



# Belle Fourche Beacon

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## Festival of Trees

Ryder Heitz

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche Community Hall came alive with holiday cheer on Tuesday evening, December 3, for the 25th annual Festival of Trees. Hosted by the Black Hills Round-up Ag Committee in partnership with First Interstate Bank.

The event featured 15 intricately decorated Christmas trees, 14 unique wreaths, and a vast array of silent auction items that captured the season's joy and giving spirit. Food and refreshments were also served.

The Festival of Trees serves to raise money for local organizations that help those in need.

This year's tree and wreath auction beneficiaries were Belle Fourche Meals on Wheels, Belle Fourche Ministerial Association, Belle Silver Lining, Butte County Child Protection Team, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #12, and Greater Belle Fourche Foundation. St. Paul's Catholic Church Shopping Store was selected to receive silent auction proceeds. "Each year we pick a recipient for the silent auction.

This year we picked the St. Paul's Catholic Church kids' shopping spree. It's such a worthy cause," said Joan Manke of the Black Hills

## 25th Annual Festival of Trees Raises \$40,000



The Community Hall was packed on Tuesday evening December 3rd for the 25th annual Festival of Trees. Longbrake photo

Roundup Ag Committee. Kids of any age are allowed to shop for their families and get to interact with other kids their age—and no one gets turned away.

Festival of Trees A8

## Tri-State Museum Holds First Ginger Festival

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The Tri-State Museum hosted their 1st Annual Ginger Festival on December 7. It was also the first event held in the new addition. The idea for the Ginger Festival sprouted from a gingerbread castle that was given to the Museum a few years back. "We received from a woman in Spearfish who had a Doll Museum, a collection, a small collection of gingerbread houses, and the centerpiece of the whole thing was the castle," explained museum director, Kristi Thielen.

Every year the museum was able to add pieces to the collection and it kept growing. "We finally reached the point where we have

a member of the board and a volunteer who makes scenes, and she made a number of scenes, so it has grown tremendously, it just grew and grew and grew and grew," said Thielen.

The ever-growing gingerbread village combined with the holiday season became the focal point for a new tradition. "We knew that we wanted to have a festival at the beginning of December, why not hitch the village to the idea of an entire festival, which then led to getting activity tables, an entire exhibit, musicians, Santa, all the other accouterments, part of it," said Thielen. "It all grew from that initial set

Ginger contd. C4



## La Belle Ballet Preforms the Nutcracker Ballet

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The Nutcracker came to life on stage in front of a packed house at the Rec Center theater on December 7. La Belle Ballet presented the 17 dances of the Nutcracker Suite on a stage set with a large Christmas tree, presents under

the tree, and a couch for Clara, played by Aurora Larive, to fall asleep on as she dreamt of the events in the ballet.

The Nutcracker doll, played by Audrey Jeitz, came to life on Christmas Eve and battled the evil Mouse King, played by Lucila Merjil.

The Ballet Dancers did a phe-



Dancers in the Nutcracker Ballet came out on stage and shined. Longbrake photo

The centerpiece to the **Gingerbread Village** is a grand castle donated to the **Tri-State Museum** by **Johanna Meier**. Longbrake photo

nomenal job. The cast consisted of performers from age three to age 30.

While they were all super performers, two of the dancers that really stood out were the Arabian Dancer, Adeline Erickson and The Clown, Talia Thompson. Both dancers embodied their roles and danced to the delight of the crowd.

Erickson added gymnastics flips to her dance and made them look easy. Thompson had the crowd laughing and cheering at her on-stage antics as the Clown.

Preparation for the Nutcracker Ballet began with auditions in August. The process of picking the cast took place over two days.

Under the direction of Mary Neiman and Lauren Krier, the cast of the one-hour ballet practiced for months to bring this performance to the stage. Nei-

Nutcracker Ballet contd. C4

## Holiday Cheer is Served Up at Prairie Hills Pharmacy Ladies Night

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The holiday season is up and running in Belle Fourche! The fifth annual Ladies Night was held at Prairie Hills Pharmacy on December 5, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The mother-daughter team of Cheryl Westland and Cindy Cowan, also co-owners of Prairie Hills Pharmacy, invited the women of the area to enjoy some holiday cheer with them at their store.

"This is our fifth year, we started the first year we were open,"

explained Cowan. "We did it just to offer a ladies night for them to come in, we offer them a wish list if they want to write down the things they want, and snacks, drinks, just a fun little holiday thing for the ladies."

The Pharmacy plans events all through the holiday season. "Each year it just gets bigger, it just grows," said Cowan. "We did our jewelry kickoff few weeks ago, we do our 12 Days of Savings also, we start that the first of December and then it kind of ties in with the Ladies Night!"

The store moving locations and into a larger building has helped to increase turnout. "It's good each year. It just seems to grow a little bit more though because of moving locations.

When we were up on Summit, it was small, but once we moved we just have more space," explained Cowan.

The duo is originally from Montana, both were born and raised in a small town right on the Canadian border.

Westland is the Pharmacist and she discovered the Black Hills when she attended college at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD.

The family "loved it here" and decided to settle in Belle Fourche. Cowan explained, "She wanted to open a pharmacy, but she needed someone to help with the business side of it.

And so that was where my starting point was—I'll come and we will do this together—so we did!"

Working with family could have its problems, but not in this case. "It's really fun!"

People will say to me, isn't it hard to work with your daughter? No, no it is not, it's great," said Cowan.



Cindy Cowan, co-owner of **Prairie Hills Pharmacy** rings up a customer on Ladies Night! Longbrake Photos



A lot of shopping and visiting was done by the ladies during Ladies Night at Prairie Hills Pharmacy. **Prairie Hills Pharmacy** provided clip boards, pens and a wishlist for ladies to write down what they wanted for Christmas. Anyone who purchases an item from a wishlist will receive 10 percent off along with free gift wrapping if over a \$50 purchase.

## West Tire Under New Ownership

Ryder Heitz

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BELLE FOURCHE—Cathy and Justin Pounds, owners of Rogue Motorsports, have purchased West Tire & Alignment in Belle Fourche.

The Pounds officially took over West Tire on the 27th of November and have moved Rogue Motorsports across the street to 104 6th Avenue in Belle. "We were looking for just another shop because our other shop was only 900 square feet," explained Cathy

Pounds. "It was a blessing to get started in.

But we just grew so fast and we didn't have room for mechanics or machines."

The new Rogue Motorsports location now provides 5,000 square feet of space along with the acquisition of the West Tire shop.

The shops provide service, parts, tires, batteries, and more for UTVs, ATVs, snowmobiles, and motorcycles. "I want it to be a one stop shop for every

West Tire Contd.C1



Cathy & Justin Pounds, owners of **Rogue Motorsports** and new owners of **West Tire** in West Tire office. Beacon Photo

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Some grieve the loss of a loved one. Others have pain of another kind. But Christmas can bring peace and hope because God has you on His mind.

So we hope you feel God's love. We hope your faith is renewed. We hope you feel some hope and joy. May God bless you through and through!

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**Mark & Debra Leverington Owners**  
 Belle Fourche

**Myria Jean Warren 86**

Myria Jean Warren, age 86 of Belle Fourche, died Monday, December 9, 2024 at Garden Hills Assisted Living in Spearfish.

Visitation took place from Friday, December 13, 2024 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Inurnment will be held 9:30 am Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis.


Friends may leave written condolences online at: [www.LeveringtonFH.com](http://www.LeveringtonFH.com)

Myria Jean Kinney was born on December 15, 1937 in Lead, SD. She was the daughter of Charles and Louise Kinney. Myria graduated from Lead High School in 1955. She married Harold Warren on November 24, 1962. To this union she brought three children Edward, Timothy and Debbie and 4 years later Luaine, Vanessa, and Guss (Harold, Jr.) joined making a total of six children. Following their marriage Myria was able to be a stay at home mom until 1975 when Harold passed away. Myria went back to college to get her degree in bookkeeping while raising 6 kids and working at the Napa store as a bookkeeper. She graduated from Black Hills State College.

One of Myria's love and passion in life was playing pool. Since 1976 Myria made it her goal to attend the International VNEA pool tournament held every May in Las Vegas as she was bound and determined to win a cougar trophy. She accomplished this goal in 2004 only for the trophy to be stolen out of the trophy case in Las Vegas. Myria was inducted into the SDABA Hall of Fame in 2014 and in 2021 at the age of 82 Myria was inducted into the South Dakota VNEA Pool Hall of Fame.

Myria is survived by her six children, Edward (Robin) Warren of Fulton, NY, Timothy Warren of Belle Fourche, Debbie (Jimmy) Corean of Spearfish, Luaine (Alan) Shaykett of Nisland, Vanessa (Barry) Ellis of Shippensburg, PA, and Guss Warren of Belle Fourche, Sister, Monica Eisenbraun of St. Onge, Brother, Michael Kinney as well as 23 grandchildren, and 27 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Myria was preceded in death by her parents, husband; sisters, Silver Shoop, Marcia-da Williams, and brother, Charles Kinney, Jr.



**Pastor's Perspective** *This Another Perspective is from the archives of Foursquare Pastor, the late Dr. Jack Hayford*

**"A Call To Turn God's Way"**

*The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. - Proverbs 4:18*

God calls us to capture His possibilities for each season of our lives. Reject the world's thinking about age. With age comes increase, significance and substance. In most parts of the world, age is revered and esteemed, unlike it is generally viewed in contemporary North American culture.

As years accumulate, people who submit to the world's mindset, submit to the pressures of a culture idolizing youth. The course of change and age impacts everyone's life sooner or later. With change, some people's world comes apart, and they begin to lose their sense of value and self-worth. But with each season of our lives, God desires to sharpen our focus if we will answer His call to turn to whatever it is He is doing right now.

**Six Ways to Turn God's way**

- 1. TURN** with a compass' precision, which can provide a course adjustment or a refinement of direction. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye (Psalm 32:8). You are led by God's eye, as you come into His presence and look into His face. There are things He has planned for you, which you will either hit or miss, depending on the accuracy of direction in your life. The significance of staying on target can mean the difference in making it to the next stage of God's purpose for your life, or becoming lost wandering around in your own wisdom.
- 2. TURN** to a new page in a journal, providing space for what is to be written now. "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this" (Revelation 1:19). If you do not write things on God's terms, you will wind up writing them on your own terms, and they become meaningless. Let God interpret each "new page" in your life with His purpose. "His mercies are new every morning." He gives us time and years for a purpose, not just to get old.
- 3. TURN** with the accuracy of a clock's movement. Every season of our life brings us to another time zone. You decide whether you are going to let the Lord work in the time zone of your life now, or if you are going to pretend you're living in another time. I've seen mature people lose touch with where they are (or should be) in the years of their life, and younger people, in their twenties and thirties, living as if they are still in junior high school! They're not functioning in maturity. They're not tuned to their time of life. "Do not remember the former things... Behold, I will do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:18, 19). The Lord has a new thing for you now, in this season and age of your life.
- 4. TURN** and alter your stance to see the vision of a broader panorama. "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields..." (John 4:35). Your stance determines how broad your vision is. You can think you see it all, but if you open to God's stance, you really will see it all.
- 5. TURN** with a focusing device, like a microscope or a telescope, to see what you would otherwise not be able to see. Open my eyes that I may see great and wondrous things from Your law (Psalm 119:18). Let Jesus keep sharpening your vision! The Lord wants to refine our vision, so we no longer see what inconveniences us about people and see their needs, hurts and concerns, instead. If you don't want to wind up old and cranky, tune in to God's vision, instead of your own self-centeredness.
- 6. TURN** as a thermostat does to increase room temperature. "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). Have passion in your soul for God, for Jesus Christ and for the ultimate significance of what life is. "So then because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:16). Maintain the Holy Spirit's fire and fullness as you grow older. The "call to turn God's way" means to adjust to whatever the Lord is doing right now and trust in His faithfulness.

**Wilen Monument**

When someone you love becomes a Memory, the memory becomes a Treasure. -Unknown-

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**Gifts of Song**

You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute, to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the Mighty One of Israel. -Isaiah 30:29"

Christmas is a holy festival—the feast of the incarnation of the Son of God, commemorating that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). No event in history has birthed more music than the Feast of Christmas. Examples such as "Away in a Manger" to "The Messiah," from the simplest, most child-like melody to the most majestically symphonic, the world has been filled with the festival music of Christmastide.

As we sing the carols of the season, it is a new opportunity to transcend the obvious. The "obvious" lies in our simply singing in observation or celebration of the season. The not-so-obvious is to see and respond to the fact that the Holy Spirit is present to secure a song in our souls. He is ever ready to implant within us those resources which will make us sufficient for every good work, for every season, and for every circumstance.

The songs of the season pass, but the song which the Spirit imparts to you will remain, even when the holiday season is over.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, [a]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. -Matthew 2:1-3.

**Roots Grow Deep and Strong # 26**  
**“The Sans Permis Project**



**Meg English**

In western South Dakota and in most of the US, it's nearly impossible to function effectively without a reliable means of transportation. There's a lot of ground to cover in an average day in this part of the world and getting along without a car and, or a license just doesn't work.

Nor does it help that public transportation has never been a viable option in this region.

Although public transportation in most European countries is more established, affordable and reliable, it too often fails to meet the needs of everyone, especially those who live in rural areas or those who have a lot of places to go.

What families don't have groceries to bring from the supermarket? Kids who need to get to their soccer games? Parents who have jobs and other places to go?

Even in Europe, not having a valid driver's license or a car presents a challenging lifestyle.

However, this scenario is not necessarily true in France! No driver's license? No prob-

lem! No reliable, affordable vehicle? Not a problem either!

Age 14 or older? Tall enough to reach the pedals and see over the steering wheel?

Yes, it's true. Anyone in France can driver a "voiture sans permis" (VSP).

A VSP is a small two-seater car that anyone (14 or older) is free to drive without a license with or without a little behind the wheel instruction (recommended but not required). Translated, sans permis means without license. Voiture is the French word for car.

The VSPs are available all over France and they appear to be gaining popularity. The cars are quite basic and are constructed mainly of replaceable plastic parts that are surprisingly inexpensive.

The little cars are less expensive than most cars on the road in France. New vehicles start at around 13,000 US dollars.

Used vehicles are readily available and can range in prices from approximately \$3,000 to \$12,000. Some of the used vehicles may be 10 years old or older. The first VSP car appeared in 1975.

There does not seem to be any official figures on how many VSPs are on the roads in France, but dealerships exist all over the country. Apparently, the VSPs are popular with high school age kids as they are probably a safer transportation option than a motorbike or an electric scooter.

The main manufacturers are Microcar, Aixam, and Ligier. The cars are available in several colors and models. They run on electricity or diesel. Diesel engines are preferred as few places to charge an electric car are available.

The little cars have big sounding if tiny engines. Their top recommended speed is around 45 MPH which is fast enough for most roads and most traffic. However, they can reportedly travel as fast as 60 MPH.

You can't take VSPs on roads where traffic moves fast, but they are handy for driving between and in the small towns.

A reputable dealership won't sell you a car unless you can show insurance, but if you but you can buy the car from a third party who won't care if you insure it or not. Remember, you don't need to have a driver's license to be legal. Not even if you are 107 years old.

What seems a little incongruous is not that these little cars are available, but that drivers do not need to have any licensure whatsoever to operate one.

So would VSPs be a potential solution in the US, or in western South Dakota for example? That might mean if someone loses his or her license, after maybe having a few too many beers and driving home, he or she could buy a VSP and be back on the road the same day legally.

This could be very convenient. When he or she eventually gets his or her license returned, he or she could sell the vehicle to someone else

who has just lost his or her license, perhaps even as a profit.

Better still, we could have entire lots of VSP rental cars available near the county jails so that one could simply rent a VSP and legally drive oneself home from jail after experiencing incarceration following a DUI violation.

Another benefit might be the gas mileage savings.

The fact that older people whose kids have taken their licenses could be independent and mobile for years yet to come.

Older people tend to drive more slowly anyway, the little cars are easy enough to pass, so speed wouldn't be a road hazard.

Given the small size of the

cars, high school kids could pack the high school parking lot with them, take up way less space, and not have to walk too far from the parking lot to the school.

They could also keep the speeds in the high school parking lots below 45 MPH.

Of course, I speak tongue in cheek about the advantages of VSPs in rural South Dakota. However, the cars are real in France and there is honestly, no driver's license requirement, and no upper age restrictions either.

The cars seem to work well-enough France even if that's hard to believe.

Still legalizing 'no license' cars in South Dakota is not legislation I hope anyone in the state legislature is willing to initiate.



Our new French "wheels" a classic white san permis voiture with automatic windows, a radio, windshield wiper and all the essentials, road ready and road worthy!

**Retailers Association's "Thrive in '25" Conference Registration Now Open!**

PIERRE, SD – Registration for the South Dakota Retailers Association's annual conference "Thrive in '25" has



begun. Open to business owners and the public, this informative and engaging event will take place on Monday, January 13, 2025, at the Ramkota River Center in Pierre.

Register online at [sdra.org/bizconference](http://sdra.org/bizconference).

The "Thrive in '25" conference will explore strategies to "Work On Your Business, Not In It;" feature a discussion on "Practical Financing In An Uncertain Economy;" and offer updates on "Consumer & Business Trends."

Kevin Nyberg, owner of Nyberg's Ace and Dakota Workwear in Sioux Falls states, "I have attended SDRA Busi-

ness Conference for years." He said, "It is an action-packed event with great seminars to help your business grow!"

My favorite part is meeting fellow business owners and sharing ideas." Held on the Monday before the legislative session opens, the conference provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity to network with business owners from around the state and converse with lawmakers, constitutional officers, and other influential state officials.

During the evening social, the Retailers Association will present its annual Retailer of the Year, Restaurant of the Year, and Community Service award winners.

"We believe that supporting South Dakota businesses provides opportunities for the next generation," said Exec. Dir. Nathan Sanderson.

"We invite all entrepreneurs and business professionals – whether Retailers Association members or not – to come see how sharing these values continues to advance our state."

To register for the "Thrive in '25" conference or learn more, visit [sdra.org/bizconference](http://sdra.org/bizconference). Registrations are due by Monday, December 30. Meals are included with registration.

*The South Dakota Retailers Association is one of the nation's oldest and largest trade organizations, operating as the South Dakota Restaurant, Grocers, and Hospitality associations. We believe in South Dakota businesses, offering information, advocacy, and money-saving services to 4,000 members. Learn more online at [sdra.org](http://sdra.org).*



**Thank You!**  
 (We extend our heartfelt gratitude for gracing the Pitt family with your presence at the spaghetti dinner/silent auction benefit. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you. The Pitt Family)

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

**Dec 19 - Chamber Mixer @ Hitching Post Tap House 4:30PM-6:30PM**

**Dec 20 - Caramel Rolls and Coffee 7AM @ Belle Silver Lining, Angel Store 5PM @ BF Global Methodist Church, BINGO 5PM @ Pasque - reservations needed.**

**Dec 22 - Move in the Afternoon 3PM @ Belle Silver Lining**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*Office hours may vary during the holiday week*

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### Little Dribblers Basketball

**Malik Kennedy**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Although most of them stand barely 4ft tall in stature, don't let this fool you. These Kindergartens are all

in on the action! They practice determined and tenaciously. During these practices, the goal is to work on coordination, technique, and sportsmanship. Most, if not all, of the coaches that are involved at these events

are parent-volunteer based and willingly dive in to help mentor these youth during practices. Parents interviewed during practice times said they feel that these basketball practices help build their child up in many

positive ways. One grandfather specifically mentioned that his grandson on the team is very shy in nature but with the youth basketball program, it's helped his grandson come out of his shell. Not just learning how to make shots with the ball but has learned much social skills amongst his peers and learning teamwork. During these practices there are relays, drills and eye/hand coordinations for practice. These Little Dribblers are doing such a fantastic job. We wish them well for the basketball season!



Little Dribblers' practice obstacle relays with the coaches' help and guidance.

Instruction teamtime with one of the coaches.

### Bronc Wrestlers Earn Podium Spots at the Rapid City Invite

**Kandi Tonsager**  
Special to the Beacon

On Friday December 13th and Saturday December 14th, the Broncs competed in the Rapid City Invitational. This tournament is the largest on the schedule with 52 teams attending from ID, MT, ND, CO, NE, WY and SD boasting 64 man brackets to fight your way to an 8 spot podium.

The Broncs had 14 competitors with 3 placers between the JV and Varsity teams.

In JV, at 106 pounds Nathan Hudson went 2-2, at 113 Conner Crowser made it to the "Blood Round" just short of placing rounds for a 1-2 finish, at 144 pounds Clifford Torberson went 1-2, and at 190 pounds Oscar Garcia-Avina went 0-2. The JV team had 1 placer, at 126 pounds Dylan Park went 3-3 for an 8th place finish.

For the Varsity team, at 106 pounds Caden Swaney went 1-2, at 113 pounds Cooper Conry made it to the blood round with a 2-2 finish, at 132 pounds Garet Huston went 1-2, at 138 pounds Koby Bowden went 1-2, at 144 pounds Riggan Lutter went 0-2, at 157

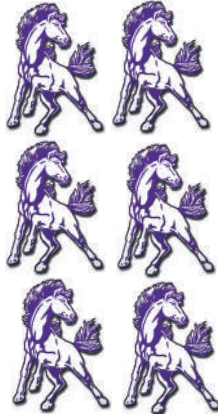
pounds Alex Norlin went 0-2, and at 175 pounds Spencer Bush-Graslie went 1-2. The Varsity team had 2 placers, at 150 pounds Riley Dighton went 5-2 for an 8th place finish. Lucas Tonsager at 285 pound heavyweight went 5-3 for a 6th place finish.

The Lady Broncs had 8 competitors with 3 placers and 1 champion. At 107 pounds Lia Mundt went 2-2, at 120 pounds Birk Kraft went 1-2, at 132 pounds Sofia Gonzales went 0-2, at 152 pounds Abby Vissia went 0-2 and at 165 pounds Alexa Alacron Sanchez went 0-2.

Taking the podium at 138 pounds, Alexa Swaney went 5-2 for a 7th place finish, taking the podium at 152 pounds, Joselyn Shockey went 3-3 for an 8th place finish, and your Lady Broncs Champion at 100 pounds with a 5-0 record is Kyra Vandenberg.

Kyle Blake and Brian Schultz were the last Bronc Champions on the podium at the Rapid City tournament, both in the 2007-2008 season.

The Bronc teams compete next in Madison on December 21st.



Little Dribblers' showing sportsmanship by doing the traditional "handclap line" at the end of each practice.



Kyra Vandenberg Champion 100lb Girls receiving her medal.

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## Blue Christmas

Dec. 18 – Wed. 6:30 pm



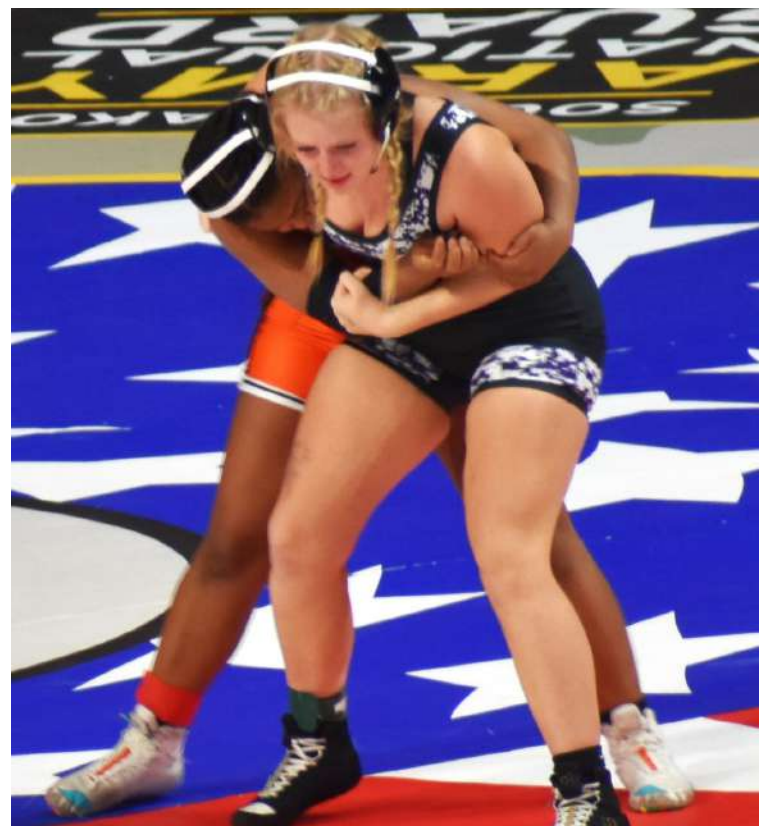
God gives comfort in the darkest times. Christmas can be a sad or painful time for those suffering loss, dealing with anxiety, depression, trauma, change... or just feeling overwhelmed. The feelings are real and felt by many at this season. This service acknowledges the hurts and worries, and looks to the hope, grace and love found in Jesus Christ.

**Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church**  
1804 7<sup>th</sup> Ave - [www.bellefourchegmc.org](http://www.bellefourchegmc.org)

**\*ALL ARE WELCOME\***



Alexa Swaney working on getting back points. *Courtesy Photos*



Joselyn Shockey standing to escape.



Cooper Conrey



Dylan Park



Conner Crowser



Garet Huston



Koby Bowden



Luke Tonsager



Nathan Hudson



Riley Dighton

*More Photos C2*

# Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



Belle Fourche had a weekend of holiday spirit with FIREWORKS and also The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - the Musical! Check out the pictures from this heartwarming, charming and energetic show. (Pictures on C2)

The Belle Fourche Community Theater has two upcoming events for their volunteers & participants: On December 21 @ 7 PM will be their Volunteer Appreciation event at Grap's - celebrating all those who helped in any way with this year's amazing productions. As an official start to a new year of theater, they will hold their annual meeting on January 25th @ 1 PM at Venue 519 for all who would like to find out more about community theater and the exciting upcoming season!

And don't forget to add all the upcoming fine arts events to your calendars!

December 20: Belle Fourche K-4th Grade Concert, BF Rec Center Theater, times TBA

January 20: BFMS Band Concert @ the BF Rec Center Theater, 6:30 PM

January 25th: BFACT Annual Meeting @ 1 PM at Venue 519

Maybe YOU know what SHOW is UP next? Share your fine arts tidbits and upcoming events at [bellelavenue@gmail.com](mailto:bellelavenue@gmail.com).

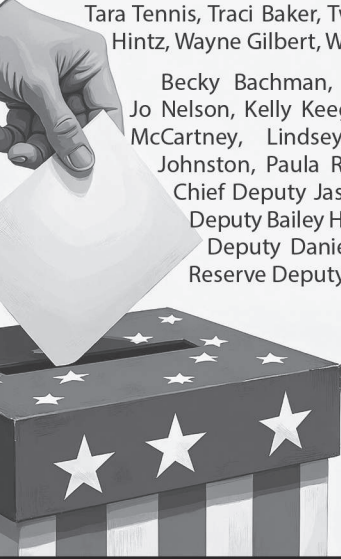
I especially love the juicy backstage dish and green room gossip! Mark your calendars, friends, so you don't forget to Show Up!

The Butte County Commissioners and Auditor would like to express our gratitude to the following election day/post-election audit workers, county employees, Sheriff Deputies, and Reserve officers for their help during the 2024 General Election. Because of your civic dedication, positive attitudes, and professionalism, the Butte County election was conducted with integrity and accuracy. Thank you to every one of you!

Amber Wich, Angela Reich, Betty Bruner, Bill Smart, Billy Heidrich, Codi Mills, Colette Dunn, Colleen Cottingham, Cynthia Lewis, Deb Elliot, Denise Adams, Donna Tope, Dorothy Pitts, Frances Cleveland, Gary Helmer, Glenda Larson, Gwen Kitzan, Heidi Parker, Janelle Austin, Janice Oss, Jean Helmer, Jeni Minor, Jennifer Walker, Johnna Ramirez, Julie Snoozy, Karen Davis, Kasey Salazar, Kim Richards, Laura L Bennett, Lavonna Skogberg, Leann Hintz, Leanne Wells, Lee Capp, Leslie (Chuck) Snoozy, Linda Hayes, Linda Vollmer, Lisa Wonderly, Lynette Culver, Marilyn Berdan, Marjorie Adams, Mark Kapsa, Mary Wendt, Nancy Turbiville, Nicole Kraft, Paula Heidrich, Randy Bradley, Renee Bachman, Rhonda Vallery, Robin Wilkins, Sally Mason, Samantha Moelter, Scott Scheller, Sharon Capp, Sharon Kirkman, Sheila Hodge, Sherry Smeenk, Shirley Blake, Stacey Raisanen, Stephen Hayes, Stephanie Lippincott, Tara Tennis, Traci Baker, Twyla Nelson, Valynn Mednansky, Vern Hintz, Wayne Gilbert, Wilma Faith Goehring.

Becky Bachman, Eliza Thompson, Heather Abraham, Jo Nelson, Kelly Keegan, Kim Cooper, Krinda Fox, LeEllen McCartney, Lindsey Hendrickson, Lisa Nelson, Lori Johnston, Paula Roberts, Sandy Heidrich, Siri Scheller, Chief Deputy Jason March, Civil Deputy Colin Hanzlik, Deputy Bailey Hahne, Deputy Casey McKenzie, Reserve Deputy Daniel Fowler, Reserve Deputy Adam Lee, Reserve Deputy Josh Pickett.

Sincerely;  
Commissioner James Ager  
Commissioner Karrol Herman  
Commissioner Frank Walton  
Commissioner Chad Erk  
Commissioner Terry Batterman  
Auditor Annie Capp



## St. Paul's Catholic Church Gives Kids Christmas Shopping Spree

Ryder Heitz  
[news@bellefourchebeacon.com](mailto:news@bellefourchebeacon.com)

BELLE FOURCHE—The line at the Community Hall was out the door with excited kids and their families on December 7 for the Christmas Shopping Spree, hosted by St. Paul's Catholic Church.

"The kids come in and they get to fill out their tag with their name and how many people, their parents grandparents, and siblings.

And then they come and sit over here and wait for an elf. After the elves take them around, they go to the wrap-

per, and they wrap their gifts," explained Ida Tazer with the Catholic Church. "All the kids are welcome because everything is given to us or donated. We get the donations from all over," Tazer added.

Kids are then allowed to choose from a table of assorted free gifts and given cookies and hot chocolate.

The kids' last stop is a visit and photo with Santa Claus. This is the event's ninth year and it has grown exponentially since its inception; in its first year, 35 kids showed up, and last year's event saw 297 guests.

The shopping spree has grown so much that the event was moved to the Community Hall starting last year. "Next year, if we have as many as we think we're going to have, then we're going to hope to see if maybe we can do it at the Rec Center," said Tazer.

"Everybody that's here is a volunteer. It's a community and it helps," Tazer shared. "The community has been so generous to us.

We've got gifts up there that are still extras in case our tables go short. They have all come together, and it's just been awesome."

## Teen Blast

Good News...the New Year's Eve Teen Blast has returned to Belle Fourche!

The Christian Life Center is hosting the event which is open free-of-charge to all Belle Fourche area high school students (including home-schooled).

The Teen Blast will be an adult-supervised, fun-filled, alcohol-and-drug-free event with food, games, prizes, and youth ministry.

Local businesses have generously donated to the event; so, throughout the evening, there will be drawings for prizes & many, many gift cards to local businesses.

Check-in time is 5:30pm-6pm Dec 31 with festivities ending at 1am.

Registration information and details are available at most Belle Fourche churches or by calling the Christian Life Center @ 605-892-4767.

(R) It is "snowing" gift cards for the New Year's Eve Teen Blast. Pictured trying to wrangle in some gift cards are members of the BFHS Christian Life Center Youth Group: (L-R) Addie Van Sickle, Olivia Sutter and Lexi Pickett.



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## Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden December 15, 2024



We endured some fairly cold temperatures with highs in the teens last week, but by the weekend we ended up in the 30s and 40s. We have enough white stuff to prove that it's winter but much of it was able to bid farewell to us in some areas by Sunday.

Folks are in full swing right now when it comes to shopping for Christmas gifts, baking and preparing for the holidays. Many Christmas parties have been happening and many Christmas programs are winding down.

Meade 46-2, Faith School District, will begin their Christmas vacation on Friday, December 20 with the last day of school being Thursday, December 19. Sturgis and Meade 46-1 Schools' last day being on Friday, December 20. They return from Christmas break on January 6.

Elm Springs held their Christmas program on Monday at the Elm Springs Hall. Opal's program will be on Wednesday, December 18 while Central Meade Christmas Program will be held at the Community Center in Union Center on Thursday, December 19. All programs take place from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Students in the rural schools will attend school for a half day on Friday, December 20.

There have been a variety of bugs and colds circulating, not

just in rural Meade but around the Black Hills areas. Warnings of RSV have been out and other lung issues like bronchitis have been floating around as well. We have several family members who are going through some of these at this time.

There was a pot luck dinner after church services and their special guest was Will Graham's executive director. Allen's daughter shared a special during the service where she shared her beautiful singing voice. The Church in Union Center is exploring the possibility of a meeting night with Will Graham, the grandson of Reverend Billy Graham. There is much to consider with trainings and preparations weeks before the main event so it wouldn't be a task taken lightly.

As I write this, Christmas Day is just 10 short days away. This Christmas season is a great time of year to give thanks for Christ coming to earth to take our place on the cross. It is the one time that we are not just celebrating one's birth but his death in order to fulfill the gift that lasts through eternity. As we reflect, because of this gift we can all have hope and we can all have a joy that can endure even through the hardest of times. Currently there is much illness, real struggles with relationships, finances, and challenges that we don't know that we can overcome. But we have hope because of the one

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who created each one of us. My prayer for my readers this year as that each of you finds joy in the little blessings, an understanding of how important you are to the Mighty one, and that you seek and experience the hand of God's direction, healing and moving in your life. Have a very blessed and Merry Christmas!

## "The Scout at the State Capitol"

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

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The Belle Fourche School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Anything Left in the Barrel?**

Beacon Proof reader was off duty last week and as a result a couple dates and stories were repeated from the previous issue.

We apologize for that and intend to cut back on giving any time off.

The Beacon and Beacon staff that make the paper happen wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas!

Jackrabbit fans. Get ready the Coyotes after the title this year.

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**From A1 Festival of Trees**

The evening kicked off with representatives from each beneficiary organization sharing heartfelt words about their missions, along with gratitude for the community and its support.

Then the auction began, during which each tree and wreath was sold to the highest bidder.

Auctioneer Curt Westland and emcee Harlan Stephens kept everything running smoothly.

Tree decoration themes ranged from classic Christmas red and white to Harry Potter to a snow-covered candyland.

The highest-selling tree was contributed by Pioneer Bank & Trust, while the top selling wreath was donated by Highmark Federal

Credit Union. Chad and Faye Pelster's trio of trees claimed the highest bid among other items.

One memorable moment came when the Harry Potter-themed tree, initially sold, was donated back and then auctioned off again, further bolstering fund-raising efforts.

In total, the event raised approximately \$40,000.

Coordinating an event of this magnitude is no small feat; it involves "contacting all the donors, we have to have the right number of trees, and then we furnish the trees and wreaths," explained Manke.

When Christmas is over, "a lot of times, we get the trees back. So we're not buying 14 or 15 trees every year," Manke added. This

year, the committee did not have to buy any new trees.

"You get the same tree buyers every year, and a lot of times it's just a business," said Manke. "And then we deliver them. So that's another huge thing, which we're very lucky—the police department comes down and does that."

"We try not to spend the money, because we give back 100% of what we take in," Manke continued.

To that end, community members and local businesses pitch in to help with providing food, refreshments, and more. "People are very gracious because of what it represents."

With its combination of festive charm, generous donations, and community-first mindset, the Festival of Trees was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season in Belle Fourche.



The **Belle Fourche FFA** chapter proudly stands with the tree they donated to the auction, which was the second-highest selling tree of the night. *Longbrake photo*



Representatives from the beneficiaries of the event's proceeds were honored before the auction began. *Longbrake photo*



Auctioneer Curt Westland and emcee Harlan Stephens kept everything running smoothly. *Longbrake photo*



The high-selling wreath, donated by **Highmark Federal Credit Union**. *Courtesy photo*



Chad & Faye Pelster's trio of trees was the highest-selling other item. *Courtesy photo*



The high-selling tree, donated by **Pioneer Bank & Trust**. *Courtesy photo*

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## Cattle Report - Friday, December 13, 2024

Just under 3000 hd today  
Calves & Yrlgs were dollars higher again!  
Weigh up cows & bulls sold steady

Last sale of 2024 - Friday, Dec. 20 - Bred Cow Special - Selling All Classes  
- 9 AM Weighups, 12 Noon Feeder Cattle followed by Bred Cows  
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle				
Barbero Inc, Boyes MT	10	Str	458	\$397.00
Barbero Inc, Boyes MT	22	Blk	550	\$351.00
Brehm, Elmer, Belle Fourche SD	14	Bbld	574	\$333.00
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	12	Blk	600	\$324.00
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	32	Blk	521	\$351.00
Dinosauer Cattle Lc, Missoula MT	16	Blk	346	\$445.00
Dinosauer Cattle Lc, Missoula MT	17	Blk	347	\$369.00
Elgin, Theodore Or Catherine, Biddle MT	69	Blk	557	\$323.50
Forder Land & Cattle, Highwood MT	98	Blk	475	\$336.50
Forder Land & Cattle, Highwood MT	18	Blk	402	\$365.00
Gaskill Jr, Andrew Or Carlene, Volborg MT	20	Str	434	\$435.00
Gaskill Jr, Andrew Or Carlene, Volborg MT	102	Blk	616	\$332.75
Gaskill Jr, Andrew Or Carlene, Volborg MT	113	Blk	533	\$360.00
Grill, Bruce, Hot Springs Sd	14	Rbld	407	\$361.00
Grubbs Iii, Dallas, Upton WY	31	Bbld	505	\$369.00
Grubbs Iii, Dallas, Upton WY	19	Bbld	422	\$434.00
Grubbs Iii, Dallas, Upton WY	11	Rbld	535	\$336.00
Grubbs Iii, Dallas, Upton WY	13	Rtbl	447	\$376.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY	18	Blk	503	\$332.50
Heifner Ranch, Whitewood SD	38	Blk	593	\$326.00
Ipy Ranch Ltd, Devils Tower WY	38	Bbld	527	\$326.00
Knutson, Karl, Vale SD	27	Blk	512	\$377.00
Knutson, Karl, Vale SD	14	Blk	422	\$415.00
Lamb, Reese Or Wendy, Sundance WY	13	Blk	683	\$279.00
Lamb, Reese Or Wendy, Sundance WY	15	Blk	596	\$284.00
Lawrence, Justin, Alzada MT	29	Bbld	493	\$364.00
Lawrence, Justin, Alzada MT	26	Bbld	479	\$334.00
Lawrence, Justin, Alzada MT	12	Bbld	412	\$365.00
Malenovsky, Mike, Ekalaka MT	24	Str	511	\$319.00
Malenovsky, Mike, Ekalaka MT	10	Red	374	\$407.50
Malenovsky, Mike, Ekalaka MT	10	Red	452	\$347.50
Mills Cattle, Volborg MT	15	Bbld	510	\$367.00
Mills Cattle, Volborg MT	45	Bbld	545	\$327.50
Mills Cattle, Volborg MT	12	Bbld	485	\$338.00
Mills Cattle, Volborg MT	10	R/Ch	579	\$297.00
Mills, Trent Or Kahla, Gillette WY	13	Bbld	447	\$407.50
Mills, Trent Or Kahla, Gillette WY	40	Bbld	502	\$329.50
Mills, Trent Or Kahla, Gillette WY	24	Bbld	423	\$369.00
Minow Ranch, Olive MT	49	Blk	596	\$335.00
Phillippi, Lester & Renetta, Hammond MT	67	Blk	434	\$370.00
Phillippi, Lester & Renetta, Hammond MT	28	Blk	360	\$404.00
Russiff Lazy Pk Ranch, Olive MT	19	Blk	536	\$345.00
Russiff Lazy Pk Ranch, Olive MT	11	Blk	466	\$335.00
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	55	Blk	616	\$325.25
Rypkema Family Ranching, Hermosa SD	37	Blk	488	\$342.00
Schmidt, Cleve, Belle Fourche SD	20	Bbld	595	\$293.00
Sd Consignment	32	Bbld	489	\$377.00
Sd Consignment	21	Bbld	415	\$429.00
Sd Consignment	29	Bbld	380	\$385.00
Sd Consignment	36	Blk	473	\$341.00
Severson, Brad, Vale SD	11	Red	546	\$315.50
Smith Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	29	Blk	571	\$341.50
Smith Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	32	Blk	476	\$400.00
Smith Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	28	Blk	443	\$360.00
Sprague, Dale/Ruth Ann, Mud Butte SD	23	Blk	474	\$326.00
Sprague, Dale/Ruth Ann, Mud Butte SD	15	Blk	388	\$387.00
Talcoft, Chase, Hammond MT	51	Blk	498	\$338.00
Waterland, Luther, Ekalaka MT	13	Bbld	623	\$305.00

Weigh Up Cows					
Aurand, Jeremiah, Sturgis SD	1	Blk	Hfirt	895	\$172.50
Barbero Inc, Boyes MT	8	Blk	Hfirt	1118	\$188.00
Barbero Inc, Boyes MT	1	Blk	Cow	1505	\$129.50
Burman, Jennifer, Belle Fourche SD	1	Blk	Hfirt	945	\$197.50
Busenitz Ranch Inc, Hulet WY	5	Bbld	Cow	1413	\$128.00
Clarkson, Reese, Buffalo SD	3	Bbld	Hfirt	850	\$218.00
Dead Horse Creek Cattle Co, Buffalo WY	1	Blk	Hfirt	850	\$187.50
Dead Horse Creek Cattle Co, Buffalo WY	24	Blk	Cwette	1259	\$141.00
Dead Horse Creek Cattle Co, Buffalo WY	1	Blk	Cwette	1165	\$130.00
Denzin, Mick, Buffalo SD	1	Blk	Cow	1505	\$128.00
Dinosauer Cattle Lc, Missoula MT	1	Bld	Hfirt	760	\$220.00
Dinosauer Cattle Lc, Missoula MT	4	Bld	Hfirt	1207	\$185.00
Dinosauer Cattle Lc, Missoula MT	2	Blk	Cwette	1317	\$142.50
Dinosauer Cattle Lc, Missoula MT	13	Blk	Cow	1404	\$126.00
Dinstel, Bruce & Lori, Alzada MT	1	Red	Hfirt	830	\$212.50
Dinstel, Bruce & Lori, Alzada MT	1	Red	Hfirt	1040	\$177.50
Dinstel, Bruce & Lori, Alzada MT	1	Blk	Cow	1715	\$129.00
Dinstel, Bruce & Lori, Alzada MT	2	Red	Cow	1260	\$121.00
Gotfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	2	Blk	Hfirt	1002	\$182.50
Gotfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	1	Blk	Cwette	1295	\$150.00
Gotfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	2	Blk	Cow	1182	\$123.00
Grubbs Iii, Dallas, Upton WY	1	Red	Hfirt	1190	\$180.00
Hagedorn, Robert, Volborg MT	1	Blk	Cow	1435	\$129.50
Hagedorn, Robert, Volborg MT	2	Blk	Cow	1575	\$128.50
Hagedorn, Robert, Volborg MT	2	Blk	Cow	1450	\$124.00
Harper, Jeremy, Powderville MT	1	Blk	Hfirt	840	\$215.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY	1	Blk	Hfirt	1045	\$190.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY	1	Blk	Hfirt	1150	\$175.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY	1	Blk	Cow	1280	\$127.00
Hoffman, Matt Or Jana, St Onge SD	1	Blk	Cwette	1185	\$142.50
Kammerer, Riley & Jimmie, Piedmont SD	14	Bbld	Cow	1412	\$123.50

Kennitz, Paul, Platte SD	1	Blk	Hfirt	1025	\$175.00
Klapperich, Darin J, Rapid City SD	2	Blk	Cow	1512	\$127.50
Klapperich, Wyatt, Rapid City SD	1	Blk	Cwette	1675	\$132.50
Lemke, Justin, Biddle MT	1	Bld	Cow	1635	\$124.00
Lewis, Dan Or Amy, Rapid City SD	1	Blk	Hfirt	1195	\$171.00
Lewis, Dan Or Amy, Rapid City SD	1	Blk	Cow	1610	\$126.00
Martens, James E Or Kathleen, Upton WY	1	Blk	Cow	1410	\$121.00
Meccage, Peggy, Baker MT	3	Blk	Hfirt	1113	\$190.00
Meccage, Peggy, Baker MT	3	Blk	Cow	1420	\$128.50
Meccage, Peggy, Baker MT	1	Blk	Cow	1720	\$128.00
Meccage, Peggy, Baker MT	2	Blk	Cow	1292	\$126.00
Meccage, Peggy, Baker MT	1	Blk	Cow	1625	\$124.50
Meccage, Peggy, Baker MT	1	Blk	Cow	1240	\$121.00
Mills, Gary, Gillette WY	1	Blk	Cwette	1230	\$152.50
Nickels, Lloyd, Hermosa SD	1	Cow	1525	\$123.00	
Perit, Keith, Piedmont SD	1	Hfirt	980	\$194.00	
Randall Inc, Broadus MT	1	Red	Cow	1375	\$123.00
Roush, Rusty & Laura, Gillette WY	1	Blk	Cow	1400	\$126.50
Roush, Rusty & Laura, Gillette WY	2	Blk	Cow	1487	\$125.00
Roush, Rusty & Laura, Gillette WY	2	Blk	Cow	1385	\$122.50
Russiff Lazy Pk Ranch, Olive MT	6	Blk	Cow	1572	\$128.00
Shannon, Randy, Broadus MT	1	Red	Hfirt	1025	\$175.00
Shannon, Randy, Broadus MT	1	Bld	Cwette	1010	\$145.00
Shannon, Randy, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Cwette	1110	\$137.50
Shannon, Randy, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Cow	1460	\$128.00
Sleep Ranch Lc, Spearfish SD	1	Blk	Cwette	1440	\$154.00
Sleep Ranch Lc, Spearfish SD	1	Blk	Cwette	1220	\$152.50
Sleep Ranch Lc, Spearfish SD	3	Blk	Cwette	1353	\$135.00
Sleep Ranch Lc, Spearfish SD	7	Blk	Cow	1577	\$127.50
Sleep Ranch Lc, Spearfish SD	9	Bbld	Cow	1416	\$127.00
Stephens, Mike & Meagan, Alzada MT	1	Blk	Hfirt	1050	\$170.00
Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY	12	B/R	Hfirt	769	\$220.00
Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY	2	Blk	Cow	1260	\$126.00
Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY	2	Blk	Cow	1080	\$122.00
Thompson, Penny, Baker MT	1	Blk	Cow	1565	\$127.00
Traub, Evan, Broadus MT	1	Blk	Hfirt	915	\$239.00
Traub, Evan, Broadus MT	2	Blk	Cwette	1462	\$130.50
Traub, Ray, Broadus MT	1	Herf	Cow	1395	\$120.00
Wigen, Mike, Otter MT	1	Blk	Cow	1345	\$123.00

Weigh Up Bulls					
Heinrich, Kurt Or Kevin, Bowman ND	6	Bbld	Bull	1389	\$140.50
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	1	Blk	Bull	1925	\$155.00
Ranschau, Roger, Spearfish SD	1	Blk	Bull	1885	\$142.00
Karrels, Adam, Sturgis SD	2	Blk	Bull	1770	\$140.00
Randall, Craig, Broadus MT	2	Blk	Bull	1437	\$135.00
Heinrich, Kurt Or Kevin, Bowman ND	1	Blk	Bull	1360	\$141.00
Lee, Wayne Or Virginia, Reva SD	1	Blk	Bull	1235	\$162.50
Franzen, Jax, Sundance WY	1	Blk	Bull	1165	\$197.50
Knutson, Karl, Vale SD	1	Blk	Bull	1130	\$170.00
Kammerer, Elliot, Piedmont SD	3	Blk	Bull	1081	\$207.50
Heinrich, Kurt Or Kevin, Bowman ND	9	Blk	Bull	1032	\$217.50
Lee, Wayne Or Virginia, Reva SD	1	Blk	Bull	970	\$212.50
Heinrich, Kurt Or Kevin, Bowman ND	6	Blk	Bull	901	\$230.00
Lee, Wayne Or Virginia, Reva SD	1	Bld	Bull	1240	\$172.50

## Friday, December 20, 2024

### Bred Heifer & Cow Special

9 AM - Weigh Ups, 12 Noon - Feeder Cattle followed by Bred Cows

#### Bred Heifers & Cows

Josh & Raenel Taylor - Dispersion - 300 Blk 3 Yr To Broken Cows - Bred Blk - 4/1  
Knutson - Dispersion - 70 Red 5 To 10 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk - 3/25 For 45 Days  
Gay Ranch - 60 Hfirs - Bred Blk - 3/25 For 30 Days  
C & W Ranch - 60 Blk Solid To Broken Mouth Cows - Bred Blk - 3/15  
Short Grass & Co - 50 Blk Hfirs - A-I Bred Sorted In 2 Groups Starting 3/18  
Marty Edwards - 50 Blk Hfirs - Bred Blk Angus - 3/1 For 25 Days  
Doug Morae - 55 Red & Blk Short Term Cows - Bred Red - 4/1 For 45 Days  
Paul & Judy Hinkhouse - 30 Blk Hfirs - Bred Blk - 3/25  
- 16 Herf Hfirs - Bred Blk - 3/25  
Ryan Xz Ranch - 46 Blk Hfirs - 1100# - Bred Lbw Blk Angus - 3/11 For 20 Days  
Ted Elgin - 30 Blk Hfirs - 1000# - Bred Broken Bow Sons - 4/1 For 40 Days  
Tom Wulf - 23 Blk & Blk Baldy 3 & 4 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk - 3/1 For 50 Days  
Scott Peterson - 22 Red Angus Hfirs - Bred Blk - 4/9  
Duprel Ranch - 12 Blk Broken Mouth Cows - Bred Blk - 3/15  
- 10 Blk Mixed Age Cows - Bred Blk - Lates  
Brownfield Ranch - 12 Herf & F-1 Ss To St Cows - Bred Blk - 3/10 For 60 Days  
Matt & Jana Hoffman - 11 Blk Hfirs - 1100# - Bred Blk - 3/8 For 45 Days  
Sd Consignment - 6 Blk & Bldy 3 & 4 Yr Old Cows - A-I Bred - 4/10

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Fieldman: Gilbert Wood  
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605-641-7100  
Fieldman: Dustin Vining  
605-354-9966

## Sheep Report - Thursday, December 12, 2024

Lamb market was sure \$10 higher  
Fleshy and medium slaughter ewes sold steady to \$2 lower  
Thin ewes were \$\$\$ lower

Next sale - Dec. 19 - Regular Sheep Sale - Selling all classes of sheep and goats  
Animals should be here by 10 AM so they can be weighed before the sale  
Thank you for your business!

#### Slaughter Ewes

Hettinger Research Extension, Hettinger ND	37	K Ewe	153	\$91.00
Hettinger Research Extension Hettinger ND	36	K Ewe	138	\$83.00
Lazy VC Kelly Ranch Inc, Faith SD	20	K Ewe	151	\$86.00
Lazy VC Kelly Ranch Inc, Faith SD	62	K Ewe	136	\$83.00
Nelson, Larry Or Sandra Holcomb, Buffalo SD	54	K Ewe	167	\$83.00

#### Slaughter Bucks

Boiler Mills Limited Partnership, Gillette WY	3	Kbuck	150	\$96.00
Clark, Tayle, Meadow SD	1	Kbuck	230	\$96.00

#### Feeder Lambs

Hamisch, Richard, Hebron ND	71	Lamb	91	\$198.00
Hamisch, Richard, Hebron ND	29	Lamb	76	\$241.00
Hamisch, Richard, Hebron ND	23	Lamb	114	\$171.00
Smith, Jim, Owanka SD	160	Lamb	84	\$203.00
Smith, Jim, Owanka SD	32	Lamb	68	\$265.00
Anderson, Pete, Lodge Pole SD	93	Lamb	86	\$207.00
Boiler Mills Limited Partnership, Gillette WY	88	Lamb	59	\$260.00
Cook, Estelle, Glad Valley SD	30	Lamb	86	\$203.00
Harrison, Richard Or Stacy, Fruitdale SD	46	Lamb	58	\$265.00
Lault, Corey & Karissa, Harvie ND	56	Lamb	76	\$241.00
Lewis, Stan, Nisland SD	10	Lamb	104	\$175.00
Messer, Steph, Richardson ND	25	Lamb	81	\$195.00

## NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

### Thursday, December 19, 2024

Last sale of 2024

Regular Sheep Sale 1:00 PM

Please have animals in by 10:

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Mick Harrison

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## Boys & Girls Basketball Seasons Underway



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(L) Lipp prepares to drive to the basket (R) Jensen soars over the opponents.



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(L) Hartling gets an inside shot (R) Nore sinks from the outside Hockenbary Photos.



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**CANDLES AND MIRRORS #11.5**  
By DeAnn Kruempel

**"Country School in Heaven"**

There's country school in heaven! It just started last week.

The bell atop the celestial schoolhouse rings clear, its happy melody echoing through the clouds as it summons the children to class. The teacher greets every student with a smile. Though the school resides at the very source of all love, her face glows with a purely joyful radiance that brightens every heavenly heart.

Today the youngsters are rehearsing their Christmas program. The stage is set up with boards resting on saw horses. Specially-built wooden steps lead up to the platform. On earth the students would have hauled the set from the schoolhouse basement, but here they seem to appear at the teacher's mere mention of Christmas. Though the holy place always abounds with wonder and excitement, even more marvelous miracles have recently been transpiring throughout the kingdom. (Angelic rumor has it that Angel Gabriel is the source of the extra-extraordinary happenings. He has been whistling a happy tune since the teacher stood at the Gate. She told him a joke she had been saving just for him. His immortal chuckle still tickles wings.)

Curtains hang in front of the stage. On earth they were simple white bedsheets, but here they sparkle like star-studded satin. At the children's touch, they glide open and closed. Gabriel grins.

The youngsters rehearse their own version of the beloved Dickens classic as he smiles from the rafters. Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit, gauzy ghosts and Mr. Scrooge tell the story. The proud teacher looks on, always encouraging. Little ones file onto the stage. The teacher nods to her sister, who waits at the old piano in the corner.



Soon Esther's fingers glide over the keys and the children sing the most cherubic "Away in a Manger" ever heard in any realm. The Son smiles.

All of heaven eagerly await the upcoming performance, when under the dazzling spotlights of the Milky Way, they will watch and sing and join in the celebration.

The teacher is already planning the days and years to come in the one-room country schoolhouse in heaven. She smiles as she imagines music class with the holy choir. After noon recess she will read a chapter from Bright of the Grand Canyon to the entire group. Later, each grade will have a turn at the recitation bench in front of her desk for reading, writing and arithmetic.

During spelling class she will teach her students to spell the word "geography" using her favorite pneumonic, "George Ellison's Oldest Girl Rode A Pig Home Yesterday." Every age will study the earth and stars. They will pen poems from their hearts and draw and color treasures that make Michelangelo proud. The children will see the wonders of nature firsthand. Likely, there will be extra lessons on owls.

The teacher will tell tales of earthly days—of riding her old race horse, Schoolboy Bill, to school, of gathering milkweed fluff for soldiers. Of a snake that climbed up a boy's pantleg during class. Of last-day-of-school ice cream parties. And games of kitten ball on the playground.

Those of us who remain on earth will hold this dear lady in our hearts. Whether sitting in her classroom or around her dining room table, she blessed us with her stories, poems and bits of wisdom. Laughter was often involved, always love.

There is country school in heaven because a certain dear teacher lives there now.

Dedicated to the memory of my 104-year-old friend who recently moved on to her next teaching assignment. Thank you, Ethel, for the piece of heaven you gave us here on earth!

Kruempel's books are available on Amazon. Contact her at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.

"Looking Back in Belle" Sponsored by:

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*Local.*

**Looking Back in Belle**

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.

**125 years ago**  
*The TIMES,*  
**December 14, 1899**  
**TOWN & COUNTRY Alzada And Fivemile Budget**

That heapping man without an enemy, that genial, whole-souled everybody's friend, John Walker, after running maverick all these years, after numerous hair-breadth escapes, has at last been rounded up, run into the marrisonial corral, broken to double herness and now meekly bears the brand of a benedict. The accident happened in Deadwood, I am infromed. The homecoming on the 18th will probably be followed by a reception which will outdo all Alzada Records. John, our sympathies are with you. Welcome to the fraternity. Misery loves company the world over. Now for the little lady's side of it. Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Wise, of Alzada, have the honor of announcing the marriage of their eldest daughter, Ettie, to John Walker, of Fivemile. They will be at home at parental residence for a short time. Latch string out.

**Ranch For Sale** Located one-quarter of a mile from Snoma with 60 acres irrigated land house of 5 rooms, stone milk house, good well, and good barn. All for \$700 Jas. Sumter, Snoma, S.D.

**Born** — On Monday night, to Mr. and Mrs. Geo Stetta, twin boys, one weighing 7 ½ and the other 9 ½ pounds. Dr. Champney says he has hopes for Mr. Stetta's recovery.

**100 years**  
*The Northwest Post*  
**December 18, 1924**

**STEELE-DYER** The marriage of Lawrence C. Steele and Miss Genevieve Dyer occurred last Saturday afternoon at the M. E. parsonage, Rev. D. D. Collins performing the ceremony in the presence of the immediate relatives and a few intimate friends. The young couple left in the afternoon for a brief honeymoon in the Hills. They have leased the small Scotney cottage in the southeast part of town, where they will make their home. The bride is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Dyer, and has

lived in Belle Fourche most of her life, coming to the city with her parents from Deadwood a number of years ago. For some months she has been employed as chief operator at the local telephone exchange. She is popular and well liked among the young people of the city. The groom, while practically a new resident of Belle Fourche, has made many friends here. He owns and operates several auto trucks, doing contract hauling out from this city, and is an industrious and worthy young man. Many friends will extend their heartiest congratulations.

**FORD PILE UP** Early last Friday evening Mrs. Maurice Heinbaugh was driving her Ford car down State street, when another Ford car, driven by a young man from Spearfish, dashed from the side street at the corner of the Bolles garage, and a collision was the result. The Spearfish car was turned completely over, with the wheels in the air, but fortunately no one was injured. The young man admitted that the accident was his fault, as Mrs. Heinbaugh clearly had the right-of-way. Both cars were damaged to some extent, the Spearfish car being smashed considerably, but at last account a recovery is expected.

**75 years ago**  
*Belle Fourche Daily Post*  
**December 17, 1949**

**Living Pictures to Be Shown Monday Night** "Living Pictures" the annual Christmas gift of the Belle Fourche schools to the Tri-State area, will be presented at the high school auditorium Monday evening at 8 'clock. The program will included Christmas musical selections as well as the presentation of tow "living pictures" — paintings by old masters brought to life. Pictures are presented under direction of Mrs. Millicent Henderson of the high school art department, while Russell Olmsted and Lorraine Naugle of the music department are in charge of the songs. Monday night's program gets under way with songs by members of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades under



by Mary Buchholz

the direction of Lorraine Naugle with Connie Skoglund and John Davis as accompanists.

**50 years ago**  
*Belle Fourche Daily Post,*  
**December 19, 1974**  
**What Is State's Land Use Policy?**

Brookings — Policy decisions by government influence how land is used. In recent years with the new emphasis on land use decisions, policies are being written which attempt to take a comprehensive look at all factors influencing land use. The State Planning Bureau in Pierre, an agency of South Dakota government, has prepared a policy plan for land use. It is one of the components of a state comprehensive plan which also includes sections on economics, transportation, rural development, agriculture and others. The land use component includes a section making process with clear of goals and one on more specific recommendations. A brief look at past history will reveal that, although not put together as a single document, we have always had a land use policy. Laws passed by all levels of government reflect policy and attitude. The Homestead Act of 1862 and the setting aside of forest reserves by congress in 1891 are examples of land use decisions, National parks, new highways, reservoirs and property taxes also reflect policies and attitudes.

What the State Planning Bureau has done is suggest that land use policy be guided by seven general goals. These include board public participation, respect for the rights of the individual citizens of South Dakota, protection of the state's outstanding natural endowments, preservation of those elements of rural character, effectives and strong local control, preservation of the state's food and fiber producing capacity, and enhancement and protection of the productive value of the land

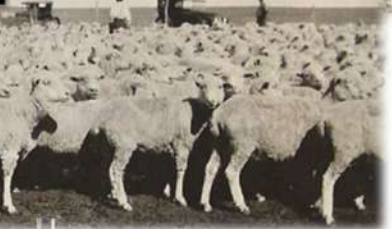
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**BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**2025 CALENDAR**



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Coldest beer in town

Full bar and wine list

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DRAWING WILL BE: FRIDAY DECEMBER 20th (7) \$100.00 DRAWINGS

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- Denim & Opal
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- ET Sports
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CENTER OF THE NATION BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**MEALS ON WHEELS BUTTE COUNTY** WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

MEALS ON WHEELS BUTTE COUNTY WILL BEGIN DELIVERY in Belle Fourche once again starting MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024. Due to circumstances out of our control, meals were not served from Nov. 20 through Dec. 3. This week, staff from Rapid City, Newell, and Belle Fourche came together to get meals out to the home bound participants and provided 5 shelf-stable meals for emergencies such as this (they had received a packet of them earlier as well). One of the Rapid City staff will be taking the cooking over temporarily until we get something more permanent in place. We will also be serving congregate dining from 11:30-12:30 Monday through Friday at 1400 Mill Street.

Belle Fourche Livestock Market

Toll Free: 800-894-8684

Office: 605-892-2655

Fax: 605-892-3142

P.O Box 126 • Belle Fourche, SD 57717 • www.bellefourchelivestock.com

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Market Rep: 605-544-3316

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

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

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"SERVING THE TRI-STATE AREA SINCE 1935"

Market Report - Monday, December 12, 2024

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

FEEDER CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Elisbury Ranch Llc, Sundance WY	46	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	542	353.50	\$ 1,917.35
	14	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	447	399.50	\$ 1,786.33
	23	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	505	313.00	\$ 1,582.01
	12	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	440	349.00	\$ 1,535.60
Wes & Lisa Steppler, Culbertson MT	43	Black-Str Pc Ni	522	363.00	\$ 1,893.93
	9	Black-Hfr Pc Ni	464	345.00	\$ 1,600.41
Two Tone Cattle Co, Spearfish SD	52	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	560	342.50	\$ 1,918.65
	61	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	540	317.00	\$ 1,712.05
	16	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	462	344.00	\$ 1,587.77
Sd Consignment	66	Blk/Bwf-Str 3 Rnds	540	357.50	\$ 1,929.95
	5	Rwf/Bwf-Str 3 Rnds	714	266.00	\$ 1,899.24
Ron Rooney, Miles City MT	88	Black-Str Bt	556	345.00	\$ 1,916.71
	29	Blk/Bwf-Str Bt	454	396.00	\$ 1,797.70
	54	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Bt	475	340.00	\$ 1,613.74
	14	Black-Hfr Bt	367	387.50	\$ 1,421.29
Eric Moore, Miles City MT	21	Blk/Bwf-Str	615	309.00	\$ 1,901.08
	8	Blk/Bwf-Str	771	258.00	\$ 1,989.82
	17	Red/Rwf-Str	579	317.00	\$ 1,836.73
	12	RdBlk-Str	419	402.50	\$ 1,685.46
	21	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	583	284.00	\$ 1,655.99
	13	RdBlk-Hfr	535	310.00	\$ 1,659.69
	13	RdBlk-Hfr	445	324.50	\$ 1,442.77
Peter & Mauri Sobotka, Whitehead SD	19	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	614	315.00	\$ 1,933.93
	3	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	518	345.00	\$ 1,788.25
Howard & Diana White, Upton WY	32	Black-Str	471	382.00	\$ 1,799.57
	17	Blk/Bwf-Str	408	435.00	\$ 1,774.54
Ronald A Adam, Sturgis SD	51	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	569	341.50	\$ 1,942.86
	17	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	422	426.00	\$ 1,799.22
	47	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	520	321.00	\$ 1,667.83
	31	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	412	366.00	\$ 1,507.09
Brian & Lesley Park, Alzada MT	25	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	592	294.00	\$ 1,740.48
Dave Garman, Belle Fourche SD	13	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	367	412.50	\$ 1,515.14
Garman Brothers Llp, Alzada MT	11	Black-Str Pc Ni	375	427.50	\$ 1,601.18
	16	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Pc Ni	349	370.00	\$ 1,290.37
Mike & Duane Odegard, Anvada WY	17	Char/Red-Str Pc Ni	531	345.00	\$ 1,833.57
	15	Bk/Rd/Ch-Hfr Pc Ni	518	311.50	\$ 1,612.53
	18	Bk/Rd/Ch-Hfr Pc Ni	368	367.50	\$ 1,351.58
Chuck Bruner, Newell SD	9	Blk/Bwf-Str Pc Ni	552	327.50	\$ 1,806.70
Johnson Sheep & Cattle, Bf SD	3	Black-Str	668	283.00	\$ 1,891.38
Eric Moore, Miles City MT	76	Blk/Bwf-Hfr Open	784	245.00	\$ 1,919.70
	23	Bk/Rd/Ch-Hfr Open	786	240.00	\$ 1,886.60
	10	Black-Hfr Open	659	253.00	\$ 1,666.00
WEIGHUPS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Jason Garman, Alzada MT	11	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1482	128.00	\$ 1,897.30
	1	Black-Cow	1305	107.00	\$ 1,396.35
	1	Black-Hfr	1050	171.00	\$ 1,795.50
	1	Xbrd-Cowette Belle	1170	130.00	\$ 1,521.00
Garman Brothers Llp, Alzada MT	11	Black-Cow	1395	122.00	\$ 1,701.34
	4	Black-Cow	1386	125.50	\$ 1,676.99
	1	Black-Cow	1380	121.00	\$ 1,669.80
	1	Black-Cow	1500	106.00	\$ 1,590.00
	1	Bwf-Cow	1370	103.00	\$ 1,411.10
	1	Black-Cow	1275	123.00	\$ 1,568.25
	1	Black-Cow	1215	125.00	\$ 1,518.75
	1	Black-Cow	1235	131.00	\$ 1,617.85
	1	Black-Cow	1280	121.00	\$ 1,548.80
	1	Black-Cow	1725	121.50	\$ 2,095.87
Clayton Patten, Broadus MT	7	Black-Cow	1144	118.50	\$ 1,355.13
	5	RdBlk-Cow	1271	115.50	\$ 1,468.00
	1	Black-Hfr	985	190.00	\$ 1,871.50
	1	Black-Cow	1330	129.50	\$ 1,722.35
	1	Black-Cowette	1215	135.00	\$ 1,640.25
Blair Bros Llc, Vale SD	3	Black-Cowette	1232	135.00	\$ 1,662.75
	3	Black-Cow	1390	129.50	\$ 1,800.05
	2	Black-Cow	1788	129.00	\$ 2,305.87
Charles /Annette Steffan, Belfield ND	3	Red-Cow	1120	145.00	\$ 1,624.00
	3	Red-Cow	1398	129.00	\$ 1,803.85

Brenden Casteel, Vale SD	2	Red-Bull	1480	140.50	\$ 2,079.40
	1	Black-Cow	1190	121.50	\$ 1,445.85
	1	Black-Cowette	1045	188.00	\$ 1,933.25
Kenneth Talcott Inc, Broadus MT	4	Black-Hfr	993	189.00	\$ 1,875.82
Dave Garman, Belle Fourche SD	21	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1445	128.00	\$ 1,850.20
	27	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1283	121.50	\$ 1,558.35
	8	Blk/Bwf-Cowette	1199	125.00	\$ 1,498.43
Wes & Lisa Steppler, Culbertson MT	1	Black-Hfr	920	150.00	\$ 1,380.00
	1	Black-Hfr	1020	191.00	\$ 1,948.20
	3	Black-Hfr	1078	174.00	\$ 1,876.30
	5	Black-Yrfg Hfr	926	238.00	\$ 2,203.88
	15	Black-Cowette	1085	155.00	\$ 1,681.75
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Bf SD	6	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1265	119.00	\$ 1,505.35
Johnson Sheep & Cattle Llc, Bf SD	4	Black-Cow	1481	132.50	\$ 1,962.65
James & Jessica Halverson, Sundance W	1	Rwf-Cow	1670	130.00	\$ 2,171.00
	2	Black-Cow	1570	126.00	\$ 1,978.20
	1	Black-Cow	1395	121.00	\$ 1,687.95
Leroy Curren, Aladdin WY	3	Red/Rwf-Cow	1530	128.00	\$ 1,958.40
	2	Red-Cowette	1045	152.00	\$ 1,588.40
	1	Red-Cow	1305	120.00	\$ 1,566.00
	1	Red-Cow	1130	121.00	\$ 1,367.30
	1	Red-Bull	2045	162.00	\$ 3,312.90
	2	Red-Yrfg Hfr	858	241.00	\$ 2,066.57
Yy Cattle Co, Volborg MT	4	Black-Cow	1438	128.00	\$ 1,840.00
	1	Black-Cowette	1050	135.00	\$ 1,417.50
Tarver Heart X Rch, Gillette WY	42	Black-Cow	1189	126.50	\$ 1,504.14
	40	Bk/Rd/Ch-Cow	1197	126.50	\$ 1,514.04
	40	Black-Cow	1362	128.75	\$ 1,753.57
	5	Black-Cowette	1065	142.00	\$ 1,512.30
Green Acre Ranch Inc, Olive MT	3	Black-Cowette	1078	145.00	\$ 1,563.58
	1	Bwf-Cow	1235	120.50	\$ 1,488.17
	3	Black-Cow	1118	115.00	\$ 1,286.08
Richard D & Bobbie L Bush, Hulett WY	1	Black-Cow	1515	128.00	\$ 1,939.20
Trevor Garman, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1490	125.50	\$ 1,869.95
Tiann Garman, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cowette	1110	136.00	\$ 1,509.60

NO SALE - MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
DECEMBER 26, 2024

\*\*ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS\*\*

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

High Plains Commodities Offices  
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Kim Kling - Kem Kjerstad

RECEIVING STATIONS

**Broadus,MT**  
Rod Schaffer  
406-672-5546

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

**Jordan,MT**  
Jason Bollinger  
406-690-8344

**Lodge Grass,MT**  
Justin Hecker  
307-752-3718

**Forsyth,MT**  
Scott Anderson  
406-351-1844

**Wyoming**  
Mike Greenough  
307-620-2597

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC STOCK COW & BRED HFR SPECIAL (SELLING ALL CLASSES)

DECEMBER 19, 2024

WEIGH UPS @ 9 AM MT | BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

**AGE DISPERSION**  
**TC OUTFIT -SD**  
230 BLK 4YO COMING  
5 YO BRED COWS  
BRED BLK, BRED TO GREEN MTN ANG SOUTHERN CHARM 1/2 BROTHER BULLS, CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED  
**BRED HEIFERS**  
**TODD FAMILY -WY**  
86 BLK BRED HFRS  
1000#, ALL: HR, PREGARD, POURED, MINERAL PROGRAM / 50 HD (1ST CYCLE) - AI BRED, CLV 3/1 FOR 1 DAY, 30 HD (2ND CYCLE) - BRED TO STEVENSON ANG LBW BULLS, CLV 3/15 - 30 DAYS, 6 HD (3RD CYCLE) - BRED TO STEVENSON ANG LBW BULLS, CLV 4/15 - 30 DAYS  
**PAT KING -WY**  
30 BLK BRED HFRS  
AI BRED (1 DAY), CLV 2/7, BULL BRED 2/23 - 45 DAYS, SCOUR GUARD, POURED

**TOM SEWELL-WY**  
22 BLK HFRS, 1100#  
CLV 3-25 FOR 35 DAYS  
HOME RAISED BRED TO KAMERER BULLS GENTLE SHOTS AND POURED  
**4W RANCH-WY**  
20 RED ANGUS BRED HFRS, 1000#  
CLV 3-1 40 DAYS BRED TO LBW BECKTON RED ANGUS BULLS  
**DAN PATTON -WY**  
15 BWF BRED HFRS  
1050#  
BRED LBW ANG BULLS.  
CLV 3/1 - 30 DAYS, HR

**BRED COWS**  
**CACTUS CATTLE CO -MT**  
150 BLK MXD AGED BRED COWS  
PUREBRED ANG, BRED BLK ANG REGISTERED BULLS (PAPERS AVAILABLE), CLV 4/1

**ADAM WARNER -WY**  
100 BLK 3YO BRED COWS  
2/7, BULL BRED TO REYES & JORGENSON BULLS, CLV 3/15 FANCY

**MOKE RANCH -SD**  
70 BLK & F1 BALDY SM-BM BRED COWS  
BRED CACTUS CATTLE CO ANG BULLS, CLV 3/10 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED  
**BOX L CATTLE CO -MT**  
52 BLK ST BRED COWS  
BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, POURED  
**LOEHING RANCH INC -MT**  
50 BLK SM-BM BRED COWS  
BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED  
**SCOTT MCGOWAN -MT**  
40 BLK 3YO BRED COWS  
BRED BLK, CLV 2/1  
**CAL DAVISON -MT**  
10 BLK SIM X BM BRED COWS  
BRED SIM, CLV 3/10 - 40 DAYS  
**REED VANDERVOORT-SD**  
10 BLK BM COWS  
BRED BLK 3-10  
**BRAND DOUG MAILLOUX-SD**  
2+ LOCATED ON LEFT RIB

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

January 2, 2025..... NO SALE THIS WEEK!  
January 9, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
January 16, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT  
January 23, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
January 30, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT  
February 6, 2025..... NO SALE THIS WEEK!  
February 13, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
February 20, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT  
February 27, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
March 6, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT  
March 13, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
March 20, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT  
March 27, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT  
April 3, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
April 10, 2025..... BRED CATTLE & PAIR SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS & PAIRS @ 12 MT  
April 17, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
April 24, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT  
May 1, 2025..... FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT  
May 8, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT  
May 15, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT  
May 22, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT  
May 29, 2025..... REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT

Man in the Arena by Theodore Roosevelt

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

From A1 West Tire

kind of machinery," said Pounds. To that end, she plans to start offering semi and trailer alignments. "We've just got to get the manpower and more equipment, and then we want to do oil and lube for them," said Pounds. "And then we also want to get the mobile truck back up and going full time." Pounds said that plans for more employees are in the works, with the goal of hiring two to three more mechanics at the warehouse and a couple more at the new location. "We have a really good team here, and I think that will definitely be successful. Everybody really works hard and gets along," she

said. "We've been working on this since May, and I hope the reason why they (previous owners) chose us to take over is because we wanted to keep the West Tire name and the business motto and employees, and we want to keep it running like West Tire," said Pounds. Cathy, also a quilter, plans to bring in some crafts for sale and hopes to add a gift boutique and coffee bar to the shop. "I just would really like to thank the bank and Kade (Well) at the real estate center, and Chris (West) and their family for welcoming us and helping us get it," said Pounds. "It was a long process."



Chris (West) O'Dea shown with the new owners of West Tire, Cathy & Justin Pounds. At this point Chris is still working daily and helping the Pounds through the transition. Beacon Photo

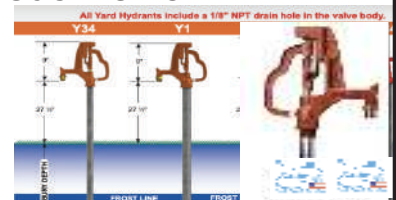
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SHOP ALL,  
SHOP SMALL**  
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**PETE'S CLOTHING/HODGE BOOTERY**  
THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND AND ALL  
HOLIDAY SEASON!

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**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**



The Herdman children - ready to drive the congregants crazy in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.



The children of the community plead for help as Reverend Atkins looks on in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.



*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* cast, directors, tech crew, and pit band. Directors **Sharon Thompson, Rachel Munce and Kelsey Reid**; Cast: Ralph: Titus Thompson; Imogene: Kaeli Thompson; Leroy: Tyler Stratman; Claude: Cade Pearson; Ollie: Andrew Thompson; Gladys: Talia Thompson; Grace: Jay Atkins; Bob: Wes Barnhouse; Beth: Hope Ogaard; Charlie: Jace Olson; Alice: Rebecca Jones; Ivy: Kaya Pesicka; Elmer: Braxton Reid; Teddy: Brux Hartman; Reverend Hopkins: Alexander Reeves; Helen: Karen Jensen; Luanne: Cadence Gallagher; Betty: Katharina Reeves; Connie: Jen Zoller and the Ensemble: Jeff Reason, Mike Meemken, Riley Mehlhaff, Raya Meemken, Alora Thompson, Taylor Zoller, Dante Preist, Clara Reid, Ember Olson, Adalyn Savory, Hope Sinke, Lucia Rodrigues, Heidi Willey, Britta Hagen, & Alexandra Huber. Tech: Tayleigh Wooldridge, Tim Thompson, Sam Savory, Hunter Brown; Pit Band: Stephanie Bussiere, Tymuthi Crittendon, Carlie Reeves, Tace Hartman, Joe Savory. *Courtesy Photos*



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever resolves beautifully at the manger...



And the *Belle Fourche Area Community Theater* season ends with all the joy of a heartfelt community program! *Courtesy Photos*



**Spread Joy**  
WITH EVERY SPIRIT CARD SWIPE

Use your Highmark Spirit card December 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> and we'll **DOUBLE THE DONATIONS** and the impact to your booster club!

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**New Year's Eve Teen Blast**

Christian Life Center is teaming with other churches in our community to bring back the New Year's Eve Teen Blast event. The event is open to all Belle Fourche High School students (including home-schooled students and High School students from nearby communities attending Belle Fourche churches) and will be from 5:30 pm New Year's Eve until 1 am New Year's Day at Christian Life Center, 2020 Vista Street in Belle Fourche. This will be an adult-supervised, fun-filled, alcohol- and drug-free event with food, games, prizes, and youth ministry. Admission is \$20 and registration materials are located at Summit Open Bible Church, 1st Baptist Church, 1st Congregational Church, Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church, St. James Lutheran Church, Connection Church and Christian Life Center during regular office hours. If your church is not listed and would also like to participate, please contact Pastor Dan Carlson at Christian Life Center.

Contact Information: **Dan Carlson, Sr. Pastor**  
Christian Life Center  
Belle Fourche, SD  
605-892-4767

# Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

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Andy Anderson, Pastor  
9am Sunday School 10am church  
Men's Bible Study 10am at the Senior Center  
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.  
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**FIRST BAPTIST**  
807 8th Ave. 892-4178  
Pastor Tim Smith  
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15am  
Morning Worship - 10:30am  
Wednesday: Salt and Light Youth - Kindergarten - 12th grade  
5:00pm Soup & Sandwich  
5:30pm - Salt and Light

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

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

**GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Sheri Fadley  
1804 7th Ave. Belle Fourche  
605-892-2405  
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Sunday School 9:30 am  
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642-1122  
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Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship Service

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605-456-2544  
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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

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Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Worship: 11 a.m.

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

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Belle Fourche Rec Center  
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605 569-3057  
Sermons: fightintheshade

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

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920 N Main Street, Spearfish  
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and on Facebook.  
Pastor Randy Hedge  
605-642-8253

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL**  
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The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon  
Rev. Mike Weaver  
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Last Year's Capitol News  
**December 2, 2024**  
Thanksgiving week was a chilly one, and stayed below freezing at Capitol and on Tie Creek, but the sunshine was happy and bright. Erma Albert needed work on her glasses, so on Monday, Dick took her to the Hills to the eye doctor.

They stopped to get groceries and already had a turkey in the freezer for Thanksgiving. The Senior Citizen Thanksgiving dinner was last week. Dick and Erma stayed home and feasted on Thanksgiving with turkey and dressing. On Sunday, they went to church at the Catholic church in Buffalo. Then they had lunch at Saloon Number Three with the Erk family. Rod Bisgaard had come out to Alvin and Marlee Cordell's last Friday, and stayed over the weekend. On Monday, Alvin rode back to Belle Fourche with him to meet Marlee. Marlee had gone with Ashley and Wade Pearson to basketball and football games in Wyoming. Marlee went to see Gavin and his friends, while Alvin went to the Celia Welch funeral in Belle Fourche.

They went to basketball games in Buffalo on Monday. On Tuesday Kynlee played basketball and they got to see her play. Jay Cordell came out to the ranch for Thanksgiving, and the three of them went in to Camp Crook for the community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Community hall. Debbie Long organized the dinner, and there were lots of people there to visit with. Wade and Gavin Pearson came out, on Saturday, and stayed overnight to have time to sort calves. Marlee went in to Camp Crook for church, on Sunday morning, at the Methodist Church. At Doug and Julia Davis's they were preg-testing on Monday. A vet from Belle Fourche came out to do the testing. On Thanksgiving, Darla Hammel rode to Belle Fourche with Doug and Julia. Darla spent Thanksgiving in town with her daughter and family.

Doug and Julia went on to Glen and Patty Tetrault's for a big Thanksgiving dinner. Their kids and grandkids were there, and all the women brought their special dishes to add to the dinner. The cold weather kept Jake from his work at home, so on Saturday, Jake, Kellan and Keaton came out to help Doug get some work done, and have lunch at the ranch. Shirley and Junior Melum had a quiet Thanksgiving at home. There had been hunters visiting last week, from Billings, and they stopped to visit with them. Ernie, Rachel and Tommy went to the Baptist Church in Baker on Thanksgiving.

It had become a tradition for the church to have a big Thanksgiving dinner together. On Saturday evening, Ernie, Rachel and Tommy picked up Cody, Kellan, Carson and Karen Odell and took them to supper in Buffalo at Saloon Number Three. Then on Sunday, they went back

to Baker for the church service. Kevin and Lisa Olmsted came to visit Dorothy Padden, last Sunday, and stayed until this Sunday. Brian Olmsted and his boys came from Rapid City, to visit, too. Then Brian went back to Rapid City on Wednesday to get Kelly Ann and bring her out to join the others at Dorothy's. On Thanksgiving, Raymond and Wayne Lee's families and Bryce and Dawn Padden joined in the celebration. Some of the kids had the whole week for vacation, and the Harding County kids did not have school on Wednesday or Friday, either, but there still was practice time for the wrestlers. Soon the basketball season will be in full swing. Last Monday, Ronda Cordell traveled to Buffalo to wire payment to Texas for a used pick-up that will be used for feeding. Curt Zolnoski will receive delivery of the vehicle and have a hydro-bed put on it. Ronda caller Curt on Thursday to wish him a 'Happy Birthday'. On Friday she went shopping in Bowman, got tractor batteries, and took care of hay deliveries. She went to the Ekalaka Holiday Fair, last Saturday.

Karen Odell had a busy week. Cody, Kellan and Carson Odell came from Mitchell, on Tuesday, to visit over Thanksgiving. All three went hunting and all got a nice buck. They love making deer jerky and will make it for the coming year. Kellan is a senior and has been visiting colleges and deciding what courses to take next year. Carson is in middle school wrestling, plays French horn, and sings in the choir. Carson was first to get his deer, so didn't have to get up early after that. Cody and Kellan always started with the sun. Cody and Kellan visited with George Oleson, one day, and visited with Ernie Melum another day. On Saturday Tommy Melum came down to Karen's to visit with Carson Odell in the afternoon. Cody, Kellan, Carson and Tommy went to visit at Chancey Odell's for a while. That evening, Ernie Melum invited the group to have supper at Saloon Number Three in Buffalo, and he picked them up for the ride over. The place was packed, when they arrived. Hywel had enjoyed lots of attention during the week, while the boys were here. On Sunday, Chancey came over to photograph the successful hunters, and give a memento to Cody. Before noon, Cody, Kellan and Carson headed east for home, and Hywel took an afternoon nap after the excitement of so many attentive visitors. Karen may have napped, too, and then, she went to church on YouTube at Marietta, Georgia. Micki and Mollie had made beautiful holly and evergreen decorations in Washington and Minnesota. Jeff, got home to Iowa, after a visit to Amanda's family in Sioux Falls, and Cody and the boys got back to Mitchell. It was a thankful day and a thankful week. Some bosses don't allow personal calls at work. That doesn't seem fair, because it wouldn't be much of a conversation without another person in it.

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## "Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

### Vision Deficit: The Silent Barrier to Community Thriving

Small local communities often struggle to break free from economic stagnation and social decline, not due to a lack of potential, but because of a fundamental missing ingredient: strategic vision.



ally to more dynamic regions.

Economic diversification can impact communities—those dependent on a single industry—are particularly vulnerable. When

that industry declines, the entire community suffers. Communities with diversified economic strategies demonstrate 60% greater resilience during economic downturns, according to regional economic research.

The consequences extend beyond economic metrics. A lack of vision creates psychological barriers, breeding a culture of limited expectations.

Residents internalize the narrative of decline, becoming less likely to invest personally or professionally in their community's future. Successful transformation requires more than wishful thinking. It demands comprehensive, inclusive strategic planning.

It requires an investment in education and workforce development. It must have a creative ecosystem support for entrepreneurs. It needs a developing and flexible infrastructure plan. Lastly, but not least, it must have a cultivating culture of innovation and adaptability

Exemplary communities like Chattanooga, Tennessee demonstrate what's possible. Once an industrial town facing significant economic challenges, it transformed through visionary leadership, strategic technology investments, and community-wide commitment to reinvention.

The path forward isn't about massive capital investments but strategic, collaborative reimagining. Local governments, business leaders, educational institutions, and community organizations must collaborate, creating holistic development strategies that leverage unique local strengths.

Funding mechanisms exist.

Federal programs like the Economic Development Administration's grants and USDA Rural Development initiatives provide resources for communities willing to develop comprehensive, forward-looking plans.

The most successful communities recognize that vision isn't a luxury—it's an essential part of their infrastructure, as critical as roads or utilities. It's about creating a shared narrative of possibility that motivates collective action.

Small communities aren't really limited by resources but more by imagination. Breaking free requires recognizing that economic vitality is less about what you have and more about how creatively you deploy existing assets.

The choice is clear: continue accepting incremental decline or embrace strategic, collaborative transformation. Vision isn't just a strategy—it's the fundamental difference between communities that survive and those that genuinely thrive.

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

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**From A1 Nutcracker Ballet**

man has been running La Belle Ballet for 11 years and has been teaching dance for 13 years.

This was the second time La Belle Ballet put on the Nutcracker.

“We do the Nutcracker every other year,” said Neiman.

They alternate years with the Winter Showcase.

This year’s cast was Clara, Aurora Larive; Nutcracker, Audrey Jeitz; Mouse King,

Lucy Merjil; Sugar Plum Fairy, Austey Stiefrater; Dew Drop Fairy, Emma Schulze; Snow Queen, Chloe Schulze; Arabian Dancer (coffee), Adeline Erickson; Spanish Dancer (chocolate), Brooklyn Schulze; Chinese Dancers (tea), Cora Kukuchka and Mary Ruzicka; Russian Dancers (candy canes), Annabelle Dighton and Charlie Huston; The Clown, Talia Thompson; and Mother Ginger, Clara Riley.



Playing Clara, **Aurora Larive** performed a beautiful ballet.



The Mouse King, **Lucila Merjil** preformed a dance as she battled the Nutcracker, **Audrey Jeitz**. Longbrake photos



When the Mouse King, Lucila Merjil, was defeated, all the little mice in the Mouse King’s army were sad.

**From A1 Ginger**

that Johanna Meier gave us that included the ginger castle.”

The exhibit has storyboards explaining the Ginger Village, showing the history and growth of the village beginning in 2017, the history of ginger, the spice, gingerbread beginnings, and many more informative displays about all things ginger!

Refreshments were served and the crowd was entertained with holiday music by the The Center of the Nation Quintet.

Of course, the event had many activities for children, from activity tables to old-fashioned candy sacks and Santa stopped by for a visit.

Two books, The Plan for the Gingerbread House and The Gingerbread Pirates were given away to two lucky children. Kids could participate in a Gingerbread Village Scavenger Hunt.

Excited to have the new addition up and running, the Tri-State Museum staff has a lot of plans to utilize the space in the upcoming months.

“We have a lot of ideas about exhibits, about events, things that we’re going to do.

Finally, we can do theater on an actual stage—we’ve done



The Arabian Dancer, **Adeline Erickson** added gymnastics to her routine.

for eight years on little stages out here as best we could,” explained Thielen.

“And we also hope to have this as a rental. We already

have our first rental, something in February.

So it’ll be a nice place, not just for us, but for the community to have some events.”



The Clown, **Talia Thompson** emerges from a wrapped Christmas present.



Refreshments were served by the staff at the Tri-State Museum’s 1st Annual **Ginger Festival**. Longbrake photos



Visitors to the **Ginger Festival** look at the extensive **Gingerbread Village** on display at the Tri-State Museum.

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# Harvesting the Honey

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Sometime during the autumn, beekeepers must plan to extract the rich spoils from their honey hives. The bees are removed to other hives where they are provided with sufficient food supplies to “winter over” for the following season. The removal is gentle and unceremonious so as not to disturb the bees.

Beekeeper Bernadette Jensen, owner of Owl Creek Natural Products near Nisland, SD <https://www.owlcreeknaturalproducts.com> is a beekeeper who appreciates the symbiotic relationship between bees and beekeepers.

The keepers “keep” the bees safe and nourished during the winter with plenty of ventilation in a bee-friendly environment often indoors in exchange for the bountiful gift of golden honey.

Beekeepers are expected to have respect for bees. It’s a time-honored, tradition in world folklore.

A familiar custom of telling the bees takes place when beekeepers inform their bees about significant events in their lives, such as deaths, births, marriages, and other major occurrences.

The tradition thought to have roots in Celtic mythology. When tell the bees, the head of

the household or “goodwife” would knock gently on the hive before sharing the family’s news softly and solemnly.

Beekeepers must also be willing to work hard as the task of honey removal is labor intensive. Once the bees are safe in their winter home, the keeper must remove the wax cappings on the honeycomb cells. A hot knife may be used, but if there are many hives, beekeepers are likely to invest in a capping machine where the frames are placed on a conveyer belt and a blade removes the cappings more efficiently.

Although the machine is a little noisy, the liquid honey will flow easily from the comb in into a long vat as long as the temperature in warm enough in the processing room.

Once capped, the frames are placed upright in a cylindrical centrifugal machine called a honey extractor that spins the frames to separate the honey from the comb without destroying the comb. Thus, the beekeeper may use the frame of the comb for the following season, or the wax portion of the comb can be cut out of the frame, crushed, and strained through cheesecloth. The natural beeswax has myriad uses.

After extraction and several strainings, the liquid honey is allowed to settle for a few days

in a closed container before it is ready to bottle.

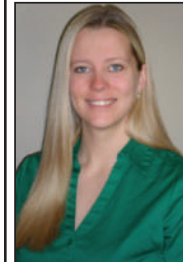
By many standards, honey is regarded as a divine gift. Without the bees, there is no honey. The custom of telling the bees underscores how bees as they were seen as important members of the community and the household.

Bernadette created Owl Creek Organics and Natural Products in 2015. She is a firm believer in the benefits of healthy eating. Raised on the family farm, that has always produced organic food, she appreciates the bees and is proud to continue the tradition. Other than her bees and garden, one of her favorite things is product development. Most of all she likes to create new products.

Owl Creek Products are available online, at the Town-square Farmer’s Market in Grand Forks during the summer, at the European Christmas Market in Saint Paul, every weekend in December, at Bernie’s in Grand Forks, at Lueders in Spearfish & Belle Fourche, at Staple and Spice in Rapid City and at Lynn’s Dakota Mart in Sturgis.

The Owl Creek Organics store at 12130 Sagebrush Rd. Nisland, SD 57762 is open for seasonal events. More information is available at Phone & E-mail

(605) 569-1051 or email [owlcreekorganics@gmail.com](mailto:owlcreekorganics@gmail.com)



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A frame removed from the hive with capped cells



(L) Following extraction, pieces of beeswax rise to the surface; (C) The honey extractor centrifuge machine (R) Each hive contains several removable frames.



(L) A few necessary tools for extracting honey; (C) Honey fresh from the extractor has pieces of beeswax that will be filtered out in stages. The beeswax has a variety of uses. (R) The honey is filtered in three stages *English Photos*



(L) **Bernadette Jensen** demonstrates how the cells are capped by hand to show how the bees take capping the cells seriously. ; (C) Bernadette places the frames in the centrifugal machine that spins the hives to help the honey flow from the cells.(R) Like any food gathering or preparation gathering honey involves quite a lot of clean-up. *(Additional Photos C7)*



# Resident-driven ideas at Heart of Engage South Dakota

Bart Pfankuch  
sdnewswatch.org

**Pilot project uses storytelling and civic engagement to identify and share solutions to challenges impacting communities across the state.**

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. – A sense of optimism and opportunity filled the air as a group of residents of this southern Black Hills city gathered recently to forge a new potential path forward for their community.

The roughly two dozen people brought a wide variety of backgrounds: city council member, hospital administrator, school superintendent, landlord, artist.

Despite their inherent differences, they all shared one critical similarity: They were and remain committed to finding ways to make life better now and into the future in their beloved hometown of Hot Springs.

Challenges were quickly identified.

Housing availability and affordability. A lack of workers. A need for higher-wage jobs. Indecisiveness in how to move forward.

And then the ideas spilled forth, fast and diverse, both big picture and pinpoint.

Can public-private partnerships attract employers and development of new housing stock? Could Hot Springs repurpose its aging Veterans Affairs hospital into a university satellite campus? Would improved marketing of natural assets drive tourism, especially among young people? Could an enhanced riverwalk use exercise stations or a series of murals to lure more people downtown?

As suggestions flowed freely, no voice went unheard, and contrasting views were celebrated rather than diminished.

That approach is a key component of a new community betterment pilot program called Engage South Dakota, which is being administered jointly by South Dakota News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota.

Engage South Dakota uses community input, a citywide survey and meetings like the one held at The Space in Hot Springs in October to identify challenges and bring forward potentially replicable solutions. Findings will appear in a final report (available at the end of this story) and in news articles.

The ultimate goal is to inform the community and its leaders on public opinion, identify local challenges, and bring forth potential solutions that can spread to other towns dealing with some of the same issues.

A first step in strategic planning Engage South Dakota adds a statewide storytelling element to a successful model of community-based strategic planning used in numerous other places, including across the state in Watertown.

In 2012, Watertown used responses to a community survey and other sources of resident input to drive a decade-long planning process that resulted in the development of a wellness center and ice arena and renovation of the local opera house. The city recently embarked on a second community planning effort using many of those same concepts with expectations of further growth based on the needs and wants of local residents.

The strength of those efforts, and of those intended by Engage South Dakota, is to obtain substantial resident input to guide decisions and actions of local elected and appointed officials, said Julia Hellwege, director of the Chiesman center and a co-leader of the Engage South Dakota program.

"This is a set of bottom-up recommendations, a clear idea of what the community members themselves recommend," she said.

In Hot Springs, more than 300 of the city's 3,600 residents completed the in-depth survey, which Hellwege said created "highly reliable survey data." Based on the surveys and input from the October community meeting, Hellwege's team generated a 43-page final report summarizing the findings and making recommendations for possible action.

Hellwege said the hope is that Hot Springs residents will use the report as a "lobbying document" to encourage city leaders to take the next step of engaging in a more formal strategic planning process.

"It's one step toward the real strategic planning that is necessary," she said. "This is a document that interested and invested community leaders can use to invest in a broader, more comprehensive plan because that's what helps a community move forward, having a singular voice and knowing what the focus, priorities and goals

should be." Encouraging community conversations Carson Walker, CEO of News Watch and co-leader of Engage South Dakota, said the strong survey response rate and vibrant conversation at the community meeting show there is a desire and a need for greater resident input in the evolution of cities across the state.

"The information from the survey and the in-person meeting was phenomenal and really shows the value of dialogue," Walker said.

The hope is that the positive reaction from residents and officials in Hot Springs will form the basis for expansion of Engage South Dakota planning efforts in other cities.

"The goal of this is to go to different places and address different topics, but then tie all the pieces together to address issues but also raise up potential solutions," he said.

Walker said he also sees Engage South Dakota as a way to "equalize" the planning opportunities between urban areas that have the population and spending power to do extensive, formalized planning and within smaller, more rural communities that often do not have the resources to engage in long-range planning. Many small, rural communities in South Dakota are suffering from ongoing losses of population and economic activity, he said.

"What we're doing is creating a blueprint for small communities to do this themselves," he said. "A lot of communities in South Dakota are coming to grips with the fact that they're 10 years away from vacant homes and other problems that come with losing population."

The role of News Watch in the process, Walker said, is to help facilitate community input and get important conversations started in communities that want to grow and prosper. But moreover, News Watch can then bring those important stories and potentially replicable solutions to a statewide audience as a way to propagate similar planning efforts in other cities and towns.

"We're really on the front edge of something that can jumpstart this process for the 300 communities across South Dakota," he said.

### Watertown preparing a new strategic plan

On Nov. 14, some good news arrived for those in Watertown who are trying to alleviate the city's substantial shortage of day care spots that are needed to allow more parents to work.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development announced that it was providing a \$500,000 South Dakota Works Loan to the Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, where an effort is afoot to convert a building on the monastery campus into a day care center that could house up to 225 children.

In response to a local needs assessment, city and school officials in Watertown are also working together to convert shuttered elementary schools into day care centers.

Watertown leaders expect their next community survey report will be released soon, providing the next step in their ongoing planning journey.

Walker said sharing those solutions to the child care problem with a statewide audience will hopefully prompt similar ideas elsewhere.

### Hot Springs survey reveals community needs

The online survey completed by Hot Springs residents revealed that the city faces many of the same major issues as other South Dakota cities, notably challenges in housing and workforce.

A majority of respondents listed housing (70%), business development (55%), workforce development (54%) and the labor shortage (52%) as major concerns.

Responses showed that residents feel they have the ability to make a difference in their community, but they are less certain of how decisions are made and are somewhat dissatisfied with the performance of local government.

Residents feel safe in their community and are happy with law enforcement, the survey showed.

But the survey also showed that some residents believe opportunities for greater growth and development are being missed, and concerns arose over the city's positioning for long-term economic stability.

"Community leaders and regular citizens both understand the gravity of the home shortage, price and property tax issues, and largely understand why these issues have occurred. Creating affordable child care opportunities, ensuring the VA hospital remains operational, and capitalizing on the natural beauty of the area and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally were other major discussion points," the survey noted.

# ANALYSIS | Trump, Noem could shape 2026 race for governor

Austin Goss

www.thedakotascout.com

## Pollster: Endorsement would go far with South Dakota Republicans

If Republican President-elect Donald J. Trump decides to throw his weight behind a candidate in South Dakota's 2026 gubernatorial primary, his chosen one will have a major advantage over their opponents.

That's according to a national polling agency looking ahead at the likely candidates in the 2026 Republican primary election. The poll points to Trump's rising levels of support across the country, particularly in red states like South Dakota. Here, the president-elect carried the largest percentage of the state that he had in his three runs for the nation's highest office, with a little over 63 percent of the vote.

The national polling agency behind a memo obtained by The Dakota Scout, Co/efficient, conducted a poll showing Attorney General Marty Jackley running slightly ahead of Congressman Dusty Johnson, 28-25 percent. Still, 20 percent of those polled in the state say they prefer another option, while 27 percent say that they are still undecided.

That's where Trump comes in, Co/efficient concludes.

"We are already seeing a close race between Marty Jackley and Dusty Johnson," the memo says. "Key voting groups are nearly tied in their support for the two candidates, and half of voters are still to be persuaded. The candi-

date who can secure the former president's endorsement will be well-positioned to win the GOP nomination."

The memo, released before the former president won a second term in the office over Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, rings even more true after a dominant performance by Trump in the electoral college, and the first Republican popular vote win since 2004, said Ryan Munce, president of Co/efficient.

"It is a very common pattern across the country, especially in red states," Munce told The Dakota Scout. "Still, it is very early. While Trump's support regardless of what happens to him seems to remain remarkably stable and tick up, it is still a long way out — but we don't see his support wavering at all right now."

Conducted prior to Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden becoming the presumptive incumbent in the 2026 contest, the poll also shows Trump with a 78 percent approval rating in the state. Jackley has a 49 percent approval rating with 10 percent disapproving him, while the congressman is hovering at a 53 percent approval rating and 27 percent viewing him unfavorably.

Gov. Kristi Noem's likely departure to lead Trump's Department of Homeland Security could also have a cascading effect on the 2026 Republican primary beyond just bringing Rhoden into the race. As a member of Trump's cabinet, she could have influence in who the president decides to support in

state elections, or if he decides to support anyone at all.

The former could shape the race for all three Republicans — Rhoden, Jackley and Johnson.

Historically, Trump has demonstrated a strong willingness to reward loyalty, and Noem's high-profile advocacy for him during his previous two campaigns positions her in securing his endorsement for her own preferred candidate.

Rhoden, 65, won't become governor, however, until Noem is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as to the president's cabinet. But if and when that happens, it'll be difficult for Noem not to support her long-time ally.

Having served alongside him when she was in the state Legislature, Noem has spoken highly of Rhoden for his performance as House majority leader, and he would inherit the advantages of incumbency and much of the spotlight that comes with it for the remainder of Noem's term.

"The race certainly can, and will, change," Munce said. "But it just depends on the dynamics, how well they're liked, their relationship with Trump... There are a lot of powerful influences over elections like this, but it is pretty safe to say that a full-throated Trump endorsement is one of the most impactful things."

However, Rhoden's lesser name recognition could be an advantage for challengers like Jackley and Johnson, particularly if they can secure endorsements or highlight contrasting visions for the state.

Andrea Powers, executive director of the Southern Hills Development Corp., said she was pleased to see the generally positive attitude in the survey responses and is optimistic that the community can use the process to bring forth positive change.

"There was an overall perception that our community has the capacity for economic growth and an increased quality of life without sacrificing the elegant Victorian character our town is renowned for," she said.

Powers, whose organization has helped support the Engage South Dakota pilot program in Hot Springs, said the residents appear to support "metered growth," in which future development occurs but does not change the overall sense of place, natural offerings and positive attitude now present in the community.

"In a rural community, people know and care for one another, pitch in where help is needed and hold a deep respect for the natural world, and these are all values the community wants to retain," Powers said. "Sometimes that creates hesitancy about growth, but the overall consensus is that we can have positive change and retain our character if it's done strategically."

Community discussion mirrors survey results

About 25 residents showed up to the two-hour community discussion held at The Space in downtown Hot Springs, and a lively, communal vibe permeated the discussion.

Kyley Cumbow, superintendent of schools, moved to the area this summer to begin work in the fall semester. While planning her move from Pierre, Cumbow said she checked the website Zillow daily starting in April to see if any suitable housing was available in Hot Springs but with limited success. "I was in tears several times," she said.

Cumbow, whose husband still works and lives in Pierre, said she considered buying a camper to live in until she found a house in Hot Springs. She said she bought a "fixer-upper" on the culmination of a dead-end street and started by remodeling a bathroom but has a long way to go in making the house more livable.

Attendees said one reason people might leave Hot Springs is because taxes and the cost of living are relatively high, while wages remain low.

Some brought up the challenges of having a population that is much older than the state median age and that there is a lack of racial, ethnic and age diversity in the local population. At the same time, some survey respondents said Hot Springs should embrace its role as a retirement community and make life better for senior citizen residents.

Resident Carl Hall said Hot Springs growth is held back by the lack of housing, especially affordable housing, and generally low wages. "People need to be able to make a living wage," he said.

Hall added that the lack of housing opportunities puts potential homebuyers or renters at the mercy of property owners who sometimes have a strict screening process.

"You used to be able to quickly

rent an apartment with cash and a handshake," he said. "Now, it's credit checks, background checks, questions about how much you make, and everything is done through contracts."

City council member Debra Johnson said some people, including elderly residents, can no longer afford to live in Hot Springs. "People are being priced out of their homes," she said. "We don't want the locals being pushed out of their homes and only the tourists or rich people being able to afford to live here."

The city also has not done enough marketing of its assets, and the city for years was left off tourism maps that market the Black Hills to tourists, Johnson said.

Val Crawford, a property owner and landlord, said rents she charges have doubled in the past 20 years.

The city needs an influx of young people, and their spending power, so the city doesn't eventually become a "dead building, people-waiting-to-die kind of place," she said.

One resident said the city also needs a long-term plan with specific goals in order to grow in a sensible way and that community beautification efforts need to continue.

Jesse Naze, financial officer for Fall River Health Services, said the city should have more young people and a more diverse population to appeal to potential new residents and workers.

Naze said he has noticed a lower number of children engaging in sports, which he attributed to a lower birth rate exacerbated by an aging population.

The housing shortage and high costs of housing are holding back growth in the city, he said. Naze said the hospital has lost several prospective medical workers because they couldn't find or afford suitable housing. He said he has also seen the number of hospital workers who commute from Rapid City rising in recent years.

Naze said Hot Springs has a committed group of people engaged in civic affairs but that "it does seem like the same people volunteering all the time."

Potential solutions Longtime resident Kelly Cape said that while the city has a significant number of income-subsidized houses and apartments, he hopes that more higher-end, market-priced housing units can be built to attract new residents and workers.

Cape also hoped the city could attract or target for relocation a wider range of employers, both large and small. He noted how Ellendale, north of Aberdeen, was able to land a new cyber-security firm that is expected to create between 50 and 100 new jobs.

Some other ideas:

Resident Gary Telkamp said one of Hot Springs' virtues is its nice weather, both compared to the Great Plains and other parts of South Dakota, and he suggested more marketing could focus on the dry and warm conditions. "That's kind of a big deal and people need to know that about us."

Gail Sprentall floated an idea that the South Dakota Board of Regents could make an arrangement with the federal government to use part

of the VA hospital complex into a satellite campus of the university system. The facility could have a natural resources educational focus, she said.

Sprentall added that Hot Springs should "embrace" its VA connections and opportunities. She added that the community could better market its strong waterways, including Fall River, Angostura Reservoir, and other nearby lakes and campgrounds.

Barb Hallberg, who hails from the Black Hills town of Nemo, said Hot Springs could emphasize its historic and current focus as a "center of healing." "That could make Hot Springs more of a destination, and I don't think we capitalize on that opportunity enough," she said.

One resident suggested the city could do more to market the many murals around town and create a walking tour that describes the murals and the artists. Someone suggested murals could be painted on the concrete retaining wall used for flood control.

Councilor Johnson said the city already invested \$3 million to have an elevated walkway along the river in the north part of downtown and another \$40,000 to clean up weeds and other debris along the river corridor.

Sandra Merrow, a counselor in Hot Springs, said she thinks that for an investment of roughly \$15,000 the city could build a fitness course along the riverwalk that people could use to get a good workout while enjoying the downtown scenery. "It would be nice to have because people already walk along the river every day," she said. "It would be great for locals and tourists to put up fitness stations along the way."

Next steps Powers, from the Hot Springs economic development group, said she will make sure the final Hot Springs report is provided to local elected officials and community leaders for review and to create new avenues for further discussion.

Cammie Mengwasser, executive director of the Watertown Area Community Foundation said earlier that the new planning group has initially identified three big challenges to address — housing, child care and workforce — but she expects the process will identify three or more other topics of focus moving forward.

Mengwasser said the next steps in the planning process will include a rollout of the consultant findings at a large community meeting early next year. "And that's when the work will really start," she said.

From there, resident committees will form to explore and examine issues revealed in the report, and local groups will then take their suggestions and do the ground-level work to get things done, she said.

"They'll take the ideas, start researching them and then try to find funding to move toward what can ultimately come out of this," she said.

Read the full Chiesman Center for Democracy report on Hot Springs at this link online or in the document reader below.

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, . Contact Bart Pfankuch at bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org.



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

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# Harvesting the Honey

Meg English  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com



(L) The job is not finished until the frames in all hives have been processed. Bernadette demonstrates how to gently separate the hives. (R) A frame with empty cells ready for the bees to use next season



(L) Bernadette raises bees in South Dakota and in North Dakota. Based on the different types of flowers available in the two regions, the flavor of the honey varies; (R) Bernadette sells the honey as is, but also uses it to make a variety of honey flavored products. In fact, it is pure honey rather than sugar that flavors her collection of available jams and jellies.

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abc.butteco@gmail.com  
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		1	4		8	7		
			3					
5							9	8
8	5			1		3	4	
			9				2	
		9				8		1
3	7						8	4
		8				1	3	7
	1					2		

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆☆



Shepherd of the Hills Church  
825 W Main Street in Lead

### Good Shepherd Clinic

**Next Clinic:**  
(Closed on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>)  
Registration will be from 6:00-7:00pm.

Good Shepherd Clinic is a free medical clinic for adults, ages 19-64, who do not qualify for or have insurance and meet 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Medical services will be available on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius Street parking lot (below 825 W. Main Street).

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

For more information contact:  
Phone: 605-717-2080  
Email: [director@goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com](mailto:director@goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com)  
Website: [www.goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com](http://www.goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com)

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Also known as (abbr.)
  - 4 "Blue Eagle" fig
  - 7 Exclamation
  - 10 Rom. public lands
  - 11 Possessive pronoun
  - 12 Rake
  - 14 Decoy (2 words)
  - 16 Anglican (abbr.)
  - 17 Mouse-spotter's cry
  - 18 Heath evergreen
  - 20 His (Fr.)
  - 21 Birds (pref.)
  - 22 Both (pref.)
  - 24 Short
  - 28 Antiseptic
  - 31 Forest ox
  - 32 Hebrew (abbr.)
  - 34 St. Petersburg's river
  - 35 Style of art
  - 37 Papal church
- DOWN**
- 1 Chills and fever
  - 2 Retch
  - 3 Vessel
  - 4 Feed
  - 5 Country (Lat.)
  - 6 Betel palm
  - 7 Medieval money
  - 8 Deem
  - 9 Giant

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

N	O	G	G	B	O	S	H	C	C	A	
A	M	L	A	V	I	N	O	O	I	L	
P	R	E	V	A	I	L	O	N	R	A	B
I	D	E	M	L	B	O	R	N			
L	A	C	K	R	E	M	I	T			
S	L	R	S	I	A	L	H	E	A	R	
H	O	I	A	R	B	O	R	A	G	E	
U	S	P	S	C	O	D	E	L	O	S	
L	H	A	S	A	B	I	T	S			
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B	A	N	E	A	P	O	P	E	N		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

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## Belle Fourche Elementary

### 2024 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Friday, December 20th

- 9:00 - Kindergarten
- 10:00 - First Grade
- 11:00 - Second Grade
- 12:00 - Third Grade
- 1:15 - Fourth Grade

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### ENIGMA CRYPTOGRAM

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"YE Z WZO HZMUA OD HKDGFKH  
ZJDGH BKZH YA SYAHZOH, KU BYNN  
EYOS ADLLDB OUZL ZH KZOS."

— PDOEGPYGA

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Peace won by the compromise of principles is a short-lived achievement." — Author Unknown

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2024  
DECEMBER  
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9 Spaghetti & Meatballs Broccoli Dinner Roll	10 Sausage, Peppers & Onions Steak Fries	11 Chicken and Dumplings Mixed Vegetables Dinner Roll	12 Goulash Roasted Vegetables Dinner Roll	13 Indian Taco on Fry Bread
16 Pork Roast Scalloped Potatoes Mixed Vegetables	17 Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Dinner Roll	18 Marry Me Chicken Ratatouille Dinner Roll	19 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans	20 Deluxe Chicken Sandwich Cowboy Beans Zucchini Fries
23 Ham & Potato Soup Green Beans Dinner Roll	24 Beef Chili Garden Salad Breadstick	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Chicken Fajitas Tortilla Shells Mexican Corn	27 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Garden Salad
30 Sausage Gravy & Biscuits Scrambled Eggs Asparagus	31 Liver & Onions or Deluxe Cheeseburger			

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## Action Taken on Prior Business

**Betty Bruner**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-Action was taken Monday by the Newell Commissioners that rescinded a motion voted on in February 2024 that approved the transfer of city property, Block 95, Lot 1, to the Newell Economic Development Corporation. The action taken in February had not taken effect, as the property had not been transferred.

Block 95, Lot 1 will possibly become part of the plans for the new meat processing plant in the future.

The old grandstand at the rodeo grounds has been sold at auction recently. The commissioners voted to donate the proceeds to the Newell Community Club along with a monetary donation for a new grandstand. The Community Club has been working on the project for several years and is nearing the completion of it. The old grandstand must be removed by April 1, 2025 and the new grandstand in place by August 1, 2025.

It was brought up that anyone holding an event in Newell must have an Event License obtainable for a low fee. The permit can be acquired at the city office.

The cost of putting up Christmas lights is prohibitive at this time. According to Public Works Supervisor Verl Tiftt, the cost would be around \$250 per pole. Tiftt said the electrician wouldn't be available to do the work at this time so it would be next year before the lights could be done.

Mayor Tara Tennis said that Tiftt should at least get a few decorations up on Main and Third Streets.

Tiftt reported that the new lift station was up and running and working well.

He also noted that the recirculating pump on the water tower is not working properly. The pump keeps the water from freezing.

He added that the soft start motor saver in the east well needs replaced.

A new panel directory for Hope Cemetery is estimated to cost approximately \$1200. Linda Velder, Curator for the museum, added a bid for a shelter at \$2,725. There is grant money available for \$1,965 matching funds to help with the cost.

Sales Tax revenue is down from 2023. From \$33,803.66 in 2023 compared to \$29,502.07 in 2024. The commissioners discussed possible reasons for the short fall, commenting that it had been a difficult year

## Christmas Bidding Brings It In



Auctioneer Bryton Oedekoven seeks the highest bid for the bicycle snowmen at the Festival of Trees.

Photo by Betty Bruner

## Newell Festival of Trees Had a Good Turnout

**Betty Bruner**

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-Over 250 people wandered through Newell City Hall Saturday, December 7, to enjoy the handiwork of many local artisans and businesses. The Annual Festival of Trees brought the Christmas feeling to everyone who entered the decked halls.

City Hall was filled with trees decorated and ready for Christmas, wreaths from live evergreens to fabric, things made of barbed wire and wood or metal. There were bicycles regaled in glitter and lights and old wood doors all adorned with twinkling lights and greenery. All the sights were items donated by local residents and businesses.

The morning began at 9 am with bidding on Silent Auction items that continued all day. That set off a day full of events and great fun! The Senior Citizens had a Christmas Tea with music by Vonda Mahaffy. Followed by a community lunch. The Newell Elementary,

economically.

Although income was down at the Newell Municipal Bar, the net profit was ahead of 2023 by showing expenses had fallen considerably from \$170,480.42 to \$159,389.99.

There will be a year-end meeting held December 30, 2024 at the Newell City Office at 5 p.m.

Middle School, and High School students serenaded the crowd.

More music followed with the Potter Family singing many Christmas favorites, while folks continued to peruse the Silent Auction items that had been donated.

A Chili Cookoff had 14 entries from local businesses. Judges, Newell Fire Chief Verl Tiftt, Vale Fire Chief Mike Gruble, and Nisland/Arpan Fire Chief Stan Lewis, had an interesting time at deciding who had the tastiest entry. Winners were First Place-Newell Hardware, Second Place High Plains Restaurant, and Third Place First National Bank.

The live auction topped off the day with the trees, wreaths, and holiday decorations being taken home by the highest bidder. Auctioneers for the evening were Bryton Oedekoven and John Craft. The ringman who showed off the items and watched for bidders was Reese Ribordy.

Midway through the live auction, there were several special items to bid on ranging from a buffalo hunt to fishing excursions and coyote hunts.

Donors of the big-ticket items were:

Buffalo Hunt-Scott Petersen's Ranch, guided by Fred Lamphere netted \$2,750.

Fishing Excursion-Dan Nefsgar netting \$850

Fishing Excursion-Wild

Walleye Outfitters, Kevin Vaughn brought in \$300.

Whitetail Deer Hunt and Turkey Hunt-Mike Disaril brought in \$250.

Antelope Hunt-Smeen Ranch netted \$500.

Extreme Taxidermy-Fred Lamphere brought in \$300.

Coyote Hunt-JC Seaman netted \$300.

Pheasant Hunt-Kara Creek Ranch in partnership with Monte Snook brought in \$600.

There was also a gun raffle for a Ruger 1022 won by

Patrick Auer. Belinda Tope won \$1000, Krista Tomac won \$500, and Laura Wiezbizki won \$100. Tanya Kjellson, Susan Barden, and Linda Vollmer all won snow globes.

It was a time of enjoying the beginning of the holidays and preparing for the season ahead.

The Festival of Trees raises funds for four volunteer emergency services including Newell Ambulance, Newell Fire Department, Nisland/Arpan Search and Rescue, and Vale Fire Department.



Judges for the chili cookoff were Mike Gruble, Stan Lewis, and Verl Tiftt. Courtesy Photo

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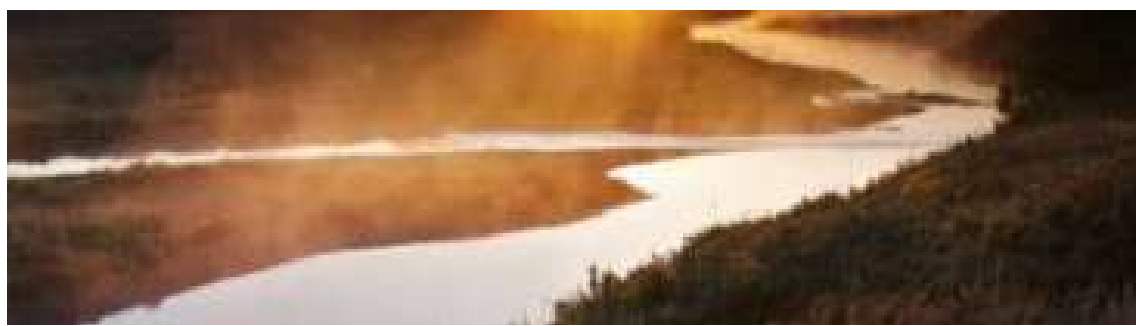
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<p><b>Jimmy Dean Sausage</b> 9.6-15 Oz. • Selected Varieties</p> <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Jell-O Instant Pudding or Gelatin Dessert</b> .3-3.9 Oz. • Selected Varieties</p> <p><b>2/\$3</b></p>	<p><b>Idahoan Potatoes</b> 7.34-8.2 Oz. • Selected Varieties</p> <p><b>2/\$6</b></p>	<p><b>Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin</b> 15 Oz.</p> <p><b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Cool Whip Whipped Topping</b> 8 Oz. • Selected Varieties</p> <p><b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Vlasic Pickles</b> 16-24 Oz. • Selected Varieties</p> <p><b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b></p>

## Grand River Roundup



### Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

It got a lot colder this week with a lot of wind and snow and a low of 2 degrees Saturday morning.

We started the week off with the Slim Buttes Lutheran ladies Christmas tea at the church last Sunday. A good crowd of ladies came to help decorate Christmas cookies for the nursing home in Lemmon where Dorothy Holt is living and for several people in our church who are 80 years old or older. Reub went to the Gideon meeting at the Coal Springs Church that afternoon and had a good visit with John and Corinne Erickson east of Bison on the way down there.

The ground was covered with snow when we woke up Monday morning and it only got to 31 degrees for the high of the day. Casey and Taz went up to put siding on Dalton Mellmer's house and the wind blew all day so I bet that was fun.

The wind was blowing again on Tuesday and there

was more snow on the ground when Taz and Casey went up to work on Dalton Mellmer's house. Amanda picked up the kids from school in Buffalo before the girls basketball game against New England that afternoon.

It was cold and windy when Reub fed the cows Wednesday morning while Taz and Casey went back up to Reeder. Amanda and Starla went to the Hills to help Jarett's fiancé pick out her wedding dress while Missy kept River Lu and the twins.

The weather wasn't much better by the time we headed to Hettinger that afternoon. We stopped in Reeder on the way home to have coffee with the Prairie Pioneers and Deb Molbert fed us three delicious homemade pies. Taz picked the kids up after school, dropped them off at Missy's house and headed to Buffalo for the school board meeting that evening.

Amanda took the kids to school in Buffalo Thursday

morning and stayed for "Muffins for Moms" at the school. Taz and Casey went back up to Reeder to work on Dalton Mellmer's house before Casey left for Buffalo that afternoon to take the Harding County wrestlers to the tournament in Rapid City on Friday and Saturday.

Missy headed out for Rapid City early Friday morning to watch the wrestlers and visit with their daughter Bryce Hesper and family for a couple days. After Taz and Reub got the chores done that morning, Taz went back up to Reeder to work on his carpenter job. Taz got home that evening in time to pick up Amanda and the kids to go to Dueling Pianos at the REC center in Buffalo that evening.

They spent the night in town and came home early Saturday morning to do chores. Thad stopped to visit us Friday evening and picked up his mail.

It was only 2 degrees when we got up Saturday morning, but there wasn't hardly any wind so doing chores outside

didn't feel so bad and it warmed up to 29 degrees later that day. Reub had put an ad in the Eido to sell an old propeller off his father's airplane and I got a call on Saturday from Joe Mollman in McIntosh about it. Reub had already sold the propeller, but I had a good visit with Dave Mollman's brother.

I was sorting through a bunch of old papers while trying to clean my office when I found an old letter that Seaborn Ledbetter had written Reub's father, Buck Olson, back in December of 1958 and January of 1959. He talked about a lot of history in this neighborhood and some history from Fort Griffin, Texas, where he came from with his family and their cattle when they came to South Dakota up the old Chisholm cattle trail in 1896. After reading Seab's letter, I had to go get the book he wrote that Reub's mother typed up for him and Maurice Brown used Amy's typing to make it into a booklet titled "Last Riders of the Great Northern Range in North of the Black Hills". I didn't know Seab until after he was in the Don Pratt Manor retirement home in Belle Fourche, but I wish I could have known him earlier because I just loved that old guy. His brother was Tex Ledbetter who also lived along the South Grand River near the Hackamore Ranch where Doug and Clint Doll and their families live now. I should take one of these booklets to the museum in Buffalo because a lot of the

older people over there will remember the Ledbetters.

Reub and our great granddaughter Copper shared a birthday on Sunday but we didn't stick around to have a party because we left from church that morning to go our granddaughter Brinley Powell's graduation party in the Black Hills that afternoon. Brinley graduated with a BS in nursing from SDSU. Congratulations Brinley and Happy Birthday Copper Rayne!!

With the way things are going in Washington DC now, I'll leave you with this that I got from my late cousin Pat John:

\*I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. - Winston Churchill

\*A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. - George Bernard Shaw

\*A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money. - G. Gordon Liddy

\*Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. - Ronald Reagan

\*The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other. - Ronald Reagan

## Then and Now in Newell

### "Looking Forward to our Past"

#### December 17, 1914

The coal diggers are having a vacation on account of the stormy weather. The recent snow makes it impossible to excavate or haul any coal from the Buttes.

Dr. W.C. Hills announces that he is no longer associated with Dr. Clark and will have his office and residence in the same place, in the Hartwell property. He will have rooms for all emergency or medical cases.

Judge McNenny has revoked the order which Earl Harris of Fruitdale from serving his sentence in the penitentiary and he is now doing time in Sioux

According to information received here, Gutzon Borglum, greatest of American sculptures, has decided to postpone his second visit to the Black Hills until spring. As this season's weather conditions are uncertain, with probable snow in the Hills which would make the investigations Mr. Borglum expected to make difficult.

Two of the government trappers working for the extermination of predatory animals came into our territory last week at the behest of the local Farm Bureau. They were accompanied out some distance east by W. L. Burke and Lloyd

#### by Linda Velder

danced at the Wetz School, east of town last Friday evening and all report having had a good time. The children's performance was well done and uplifting.

#### December 7, 1944

Dr. O.H. Clark this week received the second carload of glass jars to be used as honey containers at his processing plant just southeast of town, a total of 32,000 glass containers so far received. The honey this year is coming from his Montana Bee Farm, the local production being barely enough to feed the bees this coming winter, as a result of the grasshopper infestations.

The Jury of Tony Vigil manslaughter case was unable to agree, and Judge Hayes dismissed the jury and adjourned the Circuit term last Thursday afternoon. It is said, the jurors stood 7 to 5 for acquittal on the last ballot due to his young age. This means the case must be tried again, probably at the spring term of Butte County Circuit Court. Vigil is charged with second degree manslaughter in connection with the death last spring of Cpl. Paul Dell, Newell, who was killed when struck by a car allegedly driven by Vigil under the influence.

A special election is to be held at Vale on December 12 to vote on the proposition of organizing as an incorporated municipality. While such an election was ordered at an adjournment session of the County Commission on November 24th, a complication arose last week in the proceedings and the proposed election had to be called off, for the present at least.

The 1945 license plate for motor cars will be in the hands of the County Treasurer in the latter part of this month. The new plates, one to a car, will be of green and white design and will be available beginning January 1st.

#### December 16, 1954

R. E. Isto, resident engineer of the US Geological Survey Service at Fairbanks, Alaska, arrived Monday for a brief visit at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Reppen. Neil Isto brought him up from the Rapid City Airport and they returned there Wednesday.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Donaldson, Sr were callers and supper guests at the Julius Viken home last Sunday. Other callers that evening were Mr. & Mrs. Harold Snoozy and family and Mr. & Mrs. Cather Clanton all of Redig and Mr. & Mrs. Carl Orwick and daughter Beverly. Mr. & Mrs. Earl Kirk of

Kendall who gave them "the lay of the land". Six coyotes were captured the first night.

#### December 13, 1934

Reclamation as a National policy faces a "show down" between its advocates and opponents, in the opinion of Marshall N. Dana, President of the National Reclamation Association. Criticism of reclamation has grown to a virtual torrent in recent months, will be respectively invited to witness, that when the great drought of 1930's, blighted vast areas of the Midwest, it was the reclamation regions in the west that insured the nation a plentiful supply of food.

Basketball fans saw a fast game Tuesday evening where the Newell High School Irrigators played their first home game against Spearfish. The latter won by a score of 26 - 24, but the results were in doubt until the final whistle in this hard-fought game. The locals showed a surprising brand of basketball so early in the season and fans predict that they will make it plenty interesting for other teams before the season ends. In a preliminary game, a team from CCC Camp at Orman defeated the Newell town team 31 - 14.

Many from Vale attended the Christmas program and

Falls. Forging a check at Nisland while under the influence of drugs was the final cause of his serving time.

Conductor Burton of Chadron has been transferred to the Newell and Deadwood Chicago & Northwestern run of the freight. Conductor Blair has been transferred to Chadron and will run on the special and extra trains.

#### December 11, 1924

The Livestock Exchange Bank of Newell closed its doors last Saturday at 11:30 AM. Ward B. Clarke, Examiner for closed banks of the county, is in charge. The reason assigned for the failure is the usual one of slow collections and depleted reserves. Officers of the Livestock Exchange Bank were President C.M. Daman, Vice President G. W. Hohenberger, Cashier George Lund, Assistant Cashier Nan V. Lineberg. Mr. Clarke appointed G. D. McMahon of Farmer State Bank of Nisland and S. J. McDonald of the defunct First State Bank of Newell to be assistant examiners of Livestock Exchange Bank. The examiners immediately started taking an inventory, during which time the doors remained closed. As soon as this work is completed, they will proceed with liquidation of the affairs of the bank.



Livestock Exchange Bank (1917) before it was dissolved in 1924  
Newell Museum

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Lead were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Kirk. Ernest Sundstrom, a School of Mines student and Carl Sundstrom of Sturgis were also visitors.

Robert Fabricius began this week as a clerk in the Men's wear and dry goods departments of the N.M. Bratton Mercantile Co. Fabricius, who formerly farmed near Newell and had been employed by the

announces that he is now in the process of securing patents, that he plans to do largely experimental building and improving this winter and hopes by next spring to be able to begin taking orders for stack movers with which a man may load a 20-ton stack in 30 seconds without leaving the tractor. Vig has been moving haystacks since 1957 and has moved about 7,000 stacks since that time.



Dr. Clark tending his bee hives August, 1930 - a better crop year than 1944  
Newell Museum

Hafner Company, succeeds Gordon Bonestell in the Men's department. Also joining the clerical staff of the store was Jay Hogan, who clerked from time-to-time in various other Newell stores and Mrs. Raymond Keene in the dry goods and hosiery department.

Funeral services for Joseph J. Stevens, Newell resident who passed away Friday at the Belle Fourche Hospital, were conducted from the Congregational Church Monday. Special music included violin and piano selections by Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Brodsky and two solos sung by Mrs. Russell Schwartz. He married Vivian Dorothy 1932, and the family moved to Newell in 1951 to live with an Aunt Mrs. Mary Yoder. He is buried in the Newell Hope Cemetery.

#### December 10, 1964

Merle Vig, Mud Butte-Opal area young rancher, has leased a small Hafner Wool Co building southeast of town and announces plans to set up a shop there, in which he plans to build haystack movers. Vig

Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Wilson, pioneer farm couple, east of Newell, plan to leave Saturday to visit relatives and friends in Arizona, California and other points and expect to be gone a couple months, unless they become home sick. For Mr. Wilson, it will be the first time he has been off the family farm for longer than 2 weeks in 74 years. The couple have lived there since their marriage more than 50 years ago.

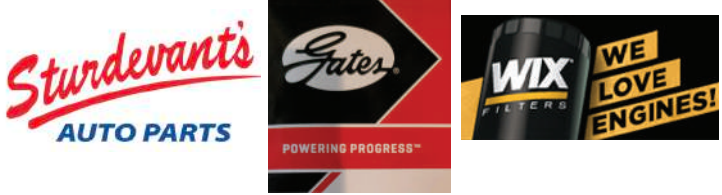
Nearly 60 people attended a potluck supper and regular meeting of the Newell Saddle Club Saturday evening at the VFW Hall. A report was given by Secretary Loren Poole on the proceeds of the Annual Dance held a week earlier and the saddle ticket sales. The winning ticket, it was announced, was held by Mrs. Robert Miles of Newell. Members voted to use the VFW Hall for future meetings with ladies to furnish cookies and the club to purchase coffee. Following the business meeting, colored slide pictures of local rodeos and horse shows in the area were enjoyed.

## Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



**Automotive and Pickup Repair Shop · Sturdevant's Parts Store · Oil Lube & Filter Service · Gates-Belts & Hoses & Custom Hose building · + We sell all classes of Tires & do Tire repair· ATV Services**



## Here's What's Happening in Newell!

**Christmas Community Feed, Dec. 21, 5-8 pm**  
Sponsored by Truck Defender, High Plains Restaurant.

**Whistle Stop Market**  
First Saturday of every month through April, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Newell Senior Center

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

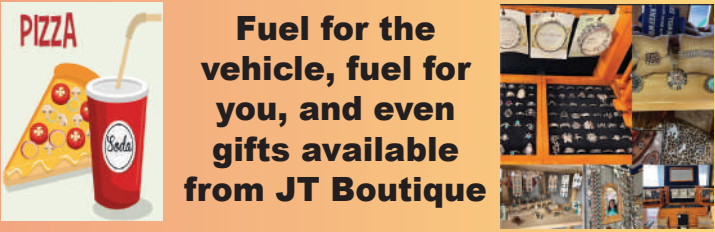
**Feeding South Dakota**  
Second Thursday every month, 1:30

**Wednesday**  
**Story Time with Patty**  
Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 11 a.m. All ages welcome

**Newell Library Hours**  
Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## 212/79 Service Center



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## Newell Festival of Trees



ABOVE: Newell Labor Day Rodeo Queen Rachel Stranberg poses with Santa at the Newell Festival of Trees. Do you think Santa granted her Christmas wish?

ABOVE RIGHT: Vonda Mahaffy enjoys looking at all the trees.

BELOW: There were over 250 people that came during the day at the Festival of Trees last Saturday.

Photos by Betty Bruner



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16) COOK'S CHOICE, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk	17) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk	18) Pancakes, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk	19) COOK'S CHOICE, Juice, Fruit, Milk	20) NO SCHOOL
Chicken Nachoes, Veggies, Fruit, Milk	Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Veggies, Fruit, Milk	French Dip with Au Jus, Tater Tots, Veggies, Fruit, Milk	Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Veggies, Fruit, Milk <b>SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!</b>	
23) NO SCHOOL	24) NO SCHOOL	25) CHRISTMAS! <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26) NO SCHOOL	27) NO SCHOOL



Menu Sponsored by:

**Newell Hardware & Supply**  
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**605-456-2312**

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

**Light up the Night**

**Betty Bruner**  
 news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-The night was lit with 16 vehicles adorned with lights of all colors as they traveled down Main Street in Newell Friday, December 13. Although it was biting cold, both sides of the street were lined with children and adults eager to see the First Annual Parade of Lights.

Ken Wetz was set up at the corner, ready to tell everyone about each entry. He gave a running comment as the floats passed by.

There were entries by businesses, church groups, clubs, youth groups, and individuals. So many lights to awe the crowd! Grinch and Santa were

both seen riding a float, along with reindeer and many others.

Following the parade, the crowd gathered at City Hall to enjoy spaghetti prepared by Newell Community Club members. The Hall was filled with several games and of course, a Cookie Walk.

Children had the opportunity to decorated cookies as well as, play some games of skill. Local rodeo queens were on hand to help wherever needed.

Santa and the Grinch wandered through the hall handing out candy and having photo ops with many of the kids. Many of the youngsters were excited to spend time with the man in the red suit, but sometimes the littlest ones were a little standoffish. The Grinch was an extraor-

dinary addition and was easily recognized by the children.

Winners of the bicycle drawing were Girls 0-3-Makenna Fox, Boys 0-3 Huck Wolford; Girls 4-6 Mylee Grant, Boys 4-6 Wrenley Boylan; Girls 7-10 Auryon Lewis, Boys 7-10 Sam Lindsey; Girls 10-12 Novella Ligget, Boys 10-12 Riggin Wulf.

The parade winners were announced also during the gathering. Business winner was Joyful Bloom Flowers; Club winner Sage 'N Cactus; Church Dakota Life; Youth winner was the float with the rodeo queens and the individual winner was Robbie with his race car.

Now many are looking forward and planning for Christmas 2025!

**B's Buzz** by Betty Bruner

To see the world through the eyes of a five-year-old is a wondrous experience! Our youngest granddaughter has been staying with us the last few days and has shown me the pure love that a child has for life. We have had a tea party, decorated a gingerbread house, watched a parade, had spaghetti twice, painted pictures of gnomes and cuddled many times.

The wonderfulness of hugging a child cannot be compared to anything else. It makes me yearn for the days when our children were little. The laughter of pure delight! Oh, my, it makes me chuckle just to think about it.

The house is in total chaos. When our kids were little and we visited my mom, she would say to me that she always left the fingerprints on her hall mirror. My mom was a pretty meticulous housekeeper so that seemed a little odd to me, but you know she was "old" (probably all of 50-something) and so had some peculiar ideas.

Now I understand. When the house is empty and quiet, I look around and see everything we did together. And I sigh and smile. Her laughter and antics warmed my heart.

And then I remember when her big brother and sister would visit. Oh, how I wish I could hug them like a five-year-old! So, when I see them that's what I do. After all, I'm the grandma and I can do whatever I want to.

The joy of being older than

dirty! A person can do "strange" things like hug a teenage grandchild or forget someone's name and it's understandable. I can act as crazy as I really feel and no one will think they need to send me to the "funny farm, where life is beautiful" all day long (did I just date myself?)

And then I think, what if all of us took a little more time to enjoy the chaos of life? As my grandchildren say-it is what it is. So, if it is, why don't we go with the flow and embrace what's happening. All things work toward a goal set before us. The good, bad, and ugly can work toward what is supposed to be our life. But we need to see what lessons can be learned with everything that comes into our lives.

When our youngest son would make one of his many trips to the University of Minnesota Hospital, he would look at me and say, "I wonder who we get to touch this time?"

He had a heart to make a difference. We need to all have that as our main drive in life. Who can we touch? How can we make a difference in someone's life? Whether it's saying a kind word or saying "excuse me" when we step in front of someone, we need to pay attention to those around us.

I'm going to make a difference right now by hugging my granddaughter goodnight and having some Christmas hot chocolate!



Above: Sage N Cactus 4H Club won the Club category.

Left: Jr. Miss Newell Rodeo Morgan Mcguckin, Little Miss Newell Rodeo Mesa Dell, Santa, and Faith Stock Show Queen Cienna Mcguckin.

Next Left: Dakota Life Christian Center won the Church category.

Below: The Rodeo Queens won the Youth category. Photos by Betty Bruner



The Grinch was riding the winner of the Individual prize. The race car was driven by Robbie. Photos by Betty Bruner

Joyful Blooms won the Business Prize.