



Belle Fourche Beacon

PROVIDING LOCAL NEWS FOR BELLE FOURCHE, BUTTE COUNTY and the TRI-STATE TRADE AREA
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Governor Rhoden Helps Break Ground for the New Police Department



Governor Larry Rhoden, Police Chief Ryan Cherveney, Mayor Randy Schmidt, Belle Fourche Police Officers, City Council members, City employees and RCS contractor.

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The community of Belle Fourche was invited to celebrate the historic groundbreaking ceremony for the new home of the Belle Fourche Police Department on the afternoon of March 20.

The ceremony was held at the location of the current police department building, where the new facility will be built with several special guests joining in on the festivities.

South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden was on hand for the momentous occasion, as well as Mayor Randy Schmidt.

Police Chief Ryan Cherveney welcomed the large crowd to the event explaining, “Today we break ground on a new police facility that will enhance our training, strengthen our department and serve as a symbol of the strong partnership between law enforcement and our com-

munity and our commitment to public safety.”

Belle Fourche Mayor Randy Schmidt also welcomed the community and discussed the significance of the new building. “This building will give our officers the tools and resources that they need to train, serve and protect our community at the highest level. Today we are building more than just a new police department, we are building a stronger Belle Fourche,” he said.

Governor Larry Rhoden expressed how nice it was to be back in Belle Fourche. He spent the first part of his career in the legislature and Belle Fourche was part of his district. “I got to know Belle Fourche really well. “I’ve always been fond of Belle Fouche,” he said. “It’s an honor to be here...it’s just kind of a breath of fresh air to get out west.”

Governor Rhoden went on

to explain how important law enforcement is to him personally. He has many family members including a son and brother in law enforcement. “I have a number of law enforcement in my family, my younger son is the Deputy Sheriff in Pennington County, and my brother, John spent a long time as Deputy Sheriff from Meade County.”

The Governor underscored the importance of the respect he has for those who serve and protect our communities. “In South Dakota we still respect law enforcement and first responders and the people that put themselves in harm’s way so the rest of us can sleep easy at night. That means a lot to me,” he stated. “We value our law enforcement officers and we value them as contributing members of our society, so I want to thank you!” Contractor, RC Scull of RCS Construction took the stage to kick off the physical groundbreaking event. “I want to say it’s an honor and privilege to be part of this project. We’re excited to get started and break ground, so lets grab a shovel and break ground for this new building.”



RCS Construction sign at the site. City crew busy moving snow for the groundbreaking. (Below) Governor Larry Rhoden and Police Chief Ryan Cherveney after the groundbreaking. Longbrake photo (Additional photos on A8)



Five Candidates Run for Two City Council Positions

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—It is time to elect new members to the Belle Fourche City Council. Election will be held April 8, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Belle Fourche Community Hall, 512 6th Ave Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

There are three candidates running for Ward 1 and two candidates running for Ward 2. In Ward 3, Dean Brunner is running unopposed and in Ward 4, Bob Somervold is running unopposed.

All candidates running for City Council seats in Wards 1 and 2 will appear on the ballot. All terms are for three years.

Those running for Ward 1 are Ivy Zimmerschied, Karen Davis, and Kristal Steeves.

Ivy Zimmerschied is a lifetime resident of Belle Fourche. She went to both private and public high school in Belle. She is a single mother with a 10 year old daughter named Isabelle. Her mom still lives in town and Isabelle goes to public school in Belle.

Zimmerschied is excited to be of service to her community. When explaining why she was running for Council she said, “to

be of service to the community and to carry the voices of the people to the council and be a trusted, honored servant.” She stressed that she is coming into this role with no hidden agenda. “I absolutely don’t have an agenda other than to just be of service. I have lived around here my whole life and I have personal opinions on some things, but I want to go in with a non-bias, non-agenda.” She does realize that roads and sidewalks need attention. She brings with her previous experience on several different boards including holding the position of secretary. “I’m familiar with Robert’s Rules of Order and meetings style, and due diligence,” she said. “I am just here to be of service.”

Karen Davis was born and raised in Belle Fourche. She is the mother of three boys. Davis was an EMT for 15 years, and was the instructor for everything at that time, from first aid to defibrillators. As treasurer and secretary she helped with the inner workings of the ambulance service. She brings experience as a small business owner as well.

Election contd A3



Candidates running for City Council Ward 1 and Ward 2 are Ivy Zimmerschied, Karen Davis, Kristal Steeves and Lee Capp. Not pictured Clark Sowers. Courtesy photo



The High Plains Western Heritage Center received a beautiful high wind resistant American Flag from the Catherine Thybo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Belle Fourche. The DAR Chapters in Belle Fourche and the Black Hills Chapter in Rapid City annually donate a high quality flag which saves the Heritage Center hundreds of dollars. Thank you to the regional DAR organizations for their kindness & generosity toward High Plains Western Heritage Center! Holding the flag is (L) US Army Veteran Jim Bohl, employee of the HC and on the (R) is USAFT Lt. Col. Retired, Skip Johnson, volunteer at the HC. Courtesy Photo

Nature is Nonpartisan Launches in B. Fourche

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—A new grassroots conservation initiative, Nature is Nonpartisan, officially launched this week in Belle Fourche. The launch event, held at the Community Hall on March 20, drew a large crowd of locals interested in hearing about the organization’s goals.

Mayor Randy Schmidt and Governor Larry Rhoden were among the keynote speakers for the event. Governor Rhoden read a proclamation naming it “Nature is Nonpartisan Week in South Dakota”

Nature is Nonpartisan aims to bridge political divides and encourage people from all backgrounds to come together in the name of environmentalism. “We’re a brand-new non-prof-



Governor Larry Rhoden proclamation declares “Nature is Nonpartisan Week” in South Dakota. Heitz Photo

it organization seeking to bring the issue of the environment out of the political fray,” explained Amelia Joy,

Communications Director.

“In the 1990s about 80% of Americans self-identified as

Nature is NonPartisan Contd.A8



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Carol Harmon 85

Carol Harmon, 85, of Belle Fourche, SD, died peacefully at her home on March 18, 2025. Carol was born Dec. 20, 1939, in Madison, WI, to Fred and Molly Koch. The family moved frequently due to her father's work and Carol attended 5 high schools in 4 years. After graduating from high school, she attended Colorado State University for 2 years where she met Richard Stephan. They were married in 1960 and had 4 daughters.

Carol's greatest passion from an early age was horses. She loved everything about them and rode whenever she got the chance. She did everything from trail riding in the Rockies to competing in hunter/jumper shows and made sure her daughters became capable horsewomen. Carol was also an artist and painted beautiful watercolor mountain scenes.

A few years after Carol and Dick went their separate ways, she met Bill Harmon in Montana. They married and eventually settled in Belle Fourche, SD, after spending some time in Silver City, NM. Carol very much wanted to be near her grandchildren and watch them grow up. She loved attending their events including dance recitals, music concerts, and competitions at the Butte-Lawrence County Fair. She even bought an upright string bass for the grandkids which James promptly



learned to play, joining John in the orchestra. Carol could also be found at nearly every performance—including the slack--of the Belle Fourche Round-up rodeo for several years and was thrilled to watch her granddaughter, Kay, carry the American flag as Miss Rodeo South Dakota.

Carol loved to meet people and was always making new friends wherever she went. She could visit with almost anyone.

Most importantly, Carol was certain that Jesus Christ was her Savior and looked forward to spending eternity in heaven.

Carol is survived by her husband, Bill Harmon, daughters Linda Marrs, Lisa Stephan, Karen Stephan and Jane Stephan, and grandchildren Kay Marrs, James Marrs, and John Marrs.

A private family remembrance will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Rainbow Bible Ranch, Sturgis, SD. 14676 Lone Tree Road, Sturgis, SD 57785. Website, www.rainbowbible ranch.org

Arrangements are under the care of Kline Funeral Chapel of Belle Fourche. An online guest book is available at klinefuneralchapel.com

Jeanette Wallace 72

Jeanette Wallace, age 72, of Box Elder, South Dakota died Friday, March 21, 2025 at her home in Box Elder.

Jeanette Ursula Carlin was born September 9, 1952, to Patrick Carlin and Mary Opal (Rapp) Carlin.

Shortly after her first grade at Emery, SD her family moved to Rapid Valley five miles east of Rapid City, SD, where she attended elementary school, then high school graduating in 1971.

She married Jerry Edwards on November 27, 1971 and to this union two children were born: Jason Dean Edwards and Julie Ann Edwards.

Her hobbies included drawing, painting, singing, photography, carpentry and studying the Bible.

In 1987 Jeanette married Randy Wallace and they were together for many years.

Jeanette is survived by her son Jason Dean Edwards and wife Jodie of Box Elder, SD and grandson Jackson Dean Edwards of Forman, ND and her daughter Julie Ann (Edwards) Red Leaf, and husband Ray and grandchildren, Stephen, Joshua, Ray Jr., Katheryn, Cora, and Jeannie Red Leaf



and great grandson Theon Red Leaf all of Rapid City, SD; her siblings, John Carlin & wife Elaine of Greatinger, Iowa, Jim Carlin, Joe Carlin & wife Joanne, Patricia Janssen, Margaret & husband Buddy, Tom Carlin and Dan Carlin & wife Jodean all of Rapid City, SD, and Michael Carlin & wife Terry of Cheyenne, WY; Ann Anderson & husband Gerry of San Diego California and Mary Carlin of Oceanside, CA.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her parents, Patrick and Mary Carlin and four of her brothers: Paul Carlin, Leo Carlin, Charles Carlin and Richard Carlin.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the Community Church in New Underwood with Pastor Jake Julson officiating.

Interment will follow at the New Underwood Cemetery.

Pastor's Perspective

This week's Pastor's Perspective is provided by Andy Anderson of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

"You are uniquely Created."



Driving through the last snow-storm, watching the snowflakes fly, the thought that came to my mind was the fact that not one of the untold trillions of snowflakes that have ever fallen are identical. One estimate that two snowflakes could be the same is 1 to the 768th power, basically zero chance.

Psalm 139:14-17 states: "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!"

There are only two possibilities for your existence. First, you're a cosmic accident, with no real purpose, live, maybe leave your mark in history and then vanish from existence, nothing more, or secondly, you were created by the Creator, Who is identified in His Word, the Holy Bible and He has a purpose for your existence." I hold to the second belief. You are the only one of you in all of Creation, no one will ever be exactly like you. It's interesting that out of the 40 billion people estimated to have ever lived, no one is exactly the same as you. Identical twins may share some similarities yet are unique individuals.

What's exciting is that the God of creation, the God who spoke everything into existence has a plan and purpose for you, if you choose to accept.

Revelation 3:20

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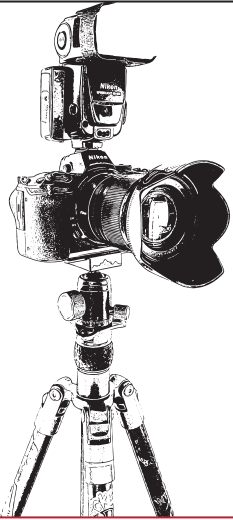
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Election From A1

Davis ran for City Council last year but isn't the type of person to give up, so she is trying again. "I really care about the people in Ward 1, I would like to be their voice on the City Council," she explained. "I've been to all of the City Council meetings except four of them, I think, and I've been to quite a few of the board meetings, so I can stay in tune, so I know what's going on somewhat."

When Davis was going around with her petition to get signatures to run, she would take the time to ask voters what was important to them. "I asked people, what do they want to see happen? What do they need? What do you see that is missing?" she said.

Her priority, as she sees it, will be her constituents. "Letting the people of Ward 1 know that they are heard, that they can talk to the city, that they can get things done. Yes, growth is important. Yes, our roads and the sewer system is definitely important, but the people are important also," said Davis. "Without the people living here, we wouldn't have a town and we need to support that."

Davis wants to be the voice of the people. She realizes that the city can't solve all of everyone's problems but they can help. She said, "We can listen, and if there is something that can be done, we can try and find the resources to get it done, I think that's our responsibility to our Ward."

Kristal Steeves grew up in Belle Fourche. Her mom, Jan Steeves still lives here. She is married with two grown children and a four-year-old grandson. After high school graduation, Steeves moved away for school. She went on to get her master's degree. She lived and worked in Denver, CO for 30 years but is happy to be back home in Belle Fourche. "I recently moved back because I just want to really intentionally live well," she explained.

Steeves also wanted to be closer to her mom and her mother-in-law. "I moved back to kind of help take care of my mom, she's getting older and my husband's mom, who also lives here in the community, she's getting older," said Davis. "We are just kind of coming back to help take care of family, and then I'm almost 52 and I really want to just have a different second half of my life than the first half."

Steeves is running for council to help find solutions. She said, "I really want to be part of the solutions for this town. I intentionally chose to move back here, not just to care for our families, but also just to have a different quality of life in this second half of my life and I'm really invested in ensuring that this community continues to grow responsibly and then also provide for the economic conditions that are necessary for the community to grow."

Infrastructure is one of the biggest things that Steeves sees as a concern. "This area is growing a little bit faster and I think that in order for it to grow responsibly, then we've got to make sure our streets are good, we've got to make sure sewer and water systems are good, otherwise we're just going to have all sorts of problems," she said.

Her priority areas include water and balancing the budget. Steeves explained, "Increasing the ability for all of the new homes to get water has been currently going on and so continuing that is a really good thing, and then making sure that our budget is balancing—our rec center is in the red every year, so figuring out ways to make it profitable for itself, so we're not pulling from budgets in different areas."

She brings with her experience of being on multiple boards. "I was the vice president for the Colorado Association for Marriage and Family Therapists for many years, and then in other roles on that

board. And I've been on various other boards throughout my life, in there, but nothing like City Council."

"I would just encourage people to come to the Q and A at the 519 venue on the 27th," said Steeves.

Ward 2 has two candidates running for one council seat. They are Lee Capp and Clark Sowers.

Clark Sowers is running for a second term. He ran unopposed for the Ward 2 Council seat in April 2022 for a three-year term. Sowers has Belle Fourche running through his veins, he was born and bred here. He and his wife Cathy have been married for 45 years and have 10 kids and 28 grandchildren. He has spent his whole life here and all of his businesses are centered in Belle Fourche. He is the owner of Black Hills Laundry here in Belle Fourche and has expanded that to laundromats in Sturgis, Spearfish and Rapid City.

Sowers is running for City Council again to continue the positive changes he has helped to start.

"This is the end of my third year, in the last four years, there have been significant changes, positive changes, especially on the financial end of Belle Fourche, getting things organized, hiring a city administrator—which I think was significant, something I wanted to do for 15 years from when I remember Sturgis was hiring a city manager—it's a great concept. It's just like the superintendent of public schools, you have one focal point," said Sowers. "But it gives us a focal point of where all the information goes and it gives us a corporate history of the work and the actions of the city council."

Sowers gets excited when he talks about all of the positive things going on in Belle Fourche. He has a lot of goals that he would like to see to fruition. "We need to finish the South Well, which we're getting close on. We need to finish the water gallery, the water lines from the water gallery north of Spearfish, those are over 100 years old, and we need to complete them—update them. We need to work on a water treatment plant. We also have streets and infrastructure—the 11th Avenue Project is going to finish up this year...And then there's the beautification of Belle Fourche and to clean up the nuisance," he said.

One of his accomplishments was getting property taxes lower. "My first year, when it came to budget time, I made a proposal to lower the property taxes—everybody runs on taxes, taxes, taxes, but nobody ever does it—well, we lowered it and we maintained that level for three years," explained Sowers.

Serving as the town's Mayor from '94 to '96 Sowers has experience in City Government. He was also President of the South Dakota Solid Waste Association.

Lee Capp grew up in Belle Fourche and worked in the area most of his life. He left for a four-year stint in the military. He and his wife Annie have five adult children between the two of them. He works in the area as a Realtor.

He is running for City Council to finish a path he previously started. He was on the Council to finish the term for Derrick Erhart for Ward 2 and stepped down at the end of his term because he and his family were thinking of moving. "We since changed our minds and we're going to be here for in this Ward for the foreseeable future. I just felt like I wasn't done running and giving back to the community, so with new election cycle I figured it was time to try to get back onto the Council," explained Capp.

When Capp was on the Council before, he ran into a problem that he would like to rectify if possible. "One thing that really bothered me is that is that we took time out in the middle of

Drought worsens, flu spreads: A tough season for S. Dakota

Hospitals and farmers strained by challenging conditions

Dakota Scout, A guest post by Todd Epp

S. Dakota Broadcasters

Winter has left South Dakota high and dry this year, raising red flags about drought as farmers prepare for the coming planting season, meteorological experts say.

The numbers tell a stark story.

According to the National Weather Service, Sioux Falls has accumulated just 15.7 inches of snow since last fall. Normal totals reach nearly 38 inches, according to historical weather data. Records show that comparable drought conditions date back to 1987.

Rain hasn't picked up the slack either. According to NOAA's Regional Climate Centers, Sioux Falls is running 1.68 inches behind schedule, with a total of 4.91 inches. Head west to Huron, and the situation worsens, with less than 3 inches in the gauge, the same source confirmed.

The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts most of the state in troubling shades of tan and brown — signs of moderate to severe drought expected to persist through May, according to NOAA's seasonal

drought outlook. Meteorologists noted that a few decent rains last November provided brief relief but weren't enough to reverse the overall trend.

Flu keeping South Dakota hospitals busy

Meanwhile, the flu continues to keep South Dakota hospitals busy. Health officials have counted 5,596 cases across the state in just the past month, the Sioux Falls Department of Health reported. The toll: 110 hospitalizations and three deaths, according to their Tuesday update.

Minnehaha County bears the heaviest burden, with 1,307 cases confirmed since mid-February, state health officials said.

COVID-19 cases have dipped but haven't disappeared — nearly 1,000 South Dakotans caught the virus last month alone, health officials said.

According to disease surveillance data, whooping cough cases dropped 10 percent compared to last year, but nearly a third of cases struck people without vaccines. The same trend is playing out with measles nationally, where the unvaccinated account for 95 percent of the 300-plus cases documented this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Bird flu hasn't jumped between people on American soil, keeping the risk low for now,



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



March 27 - 6PM Candidate Forum @ Venue 519

March 28 - 7:30AM Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining, 4PM Computer Class @ Belle Silver Lining, 4PM Retirement Party for Bonnie Rosander @ Branding Iron

March 29 - 12PM Pints & Puzzles @ Hitching Post

March 30 - 8AM Breakfast Fundraiser for Lion's Club @ Moose Lodge

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

BUTTE COUNTY SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Butte County Courthouse (commissioners room), Belle Fourche, SD on March 28, 2025 at 10:00AM (MT).

A list of tracts available for lease may be obtained at the Butte County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD, 57501-5070 at (605) 773-3303. You may also visit the SPL website www.sdpubliclands.sd.gov. Phone bidding will be allowed on a recorded conference line at 1-848-777-1212 with access code of 18892020#. Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.

public health authorities confirmed. The Dakota Scout reported in early February that Sanford Health had seen high turnover with new admissions and discharges because of influenza.

Looking ahead

NOAA expects a warm end to March across the state, but spring rainfall predictions remain uncertain, according to their seasonal outlook.

Mark your calendar: Severe Weather Awareness Week kicks off April 7, with Sioux Falls residents invited to the Washington Pavilion for storm preparation training, emergency management officials announced..

into office he has none. Brunner explains, "There's stuff that needs to be done, every city has the same problems really, but I'm not going to say that I'm going to fix this or do that, no I'm not going to say that, I ran to help. I'm going to try to help. I do not have any priorities. I don't have my own agenda."

He brings experience with him having served on the Nisland City Board previously.

Bob Somervold is running unopposed for the Ward 4 seat that he currently holds. Somervold was elected for a second term as Ward 4 City Councilman in April, 2022. Bob served as Council Vice President in 2021.

Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Meet the Candidates Forum on March 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Venue 519. The audience will have the opportunity to write down questions and have them asked to the candidates. Water and light snacks will be provided.



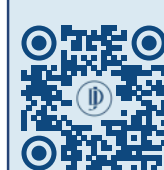
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Seniors were given a **Challenge Coin** to remind them in their next chapter - don't let the hard days win.

Wrestling Sportsmanship Leadership Awards

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

On Friday, March, 21st, the Bronc wrestlers celebrated a great year with an awards banquet. The mens and womens teams had many individual and team accomplishments over the season.

The men’s team took 1st place at this year’s Black Hills Conference competition, the last championship was earned in 2008. The women’s team took 5th place at this year’s BHC. The conference committee awarded Black Hills All Conference Awards to Cooper Conry, Riley Dighton, Owyn Schreder and Kyra Vandenberg. Honorable mentions were awarded to Garett Huston, Alex Norlin, Lucas Tonsager, Alexa Swaney, Aleyah Carbajal and Joselyn Shockey.

Both the mens and womens teams earned Academic Achievement as a Varsity Team for GPAs above 3.0, while individual Academic All States were awarded to Owyn Schreder, Alexa Swaney and Aleyah Carbajal under qualifications of being a senior with a minimum of 3 years participation in the sport and a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Varsity Letter winners are held to many expectations and earned criteria over the season. This season’s first time letter earners who received their “B” as well as a wrestling emblem pin were Porter Manke, Caden Swaney, and Cooper Conry.

Wrestling emblem earners

who have earned their Letter in another sport previously and are now adding a wrestling pin this season are; Oscar Garcia Avina, Nathan Hudson, Dylan Park, Kolby Tibbs, Aleyah Carbajal and Lia Mundt.

Bar earners are those who have their Letter and their wrestling emblems, therefore then add a bar each subsequent year of Letter earning in the sport. Those adding bars to their Letters and emblems this season are; Koby Bowden (Bar 1), Spencer Bush-Graslie (Bar 1), Riley Dighton (Bar 4), Garett Huston (Bar 3), Alex Norlin (Bar 2), Owyn Schreder (Bar 3), Lucas Tonsager (Bar 3), Clifford Torberson (Bar 1), and for the women; Joselyn Shockey (Bar 1), Alexa Swaney (Bar 3), and Kyra Vandenberg (Bar 3).

Wrestling managers earning their emblems this season are Tenley Neuharth and Ambree Kirstine.

Statistical Accomplishments recognized at this season’s awards banquet were as follows for mens and womens:

Most team points (pins & wins by decisions): Riley Dighton and Kyra Vandenberg

Most wins this season: Riley Dighton and Kyra Vandenberg

Most Pins: Riley Dighton and Alexa Swaney

Most match points (earned by takedowns, escapes, reversals, and near falls): Caden Swaney and Kyra Vandenberg

Most takedowns: Caden Swaney and Alexa Swaney with 52 each (Coach mentioned had he calculated sooner, a sibling

competitive rivalry may have ended the unique tie!)

20 Pin Club (earned a minimum of 20 pins this season): Riley Dighton, Garett Huston, Lucas Tonsager, Aleyah Carbajal, Alexa Swaney and Kyra Vandenberg

Plaque awards earned this season were as follows:

Men’s Wrestler of The Year: Riley Dighton

Women’s Wrestler of the Year: Kyra Vandenberg

Men’s Underclassmen of the Year: Caden Swaney

Women’s Underclassmen of the Year: Lia Mundt

Men’s Most Improved Wrestler: Clifford Torberson

Women’s Most Improved Wrestler: Aleyah Carbajal

Men’s Grit Wrestler: Owyn Schreder

Women’s Grit Wrestler: Alexa Swaney

Seniors Honored with “challenge coins” to carry with them into their next chapter: Oscar Garcia Avina, Owyn Schreder, Zach Tonsager, Alexa Sanchez, Aleyah Carbajal, Abby Vis-sia, Sofia Gonzolez, and Alexa Swaney

Coaches Cory Neuharth, Nathan Juelfs and Andrew Dighton would like to thank area businesses who donated over the season, the Belle Fourche AAU Club and the Grappler Club for their continued support as well as parents and members of our community for supporting the Bronc wrestlers this season!

Watch for off-season competitions over the coming weeks and months by our youth wrestlers who continue to compete!



(L) **Caden Swaney** receiving his 1st Varsity Letter (R) **Clifford Torberson** receiving **Most Improved Award** Courtesy Photos



(L) Junior **Riley Dighton** with season awards (R) **Men’s 20 Pin Club** recipients- Lucas Tonsager, Garett Huston & Riley Dighton



(L) **Kyra Vandenberg** with her season accomplishment awards; (R) **Owyn Schreder** receiving awards.



(L) Senior **Alexa Swaney** with season awards; (R) Senior **Zach Tonsager** receiving his challenge coin.



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Superintendent’s Corner

R. Orion Thompson
Special to the Beacon

Exciting Developments in Belle Fourche

Our community continues to grow and thrive! Recently, Mike Walker from NeighborWorks provided an insightful presentation on the housing development currently underway in Belle Fourche. As our town expands, these developments will play a crucial role in attracting families and professionals, further strengthening our community. The growth of Belle Fourche is a testament to the dedication of its people, and we are excited to see what the future holds.

Important Board Meeting Updates

A couple of important updates regarding upcoming School Board meetings: The Board will hold a [special Board meeting on March 31st](#) to address key District matters. Additionally, we are adjusting our [May School Board meeting date to May 5th](#), one week earlier than originally scheduled to accommodate

scheduling needs.

As always, we welcome community input and encourage residents to attend and stay engaged with the District’s initiatives.

Interesting Facts: Importance of Being in School

As we approach the final stretch of the year, I want to take a moment to emphasize the value of regular school attendance. Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve academic success, graduate on time, and develop positive habits for the future.

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), students with consistent attendance score higher on standardized tests and are more likely to continue their education beyond high school.

The [Brookings Institution](#) found that students who miss more than 10% of the school year (just two days a month) are significantly more likely to fall behind academically.

Beyond academics, school provides crucial social development, emotional support, and opportunities for extracurricular engagement, all of which contribute to a well-rounded education.

Parents and guardians play a critical role in reinforcing the importance of attendance. Encouraging students to be in school, stay engaged, and participate in learning each day will set them up for lifelong success. As we look ahead to the final months of the school year, let’s continue to support our students, celebrate their achievements, and work together to ensure a strong finish. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to our schools and community. Let’s make these last months of the school year the best yet!

Orion Thompson



Superintendent, Belle Fourche School District

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

KATELYNN POTTORFF
DENTAL HYGIENIST



Meet Katelynn Pottorff one of our Dental Hygienist. Katelynn has been with Nehl Dental for about 10 years. Katelynn brings to our office a lot of compassion and smiles. When she is not in the office you will most likely find her around town with one or all of her children at a sporting event. Katelynn and her husband Clay live in Belle Fourche with their four children. Congratulations Katelynn on Employee of the Month from your family at Nehl Dental.



Center of the Nation Implant Clinic
19026 US Hwy 85 • Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-892-3603 | 800-611-8796 | NehlDental.com

Frontier Glass of Belle
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Roger McNary
Owner/Operator

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605-892-2052

19048 Hwy 85
PO Box 877
Belle Fourche, SD 57717



SPAGHETTI DINNER
Fundraiser

To Benefit Storm Victims In North Carolina

When: March 28, 2025
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Where: St. James Lutheran Church
1100 Stanley Street
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Freewill offering with all proceeds going to storm victims

Part of a Thrivent Action Team Grant

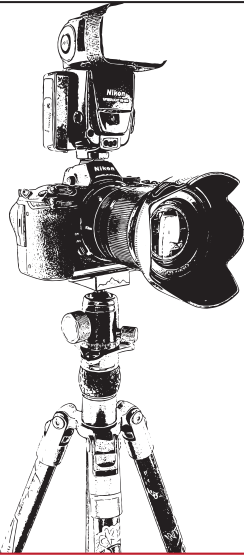
February Students of the Month



South Park’s winners: (From left to right) **Loxley Martin Del Campo, Maddison Ryan Boreman, EJ Zapata, Tilly Hoffman, Dotty Hoffman, Isabelle Freed and Harper Pottorff.**



North Park’s winners: **Summer Lureen and Harvey Janish**
Courtesy Photos



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BELLE 2025 Baseball Season Preview

Baseball Season
Special to the Beacon

Now entering their fourth season as a Class B member of the South Dakota High School Baseball Association (SDHSBA), the Belle Fourche Broncos Baseball Team is set to open the season with a trio of games against Class A opponents the last week of March starting off with a trip to Rapid City on March 27th against Central, followed by weekend matchups against Spearfish, who is playing in the SDHSBA for the first time, and Sturgis.

The Broncos will have their first Class B contests the following weekend facing off against Hot Springs and Custer, both games being played down at Hot Springs on April 5. This year the Broncos will play a full varsity and JV schedule with the largest numbers the program has seen in three years.

As the season draws near, we got a chance to sit down and ask Head Coach Randy Doran to answer five questions for our readers heading into the 2025

SDHSBA Season. Question (Q): Belle Fourche is now in year four of participating in the SDHSBA, could you fill everyone in on the league, and how the Broncos have done since joining back in 2022?

Coach Doran (CD): Definitely, since high school baseball is not sanctioned by the state of South Dakota, the SDHSBA is a league that was formed back in 2001 to give players in South Dakota the same experience as if they were in North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska where they do have sanctioned high school baseball. For our baseball program here in Belle Fourche, joining back in 2022 was an outstanding decision, we have experienced some pretty good seasons, and had a lot of players be recognized for their performances on the diamond and in the classroom.

Through our first three years, we have had a winning record each season and two of three years played in the regional championship game. We haven’t

quite reached our team goal of making the state tournament, but you can’t get there without being in the regional championship, so to have been in position to be a game away is hard to do, but we have given ourselves a chance which at the beginning of the year is all you can ask for.

Individually, last year Nolan Wahlfeldt was our first player named to the SDHSBA All-State team after putting up some outstanding individual stats during his senior season.

Also, in our three seasons we have had 15 players receive All-Region recognition, as well as six players awarded Academic All-State Honors. The SDHSBA Organization has seen some major growth the past couple years as well. With Spearfish and Aberdeen joining this year, all 20 possible Class A Schools are represented in the league.

In our Class B region, the year prior to us joining there was only 7 teams, and now this year Region IV will consist of 11 teams. Lastly, each season



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I’ve felt that the community support has been increasing tremendously, and I know the players really like seeing the stands filled and support they have been getting from their classmates.

Q: Last year, you mentioned that there would be a lot of new players in the varsity lineup in 2024, how many returners do you have coming back, and what areas need filled from last year’s team?

CD: You’re right, last year we had a pretty significant influx of first year underclassmen who

were starters and it’s always nice knowing the next year you can say that you will have a lot of experienced projected starters. This has greatly benefited us during offseason sitting sessions and preseason practices, just having a large group that has been in varsity games and knows just how tough it is to win in this region.

This is a very talented group, but baseball can be a very humbling sport, and they all went through some growing pains and learning curve facing top level varsity competition last year.

Show Up

As you fill your brand new 2025 calendar, be sure to add the FINE ARTS events in our community and our schools.

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater is on stage this weekend with their show, Atomic Lobsters. (Photo on C4)On this Friday, March 29 at 7pm in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Auditorium, fear the real red menace, “Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth!” Come enjoy BFACT’s hilarious send-up of 1950’s sci-fi as part of “Getting Our Acts Together: A Night of Northern Hills One-Acts,” a collaboration of the Historic Homestake Opera House, the Sturgis Arts Council, the Matthews Opera House and BFACT. Enjoy a night of local one-acts and support local theater. Get your tickets online or at the door, see you on March 29. For more information or tickets, visit their website: <https://www.belle-fourcheact.com>.

The BFHS begins practices in the theater for Grease!, The cast for this popular musical includes Danny- Logan Willert; Sandy- Trinity Hostetter, Kenickie-Timothy Thompson, Doody- Kale Williams, Roger- Derek Scott, Sonny- John Hale, Rizzo- Kate Blair, Frenchy- Sonja Cropper, Marty- Alexa Stone, Jan- Iva Hale, Patty- Aoloni Stone. Eugene- Trev- or Welles, Cha-Cha- Kaeli Thompson, Miss Lynch- Kaydance Gallagher, Vince Fontaine- Dillon Streeter, Johnny Casino- Derek Scott, Teen Angel- Kale Williams, Female Radio Voice- Abby Schmidt, and in the Ensemble: Madisyn Carson, Mercedes Madison, Tace Hartman, Avery Mastin, Trey Shannon, Chelsea Zinke, Mollie Collins; Tech Crew: Wyatt Lesmeister, Hunter Brown, Madison Dalton, Mark Mullins

The Belle Fourche Fine Arts Boosters is working on their upcoming Community Variety Show 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.

Mar. 28, Friday, BFMS Chorus 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; April 25-27, BFHS Musical Production of GREASE; Fri/Sat @ 7:00 PM & Sun. @ 3:00 PM, BF Rec Center Theater. May 4, Sunday, Fine Arts Boosters, Community Variety & Arts Show, Belle Fourche Community Hall.; May 5, Monday, BFHS Band/Chorus Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 PM May 8, Thurs., BFMS Band Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 6:30 pm; May 13, Tues., BFMS Chorus Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 6:30 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.



Community Calendar

Belle Silver Lining Lunch Program

Every day of the week
11am-1pm Belle Silver Lining Senior Center;
828 Kingsbury St. • 605-892-6285
Belle Silver Lining is open so come and enjoy
a different lunch menu Monday thru Friday.
\$7 suggested donation.

Belle Silver Lining Thrift Store

Closed Monday; Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm;
Saturday 10am-4pm
Belle Silver Lining Senior Center 828 Kingsbury St.
605-892-6285
For your shopping pleasure.
Check with the staff if you have items to donate.

AA Meetings

Meetings are held on
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays
at 8pm at 806 6th Ave, Belle Fourche.

Writer’s Group

Regular Meeting:
Meeting will be Saturday, at 10 AM.
BF Public Library, 3rd Sat. as always.
Any and all writers are invited to attend.

Meals On Wheels Program Ongoing

11:30am-12:30pm Monday through Friday
1500 Mill Street • 605-723-5036
Please call Bonnie at 892-5472 in the mornings



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

Belle Fourche Recreation Center Spring Events for Kids

3rd-6th Girls Volleyball Camp: Join us on Tuesdays & Thursdays afterschool in March to develop your volleyball skills! Kids Yoga: Kindergarten-3rd grade boys and girls. Wednesdays in March. Sign up soon as space is limited! Registrations and more info available at the Rec or at www.bellefourcherec.com. We look forward to seeing you soon!

SML Tires Car Clinic

SML Tires Car Clinic for Women and Teen Drivers Saturday March 29. Free car clinic at SML tires at 1909 5th Avenue in Belle Fourche 10-1. Learn basic car care, how to change a tire, safely jump a battery, check fluids and more Call 605.723.7700 to reserve a space.
April First Saturday Brunch
Tri-State’s April First Saturday

Brunch is about famed female pilot Neva Esmay
On Saturday, April 5, the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a First Saturday Brunch featuring presenter Tim Velder. Velder’s presentation is entitled, “Neva Esmay: Living Large in 1941 and beyond.” Esmay was an extraordinary woman who was the first civilian pilot to fly after Pearl Harbor and the only woman to train pilots for service at the BH Airport.
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.
Art at the Rec Friday
April 25, 2-4 PM Basket weaving. We will weave strips of paper from magazines or construction paper to make basket shapes. No sign up required, members free. Non-members day pass. \$4 kids, \$5 seniors, \$6 adults. Ages 8 and under must be supervised by someone over 12. Belle Fourche Rec Center, 1111 National Street 605.892.2467 www.belle-fourcherec.com



VIEWPOINT | USDA funding freeze, staff cuts pulling rug out from farmers

From the Dakota Scout.
Guest column by Travis Entenman, executive director of Northern Prairies Land Trust

What happens in Washington, D.C., can often feel far away, disconnected from everyday life in the rest of the country. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) recent efforts to streamline the federal government has, and will continue to have, unintended consequences for farmers and ranchers’ efforts to conserve water, soil and wildlife habitat if they continue to make cuts with a hatchet and not a scalpel.

Freezing conservation funds promised to farmers, many of whom have already spent the money, and slashing Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff is only exacerbating the uncertainty farmers feel every year during planting. Efforts to make government more efficient and responsive to local needs may be pulling the rug out from America’s farmers when certainty is what’s needed most.

U.S. agriculture is already dealing with record costs, labor concerns and an uneasy global trading market. The freeze on conservation funding, coupled with NRCS staffing cuts, is not just an inconvenience; it’s a threat to the economic viability of American farms and ranches, our communities and the stewardship of land and prairies we depend on.

This funding pause is preventing tens of millions of dollars from being spent in South Dakota. In 2022, Congress invested nearly \$20 billion into USDA’s voluntary, incentive-based, private lands conservation programs at NRCS nationwide. The funding began to hit the ground in 2023, and since then, over \$29 million has been promised to South Dakotan producers, allowing farmers and ranchers to adopt conservation practices on over 600,000 acres. Many of

these producers have already spent thousands of dollars of their own money to implement practices like planting cover crops, implement rotational grazing, and installing new irrigation systems – all with the understanding that they would be reimbursed in a timely manner, as usual. USDA’s freeze means that many of those farmers are now in limbo, hoping that they will receive the reimbursement they are contractually owed.

News is starting to trickle out that some pots of funding are starting to be unfrozen. Although this is a good start, there is still great uncertainty about which funding pots and contracts are being unfrozen. It goes without saying that existing contracts should be honored, at a minimum, and producers should be provided with certainty about the availability of new funding for this year.

Conservation programs don’t just benefit farmers; they have broader economic impacts. When farmers engage in conservation practices, they’re not only improving their land for future generations, but they’re also investing in their communities. Conservation practices often result in better water quality, enhanced wildlife habitats and improved soil health. These improvements boost local economies by ensuring that farms can operate profitably over the long haul and contribute to the broader rural economy.

Another consequence of the freeze is its impact on conservation easement funds that we, at Northern Prairies Land Trust, use to facilitate land protections for farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and Nebraska. Easement funds are often used to protect and restore prairies and grasslands – the fastest disappearing ecosystem in the world. Grasslands, threatened by urban sprawl, conversion to other uses, and a changing climate, are critical as duck and

waterfowl breeding habitat, for water filtration, and serve as migration corridors for big game and other wildlife. The uncertainty caused by the funding freeze is slowing the conservation of prairies at a time when they need it most.

Beyond the funding freeze, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS have local offices here in South Dakota that are facing significant staffing reductions, which will only exacerbate these challenges. NRCS and FSA have locally based staff who administer USDA programs, execute contracts and help farmers address natural resource concerns on their farms. They help farmers and ranchers apply for financial assistance, provide technical assistance, and guide them on best practices for land management and conservation. USDA funding delivered by NRCS and FSA staff provide significant support to farmers in South Dakota and across the country, and many of these staff have built strong, trusted relationships with producers and conservation groups in the state.

Unfortunately, plans to further reduce staff and even close down some of these offices will leave farmers and ranchers unsure about who to turn to when they have questions about a program, natural resource concern, or reimbursement for money they’ve already spent. Delays will prevent landowners from accessing the technical support they need to implement effective conservation practices now, while they are planning for the whole year.

Farmers are already on the frontlines of extreme weather which has been increasing in frequency and severity for years. Now, USDA’s funding freeze and staffing cuts are making their job even harder. It’s time to put political divides aside and follow through for our South Dakota farmers and ranchers..

March 17 City Council Meeting

Ryder Heitz
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The City Council held a meeting on March 17. The Mayor’s Report included a presentation of a Certificate of Achievement from DANR to the City of Belle Fourche Public Water System. Ryan Stedillie, Aaron Fowler, and Steve Nafus accepted the award.

No community input or committee reports were given.

Attendees were reminded that Council orientation will be held on May 15 at 6 p.m. for all Council members; a Special Council meeting will be held on March 31 at 5:30 p.m.; and a Candidate Forum is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 27 at Venue 519.

Councilperson Schmaltz will be in Washington, D.C., March 24 through March 27 representing Belle Fourche for the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.

Councilperson Schild requested excusal from City Council on April 21.

The groundbreaking for the new Police Department took place Thursday, March 20 at 2

p.m.

Keller completed a flow test on well number three, showing 1,100 gallons per minute. Additionally, bids for Phase Three on 11th Avenue and side streets will open April 10, the airport taxiway reconstruction bids open March 26 for FAA review, and the five-year airport consultant selection process is also being advertised this week. City crews are currently tilling sections of the parks to remove rocks and bentonite, and will soon bring in fresh soil and apply hydroseed.

Nature is Nonpartisan held a meeting on March 19 at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers. The District 10 meeting will take place on April 1 at the Lodge in Deadwood.

The council went into executive session and reconvened with the motion to terminate R. Liming from employment as Landfill Equipment Operator I for the City of Belle Fourche. The motion carried.

There will be a Special City Council meeting on March 31. The next regular City Council meeting will be April 7 at 6 p.m.

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The **Dakota Scout**, a journal of South Dakota politics, government and culture that features journalism from veteran reporters Jonathan Ellis and Joe Sneve. Newsletters can be sent directly to your inbox and you can receive the state’s top political podcast - *The Scouting Report*. Look it up today.

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!



Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

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www.thedakotascout.com

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BELLE FOURCHE ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Penance Services:
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
March 26th
April 2nd, 9th & 16th

**Friday Stations
of the Cross:**
Each Friday during
Lent we will pray the
Stations of the Cross
followed by a Lenten
meal and a short talk
on faith practices.





Shepherd of the Hills Church
825 W Main Street in Lead

Good Shepherd Clinic

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

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

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

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

Hitching Post Tap House Crowns Trivia League Winners

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Eight weeks of Trivia League has come to an end at the Hitching Post Tap House. Finals were held on the evening of March 20.

Each week trivia teams answered three rounds of questions worth 10 points each for a total of 30 possible points. During the final round each team was able to bet points earned from the night for the final question. Weekly winners received 15 percent off their tab at the Tap House along with a \$15 gift card to a local Belle Fourche Business.

On the final night, teams were able to bet all points earned during the entire series on one final question. Betting was a Jeopardy-style winner take all system.

After making the decision for how many hard earned points to risk from those that each team spent eight weeks earning, it came down to one final question.

In the end, one team came out on top by knowing that March was named after the Roman God of War.

The team Just Here for the Pizza made up of Shannon and Neilon Millar won the Trivia

League title for the second year in a row. Shannon explained that they don't do anything special to prepare for trivia. Neilon added that they have tried studying in the past, but it didn't really work because you never know what will be asked. "I would suggest watching a lot of YouTube or reels because you never know," said Shannon.

Thursday night trivia was a popular way for the community to spend the evening. "This was our best season so far, we had more teams than we have ever had at any previous Trivia League," explained Amanda Kramp, Owner. "We had a great turnout almost every night we had full tables. The bar was packed pretty much every Thursday and that was where it was difficult to find seats sometimes, which was really cool!"

If you missed out on Trivia League, fear not! The Hitching Post will continue to have trivia night every Thursday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. So study up, watch YouTube, learn the Roman Gods and come to the next trivia night (or just show up and hope for the best, you might know way more than you think you do!) "We'll do a couple

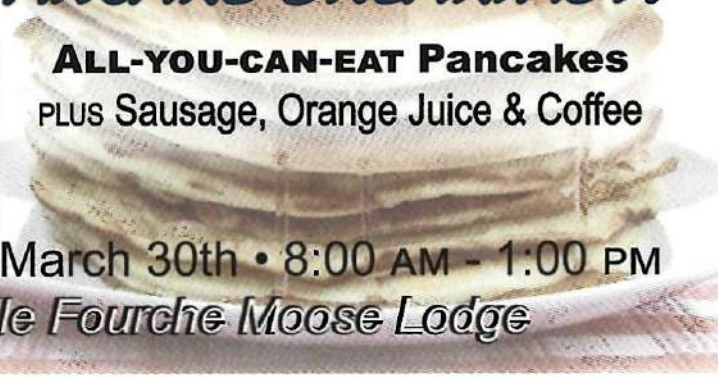


Belle Fourche Lions Club PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

\$5 per person
Children Under 5 FREE
Purchase tickets from any
Belle Fourche Lions Club member

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Pancakes
PLUS Sausage, Orange Juice & Coffee

Sunday, March 30th • 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Belle Fourche Moose Lodge



weeks of just normal trivia for people that are interested in playing. We'll keep putting it on every Thursday night," explained Kramp. "Once it's summertime, we'll kind of die down and we will stop for Hometown Thursdays."

The Hitching Post Tap House is a family owned business, Amanda Kramp, Tammy Westland, Mariah Wainman and Logan Symonds have other events planned. Up next is a Puzzle and Pints on March 29 at 12:30 p.m. where teams of two to four people race to put a 1000 piece puzzle together.



Hitching Post Tap House Trivia League winners were **Neilon and Shannon Millar** from the team **Just Here for the Pizza**. They won a gift basket full of local items from Smokes N' Things, The Emporium 605, Belle Flowers and Co, Dakota Petals, Lueders Food Center of Belle Fourche, Lynn's Dakotamart and Tristan's New and Used. *Longbrake photo*



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Belle Fourche High School Baseball 2025 Schedule				
Date		Opponent	JV Gametime	Varsity Gametime
Thursday	Mar 27	Rapid City Central HS		7:00pm
Saturday	Mar 29	Spearfish HS		1:00pm
Saturday	Mar 29	Sturgis HS	5:00pm	7:00pm
Saturday	April 5	**Hot Springs HS**	1:00pm	3:00pm
Saturday	April 5	**Custer HS** (in Hot Springs)		5:00pm
Wednesday	April 9	Rapid City Stevens HS	5:00pm	7:00pm
Sunday	April 13	**PGDCWL** (in Chamberlain)		3p (CDT)
Sunday	April 13	**Chamberlain/Kimball/Lyman**		5p (CDT)
Wednesday	April 16	**Lead/Deadwood HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Thursday	April 17	**Rapid City Christian HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Saturday	April 26	JV Quad (in Hot Springs)	TBD	
Sunday	April 27	**Gregory HS**		12:00pm
Sunday	April 27	**Custer HS**		4:00pm
Tuesday	April 29	**St. Thomas More HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Wednesday	April 30	**Lead/Deadwood HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Friday	May 2	RC Stevens (JV DH)	5:00pm & 7:00pm	
Sunday	May 4	**Winner/Colome**		12:00pm
Sunday	May 4	**Bennett County HS**		4:00pm
Monday	May 5	Rapid City Central HS	5:00pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	May 6	**St. Thomas More HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Friday	May 9	Douglas HS	5:00pm	7:00pm
Monday	May 12	**Hot Springs HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	May 13	**Rapid City Christian HS**	5:00pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	May 20	Regionals #1 & #2 seed hosts		TBD
Wednesday	May 21	Regionals Weather Date		TBD
Mon/Tues	May 27/28	State Tournament @ Brookings		TBD
Home	Neutral	Away	** Denotes Class B Power Points Game**	



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Nature is Nonpartisan crew with **Governor Larry Rhoden** as he signs the **Nature is Nonpartisan Week** proclamation. *Longbrake photos*

environmentalists. Today, that number is down to about 40%, but when you talk to people about really the common-sense environmental issues, about caring for nature, about the need for clean air, clean water, habitat restoration, protecting wildlife, making sure that small towns can recover from disasters, upwards of 90, 95% of people agree on those issues,” she said. “And so we’re really trying to bring people from both sides of the aisle together and to talk to the 80% of Americans who aren’t on either extreme.”

The event featured a line-up of speakers, starting with founder Benji Backer who spoke about the importance of coming together despite political differences to save the environment. “We are not these boxes in America that we put ourselves in,” said Backer. “We pinned ourselves against

one another, especially on this issue so unnecessarily, and the rational majority of Americans are no longer represented when it comes to the environmental dialogues that are happening at the national level.” Backer went on. “We believe conservation is nonpartisan.

We believe protecting the environment is nonpartisan, and we believe that nature is nonpartisan, and we believe that to have the best results, you need to have a competition of ideas to solve the problems with every person at the table.”

The audience also heard from a variety of other speakers including Robbie Lauf, Executive Director at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library; Larry Rhoden, Governor of South Dakota; and Randy Schmidt, Mayor of Belle Fourche.

The launch event wasn’t just about speeches, however; it was

also a call to action. Attendees were invited to sign a pledge committing to conservation efforts in their own communities. Governor Larry Rhoden also signed a proclamation stating that March 20 is Nature is Nonpartisan Week in South Dakota, and both Backer and Rhoden signed the Forever 605 Pledge.

With a strong start in the Center of the Nation, Belle Fourche, Nature is Nonpartisan hopes to expand its reach, encouraging communities across South Dakota and beyond to embrace conservation as a shared responsibility.

Its District 10 meeting will take place on April 1 at the Lodge in Deadwood.

For more information on upcoming events or how to get involved, visit www.natureis-nonpartisan.org.



Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Director **Michaela Horn** has a discussion with **Governor Larry Rhoden**.



Belle Fourche Mayor **Randy Schmidt** speaks to the audience.



Benji Backer and **Governor Larry Rhoden** sign the **Forever 605 Pledge**.

Belle Flowers Holds Bloom Bar

Ryder Heitrz
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Belle Flowers & Co. kicked off the first day of Spring with a Bloom Bar event on Friday evening, March 21.

A small crowd of flower enthusiasts designed and built their own bouquets using stems chosen from a wide selection of flowers.

Participants enjoyed flo-

ral-themed cupcakes and champagne. The boutique also had a special sale for those who wanted to shop. Vases, florals, greens, and fillers were provided. “I just have them pick out a vase, I give them a piece of paper, if they have a budget and they want to stick to it, everything is priced out ahead of time so they just write down as they pick out what they get.

They start with a vase at a certain price point, and then each flower is priced. And then they just go and pick out whatever flowers they want, and they have free range,” explained Brittany Wilkinson, Owner.

Wilkinson plans to hold another Bloom Bar event next month. The flower shop is also hosting a Paint & Sip event on April 12.



(Above) **Bloom Bar** attendees got to choose flowers for their bouquets from a wide array of options. (Upper Right) **Heather Tripp**, left, and **Courtney Lynch**, right, said they had a lot of fun making their bouquets. (Lower Right) **A Bloom Bar** participant carefully crafts her vase of flowers. *Longbrake photos*



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Cattle Report - Friday, March 21, 2025

Right at 1000 cattle today
Lots of demand for bred cows

Weigh up cows & bulls were \$1 to \$3 higher

Next Sale - March 28 - Feeder Cattle Special - 10 AM
1 PM - Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Bred Cows - Sold by the head

Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	16	Blk	4-5	1428	\$3,325.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	17	Blk	4-5	1073	\$3,100.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	39	Blk	Solid	1433	\$3,100.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	33	Blk	Ss	1428	\$2,900.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	38	Blk	Ss	1405	\$2,900.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	33	Blk	Broken	1323	\$2,560.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	79	Blk	Broken	1314	\$2,560.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	48	Blk	Broken	1194	\$2,200.00
Cross Four Cattle Llc, Miles City MT.....	26	Blk	Broken	1285	\$2,525.00
Hook & Jordan, Alva WY.....	10	Blk	4-5	1347	\$3,325.00
Floyd Land & Livestock, Gillette WY.....	43	Bbld	Ss	1467	\$2,700.00
Floyd Land & Livestock, Gillette WY.....	31	Bbld	Broken	1424	\$2,700.00

Weigh Up Cows

63 Land & Cattle, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1180	\$134.00
63 Land & Cattle, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1340	\$131.00
Arthur, Leandra, Piedmont SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1585	\$143.50
Baker, Robert, Buffalo Gap SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1355	\$146.00
Baker, Robert, Buffalo Gap SD.....	2	Blk	Cow	1400	\$132.00
Baker, Robert, Buffalo Gap SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1280	\$132.00
Baker, Robert, Buffalo Gap SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1385	\$130.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Herf	Cow	1100	\$145.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1630	\$144.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1215	\$133.00
Bauer, Bradley/Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1580	\$132.00
Bauer, Casey, Union Center SD.....	2	Blk	Cow	1332	\$140.50
Beighley, Dennis, Fairburn SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1200	\$136.00
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1180	\$130.00
Casteel, Ryan, Vale SD.....	1	Bld	Hfrt	1110	\$227.50
Casteel, Ryan, Vale SD.....	3	Bld	Cow	1466	\$144.50
Clarys, Richard, Olive MT.....	1	Blk	Cow	1395	\$141.00
Cross Four Cattle Llc, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1215	\$155.00
Cross Four Cattle Llc, Miles City MT.....	2	Blk	Cow	1470	\$145.00
Cross Four Cattle Llc, Miles City MT.....	3	Blk	Cow	1165	\$134.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1305	\$164.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1360	\$156.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1180	\$155.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	7	Cow		1467	\$147.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cow	1350	\$146.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cow	1310	\$142.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	2	Cow		1300	\$140.00
Cross Four Ranch, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cow	1120	\$132.00
C & W Feeders, SD.....	19	Cwette		1430	\$150.25
C & W Feeders, SD.....	33	Blk	Cow	1619	\$149.25
C & W Feeders, SD.....	33	Bld	Cow	1613	\$148.25
C & W Feeders, SD.....	7	Blk	Cow	1502	\$145.00
C & W Feeders, SD.....	3	Bld	Cow	1630	\$143.25
Dalby, Jacob, Gillette WY.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1065	\$162.00
Dikoff, Clinton G, Hermosa SD.....	1	Bld	Hfrt	1040	\$232.00
Dikoff, Clinton G, Hermosa SD.....	1	Char	Hfrt	1075	\$224.00
Falzerano, Warren C, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1220	\$131.00
Floyd Land & Livestock, Gillette WY.....	1	Blk	Cow	1615	\$144.00
Floyd Land & Livestock, Gillette WY.....	2	Blk	Cow	1515	\$130.00
Gantz, Jodi, Scenic SD.....	2	Blk	Cow	1450	\$144.50
Gantz, Jodi, Scenic SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1300	\$135.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	3	Bld	Cwette	1585	\$150.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	1	Char	Cow	1505	\$147.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	9	Bld	Cow	1621	\$143.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	1	Blk	Cow	1355	\$139.00
Glass, Roger H, Gillette WY.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1275	\$150.00
Glass, Roger H, Gillette WY.....	1	Blk	Cow	1205	\$135.00
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis SD.....	3	Blk	Cow	1455	\$143.50
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1715	\$139.00
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis SD.....	1	Cow		1250	\$135.00
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk	Hfrt	885	\$225.00
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1380	\$140.50
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1375	\$135.00
Grubl, Christopher, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1465	\$133.00
Hoffman, Matt Or Jana, St Onge SD.....	2	Blk	Hfrt	1157	\$186.00
Hook, Lenord W & Carolyn J, Alva WY.....	1	Blk	Cow	1390	\$130.00
Johnson, Cody, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1305	\$145.00
Kammerer, Jessica, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1425	\$144.50
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1220	\$143.00
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1430	\$137.00
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1370	\$136.00
K-C Ranch, Vale SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1390	\$149.50
Koch, Kevin, Owanka SD.....	2	Blk	Hfrt	937	\$237.00
Lintz, Jim & Brenda, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1290	\$163.00
Lintz, Jim & Brenda, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1385	\$142.50
Lintz, Jim & Brenda, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1690	\$139.00
Lintz, Jim & Brenda, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1425	\$133.00
Mackaben, Ronny, Broadus MT.....	1	Blk	Cwette	780	\$150.00
Mccoy, Jim, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1455	\$139.00
Mcperson, Baxter, Sturgis SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1555	\$143.00
Mcperson, Baxter, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1350	\$133.00
Minor, Leon, Nisland SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1260	\$135.00
Nixon, Jade, Alzada MT.....	1	Blk	Hfrt	920	\$240.00
Nixon, Josh Or Lynn, Alzada MT.....	1	Blk	Hfrt	810	\$247.00
Norman Ranch, Black Hawk SD.....	1	Blk	Hfrt	1050	\$235.00
Norman Ranch, Black Hawk SD.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1275	\$161.00

Norman Ranch, Black Hawk SD.....	3	Blk	Cow	1420	\$145.50
Norman Ranch, Black Hawk SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1370	\$133.00
Peterson, Jon, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk	Hfrt	1050	\$172.50
Peterson, Jon, Belle Fourche SD.....	7	Blk	Cow	1365	\$147.50
Peterson, Jon, Belle Fourche SD.....	4	Blk	Cow	1307	\$147.50
Peterson, Jon, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1375	\$147.00
Poppenga, Justin, Davis SD.....	3	Blk	Cow	1358	\$139.00
Poppenga, Justin, Davis SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1085	\$135.00
Red Rose Cattle Llc, Caputa SD.....	1	Red	Cow	1695	\$145.00
Red Rose Cattle Llc, Caputa SD.....	1	Red	Cow	1590	\$143.00
Rehm, Sara Or Stone, Miles City MT.....	1	Cow		1420	\$146.00
Rehm, Sara Or Stone, Miles City MT.....	1	Blk	Cow	1230	\$141.00
Ryan Xz Ranch Llc, Aladdin WY.....	1	Blk	Cow	1230	\$134.00
Schuladies, Gerald, Spearfish SD.....	1	Blk	Hfrt	1170	\$180.00
Seldo Inc, Boyes MT.....	4	Blk	Hfrt	1173	\$214.00
Seldo Inc, Boyes MT.....	3	Bld	Hfrt	1106	\$212.50
Seldo Inc, Boyes MT.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1180	\$155.00
Seldo Inc, Boyes MT.....	1	Blk	Cow	1250	\$147.00
Snyder Cattle Co Llc, Piedmont SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1130	\$146.00
Snyder Cattle Co Llc, Piedmont SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1435	\$145.50
Snyder Cattle Co Llc, Piedmont SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1430	\$143.00
Spellman, Bobby/Rebecca Jo, Buffalo WY.....	1	Bld	Hfrt	1060	\$219.00
Spellman, Bobby/Rebecca Jo, Buffalo WY.....	1	Blk	Cwette	1200	\$155.00
Stoddard, Steve, Broadus MT.....	1	Bld	Hfrt	1090	\$225.00
Tibbetts, Shannon Or Patti, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1125	\$144.00
Tibbetts, Shannon Or Patti, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1330	\$135.00
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD.....	3	Blk	Cow	1545	\$139.00
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD.....	3	Bld	Cow	1285	\$134.00
Weyrich, Keith, Sturgis SD.....	2	Blk	Cow	1320	\$130.00
Williamson, Todd Or Melanie, Newell SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1385	\$134.00
Williamson, Todd Or Melanie, Newell SD.....	1	Blk	Cow	1170	\$133.00
Yy Cattle Inc, Volborg MT.....	4	Blk	Hfrt	1283	\$185.00

Weigh Up Bulls

3x Ranch Llc, Buffalo SD.....	2	Blk	Bull	1605	\$158.00
3x Ranch Llc, Buffalo SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1470	\$151.00
3x Ranch Llc, Buffalo SD.....	1	Herf	Bull	1695	\$150.00
Aldren, Jon Or Heidi, Whitewood SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	2360	\$161.00
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1840	\$160.00
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD.....	6	Blk	Bull	1813	\$158.50
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1635	\$161.00
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1510	\$157.00
Bothwell, Thad, Rapid City SD.....	1	Xbrd	Bull	1380	\$151.00
Bunney, Mark, Aladdin WY.....	1	Red	Bull	2285	\$160.00
Casteel, Charles, Vale SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	2155	\$172.50
Davey, William, Rapid City SD.....	1	Xbrd	Bull	1405	\$150.00
Farlee, Enoch, Rapid City SD.....	1	Xbrd	Bull	1680	\$151.00
Fowlkes, Larry Or Terri, Aladdin WY.....	1	Blk	Bull	1885	\$171.00
Fowlkes, Larry Or Terri, Aladdin WY.....	1	Blk	Bull	1830	\$150.00
Fowlkes, Larry Or Terri, Aladdin WY.....	2	Blk	Bull	1690	\$168.00
Home Creek Cattle Co, Ashland MT.....	1	Blk	Bull	1865	\$160.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD.....	1	Herf	Bull	1515	\$154.00
Jundt, Franklin Michael, Gillette WY.....	1	Red	Bull	2090	\$153.00
Jundt, Franklin Michael, Gillette WY.....	1	Xbrd	Bull	880	\$185.00
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1415	\$153.00
K-C Ranch, Vale SD.....	1	Herf	Bull	1970	\$160.00
Kissack, Quent Or Wendy, Rozet WY.....	1	Red	Bull	1990	\$157.00
Oleson Ranch Llp, Newcastle WY.....	1	Blk	Bull	1895	\$164.00
Oleson Ranch Llp, Newcastle WY.....	1	Blk	Bull	1360	\$151.00
Reynolds, Frank, Rozet WY.....	1	Blk	Bull	2150	\$164.00
Snyder Cattle Co Llc, Piedmont SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1900	\$175.00
Trimble, Tom, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1910	\$172.50
Vallery River Ranch Trust, Nisland SD.....	1	Blk	Bull	1855	\$180.00
Vore, Tom & Susan, Newcastle WY.....	1	Blk	Bull	2025	\$163.00
Vore, Tom & Susan, Newcastle WY.....	1	Char	Bull	2005	\$170.00

Friday, March 28, 2025

Bred Heifer & Cow Special

Feeder Cattle & Replacement Heifer Special

Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale

9:00 AM - Weigh Up Cows, 11:00 AM - Bred Cows followed

by Feeder Cattle

BT-Branding Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free BV-
Bangs Vaccinated NI- No Implants

Feeder Cattle

Pzinski Ranch – 280 Blk Strs & Hfrs – 600-725# - BT, PC
Rockin B Feeders – 150 Blk & Bldy Hfrs – 650-750# - BT, PC, BV
- 56 Red & Bldy Hfrs – 700-750# - BT, PC, BV, Replacement Kind
Sd Consignment – 135 Blk Strs & Hfrs – 500-600# - BT, PC, NHTC
Smith Ranch Inc – 60 Blk Hfrs – 570-610# - BT, PC, Poured, BV
Tyler Tibbetts – 30 Blk Hfrs – 675-775# - BT, PC, BV, Replacement Kind
Charles & Rosalie Tennis – 20 Blk & Bldy Hfrs – 700-750# - BT, PC, BV, Replacement Kind

Plus more by sale time!

2025 CATTLE SALES

April 4th – Bred Heifer & Cow Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 11th – Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 18th – Pair & Bred Cow Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 25th – Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Regular Sale 1 PM

Bred Ewes

Arlege Ranch – 300 6 Yr Old Ewes – Wf Bucks – 5/15

Please have animals in by 10:00 AM

So they can all be weighed before the sale!

2025 SHEEP SALES

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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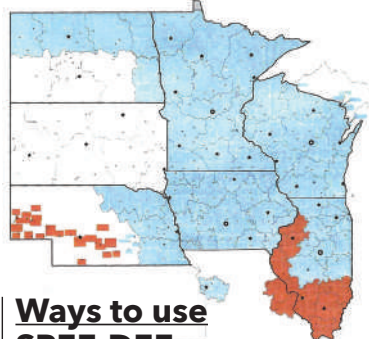
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SPEE-DEE Why use delivery

- No coverage charges until 130". That means that if your length + Width + Height is less than 130" it is considered to be a standard package- and that is a pretty big limit.
- Next day service to a large area (Map) White is next day, Blue is two day, red three day service from 57717.
- Quick, hands-On Service. Phenomenal reputation for care and execution.
- Cost Savings. There is no other way to say it, when you compare shipping in the Midwest compared to FEDEX or UPS Speedee is always the most affordable way to go.

Ways to use SPEE-DEE:

- Ship straight from Dakota Petals at 516 State Street, Belle Fourche.
- Create call tags at Dakota Petals or Speedee to retrieve your freight throughout the Midwest.
- Have suppliers/vendors in the Midwest? Inform them you like to check pricing with Speedee. Then you can ask Dakota Petals to get you a price and create call tags. The freight can be shipped directly or back to Dakota Petals for additional savings.
- Find something cool on the Marketplace/Internet that would need shipping? Same story, with Speedee it is inexpensive and highly accessible.

COWBOYS TOO!

SPORT COATS



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Local.

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.

Building an Archive at the Tri-State Museum in Belle Fourche March 15

Kristi Thielen, Director of the museum, made a general request to the audience at the writer’s presentation. Historians need letters, diaries, and journals. Remember: we’re not looking to pry into your life, these are for historians and researchers in decades to come.

People wrote more in the early part of the century - emails have hurt us in terms of historical documentation. We have some good info from the early part of the century but less and

less as time goes by. We also have fewer artifacts after about 1970.

Larger history books - such as the Butte County book published in 1988 edited by Pat Engbretson, Kay Heck and Helen Herrett and Pioneer Footprints published by the Half Century Club in 1964 - are now almost half a century old, and there is no social movement or time to create such books now. Both the museum and the library have copies of these books.

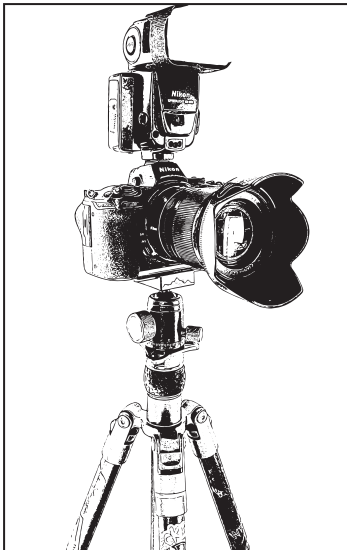
We have digital files of our collection, but the physical artifacts are stored and haven’t been discarded. It is a myth



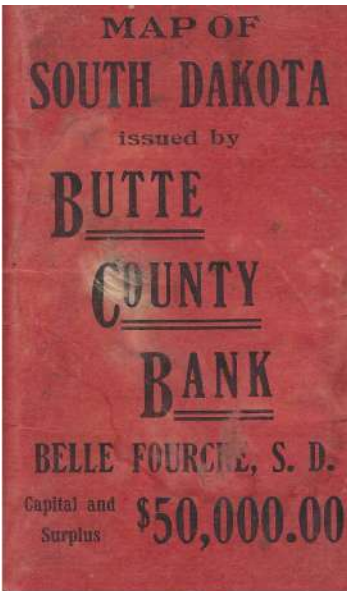
by Mary Buchholz

that once you have a digital copy, the physical copy is no longer necessary. Tri-State Museum, with its new addition, has created a library/archive for researchers to use our local resources.

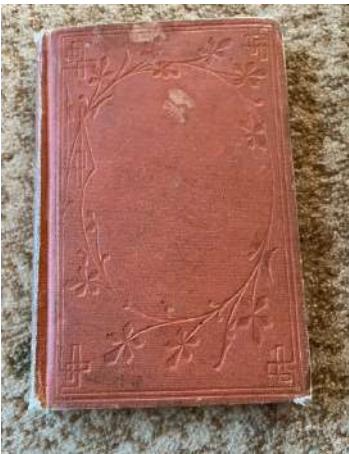
Here are some examples of possible donations to the local museum from my collections:



HUNTER ANDERSON
PHOTOGRAPHER
602-418-4339
hunterandersonphotography.com



Older postcard photos from the **Brant Ranch** on **Owl Creek** from **Sue Broadhurst.**; Butte County Bank South Dakota Map



CANDLES AND MIRRORS #26w By DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel The Corn Has Ears!

“Why shouldn’t you tell secrets in a cornfield? Because the corn has ears!”

Possibly the riddle was the source of our mother’s code words of caution; she would say something similar when we kids were in the presence of adults and “questionable” topics entered the conversation. Some things were not discussed in front of children.

One March afternoon I sat next to Mom at the oil-cloth-covered table at Grandma’s house. A spoon-filled glass, a covered butter dish, a sugar bowl, glass salt and pepper shakers, and a container of rusks served as permanent centerpieces. Grandma had mixed a glass of Tang for me. The adults, including two uncles, dipped the dry crisp bread (Skorpor) in their coffee. I bit into one of the rusks and the neighbors two miles away likely heard the crunch. The adults laughed. “Give that girl some coffee!” an uncle suggested.

“Nah, it will stunt her growth,” Grandma stated seriously.

The adults laughed and the conversation turned to local happenings. I listened (and crunched), enjoying the adult dialog, something about someone losing their farm. All at once Mom cut in. “There are ears in the cornfield.” A second or two of silence ensued. Grandma suddenly asked about the price of eggs from the egg truck. At the time I was quite baffled as to the relevance of eggs to the cornfield and a bit disappointed that I didn’t learn the end of the story of the poor farmer. But children were to be seen and not heard, at least at Grandma’s house, so I dipped my rusk in the Tang and chewed more quietly.

A few months later, three of Mom’s sisters, Lilly, Julia and Ida, sat around our kitchen table. Mom served coffee and cake. I loved listening to my aunts. They often reminisced of the past. Their stories painted pictures of their youth and how different my mom’s life



was from mine. Blue eyes sparkled as the women chattered on. Julia dived into a story I was beginning to enjoy immensely when suddenly the tale transposed to Swedish! I frowned, disappointed at missing the rest of the story, especially when it ended with the four shaking in laughter, and tears of mirth pouring down their faces.

Later, I asked Mom about the story. “You are too young,” Then I asked her if she would teach me Swedish.

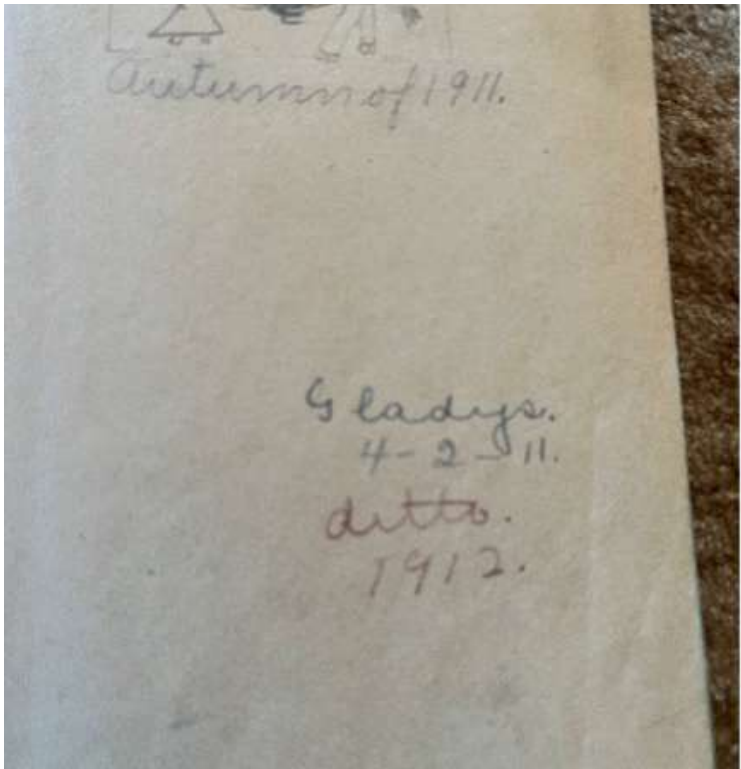
The folks believed that some topics were not for youngsters’ ears. Finances, neighbors’ misfortunes, miscarriage and pregnancy were not discussed when my siblings and I were around. Back then couples did not announce upcoming births until said event was quite obvious in spite of loose-fitting dress.

Occasionally, Delmer and I would be comfortably seated in the living room, Mom and Dad in their easy chairs, when “Gunsmoke” flashed on the black and white screen before us. If the opening scene was a wild shoot-out chase of the bad guys, Dad might instruct his “remote” (me) to change the channel. “Kids don’t need to be seeing that violence.” (The remote walked very slowly.)

Often when readers comment about my stories, they say “Those were the good old days.” Or “Those were simpler times.”

Reflecting, I am not sure I agree. I still wonder what Mom and her sisters thought was so funny that day. As for “simpler,” maybe. I would say “quieter.” After all, not only did the corn have ears, the potatoes had eyes and the celery would stalk you!

All of the stories from Kruempel’s previous columns have been published into books that are full of fun stories and precious memories. Those four books, along with her historical fiction series, “Promises to Keep,” are available on Amazon. Contact the author at deannkruempelaauthor@gmail.com.



Local diary from the **Aladdin** area done by a young girl Gladys in 1911

(From Left) Items part of the Buchholz family collection; antique store German language; Memorandum book.



Capitol Building Pierre, SD



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Shaine's Riddle of the Week:

How do you make the number 7 even without addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division?

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Answer: Drop the "S" and "seven" becomes "even".

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Market Report - Thursday, March 20, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
KP Stevens Inc, Ashland MT	19	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	1213	3525.00	\$3,525.00
	24	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1415	3700.00	\$3,700.00
	40	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1431	3025.00	\$3,025.00
	14	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1413	3000.00	\$3,000.00
	24	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1387	2850.00	\$2,850.00
	34	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1409	2800.00	\$2,800.00
Bar K Ranch, Bowman ND	13	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	1224	3300.00	\$3,300.00
	13	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1370	3250.00	\$3,250.00
969 Ranch, Broadus MT	11	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1433	2700.00	\$2,700.00
	4	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 5/6	1330	2300.00	\$2,300.00

Sean Or Tucker Carroll, Ranchester WY	32	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1333	2550.00	\$2,550.00
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WEIGH-UPS

Kermit Rumph, Biddle MT	1	Black-Cow	1190	183.00	\$2,177.70
	1	Black-Hft	1170	190.00	\$2,223.00
	2	Black-Hft	960	239.00	\$2,294.40
	1	Black-Hft	1015	223.00	\$2,263.45
	2	Black-Hft	928	238.00	\$2,207.45
Gregory Or Kathy Wetz, Vale SD	1	Bwf-Cow	1395	145.50	\$2,029.72
	1	Bwf-Cow	1630	142.00	\$2,314.60
Kevin Reindl, Custer SD	1	Black-Cow	1460	142.50	\$2,080.50
Matt Or Donna Perino, Newcastle WY	7	Black-Cow	966	189.00	\$1,826.55
	4	Black-Cow	1076	149.00	\$1,603.61
	1	Black-Cow	1015	179.00	\$1,816.85
Cross W Livestock, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Cow	1265	181.00	\$2,289.65
	16	Black-Hft	1112	206.50	\$2,296.02
Emmons Cattle, Olive MT	6	Blk/Bwf-Hft	1055	220.50	\$2,326.27
	1	Black-Cow	1210	183.00	\$2,214.30

Cliff Or Cheyenne Conry, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1595	146.00	\$2,328.70
	2	Black-Cow	1375	145.00	\$1,993.75
	1	Black-Cow	1295	173.00	\$2,240.35
Neal Mccoy, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1205	140.50	\$1,693.02
Jeff Plucker, Aladdin WY	5	Black-Cow	1494	143.00	\$2,136.42
	1	Black-Cow	1355	130.00	\$1,761.50
Kp & Keith Stevens Inc, Ashland MT	1	Black-Cow	1685	145.00	\$2,443.25
	1	Black-Cow	1325	176.00	\$2,332.00
	2	Black-Cow	1280	148.50	\$1,900.80

Lacy J Or Jeremy Schneider, Ludlow SD	1	Black-Cow	1265	145.00	\$1,834.25
	1	Bwf-Cow	1350	134.00	\$1,809.00
	1	Black-Cow	1535	132.00	\$2,026.20
Tate Halverson, Hermosa SD	1	Black-Cow	1435	142.00	\$2,037.70
Ronnie Or Vonda Mahaffy, Newell SD	1	Black-Hft	940	238.00	\$2,237.20
	1	Black-Hft	1005	235.00	\$2,361.75
	1	Black-Hft	995	235.00	\$2,338.25
	1	Black-Cow	1190	196.00	\$2,332.40
Tim McInemey, Alzada MT	1	Black-Cow	1360	142.50	\$1,938.00
	1	Black-Hft	960	229.00	\$2,175.50
Doyle Or Lorie Dejong, Box Elder SD	1	Black-Cow	1400	142.50	\$1,995.00
	1	Black-Cow	1295	150.00	\$1,942.50
	1	Rwf-Cow	1475	142.50	\$2,101.87

REGULAR SALE

MARCH 27, 2025

ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT

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THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH @ 1:00 PM	CS ANGUS
THURSDAY, MAY 1ST @ 1:00 PM	J SPEAR CATTLE CO
THURSDAY, MAY 22ND @ 1:00 PM	ANNUAL TURN-OUT TIMES
	ALL BREEDS BULL SALE

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Ekalaka,MT

Riley Lesh | 406-697-0573
Brett Loughlin | 605-210-0615

Forsyth,MT

Scott Anderson | 406-351-1844

Jordan,MT

Jason Bollinger | 406-690-8344

Wyoming

Mike Greenough | 307-620-2597

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APRIL 3, 2025

WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | FEEDERS @ 12 MT



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SD Cattle Brand located on LR



SD Cattle Brand located on LH



SD Cattle Brand located on LH

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

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

Chamber of Commerce Provides a Member Showcase at Casino Night

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—There was little bit of sin city here in our own Belle Fourche when the Community Hall was transformed into an entertainment mecca during Casino Night on the evening of March 22.

For the first time ever, The Chamber of Commerce brought a new concept to the town as a fun way to showcase the businesses in the area.

"This is an event to promote our members! Our booths are our members. We're promoting them in the prize packages, and then everything you see here comes from our members—Hometown Thursdays has the cocktail tables, the little vignettes that are set up for conversation that is Black Hills Deals and Steals—those are for purchase. A lot of our dealers are members—Colton over here is with Belle Chiropractic and he's pitching in, 605 Media is

the DJ and photo booth, and then all the curtains and stuff that you see, they are members with Something Borrowed," explained Michaela Horn, Chamber of Commerce Director.

"And so it's just a way to showcase what our membership has to offer. It shows that the Belle Fourche Chamber can connect you with the resources!"

Contd. C5 Casino Night



(L) The *Spirit of Cheer and Dance, Inc* participated in human slot machine game. (R) Volunteers stepped up to help with the event, including being a *Blackjack* dealer. Robbi Longbrake Photos

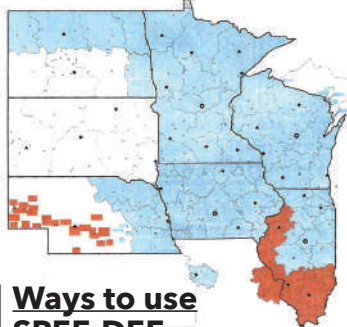


(L) Mikayla Boswell and Lee Capp play three card poker at *Casino Night*. (R) Ken Branich entertained the crowd with his *Cyr Wheel* performance.

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- Have suppliers/vendors in the Midwest? Inform them you like to check pricing with Speedee. Then you can ask Dakota Petals to get you a price and create call tags. The freight can be shipped directly or back to Dakota Petals for additional savings.
- Find something cool on the Marketplace/Internet that would need shipping? Same story, with Speedee it is inexpensive and highly accessible.



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Friday: 7:30 p.m.

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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.

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Pastor Tim Smith
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15am
Morning Worship - 10:30am
Wednesday: Salt and Light Youth -
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5:00pm Soup & Sandwich
5:30pm - Salt and Light

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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(605)-920-1959
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10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

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Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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PRAIRIE HOME CHURCH
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Worship: 11 a.m.

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Alzada, MT
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Mark Leverington, Lay Pastor

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Contact: Nathan Thompson
605 569-3057
Sermons: fightintheshade

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Pastor Marveen Gentillon
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Morning Prayer: 9:00am
Sabbath School: 9:30am
Worship Service: 10:45am
Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

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Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
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**Capitol News
March 16
by Karen Odell**
Dick and Erma
Capitol and Tie
Creek have not quite
felt spring, yet, but

daytime temperatures have gone
up, and some sunny calm days are
wonderful. The wind still has to
visit often, and we are still hoping
for rain.

Dick and Erma Albert had a
normal week. They went to a tax
appointment in Bowman, on
Wednesday. Erma has had trouble
with her arm, and found some
help when she went to the chiro-
practor on Wednesday. The Senior
Citizen dinner, on Friday, was very
good. On Sunday, they both went
to church at the Catholic church in
Buffalo. Then they went to Saloon
Number Three for dinner.
Alvin and Marlee Cordell stayed
close to home, this week. The
butcher from Baker came one
day to butcher a cow for them.
They watched the Baker girls'
high school basketball team play
at state on TV. Then, they also
got to watch the Harding County
girls' team play at Huron, and see
some of the A tournament at Black
Hills State University. Calving has
started, so things will be more
busy now.

Ronda Cordell had been busy
sorting heifers and moving cattle
around in the past weeks. Calv-
ing is now upon them. The heifer
due date was May 16th, but the
first arrival was March 4th. That
was the day after they had sorted
heifers in from the pasture. Diane
Wear has come on her off hours
from regular work. She stayed over
a few nights to help move cows,
and check the cows on camera.
Bruce Gustafson has been coming
out from Camp Crook, to help
Clint Zolnoski feed cows and
tend to the new mamas and their
babies. Needless to say, the nights
have gotten shorter since calving
has started, and Daylight Savings
Time has nothing to do with it.
Ronda's amazing camera setup
has surely helped with the calving.
The family spent from Wednes-
day until Monday, March 10th,
keeping posted on Darby Zolnoski,
who was hospitalized in Rapid
City. What seemed to have been an
infected tooth, turned out to be a
terrible sinus infection, or that was
the last diagnosis. The most recent
report is that Darby is getting back
to normal. It's so scary when little
children get that sick, and have to
be taken by ambulance.
Ronda couldn't miss out on her
niece, Wanda Cordell's 60th birth-
day celebration at the Corner Bar,
on March 7th. Linda Hannah and
Ronda went to the annual play at
the Bullock Hall, last Sunday. The
plays are never a disappointment,
and it was well attended.

Lynn Gustafson and Yvonne
Yoder made a trip to the Hills,
on Thursday, for some shopping.
Bruce and Lynn went to church at
Little Missouri Church on Sunday
morning.
Julia Davis had a fight with the
wind on Monday. She had gone to
work, but while getting out of the
car, the wind took the door open
wide and her arm along with it,
so she and Doug have spent some
time visiting doctors and getting
pictures and opinions about her
arm. The badly injured is not
thought to be broken. Still more
checking is needed. The best thing
is that Travis and Amanda have
moved back from Alabama. Rory

was very happy on his birthday, to
get to help his grandpa do chores.
He will also get to go to school
where his cousins had gone in
Belle Fourche. It is great to have
them home again. They came
out again on Sunday, from Belle
Fourche, and they all helped do
some chores.

The calving has started at Junior
and Shirley Melum's. Ernie, Rachel
and Tommy went to church in
Baker on Sunday. Then Ernie
and Tommy visited at Junior
and Shirley's. The Sundays will
become quite busy for the rest of
the spring. Junior and Shirley's
daughter, Bertha, lives near Kansas
City. Bertha's husband was golfing
and met a new person on the golf
course. When Bertha's husband
asked the man where he was from,
he said "a little town in South
Dakota that you have probably
never heard of; Camp Crook." It
was quite a surprise when Bertha's
husband knew many people near
Camp Crook, and the man he
was talking to in Kansas City, was
Richey Cordell.

Dorothy Padden spent much of
the week in Huron, South Dakota.
It was an exciting week. Three of
her granddaughters were playing
in the South Dakota State Girls
Basketball Tournament. Bryce and
Dawn picked her up on Wednes-
day, and they went to the tourna-
ment. They stayed with friends
about an hour from Huron, but
they spent most of their time at
the games. Dawn had her camera,
and got lots of great pictures of the
action. Kamry Padden was hon-
ored to be chosen a member of the
all-tournament team. By the time
they all got home on Sunday, they
were ready for a rest, but it would
be a contented and happy rest.

Karen Odell made a couple of trips
to Camp Crook. She got to watch
the Harding County girls play in
the state tournament on comput-
er. It was nice enough for her to
get some work done outside. On
Saturday, she searched on-line
and found a radio station that was
broadcasting the Ohio high school
girls' basketball tournament. Her
home town team was playing for
the Ohio state championship out
of possibly 500 other state teams.
It was fun to hear the announc-
ers give the names of players,
because Karen recognized all of
those names, and she realized that
granddaughters of her friends and
relatives were playing on the team.
It was a wonderful game, and
the Columbus Grove girls won
the state tournament. The name
Fortman was probably a distant
cousin. The name Auchmuty
was definitely granddaughter of
a next-farm neighbor. The name
Stechschulte might be a frined's
granddaughter, and it was exciting
to hear the action. Karen talked to
Micki and Murphy Hinds, one day.
She talked to high school friend
Bill Foulkes, who had reminded
her of the state basketball game.
She talked to sister-in-law, Carol
Smith. She talked to Cody and
Kylie Odell one day, and mes-
saged with Mollie and Kyia Smith,
who's creative genius was working
overtime. On Sunday, Karen went
to church in Camp Crook, and
played piano. It was so good to see
good friends she hadn't seen for a
while, and know they are healthy
again, after a bad time in the hos-
pital. It is also great to learn that
the Arldiges have a new little girl.
Success is not measured by what
you gain, but by what others have
gained because of you.

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

The Reality of a Failure to Plan

In today's rapidly
evolving economic
landscape, communities
face unprecedented
challenges. The gap be-
tween forward-thinking
cities and those relying
on outdated economic
development models
continues to widen,
since the COVID pandemic,
the numbers having accelerated
these trends.

When looking at the num-
bers, it is apparent that Retail is
undergoing dramatic restructur-
ing. Recent data reveals a clear
segmentation: Major national
retailers like Walmart, Target,
and Home Depot saw 8-22%
revenue growth during 2020-
2023, with continued expan-
sion. Locally-owned businesses
face an extinction-level threat,
with over 200,000 permanent
small business closures during
the pandemic, representing
nearly 34% of pre-pandemic
small retailers according to
data from the Small Business
Administration. According to
a 2023 Federal Reserve study,
small and mid-sized communi-
ties are disproportionately af-
fected, with retail vacancy rates
averaging 17.8% compared to
11.3% in larger metropolitan
areas.

Online shopping has acceler-
ation of e-commerce adoption.
Census Bureau data shows
e-commerce now represents
over 25% of total retail sales,
up from 14.3% pre-pandemic.
However, when the pendu-
lum swings too far, economic
devastation follows: Every
\$100 spent at a local business



generates approximately
\$68 in local economic
activity through wag-
es, supply chain, and
secondary spending.
The same \$100 spent
at a national chain
creates approximately
\$43 in local economic
return. For online pur-
chases from non-local entities,
local economic return drops to
just \$3-5 per \$100.

Forward-thinking commu-
nities understand the "Law of
Local" - the mathematical reali-
ty that local dollar circulation
determines economic health.
Economic multiplier studies
from the Federal Reserve show
that: Local businesses return
52-68% of revenue to the local
economy. National chains re-
turn 13-43% of revenue locally.
Online retailers from outside the
community return 0-3% locally.
This isn't merely opinion - it's
economic mathematics. A com-
munity with 20,000 households
spending an average of \$5,000
annually on retail and services
could generate between \$52-68
million in local economic ac-
tivity if those dollars stay local,
versus \$13-43 million if spent at
chains, a potential difference of
\$25+ million annually.

Communities that success-
fully navigate this transition
share common characteristics:
Resource Reallocation: Rather
than offering tax incentives to
attract big box stores (averaging
\$2.5-4.2 billion per project),
they invest in local entrepre-
neurship support (typically
\$150,000-500,000 annual-
ly). Infrastructure for Local

Success: They create business
incubators, offer microloans
(\$5,000-50,000), and provide
technical assistance to local en-
trepreneurs. Experiential Focus:
They invest in quality-of-life
amenities that drive foot traffic,
with data showing that walkable
downtowns with mixed-use de-
velopment generate 40% higher
per-square-foot revenue than
strip malls. Regulatory Reform:
They streamline permitting and
licensing processes, reducing
small business startup time from
national averages of 90+ days to
under 30 days.

Marketing principles tell us
that a message must be repeated
6-7 times before it begins to
stick. The "shop local" message
requires consistent, data-driven
communication: Communities
that maintain consistent local
messaging for 24+ months see
9-11% increases in local spend-
ing. Successful "buy local"
campaigns combine emotional
appeals with economic educa-
tion, showing residents the real
impact of their choices. Trans-
parency about local tax revenue
and its connection to services
resonates with residents.

Communities must recog-
nize the unforgiving nature of
today's economic environment.
Those that apply strategic
thinking, backed by economic
data, will thrive. Those that fail
to adapt will continue to lose
economic vitality at an acceler-
ating pace. The future belongs
to communities that recognize
the mathematical reality of local
economics and build systems
that enable a vibrant ecosystem
of local entrepreneurship, expe-
rience-based retail, and strategic
community development.

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



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**

1 Confederation (abbr.)

5 Shak.

9 Absent

12 Tonic herb

13 Eastern bishop's title

14 Evil (Sp.)

15 Stipulation

16 Clenched hand

17 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)

18 Hindu title of respect

20 Brother of Moses

22 Menotti heroine

24 Angola (abbr.)

25 Santa's reindeer

26 Cross threads

30 Last Queen of Spain

31 Office of Economic Development
- (abbr.)

32 Grease

33 Mel (2 words)

36 Musical instrument (string)

38 Capture

39 Indian antelope

40 Copy

43 Sword

44 Mulberry of India

45 Sole of the foot

47 Gull

50 Prate

51 N. Caucasian language

52 Munich's river

53 Tumor (suf.)

54 Cornmeal porridge

55 As soon as possible (abbr.)
- DOWN**

1 Hipster

2 Bullring cheer

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- 3 Dane

4 Gender

5 Molasses rum

6 Nisan, in old Hebrew

7 Compass direction

8 Swimming

9 Per. poet

10 Port. folk tune

11 Custard

19 Jab

21 Adjusted gross income (abbr.)

22 Maple genus

23 Guenon monkey

24 Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)

26 Classic car

27 Assembly

28 Leatherfish

29 "The Time Machine" people

31 Legal gambling (abbr.)

34 Participle (suf.)

35 Mole

36 Apronlike cloth

37 Word blindness

39 Nat'l Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (abbr.)

40 False friend

41 Madam

42 Dawn love song

43 Svelte

46 Harem room

48 Sheep's cry

49 Dadaist

Central Meade County

By Sandy Rhoden March 23, 2025



While there still seems to be a briskness in the air toward sundown or in the morning, the weather last week was quite pleasant. There was just an obvious frost on the vehicles and surroundings on Sunday morning but with the sun and temperatures reaching 50 degrees it didn't take long for it to disappear. We still remain dry and will welcome rain as well as prayers for rain this week.

The church service had good attendance on Sunday with many of Floyd and Donna Cammack's relatives and family members there. After church services they held a 94th birthday celebration in the church fellowship room. Floyd an

Donna are doing well in their 90s and attending church regularly as well as their regular daily living. They both continue to be a great inspiration to our community and all who know them as they exemplify what marriage is all about. They treat each other royally each and every day which we all can look to as the perfect example of how it can be, is, and should be in a marriage. Many thanks to Donna and Floyd for that and happy 94th to Floyd!

Do you have seeds that you don't want? You can maybe swap them with someone else on Friday. There will be a Seed Swap at the old church location in Union Center on Friday, March 28 from 3:30 – 5:30. If you have a large amount of seeds, feel free to bring a table. It is a free event and for

more information or questions please contact Sally Jo Mickelson-Cooper. The kitchen and bathroom are out of commission so one may be interested to know that before heading there.

The Governor spent time in Belle Fourche last Thursday on his SD Opportunity Tour. He visited downtown businesses and met with other city and county leaders. He was able to attend some of the sales out at the sale barn and explain to a co-worker who had never been to a sale barn how it all works. He enjoyed his time with some good west river people who made him feel at home there.

We are still battling the flu and other bugs at this time. It seems to be lingering longer than usual for many. Hopefully some rain will give us fresher air to breathe and the air born germs won't be able to get around so quickly.

Showdown at Prickly Pear Junction News

Special to the Beacon from Bullock Players

Wild Cowboys, beautiful dancers and Temperance Women and their husbands lived up the Bullock Community Hall, March 7-9 for the annual Bullock Community Play.

All the action, including gun shots and bar fights with liquor bottles smashed over people's head provided enough commotion that the audience did not know what to expect next!

Jake Whitmeyer, the saloon owner, (played by Windon Hewson) had quite a tussle on his hands to keep his customers happy and still not offend the tender sensibilities of Catherine Barrett (played by Odessa Clarkson) and her Temperance women played by Kami Barrow, Amanda Njos, Kirsti Hansen, Jennifer Dingfelder and Sara Sabo. They were all characters in their own right and Sara playing Widow O'Malley while the others were wives of the townsmen (Darwin Latham, Reese Clarkson and John Latham) who also were involved in the bar fight with the cowboys. The townsmen turned out to be pretty good bar fighters!

The dancers (Alexis McCann, Emma Richter and Lilyana Glines), coached by Lucy Barr (Angela McCann) became wonderful singers and dancers. Showdown at Prickly Pear Junction news story

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The dancers (Alexis McCann, Emma Richter and Lilyana Glines), coached by Lucy Barr (Angela McCann) became wonderful singers and dancers.

Lily (Isabella McCann), the little orphan girl who helped the dancers clean the saloon, also sang a solo that was actually quite moving for many in the audience.

The school children, played by Owen Njos, Hailey Richter, Acacia Hausman, Nora Glines, Molly Njos, Letty Glines, Mylee Voeller, Ian Njos, Mason Voeller, and Hazen Spickelmier,

all had spelling words and vocabulary and other humorous lines which captured the audience attention, until Badger (Chuck Whitney) and Jake got into a tussle behind scenes when Badger was using Jake's bathing facilities and they made quite a hubbub.

The cowboys, Bowser (Chad Njos), Frank (Randy Hausman), Buzz (Walker Dingfelder), and Zeb (Weston Dingfelder) actually started the whole play and kept it rolling until the end. The Parson (Clancy Adolph) and U.S. Marshall (Jae Stenerson) rounded out the wonderful cast.

Pr. Laurie Kidd from Hettinger provided music from the era, including the 12th street Rag for the dancers. Pr. Laurie has directed the Bowman Community Chorus for the past two years but is retiring from her pastorate in Hettinger and moving back to Sioux Falls. The cast and crew were delighted that she chose to provide the live music before leaving.

It took an army of people to produce this play. Casey Holmes, Miles Spickelmier, Windon Hewson, Christian Schmidt, Brady Covert, Amanda Njos, and Connie Werre, all worked on the stage assembly and set construction. Craig Comes, the former Jake Whitmeyer, lent the cowhide for the set. Amanda Njos, Nicole Njos, Tommi Glines, Kim Bail, Sarah Sabo and Bobbi Nelson all worked on make-up or hair. Sarah Sabo created the Logo and Traci Routier made the programs and flyers and set up the newspaper ads. Buffalo School printed the programs. Dalyn and Angela McCann lent their camper for the cast to use for quick changes; Karen Stevenson and her new Sagebrush Sally sewing business sewed the curtains that had to be shortened about 8'. Her new leather sewing machine worked slick on that.

Pioneer Bank and Trust in Buffalo and Dakota Community Bank in Bowman took care of the ticket sales. Camp Crook Community Center loaned chairs. A number of businesses sponsored this endeavor: Dakota Western Bank, WRCTC, Grand Electric Cooperative Inc., H&L Super Valu, CM Welding, Olson Fuels, Buffalo Hardware, Young Gun Construction, Thrivent Financial, Farmer's Union Insurance & WM Feed, Dakota Community Bank, Bronson's Market Place, Ace in the Hole Construction, Olson Construction, Buffalo Ranch Supply, PepsiCo, Pioneer Bank & Trust, Wade Works, ProPoint, Blossoms & Brew, Wolff's Garage, Olson Propane, Scranton Equity, Gooseneck Farm Equipment, and Heartland Home Health.

The Bullock Community Center Hall is once again quiet and soon all traces of Showdown at Prickly Pear Junction will be gone. But the wonderful memory will linger on, until next year for yet another surprise!

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ENIGMA CRYPTOGRAM

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

"VEYMY FO XJVEFXA FX VEY KJMPQ
OJ ZSDE WQZFM YQ WO W ZWX KEJ
IXJKO EJK VJ NYWM SXEWTTFX YOO
KFVE DJSMWAY." – OYXYDW

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "If people did not prefer reaping to sowing, there would not be a hungry person in the land." – Author Unknown

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By Reva J. Potter

Directed by Reva Potter & Rachel Munce
Set Design by Terry Hoscheid

The Cast & Crew

The Marlin Family	Maurice...Toryn Bertolotto
Cassio...Kalani Myers	Serona...Jeselyn Carr
Benji...Blake Willert	Endora...Zephina Michaud
Nicholas...Samuel Savery	The Tourists & Townspeople
Sharon...Kynlee Henderson	Harry...Sylas Brink
Caroline....Bella Welles	Lu...Lilith Fay
Brent....Devyn Perschbacher	Deana/Connie...Avery Dobesh
The Drover Family	Stuart... Jack Miley
Arthur....Titus Thompson	Helen...Madi Rhoads,
Norman...Bruz Hartman	Marlene....Ari Beguine
Joanna...Ellie Kukuchka	Bart...Kelton Streeter
Stevie...Sierra Saivong	Chuck...Daniel Eddy
Debbie....Addy Clem	Puppeteers
Andrew....Jacob Tonsager	Aurora Elk Nation, Madi
Erica....Cora Kokinos	Rhoads, Ari Beguine, & Paisley
The Law	Featheston
Mckenna Freed.....Det. Victor	Stage Managers
Rose Lafayette.....Det. Murphy	Adeline Humbracht
Tristan Wishard....Officer Jones	& Paityn Millett
The Bullies	Sound
Kelly...Piper Curran	Wyatt Stumpf &
Dusty...Kelton Streeter	Cade Pearson
Lenny...Ari Beguine	Lights
The Protestors	Rebecca Stumpf &
Pam...Lauralee Dreiske	Tayleigh Wooldridge
Sam...Daniel Eddy	Prop Masters
Tommy...Elizabeth Nikodym	Gracelynn Williams &
Tammy...Adalyn Savery	Ava Martell
The Business People	Tech Crew
Carla...Ariel Jones	Hunter McKay, Piper Curran,
Charlene...Aspen Richter	Elise Wood, Piper Davis,
Agatha...Ember Olson	Devyn Perschbacher, Billy
Gabrielle...Nikko Piekola	Rosencranz, Jaxon Sanderlin,
Mariah...Hope Sinkey	Sam Goodvin, Paul Croteau,
Simon...Kasey Dobesh	Marcus Shannon, William
Cherise...Lucia Rodriguez	Collins, & Bruz Hartman
Penny...Lexi Allart	Set Construction:
Allora...Ainsley Jewett	Terry Hoscheid &
Jackie...Alexandra Huber	Tymuthi Crittenden
Dolly...Paisely Featherston	Program & Poster Art:
Tanya...Ruth Moore	Kendal Schreier
	Costumes & Hair:
	Colleen Anderson &
	Andrea Rhoads

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SCIENCE SAFETY: \$3.8M overhaul of lab’s timber-framed gateway tests human ingenuity, skill

2021 stop-work order sparked years-long undertaking at Sanford Underground Research Facility

Dakota Scout
www.thedakotascout.com

Years of work fortifying the inside of a World War II-era mine shaft in western South Dakota that doubles as a gateway to one of the world’s most advanced science labs is complete.

Crews at the Sanford Un-

derground Research Facility (SURF) have finished building a timber-framed structure a mile deep into the Black Hills, installing the last of about 2,400 feet of wood lacing one of two shafts used to access underground laboratory space at the Lead facility.

A complex network of timber-framed wood beams that entailed about 400 sets of new framing and the replacement of rock bolts and steel mesh along the shaft walls, the work commanded ingenuity and an exceedingly rare skill set in the hoisters and riggers who

conducted the operation.

“There aren’t a lot of people even left alive that have worked timber inside a mine shaft like this,” said Will Hover, an infrastructure technician at SURF involved in the years-long project to ensure the integrity of the shaft and the safety of the men and women working at the site. “We had to learn for ourselves how to rebuild it from the top down.”

The Yates Shaft was first constructed during the lead-up to World War II, when the country’s need for steel necessitated the use of timbers to support the walls of the structure rather than steel. After more than 70 years of use in both the former gold mine and the more recent underground laboratory, the timbers needed to be replaced.

In all, 16 SURF technicians were split into crews that worked alongside two logistics coordinators, three superintendents, and eight hoist operators, who were called into action after deterioration of some of the original shaft framing was

discovered during a routine inspection, according to SURF. What followed was a \$3.8 million endeavor.

SURF officials credit a commitment to safety for both the stop-work order that preceded the project and not rushing to its completion. During the work, which saw 400 sets of framing installed, crews encountered areas of instability in the rock wall behind the timber-framed shaft. In some locations, large boulders broke off the shaft wall, putting increased pressure on the timber framing.

“We would go in and use the jackleg, which is like a jackhammer, or handheld hammers and break down those boulders to manageable sizes. Then we would use winches and pulls to move those boulders into the skip conveyance and get them moved out of the way,” said Russ Bauer, a lead technician on one of the four-person shaft crews that worked both day and night shifts on the maintenance project.

“The boulders were among

the bigger challenges ... and it’s definitely great to have three other heads on the crew to help figure out obstacles like this.”

Both Bauer and Hover come from lineages familiar to the SURF campus, once North America’s deepest gold mine, where their fathers and grandfathers also made careers.

SURF officials say that’s a testament, in part, to a commitment to safety standards that include protective equipment worn every day, such as safety harnesses, carabiners, and slings that keep them from falling 5,000 feet to a 300-foot pool of water at the bottom of the pitch-dark shaft.

“I was fortunate enough to have people above me, including the management team at SURF, to back the decision to go in and do full, heavy top-down maintenance to make sure that the shaft is safe to operate going forward,” said SURF COO Wendy Straub, who raised the Yates Shaft stop-work order to her bosses in July 2021..



Legislature in review: Priorities shift after transition from Noem to Rhoden

Changes span prison funding, property taxes and eminent domain

Todd Epp
SD Broadcasters Association
for the Dakota Scout
www.thedakotascout.com

Gov. Larry Rhoden reset several major state initiatives after the Legislature rejected key proposals from former Gov. Kristi Noem in the 2025 session.

The policy shifts span prison funding, property taxes, and eminent domain as Rhoden navigated a Legislature increasingly influenced by populist, pro-landowner Republicans.

“We’re looking forward, not back,” Rhoden spokeswoman Josie Harms told the South Dakota Broadcasters Association in a March 14 email.

Here’s how the legislature and Rhoden pivoted after Noem left office:

Prison funding reset

Noem’s prison funding proposal faced direct legislative rejection. Her request for \$182 million to fund the \$825 million facility failed to gain traction, with lawmakers instead establishing a study panel that was due to report before a July 22 special session.

Rhoden announced “Project Prison Reset” in February, requiring a reassessment of the prison’s size, location, and funding model. During a press conference in February, he referred to the Lincoln County site as a “gift from God” due to its proximity to Sioux Falls.

“I thought it was a gift from God to find the site that we did that was appropriate for this prison relative to where it is now,” Rhoden told South Dakota News Watch. “And so that’s what just kind of makes me sick to my stomach to think about starting over.”

Rhoden also warned delays could increase costs by \$40 million annually.

Property tax relief reset

Property taxes became a liability for Noem’s administration after steep assessment increases across the state. Former House Majority Leader Will Mortenson, who retained his House seat but lost his leadership position due to the election of pro-landowner Republicans in the June primary, described the situation as a crisis.

“People are getting taxed out of neighborhoods they’ve lived in for decades,” he said, according to SDNW.

Noem did not mention the brewing concerns over rising

property taxes in either her December Budget Address or her January State of the State Address.

After Noem’s failure to advance substantial property tax relief, Rhoden introduced Senate Bill 216. That measure caps residential assessment growth at 3 percent annually over five years and expands eligibility for tax relief programs for elderly and disabled residents.

“If you want to cut those property taxes, you have to cut schools’ budgets or find new revenue,” Rhoden said during a press briefing. He proposed exploring new revenue sources while avoiding mandates on local governments.

Eminent domain reset

On eminent domain, Rhoden signed House Bill 1052 in March, prohibiting its use for carbon dioxide pipeline projects, such as Summit Carbon Solutions’ proposal. This measure reversed Noem’s more pipeline-friendly policies in previous sessions.

“I encourage Summit and others to view it as an opportunity for a needed reset,” Rhoden wrote in his decision letter, as reported by The Dakota Scout. He also said, “I’ve fought for private property rights in this Capitol for over 20 years.”

Pipeline supporters maintain the projects would benefit the state’s agricultural economy, particularly ethanol producers seeking carbon capture solutions.

SDPB funding restored

Another rebuke of Noem’s agenda came when appropriations committee lawmakers unanimously rejected her proposed \$3.6 million reduction to South Dakota Public Broadcasting’s budget — a 65 percent cut that would have eliminated 50 positions, according to Current, a publication that covers public media.

SDPB Executive Director Julie Overgaard testified that the cuts would jeopardize federal matching funds and force reductions in programming.

“People in South Dakota like their high school activities. They like their open government, and they like their local public broadcasting programming,” Overgaard said.

Appropriations legislators rejected Noem’s proposed cuts in a 15-0 vote.

Rep. Erick Muckey, D-Sioux Falls, an appropriations committee member, called the decision a “team effort across both sides of the aisle” in a session-end news conference. Veterans’ Benefits Protected

Another defeat for Noem’s budget priorities came when



(3 Photos Courtesy of Stephen Kenny / Sanford Underground Research Facility)



the House unanimously voted down House Bill 1038. It would have eliminated state stipends for veterans’ headstone etching and settings in private cemeteries. The 70-0 vote in the House demonstrated strong bipartisan opposition to the proposed cut.

Notable achievements during Noem’s tenure

Noem’s final legislative session saw multiple defeats, including the failure to secure prison funding, rejection of SDPB cuts, inability to make the 4.2 percent sales tax permanent and the lack of passage of Education Savings Account funding.

Despite her final session setbacks, Noem’s governorship saw notable achievements. South Dakota recorded a 1.8 percent unemployment rate and maintained its AAA credit

rating. She signed stringent abortion restrictions following the Roe v. Wade reversal and implemented a temporary sales tax reduction from 4.5% to 4.2% in 2023.

Noem expanded educational options through homeschooling legislation and tax credit scholarships for private school students. Her administration invested in infrastructure while maintaining balanced budgets. These accomplishments reflected her conservative principles of fiscal responsibility and limited government intervention.

While acknowledging the 2025 setbacks, Rhoden’s office emphasized continuity between administrations.

“Governor Rhoden worked closely with Former Governor Noem to lay the foundation for

a successful session,” Harms told SDBA. “She has been doing incredible work in her new role as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and we are proud of what she is accomplishing to make America safe again.”

In her March 14 email, Harms noted: “Governor Rhoden is proud of everything that we accomplished this session to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. There’s more work to do — we’re looking forward, not back.”

Legislators are scheduled to return to Pierre on Monday, March 31, for the 38th and final day of the session, traditionally reserved for vetoes.

Todd Epp is the remote legislative reporter for the South Dakota Broadcasters Association.

Owl Creek Organics

Owl Creek Organics is a small business located in Arpan, SD. Owl Creek Organics is named for the live creek that runs through the farm. Jams and honey can be enjoyed in just minutes on toast or on sandwiches, in tea or in coffee, in hot cereal or sometimes just plain! The Jams and Jellies are made with only certified organic fruits and wild berries and are sweetened with honey.

You can see their storefront at 12130 Sagebrush Rd Nisland, SD. Check the website for times.



Populists seek staying power with Republican takeover

Stu Whitney
sdnewswatch.org

The shifting landscape of South Dakota Republican politics went seismic on Feb. 22 in Pierre, when county leaders voted property rights advocate Jim Eschenbaum as the new chairperson of the state party’s central committee.

No one sensed the moment’s gravity more than Eschenbaum, a retired farmer from Hand County whose work as a county commissioner steered him into a carbon pipeline debate that has shaped the party’s priorities and clouded its future path.

“A year ago, the chance of me being chair of the South Dakota GOP was zero, absolute zero,” said Eschenbaum, 62. “Ever since then, I’ve been wondering, ‘What happened here? What changed in South Dakota politics when a Hand County farmer ends up as chair of the GOP when it has basically been run by establishment power players all these years?’”

That’s a pressing question in the hallways of the state Capitol in Pierre and corporate boardrooms in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. It has already influenced state laws and elections and could have ramifications for economic development and the role that party machinery plays in fundraising and candidate recruitment.

“I don’t just care about landowners – I am a landowner,” Gov. Larry Rhoden said in signing House Bill 1052, which prohibits the use of eminent domain for pipelines that carry carbon dioxide, a major populist priority in addition to pausing a proposed \$825 million men’s prison in rural Lincoln County.

Rhoden was lieutenant governor when then-Gov. Kristi Noem signed 2024 legislation viewed as pro-pipeline for ethanol production. After taking the top job when Noem left for Washington in February, he declared “failure is not an option” when it came to carrying out the prison plan.

Rhoden has now called for a “reset” of the prison project after the final funding bill failed, while HB 1052 has forced pipeline company Summit Carbon Solutions to backtrack on its vision for South Dakota.

The swiftness with which populist Republicans used these issues to spur a grassroots movement and seize control of legislative and party leadership has rattled pro-business moderates as positioning begins for 2026 statewide elections.

With leaders such as Speaker of the House Jon Hansen and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden, whose Dakota First Action Political Action Committee helped sink establishment incumbents in 2024 legislative primaries, the changing tides have Rhoden and other formerly entrenched Republicans playing defense.

“It’s not clear to me that there is a strong consensus movement on what the pro-business wing ought to be doing,” said Sioux Falls lawyer Dave Knudson, who served as a South Dakota Republican senator from 2003-11, including four years as majority leader. “I think there is a fair amount of disorganization and searching for some direction that isn’t apparent at the moment.”

State GOP committee faces money woes

Part of the establishment strategy involves waiting to see if the populist movement becomes the dog that caught the car, losing steam and direction with many of its aims achieved and party institutions weakened.

Eschenbaum took the reins of a state central committee that raised literally zero dollars in January and has about \$57,000 in its account, roughly \$20,000 less than the much-maligned South Dakota Democratic Party.

The state GOP’s executive director, Reggie Rhoden, announced he is leaving that administrative role. It could be filled by volunteers or with more involvement from county officials, said Eschenbaum, who replaced former state Sen. John Wiik as party chair after months of discontent at the precinct levels.

South Dakota’s congressional leaders in Washington are not reliant on state party financial support – U.S. Sen. John Thune has \$16 million in his campaign coffers and is not up for re-election until 2028 – but are mindful of action in the political trenches.

One of Thune’s aides met

with Eschenbaum recently to get his thoughts on state politics, and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson is watching closely as part of an expected run for governor in 2026. Johnson has more than \$5 million in his campaign war chest and is weighing a race that also could include Rhoden, Attorney General Marty Jackley and a populist contender, most likely Doeden or Hansen.

“The proof is in the pudding,” Johnson told News Watch when asked about state party leadership changes. “Obviously, South Dakota is stronger when we’ve got a strong Republican Party. (Eschenbaum) and his team have some big challenges ahead of them. But I think we’re going to know in the next three to six months if they’re in position to pull it together and start to make good things happen, or if they won’t get that done.”

Politics ‘more combative’ since Trump

At first glance, Eschenbaum seems an unlikely choice to lead a movement fueled in part by the ascendance of President Donald Trump in the Republican Party.

He comes from a large Catholic family that farmed south of Miller, 40 miles northwest of Huron, and was part of what used to be a strong coalition of rural Democrats in South Dakota.

Eschenbaum voted for Barack Obama in 2008 because he thought electing the first Black president would help address racial tensions. He was ready to vote Republican in 2012, upset with runaway spending following the Great Recession but was unimpressed with GOP candidate Mitt Romney’s campaign and supported Obama again.

It was Trump’s resonance in rural America, combined with the leftward drift of the national Democratic Party, that thrust Eschenbaum into the Republican ranks. After being appointed in 2019 to fill a spot on the Hand County Commission, he ran successfully as a Republican to keep the job in 2020 and 2024.

After Trump’s loss in 2020, Eschenbaum resisted the call from election skeptics to challenge voting results, defending the use of machine tabulators to

count ballots amid cries of systemic fraud from groups such as South Dakota Canvassing.

The issue of property rights held more sway with him, particularly when Summit Carbon Solutions applied in 2022 for a permit in South Dakota to build an \$8.9 billion pipeline that would carry liquified carbon dioxide gas from more than 50 ethanol plants in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota to be stored deep underground in North Dakota.

In addition to voluntary easements, the process involved using eminent domain to get a court order to force landowners to allow access to the property in return for just compensation, often in conflict with county ordinances or setbacks.

The fight against Summit, which was denied a permit by the Public Utilities Commission in 2023, found life in town halls, Facebook groups and precinct committee elections, the sort of roll-up-your-sleeves political activism that caught some traditionalists off guard.

“The Trumpian, populist style of politics had downstream effects, and so you have people in local politics who are aping that same style,” said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University in Aberdeen. “That has altered the Republican Party in South Dakota to some extent, not just ideologically but stylistically. It’s become more combative, and the pipeline issue served as a galvanizing force.”

Pipeline stance serves as litmus test

When the 2023 state Legislature passed Senate Bill 201 and called it the “Landowner Bill of Rights,” boasting a series of property protections for pipeline negotiations, Eschenbaum wasn’t sold.

He and other opponents said the legislation paved the way for PUC approval of the pipeline by usurping the regulatory authority of counties.

“I feel like they just stuck a title on there to make it smell all rosy and pretty,” he told News Watch at the time. “I don’t think it’s intended to be for the landowners in any way, shape or form.”

He formed the South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance along with Rapid City legislator Tina Mulally, who is now treasurer of the South Dakota GOP.

Fueled by volunteer energy and small-dollar donations, the group gathered enough signatures to place Referred Law 21 on the November ballot, giving voters a chance to either keep or kill Senate Bill 201.

The results spoke loudly: Nearly 60% voted to strike down the legislation, making “No on 21” the only successful citizen-generated measure in the 2024 election.

That came after Doeden and others using pipeline votes as a litmus test for the 2024 Republican primaries. Those elections saw the removal of 14 sitting GOP legislators, laying the groundwork for populists to gain leadership roles in Pierre and more influence with the state central committee.

Joel Rosenthal, who served six terms as GOP party chair before stepping down in 2003, said the advent of digital media and political action committees has changed how state parties operate down to the county and precinct level.

“The Republican Party is the voters, the people who go and register and say, ‘I’m a Republican,’” said Rosenthal. “(The state party) is just the organizing committee. And our job, once a person wins a primary, is to get that person elected. We aren’t judgmental about what their views are. That’s up the voters. But now you’ve got more people going to the state convention, and interest groups can recruit these (precinct) candidates, and you’ve got a lot of activists pushing a platform. So there really isn’t much need for the party, but they’ve taken over the party apparatus.”

Reform advocate: System skews results

Joe Kirby, a Sioux Falls businessman and government reform advocate, resists the notion that property rights spawned a significant political movement in South Dakota.

He sees the shift as a symptom of one-party rule, illustrated by the Republicans’ 96-9 advantage over Democrats in the Legislature and the fact that no Democrat has won a statewide election in South Dakota since 2008. Kirby was a driving force behind Amendment H on the 2024 ballot, which would have established “top-two” primaries for governor, Congress and state legislative and county races, with all registered voters eligible to participate.

Contd. C7 Politics in SD

MARCH 2025

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10 Taco Salad Chips Spanish Rice	11 Ham Sweet Potatoes Green Beans Dinner Roll	12 Spaghetti Asparagus Salad French Bread	13 Pork Chops with Mushroom Gravy Mashed Potatoes Peas & Carrots	14 Cod Rice Pilaf Broccoli
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Politics in SD

The idea was that open primaries produce officeholders more reflective of the general electorate, rather than incentivizing candidates to take extreme positions to win a partisan primary. The measure was defeated, receiving just 34% of the vote.

Currently in South Dakota, a voter registered with a political party can only vote in that party's primary. Those registered as independent or non-affiliated can participate in Democratic primaries but not Republican contests.

There are 320,285 registered Republicans in South Dakota, according to the latest tally, compared to 145,654 Democrats and 159,970 listed as independent or no party affiliation.

Turnout for 2024 primary elections was historically low,

with 101,062 ballots cast out of 591,153 registered voters for a percentage of 17%. That was below the state's primary turnout in presidential cycles of 2020 (28%), 2016 (22%) and 2012 (21%). "We've got a system that's designed to work well within a competitive two-party system," said Kirby. "But it's not going to work when you've got a single party in control.

What we're seeing is that our flawed election system allows single-issue and special interest groups to have an outsized influence on state politics."

Eschenbaum said he has heard this "squeaky wheel" theory before. He regards it as an attempt to dismiss groundswell efforts as amateurish and not representative of the larger electorate.

His message is simple: Dis-

miss the populist movement at your peril.

"Politics are alive and well in South Dakota right now," said Eschenbaum. "People are not satisfied with just casting a vote and assuming that everything's going to be OK. That doesn't work anymore. You've got people that run for office that have every intention of listening to the voice of South Dakotans, and you've got people that run for office with the intention of doing business. That second group is going to have an awful hard time getting reelected."

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



(above) Republican Speaker of the House **Jon Hansen** speaks at a rally against the proposed carbon pipeline project at the **South Dakota State Capitol** in Pierre on Jan. 13, 2025. (Below Left) Current **South Dakota Republican Party** chair **Jim Eschenbaum** listens to a speech about the carbon pipeline issue during a Sept. 18, 2024, meeting in Platte, S.D. (Photos: Submitted); (R) **U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson** speaks at a pinning ceremony for veterans at the Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls, S.D., on Sept. 16, 2024. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch) *Contd.C8*





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James C. (Clark) Sowers
Candidate for Ward 2 Belle Fourche City Council

To the Voters of Ward 2 of the City of Belle Fourche:
I have been privileged to serve you for the past three years during a period of positive change in our community! I am again seeking reelection as your councilman. I would appreciate your vote!
The three biggest changes from the past 4 years are: **Management – Culture - Financial**
With a designated **City Administrator**, which I have supported for 15 years, we have a point of reference and corporate history for our community. We have one location for concerns and complaints that citizens, council persons, department heads, contractors and vendors can access. It's called **management**.
With this **management** comes a change in **culture** among the city administration and employees, with the council, and with the public trust. This is "government", and we are all involved, depending on each other to move our community forward. The most important seat in government is "that of the informed voter." The new **culture** needs **you** to be involved.
This leads to **financial accountability** that was debated heavily three years ago. It brought the council forward to doing the job they are responsible for in financial stability, accountability and transparency of our community. This was absent previously and our improved annual audits show this. With this, the City hasn't raised our property taxes for three years!
As we move forward there are concerns: The new Law Enforcement Center, which I support, as safety is our first priority as a community; Water supply with the South Well and water lines from the gallery by Spearfish; a new water treatment plant; housing with 3 Tax Increment Finance districts; annual street maintenance and infrastructure projects in the north, south and center part of town; improvement of our community culture in our parks and Recreation Center.
Please contact me if you have questions on these or other items of concern.
Leadership is needed for these projects and future decisions. The time is now. I would appreciate your support!
"When I start something, I want to finish it"

I have lived in Belle Fourche for my entire life. My wife, Cathy, and I have been married for 45 years. We have 10 children and currently 28 grandchildren. We are lifelong members of St. Paul Catholic Church in Belle Fourche.
This March I will begin my 50th year in business having built, owned and operated several different businesses out of Belle Fourche that have serviced, or are in the Northern Black Hills and Rapid City. Currently these are Black Hills Laundry and Dry Cleaning/Sowers and Sons Dirty Laundry with laundromats in Belle Fourche, Spearfish and Sturgis as well as Laundry World and French Cleaners in Rapid City. This is my 25th year in the dry-cleaning profession.
Cathy has a Doctorate in Nursing and is a Practitioner for Monument Health for 23 years.
Before serving as your councilman the past three years, I served one term as Mayor of Belle Fourche in 1994-1996. During my current term I have served on Public Works, Legal Finance, Police, Chamber of Commerce, Butte County Ambulance, and Dispatch committees.
I appreciate your support and ask for your vote.
James C. (Clark) Sowers

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South well completion
Water treatment plant
Upgrades at Roundup Grounds to secure SD High School Rodeo
Sidewalk assessments and followup on old assessments
Belle Fourche River bridge repair

- REMEMBER TO VOTE ON APRIL 8TH! -





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





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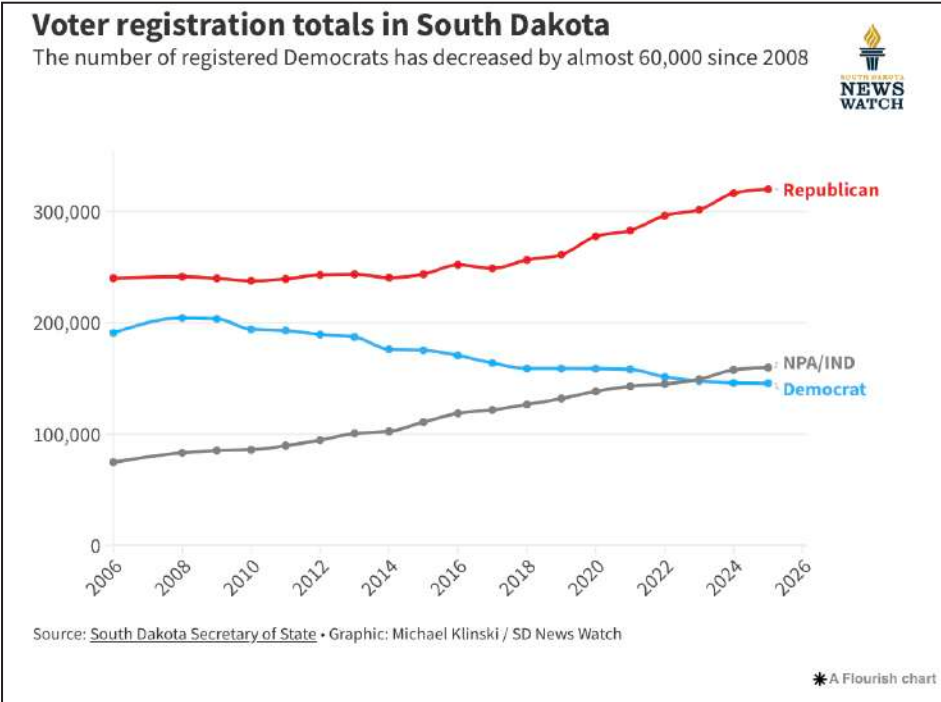


- No more dirty, standing water risking the health of your livestock.
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MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM | CLOSED SUNDAY



A sign protesting the potential use of eminent domain to access land for carbon pipelines appears July 20, 2024, in Lincoln County south of Sioux Falls, S.D. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

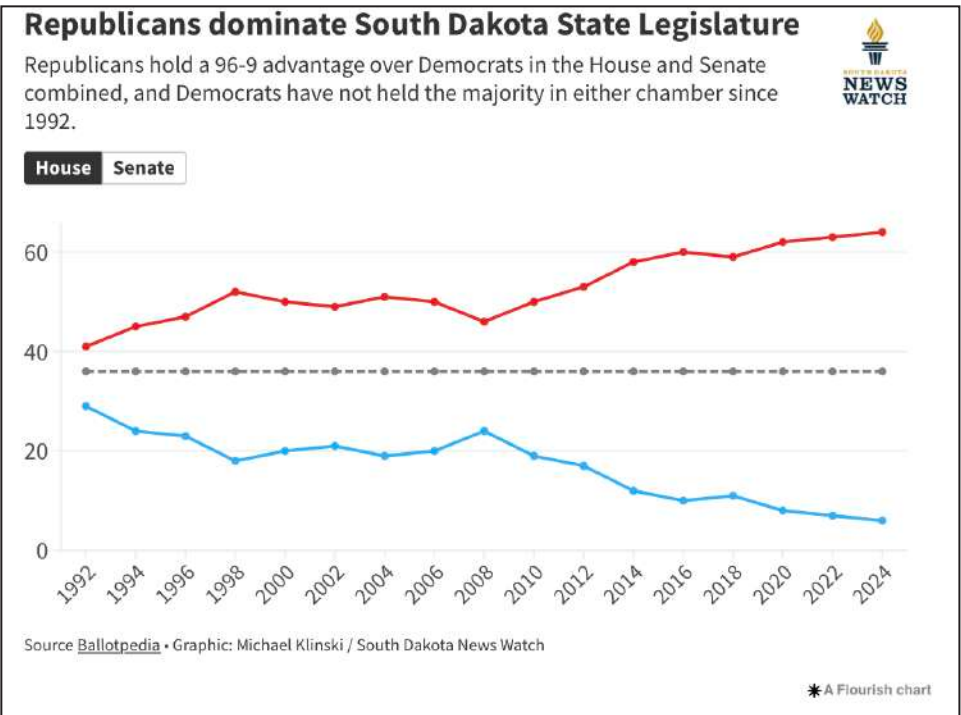


WELLS PLUMBING & SUPPLIES



8-5 Monday-Friday
8-12 Saturday

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SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM | CLOSED SUNDAY

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SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
5-10 P.M.

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Let's Eat Lamb for Lunch



B's Buzz

Everyone is telling me that I need to take a break. I don't want to take a break! I love what I do. Everyday there is a new adventure!

Monday starts with a 3:45 a.m. wakeup and proceeds to the school to fix breakfast and then lunch for (hopefully) hungry young people. Planning and thinking about the nutrition of these future farmers of our country fill the day. Along with all the paperwork the job holds.

That's Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday's routine, too. Except for a few changes. Tuesday afternoon is filled with "working" at the church doing "stuff" and organizing things (I love to organize and sometimes organize things that are already organized).

Tuesday afternoon makes me relax and enjoy life, even though there are all kinds of little things that keep me busy.

Of course, Wednesday is a typical day of cooking, planning, and paperwork. Let's not forget the meetings and phone calls.

By Friday, school is out for the week and I can look forward to three days "off." These days sometimes include stories to pursue, housework (never ending), and more time doing church chores.

Sunday is filled with worship and learning. And then there's the newspaper to put together. The hours whiz by and my mind is filled with words. It's PERFECT!

Why should I need a break? Everything that goes on in life keeps me full. My head is rarely empty and rarely bored. At least I don't think so (empty I mean).

As I wake each morning, I get excited about what the day will bring. Will it be quiet (rarely) or will it be chaotic (that's rare, too) or will it be a normal kind of day. Usually, it's filled with people and food and paperwork. Sometimes there's a snag or two, but they don't last very long.

That reminds me of one of the things about sewing that seems to me to be refreshing-ripping out a mistake and starting over. I know it can be a hassle, but the result is much better than before.

And that's what the snags of life bring. First the hassle, then a better result. It might slow me down, but not permanently.

Our youngest son had a great outlook on his young life that I have tried to remember whenever someone gets in the way of my journey. Every time



Newell School Lunch Ladies plus One served up Irish Stew on St. Patrick's Day lunch. Gwen Kitzan, left, joined Food Director Betty Bruner and Assistant Cook Gail Ginsbach serving up the delicious stew to the students. The lamb is provided by Kitzan Sheep and JHK Sheep.

we would head to the hospital in Minneapolis, he would say, "Who do we get to touch and make a difference in their life?"

The "hassle" of a phone call when I'm headed on the path I've set for the day is probably one of those things that I need to stop and take a break to do. Or maybe it's meeting someone at the store who wants to talk when there's a deadline looming in the future. First, my mind screams that I don't want to talk now! I have things to do, people to see, words to write!

Then I hear Daniel's voice- "Who can we touch? How can we make a difference?"

AHGGG! I don't want to take a break! I want to work and work. I don't want to make a difference. I don't want to take a nap! I'm not tired! Why do I have to?

Oops. I think I sound like a two-year old. Oh, bother. I'm an adult (I think) and I'm here to make a difference in someone's life. I hope that some of the words I write make a small impression on the thoughts of those who read them. And I hope that each one of us will make a difference in the life of someone else.

We're all in this together and we need to depend on each other. So, go take a break and enjoy the journey!

Something Different for St. Patrick's Day

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-The students at Newell School had something new to enjoy at lunch on St. Patrick's Day. An Irish Stew was the main course made by

Gwen Kitzan.

Lamb, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and onions made the savory dish. Fresh vegetables and fruit rounded out the holiday meal.

The lamb was generously

donated by Kitzan Sheep and JHK Sheep. Dwight and Gwendolyn Kitzan and Joshua and Heather Kitzan are the owners of the two enterprises.

It was the perfect way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



Kindergarten students were curious with the new lamb dish served by Gwen Kitzan. Betty Bruner Photos

Do You Like to Write or Find Out What's Happening?
Wanted-Reporter/Correspondent for the Irrigator. Part-time position covering the NVN area.
Contact Betty Bruner, text: 605-641-4666, or email: bbrunernews@gmail.com
Or
Contact Doug Cole at news@bellefourchebeacon.com.

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\$2.99

Coke Products
6 Pack 16.9 Oz. Bottles



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Selected Varieties



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Selected Varieties

3/\$5

Best Choice Frozen Vegetable Blends
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\$1.99

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Selected Varieties



\$5.49

Pillsbury Toaster Strudel
11.7 Oz. • Selected Varieties



\$2.99

Gold Peak Tea
6 Pack 16.9 Oz. Bottles



\$5.99



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

It's been another nice warm week with a little shower of rain Thursday night on the first day of spring that left almost a quarter of an inch of much needed moisture in the rain gauge.

I called our daughter Teri McNelis last Sunday afternoon and had a good visit. That evening I called our granddaughter Ellarie Olson that afternoon to wish her happy birthday for turning 12 years old on March 16. How time does fly!

Monday was St. Patrick's Day and our grandson Cade Olson and his fiancé KyLee Morgado stopped in to see us on their way up to North Dakota to sign up for his new job and to look for a house to live in after they get married the first week in June. Bev and Iver Heier's son-

in-law Tyler Mickelson will be Cade's boss, so that will be nice.

It started snowing hard Tuesday morning so school was called off in Harding County that day. It was above freezing as the huge snowflakes were falling hard and it left a deep pile of clumpy snow on the ground. The snow was starting to melt by that evening with a temperature of 42 degrees. The kids had school on Tuesday because it was a beautiful day with a high temperature of 47 degrees and almost all the snow had melted.

Reub and I took our black pickup up to Laufer Vermeer's to get it fixed Wednesday morning after the service engine light had come on. They got part of the problem fixed, but we have to take it back up there and leave it next week because they had to order some more parts for it. It was a little too late to stop

for coffee in Reeder on the way home that afternoon because we had to get chores done in time to make it down to the church for the supper and Lenten service by 5:30 that evening. Our granddaughter Bryce Hesper came up to the ranch that afternoon and brought her new baby Atlas Jacob up so we could meet the cute little bugger. Their little son Argus came with her and it was great to see him again too.

Thursday, March 20th was the first day of spring and it sure felt like it with a temperature of 58 degrees that day and that sprinkle of rain in the night. Our granddaughter Lanie Klug brought her kids down to see Bryce, Atlas and Argus that day and she left her four kids here until Saturday because her father-in-law had heart surgery and she and Matt wanted to go see him in the hospital. Bryce

and her boys left that afternoon and the Klug kids came over to have a good time with their cousins. Grandma Louise Jensen came down to take care of the twins while Missy and Amanda went to Buffalo that afternoon and I had the privilege of going to Reva to get Copper, Knox and Beau Doll off the school bus that afternoon. There was a fire south of us at Will Larson's that afternoon, but thankfully it was put out before the fire departments could get there.

Friday was a nice warm day and all nine of the great grand-kids were having fun playing outside. The guys went down to the church to help Tom Holt and his son-in-law Landon Wood put the new screen in the ceiling in front of the church and Pastor Henry Møhagen was there too. That afternoon I took Casey over to the east ranch and followed him in the semi up to Reeder to take it to Northern Auto to get it worked on. After Casey left the semi at Northern Auto I brought him home in my pickup.

Saturday was nice and warm with a temperature of 65 degrees. It was supposed to be windy, but the wind didn't come up until the afternoon so all the little cousins had a lot of fun playing outside together. Matt Klug came down from North Dakota that afternoon to pick up his kids and take them back to South Heart. Lanie didn't come because she was at work

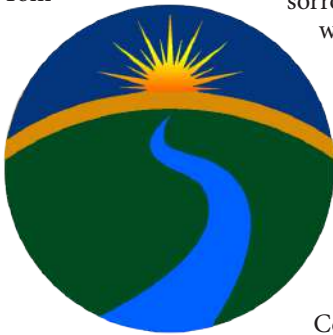
that day. After Matt and the kids left, we got a tiny sprinkle of rain that left us with over a quarter of an inch for this week.

Hanna Douglas' mother Patricia (Herberling) Ross, age 66, passed away on Sunday, March 16. Pat was a Marine Corps wife, a Missionary wife, and a Pastor's wife, and she was much appreciated in all these roles. She is survived by her loving husband, Brian, who provided much care and assistance throughout the past decade during her battle with cancer and her treatments. Pat passed away with her husband by her side, and she is now in heaven

without any more tears or sorrow. Her funeral was Friday, March 21, at Calvary Baptist Church in Sturgis. Interment with military honors followed at the Black Hills National Cemetery. Our sympathy goes out to Pastor David and Hanna Douglas from Buffalo.

We had lunch and choir practice after church Sunday morning to get ready for the Community Hymn Sing at the Beckman Memorial Church on Sunday, March 30 in Prairie City at 5:30 that evening.

Since this is the first week of spring, I'll leave you with this poem Reub's mother Amy Olson always used to say when spring arrived: "Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the flowers is?"



Then and Now in Newell

“Looking Forward to our Past”

March 25, 1915
The Vale Post Office was moved back to the old location in the old drug store building and Mrs. Houghton succeeds Mr. Gross in charge of same.

A bunch of the Philip buffalo herd broke through the pasture fence and worked their way down into Ft. Pierre, where they kept things moving, until herders from the pasture were notified and rounded them up. They chased several people on the streets of Ft. Pierre and had downtown stirred up before they were started for their reserve and had made things lively in that place for a short

Two carloads of Dacotah Portland Cement were received yesterday from the State Plant at Rapid City by the local office of the Reclamation Service Bureau. One car came to Newell and the other to Fruitdale. The material is for other use in maintenance work during the summer. The laid-down price of the state-made product was about 20% less than the local office has been paying for cement and at the same time the tests show it to be of a much better grade.

March 21, 1935
The Bratton Store in Newell was closed on Monday



Oil painting of Vale's first Post Office located in a dug out on Cottonwood Creek. By former Post Master Eloise Holdren Newell Museum

time.

Because, she said her husband tried to paint her with red paint, Mrs. Wilbur G. Salter caused the arrest of her hubby, who will be tried tomorrow. Salter, a retired real estate man, is said to be wealthy. The wife claims he took the children one day and failed to return home.

A Kansas Federal Judge has held that the Federal Migratory Bird Law is unconstitutional, holding that the states alone have power over birds within their borders.

March 19, 1925
Sheriff A. C. Craven and Deputy B. M. Long of Belle Fourche were in the city over Monday night. They were accompanied by Federal Officer Arthur Lefore and Deputy State Sheriff Fred Westgate. Quite a formidable array of sleuths to be congregated in a peaceable and law-abiding community like Newell.

Amunson & Son have just put in a new equipment and their garage known as the “Constant Potential Battery Charger”, which gives a one-day battery charging service. Heretofore it has required 2 or 3 days to renew a battery.

while work men made several changes in the grocery department. Linoleum was placed on the floor and new steel display shelving erected. The new arrangement conforms with the latest ideas in modern merchandising. Presently offering a clearance sale on men's, boys and young men's suits and overcoats. Their stock is too large, and they want to get it down to where it should be. Come in and look them over. If you find something that you like and that fits you, you can well afford to buy it even if you will not need it for a year.

Earl and Raymond Johnson, Twilight ranchers received a Post Card this week from Mr. & Mrs. Willis Reynolds, who are spending their honeymoon in California and Mexico. They are enjoying their trip very much. Mrs. Reynolds was formerly Miss Rachel Johnson.

You can't be sure someone won't get sick, but you can be sure of getting a doctor quickly if you have a telephone. Your telephone brings help in emergencies, saves you time, relieves anxiety and keeps you in touch with your friends, yet costs only a few cents a day. It

by Linda Velder
would be wise to call and install a telephone today, your local Northwestern Belle Telephone Company is here to help.

March 22, 1945
Within the past week, the farm flocks of Eskil Youngberg, Andrew Syverts and Frank Palmer has suffered from forays by packs of wandering dogs who chase the sheep until they pile up in a ditch and then chew them to death. Each of these men have lost several head of sheep. There are probably other cases and will continue to be so as long as these pestiferous canines are allowed to inhabit this area. All dogs within the city limits are supposed to be licensed or else exterminated. But it hasn't been done. Some days the streets have the appearance of a pioneer day village with about one dog in 20 wearing a license tag. The comparative few who have paid their dog license are entitled, under such circumstances, to ask for a refund of their money.

In order to attend the county commissioners' meeting in Belle Fourche this week it was necessary for commissioner Clarence Lewis to swim his horse across Willow Creek near his home and “thumb” his way on into town, where he was met by Commissioner Clarke Spencer of Nisland, who he accompanied to the meeting.

PFC Fred Flaigg, son of Mrs. Anna Flaigg, Hoover, an ambulance driver with the 46th Medical Battalion, has been cited for meritorious service in combat and awarded the Bronze Star. Inducted March 20, 1942, PFC Flaigg has served overseas more than a year. He participated in the Fourth Tank Division's spectacular drive through France under command of Maj. Gen. John S. Wood (AKA “P”)

March 24, 1955
It is urgent that city-owned chairs be returned to the City Hall before noon this Saturday, March 26, as same will be needed for the Annual Old Time Fiddlers contest that evening. For the balance of this week, the hall will be open for those returning same, under supervision of Police Chief Walter Miller by order of Newell City Commission.

Art Noste took Karen Noste, Susan Christopherson, Martha Knutson, Cherrill Gladstone, Harlan Robbins and Howard Hafner to Spearfish Sunday where they enjoyed an afternoon of roller skating and supper before returning to their respective homes.

Hugh Kayras, Paul A.



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Rachel Johnson, 1935. Married Willis Reynolds a wealthy man. They lived in a beautiful home near Rochford. SD.Newell Museum

Wiest, Bill Stolnack, Emil Nelson, Frank Mednansky and Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kruger and family drove to Huron Saturday where they were participants in the State Bowling Tournament, returning to Newell Sunday evening. No scores have been revealed.

March 18, 1965
Mrs. Manuel (Clara) Lungren has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Dewy (Eloise) Holdren as Vale Postmaster when the later retires April 23, she was notified by US Senator George McGovern. The new appointee, whose appointment is temporary, has been a resident of Butte County for the past 20 years and taught rural schools in the area for ten years. Mr. & Mrs. Holdren plan to do some traveling following her retirement, she has served as Vale Postmaster for the past 40 years.

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Dimick and 3 sons Craig, Brad, and Dan plan to leave March 27 for Lahore, West Pakistan, where Mr. Dimick will be employed by the Tipton & Kalmbach, Inc. of Denver an engineering firm for the next 2 years. The Dimick's have made their home in Newell for the past 10 years, where Mr. Dimick has been employed as a Research Agricultural Engineer at the US Newell

Field Station and for several years acting as Station Superintendent. The Dimick family will be guests of honor at a farewell coffee hour this Sunday evening at the Congregational Fellowship Room. All friends and co-workers are cordially invited to attend.

Some people may be accused of speaking out of both sides of their mouth at once, but not so the rarity in the animal world which made its appearance at the Dick Wilson farm south of Newell. It is a Targhee buck lamb which bleats out of both mouths at once. The double-headed lamb, which is still alive, has 4 legs, 2 ears with a 3rd at the juncture of the heads being but a segment of tissue and 2 perfectly shaped jaws which it effects its stereo bleating.

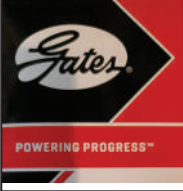
Ray Karen, Newell senior, was named to both the UPI and AP, SD All-Tournament second team at the conclusion of the State Basketball Tournament in Sioux Falls. Honorable Mention, by AP to senior Jim Patterson and guard Gerald Albertson. Norman Wetz, Vale High School senior was named in the Little Ten Conference to All-Conference Basketball Team for 1964-65. Wetz has been a starter at every game this season.

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- Gates-Belts & Hoses & • Custom Hose building + We sell all classes of Tires & do Tire repair!



Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Newell Prom
March 29, Austin Auditorium

Blood Drive
April 1, NHS

Holy Thursday Community Potluck
April 17, Newell City Hall

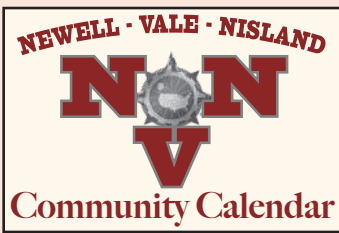
Good Friday
April 18

Easter
April 20

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

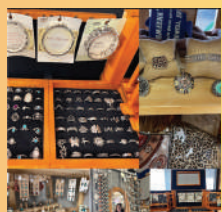
Mondays
Monday Night Bingo at the NVN Senior Center 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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The Spirit of Transparency

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-The beginning of the regular Newell School Board meeting was unusual when a letter was read by Board Chair Tyrel Bonnet. The letter was addressed to the people of the Newell area and stated that in the spirit of transparency, the school board is taking steps for ongoing development of

school board members. He went on to say that the development will ensure that members are equipped to make the best decisions possible.

The school board members are committed to enhance dialect between board members, administration, staff members, and the community. According to the letter, these efforts will help the school board lead more effectively for the future success of the school.

K-8 Principal Paul Clark informed the board that the results of testing showed that students in grades 5-7 are above the state average. The students tested 26% above last year in English and 17% in Math which is well above the state average. Online classes in Algebra show the students 90% above last year, again better than the state average.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that they had discussed a Security Grant and details on the flooding of the parking lot. It will be a summer project.

During the FFA presenta-

tion, Ag Instructor Cheyenne Geppert informed the board on the plans for a community garden. The plot will be near the old "chicken coop" and involve students studying soil, plant science, and food service. The garden will be 8' x 30' or 10' x 30'. There is hope that community members will also become involved.

The decision to have criminal background checks reimbursed by the school was again put on hold as the board decided to table that decision.

Resignations were accepted for Michelle Stockert as elementary teacher, Tyrel Bonnet as JV Football Coach, Wyatt Vander Vorst as Head Football Coach, and Christine Rans as para. Garrett Winkler was hired as JV Track Coach for \$2,245.40.

There will be no school election since there were only three qualifying petitions for the three open board seats.

The next regular school board meeting will be April 14 at 6 p.m.

Support Local Business
From the Beacon / Irrigator.

A new HEALTH CLINIC is opening in Newell this April!

Patrick Flanigan, FNP is an independent nurse practitioner with **My Catholic Doctor**, a nationwide non-profit medical practice.

(NOT AFFILIATED with Monument)



He sees patients by TELEHEALTH and HOME visits, and is now opening a clinic on 6th Street in Newell.

PatNP.com





APRIL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 31) Egg Omelet, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Pork Tacos, Refried Beans, Fruit, Milk	1) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Italian Ham Wrap, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk	2) Cinnamon Oat Breakfast Bar, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Pizza, Corn, Fruit, Milk	3) Breakfast Egg Roll, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	4) NO SCHOOL
7) Long Johns, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Corn Dogs, Mixed Veggies, Fruit, Milk	8) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Nuggets, Beets, Fruit, Milk	9) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Meatball Subs, Mixed Veggies, Fruit, Milk Breakfast Wrap Broccoli Cheese Soup	10) Croissant Sandwichs, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Spaghetti and Meatballs, Bread Sticks, Milk	11) NO SCHOOL
14) Pancake Wraps, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Pigs in a Blanket, Vegetarian Beans, Fruit, Milk	15) Breakfast Quiche Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Teriyaki BBQ Shredded Pork Sandwich with Asian Slaw, Fruit, Milk	16) Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Strips, Corn, Fruit, Milk	17) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Gyro with Tzatziki- Sauce, Carrot or Broccoli Salad, Fruit, Milk	18) NO SCHOOL
21) NO SCHOOL	22) Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Sub Sandwich, Chips, Fruit, Milk	23) Oatmeal Muffin Squares, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Nachos, Corn, Fruit, Milk	24) Egg Omelet, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Walking Tacos, Corn, Fruit, Milk	25) NO SCHOOL
28) Cook's Choice Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Veggies, Fruit, Milk	29) Muffins, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Fruit, Milk	30) Cook's Choice Tater Tot Casserole, Fruit, Milk		

Menu is subject to change!

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Must be able to perform routine clerical, secretarial and administrative work. Duties include but are not limited to answering phones, receiving the public, providing customer service, data processing, and bookkeeping.

Must be able to develop and maintain office forms and procedures. Will assist the Finance Officer with tasks as directed.

Must be able to present themselves at all time with a professional appearance and attitude and maintain a high standard of customer service. Pay along with other essential duties and responsibilities can be discussed at time of interview.

Applications can be picked up and dropped of at 101 East 3rd Street between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM Monday – Thursday, and also printed out at our web site at www.townofnewell.org. Applications will be taken until position is filled.

The Town of Newell is an equal opportunity employer.



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The kindergarten class is prepping for the ABC countdown starting on the 7th of April! Mr. Fielders shop class is collaborating to make a project for the letter A!

Courtesy Photo



The Elementary had a Buddy Reading to end Read Across America Week. The students enjoyed sharing books and reading to each other.

Courtesy Photo

Newell Juniors & Seniors Head to Pierre 2025

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025 the Newell Juniors and Seniors got on the bus and left for Pierre, SD at 5:00 am. John Heisler drove. They got to Pierre on time to meet with Monae Johnson, the secretary of state, in her office. She explained a little about what the SOS does and gave each one of us a book of the SD Constitution, a copy of the SD Seal, and gave Sabrina a Legislative Manual. After spending some time with her we took the opportunity to sit in on some morning meetings before taking a picture with the Governor. After pictures we headed to the visitor center. The Whatever It Takes Coalition and the Juniors and Seniors hosted a luncheon and invited our local representative and the elected officials to join us. Each of them took a few minutes to explain what they are working on in Pierre or what the job entails. The students were able to ask questions and learn more about how politics works. After the lunch we were blessed to be able to tour the Mansion and then we took the time to sin in on the

House of Representatives side for afternoon session and then the senate side. The students felt it was important to stop at Pizza Ranch before heading home. Normally they are closed from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm but they stayed opened so we could enjoy some pizza and chicken. It was a long day but every fun and educational. Here are just a few comments from the students: Jamin Davidson: Thank you so much for today I had a blast and I never knew politics were so interesting in that type of way. Mr. Vander Vorst: Thank you for organizing and setting it up! The kids really enjoyed it. Tayla Neely: I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. I thought it was extremely interesting to spend time with the people making bills for our state. Jayden Tesch: I thought everything we did was good and I wouldn't change anything. Jessica Raisanen: I really loved the day, thank you so much. I really liked the tour of the mansion. And I really liked the history with the blue tiles and heart tiles. Sabrina Harmon: This was a

GREAT set of students. Senator Sam Marty even praised them for dressing up and looking nice. I think they all enjoyed the day and they told me we need to continue to do this every year.

BELOW:
Back row: Anthony Rhoden, Rowdy Franklin, Landon Green, Jaden Tesch, Justin Yates. Second from back row: Mr. Wyatt Vander Vorst, Jamin Davidson, Conor Kenny, Michael Lawson, Hayden Taigaffi, and Tala Millage. Second row from bottom: BeJae Tesch, Cody Jones, Kianna Miller, Hailey McCann, Tayla Neely, Sarah Erk, Jessica Raisanen, and Rachel Stranberg. Front Row: Representative Travis Ismay, Monae Johnson—SOS, Governor Larry Rhoden, Sabrina Harmon and John Heisler. Courtesy Photo

