, POURED	REED VANDERVOORT - SD 5 BLK BM BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/10 - 60 DAYS, SHOTS, POURED
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FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL
FEBRUARY 27, 2025
WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | FEEDERS @ 12 MT

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

RECEIVING STATIONS

Broadus, MT Travis Linch | 605-892-5951	Forsyth, MT Scott Anderson | 406-351-1844
Ekalaka, MT Riley Lesh | 406-697-0573	Jordan, MT Jason Bollinger | 406-690-8344
Wyoming Brett Loughlin | 605-210-0615	Wyoming Mike Greenough | 307-620-2597

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



The Black Hills Rodeo Committee had a great time at the **Rapid City Stock Show Rodeo**. Thank you to the Sutton Family for the Invitation. Photo left to right: Wayne Eaton, Tessa Eaton, BHR Vice Chairman Bill Eastman, Shawna Eastman, Chairman Dallas Conner, Brett

ABC - BC Coalition Meeting

Join us for lunch and to hear what our YLT members have been up to this past month.

When: Friday, February 21st @ Noon
Where: Christian Life Center - 2020 Vista St. Belle Fourche

Please RSVP by 2/19/25

605-644-6522
 courtneyr@sturgisabc.org
 abc.butteco@gmail.com

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

THANK YOU for your cooperation.

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

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

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

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jennifer@ezfabricationandwelding.com

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 miles South of Belle Fourche
on Hwy 85
i42-7167
Calvin Chapman - Int. Minister
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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

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

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

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

SALVATION ARMY OF THE NORTHERN HILLS
120 Ryan Rd., Spearfish
605-642-0924
Envoys: Tim and Peggy North

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

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

SPEARFISH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)
920 N Main Street, Spearfish
Sunday Service 10 a.m. in person
and on Facebook.
Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN
1100 Stanley Street
Open for in-house worship
Sunday Worship 10:AM with coffee
fellowship following the service.
Watch live-streamed services:
www.sjcbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

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

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

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

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



Capitol News
February 29, 2025
Things have been quiet around Capitol and Tie Creek this week. Most days brought snow, and wind to drift that snow. Travel to the east was a little easier, but Tie Creek Road was drifted in places. Ronda Cordell took advantage of the two best days to go to appointments. Monday began with three cancellations, due to the weather and road conditions. Ronda got to Spearfish for her eye appointment on Wednesday. The extreme wind had swept the roads clear. When she returned, she hit blizzard conditions north of Alzada, but the road was visible, and she had no problem getting home. She went to Gene and Kim Secrest's to pick up Clint and Denise Zolnoski's two dogs, that had stayed there while the Zolnoski's were gone to Dickinson the previous weekend. They were two happy pups, when she opened the door for them at Zolnoski's house. On Thursday morning, Ronda drove to Buffalo for her Medicare Wellness check-up. She enjoyed having lunch at Blossoms 'N' Brew before heading home. On Saturday evening, a belated birthday supper was held at Clint and Denise's for Ronda, Darby, and Waverlee Elmore. Laurie, Waverlee and Havalen Elmore had come out in the afternoon for some sledding with the Zolnoski girls. Linda Hannah also joined the group for supper. On Sunday, Ronda watched the Super Bowl at home. Erma Albert had scheduled an appointment in the Hills on Monday, but the weather was not good, so she called to reschedule it. It is scheduled for this Monday, and the weather for that day may not be any better. We will see. Erma has had a bout with cold and flu again this week. On Friday, she and Dick went to the Senior Citizen dinner in Buffalo. On Sunday they went to the Catholic Church for mass and then to Saloon Number Three for lunch with the Erk and Helms

families. Ernie, Rachel, and Tommy Melum went to church at the Baptist Church in Baker on Sunday. Rachel taught children's church. The weather was cold, but it was clear and not windy. It was a good day for them to celebrate their wedding anniversary. On Tuesday, Bryce, Dawn and Dorothy Padden went to Buffalo to watch the girls basketball games against Timber Lake. The games were very good. On Saturday, Brandon Padden took the boys' wrestling team to Hot Springs, where the boys did very well and Brenton placed fourth. Ashley Padden took the girls' wrestling team to Newcastle, where Kanyan Padden placed first. Kanyan's wins are building, but the most interesting thing was that she did not earn a ribbon. She earned a sash and tiara for her first place win, which Karen Odell thinks is a perfect way to honor the winning girls. Karen Odell stayed home this week. Chancey Odell came over early in the week to plow her road for her. It kept snowing, and Karen didn't even get to the mail box. Chancey's Bobcat had a belt problem, so when he finally got a new belt, he came again on Saturday to plow again. He got a few Welsh cakes for all his work. Sam Cordell stopped by one day, and said Karen's road was not good, so Karen stayed at home. Karen visited with her cousin, Ralph Anderson, in Florida. He said it was the first time they had good swimming weather. It would be eighty-five degrees there, while Karen's weather was barely above zero here. Kyia Smith was playing basketball in Minnesota. Carson Odell was wrestling in Mitchell, and Murphy Hinds had a birthday cake decorated with a tapir, because the tapir at the Point Defiance Zoo, nearby, had a cute, little, new, spotted baby tapir. It's better to listen to excess bragging; than it is to listen to even a little gossip.

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

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
JUNE 26 - 29
BELLE FOURCHE REC CENTER

2025 HOLIDAY SHOW
DECEMBER 12 - 14
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lifestyle preferences. Through strategic marketing efforts, rural communities can ensure their voice is heard and their opportunities are recognized throughout their regions and beyond. **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.

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

Rural Communities Can Thrive Through Strategic Regional Marketing

As urban areas continue to grapple with rising costs of living and increased population density, rural communities have an unprecedented opportunity to attract new residents, businesses, and visitors. However, many small towns struggle to effectively market their unique advantages. Through careful analysis of successful rural revitalization efforts, several key strategies emerge for rural communities seeking to enhance their regional presence. Recent studies highlight a significant shift in perception toward rural living. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rural counties adjacent to metropolitan areas saw a 4.1% population growth from 2020 to 2023, the fastest rate in over two decades. This trend reflects growing interest in smaller communities that offer both tranquility and proximity to urban amenities. In today's interconnected world, a strong digital presence is non-negotiable. Successful rural communities have leveraged social media and dedicated websites to showcase their unique character. The town of Lindsburg, Kansas (population 3,500) saw a 15% increase in tourism after launching a comprehensive digital campaign highlighting its Swedish heritage and arts scene. Their strategy included regular content updates, virtual tours, and user-generated content from local events. Regional collaboration proves more effective than isolated efforts. The Northern Wisconsin Regional Economic Development Initiative demonstrates this principle, where six



rural counties pooled resources to create a unified marketing campaign. Their joint effort secured \$12 million in new business investments within two years, far exceeding what individual communities could achieve alone. Rural communities must emphasize their distinctive advantages. Average housing costs in rural areas remain 35% lower than urban counterparts, while crime rates are typically 30-40% lower. These statistics, combined with narratives about community connection and natural amenities, create compelling arguments for relocation. Their marketing efforts must align with real community assets. Successful rural communities invest in high-speed internet infrastructure (essential for remote workers), public spaces and recreational facilities, cultural venues and events, healthcare access points, and educational opportunities. A great example is the town of Harrisburg, South Dakota (population 6,800) saw a 12% population increase after investing in a fiber-optic network and developing a community center with modern amenities. How do small rural communities effectively market themselves? This requires identifying and targeting specific demographics such as: remote workers seeking affordable housing and high quality of life, young families prioritizing safety and strong school systems, retirees looking for peaceful settings with accessible healthcare, entrepreneurs seeking lower operating costs and supportive business environments. Research shows that rural communities successful in attraction

efforts typically focus on two or three primary demographic segments rather than attempting to appeal to all. Small communities benefit from positioning themselves within their broader regional context. The Shenandoah Valley Regional Marketing Initiative demonstrates this approach, where 12 communities collaborate to promote the region while maintaining individual identity. Their coordinated efforts led to a 23% increase in tourism revenue across participating communities. Successful marketing requires concrete metrics and willingness to adapt. Key performance indicators should include: website traffic and engagement rates, inquiry response rates for housing and business opportunities, event attendance and tourism statistics, population growth and demographic shifts, business startup rates and job creation. Communities should conduct annual reviews of these metrics and adjust strategies accordingly. While marketing is essential, communities must ensure they can support growth without losing their character. The most successful rural revitalization efforts maintain a balance between progress and preservation. This includes careful zoning, infrastructure planning, and community engagement in development decisions. Rural communities possess unique advantages in an increasingly digital and mobile world. By implementing comprehensive marketing strategies that emphasize authenticity, leverage regional partnerships, and target specific demographics, small towns can position themselves for sustainable growth. Success requires patience, consistent effort, and community-wide commitment to both promotion and development. The future of rural America lies not in competing with urban centers, but in offering distinct alternatives that appeal to changing workforce and

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Butte County Courthouse
Commission Meeting Room
839 5th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Phone: 605-892-4485

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENED AT 9:30 A.M. on February 4, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Walton, Batterman, and Brunner.

Chairperson Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Pastor Tim Smith led with a moment of prayer.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk to approve the meeting agenda with swapping order of #8 and #9 and addition of 8.5 Executive Session Legal Counsel; 1-25-2(3). Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner, to approve the Consent Agenda Items with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Discussion was held regarding two bills and application for occupancy on right away.

Consent Agenda - The following items were placed on the consent agenda for final action to be taken on all items by a single vote. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda by any member of the Commission for separate consideration.

- a. Approval of Regular meeting minutes – 21Jan2025
- b. Bills per Printout
- c. Apportioning and Other payments
- d. Auditor's Monthly Settlement with Treasurer

**AUDITOR'S MONTHLY SETTLEMENT WITH TREASURER
BUTTE COUNTY
December 31, 2024**

CHECKING/SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Wells Fargo Checking	\$ -	
First Interstate Bank	\$ 486,023.02	
Pioneer Bank and Trust	\$ 51,033.56	
Total Checking/Savings Accounts		\$ 537,056.58

INVESTOR ACCOUNTS

Pioneer Bank and Trust	\$ 448,022.52	
First Interstate Bank	\$ 297,513.40	
Total Investor Accounts		\$ 745,535.92

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

First National Bank	\$ 2,955,041.72	
First Interstate Bank	\$ 2,095,086.67	
Pioneer Bank and Trust	\$ 1,342,869.19	
Total Certificates of Deposit		\$ 6,392,997.58

Total Cash Accounts

Cash on Hand	\$ 1,745.00	
Total Cash Accounts		\$ 7,677,335.08
Insufficient Fund Checks In-process	\$ 45.00	
Total General Ledger Balance		\$ 7,677,380.08

COUNTY AUDITOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

COUNTY TREASURER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

- e. Travel Request
 - i. Sheriff, Sheriff Lamphere to speak to congressmen on immigration reform in Washington, DC, from February 25-26, 2025.
 - ii. Sheriff, Cassandra Hale to attend SCRAM Systems Level 2 Training in Deadwood, SD, from April 30-May 02, 2025.
- f. Wage Increases
 - i. Auditor – Sandy Heidrich Longevity Tier 2 \$27.62
 - g. Highway
 - i. Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Highways – Butte Electric Coop – Beet Rd – Underground Powerline

Beginning at 9:39 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened with Dale Simanton and Sue Broadhurst speaking on the condition of roads, Highway Committee members, the addition of prayer, the description of bills in the report, water and food expenses, Auditor employees, the increase of levies, spending and budgeting.

Dispatch Supervisor Julia Day provided a monthly activity report with a breakdown of calls and a brief explanation of statistics. 40% of calls are from the county and 60% are from the City of Belle Fourche.

Sheriff Lamphere provided quotes for Generator and transfer switch repair. Summer of 2024 issues began occurring with switch, observation and testing was done. It was determined transfer switch needs to be replaced. Discussion was held regarding generator, load capacity, and budget.

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner, to approve the quote for Repairs and Switch Replacement from White's Electric Service & Technology. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

States Attorney Tim Barnaud gave an activity report that included charged cases, types of cases, number of people in custody, Dispatch Agreement with the City of Belle Fourche, and recent arrest led by Butte and Lawrence Counties.

Auditor Capp gave an activity report including building repair and maintenance activities and the status of property tax bills.

Auditor Capp presented the 2024 Butte County Report Fair Board Report. Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner, to accept the 2024 Butte County Fair Board Report. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Auditor Capp presented Resolution 2024-20 Opposition to Mandatory Electronic Identification (MEID) Livestock Tags. Discussion was held

Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk to approve Amendment of Resolution 2024-20. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Discussion was held regarding the stance of several surrounding counties. Resolution 2024-20 is a supportive, political document and has no liability for the County. Current processes by industry are effective and the bill is not needed.

**BUTTE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2024-20
OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (MEID) LIVESTOCK TAGS**

WHERE AS: The traceability program is incremental. USDA APHIS stated on its website, updated October 11th, 2024 after approving the new rule, that it "is committed to implementing a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter," and

WHERE AS: The cost of EID tags disproportionately burdens small and medium sized independent farmers and ranchers. The USDA rule allows large, corporate-owned herds to be grouped and tagged as one group, creating huge loopholes that keep costs low for larger companies, and

WHERE AS: The EID mandate would potentially interfere with price discovery found in traditional markets, thereby furthering vertical integration of the US food supply at the expense of the consumer and independent producer, and

WHERE AS: South Dakota Codified Law 40-3-27 provides for identification of animals and premises involved in animal movement. The Animal Industry Board may develop and implement specific programs for the identification of animals and premises involved in animal movements. Any program implemented pursuant to §§ 40-3-27 to 40-3-29, inclusive, must provide for confidentiality of identification records other than those records requested by law enforcement officers of the state and those records used for mandatory disease control or eradication efforts. A livestock owner may choose to identify animals using any methods set forth in 9 C.F.R. part 86, as adopted on January 9, 2013, as well as any additional methods that are later approved by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board pursuant to this section, and

WHERE AS: The EID mandate is far overreaching, intrusive and potentially circumvents privacy laws, threatening the livelihood of independent cattle and bison producers, and
WHERE AS: Independent, family-owned cattle ranches are of paramount importance to our local economy and to the economy as a whole, and

WHERE AS: The comments received by USDA APHIS in the rulemaking process were overwhelmingly against the new rule, and

WHERE AS: America has the safest and highest quality meat in the world using our current, fully functioning and effective traceability system. The mandated rule claims to be about animal health, but does nothing to prevent or treat disease, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Butte County Commissioners requests that all elected officials make every effort to block this government overreach by the USDA.

Approved and adopted this 4th day of February 2025

James Ager, Chair, Butte County Commission

ATTEST: _____
Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner to enter into Executive Session: Legal Counsel 1-25-2(3) at 10:11 AM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Exited Executive Session at 10:53 AM. No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner to enter into Executive Session: Cyber Security 1-25-2(6.4) at 10:55 AM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Exited Executive Session at 11:20 AM. No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

VIEWPOINT | The NEA's stranglehold on the GOP in South Dakota

Column by
Jason Pieper



Recent actions of the South Dakota Education Association (SDEA), the state affiliate of the National Education Association (NEA), indicate a significant financial influence on the GOP in South Dakota. As a public education and transparency advocate, I recently observed the legislative debate surrounding Senate Bill 161, a bill that proposed limiting administrator pay to 300 percent of average teacher salaries. The bill failed 13 to 22. Discussion highlighted the stark pay disparity between administrators (ranked 16th nationally) and teachers (ranked 49th nationally) in South Dakota.

Rather than addressing this disparity or proposing amendments, most lawmakers resorted to the familiar "local control" argument – an overused excuse that often deflects legislative responsibility for \$1 billion in annual public education spending (44 percent of the state's budget). Notably, Sen. Jamie Smith, D-Sioux Falls, defended the highest earners, stating: "I think our teacher salaries are getting better."

SDEA financials: A closer look

A review of the SDEA's 2022 nonprofit tax return reveals striking salary figures:

The SDEA's four employees earn between \$143,000 and \$187,000 per year, funded through educator membership dues.

In contrast, South Dakota

teachers earn an average salary of \$53,153, which is \$9,000 below a minimum living wage, according to NEA data.

The Sioux Falls School District alone deducts \$55,000 per month from educator paychecks for SDEA membership dues. However, local education associations retain only a very small portion of these funds, with a significant share sent to the NEA headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The direct financial benefits to local educator members remain unclear and largely unaccounted for. Efforts to track the SDEA's political expenditures and its financial relationship with its political action committee, EPIC-PAC, are obstructed by a lack of transparency – the Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities section (Schedule C) of the SDEA's 2022 tax return is left blank. Inquiry with the Office of Secretary of State, Division of Elections, resulted in the following response: "We are the filing agency for campaign finance reports. The committees are responsible and swear to the accuracy of their findings. We recommend you contact EPIC to explain the unitemized contributions."

NEA and GOP political contributions

While NEA political influence is well-documented, the SDEA's significant contributions to GOP candidates in South Dakota stand out, given the state's conservative bolster. The SDEA's political action arm, EPIC-PAC, is one of the state's largest PACs, with its treasurer also serving as the CFO of the SDEA (Holly Frederick) – a dual role that raises accountability concerns.

A June 2024 KELO article by Bob Mercer detailed \$71,000 in political contributions from

EPIC-PAC for the 2024 primary elections, with individual donations ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000. In 2022, the SDEA contributed \$60,000 in primary election funding and \$31,250 in general election funding. Several GOP candidates received \$4,000 contributions from the state's NEA affiliate. Notables are:

- Sen. Stephanie Sauder (R) (Education Committee member) (\$4000)
- Sen. Tim Reed (R) (\$4000)
- Sen. Sydney Davis (R) (\$4000)
- Sen. Steve Kolbeck (R) (\$4000)
- Former Rep. Tony Venhuizen (R) (\$2500)
- Senate Republican Campaign Committee (\$2500)
- Rep. Mike Stevens (R) (\$2,000)
- Rep. Casey Crabtree (R) (\$2,000)
- SD House GOP PAC (\$1,500)
- Rep. Will Mortenson (R) (\$1,500)
- Former Sen. Lee Schoenbeck (R) (\$1,000)
- Sen. Kyle Schoenfish (R) (\$1000)

Call for financial transparency

As the husband of a lifelong elementary teacher, the lack of transparency demonstrated by the SDEA is more than agitating. We need greater transparency so South Dakota educators will know exactly what political candidates and activities they are funding. Today they do so without clear knowledge or consent – a serious issue that deserves legislative and public scrutiny.

After all the source of the camouflaged monies comes directly from the taxpayer's pockets- most notably teachers themselves.

Jason H. Pieper is from Watertown..

SCOUTING REPORT | walleye fishing contest

Jonathan Ellis

jonathan@thedakotascout.com

South Dakota will join the Midwest Walleye Challenge this year, along with Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana and Michigan. The event is hosted by Anglersatlas.com and the MyCatch app.

It's a "citizen science" research event aimed at assessing walleye fisheries in those states. Anglers who participate will be reporting the size of their catches and the location. Reporting catches will qualify participants for prizes valued at a total of \$5,000.

"South Dakota has many waters which cannot all be surveyed each year. Anglers can provide walleye lengths to show biologists what is present in more waterbodies than we can reach," said Brian Blackwell, regional fisheries biologist for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

In addition to getting information about walleye numbers on lakes that GF&P didn't survey, it will allow the fisheries officials to compare the fish anglers are taking with fish the GF&P officials caught on lakes they did survey.

The hope is that the data will help officials more effectively manage fisheries to the benefit of those who use them. It will also allow officials to compare angler data with other regional states.

It's \$25 to enter, but participants get a \$20 gift certificate to Discount Tackle after they enter their first catch. The Midwest Challenge runs from April 1 to June 29.

More information can be found at: <https://www.anglersatlas.com/event/848/2025-midwest-walleye-chal>



Committee Reports were given:

- Batterman – Butte County Railroad Authority, officers elected, projects discussed
- Walton – Ambulance purchase in progress
- The upcoming SDACC workshop was discussed.
- Building working group met regarding building needs, courtroom flip, needed assessment, current and future needs, and collaboration with the City of Belle Fourche.

Old/Unfinished/New Business:

Informational: The legislative calendar and the status of some bills were discussed. Commissioners also discussed moving away from hard copy packets at meetings by using tablets. More research will be done with the County's IT contractor.

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 A.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

PAYMENTS

SALARY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE/PLANNING \$9,098.21, AUDITOR'S OFFICE \$17,011.75, BUILDING- \$0, COMMISSIONERS \$4,158.92, DISPATCH \$17,810.43, ELECTION- \$0, EM/911 \$989.72, EXTENSION \$1,936.80, HIGHWAY DEPT/WEED CONTROL \$26,821.47, JUDICIA- \$0, NURSE'S/WIC OFFICE \$1,213.92, REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE \$4,794.20, SHERIFF/JAIL DEPT \$25,093.80, STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE \$12,417.22, TREASURER'S OFFICE \$10,518.99, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE \$878.85.

COUNTY SHARE FICA
BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$10,170.05

SDRS RETIREMENT
BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$7,573.58

GROUP INSURANCE
BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$0

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
ALPN IMP & FB \$70.00, ANDRSN PLMB \$903.43, A-Z SHRD \$11.46, BMS \$400.00, BH TITL \$179.99, JURORS \$929.54, WITNESSES \$73.50, B KOOL \$120.00, CNTY DRUG \$295.97, DBL STAR \$2,404.98, FISH \$99.00, H SBERS \$60.00, J VAN RKEL \$60.00, JDOG \$600.00, K HUNT \$1,250.00, KNY LAW \$11,180.59, KLINE FNRL \$2,000, KONE \$507.51, LYCOX ENTPR \$53,780.00, MNMNT HLTH NTRWRK \$393.21, MNMNT HSPTL RC \$171.00, NLSN LAW \$1,037.10, OCNOR CMPNY \$187,007.40, RDWD TOXLGY \$43.05, R BCHMN \$180.00, S FSCHR \$60.00, STGIS AMBULN \$360.00, THMSN RUTRS \$354.26, TYLR TECH \$ 5,040.00

PUBLICATIONS
BH PIONR \$625.51

RENT/LEASE
A&B BSNS \$245.86, CNTRY BSNS \$1,082.67, CLGN BH \$20.38, DJ CNSTRCTN \$2,800.00, RELX \$349.00

REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE
G&R CNTRL \$1,240.00, RNDY TIRE \$174.98, WHITSTAR \$65.20

SUPPLIES
A & J CLOTH \$75.25, A & J SPLY \$109.09, ARCT SPLC \$692.96, BRITE \$252.00, BTLR MCHN \$136,001.17, DKTA FLUD \$816.51, DKTA LMBR \$30.26, DMC PRTS \$2,833.00, FRST INTRSTE \$3,837.89, HLYRD SF \$400.01, OFCE EMP \$246.07, SD DOT \$12,651.83, SD SCTRY STE \$50.00, SBWY \$150.95

UTILITIES
BHE \$566.11, BLEPK \$2,359.42, CTY BF \$398.76, MDU \$2,043.37, REFSE SLTNS \$393.55

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: James Ager, Chairperson

ATTEST: Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

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JEANS

COWBOYS TOO!

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Roots Grow Deep and Strong # 35

Good Fences, Stone Walls, and Boundaries



Meg English

I love to visit historic sites. In southern France you can't travel more than a few miles in any direction without coming across the remains of a medieval castle, military fortification, or battleground.

Some of the structures are modest in comparison to others, some have been carefully restored and are open to the public, some have fallen to ruins. However, all were built with the same purpose, to keep enemies out and to secure personal safe boundaries for those within.

The presence of these ubiquitous medieval fortifications here in the south of France remind me of the time-honored adage, "Good fences make

good neighbors." The words come from a poem by Robert Frost called Mending Wall.

Frost's poem, Mending Wall is all about boundaries. The proclamation "Good fences make good neighbors." suggests how fences create necessary boundaries that help people get along better. That's why we need to keep building and maintaining walls.

"Good Fences make good neighbors." is something that Frost's neighbor says. So, it's the neighbor's point of view that fences are necessary for maintaining good relationships between people. The phrase is repeated more than once.

To get along with his neighbor, the poet agrees to help mend the stone wall that separates his property from his neighbor's even though the fence seems pointless to him.

Frost, who was also a farm-

er, argues,

"My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines."

Maintaining a stone wall is tricky, and hard work too. Stones are not content to stay where you place them. They tend to topple and leave big open spaces in the fence and are perpetually in need of maintenance.

"To each the boulders that have fallen to each.

And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:

'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'
We wear our fingers rough with handling them."

The poet continues to help his neighbor rebuild the wall year after year even though he becomes

annoyed by his neighbor's inability to explain why the wall is so important.

"I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed."

"He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'"

Robert Frost was a quintessential American poet. He won the Pulitzer Prize four times. He is much admired for depictions of the rural life in New England, his use of everyday American speech, and his

realistic portrayal of ordinary people. Several of his phrases such as "Good fences make good neighbors" have become ingrained in the American mindset.

Frost died at the age of 88 in 1963, shortly following his reading of an original poem at the John F. Kennedy's presidential inauguration.

There was a lot of fence building going on during Robert Frost's lifetime. Frost would have been in his late 60s when the Atlantic wall came into existence.

The Atlantic Wall refers to a vast collection of concrete fortifications built by the Germans between 1942 and 1944 along the Atlantic Ocean coast in Europe and Scandinavia. The purpose of the project was to defend German occupied regions from Allied attacks during WWII. The wall of fortifications did its job well for a while. There were an estimated 25,000 bunkers built in the Atlantic wall most of them in France.

Over 17 million cubic meters of concrete and 1.2 million tons of steel were used to construct the wall. Over the years some of the structures have tumbled into the sea or have been demolished

However, many of them remain intact. The guns are mostly gone, long ago removed and repurposed. The fortifications no longer serve as barrier borders, but as museums, and repositories of artifacts. Visitors are allowed to stroll among the ruins. With a little imagination one can imagine the formidable coastline environment from 1942-1944. The German bunkers left me with a chill when I first toured them. Deep holes in the ground near the towns remain in those areas too remnants of war.

My granddaughter, Teannah, likes to talk about history. She's

13.

"The bunkers are ginormous." She commented when she saw a photograph of a soldier posing beside a concrete bunker in Normandy. "Ginormous" is of course a composite word blend of giant, gargantuan, and enormous.

I explain that the fortifications contained artillery, guns, soldiers' quarters. That it was 'nice' of the French workers to help them build the concrete bunkers in Normandy for free or in some cases nominal wages and "nice" of the French contractors who provided materials and likely profited from the exchange. I told her.

Teannah was hooked. "Papa and I have been there." "We have visited the coast of northern France near where the D-Day invasion took place in 1944. We'll take you there sometime." She nods and I can see that she is interested in hearing more. I take advantage of the opportunity.

Mending Wall is a relevant poem. There is certainly no shortage of barriers and efforts to build fences in the world today. I'm thinking that when Robert Frost witnessed the Atlantic wall project he would have understood that it is human nature to build fortifications.

He would have asked what the barriers were for? Who or what were they intended to keep in our out? He would have understood that the phrase "Good fences make good neighbors" would be the response always. He would also have understood that boundaries are subject to movement and are not essentially permanent where they are originally placed, but that the idea of is everlasting. Somehow, it's helpful to understand how human nature works from the perspective of poetry and personal observation.



Château de Requesens, La Jonquera, Spain



Map of the Atlantic Wall (Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons)



Monetary buildings at Fort de Belgarde, Perthus, Spain



A soldier, presumably German, stands beside one of the great German Bunker guns (Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons)



Some existing Bunkers on the Normandy coast of France as they appear today. (Above and below Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons)





GARDEN TO TABLE
EDUCATION EVENT FREE TO THE PUBLIC
March 29 | 1-5 PM | Snappers Club, Spearfish

This event is put on by the Northern Hills Master Gardeners Space is Limited; please Register at northernhillsmastergardeners@yahoo.com

Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church Mission Committee's
SOUP & DESSERTS
Fundraiser
Proceeds for Local Missions

Sunday – March 2
11:45 am to 2:00 pm
\$10.00 – ages 12 & up
\$5.00 – ages 2 -11

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Desserts
Rolls & Drinks

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Hippology and Horse Bowl Results

Stephanie Crago
 Special to the Beacon

Butte/Lawrence County 4-H teams fared well at the Hippology and Horse Quiz Bowl that took place at the 2025 Black Hills Stock Show Youth Day on February 8.

Hippology Teams:
 Lawrence County JR Team
 1. Remi Crago
 2. Katy Scott
 1. Haddie Casteel
 2. Addison Brownell

Reserve Champion Jr Hippology Team

Butte County JR Team
 1. Kyler Schmidt
 2. Jace Hiles
 3. Trenden Carr
 4. Jozi Deaton

- Rylie Sleep
 - Alexis Nielsen
 - Ella Roberts
 - Sedona Marshall
- Horse Quiz Bowl Teams**
- Lawrence County Team
 1. Remi Crago
 2. Katy Scott
 3. Ella Roberts
 4. Haddie Casteel
- Butte County Team
 1. Kyler Schmidt
 2. Jace Hiles
 3. Trenden Carr
 4. Jozi Deaton
- Penn County Team
 1. Sedona Marshall
 2. Samantha Owens
 3. Rylie Sleep
 4. Addison Brownell
- *Made it to 2nd Round**

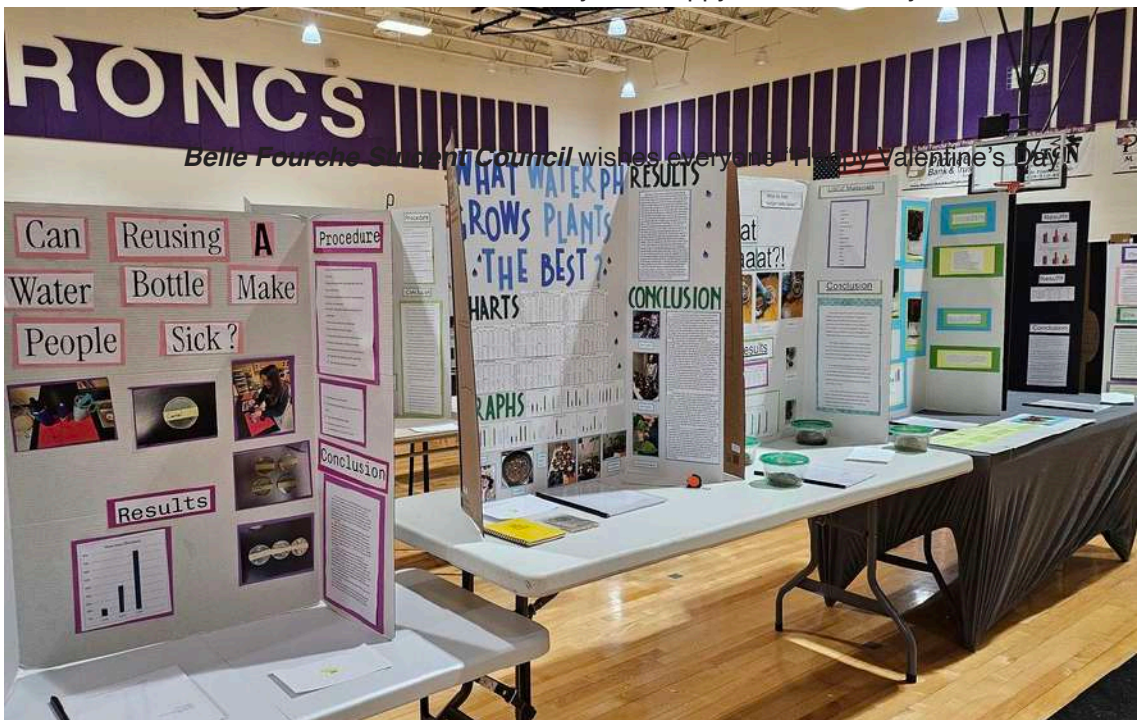


Reserve Champion JR Hippology Team- Lawrence County Team: Addison Brownell, Haddie Casteel, Remi Crago, and Katy Scott, not pictured). (Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Crago)

Middle School Science Fair Photographs



Belle Fourche Student Council wishes everyone "Happy Valentine's Day!"



Belle Fourche Middle School students presented their science fair projects last week in the Middle School auditorium. (above & below)



REE education opportunity **"Garden to Table"** Sat March 29 from 1 to 5pm at the **Spearfish Snappers Club** in Spearfish City Campground. Topics include: Container Gardening, Vegetable Garden Planning, How Much Water, Highest Yield Vegetables, Growing the Best Tomatoes, Make your own Strong Tomato Cages, How to Protect from Hail, Good Bugs & Bad Bugs. Space is limited so Register by March 15 at northernhillsmastergardeners@yahoo.com. Sponsored by **Northern Hills Master Gardeners and City of Spearfish.**



L-R back row: Jace Hiles, Trenden Carr, Katy Scott, Ella Roberts, Addison Brownell, Remi Crago; L-R front row: Kyler Schmidt, Jozi Deaton, Haddie Casteel, Sedona Marshall. (Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Crago)

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Q&A: Dusty Johnson talks Trump, tariffs and the Panama Canal

Bart Pfankuch
sdnewswatch.org

South Dakota U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson has a front-row seat in Congress to all the changes accompanying the new White House resident down the street on Pennsylvania Avenue. And he posted a photo on social media Sunday thanking President Donald Trump for inviting him to the Super Bowl.

During a visit to the Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City a week earlier, the Republican weighed in on the top issue constituents want to talk about, why he sponsored a bill to buy back the Panama Canal, his thoughts on the presidential pardons of Capitol rioters and other issues.

Here, in his own words, are Johnson's answers, which have been edited for length.

Question: What are you hearing from your constituents in Rapid City today?

Answer: "It's still a lot about the border. I mean, really, in the last two years, that has been the dominant policy topic. People have seen how quickly things have changed. They saw that in the House. We passed the Laken Riley Act (that requires detainment of illegal immigrants who commit crimes) and then we got it signed into law by President Trump. They have seen that border crossings are fallen by two-thirds in a relatively short span of time. So I think there's some optimism around the idea that we can actually solve some of these public policy problems that were, really, the referendum that the November election turned on."

Q: What are your top priorities in the current session of the U.S. House of Representatives?

A: "I'm a big believer in work requirements. We, of course, we need to have programs that help people out when they're in trouble, when they're down and out. If you're able-bodied, you should work. ... I would tell you, also, the Chinese Commu-

nist Party is also a much bigger threat than most Americans realize. And so my bill to prohibit the Chinese Communist Party from buying American farmland, that is a real crowd-pleaser because I think everyone understands food security is national security. And there is no reason we should give an adversary control over our food supply. ... And then the border, of course."

Q: Are you concerned at all about immigration crackdowns affecting South Dakota agriculture or businesses?

A: "To the extent that there are South Dakota businesses who may be relying on the illegal labor, on labor that's not allowed to be here, they are. They are going to be impacted. Americans here illegally understand they're here illegally. I've talked to a number of folks. I mean, 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."

Q: Why did you sponsor the bill to allow the U.S. to take over control of the Panama Canal?

A: "I think the president should be given the flexibility to go have the conversation. I get it, a lot of folks on the left don't like Donald Trump. I do get a little frustrated at all of the pearl clutching, the idea that it's dangerous to even have a conversation. ... It seems like some on the left are more comfortable with Chinese Communist Party influence in the Panama region than they are with American influence. ... It is an asset that is uniquely important to our country. I don't know whether buying back the canal is possible. I don't know whether it's prudent. But I don't know why we wouldn't at least evaluate whether or not there's a willing buyer, willing seller situation."

Q: How would you describe the mood in Congress now that a new president has taken office?

A: "Donald Trump said throughout the campaign that when he came to office, he was going to roll back a lot of the executive orders that Joe Biden put into place. And of course, I've grown increasingly uncomfortable with all of these executive orders that these presidents put out there because I think Congress should be making the laws. And so I think it's refreshing to see the president roll back some of these Biden executive orders, in essence undoing a wrong. ... I think that the mood in Congress is one of enthusiasm and excitement. I think we know that there is a real possibility that Congress will be able to pass legislation that secures the border and is bipartisan, and to roll back regulations. I think we will have a number of bills that roll back regulations, that will pass on a bipartisan basis, overwhelmingly. ... You get a certain amount of outrage around Donald Trump. That is indeed for political purposes rather than for legitimate policy concerns."

Q: What impact do you expect to see from Trump's plan to impose new tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico and China?

A: "One thing that the Trump administration said, even in the information they've released to the public, they use the word 'leverage.' I think they are interested in making sure that we have, No. 1, a fair trading relationship with other countries, and, No. 2, that those countries are doing what they can to stop the flow of poison, fentanyl and (methamphetamine), into this country. And so it seems to me that the president has been very clear that these are areas where he wants to have leverage in conversations with these countries. And I do think there are

ways in which targeted tariffs can be helpful in building some domestic industry. Clearly, you can overdo tariffs too. I mean, this is a policy tool that I think Donald Trump understands can be used for leverage can be used in a targeted way. Those would be the most effective ways to make sure that we make America stronger. I mean, how much did the Trump tariffs contribute to inflation in his first term? It was the lowest rate of inflation in modern economic history. The real wages were growing at twice the rate of inflation, which is remarkable. Wage growth was growing at twice the rate of inflation, and Trump certainly used tariffs in targeted ways in his first term, in ways that did not contribute to widespread inflation. Again, I think it's not to look at a tool as inherently good or inherently bad. We want to look at it like a lot of tools, which is, 'OK, how do you use this tool in the most productive way?'"

Q: How do you feel about Trump's pardon for almost all the Jan. 6, 2021, rioters who stormed the Capitol in Washington?

A: "We shouldn't be condoning violence. Clearly, I think I would view people who trespass differently than people who attack police officers. One thing we know is that the Constitution gives the president unilateral power in that way. And I was, of course, disappointed when President Biden gave a blanket and probably the most sweeping pardon in American history to his son. And so I understand why people

wonder if this pardon power that we give the president and the Constitution is perhaps too broad. ... Of course, we should not condone those who commit violence against police officers. And I think Americans are right to wonder whether or not the power, the pardon power, as it exists in the Constitution, if that's a little too broad. I think what Joe Biden did with his son was concerning, and I can understand why others feel that way about the Jan. 6 pardons."

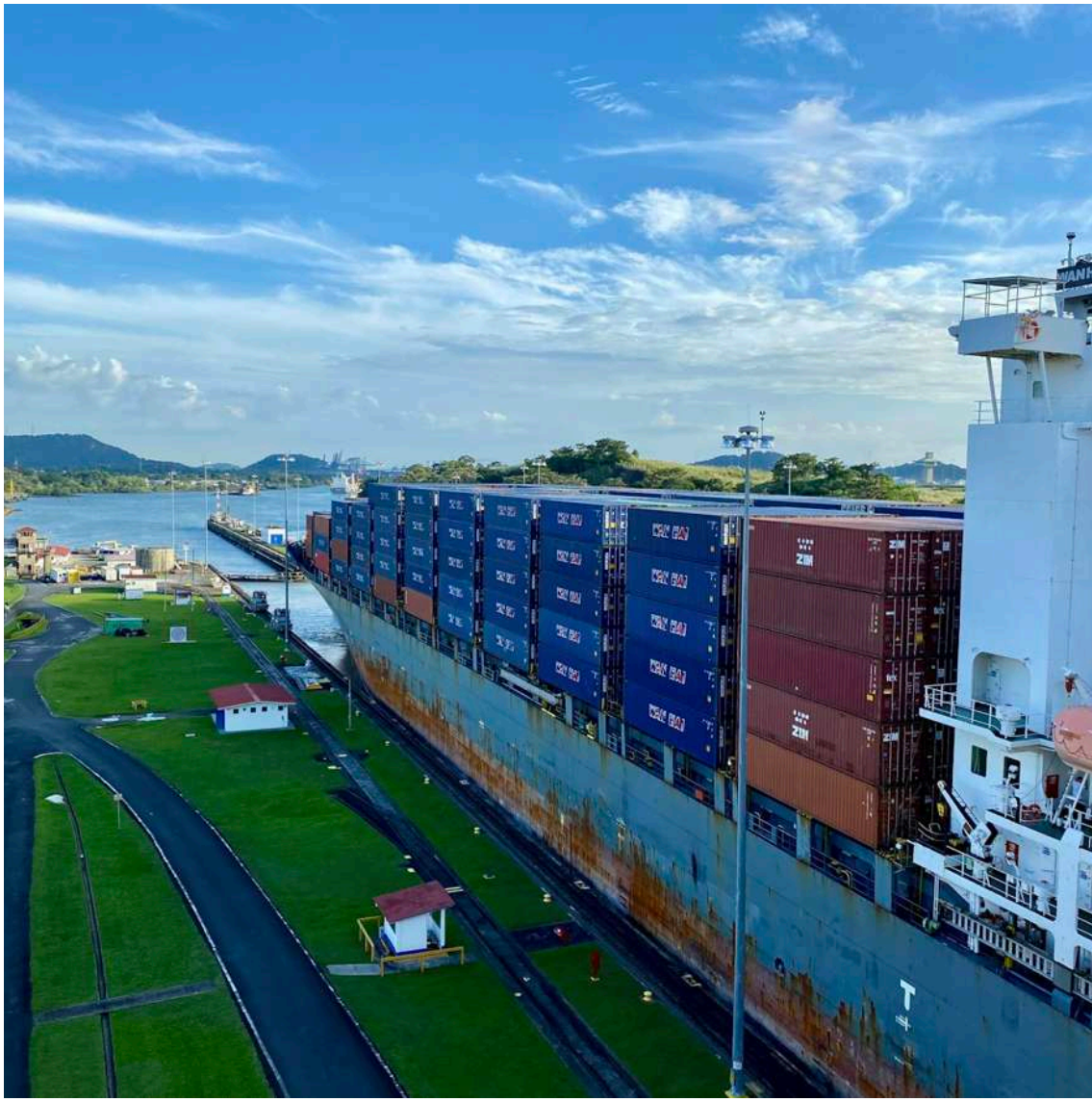
Q: What's the next step for you in your career?
A: "Let's go get the reconciliation package we're working on the House done. I mean, let's make sure we don't increase taxes on American families by \$5 trillion, and let's make sure we secure the border and let's make sure we roll back regulations. There will always be time to play politics. There will be time for me to play politics down the road. I've just got to be focused on getting our job done. I mean, we are 12 days into Donald Trump's term. I think South Dakotans could rightfully be a little irritated if I was already looking toward the next election."

Share your thoughts on this story

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 to get stories when they're published. Contact Bart Pfankuch at bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org.

"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."

Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota



The Panama Canal. (Photo by Rikin Katyal / Unsplash)

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



International educators help alleviate SD teacher shortage

Bart Pfankuch

www.sdnewsWatch.org

STEPHAN, S.D. – “Three, two, one. OK, in your seats.”

Just as she did as a teacher in her native Philippines, Madgelie Camba uses a countdown method to gain the attention of the gaggle of second-graders she now teaches at the Crow Creek Tribal School in central South Dakota.

Her diminutive stature and slight Filipino accent create no barriers to effectively managing and teaching the students, who on a recent day were in their seats with pencils ready by the time Camba’s countdown reached its end.

“I have to be strict with my kids, very consistent, so they get used to a routine,” said Camba, who has 24 years of teaching experience. “After that, they will be more motivated to learn.”

Camba is part of a growing trend in which South Dakota school districts are increasingly hiring international teachers on visa programs to fill open classroom positions.

In all, 446 international teachers hold active certificates to teach in South Dakota schools, said Mary Stadick Smith, deputy secretary for the South Dakota Department of Education. The number of certificates issued to international teachers peaked in the 2023-24 school year, when 138 new certificates were issued, she said.

About 50 public school districts, roughly 25% of the state total, had foreign teachers on staff in 2024, the DOE said. The top three countries of origin are the Philippines, Columbia and Spain.

The DOE said the foreign instructors teach a variety of subjects and grade levels, and all must have valid visas and state certification as required by law.

Filling gaps in the classroom

South Dakota, like nearly every other U.S. state, struggles with a shortage of teachers, making international educators a hot prospect for desperate administrators.

As of January, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota had 366 openings listed on its statewide education job board, though that included some non-teaching positions. In early February, the Sioux Falls School District listed 37 teacher openings, and the Rapid City Area Schools had 45 openings.

An aging workforce and high level of retirements, low pay compared to other states and increased political tension in the classroom are creating the teacher shortage, according to prior reporting by News Watch.

Across the country in 2022, there were 36,000 teacher vacancies and about 163,000 educators teaching classes they were not certified or trained in, according to the Annenberg EdExchange at Brown University.

South Dakota Education Secretary Joseph Graves said in an email to News Watch that the state supports the use of international teachers.

“This has proved to be an effective strategy in remote areas of the state where schools have an especially difficult time finding qualified teachers,” Graves wrote. “While DOE is not involved in local hiring decisions, we are supportive of districts’ efforts to use qualified international teachers as one strategy for addressing teacher shortages.”

Schools adapt to teacher vacancies in several ways, including doubling class sizes, obtaining a state waiver to employ a long-term substitute or using computers to access virtual teaching.

But for Rob Coverdale, superintendent of Crow Creek Tribal School district in Stephan, those options were unacceptable because student learning could be negatively affected.

Attracting experienced foreign teachers

Instead, Coverdale has led an effort to recruit more international teachers to the district, which now employs 22 teachers from the Philippines, making up roughly half its certified teaching staff.

“It’s hard to get teachers anywhere, but out here in Stephan, it’s even harder,” he said of the tiny community that is about an hour drive from Pierre or Chamberlain. “So having 100% certified teachers on staff, it’s a nice place to be.”

Hiring international teachers is time-consuming and expensive, costing about \$5,000 to \$8,000 per employee, Coverdale said. The costs, sometimes paid to companies that arrange for teacher hirings, go for documentation to clear customs, obtain a visa, complete a background check and earn state certification.

Teachers come to Crow Creek either on a J-1 non-immigrant visa, which is aimed at cultural exchanges, or an H-1B non-immigrant visa that is for individuals working in specialized, high-need fields of employment. J-1 visas are easier to obtain but last only two to five years, while H-1B visas can last up to six years, Coverdale said.

The teachers who come to South Dakota and other U.S. states tend to have several years of classroom experience and advanced college degrees, Coverdale said. So far, he has been highly impressed with their prowess in teaching and ability to connect with students.

“It’s quite a process, but the end result is you get great, experienced teachers,” he said. “From top to bottom, I’ve been very pleased with their attitudes and the results.”

Coverdale said all of his international teachers are bilingual and speak very strong English, and they bring a refreshing dose of multiculturalism to the schools, the students and their parents and the local community.

The international teachers live in on-campus housing and some have brought their children to learn in local schools and a few brought spouses, including some who also work as teachers or in other positions within the school district. The Filipino teachers have created a collegial atmosphere on the campus, helping each other and often traveling together to Pierre to go shopping or to Huron, where they are able to find Asian foods.

Coverdale said the international teachers are paid on the same scale as other district teachers, with a starting annual salary of \$47,000 that rises with experience and education level.

“It’s an awesome professional and financial opportunity for them,” he said. “Their earning power, especially when it comes to the money value back home, it’s substantial.”

“South Dakota is my home” Camba, 45, lives in a rental home on the Crow Creek school campus with her husband, who also teaches at the school, and their teenage daughter, who attends high school in nearby Highmore.

Earning two salaries in the U.S. has allowed the couple to build a home and buy a farm in the Philippines, and to help support her parents and nine siblings back home.

Camba said the children she teaches at Crow Creek are similar to students she taught in

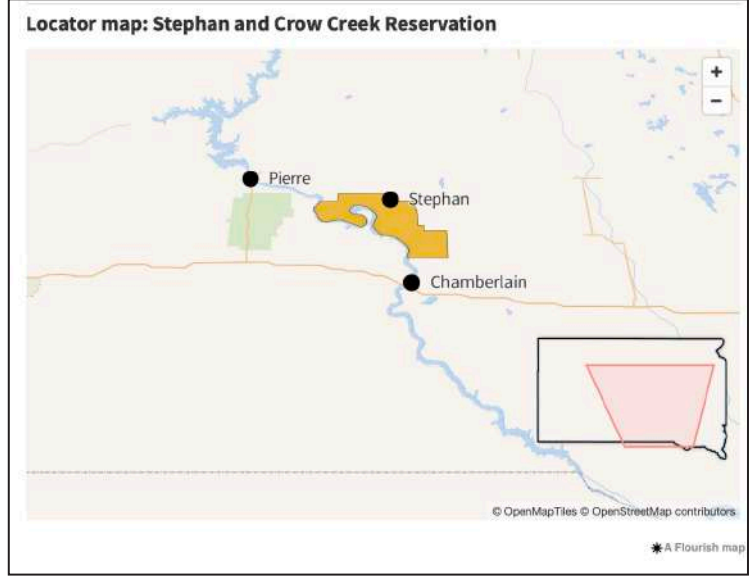


INTERNATIONAL TEACHER EXCHANGE PERMITS

Requirements for teachers from out of the country to teach in South Dakota:

- Completion of approved suicide awareness and prevention program
- Valid J1 or H1B Visa
- Citizenship outside the United States
- U.S. equivalent of a bachelor’s degree or higher
- Foreign educator credential in a teaching field
- Must be certified to teach in state
- Completion of Indian studies course
- Receive offer of employment in SD

Source: SD Department of Education



the Philippines and in Bahrain, though she sees less parental involvement among some American parents, especially those who struggle financially, she said.

Camba said she enjoys the quiet, safe and isolated nature of living in Stephan on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation, though after a couple years, she has soured on the cold weather. “At first, I was excited by snow and the winters, but now I’m tired of it,” she said.

However, between her love for her students and the welcoming nature of the Crow Creek school and local community, Camba said she has become more comfortable in her surroundings. “I’m starting to feel that South Dakota is my home,” she said.

Helping support family back home

Ronneil Vergara is a native of the Philippines who has taught in several foreign countries, including at Crow Creek Tribal School, where he arrived last fall.

Vergara teaches special education – one of the high-need fields in South Dakota schools – and works to improve reading, language and math skills for students with physical or learning disabilities. He has a master’s degree and two doctoral degrees in education and curriculum.

The transition to teaching in the U.S. is fairly easy for many Philippine teachers because the schools there are based on the principles of the American education system and English is the primary language.

Vergara said his salary in the U.S., which is three or four times what he would earn as a teacher in the Philippines, allows him to send money back home, in particular to care for his brother who suffered a traumatic brain injury in an accident.

“My job here sustains him,” he said.

Vergara, 37, is on an H-1B work visa, which is for three years but allows for another three years if renewed. Vergara is also not a big fan of winter weather and can get depressed. But he has found enjoyment in getting his driver’s license, buying a used Ford Explorer and traveling around the state and greater Midwest.

So far, he has been pleased by his decision to teach in South Dakota and feels it has helped him grow as a person and as an educator.

“Some of the parents of my students here have treated me like I was part of their family,” Vergara said. “I have been warmly welcomed, and it has been a pleasure to be of service here in the school. And I hope they are enjoying our presence here.”

International teachers working across the state

The Sioux Falls School District employs a few international teachers but only in its Spanish language immersion program, said district spokeswoman Dee-Ann Konrad.

“In our schools, it is for a specific skill set that they’re coming here with and that’s to speak and teach in their native language of Spanish,” Konrad

said.

George Shipley, superintendent of the Bison School District in remote northwestern South Dakota, first learned of the concept of recruiting foreign teachers when he was an administrator for the McLaughlin School District. When he took the job in Bison, the district already employed teachers from the Philippines, and Shipley has gladly continued the effort.

“These are highly qualified teachers, and on average, we’re getting teachers from the Philippines with 10 years of experience and advanced degrees,” Shipley said. “They are awesome teachers who usually breeze through the certification process of the South Dakota Department of Education.”

The Bison schools have integrated some of the Filipino culture into its schools as a way to educate students and staff and broaden cultural awareness in the community, Shipley said. The school cook has implemented some Filipino dishes into the student menu along with other non-traditional student meals. When a student tries a new dish, they get a sticker to wear home so their parents know they experienced something new, Shipley said.

While he continues to support the district’s foreign teachers and promotes their value inside and outside the school system,

Shipley said the biggest incentive to bring them to Bison is to alleviate the ongoing teacher shortage.

“The bottom line is this: ‘Do you want a teacher in the classroom or do you want your kids to learn virtually through a video screen?’” he said.

The Bison schools contract with a firm called Teach Quest, which works with schools across the country by handling the teacher recruitment and immigration paperwork. It’s a bigger tapestry at our school that allows us to explore new ideas, and these (international) teachers are part of that,” he said.

Shipley said the Bison community has embraced the foreign teachers, with one resident making available a three-bedroom home that is rented by a small group of teachers who live together.

During summers, some Filipino teachers have toured Yellowstone National Park or visited relatives in New Jersey or other states, Shipley said. A couple of Filipino teachers have obtained a driver’s license and a car, which they can sell to new Filipino teachers who come to Bison to teach, he said.

Shipley said he has great respect and a deep appreciation for the guts it takes for Filipino teachers to come to Bison.

“I’m very honored and appreciative of what these folks are doing because it’s a huge culture shock for them,” he said. “You leave a tropical island, you’ve never seen snow in your life, and now you live in northern South Dakota in December? My goodness.”



Madgelie Camba prepares to teach after her second-grade students at Crow Creek Tribal School made their way into the classroom in Stephan, S.D., on Feb. 7, 2025. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)



“These are highly qualified teachers, and on average, we’re getting teachers from the Philippines with 10 years of experience and advanced degrees.”

George Shipley, superintendent of the Bison School District, on South Dakota’s international teacher program

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Army service number (abbr.)
- Move quickly
- Receipt (abbr.)
- Game of skill
- Commotion
- Pulpy fruit
- Afr. gazelle
- Once Zambia
- Inuit house
- Blue-green
- Bit
- Price
- Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
- Agency (abbr.)
- Heroic
- Binary digits
- Peak
- Rough
- Help
- Willingly
- Malay gibbon
- Fluidity unit
- Fifteenth-century helmet

DOWN

- Braz. tree
- Turf
- Name
- Nog (2 words)
- Silver salmon
- Fuss
- Crape fern
- Sambar deer
- 107 (Rom. numeral)
- Afrikaans
- Wood (pref.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CHEM TBS ABAS
AARE AEC ROTC
ATALANTA MALA
MET SKALD TIED
SEAD EAR
PLENARY SCALE
COXADER ACAD
SWIFT NEAREST
SUNG ADA
DDT TOILE ARS
RAILWAINSCOT
ESNEANT LEDA
LAGO NAY RAAD

17 Live coal
19 Eye-infesting worm
21 Woman's work basket
22 Ancient Heb. month
23 Font
26 Cost of living
28 Stretch (2 words)
29 Scientific name (suf.)
30 Certification (abbr.)
32 Band
37 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
40 Beset (2 words)
42 Millrace
43 Geological epoch
44 Den
45 Svelte
46 S. Afr. town
48 Here (Fr.)
50 Sea (Fr.)
51 Before

an evening in Paris
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Schedule of events
PHOTOS & SOCIALIZING 6:00 PM
GRAND MARCH 6:30 PM
DINNER 7:00 PM
DANCE 8:00 PM
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Dinner Menu
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Photos, Games & Socializing 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
Dance 8:00 pm
(ends at 10:00 pm)

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"VE GUCGDBGVNG BM X FXW
GUCGDBGVNG BA YEO HGXDV
METGRLBVP ADET BR."
- XVV HXVWGDM

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you act." - Dr. George W. Crane

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

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Think about how a small child views the world. Everything is new and fresh. A bird sings and it's a new song. The light switch makes a snap and the lights come on. The breeze blows and it brings new smells and fresh air. Your hair moves with the wind—an annoyance or a feeling of crispness?

The wonderment of the world around us can baffle us or intrigue us. And it's all up to us in the way we react. Do you realize that you have more control over how you react than what it seems like?

We can surround ourselves with people who are "nay-sayers" or with "yay-sayers" and we can take our cue from them. I found myself surrounded a few weeks ago with "nay-sayers" and started falling away from my adventures. I didn't notice the breezes moving with a crispness that left me refreshed, but with an attitude that kept saying life was a pit.

The more I listened to others, the deeper that pit was dug. But, you see there's a fire inside of me that doesn't quench with the words of others. Maybe for a time, but not for long. My sense of adventure begins to stir and I see the world as it is—full of good things and strong, loving people.

We live in a great area, full of promises and full of wonderful things. It just takes a bit of time to see everything there is to see. Adventure is right there and it's a mystery to hang on!

I can hardly wait to see what adventure is around the corner! I'm ready!



Kim Bachman, music teacher, with her Middle and High School choir students who sang at the NVN Senior Center on February 11.

Heitz photo

Newell Choir Students Sing Valentine's Day Songs at NVN

Ryder Heitz
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—The Newell Middle and High School Choir ventured to the NVN Senior Center on Tuesday, February 11, where they were met with an audience of senior citizens, peers, and locals as they sang a variety of Valentine's Day themed songs.

Kim Bachman, music teacher, played guitar as the students sang classics like

"Dream Lover," "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," and "Love Me Tender." Selected students also recited love-themed poems in between songs.

"I just knew that when I took over the music program at the Newell school that they had not been out into the public doing things for many, many years. And so that was one of my goals," explained Bachman. "And so you always reach out to the generation before you,

because they are the ones with the wisdom and the knowledge of the community."

The first place Bachman reached out to was the NVN Senior Center, where Patty Karas "opened up her arms" to welcome the choir class.

The students started practicing for the Valentine's Day performance as soon as they finished the Christmas program in December.

"I'm just so proud of the

children. They've not been up in front of audiences before, and I shared with them the way to get over stage fright is to get on stage," said Bachman.

"We've talked a whole lot about the difference between entertaining and performing, and our goal is to be entertainers. They did that today."

The music program's next big event will be the Spring Concert on April 24.



Students shared original poems in between songs. Heitz photo

Business Fair Held at Newell's Middle School

Ryder Heitz
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Newell Middle School's eighth-grade class set up booths for their Business Fair on February 13 at the Middle School gym.

The Business Fair ran alongside the Science Fair from 8:15 to 11 a.m., with the public and other students showing up to support the eighth graders.

The business fair provided the class with an opportunity to work on personal projects and learn how to sell them, handle money, and run a mini business.

Brandyn Shaykett baked and sold cookies for 50 cents each. With the money he earned, he plans to "just save it. Save it for something good."

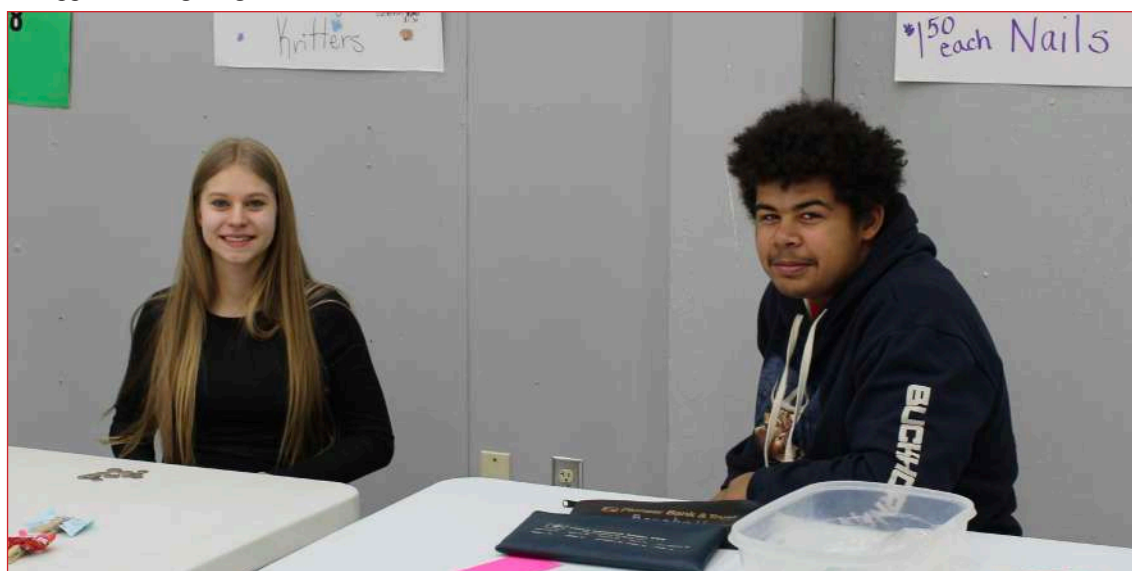
Karley Larson, another student, created candy animals

and called them Karley's Kandy Kritters.

"I had dogs and butterflies," she said.

Sara Barden crocheted carefully hand-made scarves and bracelets.

Other items sold ranged from balancing nails to arts and crafts to a variety of baked goods and everything in between.

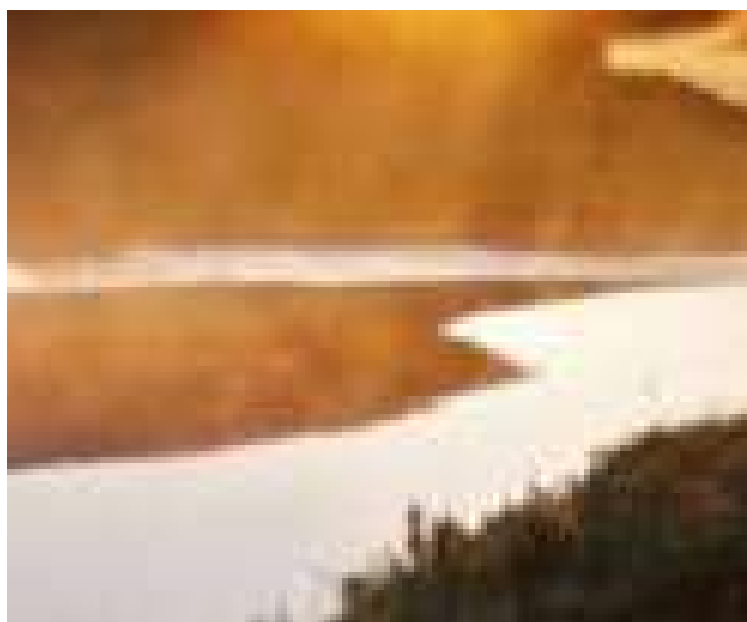


Above: Sara Barden sold handmade crocheted scarves and bracelets.

Far Left: Karley and Jonah sell their goods at the fair.



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

This was a really cold week with a low temperature of -33 below zero early Tuesday morning!

Taz and Amanda invited Casey and Missy and Reub and me down to their house Sunday evening to watch the Super Bowl with them. Taz fed us some of the most delicious steak tips I've ever tasted and he didn't even follow a recipe for them. My grandson is going to have to teach his grandma how to cook!

Sadly, there are more deaths to report: Our good friend Chuck Davis, 79, passed away Saturday, February 8, at the Eastern Montana Nursing Home

in Glendive, MT. His funeral service was at the Buffalo High School Gymnasium on Monday, February 17, in Buffalo.

Hugh E. Ingalls, 95, of Maurine, died Wednesday, February 12, at Monument Health Sturgis Hospital. His loving and devoted wife of 74 years, Eleanor, died on February 4th and Hugh's funeral service was with his dear wife, who passed away 8 days before him, on Thursday, February 13, at the First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis. A memorial has been established to Cedar Canyon Bible Camp. Donations can be directed to Kinkade Funeral Home or sent to Cedar Canyon Camp, in care of Prairie Home Church, 17010 US Highway

212, Faith, SD 57626. I'm so glad I got Hugh Ingalls book "My Life and Stories I Recall" read before both Hugh and Eleanor passed away. It is a really interesting book.

Jace Jensen came down to pick up Taz to go to a bull sale in Colome Monday morning when it was 8 degrees below zero. I had the privilege of going to Reva that afternoon to pick up the kids off the school bus. It was a LOT colder Tuesday morning when we woke up to a minus 33 degrees temperature! School in Buffalo started two hours late so I took the kids to Reva later that morning to catch the school bus and went back down to get them that afternoon.

It was still really cold Wednesday morning so school in Buffalo was two hours late again and Ladies Aid at Slim Buttes Lutheran Church was postponed until Thursday because of the cold weather. I had to go to Lemmon Wednesday afternoon for the three hour training session to get my pesticide applicator certification license. There were ten of us there and Don Drole, Bill Holt and Jerry Fero were the only ones I knew. We all had to set through those three long hours of training that didn't actually teach us much, but at least we earned our pesticide license. It was all most 6:00 when I got home that evening in the cold

weather and my 21 hens only gave me one egg that day! A lot of my hens are getting old and I'm not getting very many eggs anymore, but that was the first time I've only gotten one egg. It's time to start butchering the old hens because they are also eating eggs, but it's just too cold out to start doing that.

We had Ladies Aid on Thursday when it was a little bit warmer with a high of 20 degrees. Patsy Wilkinson was the hostess and after the meeting she fed us a delicious peach cobbler and a really good cheese ball with crackers. Linda Mohagen was up in North Dakota so she wasn't there, but Linda and Pastor Henry came back on Friday. Missy wasn't there because she went to Rapid City to visit her daughter Bryce Hespe and family and didn't get home until Friday evening.

Amanda's Grandma Mona Hight had her birthday on Valentine's Day so Amanda took the kids down to Belle Fourche to help Mona celebrate her birthday with a bunch of the Hight family. Taz had gone to Rapid City that morning and he came back through Belle Fourche to join the celebration. Casey left for Buffalo that day to take the wrestlers down to Bennett County for the wrestling match on Saturday. My chickens are really falling down on their job. I would have gotten five eggs on Friday if they wouldn't have eaten four of them. Wouldn't that be consid-

ered cannibalism to eat their own eggs, even though the egg didn't have a chance to hatch into a chicken? If it wasn't so darn cold out, I'd start butchering some of the old hens.

Taz came home early Saturday morning to do chores with Missy and Reub. Thad came up from Prairie City after lunch to pick up his mail that we get here and he went with Reub to do his afternoon chores before they came back in to watch a rodeo on TV that evening. Amanda and the kids came home late that afternoon and the little people were having fun down at their house when I stopped to see them. When Thad left that evening I sent Hugh Ingalls book with him to take it back to Prairie City so my Bison high school teacher Elva Belle Carr can read it.

In church Sunday morning we prayed for some members of our church and some family members who are having health problems. We got to watch the Valentine movie "Unsung Hero" at Slim Buttes Lutheran Sunday evening and ate some delicious snacks together at the movie.

With Valentine's Day this week, this is the Valentine that the White House came up with that someone put on Facebook:

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Come here illegally
And we'll deport you!

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

February 18, 1915

Henry Wilson, Tom Baldwin and William Uren made a trip to Lead last week as representatives of the farmers on the Belle Fourche River, below the mouth of Whitewood Creek. They went to confer with the Homestake officials relative to payments of damage caused by tailings from the Homestake Mine being continually deposited in the ground along the river. The farmers are demanding \$45,000 damages. If an agreement cannot be made in a lump sum, it may be stipulated amount per acre and the ground surveyed. If the mine and the



The preserved African lion that mauled "Swede" Colgrove. The lion was later donated to the Silver Dollar Saloon in Hill City. Newell Museum

farmers do not come to a settlement, the farmers will institute a suit and fight it out in court.

Letters by Col. Roosevelt and Gilford Pinchot, commenting on the removal of F. H. Newell as Director of the US Reclamation Service, were given to the press recently and there are indications that Newell's friends are intent on at least trying to make a political issue out of the Newell removal by Secretary of Interior Lane. Even so egotistically a person like Pinchot should hope to restore Newell, seems almost impossible. Despite Col. Roosevelt's professional friendship with Newell, it is doubtful he is aware of Newell's action and of the settlers on the federal project when he consented to use his name in connection with the Newell publicity. Newell's removal was due largely, we believe, to his inability to cope with employee personal problems on the Federal projects and unpopularity among the settlers.

There was a jackrabbit hunt last Thursday in the lower Empire country and 237 jacks were shot. The aggregate weight amounted to 1700 pounds. They were shipped to Deadwood. Lewis Wilcox was

the champion killer of 40.

February 12, 1925

A duck, killed by Charles Glessner, had a bone arrowhead imbedded in its breast. It is believed that the arrowhead, which is as sharp as a needle and only an inch in length, is made from walrus bone and may have been there for a considerable length of time.

George Day has installed a small radio and has been successful in picking up, clearly, stations as far distance as Waco, Texas, Oakland, California and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This poor man deserves sympathy, as he now has no time to read, except with his meals, his evenings are spent toying with the dials.

A great many people viewed the Tommy Brown Bridge and the high water and tremendous ice jams at different places in the river last Sunday. Some dynamite was used but very little benefit was derived there for the river ice has been going out. Willow Creek has been up to its banks, but the ice hasn't moved yet.

Vale has a live bunch of baseball enthusiasts and at the first sign of spring approaching, the diamond grubs begin working on them. What they term as the "First Baseball Dance" comes off Friday evening, February 20th, in the Vale Woodman Hall. H. B. Wood is the kingpin booster for the Vale ball tossers and is promoting the benefit dance.

February 14, 1935

Ingvald Severson is rapidly becoming air minded. His son Arthur purchased a Curtis Junior plane over a year ago and last week Ingvald purchased a Swallow 3-passenger ship, thus placing 2 planes in the ownership of one family. Art is an expert pilot, passing an exceptional examination last summer and it is entirely possible that soon we'll see the elder Severson roaming the skyway between Newell and his ranch near Hoover.

Andy Karinen and Lawrence Oliver brought some horses in from Twilight to Newell. R. D. Long has been assisting Mr. Wernerson of Miller in buying horses. All were shipped out of Newell Tuesday.

The CCC boys from Orman Camp are working in the Vale River Valley this week. Donald Glover brings a hot dinner from the Camp, to which they return each evening.

Members of the Newell Volunteer Fire Department were hosts Friday evening to businessmen and their wives at a card party and oyster supper,

by Linda Velder

held in the IOOF Lodge Hall. A large crowd turned out for the occasion.

February 15, 1945

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Spencer returned last week from Wallace, Idaho and Mrs. Spencer (nee Evalyn Kingsbury) resumed teaching Monday in the Vale School. Mrs. J. C. Quinn was substituting during her absence. Mrs. Manuel Lungren is teaching the lower grades at the Empire School in place of Mrs. H. J. Carlson, who had the misfortune to fracture her leg a short time ago.

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Michelson and family were business callers in Rapid City last Saturday. Mr. Michelson has been appointed by Sheriff Dave Malcolm as Deputy for the Newell area. Michelson filled this position under the former Sheriff Elmer Hill and gave satisfactory service. Sheriff Malcolm was visiting this part of the county on Monday of this week on other official business.

Up in Sturgis they are looking for the candidate for "meanest man" who stole one of the "March of Dimes" boxes that had been placed in Tennis' Recreation Parlors. They even wonder if the culprit may be a victim of infantile paralysis some day!

Superintendent G. W. Austin slipped on the icy steps as he was leaving the Lead School building after the basketball game Tuesday evening and suffered a fracture of the right arm just below the shoulder. The injury was x-rayed and treated at the Deadwood Hospital. He expects to be back on the job as usual in a day or two.

February 17, 1955

The Riverside School Band, under the direction of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Benson of Newell, won Second Place honors in the KOTA Talent Search Contest & Show sponsored by the Belle Fourche Lions Club in Rapid City on Friday night. First Place honors in the event went to King sisters, a vocal trio, of Belle Fourche. Members of the Riverside Band include Karen Eide; Carl & Gary Anderson; Mary Garness; Charlotte, Brenda and Lewella Chill.

President Eisenhower's appointment of Sam Bober of Newell to the National Farm Credit Board this past week, is an honor to western South Dakota, to Newell and to the district which he will represent on this high-level board. Bober is a highly respected resident of the west river and has achieved much for agriculture here and throughout the country by the development of seeds partic-

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ularly adapted to the soil and climate of this area. His council has often been sought not only by those high in the US Government, but in other countries.

Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Bekken, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Killinen and daughter of Newell and Mr. & Mrs. Truman Bekken of Spearfish spent Sunday evening at a family gathering at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Shipley and

went to the highway to flag down a motorist to summon aid at nearby Hill City. When officials arrived, Colgrove directed the shooting of the lion while a portion of his head and neck were still in the lion's mouth. The lion was killed taking 5 shots. Colgrove was taken to Custer Hospital for treatment then taken to Rapid City by ambulance where authorities



Sam Bober witnessing President Eisenhower sign the Farm Bill, 1955. Mr. Bober to immediate left of the President and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to the right. Newell Museum

family at Nisland.

Bill Stolnack and Lyman Bruce left Wednesday for Malta, Montana to get the household goods of Rev. & Mrs. William Reitmeyer and daughters Ruth and Wendy, he is the new minister of the Congregational Church. While there, Lyman will visit a sister in Malta.

February 11, 1965

Harvey "Swede" Colgrove, 27, formerly of Newell was reported in "fairly good" condition at Bennett-Clarkson Hospital in Rapid City after being mauled by a 400-pound escaped African lion at the Hill City Zoo, 3:30 Monday afternoon. Swede was a former employee of his brother Cy at the 212-79 Servicenter and with whom he recently purchased the zoo. He had opened the lion's outer cage to feed it when the animal sprang out at him from the inner cage. Colgrove ran but the lion knocked him down within 50 feet and began to chew on him. The lion dragged his victim to the zoo road when Sebastian Heinzman of Newell, hauling a dead cow with a tractor came on the scene. He

reported he received serious injuries to his eyes, ear, skull, neck and 2 spine fractures. After the five-hour surgery, he is expected to be hospitalized from 6 to 8 weeks. Swede never lost consciousness and was able to walk away.

Those from the Nisland community that attended the Old Friends of Vale potluck supper, readings and dance party at Vale Saturday evening were Mr. & Mrs. John Carlson; Mrs. Ione Shevling; Mr. & Mrs. Guy Tucker and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Seifert.

Newell High School is eligible to send 3 boys and 3 girls to Boys' State and Girls' State respectively and candidates have been selected from the upper third of the Junior class, it is announced this week. The following students listed are: Sharyl Haas; Gail Hafner; Kristine Kayray; Patricia Loup; Teresa Minyard; Marjorie Smith; Allene Washburn; Karen Wurnig; Donley Brunner; Brad Dawson; Joel Laumer; Thomas Hurley; Jess Schnell; Steve Smeenk and Larry Stomprud.

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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

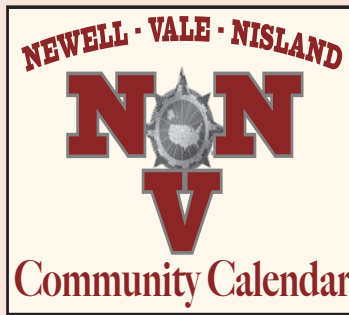
Second Tuesday each month, 4:30, Nisland Town Hall

Feeding South Dakota

Second Thursday every month, 1:30

Newell Library Hours

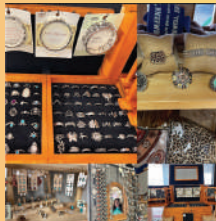
Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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From the Superintendent



The Newell School District has a strong commitment to the

safety and well-being of its students and staff. As a part of our commitment, a plan has been developed to meet accountability and security expectations set forth by our district. As a part of the plan, the district has employed a deputized position with the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

In addition, Newell School District participated in a safety and security review with Brett Garland, Director of South Dakota School Safety. This review will identify areas of strength and need for staff and students. Newell School District has also submitted a Homeland Security

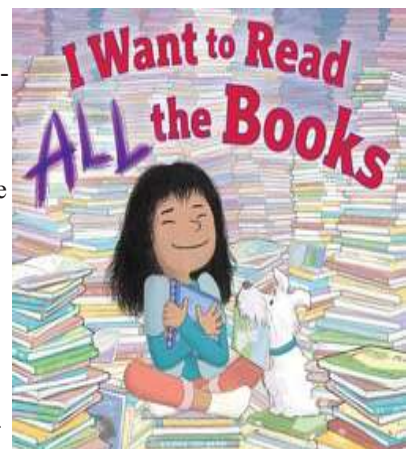
Grant to update the access doors in all structures throughout the district. Lastly, a Behavior Threat Assessment Team has been organized and will review the district's needs.



Congratulations Third Grade

Congratulations Mr. Engel and his third grade students!

READBowl is the FREE global reading competition where PreK-12th grade aged teams around the globe compete to read for the most minutes. The competition begins the week before the American College Football National Championship (2nd Monday in January) and culminates with a live crowning of the World Champions of Reading on the morning of the National Football League's (NFL) Super Bowl Sunday.



FEBRUARY

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
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

Science Fair

Ryder Heitz
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—This year was the 16th annual Science Fair at the Newell School District. On Thursday morning, February 13, students displayed their science fair projects for public viewing at the Middle School gym.

Topics for the science projects ranged from “How Vaping Affects the Lungs” to “Clean Soap,” “Cupcake Eggspllosion,” and everything in between.

There were two Grand Champions this year: Lucille Ahart, with her project “Better Brownies,” and Bandyn Severson with his project “Out with a Bang.”

Severson studied how temperature affects velocity when shooting guns. He said, “the heated bullets went the fastest.” Ahart explained her project:

“I tried to make brownies either cakey or chewy. And so I started out by making a normal chewy batch. Those turned out good. Then when I went to do my cakey ones, I took the electric hand mixer and beat them to get them as tall as possible, but they weren’t baked long enough, so when I took them out of the oven, they flattened down.” She continued to adjust the baking time and recipe of the brownies, and found that regular cakey brownies without baking powder and baked longer stayed the tallest. Her favorite kind of brownie was the regular chewy kind, however!

Awards were given to the top project in each category. The categories included chemistry, plant sciences/botany, animal sciences, behavioral/social sciences, and engineering sciences.



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The Butte County Conservation Winner this year was Amber Shaykett, with her project “Save the Soil.”

Category winners are listed below.

Animal Science: Taylen Wilen, “Homegrown vs. Store Bought Beef?”

Plant Sciences/Botany: Harper Whitacre, “Glowing Magic Flowers”

Engineering: Dylan Evans, “Make Wind Work for You”

Behavioral/Social Sciences: Braylee Barerra, “Will it Brown?”

Chemistry: Lillian Raisanen, “To Dye or Not to Dye”

Honorable Mention: Ayricka Schulte, “Cupcake Eggspllosion”

Honorable Mention: Diamond Retzlaff, “How Vaping Affects the Lungs”

Honorable Mention: Kyle Kenstler, “Clean Soap”



Left: Grand Champion Bandyn Severson with his project “Out with a Bang.”

Heitz photos

Right: Grand Champion Lucille Ahart with her project “Better Brownies.”



Garbage Rates on the Rise

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-There was only one bid for Solid Waste Collection at the most recent city commission meeting and that was from RSI. RSI has served the Newell community for several years. According to their bid proposal, they “will continue to provide the residents of Newell with 96-gallon totes for the duration of this contract and offer services to the City Hall, City Shop, Fire Department and Library at no cost.”

However, for residents their services will be higher than last year. The three-year contact proposes \$15 per residence per month provided with one 96-gallon container and \$15 for each additional 96-gallon container. At the end of the three-year term rates will increase to \$16.80 per residence per month.

Commercial rates will be \$17 per patron per month provided with one 96-gallon container and \$17 for each additional 96-gallon container. At the end of the three-year term rates will go to \$18.80 per month and \$18.80 for additional containers.

RSI also offers weekly commercial cardboard service for \$20 per month.

The city commissioners voted to approve the bid and will work out a final written contract with RSI.

Another agreement was discussed with Servall, a company that provides rugs, bar mops, towels, etc. As the commissioners discussed the cost of using the service, they agreed that it was important to curtail part of the list of items used. They concluded to look into the service further and negotiate.

J & W Construction & Supply had submitted an invoice to the city for work done on a road to their residence. The commissioners decided to deny payment because the company that had worked on the street was set to redo the road in the spring. A letter will be sent to explain the commission findings.

The hiring of a full-time Public Works employee was tabled following Executive Session. A part-time Finance Clerk will be advertised.



A small sample of the graffiti found on the side of the Creamery. Photo by Betty Bruner

Two building permits were approved by the commissioners. One for a new building on Barnard Ave, lot 1 block 50. The other was for a Governor’s Home on 8th Street, lot 11 & 12, block 35.

The Governor’s House permit was approved with proper setback and changes in the legal survey.

During Public Comment a resident asked if the commission could hold off hiring a full-time worker. She said that in her opinion the money could be used somewhere else. She questioned the \$500 that was to go for fireworks at the golf course and \$500 for Youth Golf. It had been voted on sometime in 2022 or 2023.

Another comment made was concerning the graffiti on

the old Creamery building on Third Street. She showed the commissioners some photos she had taken and said they were “disgusting” and needed to be monitored. Mayor Tara Tennis assured her that the walls would be painted and monitored.

A proposal was given to the commissioners on a new Internet company based in Whitewood, SD. Celerity Internet would like to lease the water tower to bring high-speed internet options to Newell. The commissioners would like to have the company bring a proposal in person to the next meeting.

Although the Newell Liquor Store has a lower income than past years, expenses have been trimmed and net profit in December was \$85,825.18 YTD.

Sales Tax in January increased \$4,025.43.

Public Works Verl Tift sent a written report showing what he had been working on during January. The water tower recirculating pump is back up and running with repairs costing the city \$3700. The water meters and smart point that are being used by the city are becoming outdated. The company is starting to make a new version that the hand-held readers are not compatible with. The system will need to be updated.

The city shop sewer line was plugged and Joe Dirt Septic Service was unable to clear the blockage. The city shop was the only building affected.

The next regular city commission meeting will be March 10 at 5 p.m.