



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Belle Fourche Graduation 2025

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The weather was fine as the graduates prepared for their entrance. Pinning the tulip and baby's breath boutonnières to their gowns, whether purple or black, required some expertise. However, once attached, the colors were not only attractive adornments, but endowed with significance.

Tulips symbolize perfection, rebirth, and new beginnings. The color white, loyalty and honesty and purple, success.

Somewhat comfortable in their academic regalia, the graduates would soon walk before the audience and sit together for one last time.

The venue was the Lou Graslie Field, a familiar spot for sporting events, and since 2020, an open-air venue for graduation ceremonies.

"It was always my dream to have an outdoor ceremony."

Principal Matt Raba explained, but uncertainty of South Dakota spring weather was always a drawback. However, all of that changed in 2020, during covid when social distancing became the expected norm.

For Principal Raba, graduation is the most important event of the year. And he always takes special care to ensure the sanctity of the ceremony.

Altogether, 82 graduates including the alternative school students chose to walk on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

There is protocol for academic regalia. Everyone wears the graduation robe, either black or purple. Appropriate formal attire for the ceremony is expected. Students are not allowed to alter their caps and gowns, unless approved by Mr. Raba. Students may wear cords that activities during the four years of high school.

Under a blue sky with little cloud cover, the graduates entered as the High School Band under the direction of Mr. Penel played "Pomp and Circumstance".

Once situated, the graduates and audience stood for the national anthem performed by the senior choir members and accompanied by Lucy Cole.

Mr. Raba introduced each speaker.

Senior Class President Harvey Walding delivered an offering of gratitude to all of those who have made the graduation journey a success.

Superintendent Orin Thomp-

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"2025 Belle Fourche High School Graduates"



A packed house contingent of family, friends and well wishers joined the Belle Fourche High School 2025 Seniors at Lou Graslie Field for their Saturday sunshine filled graduation ceremonies. Meg English Photos

son welcomed the parents, graduates and community. The Belle Fourche High School Choir performed "Colors of the Wind".

Next on the agenda was Mr. Raba's recognition to students who have earned academic honors, Honor Society members, and Regents Scholars.

Mr. Raba introduced the Class Salutatorian Lily Nore and Valedictorian Lydia Main. Each delivered an address to the student body.

Salutatorian Lily Nore thanked the teachers, staff, parents and community for their commitment to her

graduating class. She explained that the most powerful actions are the small things that make life better for everyone. "You matter. And you are capable." She told her classmates. "We can have bad days but no down days".

Valedictorian Lydia Main expressed gratitude to parents, teachers, and mentors who have always been present as she described how Belle Fourche High School has provided a warm home for her and her classmates during the past four years.

Diplomas were presented

Graduation Contd A4



Mortarboards fly as the Class of 2025 graduates!

Jim Thompson nominated for 2025 National Rodeo Hall of Fame



Jim Thompson

STURGIS – You may not recognize Jim Thompson at first glance, but the moment he speaks, his deep, unmistakable voice leaves no doubt — he's a man who's spent a lifetime behind the microphone.

A familiar voice in both rodeo arenas and on the airwaves, Thompson, now retired, spent his life serving his country, his community, and the sport of rodeo.

The longtime rodeo announcer, has been nominated for the 2025 National Rodeo Hall of Fame.

He is a finalist, one of 12, for the prestigious National Cowboy Hall of Fame, with six individuals being inducted.

Thompson's career spans decades as a rodeo announcer, including experience in the military and broadcast in the Dakotas. He has announced at major rodeo finals, including the PRCA National Finals, Circuit Finals, and more. Thompson is also a member

of the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame, the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo Hall of Fame, and a recipient of the Tom Brokaw Award.

Since 1975, Thompson has announced professional rodeos in more than three dozen states. His leadership extended beyond the arena. He served as President of the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, the South Dakota Broadcasters Association, and was elected two terms in the South Dakota State Senate.

His accolades include induction into five halls of fame already, including the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Hall of Fame, South Dakota Sports Hall

of Fame, and South Dakota Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He was also named Pro Rodeo Committeeman of the Year for his work in Kaycee, Wyo.

Born in North Dakota and raised in Oregon, he now resides in Sturgis with his wife, Sherry. A U.S. Army veteran, he began his military career as a military policeman at Rocky Mountain Arsenal and later served with Armed Forces Korea Network Television and Radio.

A member of the Black Hills Cowboy Church, he continues to serve his community as a member of the Sturgis City Council.

Incidentally, Jim will be the announcer for the steer roping on July 3rd as part of the Black Hills Round Up.



First May City Council Meeting

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The City Council held its first meeting of the month on Monday, May 5. Mayor Randy Schmidt presented the National Small Business Week Proclamation. "Small businesses are the engine of the American

economy and the foundation of a free and prosperous nation built by men and women who work hard, take risks, and believe in the power of the American dream," the proclamation stated.

Finance Officer Wayne Tonsager presented the annual report. During community input, Raymond Allen asked about the time-

line for connecting the new well water to the City's water system. Allen also expressed concerns about potholes, street cracks, and speeding on Dacar Street, along with the lack of nearby parks and clogged culverts impacting drainage.

The Chamber of Commerce re-

City Council contd. A3



Mayor Randy Schmidt presents the National Small Business Week Proclamation. (from left Mayor, Council members Larry Schmalz, Tricia Fowler, Clark Sowers, & Rhonda Schild Courtesy photo



Creatively adorned mortarboards underscored the graduation ceremonies. English Photos

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Brian Kline
Owner

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Bill Neff 76

With deep sorrow and love, we announce the passing of Bill Neff, a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, and loyal friend, who passed away on May 11, 2025, at the age of 76. Bill was born on October 27, 1948, in Alliance, Nebraska to Lyle and Phyllis (Curtis) Neff. He lived a life marked by hard work, quiet strength, and deep devotion to his family. For many years, he owned and operated a farm equipment dealership, where he was known for his honesty, mechanical talent, and dedication to his customers and community.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lyle and Phyllis and a sister, Janice Phipps.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Dallerie Neff; his son Grant Neff and wife Tara; his son Garrett Neff and wife Brittney; and his daughter Rachelle Cockrell and husband Nicholas. Bill was a proud and loving grandfather to Breken, Cambree, Jocelyne, Rowan, Griffin Neff, Avery and Tadam Cockrell; also survived by a sister, Suzanne (Bill) Stephens.

Bill had a lifelong passion for jeeps and firearms. He was a gifted mechanic who could take apart and rebuild just about anything—especially jeeps, which he loved restoring and perfecting. Whether in his shop



or out on the land, he found joy in working with his hands and solving any challenge placed before him.

Though he is no longer with us, the legacy Bill leaves behind is one of strength, devotion, and love. He was a rock to his family, a source of wisdom and quiet humor, and a man who led by example. His memory will live on in every story told, every engine started, and every grandchild's smile.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Chutes for Charity.

A memorial service will be held at The Connection Church in Belle Fourche on Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 am. Burial services will follow at Pine Slope Cemetery. Please join us afterwards for a celebration and meal at the community hall in Belle Fourche.

The funeral will be livestreamed and can be viewed on William's obituary page at klinefuneralchapel.com

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



Cody McFarland 43

Cody McFarland, age 43, of Kemmerer, Wyoming, died on Sunday, May 11, 2025 at the University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Cody Ray McFarland, age 43, passed away on May 11, 2025, at the University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, surrounded by loved ones.

Cody was born on June 7, 1981, in Spearfish, South Dakota, to George McFarland of Pierre, SD, and Carol Schuldies Kirk of Sturgis, SD. The majority of his childhood was spent in Belle Fourche, SD where he quickly found a love of the outdoors, spending his free time hunting and fishing. Cody was baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at St. James Lutheran Church in South Dakota. He graduated with the Class of 2000 from Newell High School, where his love of wrestling took root and would become a lifelong passion. After graduation, he worked for Lawler Flooring before attending Huron University on a wrestling scholarship.

Cody's professional journey led him down many paths, but he ultimately found his calling as a Wildland Firefighter with the United States Forest Service, and took great pride teaching at the Great Basin Engine Academy for ten years and as an engine captain, mentoring his crews. He served on the volunteer fire department and ambulance in both Sturgis South Dakota and Kemmerer Wyoming. He cherished the camaraderie and brotherhood of the fire service and considered his fellow firefighters and medics part of his extended family.

Cody was deeply involved in his daughters' lives—coaching their sports teams, chaperoning school trips, and cheering them on from the sidelines. He was also a dedicated ambassador for the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and an advocate for the conservation of public lands. Wrestling remained a central part of Cody's life, as he continued to coach, referee, and mentor young athletes in both Sturgis and Kemmerer whenever he could.

Cody married the love of his life, Courtney Hunt, on April 14, 2012, in Sturgis. The couple made their home in Kemmerer, Wyoming, where they raised their family



with love, laughter, and a deep sense of community. In Kemmerer, he and his family attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Cody is survived by his beloved wife of 13 years, Courtney McFarland of Kemmerer, WY; his son, Masen Noor of Box Elder, SD; and his daughters, Claire (11) and Josey (9) McFarland of Kemmerer, WY. He is also survived by his father, George (Tracy) McFarland of Pierre, SD; his mother, Carol Kirk of Sturgis, SD; his brother, Jason McFarland, and sister-in-law, Nicole McFarland of Newcastle, WY; his nephew, Jory McFarland of Casper, WY; his niece, Hunter McFarland of Newcastle, WY; his grandmother Leona McFarland of Hoover, SD; mother-in-law, Lisa Hackerott; and in-laws, Deidra, Blake, and Stuart.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Richard Schuldies and Jim McFarland, and his father-in-law, Brian Hackerott.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00am MST on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - 1767 Dell Rio Dr in Kemmerer, WY to honor Cody's memory and the impact he made on so many.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for the future education of his daughters, Claire and Josey. Contributions may be directed toward their college fund to help carry forward Cody's legacy of love, dedication, and service. Memorial contributions may be sent to: Courtney McFarland 1676 Nations Dr. Kemmerer, WY 83101 or Venmo @Courtney-McFarland-9

The family wishes to thank Cody's extended family, friends, and colleagues for their love and support throughout his lifetime. Your calls and visits have been much appreciated. A special thanks to all who helped organize events and services to celebrate Cody and honor him. We are incredibly grateful for all the kindness and generosity you have shown our family during this time.



Johnny McClellan 57

Johnny McClellan, age 57 of Belle Fourche, died Sunday, May 11, 2025 at his home.

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

Johnny Junior McClellan was born August 25, 1967 in Chicago, Illinois. He was the son of Johnny Sr. and Sarah McClellan. Johnny was united in marriage to Joni Ollila and they have



lived in Belle Fourche for the past several years.

Johnny is survived by his loving wife, Joni of Belle Fourche; son, Patrick; daughter, Jonnie; and his father, Johnny McClellan Sr.; brothers, Thomas and Tony.

He was preceded in death by his mother.



June Kosola

June was born October 4, 1935 in Sturgis, to William "Willie" and Ellen (Wilcox) Keller, the oldest of three children. She grew up mostly in Newell. She married Marvin Kosola on May 15, 1952 and shortly thereafter Marvin went overseas to serve in the Korean War. When Marvin went overseas, June lived in Newell with her parents. After Marvin's discharge from the service, they worked on various farms in the Newell area until Marvin went to work at the Ft. Meade VA Hospital.

June raised four children, Ronald (Lorna) of Gillette, WY, Carol (Myron) of Fairpoint, David (Mary Jo) of Vale, and Rose (Bob) of Newell. She helped with Marvin's big garden and greenhouse, selling bedding plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, and melons. June was an adept canner, putting up all kinds of pickles and lots of tomatoes. She also worked a number of part time jobs at various times in Newell, her favorite being as a 'grandmother helper' in preschool. June loved company and the coffee was always on! She loved to cook and have relatives and friends in for a big 'doings' during holidays. For many years her house was the destination for an evening meal following Newell's Labor Day rodeo.

June loved going through her numerous cookbooks looking for new recipes to try. A gift of cookbooks



were a special treat. Children were a special delight and she had done daycare over the years for different folks, always enjoying caring for and guiding children. In later years she discovered a love of coloring pictures with colored pencils and gave many of the finished products to friends and relatives.

June passed on to her heavenly home May 9, 2025 in Spearfish. She was predeceased by her parents, her loving husband, and her two siblings, Ben and Darlene. June is survived by her four children, twelve grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren, and one sister-in-law, Eleanor Keller. She was well loved and will be greatly missed!

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to Newell Evangelical Church.

Visitation was Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at Kinkade Funeral Chapel. Funeral services were Thursday, May 15, at Newell Evangelical Church, Newell, SD. Burial will follow at Black Hills National Cemetery.

Condolences maybe sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.



Joseph Hanson 24

Joseph Lane Hanson, 24, of Nisland, South Dakota, passed into the arms of his Heavenly Father on May 7, 2025. Born on March 9, 2001, in Sturgis, SD, Joseph brought a spark to the world that will never be forgotten.

Joe spent his early years in Newell and later attended Belle Fourche High School, graduating in 2019. He was a proud athlete, playing football, wrestling, and running track—deemed wild at heart, gritty, and fiercely loyal to his teammates and coaches. Joe pursued his passion for working with his hands at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, SD, where he earned his welding degree in 2021. He went on to work at Mack Steel in Watertown and later spent time with EZ Fab and American Ag in Belle Fourche. Most recently, he served the town of Nisland as a part-time maintenance worker. He had a knack for getting things done—always spotting the most efficient way to work and making sure you knew it!

You could always count on Joe, whether farming, working livestock, or simply showing up when someone needed him. He spent summers alongside Scott Hinkhouse and winters helping Paul and Judy Hinkhouse, in addition to many other neighbors throughout the area. He especially cherished being part of local cattle brandings, where his strong work ethic and big heart shone.



That same heart of gold was felt deeply at home, from working on projects with his dad and brother to taking the time to piece together a puzzle with Mom. He also had a special bond with his big sister, Millie, rooted in their mutual love of adventure—they especially enjoyed attending rock concerts together, snowboarding at Terry Peak, and cliff jumping in the Black Hills. An even deeper bond was shared with his younger brother, Darin—his built-in best friend. They did everything together—working, playing, and dreaming big. Their love for the outdoors was a defining part of them, especially in their drive to hunt and fish—Joe was always eager to 'rip lips' with Darin by his side.

Joseph was loyal, outspoken, and carefree, always down for a good time. He lived for the thrill—going fast in any way he could. Everything ran on "Joe time," and those who knew him wouldn't have it any other way. We'll never forget his infectious laugh, mischievous grin, and warm hugs—or his pranks, especially the ones involving hot peppers! Joe had a unique gift for making others feel exactly how they needed to, whether it was a boost of motivation or simply feeling welcomed.

Joe's Obituary - contd. on A3



Joseph Hansen contd.

Though he loved telling stories, he was an even better listener, always genuinely caring about what you had to say. He could make you feel better without even trying—just by being himself.

Joseph poured everything he had into every moment he was given. He crammed an entire lifetime of love, laughter, and adventure into his years and lived them all with no regrets. He will be missed more than words can express. We will remember Joseph with every laugh, every tear, every wild story, and every moment spent doing things a little bolder and a little better—just like Joe would.

Joseph is lovingly survived by his parents, Michael and Michelle Hanson of Nisland; sister, Millie Hanson of Spearfish; brother, Darin Hanson of Nisland; paternal grandfather, Jim Hanson of Sturgis; uncles Tommy (Leah) Gifford of Hermosa, Pat (Becky) Hanson of Sturgis, Sandy (Kristina) Hanson of Vale; aunts Nadine Wetz of Great Britain, Joei (Bryce) Tie-man of Sturgis, and Erin (Chris) Williams of Sturgis; several cousins; and his beloved dogs, Grizzly, Ted, and Molly. His maternal grandparents, Jerry and

Beverly Gifford, his paternal grandmother, Jan Hanson, his uncle, Stuart Wetz, and his childhood dog, Sally, were waiting to greet him in heaven.

We are deeply humbled by the outpouring of love and support from near and far during this difficult time. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. We see God's hand in every act of kindness, every prayer, and every gesture of generosity. His goodness has shone through the hearts of our community, our friends, and our family—for that, we are truly grateful.

The funeral service will be held 10:30 A.M. Thursday, May 22, 2025 at St. James Lutheran Church in Belle Fourche. Visitation will take place 5 to 7pm Wednesday at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Interment will be held in the Nisland Cemetery.

Joe's funeral will be available to view online from his obituary page located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com



James John Svetcoff 87

James John Svetcoff, 87, of Belle Fourche died May 15, 2025 at the Spearfish Canyon Healthcare.



John was born April 24, 1938 to Harlambia and Vesslina Svetcoff in Northwest Perkins County, Bison, SD in a little Sod House of his grandparents where his dad delivered him. He grew up on the ranch and rode horseback to a country school for 8 years. He also went to Brushy School in Buffalo, SD. He ranched with his dad till 1962. Then worked for the Western Cattle Co. on the Cheyenne Reservation working cattle and starting horses. Then worked around the Miles City, MT area on ranches. In 1970 he joined the Operating Engineers Union of Billings, MT building Interstate and secondary highways all through Montana. He also competed in Saddle Bronc Riding and other riding events. The highlight of the year was attending the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale and sold 1 or 2 there. He worked for many years in the Miles City area. He said leaving home gave him more time to play in the dirt and ride more broncs.

When he came to Belle Fourche he married Marg Ullarich of Whitewood, SD on October 9, 1976 and they started a small place out of Belle with livestock where they raised their son Darrell. He also did dirt work and construction in the area. John enjoyed driving his horse and buggy and

playing the fiddle and guitar. John was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church and belonged to the Miles City Fiddlers Association and was a paying member of the U.S. Calvary Association of Fort Riley, KS.

He was proud of his family. He is survived by his wife Marge; son Darrell and wife Grace of Belle Fourche; 4 wonderful grandchildren; a daughter, Lynette of Hoover, SD.

He was preceded in death by his mother and dad; 5 sisters, Bonnie, Maria, Josephine, Jane and Anna.

A Visitation will be from 6 to 7:00 pm, Wednesday, May 21 at St. Paul Catholic Church in Belle Fourche with a Rosary at 7:00 pm.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:00 pm, Thursday, May 22 at St. Paul Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche.

The funeral will be livestreamed and can be viewed on John's obituary page at klinefuneralchapel.com

An online guest book is available at klinefuneralchapel.com



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



**TERESA ASPEN
DENTAL ASSISTANT**

We would like to recognize Teresa Aspen as our Employee of the month. Teresa is a Dental Assistant that has been in the dental field for approximately 45 years. Teresa is a friendly face you have seen in our office as she has been with Nehl Dental for roughly 38 years. She wears many different hats in our office besides assisting and we appreciate everything she does around the office. You may find Teresa outside of Nehl Dental spending time with her Husband Brian volunteering for different church events or running around the track at our local Rec Center. If you see her out and about or are in our office for a visit please say Congrats. Thank you Teresa for all you do!!

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Johnny Spaulding Questers May 21 Meeting

Exploring Gravestone Symbolism with Mary Schwebach

The Johnny Spaulding Questers group is set to gather for their monthly meeting on May 21, 9:30 at St James Episcopal Hall, an event promising to blend history, artistry, and cultural exploration. The meeting will feature a captivating program led by Mary Schwebach, an expert in gravestone symbolism, who hails from Flandreau, South Dakota.

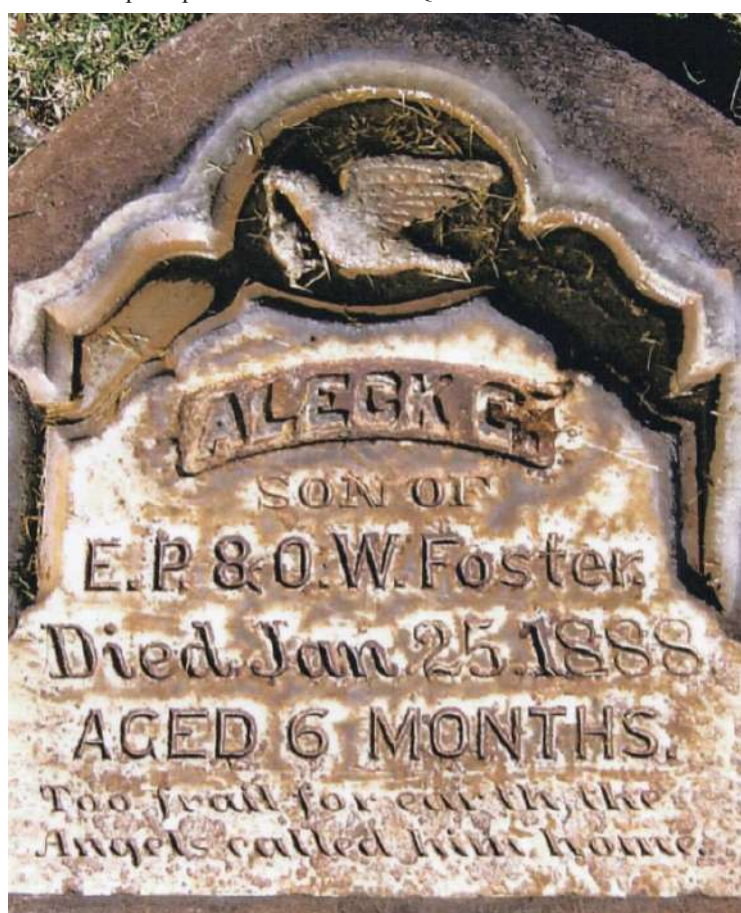
Gravestones are more than markers of the deceased; they tell stories of lives lived, beliefs held, and eras long past. Mary Schwebach's program will delve deep into the art and meaning behind gravestone symbolism. From intricate carvings to subtle inscriptions, she will guide attendees on a journey through the ways these enduring monuments reflect cultural values, religious ideologies, and personal identities. Attendees will learn to decode symbols such as angels, flowers, urns, and more, each imbued with historical significance. Mary Schwebach brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to her program on gravestone symbolism. Her expertise in this unique field has been honed through years of research into cemetery art and historical records.

The Johnny Spaulding Questers group is part of a larger organization dedicated to

preserving and studying historical artifacts and sites. Through programs like this one, the group fosters a spirit of curiosity and respect for the past, bringing community members together to share knowledge and appreciation for history. The May 21 meeting is not only an opportunity to learn but also to connect with like-minded individuals who value the stories embedded in the world around us.

The meeting will take place May 21 in the Belle Fourche at St James Episcopal hall. Coffee

and treats will be served at 9:30 before the program beginning at 10 am. The public is welcome. THE QUESTERS organization keeps history alive through preservation, restoration, and education. A member is excited by historical sites, museums, artifacts, and the study of past events which continue to resonate in one's present and past experiences. Questers with collections love to show them and share their history with other Questers.



From A1 City Council reported that it welcomed four new members this month—Black Hills Deals and Steals, 3J Towing, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Domino's Pizza.

Upcoming events in May include a Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting for the Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum on May 23 at 9 a.m. and a Ribbon Cutting for Digits Nail Spa on May 29 at 4 p.m. With visitor guide requests from 14 states already, the Chamber is anticipating a strong and exciting tourist season.

The Museum & Visitor Center reported that in April, it welcomed 1,011 guests from 35 states and several countries and hosted a Saturday brunch on April 5 featuring a presentation on pioneering pilot Neva Esmay. On April 12, 152 children visited to receive a gift after the Canvas Easter Egg

Hunt, and 61 participants competed in a disc golf tournament held April 12–13 at the Center of the Nation Disc Golf Course. The Tri-State Performers' production of No Pluto, No Problem featured a cast of 13 and was well received. Beginning May 26, the visitor center will move to summer hours: open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Rodeo and carnival tickets are now on sale.

Parks & Recreation reported that the Rec Center has seen steady attendance of 200–300 people daily and has made cost-saving improvements, including HVAC updates and more efficient pool heating. Popular programs like line dancing, babysitting classes, and youth track are thriving, and summer swim lessons are filling quickly. Special Olympians from Buffalo, Wyoming continue to visit, and summer programs for youth up

to age 18 begin at the end of May. Participants must sign a waiver at the Rec Center to join.

Monte Talkington, Clark Sowers, Larry Schmaltz, and Bob Somervold were presented with Certificates of Service. Councilperson Schmaltz shared details of a recent conference call with Representative Dusty Johnson, noting that grant funding is expected to become available in the fall. He also expressed gratitude to the Council and community for the opportunity to serve. Councilperson Sowers echoed the appreciation, thanking the Council, citizens, and City staff. Councilperson Talkington extended thanks to City employees for their continued dedication.

Council Orientation takes place on Thursday, May 15 at 6 p.m. and attendance is mandatory.

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Josh Bunney, Manager

Graduation From A1 by School Board President Scott Reder and Superintendent Orin Thompson. Graduates honored were Alexa Guadalupe, Alarcon Peyton, Dean Alexander, Pason Dwayne Allen, Levi Matthew Anderson, Hustin Joe Anderson-Jenkins, Hunter Ray Baker, Sydney Rose Baker, Derrick Alan Bellew, Elijah Jon Braning, Nora Irene Bricker, Evan Ray Byrom, Aleyah Nicole Carbajal, Grey Kenneth Carlson, Braeden

Andrew Chapman, Evan David Daniels, Ozzy John Franklin Dixon, Michael Joe Dodson, Taiten Wayne Eaton, Evin Grant Gabbard, Kaydance Joy Gallagher, Oscar Alejandro Garcia-Avina, Amiyah Nicole Gomez, Maria Sofia Gonzales Reyes, Carlee Jeanne Grady, Killian Noel Hockenberry, Alexia Mae Hogan, Kelly Homola, Sarah Marie Horst, Payton Christopher Jackson, Jet Allen Jensen, Allison Marie Jewett, Sterling Brayden Jones, Shaun-tey Mae Kerr,

Taya Lynn Kirstine, Alexandra Jolene Klocek, Soren Michael Peter Kopp, Kaylor Rae Kudlock, Rachel Lyn Lee, Wyatt Michael Lesmeister, Thomas Joseph Long, Miryah Avaline Lundin, Carter James Lyons, Allie Adele Mailloux, Lydia Grace Main, David Leon Marshall, Kai Rainlyn Marshall, Sara Mateos-Pato, Asia Mazzotta, Jordan Fay McCulloch, Brayden Lawrence Meemken, Chloe Dawn Merjil, Bailey Ann Moke, Maximus Lee Mundt, Lily

Markell Nore, Kailey Phyllis Nowowiejski, Kashton Timothy Ostenson-Le LaCheur, Markus Arthur Overstreet, Darian Michael Pesicka, Viktoria Prosnanská, Joshua Aaron Rasmussen, Brooklyn Carrie Dawn Roden, Cortez Jozef Rodriguez, Alina Marie Schäfer, Owyn Matthew Schreder, Eli Charles Sechser, Roselyn Grae Shockey, Peyton Ray Staley, Alexandria Ray Stevens, Drake Milton Sutter, Alexa Marie Swaney, Kaisa Elaine Tanninen, Steven Robert Tanska, Abigail

Grace Vissia, Isaac Oscar Voyles, Harvey Martin Walding, Selene Paige Walker, Betsy Anne Wilen, Ethan Reazo Wilen, Radlie Mae Williams, Aidan Taven Wood, Gabriel Joseph Ziething. Once the graduates were instructed to move their tassels from the right to the left, to symbolize the transition to adulthood, the next adventure, they threw their hats in the air in celebration. Parents, friends, and family joined the Class of 2025 on the field to offer gifts and congratulations.

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

Cattle Report - Friday, May 16, 2025

Just under 1000 hd of cattle today
Weigh up cows & bulls sold steady

Next Sale - May 23- Weigh up Special- 10 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Table listing various cattle breeds and prices, including Horseshoe Ranch, Rolph, Murray, Ekalaka MT, etc.

Pairs - Sold By The Pair

Table listing pair sales, e.g., Powell, Stanley, Biddle MT 45 Blk Mixed Age 1472 \$3,575.00

Weigh Up Cows

Large table listing numerous cow sales with details like breed, age, and price, including Baker, Mike J, St Onge SD, Battle Creek Cattle Co, etc.

Table listing various cow and bull sales, including Porch, William A, Martin SD, Powell, Stanley, Biddle MT, etc.

Weigh Up Bulls

Table listing bull sales, including Atkinson, Jd, Mills WY, Baker, Mike J, St Onge SD, etc.

Friday, May 23, 2025

Weigh Up Special

10:00 AM -- Weigh Up Cows 12 Noon -- Breds & Pairs followed by Feeder Cattle

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BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI- No Implants

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Sheep Report - Thursday, May 15, 2025

Good run of sheep today
Fleshy slaughter ewes sold \$5 lower, medium & thin ewes sold steady

Next Sale - May 22 - Regular Sheep Sale- Selling all classes of sheep & goats
Thank you for your business!

New Crop Lambs

Table listing lamb sales, including Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD, Peachey, Rodney Or Gloria, Newell SD, etc.

Slaughter Ewes

Table listing ewe sales, including Bar 69 Ranch, Belle Fourche SD, Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD, etc.

Slaughter Bucks

Table listing buck sales, including Fuller, Brandt, Wright WY, Kopren, Randy, Prairie City SD, etc.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Regular Sheep Sale 1:00 PM

Please have animals in by 10:00 AM

So they can all be weighed before the sale!

2025 SHEEP SALES

- List of 2025 sheep sales events: May 22nd - Regular Sale, May 29th - New Crop Lamb Special, June 5th - No Sale, June 12th - Regular Sale, etc.

Attention to all sheep & goat producers: It is required that every male & female animal over the age of 12 months have a scrapies tag in place to sell. These tags can be obtained by the producer for FREE by calling 1-866-873-2824.

2025 CATTLE SALES

- List of 2025 cattle sales events: May 23rd - Weigh Up Special, May 30th - Pair & Bred Cow Special, June 6th - No Sale, June 13th - Weigh Up Special, etc.

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For an up-to-date schedule of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the Northern Black Hills, please visit AANorthernHills.org or call our local A.A. hotline: (605) 584-2350.

Finance Park, An Illuminating Simulation Activity

Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Belle Fourche High School Gymnasium was staged. The floor space was divided into stations, each demarked by a placard. Each placard offered an engaging, larger than life visual. Altogether, the placards represented a composite of normal adult life expenses.

The stations included: buying or renting a home, furnishing and maintaining a home, transportation, clothing, savings and retirement, groceries, dining out, vacations, educational expenses, child-care, cable, medical expenses, telephone and internet expenses, self-care, and a few more. It was a lot of information to take in.

A full-scale activity to help students manage money was about to take place.

The important event was a simulation activity called Finance Park.

At each station, a professional volunteer was on hand to discuss budgeting money in each respective area. There were chairs for the students to sit to replicate a real financial consultation appointment.

One-hundred and twenty high school seniors from Belle Fourche, Sturgis, and Spearfish transitioned from station to station in small

groups during the day-long simulation activity. The students were asked to create an avatar and were provided curriculum soft wear and devices to "simulate" the budgeting process.

Students move in groups of two to four through five timed sessions.

Tessa Wilber, Senior Manager of Student Experiences at Junior Achievement, and Jennifer Aman, Senior Manager of Experiential Learning at Junior Achievement were on hand to explain how things work in the simulation:

"It's a lot like the game of Life." Tessa noted. In the popular board game, all players begin with similar assets and opportunities to pull ahead. Belle Fourche High School students had an opportunity to play another more realistic game of "Life" with larger stakes but with a modicum of control and choice.

Coincidentally, the date for this first Finance Park Simulation Activity at the Belle Fourche High School was April 15, the deadline to file income tax forms with the IRS as well as the hallmark deadline for financial accountability in America.

Finance Park is the product of Junior Achievement USA, a nonprofit organization committed to teaching kids in grades K-12 how to manage money. Although the Finance Park simulation is relatively new, Junior Achieve-

"Looking Back in Belle" Sponsored by:

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Local.

Looking Back in Belle

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



by Mary Buchholz

125 years ago DEADWOOD
Thurs., December 12, 1889
MENNESELA This lively little town had undergone a complete transformation since the writer's last visit. The mammoth ditch, or canal as it should be called, which has been fully written of in these columns, has given an impetus to all branches of business. Farmers' teams blockaded the streets, the writer could scarcely catch the ear of the merchants, all busily engaged waiting on their customers. The Minnesela hotel was crowded with guests and doing a splendid business. A. L. Smith & Co. wholesale and retail dealers in drugs and medicines were busily engaged unpacking their supply of holiday goods.

Bowman & Mitchell wholesale and retail dealers in hardware, crockery, glassware, etc. carry a large stock and are full of enterprise. David R Evans dealer in groceries, boots and shoes, flour and all kind of milling work, the mill, conceived to be one of the finest in the Hills country is run in connection with the store. M. L. and H. M. Isbell hand a large assortment of dry goods, groceries, hats, capps, clothing, boots, shores and notions. J. Ridgeway keeps a first class restaurant. Wadw & Co. handle tobacco, cigars and confectionaries and are also agents for the Roller Organ co. in Butte Co. Dr. ratt prescribes for the sick when there is any occasion. Mrs. Robins runs a tonorial establishment. F. Thulen and Joe Miller each runs large blacksmith shops and are always busy. Vharley McKibben is the cashier of the new bank. Take it all in all, Minnesela is having a season of prosperity that older towns in the vicinity of the Hills might justly feel proud of. The ditch if the weather permits, will be completed long before spring, that it will be the redemption of this section, for miles below, everyone concedes. It will reclaim a section heretofore arid, and give the farmers a certainly of a crop and a stimulant to till the soil. From a recent number of the Minnesela Star we learn that the canal will run near the base of the high ground, bordering the valley, upon the south side of the Belle Fourche.

100 years The Northwest Post
May 28, 1925
CONFIDENT OF OIL DISCOVERY Promoters on Two Near By Structures so Certain of Success to Guarantee New Drills
Two new test wells are soon to be spudded in around Alzada.

Fred Jay and F. X. Grubl of Belle Fourche have leased 4,000 acres of land and secured a government permit of 2500 acres in the Thompson creek structure west of Alzada. The acreage extends from the Burnside ranch to Clyde Walton's place, a distance of eight miles. Drilling at the Bull creek well will be continued another 100 feet, or a total of 1100 feet, and if no strong possibility or oil is found then, the rig will be moved onto the Thompson creek structure. Messars. Grubl and Jay have bought the oil drilling rig located on the Anderson ranch not far from the Wyoming state line and which is now being used by Anderson Bros. in drilling a 700 ft. water well. This outfit, the property of Iver Stouton of Belle Fourche, will be moved to its new site in a few weeks. Mr. Grubl also says that his company has purchased a larger oil rig which will be moved out here from the Osago fields and later put into use. Operations are to start in this field in about 46 days. Like all similar enterprises the promoters are confident that oil will be found in the Thompson creek vicinity. We trust their hopes don't go aglimmering.

HENRY FORD TRADE SCHOOL In this most unique school in the world during the year 1924, seven hundred boys earned \$400,000 for themselves and manufactured \$770,000 worth of materials. This school has been in existence eight years, having been organized and incorporated under the laws of Michigan as a private school, for the purpose of furnishing an opportunity for boys to earn something toward their own support. At the present time the faculty comprises fifty instructors, the pupils number more than 700, and there are more than 3000 boys on the waiting list, eager to be enrolled. The workshop is in the Highland Park plant of the Ford Motor Company and is fitted with more than \$500,000 worth of equipment. Entrance age is between 12 and 15 years of age and when he graduates at 18, if he has been a conscientious student, he has acquired valuable life knowledge.

75 years ago The Belle Fourche Daily Post
May 27, 1950
44 Year Old Orman Dam Gets New Gates The crest of Orman Dam backs up the water which is the lifeblood of the Belle Fourche valley. The dam, for your recollection, is 115 feet high, about 500 feet wide at the base and 200 feet wide at the crest. At the moment it is backing up 168,000 acre feet of water, which

is about 70 feet deep in the center. Occasion is a recognition of the rejuvenation of this structure, among the eldest reclamation bureau to the dam – the first phase of a \$400,000 improvement program for the project. You will have an opportunity to see for yourself Monday the workings of Orman Dam. That was disclosed this week when Belle Fourche Irrigation district officials announced that an open house, beginning at 2 p.m. will be held at the dam. The event will give the project water users, businessmen of the area and others who are interested an opportunity to inspect the new outlet control mechanisms and other repairs completed this week on the dam.

Karinen Rites to Be Held Monday Funeral services will be held here Monday afternoon for John H. Karinen 68, Fruitdale, who died Thursday at a Deadwood hospital. Rites will be held at the Congregational church in Belle Fourche with Rev. Martin Wilkinson. Kead, and Rev. Kenneth Ellingson, Vale officiating. Burial will be in Pineslope cemetery under direction of the Frost and Son Funeral Home. Karinen had lived in the Black Hills and Tri-State area since 1883. He is survived by Mrs. Karinen, ten children and nine children.

50 years ago The Belle Fourche Daily Post
May 23, 1975

SPEARFISH – Tony Chytka, Yankton, a Black Hills State College cowboy, artist is presenting a March 3-14 rodeo art show along with Jim Sayre, Deadwood, at the South Dakota Capitol building in Pierre, hosted by The Cowboy and Western Hall of Fame of South Dakota. Sayre is showing rodeo paintings while Chytka is presenting his first major show or original rodeo ceramic sculpture work. Included in Chytka's 20-piece show are various "studies in the art of rodeo including everything from bull riding to clown sculptures." "I have a story to tell about rodeo and art is my medium because it offers the only detail in a ride," he said. "I'm not trying to reach everyone," he commented, "just the people who will take time to observe the art of rodeo."

Chytka is an outstanding member of the BHSC rodeo team, participating in bull riding, barrelback and saddle bronc competition. He grew up on a farm just outside of Yankton and "always had a love and admiration for rodeo, the people and animals in it." The BH art major started working with sculpture in high school when a teacher told him to "make anything that interested him."

The result was his first piece of rodeo sculpture which has now grown to an impressive collection of realistic works of art. Chytka loves and lives rodeo on the back of a battling bull and in the art studio where he vividly re-creates the artful ride thru his rodeo sculpture.

Mrs. Arbuckle To Head PEO
Mrs. George Arbuckle was elected president of Chapter At, PEO at the election meeting of the chapter held Monday night at the home of Mrs. G. Q. Runkel. Elected to serve with her for the coming year were Mrs. Norman Durr, vice president; Mrs. Bob O'Donnell, recording secretary; Mrs. Art Jones, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ruth Logan, treasurer.



ment has been around for some time. Junior Achievement USA was founded in 1919 and has offered business and economic education to more than 100 million young people around the world.

Junior Achievement Curriculum is free to schools. The curriculum and programs are financed by businesses, philanthropic donors, and government agencies too.

Junior Achievement's goal is to encourage financial responsibility through grade level appropriate curriculum. It's never too early to start.

Thanks to the generosity of local sponsors, 20 professional volunteers, 120 high school seniors were invited to participate the first Finance Park Simulation activity offered in western South Dakota.



(L) Tessa Wilber, Senior Manager of Student Experiences at Junior Achievement and Jennifer Aman, Senior Manager of Experiential Learning at Junior Achievement were available to explain how Finance Park works and how it helps young adults empower themselves.

JA Junior Achievement

Finance Park

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Finance Park Contd. from B3

The simulation allows students to see the long-term impact of their education, savings, and credit decisions.

In Session 1 each student receives a randomly assigned unique 'Life Situation' consisting of a personal account number, family status, job title, gross annual income, and monthly Federal Tax, Social Security, and Medicare amounts.

Each student then calculates his/her Net Monthly Income. Some students will receive a Lucky Chance Card, which will increase their Net Monthly Income. During this session, students also learn to calculate percentages that will later provide guidelines for spending in each personal budget category.

In Session 2, students explore JA Finance Park, enter each business, listen to salespeople introduce the respective budget category. They collect "Option Sheets" that outline options available for purchase in each of the areas. They will later use these option sheets to determine primary and secondary expenses in each area.

Session 3 presents a challenging core activity in the Finance Park Virtual simulation. Students must view each option sheet consider all available choices for that budget category. They must select the items or services on that Option Sheet that fall within their minimum and maximum monthly spending range.

Students are instructed to aim for a remaining balance of \$0 after all decisions have been made, but they may move on to the next session if they achieve a balance of \$25 or less. Left over money goes into the student's virtual savings account.

During this session, some students receive an Unlucky Chance Card, which requires them to spend some of their Net Monthly Income on expenses they did

not plan for in their budget.

During Session 4 Students pay their monthly bills. All bills must be paid using either a check or a debit card. Following the completion of each successful payment transaction, students must record the amount spent in the business and keep a running balance on their Account Ledger.

There are extra rounds too. If students finish a session before the allotted 45 minutes have passed, they have access to the "Extras" supplementary activities.

These supplemental activities begin with a Stocks Round, during which the student receives a stock portfolio and tracks the value of five stocks on the JAX Stock Exchange stock ticker. Over the course of four sessions, those students electing to complete the "Extras Round" will witness their stock portfolio values rising and falling just as they studied in the classroom.

Belle Fourche Principal Mathew was very pleased with the activity. "I thought the Junior Achievement Finance Park Simulation was excellent. It was eye-opening for the students, and they were all engaged. It couldn't have been possible without the help of so many community volunteers, and I am so thankful to them for providing their time so our students could have this opportunity. I'd really like to make this an annual event."

Fiscal responsibility need not make young adults cower. It can be empowering. And that's the whole idea behind the Financial Park Program.

Financial Park was sponsored by First Premier Bank, Sammons, Finance, South Dakota Community Foundation, Wells Fargo, Ramkota, First Interstate Bank, Build Dakota Scholarship Fund, Ramkota Companies, Vern Eide Motorcars, Showplace Cabinetry, Midco, and Xcel Energy.



(L) Michaela Horn, Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Director describes how home repairs are a necessary expense and how to include them in the household budget. (R) Cable, telephone and internet are added expenses in today's world.

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BRIAN SCHMIDT Yard Foreman: 605-569-0114

BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615
MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597
BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553

SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961
TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513
JOHN HENRY BEARDSLEY - 406-853-4938

SCOTT ANDERSON - 406-351-1844
RILEY LESH - 406-697-0573
TREVOR GARMAN - 605-892-5972

"SERVING THE TRI-STATE AREA SINCE 1935"

Market Report - Thursday, May 8, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Table with columns: PAIRS, HD, DESC, WT, BID, \$HEAD. Lists various livestock items and their prices.

Table with columns: Lot, Description, Weight, Price. Lists various livestock items and their prices.

Table with columns: Lot, Description, Weight, Price. Lists various livestock items and their prices.

RECEIVING STATIONS

Broadus, MT
Travis Linch | 605-892-5951

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

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

FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL

MAY 22, 2025

WEIGH-UPS @ 10AM MT

FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

TURNOUT BULL SALE TO FOLLOW

FEEDER CATTLE
MILLER CATTLE CO - WY
325 BLK/BWF STRS
925-950#

WINTERED FOR GRASS, READY TO GO

KUHBACHER RANCH - WY

80 BLK FALL STRS

600-625#

PC, NI, POURED, WEANED 50 DAYS

MCDONALD RANCH - WY

65 BLK HFERS

600-700#

PC, HAY FED

GEORGE & JEAN ETCEHEMENDY - WY

45 BLK HFERS

700#

PC, NI, BV, REPLACEMENT QUALITY

TIM BOWEN - SD

30 BLK MXD YRLS

600-700#

PC, NI

TURNOUT BULL SALE

TIM GIBBS-MT

17 BLK PUREBRED YRL BULLS

ALKALI INC-MT

9 SIMANGUS & ANGUS YRL BULLS

ECHO VALLEY ANGUS - ND

8 BLK ANG YRL BULLS

MIKE BAKER - SD

7 BLK ANG YRL BULLS

MILLS CATTLE CO - WY

4 BLK ANG YRL BULLS

LITTLE POWDER WAGYU-MT

2 2YO & 3YO WAGYU BULLS

MACKABEN ANGUS - MT

2 BLK ANG YRL BULLS

ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

Table with columns: Date, Event Name. Lists upcoming sales and dates.

High Plains Commodities Offices

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

CATTLE USA

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

Belle Fourche School District Invites Community Input at Upcoming Master Planning Events

Belle Fourche, SD — The Belle Fourche School District's Master Planning Committee is excited to host two upcoming public meetings aimed at continuing the important work of shaping the future of our schools—with your voice at the center.

Community members are invited to join the conversation and contribute their ideas as we advance our long-term planning efforts. These events will offer insight into the progress made so far, including highlights from our recent community survey.

Attendees will also participate in interactive activities designed to help shape a shared vision for the future of education in Belle Fourche.

Public Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, May 20 | 5:30-6:30 PM at the Belle Fourche High School Lunch Room
Tuesday, May 27 | 5:30-6:30 PM at the South Park Elementary Lunch Room

"This is an opportunity for residents to help shape our District's future," said committee lead-

ers. "We want Belle Fourche to remain a desirable destination for young families, and that starts with strong schools and strong community input."

We encourage all parents, students, business owners, and community members to attend. Help us build a future that reflects the values, needs, and dreams of Belle Fourche.

For more information, contact:

Belle Fourche School District Office
Phone: 605-723-3355

Check us out on our website & Facebook as well!

R. Orion Thompson, Ed.S
Superintendent of Schools
Belle Fourche School District 9-1
2305 13th Avenue,
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-723-3355 ext. 1

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION: 909 EDMUNDS ST., BELLE FOURCHE, SD



BID ONLINE: JUNE 3RD, 10AM - JUNE 5TH, 6PM MT
0.16 +/- ACRES | 6,400 SQFT | OWNER: BUTTE COUNTY

THIS BEAUTIFUL LOT IS LOCATED WITHIN BELLE FOURCHE CITY LIMITS. THE PROPERTY LIES ALONG THE RIVER WALK AND IS JUST MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN SHOPPING & THE BUSINESS DISTRICT. UTILITIES ARE READY AND AVAILABLE. WATER SERVICE IS PROVIDED VIA CITY WATER. BUILD READY AND ZONED SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL.

View on your own or call for private showing: (605) 791-2300. Broker Participation Invited. Register to bid online.



VIEW COMPLETE LISTING & BID ONLINE!

hewittlandcompany.com | 605-791-2300



New Listing in a great neighborhood! 4-bed, 2 bath home with many updates and improvements. This is a must see!



New Listing in Spearfish! Well-maintained 2-bed, 2-bath townhouse with main-level laundry, an open floor plan and a full unfinished basement that provides plenty of potential. Additional features include a spacious 2-car garage and quality finishes throughout. A great opportunity in a sought-after area!



Buildings, barn and 7+ acres located in a high-traffic frontage on the edge of Belle Fourche. Great growth area for expanding a business or having a home business combo.



New Listing in Belle Fourche! Beautifully updated 4-bedroom home featuring a stylishly renovated kitchen, fresh paint throughout, updated bathrooms, and brand-new decks. The fully finished basement offers incredible versatility with a bedroom, full kitchen, and private entrance ideal for guests, in-laws, or rental potential.



Stunning 40-acre property with breathtaking views, a fabulous 5-bed, 3-bath, a barn, arena, and secure fencing, making it a dream for horse lovers & outdoor enthusiasts. Just minutes from Belle Fourche and Spearfish.



Renee Bisgaard, Broker/Owner
605-641-9242



608 5th Ave. Suite 5
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 miles South of Belle Fourche on Hwy 85
642-7167
Calvin ~ man - Int. Minister
Sunday. ~.30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MELLING & ROSELAND Law, PC
Erin L. Melling Attorney at Law Licensed in SD, ND, and MT
Aaron W. Roseland Attorney at Law Licensed in SD and ND
South Dakota Office: 1409 5th Ave. Belle Fourche, SD 57717 Phone: (605) 723-1659 Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net
North Dakota Office: 602 Adams Ave., Suite 1 Hettinger, ND 58639 Phone: (701) 567-2418 Fax: (701) 567-4290 Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net

Bo's Lawn Systems 605-723-1899
• Sprinkler Turn Ons, Blowouts, Repair and Installs
• Mowing • Spraying
• Small Landscaping
• Snow Removal and More
Office 605-723-1899
ggtlawnservice@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 327, Belle Fourche, SD
Serving Belle Fourche and the surrounding area for over 15 years.

EZ FABRICATION & WELDING
Shop Services include: 300 Ton Press Brake, 5ft Roll to make pipe, Angle Iron Roll, Tubular Roller, and a CNC Plasma Table
Dealer for: Sentinel Buildings & Trac-Rite Doors
EZ Fabrication offers a wide range of services: Agriculture Repairs, Fabrication of Industrial Parts, Installation of various Plant Equipment, Retail Steel Dealer, Stainless Steel, Aluminum, and Cast Brazing, Mobile Welding
We are hiring!
Contact Scott Huber / Owner (605) 892-2220
221 Industrial St • Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Email: scott@ezfabricationandwelding.com jennifer@ezfabricationandwelding.com

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE BELLE FOURCHE SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOIN US at one of the upcoming Facilities Master Plan - Community Input Sessions and make your voice HEARD!
SCHOOL BUS
WHAT? An opportunity for ANYONE in the Belle Fourche community to learn more about the facility master plan process and provide input that helps shape the future of Belle Fourche School District facilities.
WHEN? Session #1 Tuesday, May 20th 5:30-6:30 PM Belle Fourche High School Cafeteria
Session #2 Tuesday, May 27th 5:30-6:30 PM South Park Elementary Cafeteria
WHY? Community input helps ensure school facility plans reflect local needs, priorities, and values. It builds shared ownership and supports long-term student success.
YOUR VOICE MATTERS. YOUR IDEAS COUNT. Continue to support the future of Belle Fourche Schools!

Integrity Meats
Delivery Available
We can Meat your needs!
404 Industrial St Belle Fourche (605) 892-6215

Upcoming events, for more information call: 605-892-2676
May 22 - 10:30/5:30 Line Dancing @ BF Rec
May 23 - 7:30 Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining
Dinosaurs of Hell Creek Museum Grand Opening weekend
Happy Memorial Day!
May 29 - DIGITS Ribbon Cutting 4PM
Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us on social media for all the information or visit our website

“Building Main Street, not Wall Street” Rising Water Raises All Ships: The Imperative of Regional Collaboration

As I travel across America's heartland, working with communities fighting to maintain their vitality and relevance, one obstacle consistently emerges: the prohibitive cost of meaningful transformation. Small towns struggling in isolation face a triple threat—limited funds, scarce expertise, and insufficient human capital to drive change. According to recent economic studies, 43% of communities with populations under 25,000 lack the financial resources needed for effective marketing campaigns, while 68% experience persistent retail leakage to metropolitan areas. This financial reality forces many communities to abandon ambitious revitalization plans or settle for cosmetic improvements that fail to address underlying economic challenges. However, this need not be the case. The solution lies in regional collaboration—a strategy backed by compelling data showing collaborative marketing efforts generate 3.7 times the return on investment compared to isolated initiatives.



within a 50-mile radius typically share similar visitor demographics. Research from the U.S. Travel Association indicates that 76% of domestic travelers journey within a two-hour radius of their homes for day trips and weekend getaways. Rather than competing for this finite audience, small communities can collectively expand the visitor pie. The evidence supporting regional collaboration is substantial. Communities participating in regional tourism initiatives experience 23% higher visitor spending than standalone destinations. Collective marketing efforts reduce per-community costs by 35% while increasing media reach by 41%. Shared digital platforms enable five times the data collection capabilities at one-third the cost. Regional branding creates stronger market recognition, with recall rates 27% higher than individual community marketing.

While larger markets benefit from well-funded Chambers of Commerce, substantial advertising budgets, and dedicated economic development staff, smaller communities must be creative with limited resources. A mid-sized city typically allocates \$3-4 million annually for economic development and tourism promotion, while small towns often struggle with budgets under \$50,000. This disparity results in approximately \$1.2 million in annual economic leakage from each small community to nearby urban centers. The practical applications of collaboration are numerous. Consider creating a regional print and digital magazine that promotes the entire area, distributed strategically throughout surrounding regions. This approach increases the potential advertiser base, making the publication financial-

ly sustainable while building a valuable regional database. The initial investment—approximately of \$10,000 becomes manageable when divided among multiple communities.

Digital collaboration offers even greater potential. Modern marketing tools allow communities to implement sophisticated strategies at low cost. A coordinated regional approach to website development, social media management, email marketing, and SEO creates economies of scale unattainable for individual small towns. Research shows that shared digital marketing initiatives cost 43% less per community while generating 58% more engagement than isolated efforts. Event coordination represents another collaborative opportunity. When communities stagger their festival schedules and cross-promote each other's events, visitor stays extend by an average of 1.3 days, increasing lodging revenues by 22% and food/retail spending by 37%. Rather than competing for the same weekend visitors, communities create complementary experiences that benefit the entire region.

Make no mistake—help from external sources is unlikely. Economic pressures affect communities of all sizes, and larger markets rarely have incentive to support their smaller neighbors except to extract dollars from them. Federal assistance for small-town revitalization decreased by 18% in real terms over the past decade. The pandemic brutally illustrated this reality when national chains remained open while small businesses faced mandatory closures, resulting in the permanent loss of approximately 200,000 small businesses nationwide.

Small communities must recognize that their neighbors represent their most logical allies. By pooling resources, sharing expertise, and coordinating efforts, regions can create economic momentum that benefits every participant. The data is clear: collaborative communities experience median business revenue growth 2.3 times higher than isolated towns. When water rises in the harbor, ships of all sizes rise together. Similarly, when regional cooper-

“Building Main Street, not Wall Street” sponsored in part by: Black Hills LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING, LLC
Locations in Belle Fourche, Spearfish & Sturgis
Clark Sowers, Owner (605) 347-8429
2014 Main Street Sturgis, SD

ation increases visitor traffic and spending, businesses throughout the area benefit. This isn't merely a poetic metaphor—its economic reality supported by data. The communities that understand and implement this collaborative approach will navigate the challenging waters ahead, while those clinging to isolation may find themselves stranded as the economic tide recedes. The time for regional collaboration isn't coming—it's here. The only question is whether your community will help lead the rising tide or be left behind. John Newby is a nationally recognized Publisher, Community Chamber, Business & Alternative Media consultant & speaker. His “Building Main Street, not Wall Street” column runs in 60+ communities nationwide. As the founder of Truly-Local, he helps communities, businesses, and local media build synergies to become more vibrant. He can be reached at: HYPERLINK “mailto:John@Truly-Local.org”

What Education Means for Our Students—Today and Tomorrow

**By R. Orion Thompson,
Superintendent,
Belle Fourche School District**
Special to the Beacon

As we approach the final stretch of the school year and begin to welcome the warmer days of summer, it's the perfect time to reflect on what education truly means for our students—both in the present and for the future. Education is more than just textbooks and tests; it's the foundation upon which our children build their identities, aspirations, and lifelong skills. It cultivates critical thinking, nurtures curiosity, and helps students develop resilience in the face of challenges. Public schooling, in particular, plays a vital role in ensuring equitable access to these opportunities,

regardless of background or circumstance. According to the National School Boards Association, public education serves as “the cornerstone of democracy,” preparing young citizens for the responsibilities of adulthood and the workforce. Nowhere is this growth more visible than in the remarkable progress of our elementary reading program. At the start of the year, only 1% of our elementary students were reading above grade level. Today, 51% of them are achieving above-grade-level performance. This is not only a cause for celebration—it's proof that when teachers, students, families, and the community come together, extraordinary progress is possible. Looking ahead, our overarching

academic focus for next year will be math. As a cornerstone of problem-solving, logic, and reasoning, math strengthens the kind of analytical thinking that supports student success in all subjects—and in life beyond the classroom. According to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), mathematical literacy is directly linked to the ability to make informed decisions, analyze data, and solve real-world problems. Whether it's budgeting, coding, or interpreting news, strong math skills empower our students to navigate a complex and changing world. We're excited to build on this foundation and provide targeted supports to help every learner grow. In addition, our Master Planning process is in full swing.

We've launched a community-wide survey to gather feedback on how we can best support our students with facilities that reflect the future of learning in Belle Fourche. Whether it's modern classrooms, safe and welcoming buildings, or flexible learning environments, your voice matters. Transparency and community involvement are central to this process, and we hope every family, staff member, and stakeholder takes a moment to share their thoughts. A QR code to access the survey is included in this newsletter—your input will help guide critical decisions about the direction of our district for years to come. As the school year winds down, let's continue to stay engaged, support one another, and

celebrate the incredible strides we've made together. Thank you for your continued partnership in shaping the future of education in Belle Fourche.
Link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BF_MasterPlan
QR Code:



B F High School Hosts Foreign Exchange Students

A school year seems like forever until it's over. Such was the mood among the five Belle Fourche foreign exchange students as they recently gathered to reflect on their experiences as the 2024-2025 school year draws to a close.

“It's not a year in a life; it's a life in a year.” Someone said, and all were quick to agree and to express remorse.

“It makes me sad. I don't want to leave.” Sara Mateos-Pato explained how she feels when she thinks about the few days remaining before graduation.

“We love it here,” Said Alina Shafer of Germany, “Belle Fourche High School is a cool school.”

The pending departure for all five of the Belle Fourche High School foreign exchange students is bittersweet. While each looks forward to resuming her studies in her home country, and reconnecting with friends, and family at home. But all said, leaving host families, high school friends and memories behind will be very hard.

The Belle Fourche foreign exchange students represent Mexico, and four European countries. Sara Mateo-Pateo is from a small town in northern Galicia, Spain. Alina Shafer comes from Northern Hanover in Germany. Viktoria Proshanska is from Slovakia. Sofia Gonzales-Reyes from Yucatan in Mexico, is the only non-European.

None of the girls had met prior to coming to Belle Fourche last August.

During a recent interview, the girls shared many insightful observations pertaining to their year at Belle Fourche High School.

We discussed the difference between school in Belle Fourche compared to school in Europe and Mexico where fluency in other languages, especially English is a requirement. Each of the girls is fluent in her first language as well as English and one or two additional languages. Grappling with American slang was a little confusing at first, so in a sense they have now mastered an ‘additional language’ outside the regular curriculum.

The girls agreed that school was easier here, and that all the teachers were eager to help. The girls didn't name specific favorite teachers; they liked them all. They noted that teachers in their home countries have higher expectations and were not always willing to go above and beyond as they are in Belle Fourche. Bullying is not a problem in the high school, they noted, and they also agreed there seems to be equality among the students.

School administrators here are

different too. In their experiences administrators are not typically visible or familiar. They praised Principal Raba for consistently being out and about in the hallways. Mr. Raba appreciates all the kids and knows their names.

For these reasons and others, the girls said they felt safe at Belle Fourche High School, “Even though there are more guns in America.” Someone pointed out.

Living in a rural area presents some challenges. Cities have more amenities and more diversity. Teenagers in Europe have public transportation and can more easily attend nearby events or just get together to walk around with friends. There is not so much of that kind of socializing in America.

Host families found transporting their exchange students challenging at times as do all families with teenagers in rural communities. Alexia and Jason Schultdt of Spearfish were Asia's host parents. They were disappointed that Spearfish did not accept foreign exchange students this year because driving Asia to Belle Fourche and back every day was challenging. Kim and Chris Brill who live in Belle Fourche had a similar response. Chris noted that having an extra driver in the household was a bonus.

Asia is the first foreign exchange student Alexia and Jason have hosted. “It's been a really, wonderful experience.” Alexia said despite the extra driving, “I would encourage anyone who has extra space to consider hosting.”

Overall, the host families found the experience rewarding and positive. Cyrilla and Keith Schultz in Belle Fourche were host parents for Alina and Sofia.

Although Sofia, Sara, Viktoria, Alina, and Asia are participating in the graduation ceremony, each has more schooling to complete in their home countries before going off to college. Each has ideas about her future. Sofia, talked about becoming a doctor, or maybe going into tourism. Alina is drawn to science and languages, meeting new people, and experienced other cultures. Viktoria wants to study sports management, but she clearly has many interests. Sara sings, plays the violin, and is interested in studying music in college. Asia is open to a variety of possibilities that will open doors for her.

Our conversation covered a lot of other ground too. We talked about dress codes. Like most teenagers anywhere, they found American dress codes, and attention to atten-

dance excessive. Victoria said that in Slovakia, “If you are sick, you are sick. When you get well, you go back to learning.”

We talked about manners, dating, and marriage. The girls reflected on the observations they have made about dating in America. In America, they have observed that there is more competition in dating. In America, they explained, girls seem quick to start dating a friend's boyfriend when the couple breaks up. In their countries this practice is not acceptable. They explained that dating should be based on respect and the value of friendship. Friendships are important and such behavior would result in an uncomfortable situation.

The girls shared more wisdom about dating and marriage. The argued that girls should know how not to be in a relationship and that they should know how to be single. They indicated that European girls had more skill in this area, and that 25 to 30 is a suitable time for marriage, but not before.

Our conversation veered to how one applies to become a foreign exchange student and how one ends up in Belle Fourche, SD. Getting here was not inexpensive.

On average, exchange students coming to the USA can expect to pay from \$8,000 to \$15,000 for a full academic year. This amount typically includes program fees, host family placement, school enrollment, health insurance, and support services. Air fare and some travel in the US are usually included although specific requirements and fees vary depending on the country and exchange agency. As it turns out, choosing a specific state and, or city generally costs between \$3,000 to \$5,000 above beyond the initial fees. For Sara, Asia, Alina, Viktoria, and Sofia, ending up in Belle Fourche was a matter of happy circumstance.

Each exchange student is required to complete hold a J1 Student Visa. The J1 Visa is a nonimmigrant visa for foreign nationals coming to the United States to participate in work-and-study-based exchange visitor programs. J1 Visa exchange visitor programs allow participants to work, study, teach, conduct research, or receive training in the USA for a period of a few weeks to a few years.

In terms of exposure to other cultures and the value of friendships, exchange programs offer rich rewards to host communities and exchange students alike. Although time doesn't stand still, the memories are lasting.

As we were concluding our interview, Alina succinctly articulated the group atmosphere, “We will miss walking into school with our friends. It will be so weird not to be here.”



Asia, Sara, Spanish Instructor, Ms. Cristina Green, Sofia, Victoria and Alina Meg English Photos



Alina, Sara, Sofia, Asia, and Viktoria at home in the halls of the High School.



Band and Orchestra Director Micah Pennel visiting with Sara-Mateos-Pato. Sara plays violin and sings in the choir. She is interested in a career in music.

Youth Basketball Camp

Calling all aspiring basketball stars! Join us for an exciting opportunity to enhance your basketball skills and have fun with friends! Get ready for an exciting summer camp experience that will enhance your skills and foster a passion for the game. Join us at Belle Fourche High School / Middle School, where our dedicated coaches will guide young athletes through a comprehensive program designed to build a strong foundation in basketball.

Belle Fourche High School / Middle School

June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th 6-7:30 pm

3rd-6th grade girls!

Camp will cover fundamentals, ball handling, shooting.

COST: \$50, \$80 for two siblings, \$120 for three siblings.

This camp will be put on by the high school girls' basketball coaches.

Make check out to: Belle Fourche Girls Basketball (BFGBB)

All proceeds will go to the girls' basketball program.

Full name of camper (please print): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade entering this fall: _____

Parent / Guardian name: _____

1st Contact number: _____

2nd Contact number: _____

Insurance policy #: _____

I understand and fully accept that there are risks involved in sports, and accidents and injuries are common and are ordinary occurrences of sports. I hereby agree to accept any and all risks of injury or death.

Signature: _____

Please mail registration to:

Bill Burr
10977 Ridge Road
Belle Fourche SD, 57717

Or sign-up day of camp. Any questions please call:

Bill Burr # 605-641-2262, Kyle Ryan # 605-645-2374, Chrissy Montgomery # 605-645-7527



INVENTORY REDUCTION

SIDEWALK SALE

MAY 22 - 24
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“We don't know them all,
but we owe them all.”
- Unknown



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Delivering Goat Snuggles

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
Last week the name of

NEWELL-Everyone needs a snuggle and Wandering Wolf Ranch can supply a baby goat snuggle. Elizabeth Witherspoon raises goats that are perfect to snooze and cuddle. They are just the right size and Witherspoon is ready to share them.

As the herd gets larger, her plan is to rehome the goats as pets, she has 45 goats now. They are available to go to daycares, school events, family functions, birthday parties, or just about any event where folks need to hug a little bug.

Witherspoon brought three cuties to Tulip Days at Joyful Blooms to give visitors the opportunity to enjoy the cuddles. The cuddliest was a small black and white Alpine Nigerian named Bitty Baby. She made up for her small size with loud vocals, letting everyone know she was ready for a hug.

Wandering Wolf Ranch, located south of Newell on Highway 79, has a Facebook page-wanderingwolfranch and is on Instagram.

If you want a unique birthday party idea or have a family reunion planned check out the Wandering Wolf Ranch and be ready for some snuggles!



Elizabeth Witherspoon showing off one of her snuggling goats.
Bruner Photo

Available to Answer Questions



Pastor Lance Putnam is now the pastor of Newell Christian Fellowship Church. He is excited about coming to Newell and being part of the community.
Photo by Betty Bruner

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-Although Pastor Lance Putnam grew up in a Christian home attending a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and also attended Catholic School, he had questions. Lots of questions that it seemed no one had the answers. In his early 20's, Putnam walked away from his faith for a few years while his life regressed downward.

Through the years, God showed Putnam the right path to take that has now led him to Newell Christian Fellowship Church. He recently became lead pastor of the community church and has begun to lead the way for the congregation to find the answers to life's questions.

He takes the Bible as the Word of God and shows the practicality of the workings of God. He said that he enjoys looking at history and discerning God's teachings. He's always looking at what Christians believe and why.

"Talk to each other," he commented. "We need more civility in this life."

Civility and talking will bring unification, he pointed out. And that is one of his main objectives.

Putnam has a banner at the front of the church that sums up

his goals for the church body.

"Worshipping Christ" means to glorify God. Fellowship, according to Putnam, and committing ways that glorify God are two important parts of worshipping Christ.

"Walking with Christ" points to discipleship, teaching doctrine and the "why" of life.

"Working for Christ" brings the community together.

"That's why we are having a BBQ in the Park and movies in the park," he said.

Putnam's dream is to find out what the community needs and work to help answer that need. He has encouraged his congregation to be community focused.

There is a solid background to the projects Putnam is keying on. When he hit bottom, he repented and cried out to God for help. This started his journey into theological and intellectual study of the Christian faith. Here is where he found answers to all his questions.

During this time Putnam started the Legacy Dads Ministry. This ministry shares his personal story; "the good, bad, and ugly." Legacy Dads reaches thousands of listeners each week through podcasts, media, conferences, and other platforms where they advocate proven, Biblical principles

for leaving a lasting legacy in Christ.

Putnam has received multiple combat tours and awards in Army Special Operations before retiring in 2021. He has now earned his Master's Degree from Liberty University, both Lance and wife Jennifer are trained Chaplains from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and are trained in Biblical Soul Care Pastoral Counseling.

The list of accomplishments also includes instructor and technical manager for Samaritan's Purse and Unusual Soldiers Ministries.

Lance and Jennifer founded Salt and Light Group ministry which conducts missions overseas.

His love of the outdoors keeps him in the Black Hills area. He loves history and has a "weakness" for classic rock.

If you have questions, Putnam is willing to answer any and all questions about faith, God, the Bible and theology.

His sermons can be found online on You Tube, Facebook, and the church website. Simply Google Newell Christian Fellowship and it will take you to the right place. Putnam's email is newellcf@outlook.com. Church services are Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at the church located at 308 4th St. in Newell.

Newell Health Clinic



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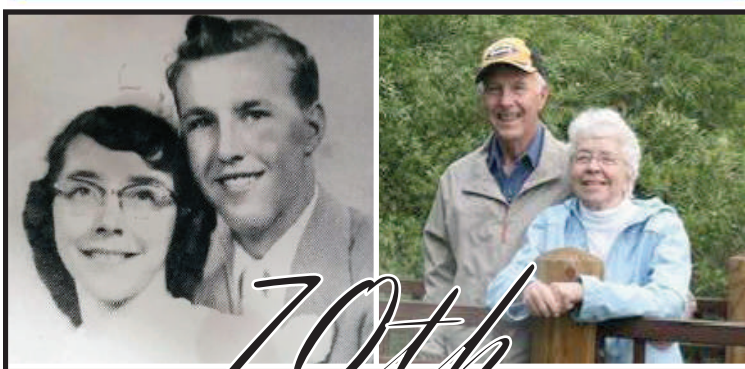
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70th Anniversary

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF NEWELL

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Town of Newell is now taking applications for a full-time position maintenance worker. Applicant is responsible for performing maintenance in the public works departments including streets and alleys, snow removal, irrigation system, water, wastewater, sanitation, parks and cemetery.

Applicant must be SD DENR certified or willing to become SD DENR certified in all water/wastewater certifications. Must have a SD driver's license including CDL or be willing to get CDL. Have knowledge of and ability to operate equipment and handle materials used in street maintenance and be able to lift and move 50 to 100 pounds. Will be required to take on-call rotation. Will report to and take direction from the Public Works Foreman.

Pay along with all other essential duties and responsibilities can be discussed at time of interview.

Applications can be picked up at 101 E 3rd Street between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday – Thursday or on our website at townofnewell.org. Position will be open until filled.

The Town of Newell is an equal opportunity employer.



B's Buzz

It's raining! It's pouring! The old man is snoring! Earlier today, it was only the old man snoring, but the windows are getting wet now and I do believe it's raining!

As I watched the weather app on my phone, the rain clouds were a long way from the Newell area. It was storming in Spearfish, sprinkling in Belle Fourche, but dry in Newell. But patience bore out as now the rain drops are hitting the windows and the wonderful sound of moisture can be heard!

Any form of moisture in this country that has had a couple of years of drought brings hope. Hope for pastures and plants.

There are fields that have been planted with the hope of rain to bring the tiny plants up and to maturity.

And now the hope is being

realized with every drop that falls. It grows with every splatter. I believe every farmer and rancher in the area smiles at the clouds and looks at the wet ground. Hope is revived, even if it's for a brief moment.

As I was thinking about the hope that comes with rain, my mind wandered to other things that bring hope and what takes our hope away.

Hope is confidence, positiveness, expectation, faith, sureness, and anticipation, among other things. But let's take a look at these for just a moment.

Usually, we have confidence in who we are or who our friends are. We have confidence to do the job we have set out to do or are hired to do. But then there are times we lose confidence in our job or friends or in ourselves.

What can we do to regain that confidence? Realize that our confidence can't be put in things or people. One place to put our confidence in knowing that we have been equipped to handle most things that come

our way. Relying on someone else only gets in the way of what our true calling is and where we should be.

The expectation and sureness that all of us have deep inside has been given to us from the very beginning of time. God put it there, we only need to dig deep to regain it and see the hope that is given to us.

And that leads us to faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. We believe and hope for the future. That is part of the DNA of a farmer or rancher. Faith that the future holds promise and it's always going to be better.

Anticipation looks to the clouds and smells the rain. Optimism says it will rain, soon. And the crop goes into the ground to wait for rain and sunshine.

And the people of agriculture look expectantly to the future. This year will bring green pastures and strong plants for the livestock.

I know it will be a good year-I can smell the rain!

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

This week started off really hot but it sure cooled off by the middle of the week when it started to rain several days in a row.

I'm happy to report another baby girl in the neighborhood. Logan and Julie Dye had Aspen Hope Dye on Sunday, May 11, which was Mother's Day. Congratulations!

It was 97 degrees here on Monday when Taz came up to put our air conditioner in for us before he went farming. Casey and Taz took the cows up to the Horse Creek pasture that afternoon to summer there. Reub and I went to our granddaughter Acalia's spring concert in Scranton that evening and got to sit with Lester and Sharon Longwood who were there to

watch three of their grandkids sing in the concert. We also got to see Polly Markegard, Carrie, Jeremy, and Steele Stadheim, and our son Sage.

Casey was up fixing fence at the Horse Creek pasture on Tuesday and Taz had a couple school board meetings in Buffalo that day. Amanda went to Buffalo to pick up Copper and Knox just after noon from their last day of school for the year. We had Ladies Aid down at the church that afternoon with Margareta Hanson as the hostess and she fed us a delicious dessert. Missy wasn't able to be there because she had gone down to Rapid City to spend a few days helping Bryce after she had a hernia repaired. While Reub was putting some feed for my chickens in the fence around the coop, he accidentally let the

rooster out and that mean bugger attacked me when I went down to get eggs. I kicked him hard but couldn't get rid of him. Taz came over and killed the rooster for me, thank goodness!

The guys started working cows Wednesday morning and Amanda was over there helping them until they finished late that afternoon. Reub and I went to Hettinger that afternoon just as it started raining and it was still raining when we got home. There was just under a half inch in the rain gauge that evening.

Thursday, May 15, was Taz and Amanda's 10th wedding anniversary and it was raining outside just like it was the day they got married ten years ago. They had planned an outdoor wedding but with the rain they got married inside the Slim Buttes Lutheran Church east of

Reva instead of outside in the rain. Congratulations to a really sweet couple! I dumped just a hair short of an inch and a half of rain out of the rain gauge that day, but when I talked to Leslie Kling they had gotten three inches over there. Thank God for the moisture!

It rained all day again on Friday and the wind was just howling. The news said it was blowing 72mph in Buffalo and it felt that bad here when it almost blew me off the back porch when I went out to take care of my chickens! I had to cover my tomato and pepper plants in the garden because the weather report warned of frost that night. I hadn't been back in the house very long when my friend Marie Donahue called to let me know about the freeze warning. Thanks a bunch Marie, because it I hadn't covered the plants they would have been froze.

When we got up Saturday morning it was only 31 degrees but it warmed up to 63 degrees later on so I uncovered everything and planted the rest of my flowers and now I'm done planting unless we get a hail storm or something. While I was messing with my gardens, Amanda, Copper, Knox and River went over to help the guys brand a bunch of heifers and I kept an eye on the twins that were taking their nap.

Reub and I joined several friends for the burial of David Randall in the Prairie City cemetery after church on Sunday with Pastor Brad Burkhalter officiating.

Linda Mohagen gave me this article about riches last week:

RICHES NO MAN CAN STEAL

An old, superannuated minister had unwittingly told of his wealth and fortune, and the fame of his possessions got to the ears of the tax assessor. On day the government's representative came to his door to press him for a statement of his wealth.

"Is it so," began the assessor, "that you have capital?"

"Yes," said the preacher, "I am a rich man."

"In that case," said the visitor interestedly, pulling out his book, "I shall have to assess you. What are your possessions?"

"I'm enjoying good health," said the man, "and health is worth very much."

"Well," said the caller, "what more have you?"

"I have a good wife - worth more than diamonds."

"Congratulations," exclaimed the tax man, "but don't you own more?"

"Yes, I have healthy, intelligent, upright sons and daughters, and that is a possession of which any man can feel rich."

"Do you own anything else?" asked the inquirer.

"Yes, I own a citizenship in the United States, and an assured inheritance in Heaven. What more could a man own?"

"But don't you own any money or real estate?"

"No, otherwise I own nothing," said the man happily.

"My friend," said the assessor as he close his book, "you are indeed a rich man, and your riches no man can take away, not even the government."

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

May 13, 1965

A site 2 miles west of Newell, adjacent to the reservoir of the Newell Golf Course, will be recommended as a Job Corps Camp in this area, by Bureau of Reclamation officials, according to word received here this past week. Approximately 100 youths, who would be employed in carrying out conservation improvements of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project which the district is unable to do. The site near the lake which formerly supplied water for Newell city was picked, Bureau officials noted, because it is close to headquarters of the

home Sunday when roads were plowed.

May 19, 1955

Buffalo will have support of Newell in seeking to have a uranium receiving station set up in that city, according to action taken by the Newell Community Club's regular Tuesday noon meeting in the Skyroom of the Cove, the civic group voted to support Buffalo's efforts and to urge Senators Case and Mundt and Congressman Berry to urge upon Federal authorities the necessity of establishment of such a facility for receiving uranium ore in Harding County.

by Linda Velder

to a B-29 bomber.

The re-opening of the Nation's gold mines has been urged by a large number of western Congressmen. Thirty-one of them directed an appeal to the chairman of the War Production Board, J. A. Krug, asserting that no other industry has been subjected to such hardship and disrespect as gold mining.

Miss Barbara Rearick, Superintendent of County Schools, was at the Webb School Tuesday where she gave achievement tests while Miss Mazy Miller gave the tests at the Milberg School. Friday afternoon the pupils of the Webb School gave a program in the Primary Room in honor of their mothers. Five mothers were able to attend. After the program the mothers were each presented with a potted plant. Fruit was served to all at the close of the afternoon.

May 16, 1935

A jury in Meade County circuit court returned a verdict last Friday in favor of Mrs. Hollis Walker and Oscar Stonelake, both of Newell, who brought suit for \$10,000 each against S. E. Geiger and Henry R. Johnson, both also of Newell, as a result of a car wreck last fall in which Mrs. Walker's husband and Mr. Stonelake's wife and daughter lost their lives. The jury awarded Mrs. Walker a judgement of \$1,500 and Mr. Stonelake was granted \$500. A. C. Drake, Dewey Holdren and A. E. Rosander, all of Vale, were called as witnesses in the Stonelake-Walker damage case.

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, of the US Supreme Court, received a unique request from the Vale Church. It read; "In order to raise money for the church, our members are making aprons from the shirttails of famous men. We would be so pleased if you could send us one or more of your shirt tails. Have them marked with your initials by Mrs. Hughes and pin on them a short biography of the famous occasions in which they have been intimately associated with your life".

The teacher and pupils of the Old Stoneville School, along with a number of their parents, enjoyed their annual picnic last Friday. Miss Hazel Richman accompanied the pupils of the Plainview School Saturday on their annual picnic in Spearfish Park. Last day of school was Friday and the pupils of the Webb School and held their picnic on Horse Creek near the Youngberg place.

May 17, 1945

The O. Christopherson Company has their new 40-foot scale installed at the elevator and can now take the weight measure of any vehicle even up



Last Day of School picnic for the Dry Creek School. The Stolnack, Nelson, Ahonen, Lagge, Piekkala, Isto, Yoder, Hilton and Whalen families attended this school; located north of Newell on Highway 79. Newell Museum

Irrigation District and would facilitate coordination of activities. The recommendations will be forwarded to the office of Economic Opportunity at Washington, DC and if that agency concurs, the proposal will then be submitted to South Dakota Governor Nils Boe for funding concerns and implementation.

Co operating barbers throughout South Dakota will be displaying posters in their windows, indicating they are joining in this Eleventh Annual Charity Day. Since the beginning of this Barber's Charity Day program, it has been heavily endorsed by all previous Governors. One hundred percent of the money contributed on the special day remains in this state and is used for needy physically handicapped children and adults throughout South Dakota. Please be generous.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Smeenk and sons were visitors in Rapid City on Saturday. Enroute home they slid off the road near the Black Hills National Cemetery and because of the severe snowstorm and impassable road, they were forced to spend the night in their car, returning

Swedish meat balls, Lefse, Kringla and many other fine ethnic foods are on the menu at the Lutheran Church Smorgasbord, Saturday, May 28th. Serving beginning at 5:00 PM., come to the all you can eat at a buffet.

All but one landowner who would be affected by construction of the proposed lake along Highway 79 attended a special information meeting of the Newell Community Club Tuesday night and voiced their approval for same. Cliff Stromer, head of the group, was in charge of the special community meeting, who showed a preliminary sketch of the proposed project. It was estimated that as much as 180 acres of land might be affected. Questions were asked and answered relative to the spillway, possible irrigation dikes, seepage, local economy, how deep the lake, too how many actual acres to be flooded.

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First meeting of the re-named Newell Community Club. The Newell Commercial Club was organized in 1911 and was businessmen, until 1915 when it became more family oriented Newell Museum

Milberg School had theirs on the same day on Ralph Milberg land along Horse Creek. All area schools finished this year's work this week.

May 14, 1925

Miss Bessie Long, RN of Newell has been added to the nursing staff at the Homestake Hospital in Lead. Miss. Long took her training at the Methodist Deaconess Hospital at Rapid City.

The Vale community is about to realize its long-delayed hopes of a cheese factory. Within the past week their plans have reached a point which seems to ensure success. It is to be a farmers' co-operative company and stock is being subscribed to at \$15 per share. Cal Woods of Vale is taking a leading part in promotion of the enterprise and is enthusiastic over its ultimate success. It is estimated, there are 800 milk cows within the Vale radius of 7 miles and that this territory can be served daily by 5 truck lines. It is expected at this meeting to formally organize the company and to consider the location for the plant and other details.

The Julius Viken and Edgar Keene families made a short tour through the Black Hills last week, going as far as Beulah, Wyo. where they expected some interesting trout fishing, but as the trout didn't bite, their weeks' vacation ended in only 3 days. W. D. Buchholz experienced the thrill of landing a 3½ pound trout last Sunday. If our secret informant is correct, Mrs. Buchholz added consid-

erable assistance and is entitled to some credit. W. D. got a bit excited, though and snapped a perfectly nice fish pole during the scrimmage.

May 20, 1915

Considerable frost has visited this section of Butte County in the latter part of last week but apparently has done no damage to the fruit trees or gardens. Early notification enabled many to make necessary protections for their tender plants which may have something to do with preserving them.

At a meeting of the Newell Commercial Club held last night, it was decided to hold a huge Fourth of July celebration in Newell. Watch the Irrigator for upcoming announcements.

The Methodist Church was crowded to its full capacity on Monday evening, when Newell High School held its first commencement exercise. There was but one graduate, Perry M. Smith. The baccalaureate address was delivered on Sunday evening by Rev. A. G. Campbell, whose inspiring words on that occasion will be long remembered by his hearers. Prof. George Fry gave a brief history of the activities of the Newell Schools since their establishment in 1910. W. D. Buchholz, Board Chairman, gave a short address in connection with the presentation of the diploma, commending the teachers in their efforts on behalf of the scholars and cheering the pupils on to greater success.

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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Newell Clinic now open at the Newell Evangelical Church
Call 605-204-9497

May 22 Carl & Mavis Lundgren, 70th Anniversary, Fruitdale

May 24 Newell High School Graduation, Austin Auditorium

May 26 Memorial Day Services, 9:30 a.m. Vale
10 a.m. Wilson Cemetery
10:30 a.m. Hope Cemetery

June 8 Summer BBQ, Noon - 3 p.m., Newell North Park

June 9 VBS, Wonder Junction, Newell Christian Fellowship, 9 a.m.

June 14 Vale Community Reunion, 146th Anniversary
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. School Buildings will be open
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Potluck Lunch, Vale Community Hall, bring a side dish/dessert
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Bingo

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

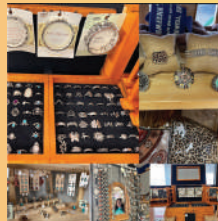
BH Farmer's Market Second Tuesday each month, 4:30, Nisland Town Hall



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Banquets and Awards at Newell School



Newell Irrigator Booster Club

First Appropriations Fulfills Requests

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and members for contributing to the advancement of our students. In this first round of appropriations, we were able to fulfill every request submitted.

The Newell Irrigator Booster Club announced the recipients of the funding as follows:

- HS Girls BB-\$500 toward team camps
- HS Boys BB-\$500 toward team camps
- MS Girls BB-\$350 for weight room equipment
- Elementary Recess-\$350 for playground toys and balls

Both Girls basketball programs received an additional \$250 each from an anonymous donor.

Year in Review

The first year of the Newell Irrigator Booster Club has been a busy one. The club was able to accomplish much of the framework to establish the club, including by-laws, incorporation, and achieving tax exempt status. As a 501(c)(3), they are able to continue the mission of serving students at the Newell School District and open doors to additional funding opportunities. There are many steps to receiving this recognition and it took quite a bit of time this first year. A special thank you to the Newell Community Club for allowing NIBC to operate under their tax-exempt status during this period.

When the NIBC was established, the members wanted to focus not only on monetary support but ways that could "boost" the school. many volunteer hours have been contributed over the 2024-2025 school year by members and volunteers.

Volunteer efforts include:

- Painting the multi-purpose room and hallway
- Replaced sand in the long jump

- Repaired a wall in the gym
- Provided a teacher appreciation meal before the holidays
- Repaired the PE gym scoreboard
- Prepared meals for student competition
- Mowed and trimmed the school grounds
- Created community connections
- Supported Homecoming festivities
- Planted and cared for flowers on campus
- Established an Angel Fund

Student Promotion

The NIBC partnered with LiveTicket to showcase the students on a free streaming service. Over the 2024-2025 school year, the service was provided for football, volleyball, basketball, and wrestling. The winter and spring music concerts, Homecoming coronation, graduation, and school board meetings were also streamed. Many positive comments have been made about establishing this community connection.

To date, 54 videos are on the YouTube channel with 10,107 views. The advertising dollars are split with NIBC, providing



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funding which in turn supports student activities at the Newell School District.

A special thank you goes to James Gatzke for taking on the role of tech guru and ensuring events were streamed. James is an eighth grader and was responsible for scheduling the live stream, setting up equipment, and operating the streaming software. He was frequently in the gym one to two nights a week making the show happen.

More plans are being made for next year. The annual meeting will be June 4 at 6 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Two board positions will be open, President and secretary. If you are interested in serving, please consider attending.

Become a Booster!



Jill McTaggart, Shawn Donahey, Chad Oliver, and Luke Bonefield. Courtesy Photo

Awards and Recognition

