



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • December 25, 2024

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Middle School Choir Concert

The 2024 Middle School choir under the direction of Ms. Karlee Gusso performed, December 16, at the Belle Fourche Rec Center to an over capacity and then some crowd their **2024 Christmas/Holiday Concert.**

The Adaptive Music group that included Kaylunn Bohm, Fara Bricker, Echo Dahn, Elijah Green, James Heck, Jessa Johnson, Sadee Keil, Brady Pierce, & Aden Young led off the evening followed by members of the 6th Grade class who sang: *Over the River, Little Star, Snow is Still Falling & Winter Fantasy.*

The **6th Grade Choir** included: Ariyana Beguin, Toryn Bertolotto, Adrianna Bishop, Adilynn Bruke, Emersyn Carmichael, Adalyn Clem, Maycee Coffield, Natalie Cvach, Mea Daniels, Keaton Davis, Annavelle Dighton, Avery Dobesh, Amiyah

MS Choir A8

“When Christmas Comes to Town”



Standing room only was hard to find, as parents, family, friends, & lovers of Christmas Music filled to capacity and then some the BF Rec center auditorium at the **December Middle School Choir Holiday Concert.** The **Adaptive Music** group that included **Kaylunn Bohm, Fara Bricker, Echo Dahn, Elijah Green, James Heck, Jessa Johnson, Sadee Keil, Brady Pierce, & Aden Young** performed on stage to start the evening.

Multiple Structure Fires Reported on Ninth Avenue

Belle Fourche, SD — December 21, 2024 — Emergency services responded to multiple structure fires in the area of Ninth Avenue and Butte Street following reports of an explosion and fire on the north side of Belle Fourche just before midnight last Sunday night.

The fire quickly spread to multiple homes before firefighters arrived on the scene.

The Belle Fourche Fire Department worked swiftly to contain

the blaze and prevent further spread. Officers evacuated several residents.

All residents in the affected area have been safely evacuated, and only one injury has been reported at this time. Emergency crews remained on-site to assess the situation and ensure public safety.

Authorities urged residents to avoid the area while emergency services continue their operations.



Spearfish Mayor Proclaims “Bryan Lessly Day”



Bryan and Cathy Lessly at High Plains Western Heritage Center event. Beacon Photo

Beacon Staff

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

It was such a fitting honor for the day to be proclaimed “Bryan Lessly Day” in the City of Spearfish by Mayor John Senden and to see the dozens of folks come out in support of a very deserving man.

The proclamation was presented Friday December 13 as the High Plains Western Heritage Center hosted a fund raising event for Bryan.

Talented area musicians performed, vendors donated proceeds, and a silent auction was

held to raise funds.

Bryan had recently returned home from Mayo Clinic in Rochester where he is undergoing cancer treatment.

Center Executive Director Karla Scovell echoed the sentiments of many as she stated, “Bryan has done so much for so many behind the scenes both within the community of Spearfish and across the state.

Bryan has been an integral source of help to the High Plains Western Heritage Center with his talent in videography, his writing skills and so much
Bryan contd. A3

Chamber of Commerce Light Contest Winner Announced



Congratulations 1627 11th Ave! Joe Florez would like to thank his decorating helpers Opal, Destanie, Justin, Ashlee, Richie, Shaun, Jay and Brady; 2nd place-1116 4th ave.; 3rd place-1949 Xavier Street.

The community was asked to put their winter gloves on and decorate their houses for a light competition this year. Entries were taken at the Chamber office and were judged by the Polar Express riders on Dec 12th and Dec 13th. Joe Florez won the unique hand painted “Golden Santa” that will fit right into his display. A full list of the houses that competed remains available on the Chamber Facebook Page. The Chamber would like to thank all for participating and we are looking forward to next year’s contest!

Shayna Ager Joining Jack the Clipper Salon

Beacon Staff

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Jack the Clipper is proud to announce that with the New Year will come the addition of Shayna Ager joining the salon.

Shayna is a 2013 graduate of Belle Fourche and has lived most of her life here.

Shayna commented, “It’s been a blessing growing up in Belle. Belle has a unique and charming atmosphere.

I love how our community comes together to support one another. I love the quiet and simplicity our town has.”

She started her cosmetologist career in 2020 and graduated in 2021; then attended barber

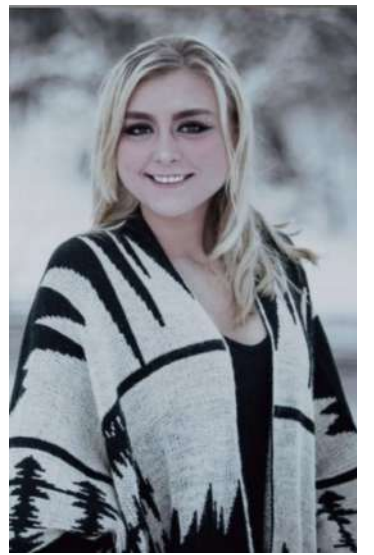
college in 2023.

Shayna will be available Tuesday, Wednesday(10-4:30), Friday and Saturdays(10-6).

Shayna when asked about her career choice, “I’ve always been drawn to the beauty industry because of my love for hair and makeup. I love my job because it allows me to be creative, and the ability to always learn and grow. I love the meaningful connections I have with my clients.

I love helping people feel their best. It’s such a rewarding industry.”

Jack the Clipper is located in the Belle Fourche Business Plaza.



Shayna Ager

Book Party at the Belle Fourche Public Library!

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Book parties are always special. They attract readers, writers, their families, friends, and significant others. However, the book party on Saturday, December 14th at the Belle Fourche Public Library was extra-special. Altogether a group of over 40 literary supporters enjoyed author readings, holiday treats, door prizes, and of course, books, and book related gifts for sale.

The occasion was a celebration

in honor of the Belle Fourche Writers second anthology “Life’s Landscapes”.

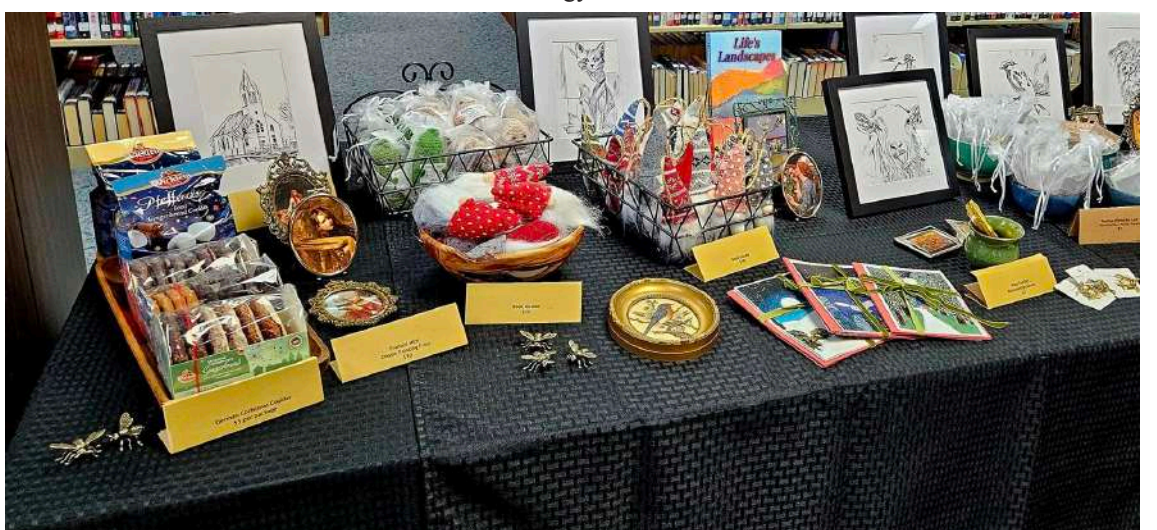
For the Belle Fourche Writers, the anthology committee, and the authors whose works are published in the anthology, the event was indeed a significant milestone.

The project began a little more than two years ago when a group of Belle Fourche Writers decided it was time for another anthology. The first an-

thology, “Roots Grow Deep and Strong” was published in 2012.

They formed a committee consisting of Eric Beeman, Margie Bolte, Lynda Edwards, Meg English, Joan Gerkin, Angela Hastings, Jean Helmer, and Kathy Bjornestad. Writers who were members of the Belle Fourche Writers were invited to submit their poetry, fiction and non-fiction writings. The anthology committee met once

BF Writers Contd.C2



The Belle Fourche Writers celebrated the launch of their new anthology **Life’s Landscapes** with holiday treats, door prizes, books, and book-related gifts for purchase. *Courtesy Photo*

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Most people are feeling merry, but some are feeling blue. All over the world, it's Christmastime. May there be some joy and hope for you.

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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Brian Kline
Owner

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Mary Ann Wells 96

Mary Ann Wendelken was born in Belle Fourche, SD on October 7, 1928 to parents Ralph and Anne Wendelken as the youngest of four children, joining brother Jim and two sisters Claire and Sara. She grew up on the family dairy farm and ranch at the foot of Redwater Hill between Belle Fourche and Spearfish. Her childhood was a carefree time spent swimming in the creeks, roaming the hills, skating on the rivers, sledding down the slopes, roller skating in the barns, riding horses and playing games when forced to stay indoors, and helping with chores along the way.



plumbing adviser, stocker and more. She won over some skeptical customers by showing her knowledge and capability with plumbing and parts. In 1992 Mary Ann joined son Richard as a partner in Homestead Nursery, working full time during growing seasons until she retired in 2019 at the age of 90. She loved to pot plants and often left a trail of pulled weeds along the paths of the nursery gardens. She thoroughly enjoyed working with customers and sharing her love of plants.

Mary Ann's schooling was at the Normal School in Spearfish and later in Belle Fourche. She was a good student and graduated from BFHS in 1946 as valedictorian. Later that fall Mary Ann attended South Dakota State in Brookings, but her heart was back in Belle Fourche with Jack Wells, who she dated during the summer. Jack had returned to Belle Fourche after serving in WWII the U.S. Army Air Corps in the South Pacific when he met Mary Ann through friends. They married on August 6, 1947 in a double wedding ceremony at the Congregational Church in Belle Fourche, along with her sister Claire and husband Maurice Stambaugh.

Mary Ann was able to do many things in her life. She participated in Bridge Club, PEO, Belle Fourche Women and Toastmasters as well as roles in the U.C.C. church as Sunday school teacher, greeter and trustee. She was a voracious reader with a curious mind, and her home gardens were true expressions of her imagination and style. Most of all she was a loving person who put thought into everything she did. She remained close to her sisters Claire Stambaugh and Sara Horman and the sound of the three sisters' unrestrained giggling was a hallmark of their time together.

While on their honeymoon, opportunity knocked in the form of a store display TOILET STOOLS, which were in short supply after the war. The young couple was building a new house and needed this important item, so they bought it at black market prices, which drained their cash and they ended up using the toilet as collateral for a motel stay until more funds could be obtained. This incident pointed out the need for a plumbing supply store and Jack was able to start a business in the basement of their house. The business was run by Mary Ann much of the time (often with a baby on her hip) as Jack worked at other jobs until Wells Plumbing Supplies became established.

Mary Ann and Jack lived at home in Belle Fourche through 2023 and celebrated their 77th Anniversary. She passed away on December 21, 2024 at the age of 96 at Heartland Senior Living in Spearfish. She is survived by her husband Jack, who is 101, of Spearfish, four children Richard Wells of St. Onge, Linda (Jon) Wiley of Spearfish, Allen (Michele Post) Wells of Sturgis, and Barbara (Mike) Snoozy of Portland, OR, five grandchildren Nathan (Stephanie) Wiley and Aaron (Carolyn) Wiley of Indianapolis, IN, Krista (Brady) Menzel of Sioux Falls, Kelli (Honario) Colipano of Ewa Beach, HI, and Kyle (Saki) Snoozy of Portland, OR, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Mary Ann was preceded in death by her three siblings, grandchild Kelly Brengle and great-grandchild Kaylee Teppo.

The family grew. After Richard and Linda arrived, the one-bedroom house was bursting, so they built a house on Redwater Hill. Two more children followed - Allen and Barbara. Mary Ann described her time spent raising a family as the best time in her life. She was the kind of mother that anyone would wish for.

Memorial gifts may be designated to the First Congregational Church UCC, Belle Fourche, SD. A Celebration of Life Service will be held 11:30am Saturday, December 28, 2024 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Belle Fourche. There will be no visitation. Arrangements are with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Friends may leave written condolences online at: www.LeveringtonFH.com

As her children got older, Mary Ann completed a home landscaping course and worked for a time at Beck's Nursery in Spearfish which enhanced her knowledge and love of gardening, which she expressed throughout her life. In 1965, she became a real estate broker, one of the first women realtors in the area, operating Wells Real Estate out of their home. Meanwhile Wells Plumbing Supplies had grown, so Mary Ann became head bookkeeper,

Shirley Ann (Peters) LaRue 89

Shirley Ann (Peters) LaRue, 89, of Belle Fourche, passed away Friday, December 20th, 2024.



replied with 'I love you more.' Shirley is preceded in death by her parents, Glenn and Tillie Peters, infant brother Richard Peters, and her husband of almost 70 years, Larry LaRue.

Shirley was born on May 17, 1935 in Watauga, South Dakota to Glenn and Theoline 'Tillie' (Haugen) Peters. She grew up in town with cousins and her best friend Evelyn McGregor. She never missed a day of school because her dad drove the gas truck that could drive through any snowstorm. Shirley graduated from McIntosh High School in 1953. After her father retired from the Phillips 66 station, they moved to Lemmon, South Dakota. She then attended Aberdeen School of Business. Shirley started her first job at the First National Bank of Lemmon. Shirley was engaged to the only love of her life, Larry LaRue, in October of 1954 and then married June 4th, 1955. Shirley and Larry moved to Belle Fourche to start their lives together.

Shirley is survived by her son, Douglas (Jean) LaRue of Rapid City, SD; daughter Lorrie (Roger) Kimball of Belle Fourche, SD; Grandchildren Brooke Schmett of Anchorage, AK; Cassie (Grant) Mason of Gillette, WY; Amanda Nelson of Sheridan, WY; Jamie Burke of Belle Fourche, SD and Daniel (Elizabeth Harrell) LaRue of Rapid City, SD; Great-grandchildren Mitchell and Audrey Schmett; Natillie, Lucie, Korrie and William Mason; Coy Nelson and Adilynn and Anderson Burke.

Shirley gave birth to her son Douglas Larry James LaRue in 1957 and to their daughter Lorrie Ann LaRue in 1961. After her children were in school, she started a career at Pioneer Bank and Trust. For thirty plus years Shirley never met a stranger and was somehow related to everyone. She loved every single one of her customers.

Visitation will be Sunday December 22nd from 4-6 p.m. at Kline Funeral Chapel.

Shirley was caring, patient, a good cook and kindhearted. Shirley was always 'dapper' in her appearance. She enjoyed bowling, coffee and dancing. Shirley was a very artistic painter and loved showing off her talent with Larry's woodworking skills at craft fairs across the region. Shirley never missed a home game and loved all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren with all her heart. When she asked them to 'talk to her' you always said you loved her, and she

Services will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 23rd at St. James Lutheran Church in Belle Fourche. Following the service coffee and cookies will be served at the church. Burial at Pine Slope Cemetery will be at a later date. The family suggests memorials to the Belle Estate and the Heartland Hospice, 1718 11th Avenue Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Pallbearers are great-grandsons Mitchell Schmett, Coy Nelson, Anderson Burke and William Mason. Honorary pallbearers are all nephews.

An online guest book and video tribute is available at klinefuneralchapel.com

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



Douglas Blair Engebretson 76

Douglas Blair Engebretson, 76, of Belle Fourche died December 21, 2024 at his home with his loving wife and daughter by his side.



He loved the grands and great-grands. He loved taking his own kids, grandkids, and great grands to the fish hatchery in Spearfish. Taking the 3 generations to the fish hatchery was special to him.

Doug was born January 11, 1948, to Otto and Berniece (Ballou) Engebretson. He grew up in Alzada, MT where he attended grade school and then graduated high school from Belle Fourche. For many years, in North Dakota, he worked on the oil rigs. After moving to Belle Fourche, he worked at Baroid and IMC.

He is survived by his wife Pat; daughter Candace (Bert) Reynolds, Black Hawk; step-son Steven (Rae) Collins, Champlin, MN; Grandchildren Caitlyn (Karl) Vanderlugt, Jenna (Mike) Scott, Megan Seieroe (Troy Jensen), Paige Patterson, Madelyn Collins (Dakota Fossan), Ben Collins; and the great grandchildren that brought him joy, Taiven, Layla, Lilly, Harper, Briella Blair, Kelbie and Lainey; a brother in Arizona and numerous cousins.

For 25 years he traveled 5 states where he sold books to libraries. His interest in history saw him getting articles published in True West, Frontier Times and local publications. He was always willing to answer questions about local history.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Otto.

In 1982, his book, Empty Saddles, Forgotten Names was published with a second printing in 1984 and then again in 2006. At the time of his death, he was nearing the completion of his book on the first 50 years of the Roundup.

Services will be Saturday, January 4 at the Kline Funeral Chapel from 2-4 pm, with a Prayer and Eulogy at 3 pm.

In August 1978 he walked into the Belle Fourche Public Library and met Pat Collins. They were married in November and for the next 46 years they traveled and welcomed grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be made to Heartland Home Health & Hospice (a big thank you to them for the care they gave) and the Belle Fourche Public Library.

An online guest book and video tribute is available at klinefuneralchapel.com



Donna Rodig 92

Donna Rodig, 92, currently of Sioux Falls and longtime resident of Belle Fourche, SD passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2024.



she succeeded and then watching her grandchildren and their activities. Donna loved Christmas and the baking of cookies and candies. Each family would receive a pan of caramel rolls for Christmas morning.

Funeral service will be 10:00 am Tuesday, December 31 at Miller Funeral Home Downtown, 507 S. Main Ave., Sioux Falls, SD with burial at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls, SD.

Donna was a woman of strong faith in God and was inspired by daily prayer. She really enjoyed sports and was a Denver Broncos fan. She enjoyed professional sports and college sports. She also enjoyed playing cards especially Bridge. She had made a lot of friends in her card groups.

The family will be present one hour prior to the service to greet friends.

Donna Lou Kroger, daughter of Alfred Kroger and Adeline Radke and stepfather, Harold Dodds, was born June 10, 1932 near Gann Valley, SD. As a young child, the family moved to Belle Fourche, SD. She graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1950. She began working at First National Bank.

Grateful for having shared her life are her husband of 69 years, Robert Rodig, Sioux Falls, SD; three children, Dr. Mark (Rene) Rodig, Sioux Falls, SD, Stacie (Derrick) Benjamin, Lancaster, CA, Todd (Jane) Rodig, Yankton, SD; 9 grandchildren and 8 with one on the way, great grandchildren; Luke (Anika) and their children, Brooks and Liam; Caleb; Halie (Reece) and their children, Gage and Gus; Jerral and her children, Julius and Anastasia; Samantha and her children, Cloud and Cedar; Savannah; Katie (Tanner) and new baby any day; Kylie; Morgan; and many relatives and friends.

Donna was united in marriage with Robert Rodig on November 6, 1955 in Belle Fourche, SD. They were blessed with three children, Mark, Stacie and Todd. She stayed home to raise the family until the children got a little older. She then began working as a teacher's aide where she worked for many years. In the summer season she and Robert helped manage the Taste Freeze Drive Inn in Belle Fourche. She also had a few other jobs to keep her busy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Adeline and Harold Dodds.

In the early 2000's they moved to Sioux Falls and brought Donna's mother, Adeline with them to Sioux Falls. Donna loved watching her children grow and



Roots Grow Deep and Strong # 28
“Christmas Day Feast Reflections”



Meg English

Christmas is a time of feasting. I have had the good fortune to enjoy Christmases in various regions. Of course, all Christmas traditions throughout the course of one’s life will be compared to one’s early experiences.

For most of us who grew up in somewhat rural agrarian South Dakota, Christmas is turkey, bronzed and roasted golden in the oven in an antique roasting pan. Maybe savory ham in addition or instead of turkey, or maybe wild venison, duck, or goose would be the centerpiece.

My grandmother did not enjoy cooking, but she did it because that’s what grandmothers do, and the meal was marvelous. Mashed potatoes, sage stuffing, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes with marshmallows and brown sugar, cornbread and sorghum syrup. The table was set with the antique chinaware, crystal waterglasses and a white linen tablecloth. Cranberry relish always bore the shape of a tin can. A rich, colorful

red and green Jello salad was an eye-catching fixture on the table.

Presentation of food was important, as were the quality, variety, and availability of dishes served. But in my experience, hearty nationalism typically won the competition for most important feature of holiday celebrations.

On Christmas Eve my grandmother paid tribute to her proud Norwegian heritage. Here’s where the lutefisk and lefse memories begin. Lutefisk is cod soaked in lye for preservation. Cod would have been a plentiful fish in Norway, so it makes sense that lutefisk was a traditional staple among Norwegian immigrants in the 1840s but it is not clear why the tradition has persisted into the present in parts of South Dakota.

During Christmas season in my childhood, Lutefisk was available in the local grocery stores, and was boiled in a cheese cloth and placed on the table on a white serving dish in a white gelatinous lump. Lutefisk was barely palatable even when stuffed inside a piece of rolled up lefse smothered with mashed potatoes and doused in butter.

As I recall from my South Dakota roots other families enjoyed crown roast beef on Christmas Eve, while still others adhered to traditions such as simple oyster stew.

In preparation for Christmas, my grandmother, who built a house with a small kitchen because she didn’t like

to spend a lot of time cooking, would spend full days rolling out balls of potato and flour to make lefse. With potatoes and sugar, she also fabricated huge patches of pink and white Christmas candy. As if that was not enough, she managed to produce quantities of corn syrup/marshmallow popcorn balls with spiced gumdrops. All of which she gave to family and friends.

My husband was born and raised in Ireland, so I soon became a veteran of Irish Christmases. In Ireland, Christmas is not limited to a day or an evening in Ireland, it lasts for several days. Remember that Ireland is quite far north and at the winter solstice season the days are even shorter and darker than they are in western South Dakota. The sun, which rarely shines, clings close to the southern horizon during the brief daylight hours. By the winter solstice the Irish are desperate for lights, food, festivity, company, and a party atmosphere.

The day following Christmas, December 26th is St. Stephen’s Day, also a national holiday and feast day. St. Stephen was the famous first martyr of Christianity, but that’s not important. Rather, St. Stephen’s Day festivities seem to be a way to make the holidays and festivities last longer.

In Ireland, holiday feasts reflect the presentation, quality, variety, availability of food as they do in South Dakota, but what seems more important is people, family, friends, and earnest conversation. Feasts in Ireland typically involve alcohol, such as wine

or aperitifs with meals. Alcohol is almost invariably included, but never forced. Meals last for hours and there are usually many opportunities to commune with others.

Now, as I have spent three Christmases in France, I will attempt to make at least some summary French Christmas feast observations. Here is the south of France there is about the same amount of light and darkness as there is in western South Dakota at this time of year as we are close in latitudes. Although not as dark as the British Isles, people here have an enormous appetite for special food, colorful lights, parties, and fellowship.

Presentation is quite important. In fact, it may be the most important aspect of a holiday feast as it is with everyday food. Chocolates, pastries and other delicacies are on artistically in shop windows. Patisseries and chocolatiers are common and the creation of these beautiful cakes and confections requires professional training and licensure.

Of course, attention to quality is very important in

France. However, visitors should understand that although presentation may rule, culinary habits in France don’t overlook frugality. The French know how to dress food up. Even the common langoustine, considerably cheaper than lobster, can be made to look appealing. However, visitors may note that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.

For Christmas dinner this year, we have been invited to a Paella and Langoustine Christmas lunch. Presentation may be important. The food may or not be appealing. (see photo) but there will be wine, fresh olives, bread, cheese, and dessert. No one will leave hungry. There will be conversation in French and English and the meal will last most of the afternoon. If the sun is shining, which it does most days, we will likely sit outside.

Incidentally, back to Christmases past...my grandmother’s ancient roasting pan remains in my possession. It has survived two major efforts to downsize all that is unessential. Next week’s topic: What’s left in the storage unit and why do we keep superfluous items?



In France much attention is paid to presentation These are hand-made chocolates, carefully prepared from the finest ingredients and beautifully displayed.



Elaborate and carefully crafted handmade pastries



A photo Christmas dinner in southern France. The creature with the threatening stare is a langoustine (a salt-water crustacean much smaller than a lobster but a bit bigger than a crayfish). It is perched atop a bed of paella, a rice with ‘what-ever’ meat and vegetables are available.

Bryan from A1 more.”
 Back in 2017 when plans were being formulated to start publication of the Beacon, this editor, contacted friend Bryan who he had worked with on production of the “Marvin Garrett Roughstock Series” for television.
 Research had shown that most newspapers used Adobe Creative Cloud’s InDesign and Illustrator for production.
 We called Bryan and asked if he knew anything about Adobe.
 He replied, “Some. Occasionally an Audio or video client will require print as well and I’ve used it for those.”
 For most of the next two years Bryan donated his time to start publication of this paper and help train this editor and

others how to access and utilize the software required to make the Beacon possible.
 Karla issued a thank you to all who attend the event to show support and to contribute some much needed assistance to Bryan and his wife Cathy.
 Bryan is undergoing treatment at Mayo that entails newly researched chemotherapy and will return to Mayo in February for continuation.
 We shared this story in the hope that you may be inspired to help.
 If you wish to contribute you can send checks made out to Bryan to the High Plains Western Heritage Center at 825 Heritage Drive, Spearfish, SD 57783 or through Paypal on the center’s website if preferred.
www.westernheritagecenter.com

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy New Year!
Office hours may vary during the holiday week
Jan 1 - Art Exhibit 10AM @ The Bright Gallery
Jan 2 - 4 Tri State Museum closed for cleaning

2025 Chamber Events: Job Fair Jan 17, Annual Banquet Feb 28, Casino Night March 22, Riverfest June 7, Ag Day Sept TBD, Polar Express Dec TBD

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Broncs Host Home Triangular & Head to Madison

Kandi Tonsager
 Special to the Beacon

Thursday, December 19th, the Bronc wrestling teams hosted a triangular at home against Custer and Lead-Deadwood. The Broncs dualed Custer first with a loss at 24 to 55 for the boys and a win at 30 to 24 for the girls.

The boys won over Lead-Deadwood 48 to 23, and the girls fell 21 to 36 to Lead-Deadwood.

On Saturday, December 21st, the Broncs took a limited number of wrestlers to Madison, SD for a tournament.

For the boys Varsity team, competitors were, Caden Swaney at 106 pounds, Cooper Conry at 113 pounds, Teedin Humble at 120 pounds, Dylan Park at 126 pounds, Garet Huston at 132 pounds, Koby

Bowden at 138 pounds, Clifford Torberson at 144 pounds, Riley Dighton at 150 pounds, Alex Norlin at 157 pounds, Spencer Bush-Graslie at 175 pounds, and Oscar Garcia-Avina at 190 pounds. Riley Dighton earned a 5th place finish for the Broncs

For the Lady Broncs, Kyra Vandenberg took first place in the 100 pound weight class, Lia Mundt competed at 107 pounds, Birk Kraft competed at 120 pounds, Aleyah Carbajal competed at 126 pounds, Sofia Gonzales competed at 138 pounds, Alexa Swaney placed 3rd at 145 pounds, Joselyn Shockey placed 2nd at 152 pounds, and Alexa Alacron placed 6th at 165 pounds.

The Bronc teams compete next in Harding County on Monday, December 30th.



Podium photos from Custer Tournament

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Very well maintained and nice 2 bed, 2 bath mobile home on a rented lot in Belle Fourche. New exterior paint, central air, great place to live with low taxes.

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(L) Kaily Nowejewski takes flight; (R) Denali Larsen guards the bucket.
 Hockenbary Photos



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South Park Classes Make Reading Progress

South Park Elementary is happy to congratulate four classes for making the most progress on Lexia for the month of November. The classes are Miss Hag's

first graders, Miss Clark's second graders, Mr. Wattier's 3rd graders and Mrs. Hostetter's fourth graders. Lexia provides individualized literacy instruction

and practice. These learners have worked diligently to improve their skills. Congrats and keep up the hard work!



Miss Clark's 2nd grade class



Miss Haag's 1st grade class



Mr. Wattier's 3rd grade class



Mrs. Hostetter's 4th grade class



Shawn Mechling recognized and being celebrated for 16 years of dedicated service. *Hockenbary Photos*



Lady Broncs embrace a joyful Mechling in a group hug.

BFRC Random Draw Volleyball Tourney Winner 2024



Jade Burr, Nick Krecelic, Sarah Chapman, John Henderson, Stephani Krunkel, & Courtney Nelson

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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



The Belle Fourche Community Theater has an upcoming event for their volunteers & participants: 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!

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.

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

Community Calendar

Belle Silver Lining Lunch Program

Every day of the week

11:00 am – 1:00pm Belle Silver Lining Senior Center;
828 Kingsbury St 605-892-6285

Belle Silver Lining is open so come and enjoy a different lunch menu everyday of the week.

\$7 suggested donation.

Belle Silver Lining Thrift Store

Closed Monday; Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-4pm

Belle Silver Lining Senior Center 828 Kingsbury St.
605-892-6285

For your shopping pleasure.

Check with the staff if you have items to donate.

AA Meetings

Meetings are held on

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays
at 8pm at 806 6th Ave, Belle Fourche.

Writer's Group

Regular Meeting: Meeting will be Saturday, at 10 AM.

B F Public Library, 3rd Sat.as always.

Any and all writers are invited to attend.

Meals On Wheels Program Ongoing

11:30am-12:30pm Monday through Friday

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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

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever-the Musical

Toi Lyn Flick

Special to the Beacon

Ah, the Christmas season. A magical time of year filled with love, compassion, and church pageants. Magical that is, until your pageant director breaks a leg...and the new director has never directed before... and the worst children in the entire town decide to join the pageant! Therein lies the story of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever-the Musical.

Belle Fourche Area Community Theatre has produced Christmas shows regularly since A Seussified Christmas Carol in 2015.

This year's production added the fun and extra work of a musical. Directors Rachel Munce and Sharon Thompson did a wonderful job creating an enjoyable show rounded out

with entertaining characters, lively songs, and simple, yet effective sets.

The set pieces, though sparse, were mobile and served the show well, allowing for quick scene changes that kept the show moving. Tech crew and actors were able to efficiently move the audience from church to home and portray the solemnity of the Nativity when the time came to do so. The set also worked well to house the pit band on stage.

The pit band was comprised of: Stephanie Bussiere- piano, Tymuthi Crittenden- guitar, Joe Savery- drums, Charlie Reeves- reeds, and Tace Hartman- bass. The band was a wonderful addition to the show and did a delightful job of adding beauty and flare to the production. The songs were energetically sung

by the lively cast and kept toes tapping throughout the performance. Slowing things down toward the end was On a Night Like This beautifully done by Kaeli Thompson as Imogene, ably assisted by the rest of the cast.

The cast obviously enjoyed this opportunity to portray characters that were a mix of young and old, good and bad, calm and over the top.

All the actors and actresses did a wonderful job, and just when one character seemed to stand out, then another one would suddenly draw attention. It was delightful to see such a collection of enthusiastic thespians on stage!

Congratulations Belle Fourche Area Community Theatre on a such a successful end to a wonderful year of theatre!

The County has More Money Needs

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE-It seems that nearly everyone at the latest Butte County Commission meeting needed more finances for their services.

The commissioners met in regular session, Tuesday December 17, to discuss the needs of the county.

Funeral Directors Brian Kline and Mark Leverington proposed an increase in Care of Poor Funeral expenses. Kline said that in 1994, the county spent \$700 for cremation services and \$900 for traditional funeral services.

In 2018, those allotments were raised to \$800 and \$1000, respectively. Kline and Leverington were asking that the county raise those rates to \$2500 for cremation and \$3000 for traditional services, plus the county paying for the opening and closing of a gravesite and the cost of a vault. Although, both funeral homes handle less than five indigent funerals per year, they would like to see the amount raised to new levels. The commissioners stated that they would take it under advise-

ment when money is allocated for those expenses in January 025.

Tom Brunner wanted the commissioners to consider the governor's new budget and what it will mean to local county and city governments.

The cuts at the state level will affect what the counties do, he said. He encouraged people to keep an eye on what is happening at the state level.

The cost of a court appointed attorney is possibly being raised to \$125 per hour plus mileage. "This will significantly impact the [county's] budget," said Commission Chair James Ager.

According to SA LeEllen McCartney, it is difficult to get attorneys to handle court appointed cases.

Commissioner Chad Erk added that the mileage rate requested was above state and federal amounts.

Monthly rents for Health Services and Court Services buildings are scheduled to be raised in January.

The rents will go from \$700 to \$1400 per month. Auditor

Annie Capp noted that she had allowed in the new budget for some raise in the rents, but not to be doubled.

Ager wants the commissioners to keep on searching for other places.

The commissioners agreed, but decided to sign the new leases for now.

There were sewer problems again in the County Administration building with the sewer backing up in the basement. Capp suggested holding the carpet replacement until the problems are resolved.

A camera will be used to check the line to search out any hidden problems.

SA McCartney was recognized for her years of serving the county as State's Attorney "with dedication and compassion."

She will be working part-time for the time being.

A speed reduction on Redwater was denied after some discussion.

There will be a special commission meeting December 30 at 9:30 a.m. to handle year-end business.

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have hope because of the one 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!



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Anything Left in the Barrel?

One of the contributors at the High Plains Western Heritage Center fundraiser for Bryan Leslie was Doug Hoff of




Spearfish. The Bison area Angus cattle bred rancher turned author now lives in Spearfish and donated the proceeds of his book sales at the event

Although he left before I was able to meet up with him, as he and his wife Molly were preparing to fly south to Arizona, we made plans to get reacquainted in May when he heads back North.

First met them in 1979 at a political meeting in Bison.

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The 7th grade sang: *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch, Once Upon A December, Believe, & 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.*

7th Grade Choir: Elijah Beatson, Kylie Bidwell, Lil Broderson, Piper Curran, Echo Dahn, Lauren Dalton, Gemma Daniels, Claire Danko, Piper Davis, Bradley Dreiske, Lauralee Dreiske, Layla Drieling, Isabella Evans, McKenna Freed, Samuel Goodvin, Becca Hendrickson, Alexandra Huber, Adeline Humbracht, Iver Jensen, Hayden Kidd, Malakai Limpert, Grace Long, Addison Lutter, Cole Mailloux, Hunter McKay, irie McQueen, Charlie Merjil, Kimber Mez, Payton Millett, Blaine Moke, Teresa Moran, Berklee Nore, Zander Oliver, Ember Olson, Cade Pearson, Devyn Perschbacher, Benjamin Raba, Izaiah Ramos-Runyan, Elsie Roberts, Renae Rosenlund, Hope Sinkey, Casey Strickland, Leah Tanninen, Titus Thompson, Lochlin Tibbs, Lola Tyler, Elysa Wilen, Rakel Wilen, Gracelynn Williams, Allyson Williamson, & Brennan Williamson.

The 8th grade performed: *Jingle-Belle Rock, Scenes of Winter, When Christmas Comes to Town, & Sweet Silent Night.*

8th Grade Choir: Alexis Allart, Shevi Bennett, Kaylynn Bohm, Fara Bricker, Gracie Corbett, Andrew Coyle, Oaklee Curtis, Cheyenne Dallennbach, Delilah Daniels, Kasey Dobesh, Wallace Eddy, Nathan Erhart, Kylie Frisbie, Kimber Gabert, Owen Hatling, Kynlee Henderson, Mackenzie Huston, Ariel Jones, Marley Judd, Sadee Keil, Rhyann Knapp, Cora Kokinos, Braylee Kramp, Ellie Kukuchka, Rose LaFayette, Danielle Llewellyn, Aubrey Long, Sophie Maley, Elizabeth Moore, Lia Mundt, Ashtyn Norlin, Autymn Oakes, Hope Ogaard, Silas Pesika, Neeke Piekkola, Raina Reder, Payton Richardson, Jaylea Scoggin, Layna Sinkey, Mariah Tanninen, Morgan Tate, Brystel Tucker, Jaxsen Tysdal, Madisyn VanSickle, & Jaidyn Way.

The choirs were accompanied on the piano by Ms. Lucy Cole.

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6th Grade



7th Grade



8th Grade

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November Middle School Students of the Month



Ms. Lucy Cole & Piano Students pose for a group photo following their Christmas Recital.
Beacon Photo

Lucy Cole Student's Christmas Piano Recital

Lucy Cole's 2024 piano student Christmas Recital was held December 19th at the Saint James Lutheran Church, Thursday December, 19th.

Sixteen students performed a litany of Holiday favorites.

Mariah Todd 'Deck the Halls'; Birdie Conklin 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'; Sadie Jackson 'Angels We Have Heard on High'; Tobias Madill 'Joy to the World'; Thomas Madill 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'; Hope Willert 'Reindeer

Rock' Blake Willert 'O Christmas Tree'; Taygen Hughes 'Away in the Manger'; Aubyn Hartman 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'; Brux Hartman 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'; Anah Jones 'What Child Is This'; Jessica Baldwin 'The First Noel'; Taylor Reinecke 'Silent Night'; Ellie Kukuchka 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'; Logan Willert 'Pat-a-Pan'; and Veronica Moore 'Mary Did You Know?'

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Whalen Ranch, Aladdin WY.....	31	Bbld...Hfr.....	1129.....	\$3,000.00
Whalen Ranch, Aladdin WY.....	15	Rbld...3 Years.....	1195.....	\$2,650.00
Whalen Ranch, Aladdin WY.....	10	Rbld...Hfr.....	1149.....	\$2,775.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	84	Blk...4-5.....	1178.....	\$2,825.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	50	Blk...Solid.....	1282.....	\$2,550.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	31	Blk...Ss.....	1319.....	\$2,335.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	39	Bbld...Broken.....	1283.....	\$2,185.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	42	Blk...Broken.....	1345.....	\$2,185.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	22	Bbld...Broken.....	1213.....	\$1,875.00
Walker Livestock, Ekalaka MT.....	46	Blk...3 Years.....	1287.....	\$2,875.00
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Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....	11	Bbld...Broken.....	1285.....	\$2,075.00
Edwards, Marty, Gillette WY.....	50	Blk...Hfr.....	1031.....	\$3,000.00
Elgin, TedJ, Biddle MT.....	20	Bbld...Hfr.....	917.....	\$2,600.00
Gay Ranch Inc, Broadus MT.....	43	Bbld...Hfr.....	953.....	\$2,700.00
Gay Ranch Inc, Broadus MT.....	15	Bbld...Hfr.....	827.....	\$2,450.00
Green Leaf Land & Livestock, Forsyth MT.....	25	B/R.....	1260.....	\$2,210.00
Hinkhouse, Paul & Judy, Nisland SD.....	39	Blk...Hfr.....	965.....	\$2,625.00
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Knutson, Dale, Vale SD.....	12	Rtbl...Broken.....	1502.....	\$2,325.00
Knutson, Dale, Vale SD.....	26	Rtbl...Solid.....	1440.....	\$2,600.00
Knutson, Dale, Vale SD.....	31	Rtbl...4-5.....	1404.....	\$2,850.00
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Peterson, Scott, Belle Fourche SD.....	27	Blk...Hfr.....	1070.....	\$2,675.00
Peterson, Scott, Belle Fourche SD.....	19	Rtbl...Hfr.....	1123.....	\$2,735.00
Ryan Xz Ranch Llc, Aladdin WY.....	15	Bbld...Hfr.....	1093.....	\$3,000.00
Ryan Xz Ranch Llc, Aladdin WY.....	27	Bbld...Hfr.....	1041.....	\$2,900.00
Shortgrass & Company, Belle Fourche SD.....	13	Blk...Hfr.....	1035.....	\$2,675.00
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Clark, Brent, Volborg MT.....	16	B/R...Hfr.....	988.....	\$186.00
Clark, Brent, Volborg MT.....	5	B/R...Hfr.....	1149.....	\$159.00
Clark, Brent, Volborg MT.....	20	Blk...Cow.....	1178.....	\$120.00
Colgan, Tom & Cathy, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	1010.....	\$175.00
Colgan, Tom & Cathy, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	1165.....	\$160.00
Colgan, Tom & Cathy, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1210.....	\$136.00
Colgan, Tom & Cathy, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1400.....	\$121.00
Dell, Jeff, Nisland SD.....	1	Herf...Cow.....	1110.....	\$155.00
Dell, Jeff, Nisland SD.....	3	Bbld...Cow.....	1406.....	\$125.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	775.....	\$239.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1560.....	\$122.50
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1320.....	\$121.00
Eb Ranch, Broadus MT.....	9	Bbld...Hfr.....	793.....	\$230.00
Eb Ranch, Broadus MT.....	23	Blk...Hfr.....	869.....	\$206.00
Eb Ranch, Broadus MT.....	4	Blk...Hfr.....	1031.....	\$187.50
Eb Ranch, Broadus MT.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	840.....	\$185.00
Eb Ranch, Broadus MT.....	9	Blk...Cow.....	1190.....	\$124.50
Erickson/Amy Stilwell, Kelly, Kadoka SD.....	5	Blk...Cow.....	1361.....	\$124.00
Erickson/Amy Stilwell, Kelly, Kadoka SD.....	2	Blk...Hfr.....	1152.....	\$171.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	8	Blk...Hfr.....	812.....	\$195.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1295.....	\$127.50
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1725.....	\$121.50
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1260.....	\$121.50
Ginsbach, Julie, Newell SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1350.....	\$122.50
Ginsbach, Julie, Newell SD.....	1	Rtbl...Cow.....	1475.....	\$121.50
Graham Mt Ranch Inc, Broadus MT.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	940.....	\$197.50
Grubbs Iii, Dallas, Upton WY.....	3	Bbld...Cow.....	1156.....	\$106.00
Heart Tail Ranch, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Bbld...Hfr.....	1250.....	\$161.00
Heart Tail Ranch, Belle Fourche SD.....	7	Bbld...Cow.....	1220.....	\$155.50
Heart Tail Ranch, Belle Fourche SD.....	9	Blk...Cow.....	1368.....	\$124.00
Heart Tail Ranch, Belle Fourche SD.....	3	Blk...Cow.....	1463.....	\$123.00
Heifner Ranch Llc, Whitewood SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	1130.....	\$192.50
Heifner Ranch Llc, Whitewood SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1540.....	\$123.00
Heifner Ranch Llc, Whitewood SD.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1607.....	\$120.50
Hoffman, Matt Or Jana, St Onge SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	870.....	\$232.00
Janvrin Jr, Clair C, Ludlow SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	965.....	\$195.00
Janvrin Jr, Clair C, Ludlow SD.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1227.....	\$121.00
Jochim, Mark, Belle Fourche SD.....	5	Blk...Cow.....	1232.....	\$149.00
Jochim, Mark, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1270.....	\$141.00

Jochim, Mark, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1245.....	\$123.00
Kammerer, Jake, Rapid City SD.....	2	Blk...Hfr.....	980.....	\$180.00
Knappe, Casey, New Underwood SD.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1327.....	\$126.50
Knappe, Casey, New Underwood SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1260.....	\$122.50
Kretschman, Kale, Gillette WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1100.....	\$137.50
Powder River Land & Cattle, Recluse WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1270.....	\$121.00
Garza, Devin, Sundance WY.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	965.....	\$182.50
Reindl, Kevin, Custer SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1490.....	\$123.00
Robinson Livestock, Mark, Lemmon SD.....	7	B/R...Hfr.....	987.....	\$165.00
Robinson Livestock, Mark, Lemmon SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1130.....	\$145.00
Rrf Revocable Lifetime Trust, Weston WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1065.....	\$197.50
Rrf Revocable Lifetime Trust, Weston WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1210.....	\$155.00
Shannon, Randy, Broadus MT.....	3	Bbld...Hfr.....	940.....	\$169.00
Shannon, Randy, Broadus MT.....	3	Blk...Hfr.....	1146.....	\$145.00
Shannon, Tyrel, Broadus MT.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	725.....	\$192.50
Skiles, Sam, Kaycee WY.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	920.....	\$160.00
Sleep Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1200.....	\$145.00
Sleep Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1332.....	\$128.00
Sleep Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD.....	10	Blk...Cow.....	1341.....	\$124.00
Sleep Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD.....	4	Blk...Cow.....	1357.....	\$121.50
Smiley, Paul, Kadoka SD.....	1	Blk...Hfr.....	1050.....	\$187.50
Stohammer, Lucas/Melinda, Newcastle WY.....	1	Bld...Hfr.....	950.....	\$236.00
Tetrault, Tim Or Roxie, St Onge SD.....	1	Rbld...Hfr.....	1070.....	\$180.00
Tetrault, Tim Or Roxie, St Onge SD.....	1	Red...Hfr.....	1440.....	\$129.00
Traub, Evan, Broadus MT.....	2	Bld...Cow.....	1305.....	\$120.00
Walker, Travis, Ekalaka MT.....	9	B/R...Cow.....	1167.....	\$154.00
Walker, Travis, Ekalaka MT.....	6	Blk...Cow.....	1262.....	\$148.50
Walker, Travis, Ekalaka MT.....	9	Blk...Cow.....	1309.....	\$120.50
Wilson, Chad, Broadus MT.....	1	Bld...Cow.....	1300.....	\$120.50
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	920.....	\$142.50
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	2	Blk...Cow.....	1320.....	\$130.00
Y Cross Ranch Llc, Hulett WY.....	1	Blk...Cow.....	1350.....	\$122.00

Weigh Up Bulls

Brownfield Ranch Inc, Hammond MT.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1720.....	\$135.00
Clark, Brent, Volborg MT.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1870.....	\$150.00
Coal Creek Ranch Llc, Gillette WY.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	2010.....	\$145.00
Dikoff, Roger Or Elizabeth, Hermosa SD.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1880.....	\$155.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	2	Blk...Bull.....	1897.....	\$150.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1660.....	\$144.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1330.....	\$134.50
Janvrin Jr, Clair C, Ludlow SD.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1885.....	\$140.00
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1760.....	\$143.00
Kammerer, Matt Or April, Rapid City SD.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1360.....	\$137.50
Phelps, Wyatt, Plevna MT.....	2	Blk...Bull.....	1007.....	\$205.00
Rahja, Bob, Whitewood SD.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	2515.....	\$135.00
Rowles, Ed, Pavilion WY.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1720.....	\$142.00
Wagner, David, Hulett WY.....	1	Red...Bull.....	2050.....	\$161.00
Whitman, Trav, Ekalaka MT.....	1	Blk...Bull.....	1750.....	\$143.00

The staff & management at St Onge Livestock & Newell Sheep Yards Would like to thank all our customers & buyers for your business in 2024.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! See you all in 2025!

St. Onge Livestock We are reps for SUPERIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION Video Auction Time is Coming up very, quickly - If you are considering filming your Calves or Yearlings for Fall Delivery Contact Us For Your Video Marketing Needs

St Onge Livestock has a receiving station for the Gillette Area every Thursday. It is on Northern Drive in Gillette. Call Doug Miller at 307-660-0960 to let him know what is coming. You can unload all day every Thursday until 3 pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. You can also call Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259 & he can let them know your cattle are coming also. THE BROADUS RECEIVING STATION IS TAKING CATTLE EVERY THURSDAY FOR OUR SALES ON FRIDAY. You can drop your cattle off every Thursday by 3pm. You pay receiving station fee of \$3 per head & \$2.50/cwt for trucking. For more information, call Tyler or Brandy Escott at 406-421-5579 or 406-951-1666 or Justin Tupper at 605-680-0259.

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Sheep Report - Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mostly smaller packages for lambs today & sold on a lower market
Slaughter ewes sold steady
Thank you for another wonderful year!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the St. Onge Livestock Crew

No Sale January 2
Next sale - Jan. 9 - Feeder Lamb Special - 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!

Feeder Lambs

Erickson Family Trust, Froid MT.....	16	Lamb.....	76.....	\$226.00
Erickson Family Trust, Froid MT.....	52	Lamb.....	97.....	\$169.00
Jay, Leon, Hulett WY.....	21	Lamb.....	75.....	\$222.00
Jay, Leon, Hulett WY.....	18	Lamb.....	101.....	\$161.00
Ariedge Livestock Co Llc, Robert Lee TX.....	11	Lamb.....	84.....	\$199.00
Kramer, Reed, Towner ND.....	19	Lamb.....	69.....	\$235.00
Kramer, Reed, Towner ND.....	10	Lamb.....	54.....	\$232.00

Slaughter Ewes

Ballou Angus, Hulett WY.....	27	K Ewe.....	153.....	\$84.00
Ballou Angus, Hulett WY.....	14	K Ewe.....	134.....	\$75.00
Ewe.s.a. Farms, Circle MT.....	15	K Ewe.....	181.....	\$84.00
Ewe.s.a. Farms, Circle MT.....	41	K Ewe.....	150.....	\$84.00
Ewe.s.a. Farms, Circle MT.....	29	K Ewe.....	147.....	\$75.00
Kramer, Reed, Towner ND.....	12	K Ewe.....	161.....	\$84.00
Kramer, Reed, Towner ND.....	24	K Ewe.....	138.....	\$75.00
Mart Madsen Sheep Co, Douglas WY.....	19	K Ewe.....	133.....	\$75.00
Shaykett, Alan, Nisland SD.....	12	K Ewe.....	195.....	\$84.00
Waterland, Chuck, Alzada MT.....	12	K Ewe.....	181.....	\$84.00
Waterland, Chuck, Alzada MT.....	31	K Ewe.....	165.....	\$84.00

Slaughter Bucks

Laing, Denny & Dorris, Sturgis SD.....	8	Kbuck.....	247.....	\$75.00
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2025 SHEEP SALES

- January 2nd - No Sale
- January 9th - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- January 16th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- January 23rd - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- January 30th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- February 6th - No Sale - Check Out Sheep Day At The Black Hills Stock Show
- February 13th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- February 20th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- February 27th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

Attention to all Sheep & Goat Producers, it is required that every Male & Female animal over the age of 12 months have a scrapies tag in place to sell. These tags can be obtained by the producer for FREE by calling 1-866-873-2824. If they come to the sale barn without being tagged, you will be charged \$4hd for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.

2025 CATTLE SALES

- January 3rd - Feeder Cattle Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- January 10th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- January 17th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- January 24th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- January 31st - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- February 7th - No Sale - Visit The Black Hills Stock Show
- February 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- February 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- February 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 7th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 4th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 11th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 18th - Pair & Bred Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 25th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

One of my 'prairie paintings'.
The scene is near
1920's Kennebec, SD



Mick Harrison



Capitol News December 22, 2024 "A Visit from a Saint" by Karen Evans Odell

'Twas the night before Christmas on Tie Creek and Capitol.
The blizzard was blowing. It was thirty below.
Our cellars were filled with bountiful glass jars
of freeze dried and canned foods, and things from bazaars.
Our stockings were on in a layer or two,
In hopes that our toes didn't all turn bright blue,
And Grandma had on her special lined pants
She won't take off 'till she sees new green plants.
While Grandpa sat huddled two feet from the heater,
Refusing to look at the temperature meter.
When what to their wondrous eyes should appear,
But the outline outside of a hazy, open John Deere.
With a huddled down driver frozen cold to the quick,
And they knew right away that he wasn't St. Nick.
The deep freeze outside had not stopped the door bell.
Upon opening, they judged it slightly colder than hell.
They slammed the door tight against the cold wind.
Then began to unwrap whoever came in.
They unwound a muffler about 10 feet long.
Somewhere inside came a voice and a song.
They sat this man down to remove his muck boots,
To make sure he wasn't frozen, clear to the roots.
His feet were still there, and so was his nose,
So they moved up and down the ends of his toes.
His cheeks were like roses; his nose like a cherry.
Long icicles from mustache to chin that was hairy.
He pulled out a pack he had inside his clothes.
He opened it up, and then wiping his nose.
His eyes just twinkled when he finally could say,
"Mom was worried that you might be baking today,
And she wanted to make sure it was not too late,
So she sent me on down to return your pie plate."

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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.

Barb Uhrig and her Wool Art

Barb Uhrig a self taught artist and shepherd lives with her husband John east of Newell.

Barb raises purebred Cheviot sheep which she sorts, vaccinates and shears with blades. She has been involved with sheep for approx 45 years. Barb was on the Newell ram show committee for 10 years and started the Fleece show there. 15 years ago.

Barb started the Art in the Barn Fleece and Fiber Festival to keep the youth involved in

the sheep industry by showing their sheep and wool. She has been involved with the Make it Yourself with Wool competition by needlefelting various pieces for competition and the auction. Barb loves promoting sheep and wool and showing what can be done.

For 2 years Barb designed and made 2 7ft Christmas trees for the festival of trees. Both were made up of needlefelted reindeer, bears and santas.

The santas all have wool off



by Mary Buchholz

of my sheep for beards. She makes mittens out of recycled wool sweaters, promoting the use of fleece by teaching the public how to use their own fleece to make felted mitten, soap, wallhangings etc. Barb blade shears her sheep and spins or felt their wool.

She loves her sheep so promoting sheep and wool comes easy.



(L) Barb Uhrig and Larry Prager at the wool fleece contest at Newell Ran Sale. (R) Santa with wool beard



(L) The shepherds crooks are braided leather and usually given as sheep awards.



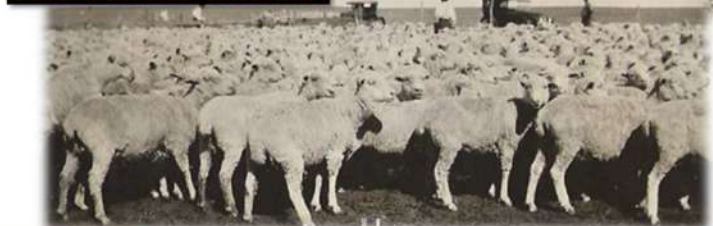
(R) Christmas trees Uhrig made for the festival of trees. Made up of needlefelted reindeer, bears and santas.

Butte County Historic Society has done calendars for many years and this year's calendar is featuring the Butte County's SHEEP INDUSTRY are now available.

Each sponsor has 10 calendars to share with their customers. Sponsors are Butte Co Equipment, Pro-Auto, NAPA, Print-Market, Lueders, West Tire, David Pummel, BJ's Conoco, New Generations, Butte Electric, VIP Insurance, Boom Concrete, Grossenburg, Roundup Lumber, Leverington of Northern Hills, Leber Ag Services, Jensen Construction, Dairy Queen, Belle Valley Irrigation, First National Bank, Branding Iron Restaurant, Bunney Body Shop, Barker Law, First Interstate Bank, Newell Hardware, Northern Hills Credit Union, Kline Funeral Midwestern Meat Locker, Vale Bar, Dakota Best Lumber Center of the Nation Wool.

Extra calendars are available at our publisher Pint Mark-et at 614 State, Belle Fourche.

**BUTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2025 CALENDAR**



It resembled a chubby bear, one that you could imagine if you stared up at a poofy cloud. Though far from round, Mom said it would work. She placed her smallest pie tin just next to the huge floury board we used for rolling. I plunked down the heavy rolling pin I had swiped back and forth over the clump of dough, creating a thin, even layer. (Ok, maybe not very thin. And quite bumpy; imagine the bear's tummy.)



was thinking of all the work involved. I figured cake would have been a lot quicker, though cake mixes had not been invented back then.

"The men loved pie." She may have had visions of a slacker daughter. "And they worked so hard, they needed plenty of good food to keep them going." She described the heavy bundles of grain that the family had cut and tied to wait for the huge threshing machine. Grandpa had hired the owner whose strong horses pulled the contraption out to the field to "thresh" the kernels from the stalks. The neighbors came to help with the backbreaking work.

As Mom cut perfectly-spaced slits into the folded edges of the top crust on the board, she continued to share her memories: In a day or two, her dad and brothers would go to a neighbor's and help with their threshing. That farmer's wife would feed the men just like Grandma and her daughters. As I write this, I cannot help but wonder if this system motivated the wives to serve pies. After all, one would not want to be outdone by another cook; "Maude sure had good cherry pie!"

Our mother carried on the pie-making tradition for her own family. She took pride in giving her very best and made sure her own hard-working farmers were well fed. My sisters recall our older brother Donald grabbing a slice of apple pie from the counter and heading outside for morning chores—after a hearty breakfast!

So, this year, the day before Thanksgiving, I rolled, folded and patted. I peeled and sliced, covered and baked into golden goodness: apple and pumpkin. Thanksgiving morning the door opened and footsteps of various sizes padded into my kitchen. Suddenly, I was embraced in a hug, a bear hug by a much younger, though taller person. "Grandma, did you make pumpkin pie?"

I smiled. It just doesn't get any better than that!

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

"Now you just need to get it into the pan," Mom smiled patiently. I reached for the top part of the potential crust as I had seen our mother do many times. My fingers lifted one ear and the top of the head to fold and place in the pie pan. It sort-of peeled away from the board until I got to the tummy part. There it stuck. I groaned as a gaping hole stared at me and it broke apart. "That happens to me sometimes, too. You just roll it out again."

My three older sisters and I all learned the art of pie making at our mother's side. Pie was the standard dessert at our house for Sunday dinners, Thanksgiving, Christmas and any time invited guests sat around our big kitchen table. The lovely spice-scent of apple pie in the oven often greeted us on a cold winter day, but Mom taught us how to make pumpkin, lemon meringue, coconut cream, banana cream, sour cream raisin, mincemeat and more.

While she rolled, patted and crimped, she reminisced of her growing-up days. "When we had threshers, we made seven or eight pies." I envisioned Mom and my dear aunts, Lilly, Julia, Ida and Emma, bustling about in Grandma's kitchen while eight golden mounds of goodness puffed tiny tendrils of steam from the table.

"Why did you make pie, Mom?" At a very young age, I



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Shaine's Riddle of the Week:

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Answer: He doesn't want to be a lost Claus.

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Table with columns: Seller, Lot, Breed, Weight, Price. Lists individual cattle sales.

NO SALE - MERRY CHRISTMAS! DECEMBER 26, 2024

NO SALE - HAPPY NEW YEAR! JANUARY 2, 2025

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE table listing dates and sale types from January to May 2025.

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

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

RECEIVING STATIONS table listing locations: Broadus, MT; Ekalaka, MT; Jordan, MT; Lodge Grass, MT; Forsyth, MT; Wyoming.

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..."



Festival of Trees 2024: Festival of Trees Beneficiary recipients receiving their checks. (Back Row Left to Right): Tom Carlsen - BH Roundup Ag Committee; Luke Lensegrav - BH Roundup Ag Committee / First Interstate Bank; Mardi Reeves - Belle Fourche Police Department; Chief Ryan Cherveny - Belle Fourche Police Department; Clint Haffner - Belle Fourche Police Department; Pastor Tim Smith - Belle Fourche Ministerial Association; George Larson - Belle Fourche Meals on Wheels (Front Row Left to Right): Patti Konechne - Greater Belle Fourche Foundation and St Paul's Catholic Church; Brian Aspen - Butte County Protection Team; Marilyn Huston-Engle - Belle Silver Lining; Pastor Paul Howard - Belle Fourche Ministerial Association; Joan Manke - BH Roundup Ag Committee / Grossenburg Implement. Photo credit to JOBIE MANKE PHOTOGRAPHY



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Event**



Angela Hastings making last minute decisions about presentation arrangements.



Current SD State Poet Laureate **Bruce Roseland** with audience. From A1 **Book Party** sometimes twice a month through the duration of the project.

All anthology committee members participated in juried selection and subsequent editing. Angela Hastings served as technical advisor and group facilitator. Kathy Bjornstadt offered her publishing expertise and resources.

The finished anthology of works, "Life's Landscapes" is a culmination of many hours of independent creative expression, undivided group collaboration, and sheer determination. The title of the collection, "Life's Landscapes" is an acknowledgment of the shifting regions, belongings, circumstances, and experiences that have influenced the work of the writers. As a group, the Belle Fourche Writers have many commonalities, yet each brings something subjective to the table. Life's Landscapes is a title chosen to reflect the diversity of the writers as well as their commonalities. The concept of a landscape may seem tangible, but not necessarily so. As a group the Belle Fourche Writers represent a multitude of evolving landscapes.

Thirteen authors are featured in "Life's Landscapes": Eric Beeman, Kathy Bjornstadt, Margaret Bolte, Lynda Edwards, Meg English, Joan Gerkin, Angela Hastings, Jean Helmer, Dale Kringen, Merlin



(L) *Life's Landscape* authors Margie Bolte, Kathy Bjornstadt, and Dale Kringen. (C) Author Joan Gerkin shares her stories; (R) Poet Holly Mosely reading from her published works. *Courtesy Photos*



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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

at Mount St. Benedict in Erie, PA. Jean is a fourth generation South Dakotan who serves on the South Dakota State Poetry Society Board. She continues her work on several memoir and poetry projects including her Memoir, "Up Hay Creek".

Bruce Roseland is the author of several published volumes or poetry and is currently the South Dakota State Poet Laureate.

Margie Bolte, and Lynda Edwards, received various publishing credits and other accolades mainly from the South Dakota State Fair annual literature competitions. Holly Mosely has been published in several anthologies, various issues of "Pasque Petals", and "South Dakota Magazine". and other regional publications. She serves on the board of the South Dakota State Poetry Society.

"Life's Landscapes" is available on Amazon. Meanwhile the Belle Fourche Writers continues to welcome all who are interested in writing for fun or profit. The Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/bellefourchewriters/> The group currently meets twice a month. Regular meetings are on the third Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. A monthly editing meeting occurs on the first Monday of each month from 2- 4 PM. All meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Sheri Fadley
1804 7th Ave. Belle Fourche
605-892-2405
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Sunday School 9:30 am
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723-1092
Sunday: 10 a.m. worship service

NEW COVENANT PCA
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642-1122
Luke Bluhm, Pastor
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship Service

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

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

NORTHERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 miles South of Belle Fourche
on Hwy 85
642-7167
Calvin Chapman - Int. Minister
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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

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

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

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

SALVATION ARMY OF THE NORTHERN HILLS
120 Ryan Rd., Spearfish
605-642-0924
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Sunday School: 11 a.m.
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Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.,
Learning and Discovery Study

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Worship Service: 10:45am
Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

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

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892-2446
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The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon
Rev. Mike Weaver
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Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

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

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

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

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



Last Year's
Capitol News
December 15, 2024
Snow covered the
countryside this
week at Capitol and

on Tie Creek. There was two or
three inches that gave us some
very needed moisture.

At first the cloudy days were
dismal and cold, but things
warmed up every day and soon
the snow was melting on Satur-
day. By Sunday, we had off and
on showers of December rain,
even though it was barely above
freezing at ground level.
Alvin Cordell was enjoying the
rain on Sunday. Wade Pearson
had come out on Wednesday, to
finish road work for Mark Baier.
Alvin and Marlee went to Belle
Fourche, on Thursday, to watch
girls' basketball games between
Belle Fourche and Buffalo.
Kymber and Kynlee Cordell were
playing on the Buffalo teams.
Alvin came home that evening,
but was back again on Friday to
watch Gavin and Rhys Pearson
play for Belle Fourche against
Spearfish. Then both Alvin and
Marlee came home that evening.

On Sunday, Marlee went
to church in Camp Crook at
the Methodist Church. In the
afternoon Marlee went to Belle
Fourche to see Cade Pearson
in the last performance of the
school's Christmas Program.
Alvin has been feeding every day,
and the moisture and hay are
really needed.

Dick and Erma Albert had a
quiet week. They went to the
Senior Citizen dinner, on Friday.
Next week will be the Christmas
dinner, and Bobbie's last time as
cook. She will be retiring. Dick
and Erma went to the Catholic
Church, on Sunday, where the
kids did their Christmas Pro-
gram, and there was a Pot Luck
afterward. It was a great Sunday.
Lynn Gustafson and Linda
Matthews went to Bowman, on
Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Bruce and
Lynn went to the Hills for dentist
appointments. They went to
church at Little Missouri Church,
on Sunday, where the place was
packed for the Sunday School
Christmas Program. After the
program, they had a pot luck
brunch and enjoyed visiting.
That afternoon, Bruce and Lynn
went in to Camp Crook to visit
at Pete Anderson's, and got to see
some of the remodeling that was
being done on his house.

Doug Davis had gone to Buffalo,
on Thursday, for a church council
meeting and parish meeting.
On Friday, Julia took Darla
Hammel to Belle Fourche, where
they got to have lunch with Dar-
la's grandson, who was home for
a visit. He is stationed in the U S
Marines in North Carolina.

Then over the weekend, the flu
visited, so Doug and Julia didn't
get to go to the Little Missouri
Sunday School program on Sun-
day morning.
It is wrestling season again for
the Paddens, so things are get-

ting busy.
Brandon and Ashley are
both coaching, so Bryce and
Dawn are busy with chores at
home, before they can go to see
grandchildren in their sports.
On Tuesday, Dawn and Dor-
othy went to the Baker Clinic, to
get some lab work done. They
hurried home so that Bryce,
Dawn and Dorothy could go to
Buffalo for the girls' high school
basketball games against New
England.

On Friday afternoon, both
girls' and boys' basketball games
were against Newell at Buffalo,
so they got to watch games all
afternoon. Brandon and Ashley
were coaching wrestling in
Rapid City at the huge three-
day meet that includes teams
from seven states. It is really
spectacular to look down to see
all the mats and the many meets
going on at one time, from the
high seats. They were all glad
to see the rain coming down on
Sunday.

Karen Odell had a good, mu-
sical week. Christmas music is
always lots of fun. On Monday,
Karen got a ride to Ekalaka with
Ernie, Rachel, and Tom Melum.
Karen, Rachel and Tom joined
the Community Choir at the
nursing home, to perform the
choral music they have been
practicing. The nursing home is
nice, but I am sure some people
miss looking out onto that nice
big and open yard at the old
nursing home, where you could
see people and cars pass by.

After singing at the nursing home,
their choir director invited the
choir to her beautiful house for
a soup supper before our con-
cert. It was a nice leisurely time
to visit. Those of us that came a
distance for practices, especial-
ly enjoyed seeing people they
seldom get to see. Next everyone
went to the Lutheran Church
for the Community Christmas
Concert. That concert began
with solo, duet and ensemble
selections of Christmas music;
beautiful and some lively. Then
the choir presented their concert
of wonderful harmony. Their
final Christmas song was named
"Glow" with intricate harmonies
that made it very beautiful. The
concert ended when the choir
lit candles and surrounded the
audience while everyone sang
"Silent Night", giving the peace-
ful feeling of Christmas. Choir
members had brought treats
and the visiting began, which
made the concert into a perfect
evening.

The week became snowy after
that. It was a good time for Kar-
en to stay home, send Christmas
gifts, and read during the snowy
days. Karen talked to kids and
grandkids. On Sunday, Karen
played piano at church at the
Methodist Church in Camp
Crook, where Darla Hammel
was in charge of the service and
gave an excellent sermon. There
will be Christmas Eve services
at the Methodist Church, next
week.

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Holiday-Driven Strategic Community Revitalization

Communities across the globe have discovered a powerful economic and social strategy, the transforming of holiday celebrations into major tourism and community-building opportunities. By doubling down on festive experiences, these locations have found a unique path to economic revitalization, cultural preservation, and community engagement.

One of the most dynamic examples might be in Leavenworth, Washington, a small Washington town that turned potential economic disaster into a tourism triumph. In the 1960s, this logging community faced economic collapse when major transportation routes bypassed the area. Instead of surrendering to decline, the town made a radical decision to rebrand itself as a Bavarian-styled village.

The Christmas transformation is particularly remarkable. The town now attracts over 2 million visitors annually during the Christmas and holiday season. Local businesses report up to 75% of their annual revenue comes from holiday-related tourism. The Christkindlmarkt and annual Christmas lighting festival have become national attractions. The economic impact is staggering. What was once a struggling logging town is now generating an estimated \$150 million in annual tourism revenue, with the holiday season serving as the primary economic driver.



Another remarkable case is North Pole, Alaska, which has fully embraced its Christmas-themed identity. North Pole maintains Christmas-themed street names year-round.

Santa Claus House, a local attraction, receives over 50,000 letters annually from children worldwide. Local businesses and residences maintain holiday decorations throughout the year. Tourism generates approximately \$3.5 million annually for this small community. The town has transformed a geographic quirk into a sustainable economic strategy, proving that creative branding can overcome significant geographic challenges.

Across the Atlantic In Europe, Strasbourg offers a sophisticated model of holiday-driven tourism. Its Christkindlmarkt attracts over 2 million visitors annually. The market generates approximately €70 million in local economic activity. The city has developed a comprehensive tourism infrastructure around its holiday celebrations. These holiday-focused strategies offer benefits beyond immediate economic gains. Community cohesion increases through shared celebration experiences, local artisans and small businesses receive critical economic support, cultural traditions are preserved and celebrated, off-season communities find economic revitalization.

Research demonstrates the profound economic potential of holiday-driven tourism. Holi-

day tourism can increase local revenue by 40-60% during peak seasons. Communities investing in unique holiday experiences see 3-5x return on infrastructure investments. Visitor spending during holiday seasons often exceeds traditional tourism spending by 30% Strategic Considerations for Success.

Successful holiday-driven revitalization requires authentic cultural representation, comprehensive community involvement, robust marketing and infrastructure, consistent year-round commitment to the chosen theme, ability to create memorable, shareable experiences.

Communities are increasingly recognizing holiday tourism as a strategic economic development tool. Innovative approaches include, immersive technology integration, multi-cultural holiday celebrations, sustainable and eco-friendly festival designs, digital marketing and global outreach strategies.

While promising, this approach isn't without challenges, it will require significant initial investment, it will depend on consistent execution, it must balance authenticity with commercial appeal, and will be seasonal in nature of revenue streams.

Holiday-driven community revitalization represents more than a tourism strategy—it's a holistic approach to economic and cultural regeneration. By transforming potential economic vulnerabilities into unique cultural experiences, communities like Leavenworth and North Pole demonstrate the transformative power of creative economic thinking.

The lessons are clear, with imagination, commitment, and strategic planning, communities

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can turn seasonal celebrations into sustainable economic engines that preserve culture, generate revenue, and create lasting, vibrant local experiences.
John Newby is a nationally recognized Columnist, Speaker,

& Publisher. 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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Polar Express



Michelle Evans, Cowboys Too! and Pasque Ladies Fashions, organizer of the Polar Express is with the conductor as they start loading passengers. *Courtesy Photos*



The Polar Express ready to start the tour..



All Aboard!!



Excited passengers ready to board.



Conductor stamps a young passenger's ticket.



Conductor hands tickets to boarding passenger's.



The Grinch convinced the Chamber director to pose for a Christmas Photo..

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JEANS



'The Indian' from legendary South Dakota duo Williams and Ree dies

Dakota Scout
www.thedakotascout.com
Iconic comedy musician, rock and roll hall of famed Terry Ree's death follows 2023 Sioux Falls-area show

later that year. Together, they made several performances on The Nashville Network. They also performed with Garth Brooks, The Oak Ridge Boys and Tim McGraw and received a Country Music Association vocal duo nomination.

The Dakota Scout, Ree spoke of how much he loved performing and making fans laugh. "We just love what we do, and for 55 years people have been coming to see us. And we appreciate that so much," he said. "We just want to do it until we can't do it anymore."

In a 2023 interview with

Terry Ree, half of the legendary comedy-music duo Williams and Ree, died Saturday morning at the age of 75.

His death was confirmed by the wife of Ree's bandmate, Bruce Williams, on Facebook. Earlier this year, the Deadwood Mountain Grand announced Williams and Ree's Nov. 30 show at the facility had been canceled because the duo had decided to stop touring.

The men's decades-long act was inducted into the South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2018.

Williams and Ree, self-described as "The Indian and the White Guy," performed comedy that "eschewed political correctness and conformity," according to the band's website. Born in Huron, Ree graduated from Pierre High school in 1968.

He met Williams while attending college at the Black Hills State University campus



Terry Ree

Bud Longbrake, 62, of Dupree, South Dakota



September 6, 1962 - December 20, 2024

Bud Longbrake, 62, of Dupree passed away Friday, December 20, 2024, at the IHS Hospital in Eagle Butte. Arrangements are pending with Kesling Funeral Home of Mobridge.



Erin L. Melling
Attorney at Law
Licensed in SD, ND, and MT



Aaron W. Roseland
Attorney at Law
Licensed in SD and ND

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Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net

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5th/6th Bronc Ballers: Back Row: Coach Heidi Nash, Karlee Llewellyn, Malaya Rodriguez, Bryn LaFayette, Coach Austin Bishop; Front Row: Lola Hoffman, Ivy Roberts, Jacey Nash, Adri Bishop. Courtesy Photos

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South Dakota education lobby shut out of 'school choice' talks

Joe Sneve

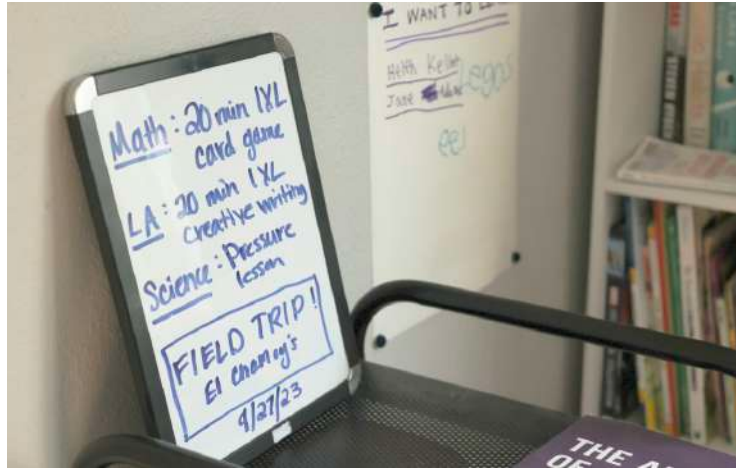
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State Department of Education, legislative architects maintain Noem

The South Dakota Department of Education is defending Gov. Kristi Noem's push to subsidize private alternative education, insisting the creation of education savings accounts (ESAs) won't hurt public schools.

But wary public educators and their representatives at the state Capitol are harboring skepticism, which they say is fueled by them being shut out of talks with architects of the \$4 million proposal to fund private and homeschool costs. According to multiple organizations within the public school and education industry, neither the DOE nor the Governor's Office has accepted requests for meetings fielded from groups. They include the South Dakota Education Association, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, School Administrators of South Dakota and the South Dakota School Superintendents Association. None were consulted before Noem unveiled the plan in her budget speech this month.

"As educators, we will never compromise our commitment to doing everything we can to educate every student who enters our school buildings and classrooms," SDEA Public Affairs Director Sandra Waltman told The Dakota Scout, confirming that attempts to dialogue with the state and lawmakers working most closely with the Governor's Office on the proposal have been unsuccessful. "That is why we need lawmakers to listen to our concerns about how voucher programs will hurt public schools



and, more importantly, the students who attend them."

DOE did not respond to a general interview request about Noem's alternative education funding package or requests for comment regarding involvement or lack thereof from public schools in crafting it.

However, the department last week, in its first statement since the initiative was unveiled on Dec. 3, asserted the initiative will improve the entire education climate in South Dakota — including public schools.

"Working closely with legislative leadership, our proposal opens the educational marketplace with public schools remaining a strong component," according to a statement provided to The Dakota Scout by a DOE spokesperson, who contended it's inaccurate to refer to ESAs as vouchers.

The statement also said the program will be created to ensure "efficient administration."

South Dakota House Majority Leader Scott Odenbach, who's

working closely with DOE to draft legislation for his colleagues to consider, dismissed the notion that public educators aren't being consulted.

"They do have a seat at the table given all the lobbying they do during session, and I know their positions, so it wouldn't be productive because they're not willing to compromise," the Spearfish Republican said, adding that he has held meetings with individual school board members serving in districts in the Black Hills region.

Odenbach said that while work on a bill is still under way, it's likely the proposal could call for incremental expansion — both in funding and eligibility — over a number of years.

Noem's proposal for \$4 million would be limited to low-income students and provide about \$3,000 per student. But the governor and advocates for school choice hope that it can be expanded over time to make it a universal option for students to help fund a private education.

VIEWPOINT | South Dakotans deserve to retire with dignity

By Rep. Greg Jamison

www.thedakotascout.com



Rep. Greg Jamison

The majority of Americans across the political spectrum list inflation as their number one concern this election. No matter where you live, inflation has wracked local economies, and South Dakota is no different. In fact, nearly half of Americans cannot pay for a \$1,000 emergency expense. One casualty of this economic crisis is South Dakotans' savings accounts. Living expenses are top of mind for most families, many are focused on getting through the end of the month, much less retirement.

Many people today are only saving money through their 401(k) thanks to automatic payroll deductions. However, some liberal policymakers want to cut the tax benefits of the successful 401(k) system in favor of a government-run program. South Dakota Sen. John Thune can lead a meaningful push back against this dangerous agenda as ranking a member of the powerful Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, and as the next Senate Majority Leader. In my view, it is critical that we support leaders like Sen. Thune in protecting the 401(k) system from harmful changes.

The 401(k) system has been improved over decades by presidents on both sides of the aisle. The SECURE Act and SECURE 2.0 Act, signed by Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden, respectively, expanded access to retirement savings accounts and made them more available for those who work for small businesses, especially low-income workers. While there is always room for improvement, these updates turned 401(k)s into an even more effective tool for retirement.

They helped make Baby Boomers become the wealthiest retiring generation in U.S. history. Even more, retirement assets per household are more than seven times greater than they were in 1975, adjusted for inflation. And it's not just older folks — young people today have three times the savings in their retirement accounts as people their age 30 years ago, even after adjusting for inflation. Why break what works?

The big government thinkers have tried to justify a supposed crisis in your 401(k) and similar plans using a known playbook. First, they try to divide Americans by creating class warfare. They pit income levels against each other because that's easier than addressing the issues

truly hurting Americans and putting their financial future in jeopardy, like sky-high inflation or Social Security's weak footing. Then politicians like Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) hold hearings to discuss these manufactured trends, as he did in February. They do all of this by using questionable research to create a steady stream of mainstream media articles questioning whether the free market is working. Sen. Sanders and his allies want a government-run retirement system to put the government in charge of a greater percentage of your savings. Meanwhile, the same legislators cannot find a solution to save Social Security from the devastating cuts of benefits for 70 million Americans that will have to come if they don't act by 2033. South Dakotans simply cannot trust our retirement accounts to the federal government.

The 401(k) has been a resounding success. To alter the system now would be detrimental to decades of progress made to build up the financial security of millions of Americans. Sen. Thune can be a champion in the Senate Finance Committee and Republican leadership protecting South Dakotans' golden years. His track record of supporting hardworking Americans, like his efforts to help retired first responders cover health care expenses, shows that he cares deeply about ensuring people can retire with dignity.

I know he can be the voice of reason when out-of-touch politicians spur the federal government to reach into Americans' pockets and take what isn't theirs.

Rep. Greg Jamison is a state legislator representing District 12 in the South Dakota House of Representatives, and is a former Sioux Falls City Council member.

"Without that we wouldn't have the training, and we wouldn't have access to the images," she said referring to promotional materials for summer reading programs.

Moser's worried about the potential loss of ReadSquared, a program patrons use to log their reading times for the summer program.

"It's now entirely online, and we don't pay for that. It's through the state library," she said. "We don't know what we would do without ReadSquared."

Moser predicts the loss of a host of services currently available through the state library. The result would be both large and small libraries scrambling to see how they could fill the void, she said.

"The state library is amazing," Lutter said. "They are so helpful. Trying to picture a world where they're not there, it would hurt us and the people of Redfield."

Fox said if the summer reading program resources go away, smaller libraries will likely go without since they don't have the resources to obtain the materials or the personnel to craft the programming.

Research, genealogy resources could go away

Trimming the state library budget would also mean losing access to databases, some of which are used by students for research, Lutter said.

Those fond of using ancestry.com for genealogy research would have to get their own subscriptions, Fox said, though some resources like Proquest — a research database — would remain.

Aberdeen social studies and speech teacher Kerry Konda, who is also the coach of the Central High School debate team, said the resources available through the state library are critical for students to research class assignments and craft debate arguments.

His students use ProQuest, he said, but also SIRS Issue Research-

er and databases that provide access to newspaper articles that aren't behind a paywall, which could disappear.

While the internet is full of information, the databases provide high-quality content and access to peer-reviewed journals, Konda said.

"We have been training kids to use these so they know how to use them in college," he said.

Fox said the databases have functions that make it easier to fine-tune the information sought or search for recent developments on a particular topic.

Konda's students tap the inter-library loan program, he said, and he uses the video streaming service SWANK to show educational movies in class.

"You can't tell me (there's a) benefit of cutting this," he said.

Russell said those resources are a conduit of information for people. Conversations are already starting about how to maintain access to some of the resources, but each one comes at a cost, he said.

Lutter said the number of things the state library does is remarkable given its budget.

"And it directly impacts what I do as a librarian every day," she said. A guest post by

Elisa Sand
I have been reporting in South Dakota since 1999 and Aberdeen since 2013. I am currently associate editor for The Aberdeen Insider covering local news for Aberdeen.



Libraries: Noem's proposed cuts would diminish resources, summer reading programs

Elisa Sand

www.thedakotascout.com

Governor's budget would result in about 13 layoffs from state library

Library patrons who enjoy summer reading programs, access to research databases, genealogy data through ancestry.com and the ability to check out books from neighboring libraries could lose those services.

That's if Gov. Kristi Noem's proposal to slash funding to the state library comes to be.

Noem pitched some \$70 million in cuts during her budget address earlier this month. Among them is \$1 million in state funding for the South Dakota State Library. That would also mean the loss of \$1.4 million in federal funding, and the elimination of 12.5 jobs, according to the proposed budget, library officials say.

That has them working to counteract the plan before the budget is finalized at the end of next year's legislative session.

Elizabeth Fox, president of the South Dakota Library Association, said she's hoping to convince legislators to walk back that decision because it would gut services offered by the state library.

The library association is familiar with the services provided by the state library, but is not part of its day-to-day operations. The state librarian, senior librarian and seven others who handle the braille and talking books programs would remain even with the cut. Fox said. Others, though, would be gone.

"The state library is being extremely reduced," she said.

While a relatively small office compared to many state departments, librarians in the Aberdeen area speak highly of the benefits of the state library and are worried about what could be lost.

Robert Russell, library director at Northern State University's Beulah Williams Library, said libraries across South Dakota benefit from the state library. That includes university libraries, community libraries and high school and elementary school libraries.

"The impact on the small town and school libraries will be immense," Russell said. "That's the biggest point here."

Small libraries rely on state library

Redfield Carnegie Library Director Sarah Jones Lutter said smaller rural libraries rely on many resources offered by the state library. The efficiency of the interlibrary loan program is one example, she said. With it, she has access to a database containing catalog information for libraries across the state.

If a patron is interested in a book Redfield doesn't have, Lutter said, the database allows her to easily request that book from another library.

Many libraries also send and receive books through interlibrary



Jory Kunzman, information services librarian at K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library returns books to the shelves. Libraries across the state are reeling from a proposal to cut funding to the state library, which provides services to local libraries. (Elisa Sand/Aberdeen Insider)

loan using a courier service that picks up and drops off requested books.

"That will be cut," Lutter said.

Fox confirmed that courier service would go away as would an electronic system with which libraries request materials for inter-library loans.

Another loss would be the database used to find materials at other libraries, she said.

That means she'd spend more time searching individual catalogs to find materials for patrons and, without a courier service, all of those items would be sent by mail, another financial hit for libraries.

So far this year, libraries in South Dakota have requested 33,900 items through the inter-library loan program and have processed requests for 37,147 items, according to data from the state library.

200 items each month

K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library Director Anna Moser said at least 100 items arrive at the Aberdeen library each month from other libraries. Another 100 items are sent out monthly. Those items are regularly picked up and dropped off by the courier service, she said.

"We have a limited budget, Moser said. "We can't buy every book. This allows us to get those books to our patrons and vice versa."

She said people who are part of Hutterite communities and families who homeschool their children benefit significantly from inter-library loaning.

"It's just incredibly helpful, and it helps us focus our book budget elsewhere," she said.

Lutter estimated the cost to mail one book at \$5. The extra expense would mean libraries would have to consider whether to lend materials to other libraries, Fox said.

Having to bear that burden could also lead to conversations about shifting that cost to the patrons who ask for the materials, Lutter said. That, however, runs contrary to the idea of libraries, which aim

to be a free and accessible place for everyone, regardless of economic status.

Russell said losing services for patrons would be a tremendous loss. And the courier service, for instance, was just established in recent years.

"For all of us, if that is in any way diminished or gone, our student access to other universities is diminished," he said.

Russell said having services like interlibrary loaning makes libraries feel like they aren't an island by themselves because they have access to so many extra resources. They also help the state's smallest libraries meet the needs of patrons, he said.

He hosts the Library Institute each year at which training is provided to smaller libraries because of how remote they can be.

"The lynchpin in all of this was the state library," Russell said. "What happens in Faith and Bison now?"

If finances are cut and services disappear, his prediction is that small, rural libraries will close because of their diminished functionality.

"It's very bleak. There is not a positive that I see in this," Russell said.

Summer reading program materials, training would disappear

Summer reading programs would also take a hit because materials could not be distributed across the state, Lutter said. Those items are obtained by the state library, she said, which also organizes the necessary training.

"They do it for free, and the past three years we worked and provided the training for other area libraries. If that goes away, however are we going to do it?" Lutter said.

It would mean more work for a small staff that would need to develop its own summer reading programs, she said.

Moser said those resources are huge for Aberdeen, as is the training for the programming that's available each year.



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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Let 'er Buck Getting in on DQ 12 Days of Giving



(Front): guest Riley Wingen, Neacy Conry, Bennett Ehnes, Layce O' Keeffe; (2nd row) Roy Henwood, Presley Conry, Sadie Jackson, Baze Negaard, Lainee O'Keeffe, Harper Hanson, Laramee O' Keeffe; (3rd & 4th row) Brooke Garman, Ella Ehnes, Selah Ehnes, Jace Olson, Payton Jackson, Evan Jackson, Laityn O'Keeffe's. *Courtesy Photos*



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Let 'er Buck 4-H Club brings Christmas Caroling Cheer to Belle Estates



L-R: Laityn O'Keeffe's, Ellie Dacar, Elise Dacar, Selah Ehnes, Baze Negaard, Ella Ehnes (directly behind), Lainee O' Keeffe, Brooke Garman, Harper Hanson, Lainee O'Keeffe (in front), Laramee O'Keeffe (behind), Payton Jackson, Sadie Jackson, Evan Jackson, Jace Olson, Jory Olson, Roy Henwood, guest Riley Wingen, Neacy Conry, Presley Conry. The group was blessed to be accompanied at piano by Paula Spiedel

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2	3		4					
		9	8			1		
8					9			6
		1	9	3	8			5
	5				2			
9				4				
3		5						9
			3	6	5			1

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 In this place
 - 5 Peak
 - 8 Crew
 - 12 Foment
 - 13 To (Scot.)
 - 14 Wholesome
 - 15 Musical instrument (string)
 - 17 Domain
 - 18 Noun-forming (suf.)
 - 19 Silk fabric
 - 21 Preserve
 - 22 Vein (pref.)
 - 23 Mentally confused
 - 25 Stage extra
 - 28 Queenly
 - 31 People
 - 32 Afr. bowstring hump
 - 33 Taro
 - 34 Retinue
 - 36 Nevi
 - 37 Asian weight
 - 38 Latitude (abbr.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Geological vein angle
 - 2 Ivory (Lat.)
 - 3 Trust
 - 4 List-ending abbreviation
 - 5 Hindu soul
 - 6 Freedman in Kentish law
 - 7 Orbit point
 - 8 Arabic letter
 - 9 Scala (2 words)
 - 10 Title of Athena
 - 11 Stingy
 - 16 Elbe tributary
 - 20 Horse
 - 22 Wax match
 - 24 Leg of mutton
 - 25 or lamb
 - 26 Old-Eng. jurisdiction
 - 27 Sp. article
 - 28 Minx (2 words)
 - 28 Radio Free Europe (abbr.)
 - 29 Presidential nickname
 - 30 Lily (Fr.)
 - 32 Church (Sp.)
 - 35 Moray
 - 36 Animal hair
 - 38 Female vampire
 - 39 Madam
 - 40 From (Scot.)
 - 42 Nod
 - 43 Nipa palm
 - 44 Yesterday (Ital.)
 - 45 Very (Fr.)
 - 47 Prone
 - 49 Health resort

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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50				51				52		
53								55		

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CRYPTOGRAM

"ZVT OATEZTJZ OWNAF BJ LNZ BL
LTQTA GEBWBLO, RXZ BL ABJBLO XM
TQTA F ZBST CT GEWW."

— PNLGXPBXJ

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "He who multiplies riches multiplies cares."
— Benjamin Franklin

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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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Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

You will probably be reading this after the Main Event, but the memories should still be fresh! Was your house filled with family and friends? Or was it quiet and comfy? There's always so much anticipation for Christmas Day-children don't sleep, moms and dads are late night preparers of surprises and there never seems to be enough time to get it all done.

I'm not sure what our Christmas will be like, but today I realized that maybe my focus had been on the wrong thing. Although many thoughts had been centered on presents (or lack thereof) for grandchildren, they were also infiltrated by the loss of those that had been a big part of past Christmas celebrations.

There's nothing wrong with remembering our sons on this special day.

Daniel was gone first as an 18-year-old. I still have the special ornament I had purchased for him for that Christmas. He loved fishing, so it's a fish ornament with his name on it. And the ornaments his sisters had gotten for him still hang on the tree. It's good to remember him as a tall, lanky, young man on the verge of adventure.

Many years later, his big brother left us at Thanksgiving time, doing what he loved as he flew his plane home after a Vikings football game. He was a man in his prime, doing what God had called him to be as a doctor who loved his patients. Matt loved his family and the life that was his. So, I remember his laugh and his wisdom. His hugs were always strong and tender, even as a 40-something man.

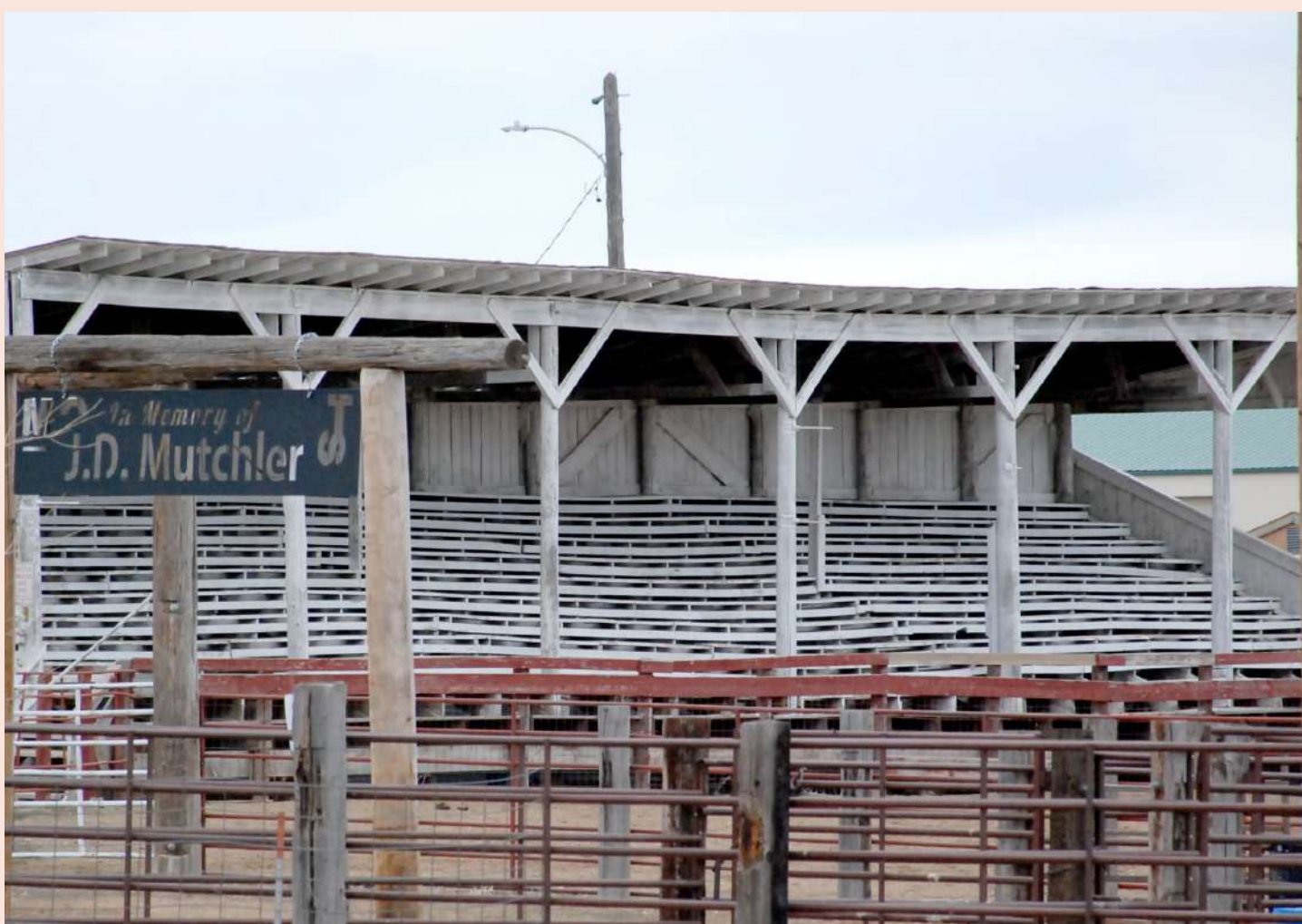
But this morning I stopped thinking about the "boys" and began to focus on another "boy". One who we celebrate this time of year. He came as a babe in a manger and he came as the living son of God, fully man and fully God.

When I stopped to think about Jesus, and what it was like to be born in a cold stable, I became thankful and my aching heart began to rejoice with His sacrifice. Can you imagine coming to earth from a place as glorious as Heaven? He came to give us joy, peace, and to show His love for us.

Jesus was willing to give everything up, so that we could celebrate seeing our loved ones who have gone before us. He knew that there would be times of hurt, unrest, and agony. And He wanted us to be able to rely on Him to soothe us and show us that there is more to life than anything here on earth.

So, as we look forward to

Needing a New Look



The Newell Rodeo grandstands have stood for over 50 years.

Photo by Betty Bruner

Close to the Goal for the Grandstands

For the last three years, the Newell Community Club has been dedicated to raising funds to replace our aging grandstands, which are now in serious disrepair.

Originally constructed in the early 70's, these grandstands have faithfully served our community for over 50 years, hosting millions of spectators at events like the Newell Labor Day Celebration – home of the World Famous Sheep Teeping – held for over 60 years.

They've also been the backdrop for numerous Queen Contests, Team Ropings, Breakaway Ropings, and our Summer PlayDay Series.

However, like structures they have deteriorated over time. Patching and replacing

individual boards is no longer a safe or viable option.

This is why we, the Newell Community Club, are committed to raising funds for new, safer grandstands.

Our vision is to replace the old grandstands with durable aluminum stands that require minimal maintenance while providing ample seating for our visitors.

The plan involves dismantling the current structure, pouring a new concrete slab, and securely installing the new stands.

We acknowledge that removing the old grandstands will temporarily affect our concession stand, but we have strategies in place to manage that until we can secure funding

for a new one.

Currently, our arena hosts only a few events, with the Newell Labor Day Celebration being the largest. We aim to change that! We believe that new grandstands will enhance our ability to attract more events.

Recently, we've introduced two Horse Dressage Clinics in both Spring and Fall, and we're eager to welcome more activities such as clinics, barrel races, and ropings to the arena.

We are thrilled to share some exciting news-thanks to the support of our generous donors and the successful sale of our old grandstands, we have raised over \$98,000 toward our \$110,000 goal!

A huge thank you to Collin

Berry with Freedom Auctions, LLC, for his incredible help in auctioning off the grandstands. Collin generously offered his services without taking commission, which allowed us to raise an additional \$4,000! We are deeply grateful for his support!

While we recently applied for a grant and unfortunately were not selected, we remain determined and optimistic. We are almost to our goal, and with continued support, we are confident that we can create a safe and welcoming space for our community for many years to come.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and helped us get this far. Together, we are making a difference!

a new year, let's focus on what we can do. There is always something to be done and people to touch. I'm not very good at talking to people one on one, but there are times that part of me must be set aside and I need to put "myself" aside and reach out to someone beyond my circle.

How many times have you passed a person by, knowing that they need a kind word or acknowledgment? Put "your self" aside and listen. People have more to say than we realize.

We never know what the future holds. We never know who will come across our path. But with our eyes open, we can



The Newell Rodeo grounds have been home to many Labor Day Rodeos.

Photo by Betty Bruner

make a difference in someone's life. Even if it's our own life! Go ahead and cry tears of

hurt, tears of loss. But then tears of joy! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!



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Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

We had a fun day last Sunday celebrating both Copper and Reub's birthdays. The church sang Happy Birthday to them both before Reub and I left for the Black Hills for our granddaughter Brinley Powell's graduation from nursing school at SDSU that afternoon. When we got home that evening Amanda and Taz had a birthday party for Copper and Reub with Ron and Starla Jenson; Jace, Kami, Keen and Kage Jenson; Louise Jenson and Casey and Missy coming to help them celebrate their birthdays.

Jason Peacock, age 50, of Bison, passed away on Sunday evening, December 15, at the West River Regional Medical Center in Hettinger. Funeral services for Jason will be held on Saturday, December 28, at

the First Presbyterian Church in Bison.

Ellen (Reese) Price, age 93, from Opal, passed away on December 19. Her funeral was at First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis on Monday, December 23.

These families have our sympathy.

Teri Dee had Julie Ulberg come down from Ralph to help us get the house ready for the Christmas celebration on Monday and Taz went up to Reeder to work on Dalton Mellmer's house again that day. Everyone here on the ranch went to Buffalo that evening for the Christmas program at the school and that was really fun.

Reub and I joined a lot of people at the Coffeehouse meeting at the library in Buffalo on Wednesday and we voted for a dissolution of the Coffee

House after our president Tom Holt visited with Attorney General Marty Jackley's office in Pierre to make sure we were doing everything right. Reub's nephew Chip Olson came to the meeting to drop off a bunch of pictures, some interesting papers from Reub's mother, and a bridle that Ken Lenerville gave Reub's father Buck Olson years ago.

Taz went back up to work on Dalton Mellmer's house east of Reeder on Thursday and Julie Ulberg came back to finish cleaning our house before Christmas and she did a really good job so we're ready for any company that show up to help us celebrate Christ's birth.

With Christmas this week, I'll leave you with this that Jim LeFebre sent me years ago:

Twas the night before Christmas at Rock Away Rest,

And all of us seniors were looking our best.

Our glasses, how sparkly, our wrinkles, how merry; Our punchbowl held prune juice plus three drops of sherry.

A bedsock was taped to each walker, in hope

That Santa would bring us soft candy and soap.

We surely were lucky to be there with friends,

Secure in this residence and in our Depends.

Our grandkids had sent us some Christmasy crafts,

Like angels in snowsuits and penguins on rafts.

The dental assistant had borrowed our teeth,

And from them she'd crafted a holiday wreath.

The bed pans, so shiny, all stood in a row,

Reflecting our candle's magnificent glow.

Our supper -- how festive -- the joy wouldn't stop --

Was creamy warm oatmeal with sprinkles on top.

Our salad was Jell-O, so jiggly and great,

Then puree of fruitcake was spooned on each plate.

The social director then had us play games,

Like "Where Are You Living?" and "What Are Your Names?"

Old Grandfather Looper was feeling his oats,

Proclaiming that reindeer were nothing but goats.

Our resident wand'rer was tied to her chair,

In hopes that at bedtime she still would be there.

Security lights on the new fallen snow

Made outdoors seem noon to the old folks below.

Then out on the porch there arose quite a clatter

(But we are so deaf that it just didn't matter).

A strange little fellow flew in through the door,

Then tripped on the sill and fell flat on the floor.

Twas just our director, all tugged out in red.

He jiggled and chuckled and patted each head.

We knew from the way that he strutted and jived

Our social-security checks had arrived.

We sang -- how we sang -- in our monotone croak,

Till the clock tinkled out its soft eight-p.m. stroke.

And soon we were snuggling deep in our beds.

While nurses distributed nocturnal meds.

And so ends our Christmas at Rock-Away Rest.

Before long you'll be with us, we wish you the best!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

December 24, 1914

There is to be a Baptist Church erected at Fruitdale. Allen Hayes and son of White-wood have taken the contract to put up the building. We learn that it is to be a fine edifice.

A hearing has been set at the office of the State Railway Commission for the 29th of December, on the question of the order of the Commission for two farm crossings on farms near here. The issue being the unfortunate requirement of the law governing such crossings.

The Regimental Quartet, which appeared at the Theatorium last Thursday evening, met with a large and appreciative

audience. Their entertainment was first class and was a credit to the Ridpath Lyceum Bureau. The next number of the lecture course will be on the evening of January 5th, when John S. Chambers, the impersonator, will entertain. Mr. Chambers is one of the best impersonators in America and should draw a full house.

You can save money by trading at the Smiley-Gay Hardware, not only on Thursdays, but every day is bargain day. A pair of Klipper Klub skates at the store makes a nice Christmas present for both boys and girls. Also, Community Silver, with a 50-year guarantee makes a splendid gift to your wife or sweetheart.

December 20, 1934

Plans for another stratosphere, flight starting from the Black Hills next summer

by Linda Velder

and truck collision last October, in which Hollis Walker and Mrs. Oscar Stonelake and daughter Darlene lost their lives, Henry R. Johnson and S.E. Geiger, both of Newell, face damage suits totaling \$20,000 according to information. Mrs. Walker is asking \$10,000 and Oscar Stonelake a similar amount. The accident occurred on Highway 79 north of Sturgis. Mr. & Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Stonelake and her daughter were enroute to Rapid City and Henry Johnson and S. E. Geiger were enroute home from the Black Hills with a load of wood when the fatal collision occurred.

December 14, 1944

Children from all the surrounding country are invited to Newell on Saturday December 22nd to meet Old Santa Claus in person and receive a share of the free Christmas treats. All arrangements have been made for this visit of Santa Claus by the Community Club and the Jaycees. This event has come to be an annual Pre-Christmas fete for the youngsters. Parents and others are urged to bring the children to town on that day, the grown folks also will get a thrill out of watching the excitement of the youngsters. The Christmas spirit will be evident everywhere in Newell on that day. The Newell High School band will dispense music for the occasion. Have your children at the hall to greet Santa as he arrives at 2:00 O'clock.

To aid in the solution of the nation-wide man-power shortage, many farmers who are now eligible for release for the winter months, will be seeking jobs in essential war plants. First the farmer must obtain a release from the County War Food Representative (usually the County Agent). After approval by the County Selective Service Board, the applicant will report to the nearest US employment Office for placement. Farm workers interested should contact their County Agent for further information.

Members of Mrs. Thomas Edwards' Sunday School Class entertained their mothers at a Christmas party Tuesday evening at the Nathan Robbins home. A pleasant evening was spent playing games, singing carols and making tree decorations, which they presented to their respective mothers. The girls served a delicious lunch at the close of the evening.

December 23, 1954

The Newell Future Farmers of America held their regular meeting on December 8 for the main purpose of

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raising the following members to Green Hands: Jerry Hedrick; Billy Heston; Edwin Keil; Casmier Klein; Carl Irvine; Robert Miles; David Morrel; Buzzy Sinner; Gary Velder; Mervin Viken; Wayne Webb; Richard Wilson and Clarence Meyer. The meeting was held in the agriculture room with the completed ceremony, all FFA Green Hands were given bronze pins. A movie on safe driving was shown after the meeting, along with a lunch furnished by the Newell Chapter of FFA.

in Newell stores.

December 17, 1964

A Christmas dance program will be presented by the Modern Dancers of Black Hills State College at 9:30 on Friday December 11 in the gymnasium. Grade children from the public schools will be special guests and the program is open to the public without charge. Mrs. Louise Smock and Miss Mary Stewart are in charge of the performance, with John Stone of Pedro and Roy Viken, Newell working the lights. Members of the dance group include Teryl Pickard, hometown Newell.

Old Man winter jumped the gun 6 days ahead of time here Tuesday with a skiff of snow shortly after 10:00 AM, followed by rapidly dropping temperatures and strong winds late at night. By early Wednesday the temperature dropped to an official 23 degrees below zero at the US Newell Field Station and there was no visibility, resulting drifting in sheltered areas blocked roads. Schools were dismissed before noon as well as all other schools in the county. Only short mail routes outside of Newell were operating, other drivers were forced to turn back because of poor visibility and some road blockage.

"Even the ground was burned", Leslie Fields told a neighbor Sunday afternoon when the family returned to their home, 4 miles west of Newell and found it and all contents but a pile of ashes. Mrs. Lois Fields and her son Bill Fields and his 3 sons were visiting in Miller with her brother Walter Johnson. The fire was discovered by Larry Snoozy enroute to his home, the Harold Snoozy farm. He notified the Newell Volunteer Fire Department, but the blaze had gained too much of a headway to be extinguished and workers were able to prevent its spread. Mrs. Fields and the 3 grandchildren are staying temporarily at Snoozy's while Bill Fields is staying at the Louis Hansen home at Nisland. Neighbors and friends have responded with a drive; some clothes, a few dishes, bedding, cooking utensils and other items have already been gathered. Articles donated can be left at Kelly's Super Value in Newell.



Christmas Penny Post Card, December 21, 1914, sent to Mrs. Harry Sturgis from her son Narcisse Rich when he was in the Seminary at Conception, MO. When she lived at Marcus, SD. Newell Museum



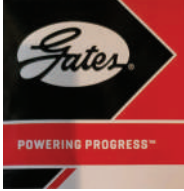
picture of "Strato Balloon" in 1934. From Randall Smith Collection. Randall and a group of classmates went to observe the flight. Newell Museum

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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Mondays

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

Wednesday

Story Time with Patty

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 11 a.m. All ages welcome

Whistle Stop Market

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

Feeding South Dakota

Second Thursday every month, 1:30

Newell Library Hours

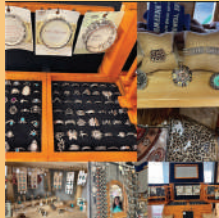
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Newell Festival of Trees



ABOVE: Santa and his side-kick, Debbie Krcelic were ready to meet folks at the festival of trees.

BELOW: The Potter Family entertained at the Festival of Trees. Photos by Betty Bruner

Everyone is cordially invited to the annual **Vale Ag Fair on January 8th 2025.**

The event will start at 10AM and end at 2PM

A free lunch will be served from 11AM to 1PM

Many area vendors will be in attendance
Hope to see you at the Vale Community Hall
at 409 Rosander Rd.





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

Introducing Newell Coaches

We are pleased to announce Chad Oliver as the head coach of the Newell High School Boys Basketball team. He is originally from Newell and graduated in 2002 from the Newell School District. Coach Oliver and our current High School Girls' Basketball Coach, Luke Bonefield, played basketball together in high school. In fact, in 2001 the duo took the Newell School District to second place in State-A division.

Only three young men on the current Newell High School team have played ball in the past. Coach Oliver feels this affords him an opportunity to grow the team from the ground up. Because of Oliver's unique ability to bring out the best in each team member, the results will be measurable. With a priority to enjoy the game above all else Coach Oliver motivates the team to a level up. His coaching goals are to constantly build a successful basketball program while developing outstanding young men.

Coach Oliver's roots run deep as a farmer/rancher in the Newell area. Married to

his wife Liz, he has two young boys of his own. Elliott is in second grade and Korbin is in first grade. Balancing family with coaching while constantly keeping his team updated, spending hours of his own free time working with his team and never giving up on them is a constant challenge Coach Oliver cherishes.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Coach Oliver. Here's to a great season!

Dan High is the assistant high school boys basketball coach and Newell is certainly pleased to welcome him. He grew up in an area of Utah where everyone ate, drank, and slept basketball! They had amazing basketball programs all over the state. Growing up, and as a coach, he saw lots of really talented kids that, because they didn't know the right people, didn't have the right coach, or through some other reason that was no fault of their own, never had the chance to learn the skills to help them be able to compete at a higher level. Coach High wanted to take the

skills that he learned and be able to teach all kids who wanted to, to be the best basketball player they could be if they put in the work.

Coach High has been consistently coaching since 2010. He coached his oldest daughter's teams, 5th-8th grade in Utah. Then coached the all-star teams in AAU leagues and Utah Summer Games through the state.

When asked what his coaching goals are High wants to help inspire each athlete to reach their full potential, increase basketball skills, focus on fundamentals, and learn to let individual success and team success carry over into their academics.

Married to Ashley, Coach High has 5 children. Their three youngest attend Newell School. Cooper is in 5th grade, Samantha is in 8th, and Kate is a sophomore. The others are married and have their own families. The family owns a saddle shop, High Quality Saddles, where Coach High builds saddles full time, and they work as a family selling saddles and tack all over the world.

Where Did the Christmas Tree Begin

It is widely believed that Martin Luther in the 16th century first added lighted candles to a tree. According to common thought, while walking home one winter evening, Luther was awed by the stars twinkling amidst the evergreens. So, to recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lit candles.

Most 19th century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first records of Christmas trees being cut for display comes from the 1820s in Pennsylvania's German community. As late as the 1840s, Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

New England's first Puritan leaders saw Christmas celebrations as unholy. The Pilgrim's second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity.

A law was enacted in 1659 making any observance of December 25 a penal offense. People were fined for hanging decorations. This continued until the influx of German and Irish immigrants in the 19th century undermined the Puritan legacy.

By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise. Europeans used small trees about four feet high, but Americans liked their Christmas trees to extend to the ceiling.

The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while many German Americans continued to use apples, nuts and marzipan cookies. Stringed popcorn was added to trees' decoration after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country and having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition.



Some Christmas Tree Trivia and Facts

Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.

In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lighted except for the top ornament. This was done in honor of the American hostages in Iran.

Between 1887-1933 a fishing schooner called the

Christmas Ship would tie up at the Clark Street bridge and sell spruce and pine trees from Michigan to Chicagoans.

The much-disputed title for the tallest living Christmas tree likely goes to an allegedly 160-foot Sitka Spruce in Ferndale, California.

Franklin Pierce, the 14th president, is often credited with bringing the Christmas tree tradition to the White House in the early 1850s.

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the White House lawn.

Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and first family.

Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet.

In 1912, what were likely the first major community Christmas trees in the United States were erected in Boston, New York City and Hartford, Conn.

Christmas trees generally take six to eight years to mature.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

Ninety-eight percent of all natural Christmas trees are grown on farms.

More than 1,000,000 acres of land have been planted with Christmas trees.

On average, as many as 1,500 Christmas trees are planted per acre.

You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace. It can contribute to creosote buildup.

Other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past.

Thomas Edison's assistants came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees.

In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House, possibly for environmental reasons—but his young son snuck a tree into the house anyway.

In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as three quarts of water per day.

Tinsel used to be made with lead foil, but in the early 1970s the U.S. Food and Drug Administration convinced manufacturers to switch to plastic tinsel.

The best-selling Christmas trees include the Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and Blue Spruce.

By December 1914, all thoughts of a quick World War I victory had faded. But on Christmas Eve, an astonishing

High School Boys Head Coach Chad Oliver

We Are Newell!

Assistant Coach Dan High

Welcome MS Girls Basketball Coaches

If you have been to the middle school girls' basketball games this year, you have seen Shawn Donahey, Head Coach and Cheryl Hohenberger, Assistant Coach, leading by example. Newell School District is privileged to have both in coaching positions.

Shawn Donahey comes from a long line of relatives residing in Newell, South Dakota, from his own family to his parents to his grandparents. He graduated from Newell High School in 1994. His wife Katie, "runs things," as he fondly stated. His daughter Nevada, a freshman, son Coy, 2nd grade, and son Haes, Kindergarten, all attend Newell School. Coach Donahey partners in a fencing business and buys and sells cattle for a living.

During his high school years in Newell, Coach Donahey felt privileged to have played basketball under Randy Faith's direction. Faith was a South Dakota Coach of the Year with a proven track record of taking teams to the State Level in all Divisions.

Coaching to inspire is Donahey's goal. He not only wants to help the team learn to play basketball but wants his team to

take away some life skills. This year the team has a lot of new players that have never played ball. They have worked consistently on the fundamentals and shooting. Coach feels there is still a lot to do in the three weeks left in the season.

Coach Cheryl Hohenberger is focused on constant improvement and enjoys seeing the team grow in their love for the game. We are delighted to learn she will also assist Coach High with the middle school boys' basketball team.

Cheryl is married to Doug, and they ranch in the Newell area. She has four sons and four grandchildren, and her family spans from Bismarck to Summerset, Belle Fourche, and Mitchell.

Coach Cheryl played basketball in high school in Faith. After graduation, she was asked to coach in a rural country school and later in Union Center.

Coaching with Coach Donahey has inspired new perspectives for Coach Hohenberger. She feels the Newell team of coaches is exceptional and intent on taking their teams to the top level of playing.

Shawn Donahey, Head Coach

Cheryl Hohenberger, Assistant Coach

We Are Newell

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL COACHES