



Belle Fourche Beacon

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CBH CO-OP Holds a Three-day Open House

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Going from a bare shell to a fully stocked, well lived-in business in a matter of weeks is something to celebrate! And celebrate they did when the CBH CO-OP opened the doors and invited the public to see the finished project over lunch on March 26, 27 and 28.

Instead of a one-day celebration, the CBH CO-OP decided to do a three-day event to cater to the public and the local sale barn patrons. “The open house is going really well,” said Todd Reif, CBH CO-OP CEO. “We were going to do it all in one day and then with the sale barn here in Belle and at Saint Onge on Friday, we decided to do lunch and catch people coming and

going on both sides of the auction—buying and selling.” CO-OP employees cooked hamburgers and cheeseburgers on the grill and offered a choice of chips, cookies and cold drinks.

The weather cooperated and allowed for the outside space to be utilized. “We were going to set up inside yesterday morning, but the weather was so nice we decided—let’s just have it outside,” explained Reif. “It’s like a picnic, right?”

Guided tours of the facility were given throughout the day. Feedback was positive. “They’re really liking the new building, it just looks a lot nicer than where we were at, so they like that. Everything is

Open House contd. A7

Touring the New CBH CO-OP Building



Those taking advantage of touring the new building during the **CBH CO-OP Open House** included Mayor, **Randy Schmidt**. Longbrake photo

March Family Fun Day

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center hosted its March Family Fun Day on Sunday, March 16. Twenty-six participants showed up for “Planting, Posies and Pasque Flowers.”

Activities for the day included a film about flowers; a short power point about South Dakota’s state flower, the pasque; the opportunity to craft suncatchers and paper flowers; a planting table; and a drawing for a book and a kids’ gardening set.

For the planting table, each participant got to plant seeds in a planter pot and then take home their pot along with the rest of the seeds.

There will be no Family Fun Day in April due to Easter. The next Family Fun Day will be May 18 with the theme “Viva, Mexico!”

Family Fun Days are held on the third Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 without a membership and free for members, and reservations can be made by calling 605-723-1200.



Suncatchers were popular with the adults and kids alike. Heitz Photos



Participants proudly display their suncatchers and paper flowers on **Tri-State Museum Family Fun Day**.

2025 Destination Magazine Deadline Approaching

The Team is working hard on the 4th Edition of the Annual Belle Fourche Visitor’s Magazine.

We would like to include your business and hope to have your ad material by end of day Saturday, April 5.

Over 15,000 copies are distributed to businesses and visitor’s

centers across the state. Contact us today for rates and options, including payment plans that can work for your budgets.

Let us know if you have a story to tell or stunning photos you’d like to include, it can be considered for this year’s edition. (Contd. on A6)



Property rights advocate **Amanda Radke** was the primary speaker at the Lincoln Day dinner.

Danielle, Lydia, and Lexi Go to Washington!

Early in February, three Belle Fourche High School students experienced a memorable, life enhancing experience. Courtesy of the ABC Coalition of Butte County, the three students Danielle Vetter, Lydia Main, and Lexi Pickett attended the annual CADCA conference.

The girls were accompanied on the trip by Holly Main, the drug and alcohol prevention teacher at Belle Fourche Middle School.

The girls are members of the Youth Leadership Team (YLT), a student organization that advocates for substance use prevention and better mental health for the community. YLT Faculty advisors are Stephanie Muselik, and Mary Day. YLT is open to all high school students and has a large following.

CADCA stands for “Community-Based, Advocacy-Focused, Data-Driven, Coalition-Building Association.

The Youth Leadership team is aligned with CADCA’s goals to drive positive change for improved mental health locally.

CADCA is a national organization that equips coalitions such as the ABC Coalition of Butte County with tools, knowledge, and support needed to create positive change in their communities.

The conference lasted for four days. There were over 4,000 attendees from around the world, 100 workshops to choose from, various speakers, exhibits, and an interesting trade show that featured a larger-than-life size model of a human brain.

“We learned a lot.” Lydia Main explained. “We learned how important it is for nursing homes and everyone to dispose of prescription drugs safely.” The girls reflected on what they learned about the role of police and firefighters in promoting community safety. There was a great deal of information to take in.

An additional highlight of the trip was Capitol Hill Day on the third day of the conference. On this day, the girls enjoyed the opportunity to meet South Dakota Senators Mike Rounds and John Thune as well as Congressional Representative Dusty Johnson.

The girls returned to school with a PowerPoint show they shared with other members of the YLT and with the ABC Coalition members at the February meeting.



Lexi Pickett, Danielle Vetter, & Lydia Main in Washington, D.C. visiting the offices of South Dakota’s Congressional representatives on **Capitol Hill Day**.

Lincoln Day Dinner Held Saturday at Grap’s

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The Butte County Republican Committee held a Lincoln Day Dinner event at Grap’s Burgers & Brews on the evening of Saturday, March 29. Doors opened at 5 p.m. for attendees to enjoy dinner and an auction before hearing from the speakers for the night at 6:30.

Property rights advocate Amanda Radke took the stage first. “For three years,

South Dakota landowners have shown up at the State Capitol asking our legislators for three things,” Radke said. “Number one, to protect our God-given, constitutionally protected private property rights. Number two, maintain local control, because government is best close to home by community members who actually live there. And number three, absolutely no eminent domain for carbon pipelines,” she continued. “This year, we got it done.”

Prime sponsors of HB1052, Speaker Pro Tempore Karla Lems (R-Canton) and Senator Mark Lapka (R-Leola), also said a few words.

All tables in the room were full; the event was sold out, making for a great turnout for the evening. Tickets for the event cost \$35 per person, or \$240 for a table of 8.

In addition to being a public speaker, Amanda Radke is a cattle rancher, children’s book author, and Western retailer from Mitchell, SD.



The room was full at the Lincoln Day Dinner on March 29 filled the back room at Grap’s. Courtesy Photos

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Marlene Ruth (Domke) Carlson 92

The Lord called Marlene Ruth (Domke) Carlson home the morning of March 13, 2025, at the age of 92. She passed peacefully at her home in Spearfish, SD.



Marlene was born in New Ulm, MN on November 18, 1932, to Clarence and Minnie Domke from Sleepy Eye, MN. She joined two sisters, Phyllis and Donna. She was baptized January 8, 1933 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, MN.

She attended parochial school until the 8th grade and high school through the 12th grade at Sleepy Eye, Class of 1950. Marlene and her best friend Ardis went to the Twin Cities to attend nursing school, graduating with her LPN license in 1951.

Marlene married Edner L. Carlson January 20, 1952. They were blessed with six children. They lived and worked on the family farm near Darfur, MN and Marlene nursed for Dr. Remus in Comfry, MN. In 1967 they purchased a farm/ranch further west near Clear Lake, SD. They lived there ten years, moving west again and settling in the Black Hills of SD in 1977. Marlene nursed everywhere she lived, it was truly her calling to care for people. She retired at age 63, but continued to care for everyone, family, grandkids, Eddie, neighbors, those that came and went from her life. To her very last days, she cared for others.

Church was always important to Marlene and she made sure her family knew the Lord. She trusted He had a plan for her life and leaned on Him throughout her life.

She enjoyed lots of crafts, from barbed wire to seashells, painted rocks, clock making, and many others. She loved to garden and live in the country. Her favorite flowers were the wild roadside roses. Moving to town in her elder years she helped the

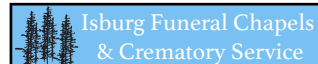
ladies at church make quilts for a time, loved playing cards: Pitch, 3-13 and even a little Texas Hold'em. She was always up for bingo and corn hole. Marlene enjoyed a good visit and was always ready to share a cup of coffee. She especially loved when her family and the grandkids would stop in. Always up for adventure.

Marlene is survived by her children: Beckie (Kevin) Ploszaj of Buffalo, SD, Joel (Danita) Carlson of Bradley, SD, Vanessa (Guy) Taylor of Sundance, WY, Robin (Dee) Wilcox of Zeona, SD, LuAnn (Todd) Youngberg of Newell, SD, and John Carlson of Gillette, WY, 18 grandkids, 25 great-grandkids, one great-great-grandson, sister-in-law Anita Carlson of Byron, MN, many nieces and nephews, and all of their families whom she loved so much.

Marlene is preceded in death by her husband Edner L. Carlson, parents Clarence and Minnie Domke, sisters Phyllis Schmidt and Donna Anderson, numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, and infant great-granddaughters Maevis Joy and Millie Joy Carlson.

Visitation will be Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 5pm-7pm at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Home, Spearfish, SD. Services will be Friday, March 21, 2025 at 10am at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD. Burial will take place at Zeona, SD after the services.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels and Isburg Crematory of Spearfish. Online condolences may be written at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com



Charlotte Cole

Charlotte was born March 22, 1934 in Cloquet, Minnesota to Lester and Edith Harrison.



Charlotte was an intelligent and inquisitive child. She was especially close to her dad who worked in the timber industry. She often accompanied him on hunting or fishing adventures in the Lake Superior Gunflint Trail region. She learned early to have respect for nature, and to love the smell of a campfire.

When Charlotte was 4, the family moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. The world was in a depression. Money was scarce, but the family managed to buy a modest brand-new house in St. Paul's Highland Park suburb for \$4,000. The suburb was filled with vacant lots and open spaces.

Charlotte's mother Edith was a homemaker who ran the household with efficiency.

Highland Park during Char's childhood had lots of open space.

Charlotte remembered collecting milkweed pods as she walked the few blocks to Horace Mann Elementary School. The silk from the pods was used for making parachutes in the war effort. The events of the Depression and the WWII period—gas rationing, victory gardens, food rationing and even availability of bubble gum—were defining moments in her life.

She remembered many historic events such as the devastating Armistice Day Blizzard in 1940.

During her family's annual excursions via to Connecticut to visit her grandparents and cousins, Char remembered traveling servicemen, coming and going, many were wounded.

Charlotte was an avid, lifelong reader. She loved to read about the out-of-doors and about girls like Nancy Drew who overcame the odds. Organized sports for girls in those days was rare, but Char was tall and especially adept at ice skating. She and her brother Craig spent many hours on the outdoor rinks during the long Minnesota winters. She had fond memories of going to the St. Paul Winter carnival and to ten cent movies at the local theater. Seeing the premier of The Wizard of Oz at age 4 left her justifiably terrified of flying monkeys and wicked witches.

In the summers Craig and Charlotte rode their bikes to the swimming pool and library. Hot summer afternoons were spent outdoors playing paper dolls, board games, hopscotch, and roller-skating with friends.

Charlotte attended St. John's Episcopal Church in St. Paul where she sang in the choir and was confirmed.

At Central High School in St. Paul, Charlotte excelled in creative writing and lived on tuna fish sandwiches for lunch. In 1955 she graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Political Science.

In college, she met Tom Cole, four years her senior. They became engaged. Tom went to serve in the US Army while Char stayed behind to complete her degree.

After college, Char and Tom married and moved to Watertown SD where Tom went to work in his family's oil distribution business, Cole's Texaco. In those days, life for educated women differ-

ent from life today. Char enjoyed learning to play golf, joined PEO, and continued to play bridge, a popular pastime among college students. She was an exceptional bridge player and enjoyed the company of women with similar backgrounds. She was honored at a luncheon for members of PEO whose years of service exceeded 50.

When their children, Meg and Bob, reached elementary school, Char returned to the university for a teaching certificate. She taught Spanish at the Lincoln Learning Lab in Watertown. Later, she taught technical writing and business English at the Watertown Business University.

Char was a gifted fabric artist. She took up cross stitch and created some exceptional fabric renderings of rural scenes. Char adopted her children's interests. Following Meg's interests, Char learned to ride a horse and cross-country ski. When Bob and her husband Tom started renovating a Model A Ford, she became active on this project as well. For several years, the family enjoyed ice-boating on Lake Kameska.

After teaching, Char worked alongside Tom helping with the bookwork until his death in 1995. She also became a licensed real estate agent, but she preferred working in retail clothing sales. She enjoyed helping others choose stylish outfits at Feinsteins, and Dorothys in Watertown. However, Life Styles in Belle Fourche was her favorite place to shop for herself. Char was well-known for her stylish and extensive wardrobe.

Five years following Tom's death, she dealt with breast cancer.

Following this health scare, she began to travel with her brother Craig and Jackie Harrison, and with her cousin from Connecticut. She ventured on an Alaskan cruise, travelled extensively through the United States, and visited Europe.

After a hip replacement five years ago, Char moved to Belle Fourche where she resided comfortably at Belle Estates. She enjoyed long drives in the countryside and always found the western sky and landscape remarkably beautiful and interesting.

Survivors include her children: Meg English (John), Robert Cole, (Cindy); grandchildren, Lance Cole, Tyler Cole, Stephen Cole, Samantha Cole, Tyler English, and Shay English; Great-grandchildren, Logan Gronke-Cole, McKenzie Dye, Taylor English, Teannah English, Tessa English, Taten Adams, Kyriess Espy, Killian English, and Neveah Card. Neice; Laurie Officer (Tom), Jolynn Sauffley (Dennis) Nephews; David Harrison (Lenae), David Cole and numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills at 4 PM on Friday, April 4th. There will be no visitation. Inurnment will take place at Mount Hope Cemetery in Watertown SD. The funeral service will be available to view on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com



Philip W. Hanify

Philip W. Hanify of Great Falls, MT (formerly Belle Fourche) passed away peacefully at St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings, MT on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 due to age and natural causes.

Services are being planned for late June. Arrangements are with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche.

Mass of Christian Burial will take place 10:30 A.M. Monday, June 30th, 2025 at St. Paul Catholic Church in Belle Fourche. Inurnment will take place at St. Paul Catholic Cemetery in Belle Fourche.. Arrangements are with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Friends may leave written condolences online, view a video tribute, and view the funeral mass at: www.LeveringtonFH.com

Philip was preceded in death by his parents, Kenny and Tootie Hanify. He is survived by his sister Nancy (Don) Turbiville, Belle Fourche, SD and brother Kenneth (Marlene) Hanify, Laurel, MT. Nieces Anne Marie Hanify (husband Dale Loper), Kody(Mike) Wilbur and nephews Brian(Carla) Turbiville and Aaron(Tammy) Hanify, great nieces Breanne and Ally Watts, Sidney Hanify, Kayla Hindman, Keeli Doyle and great nephew Braxton Turbiville and several great-greats and many cousins.



Matthew 17:5 KJV

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Cattle Ranchers Face Prison Over Legacy Fenceline in Dispute - Family Calls for Trump Administration to Step In

Randi and Tom Hamilton are asking the Trump Administration to intervene in the criminal case of their daughter, South Dakota cattle rancher and mother of two Heather Maude, who along with her husband Charles face a decade in prison over a fence dispute with the Forest Service.

"I know Trump and his team have a lot going on," Randi says. "But the government is on steroids to make people's lives miserable. Socially, financially, emotionally—in every regard. It's beyond my comprehension that anyone would do this."

As previously reported, Heather and Charles were indicted in June 2024 over dispute regarding the placement of a fence they inherited, built sometime between 1910 and 1950, that marks the boundary between their legacy ranch and USFS land. The fence line has been acknowledged as the official property boundary by the USDA every single year since the start of the National Grasslands program in 1960. For 114 years, the Maude family has farmed and irrigated the land with no objection from the Forest Service. Through several generations, their permits have been renewed and transferred. That all changed last June.

Now Charles and Heather each face 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for theft of government property. Both are under a gag order, unable to speak about their case with media. Their trial is set for April 29.

Randi and Tom traveled from their home in Wyoming to look after their two grandkids during the couple's recent hearing. "My little granddaughter is 7. She said, 'Grandma, what's going to happen to us if mom and dad go to jail today?' It broke my heart."

The local South Dakota ranching community is terrified. Neighbors say they have been targeted by the Forest Service, too.

"Heather and Charles are being made an example of," Randi says. "If they lose this deal, it's going to affect everybody. You never think it's going to happen to you. But it is."

Facing 10 Years in Prison Over a Fence Dispute

The ranch family's ordeal started on March 29, 2024, when a hunter allegedly complained about a "No Hunting" sign on a fencepost. USFS requested the Maudes take the sign down, which they did.

"They're busy trying to make a living," Randi says. "That fence was put there before they were born."

To her knowledge, this mysterious hunter has never been identified.

"I don't believe any hunter would have accidentally

discovered an issue with that fence," Tom says. He claims that on X, a navigational app hunters use to determine property lines, did not even have the line correctly marked at the time. "I think it was someone who knew way more about Forest Service land than a hunter."

The couple then met with District Ranger Julie Wheeler. Forest Service Special Agent Travis Lunders was also present.

The Maudes sought a solution, suggesting a special use permit or a land exchange under the Small Tracts Act. They were told the Forest Service would first need to re-survey the land to determine property lines. The Maudes agreed. They were told this would occur at some point in the next year.

Instead, Lunders and a survey team arrived at the Maude ranch five days later. Lunders surveyed the fence in dispute. Without permission, Randi says, Lunders then crossed the rectangular piece of private property the Maudes own in the middle of USFS land to also examine their fence on the opposite side.

The Maudes have a pivot irrigation system; a machine that waters an area in a circular pattern. While there is no dispute that all permanent components of the pivot are on private ground, Lunders allegedly decided the wheel and end of the pivot at the far end of the line may cross into USFS land.

"How did this happen so fast?" Randi says. "Who gave the OK? This was so extreme."

Just 87 days passed between the mystery hunter's alleged complaint and federal indictments for the young couple. Like the original complaint by the unnamed hunter, the survey has also been withheld.

"There's a human side to this," Randi says. "Heather volunteers with the local farmer's market. Charles is the local volunteer fire chief and a first responder. He has worked with the Forest Service on fires. He goes above and beyond in volunteering and serving his community. He has never gotten so much as a speeding ticket. They both do so much."

Their case has sparked national outrage. Political leaders and ranching groups have spoken out in defense of the couple, including Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Congresswoman Harriet Hageman (R-WY). Randi has reached out to both the Biden and Trump administrations, so far with no success. She was told former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack never received her letters.

Fencing in rough country is an inexact science. In the vast and rugged rangeland of backcountry South Dako-

ta where the Maudes have grazed cattle since before the Forest Service existed, fence lines constructed prior to modern tools and technology are at times crude in tracing boundaries across thousands of acres of imperfect, mountainous terrain.

At the spot in dispute, the Maude's fence was suspended over Cheyenne River breaks.

"The Forest Service has about the same number of Charles and Heather's acres on their side of the fence as Charles and Heather have of the Forest Service's," Randi says. "It's just due to the practicality of putting fences where they belong. The Maudes have always allowed that land to be treated as public property. It's rough country."

Drawing on her years growing up in Colorado before its urban boom, Randi says urban Americans can relate to murky questions surrounding boundaries, too. She recalls an acquaintance who had a dispute with a neighbor after buying a house in town and building a fence two inches off the line.

Imagine this but on a much bigger scale, she says, where a property owner has to account for the curvature of the earth.

"I explain it to town people like that. You're not even guaranteed that the fence in your yard is on the line."

The result is a chilling effect on ranchers who share boundaries with state and federal agencies. After the devastating wildfires near Gillette, Wyoming last year, she says many ranchers are too afraid to rebuild their own fences.

"This scares a lot of ranching people because nobody's fences are on the line," she says. "I tell them I wouldn't do it. If the government will do this Charles and Heather, they will do it to you."

Randi said the couple has tried to have the property resurveyed, but no company will touch the project due to the government's involvement. To her knowledge, the USFS has never made a copy of their survey available.

Many of the ranchers in this community believe they are being persecuted intentionally by government agents. Some think these agents, including Lunders, are seeking to secure a wildlife corridor between the Badlands National Park and the Black Hills National Forest.

"Heather and Charles and a couple other neighbors are right

in the middle of that corridor," Randi says. "Every rancher that borders that proposed corridor has had more problems than average with the Forest Service."

You try not to be a conspiracy theorist but when they won't give you any answers—in all that dead silence, theories get tossed around."

The ordeal has taken a toll on the whole family.

Now when I'm there with the kids, if they see a vehicle they don't know, they're just immediately scared it's the Forest Service."

Randi and Tom are desperate to help their daughter and son-in-law. They admit they are surprised they have not yet heard from anyone in the Trump Administration.

Escalating an issue over the placement of a century-old fence to the point of threatening two young parents with imprisonment is an example of the overreach Trump campaigned on ending.

The Maude's story is just another example in what resembles a targeted harassment campaign against working Americans—in particular, farmers and ranchers.

"President Trump keeps saying, 'I am standing in the way; they are really going after you,'" says Randi. "Those words keep going around in my head. These are just ordinary people trying to make a living."

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Questions? Please call 605-892-2618

The City of Belle Fourche will be onsite for city licenses.

Belle Fourche Silver Linings, Senior Box Distributor

After April 3rd, 2025 Belle Silver Linings will be the local distributor for the Senior Box Program in this area.

Pick up times will be Monday thru Friday from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Please remember to bring identification.

The Senior Box Program is available for individuals 60 years of age and older who qualify for food assistance. Applications are available at Belle Silver Linings. Or, to apply over the phone applicants may call Feeding South Dakota at (605)348-2689.

Feeding South Dakota is an organization that helps administer the USDA with the South Dakota Department of Education to administer the USDA's

Commodity Supplemental Nutrition Program (CSFP), most commonly known as the Senior Box Program, in all 66 counties.

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Upcoming events,
for more information call:
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April 3 - BF Livestock Market Ribbon Cutting
11:30AM, Pasque Fashion Show 5PM

April 4 - Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining 7AM

April 5 - Wellness Fair @ BF Rec Center, First Saturday Brunch @ Tri State Museum 10:30AM, CON Sportman's Banquet @ BF Comm Hall 5PM

April 9 - Lunch & Learn @ BF Econ. Development
Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us on social media for all the information or visit our website

Belle Fourche AAU Club Boasts 25 State Qualifiers

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

On Saturday March 8th, 50 youth wrestlers took to the mats in Buffalo at the District 1 tournament. The top 8 placers in Districts move onto Regionals.

Saturday March 15th, in Sturgis, 48 of those 50 wrestlers moved on to fight their way to the top 3 spots in their weight classes, with the 8U bracket allowing the 4th place finisher this year as well (this rotates each year). The Belle Fourche AAU club had 18 youth wrestlers qualify to move onto the state competition by earning top spots on the podium at Regionals.

16U wrestlers who register for Regionals wrestle Freestyle (youth and high school competitions are wrestled in Folkstyle) to earn their top 3 spots on the podium and qualify for the state competition. Belle Fouché had 3 wrestlers qualify in the 16U division formerly known as "Cadets". 19U wrestlers, formerly known as "Juniors" are able to register in their respective weight classes directly into

the state competition. There is currently not a 16U girls bracket, therefore all 16U aged girls enter as 19U to fill brackets at the state competition. Belle Fourche had 4 wrestlers register for the state competition as 19U wrestlers, for a total of 25 wrestlers representing the Belle Fourche AAU Club at the South Dakota State AAU Tournament.

On Friday March 28th, at The Monument in Rapid City, the 16U and 19U wrestlers competed in Freestyle wrestling at the state tournament. In the boys 16U 94 pound division Porter Manke placed 3rd, in 16U 106 pound division Caden Swaney placed 4th, in 16U 150 pound division Kolby Tibbs placed 3rd. In the Girls 19U 125 pound division Railynn Strickland placed 6th. In the boys 19U 144 pound division Garett Huston placed 4th, in 19U 157 pound division Riley Dighton placed 4th, and in the 19U Heavyweight division Lucas Tonsager earned his 3rd consecutive Championship 1st place finish.

On Saturday March 29th and Sunday March 30th, the AAU Youth Wrestlers competed in Folkstyle wrestling at the state

competition. Wrestlers Finley Horman (Boys 6U 53 pounds), Brooks Lynch (Boys 8U 57 pounds), Brady Hakala (Boys 12U 138 pounds), Charlie Huston (Girls 14U 105 pound), and Jaxon Linch (Boys 14U 90 pounds) fought hard through double elimination preliminary rounds.

Wrestlers taking the podium at the 2025 South Dakota State AAU Competition were:
Girls 8U 40 pound division- Mila Hudson 6th place, Riley Mehlhaff 5th place and Nora Hodge 1st place
Girls 10U 125 pound division- Lizzy Tonsager 3rd place
Boys 10U 77 pound division- Royce Bachman 8th place
Girls 12U 60 pound division- Gracie Hodge 7th place
Girls 12U 130 pound division- Alice Bonefield 6th place
Boys 12U 100 pound division- Tate Krul 6th place
Girls 14U 90 pound division- Lochlin Tibbs 7th place
Girls 14U 112 pound division- AnnaBelle Dighton 5th place
Girls 14U 145 pound division- AnnieMarie Luna 7th place
Boys 14U 215 pound division- Logan Gleason 6th place

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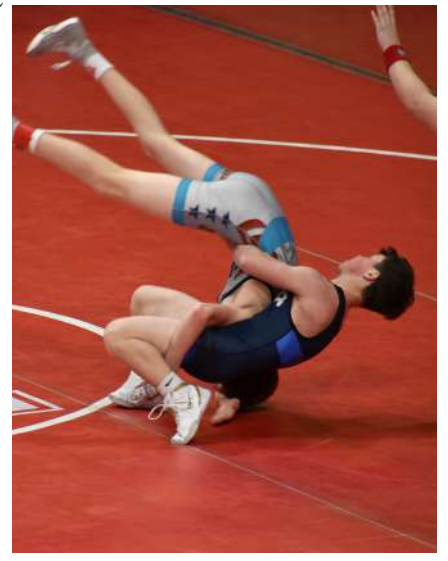
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(L) 8U 40lb bracket had 3 Bronc placers- Riley Mehlhaff 5th, Nora Hodge 1st place, Mila Hudson 6th. (R) Caden Swaney during state match.



(L) Adilynn at Districts; (R) AnnaBelle Dighton working on a pin at state.



Broncs in Parade of Athletes Sunday Morning before Championship Rounds.



(L) Charlie Huston placing ankle band before match.; (R) Kael Williams at Districts.



Tate Krul with leg cradle.

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Superintendent's Corner

R. Orion Thompson
Special to the Beacon

Exciting Times Ahead in the Belle Fourche School District!

Spring is always a season of fresh starts and exciting milestones—and that certainly rings true here in the Belle Fourche School District! Important Board Meeting Updates **Kindergarten Roundup is Coming Soon!**

If you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten this fall, we'd love to welcome you to our upcoming Kindergarten Roundup on **April 4th, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the North Park building.** This is the perfect opportunity to start the school journey on the right foot. Families will have the chance to explore the building, meet our amazing staff, and get all the information needed for a successful transition into school life. We can't wait to meet our newest Broncs! Call 605-723-3379 to schedule an appointment.

Planning for the Future—Together

Our **Master Planning work is in full motion**, and we are getting ready to engage our community in meaningful ways. We'll be reaching out in the coming weeks to gather your ideas, insights, and hopes for

our District. Your voice matters, and together we can help shape a School District that is prepared to serve students for generations to come.

Spring Sports Are Blooming Our student-athletes are hitting the fields, tracks, and courts as spring sports season kicks off. Whether you're a fan of baseball, track, golf, or softball, we invite you to come out, support our teams, and enjoy some of that much-awaited spring sunshine.

Celebrating Our Staff A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who submitted nominations for **Teacher of the Year** and **Employee of the Year.** These recognitions mean so much to our hardworking staff, and we're proud to work alongside such dedicated professionals.

Why School Attendance Matters As we focus on student success, it's important to remember the value of consistent school attendance—not just for academics, but for social development as well.

Did you know students who attend school regularly are more likely to meet key learning

milestones in reading and math? According to the U.S. Department of Education, chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days) is linked to lower achievement and graduation rates.

In addition, daily attendance provides critical opportunities for children to develop friendships, communication skills, and a sense of routine. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that students who are present more often show stronger social-emotional growth, better relationships with peers and teachers, and increased classroom engagement.

School is more than just a place for academics—it's where students grow, connect, and thrive. As always, thank you for being a vital part of the Belle Fourche School District family. Let's keep working together to make this a strong, positive spring season for all our students.

Orion Thompson
Superintendent,
Belle Fourche School District

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(L) Easton Swaney at Districts; Lizzy Tonsager working a takedown during state match



(L) Lochlin Tibbs during state match; (R) Logan Atkinson at Districts.



(L) Kolby Tibbs with a throw at state; (R) Luke Tonsager Freestyle at State



(L) Railynn Strickland pinning at State; (R) Rhoan Burke at Regionals.



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Riddik Randolph at Districts.

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Junior Golf Registration Open

Registration for the annual Junior Golf Program at the Belle Fouché Country Club is now open.

Junior Golf Camp is for kids ages 5-14 who have little or no experience. The camp will focus on fundamental golf skills.

Junior League is for youth 15 and older and will focus on technique and practice.

The Junior Golf Program is Tuesday and Thursdays during July. The program begins on July 8 and ends on July 31st. There will not be a session on July 29th.

The cost of the program is \$100. All junior golfers may purchase a membership for an additional \$150.

They are allowed to play Mondays through Thurs-

days without an adult. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays they must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration must be made online at <https://www.bellefourchecountryclub.com/junior-golf/>

For questions, contact Casey or Sierra at the Belle Fourche Country Club at 605.892.3472.



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Belle Fourche Beacon 'Happenings' and News Bytes Calendar

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

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.bellefourherec.com
 We look forward to seeing you soon!

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.bellefourherec.com



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
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Changes to property tax assessment freeze program bring hope of relief from 'subsistence' living

Demand for help from older and disabled people grows as state expands eligibility From SD Searchlight by MAKENZIE HUBER

Property taxes eat away larger and larger slices of 71-year-old Shirley Schumacher's fixed income each year. She has lived in the same 900-square-foot home in the southwestern South Dakota community of Oral since she moved there in 1999. She's watched her annual taxes increase 641% from \$129.02 to \$956.40, according to the Fall River County auditor. Her Social Security and pension benefits can't keep pace. "The price of everything is going up," Schumacher said. "Our assessed value and property taxes go up. So does our insurance."

South Dakota offers a property tax relief program to elderly and disabled residents. But Schumacher said she was denied when she applied for the program a few years ago. Officially, she was told her income barely exceeded income eligibility, but she believes she filled the form out incorrectly. She hopes an expansion of the program approved by the Legislature this year will make it easier for seniors like her to qualify, and allow more older South Dakotans to remain in their homes.

Governor's property tax law includes assessment freeze expansion. The program allows South Dakotans who meet qualifications including income and home valuation limits to freeze their home's assessed value to the year they turned 65 or the year they became disabled. Participants apply yearly to the program.

The local property tax rate is applied to a home's assessed value, so if the value doesn't go up, it holds the person's property taxes in check.

The state approved 4,705 elderly and disabled property tax assessment freeze applications in 2024, according to a records request fulfilled by the state Department of Revenue. The program reduced those properties' assessed values by a collective \$333 million. There were 327 people denied for exceeding income limits, assessed value limits or for another reason, such as incorrect paperwork.

Gov. Larry Rhoden signed a bill into law this month that will expand eligibility in two ways. It will raise the limit on a home's assessed value from \$300,000 to \$500,000 and increase the program's income limit by

\$20,000 — from \$35,000 to \$55,000 for a single person, and from \$45,000 to \$65,000 for a multi-person household.

Both limits will increase yearly by inflation or the annual percentage change in federal Social Security payments, whichever is greater. Eligible residents must have owned a home in South Dakota for at least five years and lived in the state for more than six months of the previous year.

The program shifts some property taxes onto other property tax payers, according to Bobi Adams, a spokeswoman with the state Department of Revenue. That impact is "minimal," she said, though it varies for each taxing district.

The proposal to expand eligibility for assessment freezes came as part of a property tax relief package with other provisions including a 3% cap on growth in countywide owner-occupied home valuations for five years.

Schumacher rushed to print out her new application for the program before the annual April 1 deadline, hoping to qualify this time.

If her application is accepted, it would freeze her home's assessed value to the year she turned 65, which was 2019. That would bring her home's assessed value down from \$104,700 to \$58,070, according to the Fall River County Equalization Office.

According to information from the county auditor, Schumacher would save \$394.38 on her taxes this year through the program.

"That money back would give me just a little bit more flexibility to meet basic needs," Schumacher said. "This is just subsistence right now."

Schumacher said she canceled her online subscriptions years ago because she could no longer afford them, started raising rabbits for food because she can't afford beef, and canceled her garbage pickup. She brings her trash to a friend for collection and burns her paper garbage.

Demand for targeted relief grows statewide. A 2024 AARP survey found that 75% of adults aged 50 and older prefer to stay in their homes as they age. Aging in place allows older people to maintain independence for as long as possible, stay in familiar surroundings, maintain relationships with friends, family and neighbors, and reduce the costs of long-term care.

Participants in South Dakota's assessment freeze program can continue to use it when their valuations increase beyond the new \$500,000 limit, if they've received assessment freezes before.

According to data from the state Department of Revenue, assessment freeze applications in Minnehaha County nearly doubled from 427 in 2021 to 849 in 2024. Statewide, applications grew by 1,485 during the same timeframe. Although fewer than 5,000 households are enrolled in the freeze program statewide, about 23,000 households are eligible, according to the Governor's Office. An estimated 11,000 additional households will be eligible under the expansion.

There were no approved applicants in 2024 in Buffalo, Oglala Lakota or Ziebach counties. Only one or two applicants were approved in Corson, Jones and Mellette counties.

Older people have visited Minnehaha County Treasurer Kris Swanson's office "shaken" by property tax increases in recent years, as home valuations increased in the Sioux Falls area.

Swanson helps them fill out applications, even if it's unlikely they're eligible for the program.

"As an older person, if I had to leave my home because I can't afford to pay my taxes, I think that'd be heartbreaking," Swanson said. "You leave something you've always known and worked so hard for in your life and you're forced out. I don't like that."

Some cities offer expanded relief. If Schumacher lived in Sioux Falls or Rapid City, she'd also be eligible for a property tax refund program through the city.

Sioux Falls refunds residents up to an additional \$500 if they participate in the state assessment freeze program, and Rapid City offers a similar program. The South Dakota Municipal League isn't aware of any other municipal property tax refund programs in the state.

Sioux Falls started its program in 2022, renewing it each year as part of the city's budget, said Shawn Pritchett, the city's director of finance, innovation and technology. Nearly 675 households participated in the program in 2024, costing the city \$232,000 to provide an average refund of \$345.

Magazine From page A1
 The 2025 edition will be available and distributed throughout the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.
 The Belle Fourche Chamber and the Belle Fourche Economic Development Corporation utilize the magazine for visitor information requests.
 A digital issue will be featured on the their websites along with the Beacon's, Visit Belle Fourche, and can be on your's too.
 The magazine is distributed at the Black Hills & Badlands

Tourism Association's 42 annual Literature Swap at the Monument in Rapid City on May 6th.
 The event will distribute the magazine to Interstate Welcome Centers along I-90 and I-29.
 We also contract distribution funds with Certified Folder and Road Runner Distribution.
 This makes it possible for over 200 additional locations to host the Belle Fourche Visitor's Guide.
 To reserve your ad or discuss what you'd like to include in the 2025 issue, contact us at sales@bellefourchebeacon.com

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Contd. From A1 **Open**

tralized and a lot of people like that,” explained Mackenzie Olson, Feed Manager. “We’re all in one spot now so they can come for a one-stop-shop and we can get them where they need to go quicker!”

The new building has been open for business for about three weeks.

Despite a few hiccups with the phone lines, the new work complex has been running smoothly.

“It’s been good. We’ve all been helping each other out, so that’s been nice. I feel like the departments all coming together has been good for the CO-OP too, as a workplace,” said Olson. Despite having some bulk feed over at the old ag location and a few LP parts down south, most of the business locations have been united under the new roof. Reif said, “I think everything is figured out and running smoothly!”



New warming room is full of product and used to keep chemicals and oil products from freezing during the winters.



Just inside the front door, the receptionist greets those that enter the **CBH CO-OP**.

Volunteers Help Prepare for the CONBA Easter Egg

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—What does it take to pull together an Easter Egg Hunt for an entire town? Well, it starts with stuffing a lot of plastic Easter eggs, a whole lot of support and some fun! Having done the event for the past ten years, the Center of the Nation Business Association (CONBA) has it all figured out!

The Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for April 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the soccer fields and is for children ages 0 to 10.

CONBA is in charge of the Easter Egg Hunt, from the planning to the purchasing, they tackle everything. “With the money that we get from dues and from the city we purchase the items that go in the eggs,” said Stacey Raisanen, CONBA.

“We are all volunteer hours—no

paid people to stuff and distribute!”

Volunteers gathered over four nights to come together and stuff over 6000 Easter eggs—March 25, 26, 27 and upcoming April 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the AmericInn. “We had two 4-H groups, Purple Pride, citizens from the community and high schoolers in here,” said Raisanen.

“Oh, look what I have,” exclaimed Raisanen. She disappeared for a few minutes and came back with a huge yellow Mr. Peeps costume!

The room full of helpers laughed with delight at the sight. “Mr. Peep, two Easter Bunnies and if I can find Glenda the Good Witch, maybe she’ll just come along,” she said.

They will all be making an

appearance at the Easter Egg Hunt!

Planning for the event begins right after the current one ends. “Greg Mondillo (CONBA, Hot Shots) bought three boxes of 48 packages containing 48 eggs each, he went and bought them on clearance last year,” explained Raisanen, “So we have all new eggs going out.” Raisanen orders all of the toys and candy that go inside of the eggs, but there is also coins and bunny money inside! “There will be \$400 in coins for ages five and up.

There’s bunny money from Rancho Los Agaves, from Branding Iron and from Tri-State Museum,” said Raisanen. “Bunny money is a coupon, it doesn’t say what you’re gonna get, you just go there and then they’ll have a prize!”



Elsie Hix, Stacey Raisanen and Marilyn Berdan show off the finger puppets that go inside of some of the Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 12. Longbrake Photos



(L) Robin Wilkins and Laura Bennett volunteer their time to help stuff eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Stacey Raisanen brings out Mr. Peeps, who will be at the Easter egg hunt on April 12.



Grilled burgers were served to patrons who came to eat lunch during the **CBH Co-Op** open house. Longbrake photos



CBH CO-OP has feed and seed fully stocked.



The new **CBH CO-OP** building has enough room to stack four pallets high. Shelves are full!

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AmericInn by Wyndham, Belle Fourche, a “Great Place” with “Great Faces”

The AmericInn by Wyndham Belle Fourche has eight “Great Faces” as well as being designated as a “Great Place” for South Dakota.

“From the iconic Black Hills to the open plains, South Dakota is known as a land of welcoming wonders. These businesses and people are part of that and deserve to be recognized,” said James Hagen, Secretary of the Department of Tourism. “I am so

proud and grateful of each and every one of them.”

The South Dakota Great Place program puts a spotlight on businesses that exemplify great service by going above and beyond for guests and employees. The South Dakota Great Face program honors individuals in the tourism and hospitality industry who excel in customer service by providing top-tier service to guests. The goal of

both programs is to strengthen the tourism industry in South Dakota and offer support to tourism industry members.

“Hospitality is the heartbeat of South Dakota’s tourism industry, and these programs are our way of recognizing businesses and individuals that embody this spirit,” said Hagen. “We celebrate every designee and their consistency in providing exceptional service for every visitor.”



Ida Jackson



Marilyn Berdan



Amy Struble



Cathy Tobin



Denver Wilson



Diane Wolf



Greg Raisanen



Stacey Raisanen

An Afternoon of Puzzles and Pints

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—A unique opportunity drew people to the Hitching Post Tap House on Saturday afternoon, March 29. Puzzles, or putting together a 1000-piece puzzle, turned into a competition to see who had the best skills at assembling a puzzle—fast!

Working on coming up with exciting events and opportunities to attract customers is common for small businesses. And that is the case for the Tap House.

Mariah Wainman, Owner, had the idea of a puzzle competition. Amanda Kramp, Owner, then found some cute, frothy mugs of beer puzzles and the event came to fruition!

“We were trying to figure out some different things to bring people in or just different events to have,” explained Kramp. “Puzzles is not something that we’ve ever seen here in Belle Fourche. I don’t know if they’ve had it in the past at

other places, but it’s something that brings new people in here, and plus Puzzles and Pints—the Ps sound good!”

With five spots available for the event, the slate was quickly set. Teams of 2 to 4 players came together to spend the day drinking beer (or pop) and putting together puzzles.

The event ran for four hours. “The time frame is about four hours where they can sit and build as fast as they can. At the end of it, we will look and see who made it the furthest—if it’s really close, then we will count pieces that are left over and see who actually is further along with it,” explained Kramp.

The event was perfect for the Stiefel-Liggett team. One of their members, Dee Liggett, is a puzzle enthusiast. “She spends at least four hours a day doing puzzles, she has her own puzzle room,” explained Shila Liggett. “She glues them together and I think we have probably 100 of them stacked up.”

For an entry fee of \$25, the winners get some of that back. “The winners will win a cash prize based off of all the entry fees, and then we have a little goodie bag for each member of the team,” said Kramp. “Each team also gets to keep their puzzle.”

The Puzzles and Pints event was also a chance for the Hitching Post to show off their new tables. They recently made upgrades to the seating area. “The old ones were not very stable anymore and kind of getting wobbly, and it was just time that they were changed,” said Kramp. “The new tables utilize the space better and we have a ton more seating available.”

If you are a dissectionist and love putting together puzzles, watch for more upcoming Puzzle and Pint events. In the meantime, The Hitching Post is still hosting Trivia Night on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., and on April 26th is having a Sip and Paint with Alexandra Hansen.



A team working hard on their puzzle!



Steph Sloan, Shila Liggett, Dee Liggett and Layla Stiefel-Liggett are making fast work of their 1000-piece puzzle.



Puzzles and Pints brought a full house to the Hitching Post Tap House. Longbrake photos

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City Council Candidate Forum

Ryder Heitrz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—Venue 519 hosted a City Council candidate forum on Thursday, March 27.

In anticipation of election day on April 8, six hopeful City Council candidates sat in front of Belle Fourche residents and answered questions submitted by locals. Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce live-streamed the event on Facebook.

The forum was facilitated by Deb Elliott.

Ward 1 candidates include Karen Davis, Kristal Steeves, and Ivy Zimmerschied.

Ward 2 candidates are Clark Sowers and Lee Capp.

In Ward 3 and Ward 4, Dean Brunner and Bob Somervold, respectively, are running unopposed. Somervold was absent from the event.

A total of 14 questions were presented, divided into categories of General, Budget & Finance, Infrastructure & Public Services, Economic Development, and Government Transparency. Candidates were given one minute to respond to each question.

Throughout the evening, candidates shared their perspectives on key issues facing Belle

Fourche, ranging from road repairs and water infrastructure to fiscal responsibility and economic growth.

Several candidates emphasized the importance of maintaining a balanced budget while addressing the city’s expanding needs.

The forum provided voters with an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates and gain insight into their priorities ahead of the April 8 election.

The full recording of the event is available on the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for those who were unable to attend.



(L) Kristal Steeves of Ward 1 answers a question. Left to right: Ivy Zimmerschied, Kristal Steeves, Karen Davis.



(R) Ward 2 candidates Clark Sowers (left) and Lee Capp (right). Longbrake photos

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 Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654
 JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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Cattle Report - Friday, March 28, 2025

Just under 2000 hd today yearlings market was on fire

Next Sale - April 4 - Bred Cattle & Pair Special - 10 AM
 2 PM - CK Bar Bull Sale

Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	14	Bk	Hfr	585	328.00
Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	83	Bk	Hfr	694	308.50
Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	12	Bk	Hfr	700	301.00
Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	15	Bk	Str	500	407.50
Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	35	Bk	Str	656	341.00
Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	32	Bk	Str	755	311.00
Pzinski, Matt & Chris, Newcastle WY	69	Bk	Str	778	309.50
Powell, Stanley, Biddle MT	25	Bk	Str	678	328.00
Rockin B Feeders, Newell SD	43	Red	Hfr	760	302.00
Rockin B Feeders, Newell SD	27	Bk	Hfr	695	282.00
Rockin B Feeders, Newell SD	82	Bk	Hfr	764	267.00
Rockin B Feeders, Newell SD	44	Bk	Hfr	767	264.00
Dewey, Todd Or Susan, Box Elder SD	21	Bk	Hfr	604	330.00
Duprel, Jack, Sturgis SD	20	Herf	Hfr	721	285.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	18	Bk	Hfr	372	415.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	16	Bk	Hfr	577	308.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	11	B/R	Str	348	495.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	14	B/R	Str	430	425.00
Jennings, Eric, Spearfish SD	24	Bk	Str	805	281.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	72	Bk	Hfr	618	322.50
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	25	Char	Hfr	679	281.50
Mpherson, Baxter, Sturgis SD	25	Bk	Hfr	621	321.00
Mpherson, Baxter, Sturgis SD	35	Bk	Str	706	318.00
Schultz, Daina, Piedmont SD	19	Bk	Hfr	637	324.00
Smith Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	63	Bk	Hfr	553	344.00
Tennis, Charles M Or Rosalie, Vale SD	21	Bk	Hfr	751	277.00
Tibbets, Tyler Or Kelly, Buffalo Gap SD	26	Bk	Hfr	719	285.00

Weigh Up Cattle

3x Ranch LLC, Buffalo SD	6	Bld	Hfr	934	237.50
63 Land & Cattle, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hfr	995	241.00
63 Land & Cattle, Rapid City SD	2	Bk	Hfr	1095	225.00
Allen, Cliff, Biddle MT	1	Bk	Cow	1320	150.00
Bachand, Benny R, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1295	145.00
Blair Bros LLC, Vale SD	5	Bk	Cwette	1257	170.00
Boomsma, Dennis, Box Elder SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1035	230.00
Borchgrevink Livestock, Belle Fourche SD	2	B/R	Hfr	1107	190.00
Brown, Kyle Or Shannon, Sturgis SD	3	Bk	Hfr	1018	234.00
Brown, Kyle Or Shannon, Sturgis SD	4	Bk	Cow	1445	151.00
Brown, Kyle Or Shannon, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1295	151.00
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Hfr	960	244.00
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	1	Bld	Cow	1420	143.50
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1510	140.50
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1255	131.00
Burghduff, Gerald/Rebecca, Camp Crook	1	Red	Hfr	1150	181.00
Burghduff, Gerald/Rebecca, Camp Crook	1	Bk	Cow	1395	145.00
Burghduff, Gerald/Rebecca, Camp Crook	2	Bk	Cow	1565	143.00
Cammaack, Randy/Mary Ellen, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1180	190.00
Cammaack, Randy/Mary Ellen, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1305	140.00
Crowser, Brett/Melanie, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Cow	1390	141.00
Crowser, Ray, Whitehead SD	1	Bld	Hfr	945	210.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitehead SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1150	181.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitehead SD	37	B/R	Cow	1524	148.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitehead SD	29	B/R	Cow	1547	147.75
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitehead SD	8	Mix	Cow	1362	147.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitehead SD	11	Herf	Cow	1465	140.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bld	Hfr	970	221.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1065	220.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD	6	Bk	Hfr	1070	202.00
Draine, Tim Or Joni, Biddle MT	5	Bld	Hfr	1062	217.00
Dunning 31 Cattle LLC, Otter MT	1	Bk	Cow	1335	144.50
Dunning 31 Cattle LLC, Otter MT	1	Bk	Cow	1310	143.50
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	1	Bk	Cow	1515	131.00
Ehlert, Bill, Belle Fourche SD	2	Bk	Cow	1327	146.00
Ehlert, Bill, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Cow	1340	131.00
Gay Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	2	Bk	Hfr	1052	220.00
Godfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	4	B/R	Hfr	981	227.00
Godfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	1	Bk	Cwette	1140	155.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	3	Red	Hfr	801	238.00
Grubbs Ii, Dallas, Upton WY	11	Bld	Hfr	902	213.00
Hansen, Clinton, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1080	221.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1130	183.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Cwette	1115	170.00
Hansen, Ken Or Pam, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Cow	1260	144.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY	1	Bk	Hfr	1020	230.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY	1	Bk	Cow	1630	139.00
Henwood, Robert/Lacey, Belle Fourche	1	Red	Cow	1300	134.00
Hiser, Barney, Newcastle WY	1	Bk	Cow	1350	147.00
Jones Ranch Partnership, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1355	143.00
Jones Ranch Partnership, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1500	137.00
Jones Ranch Partnership, Rapid City SD	3	Bk	Cow	1228	130.00
Karrels, Adam, Sturgis SD	1	Bld	Cow	1340	150.50
Karrels, Henry, Sturgis SD	1	Bld	Cow	1465	147.00
Kolka Livestock, Olive MT	1	Red	Hfr	775	243.00
Kolka Livestock, Olive MT	1	Red	Hfr	1080	220.00
Kolka Livestock, Olive MT	1	Red	Hfr	1100	212.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	4	Bk	Hfr	1067	211.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	4	Bld	Cwette	1280	159.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	3	Bld	Cow	1410	146.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Cow	1515	146.00
Lindsey, William, Newell SD	4	Bk	Hfr	1015	224.00
Lindsey, William, Newell SD	5	Bk	Hfr	1035	220.00
Mahaffy, Ronnie, Newell SD	6	Bk	Hfr	1065	227.00
Mahaffy, Ronnie, Newell SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1075	213.00
Moozy, Jim, Belle Fourche SD	2	Bk	Cow	1370	133.00
Moozy, Neal, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Cow	1435	142.00
Mcfarland Livestock, Newcastle WY	2	Bld	Cow	1075	135.00
Miech, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Hfr	1145	202.00
Miech, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Cow	1025	134.00
Millers Crow Creek, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Cwette	1140	171.00
Millers Crow Creek, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Cow	1380	143.00
Mollman, Craig, Ludlow SD	4	Bk	Hfr	955	233.00
Mollman, Craig, Ludlow SD	2	Bk	Hfr	1075	226.00
Mollman, Craig, Ludlow SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1030	224.00
Oliver Farm & Ranch LLC, Newell SD	1	Bk	Cow	1575	148.50
Palo, Jim, Newell SD	1	Bld	Cow	1645	148.50
Palo, Jim, Newell SD	3	Bk	Cow	1471	144.00
Perli, Richard Or Sharon, Rapid City SD	3	Bk	Hfr	925	244.00
Perli, Richard Or Sharon, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1195	131.00
Petersen, Jon/Jayme, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Cow	1170	151.00
Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis SD	5	Bk	Hfr	1011	230.00

Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis SD	3	Bld	Hfr	1191	181.00
Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cwette	1440	157.00
Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1375	144.50
Policky Ranch, Upton WY	1	Bk	Hfr	920	237.50
Rockpile Ridge Cattle, Whitehead SD	1	Red	Cow	1560	154.00
Rockpile Ridge Cattle, Whitehead SD	2	Red	Cow	1495	148.00
Rockpile Ridge Cattle, Whitehead SD	1	Red	Cow	1840	135.00
Rockpile Ridge Cattle, Whitehead SD	1	Red	Cow	1325	135.00
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	10	Bk	Hfr	1013	221.00
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	4	Bk	Cow	1400	144.00
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	3	Bk	Cow	1311	131.00
Sams, Norman, Weston WY	1	Bk	Hfr	955	231.00
Sams, Norman, Weston WY	1	Bk	Cow	1545	147.00
Sams, Norman, Weston WY	1	Bk	Cow	1225	138.00
Schloredt Enterprises, Sundance WY	1	Bk	Cow	1205	136.00
Schuelke, Dain Or Jean, Newell SD	1	Red	Cow	1555	146.00
Smith Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	7	Bk	Hfr	997	222.00
Smith Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Cow	1005	149.00
Smith, Merritt, Gillette WY	4	Bk	Hfr	991	200.00
Smith, Merritt, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1455	143.00
Snyder Cattle Co LLC, Piedmont SD	4	Bld	Hfr	1077	212.00
Snyder Cattle Co LLC, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1160	189.00
Snyder Cattle Co LLC, Piedmont SD	4	Bld	Cow	1488	151.00
Snyder Cattle Co LLC, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Cow	1285	144.00
Snyder Cattle Co LLC, Piedmont SD	1	Herf	Cow	1370	137.00
Stinson, Russell & Sheri K, Hulett WY	2	Bk	Cow	1527	148.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Hfr	930	248.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	4	Bk	Hfr	940	243.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1165	208.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Hfr	1070	191.00
Tennis, Charles M Or Rosalie, Vale SD	1	Bld	Hfr	1025	230.00
Tennis, Charles M Or Rosalie, Vale SD	1	Bk	Cow	1270	147.00
Tetrault, Tim Or Roxie, St Onge SD	1	Red	Cow	1465	149.00
Tipton, Charles Jr, Box Elder SD	1	Bk	Cow	1405	144.00
Top Livestock LLC, Hulett WY	4	Bk	Hfr	1185	192.00
Top Livestock LLC, Hulett WY	1	Bk	Cow	1705	143.00
Top Livestock LLC, Hulett WY	2	Bk	Cow	1412	140.00
Weber Rev Tru, Sturgis SD	2	Bk	Cow	1517	147.00
Williams, Lucy, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Cow	1020	152.50

Weigh Up Bulls

C & N Livestock, Alva WY	1	Bk	Bull	2040	161.00
Crago, Bruce, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1890	150.00
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	1	Red	Bull	990	227.50
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	7	Red	Bull	1477	163.50
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	3	Red	Bull	1300	151.00
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	2	Bk	Bull	2065	175.00
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	2	Bk	Bull	1387	165.50
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	1	Bk	Bull	1780	161.00
Godfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	1	Bk	Bull	1860	164.00
Graham Mt Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	1	Red	Bull	1010	200.00
Graham Mt Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1175	191.00
Graham Mt Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1700	162.00
Graham Mt Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1975	155.00
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Bull	1485	163.00
Harrison, Richard, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Bull	1780	157.50
Heart Tail Ranch Lp, St Onge SD	1	Bk	Bull	1670	177.50
Kudlock Ranch, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1785	180.00
Kudlock Ranch, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1755	180.00
Kudlock Ranch, Belle Fourche SD	3	Bk	Bull	1450	175.00
Kudlock Ranch, Belle Fourche SD	2	Bk	Bull	2100	162.50
Kudlock Ranch, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1910	152.50
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	4	Bk	Bull	1865	185.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	2	Bk	Bull	1787	182.50
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Bull	1110	170.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Bull	1695	163.00
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Bull	1560	157.50
Labree, Lee, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Bull	1640	156.00
Marshall, David, Rozet WY	1	Bk	Bull	2065	159.50
Miech, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1865	162.50
Peterson, Jon, Belle Fourche SD	4	Bk	Bull	990	239.00
Peterson, Jon/Jayme, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1615	177.50
Peterson, Jon/Jayme, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1795	161.00
Peterson, Scott, Belle Fourche SD	3	Bk	Bull	798	253.00
Peterson, Scott, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1125	204.00
Reinecke Ox Yoke Ranch, Beulah WY	1	Bk	Bull	1770	175.00
Reinecke Ox Yoke Ranch, Beulah WY	1	Bk	Bull	1735	155.00
Reinecke Ox Yoke Ranch, Beulah WY	2	Bk	Bull	1725	155.00
Richards Kristy, Newell SD	1	Bk	Bull	1325	168.00
Roush, Rusty/A, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Bull	1760	173.50
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	2	Bk	Bull	1237	192.50
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Bull	1595	150.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Bull	1995	185.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Bull	1975	164.50
Watsabaugh Livestock, Gillette WY					

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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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- 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 it is always the most affordable way to go.

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Looking Back in Belle

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

124 years ago
THE TIMES
April 2, 1900

**TRAGEDY NEAR KEYSTONE
Charles Norton Killed in a Fight in the Hills**

Keystone, S. D. April 2 – Charles Norton, a wood hauler from this place, was killed in a free for all fight near town Friday. Norton and a man named Sidney Lisle attempted to prevent Contractor Fitzsimmons from hauling wood over a road built by them across some school land. The partners exacted a to of 25 cents per cord, which Fitzsimmons refused to pay, and he proceeded to build new roads, which were always torn out and the bridges were destroyed. The first of the week Fitzsimmons received notice from Norton and Lisle that unless Fitzsimmons gave them the 25 cents per cord they would kill him. Friday the contractor and his men started from the wood camp over a road of their own across the school land and they soon found that Norton and Lisle had been at work tearing it up. The wood haulers responded and a great many shots were exchanged. Norton was shot dead with seven bullets in his body. Lisle threw up his hands and surrendered. He is now under arrest. Norton and Lisle have been considered outlaw, and it is generally believed that the country is much better off without them.

Talk of the Town

Hon. W. J. Bryan will speak in Deadwood and Lead next Wednesday.

Custer school were closed last week on account of a diphtheria case. Clerk of Courts Glassie yesterday received an order from Judge Moore adjourning the March term of the circuit court to April 16th. Wm Mayne did not wait for the town board to order sidewalk built along his property, and has built a 5 ft walk. It might be well for some more of us to emulate Mr. Mayne in this respect.

100 years

The Belle Fourche Bee April 2, 1925.

NATIONAL KU KLUX KLAN CONCLAVE Estimated That 75,000 to 100,000 People Will Be Attracted to Belle Fourche July 4

The 1925 national convolve of the knights of the Ku Klux Klan will be held in Belle Fourche on July 4, with a ceremonial session at the Tri-State Round-Up grounds on the evening of that day. National officers of the organization have completed arrangements for leasing the Round-Up grounds for that evening, and are now formulating plans for giving nation-wide publicity to the event. A member of the imperial council of the order has states that there will be from seventy-five to one hundred thousand at the ceremonial, coming from every part of the United States. Special trains will come from many surrounding states, and a special train will also come from Atlanta, Ga., headquarters of the order. Advice was received Wednesday of this week that three special trains of Pullman cars would come from Denver, Colo., arrangements already having been made for these trains. Imperial Wizard Evens has been invited as the orator of the evening, and it is thought he will be here, as well as several other orators of national reputation. Arranges for the convolve are being attended to by members of the order, the Round-Up committee having no connection with the convolve, except to lease the grounds to the Klansmen. The Klansmen will ask the Northwestern railroad for twenty miles of trackage for Pull-

man cars, and four hundred special officers and plain clothes men will be brought to assist in keeping order and caring for the crowds. At the national convention of the order at Huston, Tex., last year, the attendance was over seventy-five thousand, and the officials of the order state that the attendance this year will exceed that of last year.

In addition to speaking in the evening, a class of three thousand will be installed into the order; there will be a spectacular display of Klan fireworks; this alone will cost three thousand dollars; three mammoth electric crosses will be placed on the grounds; a loud speaker will be used to enable everyone on the ground to hear the speakers; and the grounds will be lighted by electricity. There will be ten thousand Klansmen in robes. Excursion rates will be in effect from practically every part of the United States. The member of the imperial council who was interviewed by Secretary Bronsom of the Round-Up committee last week stated that it would be the plan to make this convolve the largest one ever held by the Klan organization. Selecting Belle Fourche was not an accident, but after investigation many other places, it was decided that this place would be an ideal one, as they desire to get some distance from the thickly populated centers, and at the same time get a location where the grounds were suitable. In the opinion of the members of the imperial council, the Round-Up grounds meet their requirements and is considered an ideal place for the national meeting. The Round-Up will officially close at 6 p.m. on the evening of July 4, and after that time the imperial council of the Klan will be in charge of events there. Since the information has been broadcast of this event, many inquiries are being received from men who want to come and open out-door eating houses for the three days, and in addition the hooded order has men in their organization who make a business of operating out-door eating houses, thus insuring that all who come will be well fed.

75 years ago

The Belle Fourche Bee April 6, 1950

Silt Is No Problem at Orman, Survey Shows Silt will not be any problem the Orman reservoir of the Belle Fourche Irrigation district in either this or the next century, Project Manger Fred Winkler said today after studying findings of the past summer's exhaustive silt survey. "At the present rate of sedimentation - 422 acre feet a year - we will still have 142,970-acre feet of storage space in the reservoir 100 years from now," Winkler stated. The original survey of the reservoir, made in 1903, showed the total area of the lake to be 8,010 acres with a full reservoir and a capacity for 203,850 acres feet of water. Of this amount, 11,120 acre feet were below the gates and could not be used, which left 197,730 acres feet available for use when the dam was built, he said. Today, after more than 40 years operation, an extensive silt survey was completed in 1929, using an electronic sounding device developed by the U.S. Navy which is acknowledged to be accurate. The present silt, according to a report on this survey just released, is only 16,830 acre feet. That would make the available supply now 185,170 acre feet with 6,800 feet of dead storage in addition or a total of 191,970 acre feet of water with a



by Mary Buchholz

full reservoir. Winkler added that in 1949, one of the driest years on record, a total of 132,000 acre feet of water was drawn from the reservoir. He said the survey results would put to rest any false rumors that the Belle Fourche reservoir is practically full of silt with very little storage capacity left.

SHORT RESIGNS AS CHIEF OF POLICE EFFECTIVE MAY 1

The city council, at its Monday night's meeting, accepted the resignation of Chief of Police Floyd Short, to become effective May 1. Short has filled this position for the past two years. He and Mrs. Short plan to return to Lemmon, their former home. A successor will be chosen at the next meeting of the council.

50 years ago

The Belle Fourche Bee April 4 1975

Final Rites for Sam Brownell Funeral Services were held at the Frost and Sons Funeral Home at 2 p.m. for Sam Brownell, 80, former bronc rider, former brand inspector, who died Saturday night at his home here. Brownell was declared the world champion saddle bronc rider at the Cheyenne Frontier Days in 1917. He came to Belle Fourche the next year to direct the production of a Red Cross benefit rodeo that was to be the start of the Black Hills Roundup, now in its 56th year. Sam was also brought to Belle Fourche that year to match his skills with the famed bucking horse Tipperary. Sam and Tipperary gave the fans a show. Tipperary was declared the winner after Sam momentarily lost a stirrup. Brownell talked about the match many times in later years. Emotions ran high, he said, and it appeared there were even attempts to sabotage his saddle. Brownell had been living alone at the Reid Motel. He was found dead in his room Sunday morning by Ruby Weisgarber, operator of the motel. Authorities were notified. Sheriff Joe Smith and Coroner T. J. Redding investigated and reported death due to natural causes. Sam Brownell was born March 11, 1886 at Syracuse, Neb. He moved with his mother to Sterling, Colo, when he was a year old and attended school at Sterling. When he was 18 years old, Sam left home to work and live in numerous Colorado and Wyoming communities and to begin a career that led to his winning the world bronc riding championship at Cheyenne Frontier Days in 1917. Survivors include a son, Gene, of Fort Collins, Colo., and three grandchildren. He was proceeded in death by his wife and his parents.



Part of the late Doug Engebretson western collection – Tri-State Roundup brochure announcing the KKK National Demonstration as well as a 1925 pin from the Roundup.

CANDLES AND MIRRORS #27

By DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel

"Melting Mountain Memories"

"All that remained was a four-foot oval of gravel in my front yard. Two weeks ago, those rocks were hidden in a pile of snow, the result of clearing my drive after a storm. The white mound shrank in the sun, exposing the stones. Strange how something so mundane can awaken a childhood memory:



shrank in the sun, exposing the stones. Strange how something so mundane can awaken a childhood memory:

The South Dakota blizzard had raged for two days, leaving hip-high drifts in its wake. Dad and my brothers began the arduous task of clearing the snow to allow access to the buildings and livestock. I stared through the kitchen window as Dad maneuvered the John Deere 730. He lowered the front-end loader and drove into a drift. The harsh scraping sound of metal on gravel vibrated into the house. He lifted the scoop, steered to an area just off the driveway and dumped the snow. The pile grew taller and I imagined Dad building that enormous white mountain just for me!

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Mom came in from chores as I was pulling on my gray wool snow pants. "You stay close to the house until Dad gets done moving the snow." As the youngest, most spoiled child, I seldom had stern orders, but Mom was serious this time. I headed outside and waited inside the gate. Finally, with a wave and a smile, Dad chugged by to the barnyard. It was safe to explore my snow mountain.

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I fetched sleds and scoped out the pile. It was important to scale Mt. Everest on the best side for scaling and avoid making tracks on the good sledding side. My boots sank deep into the snow, so I abandoned the sleds and stomped to make toe-holds or rough steps all the way to the top. There I stood.

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I half-stumbled, half-slid back down to the sleds. My favorite was the wooden one on thin metal runners. The crossbar on the front with the rope attached on both sides gave me a sense of control. But my vast sledding experience (I was seven, after all.) had taught me that likely those runners would sink in, sending me tumbling. So, I pulled the blue saucer to the summit, sat down and pushed forward, tightly gripping the sides. The disc propelled downward, spinning all the way. Most youngsters likely reveled in all that action, but I preferred straightforward movement. So, after five or six dizzying, trail-packing rides, I decided to try the wooden sled.

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I teetered on the peak as I stepped across to straddle, then eased down and carefully tucked one boot into the opening by the crossbar, then the other. I leaned forward and began the descent. The sled picked up speed and I flew down, screaming all the way. Inertia carried me on far beyond the slope, and I stopped short of the straw pile before the barn.

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I noticed Dad watching from the gate, leaning on a shovel. Soon, he was standing by the mountain, hazel eyes twinkling. My brother and I followed our father to the top, shovel at his side. He positioned the blade under him, the handle pointing forward at an upward angle. He shot us a grin, and suddenly began charging down the hill. His knees bent so his boots fit on the shovel curve. He leaned back to level the shovel on the slope. Almost to the bottom, the shovel twisted and Dad flew off. I held my breath as he landed, rolled and jumped to his feet in an instant. I wondered how such an old guy could be so agile? He was getting close to fifty!

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Today, a few small pebbles remain in an oval on my lawn, the rake evaders. The rest are back on the driveway. The mound melted into the earth, but my childhood memories of sledding down our snow mountain endure forever.

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All of the stories from Kruempel's previous columns have been published into books 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.

THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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! Stay on top of what's happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you. www.thedakotascout.com • www.facebook.com/TheDakotaScout



Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

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- 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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<p>\$23.99</p> <p>Jack Daniels Whiskey 750ml Several Varieties</p>	<p>\$18.99</p> <p>Black Box 3l Wine Several Varieties</p>	<p>\$21.99</p> <p>Blue Chair Bay Rum 750ml Several Varieties</p>

Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Next two weeks Wednesday March 2nd through Tuesday, April 15th**

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SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH
8:15 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
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Please schedule your blood donation appointment by scanning the QR code or visit www.donors.vitalant.org and enter the blood drive code: bellefourcherec.

Let's save lives together at the 11th Annual Wellness Fair. Join us for a variety of vendors, door prizes and refreshments too. For more details, call the Belle Fourche Rec Center at 605-892-2467.

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Market Report - Thursday, March 27, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BABY CALVES	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Darrell Or Jeanne Ennen, Rapid City SD	1	Black-Baby Calf	95	950.00	\$950.00
	1	Black-Baby Calf	95	775.00	\$775.00
WEIGH-UPS					
Rafter Diamond Lp, Buffalo SD	1	BwF-Cow	1400	147.50	\$2,085.00
	6	Black-Cow	1357	160.00	\$2,170.86
	2	Black-Cow	1205	175.50	\$2,114.77
	1	Black-Cow	1545	158.00	\$2,441.10
	1	Black-Cow	1435	161.50	\$2,317.52
	1	Black-Hfrt	1035	229.00	\$2,370.15
Shaun Casteel, Vale SD	8	Black-Cow	1210	149.00	\$1,802.90
Neal Mcozy, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1235	158.00	\$1,951.30
	1	Black-Cow	1195	165.00	\$1,971.75
Shaun Casteel, Vale SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1095	225.00	\$2,463.75
Joe And Jane Burke, Newell SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1130	192.00	\$2,169.60
	3	Black-Hfrt	1095	227.00	\$2,485.65
Patrick M King, Aladdin WY	1	Black-Cow	1355	154.00	\$2,086.70
Patrick M King, Aladdin WY	1	Black-Cow	1455	153.00	\$2,226.15
Mike Morrison, Newcastle WY	1	Black-Cow	1500	155.00	\$2,325.00
	1	Black-Cow	1470	158.00	\$2,322.60
	1	Black-Cow	1410	153.00	\$2,157.30
Collins Ranch Llc, Biddle MT	3	Black-Cow	1460	159.50	\$2,328.70
	3	Black-Cow	1415	156.50	\$2,214.47
	1	Black-Cow	1295	145.00	\$1,877.75
	1	Black-Cow	1445	145.00	\$2,095.25
	1	Black-Cow	1300	159.50	\$2,073.50
Darel & Debra Casteel, Vale SD	3	Black-Hfrt	1025	231.00	\$2,367.75
	7	Black-Cow	1282	155.00	\$1,987.32
Zachary Or Krystal Steele, Sundance WY	1	Rwf-Cow	1465	150.00	\$2,197.50
Dave Gaer, Newell SD	1	BwF-Cow	1230	153.00	\$1,881.90
Tucker Gaer, Newell SD	1	BwF-Cow	1200	181.00	\$2,172.00
Trucano Ranch Inc, Boyes MT	1	Black-Hfrt	1100	226.00	\$2,486.00
Darrell Or Jeanne Ennen, Rapid City SD	1	Black-Cow	1790	136.00	\$2,434.40
Richard A Smith Ranch Llc, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1010	231.00	\$2,333.10
Dane & Kristi Dobesh, Belle Fourche SD	3	Hfrt-Cow	1293	155.00	\$2,004.66
	1	Hfrt-Cow	1260	140.00	\$1,764.00
Sand Rock Angus, Broadus MT	4	Black-Cow	1493	157.00	\$2,343.22
	1	Black-Cow	1405	156.00	\$2,191.80
	1	Black-Cow	1225	167.50	\$2,051.87
Anne Gergen, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1565	159.00	\$2,488.35
Keith Rosencranz, Broadus MT	4	Black-Hfrt	998	242.00	\$2,413.95
Ronda Cordell, Camp Crook SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1040	225.00	\$2,340.00
	1	Black-Hfrt	830	232.50	\$1,929.75
	6	Black-Hfrt	989	236.00	\$2,334.43
	1	Black-Cow	1365	161.00	\$2,197.65
	1	Black-Cow	1395	160.00	\$2,232.00
Brian Or Lesley Raber Park, Atzada MT	1	Black-Cow	1495	153.00	\$2,287.35
	1	Black-Cow	1265	160.00	\$2,024.00
	1	Black-Cow	1290	151.00	\$1,947.90
Carl Bruch, Sturgis SD	2	Black-Cow	1398	155.00	\$2,166.12
Chad Mackaben, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1395	149.00	\$2,078.55
Christensen Ranch, Newcastle WY	3	Black-Hfrt	1007	225.00	\$2,265.00
	2	Black-Hfrt	1253	210.00	\$2,630.25
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Waynesboro PA	1	Black-Cow	1545	145.00	\$2,240.25
	1	Black-Hfrt	1020	234.00	\$2,386.80
BULLS					
Antlens Angus Ranch, Moorcroft WY	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1950	150.00	\$2,925.00
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1700	165.00	\$2,805.00
Gary Howie, New Underwood SD	2	Black-Bull Drug Free	1515	172.50	\$2,613.37
Cold Creek Ranch Inc, Hulett WY	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1905	183.50	\$3,495.67
	1	BwF-Bull Drug Free	1465	175.00	\$2,563.75
Ballou Angus Ranch, Hulett WY	2	Black-Bull Drug Free	1440	168.00	\$2,419.20
Lance & Cassidy Marshall, Sundance WY	1	Hfrt-Bull Drug Free	2295	178.00	\$4,085.10
Chad & Dee Griffiths, Sundance WY	1	BwF-Bull Drug Free	2255	165.00	\$3,720.75
Houston Creek Cattle Co, Sundance WY	1	Black-Bull	1430	150.00	\$2,145.00

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BRED CATTLE SPECIAL
APRIL 10, 2025
WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | BREDS @ 12 PM MT
REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH BULL SALE
 @ 1 PM MT

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

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 Belle Fourche Livestock Market, LLC.
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 Kim Kling - Kem Kjerstad

UPCOMING BULL SALE SCHEDULE
 TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST @ 1:30 PM..... BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH
 THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH @ 1:00 PM..... REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH
 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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Broadus, MT
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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

37TH BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
 TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2025 AT 1:30PM.
 70 POWERFUL YEARLING ANGUS BULLS
 50 FANCY COMMERCIAL REPLACEMENT FEMALES

FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL
APRIL 3, 2025
WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | BRANDS & BABY CALVES @ 12 PM MT | BREDS & FEEDERS TO FOLLOW

FEEDER CATTLE IVN CATTLE CO -WY 180 - 110 BLK STRS / 70 BLK HFRS 550-600#, PC, NI CASTLEBERRY INC -MT 175 HEREF STRS, 525# PC, NI, POURED, HAY FED SCHULTZ RANCH -MT 140 BLK MXD CLVS, 550#, PC, NI IRON MOUNTAIN CATTLE CO -SD 140 BLK HFRS, 800# REPLACEMENT QUALITY, BV CROSS W LIVESTOCK-MT 100 BLK HFRS, 850# FANCY, BV, REPRO SHOTS GARY BISCHOFF-MT 60 RED HFRS 600#, PC, NI SCHELDORF RANCH -WY 55 HEREF HFRS, 650-750# PC, NI, BV, POURED PAUL & JUDY HINKHOUSE -SD 50 BLK/RED STRS, 800-850# LAWRENCE LAND CO -WY 39 RED STRS, 700-725# PC, NI, POURED DALE & CAMEL HANSON -WY 38 - 30 BLK HFRS / 8 BLK STRS, 500#PC, NI, POURED	LARSON FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-SD 30 BLK HFRS, 800# PC, NI, BV, POURED, DEEP CREEK ANG GENETICS X BAR CATTLE CO -WY 30 BLK HFRS 650-700#, PC, NI JOE & JANE BURKE -SD 20 BLK HFRS 700#, PC, NI ARMIN FINKBEINER -SD 13 BLK MXD CLVS 550-600#, PC, NI BRED CATTLE BRAD MACKABEN -SD 25 BLK BM BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/2 - 60 DAYS MIKE & MELANIE PITTMAN -SD 12 BLK/RED ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/10 BABY CALVES SD CONSIGNMENT -SD BLK HFR CLF, 1 MONTH OLD, BOTTLE BROKE
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BRANDS SELLING THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 @ NOON

- SD Cattle & Horse Brand located on RH
- 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

Local Cowboy Wins Big Money

Robbi Longbrake

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 Imagine earning your share of \$100,000 for just over 30 seconds of work.

This past week Slone Weishaar, Belle Fourche and his team roping partner, Cannin Carson, Grassy Butte, ND

Hooey Junior 10.5 Team Roping Championship at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Consistency paid off, after four rounds of roping and a total time of 30.71 seconds the duo slid into first place.

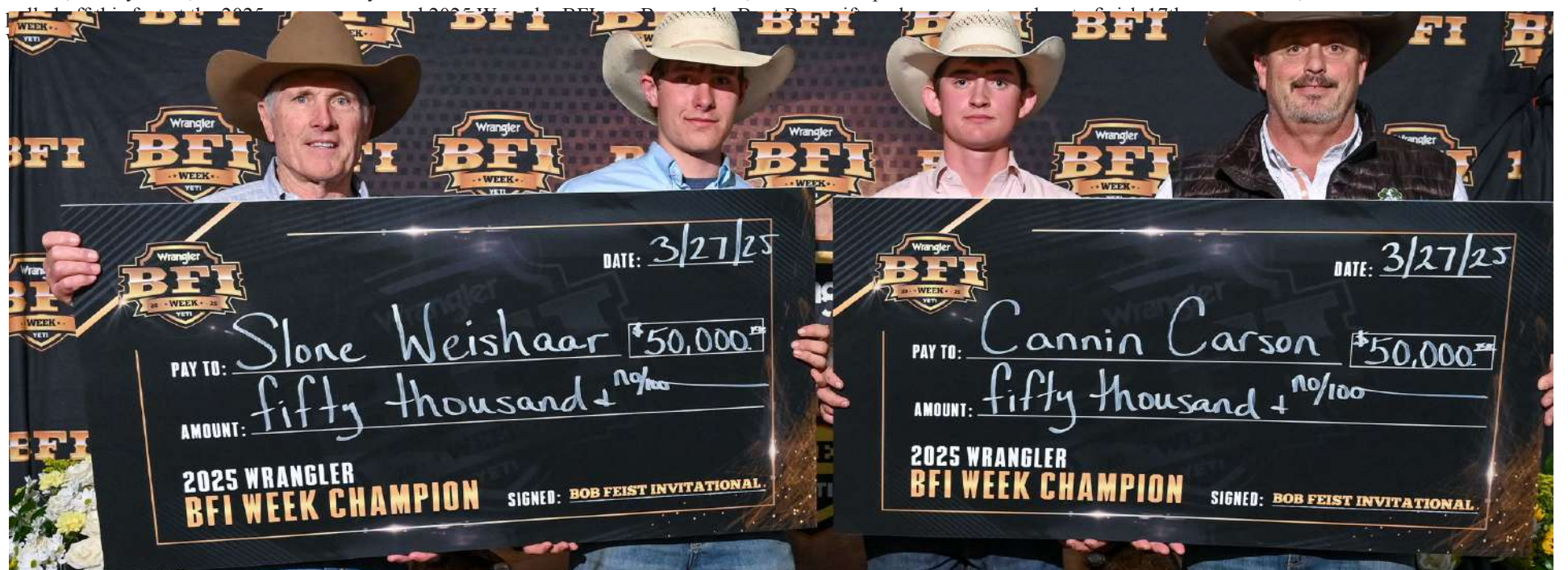
Beating out 464 other teams—the largest Junior BFI in history—Weishaar and Carson

This title came with a cash award of \$100,000 to be split between the header and heeler. In addition to the cash, Weishaar won a prize package that included a Cactus Saddle, a Gist Buckle, a Hooey Backpack, a SMARTY Roping Super Shorty, Resistol Hat, a Best Ever Pad, a Cactus Breast Collar, Turtlebox Speakers, Justin Boots, Fast Back Rope

Belle Fourche, SD also competed in the 2025 Wrangler Bob First Invitational Hooey Junior 10.5 Team Roping Championship and each earned an impressive amount of cash as well.

Jet Jensen, heeler and his partner Cashin Carson, Grassy Butte, ND finished 10th overall with a total time of 37.44 on four head and a \$5,000 payout. Slone and Sern Weishaar

Other money earned went to Jet Jensen for 3rd place with a time of 6.48 in fastest time for rotation 2 earning \$1,000, and in rotation 3 fast times went to 2nd place with a 6.40 time, Slone Weishaar and Cannin Carson earning \$2,000 and 3rd with a 6.84 time, Sern Weishaar and his roping partner Hayes Burress, Isabel, SD earning \$1,000.



Belle Fourche Cowboy Slone Weishaar and his team roping partner Cannon Carson, Grassy Butte, ND won \$100,000 and the Championship title at the 2025 Wrangler Bob First Invitational Hooey Junior 10.5 Team Roping Championship.

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 miles South of Belle Fourche
on Hwy 85
42-7167
Calvin Chapman - Int. Minister
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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fellowship following the service.
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www.sjcbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

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

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

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

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



Capitol News
March 16
by Karen Odell
Snow covered the ground on three or four mornings, this week, at Capitol and on Tie Creek. Earlier in the week there was about three inches, along with all the rain that had come before. It was wonderful, needed moisture. Later in the week we awoke to see just a covering of snow, "but every little bit counts," as they say around here.

There was a problem with the telephones on Sunday. It cut out so much that it was like the crank telephones that Karen remembers from the Camp Crook Telephone Company days. Usually we could at least pass the message along the line from house to house, but now there is no help, and you are on your own. Karen had the same trouble with the phone cutting out, when she called Buffalo, so it wasn't a local problem. Karen remembers way back, when her brother once called from Kansas City. It took him hours to get an operator who would believe that you couldn't dial Camp Crook direct. When she got Rachael Hoag (our Camp Crook operator), she gave the number, and Rachael said, "Oh, I don't think they are home. I'll ring over at Melvin's. I think they are over there." Karen's brother laughed and laughed, because the Kansas City operator was so shocked by that response. Camp Crook and one town in Maine were the last in the nation to have crank telephones. Karen remembers four-shorts as their ring as a child. The rings were used similar to Morse Code, and you had to listen to hear your own call. She must have had long-short-long at one time, too. If you heard a whole bunch of rings run together, it was an emergency and everyone was supposed to answer. Dick and Erma Albert went to get their pick-up on Tuesday, but parts were still needed, so they went back again on Friday morning, and finally brought it home. They got back in time for the Senior Citizen dinner in Buffalo. Then Erma stayed to play cards. They went to church on Sunday, and then, to Saloon Number Three, where they met the Erk and Helms families for lunch. Alvin Cordell was happy to see the snow on Tuesday. Last Sunday, Ryan's family and Charlie Castile and helpers moved cattle up to the Horton place in the Sheep Moun-

tains. Ryan is now doing some of the calving at the Horton place, and he measured about nine inches of snow up there, this week. The lowlanders may have been a little warmer, so they got more of their moisture in rain, but everyone was glad for the nice, easy moisture. The state trapper came to set some traps at Alvin's on Thursday. Hope no dogs are killed by them. Alvin is nearly done calving two-year old heifers. The older cows and the three-year-olds are starting, now. Travis and Amanda Davis and the boys, came out to Doug and Julia's for a visit on Sunday. Doug had been to a Fair Board Meeting, one evening. Rachel and Tommy Melum went to Baker for church on Sunday morning and stayed for youth group in the afternoon. Ernie is now busy with calving for a month or more. Yvonne Yoder was hostess for the Diligent Doers Extension Club meeting that was held at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, on Wednesday. Dawn and Dorothy Padden attended the meeting. Karen Odell made a trip to Camp Crook on Tuesday. She wrote some music, and did some sorting and outside raking. On Sunday, Karen headed down the Norwegian Cut Off to meet family for lunch. She met some people going home from the service at Little Missouri Church. Then she went to church at the Lutheran Church in Baker, and the Baptist Church in Baker on the radio as she drove. The road was pretty good, and the two services just fit into her drive to Belle Fourche. In Spearfish she met Cody, Kylie, Kellan, Kenna, Carson, Megan and Chancey Odell. Cody's family had come to Spearfish for the funeral of Kylie's aunt, and we extend our condolences to her family. Murphy Hinds was taking his last skiing lesson of the season in Washington. He had finished a karate competition on Saturday. Jeff and Amanda Odell had sent a gift with Cody for Karen. I wonder how he knew what she wanted. Kellan had placed fifth in long jump at the Sioux Falls track meet. Kenna had finished a wonderful painting for her aunts, and Kyia and Mollie finished art projects of their own. We will hope the phones are working again next week, or we may have to switch to carrier pigeons to gather the local news. Sure do miss Rachael Hoag saying, "Camp Crook." A half-truth is just a whole lie.

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"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

The Science of Truly-Local DNA: Beyond Shopping Local

As General Shinseki wisely noted, "If you don't like change, you are going to enjoy irrelevance even less." This sentiment perfectly captures the crossroads facing American communities today. When discussing "Truly-Local" initiatives, most people immediately think of shopping at local stores. However, this represents only 15-20% of the complete Truly-Local DNA needed for community prosperity. The full spectrum is far more comprehensive and scientifically impactful.



However, data from the Economic Innovation Group shows that communities investing in entrepreneurial ecosystems and downtown revitalization see a \$7 return for every \$1 invested, compared to a \$2.50

return for traditional business attraction. Communities like Littleton, Colorado implemented an "Economic Gardening" approach, focusing on growing existing local businesses rather than recruitment. The result? They tripled job growth while spending 80% less on economic development than comparable communities.

The Quantifiable Value of Local Media - The disappearance of local media creates "news deserts" with measurable negative consequences. According to the University of Notre Dame study, municipal borrowing costs increase by 0.25-0.4% after a newspaper closes, resulting in millions in additional taxpayer burden. Government wages and tax revenues increase by 1.4% and 1.6% respectively, reflecting less accountability. Additionally, voter turnout drops by 8%, and civic engagement decreases by 13%, according to research from the University of North Carolina. A community without its own media voice becomes invisible to outside investment and visitors.

Tourism Amplification: The 3x3 Strategy - Even small communities can develop tourism economies. The "3x3

Strategy" involves identifying three unique local assets and promoting them through three different channels. Communities employing this method have seen visitor spending increase by 34% on average over five years. Winthrop, Washington (population 400) transformed itself with a Bavarian theme, generating \$35 million in annual tourism revenue, while Pella, Iowa created a Dutch heritage corridor that attracts 150,000+ visitors annually.

Government Policies: Addition by Subtraction - Many well-intentioned local regulations actually impede economic growth. Communities that reformed permitting processes saw new business applications increase by 27% on average. Reducing business startup time from 60+ days to under 30 days correlates with a 21% increase in small business formation, according to data from the Kauffman Foundation.

The Circulation Framework - The "10% Shift" doesn't require residents to spend more money - just to redirect existing spending. When a community of 20,000 redirects just 10% of their outside spending locally, approximately \$5.6 million in new economic activity is generated annually without anyone spending an additional penny. **Reversing Youth Exodus** - Communities implementing innovation districts and entrepreneurial ecosystems retain 38% more young adults according to research from the Brookings Institution. Towns like Paducah, Kentucky reversed population decline by establishing an artist relocation program, attracting creative entrepreneurs who renovated 100+ buildings and created a thriving cultural district. **Arts as Economic Engines** - Beyond cultural enrichment, arts districts generate significant economic returns. Data from Americans for the Arts shows that arts attendees spend an additional \$31.47 per person beyond the ticket cost. Communities with established cultural

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districts experienced 23% higher property values and 13% higher retail sales than comparable neighborhoods.

The Truly-Local approach isn't merely about shopping - it's a comprehensive economic strategy backed by compelling data. Communities embracing these elements aren't just surviving; they're thriving despite digital disruption and economic challenges. The science is clear: building local economic DNA

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- N. Caucasian language
- SW US cotton
- Heir
- Edible root
- Of the mouth
- Unclouse
- King of Israel
- Corded fabric
- Article (Fr.)
- Explosive letters
- Revers
- Hellas
- Outer (pref.)
- Bill
- Shak. contraction
- One of the Harpies
- River of Shakespeare
- Dead on arrival (abbr.)
- Incursion
- Fr. author
- Wine cup

DOWN

- Caribbean lizard
- Burmese knife
- Individual
- Never (Ger.)
- Kind of lettuce
- Abbey (Sp.)
- Hog's guts
- Natl
- Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
- Scot. alder tree
- Javanese carriage
- S. Afr. assembly
- Frost
- Journey (Lat.)
- Us dam
- Fluidity unit
- Fat (pref.)
- Natl
- Aeronautics and Space Admin. (abbr.)
- Headland
- Noncommissioned officer (abbr.)
- Wing (pref.)
- Growl
- Dream (Fr.)
- Black
- Poly. beefwood
- Acquire
- 53 (Rom. numeral)
- Concert halls
- Salt
- Sea lettuce
- Pure thought
- Presidential nickname
- Declare
- Brother of Moses
- Filament
- Roguish
- Dirk
- Cotillion attendee
- Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- Exclamations of delight
- Goddess (Lat.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CONFIDENT OFF
 ALOE ABBA MAL
 TERM FIST ADA
 SAHIB AARON
 AMELIA ANG
 COMET RETICLE
 ENA OEC OIL
 RANINTO BANJO
 NAB NILGAI
 IMAGE SABER
 AAL VOLA XEMA
 GABUDIC ISAR
 OMA SAMP ASAP

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ENIGMA™ Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "T" = "R"

CRYPTOGRAM

"WXHN GBVTMNCI XE QBENMK WXE,
 XEZ KQNE GBV WXG FN MVTN KQXK
 KQNTN SM BEN CNMM MUBVEZTNC SE
 KQN RBTCZ." — KQBWXM UXTGON

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "There is nothing in the world so much admired as a man who knows how to bear unhappiness with courage." — Seneca

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2 Shows in 2025

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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 and

Central Meade County

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.

Sturgis military event reveals division among SD veterans

By Bart Pfankuch - SD Newswatch March 24, 2025

STURGIS, S.D. – An event hosted by Congressman Dusty Johnson to honor Vietnam veterans in Sturgis this week unwittingly revealed the growing division among some veterans in South Dakota and beyond.

As Johnson told those assembled inside he wanted to make up for poor treatment of veterans in the 1960s and 1970s, a group of people outside the Sturgis Veteran's Club protested how veterans are being treated now by the Trump administration and Congress.

On the sidewalk outside the club, a dozen people carried signs and chanted slogans. The protesters, including some former military members, said widespread employee cuts in the Department of Veterans Affairs are weakening health care for veterans.

each was given a commemorative coin, a certificate, a lapel pin and a handshake.

Veterans were also handed a microphone to share their stories of service in Vietnam. And while a couple remembrances were humorous, others were deeply moving and revealed the pride they feel about their service. At least one man began to weep.

One told how he was greeted in Vietnam by a commander but also by stacks of boxes containing dead soldiers waiting to be flown back to the states. The sister of one late veteran told how her brother became a journalist on the front lines in Vietnam and read aloud an eloquent letter he wrote home. She said her brother "died twice" from afflictions due to exposure to Agent Orange.

"This is an opportunity for our country to do the right thing," Johnson said later. "I look every one of these veterans in the eyes, I shake their hand, and I tell them that a grateful nation honors and thanks them for their service."

lican-controlled Congress is doing nothing to stop it.

"Veterans are starting to wake up and notice that they can't get that appointment that they need, that they can't get that treatment," said Renaud, who said she is a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe, a Vietnam-era Army veteran and a retired police lieutenant.

"I find it just absolutely disgusting. I mean, there's a sign over there about the Veterans Crisis Line and at the same time they have slashed mental health services for veterans. You think that's right? Hell, no."

In an interview after the ceremony, Johnson said he supports the ability of the protesters to exercise their First Amendment rights to criticize the government.

He said he had not spoken with the protesters but is monitoring the cuts and proposed cuts to the VA to ensure medical care and other services are not impacted.

At one point, a man entered into an argument with a protester and shoved the 74-year-old man to the ground. John Henry, 76, of Sturgis, was arrested for simple assault, said Sturgis Police Chief Geody VanDerwater. The protester was not seriously injured.

Inside the club, a few dozen people gathered for the ceremony led by Johnson, a third-term Republican. He started the event by lamenting how poorly many Vietnam veterans were treated upon returning home after their service.

America is the best country in the world, but that doesn't mean that it's perfect," said Johnson. "If you needed to point to a piece of evidence of that imperfection, one place to start would be how we treated people in uniform in the 1960s and 1970s."

Johnson said that has changed over time and that American military personnel and veterans are now treated with far more respect and reverence and that "they're more likely to get a round of applause than they are to get spit on."

Johnson welcomed about 20 Vietnam veterans or their family members to Wednesday's event. The veterans came forward a few at a time, and

Protesters angry over VA cuts But outside the veteran's club, protesters decried efforts by President Donald Trump and his adviser, Elon Musk, to cut VA staffing and programs.

They carried signs saying, "VA cuts hurt veterans," "Support vets and heroes" and "Veterans deserve better!"

The group of mostly gray-haired men and women shouted "Save our veterans," "Hee hee, ho ho, Elon Musk has got to go," "Trump is not our king," and "Show me what democracy looks like." One woman then added, "This is what democracy looks like, so take a good look because it won't be here for long."

Roseanna Renaud of Rapid City, S.D., a Vietnam-era Army veteran, was one of about a dozen protesters who decried cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs on March 19, 2025, outside the Veteran's Club in Sturgis, S.D., where a ceremony honoring veterans was taking place. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

Roseanna Renaud, 71, said she found it "despicable" that Johnson was honoring veterans at a time veteran services are being cut and many veterans are losing their jobs, and the Repub-

VA might cut thousands of jobs Actions by the Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency already have led to the firing of a few thousand VA employees and the suspension of hundreds of contracts for services, according to The Associated Press.

The AP reported on March 5 that an internal VA memo announced a major reorganization this summer that will cut 80,000 more jobs from the agency that provides health care and other services to millions of veterans. More than a quarter of the VA's workforce is comprised of veterans, and veterans made up nearly a third of the overall federal workforce, which has seen dramatic job cuts under the Trump administration. Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins has said the job cuts are not in mission-critical positions and that veteran care would not be affected.

But during the ceremony, one Vietnam veteran who was being honored by Johnson shared his concerns that staff and funding cuts to the VA could harm the ability of sick or injured service members to receive the care and services they need.

"I find it just absolutely disgusting. I mean, there's a sign over there about the Veterans Crisis Line and at the same time they have slashed mental health services for veterans. You think that's right? Hell, no."

Roseanna Renaud, Army veteran

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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



Hey, Belle Fourche! Let's get all our artists & performers together in one fun afternoon!! The Belle Fourche Fine Arts Boosters are inviting performers & artists of all kinds to their annual Community Variety Show on May 4th. The show has included acts of all kinds over the years - vocal & instrumental soloists & ensembles, comedy routines, dance performances, and even aerialists - and they welcome acts of all types again. This year the group is expanding their fundraising event, adding artists to the show with an exhibition of work from local painters, photographers, multimedia creators, folk artists, & specialty crafters. Young & old alike are welcome to prepare performances or bring art pieces for an afternoon in celebration of our talented citizens. Refreshments will be provided by FAB volunteers & donors. All proceeds benefit fine arts opportunities for the youth in our community. **Organization & business sponsors for the show can choose their own donation amount, be featured in the show promotions, & receive complimentary tickets.** Donors may specifically sponsor a performer or artist & enjoy multiple shout-outs & thank-yous in print & at the show! Contact the Fine Arts Boosters by email, bfhsfab@gmail.com or by text, 605-892-2342, to **JOIN THE SHOW!**

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater was on stage this past weekend with the first show of their season, "Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth!" As part of "Getting Our Acts Together: A Night of Northern Hills One-Acts," the one act joined shows from community theaters in Lead, Sturgis, & Spearfish for a night of great entertainment. Next up for BFACT, you ask? According to executive director, Derek Olson, AUDITION DATES for CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY will be announced very soon!

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, Doo-dy- Kale Williams, Roger- Derek Scott, Sonny- John Hale, Rizzo- Kate Blair, Frenchy- Sonja Cropper, Marty- Alexa Stone, Jan- Iva Hale, Patty- Aoloni Stone. Eugene- Trevor 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.



The cast of BFACT's first show of their 15th season, "Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth!" was part of "Getting Our Acts Together: A Night of Northern Hills One-Acts," on Saturday, March 29th. The one act joined shows from community theaters in Lead, Sturgis, & Spearfish for a night of great entertainment. L to R: Director, Emma Tinsley, Echo Limpert, Nathan Mahler, Wes Barnhouse, Raya Meemken, Michael Meemken, Tyler Schone, Heather Pittman, Kelsey Gronlund, & Emma Raber. Amazing lobster claw by Carr Coatings Industrial!

Date	Opponent	JV Gametime	Varsity Gametime
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**

FINE ARTS BOOSTERS INVITES ARTISTS & PERFORMERS TO JOIN

The Belle Fourche Community Variety Show & Art Exhibition

A CELEBRATION OF OUR LOCAL ARTISTS & PERFORMERS
 Sunday, May 4, 2025 2:30 - 4:30 PM
 Belle Fourche Community Hall
 \$5 for Adults - \$3 Students

SPONSORS WELCOME

Support Our Performers & Artists!
 Become a sponsor with any size of donation to the show, receive complimentary tickets, & promote your business or organization as a patron of the arts in our community.

Join the Show! Share your Talent!
 Artists & Performers of ALL Kinds are INVITED:
 Musical Groups, Soloists, Comedians, Actors, Painters, Folk Artists, Photographers, Multimedia Creators, & more -will share their talents - & can represent a sponsoring organization or business.

CONTACT BF FAB TO JOIN THE SHOW OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Veteran's Center

From C3 Veterans

More than a quarter of the VA's workforce is comprised of veterans, and veterans made up nearly a third of the overall federal workforce, which has seen dramatic job cuts under the Trump administration. Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins has said the job cuts are not in mission-critical positions and that veteran care would not be affected.

But during the ceremony, one Vietnam veteran who was being honored by Johnson shared his concerns that staff and funding cuts to the VA could harm the ability of sick or injured service members to receive the care and services they need.

Robert Orr, who said he served in the Air Force Strategic Air Command from 1970-77, spoke up about VA cuts when Johnson handed him the microphone.

"I'm very pleased with the care I've gotten at the VA," Orr said. "Congressman Johnson, if you can, do what you can to restore the funding and personnel to the VA."

Orr added that, "I've never heard there was a surplus of staff at the VA," a comment that drew applause from ceremony attendees.

Orr later told News Watch that he has seen VA services slipping for some veterans he knows and is worried that any position, program or funding cuts could make it even harder for them to receive care.

Orr said he felt it was a "conflict" for Johnson to lead a ceremony honoring veterans while the president and Republican leadership in Congress have or will cut the VA budget and staff.

"I'd say it's a lack of critical thinking," Orr said.

VA spokesman: Cuts won't harm medical care

Pete Kasperowicz, press secretary for the VA in Washington, wrote in an email to News Watch on March 24 stating that the agency does not intend to cut positions in medical care.

"We've put out a target number and set up a structure for beginning the planning process of reforming the department, but we haven't made any of those personnel changes yet," Kasperowicz wrote.

We're going to run through a deliberative process and find

ways to improve care and benefits for veterans without cutting care and benefits for veterans," he wrote. "We're not talking about reducing medical staff or claims processors, we're talking about reducing bureaucracy and inefficiencies that are getting in the way of customer convenience and service to veterans."

Johnson: VA seeking efficiencies

Johnson said he is friends with VA secretary Collins, they have discussed how the VA is being managed and together have called out the Trump administration when the cuts "are not the right fit."

Johnson said the White House has been receptive to their concerns and suggestions.

"Congress hasn't and will not cut VA funding. There will certainly be some efficiencies that are found as we work together, but those efficiencies are going to be reinvested in the system," he said. "We have got to reduce these debts, and we know that no front care or provisioning staff have been cut. There have been some positions eliminated that we've got some concerns about. We're asking some tough questions to the (Trump) administration (because) we need to get this right."

Johnson told News Watch he wasn't sure how many VA positions have been cut in South Dakota so far, but his understanding is that it is not a large number.

The South Dakota VA health system includes hospitals in Sturgis, Hot Springs and Sioux Falls and outpatient clinics in nine cities across the state.

Johnson said he and other members of Congress have spoken to agency heads, Cabinet secretaries and the White House to stay abreast of DOGE actions and cuts, including any related to the VA.

"Every week that goes by, we're building, I think, more successes as we go," Johnson said. "Clearly, there's a lot of change coming at us very quickly. We know that nobody's going to bat 1,000 and it's part of our job representing South Dakota to make sure that when the administration has a misstep, that we do what we can to get them back on the right track."

This story written March 23 was updated March 24 with comments from a VA spokesman.



U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, at far left, stands among a group of Vietnam veterans and family members at a March 19, 2025, ceremony at the **Veteran's Center in Sturgis, S.D.** (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)



U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, right, stands with veterans Robert Orr, left, and Kent Popham, center, during a March 19, 2025, ceremony at the Sturgis, S.D., veteran's center to honor Vietnam veterans for their service. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

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A protester stands on March 19, 2025, outside the **Veteran's Center** in Sturgis, S.D., where a ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans was taking place. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)



Roseanna Renaud of Rapid City, S.D., a Vietnam-era Army veteran, was one of about a dozen protesters who decried cuts to the **Department of Veterans Affairs** on March 19, 2025, outside the **Veteran's Club** in Sturgis, S.D., where a ceremony honoring veterans was taking place. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)



Bird flu in SD: Millions of birds dead, worry shifting to humans

By Bart Pfankuch - sdnewswatch.org

BRIDGEWATER, S.D. – As bird flu ravages poultry farms across the country – including in South Dakota – fears are growing that the highly contagious avian influenza virus could mutate and begin to spread widely among the world’s human population.

The virus already has caused devastating effects in the state, which has seen the second-highest number of outbreaks in commercial poultry flocks in the nation.

The 114 commercial outbreaks in South Dakota, along with another 26 backyard flock infections, have led to the death or intentional killing of more than 6 million turkeys, chickens and other birds, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Many of the outbreaks in the state, the latest coming in January, have been at turkey farms operated by Hutterite colonies in the eastern half of the state, including at the Oaklane Hutterite Colony near Bridgewater.

But in late 2023, the virus was detected in a flock of farm-raised pheasants in South Dakota, leading to the killing of about 30,000 of the birds that draw hunters from around the world each fall. As in other states, the virus has also spread to mammals in the state, causing the death of a handful of cattle and more than a dozen domestic cats.

So far, no human cases have been reported in South Dakota. Nationally, however, about 70 people have been sickened by the virus, mostly farm workers or veterinarians who were exposed to infected birds or cattle. In January, an elderly resident of Louisiana with underlying medical conditions became the first person to die of bird flu in the U.S. after being exposed to sick birds.

166 million birds destroyed in United States
The current outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or H5N1 virus, began in the U.S. in February 2022. Since then, the virus has been detected in all 50 states, causing more than 1,600 individual outbreaks in commercial and backyard poultry flocks and leading to the death or euthanasia of 166 million chickens, turkeys and other birds.

While the most tangible outcome of bird flu for consumers has been the rising cost of eggs and chicken breasts, a different, more ominous concern is rising among scientists and public health officials who closely monitor bird flu and study ways to prevent its spread.

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But the virus has already shown a ready ability to mutate, not unlike how the Influenza A and B and COVID-19 viruses show slight mutations each year. Bird flu can be spread through direct contact, by breathing airborne particles or through shared water sources.

The spread of infection from wild migrating birds to captive poultry flocks, and the subsequent mutations from birds to bovines and now cats is a cause for alarm, said Todd Tetrow, the director of veterinary services at Dakota Provisions, a large turkey processing company in Huron.

“It can jump species, so anytime there’s virus out there, and other species can be exposed, it can sure jump,” Tetrow told News Watch. “Anytime it jumps into a new species, there’s more concern and thoughts that this thing is getting to where it’s scary for humans.”

Turkey farms hit hard by bird flu

South Dakota has been a hotbed for bird flu infections for two reasons.

The state is along the flyway for many species of migratory birds, which are the known carriers of the virus.

Also, South Dakota is a major producer of turkeys that are mainly raised indoors within concentrated animal feeding operations. The state also has smaller chicken and pheasant breeding operations that can be susceptible to bird flu outbreaks.

The 41 Hutterite turkey producers who make up the farmer-owned Dakota Provisions cooperative have suffered so many bird flu outbreaks in the past three years that the group has purchased its own industrial firefighting foam system. Firefighting foam, which eliminates oxygen when dispensed, is the current preferred method of quickly and efficiently “depopulating” a flock of infected birds.

The Oaklane Hutterite Colony west of Sioux Falls has endured two bird flu outbreaks in the past two years, which in total required the killing of about 21,000 adult turkeys and juvenile birds, said colony director John Wipf.

On both occasions, Wipf said, he noticed that wa-

ter consumption among his turkeys had fallen, and some birds showed signs of malaise and a few died. Both times, birds were sent to South Dakota State University for confirmation that bird flu was the cause.

When any bird is infected, all birds from that barn must be destroyed, he said. The USDA sends in experts to monitor the killing, which was done by a local firefighting agency.

“The smallest ones really wanted to live and they tried to climb on top of the foam, but it wouldn’t hold them up,” he said.

Dead birds are then composted in a landfill onsite, and the barns must then be sanitized and approved by the USDA before reopening.

The value of the lost birds was likely about \$300,000, though the federal government indemnifies farms for bird flu and pays farmers an adjusted amount to cover most losses.

Wipf said he takes precautions to prevent further infection, such as requiring staff to wear boots and other protective clothing and by keeping things clean and disinfected.

He isn’t sure how his flocks became infected, but he believes migratory birds are the likely culprits.

“It’s a bad luck situation for sure because it’s very difficult to diagnose where it came from and how it got in here,” Wipf said. “We have no clue, but I think part of it was bird migration, geese and ducks that fly over and poop on the barn and our materials. Or it could have been brought in by wild birds that get into the barns.”

Pheasant farmers lose major flock

The bird flu outbreak that struck the Gisi Pheasant Farm near Ipswich, 30 miles west of Aberdeen, began with a single bird testing positive in December 2023, according to company general manager Loretta Omland. Ultimately, three positive tests for bird flu were confirmed, she said.

To Omland and her family members that run the farm, the flu cases appeared isolated to one barn at their breeding operation at nearby Craven. No other birds appeared to be sick or dying in those barns or at other locations in Wessington Springs and Miller, Omland said.

Watching his flocks be depopulated is heart wrenching, he said.

Suddenly, the family found itself embroiled in a difficult, emotionally draining effort to save their other breeders and hens. Gisi Farms in 2022 provided about 480,000 ringneck pheasants to a large number of customers that mostly include South Dakota hunting resorts and preserves.

In the days following the positive tests, they ran up against USDA officials who were unwilling to make exceptions to rules stating that entire flocks of birds must be destroyed quickly, even if only one or a few birds test positive for bird flu.

“We told them, ‘We don’t care about indemnification,’ because those were our birds,” Omland told News Watch. “I had to call all these customers and tell them that we can’t get your birds, and that affects the restaurants, the grocery stores, the preserves and all these people in the hospitality and hunting industries.”

The family sought the help of the South Dakota state veterinarian and the state congressional delegation to ask for an exception that would allow them to mitigate the loss of birds.

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“The USDA came back and said that if we didn’t kill those birds, we’d be in jeopardy of losing indemnification and that South Dakota could be in violation of international trade laws,” Omland said.

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kill those birds, we’d be in jeopardy of losing indemnification and that South Dakota could be in violation of international trade laws,” Omland said.

In December, the USDA launched its National Milk Testing Strategy, which among other things tests milk held in silos for H5N1 prior to distribution to humans. South Dakota is one of 45 states to sign up for silo testing.

In March, the USDA announced it was launching a \$100 million research effort into finding vaccines or possible treatments for bird flu infections. The funding is part of a proposed five-pronged, \$1 billion federal plan to study, prevent and limit the spread of bird flu in commercial poultry flocks.

Bird flu containment efforts were slowed when USDA employees working on bird flu issues were fired as part of government efficiency efforts, and some bird flu information was not being shared by the CDC due to position and funding cuts. The USDA bird flu workers have since been rehired.

The CDC, USDA and Food and Drug Administration are all working to monitor bird flu outbreaks and spread. The USDA has created an easy-to-navigate website where bird flu data is tracked by state and the CDC has a bird flu information page.

The farm-level response to bird flu in South Dakota has centered around close monitoring of bird health and behavior and through testing of poultry flocks prior to slaughter, Tetrow said.

Some farmers in South Dakota and other states have used cannons or fireworks to scare away migratory birds or have tried to eliminate ponds where migratory birds congregate near their barns.

Tetrow said he hopes the agricultural, governmental and scientific communities can work together to take more steps to evaluate the causes and effects of bird flu and take preventative methods to slow its spread.

“I’d like to see us reevaluate what we’re going to see if there are more approaches and tools we can add to our toolbox to fight this,” he said.



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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



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

My Commitment to the Center of the Nation

- Fiscal Responsibility - We pledge to be prudent with tax dollars while trying to move our community forward, understanding the "Common Good".
Transparency - We pledge to be transparent to the public in operations and fiscal responsibility.
Citizen Involvement - The most important seat in government is that of the informed voter.
Communicate With Those We Serve - To both listen and speak clearly with our constituents.
Public Safety - Our highest priority is public health and safety of those we serve.
Water - The need for water to promote growth in a vibrant community.
Infrastructure and Housing Developments - We pledge to "inspect what we expect" in our infrastructure as we move our community towards the future growth.
A Comprehensive Budget Process - It is imperative to implement a comprehensive budget process.
Business Friendly Climate - We pledge to be open and welcoming in promoting a business friendly climate.
Buy Local/Shop Local - It is imperative for the "Common Good" of the community that we lead by example in promoting the BUY LOCAL/SHOP LOCAL resolution.
Community/County Health - "Population health" is defined as the health outcomes and distribution within a group of individuals. We pledge to support awareness and positive outcomes in our community's physical, spiritual and mental health.
Beautification - The simplest "Economic Development" is "Beautification" of our community.

MOVING THE CITY FORWARD - my direct involvement on the item

- Policies: Lowered property taxes* and maintained them; City finances clarified and organized; Shopping local from city departments*
Projects Cont.: Storm drain on Indian Street*; Branch pick up ordinance change to include businesses*
Future: Water lines from Water Gallery near Spearfish; 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

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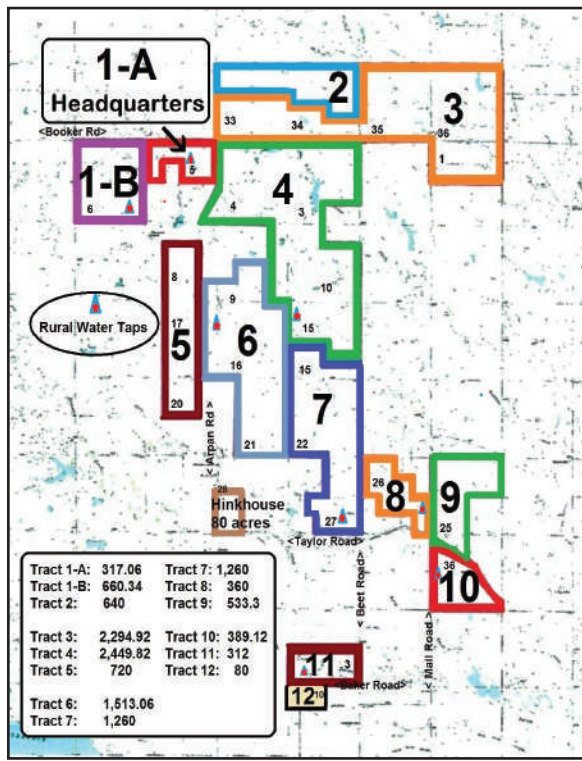
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B's Buzz

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

While we were driving along Highway 212, I was looking out the window and admiring all the birds that were making their way home. Diving here and there, swooping and rolling along through the sky. I thought to myself how wonderful it would be to be able to fly high and see what the world looked like from just above the tree tops.

I've flown a lot. In fact, my dad worked for an airlines as a Station Manager. So we were able to fly the skies of Western Airlines (an airline purchased by Delta back in 1990s). Western Airlines began in the late 1930s or 1940s, I'm sure but I know my dad worked for them from the beginning.

We would take off for the weekend and fly from place to place for the next couple of days, sleeping in the terminals or getting a night flight. Such an exciting time when flying was an adventure! And when the crew found out that your dad was in management, we got very special treatment. Perfect for a youngster and young teenager. The biggest drawback was that also as kids of management, my brother and I had to dress up. I mean a dress, with a crinkly slip and frilly socks. And my brother had to wear dress pants and a tie. Of course, Mom and Dad had to dress up, too. But they were grownups, they're supposed to do that.

So, for nearly 20 years we flew all over the western part of the US. We learned how to behave around adults and in all kinds of situations. Even as grade school kids, we sometimes had to sit by someone we didn't know. Our lives were molded and formed by parents who took time to teach us.

Life was slower then. Our cars were fast and TV dinners made fixing supper quicker, but other parts of our lives were slowed down. Even the planes were slower. It took more than four hours to fly from Minneapolis to LA. Leisure time on the flight was special. Folks gathered and visited and the "stewardesses" brought drinks and snacks several times. We got to visit the pilot and watch out the windows.

Our son Matthew was a pilot, too. He took us up in his twin engine eight passenger plane a few times. We could enjoy watching the ground below us and see things from a bird's perspective.

Which brings me back to thinking about birds and flying high. And another thought comes to my mind. Several years ago, someone asked a question that I have thought

Great Gatsby!



Tayla Neely was crowned Queen of this year's prom. She and King Michael Lawson reigned over Gatsby's Grove during the 2025 Newell Prom.

Betty Bruner Photo

about every Spring and Summer.

"Why does it seem that birds always face the same way when they sit on a wire?"

Well, I don't know! But take a bit of time and you'll see that is true. For the most part anyway.

There is always one or two that are facing the opposite way, though. And that makes me wonder-why? Are they just trying to be different? Or are they the look-outs making sure no one sneaks up behind the flock?

And that brings me to a point I wanted to make about having someone who "has your back" and if you are that person. Even though life is on the fast track and time zooms by, part of who we are is to be someone's "bird watcher" and keep an eye out for them.

I don't mean that we become "busy bodies" but someone who cares about the people that are part of our circle. Our hearts should be soft enough to carry the concerns of friends and family. And hard enough to take the blows that come with living.

Besides, why be like everyone else and look the way they are looking. Turn around and see the world from the other direction! Gain a new perspective!

And take flight! Spring is here and Summer is coming, it's time to fly high! Face the opposite way and see what's out there!

Class of '26 Presents Gatsby's Grove

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-Austin Auditorium was transformed Saturday evening into an enchanted grove with sparkling lights and a forest-like theme.

The beautiful young ladies in all their finery and handsomely dressed young men began the evening with the Grand March, posing for photos and for all the adults gathered in the auditorium.

A father/daughter dance, followed by a mother/son dance took over the dance floor.

An announcement was made that parents and other visiting adults must exit the area to allow for the prom tun to begin.



Let the festivities begin! Following the Grand March there were displays of merriment!

Courtesy Photo

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<p>Best Choice Apple Juice Cocktail 64 Oz.</p> <p>2/\$5</p>	<p>Kellogg's Eggo Waffles 10 Ct. • Buttermilk or Blueberry</p> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>Best Choice Shredded Hash Browns 30 Oz.</p> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>Gorton's Breaded Seafood 18.2-18.3 Oz. • Selected Varieties</p> <p>\$6.99</p>	<p>Best Choice Seasoning or Gravy Mix .75-1.5 Oz.</p> <p>69¢</p>	<p>Blue Ribbon Classics Big Fudge or Big Star Bars 8-20 Ct.</p> <p>\$5.99</p>

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

This week was nice with the temperatures in the fifty and sixties, but it cooled off into the thirties on Saturday and Sunday and we got a little bit of snow early Sunday morning.

Reub and I went to Bible study at Lester and Sharon Longwood's last Sunday night and spent the evening with Jim and Lucy Anderson, Duane and Dawn Harris, John and Corinne Erickson, Eric Seim and Ben Wiechmann. That was an enjoyable evening studying the Bible.

Sam Olson came out from Buffalo on Monday and did a good job of installing the electricity to the pull-down movie screen and projector at the church.

Thad came to the ranch that day to pick up his mail and he had lunch with us. After lunch Reub and Thad sorted through a bunch of pennies, nickels and quarters that Reub had to try to

find some that might be worth a little money. They didn't find many that were worth much so we will just spend the nickels and quarters but we will save the pennies because the government is going to quit making pennies because now it costs 3 pennies to make each penny!

Reub and I took the Gideon Bibles in to give to the 5th grade class in Buffalo Tuesday afternoon and got to see a lot of friendly little people of all grades when we got there just as they were finishing lunch.

Sadly, there are more deaths to report: Harold Heupel, age 84, of Bison, passed away on Thursday morning, January 2, at the Western Horizons Care Center in Hettinger. Cremation has taken place and memorial services are pending with the Evanson Jensen Funeral Home in Lemmon.

Gary Lewton, 73, of Bowman, passed away on March 21, at his home in Bowman. Memorial

Services for Gary were held on Wednesday, March 26, at the Krebsbach and Kulseth Funeral Home Chapel in Bowman.

Tony Gregory, age 94, passed away on Thursday morning, March 27, at the Five Counties Nursing Home in Lemmon. Service of Remembrance will be Saturday, April 5, at the Spencer Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lemmon. Following a time of fellowship and lunch at the church, burial will be at Rosebud Cemetery at Shadehill.

Reub had an appointment with Mary Eggebo in Hettinger Wednesday morning so he drove the black pickup up to see Mary and I followed him in the red pickup because we had to drop the black pickup off at Laufer Vermeer for them to finish fixing it. We had lunch at the Legion at noon and then headed home because Laura Johnson and I were serving supper before the Lenten service

that evening so we didn't have time to stop in Reeder for coffee on the way home. One of the soups Laura made was an absolutely delicious potato soup that I couldn't quit eating!

Thursday evening was Mother/Son movie night at the old gym in Buffalo and Amanda took Knox in to join a lot of other moms and their sons at the movie that evening. Knox told me "It was a good show."

Reub and I drove to Baker, Montana on Friday to get supplies for shearing the sheep on Monday and to pick up some other stuff. It is 103 miles from the ranch to Baker through beautiful ranch country. We went up to Bowman and headed west, going passed the towns of Rhame and Marmarth where Reub used to rodeo in those towns several years ago. We used to go through Baker to go to the Bucking Horse sale in Miles City, but haven't done that for a long time. The hay grinder got here to grind hay that afternoon just after we got back home.

Alaina and Acalia Olson stopped in to visit us for a little while Saturday while they were on their way to Spearfish for Acalia's basketball game that afternoon. Sage had the other three kids at wrestling meets in North Dakota. Ellarie and Irelyn wrestled on Friday and Dathan was wrestling on Saturday. Jace and Kami Jenson brought Keen and little Kage down to visit with Amanda and Taz and play with their cousins that afternoon.

We had choir practice after church Sunday morning to get

ready for the community Hymn Sing at the Beckman Memorial Church in Prairie City that evening. The weather warmed up to 43 degrees and the little bit of snow that fell that morning was all gone by the time we got home from church. The green grass is starting to poke through after the little bit of moisture we've had and we sure hope that we keep getting some more of that much needed moisture.

This Tuesday was April Fools' Day and it always reminds me of my late Aunt Clair (White) John because that was her birthday. It was always fun to hang out at her café in Prairie City on her birthday to listen to all the jokes pulled on Aunt Clair. With that in mind, I'll leave you with this April Fools' joke:

Our chain of travel agencies was small but growing. As office manager, I often got complaints from staff members who deplored the demise of our family-oriented operation and the impending arrival of Big Brother. Then a computer memo from the home office informed us that we all had been assigned employee numbers. We were to use them instead of names in correspondence or telephone communication with the company.

"This is the last straw!" said an exasperated worker.

"We've finally been reduced to a number!" commented another.

One employee, however, read on. Imagine our delight when she discovered, at the end of the memo, this message: "In our book, you're all Number One. Happy April Fools' Day!"

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

April 1, 1915

We learn that the contracts have been let and the bill of lumber has been purchased for an elevator in Newell. This will be welcome news to many in this vicinity. The Tri-state Milling Company of Belle Fourche is behind the deal. They will also erect a storeroom for flour in connection with the elevator. Work will commence as soon as the details as to location, etc. are completed.

Tomorrow is the first municipal kite flying contest. Schoolchildren of all ages are to compete, and prizes will be given. The scheme is part of the new idea of recreation for

was later returned back to the contributors, so this is the first appeal the team has made for financial aid. There will be a number of prizes donated by the Newell businessmen to those holding lucky numbers during the dance. The High School girls will serve punch, pie and coffee. Brodsky's Orchestra will furnish the music. Show your appreciation of the team by buying a ticket or two.

C. J. Kendall and son Monty came up from Rapid City on Sunday, making a short visit at the home of Mrs. O.E. Milberg. Mr. Kendall will remain a few days spending time buying pelts in this locality.



The new elevator was built near the railroad tracks, south of Newell, 1915
Newell Museum

city children, which is being put into practice here. The playing of marbles will also be endorsed, "for keeps". The plan is to make the game of skill, so that the gambling element will be eliminated to a great extent.

W. B. Lyons and family departed Monday for Orman. Mr. Lyons has secured the position as gate keeper at Orman Dam. R. F. Walker, supervising engineer who had been on the project for several days, departed Friday for Casper, Wyoming and from there will return to his headquarters in Denver. The local project office has posted advertisements for 20,000 cubic yards of small lateral work under the Deer Creek Lateral, bids to be received at the local office up to 4:00 PM, April 3. From the shortness of the time given it is apparent that this work be rushed to completion.

March 26, 1925

The town basketball team is giving a dance on Saturday evening of this week to try and make up the deficit in the treasury of the quint. The boys set an excellent record during the past season and placed Newell on the athletic map of the state. At the beginning of the season some of the businessmen of the city were approached to help finance the team, but all money collected

The lambing season is well advanced for some of our people, while others are just starting in. Among those who are just beginning the work is Mrs. Hannah Wilson. Looking after little lambs and hauling hay is the chief occupation for the farmers these days.

A carload of steel for the new Horse Creek Bridge has been unloaded and trucked to the bridge site during the past week. Contractor Wilson is making good progress with the foundation for the new structure.

March 28, 1935

Dr. R. M. Ellis does marvel for the feet and limbs. Straightens crooked and deformed feet, lifts fallen arches so that no arch supports are needed, straightens flat feet and bunions, removes corns, warts, moles and ingrown nails. No pain. Now seeing patients for free examinations at Richard's Hotel, downtown Newell.

Additional steps were placed over the airport fence this week because pedestrians during the past 2 months have broken wires and damaged the fence in many places. Hereafter the Airport Commission intends to see that those responsible are being held to account for the damage to any airport grounds.

by Linda Velder

While residents in other parts of South Dakota and the Midwest have experienced terrific dust storms, the Black Hills has never known what they were until this week, when they experienced two of the worst dust storms ever known here. In fact, many residents assert that they have never before seen dust storms. On Tuesday and Friday, the dust was so thick that nearby mountain tops could not be seen, and visibility was greatly lessened. The winds swept through the canyons and swirled the dust up and down the narrow gulches in choking clouds.

March 29, 1945

Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Kelling of Kadoka arrived Sunday and visited until Wednesday at the home of the latter's daughter Mrs. Lyn Gladstone and little Cherie. Mr. Kelling also attended the Police Officers School which was conducted at Rapid City by the FBI. Capt. Gladstone has been placed in charge of publication of the Army newspaper, "Yank" in Teheran, Iran. The Army policy has been to shift the office managers about once a year, to afford them the opportunity to see a lot of the world.

Another notable movement of real estate got underway on Tuesday when a big road maintainer began rolling the mud from the streets into huge windrows while another machine scooped it up and hauled it to the low places in town.

Governor M. Q. Sharpe suggests that South Dakotans greet the news of Germany's surrender in Europe with "decorous, modern expressions of approval and thanks and there is ground for riotous celebration that day. Victory in Europe does not end the war. We are justly proud of our fighters in Europe and in due time will accord them full honors. It should be business as usual, not waste of food or supplies necessary to the war effort and to continued full-scale production on the home front. Soom will come the time when we can really celebrate and pay homage and appreciation to all our fighters, both living and dead."

March 31, 1955

Roy Wendt, of Rio Vista, California is visiting this week in the Castle Rock community while staying in the home of his brothers Frank and Glen. Mr. & Mrs. Wesly Horton of Govert were Sunday dinner guests at the Wendt home for a surprise celebration in honor of her brother Roy.

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A program was established after the dust storms of the '30s. The land was leveled and top soil was replaced.
Newell Museum

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Munroe of Stoneville brought Barbara into Newell for school Monday and visited the Mary Munroe and Gene Munroe homes. Mrs. Mary Munroe and Mrs. Gene Munroe entertained at a 6:00 o'clock "sweet sixteen" birthday dinner honoring Many Ann Monroe on her birthday Monday evening. Out of town guests were Mr. & Mrs. George Munroe, Sturgis and several school friends.

South Dakota parents of children in the first and second grades can rest assured that plans for the possible polio vaccine program this year are rapidly being made, according to Guy H. Harvey, Chairman of State March of Dimes. Results of the polio vaccine trials last spring will be announced on April 12. If the vaccine is shown to be effective and it is licensed, South Dakota Health Officials and doctors will be prepared to start inoculating children as soon as the vaccine arrives. Parents should remember that no eligible child can be given vaccine unless a signed Parental Request Form is returned to the school. These forms are now being sent home with students through the schools.

March 25, 1965

Two sheepshearing Schools have been scheduled in South Dakota for the week of April 5-9. This will be an excellent opportunity for anyone intended on learning the business of shearing sheep. Everyone attending will have a chance to shear from 15 to 20 sheep. Edward Warner, former livestock extension specialist at Oklahoma and presently of the Sunbeam Corporation, Chicago

will assist in both schools. He has been instrumental in the development of Sunbeam Shearing Equipment and has traveled throughout the world conducting schools. SDSU is sponsoring the programs: Dupree April 5 and 6 and on SDSU campus April 8 and 9.

There will be a regular monthly meeting of the Newell Saddle Club at the Veterans' Hall this Saturday evening, March 27th, with a potluck supper beginning at 7:00 PM. It was announced by the officers of the club. Members are urged to pay their dues at this time and anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend as a guest at both the supper and the meeting.

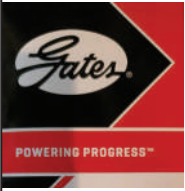
Fire, probably caused by a blowtorch used earlier to thaw out some water pipes, completely destroyed a landmark, a 50-year-old farm residence used for storage purposes at the Paul Farber dairy farm about 7 miles southeast of Newell Sunday afternoon. The family was not home when the blaze was discovered about 1:30 by neighbor Keith Wood, who phoned in the alarm to both Newell and Vale Fire Departments. However, the flames had broken out of the building and fanned by high winds had completely engulfed the frame structure by the time the fire units arrived. The firemen prevented the spread of the blaze to a newer home nearby and other buildings. The structure, built in 1915, contained some tools, pictures, clothing and other items of sentimental value. Estimated loss, including damage to the farm water system and pumps in the basement of the building, was estimated around \$2000.

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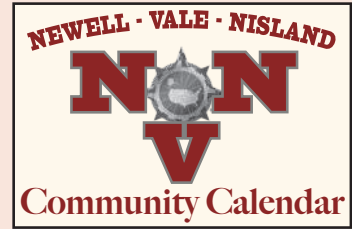
Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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- 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

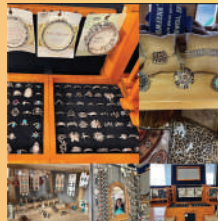
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Candidate Forum

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-There are four candidates running in the Newell Commission race to fill two seats. Incumbent Allen Youngberg, Candidates Anne Salsman, Josh Mackaben, and Vonda Clausen were present at the recent Candidate Forum sponsored by the WIT Coalition held in the City Hall.

Moderator Kurt Hocking introduced the candidates and gave them each an opportunity to highlight issues that were important to them.

Allen Youngberg was the



Kurt Hocking served as Moderator at the Newell Commission Candidate Forum.

first to speak.

As an incumbent, he has been on the council for several years and has seen the inner workings of the commissioners. He feels that extra work needs done on the streets such as using mag water. He would also like to see the town work more closely with the school and other organizations. He is especially interested in working with the new locker plant and feels that it will be a boost to the community. He said that it is important to work on keeping more local business.

Anne Salsman is a relative new comer to Newell, having lived here for six years. Ultimately, she wants to serve the community and make it even better. She would like to see it cleaned up for the businesses and residents.

Josh Mackaben has been part of the community for nine years and is known in the area for his work with the local phone company. His desire is to make the town better and is willing to work with residents to make that happen.

Vonda Clausen has lived in Newell for several years. Her children have graduated from the school and she has been part of the Newell School District as a paraprofessional. She has gone on to other endeavors and looks forward to a future in Newell. The town is "near and dear" to her and she wants to see it thrive. At this point



Candidates for Newell Town Commission from the left are Allen Youngberg, Anne Salsman, Josh Mackaben, and Vonda Clausen. Betty Bruner photo

she has no plan or agenda, but wants to find the best way to a beneficial future for the town.

Following the candidates' introductory remarks, Hocking opened the floor for Open Forum and asked members of the audience to ask questions.

One of the first questions asked was concerning the deteriorating houses found in the town.

Youngberg explained that letters had been sent to several of the owners and that the city attorney had been notified. The main drawback is the cost of following through with the notifications.

"It costs a lot of dollars to get rid of a property," he said. He added that it also takes a lot of time.

Salsman pointed out that there are no current ordinances pertaining to the places in question, but the best thing to do is fill out a complaint form in the city office. Then action can be taken.

Mackaben added that he wanted to do his best to clean up the places in question.

"I don't know what to do, but will research for the answers," said Clausen. She added that it's important to keep things

rolling.

The next question was echoed by several members of the audience as someone asked where a new business would go if someone wanted to come into Newell.

Salsman said that the owners of the empty buildings needed to be located and pointed out that a new business wouldn't come into town unless it was cleaned up.

Youngberg reminded everyone that there is an Industrial Park on the east side of town with a new water and sewer set up.

That brought up a comment from the audience wondering if a small business would ever come to Newell. It would be important for the commissioners to brainstorm and make things happen. Audience members also noted that there should be something that the citizens could do for an incentive for the towns' people to work.

The condition of streets and sidewalks was on people's minds along with housing. Mackaben agreed that it would be expensive to improve the streets and wondered where the money would come from.

Clausen said that it is important for the community to come together to make it happen. Salsman noted that it is important to encourage owners to clean up. She also invited the townspeople to look on the positive side of things and the importance of working with each other.

Again, it was asked what would bring people to Newell? The general answer from each of the candidates was to "clean up" the town and make it more appealing.

Another question came up wanting to know if the people of Newell really wanted the community to grow and what would the council members do about it.

Mackaben said that it was a tough question, but it's important to get them to stop, sit down, and talk. Salsman suggested getting an article in a travel magazine.

One final question from the audience asked why those on the forum wanted to be a council member.

Youngberg said that he would like to see Newell grow again. He wants the streets taken care of and wants people to get involved. He enjoys the small-town atmosphere.

Salsman wants to see a better community and thinks that she can help make that happen. She likes the close community and wants to work together.

Mackaben noted again that he is willing to do whatever it takes to see the community thrive. He noted that in Newell just about everybody knows each other and that is the biggest draw.

Clausen highlighted her ideas by saying that the town is near and dear to her and that she has the time and ability to serve. She believes rural people think better and as a group they can do a lot.

Early voting is now open and votes can be posted at the city offices on Third Street during regular office hours. The city election is April 8 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the City Hall.

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



Bringing Care and Convenience Home: Star of the Sea Clinic Opens in Newell

For over a decade, ranchers, farmers, and residents of the Newell-Vale-Nisland community have toughed it out without a local health clinic. Getting care has meant time away from work or family, or having to drive in difficult winter conditions. That ends this month with the opening of Star of the Sea Clinic in Newell. This is a family health practice built with our hard-working community in mind. Led by Patrick Flanigan, Family Nurse Practitioner and former Nisland resident, the goal is to keep you healthy — without the long haul back and forth to Belle, Sturgis, or Rapid.

In addition to needing a clinic, Newell also does not

have a local pharmacy, so folks again have to face an hour-long round trip just to pick up new prescriptions. And driving in the winter can be a real headache. The Star of the Sea Clinic is working to tackle both issues. We'll provide standard medical care—plus also offer to patients many common medications right at the clinic. In addition, we're working to set up a delivery service and pick-up site here in Newell, so your prescriptions come to you locally, no travel required.

Star of the Sea Clinic is located inside St. Mary's Catholic Church on 6th street — thus our name! Here we will offer urgent care, routine check-ups, and

chronic condition support, but also other services such as DOT physicals for livestock haulers, sports physicals for student athletes hitting the playing field, and nutrition and fitness counseling for those looking to get in shape and stay healthy.

Our clinic is part of My-CatholicDoctor.com, a not-for-profit nationwide telehealth company with nearly 200 clinicians across the U.S. Our mission, inspired by Luke 10:9 —“Cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’”— drives us to deliver compassionate, faith-based care. Here, you'll find independent doctors who answer to you

and God, not a corporate boss. Anyone enrolled with My Catholic Doctor gains access to our many specialists in fields from pediatrics to cardiology to mental health through our online network. By joining, you can still keep your doctor and enjoy our services as an addition, or you can turn to My Catholic Doctor exclusively for most of your health care needs.

The clinic will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 8 and 5pm. On days when the clinic is closed including Saturdays, members can tap into virtual telehealth visits with Patrick, keeping care just a video call away. And for members of the N-V-N com-

munity who are homebound with special needs or disability, house call visits may be available on a case-by-case basis.

Visit PATNP.com or scan the QR code to get started. All appointments are made online. We take most major insurances which are listed on the website. If your insurance is not named, please contact us to see if yours can be added. We will definitely work with you to help get you covered.

There will be an open house starting Monday April 7 to Thursday April 10 from 9 am to 5pm. Stop in and say hello to Patrick, grab a donut, and sign up with our new clinic!

Star of the Sea Clinic, 306 6th Street, Newell, SD 57760.

Newell FFA Off to State



Students headed to the State CDE contest in Brookings. Ag Mechanics Team: Joseph Eaton, Orrin Youngberg, Rowdy Franklin, and Brendt Tift. Horse Eval Team: Kate High, Sorley Franklin, Kiley Link, and McKenzie Rans. Meats Eval Team: Bristol Bachman, Nevada Donahey, Hayden Johnston, and Will Erk. Poultry Team: Paul Raisanen, Jessica Raisanen, and Liam Harms. Floriculture Individuals: Kianna Miller and Evelyn Ahart. Courtesy Photo

