



# Belle Fourche Beacon

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Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • December 10, 2025

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## 4th Annual Holiday Open House Customer Appreciation Event

**Robbi Longbrake**

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—December 5 was all about celebrating customers and community at Pioneer Bank and Trust during their festive Holiday Open House and Mixer. Everyone was welcome to stop in for some Jingle, Mingle and Cheer!

The celebration started at 2 p.m. with light snacks and expanded into the early evening with heavier hors d'oeuvres of wings, brisket, meatballs and little sausages brought in by the Branding Iron Steakhouse. "We do our regular meat and cheese trays for right now and then we will have a Mixer from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

We're going to do heavy hors d'oeuvres—which are wings and other foods and then we have the open bar—we just like to appreciate our customers and treat them like they treat us," explained Irma Rosales, Personal Banker.

This is the fourth year the Bank is holding the special

**Open House Contd. A4**

## Jingle, Mingle & Holiday Cheer at Pioneer Bank & Trust



The Lobby and offices were the scene of the large crowd enjoying the **Pioneer Bank and Trust Holiday Open House** last Friday. *Hunter Anderson Photo*

## Belle Silver Lining Hosts Annual Chili Feed Fundraiser

**Robbi Longbrake**

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The holiday season is in full swing in Belle Fourche!

The community came together to support another fantastic organization on Friday, November 28, at the Community Hall.

For the sixth year, Belle Silver Lining hosted its annual Chili Feed fundraiser, warming up attendees before they headed out into the chilly evening to enjoy the Parade of Lights. "Turnout was spectacular!

We served over six roasters of chili," said Mary Riley, Events Coordinator.

While attendees enjoyed chili, crackers and refreshments, the Belle Fourche Cowboy Band filled the hall with music. "The Cowboy Band, all of them, were there!

It was a full stage performance," shared Riley. "We were packed. It was a full house!"

The event collects a free-will donation for the food and entertain-

ment—though they would never turn anyone away.

Every dollar raised goes back to support Belle Silver Lining and its programs.

For the little ones, Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance, with Photos by Connie Snow on hand to capture the magical moments.

Looking ahead, Belle Silver Lining invites you all to enjoy Caramel Rolls and Coffee every Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for a suggested donation of \$3, and to participate in BINGO on January 6 at the Branding Iron Steakhouse.

They are always looking for volunteers; if you are interested, reach out and get involved!



(L) **Belle Silver Lining Chili Feed Fundraiser** had a full house. *Courtesy photos*



(R) **The Belle Fourche Cowboy Band** entertained the crowd at the Chili Feed; (L) **Belle Silver Lining Chili Feed Fundraiser** had a full house. *Courtesy photos*

## State Street Stroll Invites Community to Shop Local

**Robbi Longbrake**

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Something special was happening on State Street on Friday, December 5. There was not a parking spot to be found as folks flocked to the downtown area to enjoy a day of Strolling and an evening of Holiday Open Houses.

Eighteen State Street businesses joined together and invited the public to spend the day with them to discover what unique items each of the businesses had to offer. "It's an opportunity to get customers through the

door and then give them a reason to come back," explained Michelle Evans, co-owner of Pasque Ladies Fashions and Cowboys TOO! on State Street. The State Street Stroll was set up like a poker run. Everyone who participated had to get an official State Street Stroll card, then proceed to State Street to walk up and down the blocks stopping in at all of the participating businesses.

Next they had to find an official to initial the card at each stop. After all of the squares were filled in, the completed card had to be turned in at the final stop.

The Stroll ran from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A grand prize of a \$500 gift certificate to spend at any of the participating State Street businesses was given away at the end of the night to one lucky stroller. The grand prize was sponsored by Pioneer Bank and Trust.

The State Street businesses stayed open late and held Holi-

day Open Houses from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. during the evening of State Street Stroll. Many of the businesses offered snacks, treats, drinks along with in store specials.

Sue and Shawna from Saturdays on State opened the store specifically to participate in the State Street Stroll and Open House (usually only open once a month) and shared that they

had been getting positive responses from the public. People stopped in their store for the first time ever and discovered what they had to offer. They explained that something like the State Street Stroll allows for the public to see what the small businesses have to offer locally so when they need something, they don't have to run to the big stores, they can get it right here in Belle Fourche.

Another business that partici-

**Stroll Contd. A3**



**Thomas Cornado** waits on shoppers shopping during **State Street Stroll** at **Black Hills Curio**. *Longbrake photo*

## Pioneer Bank & Trust commits \$50,000 to support South Dakota Ag Foundation

PIERRE, S.D. (December 2, 2025) — Pioneer Bank & Trust has committed \$50,000 to support the South Dakota Ag Foundation's efforts to strengthen agriculture across the state.

The contribution will be distributed in \$10,000 installments over the next five years.

"At the South Dakota Ag Foundation, we're committed to growing our reach across the state through the Keep Farmers Farming program," said Tif Robertson, board member of the Foundation. "Pioneer Bank & Trust plays a vital role in helping us connect with producers especially in western South Dakota where their ties run deep in the ranching community."

"The South Dakota Ag Foundation is doing important work to support the next generation of farmers and

ranchers," said Clay Birke-land, Senior Vice President and Director of Agricultural Banking at Pioneer Bank & Trust. "We're proud to partner with them in that effort."

The Keep Farmers Farming program officially became part of the South Dakota Ag Foundation on January 1, 2025.

This legacy planning initiative helps farm and ranch families navigate the process of transitioning their operations to the next generation — ensuring the continued vitality of South Dakota communities.

### About the South Dakota Ag Foundation

The South Dakota Ag Foundation was formed in 2015 as an independent, industry-led nonprofit comprised of South Dakota leaders dedicated to enriching agriculture for generations to come. The Founda-

tion is committed to being the South Dakota ag community's trusted philanthropic partner as it works to support rural communities and the development of the next generation of agricultural leaders.

### About Pioneer Bank & Trust

Pioneer Bank & Trust began in 1913 in Buffalo, South Dakota by F.M. and H.W. Clarkson, hard working men known for their fairness and their willingness to help neighbors.

From those humble beginnings, Pioneer Bank & Trust has grown to an asset size of nearly \$1 billion and serves five communities at six locations in Western South Dakota with banks in Belle Fourche, Buffalo, Spearfish, Turgis and two Rapid City locations.

For more about Pioneer Bank & Trust go to [Pioneer-BankAndTrust.com](http://Pioneer-BankAndTrust.com).



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Brian Kline  
Owner

Most of us intend on "getting around to it someday," but that someday never comes and we leave our family wondering whether or not they did the right thing. **It doesn't have to be like that.** It's not pleasant to be reminded of our own mortality; we can laugh, cry, or do a little of both. Regardless of how we prefer to deal with the big questions of life, **it always works out for the best when we face things head on,** especially in regard to such a sensitive issue.

Taking the time to make advanced funeral or cremation planning is a caring and responsible thing to do. Planning now, while we have the time to consider every option, can remove significant amount of the emotional and financial stress that every family must eventually face.

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**GOOD SHEPHERD CLINIC, INC.**  
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825 W Main Street in Lead

**Good Shepherd Clinic**  
Next Clinic: Lead December 11  
Registration will be from 6:00-7:00pm.

Good Shepherd Clinic is a medical clinic for adults, ages 19-64, who meet our income guidelines. Medical services will be available at Shepherd Church in the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius street parking lot (below 825 W. Main Street).

**Good Shepherd Clinic - Lead - December 11**  
Registration from 6:00-7:00pm.

Good Shepherd Clinic-Spearfish is open Monday nights at 1020 State Street.  
For more information contact:  
Phone: 605-717-2080  
Email: director@goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com  
Website: www.goodshepherdclinicspearfish.com

**ClaraAnn Norlin 91**

ClaraAnn Norlin, of Belle Fourche, passed away peacefully at Legacy Living Center in Gillette, Wyoming on December 2, 2025.

ClaraAnn was born September 13, 1934 to Mildred (Enerson) and Alf Hegge. She joined a brother, Hollis. She spent her early years on the family ranch near Albion, Montana, close to her beloved grandmother, "Gammer." She told stories about her dad driving her and Hollis to the Albion school and shooting jackrabbits on the way. Ranch life was a tough life where hard winters and the loss of a sheep crop forced her family to move to Belle Fourche. After the family moved to town, she was blessed with two younger sisters, Dinah and Sue. ClaraAnn attended school in Belle Fourche and graduated in 1952. While in school, she met Earl Norlin and they married on January 1, 1953 and had four children, Mike, Mark, MyraLee and Monte. ClaraAnn worked at the telephone office and then became a bookkeeper for many businesses in Belle Fourche, including Grover Hoffman Propane, Carl's Trailer Sales, and Hill's Interiors. She loved the challenge of making books balance. As a side job, she started a catering business, where she loved saying, "I feed barrel racers and team ropers." She continued her catering business for more than 30 years.

ClaraAnn loved being a "mom" but loved being a "grandma" even more. It was her goal to be as good of a grandma, as her own grandma had been. She also



loved Belle Fourche and became involved in many aspects of the town. ClaraAnn was on the city council, the Black Hills Roundup committee, and even served as the parade marshal one year. She also enjoyed it when our dear friend, Kelly, would take her to church services.

ClaraAnn is survived by her children, Mike (Janie) Norlin of Belle Fourche, Mark Norlin of Graham, Washington, MyraLee (Pat) Duffy of Moorcroft, Wyoming; her beloved grandchildren, Livvy Rieger, Ben Norlin, Natosha Norlin, Anisa Parks, Miranda Schelske, Megan Rosenau, Miles Duffy and 19 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alf and Mildred Hegge, her brother, Hollis Hegge, her former husband, Earl Norlin, and her son, Monte Norlin.

Funeral services will be held 11 A.M. Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Summit Open Bible Church in Belle Fourche, with Pastor Rick Brennan officiating. Following the service, a lunch of favorite foods from "ClaraAnn's Catering" will be served. Inurnment will take place in Pine Slope Cemetery.

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



**Wayne Wolff 93**

Wayne Wolff, age 93 of Colony WY, died Saturday November 29, 2025 at the Monument Health Spearfish Hospital.

The funeral service will be held 10:30 am Monday, December 8th, 2025 at the Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church, with Pastor Sheri Fadley officiating. Visitation will take place 5 to 7pm Sunday at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Interment will take place at Pine Slope Cemetery. The funeral will be livestreamed from Wayne's obituary page, located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com.

Wayne Everett Wolff was born June 16, 1932 at the family farm home located near Aladdin Wyoming. He was the son of Gust and Alice (Lundblad) Wolff. Wayne grew up on the family farm and attended country school. In 1950 he graduated from the Belle Fourche High School. He also worked at the Sugar Beet Factory near Belle Fourche. During those years he lived with a host family and that house was right next door to the Larson family, and they had a lovely daughter named Mary. Wayne and Mary were married on September 7, 1952 at the Methodist Church in Belle Fourche. It was through this union that their son Jim and their daughter Janifer were blessed to grow up in a wonderful home and family. Together they were blessed with 73 years of marriage. Following their marriage, Wayne and Mary farmed with Wayne's family for five years. In 1955 he began working with Larson and Son Construction which was Mary's father's business. He worked with him until 1974. Wayne also had a ranch near Colony. In the mid-1950's he purchased some land there



and began ranching. From 1973 to 2011, Wayne served as the Crook County Brand Inspector. Wayne was known as an excellent inspector and he enjoyed the many friendships that came with the job.

Wayne was a faithful member of the Global Methodist Church in Belle Fourche. It was rare that he and Mary would miss a Sunday morning worship service. Wayne was also a 70-year member of the Cedar Lodge #124 Masonic Lodge, and a Master Mason. He was a man who worked hard, was known for his kindness and someone who would help anyone. Wayne was a good man who loved the ranch life. He had a great sense of humor and he had a certain way of saying things that would make you smile. He enjoyed traveling, and for the past many years he and Mary enjoyed attending the National Finals Rodeo. Wayne loved his family. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, and they will miss him greatly.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Mary of Colony WY; son, Jim (Cheryl) of Colony WY; 5 grandchildren: Lindsey (Jared) Wolff of Belle Fourche, Christina (Tyson) Kennedy-Rawlings of St. Petersburg FL, Jared (Baylee) Wolff of Belle Fourche, Shaina Wolff of Gillette WY, Alicia Kennedy of San Antonio TX; and 9 great grandchildren: Preston, Kaden, Tinter, Landry, Brodie, Brynlee, Easton, Charlee, and Lily. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Janifer; and 4 brothers: Ralph, Merle, Orville, and Lyle.



**Alice Lanelle Cundall 86**

Alice Lanelle Cundall was born on March 14, 1939, in Spur, Texas. She was the daughter of H.A. and LaFaye (Blair) Marcy. Lanelle graduated from Spur High School in 1957. She graduated from West Texas State University with a Master's degree in Education.

After teaching four years in Amarillo, Texas, she was hired by the Department of Defense to teach military dependents overseas. She taught in Izmir, Turkey for one year and in Wiesbaden, Germany for four years. Traveling was an important part of her life and she saw many different countries during this time: Turkey, The Holy Lands, India, Egypt, and all of Europe.

In Wiesbaden she met Captain Dale Cundall. They married on August 13, 1967. In 1968 they moved to Loveland, CO, where Lanelle returned to teaching. Dale and Lanelle were blessed with three children: Dave, Marcy, and Nancy. The family moved to Edgemont, SD and then Belle Fourche, SD. Lanelle taught Middle School in Belle Fourche for more than 20 years. She retired in 2001 and then taught music at the elementary school in Newell, SD, for one year.

Lanelle was a very gifted organist and pianist. She played the organ at a variety of churches since she was 17 years old. She played for the Congregational Church in Belle Fourche for over 40 years. She



loved playing and singing. She loved her family and enjoyed teaching, reading, and music. She was a very happy, positive, gentle, loving person. She blessed everyone who knew her.

Lanelle went home to heaven on Thursday, November 20, 2025. She is survived by a son, Dave (Linda) Cundall of Spearfish; two daughters, Marcy Cundall of Box Elder, and Nancy Cundall of Clearwater, FL; two grandsons, Darren Cundall and Adam Merkle; a great granddaughter, Elianna; sister, Rozelle (Henry) Hardaway of Panama, OK; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Dale.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 10:30 A.M. Friday, December 5, 2025 at the First Congregation United Church of Christ in Belle Fourche, with Rev. Chuck Aurand officiating. There will be no visitation. Inurnment will take place in Pine Slope Cemetery.

Arrangements are with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. The service will be livestreamed from Lanelle's obituary page located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com



**Craig Leason 71**

Craig Leason, age 71, of Belle Fourche, SD passed away peacefully on November 28, 2025 in Eagle River, WI with family by his side. He was born in Elkhorn, WI on September 1, 1954 to William and Janet (née Olson) Leason. On November 15, 1975 he married Rena Cornella and had four sons.

Craig is survived by his 3 sons: Anthony Cornella of Belle Fourche, SD, John Leason of Eagle River and William Leason of Belle Fourche, SD; sister: Dawn Leason of Rhinelander; 3 grandchildren:



Josie, Andrew and Shayna; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife: Rena; son: James Leason; and parents.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home, Eagle River. Online condolences may be expressed at gaffney-busha.com



**Pastor's Perspective**



**"Time of Year to Step Back and Ponder"**

It is the time of year to take a step back, pause to ponder what you hold important. Often we limit God by our inability to visualize a perspective much larger and encompassing than anything we imagine.

Isaiah chapter 11 gives us a view of such an idyllic universal peace: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den" At this description of peace, most of us may shake our heads assuming immediately that it must only be metaphoric. We know how food chains work and wild animals react. While domestication is possible, Isaiah continues his vision with snakes and young children and immediately every mother says my child is not playing with poisonous snakes. This is not a vision of peace that we can easily understand. We understand peace as the absence of war, not fighting with your neighbor, settling a disagreement by talking and not punching your opponent; but, our understanding is seriously limited and pails when compared to Isaiah's image of peace. Our image of peace, justice and equality is not matching Isaiah's vision of God's peace. Hope comes from God and a path toward God's

This week's Pastor's Perspective is provided by Louise Reade' St. James Episcopal Church

all-encompassing peace, and justice.

Hope does not originate with what we do. Our individual hope can and often is transformed to align with God's far more expansive vision. We usually envision God as on our side but we must admit that when we acknowledge the visions in the psalms and Isaiah that we are seeing a very small sheltered view and wherever we are in that view there is the invitation from God to turn from what is destructive in our lives. This season we are invited to investigate within ourselves and see where we obstruct peace and joy. "Well, I'd never obstruct peace and joy", as a cursory look, that maybe true but things unforgiven, hurts we hide and carry around can obstruct peace and joy. Hope is not passive, but it's built through action and resilience and sustained by faith in God's justice. In Hebrew the word for hope is Tikvah and is an active form of expectation and is not passive wishing.

I can envision God's view as a song where we know the melody, but God knows the harmony, improvisations, counter-point, the blues licks, rhythmic variations, and each musician's embellishments; where none of them are wrong and the melody carries on brilliantly through every chord progression.

A bit of light dispels much darkness and shares' God's path of hope and all-encompassing peace and justice is possible. Share that spark of light and hope.

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From A1 **Stroll** pated in the event was Pete's Clothing and Hodge Bootery. Owner Lee Hodge said they had noticed an increase in foot traffic for the day. For their Open House they had a variety of food and drinks. "We have sodas and water, High Noons and some beer, hot chocolate, apple cider, red and white wine and some treats," he said. Pete's Clothing had a special for the day: get Montana jewelry for spending \$100.

And, they do free gift wrapping! There were so many specials to be found and treats to be eaten during the stops. Some of the offerings included: Hitching Post Tap House offered munchies, a gift basket drawing and a guess-how-many-lights contest. Quality Quick Print offered 20 percent off storewide, Black Hills Curio offered sweet treats, Pearson Block Candy Shop had the Grinch come for pictures, Dakota

Petals gave away chocolate toffee and had a drawing for a free flower arrangement. Saturday on State offered cookies and hot apple cider, Cowboys Too and Pasque Ladies Fashions had an arrangement of sweet treats and charcuterie and Pioneer Bank and Trust had food and drinks. At the end of the night all of the business owners shared their thoughts on the State Street Stroll and open house event and one of them shared from a customer, "I grew up in Belle and this reminds

me of that time! All the shops open late and running into neighbors and visiting has really put me in the Christmas spirit!" And what more could one want on a special holiday evening in downtown Belle Fourche! Businesses that participated in the State Street Stroll included: Pioneer Bank and Trust, Quality Quick Print,

Emporium 605, Prairie Hills Pharmacy, Saturday on State, Hair Gallery, Dakota Petal, The Circle Lounge, Cowboys Too! Pasque Ladies Fashions, Pete's Clothing and Hodge Bootery, Belle Flowers and Co., Pearson Block Hous, Pearson Block Candy Shop, Dakota Territory Firearms, Hitching Post Tap House, Black Hills Curio, Elizabeth Ann's Bridal and Love That Shoppe.

## Bronc Wrestlers Start Season Off with a Home Triangular then Head to Custer

**Kandi Tonsager**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Bronc high school wrestling teams started their season off with a triangular at home on Thursday December 4th with a win over Douglas/Rapid City Christian 48-24 and a loss to Phillip/Wall 28-60. On Friday December 5th the Bronc boys team traveled to Custer for a meet with Caden Swaney placing 3rd at 106lbs, Cooper Conry placing 2nd at 126lbs, Dylan Park placing 4th at 132lbs, Preston Lake placing 2nd at 132lb JV, Garett Huston placed 3rd at 138lbs, Riley Dighton placed 1st at 165lbs, Koby Bowden placed 6th at 165lbs, Charlie Houck placed 5th at 190lbs and Dillon Street-

er placed 2nd at 215lbs JV. On Saturday December 6th the Bronc girls team traveled to Custer for the girls division of the meet with Kyra Vandenberg taking 1st place on the podium at 105lbs. The Broncs have 14 boys and 6 girls on the team to start the season. Of the returners, 4 seniors and 5 junior veterans are returning for upper classman. The team has a few returning underclassman and some newcomers have joined as well. Coaches Cory Neuarth and Nathan Jeulfs mention hoping to retain their Black Hills Conference Champions rein this season with Douglas and Custer as contenders.

They discussed some of the off season work over the past year that some of the returning veterans on the team worked at with Riley Dighton, Garett Huston and Luke Tonsager competing in Junior Nationals in Milwaukee in June and Kyra Vandenberg competing in Fargo, the biggest tournament in the country, in July. The girls put on their first girls only wrestling camp over the summer as well with 25 girls from the area for the first Taylor Graveman Youth Camp. Michael Streeter and Tevin Gomez have returned this season as volunteer assistants allowing more hands on deck and eyes on the mats. The coaches are welcoming middle school 7th and 8th graders



State Street Stroll Poker Run participant stops to get his a card filled in at Belle Flowers Co+. Longbrake photo

to join their practices after the middle school season ends to introduce them to the program and get mentorship in the wrestling room with a quote, "consistency builds

confidence". The Broncs teams wrestle next at The Monument in Rapid City for one of the season's biggest tournaments on December 12th and 13th.



(TL) Caden Swaney 3rd;



(TC) Cooper Conry 2nd;



(TR) Dillon Park 4th;



(L) Garett Huston 3rd;



(C)Kyra Vandenberg 1st;



(R) Riley Dighton 1st



Caden Swaney



Preston Lake



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### Open House contd. from A1

customer celebration. Each year they have planned a special way to let the consumer and community both know how much they are appreciated.

This year Pioneer Bank expanded to include other businesses on State Street in their celebration.

The Bank joined together with 18 other downtown businesses to take part in the State Street Stroll.

The bank sponsored a \$500

gift card to one lucky participant who completes the Stroll. "We just believe in our community! We do!"

We're doing the \$500 gift card for celebration of all the customers in our town," explained Rosales. "We just want our customers to be—not even our customers—but everyone to know they are appreciated!"

The afternoon open house was to make sure and catch all the customers who would be coming into the bank to do

business. Perhaps they would schedule their banking during the celebration so they could do both things at one time!

"We like to see our customers during this time because they come in now to bank with us and later in the evening we will have more people that come in from other businesses.

Some of them might not even bank with us, but we still want them to come in, we don't care who you are, just come have a good holiday celebration with us," said Rosales.



(Above) From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. customers came in to enjoy the Pioneer Bank and Trust Holiday Open House. (Below) From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. the Pioneer Bank hosted a festive Holiday Mixer. Longbrake photos



(Above L) Pioneer Bank Holiday Open House and Mixer attendees enjoying good company and good cheer. Longbrake photo (Above R) Open house attendees enjoy the good cheer and fun conversation. Hunter Anderson Photo



(Above) The Branding Iron was on hand to add the great event. (Below) Open house was well attended beginning to end. Hunter Anderson Photos



## WRESTLING HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2025-26 BELLE FOURCHE



HEAD: CORY NEUHAERTH | ASST: NATHAN JUELFS | VOLUNTEER: ANDREW DIGHTON

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
12/4 - Thursday	Triangular (Douglas, Philip) @ Belle Fourche (Sr Night)	Home	4:00 pm
12/5 - Friday	Bill Young Invite - Boys' @ Custer	Away	9:00 am
12/6 - Saturday	Bill Young Invite - Girls' @ Custer	Away	9:00 am
12/12 - Friday	Invite @ Rapid City - The Monument	Away	11:00 am
12/13 - Saturday	Invite @ Rapid City - The Monument	Away	8:00 am
12/18 - Thursday	Triangular (Custer) @ Lead	Away	4:00 pm
12/20 - Saturday	Invite @ Madison	Away	9:00 am CT
12/30 - Tuesday	Harding County Invite - Boys' @ Buffalo	Away	9:00 am
1/3 - Saturday	Invite - Girls' @ Spearfish	Away	10:00 am
1/9 - Friday	Invite @ Hettinger, ND	Away	9:00 am
1/10 - Saturday	Invite @ Hettinger, ND	Away	8:00 am
1/15 - Thursday	Quad (Douglas, RC Central) @ Spearfish	Away	4:00 pm
			9:00 am Girls
1/17 - Saturday	Black Hills Conference Invite @ Spearfish	Away	1:00 pm Boys
1/24 - Saturday	Invite @ Chadron, NE	Away	10:00 am
1/29 - Thursday	JV/V Dual @ Sturgis	Away	5:00 pm
			9:00 am Girls
1/30 - Friday	Invite @ Belle Fourche	Home	10:00 am Boys
1/31 - Saturday	Invite - Boys' @ Belle Fourche	Home	9:00 am
2/7 - Saturday	Invite - Boys' @ Hill City	Away	9:00 am
2/7 - Saturday	Invite - Girls' @ Newcastle, WY	Away	9:00 am
2/21 - Saturday	Regions 4A @ Rapid City - Monument (Ice Arena)	Away	9:00 am
2/26-28	State A @ Sioux Falls	Away	TBA

Bold @ Belle Fourche | Red - Playoff / State | ^ Denotes Update on 6/4/25

# Middle School Wrestling

**MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING SCHEDULE**  
2025-26 BELLE FOURCHE

HEAD: ANDREW DIGHTON | ASST: SLAYTON NIELSEN | VOLUNTEER: SHAWN HATTIS

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	Start Time
12/11 - Thursday	Black Hills Conference Trny - Custer	Away	4:00 pm

Bold @ Belle Fourche \* Denotes Update on

# Belle Fourche AAU Wrestling

**WRESTLING PRACTICE STARTS**

Advanced kids practice starts December 15th 2025 @ 6:15-7:30

Beginner kids practice starts December 16th 2025 @ 6:15-7:15

## 46th ANNUAL COBBLER CLASSIC YOUTH WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

**Sunday January 4th, 2026**  
Central High School Activities Entrance / 433 Mt Rushmore Rd, Rapid City  
\*\*\*Pre-Registration Required, No On-Site Registration\*\*\*  
\*\*\*Registration must be completed by Friday January 2nd at 5:00pm MST\*\*\*

**WEIGH-INS:**  
Sunday January 4th 6:30am to 8:00am / All wrestlers have to weigh in wearing a singlet AAU card and Birth Certificate required / Skin and Nail Checks will be completed

**SCHEDULE:**  
6:30am Doors Open  
8:30am Coaches Meeting in the wrestling room  
9:00am Wrestling starts

**ADMISSION:**  
\$20 Wrestler registration on Trackwrestling or Flo / No walk-in registration  
\$5 Coaches Band, AAU Card Required  
\$5 Adult admission / \$3 Student Admission

**BRACKETING:**  
16 Man Brackets and 8 Man Brackets / Smaller brackets will be round robin / No double bracketing  
Girls v Girls / Boys v Boys

**ADDITIONAL INFO**  
Wrestle the age you are the day of the tournament  
Maximum 500 wrestlers for the tournament

**AWARDS:**  
1st - 3rd receive trophies/medals

This event is licensed by the Amateur Athletic Union of the US Inc. All participants must have a current AAU membership. AAU membership may not be included as part of the entry fee to the event. AAU Youth Athlete membership must be obtained before the competition begins, except where the event operator has a laptop available with an internet connection. Be Prepared: Adult and Non-Athlete memberships are no longer instant and cannot be applied for at an event. Due to background screenings, please allow up to 10 days for adult memberships to be processed. Participants are encouraged to visit the AAU website [www.aasports.org](http://www.aasports.org) to obtain their membership.

Email questions to [cobbleryouthwrestling@gmail.com](mailto:cobbleryouthwrestling@gmail.com)



**Coed A: Aces Back:** Zach Lange, Clay Pottorff, Kelly Carmichael, JD Young  
**Front:** Gillian Watkins, Katelynn Pottorff, Kristin Carmichael, & Laura Young



**Coed B: Set to Kill:** Sarah Chapman, Derek Olson, Ryan Larive, Brittany Stevens, Jayden Vandervorste, & Devin Crane



**Women's A: Setsy Ladies:** Alix Crago, Kassidy Kissack, Lauren Oliver, Autumn Sanftner, Tori Wolf, & Katelyn Pottorff

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

**Dec 11 - 12** Polar Express Driving through town say HI!

**Dec 12** - Cowboy Christmas @ Besler's, 6PM  
Newell Parade of Lights, Fireworks by CoNBA

**Dec 12-14** "It's A Wonderful Life" performances by BFACT

**Dec 13** - North Pole Stop & Shop @ Venue 519, Cowboy Christmas @ Besler's

**Dec 14** - 6Pm Bethlehem in Belle @ BF GLocal Methodist

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



**Women's B: Getting Diggy With It**  
Back: Mahri Fredericksen, Avery Fogelman, Katie Heggem, Katie McArthur, Rachel Mokeu  
Front: Annie Mosteller, Sierra West, Kelli Nold, not pictured Kendra Shoup (Courtesy Photos)

**PAIN & MOVEMENT SOLUTIONS**

511 National St. #101 605-723-0185

**HUNTER ANDERSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
602-418-4339  
[hunterandersonphotography.com](http://hunterandersonphotography.com)

**COWBOYS TOO!**

**JEANS**

**COWBOYS TOO!**

**TODDLER**  
girls & boys

Public Notices/Legals

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Courthouse  
Commission Meeting Room 839 5th Avenue  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717 Phone: 605-892-44

Tuesday, November 04, 2025

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

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENE

AT 9:33 A.M. on November 04, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Batterman, Kari, and Brunner. Chairman Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk to approve the meeting agenda with moving #10 to 5.5. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried

Pastor Rick Brennan led in a moment of prayer. Commissioner Brunner asked if there was a higher need for food at Compassion Cupboard due to the government shutdown.

Chairman Ager read the Operation Green Light for Veterans 2025 Proclamation

Beginning at 9:41 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened with no members of the public wishing to speak. Motion by Brunner, Second by Erk, to approve the Consent Agenda Items with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Lensegraw answered questions on the amount of overpayments, and DOE Wilson confirmed the reason for the delay in planning approval getting to Commissioners.

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

- a. Approval of Regular meeting minutes - 21 Oct 2025
- b. Bills per Printout
- c. Apportioning and Other Payments
- d. Highway Software License Agreement 2026 - D-Ware, Inc. - cost \$4900.00
- e. Planning: Final Owner: Colleen Courtney; Lots 3 and 4 of Lone Star Ranchettes Formerly Lots 3 and 4 of Lone Star Ranchettes Being a Portion of Tract A of the SW4SW4 of Section 4; a Portion of the SE4SW4 of Section 4; Tract A of the NW4NW4 of Section 9; LOT 1 of Tract A of the NE4NW4 of Section 9; All in T8N, R3E, B.H.M., Butte County, South Dakota

Kailey Snyder was present to discuss the adoption of the Butte County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion by Erk, Second by Batterman, to adopt Resolution 2025-20: A Resolution of the Butte County Board of Commissioners Declaring Support and Adoption of the Butte County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2025. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried

Extension/4-H Educator Audrey Pruitt gave an activity report, including future attendance at commission meetings, potential invitations to 4-H members to attend evening commission meetings, setting up an exhibit in the courthouse lobby area, using green lights for 4H event in October, and office functions.

IT discussion will be held in the 18Nov2025 meeting and quote from additional IT Service Provider will be available.

Dispatch Supervisor Julia Day provided an activity report, which included the number of calls and current, and records maintenance efforts. Average call time was discussed.

County Nurse Malynda Wolf provided an activity report including the Maternal

and Child Health Program, Immunization activities (54), public health preparedness and emergency responses, general office activities, and personnel changes. Lindsey Hays, RDN, LN, CSR WIC Dietitian Manager, West Region provided an activity report including number of participants, the Butte County WIC breast feeding program received the Award of Excellence Premier in 2025. Food benefits will be updating in the near future for additional nutritional food options.

VSO Jasen Saivong provided an activity report including the number of new calls in October, disability compensations, intent to file process, benefit applications, death benefits, dismissals, and DAV transports (20). Operation Green Light and Butte County's participation in the program.

A short recess was taken at 10:19 AM. Meeting back in session at 10:22 AM Payroll and Benefits Administrator Heather Abraham presented healthcare options to the commissioners. A discussion was held regarding joining a pool and savings.

Motion Batterman, Second Kari to join the Health Pool of South Dakota with the CoPayment Plus PPO 3000 Plan and HDHP 3500 Plan. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Sheriff Lamphere discussed the Lock for Vault from Gene's Lockshop. Motion by Erk, Second by Kari to approve 2026 Annual Liquor License Renewals. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Liquor Renewal License:

APPLICANT  
Branding Iron Steakhouse & Saloon  
19079 US Hwy 85 BelleFourche, SD 57717

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Lot 1 Subd TR A in SE4SW4 Ex. Lot H1 & H2

Section 22, Twp 8, Range 2  
TYPE OF LICENSE  
Retail (on-sale) Liquor (Sunday Sales)

APPLICANT  
Besler's Cadillac Ranch 19314 Helmer Road, StOnge, SD 57779

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Lot 4 PT, Lot 3 PT, SW4 NW4 PT, Lot 1 Sec 2 PT SE4NE4 Sec 2 PT

Section 1, Twp 7, Range 2  
TYPE OF LICENSE  
Retail (on-sale) Liquor (Sunday Sales)

APPLICANT  
Stone House Saloon 10246 Hwy 34 Belle Fourche, SD 57717

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
E2NW4, W2NE4, E2SW PT, W2SE PT, W2W2E2SE4

Lying N of Hwy 34  
Section 21, Twp 8, Range 1E  
TYPE OF LICENSE  
Retail (on-sale) Liquor (Sunday Sales)

APPLICANT  
Spur Creek Saloon LLC 17698 SD Hwy 79 Newell, SD 57760

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Section 17, Twp 10, Range 6  
TYPE OF LICENSE  
Retail (on-sale) Liquor (Sunday Sales)

APPLICANT  
Newell Golf Club 12963 Orman Rd Newell, SD 57760

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
NE4 Section 25, Twp 9, Range 5  
TYPE OF LICENSE  
Retail (on-sale) Liquor (Sunday Sales)

APPLICANT  
Short Grass Resort Jared C & R Headley, 19343 Shortgrass Lane Belle Fourche, SD 57717

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Tract BHT of the NE4 SW4 in S5 T7N, R2E of the Black Hills Meridian, Butte County, SD. And T7N, R2E of the Black Hills Meridian, Butte County, SD; S5 PT NW4 SE4 PT S2 SE4 lying N of Redwater River

TYPE OF LICENSE  
Retail (on-sale) Liquor (Sunday Sales)

Retail (on-off sale) Wine and Cider.

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Courthouse  
Commission Meeting Room 839 5th Avenue  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717 Phone: 605-892-44

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Courthouse  
Commission Meeting Room 839 5th Avenue. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Kari, Batterman, and Brunner. Chair Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to adopt the meeting agenda with amended changes to the agenda. Adding to the agenda, getting the current County Nurse building added to the cleaning schedule contract (5.25) and adding approval for Corey Somervold or Debbie Lensegraw to sign for the closing of a land sale (5.50). Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Pastor Rick Brennan gave thanks to Commissioners for discussion at last meeting mentioning the compassion cupboard then led in a moment of prayer. Beginning at 9:35 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened with Sue Broadhurst, Dale Simanton, Travis Ismay speaking about not having the whole planning meetings recorded with possibility of getting this changed, looking for clarification on why and what instances the highway superintendent signs off for, missing minutes for building meeting, roads needing to be improved, and state government, education, and county government spending.

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

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

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes - 04Nov2025
- b. County Lien Report

LIEN REPORT BUTTE COUNTY

CAAPUBLIC DEFENDER

EXPENSES SEP 2025 \$ 16,363.00

EXPENSES YTD \$ 273,849.79

RECOVERED SEP 2025 \$ 4,156.09

RECOVERED YTD \$ 61,853.18

JAIL

EXPENSES SEP 2025 \$ 34,445.20

EXPENSES YTD \$ 370,026.62

RECOVERED SEP 2025 \$ 0

RECOVERED YTD \$ 2,493.00

POOR LIEN

EXPENSES SEP 2025 \$ 0

EXPENSES YTD \$ 8,174.00

RECOVERED SEP 2025 \$ 0

RECOVERED YTD \$ 2,493.00

REG JUV DETENTION

EXPENSES SEP 2025 \$ 13,133.50

EXPENSES YTD \$ 46,248.50

RECOVERED SEP 2025 \$ 18,838.60

RECOVERED YTD \$ 73,297.39

c. Bills per Printout

d. Apportioning and Other Payments

e. Register of Deeds Report

f. Travel Request

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Courthouse Commission Meeting Room 839 5th Avenue Belle Fourche, SD 57717

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENE AT 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Kari, Batterman, and Brunner. Chair Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to adopt the meeting agenda with amended changes to the agenda. Adding to the agenda, getting the current County Nurse building added to the cleaning schedule contract (5.25) and adding approval for Corey Somervold or Debbie Lensegraw to sign for the closing of a land sale (5.50). Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Pastor Rick Brennan gave thanks to Commissioners for discussion at last meeting mentioning the compassion cupboard then led in a moment of prayer. Beginning at 9:35 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened with Sue Broadhurst, Dale Simanton, Travis Ismay speaking about not having the whole planning meetings recorded with possibility of getting this changed, looking for clarification on why and what instances the highway superintendent signs off for, missing minutes for building meeting, roads needing to be improved, and state government, education, and county government spending.

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

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

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes - 04Nov2025
- b. County Lien Report

LIEN REPORT BUTTE COUNTY

EXPENSES

SEP 2025 YTD \$ 16,363.00 \$ 273,849.79 \$ 34,445.20 \$ 370,026.62 \$ 0 \$ 8,174.00 \$ 13,133.50 \$ 46,248.50

RECOVERED SEP 2025 \$ 4,156.09 \$ 12,075.86 \$ 0 \$ 18,838.60

RECOVERED YTD \$ 61,853.18 \$ 38,385.02 \$ 2,493.00 \$ 73,297.39

EXPENSES

i. Dispatch: Courtney Walker to attend 911 Dispatch School at the Law Enforcement Academy in Pierre, SD from 01-25-2026 to 02/06/2026.

g. Wage Increases

i. Dispatch: Crystal Rath Tier 2 longevity \$26.83.

ii. Dispatch: LaRae Beguin Step 3

Notice of Application for Executive Clemency

Michael Jenkins who was sentenced in Butte

County on the 11 day of July, 2001,

to 15 years suspended, 60 days county jail; 10 years probation; fines & costs; restitution (indicate what the sentence was including any fines, forfeitures, and time of incarceration in jail or prison)

for the crime of  
Sexual Contact with a Child Under Sixteen

has applied to the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles for:

Pardon  
 Reprive or Remission of Fine or Forfeiture

The Butte County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications from individuals who are interested in serving on the Butte County Planning Board.

- One (1) Opening Available
- Appointments are for a Four (4) Year Term
- Term of office will be 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2029
- Must be a Butte County resident

The Butte County Planning Board is a five-member advisory Board – including four members appointed by the Butte County Board of Commissioners and one County Commissioner representative.

The Planning Board is tasked with ensuring the county ordinances are implemented consistently and offers oversight to the growth, planning, and development activities in the County. This Board makes recommendations to the Butte County Commission regarding planning functions and procedures.

The Butte County Planning Board meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the commissioner's room on the main level of the courthouse (839 5th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD).

Individuals who want to be considered for an appointment are asked to submit a request for consideration via application to Director of Equalization Office located at 117 5th Ave. Belle Fourche, SD, 57717 or email Cristina Wilson at [cristina@buttesd.org](mailto:cristina@buttesd.org). All applications must be received by 12/12/2025.

**BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR**

**Mailing Address**  
117 5th Avenue  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

**Phone: (605) 892-4485**  
**Fax: (605) 723-0057**  
**Email: [auditor@buttesd.org](mailto:auditor@buttesd.org)**



**Position Open**

**Part-Time Building Maintenance Technician**

**Reports to: Butte County Auditor**

**Summary of Duties:** This position will assist the Office Supervisor in carrying out the functions, responsibilities, and statutory requirements of the Butte County Building Department.

The ideal candidate for this position must have good customer service skills, a positive attitude, self-motivation, and be able to work alone as well as in a dynamic team environment. Strict confidentiality is a key part of Butte County Building staff.

**Salary: \$21.80 - \$24.57 DOQ Hours/Week:** up to 29 hours Mon-Fri

**Education Required: GED/High School Equivalent**

**Abilities/Skills:** A successful applicant will have knowledge of general skilled trade duties, operation of hand and power tools, identification and reporting of building maintenance needs, preventive maintenance and checks of buildings and equipment, building security, snow removal, cleaning duties as needed, and other related duties assigned by the Auditor.

**Benefits:** Pro-rated holidays and vacation

Applications may be picked up at the Auditor's office at the Butte County Administration building 117 5th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Interested individuals can apply by the submission of an Application, Resume and Cover Letter addressed to the Butte County Auditor, Attn: Annie Capp, 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Phone 605-892-4485. Email: [auditor@buttesd.org](mailto:auditor@buttesd.org)

**Butte County is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.**

\$22.88.

iii. Equalization/Planning: Teena Simons Step 3 \$20.11. iv. Auditor: Corey Somervold Step 4 (full wage) \$27.26 h. Planning:

i. Final: Owner: Master Millwork I, LLC (Tom and Janice Rowett); Lot 1 and Lot 2 of Rowett Addition, Located in that Portion of the SE4SE4 of Section 32, Lying South of the Belle Fourche River and North of the SD Hwy 212, Less Highway Lot H1 as Shown by Plat Book 4, Page 31 and Highway Lot H2 as Shown by Doc. #2001-980, All Located in T9N, R3E of the BHM, Butte County, South Dakota.

ii. FINAL: OWNER: GUY & KAREN WOPINSKI, GALEN & JAQUELIN BIRNER; TRACT J-1 AND J-2, A SUBDIVISION OF THE SE4SE4 OF SECTION 4, T8N, R5E, BHM, BUTTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

iii. FINAL: OWNER: MATT & CHRISTINE TRAVIS; LOTS 1-10 OF THE RIDGE SUBDIVISION AND DEDICATED PUBLIC R.O.W. FOR BUFFALO VIEW COURT. (FORMERLY TRACT F-5 OF HELMER TRACTS) ALL LOCATED IN THE S2SW4, SECTION 25, T8N, R2E, BHM, BUTTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA.

iv. Floodplain Development Permit: Owner: SDDOT; Contact Kevin Marton PE; US85, 12.2 miles south of SD168.

Beginning at 9:45 am the Sealed bids were opened for Crushing Gravel in 2026; Timberline Services \$7.98/Ton for \$319,200, Rogers Construction \$6.89/Ton for \$275,600, Western Construction \$7.25/Ton for \$290,000, 63 Industries \$7.10/Ton for \$284,000. Motion Erk, Second by Brunner to accept the Rogers Construction Bids for Crushing 40 tons of Gravel at \$6.89/Ton. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Bid Awarded to: Rogers Construction at \$6.89/Ton totaling \$275,600 for 40Ton of gravel. A short recess was taken at 9:54AM reconvening at 10:00AM Discussion was held with Bill Kluck talking about the problems with property tax on agricultural land versus Owner Occupied. Discussing how tax money is going to state from school land and leased ground rather than county, and some legislation bills that have been presented and the problems he sees in them. Discussion was held with Randy Deibert on the Property Tax Task Force and the recommendations this has currently. Talking about the different legislation that has passed and how it pertains to property taxes in different counties. Mentioning other suggestions that have been talked about for property tax relief. A short recess was taken at 11:40AM

reconvening at 11:47AM Northern Hills Technology gave a presentation on how they would be able to assist the County with IT solutions. Discussion was held to add \$5,616 a year for the County Nurse Building to be added to the cleaning schedule contract. Motion Brunner, Second by Erk to increase the amount on the cleaning contract for the County Nurse Building to be added to the cleaning schedule. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Motion Erk, Second by Batterman to approve the authorization of Corey Somervold and Debbie Lensegraw to sign for the closing of parcel 15.02.06.09W 909 Edmunds land sale. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried Deputy Sheriff March provided a monthly activity report for the sheriff's department, including activities, types of calls, mileage, hours, civil process, BJA Grant information for body armor. Motion Batterman, Second by Brunner to table further decisions on BJA Grant till 02Dec, 2025 Meeting. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried States Attorney Barnaud gave an activity report, including the help from Highway Patrol, bonded releases, the number of residents in jail, and extradited cases. The Butte County Courtroom Remodel Change Order #2 was discussed about the safety bullet proof glass at the clerk of courts counter. Motion Brunner, Second by Batterman to approve The Butte County Courtroom Remodel Change Order #2 for \$6,969. Roll call vote: Brunner-Aye, Kari-Nay, Batterman-Aye, Erk-Aye, Ager-Aye. Motion Carried. Motion by Kari, Second by Brunner to enter into Executive Session: Personnel 1-25-2(1) at 12:46PM. Exited Executive Session at 1:16PM. There was no action as a result of the Executive Session. No Committee Reports were given. Old Business: New Business: Motion Erk, Second by Batterman to authorize Jason Boke to come in to do his assessment of Butte County IT hardware and system. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Informational • Jared Pugh discussed the concerns on pricing for the body armor. Explaining the vest and armor that the Sheriff's department uses. Motion by Erk, Second by Batterman to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 P.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. SALARYS ASSESSOR'S OFFICE/PLANNING \$9,145.08, AUDITOR'S OFFICE \$16,787.46, BUILDING- \$0, COMMISSIONERS \$4,158.92, DISPATCH \$16,570.73, ELECTION- \$0, EM/911 \$989.72, EXTENSION \$1,936.80, HIGHWAY DEPT/WEED CONTROL \$34,281.77, JUDICIA- \$0, NURSE'S/

WIC OFFICE \$1,213.92, REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE \$4,794.19, SHERIFF/AIL DEPT \$23,822.83, STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE \$10,575.23, TREASURER'S OFFICE \$10,518.99, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE \$878.85 COUNTY SHARE FICA BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$10,108.01 SDRS RETIREMENT BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$7,730.92 GROUP INSURANCE BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$30,089.42 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ANSWRTH-BNING \$82,467.00, BROSZ NGNRNG \$5,505.00, BTLR WNDW CLNING \$70.00, CPMRST EQPMNT \$41,789.63, CLBTH & SPRLCH \$2,332.02, CO DRG \$117.56, C WLKR \$19.63, JRROR FEES \$441.00, ECOLB \$741.25, FSH WNDW CLNING \$186.00, K DLHYDE \$93.50, LVRNGTN FNRL HMS \$2,000.00, MAPS \$2,022.00, MID DKTA VGTATN \$13,221.85, MNNHAHA CO AUDTR \$110.00, MNMMN HLTH \$90.00, NMR \$2,100.00, NLSN LW \$845.00, PNNNGTN CO SHRRF \$226.00, R BCHMN \$240.00, RYL SPRYNG & LWN CARE \$914.00, SD DOR \$1,902.28, SD DOT \$4,743.77, SD SOS \$30.00, SD SHRRF ASSC \$807.29, SRVLL \$971.02, TRITCH \$43,999.47, WCKRLE LW \$8,509.00, WSTRN PKS LGSTCS \$25.03, Z PRDCTNS \$511.50 PUBLICATIONS BH PIONR \$200.00 RENT/LEASE CBP \$352.31, CLLGN WTR \$168.75, D-WARE \$4,900.00, MTRLA SLTNS \$299.00, THSMN RTRS \$215.25 REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE AUTO PROS \$3,803.61, BTLR MCHNRY \$1,244.86, ENRSN PLMBNG \$113.17, G&R CNTRL \$2,514.69, K FHRER CNSTRCTN \$875.26, SPLSH & DSH \$231.00, W.D. LRSN \$324.03, WARGH \$289.20, WST TIRE \$16,244.58 SUPPLIES A & J SPLY \$74.00, AUTO VALU \$2,021.06, BCKLE'S \$69.19, CRNWLL \$269.32, NLND TRCK PRTS \$203.17, MSTRCRD \$2,233.87, NWLL HRDWR \$69.79, OFFC MPRM \$260.98, OLSN FUELS \$6,899.68, O'REILLY AUTO \$9.38, PHNX UNFRMS \$6,771.77, PRAIRIE AUTO PRTS \$113.72, QLFCFN TRGTS \$221.88, QLTLY QCK PRNT \$1,484.07, QUILL \$41.29, RNINGS \$2,441.33, SIGN SLTNS \$131.72 TRAVEL/CONFERENCE RMKTA \$448.00 UTILITIES AT&T BBLTY \$1,020.10, BLUPK \$87.42, MTE MEAD SNTRY \$55.00, CNTRYLNK \$1,688.80, MDU \$901.71, TOWN OF NISLAND \$83.38 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: James Ager, Chairperson ATTEST: Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor.

**Legals Contd. A8**

Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater Production of *It's a Wonderful Life*, A Live Radio Play will be this upcoming Friday and Saturday @ 7:00 PM, and Sunday @ 3:00 PM in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Theater. The practices have been fast and focused, and the show will be a holiday treat for the audiences. Adapted by Joe Landry, 'It's a Wonderful Life' is based on the story 'The Greatest Gift' by Philip Van Doren Stern. Generations have enjoyed the classic movie, and this play is a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

**SPECIAL TICKET PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT!** BFACT has discounted tickets for all as a Thank You and Christmas Gift to all of their "amazing patrons for such a great 15th Season." Tickets are now \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Veterans/Seniors and \$3 for Students.

The BFHS/MS Jazz Concert on December 1st featured the talents of middle and high school jazz musicians under the direction of Micah Pennel and Jacque Bratcher. The musical lineup included classic jazz pieces such as "Take 5", new favorites, and holiday themed pieces. The BFHS Jazz Combo and the BFMS Jazz Ensemble played their own pieces and then combined for a strong ending to the show.

Your presence at all the upcoming events is much appreciated, so don't forget to add these upcoming fine arts experiences to your calendars and be ready to SHOW UP!

December 8, Monday: BFMS 6-8 Grade Chorus Concert, 6:30 PM, BF Rec Center Theater

December 12-14, BFACT Radio Play Production of *It's a Wonderful Life*, Friday and Saturday @ 7:00 PM, Sunday @ 3:00 PM; BF Rec Center Theater.

December 15, Monday: BFHS Band/Chorus Concert, 7:00 PM, BF Rec Center Theater.

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BFHS Jazz Combo under the direction of Micah Pennel featured a number of excellent solos during the December 1st Jazz Concert.



The BFMS Jazz Ensemble of 15 members performed on Monday, December 1 under the direction of Jacque Bratcher.



### Roots Grow Deep and Strong #44

#### “My Friends Karen”

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com



My friend Karen knows her way around a farm. We met as neighbors when our family lived

in rural Wisconsin several years ago. We have been friends ever since. On her 40-acre hobby farm, Karen has provided homes for horses, raised Scottish Highlander cattle, piglets, poultry, and for a while, she bred and sold Golden Retriever puppies. Karen has a degree in horticulture and a gift for growing aesthetically pleasing houseplants and bountiful garden harvests. She and her husband Chet both enjoyed the farm life, but it was Karen who created the ambiance.

On Karen’s farm, there was always something to do. We often worked together in her spacious farmhouse kitchen hulling strawberries, baking holiday cookies, or doing whatever needed to be done, mostly so we could chat. Conversation turns ordinary chores into happy occasions.

One day while processing an especially abundant harvest of green beans my thoughts drifted to visions of our pioneer ancestors. “Here we are.” I may

have commented, “Living life as our great grandmothers did 100 years ago”. Or something like that.

Without looking up from a colander of the longest green beans in Wisconsin history, Karen contributed a hardship memory of when her grandmother Katrina had to haul water a good distance from the well to the garden and the household every day. Then she reminded me that she was named, Katrina for her Danish grandmother. However, her familiar ‘nickname’ has always been Karen. None of this was new information. We have discussed our name assignments before, but this conversation was about to delve a little deeper.

I was named after a literary character, Margaret March from Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women. Margaret’s ‘nickname’, like mine is Meg.

Lucky us. I may have said as I began to complain that neither Margaret nor Meg feels like a good fit for me.

“Listen,” Karen stopped chopping green bean tails and looked up. She had a cleaver in her hand.

“Would you like to trade?”

She asked calmly, referring to names, not knives. I was glad as it was a hot day, and we had been topping and tailing green beans for some time.

She gesticulated with the knife.

“Would you prefer share a name with a killer hurricane?” I did not.

After Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in late August 2005, the name, ‘Katrina’ achieved a certain level of infamy and the popularity of “Katrina” as an endearing name for little girls dropped like a bomb. Who would want to be called Katrina in the aftermath of 2005?

It was then that Karen steered away from using Katrina and deferred to using Karen exclusively. Then in 2017 along came tropical Storm Karen. Another deadly storm that left Puerto Rico devastated, without power and essential items for weeks.

At about the same time ‘Karen’ was becoming popular as a pejorative slang stereotype typically used to describe a middle-class woman who is perceived to be overly assertive, entitled, and or excessively demanding, or over-opinionated. Women who are seen as “shrill” or “loud mouthed” became known as ‘Karens’.

I’m sure my friend Karen’s loving, but innocent parents meant well. The name ‘Karen’ often short for Katarina or Katrina became popular in the US during the 1940s. It was one of the top 10 names for girls who were born in the during the

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1950s and 1960s. In 1965 Karen was the third most popular name for girls.

The pejorative ‘Karen’ is an insult to many people whose names happen to be Karen as well as to those who are outspoken or who speak up when no one else will. The pejorative has been criticized as a means of keeping women in their place as it appears to judge women more harshly than men for the same behaviors.

To pin insulting labels on innocent people is mean. In fact, it’s reprehensible. Women named Karen as well as women who are not named Karen. have been bullied and felt they could not share opinions without being labelled and silenced.

Who can appreciate a world where efforts to silence those

who pay attention to wrongdoing in their neighborhoods, communities and workspaces is encouraged? Personally, I like a world where there are truth-tellers, who despite tell the truth when they see wrongdoing, misbehavior, or when they witness or experience crimes. Such is the nature of democracy, that voices with opinions should be permitted.

Thankfully, there are teachers and professionals who are required by law to report child abuse. We need whistle blowers who are not afraid to come forward.

In retrospect, ‘Margaret’ is not so bad after all. I can live with it for now. However, I admire those who are courageous enough to express ideas, opinions, despite the oppression and power of name-calling.



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### Public Notices/Legals

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Courthouse Commission Meeting Room 839 5th Avenue Belle Fourche, SD 57717 Phone: 605-892-44

Thursday, November 20, 2025 THE BUILDING TASK FORCE CONVENED AT 9:30 A.M. on November 20, 2025. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Batterman, Kari, and Brunner. Also present were Bill Norwood and Greg Mondillo. Chairman Ager called the meeting to order. Chair Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Started by Chair Ager giving updates and information on the plan to move and consolidate buildings down to the

Don Pratt building. Discussion was then held on accessibility, concerns, and questions being answered on the building. Discussion was also held on Court Services being moved into the Commissioners room and the Commissioners possibly moving to the court room. Beginning at 11:38 AM, the opportunity for public comments was opened, with Travis Ismay speaking on numbers being presented at the last regular commission meeting between Ismay and Deibert, clarifying the correct numbers given. Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 A.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: James Ager, Chairperson ATTEST: Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor.

**Belle Fourche Beacon ‘Happenings’ and News Bytes Calendar**

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

Library from 10 AM to 1000. All writers are invited to attend!

**Belle Fourche Recreation Center**  
Winter class offerings at the Rec Center:  
Water-walking - This class is held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 - 8:15 am. This class involves walking in waist-deep to chest-deep water. Water resistance provides a low-impact, full-body workout that strengthens the core while also improving cardiovascular health.  
Silver Splash - This class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 - 12:15 pm. Silver Splash is part of our Silver Sneakers program. It involves a series of low-impact workouts with specially designed Boogie Boards. This class is great for core strengthening and for cardiovascular health.  
AquaFit - Starting December, we will hold AquaFit every Monday and Wednesday night from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. This class is higher intensity than what we currently offer. The workouts all involve using either dumbbells or foam weights. The class is designed to target multiple different muscle groups while also strengthening your core. The Rec Center will be closing at 4 pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve! 605-892-2467 [bellefourcherec.com](http://bellefourcherec.com)

**ABC Coalition December Meeting**  
Friday, December 19 noon  
The ABC Coalition stand for Action for the Betterment of Our Community - Butte County is an alcohol or drug dependency prevention or treatment organization in Belle Fourche, SD that was founded in 2023. December is Impaired Driving Awareness month, and we invite you to join us to hear some of our local officers explain how impaired driving impacts our community.  
When: Friday, December 19 noon  
Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 17  
Where: Christian Life Center - 2020 Vista St. Belle Fourche  
Contact Information: 605-644 65222 [courtneyr@sturgisabc.org](mailto:courtneyr@sturgisabc.org)

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Brooke Tupper ~ Office Mgr. 605-642-2200
Tim Tetrault ~ Fieldman: 605-642-9792
Tyler Escott ~ Fieldman: 406-853-5690
Kelly Baker ~ Fieldman: 605-569-3007
Doug Dietterle ~ Auctioneer 605-788-2963
605-641-0328
Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654
JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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

Cattle Report - Friday, December 5, 2025

Right At 2100 hd today - market was \$\$\$\$ higher

Next Sale - Saturday, Dec. 12 - Spring Calf Special
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Table with columns for animal type, quantity, price, and seller name. Includes sections for Feeder Cattle and Weigh Up Cows.

Table with columns for animal type, quantity, price, and seller name. Lists various livestock items and their market values.

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Auctioneer: Cody Tupper
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Fieldman: Gilbert Wood
605-456-2400
605-641-7100
Fieldman: Dustin Vining
605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, December 4, 2025

Lamb market was higher again today on all weights
Slaughter ewes sold steady to \$5 higher

Next Sale - December 11th - Replacement Ewe & Feeder Lamb Special - 1 PM start time
Thank you for your business!

Table with columns for animal type, quantity, price, and seller name. Includes sections for New Crop Lambs and Slaughter Ewes.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, December 11, 2025
Replacement Ewe & Feeder Lamb Special 1 PM
Expecting 1000 lambs
Replacement Ewes
Casey Humble - 50 Yrfg Ewes - 145# - Fine Wool - Open
SD - 50 Solid Mouth Ewes - 165# - Open
SD - 40 Solid Mouth Ewes - 165# - Open
Plus more by sale time!
Please have animals in by 10:00 AM
So they can all be weighed before the sale!

2025 SHEEP SALES

December 18th - Last Sheep Sale For 2025 - 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.

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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.

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.

2025 CATTLE SALES

December 19th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
Final Sale Of 2025 - Thank You To All Our Consignors & Buyers For A Record Year!

2026 CATTLE SALES

January 9th - Feeder Cattle Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
January 16th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

Friday, December 12, 2025

Spring Calf Special

9 AM - Weigh Ups, 12 Noon - Yrfgs followed by Calves

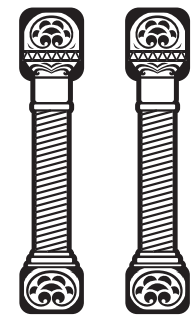
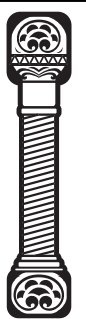
BT-Branding Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI- No Implants

Feeder Cattle
Mills Cattle Co - 117 Mostly Blk Mostly Hfrs - 550-700# - BT, PC, Wnd 60 Days
Dallas Creek - 85 Blk Mostly Strs - 400-500# - BT, PC
Battus Grub Cattle Co - 24 Blk Strs - 550-600# - BT, PC, Poured, Wnd
Cody Young - 21 Blk & Bldy Strs & Hfrs - 300-500# - BT, PC

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### Looking Back in Belle

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

**123 years ago**  
**Belle Fourche Times**  
**December 19, 1901**  
**Figures Just Compiled by Doan Robinson** secretary of the state historical society, and editor of the Monthly South Dakotan, a publication devoted to recording current and past events in the state's history, show that the production of South Dakota this year exceeds by 10 per cent that the entire island of Cuba during any single year in its history, so far as new wealth in concerned. The figures also show that for the fourth consecutive year South Dakota stands far and way ahead of any other state in the union in the per capita production of wealth. The final summary places the production of new wealth for the 1901 at \$113,652,750. Mr. Robinson's estimate of the state's production for 1900 was \$105,500,000, about \$15,000,000 less than estimates made by others. The estimate for the present year, therefore, shows a gain of \$7,152,750 over estimates of the state's production for last year.

**TALK OF THE TOWN** O. C. Hamilton came in Monday from the Cave Hills. Mr. Hamilton was one of the principal witnesses in the Ducharm case, as it was his horse that was taken. D. P. Roberts and his entire force have been very busy most of the week sending out his annual Christmas presents to his friends. It has been Mr. Roberts custom for several years to take care of his friends about Christmas time and they are so numerous that it is a considerable task to send out the goods to all.

**100 years ago**  
**Northwest Bee**  
**December 14, 1925**  
**DEATH OF PIONEER ATTORNEY M.O. Tracy**, one of the pioneer attorneys, and county attorney of Carter county, Montana, passed away at Ekalaka, Mont., Monday. Mr. Tracy, who was in his eightieth year, has been working hard for the past few weeks as prosecutor on the case of Frank Osgood, charged with shooting John Johnson, and it is thought this was largely responsible for his death. Mr. Tracy was a native of New York, coming to the Black Hills country in the early days and locating at Deadwood. At that place he was associated with Attorney Hamilton. He was states attorney of Butte county in the early nineties, and shortly after his term of office expired went to Ekalaka, where in company with Jeff Cleveland he engaged in developing some coal mines. Mr. Tracy was the oldest practicing attorney in eastern Montana. In addition to practicing law he did surveying and locating settlers on homesteads. He was a member of the Masonic order.

**FRANK OSGOOD CONVICTED** A telephone message from Ekalaka Mont., Wednesday morning of this week stated that the jury in the Frank Osgood case had returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter, after being our four hours, the degree of manslaughter was not learned. Frank Osgood was charged with shooting John Johnson of Lodge Grass, Mont., at the Aldrich place, near Pinele, Mont., on the night of June 25, this year. A stockmen's meeting had been held at the Aldrich place that day, and a dance followed in the evening. During the dance, Osgood went out to where the cars were parked, and as argument ensued with Johnson, the two men being strangers. A fight followed, and Johnson was getting the better of the fight when Osgood drew his pistol and fired, the ball striking Johnson in the hip, the ball ranging upward and coming out through the abdomen. Johnson was brought to Belle Fourche and placed in the hospital where he died on the following Thursday evening. After being brought to the hospital Johnson give out a signed statement in

which he stated he was as much to blame as Osgood and asked that the latter not be prosecuted.

**75 years ago**  
**The Belle Fourche Bee**  
**December 14, 1950**  
**Nathan B. Odle, Early Clay Prospector, Dies** Nathan B. Odle, early Butte county resident and one of the pioneers in the Belle Fourche bentonite industry, was buried in Pineslope cemetery yesterday following funeral services in the Frost and Son Funeral home. He was 74 years old. In poor health the past several months, Mr. Odle died at the local hospital Saturday. Rev. Harold Salem, pastor of the Baptist church, officiated at the last rites. "Nate" Odle was born in Sidney, Ill., on November 26, 1876. At the age of two, his parents moved to Huron, S.D., where they resided for two years, before moving to the Miller vicinity and homesteading there. There Mr. Odle grew to manhood. In 1900 he was united in marriage with Nellie Andrews and to this union two sons were born. Mr. Odle moved his family to Butte county and they homesteaded near Belle Fourche in 1909. After residing here for several years, the family moved to Canade where Mr. Odle was graduated from a veterinarian school. He practiced the veterinary profession until Mrs. Odle passed away when he returned to Belle Fourche. On July 8, 1914, he was married to Carrie Couch of Belle Fourche and the family has resided in the community since. An active interest in geology and rock and clay formation led Odle into the exploration of bentonite deposits in South Dakota and Wyoming. He was active in this work and in investigations of other native minerals and clays until forced by illness to give up the prospecting. Besides his widow, he leaves five sons, Nathan of Arpan, Merle and George both of Belle Fourche, James of Downey, Calif., and Dr. Floyd Sebring of Martin, S. D. He also leaves one brother, Charles, and a sister Mrs. Nell Odle, both of Long Beach, Calif., a brother, Miles of Port Orchard, Wash., and six grandchildren.

**Belle's Population Growth 7th Fastest, Butte Parallels SD** Butte county's population growth has exactly paralleled that of South Dakota's as a whole during the last 10 years but the number of Belle Fourche residents increased faster than all except six of the state's largest cities. A study of preliminary 1950 census figures reveals Butte county's population increase at 1.1 percent - from 8,044 in 1940 to 8,091 this year. Belle's population increase was set at 40.9 percent, a jump in population from 2,496 in 1940 to 3,517 this year.

**50 years ago**  
**Belle Fourche Bee**  
**December 19, 1975**  
**Walt O'Donnell, as hundreds know him, at the livestock exchange, waiting to make a bid. It was Walt O'Donnell day at the Belle Fourche Livestock Exchange Tuesday.** In spite of cold weather and icy roads, hundreds of persons gathered at the Belle Fourche Livestock Exchange Tuesday for Walt O'Donnell Day, an occasion staged by the exchange to five the community a chance to pay its respects to the long time area sheep and wool buyer and civic leader. O'Donnell, now 81, continues active in buying and selling sheep. He has, however, slowly phased himself out of civic activity. The three-term former mayor of Belle Fourche served on numerous boards and committees thru the years and was active in the growth and development of the community and area. Walt O'Donnell was born at Springfield Jan. 31, 1894. He lived on a farm in that area, attended high school and was graduated from Springfield Normal. After college, Walt enlisted in the army at the outbreak of World War I. He served two years

his return to the States he came to Belle Fourche to work for the old Tri-State Milling Company. O'Donnell was a member of the Belle Fourche town board and then in those days. There were these

by Mary Buchholz

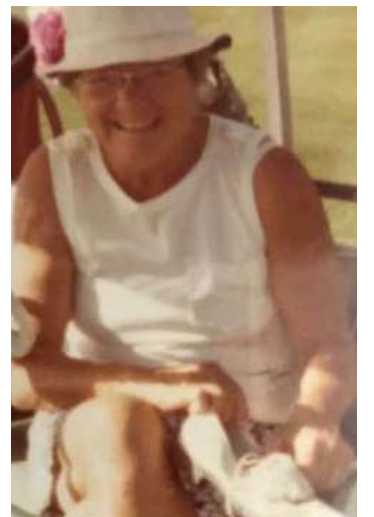
say that one of the reasons the milling company hired O'Donnell was his ability to play ball.

He was married in 1928 to Margaret Curtis. The couple had one daughter and one son, Mrs. Richard Warren and Bob O'Donnell, Belle Fourche. Mrs. O'Donnell died in 1945. O'Donnell started in the wool business in 1925, then expanded into the sheep business and has been buying and selling sheep and wool since. Walt subsequently married Florence Lind. He and Mrs. O'Donnell now reside at 1320 Ninth Avenue. Thru the years Walt has subscribed to the theory that in order to stay young you must be interested in people and in the things you do. "Working," he says, "is better than loafing, because if you get tired after working you can rest; but how do you rest when you're loafing?"

**MISCELLANY by Mari-on Lucca** A clipping from the Yuma (Ariz.) Daily Sun carries a picture of Mrs. Helen Overpeck displaying a plaque she received after winning the President's Cup championship in the Desert Hills Women's Golf Association tournament at Yuma. With a final round score, net 75, and a three round total of 219, Mrs. Overpeck had a five-stroke edge over the second place winner. The Overpecks, now wintering in Arizona, are former Belle Fourche residents, who now list their address as Sundance, but spend the summers in their Sand Creek home. As interesting as the clipping were a couple of Helen's comments: "I was really excited to win this (I look like a grandma to all those young girls) (There were six flight winners in the picture, ed.) But I thought all those kids who learned to play golf from me would appreciate the fact that I finally won a tournament." She adds a weather report - night temperatures of 48 degrees, daytime temperatures of 80 degrees. "Our citrus trees are loaded - One orange, one grapefruit and one lemon!"



Walt O'Donnell former mayor and sheep and wool buyer



Helen Overpeck



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ACTION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY - BUTTE COUNTY

## Coalition Meeting

December is Impaired Driving Awareness month and we invite you to join us to hear some of our local officers explain how impaired driving impacts our community.

WHEN: DECEMBER 19TH @ NOON  
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	Chicken Kiev Creamed Spinach Garlic Sticks	Beef Stew Dinner Salad Roll with Butter	Chicken Alfredo Peppers & Corn Garlic Toast	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans	Smothered Pork Chops Egg Noodles Peas & Carrots Dinner Roll
	8	9	10	11	12
	Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Garden Salad Garlic Toast	Sausage, Peppers & Onions French Fries Roll	Chicken & Rice Dinner Salad Biscuit	Goulash Roasted Vegetables Dinner Roll	Indian Tacos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Fry Bread
	15	16	17	18	19
Pork Roast Creamed Potato Mixed Veggies	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans	Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn & Dinner Roll	Marry Me Chicken Pasta Noodles Zucchini and Yellow Squash	Ham & Bean Soup Dinner Salad Corn Bread	
22	23	24	25	26	
Hot Beef with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Green Beans Roll	Beef Chili Dinner Salad Corn Bread	Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Dinner Salad	CHRISTMAS DAY Community Christmas Meal Served 11a-2p at Community Hall		
29	30	31			
Chicken Stir Fry Asian Veggies Fried Rice	Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Dinner Salad	Parmesan Chicken Egg Noodles Mixed Veggies	Look What's Cooking at Belle Silver Lining Come Join us M-F 11 am-1 pm 828 Kingsbury St.   Belle Fourche, SD Menu subject to change or modification.		

Don't miss New Years Eve - December 31<sup>st</sup> 7-9pm at the center





# Trump to send \$12 billion in one-time payments to farmers to offset ag losses

**JACOB FISCHLER**  
The federal government will provide \$12 billion to U.S. farmers who have been hurt by "unfair market disruption," President Donald Trump said at a White House roundtable event Monday.

Trump said repeatedly the funding was available thanks to tariff revenues, framing his aggressive trade policy as a boon to farmers rather than a drag on their global market share as critics of the policy suggest.

"I'm delighted to announce this afternoon that the United States will be taking a small portion of the hundreds of billions of dollars we receive in tariffs... and we're going to be giving and providing it to the farmers in economic assistance," Trump said.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, though, told reporters following the event

that the money came from the department's Commodity Credit Corporation, which is funded through regular appropriations from Congress, according to a White House pool report.

The money, which the administration officials described as "bridge payments," would be in farmers' hands by the end of February, Rollins said.

While not officially marketed as a part of a series of Trump events spotlighting affordability issues, the president said several times he was addressing an affordability crisis he "inherited" from President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

"The Democrats cause the affordability problem," Trump said. "And we're the ones that are fixing it."

The bulk of the funding, \$11 billion, would go to row crop farmers who grow barley, chickpeas, corn, cotton, lentils,

oats, peanuts, peas, rice, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, canola, crambe, flax, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame and sunflower, according to a USDA statement. The department was planning to reserve \$1 billion for unnamed specialty crops, Rollins said.

### Payments to arrive before GOP law kicks in

Trump, Rollins and other Cabinet-level officials said the payments were to be used as a "bridge" before policies enacted in Republicans' massive spending and tax cuts law this year are implemented.

"This bridge is absolutely necessary based on where we are right now," Rollins said.

They blamed the Biden administration for a more negative outlook for farmers. Biden failed to close trade deals and a focus on environmental policy led to increased costs for the

agriculture industry, they said.

The package limits payments to \$155,000 per recipient, USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation Richard Fordyce told reporters on a conference call late Monday afternoon.

Iowa farmer Cordt Holub spoke at the White House event, where he thanked Trump for the package.

"I want to say thank you for this bridge payment," he said. "It's Christmas early for farmers."

Louisiana rice farmer Meryl Kennedy said the industry was struggling, but thanked Trump for the aid funding and changes to reference prices in the Republican megabill.

"Our farmers can feed this nation and many nations abroad, but we need fair trade, not free trade," she said.

### Tariff impact ignored

But they did not mention the effects of tariffs, which critics of the president have said are responsible for diminishing agricultural exports and hurting farmers' bottom lines.

House Agriculture Committee ranking Democrat Angie Craig of Minnesota said in a statement the package "picks winners and losers in the farm economy," and would not provide certainty to farmers or reduce high operational costs.

"It will not bring U.S. agricultural exports back to pre-trade war levels," she said. "It also ignores (the) fact that the president's tariffs are responsible for the immense financial strain felt not just by America's farmers, but also working people, manufacturers, retailers and small businesses. All Americans are tired of the affordability crisis created by this administration and congressional Republicans. We will be right back here a year from now unless the administration changes its policies."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York

Democrat, also slammed the program.

"The reason farmers need relief at all is largely because Donald Trump betrayed them and decimated their businesses with his disastrous tariffs," Schumer said in a floor speech Monday. "Now, Donald Trump is patting himself on the back, acting like a hero to farmers while using taxpayer dollars to clean up the mess he created. It's textbook Donald Trump incompetence."

### Another round?

Asked by a reporter during the roundtable if he would be open to another round of relief for farmers, Trump said it would depend on how international trade develops and said farmers would not want further aid.

"It depends on where we go," he said. "China is buying a lot. Other countries are buying a lot. And you know, the interesting thing about the farmers, they don't want aid. They want to just have a level playing field."

He later indicated it would be unnecessary.

"We're going to make the farmers so strong — and I'm not even talking about financially, because they just want to be able to produce what they can produce," he said. "We're going to make them so strong that it will be, indeed, a golden age for farmers."

Rollins told reporters following the event that Trump was "open to more."

### JACOB FISCHLER

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.



President Donald Trump participates in a roundtable discussion with farmers and lawmakers in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Dec. 8, 2025 in Washington, D.C. Left is Cordt Holub of Dysart, Iowa, and right is Meryl Kennedy of Monroe, Louisiana. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

## BHSU Researchers Contribute to Latest LUX-ZEPLIN Dark Matter Findings

SPEARFISH, S.D. — Researchers with the LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) experiment, a global dark matter search that includes Black Hills State University researchers, announced their latest findings on Monday, Dec. 8. The newest results from LZ extend the experiment's search for low-mass dark matter and set world-leading limits on one of the prime dark matter candidates: weakly interacting massive particles, or WIMPs. They also mark the first time LZ has picked up signals from neutrinos from the sun, a milestone in sensitivity.

LZ is an international collaboration of 250 scientists and engineers from 37 institutions. The detector is managed by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) and operates nearly one mile below ground at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) in South Dakota.

The new results use the largest dataset ever collected by a dark matter detector and have unmatched sensitivity. The analysis, based on 417 live days of data that were taken from March 2023 to April 2025, found no sign of WIMPs with a mass between 3 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

(gigaelectronvolts/c<sup>2</sup>), roughly the mass of three protons, and 9 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>. It is the first time LZ researchers have looked for WIMPs below 9 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>, and the world-leading results above 5 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> further narrow down possibilities of what dark matter might be and how it might interact with ordinary matter. The results were presented today in a scientific talk at SURF and will be released on the online repository arXiv. The paper will also be submitted to the journal "Physical Review Letters."

Faculty and students at BHSU play a key role in this research through the BHSU Underground Campus located at level 4850' of SURF. Utilizing ultra-sensitive screeners, BHSU researchers determine the background radiation levels of different components of the LZ detector. These background levels then feed into the background model for LZ, which helps determine its world-leading sensitivity.

"Students at BHSU have the rare opportunity to participate in world-leading experiments a mile underground at SURF," said Dr. Brianna Mount, associate professor of Physics and lab director at the BHUC. "The physics group at BHSU is excit-

ed and honored to contribute to this exciting announcement and look forward to future years of success with the LZ experiment and all its collaborators."

Over the past decade, more than 30 BHSU students have conducted underground

research at the Black Hills Underground Campus (BHUC), many contributing directly to LZ's counting efforts. Recent Department of Energy funding has fueled growth in BHSU's physics program, enabling the addition of new faculty and a postdoctoral researcher within the past year. These positions will afford BHSU continued opportunities to aid in the advance

of the search for dark matter on experiments like LZ.

"The BHUC will continue to be an important tool to dark matter searches and neutrino experiments in this exciting time for physics," Mount added.

Additional details on the LZ experiment and the latest results are available in this release from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.



LZ's central detector was assembled in a surface cleanroom and moved to the nearly mile-deep campus at the Sanford Underground Research Facility. The underground location shields the experiment from cosmic rays. (Photo Credit: Matthew Kapust/Sanford Underground Research Facility)

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**DECEMBER 14 AT 3PM**

BACK TO THE SEASONS



Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden November 30, 2025

The shockingly cold temperatures of winter settled in even further this past holiday weekend.

Lorie and Gary Hausmann entertained many of the Rhoden family members that filled her home with 43 guests on Thanksgiving day.

It is a special treat that the Community Baptist Church of Union Center will once again enjoy the life size nativity scene that takes up the full front stage/alter area.

Sandrine Brink worked on a bullet in board at the church displaying the calendar, Christmas themes, and announcements of happenings in the church and community.

Nellies was a hopping place on Friday night as local folks decided to eat out and meet up with friends.

were the Enright's, Pearl Strong, Dana and JD Keffeler and family, Jeff and Yolanda Long, Tye Hale, his family, and hunting friends and more.

Larry Rhoden spent a couple of days in his shop making some hand made gifts for his staff and executive team. He fashioned 41 gifts, one for each one.

Next Sunday, December 7 will be the first Sunday of the month, which means there will be a pot luck dinner after church in Union Center.

On Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm there will be a baby shower for David and Becca Hall.

We are fully into the Christmas season after some great family Thanksgiving gatherings.

To you prayer warriors, please keep Tashonna Ingalls's sister in your prayers after suffering a serious horse accident.

CANDLES AND MIRRORS

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel



Soft tendrils of steam curled up from a slight crack in the golden-brown surface. Like whispers to the senses, they filled the air with an aroma redolent of a blend of hot corn-on-the-cob and the earthy, buttery scent of Saturday night popcorn.

Using thick potholders, Mom placed the oven-hot cake pan on a trivet in the middle of the table.

Mom and the older girls ladled chili into bowls at the stove and carried them to the table. The soup smelled good, but I reached for my knife and waited.

Each person around the table did the same until it was finally my turn. Soft yellow crumbs fell to the plate as I split the square through the middle and laid the top half, crust side down, just next to the bottom half.

Mom called it johnny cake. At the age of ten, I considered the cornbread accompaniment the best part of chili night.

Food historians have

"What's in a Name?"

mixed theories on how and where johnny cake originated and how it got its distinctive name. Most agree that Native Americans first developed the cornmeal cake.

The original recipe is believed to have been a simple mix of cornmeal, water and salt that was panfried over a fire. It kept well and held its shape in saddlebags and knapsacks, providing needed energy on long, hungry trail rides.

The name may have derived from "journey" cake or Shawnee cake. Or there is the story of the pioneer mother whose son loved corn bread.

Through the years, cooks may have kept the name, but changed the recipe to fit their changing needs. Thin and crispy morphed to thick and doughy when campfires were replaced by wood stoves.

Hot w r meals served around a table called for different cuisine. Meal makers stirred in milk, fat and some type of leavening.

The story of johnny cake is mixed and folded into the story of early America and pressed between its pages. Thankfully, today we can still savor that taste of history.

Or we can whip up a batch to

go with our next kettle of chili. No matter what we call it, I still consider it the best part of chili night.

Mom's Johnny Cake
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 cup cornmeal
1 cup flour
2 Tablespoons sugar
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
1 egg, beaten
Preheat oven to 375. Combine dry ingredients. Add oil, milk and egg. Mix just until blended.

Note: Mom would have doubled the recipe and used a 9x13 pan when baking for the family.

Homemade "Maple" Syrup
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup water
1 cup white corn syrup
1 teaspoon maple flavoring
1/2 teaspoon real vanilla
Bring sugar, water and corn syrup to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Boil one minute. Remove from heat. Stir in flavorings. Serve warm.

Great gifts! Give happy memories. All ten of Kruempel's books are available on Amazon. Contact her at deannkruempel-author@gmail.com



Opinion

SD FREEDOM CAUCUS CALLS GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS: "FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND DEEPLY MISLEADING"

Caucus calls for transparency reforms, warns taxpayers the "surplus" is built on taking the people's money

PIERRE, S.D. — The South Dakota Freedom Caucus commends Governor Larry Rhoden by not recommending the usual, de facto increases in government salaries at a time when the taxpayers are struggling.

However, parts of the Governor's address the caucus called "deeply misleading" and "fiscally irresponsible" in regard to its characterization of the state's financial position.

Governor Rhoden acknowledged in his own remarks that last year's \$63 million surplus was "largely driven by one-time unclaimed property revenues" and admitted that "without those unclaimed property dollars, we'd have actually been a bit short on our revenue at the end of the fiscal year."

South Dakota Freedom Caucus said that narrative is repeated in 2026 with another \$61 million in unclaimed-property funds and again in 2027 with \$58 million. Without these temporary cash grabs, all of those years would have posted negative balances.

"Let's be clear about what unclaimed property actually is," said Representative Tina Mulally, Treasurer of the South Dakota Freedom Caucus. "This is money that belongs to South Dakota citizens and across our nation — not the government."

The Freedom Caucus also raised what it describes as ongoing concerns about executive spending occurring without direct legislative approval. The Caucus points to more than \$35 million in March 2025 GOED-approved loans,

grants, and bonds, as well as Governor Rhoden's recent request for unrestricted access to the remaining \$65 million previously designated for housing loans.

"South Dakotans deserve to know where their tax dollars are going — and who's making those decisions," said Representative Phil Jensen, Chair of the South Dakota Freedom Caucus.

The caucus pointed to prior examples of executive overreach, including the controversial state airplane purchase, the millions awarded to a state-funded gun range project after the legislature explicitly declined to fund it, and what has amounted to the state's largest lease agreement in history, with the \$300 million "One Stop" building in Sioux Falls.

Senator John Carley, Vice Chair of the South Dakota Freedom Caucus, signaled that reforms are coming: "This session, we will be pushing for rules changes that restore the legislature's constitutional authority over appropriations."

The South Dakota Freedom Caucus is committed to constitutional governance, fiscal transparency, and protecting the hard-earned money of South Dakota taxpayers.

About South Dakota Freedom

Legal notice from the State of South Dakota, County of Butte, regarding a summons for Raymond D. Huseby d/b/a Outlaw Express. Includes court information and contact details for Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, L.L.P.

Caucus South Dakota Freedom Caucus is founded by elected officials who believe in freedom and liberty for the people of South Dakota.

Advertisement for Frontier Glass of Belle, featuring Roger McNary, Owner/Operator. Contact information: 1-800-292-2052, 605-892-2052.

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



### Letter to the Editor

Governor Larry Rhoden's first budget address sounded simple enough: a conservative plan with clear goals.

But a closer look reveals contradictions South Dakotans cannot ignore. Several claims do not hold up, raising real questions about transparency and whether we're being given an honest picture of the state's finances.

The governor promotes "limited government," saying the state should spend less and "do it well."

Yet his budget calls for tens of millions in new or expanded commitments—IT upgrades, prison expansions, tech college construction, a new law-enforcement plane, and National Guard facilities. Whether these investments are worthwhile is a separate debate; what's undeniable is that this is not limited government.

Rhoden insists we do not use one-time money for ongoing costs, but that is exactly what continues to happen.

One-time funds are being used for building repairs and to compensate for stagnant state employee pay. These temporary

patches directly contradict the fiscal discipline he claims to champion.

He also says South Dakota avoids "gimmicks," yet the state increasingly relies on unstable or temporary revenue sources.

Dedicated funds meant for other purposes have been tapped to fill budget gaps—an unmistakable budget gimmick.

The governor's portrayal of the economy is equally inconsistent.

He calls it "strong," while revenue is flat, projections have been missed for two years, and sales tax collections continue to fall even as wages rise. Those trends do not align.

And although Rhoden calls education a "top priority," schools receive a 0 percent increase this year, continuing a pattern of ignoring the state's own legal funding obligations.

South Dakotans deserve a budget grounded in honesty, not contradictions. The governor's reassuring message doesn't match the numbers—and it's time for real clarity and accountability.

Dan Ahlers, dan@sddp.org

### The 437 Project Announces the Community Leaders Selected For 5th Annual Event

*The statewide event raises awareness and funds for mental health and suicide prevention*

SIoux FALLS, SD (12/1/2025) - The team of runners that will participate in this year's The 437 Project have been selected. The 437 Project began in 2022 in an effort to connect mental and physical wellness.

Funds raised by The 437 Project support mental health and suicide prevention across South Dakota.

These runners will run relay-style, beginning at the western border on Thursday September 17 and ending at the eastern border on Sunday September 20.

The 2026 runners are:

- Ashley Gaspar | Project Manager, Signature Companies – Sioux Falls
- Carly Heard | Assistant Dean of Student Success & Accreditation, University of South Dakota – Burbank
- Dan Hermanson | Store Leader, Scheels – Sioux Falls
- Jeremy Ballew | Program Manager, Avera Employee Assistance Program/Avera Behavioral Health – Sioux Falls
- Joel Sylvester | Owner, Chief Client Officer, Five Star Call Centers – Sioux Falls
- John Etrheim | Financial Advisor, Edward Jones and Megan Etrheim | Registered Nurse, Avera Heart Hospital – Sioux Falls
- Katlyn Gustafson | Human Rights Investigator, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation – Pierre
- Mary Beth Fishback | CEO, Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness – Brookings

• Sarina Talich | Sheriff, Lake County Sheriff's Office – Madison

• Shannon Kubik | Legacy Consultant, Keep Farmers Farming – Hamill

• Wade Juracek | Teacher/Athletic Director, Colome High School – Gregory

Returning as a second-year runner is:

• Tony Nour | Senior Vice President of Relationship Banking, First PREMIER Bank – Sioux Falls

"It's inspiring to see what community partners can do when we work together on critical issues such as suicide prevention," said Lindsey Meyers, Vice President for Public Relations at Avera. "At Avera, our Behavioral Health offerings support all ages, and we are proud to work together with the 437 Project to help save lives. Thank you to our dedicated runners for spreading awareness of both physical and mental health."


In 2025, more than \$320,000 was raised in support of the Helpline Center and mental health awareness across South Dakota, bringing the four-year total to over \$1 million.

Donations to The 437 Project support an annual speaker series, as well as provide ongoing support to someone who has lost a family member or friend to suicide, connecting them with resources and support groups to navigate through the grieving process.

For more information about The 437 Project, visit the437project.org.

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**Location:** The Branding Iron Banquet Room; 19079 Highway 85; Belle Fourche, SD

**Social:** 5-6 p.m.  
**Dinner:** 6 p.m.

Meeting to follow with election for three board of director's seats. Each 2026 membership investment has one vote in the election.

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# KOTA TERRITORY NEWS ANNOUNCES 20th ANNUAL RISING STAR OF THE WEST SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST



KOTA Territory News is pleased to announce its twentieth annual Rising Star of the West Scholarship contest. This year, thanks to Monument Health, the total value of scholarships is once again at \$7,500. The first place winner will receive a \$4,000 college scholarship, with \$2,000 for second place, \$1,000 for third place and \$500 for fourth place.

High school students will have the opportunity to present commentaries on KOTA Territory News on FOX on topics important to them. Viewers will then be able to view those videos at blackhillsfox.com and help pick the four finalists and the eventual winner.

Students who wish to participate need to shoot a short (1

minute) video of them talking about any subject that interests them. They don't need to be elaborate productions since those videos won't run on air. The videos need to be submitted to KOTA Territory News, along with an entry form, by January 11, 2025.

The 20 students selected for the contest will tape their commentaries at the KOTA Territory News studios to air beginning in February. The four weekly winners will become finalists and will tape four more commentaries on four common topics to air during the finals of the contest beginning in April.

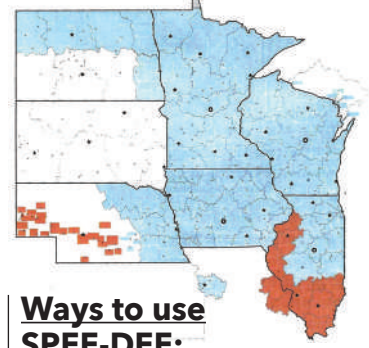
Interested students can get entry forms and rules at www.kotatv.com. They could join our previous winners, Shad Christ-

man of Lemmon High School along, Kaitlyn Hemmingson, Annelise Ewing and Janesa Bakeberg of Spearfish High School, Caila Brennan and Audrey Cope of St. Thomas More High School, Jordan Barthel of Lead-Deadwood High School, Rae McKee, a homeschool student from Nemo, Gavin Brucklacher of Philip High School, Noah Storm, Jessica Benson and Elliot Hendrix of Stevens High School, homeschool student Emma Smith and Ireland Larsen, Melissa Rothe and Amanda Rothe from Douglas High School, Katherine Kvale from Bison High School, Wall High School's Sierra Hilgenkamp and Quinn Lewison from Custer High School as the latest Rising Star of the West.

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5:30PM-6:30PM  
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CHAMBER OFFICE



## Bethlehem in Belle

A Living Nativity Returns to the Center of the Nation

**Sunday December 14, 2025, at 6:05 pm**  
1804 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD

The true story of Christmas with actors and animals will begin outside and continue inside with songs and scripture celebrating Christ's birth.

*Be sure to arrive a few minutes ahead of the starting time.*

Belle Fourche  
Global Methodist Church  
www.bellefourchegmc.com



# Holiday Open House

*Jingle, Mingle, and Cheer!*

Join us for our annual open house!

700 State Street in Belle Fourche

**DECEMBER 5th**  
Open House 2-4PM  
Mixer 4-6PM





Toll Free: 800-894-8684

Office: 605-892-2655

Fax: 605-892-3142

18662 Livestock Road • Belle Fourche, SD 57717 • www.bellefourchelivestock.com

"The Cattlemen's Market - Where buyers & sellers come together with confidence!"

**TRAVIS LINCH**

- OWNER -

CELL - 605-892-5951

OFFICE - 605-892-2655

**JADE HARPER**

Auctioneer: 605-515-0337

**COLLIN GIBBS**

Auctioneer: 406-939-0645

**DAN PIROUTEK**

Market Rep: 605-544-3316

**BRIAN SCHMIDT**

Yard Foreman: 605-569-0114

**FIELDMEN**

**BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615**

**MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597**

**BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553**

**SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961**

**TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513**

**JOHN HENRY BEARDSLEY -**

**406-853-4938**

**SCOTT ANDERSON - 406-351-1844**

**RILEY LESH - 406-697-0573**

**TREVOR GARMAN - 605-892-5972**

**"SERVING THE TRI-STATE AREA SINCE 1935"**

**Market Report - Thursday, November 24, 2025**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Mecaha Cattle Co.					
Belle Fourche SD	11	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1202	5300.00	\$5,300.00
	21	Black-Brd Hfr	1128	5050.00	\$5,050.00
	10	Black-Brd Hfr	1118	4850.00	\$4,850.00
	6	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1383	4650.00	\$4,650.00
	7	Black-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1477	4650.00	\$4,650.00
	4	Black-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1481	4500.00	\$4,500.00
	13	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1531	3900.00	\$3,900.00
	2	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1528	3900.00	\$3,900.00
	7	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1465	3400.00	\$3,400.00
	2	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1498	3400.00	\$3,400.00
Adam Warner, Rozel WY	25	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1198	4900.00	\$4,900.00
	16	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1206	4500.00	\$4,500.00
	25	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1179	4350.00	\$4,350.00
	13	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1231	4350.00	\$4,350.00
Dudley Shy, Billings MT	25	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	1205	4575.00	\$4,575.00
	25	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	1237	4575.00	\$4,575.00
	20	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	1259	4550.00	\$4,550.00
	25	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	1253	4550.00	\$4,550.00
Jacob Reichert, Box Elder SD	30	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	1130	4125.00	\$4,125.00
	30	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	1168	4125.00	\$4,125.00
	33	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	986	4025.00	\$4,025.00
	7	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	959	4025.00	\$4,025.00
	19	Black-Brd Cow 3yo	971	4000.00	\$4,000.00
	11	Bwf-Brd Cow 3yo	1044	4025.00	\$4,025.00
Cherry Creek Ranch, Terry MT	28	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1111	4000.00	\$4,000.00
Beth Michele Smith, Sundance WY	19	Bwf-Brd Hfr Clv 3/4yo	1112	4100.00	\$4,100.00
Paul Palczewski, Ludlow SD	21	Black-Brd Hfr	893	3800.00	\$3,800.00
	4	Black-Brd Hfr	926	3800.00	\$3,800.00
	31	Black-Brd Hfr	904	3500.00	\$3,500.00
	16	Black-Brd Hfr	907	3500.00	\$3,500.00
Todd Larsen, Belle Fourche SD	7	Black-Brd Hfr	1050	3400.00	\$3,400.00
	18	Black-Brd Hfr	1059	3350.00	\$3,350.00
	12	Black-Brd Hfr	1068	3350.00	\$3,350.00
	20	Black-Brd Hfr	1045	3200.00	\$3,200.00
	24	Black-Brd Hfr	1061	3200.00	\$3,200.00
	6	Bwf-Brd Hfr	1043	3550.00	\$3,550.00
Shawn Donahay, Newell SD	20	Black-Brd Hfr	1025	3550.00	\$3,550.00
Henry & Viola Lambright, Hulett WY	13	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 3/6	1216	3100.00	\$3,100.00
Kuhbacher Ranch Inc,					
Moorcroft WY	23	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1612	2800.00	\$2,800.00
	35	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1570	2675.00	\$2,675.00
Ken Rohrer, Volborg MT	47	Black-Brd Cow 10/11	1354	2700.00	\$2,700.00
	21	Black-Brd Cow 9yo	1388	2675.00	\$2,675.00

Gary Bischoff, Alzada MT	14	Red-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1269	2400.00	\$2,400.00
	14	Red-Brd Cow Sm	1307	2400.00	\$2,400.00
	35	Red/Rwf-Brd Cow Bm	1317	2400.00	\$2,400.00
Irwin Livestock Co, Douglas WY	11	Rwf-Brd Hfr	996	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	5	Red-Brd Hfr	977	2950.00	\$2,950.00
	6	Bwf-Brd Hfr	976	3175.00	\$3,175.00
	3	Hfr-Brd Hfr	930	2975.00	\$2,975.00
Mike & Betty Simonitsch,					
Ekalaka MT	9	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1274	3900.00	\$3,900.00
	19	Black-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1413	3150.00	\$3,150.00
	5	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow Sm	1508	3400.00	\$3,400.00
Ronda Cordell, Camp Crook SD	21	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1042	3200.00	\$3,200.00
	10	Black-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1168	3100.00	\$3,100.00
	10	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1319	2400.00	\$2,400.00
Ellsbury Ranch Llc, Sundance WY	5	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1115	3650.00	\$3,650.00
	5	Black-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1206	3400.00	\$3,400.00
Paul Palczewski, Ludlow SD	18	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1436	2050.00	\$2,050.00
Beth Michele Smith, Sundance WY	7	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 3/4	1103	2950.00	\$2,950.00
Travis Or Julie Hurst, Buffalo SD	23	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1303	2000.00	\$2,000.00
Tanner & Ellie McInemey,					
Alzada MT	14	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Bm	1347	2225.00	\$2,225.00
Shane Finn, Nisland SD	3	Red-Brd Cow 5/6	1553	3050.00	\$3,050.00
	2	Red-Brd Cow Sm	1485	2900.00	\$2,900.00
	11	Red-Brd Cow Bm	1507	2700.00	\$2,700.00
Cal Davison, Miles City MT	6	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1428	2250.00	\$2,250.00
	19	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1409	2150.00	\$2,150.00
Hahn & Gardner, Hammond MT	10	Black-Brd Cow Sm/Bm	1547	2375.00	\$2,375.00
Muleshoe Ranch Inc,					
Belle Fourche SD	21	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1346	2150.00	\$2,150.00
Meyers Family Llp, Ekalaka MT	15	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1116	3400.00	\$3,400.00

**CALF SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL  
DECEMBER 4, 2025**

10 AM MT

**FEEDER CATTLE**  
**PILSTER RANCH-MT**  
35 BLK MXD CLVS, 550#  
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, POURED  
**VIRGIL STACY-WY**  
35 BWF STR CLVS  
600-650#  
PC, BT SHOTS, NI,  
WEANED 90 DAYS

**ARMIN FINKBEINER-SD**  
8 MOSTLY BLK MXD CLVS  
550-650#, PC, BT SHOTS  
**BRED CATTLE**  
**PILSTER RANCH -MT**  
12 BLK MXD AGED BRED COWS  
BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS,  
REPRO SHOTS, POURED

**CALF SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL  
DECEMBER 11, 2025**

10 AM MT

**\*\*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

**CATTLE USA**  
Sales broadcast live on [www.cattleusa.com](http://www.cattleusa.com).

**RECEIVING STATIONS**

**Broadus, MT**  
Travis Linch | 605-892-5951

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

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

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

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

**Black Hills State University will recognize more than 130 graduates during the 190th Commencement Ceremony Saturday, December 13.**

SPEARFISH, S.D. – Black Hills State University will recognize more than 130 graduates during the 190th Commencement Ceremony Saturday, December 13.

The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the Donald E. Young Sports and Fitness Center on the BHSU campus. The public is invited to attend and celebrate the students' achievements.

Degrees to be awarded include four master's degrees, 112 bachelor's degrees, and 18 associate degrees.

BHSU President Steve Elliott, Jeff Partridge, vice president of the South Dakota Board of Regents, and Bailey Froelich, president of the BHSU Student Senate, will offer greetings to the graduates.

President Elliott will present the graduates with the assistance of April Meeker, registrar at BHSU.

BHSU Alumni Association President Megan Reeder-Schopp will welcome graduates into the community of more than 19,000 university alumni.

The BHSU Wind Ensemble will perform the processional,

a musical selection of "The Little Beast" by Peter Sciano, and the recessional during the ceremony.

The national anthem will be sung by Samuel Orr, a music education graduate.

The Fall 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be broadcast live at [BHSU.edu/Commencement](http://BHSU.edu/Commencement) for those who

are unable to attend in person.

Also on this webpage, all are invited to submit words of congratulations to the Fall 2025 graduates.

BHSU encourages attendees to share their commencement story on social media with the hashtag #BHSU2025 in social media posts.

For more information, visit [BHSU.edu/Commencement](http://BHSU.edu/Commencement).

Kraft, Nicole	BS	Business Administration-Management	Belle Fourche
Sandness, Leith	BS	Biology-Forest/Grassland Ecology	Belle Fourche
Nikodym, Tiera	BS	Business Administration-Management	Belle Fourche



Winners for the **October Students of the Month** from North Park and South Park! Backrow left to right-Tyndall Vetter, Buck Kling, Antony Tyler, Ben Schwede, Harper Hanson. Front row left to right-Marcello Mullins, Olivia Rowland-Stiefel, Emmett Schwede Not pictured-Sophia Storm Courtesy Photo

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR 2025 BUTTE COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025 at the hour of 09:30 a.m., the Board of Butte County Commissioners will be in session at the Butte County Courthouse in the City of Belle Fourche at 839 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota for the purpose of considering and adopting a supplemental budget to cover expenses of certain functions of County Government that were not provided for in the Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2025.

Account Number	Description	Amount
101-120	Elections	\$ 150.00
101-153	Court App Atty	\$ 9,000.00
101-161	Gen Gov Buildings	\$ 200,000.00
101-171	Information Tech	\$ 12,500.00
101-211	Sheriff Office	\$ 80,000.00
101-215	Regional Juv Det	\$ 55,000.00
101-222	Emergency Mgmt.	\$ 9,000.00
101-411	Care of the Poor	\$ 2,500.00
101-424	Ambulance	\$ 200.00
201-311	Highway and Bridge	\$ 40,000.00
201-820	Debt Service	\$ 25,000.00
211-221	Fire	\$ 125,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 558,350.00</b>

At such time all interested persons may appear, either in person, or by representation, and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of such supplemental budget.

Dated at Belle Fourche, South Dakota this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

Board of Butte County Commission  
/s/ James Ager, Chairperson

ATTEST: /s/ Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

Published on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Published on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE BEACON**  
\$52/ Year  
Go Online or Send us Your Request  
PO Box 576 Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
www.bellefourchebeacon.com

**15% OFF**  
1-Day only!  
**ALL Wine, Liquor or Beer**  
**Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Store locations...**  
Belle Fourche • Custer • Hot Springs • Lead • Sturgis • Summerset  
Box Elder • Faith • Fort Thompson  
Buffalo, WY • Glenrock, WY • Greybull, WY • Dubois, WY • Hardin, MT

**Lynn's DAKOTAMART**  
**Lynn's SUPERFOODS**



5th grade Zander Vice and Lyla Moore; 6th grade James McGill and Adabell Green; 7th grade Jacquelyn Lafontaine and Gunner Walding; 8th grade Zander Oliver and Tessa Bertalot Courtesy Photo.

**1st-6th Boys BASKETBALL**  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN  
**REGISTER BY DEC. 10**  
VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!  
BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED.  
CONTACT TESSA FOR MORE INFO 605-892-2467.

**Register by December 10<sup>th</sup>!**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**  
BFRC Members \$45 ~ Nonmembers \$55  
After December 10: Members \$60 ~ Nonmembers \$70

- Registrations after Dec. 10th will be considered on a case by case basis depending on team availability.
- Scholarships may be available. Application required. Contact Customer Service for more info.
- Return registration to: BFRC 1111 National Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717

**SEASON INFORMATION:**

**PRACTICE:** Tentatively scheduled to begin the week of December 29<sup>th</sup>.  
-Days/times vary depending on coach's schedule and gym availability.  
-1-2 times/week for 45 min – 1 hour.

**Note:** Registration fee does not cover daily admission or early arrivals on practice days. Nonmembers arriving more than 20 minutes early must remain in the lobby area or pay for a day pass (\$4/youth).

**GAMES:** 6-weeks of games scheduled in January/February.  
Tentatively scheduled to start January 10, played primarily on Saturdays 8:30 am-5:30 pm.

**VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!** Application and background check are required. Interested coaches must attach a check for their child's registration fee. We will hold the check until coaches are selected for the season. Coaches receive 1-free registration for their participating child. Assistant coaches must fill out volunteer paperwork and pay full fees.

**BASKETBALL REFS NEEDED!** Contact Tessa for application and more info @ 605-892-2467.

**BFRC YOUTH BOYS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION FORM WINTER 2025-26**

Name of Player \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Childs Height \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Rate your child's current skill level from 1 to 5. \_\_\_\_\_ (1-beginner) \_\_\_\_\_ # of Seasons Played

**Belle Bronc Girls Basketball Season Preview**

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Lady Broncs will began their season this year with a home game December 9th against Lead-Deadwood with JV at 5:15 and Varsity tipoff at 6pm.

The team has six returning upperclassmen with two Seniors, Reagan Hatling and Denali Larson, and four Juniors on the roster; Misty Dreiling, Kora Knapp, Aurora Voyles and Mya Bush. Six Sophomores; Rhys Pearson, Mya Nowowiejski, Jozelin Palmer, Payton Manke, Emma Nehl, Abbey Clendingen, and six Freshman; Payton Richardson, Ansley O'Brien, Rhyann Knapp, Jaylea Scoggin, Raina Reder, and Madisyn VanSickle wrap up the roster.

7/8th graders pictured in the

team photo are Berklee Nore, Emerson Carmichael, Lochlin Tibbs, Layla Dreiling and Charlie Merjil with managers Emma Jeuffs, Liah Castro Bazaruto and Ivanna Gonzalez Bazaruto.

Coach Bill Burr states, "We are a young team working on our fundamentals, trying to find our identity."

Learning how to play as a group and trusting one another." With goals of making it to the SoDak game and "giving ourselves a chance to play at the state tournament," says Coach Burr.

The top contenders are looking to be Red Cloud Mahpiya Luta, followed by Spearfish, STM and RC Christian, the season schedule provides plenty of competition leading up to the run for state.



# 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  
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: ebcfb.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SALVATION ARMY OF THE NORTHERN HILLS**  
120 Ryan Rd., Spearfish  
605-642-0924  
Envoys: Tim and Peggy North  
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
855 5th Ave.  
Father Kevin Achbach, Pastor  
Father Max Vetch, Pastor  
Mass Times:  
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.  
Daily Mass: Tues. & 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

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN SIOUX FALLS, SD, vs. RAYMOND D. HUSEBY d/b/a OUTLAW EXPRESS.

THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, GREETINGS:  
You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action, a copy of which was filed with the Clerk of Courts of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Butte County, South Dakota, on October 8, 2025. The address of the Butte County Clerk of Courts is 839 5th Avenue #5 in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. You must serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscribers, Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, L.L.P., at their office at P.O. Box 1030, 206 West 14th Street, in the City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota, within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons upon you. The time in which to answer the Complaint shall commence to run on the day following the fourth and final publication of this Summons. You will hereby take notice that in case of your failure to answer said Complaint, judgment by default may be rendered against you as requested in the Complaint.

Dated at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this 22nd day of November, 2025.  
DAVENPORT, EVANS, HURWITZ & SMITH, L.L.P.  
/s/ Anthony M. Hohn  
Anthony M. Hohn  
206 West 14th Street  
P.O. Box 1030  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1030  
Telephone (605) 336-2880  
Facsimile (605) 335-3639  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA ) IN CIRCUIT COURT  
COUNTY OF BUTTE ) ss. FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
File No. 09PRO24-000019  
In the Matter of the Estate of )  
ALAN J. BENNETT, ) AND NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT  
Deceased. ) OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Notice is given that on the 24th day of September, 2024, Cheryl A. Bennett was appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of Alan J. Bennett.

Creditors of decedent must file their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or their claims may be barred.

Claims may be filed with the Personal Representative or may be filed with the clerk, and a copy of the claim mailed to the Personal Representative.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2025.  
STRAIN MORMAN LAW FIRM  
By: /s/ Kortney J. Smith  
Kortney J. Smith  
Attorney for the Estate  
1134 Main Street, P.O. Box 729  
Sturgis, South Dakota 57785  
smith@mormanlaw.com  
(605) 347-3624

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By John Newby "Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

## "Community Branding, Not Just a Buzzword!"

Picture a ship leaving harbor without a rudder, drifting wherever the currents take it. That's your community without a brand. And in the wake of massive market shifts, that rudder has never been more essential. The travel and tourism landscape is transforming before our eyes. Communities that once relied on familiar patterns now face a reimagined world where perception is everything. How others view your community will determine whether you prosper or struggle in the years ahead. The question isn't whether you need a brand—it's whether you can afford not to have one. **The Brand Illusion** - Here's what most communities get wrong: they think a brand is something they create for themselves. A clever slogan. A colorful logo. A tagline that makes the chamber of commerce smile. But here's the truth: a brand isn't what you think of yourself. It's what others think of you. It's a perception, not a poster. The most successful brands don't promote features—they promote emotion, excitement, and feeling. They create the "why," not just the "where" or the "what." Put another way, when you ask someone on date, that is marketing, how they respond, either with a yes or no is based on how they view your personal brand. Consider how people plan their next adventure. When someone decides they want to go fishing or boating, do they start by searching "Smalltown, USA" and hope there's a lake



nearby? Of course not. They search "best fishing hotspots" or "premier boating destinations." Activity first, location second. Yet nearly every community markets backwards. They lead with location and treat their offerings as an afterthought. It's like putting the cart before the horse and wondering why you're not getting anywhere. **The Focus Factor** - Effective brands are laser-focused. The broader you cast your net, the weaker your message becomes. You cannot be everything to everybody—that strategy guarantees failure in the increasingly competitive community attraction game, whether you're pursuing tourists or jobs. Great branding requires more than clever marketing. It demands a viable product that delivers on its promise. Too many communities piece together aspirational brands only to disappoint visitors who arrive expecting something different. There's no faster way to damage your reputation for years to come than false advertising masquerading as branding. **The Dangerous Path of Groupthink** - Creating successful brands is difficult, which is why communities often take shortcuts that doom them from the start. Focus groups, for instance, are one of the worst ways to develop a brand. They typically devolve into localized thinking and get watered down until they're bland enough to keep everyone happy—which means they excite no one. Local politics can be equally de-

structive. Political compromise has killed as many great ideas and brands as focus groups ever did. While local input is critical and community voices matter, branding success often requires an outside perspective to guide inside thinking. You need people who can see what you've become blind to, who can identify your true differentiators without the fog of familiarity. **Building for Tomorrow** - Patience plays a crucial role in branding. You might have a brilliant concept, but if your community isn't ready to deliver the experience that brand promises, you're better off waiting. Whatever brand you settle on, you must be able to deliver. Otherwise, all your advertising, marketing, and effort will be wasted. Think beyond the present moment. Where do you want your community to be in five or ten years? Build your brand for the long haul, not for today's headlines. A sustainable brand grows with you, adapting while maintaining its core identity. **The Stakes Have Never Been Higher** - Make no mistake: branding is one of the most critical elements for a community to get exactly right. You can't afford to get it wrong. The world is becoming dramatically more competitive, and communities are no exception. Amazon, Wall Street chains, and others have eroded what it means to be truly local. If you're going to compete in tourism and job attraction, your brand will be a vital weapon in that competition. Don't cut corners on this element of your community's message. Without it, you're a book without a plot—one that gets put down and never picked up again. The communities that will thrive post-pandemic aren't necessarily those with the most resources, but those with the clearest identity and the strongest emotional connection to their audience.

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Your brand is your rudder. Use it wisely, and you'll navigate toward prosperity. Ignore it, and you'll drift wherever the current takes you—usually toward irrelevance.  
John A. Newby is the author of the "Building Main Street, Not Wall Street" column dedicated to helping local communities, government and business combine synergies allowing them to thrive in a world where truly-local is being lost to Amazon and Wall Street chains. His email is john@truly-local.org

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**Capitol News**  
**Dec. 7, 2025**  
**By Karen Odell**  
Alvin and Marlee Cordell joined others at the Camp Crook Community

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Community Center. On Saturday evening after Thanksgiving, they went to the Corner Bar for a fiftieth wedding anniversary party for Roy and Terri Dahl. Jay Cordell comes out from Belle Fourche on many weekends. He sometimes works at Buffalo on Mondays.

This week, Marlee had an appointment in Belle Fourche on Thursday, and she stayed to watch the Black Hills University game in Spearfish, the next day. Alvin and Marlee went to Buffalo, on Saturday, to watch Barrett play basketball with the grade school team. We got snow nearly every night this week, but it was only a little each day. There is nearly six inches of snow in the Sheep Mountains, now, while the low-landers have only an inch or two.

On Tuesday, Gordon 'Pete' Anderson went to Belle Fourche to have dinner with his sister Deb.

Last week, Bruce and Lynn Gustafson, went to the All-Parish service at the Camp Crook Community Center. They are glad to have Marcus Meuler to do the remodeling work on their

kitchen. On Wednesday, Lynn attended the Diligent Doers meeting at the Camp Crook City Building, where Laurie Elmore was hostess. They went to church at Little Missouri, on Sunday, and there was a good crowd to fill the building.

Doug and Julia Davis spent Thanksgiving at Spearfish, with her brother Bob Latham's family. They joined them at the Holiday Inn, stayed over one night, and came home on Friday. This Wednesday, Doug met with the FSA in Belle Fourche. Doug and Julia both went to the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition Conference in Rapid City, on Thursday and Friday of this week, while Morgan Buck held down the fort.

Last week, Ronda Cordell shopped in Spearfish and came back to Belle Fourche for the cow sale. Jake Reynolds, Jason Berg, Oren, Arlie and Konnor Basler were evening supper guests.

Ronda joined Clint, Denise, Darby and Abby Zolnoski for Thanksgiving dinner. Other guest included Gene, Kim, Shannon, Ashley, Brayden and Josie Secrest and friends, Norm and Sally, from Spearfish. Jake, Jason, Oren, Arlie and Konnor drove to Butch Reynolds for Thanksgiving. Toney and Linda Hannah went to Rapid City to join Sandi Davis and family for the day. Oren, Arlie and Konnor went to Clint and Denise's to visit after

the Zolnoski's returned from Black Friday shopping at Baker. Both the Chad Zolnoski family from Wyoming, and the Curt Zolnoski family from Rapid City had arrived to spend the weekend at Clint's, so the kids had a grand time. The kids were sad to leave for home for school on Monday.

Linda and Toney Hannah came for a Saturday afternoon visit.

Sunday, Ronda and Curt's family went to church at the Community Hall in Camp Crook. Chad's family came by briefly after church, and went home with beets, carrots, and eggs. Curt's headed home with a load of cut trees to cut into firewood and burger.

Erma Albert continues with her physical therapy, on Mondays and Thursdays. Dick went to the Senior Citizen dinner on Friday, and brought a meal back home to Erma. On Sunday there was a big crowd when they went to church at the Catholic Church in Buffalo. Chancey Odell and Megan went to Vale for Thanksgiving with relatives.

This week, Chancey visited with Steve Odell in Sturgis, and also took a few groceries to Darla Hammel, out at Gustave. On Sunday, he got some snow plowed for himself and for Karen Odell.

Karen Odell had gotten a big turkey at Leuders for Thanksgiving. Micki, Jesse and Murphy Hinds came from Tacoma. They

flew to Billings, on Wednesday, and drove from there. Their cabin floor was a bit chilly most days, because some animal had dug under the floor to make a nest for the winter. Cody, Kellan and Carson Odell came from Mitchell on Wednesday, too. Their newer cabin was nice and warm and insulated thanks to Madler's Big Sky Mini Barns in Baker. His work is wonderful.

The Mitchell boys all had hunting licenses, and by evening Cody had already gotten a nice deer. Jesse is an ocean man, fisherman, and teacher, and learned a lot about hunting in the interior. Micki and Murphy did lots of work in the house for Karen. Mollie, in Minneapolis, let us know that Kyia had made a league volleyball team. Most members of her team are from other schools, but she really likes it. She is also busy with voice lessons each week. Jeff Odell, in Iowa, helped Amanda with the Thanksgiving dinner by baking an apple pie. They have plenty of apples at their new home, and they are both good cooks.

Jeff had learned lots from Lyle when he worked at the Corner Bar. Kylie had sent a pot of chili with the boys that was a great help for Karen. The weather was not looking good, and Micki's family had to get to Billings on Saturday evening.

She researched and finally went south to the highway in Wyoming and headed west.

That turned out to be a good idea, and the roads were good until they got north into Montana, closer to Billings. Ernie, Rachel, and Tommy Melum came to visit on Saturday evening. Tommy had come over to visit with Carson earlier. Cody's family headed east on Sunday morning, and even though there was more snow east of us, the interstate was not bad. It's always a relief to know that everyone's back home again. Karen had caught Carson's and Cody's cold, and spent the next few days just resting up. It was a sinus cold, and she took her spoonful of honey each day to fight it off. She did get her mail, and drove in to Camp Crook early to mail a letter.

At home, Karen got four little doughnuts in one hand and her cane in the other, and was carefully stepping over Hywel, the huge collie dog, when one donut jumped out of her hand, hit the floor, and rolled right into the dog's mouth. The dog just lay there, chewed the donut, and went right back to sleep.

On Sunday, it was icy at both doors, so Karen didn't venture out to church, but watched church on the internet. Chancey Odell came over in the afternoon, to visit and plow a little snow.

Next Sunday at nine o'clock, remember the children's Christmas Program at the Little Missouri Church.

**Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby given that on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December at the hour of 9:45 AM., the Board of Butte County Commissioners will be in session at the Butte County Courthouse in the City of Belle Fourche at 839 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota for the purpose of approving Resolution 2025-21 Providing for Cancellation of Liens Issued by Butte County After Being Determined Uncollectable Due to Death, Bankruptcy, or Other Circumstances

**RESOLUTION 2025-21**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LIENS ISSUED BY BUTTE COUNTY AFTER BEING DETERMINED UNCOLLECTABLE DUE TO DEATH, BANKRUPTCY, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**WHEREAS**, the following is a list of the liens where the County Auditor has confirmed that person or persons have been declared deceased, have declared bankruptcy, or otherwise are unable to pay the debt incurred.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the County Auditor and Register of Deeds be authorized to cancel these accounts in the lien register and cease to carry these as outstanding liens.

Name	Amount	Reason
Aberle, Damon	\$13,856.10	Deceased
Alden, Timothy	\$4,140.00	Deceased
Bennett, Ladean	\$5,339.39	Deceased
Blakeman, Brandon	\$563.00	Deceased
Bond, James	\$55.00	Deceased
Braun, Matthew	\$110.00	Deceased
Brooks, Katherine	\$2,374.65	Deceased
Brown, Russell	\$60.00	Deceased
Caldwell, Amber	\$2,185.50	Deceased
Clark, Chase	\$1,943.15	Deceased
Clown, Clifford	\$6,114.40	Deceased
Coleman, Timothy	\$725.54	Deceased
Cook, Tell	\$150.00	Deceased
Cuny, Twila	\$55.00	Deceased
Dalke, Adam	\$770.00	Deceased
Dankert, Anthony	\$595.00	Deceased
DeCicco, Debra	\$677.61	Deceased
Dembeck, Edward	\$139.00	Deceased
Donetti, Robert	\$50.00	Deceased
Dubray, Duane	\$1,211.56	Deceased
Dyer, Kyle	\$80.00	Deceased
Erfman, Paul	\$55.00	Deceased
Ferguson, Isaiah	\$55.00	Deceased
Fischer, Jason	\$277.55	Deceased
Gunhammer, Jackie	\$3,001.34	Deceased
Guy, Ronald	\$65.00	Deceased
Haldorsen, Lawrence	\$2,157.08	Deceased
Hall, Arthur	\$660.00	Deceased
Halverson, Scot	\$8,648.59	Deceased
Jaskela, Trinity	\$260.00	Deceased
Kills Warrior, Judith	\$120.00	Deceased
Kluck, Kenneth	\$2,405.00	Deceased
Kunerth, John	\$72.50	Deceased
Langton, Dessarae	\$93.20	Deceased
Larive, James	\$581.61	Deceased
Lewis, Paul	\$187.20	Deceased
Limberhand, Timothy	\$840.29	Deceased
Marquez, Andrew	\$55.00	Deceased
Martin, John	\$1,745.27	Deceased
McDonald, Robert	\$55.00	Deceased
McKeown, Mark	\$130.00	Deceased
McNew, Katheryn	\$609.10	Deceased
Millett, Logan	\$698.00	Deceased
Milner, Thomas	\$60.00	Deceased
Mitchell, Nathaniel	\$349.40	Deceased
Mork, Samuel	\$65.00	Deceased
Morton, Travis	\$55.00	Deceased
Nehmer, Paul	\$9,993.29	Deceased
Norman, John	\$55.00	Deceased
Offerdahl, Samuel	\$65.00	Deceased
Olson, Wendy	\$85.86	Deceased
Osborn, Brad	\$510.75	Deceased
Paland, Spring	\$6,949.17	Deceased
Pelch, Ryan	\$110.00	Deceased
Piekkola, Kenneth	\$13,402.83	Deceased
Raber, Darryl	\$744.80	Other
Rieniets, Denise	\$456.90	Deceased
Schlup, Mason	\$904.00	Deceased
Stripling, Darryl	\$8,347.82	Deceased
Swan, Murphy	\$880.95	Deceased
Teppo, Wesley	\$196.96	Deceased
Thumb, Roger	\$1,354.80	Deceased
Vaughn, Dustin	\$2,122.65	Deceased

Dated this 30th day of December 2025

Butte County Board of Commissioners

James Ager  
Chair, Butte County Commission

ATTEST:

Annie Capp  
Butte County Auditor

Published: December 17th, 2025 and December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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# The Valley Irrigator

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## A Grateful Gathering

**Betty Bruner**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com  
NEWELL-Commencing the holiday season, a large crowd gathered in the Newell Community Hall and began "A Grateful Gathering" on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The annual event has been organized by several community members with the goal of reaching out to others and has taken place for a couple of decades, always promising an enjoyable evening of gathering folks from around the area.

Under the direction of WIT Coalition Director, Sabrina Harmon, the hall was set up with the help of the Newell FFA students. Harmon decorated the



Betty Bruner played her flute for the crowd.

hall simply in inviting Fall colors and a Thanksgiving theme in anticipation of 150-200 guests attending the event.

This year, the turkey, fresh dinner rolls, mashed potatoes, and stuffing, were baked in the Newell School kitchen by Betty Bruner, with the assistance of Dawn Olson, Betty Baker, and Pat Lee. Helping hands also included Dixie and Jerry Seaman, and Chuck Bruner who aided in transporting the feast to the community hall.

Community members arrived with an array of delicious side dishes for the feast that followed. Jerry Seaman and Chuck Bruner manned the roasters filled with an abundance of turkey to add to each plate.

Following the holiday spread, the children from the Awana Club at Newell Christian Fellowship Church shared several songs they had been working on during their Wednesday evening class.

Betty Bruner followed with a flute solo entitled "My Tribute".

Testimonies were shared by Mark Rubey and Austin Hagen. They each shared how their lives had changed when Jesus became important to them. Because of Jesus, a light is in their lives that doesn't dim.

Every year, the evening is cherished and looked forward to by the community. This year nearly 175 townspeople joined in the fellowship and food. Plans are in the workings for next year. Mark your calendars now!



(L) Austin Hagen shared his life testimony to community members gathered for the meal at the Community Thanksgiving dinner. (R) Mark Rubey shared scriptures and his testimony to the crowd gathered in Newell during the Community Thanksgiving dinner. (Below) Jerry Seaman, left, and Chuck Bruner, right, served the turkey to a full house at the "Grateful Gathering" dinner.



## Naughty or Nice Newell Festival of Trees

**Betty Bruner**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-An abundance of embracing holiday cheer was found in the Newell Community Hall last Saturday. Trees, wreaths, and all kinds of handiwork lined the walls and tables were filled with articles for the silent auction. It was a sight to behold!

Smiling faces greeted guests at the door, welcoming everyone with the spirit of Christmas. Once inside, there was food for munching, tickets to purchase, and plans to make deciding which treasure to purchase.

There were small groups of town-folks gathered together sharing thoughts, discussing the past harvest season or what their plans are for the season. Kids ran free, taking a piece of cheese or having a walking taco along with the grownups.

Stacey and Orion Potter entertained the crowd with several Christmas songs, causing most of them to be transported to a time outside of the community hall. The highlight of the session was when Orion sang "Ave Maria" in a strong tenor voice and when Stacey played her violin for another well-known holiday song.

By the time the auction began at 4 p.m., the hall was full with anxious adults ready to bid on the handiwork of area residents. Top ticket items included an Idaho Bear Hunt donated by Urge2Hunt. A fishing excursion provided by Dan Neisger which allowed the highest bidder to chose archery carp, archery paddle fish on Lake Poinsett or Yankton dam. Another fishing excursion was donated by Wild Walleye Outfitters. Texas Independence Ranch donated a hog hunt. A butcher lambe was donated by Wulf's Metalworks & Rustic Design. Smeenk Ranch donated an antelope hunt. The auctioneer this year was Bryton Oedekoven with assistant John Croft. Deb Steele kept track of bidders. The money raised from the auction will supplement the budgets of area fire departments and first responders.

At the writing of this article, the amount raised by the gun raffle, 50-50 tickets, auction, and other projects was not available. Watch for the tallies in upcoming editions.



(T) Are you Naughty or Nice? The Grinch asked the question on a sign that was being auctioned at the Festival of Trees. (C) A glimpse of the offerings at the Festival of Trees; (Bottom) These three ladies greeted guests at the gun raffle table, handed out auction numbers, and kept a list of who was naughty or nice perhaps. They are from the left, Jen Lowe, Judy Heisler, and Deb Steele.

## Vitalant Blood Drive held in Newell

**Betty Bruner**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

There was a Vitalant Blood Drive held in Newell, SD on Monday, December 1, 2025 at the Newell Christian Fellowship Community Hall.

It was hosted by the Whatever It Takes Coalition. WIT members Sabrina Harmon and Judy Heisler greeted donors when they came in. Jennifer Ash, the Vitalant Coordinator reported that it was a great blood drive! The goal was met!

They wanted at least 25 units and we were able to collect 26. There was 19 whole blood units collected at the Newell Blood Drive, and one donated in Rapid City that gave credit to Newell, and 3 doubles units collected. There was 3 First Time Donors! Jennifer thanked us for our dedication to saving lives.

The Whatever It Takes Coalition will host the next Newell community blood drive



Vitalant Blood Drive workers: Manager: Ken Jenkins, Devin Stephens and Katriel Rindahl-Winkie

on Monday, February 2, 2026 at the NCF Community Hall. If you would like to donate, please let them know by contact

Sabrina Harmon at 605-381-9136 or by email at sabrina.harmon.wit@sdplains.com. Merry Christmas.

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10 lb. Tubes - Limit 2



\$3.99 lb.

Best Choice Cheese  
Shredded or Chunk • 6-8 oz.



2/\$3 or \$1.50

Best Choice Chunky Soups  
All Varieties • 18.8-19 oz.



2/\$5 or \$2.50

Tombstone Pizza  
All Varieties • 19.3-27 oz.



2/\$8 or \$4.00

Gold Medal Flour  
Regular or Unbleached • 5 lbs.



\$3.99

Honeysuckle or Festive Bone-In Turkey Breast



\$1.89 lb.

Best Choice Hash Brown Potatoes  
All Varieties • 28-32 oz.



\$2.99

International Delight Coffee Creamer  
All Varieties • 32 oz.



\$3.49

## Grand River Roundup



### Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com  
We started the week off with our church choir going over to the community Hymn Sing at the Holland Center Church near Lodgepole last Sunday evening and a nice crowd of good singers came to entertain us.

There are more deaths to report: Michelle L. Domagala, 55, of Bowman, passed away on November 25 at the Monument Health Hospital in Rapid City. Her funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 2 at the Bowman Methodist Church with burial in the Bowman Cemetery.

Reub's relative Richard "Dick" Dreiling, age 86, passed away on November 24 in Sparks, Nevada. Dick's funeral will be December 14th in Sparks.

Herbert Fried, age 96, of Shadehill, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, December 3rd at Aspen Grove Assisted Living - Hospice in Sturgis. Funeral services

for Herb will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 19th at the Grace Bible Fellowship Church in Bison with Pastor Phil Hahn officiating. Burial will follow in the Bison Cemetery.

It was a little warmer on Monday with a temperature of 28 degrees, which was a lot better than the 21 below zero we had on Sunday. I only got one egg from my old hens that day, but that's better than not getting any eggs from them on Sunday with that freezing weather. Reub and I went to the Scranton elementary school Christmas program to watch Sage and Alaina's kids in the program. Irelyn is in the 5th grade and Dathan is in the 3rd grade. We also got to watch a lot of other kids we knew including their cousin Steele Stadheim in 4th grade. It was an entertaining program and the drive home that night went well even after we got just over a tenth of an inch of rain that day.

It snowed hard in the night and we woke up Tuesday to a pile of that white stuff on the ground and lots of ice under the snow. Casey had a junior high wrestling match in Buffalo at 4:30 that afternoon and everyone on the ranch went to Buffalo that afternoon except for us old folks. We planned to go to Hettinger to watch our granddaughter Acalia's basketball game that evening but we called Sage to check on the roads up there and he told us they weren't very good so we decided to stay home.

We usually go to Hettinger on Wednesday, but it was too cold and icy for Reub and I to venture out that day. The veterinarian came from Baker to bang vaccinate the heifers and the guys were busy helping with that even though there was only a high of 17 degrees.

Casey took the Harding County wrestlers to Custer on Thursday for wrestling meets in Custer and Rapid

City on Friday and Saturday. It was a nice warm day with a high temperature of 39 degrees that melted a lot of the ice around here so Taz helped us move my pullets from the chicken coop up by the barn to the coop down here in the yard to hang out with the old hens because this old lady would hardly stand up on all the ice in front of the coop by the barn. Thank God I never broke anything with all that slipping around, but I sure feel safer now when I go to take care of all the chickens! The National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas started Thursday evening so Reub and I watched it until it was over and we plan on watching it every night for all ten days.

We read in the Faith newspaper that Bill and Laura Johnson's grandson Tyler Martin was named to the 9B SD Football Coaches Assn's all-state team. Congratulations Tyler!

Casey was in Custer with the wrestlers on Friday and the weather was great. The temperature of 36 degrees melted a lot of the snow and ice so I didn't have to slip and slide to take care of the chickens and cats here in the yard. Reub and I went to Hettinger that afternoon and the roads were really nice. We visited with friends at Cenex while we were staying around town until that evening to watch the Hettinger/Scranton girls' basketball games against the Grant County/Mott-Regent Jaguars. Our granddaughter played in both the A and B games and lots of other girls

we know were playing that night. We got to sit and visit with lots of friends and family so it was a really entertaining evening. We got the Nation's Center News from Buffalo in the mail when we got home that evening and there was a really good article about the Harding County School board receiving the 'Gold Award' from the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. This is one of the highest honors for a school board in South Dakota and is the highest level in the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) in the ASBSD's Board Recognition Program, which recognizes school board members for their participation in board functions and training. The people on the Harding County school board are really nice and congratulations to all of them!

Sunday, December 7, was the 84th anniversary of when the Japanese boomed Pearl Harbor. My father Bryce White joined the Army in February of 1941, served in WWII until the war was over in 1945. We had the Ladies Christmas Tea after church with a lot of ladies in attendance. Linda Mohagen and some other ladies read some interesting stuff and after we drew to find who our prayer partners are for next year Catherine Besler had a fun Christmas ornament for us to embroider.

I'll leave you with these:  
\*How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit? - Unique Up On It  
\*How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit? - Tame Way

## Then and Now in Newell

### "Looking Forward to our Past"

December 9, 1915

A recently invented substitute for the unsanitary and frequently condemned office towel consists of an electrical device by means of which a current of air, heated and perfumed, is blown through an adjustable funnel onto either the hands or face, drying them quickly and without danger of infection. The current is regulated by a pedal.

Nels Peterson has traded his ranch in the Empire District to Charles Sisk. Mr. Peterson will move to the Sisk ranch in the spring. Walter Bean, who lives 2 miles east of Vale is in the Newell Hospital for repair as the result of an argument with an angry boar on the Sisk farm Sunday.

The jury in the case of Thomas E. Watson, charged with sending obscene matter attacking the Catholic Church through the mails. He had testified on his own behalf today. He endeavored to show that the motive behind the prosecution to the Grand Jury and that of the present prosecutor is not known. The court ruled this testimony out and had not reached a verdict at 2:00 o'clock this afternoon.

December 3, 1925

At the Mud Butte Community Club meeting, Senator Erskin and wife and 2 other ladies from Sturgis were guests. Mr. Erskin gave a very interesting talk on the workings of State Legislature, and the ladies favored them by singing, which was highly appreciated. They hope that they may have the opportunity of having them with them again.

Owing to the icy conditions of the highways, 12 cars were wrecked in Boulder Canyon Thanksgiving night. The drivers did not seem to be able to hold the machines on the road and were skidded over the banks and into the Hills. No reports of persons being injured resulting from the accidents. This was due largely to the fact that many were traveling slowly when

the accidents occurred. Henry Maass and family and Mrs. Minnie Maass spent Thanksgiving with relatives in Lead. They report also very slick roads up there.

A big rabbit hunt has been proposed for Sunday, December 20th. All sportsmen will congregate in Newell early that day armed with shotguns in an endeavor to cut down the number of rabbits which infest the project. Quite a few ranchers report that as many as 2000 can be found on one section of land. A large delegation of Lead and Deadwood sportsmen are expected to come to Newell to participate in the hunt.

December 5, 1935

What might have been a serious fire was narrowly averted this morning at the Dr. Clark honey house on his farm south of Newell. Wax being melted on a stove, boiled over and caught fire but was discovered immediately and extinguished with chemicals. Dr. Clark stated that he has over 20 tons of honey stored in the building.

A local amateur boxing club was organized here recently for the Northern Hills Golden Glove Tournament, to be held in Lead on Monday, December 2nd. Much interest is being shown, and the club now comprises 23 members, chosen chiefly from boys of High School age and over. Meets are held every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM in the high school gymnasium.

The State Liquor Commission was notified of a lawsuit involving a proposed municipal liquor store at Nisland, which may result in a test of a portion of the law governing municipal operation. Circuit Judge James E. McNeeney granted a temporary restraining order preventing the Nisland Town officials from starting a municipal store, which had been approved in a special election by unanimous vote there on October 25.

December 6, 1945

Word came yesterday that Santa Claus has consented

by Linda Velder

to visit Newell and greet kiddies of this vicinity Saturday afternoon, December 22. Parents are urged to bring all children to town on that day. A picture show at the theater and sacks of Christmas goodies will be distributed at the city hall to all children who come to greet old Santa that day.

Newell Implement Company has on hand a set of Elson Truck Sanders, these are just what a trucker should have on icy roads. By pressing a button on the dash in your cab, it will spread the sand directly in front of the wheels and will keep the truck from slipping or spinning out.

Members of the First Lutheran Church of Newell will celebrate next Sunday the final retirement of the church debt. The congregation is looking forward to the mutual congratulations and exultation over the clearing of the last of the church indebtedness. The Lutheran Church and adjoining parsonage were completed in 1930, at which time there were many liberal contributions. The church property, now easily worth \$10,000, has been paid for through the efforts of the Ladies' Aid and everyone else who helped in their work through the years. Rev. George Anderson is the present pastor of the church.

December 8, 1955

At our neighbor to the north, the Post Office of Strool, South Dakota will no longer appear in US Postal Directories after December 17, 1955. Effective that date, it was ordered by the US Postal Department, the present Strool Post Office will be moved to a location 2 miles north of present site to Prairie City, South Dakota. The order authorizing the change of location and name to Prairie City were issued November 26th, according to Mrs. Alys Allen, Postmaster at Strool.

Business continued as usual at the office of the Belle Fourche Irrigation District here last week, however, a shift was

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made to the recently completed new building along Highway 79 through town. The new modern building was just completed by Alex Findley, contractor, it is recalled the previous old headquarters had burned down. Since that time, the District has maintained offices in the basement of the Hafner Building below the Post Office. Project manager Norris Soma, noted some of the old and damaged equipment is still in use, but new equipment is expected within a short time.

Excitement! Comedy! Fun! Action! A benefit basketball sponsored by the Newell Band-aids for new band uniform fund drive. Newell Belles (Lyman Bruce's Bruisers) vs Newell Faculty (Supt Austin's Protégés) Saturday, December 10th with a preliminary game beginning at 8:00 PM, Newell JV vs Nisland JV at Newell School gymnasium. Lunches also served. Ya'll come to town early so you can do your shopping etc. Then relax at this benefit game.

Bratton's wants to know if you are nuts? You might as well be since this is the nutty time of the year. Christmas holiday is the time for nuts and candies, and they have an abundance of both for munching nuts and candies while visiting with a neighbor or watching TV makes mighty pleasant evenings. One pound bag walnuts 55 cents; 1 pound of Brazil nuts 55 cents; 1 pound mixed nuts 50 cents; 1 pound almonds 58 cents; 1 pound filberts 45 cents; 1 pound peanuts 36 cents; 2 pound paper shell pecans 75 cents and a large assortment of old-time candies. Come let them make it a sweet nutty Christmas as well as a joyful one.

December 2, 1965

Possibilities of constructing

a wastewater disposal system for the unincorporated town of Vale were considered at a special meeting of about 20 residents of that community held there last Thursday evening. Most of the residents of Vale have private septic tanks and disposal fields, it was noted that during the summer months when fields in the south side of the town are being irrigated the water table rises in the areas to the extent that wastewater will not drain away. The group learned that loans for water disposal systems are now available through to rural communities through the Farm Home Administration.

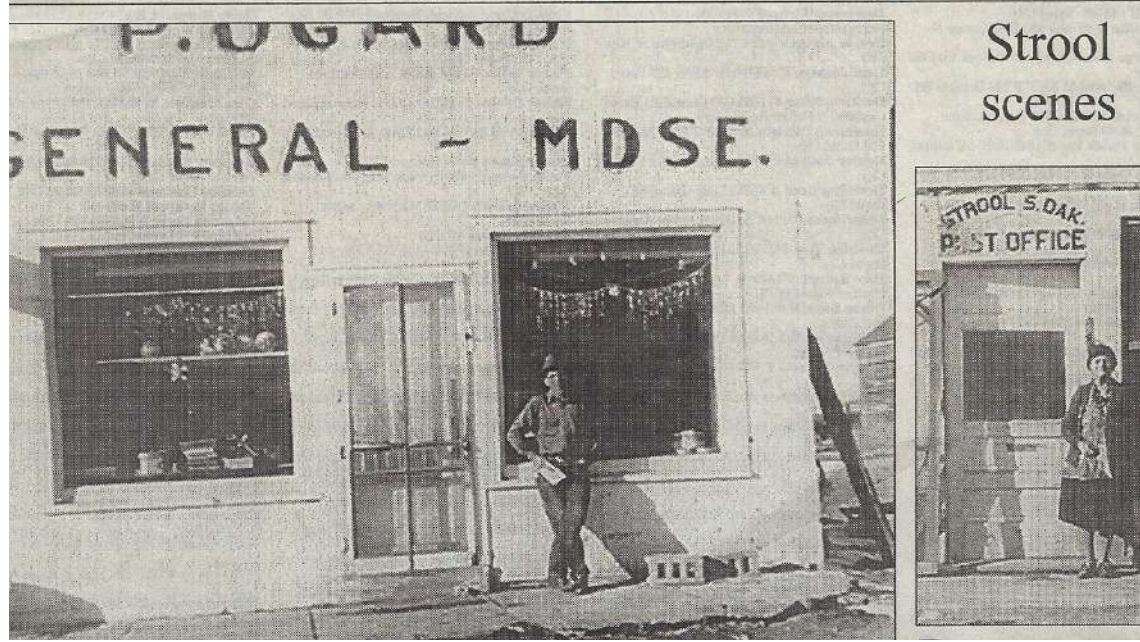
After spending time with their families, Jerry Lee, Larry Wyant, Pat Wyant, Walter Sundstrom and Lee Larive, who have been working around Scottsbluff, Nebraska, left Friday for Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they will be employed by Morgan Power & Apparatus Corp.

Four University of Wyoming students are 1965 recipients of Davis Bros. Scholarships, provided by the Denver, Colo., a wholesale drug firm. Winners of the \$125 Awards included Jo Ann Hafner, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Hafner, Newell.

Aspects of missile hazards and fire fighting in the Minuteman Missile complex area of western South Dakota will be the subject of a special meeting to be held at Vale, Monday, December 6th, announced by Bartley J. Tollefson, Fire Chief from Ellsworth Air Force Base and A. C. Drake of the Vale Volunteer Fire Department. The two men will discuss fire damage and recommend control measures in the complex area.



John Price and his son Robert, after a Rabbit Hunt 1925. He was owner of Price & Son Drug Store



Strool Post Office. Postmaster Laura Toner posing in front. Her sons, Laurent and William graduated from Newell High School, 1930.

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

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

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

**Wednesday Evenings**  
Summer Campus CleanUp  
Every Wednesday, 4-6 p.m.  
Newell School

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

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



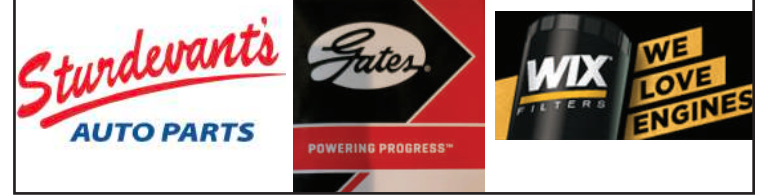
**BH Farmer's Market**  
Second Tuesday each month,  
4:30, Nisland Town Hall

**Newell Service Center**

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



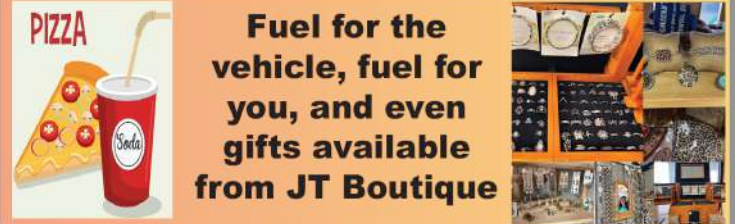
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1) Scrambled Eggs, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk  Mini-Corn Dogs, Fruit, Milk	2) Quiche, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk  Spaghetti and Meatballs, Vegetable, Fruit, Milk	3) Hashbrown Eggs, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk  Ham or Turkey Subs, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk	4) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Pizza, Corn, Fruit, Milk	5) <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
8) Croissant Sandwiches, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Turkey Pot Pie, Fruit, Milk	9) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Turkey & Stuffing Casserole, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk	10) Muffins, Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Mac & Cheese, Monterey Veggies, Fruit, Milk  Broccoli Cheese Soup	11) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Chili, Cornbread, Fruit, Milk	12) <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
15) Egg Omelet, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk  Sloppy Joes, Potato Wedges/FF, Fruit, Milk	16) Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage. Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Empanadas, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk  Turkey Noodle Soup	17) Long Johns, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  Ground Beef Stroganoff on Noodles, Corn, Fruit, Milk	18) <b>COOK'S CHOICE</b> , Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk  <b>COOK'S CHOICE</b> , Fruit, Milk  <b>OUT AT 1:30</b>	19) <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
22) <b>CHRISTMAS VACATION</b>	23) <b>CHRISTMAS VACATION</b>	24) <b>CHRISTMAS VACATION</b>	25) <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b> 	26) <b>NO SCHOOL</b>

Menu is subject to change!

Middle School and High School have access to fresh Salad Bar

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(Top L) This marvelous horseshoe trees, loaded with many smaller gifts was added to the Festival of Trees auction; (Top R) **John Croft** called out bidders during the auction at the Festival of Trees. (Bottom L) Orion and Stacey Potter sang several Christmas songs to get folks in the holiday mood; (BR) **Little Miss Newell** Labor Day, **Mariah Todd**, was a handy helper during the auction.



(L) A glimpse of the offerings at the Festival of Trees. (R) **The Festival of Trees** gave neighbors to touch base with each other. Do you wonder if they are discussing gifts for their wives? *Courtesy Photos*

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