



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Taps Across America



Every Memorial Day at 3:00 PM local time, Americans from coast to coast pause to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. Taps Across America invites musicians of all ages, abilities, and instruments to unite in a moving, nationwide performance of Taps—the 24-note melody that has honored fallen service members for over 150 years.

Taps Across America is a nationwide tribute dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes.
Taps Contd. A3

May 19 City Council Meeting

Ryder Heitz

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BELLE FOURCHE—The City Council held a meeting on Monday, May 19. Mayor Randy Schmidt recognized members of the Public Works Department in accordance with National Public Works Week, May 18-24. The theme for National Public Works Week 2025 is "People, Purpose, Presence," which emphasizes three fundamental ideals that inspire public works professionals to dedicate themselves to their communities each day.

Casey Peterson, Rhye Leonard, and Devin Pfaff presented the 2024 Audit to the Council. During community input,

Raymond Allen expressed his frustration with the lack of engagement from elected officials with him.

Rec Center Director Jody Westberg reported that sections of the pool liner are chipping again in previously repaired areas. City Engineer Hardy has taken measurements and underwater photos for documentation.

The installation company will be contacted, as the issue may be linked to the placement of the pool's outflows. Further evaluation is planned.

Museum & Visitor Center Director Kristi Thielen informed the Council that work on the Museum porch is pending due to a delay in materials and the need for favorable weather to complete the project.

Finance Officer Tonsager informed the Council that, as of the first May meeting, approximately 42% of the year has elapsed. The General Fund remains well below this mark, though expenditures for the CIP Fund are expected to increase as the 11th and 12th Avenue projects continue.

The Gross Receipts fund has seen higher spending, primarily due to concession/ADA restroom construction, which will taper off as the project nears completion.

Water Fund expenditures are on track, largely driven by work on Well 3. The Sewer Fund remains low but is expected to rise as 12th Avenue projects advance.

The landfill fund is slightly under budget, with no major expenses anticipated beyond scale operations.

City Administrator LaFayette updated the Council on project progress, noting weather-related delays. Cemetery and Public Works crews prepared the cemetery for Memorial Day despite recent rain. Concrete
City Contd. A3

Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum officially open



The crowd listens to **Walter Stein's** speech, *Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum* owner, before the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Museum's Grand Opening. *Longbrake photo*

The Museum hosted a full weekend of opening celebration festivities

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Belle Fourche's newest attraction, Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum, officially opened its doors to the public on Friday, May 23. At 9 a.m., a crowd of locals and supporters gathered in front of the museum for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Walter Stein, museum owner, kicked off the morning with a speech individually thanking each sponsor, employee, land owner, and everyone who had a hand in getting the museum up and running. "This is a team effort," said Stein. As the ribbon was cut, excited patrons entered the museum for the first time, getting to see the variety of educational stations, life-sized dinosaur animatronics, bones, and more.

Outside, customers chose from several local food trucks for a delicious breakfast.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony

was just one part of a full weekend of opening celebration festivities at the museum.

On Thursday evening, the museum hosted a VIP Pre-Opening Party for friends, family, sponsors, and land owners with an amazing turnout and a line out the door!

The pre-opening party featured hors d'oeuvres—including dinosaur-bone shaped cookies!—a free-will donation cash bar, food trucks, and a silent auction full of interesting items like dinosaur fossils, bones, and minerals.

Clayton Phipps, a fossil hunter from Montana, was the guest speaker for the evening. Phipps explained how he got to be a self-proclaimed "dinosaur hunter" and told the story of how he discovered the "Dueling Dinosaurs," two entangled fossilized dinosaur skeletons.

The Dueling Dinosaurs, a 22-foot tyrannosaur and a

28-foot Triceratops, were a monumental find in the field of paleontology.

Thursday's event finished with the lighting of the museum's outside sign.

The opening festivities continued through Sunday, May 25, with a full slate of guest

speakers giving talks on various paleontological topics all weekend.

Stein is "ecstatic" to see his dream finally come to fruition. "It's one of those things where it's a long time coming, and I'm so glad that we could bring it to Belle Fourche and this community," he said.



The museum features plenty of educational and fun activities for youth. Additional Photos on A8

High School Names 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Meg English

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To be chosen as class Valedictorian or Salutatorian is a great honor. The selection is usually



Lydia Main, daughter of **Jeff and Holly Main**, enters graduation ceremony in full academic regalia. Lydia is the 2025 Belle Fourche High School Valedictorian.

based on grade point average. For Lydia Main and Lily Nore, it was a close contest. Although Lydia pulled ahead in the end, each demonstrated her worthiness in myriad other ways.

Both Lydia and Lily delivered meaningful, heartfelt speeches on graduation day.

Belle Fourche High School 2025 Valedictorian Lydia Main expressed gratitude to parents, teachers, and mentors who have always been present. She described how Belle Fourche High School has provided a warm home for her and her classmates during the past four years. Lydia is the daughter of Jeff and Holly Main

Salutatorian Lily Nore thanked the teachers, staff parents and community for their commitment to her graduating class. She explained that the post 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".

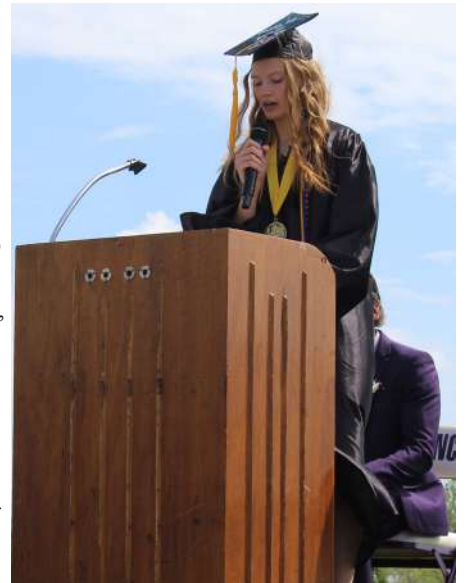
Both Lydia and Lily have exemplary track records academically and as leaders in school and community events.

For the past four years Lydia was also active in an extensive list of school and community activities. She was an active participant in FFA, soccer, rodeo, National Honor Society, Youth Leadership Team, Student Council, Best Buddies, Teen Court, Special Olympics, Shooting Sports, 4-H, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

While in high school, Lily was active in Basketball, Track, Student Council, Youth Leadership Team, National Honor Society, Teen Court, Choir, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, St. James Lutheran Youth Group, Book Club, and Special Olympics. Lily is the daughter of Mark and Melissa Nore.

Both Lydia and Lily will attend college in the fall.

2025 Salutatorian **Lily Nore** addresses the graduation day crowd.



Chamber Mixer Serves Up Charcuterie and Roundup Rodeo Updates

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The May Chamber Mixer was held at the Belle Fourche Roundup Rodeo Grounds on Thursday May 15. Fellow business professionals gathered to enjoy charcuterie and refreshments while socializing and supporting each other. Board member Patrick Olson and Board Chairman Dallas

Conner were on hand to answer questions about the upcoming Fourth of July celebration.

Chamber Executive Director, Michaela Horn, led a discussion with the board members addressing the planning stages of the annual rodeo. "New this year will be Matt Merritt. He will be the clown and barrel man," said Conner. "We'll
Roundup Mixer contd. A3



RoundUp Chairman, **Dallas Conner**, Board member, **Patrick Olson** and Chamber's **Michaela Horn** discuss the plans for the upcoming **Roundup Rodeo**. *Longbrake photo*

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Celebrating FATHER'S Past & Present

This Father's Day, we honor the men who've shaped our lives with love, strength, and wisdom. Whether they're here with us or forever in our hearts, their legacy lives on in every lesson taught, every moment shared.

To the fathers who stand beside us, and to those we carry with us in spirit, we thank you.



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Brian Kline
Owner

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Lyle Harvey 89

Lyle Harvey, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2025. Born May 8, 1936, in Deadwood, SD to Bryan and Carrie Harvey, Lyle's life was marked by dedication, love, a strong faith, and a passion for the outdoors.



Lyle attended school in Spearfish, South Dakota, graduating in 1955. He proudly played baseball in his youth and football during his high school years, fostering a lifelong love for sports and camaraderie. Following graduation, he served his country in the Army National Guard for six years. He was honorably discharged in October 1963.

Lyle married the love of his life, Gladys Mauch. Theirs was a beautiful and enduring partnership, filled with joy and mutual support, until Gladys' passing in 2017.

Professionally, Lyle dedicated over 35 years to Nash Finch, serving as a store manager. Beyond his work, Lyle was an avid outdoorsman. He cherished motorcycle rides with Gladys, enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was a skilled trap shooter. A dedicated member of the Spearfish Rifle and Trap Club for over 70 years, Lyle's passion for these pursuits enriched his life and the lives of those around him. He was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, his faith was strong, and his example always lead the way.

Lyle is preceded in death by his parents, Bryan and Carrie; his wife, Gladys; his siblings Verne Harvey and wife Betty, Joan Sisson and husband Bill, Bob Harvey and wife Barb, and brother-in-law Vern Backens.

We are all better for having known and loved Lyle. A Celebration of Lyle's life will be held Thursday, May 29th at 5:00 pm at the United Methodist Church in Spearfish. Interment will take place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Spearfish.

The funeral will be livestreamed and can be viewed on Lyle's obituary page at klinefuneral-chapel.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



David Floyd Kidd 79

David was born December 4, 1945, to Roy and Annie (Krininger) Kidd in Spearfish, SD.

David grew up working on the family ranch in Harding County, SD, staying in Belle Fourche during the school year, and graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1964. While his intent was to work the family ranch with his father (Roy Kidd) and brother (Ray Kidd), the Vietnam War changed his course, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1965 as a Radio Mechanic. He was converted to an auto & diesel mechanic and spent years in Germany until being honorably discharged on December 13th, 1968. He would often say that he was very lucky to not have had to go to Vietnam during the war and that he was very appreciative for the commitment and sacrifices made by those men and women who did.

After Vietnam, David would live a very full life, graduating from diesel mechanic school, marrying twice, having 2 children (Ron & Barbara), 1 adopted child (Shianna), 3 stepchildren (Theresa, Steven, and Jaymie), 5 grandchildren (Alexandria, Kyle, Josh, Corrynne, &



Creighton) 2 step-grandchildren (Johnny, & Samantha), and 4 great-grandchildren (Makennah, Frankie, Maggie, & Levi), lived in many places (South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, and Nevada), and enjoyed good food, fishing, classic trucks and cars, westerns, and his animals.

David is survived by his children: Ron (Phaedra) Kidd; Barbara (John) Belyew; Shianna Kidd; stepchild Theresa (Wes) Wilson, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many uncles, aunts, nieces, and nephews and cousins.

David was preceded in death by his wife of 29 years (Dorlene Kidd), his brother (Ray Kidd), stepchildren (Steven and Jaymie), and his parents.

Celebration of life will be held on June 14, 2025, in Colorado as well as places he lived with the people he loved.

At his request, his ashes will be scattered in his favorite places as we visit them to remember him and a marker will be placed beside his wife (Dorlene) in Winnemucca, NV.

DeAnne Miles 67

DeAnne Miles, age 67 of Belle Fourche, died Tuesday, May 20, 2025, with her two loving sisters by her side.

Funeral arrangements are tentatively being scheduled for the middle of June, with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. When service times are set this website will be updated immediately: www.LeveringtonFH.com

DeAnne Miles was born April 11, 1958 in Belle Fourche. She was the daughter of Robert and Sharon (Schipke) Miles. DeAnne grew up in Newell, where she graduated from high school in 1976. DeAnne lived in Nevada for several years, where she worked as an office manager for a mining company. In 2014 she moved to Belle Fourche, and worked as a scale operator for Mike Watson and then for Halliburton Inc. In October, 2024 she retired.

DeAnne liked arranging flowers and antiques, and for a time she worked at some of the local shops in



Belle Fourche. She also enjoyed arts and crafts, sewing and working in her yard, and she loved her dogs. DeAnne had no fear when it came to challenges in life, because of her faith. DeAnne loved the Lord, and she found peace and joy following Him.

DeAnne is survived by her two sons, Nathan (Mackenzie) Odle of Carlin NV, Robert (Samantha) Odle of Battle Mountain NV; 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, Karlyn (Dustin) McCarty and their son Grant of Fort Riley KS, Krisyn (Ryan) Tinsley and their daughter Saylor of Mechanicburg PA; mother, Sharon Miles of Belle Fourche; sisters, Lori Casavan of Belle Fourche, and Mitzi Miles of Rapid City; 2 nieces; 1 nephew; several aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandparents; her father, Robert Miles; and sister, Shari Jo Miles.



Kathy Kay McKnight 70

Kathy Kay McKnight passed away on May 6, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. She was 70 years old.

Kathy was born in Miles City, Montana, on February 16, 1955, to David Fraser Jr. and Ellen June Fraser. She moved frequently in her early years for her father's work and was living in Colville, Washington, when her father died unexpectedly. Kathy was just 12 years old. Her older brother, Larry, returned home to help their mother run and eventually sell the family dairy. After that year of transition, Kathy and her mother moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, where June pursued her degree in education—an experience that inspired Kathy's own future as a teacher. June completed her studies in Spearfish, South Dakota, where Kathy graduated high school—and met the love of her life, Wesley Ernest McKnight.



Kathy would spend the next 6 years at home raising her three boys. She then returned to teaching at Tailor Elementary School. From 1988 until 2018 she taught in the same school district spending most of those years at Charlie Lake Elementary. Between 2006 & 2011, Kathy pursued an opportunity to train new teachers as a Faculty Associate for AHCOTE (through Simon Fraser University), a non-traditional certification program, helping others bring compassion and skill into the classroom. After her retirement, she was called back several times to support high-needs classrooms that could not be staffed, which speaks to her deep compassion and capability. She had a lifelong love of children and especially championed those who needed a little extra help, something that made her an exceptional educator and an even more extraordinary human being. She had a no-nonsense approach to teaching. Her classroom was a place of structure but also of humor, and love. She was the kind of teacher whose class lined up to hug her goodbye at the end of the day.

Kathy and Wes were married on August 13, 1976, in Spearfish SD, shortly after graduating from Black Hills State College (now University), where Kathy earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a Psychology minor. While in college, Kathy experienced the heartbreaking loss of her mother, June, at just 19 years old. Despite this profound loss, she stayed the course—grounded by her growing partnership with Wes. Years later, she went on to earn a Master of Arts in Leadership and Administration from Gonzaga University.

Kathy and Wes had a remarkable love story that lasted more than 50 years. They complemented one another in every way—Wes, known for his quiet strength and kindness; Kathy, for her resilience, clarity, thoughtfulness, and deep care for others. Together, they built a life rooted in hard work, love, and mutual respect. Whether raising children, managing a ranch, navigating careers in education, or supporting one another through life's challenges, Kathy and Wes were a remarkable team—strong, capable, and deeply devoted to one another.

After their marriage, they moved to Little Powder Wyoming, where she and Wes taught at Little Powder Elementary School. After two years of teaching in Wyoming, they moved to Canada in 1978, settling on a cattle ranch near Fort St. John BC, where they raised three sons—David Arthur (b. 1977), Justin Wesley (b. 1980), and Brett Fraser (b. 1982)—and began ranching, a vocation they continued for decades.

Alongside her life on the ranch, Kathy also built a distinguished career in education. When David reached 2 years old, she took a job teaching third grade at Tailor Elementary School. After just one year at Tailor Elementary, she decided to take a few years

to raise her growing family. Kathy would spend the next 6 years at home raising her three boys. She then returned to teaching at Tailor Elementary School. From 1988 until 2018 she taught in the same school district spending most of those years at Charlie Lake Elementary. Between 2006 & 2011, Kathy pursued an opportunity to train new teachers as a Faculty Associate for AHCOTE (through Simon Fraser University), a non-traditional certification program, helping others bring compassion and skill into the classroom. After her retirement, she was called back several times to support high-needs classrooms that could not be staffed, which speaks to her deep compassion and capability. She had a lifelong love of children and especially championed those who needed a little extra help, something that made her an exceptional educator and an even more extraordinary human being. She had a no-nonsense approach to teaching. Her classroom was a place of structure but also of humor, and love. She was the kind of teacher whose class lined up to hug her goodbye at the end of the day.

Kathy endured tremendous loss at a young age—losing both of her parents by 19—and yet built a beautiful life rooted in strength and love. She was the rock of her family, the glue that held everyone together. She gave selflessly, whether it was emotional support, a helping hand, or a handmade quilt. She was thoughtful and incredibly smart, having skipped a grade in school and been asked to skip two—and she passed on her love of learning, resilience, and humor to her children.

She was immensely proud of her sons, who are known for their big hearts and character. Her heart expanded even more when she became a grandmother. She found great joy in the presence of her granddaughters and loved watching them grow. Kathy is survived by her beloved husband, Wes McKnight; her sons, David (wife Fria Gordo), Justin, and Brett (partner Lois Gardiner); her granddaughters, Grace Ellen Gordo McKnight and Alexa Gwen Gordo McKnight; her brother, Danny Lee Fraser and sister-in-law Jandee May; and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, David Fraser, Jr.; her mother, Ellen June Fraser; her brothers, Dennis Harry Fraser (infant) and David "Larry" Fraser.

Kathy will be remembered for her steady love, her strength, her deep well of compassion, and the beautiful life she created with the people she held most dear.

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

A Conversation about Grief and Loss
by Meg English



In this commentary, Grief and Loss are allegorical “characters” in a human story. The plot is uncomplicated and very familiar.

Loss is the culprit that starts the arguments. The most profound way to get to know Loss is usually when someone significant dies. But Loss of a friendship, a good job, a pet, even a treasured object is also important.

Loss is legitimate and demands attention. That’s when Grief comes in.

Grief is hard to describe. Following Loss, Grief tends to appear in undulating waves that reinvent themselves like a surf. Grief is anguish. Grief is eternal and messy. It leaves gaping wounds that appear to heal, and then comes back in surging billows even when you think it has been fully purged.

Elizabeth Kübler-Ross had a lot to say about grief. She’s a well-known psychiatrist who earned a reputation helping others manage Grief. To better identify its impact and progression, she divided Grief into neat stages. In 2004 in her last book, she said of the five stages: “They were never meant to help tuck messy emotions into neat packages. They are responses to loss that many people have, but there is not a typical response to loss, as there is no typical loss. Our grieving is as individual as our lives.”

Grief hit me squarely for no apparent reason at a funeral I attended nearly 30 years ago. Although still in my early thirties, I was not a stranger to funerals.

A teaching colleague lost her husband, David to a heart attack at age 42. They had three small children. The family was Winnebago. I attended my first traditional Native American funeral and burial held at a small non-denominational church in Minnesota.

Please note that these are observations from my memory, that I believe to be sound despite the deference of time.

In keeping with Native American tradition, as it was explained to me, the body of the departed must lie in state in an open coffin for four days. Four

Roots # 37

days is the amount of time it takes for the person’s soul to revisit all the places and people he or she had known in his or her lifetime. Native Americans also practice cremation and other forms of burial too, but this funeral was a distinctly traditional open casket funeral. Family, and friends came and went more than once during the four days.

David’s body was never left alone during this time. Leaving him alone would prevent his soul from making a successful unimpeded journey to the spirit world. The transition is supposed to be natural, and even joyous as the spirit reunites with those in the spirit world. When the soul reaches the spirit world it will be free from suffering, according to what I was told.

The church was dimly lit. There was silence at times. At other times there was chanting, music, prayers, and the scents of burning sage, cedar, sweetgrass, and tobacco. Food was always being prepared and there were offerings to David as he lay in state.

The most vivid and lasting memory I have is watching David’s three small children engage in the activities. The children soon became very comfortable with the open casket, the lifeless body.

They played quietly in the sanctuary. They drew pictures of themselves for their dad to keep him company on his journey which they placed alongside him in the casket. They talked to him, reminding him of their love and reassuring him that they were happy for him.

Perhaps the long time they were given to become accustomed to David’s earthly body, the better they were able to process the reality of death and to find at least some comfort.

My own childhood experience with funerals was far from reassuring. Open caskets were the norm. Images of the departed were fleeting, daunting, and conducive to anxiety and fear.

I am still haunted by the memory of viewing my 14-year-old horseback riding buddy dressed in a suit, straight blond hair combed with hands folded on his chest in an open casket. The image did not match my memory of the boy with sun-bleached hair, galloping across the prairie on a blue roan. Sadly, he drowned on a trail ride, doing what he loved best.

I prefer the Native American funeral tradition.

Getting back to the catharsis of grief. For whatever reason, I remember overwhelming waves of grief at David’s funeral. I sobbed uncontrollably, and at length especially during the extended visitations. I was sad for my colleague, the children, the deceased, the family.

However, it was also my own grief that was being probed, ignited. That’s what I mean when I say, “Grief is messy.” Grief steals up on us at unexpected times and it’s always our own grief that we experience. Maybe it’s a good idea to place grief in stages, such as those identified by Kubler-Ross. I don’t know.

When my mother passed away at the end of March, we scheduled two memorial services. One here in Belle Fourche for the Black Hills friends and family. A following service was held in Watertown where she lived for most of her adult life.

As my mother approached the end of her earthly days in late March just a few days after her 91st birthday. We watched her transition, from the earthly world to the spiritual. It was emotionally wrenching and personal too.

Both services were well attended. There was a great sharing of Grief at both services. Grief is Grief, no matter whose. Sharing Grief is a positive means of assuaging its ravages for a time.

What I believe to be truth is that at funerals, wakes, memorial services, it’s community shared grief that helps us most. Not one of us is a stranger to it. Grief never goes away; it just lies dormant.

We are grateful for the staff at Belle Estates for providing us all with endless guidance, comfort care, and coffee. We are grateful to the comprehensive professional services from Stillwater Hospice. We are grateful to Pastors Chuck Aurund, and Dustin Bartlett for their thoughtful and moving eulogies. We are grateful to Leverington Funeral Chapel for providing a soothing atmosphere, and a great deal of handholding too.

At least none of us is ever lonely in grief. And that’s what I know, or at least what I think I know for now.

just general admission in the past, are now reserved.” When you buy a ticket for the rodeo, you will have a place to sit. Fireworks will be held on the evenings of July 2 and 3.

Horn finished by reminding those gathered of the upcoming Belle Fourche area events. The next Chamber Mixer is June 27. “We switch it up a little bit because we have reserved the party deck at a Spearfish Sasquatch game and it is a firework night! So if you are a member, you are welcome to attend! You just need to RSVP with us and purchase tickets on the night,” she said.

The Chamber member Connect and Collect Drawing of \$250 was held. It is for members only and you have to be in attendance to win.

This month Mount Rushmore Area Association of Realtors won, but they were not present so the pot carries on to next month.

tradition dates back to the Civil War, when families placed flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers.

In 2000, Congress established the National Moment of Remembrance, encouraging all Americans to pause at 3:00 PM local time for one minute of silence. Taps Across America extended this moment by inviting musicians to sound Taps in unison across the country.

God Bless the U.S.A.

website.

A few minutes were taken to celebrate the two awards the Roundup won for their efforts last year. “We won two awards, we won Medium Rodeo of the Year for the sixth time, and then we won the Remuda Award.

The Remuda Award is sponsored by Polaris and it is for the most even pen of bucking horses across all PRCA rodeos, small, medium and large. We were fortunate enough to win that last year and probably the most prestigious award to get with the PRCA,” said Conner. “Medium Rodeo of the Year is amazing and we appreciate that, but the Remuda Award is just real, real special for us to have gotten.”

Conner encouraged everyone to get their tickets for the July rodeos. They are selling fast and are expected to sell out, especially the July 3 performance. Conner explained, “One big change for this year is everything is reserved seating—all of our bleachers that have been

Whether you are a musician, veteran, or simply someone who wishes to pay tribute, Taps Across America welcomed all to take part. Together, we ensure that the echoes of gratitude and remembrance resonate across the nation

Memorial Day is more than the unofficial start of summer—it is a day of solemn reflection dedicated to the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Originally known as Decoration Day, this



Belle Fourche Beacon ‘Happenings’ and News Bytes Calendar

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

Rec Center Annual River Run Walk.

Mark your calendars for the 8th Annual River Run on River Walk on Friday, June 6 at 7 PM.

The event starts and finishes at Rail Park on State Street. Walk or Run. Choose your distance!

This is a family friendly event for all ages and fitness levels. Participants receive a Crazy Cow ice cream coupon. Register at the Rec Center today or sign up at the event. We hope to see you there!

Museum to open “On the Map” Exhibit

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center has a new temporary exhibit.

The exhibit is entitled “On the Map,” and will showcase the many maps in the museum’s collections, including a distinctive map of the Black Hills on a scarf; a WWII combat map; and a mountain and desert map of California, among many others.

The exhibit will also include photos, storyboards, a touchscreen quiz, cartography tools, globes and a kids’ activity center with a work-

book, book to read and a craft to complete.

The exhibit will be up until October 4th.

There is no admission charge to see this exhibit, or the Tri-State Museum. For more information about the exhibit or upcoming events and exhibits, call 605-723-1200. The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

Action for the Betterment of our Community (ABC) Coalition

Summer is nearly here, and we’re excited to announce that the coalition will once again have a presence at Hometown Thursdays!

We’re looking for volunteers to help staff our booth and engage with the community. Volunteers will interact with community members and assist with our Plinko board game for kids. It’s a great opportunity to represent the coalition and connect with the public in a fun, relaxed setting. We’re offering \$15 per hour for your time, or you’re welcome to volunteer. Please sign up for any date(s) that work for you using the link <https://signup.com/go/pSFJSUQ> Or contact Courtney at 605.644.6522 or email courtneyr@sturgisabc.org

City Contd from A1

pours for the ball fields project are likely postponed, but interior work continues in hopes of hosting the “Center of the Nation Classic” tournament, with finishing touches planned afterward. The storm warning system is mostly operational except for the Hat Ranch unit, which requires a bearing replacement.

City Engineer Hardy reported that the pre-construction meeting for the 11th to 12th Avenue Project is scheduled for this Wednesday at 2 p.m. Project schedules will be released following the meeting. Additionally, advertisements

have been prepared for the bid opening of National Street near Highlands Park, which is planned for May 28.

Mayor Schmidt reminded the Council to reach out to him or City Administrator LaFayette with any questions.

Councilperson Capp announced that a Memorial Day service will be held at the cemetery at 9 a.m. on Memorial Day, in partnership with the American Legion and the VFW. Weather permitting, flag placement will begin at 6 a.m., with removal scheduled for 3 p.m. Community volunteers are encouraged to assist with placing and retrieving over 150 flags in honor of our veterans.

From A1 Roundup Mixer

have the same stock contractors that we had last year, same secretary, same sound, same photographer—so everything else will be the same as last year—just a new clown and barrel man!”

Another big change to the July line up finds a new carnival provider. “So we do have a new carnival this year, the carnival is Midway West Amusements,” explained Conner. “I started talking to them in the fall of 2023 and finally got everything to come together in 2024. We are excited to have them be our carnival...I think we’re very lucky to have been able to find a new carnival.”

Conner let the group of business professionals know that if anyone wants to volunteer and help with the Roundup this year, the best way is to show up at the next meeting, June 3 at the Roundup grounds or reach out to her via the Roundup

From A1 Taps

fice of our fallen military heroes. Founded in 2020 by retired Air Force bugler Jari Villanueva, Co-Founder of Taps for Veterans, this powerful tradition began as a way to bring Americans together during the pandemic. Instead of parades and public ceremonies, thousands of musicians—professional and amateur alike—took to their front porches and local landmarks to sound Taps in unison.

What started as a moment of remembrance has grown into an annual Memorial Day tradition. Each year at 3:00 PM (local time), musicians from all backgrounds join in a synchronized, nationwide sounding of Taps, uniting the country in a shared moment of honor, remembrance, and reflection. More than 10,000 musicians participated in the inaugural tribute, and the movement continues to grow, ensuring that no sacrifice is forgotten.

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June 1st, 2025
1-4pm

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Pastor's Perspective

This week's Pastor's Perspective is provided by Betty Knappen St. James Episcopal Church

"The Cross is Waiting"

Today's Gospel is very short and to the point. As Judas exits the dinner to betray Jesus, a final commandment is given to the disciples.

Christ knows the time has come – the cross is waiting. The torture and death will happen and He is to return to the Father. He also knows that as Judas will betray him, Peter will deny him, and Thomas will doubt him. The others will look away in fear.

Yet He stills loves them – He still loves all of them, loves each person in the world, He KNOWS us all – the good, the bad, and everything in between and still He loves us.

He says, "Love one another – just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"

Short, simple and direct. When you look at God's most important commandments, they are also simple and should be easy to follow. Don't murder, don't lie, don't steal, honor your parents, put God first above all things... simple words. Words that should be easily followed. And yet we continually fail to keep them, over and over again.

Back to the Gospel, "love one another as I have LOVED you" – how monumentally dense must we be, to fail at this again and again? And do you realize that if we could truly keep this commandment to "love one another as He has LOVED us" that we would also be keeping all the other ones?

If you truly and unconditionally love someone you are incapable of lying, stealing, disrespecting, hurting, coveting, or killing anyone. Christ has taken the commandments and by issuing the last one to love one another as He loves us, laid out everything He wants from us and for us.

Jesus LOVES us, and He asks that we love him and one another as He loves us. He doesn't say we have to

agree with everyone, He doesn't say to only love those that we find lovable. He just says LOVE them.

He loved Judas – still loves him. He loves him in spite of the terrible pain his betrayal must have caused Jesus. He loves him even though Judas was wrong, even though he was cowardly and greedy and dishonest. Jesus didn't love the things Judas did or the traits that Judas showed, but He loved him completely, wholly and without limitations or reservations. Christ may have been angry or even appalled by Judas' choices and beliefs but He loved Judas in spite of them.

As followers of Jesus, as CHRISTIANS we need to love more and without limits. We need to truly follow Him by doing as He bids us.

Let's make the attempt together. I am going to try to LOVE others as He loves me. I am going to try and be kinder, better, and more understanding of those around me. I am going to try and

follow the path that Christ has laid out for me. Let's reach out to those in our lives and community that are lonely, worried, scared, or sad. Reach out to the ones that are happy, secure, grateful and joyful. Just REACH OUT!

We don't have to offer great gifts or heroic deeds; we just need to hold out our hand and take them with us. We just need to LOVE them. Gather them into our lives and rejoice that they are there, and walk with them as we follow Christ's footsteps home.

One hand holding another, holding another – an unbreakable chain through our past and into our future where we finally understand that Christ is our HOME. A home that is always open and always waiting for us to step inside.

Amen.

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Charlotte Koopman

will be 100 years old on **June 9th**

She requested a card party to brighten her day!

100th Birthday

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876,000 Hours
52,560,000 Minutes
3,154,000,000 Seconds

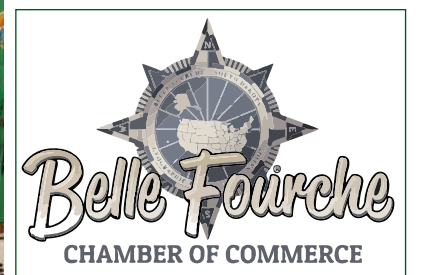
Please, if you would, take a minute to send a card:
Charlotte Koopman
1020 North 10th Street
Spearfish, SD 57783




Students of the Month



South Park Student of the Month winners for the month of April. South Park winners (left to right): **Myles Olson, Olivia Randolph, Audrey Rosenlund, Kylie Gardner, Emma Spaulding and Olivia Alcanter** Courtesy Photos
(Below) North Park winners: **OakInn Pickett and Emberly Williamson.** Courtesy Photos



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

\$399,000

SALE PENDING

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!

\$499,000

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.

\$550,000

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.

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W-2022541 09/23 Y0156_WMCoopPrtAdIASDV2_C FVNR 1023

Little Dresses for Africa

The ladies' group of St. James Lutheran Church, WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has completed another year of sewing and stitching dresses for young girls living in Africa. This year, 110 dresses made from pillowcases and a variety of cloth patterns will be boxed and shipped to the home base, "The Little Dresses for Africa," located in Rockwood, Michigan. From there, the Little Dresses for Africa organization will pack, transport, and ship all the dresses, ranging from sizes 0 - 2, 3 - 7, and 8 - 14 for girls in need of clothing across the

continent of Africa. It is estimated that last four years, three hundred dresses have been made at St. James Lutheran. The pillowcases are collected and obtained at yard sales, thrift stores, and donations. The arm holes are seamed and binded with straps to make a unique dress. Each dress has its own design and is sewn by the loving hands of a seamstress. It takes hours of cutting and sewing to produce a pretty, attractive slip-on dress that little girls can wear and enjoy. "We heard from the girls who are so happy to have their dress, and it is

heartwarming," shared Betty Baker-Koser, a St. James Lutheran Church Member. The women involved in sewing and producing these dresses do not want any recognition; they are "just doing God's work here in Belle Fourche to help girls in Africa." The mission of "Little Dresses for Africa" is "We're not just sending dresses, we're sending hope." For more information on donating or assisting in this phenomenal charity, contact the organization at: <https://littledressesforafrica.org>. Haley and Harper show off the little dresses St. James Lutheran ladies made.



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May 12th -
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& Thursday, June 26th

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

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

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

Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting and County Board of Equalization meeting

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

Tuesday, April 01, 2025

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENED AT 9:30 A.M. on April 01, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Walton, and Batterman. Absent Brunner.

Chairperson Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Smith led a moment of prayer.

Motion by Batterman, Second by Erk to approve the meeting agenda with addition of Executive Session: Personnel 1-25-2 (1) as item 4.5. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried

Motion by Walton, Second by Batterman, to approve the Consent Agenda Items with no changes. Vote Unanimous. A discussion was held regarding the purchase of a bumper and local resources.

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

- a. Approval of Regular meeting minutes – 18Mar2025
- b. Bills per Printout
- c. Apportioning and Other payments
- d. Auditor's Monthly Settlement with Treasurer
- e. Abatement:
 - i. Parcel 08.2.16.4.11M abate \$280.08 **Revised abatement approved 3/18/25
- f. Wage Increases
 - i. Sheriff: Aric Homola Step 4 \$29.70 full wage (effective 1/31/2025).
 - ii. Sheriff: Patrick Kenoyer Step 4 \$29.70 full wage
- g. Highway
 - i. Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Highway – Heavy Constructors, Inc. – Old Belle Rd – Fiber Optic
 - ii. Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Highway - Art Walker – Valley 1 Rd – Center Pivot Power Line
 - iii. Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Highway - Pat Burke – Old Hwy 85 – Water Line

Beginning at 9:38 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened with Sue Broadhurst, Dale Simanton, Travis Ismay, Julie Brunner, Chamber Director Michaela Horn, and McCutchen speaking on snow removal, review of expenditures, employee workloads, assessment increases, reduction in spending, property taxes, 10% budget reduction, inspections of marijuana establishments, closure for Good Friday and Easter Monday, Belle Fourche Chamber activities, and Emergency Siren on Ridge Road. Additional discussion was held regarding the siren.

Kailey Snyder from Black Hills Council of Local Governments gave an overview of BHCLG and the Butte County Mitigation Plan. Expected to release plan prior to hail/tornado season. Other discussion included potential FEMA Grants and funding.

Dispatch Supervisor Katy Thompson provided a monthly activity report with a breakdown of calls, a brief explanation of statistics, and 911 remittance.

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

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENED AT 9:35 A.M. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Walton, Batterman, and Brunner.

Chair Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Erk, Second by Walton to approve the meeting agenda no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Pastor Putnam led with a moment of prayer.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk, to approve the Consent Agenda Items with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

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

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes – 01Apr2025
- b. County Lien Report

	EXPENSES MAR 2025	EXPENSES YTD	RECOVERED MAR 2025	RECOVERED YTD
CAA/PUBLIC DEFENDER	\$ 35,249.22	\$ 102,521.43	\$ 5,394.29	\$ 17,697.10
JAIL	\$ 32,427.74	\$ 148,159.31	\$ 2,540.28	\$ 11,632.64
POOR LIEN	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,493.00	\$ 2,493.00
REG JUV DETENTION	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 48,869.38

- c. Bills per Printout
- d. Apportioning and Other Payments
- e. Register of Deeds Report
- f. Travel Request
 - i. Auditor: Annie Capp to attend the 2025 SDACO Spring Workshop in Pierre, SD from May 13th – 15th, 2025
 - ii. Register of Deeds: Julie Brunner to attend the 2025 SDACO Spring Workshop in Pierre, SD from May 13th – 15th, 2025
 - iii. Treasurer: Debbie Lensegrav and Kelly Keegan to attend the 2025 SDACO Spring Workshop in Pierre, SD from May 13th – 15th, 2025
 - iv. Sheriff: Polly Jones to attend the 24/7 Sobriety Testing Training in Oacoma, SD from May 14th – 15th, 2025
 - v. Extension: Cindy Riley to attend the SDSU Training in Rapid City, SD from April 8th, 2025
- g. Wage Increases
 - i. Auditor: Kim Cooper Tier 2 (Longevity) \$24.21.
- h. Highway
 - i. Application to Construct an Approach to a County Road – Wacey Boylan – Old Hwy 212; Work Order BI-08-25 – Butte County Bridge Inspections
 - ii. Utilities Certificate – Project # BRO-B 8010(30) PCN 09A4 – Old Hwy 212 St# 10-537-255;
 - iii. Right-of-Way Certificate – Project # BRO-B 8010(30) PCN 09A4 – Old Hwy 212 St# 10-537-255

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

Tuesday, May 06, 2025

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENED AT 9:30 A.M. on May 06, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Walton, Batterman, and Brunner.

Chairperson Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Ager called for a moment of prayer.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk to approve the meeting agenda with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried

Beginning at 9:33 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened with Dale Simanton and Sue Broadhurst, speaking on the Board of Equalization non-profit parcel, the condition of Sourdough and Upper Redwater roads, BOE meeting minutes, request to post committee meetings. Michaela Horn Director of Chamber of Commerce gave an activity report and shared upcoming events.

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner, to approve the Consent Agenda Items with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. A discussion was held regarding the purchase of a bumper and local resources.

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

- a. Approval of Regular meeting minutes – 15Apr2025
- b. Approval of County Board of Equalization meeting minutes – 08Apr2025-15Apr2025
- c. Bills per Printout
- d. Apportioning and Other Payments
- e. Auditor's Monthly Settlement with Treasurer
- f. Travel Request
 - i. Dispatch: Julia Day to attend the Instructor Development Training in Pierre, SD from May 5th – 9th, 2025
 - ii. Equalization: Cristina Wilson, Johnna Ramirez, and Stephanie Lippincott to attend the Assessor Annual Training in Mitchell, SD from June 9th – 13th, 2025
 - iii. Extension: Audrey Pruitt to attend the State Fair in Huron, SD from August 25th – September 1st, 2025
 - iv. Sheriff: Polly Hart to attend the Salamander Credential Training in Rapid, SD from May 06th, 2025
- g. Planning: Final; Owner: Penner, Philip; Lot 2 of Eichler Subdivision Located in a Portion of the W2SW4 of Section 9, T8N, R6E, B.H.M. Butte County, South Dakota
- h. Highway
 - i. Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Roads – Heavy Constructors, Inc.; Fiber Optic – Wood Road
 - ii. Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Roads – Heavy Constructors, Inc.; Fiber Optic – Habeck Road

Motion by Erk, Second by Batterman, to deny Abatement for parcel #15.79.06.11. Roll Call Vote: Brunner – Nay, Batterman - Aye, Walton - Aye, Erk - Aye, Ager – Aye. Motion Carried

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

THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION CONVENED AT 1:00 P.M. on April 08, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Walton, and Brunner. Absent Batterman. Also present were Director of Equalization Cristina Wilson, Field Assessor Johnna Ramirez, and States Attorney Tim Barnaud.

Chairman Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk to accept the agenda as presented with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Members present took the County Board of Equalization Member Oath, notarized by Auditor Capp

Public Comments began at 1:02 PM with Sue Broadhurst speaking on tax rates, reports issued by DOE Wilson, and factors.

DOE Cristina Jones presented findings to the County Board of Equalization.

Appeals for County Board of Equalization:

- CONSTANT, JERRY D & SHARON A; 19073 STANGERONE RD; BELLE FOURCHE, SD 57717.
 - Jerry Constant spoke about his property taxes. Mr. Constant purchased the home in 2024, and after \$40,000 of improvements, the property taxes increased by \$1,700.00. Neighboring homes have more buildings and lower taxes. Mr. Constant has applied for a tax freeze or reduction. No basement - crawl space
 - Assessor Johnna Ramirez – properties hadn't been appraised since 2016. Land is valued the same. Assessed on square footage.
 - Mr. Constant does not argue with his assessment but wonders why his taxes are more than surrounding neighbors.

Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner, to keep value of Parcel # 27.08.2 as recommended by DOE Wilson. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

- WETZ, KEN & DONNA; PO BOX 204; NEWELL, SD 57760
Motion by Erk, Second by Brunner, to accept DOE recommendation for Parcel # 16.01.084E as recommended by DOE Wilson. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
- WETZ, KEN & DONNA; PO BOX 204; Newell, SD 57760
Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk, to accept DOE recommendation for Parcel # 16.01.057.04B as recommended by DOE Wilson. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
- WALLACE, JOHN & KAREN; 818 FISK AVE; Newell, SD 57760
Motion Erk, Second by Brunner, to accept DOE recommendation for Parcel # 16.01.061.05 as recommended by DOE Wilson. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
- MCTAGGART, LANCE & GILLIAN; PO BOX 374; Newell, SD 57760
Motion Erk, Second by Walton, to accept DOE recommendation for Parcel # 16.01.027.03 as recommended by DOE Wilson. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried

Stipulations:

- Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk to accept stipulation for PARCEL # 08.1.36.2 BRUESKE, CRAIG A & LYNELLE M; 40264 221ST ST; HURON, SD 57350

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Belle Fourche School District 2025 Staff Awards

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Staff appreciation was the theme of the annual Belle Fourche School District awards reception last week. "Staff" refers to everyone in the district from cafeteria supervisors, office personnel, bus drivers, classroom professionals, school board members, and administration.

Following a banquet style lunch of tacos, and appetizers provided by Los Agaves, the tone of appreciation for those associated with education in the Belle Fourche School District prevailed.

The event was sponsored by the Community Council of Education and took place at the Belle Fourche Community Hall.

Superintendent Orion Thompson served as the Master of Ceremonies. He commented enthusiastically on plans for the coming school year and next year's award ceremony.

Principal Matt Raba introduced keynote speaker Jean Helmer, a familiar icon in the Belle Fourche education Teaching is not an easy business, she reiterated in her presentation.

"Kudos to you one and all for doing the task of holding students accountable. Thank you, thank you, thank you." Ms. Helmer is an iconic figure in education and literary circles in the Black Hills area. Her work as a language arts teacher, writer, and pastor have resulted in a measurable volume of community contributions.

Ms. Helmer shared some highlights, epiphanies and challenges from her teaching career through her original poetry and personal accolades.

Then there were many accolades to be presented, beginning with The Friends of Education Award presented to Harlene Hill by Ann Anderson on behalf of the Belle Fourche Education Association.

Mrs. Hill retired in 2002 after 28 years of teaching elementary school children. Mrs. Hill who

is well known for her positivity and kindness continues to be a dedicated presence as a volunteer at South Park Elementary. She continues to thrive from her teaching experience while serving others.

There were some special distinguished awards too, presented by Superintendent Orion Thompson to Austin Bishop, District 5 winner of the Golden Owl Ag Educator of the Year, Adam Nowowiejski for receiving the SDIAAAA Region 8 AD of the Year award, Ann Anderson recipient of the Region 5 Teacher of the Year Award, and Samantha Hunter, recipient of NewsCenter1 and First Interstate Bank Award.

New teachers are not overlooked in Belle Fourche. Kyle Graslie was recognized as Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Thompson and Nita Justice went on to thank veteran teachers for their service. First were those who are retiring: Melanie Anderson, 33 years; Mary Day, 21 years; Lesa Krajewski, 17 years; Brenda LaBau, 31 years; Krista Minor, 29 years; Kim Nelson, 26 years; and Jeanette Nicholas, 39 years.

Years of service pins were presented to those employees with 5-25 years' experience. Marcie VanDerWerff was the only recipient of a 25-year service pin.

Those honored for 20 years of dedicated service were Melissa Nore and Delwin Oedekoven, and Brandi Vansickle for 15 years of service.

Several staff were honored for 10 years of service: DeRae Bach, Angi Bergman, Christina Green, Megan Haag, Kyle Haxton, Nicole Hayworth, Sabra Hulm, Andy Johnson, Sarah Thompson, Traci Walding, and Kyle Webb.

Five-year service pins were presented to: Autumn Anderson, Kelli Clem, Lucy Cole, Nikki Fox, Jordan Hanson, Teri Kraklow, Sandra Lowery, Kendall O'Hara, and Melanie Williamson.

Athletics Director Adam Nowowiejski presented Jordan Esmay, Loree Schlichtemeier, and Toi Flick with honorary plaques to commemorate the dedication of these staff members for their service in extra-curricular activities.

As always, there are staff who leave the district to pursue new opportunities. Other employees leaving the district were invited to stand and be recognized: Zelda Anderson, Paul Nepodal, Audrey Pruitt, Lyndee Richardson, and Ashley Schrage.

Belle Fourche School District has a rich history of individuals recognized for state level teacher of the year awards. The tradition of recognizing individuals for exceptional service continues. Each year, one district teacher of the year is chosen. This year, the district added employee of the year awards in four categories. The employee of the year winners recognized for their exemplary service in their areas of expertise are: Kim Nelson, Clerical; Stephen Schmeltzer, Human/Child Services; Susie Gross, Maintenance and Transportation; and Sarah Graves, Paraprofessional.

There were numerous nominees for teacher of the year. Tiffany Bierschen, Austin Bishop, Tate Bouman, Madison Burgers, Jonette Burns, Susan Cody, Erin Delahoyde, Grant Goodman, Karlee Gusso, Megan Haag, Storice Halverson, Jim Hartwell, Kyle Haxton, Brenda Huffman, Danielle Hunt, Samantha Hunter, Chase Huseby, Lesa Krajewski, Brenda LaBau, Penny Louks, Stephanie Musilek, Tara Niesent, Kendall O'Hara, Micah Pennel, Reva Potter, Jamie Raba, Kelsey Ruzicka, Karen Schlekeway, Monica Tabisz, Emma Thomas, Traci Walding, Melanie Williamson, and Rachel Ziegler.

The three finalists for teacher of the year were Megan Haag (elementary), Penny Louks (middle school), and Austin Bishop (high school). The honorary title of Belle Fourche School District Teacher of the Year was presented to middle school teacher Penny Louks.



(Above) Principal **Matt Raba** assists Mrs. **Harlene Hill**, the Friend of Education Award on behalf of the BF Education Association as she exits the stage. (Bottom) Entire **BFSD 9-1** staff & employees pose for 2025 group picture.



Retiree **Lesa Krajewski** accepts an award for 17 years of service.



Awards Master of Ceremonies Belle Fourche Superintendent, **Orion Thompson**.



Keynote Speaker, **Jean Helmer** describes the "**Belle Fourche Effect: What Belle Fourche Personnel Know and Practice.**" Meg English Photos



(Above) Category employees of the year and their families. (Below) Teacher of the Year finalists left to right: **Austin Bishop, Penny Louks, and Megan Haag** Additional photos A8



Natalia Graduates from College

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Despite having received a certain amount of local notoriety at a young age, Natalia Biehl prefers not to be a center of attention.

Natalia is a 2023 graduate of Belle Fourche High School. As a high school student, her interest in auto mechanics led to an internship program at Hersruds arranged through the Belle Fourche High School.

Mary Day, CTE Business Instructor envisioned the program over twenty years ago and has been offering it as a one semester class option ever since. The program is designed to provide



Natalia Biehl, recent graduate from *Western Dakota Tech*. Courtesy Photo

students hands-on, real-world experience. It presents the opportunity to learn first-hand about careers and to make connections with potential employers. Students earn high school credit for participation in the internship program.

Ms. Day was enthusiastic about Natalia's potential, "I am so happy that her internship experience has accomplished what the youth internship program is designed to accomplish."

As an intern at Hersruds, Natalia had the opportunity to work under the supervision of Sam Silacci an automotive technician by trade. "Hersruds has treated me well." Natalia said. "I like to watch different working styles and Sam actually let me do stuff."

Natalia also credits her dad, Steve for encouraging her interest in auto mechanics. "I grew up watching my dad work on cars."

Thus began her decision to pursue a degree in automotive mechanics. She has had some help. Natalia is a recipient of a Build Dakota Scholarship, and a scholarship from The Center of the Nation All Car Rally, a generous gift from the All-Car Rally Fundraiser.

The organization has raised money for various charities for 32 consecutive years. When, the fundraising activities fell victim to COVID in 2019, there

was still money in the bank. Sam Silacci, president of the All-Car Rally and Doug Kraft, treasurer explained, "We decided to turn the leftover money into a scholarship."

Natalia was in pleasant state of shock when she saw the check. She knew about the All-Car Rally scholarship award, "But I didn't know it would be that much!" She said when she learned that the scholarship was for the significant sum of \$6,000.

Natalia made use of the scholarship opportunities and graduated from Western Dakota Tech with an Associates of Applied Science degree in Auto Mechanics in May 2025. And now, she is happy to be back working at Hersruds.

She described the two years of instruction she received. The first year was about axels, brakes, drive line repair, and transmissions. Natalia discovered that she liked taking transmissions apart, and putting them back together.



Natalia at her work-station fully stocked with automotive tools.

During her second year, she learned that she also liked engine repair.

"Big tear downs are my favorite." She explained that reassembling an engine and making all the parts work together is very satisfying.

Natalia likes doing diagnostic work too. The job of an auto mechanic is empowering but hard too. Sometimes she needs a ladder to be able to see the details in an engine. "There's so much technology and so much to learn. But you get the hang of the technology" She commented.

Natalia is a minority in the field of auto mechanics. There were a few women in her degree program.

At present she is the only female mechanic on staff at Hersruds, and is grateful for the continuous encouragement she has received. Natalia complimented her coworkers for their patience as she continues to learn. Sometimes she is afraid that they won't want a girl in the shop, but her experience has proven otherwise.



Natalia at *Hersruds*

She is happy to be in Belle Fourche where her family has been a strong support system for her. She explained that she loves the challenge of working on cars. She likes the idea of making cars last a long time through careful maintenance. She even appreciates getting her hands a little dirty.



Natalia demonstrates her expertise in her new career job at *Hersruds of Belle Fourche*.

Staff Awards Photos contd from A7



Teacher of the Year, **Penny Louks** and family.



Above and Below: Scenes from the Community Hall at *2025 BF 9-1 Staff Awards* event.



Harlene Hill, receives the *Friend of Education Award* presented by **Ann Anderson** on behalf of the *Belle Fourche Education Association*.



Toi Lyn Flick play and musical director receives extra-curricular award for 12 years of service.



Category employees of the year recipients left to right: **Susie Gross**, Maintenance and Transportation; **Sarah Graves**, Paraprofessional; **Kim Nelson**, Clerical; and **Stephen Schmelzter** Human/Child services.

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Tim Tetrault ~ Fieldman: 605-642-9792 •
605-641-0328

Ray Pepin ~ Fieldman: 605-892-5072
Tyler Escott ~ Fieldman: 406-853-5690
Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654

Casey Humble ~ Fieldman: 605-490-9829
Kelly Baker ~ Fieldman: 605-569-3007
JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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Cattle Report - Friday, May 23, 2025

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

Next Sale - May 30- Pair & Bred Cow Special - Selling all classes of Cattle 10 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	41	Bld	Hir	899	\$273.00
C & N Livestock, Alva WY	10	Bk	Hir	728	\$315.00
Colgan, Thomas C, Hermosa SD	11	Bk	Hir	517	\$382.00
Williams Ranch Co. Lic, Moorcroft WY	15	Bld	Hir	434	\$404.00
Williams Ranch Co. Lic, Moorcroft WY	49	Bk	Hir	507	\$371.00

Weigh Up Cows

Aldren, Jon Or Heidi, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1555	\$164.00
Aldren, Jon Or Heidi, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1450	\$153.00
Aldren, Jon Or Heidi, Whitewood SD	1	Bld	Cow	1370	\$142.00
Aldren, Jon Or Heidi, Whitewood SD	1	Bld	Cow	1265	\$141.00
Amdahl, Jd, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Cow	1355	\$166.00
Amdahl, Tim, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Hir	1100	\$191.00
Arthur, Leandra, Piedmont SD	1	Rbld	Cow	1625	\$155.00
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	3	Bld	Cow	1360	\$160.00
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	6	Bld	Cow	1114	\$159.00
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	5	Bld	Cow	1439	\$155.50
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	1	Bld	Cow	1420	\$151.00
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	2	Bld	Cow	1280	\$139.00
Bear Ridge Ranch Flp, Spearfish SD	1	Bld	Hir	1170	\$225.00
Bear Ridge Ranch Flp, Spearfish SD	1	Bld	Cow	1645	\$160.00
Bear Ridge Ranch Flp, Spearfish SD	2	Herf	Cow	1515	\$141.00
Berger, Kate, Menoken Nd	1	Bk	Cow	1280	\$160.00
Berry, Roy E, Newell SD	1	Char	Cow	1490	\$156.00
Bird, Jim, Volborg MT	2	Bk	Cow	1437	\$158.50
Bird, Jim, Volborg MT	1	Bld	Cow	1495	\$154.00
Blair Bros Lic, Vale SD	1	Bk	Hir	1265	\$187.00
Blair Bros Lic, Vale SD	1	Bk	Cow	1010	\$142.50
Boler Mills Ranch, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1420	\$163.00
Briggs, Chase, Sturgis SD	2	Bk	Cow	1320	\$140.00
Bruch Ranch Lic, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1420	\$164.00
Bruch Ranch Lic, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1505	\$160.00
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	3	Bk	Cow	1430	\$162.50
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	4	Bk	Hir	1003	\$237.50
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	9	Bk	Cow	1276	\$160.00
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	3	B/R	Cow	1210	\$159.00
Bull, Greg, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Cow	1260	\$157.50
C & N Livestock, Alva WY	4	Bk	Cow	1427	\$164.50
C & N Livestock, Alva WY	1	Bk	Cow	1165	\$164.50
C & N Livestock, Alva WY	1	Bld	Cow	1590	\$163.00
C & N Livestock, Alva WY	1	Bld	Cow	1530	\$140.00
Cammack, Randy Or Mary Ellen, Sturgis SD	1	Red	Cow	1380	\$162.00
Cammack, Randy Or Mary Ellen, Sturgis SD	2	Rbl	Cow	1240	\$161.00
Cassens, Kenneth, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Cow	1710	\$155.00
Chord, Clayton Or Sarah, Edgemont SD	1	Bk	Owette	1095	\$166.00
Chord, Clayton Or Sarah, Edgemont SD	2	Bk	Cow	1152	\$157.00
Chord, Clayton Or Sarah, Edgemont SD	1	Red	Cow	1070	\$147.00
Cotton, Maurice Or Carol, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Owette	1355	\$168.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Hir	1080	\$227.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood SD	3	B/R	Owette	1286	\$166.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1345	\$164.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1160	\$158.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Cow	1240	\$151.00
DeJ, Jeff, Nisland SD	1	Bk	Cow	1475	\$161.00
Detzer, Jim, Box Elder SD	2	Rbld	Cow	1380	\$164.00
Dirks, Michael T & Karen E, Hulet WY	1	Red	Cow	1215	\$154.00
Dirks, Michael T & Karen E, Hulet WY	1	Herf	Cow	1115	\$146.00
Dirks, William Jr & Or Julia, Hulet WY	1	Herf	Cow	1280	\$153.00
Dirks, William Jr & Or Julia, Hulet WY	1	Herf	Cow	1060	\$150.00
Edwards, Orin, Gillette WY	4	Bk	Hir	1071	\$237.50
Edwards, Orin, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Hir	1190	\$204.00
Edwards, Orin, Gillette WY	4	Bk	Owette	1211	\$169.00
Edwards, Orin, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1085	\$159.00
Edwards, Orin, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1250	\$156.50
Ehrlert, Bill, Belle Fourche SD	1	Red	Hir	1050	\$211.00
Ehrlert, Bill, Belle Fourche SD	1	Char	Cow	1625	\$165.00
Fuler Livestock Ltd Liability, Gillette WY	3	Bk	Cow	1063	\$162.00
Fuler Livestock Ltd Liability, Gillette WY	2	Bk	Cow	1335	\$161.50
Fuler Livestock Ltd Liability, Gillette WY	9	Bk	Cow	1078	\$155.00
Fuler Livestock Ltd Liability, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1365	\$146.50
Gnub, Donald, Sturgis SD	1	Char	Cow	1350	\$151.00
Habeck Rev Trust, Lee, Sundance WY	3	Herf	Cow	1236	\$163.00
Hansen, Wyatt Alex, Fruitdale SD	1	Bk	Cow	1310	\$151.00
Hoffman, Matt Or Jana, St Onge SD	2	Bk	Hir	1092	\$222.00
Hoffman, Matt Or Jana, St Onge SD	1	Bk	Cow	1500	\$163.50
Hohenberger, Doug, Newell SD	2	Bk	Cow	1470	\$164.00
Hohenberger, Doug, Newell SD	1	Bk	Cow	1265	\$150.00
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Waynesboro PA	3	Bk	Hir	865	\$250.00
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Waynesboro PA	1	Bk	Hir	910	\$195.00
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Waynesboro PA	1	Bk	Cow	1415	\$165.00
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Waynesboro PA	1	Bk	Cow	1110	\$158.00
Iserberger & Litton, Gillette WY	2	Bk	Cow	1672	\$163.50
Iserberger & Litton, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1335	\$154.00
Iserberger & Litton, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1565	\$147.50
Jandreau, Jim, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1650	\$161.00
Jones Ranch Partnership, Rapid City SD	4	Bld	Cow	1367	\$160.50
Jones Ranch Partnership, Rapid City SD	1	Bld	Cow	1115	\$144.00
Jones, Todd Or Nicole, Sturgis SD	1	Bld	Cow	950	\$160.00
Jones, Todd Or Nicole, Sturgis SD	1	Cow	1315	\$141.00	
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	2	Bk	Hir	1120	\$222.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	5	Bk	Cow	1301	\$164.50
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Cow	1495	\$163.50
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Cow	1300	\$151.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Cow	1540	\$146.00
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Cow	1350	\$140.50
K & D Livestock, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Cow	1460	\$137.50
Kammerer, Matthew, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hir	1010	\$230.00
Kammerer, Matthew, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1635	\$150.00
Kissack, Joe Or Amity, Rozet WY	1	Bld	Hir	1095	\$231.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	2	Bk	Hir	1000	\$236.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	1	Char	Hir	1060	\$213.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	2	Bk	Cow	1307	\$163.00
Lindblom, Dave, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hir	830	\$267.00
Lindblom, Dave, Rapid City SD	2	Bk	Hir	1185	\$202.50
Lindblom, Dave, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1415	\$162.00
Lindblom, Dave, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1480	\$157.50
Lindblom, Dave, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1235	\$135.00
Modona Ranch Inc, Aladdin WY	1	Bk	Cow	1405	\$163.50
Op Bar Ranch Llp, St Onge SD	1	Herf	Cow	1585	\$159.00

Peters Rev Trust, Henry (Toby) Or Connie, Sturgis SD	2	B/R	Cow	1465	\$164.50
Powder River Land & Cattle, Reduse WY	1	Bk	Cow	1525	\$163.50
Powder River Land & Cattle, Reduse WY	7	Bld	Cow	1332	\$159.50
Powder River Land & Cattle, Reduse WY	1	Bk	Cow	1015	\$157.00
Powder River Land & Cattle, Reduse WY	9	Bk	Cow	1306	\$153.00
Powder River Land & Cattle, Reduse WY	1	Bk	Cow	1245	\$140.00
Quaring, Dennis, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Cow	1365	\$151.50
Reil, Nolan, Reduse WY	1	Bk	Cow	1240	\$155.00
Reynolds Revocable Trust, John Or Sally, Rozet WY	1	Bk	Cow	1515	\$164.00
Richter, Mike, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Hir	945	\$254.00
Richter, Mike, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Hir	1260	\$185.00
Richter, Mike, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Owette	1270	\$167.00
Roush, Darrel R, Reduse WY	2	Bk	Hir	977	\$246.00
Simons, Michelle Or Debbie, Beulah WY	1	Bld	Owette	1075	\$175.00
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	1	Bk	Cow	1570	\$163.00
Sinner, Jake Or Angie, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1480	\$161.50
Sinner, Jake Or Angie, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1210	\$155.50
Sinner, Jake Or Angie, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1330	\$141.00
Sinner, Jake Or Angie, Gillette WY	3	Bk	Cow	1040	\$133.00
Sleep Ranch Lic, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Hir	1075	\$222.00
Sleep Ranch Lic, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Cow	1595	\$165.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT	1	Bk	Cow	1370	\$154.00
Smith, Beth Michele, Sundance WY	1	Bld	Cow	1325	\$164.00
Smith, Bob, Box Elder SD	1	Bld	Cow	1680	\$159.00
Snyder, Jason, Weston WY	1	Red	Cow	1405	\$165.00
Snyder, John W & Brenda Kay, Weston WY	3	Herf	Cow	1395	\$156.00
Snyder, John W & Brenda Kay, Weston WY	2	Herf	Cow	1412	\$155.00
Snyder, John W & Brenda Kay, Weston WY	1	Herf	Cow	1225	\$155.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Hir	955	\$241.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Hir	1075	\$219.00
Tennant Ranch, Camp Crook SD	3	Bk	Owette	1208	\$166.00
Tenold, Peder J, Reva SD	1	Herf	Cow	1720	\$155.00
Tenold, Peder J, Reva SD	2	Herf	Cow	1187	\$155.00
Tenold, Venoy, Reva SD	1	Herf	Hir	805	\$239.00
Tenold, Venoy, Reva SD	1	Bk	Cow	1340	\$156.00
Tenold, Venoy, Reva SD	5	Herf	Cow	1248	\$151.00
Weiss, Myron, Union Center SD	1	Bk	Cow	1320	\$162.50
Wendit Ranch Inc, Newell SD	1	Bk	Hir	1170	\$208.00
Wendit Ranch Inc, Newell SD	1	Bk	Hir	920	\$187.50
Wickwire, Kolby Or Jules, Aladdin WY	1	Red	Cow	1155	\$141.00
Wilson, Cash, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Owette	1220	\$179.00
Wilson, Cash, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1170	\$160.00
Wilson, Cash, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1120	\$145.00
Wilson, Cash, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	1340	\$135.00
Woods, Devin, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1375	\$158.00
Woods, Tyler, Sturgis SD	1	Herf	Cow	1355	\$161.50
Woods, Tyler, Sturgis SD	1	Herf	Cow	1205	\$146.00
Young, Robert W, Union Center SD	1	Bk	Cow	1630	\$162.00

Weigh Up Bulls

Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD	1	Bk	Bull	1505	\$180.00
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Bull	1385	\$185.00
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	2	Bk	Bull	2277	\$182.50
Emerson, Ronald Or Janette, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Bull	1815	\$170.00
Hoffman, Matt Or Jana, St Onge SD	1	Bk	Bull	1825	\$170.00
Hunsaker Revocable Trust, The Evelyn, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Bull	2010	\$177.50
Kress, Darrell, Whitewood SD	1	Bld	Bull	955	\$270.00
Lewis, Dan, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Bull	1390	\$184.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Bull	1795	\$177.00
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	2235	\$195.00
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	2000	\$187.50
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1785	\$193.50
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1745	\$174.00
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1645	\$174.00
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	6	Bk	Bull	1166	\$221.00
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	2	Red	Bull	1972	\$190.00
Randall, Craig, Broadus MT	2	Bk	Bull	1997	\$187.50
Randall, Craig, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1880	\$177.00
Randall, Craig, Broadus MT	2	Bk	Bull	1802	\$182.50
Randall, Craig, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1650	\$174.00
Randall, Craig, Broadus MT	1	Bk	Bull	1620	\$180.00
Rumph, Owen, Bidde MT	1	Bk	Bull	1815	\$178.00
Sleep Ranch Lic, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Bull	2200	\$174.00
The 1200 Ranch, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Bull	1495	\$161.00
The 1200 Ranch, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Bull	935	\$249.00
The 1200 Ranch, Ashland MT	4	Bk	Bull	856	\$281.00
Tower Valley Ranch, Hulet WY	1	Red	Bull	1840	\$185.00
Walden, Jackie, Ashland Mt	1	Herf	Bull	1310	\$169.00
Woodward, Connie, Custer Sd	1	Bk	Bull	1265	\$178.00
Young, Matthew, Union Center Sd	1	Bk	Bull	1350	\$169.50

Friday, May 30, 2025

Pair & Bred Cow Special

10:00 AM -- Weigh Up Cows 12 Noon -- Feeder Cattle followed by Bred Cows
BT-Branding Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free
BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI- No Implants

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2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2024

BLACK HILLS ROUNDUP

2024 Remuda Award Winner

Black Hills Roundup

8th Annual Queen Pageant

June 30, 2025 --- Coronation July 1, 2025
Belle Fourche ★ South Dakota

★ Ranch Rodeo ★ 2 Nights of Fireworks ★ PRCA Rodeo ★ Parade

Saddles to the winners
Individuals chosen should be prepared to attend all appearances and events July 1-5 during the 2025 Black Hills Roundup.
No Residential Restrictions - Open to all

Age Divisions:
(As of Jan 1, 2025)
Queen 18-26
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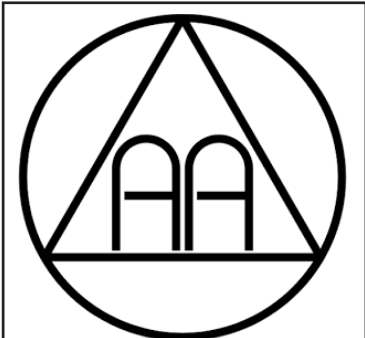
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- Jesus -

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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

124 years ago
THE TIMES
May 31, 1900

TALK OF THE TOWN The Belle Fourche Wool Warehouse company will furnish wool sacks and twine to anyone wanting them F. E. Bennett, Mgr. A. H. Marble left Tuesday for a business trip through the Hills and to Huron where he will attend the K. of P. grand lodge as a representative of our local lodge

Memorial Day was duly celebrated yesterday by the members of the local G. A. R. post and the school children. The procession formed at the school house, and headed by our band, marched to the cemetery, where appropriate services were held. H. M. Behymer delivered an address for the occasion in his usual pleasing style.

July 4th in Belle Fourche
The committee of arrangements promise a grand stupendous and resounding aggregation of attractions collected and combined in a vast entertainment for the perfect pleasure of the patriotic annouciance The glorious anniversary will be ushered in with the roar of cannon and the blare of trumpets and concluded with a facination finale of fireworks.

100 years
The Belle Fourche Bee
June 4, 1925.

BUILD NEW GRANDSTAND
Meeting of the Round-Up committee on Monday of this week a contract was awarded to Contractor I. N. Nelson for an addition to the west end of the grand stand. The new section will be twenty rows high, eighty-four feet in length and will provide one thousand additional reserved seats. The bleacher section that will be replaced by the grand stand will be moved to the east and west end of the present bleacher seats.

MASONS, ATTENTION!
The laying of the corner stone of the Masonic Temple at Rapid City will take place on Friday, June 5, at 2:30. Dinner served by O.E.S. at 12 o'clock. Cedar Lodge Mason intending to go are requested to notify Cashier J. R. Mock at First National bank. Leave Masonic hall, Belle Fourche, at 9 o'clock. J. L. Chassell, W. M.

75 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
June 1, 1950

Clark Advocates Being Prepared in Talk Here
To safeguard the American way of life, free enterprise and individual freedom against present foes of democracy, this nation must not only work for universal peace among nations but must have a preparedness policy to meet any unforeseen emergency." That was the theme of Sterling Clark's address at Belle Fourche's Memorial Day services. Clark

served as a lieutenant colonel in World War II in the north African theater and is now in the officer's reserve. He prefaced his remarks with a brief historical resume of Memorial Day observance, then touched upon present world events which he termed as "menacing trends against those democratic ideals for which our heroic dead sacrificed their lives." "As long as communism forces of Soviet Russia threaten American institutions and thwart all movements toward universal peace among nations, so long as there is unrest and insecurity, this nation must be prepared for any emergency that might arise - talk of peace must have a strong right arm to avoid unwarranted sacrifices of young American lives," said Clark. The day's program started with a parade of members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and uniformed troops of the 196th Medical Corps, National Guard. The Belle Fourche Cowboy band furnished the music. John Frey, as junior past commander of Miller-Magee Legion Post, presided and a male quartette, consisting of Sterling Clark, Charles Vergith, Lyndon Paulson, and Paul Brunet, rendered vocal selections. Rev. Harold Salem, Baptist church, offered the invocation and benediction. The concluding ceremonies, held at the Pineslope cemetery, were in charge of the local post of Veterans of Foreign Wars. A public address system, installed through the courtesy of Bruggerman Supply, made it possible for the ritual ceremonies to be heard in all parts of the cemetery.

Vale Settlers 'Stayed Put'
Descendants Still Around

How did I come to this country? "Frank Glover asked. That query always comes up when old timers get together. "Well," he answered. "I can't remember the occasion myself, but they tell me the stork was flying over Dakota territory in the fall of 1880 and dropped me at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Glover as he winged his way over the Vale area. They took me in and I became one of the family." His father, B.B. Glover, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Curtis Willey, Mrs. Willey and three children and several others had come to the Black Hills in a covered wagon drawn by four mules in the spring of 1878. Willey was a sawmill man and established a sawmill in the Hills south of Sturgis. Glover hauled the first lumber into Fort Meade in the fall of 1878. The George Glover and Minor Wood families filed on homesteads east of Vale near the historic Bismark crossing on the Belle Fourche river. The Vale community was settled by people of the "stay put" characteristics, it seems, for the descendants of many of the first settlers still

consider that locality "home." 50 years ago

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
June 8, 1975

Drug Investigator Sees Progress in Local Effort There is a drug problem in Belle Fourche, and in other towns in the area. There is a large amount of drugs coming into the West River area. Hopefully, several counties in the area can get together to wage a coordinated campaign to control the drug traffic. Those were some of the comments passed on to Chamber of Commerce Tuesday when Herb Hollingsworth, special drug investigator for Belle Fourche and Butte county, addressed the regular luncheon of the organization at Max's. Hollingsworth outlined his position as a law enforcement officer working with the city attorney and states attorney and pointed out that he saw as the primary purpose of his job deterring the flow of drugs into the area. His duties, he said, included investigations into all drug and drug related offenses in the county, supervising undercover agents in the area, and following up investigations to determine routes of drug importation. One of his duties is to implement an educational program primarily for adults. Kids from fifth grade and up are probably more aware of the drug situation than most adults, said Hollingsworth. His hope is to help adults recognize the nature and scope of the problems.

Hundreds Expected for Shrine Event This Weekend Hundreds of Shiners from three-state area and Canada will be pouring into Belle Fourche today and tomorrow for the annual two-day spring ceremonial of the Naja Shrine Temple, headed by Charles Q. Mateer of Belle Fourche as potentate. The spring ceremonial is the annual temple ceremonial of the West River temple and is traditionally held in the home community of the potentate. Upwards of 700 Shriners and their wives will be in Belle Fourche at one time or another over the weekend, says Mateer. Every room has been taken in Belle Fourche, along with at least 100 more in Spearfish. Highlights of the ceremonials - for the general public - will be the Shriners parade to be held Saturday morning. The parade will form at the Roosevelt School at 10:30, will get under way at 11 o'clock. The women's luncheon will be held at the Vet's Club. Ceremonial activities, however, get under way today with a mixer starting at 5 p.m. at the Vet's Club.



Bismark Bridge over Belle Fourche, east of Vale

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<p>Bernatellos Roma Original Pizzas</p> <p>12" asst. or 5.67-7.8 oz. Bellatorial Personal Size Pizzas 4 for \$12</p>	<p>Kraft Mac & Cheese 5.5-7.25 oz. asst.</p> <p>5 for \$5</p>	<p>Breyers Ice Cream 48 oz. asst.</p> <p>\$4.99 ea.</p>	<p>Our Family Dressings Select 16 oz.</p> <p>\$1.99 ea.</p>	<p>Pepsi Products 12 oz. 12 pk asst.</p> <p>2 for \$11</p>

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Answer: J (these are the first letters of the months of the year.)

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BF Vet Clinic Holds Low-Cost Rabies Vaccinations Event

Ryder Heitz
 news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Pet owners across the Belle Fourche area brought their dogs and cats to the Belle Fourche Vet Clinic on Saturday, May 3 for the low-cost rabies vaccination event. The line went out the door as people were eager to get their pets vaccinated.

In addition to \$7 rabies shots—which typically cost \$18 per animal—customers were able to register their pets with free city pet licenses, which usually cost \$5 or \$10 depending on spayed or neutered status. All-in-all, pet owners were able to save up to \$21 per animal.

“It’s a way for us to just educate people and get the awareness out that they need to get their animal up to date on their rabies vaccine. When we have dog bites, we have dog to dog and dog to human. Dog to dog, it gets serious. But when it’s dog to human,

it gets a lot more serious,” explained Clint Haffner, Animal Control Officer. “By offering a clinic and giving everybody opportunity, we can hopefully prevent some issues going forward.”

The low-cost rabies vaccination event has been a joint effort between the city and Belle Fourche Vet Clinic since 2016 and typically draws around 500 people, according to Haffner. Volunteers, including Patty Niesant, Suzanne Campbell, Nikki Hoyme, Chuck Lawless, Twyla Hendrickson, Andrea Pedersen, and Kasten Pedersen, spent the morning registering pets with the city.

“What I like the most out of it, from my standpoint, is the education on animal safety situations, and then all the volunteers that come in,” said Haffner. “We do this every year, and it’s just a matter of the volunteers, because that’s what makes it go.”



Volunteers helped register dogs with the city.

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<p>\$15.99</p> <p>Jack Daniel's RTD 6 PKs</p>	<p>\$19.99</p> <p>Stoli Vodka 750 ml Several Varieties</p>	<p>\$21.99</p> <p>Busch Light 30 Pack</p>

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The line for vaccinations went all the way out the door at the clinic. Longbrake Photos.



A family waits with their dog in line for a rabies vaccination.



The volunteers that helped make the event possible gather for a photo.



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Market Report - Thursday, May 22, 2025

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FEEDER CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Dennis Miller Belle Fourche SD	.65	Blk/BwF-Yrimg Str	957	292.00	\$ 2,793.99
	.65	Blk/BwF-Yrimg Str	948	292.25	\$ 2,769.40
	.65	Blk/BwF-Yrimg Str	921	292.75	\$ 2,695.55
	.65	Black-Yrimg Str	951	292.00	\$ 2,775.79
	.65	Blk/BwF-Yrimg Str	941	292.75	\$ 2,755.22
Kuhbacher Ranch Inc, Moorcroft WY	.65	Black-Yrimg Str	613	381.00	\$ 2,334.98
	.17	Black-Yrimg Str	489	427.00	\$ 2,086.02
George & Jean Etchemendy, Douglas WY	.34	Black-Yrimg Hfr	717	321.00	\$ 2,302.23
	.6	Blk/BwF-Yrimg Hfr	633	309.00	\$ 1,957.00
Gary Howie, New Underwood SD	.15	Rd/Blk-Str	327	500.00	\$ 1,636.66
	.24	Black-Hfr	336	494.00	\$ 1,659.01
Tom Or Lela Bowen, Newell SD	.7	Black-Yrimg Str	720	302.00	\$ 2,174.40
	.16	Black-Yrimg Hfr	824	271.00	\$ 2,232.36

PAIRS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Reuben Yoder, Hulett WY	.12	Black-Pair 3/4	1333	3500.00	3500.00
	.20	Black-Pair 5/8m	1629	3300.00	3300.00

WEIGH-UPS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Terry Or Deb Mpherson, Piedmont SD	.1	BwF-Cow	1665	169.00	\$ 2,813.85
	.1	Black-Cow	1455	163.00	\$ 2,371.65
	.1	BwF-Cow	1390	160.00	\$ 2,224.00
	.1	Black-Cow	1355	160.00	\$ 2,188.00
Gilbert Rittberger, Newell SD	.1	BwF-Cow	1520	162.50	\$ 2,470.00
Jb Cattle Company, Plevna MT	.1	Black-Cow	1510	163.00	\$ 2,461.30
	.1	Black-Cow	1430	159.50	\$ 2,280.85
	.1	Black-Cow	1360	167.50	\$ 2,278.00
Anne Gergen, Broadus MT	.3	Black-Cow	1202	166.50	\$ 2,000.77
Levi Knuteson, Belle Fourche SD	.1	Black-Cow	1400	164.50	\$ 2,303.00
Bud Ireland, Belle Fourche SD	.2	Black-Cow	1643	160.00	\$ 2,628.00
J. O. Or Rhoda Modonald, Hulett WY	.1	Black-Cow	1345	162.00	\$ 2,178.90
	.1	Black-Cow	1510	160.50	\$ 2,423.55
Cory R Peterson, Upton WY	.1	Black-Hfr	945	255.00	\$ 2,409.75
	.4	Black-Cow	1339	165.50	\$ 2,215.63
	.4	Black-Cow	1458	164.00	\$ 2,390.30
Chancy Wilson, Scenic SD	.5	Blk/BwF-Cow	1341	163.50	\$ 2,192.53
	.1	Black-Cow	1355	166.00	\$ 2,249.30
Ronny Mackaben, Broadus MT	.2	Black-Hfr	1083	226.00	\$ 2,446.45
	.1	Black-Cow	1300	163.00	\$ 2,119.00
Brian Budmayer, Belle Fourche SD	.1	Black-Hfr	1025	219.00	\$ 2,244.75
Dan Or Mary J Zimmerschied, Carlisle WY	.1	Black-Hfr	990	222.50	\$ 2,202.75
	.3	Black-Cow	925	227.50	\$ 2,104.37
John S Or Bonnie Johnson, Buffalo SD	.1	Black-Cow	1560	163.00	\$ 2,542.80
	.1	Black-Cow	1425	163.00	\$ 2,322.75
	.1	Black-Cow	1375	160.50	\$ 2,206.87

	.1	Black-Cow	1460	164.00	\$ 2,394.40
Jay Staba, Ludlow SD	.1	BwF-Cow	1245	172.00	\$ 2,141.40
	.1	BwF-Cow	1285	173.00	\$ 2,223.05
	.1	BwF-Cow	1370	163.00	\$ 2,233.10
	.1	BwF-Cow	1430	160.00	\$ 2,288.00
Burke Ranch Llc, Newell SD	.1	BwF-Cow	1585	161.00	\$ 2,551.85
	.1	BwF-Cow	1355	162.00	\$ 2,195.10
	.1	BwF-Cow	1400	163.00	\$ 2,282.00
Howard H & Kristin D Jones, Rozet WY	.1	BwF-Cow	1595	160.50	\$ 2,559.97
	.1	Black-Cow	1525	163.50	\$ 2,493.37
	.1	Black-Cow	1570	163.00	\$ 2,559.10
	.1	Black-Cow	1715	159.00	\$ 2,726.85
Brian Or Lesley Raber Park, Alzada MT	.1	BwF-Cow	1275	168.00	\$ 2,142.00
	.1	Black-Cow	1145	199.00	\$ 2,278.55
Ashley Pearson, Aladdin WY	.1	Black-Hfr	1035	238.00	\$ 2,463.30
Doug Or Brittany Hausman, Buffalo SD	.1	Black-Cow	1430	160.00	\$ 2,288.00
J Quint Or Jody Moreland, Red Owl SD	.1	BwF-Cow	1435	157.50	\$ 2,260.12
Richard Or Sharon Peril, Rapid City SD	.1	Black-Cow	1170	194.00	\$ 2,269.80
	.2	Black-Cow	1165	191.50	\$ 2,230.97
Tim Reich, Belle Fourche SD	.1	Char-Cow	1510	162.00	\$ 2,446.20
	.1	Char-Cow	1570	162.50	\$ 2,551.25
Ellen Reddick Trust, St Onge SD	.1	Red-Cow	1465	160.00	\$ 2,344.00
Graham Livestock Inc, Moorcroft WY	.1	BwF-Hfr	975	238.00	\$ 2,320.50
Bulls					
Edwin Lockwood, Volborg MT	.1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2410	197.50	\$ 4,759.75
Dave Moline, Aladdin WY	.1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2390	190.00	\$ 4,541.00
Myron Weiss, Union Center SD	.1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2430	183.00	\$ 4,446.90
Otto Schlosser, Hulett WY	.1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2120	160.00	\$ 3,392.00
Howard H & Kristin D Jones, Rozet WY	.1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2030	195.00	\$ 3,958.50
Jeff Plucker, Aladdin WY	.3	Black-Bull Drug Free	2107	184.50	\$ 3,886.80
George & Jean Etchemendy, Douglas WY	.2	Black-Bull Drug Free	1923	192.50	\$ 3,700.81
Jesse Or Nastel Dean, Upton WY	.1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1890	195.00	\$ 3,685.50
Castleberry Inc, Ekalaka MT	.1	Herf-Bull Drug Free	1830	187.50	\$ 3,431.25
Harrit Ranch, WYola MT	.1	Black-Bull	2025	180.00	\$ 3,645.00

PAIRS & BREDS SPECIAL
MAY 29, 2025
WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, PAIRS/BREDS @ 12 PM MT
PAIRS
ZACH ELMORE - MT
45 BLK/BWF 2-5YO PAIRS, MARCH-APRIL CLVS, TTM
BREDS
TRAVIS HURST - SD
20 BLK FALL BRED HFRS
BRED LBW BLK ANG, CLV 8/15 - 30 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS

REGULAR SALE
JUNE 5, 2025
ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE
June 5, 2025 REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
June 12, 2025 REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
June 19, 2025 REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
June 26, 2025 REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT

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8th Annual event kicks off River Fest!



Friday, June 6 @ 7 pm

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FFA Banquet Celebrates Chapter Accomplishments

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche FFA chapter welcomed friends, family, and community members to Belle Fourche Community Hall on Monday evening, May 12 for the annual FFA Banquet.

Following the opening ceremonies, FFA officers presented the following degrees: Discovery Degrees, intended for seventh and eighth grade members who participate in FFA activities; Greenhand Degrees, awarded to ninth grade or older members who learn about FFA history and make plans for an SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience).

Chapter Degrees, awarded to members in tenth grade or higher who are involved in chapter activities and community service and complete the minimum hours of instruction and SAE project growth; State Degrees, awarded by State Associations and open to members in eleventh grade or higher who are involved in chapter leadership, state-level activities and community service, and who complete a set number of hours of instruction and SAE growth and productivity; and American

Degrees, which are the highest FFA degree and awarded to high school graduate members with demonstrated leadership, community service, academic success, and outstanding SAE programs.

Everyone then got to eat a delicious meal catered by PooterQ and enjoyed the food while watching the rest of the banquet program.

Chapter Advisor Austin Bishop took the stage to recognize the leadership and career development event successes of his team. “We have about 70 members that are truly active, meaning they participate in community service, fundraising and any career development and leadership development events,” said Bishop. “So kudos to you as parents, because I definitely cannot do this without you guys allowing your members to engage in my classes and in this organization. I want to thank the members for always challenging yourselves in growing personal, being a premiere leader, and looking for that future career success... We will travel this road to success.”

Senior members were called to the front and recognized, with each senior receiving a

gift basket and a photo with their parents. The 2025 SD FFA Foundation Scholarship then presented two scholarship award winners: Lydia Main, \$1,000 scholarship and Taya Kirstine, \$500 scholarship.

Distinguished Volunteer awards were presented to the following: Chuck Berry, Friend of the FFA; Grossenburg Implement, Business of the Year; and the Moke Family, Producer of the Year.

Chapter Advisor Austin Bishop received the Golden Owl Award, which recognizes agricultural educators across South Dakota for their contributions to helping the next generation of agricultural leaders.

The evening wrapped up with a New FFA Officer Induction ceremony. For 2025-2026, the new FFA officers are: Ambree Kirstine, Student Advisor; Brooke Garman, Historian; Clifford Toberson, Parliamentarian; Kate Blair, Second Vice President; Andy Pruitt, Sentinel; Justus Marshall, Reporter; Jazlyn Olson, Treasurer; E.C. Blair, Secretary; Kate Williamson, Vice President; and Atlee Olson, President.




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Seniors received appreciation baskets with notes and gifts. Longbrake photos



Students enjoy a meal catered by PooterQ.



FFA Officers present awards at the FFA Banquet on May 12.



FFA members gather to watch the slideshow full of moments from the past year.



Chapter Advisor Austin Bishop recognizes competition and leadership achievements.



(L) Members honor the senior members of the chapter. (R) Taya Kirstine speaks to the audience.

AFSP South Dakota Chapter Provides Tips to Build Resilience This Mental Health Awareness Month

BELLE FOURCHE- This May, Mental Health Awareness Month, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is encouraging people to build mental health resilience in the Black Hills community by going beyond the basics of self-care.

While we continue to make strides in talking about our mental health, it can be challenging to adapt and cope with trauma and the stress that life brings. Fortunately, resilience is a muscle that can be strengthened.

Locally they hosted a mental health focused day Saturday, May 10th in Herrmann Park with many activities focused around mental health. On Saturday, May 17th there was a Construction Hike for Hope in Custer State Park visit afsp.org/SDconstruction for more information and to get registered.

Letti the Lifesaver will be appearing again this year thru the month of May in Belle Fourche promoting the 988 lifeline. Scientific evidence reveals the deep impact things like sleep, exercise, social connections, therapy and more can have on our overall health and the way we manage stress.

This May AFSP is sharing game-changing strategies that connect to these evidence-based actions and more that encourage personal and community resilience.

Build your resilience muscle with tips and strategies shared by AFSP this month, including:

- Focusing on the Physical. Notice changes in your sleep and levels of stress. Give yourself time to rest and restore and build your emotional resilience.
- Finding Ways to Connect. Connecting with others in any way can help strengthen your resilience and restore balance to your thoughts.
- Asking for Help, and Accepting Support. It's not always easy to ask for help when you need it, but it's so important!
- Recognizing Your Needs. Setting healthy, reasonable boundaries is crucial for supporting your resilience.
- Navigating Challenges. It's okay not to feel okay all the time. Recognize that there are seasons in life. Visit afsp.org/MentalHealth-Month to learn more. In addition to taking action on these tips, we can build resilience in our communities by uniting in a common cause. The AFSP South Dakota Chapter is joining

together to build resilience for our own mental health and the mental health of our community through walking and advocating for suicide prevention, educating people in our communities about mental health, and making sure we know how to support those around us.

We're all in this together. Check out the South Dakota chapter's website afsp.org/SouthDakota for upcoming events and opportunities to join the organization in its mission this May and beyond.

Join us in Belle Fourche on Saturday, September 20, 2025, for the **Out of the Darkness Community Walk** and walk with us to bring more suicide awareness and prevention to the communities in Belle Fourche and the Black Hills. You can join us by registering today at: afsp.org/BelleFourche and begin your fundraising campaign. All proceeds from the Out of the Darkness Walk will benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and provide much needed funding for Mental Health Research, Prevention Education Programs, Advocacy and Support for our Loss Survivors.

We welcome everyone to be with us in September.

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 KGWDYWLY XKVJGDVNW."
 — QWGWLFU YDUOJG

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Half the time men think they are talking business, they are wasting time." — Edgar Watson Howe

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

May 29 - 10:30AM/5:30PM Line Dancing @ BF Rec DIGITS Ribbon Cutting 4PM
May 30 - 7:30AM Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining, 2PM Art in the Park
June 2 - Reading Log @ BF Public Library, 6PM City Council, 7PM BINGO @ Venue 519
June 3 - 10:30PM/1PM Story Time @ BF Library

June 7th - RIVERFEST

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

Service Animal Training Session Held During Lunch

Robbi Longbrake
 news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE— Understanding service animals and how their rights work in coordination with the rights of business owners took center-stage when Workplace Disabilities Network of the Black Hills and the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce partnered to present a training session covering the topic. Over lunch hour on May 12 several community members gathered at Bowman Hall to eat Domino's pizza and learn about service animals in the workplace and in public spaces. The information session was led by Tony Russell, President of Lion Heart LLC. He shared his personal story about how he came to have a service dog. After being in the Air Force for ten years, Russell was injured in 2018 and spent a lot of time recovering at Walter Reed. During his recovery when a therapy dog was involved in his care, the doctors saw significant improvements in his recovery and quickly suggested that he get a service dog. However, that task was harder

than expected. "When I applied for a service dog, we were on a two year waiting list and we were going to be charged \$20,000 for that," explained Russell. With a little bit of luck, a special dog came through for him. "I ended up being the recipient of the Rush puppy! The Rapid City Rush hockey team—during the 2020 season—raised a dog for a veteran, and I received Rush," shared Russell. "Who is this dog right here! Rush and I went through some training together and this dog has literally saved my life!" Through his experiences with his service animal, Russell has learned so much. Russell said, "What I've realized is that there is a lot of misinformation out there on service animals and some of the good information that we have, gets twisted. So we want to make sure that we are giving you the best information, the correct information, and in a way that you can apply it to your business organization." Russell is passionate about helping people. "I want to educate and advocate for people with disabilities, as well as, business owners to make sure

that people in my city, my town are going to have direct information so that we can work together," he said. The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is what governs the laws on service animals. "Only a dog that is individually trained to perform a task for any person with a disability—the handler itself has to have a disability as defined by the ADA—and then the dog has to be trained in some type of task that is going to help that disability," explained Russell. The only animal, with the exception of a mini horse, that is allowed to be a service animal, by law is a dog. Any other animal would be considered an emotional support animal. "There is no national standard that says your dog has to be trained this way or has to be trained for so many hours," explained Russell. "You can train your own animal, as long as you can make sure that it's able to do a medical task for you." As for the business owners, Russell suggests they write policies for their business so all of the employees know how to handle and respond to different scenarios regarding

service animals. When it comes to service animals, if a business person can't see the obvious disability, they are allowed to ask two questions. First, is this a service animal? And second, what task has the animal been trained to perform? He said, "They're not required to respond to anything else, especially with our HIPAA laws. They're not required to tell you what medical conditions that they have and you may not ask for documentation or ask to see the animal perform the task." Russell also explained when and how you can ask for a service dog to leave your establishment. He said, "The laws are written so that you have the ability to remove a dog from your business, to protect your business and protect your customers, but that person with disabilities has the right to be able to come back in, with the dog, as long as the dog is under control." A service dog has a job to do for

his person. Russell summed it up by saying that a service dog is a medical device and all customers are allowed in, anyone who comes in with a medical device is allowed. One can't discriminate against someone who has a wheelchair because it squeaks, or against someone who has a pacemaker because we don't like metallic devices. There is so much to learn about the ADA and service animals. Russell is happy to share his knowledge with anyone wanting to learn more and navigate different situations. "We love sitting down with folks and just trying to explain to them what a service dog truly should be doing and how it should be interacting and what everyone's rights are as well," he said. More information can also be obtained at Rocky Mountain ADA Center at RockyMountainADA.org



(L) Business owners and community members interested in learning about Service Animals, the ADA, and Your Business attended a training session over lunch hour. (R) **Tony Russell** demonstrates one of the ways his service dog, Rush, helps him with his balance.



THE DAKOTA SCOUT

The **Dakota Scout** is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Together, they have more than 30 years of combined experience in South Dakota journalism that have earned them reputations as dogged reporters who've not lost touch with their neighbors' sensibilities. Be in the Know! Stay on top of what's happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you.

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Highland Senior Solutions Breaks Ground on New Facility

Congratulations to Highland Senior Solutions breaking ground for their new adult day services facility!

The new facility will be located at 10905 Sourdough Road in Belle Fourche and will offer adult day services and dementia education/caregiver support with an onsite primary care clinic, Legacy Medical, with providers specializing in dementia and palliative care.

This new facility is owned

by Dr. Deborah Kullerd: triple board certified physician in family medicine, geriatrics and palliative care/hospice; Lindsey Sainsbury: administrator/owner of Belle Estates with nearly 20 years of geriatric care experience; and Jenni Karp FNP-C: certified nurse practitioner and specialty certified in dementia and geriatric care.

We are so blessed they chose Belle Fourche for this new business!



Bronc Middle School Track and Field Season Wrap Up

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Bronc middle school track and field team competed in their last two events for the season, both in Sturgis. On Saturday, May 3rd they competed in the Jeff Smit Invite and on Friday, May 9th they ran in the Black Hills Conference Invite. Highlights of the Jeff Smit Invite for the boys were; 6th grader Maddox Clarkson with a PR of 2:44.60 in the 800 meter race, and 6th grader Blake Willert with two PRs of a 22.35 in the 100 meter hurdles and a 37.79 in the 200 meter hurdles. Top fishes for the boys were, 7th grader Bradley Drieske in the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes, 7th grader Cole Mailloux in the 400 meter dash, the 7th grade sprint medley team of

O. Carson, G. Martin, P. Martin and Gunner Walding finished 7th and the 7th grade 4x400 team of Zane Baker, Elijah Beatson, Blaine Moke and Cole Mailloux finished 2nd. Throwers with top finishes were, 7th grader Ben Raba with 5th in shot put and 3rd in discus, 8th grader Andrew Coyle with 5th in shot put and 8th grader Grant Hagen with 10th in shot put. High jumpers with top finishes were, 7th graders Max Coyle in 4th, Zane Baker in 6th and Elijah Beatson in 8th, and 8th grader Grant Hagen in 9th. Long jumpers with top finishes were, 7th graders Max Coyle in 5th and Blaine Moke in 6th. Top finishers for the Lady Bronc middle schooler runners were, 7th graders Berklee Nore and Grace Long, and 8th grader

Betsy Moore in the 100 meter dash, 7th grader Kylie Birdwell and 8th graders Ansley O'Brien, Betsy Moore and Avery Coyle in the 100 meter hurdles, 8th grader Ella Bryan in the 200 meter dash, 8th grader Ansley O'Brien in the 200 meter hurdles, 7th graders Grace Long and Kylie Bidwell in the 400 meter dash, 7th grader Layla Drieling in the 800 meter run and the 1600 meter run, and 7th grader Piper Curran in the 1600 meter run. 7th grade relay teams of the 4x100 Ruth Moore, Jacie Nash, E Olson and Malaya Rodriguez placed 3rd and the 4x200 team of Lochlin Tibbs, E Olson, Gracelynn William and Addy Burke placed 9th. The 8th grade 4x100 team of Rhyann Knapp, Avery Coyle, Ella Bryan and Grace Long placed

9th. 7th grader Charlie Merjil placed 8th in the shot put. High jumpers with top finishes were, 7th grader Berklee Nore and 8th graders Ansley O'Brien and Rhyann Knapp, and long jumpers with top finishes were 7th graders Grace Long and Berklee Nore.

* * *

At Black Hills Conference, 7th grade boys with top finishes were Bradley Drieske in the 100 & 200 meter dash, Devyn Perschbacher and Ben Raba in the 200 meter dash, and the sprint medley relay team of Jaxon Linch, O Carson, Jackson Hodge and Maddox Clarkson, the 4x100 meter relay team of Cole Mailloux, Max Coyle, Ben Raba and Bradley Drieske (also a season best finish time), and the 4x400 meter relay team of

Cole Mailloux, Zane Baker, Blaine Moke and Bradley Drieske (also a season best time). 7th grade thrower top finishes were Kasen Lang in both the discus and shot put. Jumpers were Max Coyle, Zane Baker and Elijah Beatson in the high jump and Max Coyle and Blaine Moke in the long jump. 8th grade top finishes were, Rylan Gross in the 100 meter and 200 meter hurdles, Conner Kukla in the 200 meter dash, the 4x100 meter relay team of Maliki Rodriguez, Andrew Coyle, Owen Hatling and Reven Audiss, high jumper Grant Hagen, shot put throwers Andrew Coyle, Grant Hagen and Owen Hatling and discus throwers Reven Audiss and Owen Hatling.



(L) 6th Grader Maddox Clarkson celebrating a Person Record; (C) Cole Mailloux, Owen Hatling and Devyn Perschbacher waiting for discus; (R) Ben Raba Shot Put.



(L) 8th grade runners Rhyann Knapp, Madisyn VanSickle and Avery Coyle ready for race; (C) Emysyn Carmichael takes off from blocks; (R) High Jumpers Berklee Nore & Addy Lutter.



(L) Kasen Lang warming up for discus; (C) Runners Jake Tonsager and Asa Wolsey race in the 200 meter dash; (R) Jaxon Linch after race.



(L) Lochlin Tibbs and Charlie Huston in 200 meter dash; (C) Lauralee Drieske handoff to Isabela Torberson during 7th grade 4x800 relay; (R) Piper Curran hands of to Layla Drieling.



Fifth Generation Buys Schaub Farm

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Past history collides with the future as a current generation takes over the family farm. Taylor and Aleisha Huppler have purchased the Schaub Farm. “I’ll actually be the fifth generation farming it,” said Aleisha.

The 146 acre farm will keep growing crops as past generations have done, but also has plans for a new direction. “We have barley growing in the far lower field and then the rest of the fields are alfalfa or hay,” explained Aleisha.

Bringing in new business ideas to the old farm is something the family looks forward to. “We have an old barn out there that I’m reshaping into a farm store. I’m going to sell all organic goods and stuff out of the farm store right there,” said Aleisha.

They hope to have the store open to the public by mid June. The store will offer a variety of items. Aleisha said, “we will have all organic produce, some organic goods, some home goods, some boutique jewelry and t-shirts—things like that.” Huppler Homestead Farm Store is the intended name of the new market.

With the purchase of the family homestead, Aleisha and her family get to step back in time and live where so much of her family history began. “My mom is Sheryl (Schaub) Hale, her dad is Lawrence Schaub and his dad was George Schaub,” explained Aleisha. “The first person to buy the land was Henry Schaub—which was his (George) dad—and they farmed it.”

Taylor and Aleisha bought out all of the prior generation’s siblings to purchase the family farm outright in February. “When the opportunity came up to buy the family farm, that was in my bloodline, we jumped on it,” said Aleisha.

Carrying on her parents’ and grandparents’ legacy means everything to the Huppler family. “I definitely wouldn’t have spent the money on this land if it hadn’t been in the family,” said Aleisha. “I think it’s really cool to walk where your great, great, great grandparents walked.

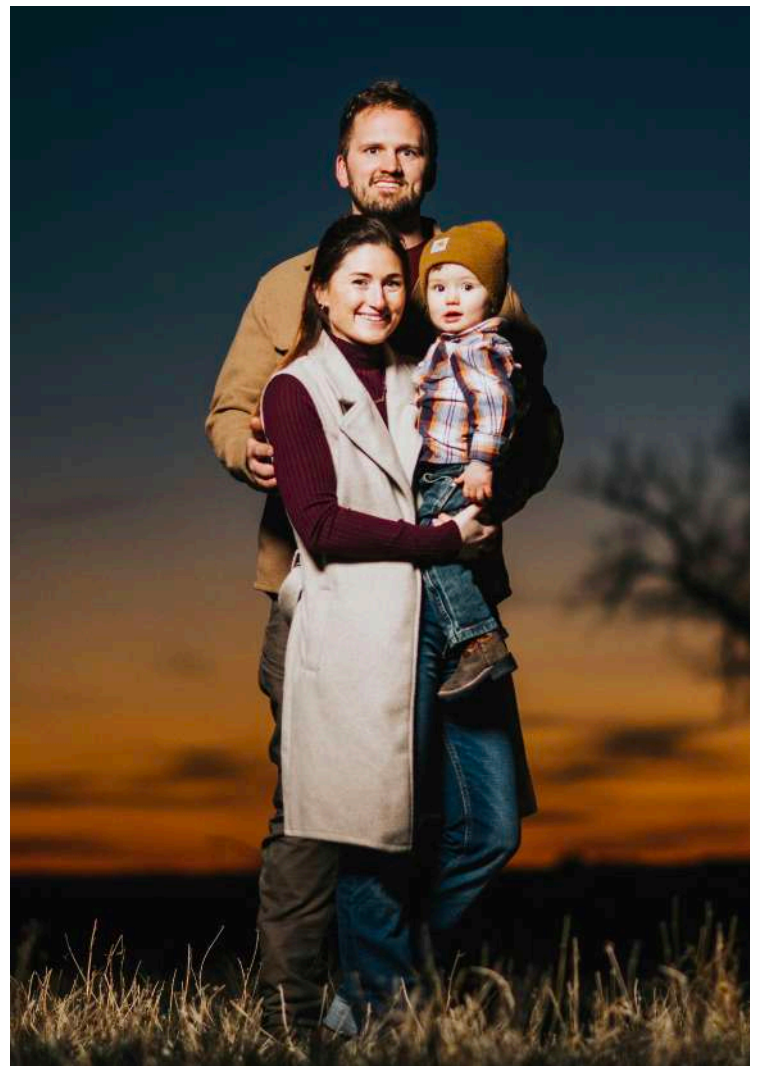
To see some of the stuff that they grew and to see some of the stuff they planted. Some of the trees on the property definitely were planted by them, we have rose bushes that are 100 years old.”

Being able to witness five generations of history on the land and in the buildings gives the farm an immediate sense of home. “We have stuff in the barn from when they took care of horses—horses haven’t been on the property in 80 years—it’s just really cool seeing the history of it.”

Aleisha has found artifacts from her family that date back to the 1800s. “I actually have a book that I found that came over from Germany and my third great grandfather was learning how to write his name in this German book.

There is a German picture Bible with all of the verses in German from 1800s, and it’s so worn you can tell that the Bible had just gone through generations,” she shared. “It’s just really, really cool to find a piece of your history—it’s like your own legacy Museum.”

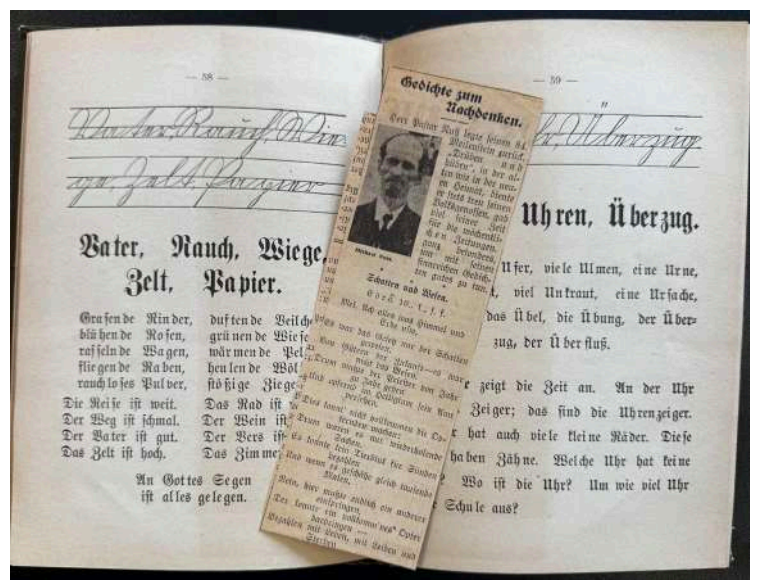
An old faded sign still marks the entrance to the family farm. “My grandpa had painted a sign—he was so proud of it—it had his name and his father’s name and then his grandfather’s name on the sign and then the years they farmed,” explained Aleisha. The Farm is located a few miles east of Belle Fourche on Highway 212.



The Huppler family, Taylor, Aleisha and Huxton recently purchased the Schaub Farm. Aleisha is the fifth generation farmer on the land. Courtesy photo



The old sign to the Schaub Farm has faded through the years, but it still marks the entrance to the homestead. Longbrake photo



Among the pieces of family history that Aleisha Huppler discovered on her family farm included a German book in which her great, great, great grandpa practiced his handwriting. Courtesy Photo

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Unique Food Truck Makes Its Debut

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Imagine being able to eat waffles on the go, not having to sit down to enjoy, but on a stick! Waffles on a stick are just one of the food offerings provided by The Food Addiction food truck that made its debut during the grand opening of the Dinosaurs of Hell Creek Museum on May 22.

Owners of the new business are Ashley and Jeremy Spilman of Spearfish. They chose the name The Food Addiction so they could offer a variety of their favorite foods without

being tied to just one. “We’re just trying to do a little bit of all of our best foods that we love. We have a lot of different things that we love, so that way, we can kind of try to do a little bit of everything,” explained Jeremy.

Their mutual love for food has made the leap to food truck ownership an easy choice. “Well, we always have loved food and always wanted to do it,” said Jeremy.

This new food truck adventure affords the couple the ability to be at home more for their kids. Ashley said, “we have

four sons ages six, eight, ten and 17.” And brings about a much anticipated career change. “I’m actually an underground miner, I’ve been doing that for 25 years. I just wanted to be home more because we got four kids at home and they’re all in sports,” explained Jeremy. “I just left Alaska on Tuesday. I was gone for 22 days at a time and home for eight days, so it’s just kind of something we’ve been wanting to do.”

In addition to dough batter waffles, the food truck is also offering burgers. “We have a chopped burger, it’s on a hoagie

roll and it’s actually—I call it a poor man’s Philly—it’s a burger and cheese and onions mixed up and then I chop it all up and it’s served on a hoagie roll,” said Jeremy.

Feedback after their first evening was positive. “We did really good last night, really good! People told us they thought our burger was the best burger West River,” shared Jeremy. “I think everything went pretty great, I mean, we didn’t have the straw organizer, but everything else was pretty good,” added Ashley.

The couple plans to offer their food to the Northern Hills area, you can find them at local events. “We do a private gradu-



ation party next and then we are going to be at Indian Motorcycle during rally, and we’re going to do the Music on Main in Sturgis,” said Ashley.



(L) The Food Addiction launched their business at the Dinosaurs at Hells Creek Museum Grand Opening Celebration; (R) Ashley and Jeremy Spilman started their new food truck business out of a tent, but business was booming and their truck will be ready soon. Longbrake photos



(R) Ashley and Jeremy Spilman started their new food truck business out of a tent, but business was booming and their truck will be ready soon. Longbrake photos



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
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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)

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Pastor Stephen Carson
Worship Pastor Ashton Rone
Associate Pastor Chad Logan
Sunday Worship: 8:30 or 10:15 am

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Men's Bible Study 10am at the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
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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

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892-3402
www.bfsoucc.org
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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
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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.

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

NORTH POINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10959 Kellern 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.sjclbellefourche.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



Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden May 18, 2025

Prayer warriors were certainly heard this week in their plea for rain. And what beautiful, soaker rains we received! Those of us on the prairies of Western South Dakota cherish few things more than grass, a good stand for our crops and dams that are able to hold the cattle through the summer. The cooler temperatures seems to hold on to that moisture for us for a bit longer as well.

Graduations are happening left and right and most college graduations are complete while high school graduations will begin this week. This marks the last week of school for many including Meade 46-1. While Tuesday is the last day of school, they held graduation in Sturgis on Sunday, May 18. Faith School District held their graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 17. Congratulations to the graduates!

Casey and Francie Brink attended the graduation of their 2nd grandson, Levi, from Sturgis on Sunday. Levi is the son of Casey and Francie's daughter, Nicole (Brink) Meirose and husband, Josh, from Sturgis. Levi is also the grandson of the pastor in Union Center, Bill Meirose. Congratulations to Levi Meirose and many more graduates.

There was an 8th grade graduation held at in Union Center for Rural Meade graduates. It seems like just yesterday they were in kindergarten when I substitute taught a few times.

Brandings have been completed for some while others are still planning on theirs. Some brandings will take place for the last time as it did for the Larry Rhoden's a couple of years ago. It is a bittersweet time because of the way we turn the pages of the past into a new chapter in life. Memories are sweet, but as sweet as the life of raising cattle can seem, it can be hard, sometime dangerous, stressful

and physically taxing. There comes a time when it's just the best thing to do as we allow the younger generation to carry on the large responsibilities of daily ranch life.

The Rorey and Krista Lemmel family is getting ready for their second daughter's wedding coming up on Saturday of this week. It is exactly the same date as their daughter, Kalen and Tristen Rhoden's anniversary who were married last year also on May 24. It will be a wonderful celebration

It was another busy week in May for most everyone that included soccer games, track meets, rodeos and graduations. Temperatures soared to the mid 90s on Sunday, Mothers Day. Parents, grandparents and kids are going all directions this time of year. Beginnings and ends are of great importance each year in this month. We have prayers and praises for health and which as of late have resulted in good news, while the sadness sears deep in the hearts of those who have lost loved ones recently. I would ask at this time for prayers of strength and comfort for families with such hard losses from Nisland and New Underwood.

Mothers Day was spent in a variety of ways this year. May we all cherish our mothers who gave us life and protected it as we grew. If your mother is living I am in hopes that you were able to express much appreciation and for those of us who have mothers that have passed, to reflect back on what it would have been like not to have her there.

The Beacon has been experiencing some changes in layout and through no fault of her own we have not had opportunity to weekly publish the Central Meade County News that is supplied to us by Sandy Rhoden. We will make every effort to catch up & continue to publish. Thank you.

By Sandy Rhoden May 11, 2025

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Happy Spring to all!



Capitol News May 11th

by Karen Odell

Capitol and Tie Creek are looking lush and green.

Some of the people up toward Ekalaka, around Bell-tower, got five inches of rain a couple of weeks ago, and they still have some standing water, but the land looks good.

Dick and Erma Albert took a trip to the Hills, on Tuesday, and Erma had a consultation with the shoulder doctor. On Friday, they went to the Senior Citizen Dinner in Buffalo, and had a great meal. Erma stayed to play cards, and finally won the last game of the day. On Sunday, they went to church at the Catholic Church, and then went to Saloon Number Three for the great lunch buffet.

Lynn Gustafson and Linda Matthews toured up to Bowman, on Tuesday for hair appointments. Lynn visited with Dixie Garr on Wednesday morning. On Saturday, Bruce and Lynn went to visit the Wilcox family, and join in a double birthday party for two of the girls; Payten and Kamryn. Bruce and Lynn went to the Little Missouri Church for services, on Sunday morning.

Ernie, Rachel and Tom Melum are keeping busy. Tom's school year has ended, and he is enjoying learning mechanics from his dad. They went to the Baker Baptist Church, for services on Sunday. On the way home, they stopped for a short visit with Karen Odell. Then they visited at Junior and Shirley Melum's in the evening.

Kevin and Lisa Olmsted came from Billings to visit his grandmother, Dorothy Padden, on Tuesday. On Wednesday, they took Dorothy to Rapid City for the high school baseball game between Rapid City Stevens and Rapid City Central. Eleven past players, including Kevin and Blake Olmsted, were honored during the

game. Maybe they should have honored their grandmother, too. Blake is Bryan Olmsted's son, and is a senior and will soon graduate. They came back to the ranch on Thursday. On Saturday, they all went to the graduation at Harding County High School, where Brenton Padden was in the graduating class. Kevin and Lisa Olmsted left to go back to Billings on Sunday.

When she got there, she was told that the computers were down and she would have to go to Glendive, the next day. The lady had come from Billings, and had to leave at 2:00 o'clock, so she couldn't wait. Karen chose to wait a week and try Baker again the next Tuesday. The ridiculousness is beyond belief, that no one on this side of the state can be trained to issue licenses, or that someone at the Ekalaka or Baker courthouse could not provide the service. It is also ridiculous that the license person could not bring a laptop for keeping the information. Then it could be entered when the computers were up again. Karen just hopes that after driving the 100 miles for the fourth time next week, she can get the ID. She had to send her passport in when she sent that renewal, and was told it might take three months for that to return. If she started now, grandma might ride her bike to Washington for Rowan's graduation. She did get to visit with neighbors, Dawn Padden and Michelle Tooke in Baker. This week, Carson Odell's Mitchell Middle School track team had a meet, and Carson earned a third place medal, a fifth place ribbon, and the best over-all sunburn of the competition.

A person satisfied with enough, will always have enough to be satisfied of the forest and you eat six cream-filled cupcakes, did they really contain any calories?

The Beacon has had some space issues and through no fault of Karen's we have fallen behind on publication of Capital News.

John A. Newby is the author of the "Building Main Street, Not Wall Street" column dedicated to helping local communities, government and business

combine synergies allowing them to thrive in a world where truly-local is being lost to Amazon and Wall Street chains. His email is john@truly-local.org

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municipalities with such policies experienced a 3.6% increase in independent business revenue compared to those without. These communities examine every expenditure through a local-first lens, understanding that the tax dollars kept within community boundaries circulate repeatedly, creating economic resilience.

Action steps for community leaders include establishing local preference policies with specific thresholds and criteria, conducting regular procurement reviews to identify local sourcing opportunities, creating local vendor databases accessible to all municipal departments.

Communities with the lowest business failure rates have robust support ecosystems. According to the Federal Reserve Bank, areas with strong business support networks see 11% higher small business survival rates over five-year periods. These networks should include low-cost business incubation spaces (which reduce overhead by 40-50%), mentorship programs connecting new entrepreneurs with experienced business owners, accessible microloan programs (businesses with such support have 10-15% higher survival rates), coordinated technical assistance addressing common failure points.

While many communities chase major employers or manufacturers, the data suggests a diversified approach is more sustainable. Ten new businesses opening annually with 3-5 employees each equal one 150-250 employee company arriving every five years—but with significantly reduced risk and greater community engagement.

Research from the Eco-

nomics Innovation Group found that communities with diverse small business growth experienced faster economic recovery from recessions and greater resilience during economic downturns. Additionally, these new businesses typically request fewer tax breaks and contribute more actively to community initiatives.

Tourism represents significant economic potential for communities of all sizes. The U.S. Travel Assoc. reports domestic travelers spend an average of \$144 per day when visiting small towns. When communities can attract just 500 additional visitors annually, that represents over \$70,000 in new spending—often during otherwise slow economic periods.

Communities needn't be traditional tourist destinations to benefit from visitor spending. Research from Main Street America shows that towns highlighting authentic, unique local experiences saw tourism increases of 12-18% after implementing coordinated marketing strategies. In the post-pandemic environment, regional travel has increased by 17%, creating opportunities for small towns to capture visitors seeking distinctive experiences closer to home.

Communities that implement these strategies systematically show measurable results. Results include reduced storefront vacancy rates (typically 15-20% lower than comparable towns), increased sales tax revenues (8-12% higher than regional averages), greater business diversity and resilience during economic downturns, stronger community identity and pride

The data is clear: when communities actively participate in business development rather than passively hoping entrepreneurs will succeed on their own, economic outcomes improve significantly. Communities can either compete effectively in today's economic landscape through intentional support systems or watch their downtowns and business districts slowly erode. Which path will your community choose?

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Sturgis, SD



On the Map Temporary Exhibit Opens at the Tri-State Museum

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—A new temporary exhibit exploring everything about maps made its debut at the Tri-State Museum on May 10.

A reception was held inviting the public to visit the display, *On the Map*, and offered German chocolate and Italian vanilla cupcakes made by the Red Onion Marketplace along with refreshments.

The temporary exhibit can be found in the new addition. The extra space has allowed the museum to offer more exciting opportunities to the public.

Maps of all types line the exhibit.

You can learn about the inventor of map projection, Gerardus Mercator, or study the maps of Indian Reservations or find out about seafloor mapping—there is so much to learn! “There is such a variety

of maps!

That’s what I learned, there is just so many different styles of maps that I didn’t know about! It’s definitely fun to go back there,” said Kim Reusaw, Store Manager and Volunteer Coordinator.

Jada Udager, the Museum’s Collections Archivist put together a variety of artifacts. “A lot of the artifacts came from our collection,” explained Reusaw. Museum Director Kristi Thielen does the research and creates educational storyboards explaining all of the individual pieces of history. Jean Maher, Assistant Director, helps with the exhibit by doing photo collation and mounting. One of the unique objects in the exhibit is a set of globe salt and pepper shakers. Reusaw shared, “Jada has been able to find salt and pepper shakers for almost every single exhibit we’ve done—which is just very

crazy—to have all the different styles of salt and pepper shakers!”

Of course there is a section devoted to kids activities and learning opportunities and Reusaw created the crafts and power point for the kids corner. Another fun display is a national map that invites visitors to indicate where they are visiting from by placing a pin on the map. It is a special visual display to see how far visitors to the area have traveled.

On the Map Temporary Exhibit runs through October 7 at which time a new Temporary Exhibit called WEIRD will replace it. The next Temporary Exhibit is scheduled to open October 11 and will contain letters, documents and photos that mystify the museum staff making them question what the heck they are and what the heck do they mean!



A new Temporary Exhibit *On the Map* opened on May 10 at the *Tri-State Museum* and will run through October 7. *Longbrake photos*



A visitor enjoys the new Temporary Exhibit *On the Map* during the reception at the *Tri-State Museum*.



One of the map displays at the Temporary Exhibit *On the Map*, invites visitors to place a pin on the map to indicate from where they are visiting.

ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

JUNE 26 - 29
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THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY SEASONS

COMING IN 2025

2025 HOLIDAY SHOW

DECEMBER 12 - 14
BELLE FOURCHE REC CENTER

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



2025 Fast Track Results

Standing Long Jump

Kindergarten Boys

1st Rhoan Burke	4'4"
2nd Jaxson Stradinger	4'2"
3rd Nayzen Floyd	3'3 1/2"
4th Forrest Schuh	3' 1/2"
5th Sebastian Sanders	2'4 1/2"

1st/2nd Boys

1st Dante Priest	5'3"
2nd Malcolm Moelter	5'2 1/2"
3rd Gus Walding	5'1"
4th Micah Coyle	5'1"
5th Sasha Bevier	5'0"
6th Kasten Pedersen	4'10 1/2"
7th Adrian Cuff	4'8"
8th Killian English	3'9"
9th Cameron Jasper	3'5 1/2"

3rd/4th Boys

Hudson Ritchie	6'1 1/2"
Simon McKenney	5'4 1/2"
Kellan Davis	5'0"

5th Boys

1st Finn Enos	6'10"
2nd Grady Tauck	5'0"

Softball Throw

Kindergarten Boys

1st Forrest Schuh	30' 1"
2nd Sebastian Anderson	18'4"
3rd Lincoln Somervold	12'4"

1st/2nd Boys

1st Gus Walding	52'5"
2nd Micah Coyle	51'4"
3rd Kasten Pedersen	49'6"
4th Adrian Cuff	46'7"
5th Nevada Floyd	44'3"
6th Killian English	41'4"
7th Tyrion Somervold	40'2"
8th Sasha Bevier	37'1"
9th Dante Priest	33'9"

3rd/4th Boys

1st Zander Vice	54'1"
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5th Boys

1st Grady Tauck	102.4
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50 Meter Dash

Kindergarten Boys

1st Jaxson Stradinger	10:73
2nd Rhoan Burke	11:00
3rd Nayzen Floyd	12:00
4th Lincoln Somervold	12:57
5th Forrest Schuh	15:31

1st/2nd Boys

1st Gus Walding	9:62
2nd Kasten Pedersen	9:66
3rd Malcolm Molter	9:82
4th Killian English	11:51

100 Meter Dash

Kindergarten Boys

1st Rhoan Burke	22:31
2nd Nayzen Floyd	22:56
3rd Lincoln Somervold	28:78

1st/2nd Boys

1st Micah Coyle	18:25
2nd Nevada Floyd	18:38
3rd Adrian Cuff	20:13
4th Tyrion Somervold	20:41

3rd & 4th Boys

1st Cody Coffield	14:91
2nd Hudson Ritchie	15:93
3rd Brian Dempsey	19:51

3rd & 4th Girls

4th Ivy Enos	17:78
5th Anarra Lawson	19:92

200 Meter Dash

1st/2nd Boys

1st Nevada Floyd	41:67
2nd Cameron Jasper	45:88
3rd Tyrion Somervold	46:08
4th Sasha Bevier	48:07

3rd & 4th (5th) Boys

1st Cody Coffield	36:31
3rd (tie) Kellan Davis	41:00
3rd (tie) Zander Vice	41:00

5th Boys

1st Hunter Evans	39:57
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5th Girls

1st Ainsley Schmeltzer	34:00
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400 Meter Dash

Kindergarten Boys

1st Sebastian Sanders	3:24:57
DNF Jaxson Stradinger	

1st/2nd Boys

1st Dante Priest	1:44:76
2nd Malcom Moelter	1:48:07
3rd Cameron Jasper	1:50:09

3rd & 4th Boys

1st Hudson Ritchie	1:26:18
2nd Zander Vice	1:33:88
3rd Kelln Davis	1:33:94

3rd & 4th Girls

1st Bentley Rowe	1:39:44
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800 Meter Run

3rd & 4th Boys

1st Simon McKenney	3:42:00
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1600 Meter Run

3rd & 4th Boys

1st Simon McKenney	8:09
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Chalk It Up to Kindness Event Highlights Mental Health Awareness

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Mother Nature brought sunshine and warmth to a day dedicated to highlighting the importance of mental health and suicide prevention awareness at Herrmann Park on Saturday, May 10.

Chalk it Up to Kindness hosted by Out of the Darkness and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) created a variety of activities geared towards both young and old. For the kids there was chalk art led by Alexandra Hansen, balloon animals, cotton candy, and face painting. For the older crowd there was corn hole and a pie in the face fundraiser. PooterQ and Rollin in the Hills food trucks kept event-goers fed.

The event created a light-hearted occasion to learn

about a serious subject. “May is Mental Health Month so we wanted to just get out here and share laughs and smiles and sunshine but we are promoting—advocating for mental health policies—like how to get involved through AFSP, and then also just starting conversations,” explained Sonia Ribordy, Co-Chair of the Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk. “We’re just getting conversation going with your loved ones, with people you care about. Sometimes it’s just awkward and sometimes you just need to use those words, even if it’s awkward, to let them know that you care and it might open up an avenue if they need help.”

Chalk it Up to Kindness is tied to the Out of the Darkness Walk scheduled for September 20, 2025. “The walk happens

in September—the suicide prevention walk—originally we just wanted to do something for mental health and we do chalk art during the walk. We were just going to do some chalk and have some hopeful, positive messages for people and then it blew up! We added all this other stuff because we want to show people how they can take care of their mental health and to check on each other,” said Ribordy.

One of the fun activities for the day included paying for the right to pie a community leader right in the face! Those stepping up to take a pie in the face for mental health were Randy Schmidt, Belle Fourche Mayor, Michaela Horn, Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce, Wallace Eddy, Belle Fourche Police Officer, Sheri Farley, Pastor at Meth-



Taking a pie in the face for mental health were **Michaela Horn**, Executive Director Chamber of Commerce; **Sheri Farley**, Pastor Methodist Church; **Wallace Eddy**, Belle Fourche Police Officer; **Don Ward**, Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department; **Randy Schmidt**, Belle Fourche Mayor; not pictured **Bev Watson**, Belle Fourche Area Volunteer. *Longbrake photos*



Chalk It Up to Kindness event had people lined up to eat at **Pooter Q** and **Rollin in the Hills** food trucks.



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) booth handed out educational information.



Everyone enjoying the afternoon in the park at the **Chalk It Up to Kindness** event.

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Suffer the little children to come unto me.
- Jesus -



Methodist Church Pastor, **Sheri Farley** prepared to get a pie in the face for mental health.



Officer Eddy prepares to get a pie in the face for mental health.



The last pie in the face for mental health went to Mayor **Randy Schmidt**. It was extra large with sprinkles and delivered by **Todd Keller**.

Newell High School Class of 2025 Graduates



Class of 2025 celebrates graduating with a shower of confetti.

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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.

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—A cool, cloudy day didn't hamper the excitement inside of Austin Auditorium as family and friends gathered to celebrate the graduation of a small class of Newell High School students.

Eleven graduates draped in maroon and white caps and gowns filed in one at a time while Pomp and Circumstance played. After they were seated, Dr. Pandi Pittman, Superintendent, welcomed all the graduates and guests. "This is a great day to celebrate the achievements of these young people as they move forward, thank you for attending," she said.

Graduation speaker was Cara Muckridge, Director of Student Support, she shared an inspirational message to the graduates discussing how she has watched the students grow up through the years and become adults ready to take on the world and succeed at whatever they choose to do next in life.

Being a smaller school with a small class of graduates allows the ability to offer some special traditions. Jayden Tesch put together a slide show highlighting each student and their chosen senior quote, song and a montage of pictures from a young child to current age were displayed.

Another unique activity is called the Presentation of Flowers. Graduates go to the

front of the room and pick up carnations and then walk around and deliver them to whomever they deem important or influential in their lives. It is a sweet ritual that allows for hugs, tears and smiles to those giving the flowers and those receiving them.

Salutatorian, Jayden Tesch was welcomed to the stage to address the audience and expressed appreciation for his classmates.

Valedictorian, Hailey McCann spoke about the importance of being present. "I pushed myself hard, sometimes too hard, sacrificing sleep, time with friends...but during this past year, I learned something that changed my perspective. While grades and GPA matter, what matters more is the experience, the connections, the memories and the joy of being involved in the present. That is the real point of these four years," she said. "Working hard is important, but so is giving yourself permission to enjoy life—it's okay to laugh, to have fun and to be imperfect!"

Board Chairperson, Tyrel Bonnet presented diplomas to each graduate. Those receiving diplomas were Jamin Benjamin Davidson, Cody Kayden Jones, Conor Flynn Kenny, Darin Jaime Lewis, Hailey Jo McCann, Kianna Jean Miller, Isaac Dean Stark, Hayden Ray Taigaafi, Jayden Cameron Tesch, Bejae Rian Tesch and Justin Nathaniel Yates.

After receiving diplomas the graduates threw their caps in

the air and exploded canisters of confetti to celebrate. They walked out of the auditorium to their class song, I'll Be There For You, by Rembrandts. Ushers helping them were Sarah Erk, Rowdy Franklin, Tayla Neely and Michael Lawson.



Valedictorian Hailey McCann gives a speech to her fellow graduates and family and friends.

Longbrake photo

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<p>Best Choice Ketchup</p>  <p>24 oz.</p> <p>99¢</p>	<p>Best Choice Yogurt All Varieties • 6 oz.</p>  <p>2/\$1 or 50¢</p>	<p>Blue Bunny Premium Dairy Dessert or Frozen Yogurt</p>  <p>All Varieties 46-48 oz.</p> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>Best Choice Soda or Mixers</p>  <p>All Varieties 2 liter</p> <p>99¢</p>	<p>Dasani Water 24 pk.</p>  <p>\$5.29</p>

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The rain we got this week was very welcome and we're so glad to not be in another drought. It rained a little the first part of this week. I keep track of the amount of rain we get every day and so far it totals over three inches.

Michael and Colleen Brandt came to church last Sunday on their way to Hettinger for the graduation of Colleen's granddaughter and we had a good visit. Pastor Henry Mohagan and Sen. Sam Marty told us about their Honor Flight to Washington, DC, over coffee and fellowship after church that morning and that was really interesting. Reub and I spent that afternoon in Prairie City for the burial of David Randall in the Prairie City Cemetery

and had lunch afterwards at the Beckman Memorial Church.

It rained all day on Monday and Reub was busy vacuuming water out of the basement. We went to Hettinger that afternoon and when we got home there was a lot more water in the basement for him to vacuum up.

It rained again on Tuesday and I enjoyed sitting in my recliner that evening to watch Sen. Sam Marty being interviewed on KELO news about his Honor Flight to Washington, DC.

I went to a meeting for the High Plains Western Heritage Center at the First Interstate Bank in Spearfish Wednesday morning to meet Juliet Main who grew up on a ranch south of Lemmon. She has an interesting history with spending 25 years in Washington, DC. While I was gone Amanda helped the

guys brand the last of the calves so they are done with that job.

It was sunny with no rain on Thursday when Reub, Casey and I went over to mow and clean up the cemetery at Glendo to get it ready for Memorial Day on Monday. When we got home Amanda was up cleaning out the gutters on the roof of their house so Reub and I helped her a little bit. She sure dug a bunch of leaves out of the gutters and then rinsed them out with the garden hose. We dumped all the leaves in the back of the Kubota and Reub hauled the mess down to the dump. Casey spent the afternoon hauling away everything they had cleaned out of the lambing shed.

Reub and I hauled a pile of stuff down to Sturgis with the red pickup on Friday to sell it at the R&N Recycling down

there. It sprinkled a little bit south of the Slim Buttes on our way home, but we didn't get any moisture here. We stopped in Reva on the way home to get some of that delicious soft ice cream and had a good visit with Vince at the store. When we got home our friend Lona Tibbs stopped to visit us and after reading about that nasty rooster attacking me, she brought me a succulent plant called Red Heart Hens & Chicks. We had a good visit before she left and it was really nice seeing her again. Thanks Lona!

Reub and I went to my Cousin Donald Krambeer's funeral at the Ludlow hall on Saturday and got to see lots of family and friends. Donald was more like a brother to me than a cousin. He was less than a year older than I am and we spent a lot of time together growing up, especially when his folks lived in that old sod house north of Sorum where we had a lot of fun together and got in a lot of trouble some times. Donald taught me to ride that big white stud horse that Uncle Bob had and we used to go swimming in the water tank down there in hot weather. Donald was a really good pro-rodeo cowboy that rode a lot of broncs at a lot of rodeos. He was drafted into the Army in 1965 during the Vietnam War and was discharged in 1967 without ever having to go to Vietnam. He is buried next to his mother over at the Glendo Cemetery.

On Sunday Seminarian Dan Aichele and his family filled in for Pastor Henry Mohagan while Pastor Henry and Linda

were up in North Dakota for their granddaughter Elise's graduation.

Monday, May 26 was Memorial Day to honor the veterans that died fighting for our freedom. My father, Bryce White, joined the Army in February of 1941 and was sent to northern Africa after Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1941. After being wounded twice, Dad was discharged from the service when WWII was over in 1945. He was an Army medic and one day I found his medic kit that was full of medals he'd earned overseas. I told him "Dad, you're a hero!" and he said "No I'm not, the heroes never came home". When I used to ask Dad questions about the war he told me "You don't want to know". Roy Goddard joined the Army with Dad in 1941, Dad served in the infantry and Roy served in the heavy artillery which caused him to be almost deaf. When we were living at the Sorum Telephone office in Bison, Roy would visit Dad and I would get sent to upstairs to bed. I'd just go around the corner upstairs where they couldn't see me to listen to them. Roy was so hard of hearing that he and Dad had to shout at each other so Roy could hear and I learned more about the awful things those soldiers went through than I ever heard from Dad.

A guy on the radio the other day was talking about Memorial Day and he said "We didn't know them all, but we owe them all" and we certainly do owe everything to those who died fighting for us! Thank God for their bravery and their sacrifice.

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

May 27, 1915

An "outlaw" steer a menace not only to the homesteader if he is out on the prairie at his work, but to the traveler in the vicinity, is a regular complaint of residents of a section. The steer is a stray from the Diamond A Range north of the Cheyenne River and since it has drifted into these parts where he daunts sway, has made life miserable for farmers and ranchers, not hesitating to charge a team if its appearance does not suit his fancy. Complaints have been made to the company who owns the animal and twice they have sent range riders to gather in the outlaw, but without success and now the residents of that section are demanding that they rid of the menace to not only their peace but to lives of

Polo Club, for which a nominal charge will be made. Matches are now scheduled with local Polo Clubs.

A counterfeiter or band of counterfeiters is operating in this part of the Black Hills, it is learned, as a large number of spurious dimes recently have been placed in circulation here.

Last week Eddie Hikell closed a deal for the sale of his 80-acre irrigated farm to an Onida party for a consideration of \$3,150. This is right around \$40 an acre. Land is starting to move in all the west-river counties. Eddie has opened a pantatorium in the Amunson building, first door east of the Barrett Barber Shop. Mr. Hikell is adept at cleaning and pressing and should command enough business to make a

by Linda Velder

officers, while the Department of Commerce has contracted for the first full-sized machine.

County Deputy Sheriff's Charles R. Arnold, Belle Fourche and Guy Malcolm, Nisland, staged a liquor raid in Newell Saturday evening and as a result, O. W. Anderson, operating a Pool Hall and T. F. Eilts, operating the Ivey Café, were both placed under arrest. At the Anderson Pool Hall the officers found a quantity of liquor in sealed bottles, but also one bottle with a broken seal. At T. F. Eilts' café did not find liquor but arrested Eilts for selling beer without procuring a license. Jack Rathbun, Nisland, was also arrested in Newell on a charge of public intoxication. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 plus costs amounting to \$46.40. He did not reveal where he had obtained the hootch.

May 24, 1945

Henry Jacobsen, acting for the Labor Division of the Butte County Agent's Office, gives assurance of an ample supply of sheep shearers for the 1945 season. He says shearing crews in other states have been contacted and are available for this area, also some 60 shearers from Mexico have been granted permits to cross the line for the shearing season in this area.

Butte County Spring Circuit Court was convened Monday at Belle Fourche and was ended again in short order that same day. Circuit Judge Charles R. Hayes signed an order for dismissal of the manslaughter case involving Tony Vigil, 17-year-old Nisland youth who was tried last fall, but upon whose case the Jury could reach no Verdict because of his age. The Nisland youth was tried in connection with the death of Army Cpl. Paul Dell, Newell, who died of injuries sustained when struck by a car on a county road southeast of Nisland last summer while on furlough. Vigil entered the Army a short time ago.

The circus advertised for last Sunday failed to make an appearance. They were mired down at the show grounds in Sturgis where two inches of rain fell on Saturday evening and Sunday. No Saturday evening performances were given there on account of the storm and poor attendance.

May 26, 1955

Mrs. Teresa Lyons and Karen and Eva Turpen all of Newell, accompanied Mrs. Francis Jacobsen and Patty of Castle Rock to the Ragner

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1915 Army Horse Round-up. The second sweep across the area to pick up the previously culled. Newell Museum

those who do not know of conditions and may find themselves away from shelter at any time, the County Commission having taken up the issue and making a formal demand on the company to get busy.

Horse buyers are scouting this part of the state for export horses at the present time and are accepting animals which would not begin to pass the inspection for such horses last fall, horses which were culled out at that time being readily accepted now.

Mrs. Anthony Votuva of Castle Rock was in town Friday and was suffering from blood poisoning caused by running a splinter of bone into her hand while cutting up a jack rabbit to feed to the chickens.

May 21, 1925

For the next 3 months at Fort Meade the troopers will put on a polo game every Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. This attraction will be free to the public, except next Sunday, May 24th, a match game scheduled between the Ft. Meade team and a team from the Pierre

success of the venture.

May 23, 1935

McCormick-Deering 4-row beet cultivators are fast-working, labor-saving tools, well worth any beet grower's consideration. The operator guides the cultivator with his feet, while he sits in a normal, comfortable position. Work, easily done, is a feature of this up-to-the-minute drill. The Newell Implement company has one on display in their store-room this week.

Spend Memorial Day, Monday 30th, in Newell. A free picture show in the afternoon, sponsored by the Newell American Legion Post and in the evening at regular admission prices, the great "Broadway Bill", with Myrna Loy and Warner Baxter. This is the most thrilling race picture ever shown. A simply unforgettable performance!

Work on the combination automobile and airplane designed to cost little and to be small enough to park in the average garage is being closely followed by the Army and Navy

Boe home east of Newell to attend and participate in a piano recital Sunday afternoon. A light supper and refreshments were served at the close of the concert.

The expansion of another Newell business building was started the past week, when Melvin Wester began construction of what will be a 60x25 foot addition to the rear of Bunney's Cleaners in Newell. Fred Bunney reports the new addition will be of cement and cement block construction with an asphalt built-up roof. It is expected to give them additional needed room for their cleaning, pressing and drying operations and also more office space. An emergency occurred; daughter Gloria underwent an appendectomy at the Belle Fourche Hospital Saturday and is home and getting along nicely.

A large crowd attended the 6th Grade graduation exercises held Thursday night which included musical numbers, square dances, readings, songs and band selections by members of the graduating class. A welcome to Junior High School was given by Susan Christopherson, then the graduates were presented to Supt. G. W. Austin by their teacher Mrs. Abbie Lund. The graduates were: Bernard Barber, Gary Coe, Ruth Conner, Mary Cram, Hazel Day, David DeGarlais, Joyce Donnelly, Robert Fardig, Kathy Fredlund, Donald Gifford, James Gray, Donna Hafner, JoAnn Hafner, James Hedrick, Arlene Jaukkari, Alfreda Kayras, Larry Killinen, Nita Kirk, Bettie Kuntz, Lottie Lewis, Billy Long, Ida Maciulaitis, Sumner Price, Jean Rank, JoAnn Richter, Mardel Simons, Cheryl Soma, Tommy Stapp, Janet Stalnack, Linda Tompkins, Charles Turbiville, Leo Turpen, Kirk Wilson and Marion Wilson. Special Literature Awards were presented to students showing the greatest improvement in literature during the year, presented by Supt. and Mrs. Austin to Kirk Wilson and Linda Tompkins.

May 20, 1965

"Wear A Poppy to Show That You Remember" is the appeal of the American Legion Auxiliary of Newell, to the people of Newell area on

Poppy Day this Saturday, May 2nd says Mrs. Henry Anderson Poppy Day Chairman. Poppy Day is an annual memorial to the American war dead and a tribute to disabled veterans and distributed throughout our land under the supervision of the American Legion Auxiliary. All contributions received from Poppy Day go to aid disabled veterans and members of their families. Leland Lange Commander of Ross-Kayras Post lead discussion on plans for Memorial Day Services to be held at the Newell Cemetery at 10:30 AM, May 30th. Mahlon Alden, Charles Felton and C. M. Smith are the Cemetery Committee.

Glen Wahlfeldt, Newell rancher, escaped injury Monday, when a plane he was piloting crashed while landing on the Bob Koskela range 25 miles northeast of Newell. The plane, a 1964 Super Cub, owned by Darrell Blomberg, Newell Airport operator, was badly damaged as it nosed over. Blomberg reported the damage would be partially covered by insurance and that he planned to secure a new plane immediately.

Newell Girl Scouts are asking residents this week to donate flower seeds for planting in the City Parks, according to Girl Scout Leader Mrs. Howard Wilson. Anyone who has any extra seeds are asked to call Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Don West or Mrs. Dan Wiest and the Girl Scouts will be happy to pick up the seeds.

Outstanding military cadets were honored at the Annual Governor's Day Inspection & Review held Friday May 14 at South Dakota State University. An outstanding leadership award sponsored by Hoffman-Townsend American Legion Post of Brookings went to Army Cadet Lt. Col. Morris Schallenberger of Newell. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Schallenberger. Army Cadet Maj. Robert C. Schnell, Sturgis received the Defense Supply Association Award as an outstanding Senior ROTC student in the Nation also was the recipient of the Armed Forces Chemical Association, excelling in chemistry or an applied science.

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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

Mondays

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

June 8

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

BH Farmer's Market

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

June 9

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

Feeding South Dakota

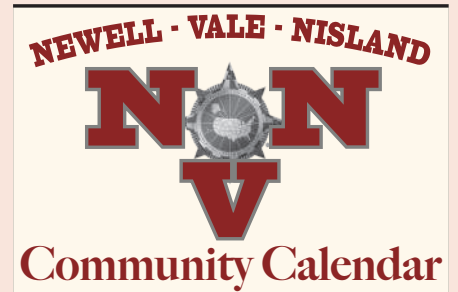
Second Thursday every month, 1:30

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

Newell Library Hours

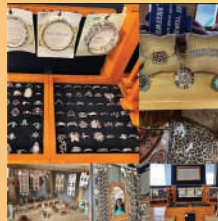
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GRADUATION 2025



Hailey McCann and Kianna Miller stand in the receiving line to celebrate with family and friends.

Below:

Graduate Hayden Ray Taigaafi checks to make sure his diploma is signed and then shows it to the audience!



Salutarian Jayden Tesch addresses the audience.

Below:

Conor Flynn Kenny receives his diploma.

Longbrake photos



Farming, Recreation, and Flood Control

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BF RESERVOIR-There are 57,183 irrigated acres in Butte County that depend on the Belle Fourche Reservoir's water supply. The project's principal irrigated crops are alfalfa and corn, but other crops are also raised on the irrigation project. These crops include barley, oats, soybeans, and other forage crops. The irrigated lands are scattered throughout the project area. Most farms include both irrigated and non-irrigated (dry) land.

The 8,000-acre reservoir was created in 1911, when Orman Dam was constructed to store water for irrigation. At the time of its completion, Orman Dam was the largest earthen dam in the world. In 1989, Orman Dam was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

Orman Dam has been re-named Belle Fourche Dam, but most locals still call it Orman. It is located 10 miles northeast of Belle Fourche along SD Highway 212. The homogeneous earth filled structure is 6,262 feet long and 122 feet high. It was constructed across Owl Creek, an intermittent stream tributary to the Belle Fourche

River. The act of October 27, 1974 authorized modification of Belle Fourche Dam to include a new spillway and improvement of the upstream slope protection of the dam to ensure safety. The work was started in 1976 and completed in 1977.

The earth-lined spillway has a discharge capacity of 4,500 cubic feet per second. It is located one mile south of the dam's right abutment. There are two controlled outlet works that serve the North and South Canals, with 600 and 300 cubic feet per second capacities, respectively. Storage is approximately 158,688 acre-feet.

Not only does the reservoir supply much needed water to the crops of Butte County, but it provides sundry recreation benefits. Known as Rocky Point, the recreation area has a lot to offer. Although fishing is the primary activity, boating and water skiing come in at a close second. There are places to swim and maintained areas for camping. The SD Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Forestry operates and maintains access roads, sanitary facilities, and boat ramp developments around the reservoir area.

Among the activities a visitor can find places set up for



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Congratulations, Hailey

archery, biking, geocaching, horseshoes, paddle boarding, picnicking, volleyball, and many roads to take a walk.

There is no space in the reservoir that is allocated for flood storage, however, there are minimal flood control benefits inherent in the overall operation. Flood flows can be captured in Owl Creek. Water can also be diverted from the Belle Fourche River as needed for the conservation storage.

The water in Belle Fourche Reservoir supplies farmers and visitors with much needed constancy. Whether it's swimming, fishing, or irrigating crops the Belle Fourche Reservoir supplies many needs. Take a drive to see the full dam, it may not stay that full during the hot summer months.



Students from across South Dakota who are in the top 1% of their graduating class each received a pin as well as a certificate signed by Governor Rhoden and attested by the Secretary of State with the State Seal. Each honoree also had an opportunity to get their picture taken with the Governor. *Courtesy Photo*

Reservoir Data as of 5/23/25

Pool Elevation

Pool Elevation is 2973.2 ft.

Reservoir Storage is

158,533 acre-feet

Reservoir Inflow is 751.11

CFS

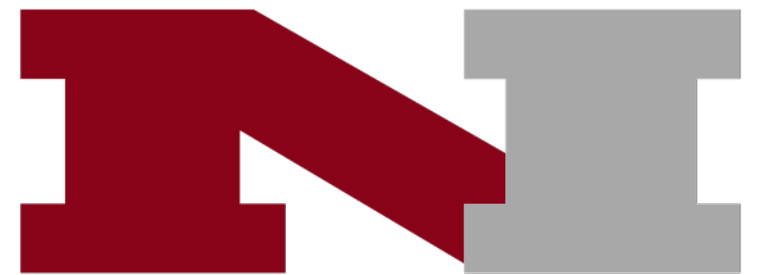
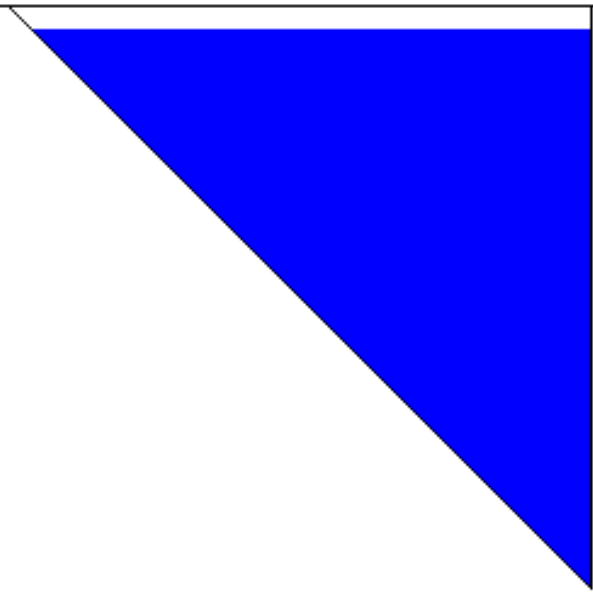
Reservoir Outflow is 130.0

CFS

Reservoir is 91.7% full

FLOOD
2975.0

ACTIVE
2975.0



Shawn Donahey, Head Coach

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

Below:
Newell School District continues to welcome new staff for 2025/2026. Welcome Mr. Santiago as Physical Education, Health, and Activities Director.

Mr. Santiago graduated from Black Hills State University with a bachelor's degree in physical education. This spring he filled the role of paraprofessional at Belle Fourche Elementary School.

Mr. Santiago student taught at Rapid Valley Elementary and Rapid City Central High School. He has been a baseball coach and knows the game well. Dominic focuses on creating healthy lifestyles and motivating students.

Dominic Santiago
Physical Education, Health, and Activities Director.

Paula Reedy
Art Teacher

She's back and we couldn't be happier! Paula Reedy joins the Newell School District staff as the half-time Art teacher in 2025/2026. She served at Newell School District for over 20 years retiring in 2021 and was named Teacher of the Year.

Courtesy Photos

#81 Ryan Niman Semi Pro Elko Warriors
Rocky Mountain Football League

Head High School Football Coach
Ryan Niman

Assistant High School Football Coach
Mark Bachman

#20 MARK BACHMAN NORTH STAR CONFERENCE IOWA

Welcome High School Football Coaches 2025/2026!

Head Coach Ryan Niman:

"I grew up in Spring Creek Nevada & started playing football at 8 years old. I also played all through high school for the Spring Creek Spartans & lettering my senior year. After highschool, I made the semi- professional team Elko Warriors & played 3 seasons (2012, 2013,2014) in the Rocky Mountain Football League as a wide receiver/ running back. I look forward to bringing my skills & knowledge of the game to Newell & its athletes. We are excited to have a great building season this year & many winning seasons to come."

Assistant Coach Mark Bachman:

Middle linebacker, running back. North Star Conference Iowa. 1st Team All Conference. All state. I look forward to assisting Coach Niman in the 2025/2026 season.