



Belle Fourche Beacon

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VOL. 8 ISSUE 45

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • December 17, 2025

\$1.25

2025 Fund Recipients Receive \$19,464.05

Due to the areas first brush of winter weather, some of this year's Greater Belle Fourche Fund's non-profit recipients were not able to make it to the bank in person.

This year First Interstate Bank was able to give out 4 total to 17 different non-profits.

The Greater Belle Fourche Fund began in 1989 with community donations that received matching funds.

The yearly non-profit give aways only spend what the fund gains each year.

This year the seventeen agencies receiving grants are:

- Beaver Creek Rendezvous
- Belle Fourche Arts Council
- Belle Fourche Senior Citizens Center
- Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
- Bronc Grapplers

The Greater Belle Fourche Fund 2025



First Interstate Bank Belle Fourche President Mike Tyndall (far right) is pictured with recipients of the the bank's 2025 Greater Belle Fourche Fund. *Courtesy Photo*

- Bronc Bird Busters
- Center of the Nation Concert Association
- Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc.
- Northern Hills Sources of Support
- Parents Who Care, Inc
- West River Transit Authority, Inc.
- Realtors For Kids Inc.
- South Dakota Special Olympics (Spearfish Peaks)
- Shirley Speaks Inc
- St James Episcopal Church (Delta Dental Clinic)
- St Paul Catholic Church for kids Christmas Store
- Victims of Violence

Holiday Cheer Fills Grant Street Block Party

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—For the past several years the Grant Street businesses have come together to host a Block Party for the holiday season.

This year it was the biggest block celebration yet with eight businesses participating. It was held on the evening of December 4.

The Jingle and Mingle Holiday Open House Block Party started five years ago with just two businesses coming together to celebrate the holiday season. "The first year we did it, it was us and Weather

Hat," explained Michelle Watson, Keller Williams Realty Black Hills. "We have grown—the law office is here this year, and then Andrea Fayville around the corner is participating. So it has grown and it's a fun event!"

Jack and Jennifer Scholl, Weather Hat Company, were one of the first two businesses to participate in the Grant Street Block Party. "Because we are on this block Michelle asked if we wanted to do something, and so one of the first years we did it she set up a tent in front of the store, and she had s'mores, and we had food, and it was beauti-

ful outside," she explained.

All of the participating businesses stayed open late and invited the community to come in for fancy treats and festive drinks. There was everything from fresh sourdough bread, mac and cheese, meatballs, wraps, charcuterie, cookies to hot cocoa, spiced cider, spiked grapes and so much more.

The businesses were so generous in their offerings one couldn't leave the Block Party hungry! They all wanted to let the Belle area folks know they were appreciated. Jennifer said, "We want them to know we always appreciate the people in

our community!"

It was also an opportunity for people to come together and form community connections, a chance to sit down, snack and visit with neighbors and friends all while celebrating the season.

Watson was happy with the turnout. She says they start planning for the event in July. "We started talking about it in July and August to say, hey, let's do this! We've always stuck with the first Thursday of December and now I just let everybody up and down the street know," she shared. "I say let me know because for our real estate

office, we send postcards to our clients and we'll put everybody's names on the advertisements so that people know. We do postcards and a Facebook event and call people."

Those that participated this year include Keller Williams Realty, Life Light Creative, Weather Hat Company, Anke's Bakery, Belle Fourche Chamber, Rhonda Miller Law Office, Globe Life—the Fayville Agency and 2F Custom Grinding. "I just think it's a really good way for people to get out this time of year and just go from place to place and have fun," added Watson.



(L) **Anke's Bakery** offered up tasty mac and cheese for those that stopped by their open house during the **Grant Street Block Party**; (R) **McKenzie Hennessey** of Keller Williams, Belle Fourche helps a guest at their extra fancy layout of charcuterie for those who stopped by for food and fun during the Block Party. Longbrake Photos



"The Polar Express" Holiday Trolley Tour Lights Up Belle Fourche for Sixth Year

Belle Fourche once again embraced the spirit of the season with its annual Holiday Trolley Tour, known as "The Polar Express," marking the sixth year of the festive community event that showcases Christmas lights throughout town.

The event, hosted by the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce, brought residents

and visitors together for an evening of holiday cheer, local pride, and friendly competition.

Passengers boarded the trolley at COWBOYS TOO!, where Slade Hansen served as the trolley conductor, welcoming guests aboard for the illuminated journey through Belle Fourche neighborhoods.

Guiding the route was Chamber Executive Director Michael-

Elizabeth Ann's Bridal Holds Ribbon Cutting

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed Elizabeth Ann's Bridal store to the business community with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on

la Horn, who rode along as the trolley's navigator, pointing out decorated homes and helping set the festive tone for the evening.

Each passenger received a **Polar Express** Contd. A3

the afternoon of December 5.

As friends and family gathered around the front of the store to cut the ribbon, owner Hannah Wolf said, "This has been so amazing so far and I can't wait for everything that is yet to come—I can't wait!"

After being open for about two months, Wolf says everything is coming together. "It is so good!"

"We've had about ten brides, which has been amazing. It's just been fun and busy and exciting," she said.

The bridal store is located

next door to Wolf's grandmother Betty Wolf's store, Love That Shoppe Antiques. In fact, her grandma gave her part of her original store—they put a wall up and the left side was designated for the bridal shop. Wolf's beloved grandma is an important person in her life, so much so that the store, Elizabeth Ann's Bridal, is named **Ribbon Cutting** Contd. A3

The cold Winter Weather on Friday, December 12th resulted in rescheduling the second night of Polar Express rides until Friday Decembr 19th!



Hannah Wolf, owner of **Elizabeth Ann's Bridal**, cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of her new State Street store. *Longbrake photos*



Hannah Wolf, owner of **Elizabeth Ann's Bridal**, stands in front of her spectacular State Street store window that is highlighting some of the beautiful gowns that can be found inside.

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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.**

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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 of 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

Steven Kirksey 72

Steven Kirksey, age 72 of Belle Fourche, died Monday December 15, 2025 following a chronic fight against lymphoma. A Celebration of Life service will be held 10am Saturday, December 20, 2025 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Friends may leave written condolences on Steven's obituary page located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com



of his favorite things to do. He loved his Razor and four-wheeling, collecting guns was a passion to him, and he also loved eagles – especially bald eagles. He was a well-known breeder of Husky puppies. He sold them all over the county and his breeding program was very respected. Steven was stubborn and opinionated, and if he liked you – he really liked you.

Steven Ray Kirksey was born June 1, 1953 in Spearfish. He was the son of Roger and Opia (Merrill) Kirksey. Steven grew up near Colony Wyoming and he graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1971. On June 24, 1974 he was united in marriage to Christina Pierce in Belle Fourche, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. To this union 3 children were born: Shawna, Mike, and Brad. In his younger years, Steven worked at the Colony Truck Stop, the Greenwood Ranch near Colony, and the Short Pines Ranches near Camp Crook. In 1975 he began working at American Colloid. For 25 years he worked there, and in 2000 he moved on and began working at the Roundup Building Center in Belle Fourche. In 2017 Steven retired. One of his favorite jobs in life revolved around the S and K Motorcycle Repair Shop. He started working there in 1982. Many fun memories were made in the ten years he worked there. That job became more of a hobby to him because it was so enjoyable.

He found it hard to express the love he had for people close to him, including his family - that's just the way he was made. He loved his wife and children, and he especially loved all his grandchildren. They were the light of his life. Steven will be missed greatly by all his loving family.

Steven is survived by his wife, Tina; daughter, Shawna (Jason) Ashton of Florida; 2 sons, Mike (Brittney Meyer) Kirksey of Belle Fourche, Brad (Alicia) Kirksey of Belle Fourche; 6 grandchildren, Devon (Bailey), Aurora, Jade, Hannah, Jaxon, Levi; 2 great grandchildren, A.J. and Everly; brother, Richard (Sheri) Kirksey of Aladdin WY; sisters, Tammy (Alan) Stearns of Belle Fourche, Joni (Steve) Taylor of Belle Fourche; step-sisters, Debbie Engel of Winner, Diane (Larry) Kathol of Lincoln NE, Wilma (Bill) Keller of Bend OR; step-brothers, Jeff (Terry) Kirksey of Arizona, Ray (Dina) Kirksey of Centennial CO; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; 2 grandchildren, Skyler and Jady; and step-sister, Ginger Klinger.



Pastor's Perspective

This Perspective is from the archives of Four-square Pastor, the late Dr. Jack Hayford

"About Believing in Santa Claus"

Two back-to-back items that occurred a number of years ago, when I was serving as senior pastor of The Church On The Way, speak to this delightfully controversial topic.

The first was when I was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times about our church's approach to celebrating Christmas joyously as a congregation. The second was when I was informed by one of our congregation (they laughed, telling about it) that one of my granddaughters had told their daughter that there isn't a Santa Claus. The mood, spirit, and intent of both events and commentary heartened me.



out to us in the Person of His Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. A study of Nicholas of Myra (or Bari), who was a "saint" by reason of his faith in Christ, and was titled "Saint Nicholas" by reason of the traditional Church's recognition of his love and good works, reveals a true believer and a genuine servant to mankind. All myth and legend evolving from this man, which is flavored with good and godly ideas of loving, giving, caring, and helping, is well-grounded in facts; facts that I believe in.

First, even though I knew the news article would probably expose me (us) to the misunderstanding or criticism of people who want to misunderstand and criticize, I was heartened knowing that many will "take heart" over the possibility that a Christian can be both holy and happy—faithful to Christ, and free to celebrate without compromising some of the enjoyable traditions of our culture. Enjoying "Santa Claus" is an example.

Even though a small percentage of the Christian community takes issue with Santa, I find it hard to be threatened by him. I also find it impossible to believe either God, the Father or Christ, the Son, is likely to be eclipsed by the silhouette of Santa's sleigh rising in the Christmas sky. The reason is that beyond all crass commercializing and pagan violations of the true spirit of Christmas, when understood historically and interpreted fairly, Santa is a great symbol of a holy spirit the Father wants to rain over the world at Christmas and always.

Despite his image being smeared by those who commandeer and apply his name and face to any less-than-worthy pursuits and perversions of true Christmas-ing, Santa will survive unscathed if honestly assessed on the grounds of his true derivation.

One year, my mother, who has since gone home to be with the Lord, bought me a simple-but-beautifully carved sign that reads, "We believe in Santa Claus." Anna and I hung it for all who visit our home at Christmas to see.

You have to know that in displaying this statement, I knew full well there was a risk. But while I haven't received anything but expressions of delight from happy souls who understand what is true and what I do mean, it seems inevitable that someone won't understand and won't like it. Thus, perhaps it's wise that I share why and what I believe in and about Santa Claus.

I believe Santa Claus was a real person, and one who testified to and demonstrated the love of God poured

I believe in Santa Claus as a righteous mood, attitude, or disposition. I believe in whatever generosity of spirit he symbolizes to us, and I like the idea that the contemporary role of Santa has traditionally incorporated a call to personal accountability for good or bad deeds done or undone. To "believe" in this way is not an endorsement of money-grubbing commercialism, or indecent parties where an employee dressed as Santa leads in the misappropriation of the spirit of Christmastime celebration. Whatever is done with Santa's reputation by the ignorant ought not weaken our remembrance, acceptance and celebration of what he truly represents.

I believe in Santa Claus, because when rightly adopted into a family's Christmas traditions, he enhances children's fun without threatening their faith. There is an acceptable way to include him in the family and not diminish either ultimate truthfulness or imagination's fun times. Where adults who know the Savior truly live like it, no child they influence is likely to confuse the Santa we pretend about with the Living Christ we worship, serve and in Whom we place our eternal faith.

This was confirmed by my granddaughter. She was raised in an atmosphere that neither avoided Santa nor made a religion of him, and by parents whose folks played Santa and didn't seem to demolish any sort of healthy respect for the ultimate, the real or the holy.

Yes, I do believe in Santa Claus, but I haven't been trapped into paganism or even slightly lost focus on Jesus—the Babe-become-King and the Center of the Season. I have a suspicion that if Jesus were asked how He felt about Santa Claus and if Santa was a threat to the intent of His holy Kingdom, He might say either: "Wherever a heart of love inspires further loving and giving, the Father of Christmas is being experienced." Or, surprised by our being concerned at all, He might say with a measure of puzzlement over our debate, "Santa who?"

Pastor's Perspective

This Perspective is from the archives of Four-square Pastor, the late Dr. Jack Hayford

"Making Holidays Happily Holy"

I love the holidays! All of them! I unabashedly feast on Thanksgiving Day and scream cheers at the TV during the New Year's Bowl games. As for Christmas, everything brings excitement and joy! After decades of celebrating the holidays, I've learned that celebration is not only fulfilling, it also brings life, faith, and health to my family and congregation.



The world notices the difference between our true festive joy and its own hollow efforts at celebration. Sanctify the Lord God first—center everything around Him, worshipping with joyous song and featuring the timeless Word of His truth. Then rejoice! Let people learn what it's like to live in the liberty that the truth and Spirit of Christmas really bring.

Unfortunately, it's not easy to even get some Christians to rejoice. Inhibitions abound. Preoccupying burdens of duty dampen souls and tempt a Scrooge-like "humbly"—even from many saints. But I consider helping my flock to release the spirit of rejoicing to be one of my primary callings at holiday time.

"Rejoice!" Paul commanded the Philippians, and then he immediately repeated himself: "And again I say, rejoice!" I've often thought that while dictating those words, the apostle mused, If I only say it once, those dear ones in Philippi will fly on by it and miss taking action. Then, turning to the amanuensis to whom he was dictating the epistle in a Roman cell, he said, "Write that again: Rejoice!"

This isn't hype—it's hope, anchored in the permanent ground of God's fulfilled promise, not in cheap promotionalism or fancy verbiage. I encourage every saint of God to reflect the glory and resound the joy of the angels' song: "Gladness is today's news! A Savior—to you—today!"

Let's celebrate in a way that makes Jesus' love appealing to a love-starved and joyless culture. Some sincere saints see the holidays as a time to attempt to impose something godly on their relatives. Instead, let's simply expose them to the raw reality of unhampered happiness. Let your light shine and His love overflow in a loving and sensitive way.

Of course, our celebration starts with a clear focus on the Lord. "Sanctify—give special place to—the Lord in your hearts; always ready to show others the reasonableness of the hope that fills your life!" (1 Peter 3:15, paraphrased).

That verse, prompting our witness to an inquiring world, is especially applicable to our traditional year-end holidays. I can't imagine anything more likely to open hearts to Christ than being exposed to the joy of Jesus in a home or congregation where people have learned to make the holidays happily holy.

Sanctifying the season—making holidays happily holy—doesn't require that we trash traditions to prove our piety. God's grace in us not only brings personal progress in purity, but also His Holy Spirit within us has the power to infuse every part of life with beauty and blessing, if we'll let Him. This means that amoral traditions may be taken by believers and converted to happy and holy occasions.

Giving presents can relive the story of the wise men and remind us that we serve a gift-giving God. A Christmas tree can represent the coming of the Light into the world and remind us that the greatest Gift of all was given to us on a tree, ushering out death and bringing us forgiveness, regeneration, and eternal hope.

Such conversion of tradition to meaningful observance is not a concession or compromise. It is sad that so many sincere believers have had the life "wrung out" of Christmas through the debunking tirades of people afraid of simple happiness.

Rather than fleeing the innocent cultural traits of celebration, let's "ring in" the season by choosing to fill our culture's habits of celebration with deeper color, purifying them by our enlightened perspective, and radiating them with a richness of joy that only the original Spirit of Christmas can bring.


From Thanksgiving on, make your home and church a center of welcome to those who are hungry—whether for food, family, or fellowship. When people's mouths are satisfied with good things and their souls are stimulated with signs of seasonal joy, then their hearts will open to the One who is central to it all. Let's show people the love of God in Jesus Christ by example. Let the feasting of the holidays feed others with every delight—a testimony of joy that ignites hope and faith in a dreary world that only knows the momentary "kick" of a raucous office party or a bottle of bubbly.

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Grossenburg Implement

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
December Chamber Mixer came early this month! Grossenburg Implement hosted the gathering, rolling into another event they were already planning—their annual Ladies

Night—both held December 3. Grossenburg's Ladies Night is a popular event, scheduled from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., while the Mixer was held a little earlier, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Delicious food and drink were provided for all.

Grossenburg's new expansive building had plenty of room for everyone to mix and mingle. The gathering provides Chamber members a monthly opportunity to network with other business owners and community members. Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Michaela Horn, was on hand to welcome



Grossenburg Implement equipment decorated out for the Parade of Lights. Courtesy Photos



(Above) Family's have made riding the Polar Express in Belle Fourche a Holiday Tradition. (R) Polar Express Conductor, Slade Hansen, punches a couple young Express riders tickets to board. The tradition of viewing the homes in all their splendor decorated for Christmas Holiday is in its sixth year. Courtesy Photos

Happy Holidays!



May your holidays sparkle—just like your smile!



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everyone and thank the hosts for opening their night to all. "Thank you to Grossenburg for hosting our December Mixer and for welcoming us into their Ladies Night," she said.

The Connect and Collect drawing is an ongoing event of the Chamber Mixers. The fun activity rewards Chamber members for participating in the monthly get-togethers. It was started a year ago, and you must be a Chamber member to win. Chamber members

are asked to sign in at each mixer in order to receive an extra entry into the monthly drawing. If the winner isn't present at the meet-up, the money rolls over to the next month. The pot is currently at \$365.

The December winner was the American Legion. There was no one from that organization present at the event, so the money moves on to the January mixer.

Mark your calendars for the next Mixer—it is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, at Belle Flowers and Co.



Every month at the Chamber Mixer, a Connect and Collect drawing is held. The current amount in the pot is \$365. Todd Watson, Keller Williams Realty does the draw. Courtesy photo

Polar Express From A1 ballot to vote for their favorite holiday light display, adding an interactive element to the tour.

Horn also expressed her appreciation for the local businesses that help make the event possible, noting that "this community favorite wouldn't happen without the support of our businesses. It's a charming way to enjoy the holiday spirit with our neighbors."

Northern Hills Credit Union proudly sponsored this year's event. Representatives Kip Wagner, Mel Schmidt, and Cassie Pannone were on hand to pass out goodie bags to passengers, adding an extra touch of generosity and holiday warmth.

"The Polar Express" Holiday Trolley Tour is a ticketed

event. The 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. rides are sold out, while adult tickets for the 7:00 p.m. ride remain available. A waiting list is being maintained for the sold-out rides.

Originally scheduled as a two-night event, the Friday evening tour was canceled due to a winter storm that brought snow and extremely low temperatures.

Organizers have announced that the canceled night will be rescheduled and held at the same location and times on Friday, December 19th.

Now in its sixth year, "The Polar Express" Holiday Trolley Tour continues to be a cherished Belle Fourche tradition—bringing neighbors together, celebrating creativity, and showcasing the festive spirit that defines the community during the Christmas season.

Ribbon Cutting From A1 after her grandma Betty. Elizabeth Ann's Bridal held the store's Grand Opening on the evening of October 16.

The bridal store is located on State Street in downtown Belle Fourche. "I have regular hours. I'm here from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but I prefer appointments just so I can prepare for it," explained Wolf. "There's been some

foot traffic, some walk-ins. It's been fun!" Wolf says the community has been amazing to her. "Oh my gosh. They've been the best community.

That's why I came home. They've just always been so warm and so welcoming," she shared. "And people just come in too. They're like, let's just go in, we're not getting married, but we just wanted to come see the store!"





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Broncs Finish Season with New Head VB Coach

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Sierra Kilts originally of Kaycee, Wyoming had her debut season as the new head coach of the Belle Fourche Broncs Varsity volleyball team.

Coach Kilts has over a decade of playing volleyball under her belt, including playing for Norwest College in Powell, Wyoming.

She was the team captain in 2024 and earned National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-American honors.

She brings with her a passion for the sport and new drills to foster team growth.

The Broncs had 6 wins in their 2025 season with Kilts who stated, "the wins and

losses column doesn't directly reflect the improvement the girls have made as both a team and as individual athletes.

This is a really young team and I'm really proud of how hard this group of girls worked to get better both mentally and physically.

Volleyball is just as much a mental game as it is a physical game and that's something we tried to focus on a lot this year, changing our mindset."

Kilts plans on returning next season and says, "I'm excited to see what the future holds for this program.

There's a lot of athletes in the high school and middle school right now and those athletes are excited to learn and get better and that is really encouraging to me as a coach."

Lady Bronc Basketball Starts Off with a Win

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

On Tuesday, December 9th the Lady Broncs hosted Lead-Deadwood at home. The Broncs scored the first basket by Denali Larson to start the game off and kept the lead at the end of the first quarter at 15-6.

In the second quarter the Lady Broncs scored an additional ten points to end the first half at 25-6. The third quarter saw Danali Larson with a 3 pointer, followed by two baskets by Emma Nehl and another three pointer by Kora Knapp for a 37-9 lead at the end of the third. In the fourth quarter the Lady Broncs scored 11 more points to Lead-Deadwood's 9 for a final

score of 50-21 for the Varsity team.

Lead scorers were Raegan Hatling at 12 points, Emma Nehl at 10 points, and Mya Nowiejski and Denali Larson each scoring 8 points. Kora Knapp scored 6 points for the team with Payton Richardson at 4 points and Mya Bush with 2 points.

On Friday December 12th the Lady Broncs travelled to Spearfish with a loss of 33-50 for varsity, and an 8-38 loss for the JV.

The Lady Broncs play in Phillip on Tuesday, December 16th then at the Staline Shootout in Lead on Friday December 19th verse Sundance and Saturday December 20th verse Newcastle.



Emma Nehl applying defense against Spearfish Spartans

Superintendent's Corner

R. Orion Thompson

Special to the Beacon

Belle Fourche School District

As we move deeper into the school year, I want to take a moment to share the tremendous work happening across our District and throughout our community. The momentum we are experiencing is both energizing and inspiring, and it reflects the collective effort of our staff, families, partners, and most importantly our students.

One of the most exciting developments this fall has been the launch of our *Early Learner Community Initiative*. This partnership-driven effort brings together educators, community members, and families to better understand our strengths as a community and identify areas where we can expand opportunities for our youngest learners. Early childhood success sets the stage for everything that follows, and the engagement we have already seen is a strong signal of what Belle Fourche can accomplish when we work together.

At the same time, our Belle Fourche Learning Innovations (BFLI) program continues to grow in its first year. We created this pathway with the goal of supporting students who benefit from a flexible learning structure while still remaining closely connected to our District. Not only have we welcomed many learners seeking a more personalized route, but we are also seeing a renewed connection as families recognize the strength, rigor, and care that define Belle Fourche Public Schools. Our hope

was to broaden access and invite more students into the learning community we are so proud of. Seeing that vision take hold in year one has been incredibly rewarding.

I want to extend my appreciation to the professionals and dedicated staff who have poured their time and talent into these programs. Their passion is evident in every success story, every new opportunity, and every improvement we continue to make.

Across our District, student involvement is thriving. From the classroom to extracurricular activities, our students are engaging in meaningful ways that reflect their pride in being Broncs. One area of growth we are particularly proud of is our partnership with Black Hills Special Services to strengthen *Adult Education opportunities* in the Belle Fourche area. By supporting adult learners, we strengthen families and in turn, our entire community.

With the holiday season in full swing, our schools are alive with celebrations, concerts, and student performances. These events are some of the best moments of the year. We work hard to ensure that every child feels the joy and belonging that come with this season, making the time they spend in school both meaningful and memorable.

Looking ahead, we are already in the planning stages for our summer improvement proj-

ects. Each year, we focus on upgrades that enhance the quality of our programs, maintain safe and effective learning environments, and position our District for long-term success. We look forward to sharing more details as those plans take shape.

As always, I want to highlight the ongoing importance of *consistent school attendance*. Public schools do more than build academic knowledge, they help develop social skills, resilience, teamwork, communication, and the confidence students need to thrive. When students are present and engaged, they grow in every one of these areas.

Finally, I encourage our families and community members to stay connected with our state legislators. Advocating for strong public schools means recognizing that meeting the needs of all students' academic, emotional, and developmental needs requires dedicated professionals who are supported and valued. Your voice matters, and it makes a difference.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the Belle Fourche School District. Together, we are creating opportunities, strengthening community connections, and helping our students build bright futures.

Warmly,

Orion Thompson
Superintendent



R. Orion Thompson, Ed.S Superintendent of Schools

Belle Fourche School District 9-1

2305 13th Avenue,

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

605-723-3355 ext. 1



Head volleyball Coach Sierra Kilts during a team time out this season. Courtesy Photo



Berklee Nore goes up for two.



Bronc "C" team scramble for the ball. Tonsager Photos

WRESTLING HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2025-26 BELLE FOURCHE

Head: Cory Neuwarth | Asst: Natwan Juelfs | Volunteer: Andrew Dighton

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
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



MEN'S 3V3 LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

DEC 3-FEB 4

AGES: 16+

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Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Wrestlers Take On Rapid City Tournament

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The high school wrestling teams traveled to The Monument in Rapid City on Friday December 12th and Saturday December 13th for the annual Rapid City Invitational.

It is always a large grueling tournament full of tough competition from 55 teams representing multiple states.

Initially 79 teams were registered, but with adverse weather, a number of teams dropped out.

Typically states competing are from our region, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho and Montana, this year, however, the competition also included a team competing from San Tan Foothills High

School in Arizona.

The team spent 20 hours traveling to the tournament for some competition from our local youth.

Earning your way to the podium at this two-day tournament is no small feat.

The Broncs had 12 male and 4 female competitors between their JV and Varsity teams this week.

Some team members were wrestling up in heavier brackets than where they will land once their decent plans are completed.

Wrestlers must start the season with an OPC hydration test that assesses body composition and a safe amount to cut per week to their desired bracket weight.

Some competitors on the team were moving up from the middle school team and experienced their first high school matches.

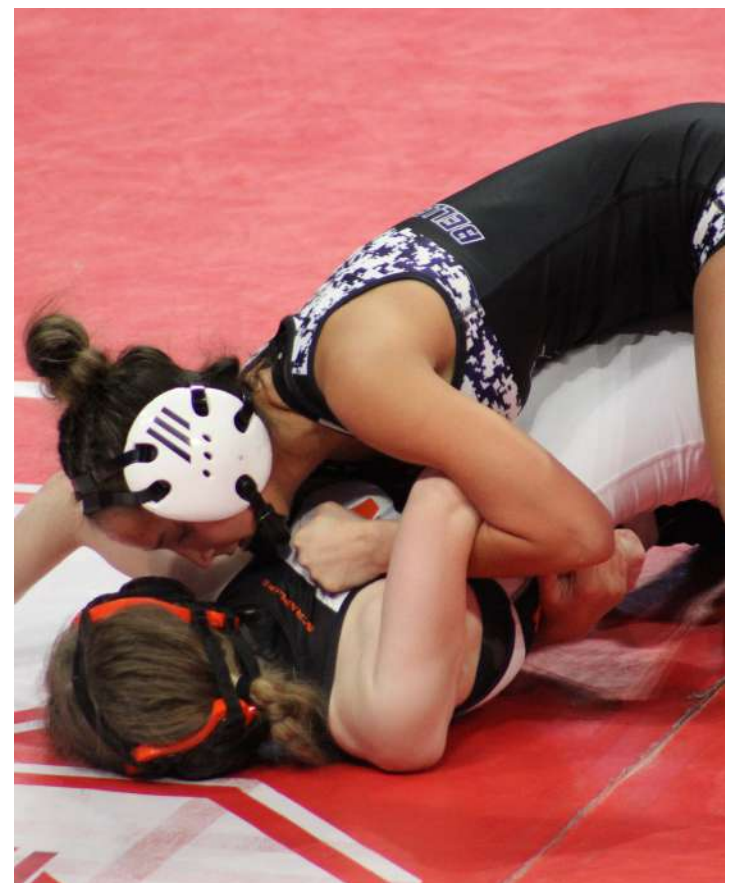
Both the boys and girls teams had great showings with three boys earning a spot on the JV podiums; Conner Crowser and Kolby Tibbs each took 6th while Koby Bowden took 4th.

For the girls, up and coming 7th grader, Charlie Huston took 6th and for the second year running, Kyra Vandenberg took Champion.

The Broncs wrestle next on Thursday, December 18th in Lead for a triangular with Custer, then onto Madison December 20th for an invite.



Kyra Vandenberg was a *Rapid City Invitational* Champion for 2nd year in a row. (R) Kyra displays great technique in action. *Courtesy Photos*



Koby Bowden won 4th in JV. (L) Koby working his opponent to his back. (Below) Broncs warming up on mat at *RC Invitational*. More Wrestling Photos page C2



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
WHERE: CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER - 2020 VISTA ST. BELLE FOURCHE

Lunch will be provided - please RSVP by 12/17

courtneyr@sturgisabc.org
 abc.butteco@gmail.com
 605-644-6522

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
 Reprieve 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. 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

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

Butte County is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA GARDENING



Feb 17 - Philip

Feb 19 - Kadoka

Feb 26 - Lemmon

Mar 5 - Hill City

Mar 10 - Belle Fourche

Mar 12 - Faith

Mar 17 - Winner

Join a one-hour gardening workshop in one of seven locations. Open to all skill levels!

Registration is \$10. Participants will receive gardening resources, enjoy snacks and drinks, and have the chance to ask questions and share ideas with others.



Time and Location Details Available in Registration

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

Dec 17 - 1PM Cribbage @ Belle Silver Lining
Dec 18 - 12:30PM Poetry on the Road @ Belle Silver Lining
Dec 19 - 5PM Angel Store @ BF Global Methodist
Dec 20 - 5:30 Moose Lodge Tip Night
Dec 21 - 2PM Family Fun Day @ Tri State Museum

Merry Christmas From the Chamber!

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

Contact Info



Audrey Pruitt
 4-H Educator
 605-892-3371
audrey.pruitt@sdstate.edu



Cindy Riley
 Extension and 4-H Program Assistant
 605-892-3371
butte.county@sdstate.edu



NORMAL OFFICE HOURS
 MONDAY-FRIDAY
 8 AM TO 5 PM

IF YOU ARE COMING FROM OUT OF TOWN, PLEASE CALL TO VERIFY SOMEONE IS IN THE OFFICE.

<https://www.facebook.com/ButtelLawrence4H>

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Black Hills

Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



Audiences were treated to a healthy dose of Christmas sentimentality and cheer at the Belle Fourche Area Community Theater's performances of *It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play* this past weekend. A small cast and crew, in true radio show fashion, created the small town of Bedford Falls and all of its memorable characters. Actors portrayed multiple personalities expertly with varied voices and minimal properties. The feel of a radio show was enhanced with all the elements of a real radio broadcast, announced from the start by Crystal Woods in smooth radio tones. The juxtaposition of the same voice actor playing Clarence the Angel and Potter the Greedy Banker was an interesting element, performed with distinct characterization by Colin Hanzlik. Joe Savery and Hailey Hanzlik brought the lives of classic characters George and Mary Bailey into the hearts of the audience, sincerely depicting the journey from their youthful dreams to the Christmas crisis. Director Isabella Quijano played many roles herself, including Stage Manager of the fictional WBFS radio program. The younger actors, Ember Olson (young Mary), Katherine Fowler (a sweet Zuzu), and Cade Pearson (playing young George) made varied characters part of their performances. As you would expect from a radio show ensemble, the entire cast took a hand in sound and crowd ambiance. Seeing actor Lucy Cole move seamlessly from multiple voices to the piano effects gave a real feel of a radio program. Light tech effects by Dylan Graywater and set tech by Arianna Sherer created the studio feel. Additionally, the new Rec Center sound system, according to sound tech Michael Meemken who managed the multiple microphones, helped the show come to life with clarity. The production was truly a journey to the heart of holiday.

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.
 January 19, Monday: BFMS Band Concert, 6:30 PM, BF Rec Center Theater
 January 26, Monday: BFHS One Act Performance for the Public, 6:30 PM BFRC Theater.



Actors (L to R) Crystal Woods, Colin Hanzlik, Lucy Cole, Hailey Hanzlik, Joe Savery, Katherine Folwer, Cade Pearson and Ember Olson take a well-deserved bow for bringing the spirit of Christmas to life in *Belle Fourche Area Community Theater's* performances of *It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play*. (courtesy photo)



The radio show feeling was real at the BFACT performances of *Belle Fourche Area Community Theater's* performances of *It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play* over the past weekend. (Hunter Anderson Photography)



Joe Savery and Hailey Hanzlik brought the lives of classic characters George and Mary Bailey into the hearts of the audience, sincerely depicting the journey from their youthful dreams to the Christmas crisis in *It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play*, staged by the BFACT. (Hunter Anderson Photography)

506 STATE STREET BELLE FOURCHE, SD

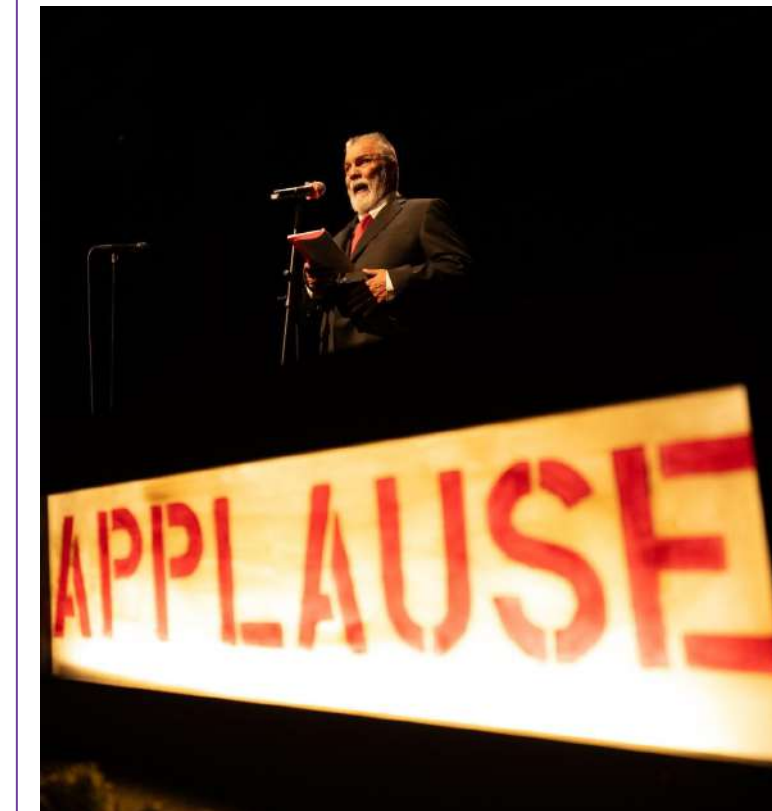
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The applause was real for the actors portraying multiple characters during the Belle Fourche Area Community Theater's performances of *It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play*. Colin Hanzlik was both angelic Clarence and despicable Mr. Potter in the production. (Hunter Anderson Photography)



Roots Grow Deep and Strong #45 "Chestnuts Anyone?"

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com



Once again it is the season for the timeless euphonious "Christmas Song".

It goes like this:
*Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
Jack Frost nipping at your nose
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir
And folks dressed up like Eskimos.*

Sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the "Christmas Song" becomes lodged in the nation's collective conscious, like it or not. For days and weeks at a time the tuneful lyrics performed by a vast array of crooners over time can become a kind of constant 'mind hum'.

Like it or not. Then as suddenly as it began, the 'mind hum' goes away to be stored in the collective unconscious until the next yuletide season.

'The Christmas Song' (commonly subtitled 'Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire' or 'Merry Christmas to You' song was written in 1945 by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé.

First recorded by the Nat King Cole Trio in June 1946 (and many others since) 'The Christmas Song' is not likely to go away. It's a bonified classic.

Consumers of this familiar

lyric may perceive that Christmas is a happy season. Christmas is about wearing cuddly warm garments, breathing cold fresh air, singing, and roasted chestnuts.

As it turns out, chestnut references are common references in song lyrics. According to lyrics.com https://www.lyrics.com/lyrics/chestnuts#google_vignette over 3,037 popular songs reference chestnuts.

So, what are chestnuts and why does listening to a song about chestnuts make one feel that one is missing something vitally important to one's seasonal happiness?

The reason that Americans are not engaged in enjoying chestnuts as part of a holiday tradition is because there aren't any. Or at least not enough for everyone.

Once upon a time America, Chestnut Trees were prolific. Most of the trees were located east of the Mississippi River.

Chestnuts provided a reliable staple food for many Native American tribes.

A pioneer culture of collective, gathering and sharing of chestnuts emerged and at one time chestnuts were also a plentiful, nutritious, dietary supplement in colonial America.

Older cookbooks from as recent as the turn of the century offer recipes for chestnuts added to dishes such as a 'chestnuts and sausages' and 'Thanksgiving stuffing with chestnuts'.

Raw chestnuts are safe to eat for most people. However, they do contain tannic acid,

which means they could cause stomach irritation, nausea, or liver damage and are probably best avoided.

When cooked, chestnuts are sweet, soft, nutritious, and delicious. And yes, Christmas festivities are better with roasted chestnuts on hand.

My grandmother Edith, born in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1904 recalled the chestnut trees, as "magnificent and tall with lovely leaves that provided the most wonderful shade."

Sadly, the American Chestnut trees are highly susceptible to chestnut blight. The blight was first identified on trees in New York State in the early 1900s. Within 40 years, an estimated 4 billion American Chestnuts succumbed to the blight, transforming the one beautiful, shaded streets in many towns.

Few trees remained. Even today, despite attempts to bring them back, there are very few American Chestnut trees. Thus, roasted chestnuts are not part typically unknown in American traditions.

However, in many countries Chestnut Trees are still prolific, bountiful, and shady. There are two discrete types. Horse Chestnuts and Sweet Chestnuts. Sweet Chestnuts are edible as are American Chestnuts, but Horse Chestnuts are toxic and to be avoided.

Horse chestnuts are covered by a leather like husk with pointed long thorn-like spines, while sweet chestnut husks have smaller needle-like spines that are not so sharp. Recogniz-

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Owl Creek Country Store from 3-6 on Wednesdays or by appointment. For directions to the country store, visit www.owlcreeknaturalproducts.com

Or call us at (605) 569-3124

ing the difference is easy.

In many countries chestnuts are available in stores in the fall for about five or six dollars a pound. During the holiday season, they can be purchased from street vendors fully roasted in their shells in a paper container for about five dollars.

Roasted chestnuts are delicious, sweet, somewhat soft, and filling. The shells need to be peeled away, but if properly prepared the shells peel off easily.

Chestnuts, hazelnuts, pecans and walnuts are 'true nuts' as nuts are defined as "a particular kind of dry fruit that has a single seed, a hard shell, and a protective husk."

Sometime in October through November depending on elevation chestnut husks begin to fall from the trees. They are ready to be gathered. Typically, each casing pod holds 2-3 nuts. Chestnut trees are so plentiful in many parts of Europe that finding the pods and picking them up is easy. Where there is one, there are likely to be any

more.

Gathering the chestnuts is also enjoyable. It's a matter of taking a hike in the woods and collecting the burrs of loose nuts on the ground. The sweet chestnuts are a little spiky to handle, but usually the nuts tend to pop out easily.

Before roasting the chestnuts should be soaked in water for an hour or two. Then they should be scored with an X before roasting for 20-30 minutes in a 300-degree oven.

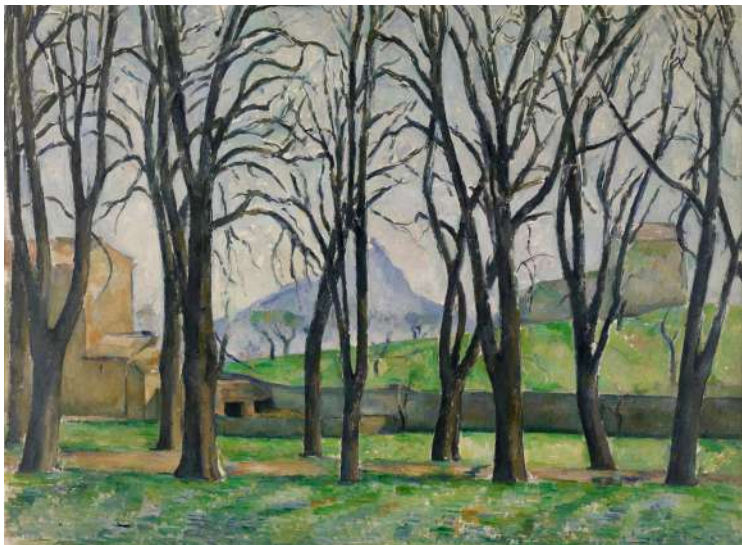
The shells should be easy to score as they become soft from soaking.

In my opinion, Chestnuts are the vegetarian option taste to lutefisk. Chestnuts taste better too.

In America they can be ordered on-line from Walmart or Amazon.

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Fresh-Raw-Chestnuts-3-Pounds/15119809756>

<https://www.amazon.com/Whole-Roasted-French-Chestnuts-Ounces/dp/B0CR9F47JR00>



(Above) Thriving Chestnut tree; *Chestnut Trees at Jas de Bouffan*, Paul Cezanne. 1885-86 Chestnut have been common in Europe for centuries. (Courtesy Photo)

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Belle Fourche Beacon 'Happenings' and News Bytes Calendar

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

- Belle Fourche Writers**
Belle Fourche Writers December will meet Saturday, December 20 at the Belle Fourche Public Library from 10 AM to noon. 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

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

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Randy Searer ~ Auctioneer 406-480-1974
Tyler Escott ~ Fieldman: 406-853-5690
Brooke Tupper ~ Office Mgr. 605-642-2200
Tim Tetrault ~ Fieldman: 605-642-9792 • 605-641-0328
Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654
Doug Dietterle ~ Auctioneer 605-788-2963
Ray Pepin ~ Fieldman: 605-892-5072
Casey Humble ~ Fieldman: 605-490-9829
Kelly Baker ~ Fieldman: 605-569-3007
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 12, 2025

Smaller run on this snowy day
Next Sale - Last sale of 2025 - Friday, Dec. 19 - Bred Cow Special - 8 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle
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Dobrenz, Larry J Or Jackie N, Gillette WY.....16.....Bk...Str.....649.....\$392.50
Grubbs III, Dallas, Upton WY.....32.....Bld...Str.....540.....\$460.00
Grubbs III, Dallas, Upton WY.....18.....B/R...Str.....454.....\$505.00
Grubbs III, Dallas, Upton WY.....12.....Rtd...Str.....542.....\$455.00
Mills Cattle Co., Volborg MT.....20.....B/R...Str.....516.....\$453.00
Mills Cattle Co., Volborg MT.....55.....Bld...Hfr.....557.....\$410.00
Mills Cattle Co., Volborg MT.....18.....B/R...Hfr.....459.....\$442.50
Mills Cattle Co., Volborg MT.....12.....Red...Hfr.....592.....\$365.00

Weigh Up Cows
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Bachand, Benny R, Sturgis SD.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1500.....\$167.50
Bachand, Benny R, Sturgis SD.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1345.....\$164.00
Burleson, James, Newcastle WY.....5.....Bld...Cow.....1556.....\$172.00
Burleson, James, Newcastle WY.....3.....B/R...Cow.....1283.....\$172.00
Chambers, Andrew, Olive MT.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1370.....\$167.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....5.....Bk...Hfr.....1003.....\$260.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....1.....Bk...Cwett.....1065.....\$180.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....2.....Bk...Cwett.....1302.....\$176.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....4.....Bk...Cow.....1437.....\$172.50
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....8.....Cow.....1332.....\$166.00
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD.....2.....Bk...Cow.....1145.....\$142.00
Eitel, Paul, Newcastle WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1350.....\$166.00
Elliott, Lee, Newcastle WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1370.....\$140.00
Foothills Ranch Inc, St Onge SD.....2.....Bk...Cow.....1505.....\$170.00
Foothills Ranch Inc, St Onge SD.....7.....Bk...Cow.....1298.....\$159.00
Gratwohl, Cynthia, Ashland MT.....1.....Bk...Hfr.....1070.....\$235.00
Gratwohl, Cynthia, Ashland MT.....1.....Bk...Cwett.....685.....\$180.00
Gratwohl, Cynthia, Ashland MT.....2.....Bk...Cow.....1607.....\$166.50
Gratwohl, Cynthia, Ashland MT.....3.....Bk...Cow.....1368.....\$162.00
Gratwohl, Rebecca, Ashland MT.....2.....Bk...Hfr.....962.....\$225.00
Gratwohl, Rebecca, Ashland MT.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1305.....\$174.00
Halverson, James, Sundance WY.....1.....Bk...Cwett.....1045.....\$212.50
Halverson, James, Sundance WY.....1.....Char...Cwett.....1260.....\$180.00
Hayden, Randy L, Gillette WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1430.....\$169.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY.....2.....Bld...Cwett.....1155.....\$202.50
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY.....3.....Bk...Cow.....1426.....\$170.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY.....3.....Bk...Cow.....1400.....\$169.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet WY.....1.....Bld...Cow.....1805.....\$155.00
J3 Enterprises LLC, Belle Fourche SD.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1345.....\$156.00
JL Livestock, Hammond MT.....2.....Bk...Hfr.....820.....\$265.00
JL Livestock, Hammond MT.....5.....Bk...Hfr.....985.....\$262.00
JL Livestock, Hammond MT.....29.....Bld...Hfr.....1019.....\$253.00
JL Livestock, Hammond MT.....2.....Bk...Hfr.....927.....\$220.00
JL Livestock, Hammond MT.....2.....Bk...Cwett.....1010.....\$187.50
Jochim, Mark, Belle Fourche SD.....3.....Bk...Cwett.....1181.....\$195.00
Jochim, Mark, Belle Fourche SD.....4.....Bk...Cow.....1302.....\$170.00
Jochim, Mark, Belle Fourche SD.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1280.....\$151.00
Larsen, Todd, Belle Fourche SD.....1.....Bk...Cwett.....1090.....\$179.00
Lawrence, Justin, Alzada MT.....2.....Hfr...Cow.....1380.....\$145.00
Marshall, David, Rozet WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1575.....\$160.00
Marshall, David, Rozet WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1175.....\$146.00
Martens, James E Or Kathleen, Upton WY.....1.....Bk...Hfr.....725.....\$300.00
Materi Land & Livestock, Upton WY.....6.....Bld...Cwett.....1145.....\$202.00
Materi Land & Livestock, Upton WY.....8.....Bk...Cow.....1406.....\$170.00
Materi Land & Livestock, Upton WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1155.....\$157.00
Materi Land & Livestock, Upton WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1745.....\$154.00
McFarland Land & Livestock LLC, Newcastle WY.....1.....Bk...Cwett.....1050.....\$200.00
McFarland Land & Livestock LLC, Newcastle WY.....2.....B/R...Cwett.....1157.....\$192.50
McFarland Land & Livestock LLC, Newcastle WY.....1.....Cow.....1565.....\$151.00
McFarland Land & Livestock LLC, Newcastle WY.....4.....Bld...Cow.....1111.....\$151.00
McFarland Land & Livestock LLC, Newcastle WY.....2.....Bk...Cow.....1140.....\$150.00
Miller, Ty, Newcastle WY.....3.....Bk...Cow.....1216.....\$158.00
Mills, Gary, Gillette WY.....3.....Bk...Hfr.....1003.....\$257.50
Mills, Gary, Gillette WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1250.....\$140.00
Mollitor Ranch, Smithwick SD.....9.....B/R...Cwett.....1457.....\$174.00
Mollitor Ranch, Smithwick SD.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1315.....\$172.00
Mollitor Ranch, Smithwick SD.....13.....Bk...Cow.....1307.....\$171.00
Mollitor Ranch, Smithwick SD.....2.....Red...Cow.....1275.....\$170.00
Mollitor Ranch, Smithwick SD.....9.....Bk...Cow.....1243.....\$140.00
Roush, Dustin Or Janell, Gillette WY.....2.....Bk...Cow.....1257.....\$150.00
Russiff Lazy PK Ranch, Lewistown MT.....3.....Bk...Hfr.....1068.....\$225.00
Russiff Lazy PK Ranch, Lewistown MT.....3.....Bk...Cow.....1498.....\$170.50
Russiff Lazy PK Ranch, Lewistown MT.....4.....Bk...Cow.....1340.....\$164.50
Schultz Ranch, Newell SD.....2.....Bk...Cow.....1472.....\$168.00
Schultz Ranch, Newell SD.....1.....Bld...Cow.....1250.....\$158.00
Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY.....3.....Bld...Cwett.....943.....\$217.50
Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY.....8.....Bld...Cow.....1308.....\$169.50
Sunny Side Livestock, Gillette WY.....1.....Bk...Cow.....1525.....\$169.00
Tango Papa Ranch, Sundance WY.....2.....Bld...Cow.....1522.....\$169.00

Weigh Up Bulls

Gatzke, Steve, Newell SD.....1.....Bull.....1880.....\$177.50
Heart Tail Ranch LLP, St Onge SD.....1.....Bull.....1715.....\$190.00
Heart Tail Ranch LLP, St Onge SD.....1.....Bk...Bull.....1640.....\$182.50
Mackey, Dudley & Marilyn, Gillette WY.....1.....Red...Bull.....1585.....\$162.50
Potter, Ross, Spearfish SD.....1.....Herf...Bull.....1390.....\$164.00
Randal Inc, Broadus MT.....1.....Bk...Bull.....1385.....\$164.00
Randal, Craig, Broadus MT.....1.....Bk...Bull.....1750.....\$171.00
Sandini, Shawnda, Newcastle WY.....1.....Red...Bull.....2105.....\$175.00
Sigman, Joshua, Vale SD.....1.....Bk...Bull.....1760.....\$162.50
Tower Valley Ranch, Hulett WY.....1.....Red...Bull.....2040.....\$180.00
Tower Valley Ranch, Hulett WY.....1.....Red...Bull.....1150.....\$190.00

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Sheep Report - Thursday, December 18, 2025

Light lambs sold higher, rest of the lambs sold mostly steady
Slaughter ewes sold \$5 to \$7 lower
Strong market on the replacement ewes
Next Sale - December 18th - Last sheep sale of 2025 - Regular sheep sale - 1 PM start time
First sheep sale of 2026 is Jan. 8th - Regular sheep sale
Thank you for your business!

Feeder Lambs

Lazy VC Kelly Ranch Inc, Faith SD.....41.....Lamb.....88.....\$300.00
Lazy VC Kelly Ranch Inc, Faith SD.....340.....Lamb.....112.....\$256.00
Lazy VC Kelly Ranch Inc, Faith SD.....98.....Lamb.....129.....\$219.00
Davis, Doug Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD.....18.....Lamb.....64.....\$336.00
Davis, Doug Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD.....91.....Lamb.....81.....\$301.00
Ahart, Keegan & Jean, Nisland SD.....37.....Lamb.....74.....\$322.00
Askin Land & Livestock, Lusk WY.....81.....Lamb.....71.....\$334.00
Askin Land & Livestock, Lusk WY.....60.....Lamb.....85.....\$292.00
Bertolotto, Louis, Newell SD.....31.....Lamb.....88.....\$298.00
Boller Mills Limited Partnership, Gillette WY.....36.....Lamb.....67.....\$342.00
M Diamond Angus Ranch, Glen Rock WY.....26.....Lamb.....92.....\$275.00
Mcamis, Steve Or Renee, Belle Fourche SD.....18.....Lamb.....102.....\$247.00
Moe, Todd, Stanley ND.....16.....Lamb.....56.....\$357.50
Pitz Or Gnelle Dauwen, Tom, Faith SD.....200.....Lamb.....123.....\$219.00
Ryan, Jack, Prairie City SD.....32.....Lamb.....92.....\$274.00

Replacement Ewes - Sold By The Head

Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD.....49.....Yrkg.....152.....\$370.00
Donovan, Trey, Faith SD.....21.....2yr.....166.....\$330.00
Tooke, Kenzie Or Kendra, Ekalaka MT.....14.....3-Sld.....215.....\$250.00
Borchgrevink Livestock, Belle Fourche SD.....25.....5-6yr.....174.....\$200.00

Slaughter Ewes

Geis, Hayden, Buffalo WY.....24.....K Ewe.....198.....\$103.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD.....13.....K Ewe.....156.....\$107.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD.....16.....K Ewe.....150.....\$102.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD.....40.....K Ewe.....138.....\$90.00
M Diamond Angus Ranch, Glen Rock WY.....33.....K Ewe.....172.....\$107.00
M Diamond Angus Ranch, Glen Rock WY.....47.....K Ewe.....146.....\$107.00
M Diamond Angus Ranch, Glen Rock WY.....60.....K Ewe.....149.....\$101.00
M Diamond Angus Ranch, Glen Rock WY.....64.....K Ewe.....131.....\$90.00
Reichert, Ross, Sturgis SD.....12.....K Ewe.....166.....\$107.00
Shaykett, Alan, Nisland SD.....18.....K Ewe.....189.....\$107.00
Storm, Scott, Meadow SD.....10.....K Ewe.....163.....\$107.00

Slaughter Bucks

Clark, Jeff, Whitewood SD.....3.....Kbuck.....165.....\$119.00
Boller Mills Limited Partnership, Gillette, WY.....11.....Kbuck.....208.....\$110.00

Friday, December 19, 2025

Bred Hfr & Cow Speical

8 AM - Weigh Ups, 11 AM Feeder Cattle, 12 Noon Bred Cows

Feeder Cattle
MT Consignment - 200 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 500-600# - Bt, Pc, Wnd
Sam & Wacey Ortmann - 31 Mostly Blk Strs & Hfrs - 500-650# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Bred Hfrs & Cows
Blair Brothers - 40 Blk Hfrs - Bred Blair Lbw Bulls - 4/1 For 15 Days - 1100#
- 39 Blk 3 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blair Bulls - 5/1 For 30 Days
- 40 Blk 4 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blair Bulls - 5/1 For 30 Days
- 60 Blk 5 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blair Bulls - 5/1 For 30 Days
- 30 Blk 6 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blair Bulls - 5/1 For 30 Days
- 30 Blk 7 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blair Bulls - 5/1 For 30 Days
Ted & John Elgin - 13 Blk Hfrs - AI Bred To True North - 2/28 - Home Raised
- 48 Blk Hfrs - Bull Bred Blk Angus - 3/14 For 50 Days
- 12 Blk 3 To 7 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk Sim-Angus - 4/29 For 21 Days
- 5 Blk 3 To 7 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk Sim-Angus - 5/20
- 17 Blk Short Term Cows - Bred Blk Sim-Angus - 3/17 For 60 Days
Leffingwell Ranch - 18 Blk Hfrs - Bred Blk Angus - Sorted In 2 Groups Starting 3/3 For 21 Days & 4/1 For 40 Days
- 47 Blk Mixed Age Cows - Bred Blk Angus - 3/20 For 60 Days
Rick & Marlene Nieman - 60 Blk Hfrs - Bred Lwb Blk - Sorted In 3 20 Day Groups Starting On 3/5
TRH Ranch - 60 Blk Hfrs - Bred Lwb Blk - 3/25 For 21 Days & 4/15 For 17 Days
Konechne Ranch - 55 Blk Hfrs - Bred Thomas Angus Bulls - 3/19 For 20 Days
Chris Grubl - 50 Bl 4 Yr To Short Term Cows - Bred Blk - 3/10 For 45 Days
Cody Young - 44 Blk & Bldy & Few Herf 3 Yr To Short Term Cows - Bred Blk - 3/1
C & T Ranch - 27 Blk 4& 5 Yr Old Cows Bred Blk 5/01 30 Dys Bred Char
Two Tone Cattle - 33 Red Mixed Age Cows - Bred Blk - 3/1
Rick & Tim Kleven - 27 Blk Hfrs - Bred Lwb Blk Angus - 3/15 For 60 Days
Jim Palo - 27 Blk Short Term Cows - Bred Char - 3/10
Arledge Ranch - 25 Blk Ss-Broken Cows - Bred Blk - 3/25
Wolf Ranch Inc - 14 Blk Bldy 3 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk Angus - 3/10 For 50 Days
- 10 Herf Short Term Cows - Bred Blk Angus - 3/10 For 50 Days
Ryan XZ Ranch - 22 Blk 3 Yr To Broken Mouth Cows - Bred Blk - 5/15 For 30 Days
Trucano Ranch - 20 Blk Short Term Cows - Bred Blk - 3/20 For 45 Days
Mark Jochim - 12 Blk Ss - Broken Mouth Cows - Bred Blk - 3/25
Jake Kammerer - 10 Blk Mixed Age Cows - Bred Blk Or Herf - 4/1 For 60 Days
Calvin Wolf - 3 Herf 4 Yr Old Cows - Bred Blk Angus - 3/10 For 50 Days

Plus More By Sale Time!

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

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

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

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, December 18, 2025
Regular Sheep Sale 1 PM
Plus more by sale time!

2025 SHEEP SALES

December 18th - Last Sheep Sale For 2025 - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
2026 SHEEP SALES
January 8th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
January 15th - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
January 22nd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
January 29th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 5th - No Sale - Visit The Black Hills Stock Show
February 12th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 19th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 26th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goat

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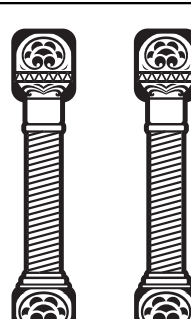


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Looking Back in Belle

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.



by Mary Buchholz

124 years ago
Northwest TIMES
December 26, 1901
Future Cattle Business
 There is a diversity of opinion of western cattlemen as to the status of the cattle business some five years hence.

The standard of the business is being raised so rapidly that the time will soon pass when even the large ranchman can handle scrub cattle with a profit. That there is a shortage in range cattle will not be denied.

Some attribute the shortage to the contraction of the western grazing lands, and some say that it is caused by the demand increasing more rapidly than the supply; while other authorities say that the ranch owners, who for years have ranged cattle on their land with no attempt to limit the number of head ranged, thereby seriously damaging the range, had fenced in large areas of land, sold their cattle and retired from active business for the time being, in order that the land might recuperate.

Married: - At the residence of the bride's parents, 308 South Bleacher St. Wednesday evening, Dec. 18, Miss Clara Doody to Mr. Herbert Brown, both of this city. The wedding was a quiet affair, only immediate members of the families of the couple being present. At 8 o'clock a reception for the newly wedded couple was held, at which the Woodmen band rendered a few selections. Mr. and Mrs. Brown will make this city their home.

Hidden Fortune Mining
 A number of the stock holders of the Hidden Fortune Mining company visited in the Hills at Lead. They were to have visited Belle Fourche and look over the site for mills, but they failed to arrive.

The company has recently paid the balance due on many of the mines purchased last winter, but which were still under bond. Active development work continues on the properties. All connected with the company are highly pleased with the outlook. During the last few weeks \$274,000 is said to have been paid out to previous owners of the properties.

100 years ago
The Northwest Post
December 24, 1925
MARRIED IN SPEARFISH

Francis J. McDonald of Belle Fourche and Miss Oda V. Mickelson of Fruitdale were united in marriage at Spearfish last Monday. Rev. R. D. Crawford, pastor of the Episcopal church, officiating. After a brief honeymoon in the Hills, the young couple will be at home in the Orem cottage in the east part of the city. The bride is well known in Fruitdale where her father is engaged in the hardware business, and where her friends are counted by her acquaintances. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. McDonald of Aladdin, and is known as a young man of sterling worth. He is a graduate of the Belle Fourche High School and is at present employed at the White Eagle filling station in this city. Many friends will extend hearty congratulations and best wishes for a happy future.

LUCK WAS THIS LAD'S NAME Rejean, the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Nelson, can count himself one of Belle Fourche's most lucky youngsters. Last Thursday Mr. Nelson was starting home with his truck, when his little son attempted to climb aboard, but instead of stepping onto the running board, the boy's foot slipped through the open space just back of the front fender and he fell under the truck. Before Mr. Nelson could stop the machine, one of the rear wheels had passed over the little fellow's thigh. He was immediately picked up and taken to a doctor where it was found that beyond a slight bruise he had suffered no injury, and was soon able to run around as usual.

75 years ago
The Belle Fourche Daily Post
December 23, 1950
Yanks Win Biggest Korean Air Battle

Yokyo, Dec. 22 - The biggest air battle of the Korean war was started late Friday, Korean time, high over the frozen hills southeast of Sinitju in northwest Korea. The commander of a flight of American F-86 Sabers spotted some 15 to 25 Russian-made MIG 15's. He had only eight planes, including his own, but the F-86's

are the world's fastest, so he didn't hesitate. The American jets went into action. They dived on the MIG's and a dramatic air battle began. It ranged from 30,000 feet to tree-top level. When the smoke cleared, six Russian-made jets were down in flames, a seventh was damaged. An air force communique says none of our planes was touched. The communique adds "All of the victories were officially confirmed. One of the enemy planes disintegrated in mid-air and the other five dived into the ground." It was another triumph for the Sabers - which can hit a speed of 670 miles per hour. On the ground in northeast Korea, American gunners wiped out four-fifths of a Red striking force which renewed the attack on the UN's tiny Hungnam beachhead Friday night, Korean time. United Press correspondent William Chapman says the new Red assault came after a quiet day. GI's spotted the attackers when illumination shells burst over the plain which lies before the southwest flank of the beachhead. The artillery batteries went to work. An American staff officers reports our big guns "massacred" the Reds.

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Daily Post
December 20, 1975
Riley, Coyle Named To Conference Team

Kathy Riley, one of the leading scorers in the Black Hills conference and Cathy Coyle, an outstanding freshman guard, have been named to the Black Hills all-conference girls basketball team, it was announced Friday by Coach Gene Berg. Cindy Ginsbach, a junior forward, received honorable mention. Kathy Riley, a senior center, scored 228 points for the season and pulled down 188 rebounds, one of the best records in the conference. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Riley. Cathy Coyle scored 118 points for the season and collected 68 rebounds in her first year of competition. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Coyle. Cindy Ginsbach is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Ginsbach.



A group of **Connection Church** youth and leaders showed up with shovels and were exercising Community service by shoveling sidewalks for various home across the city. The Beacon's publisher's home was the recipient of there ambitious action. The large group's many shovels made short work of the task and cleared sidewalks and driveway in short order.

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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
WHERE: CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER - 2020 VISTA ST. BELLE FOURCHE

Lunch will be provided - please RSVP by 12/17

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2025

DECEMBER

For Information about Delivery or Frozen Meals, call 892-6285
Milk & Fruit Served with all meals
Menu subject to change based on availability.

1	2	3	4	5
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	Parmesian Chicken Egg Noodles Mixed Veggies		

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M-F 11 am-1 pm

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Menu subject to change or modification.



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



BFHS Welders perform 'Well' at Weld-Off

Recently, Belle Fourche High School Advanced and Welding 2 students went to Lake Area Tech in Watertown, South Dakota, to participate in their annual Weld Off, welding

competition. "The students did very well. It was a long two days for the welding students, but they did us proud." Said BFHS welding instructor Jim

Hartwell. "Not all placed in the top 25 in their division, but they all had a great learning experience, a better understanding to prepare them for their next competition."

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Left to Right: Kate Blair, Johnny Estrada, Roenn Ruzicka, Kyle Hendrickson, Nathen Hudson, Mason Nehl, Makien Browning, Garett Huston, Gabriel Schaefer, Tucker Hughes, Jory Olson, Silas Carson, Aolani Stone, Abbey Clendening, Alexa Stone, Mike Koskey, Alexis Jewett, Meghan Jordan, Carmen Beguin



Silas Carson, a Junior, placed 3rd in the Advanced division. Silas built a tool tray for the competition. (BL&R) Tucker Hughes and Kyle Hendrickson tied in 8th position out of 73 students in the advanced division.



(L to R) Mason Nehl got 11th position out of 73 students in the advanced division; Nathen Hudson 12th place out of 73 students in the advanced division; Carmen Beguin placed 18th out of 73 students in the advanced division; Alexis Jewett placed 14th out of 93 students in her group. Courtesy Photos



(L to R) Alexa Stone placed 16th out of 93 students in her group; Aolani Stone placed 20th out of 93 students in her group; Kate Blair placed 21st out of 89 students in her group; Meghan Jordan placed 19th out of 89 students in her group. Courtesy Photos





Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden December 14, 2025

While we have the white stuff that came mid-week, it may be nearly gone soon with weather and temperature predictions for this week.

For folks who are wanting to get into the real holiday spirit, a visit to the Community Baptist Church in Union Center would be in order.

Another way to bring some Christmas joy is to head further east to Pierre and view the Christmas trees in our state Capitol.

On Thursday, some Meade County students will come to Pierre to take in the trees at the Capitol and experience the beauty of the Governor's mansion as well.

Sandy and Larry Rhoden were able to make a trip to DC and spent some time at the White House for a Christmas reception with President Trump and others.

We have about a week to enjoy the blessings of the Christmas season as we are more clearly aware of showing good will toward men.

Sixth Annual Ladies Night Out Draws Big Crowd



(Above) Delicious food and drink was served to all at Ladies Night Out. (Below) Gals filled the store during Ladies Night Out at Prairie Hills Pharmacy.



Bobbi Longbrake news@bellefourchebeacon.com BELLE FOURCHE—Downtown Belle was buzzing with holiday spirit as ladies gathered to enjoy a special evening created just for them at Prairie Hills Pharmacy on December 4.

This is the sixth year that the pharmacy has hosted the festive Ladies Night Out. "From the first year we started, we've held it every year on the first Thursday in December," explained Cindy Cowan, co-owner of Prairie Hills Pharmacy.

Everyone starts looking forward to it because they know what's going to happen!"

The invitation to the area ladies started going out to the community several weeks in advance to give everyone time to plan for a fun evening out.

Deb Ward was in charge of the food and she made everything by hand. Many of the dips and sauces she created are mix-

es available to buy in the store. "She does a lot of stuff like this, she is amazing, anytime we need something done she does it," shared Cowan.

One of the highlights of the evening is the wishlist.

Everyone that comes into the store is given a wishlist on a clipboard and a pen to go around and write down items the shopper may want for Christmas.

Participants choose from Navajo Silver, handbags, candles, pottery, snow globes, kitchen items, photo frames, lamps and so much more.

The wishlist is given back to the store for anyone to come in at a later date and shop from it. "They love the wishlist because then they can send anyone in and they get what they want.

"Everybody fills out the wish-

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel



Just one more to go! Green vinyl branches hook nicely into a circle anchored at the center. They fan out at the bottom, leaning into a large metal ring.

The tree is the only artificial Christmas tree our parents ever had. After many years of chopping or buying a real tree, the folks decided to avoid the annual plague of needles in the carpet and buy a tree in a box.

Today, that same tree that held place of honor at our parents' home long after their children had left the nest, is coming to life again.

My heart smiles and memories pressed between the pages of my mind drift into place like the snow outside my window:

"All That Glitters"

It smelled like Christmas! The balsam fir bought at Nelson Hardware in De Smet stood in its can of wet sand, held firmly in the wooden frame that Dad, Donald and Delmer had built.

Mom unwrapped the red glass tree topper and handed it to Dad. He gently pushed the opening of the finial over the top branch and the long spire pointed to the ceiling.

The whole family took part in decorating. The boys helped Dad wind the strings of lights into the branches. The large bulbs glowed from the tree in every color.

Mom, Deloris, Darlene and Dorothy carefully placed the glass ornaments all around the tree. There were shiny colored balls of different sizes.

lower branches. Finally, Mom dug a flat package from the bottom of the Christmas box. She unfolded a thick newspaper which held hundreds of silvery strands of tinsel that had been meticulously draped over the paper after last Christmas.

Today I leave the precious tinsel on that last branch and fit it into place. I cannot help but think of Mom and Dad giving this same tree life year after year. I wonder. As Dad wound light stings over the plastic needles, did he talk about their first family trees when little Deloris and Donald gazed up at glowing candles?

As they both draped the prudently-saved tinsel over the branches, did they reminisce of days when tinsel was not perfectly placed? Or did they quietly smile, knowing they shared the same memories--and add one more glittering strand?

Give the gift of memories! All of the author's published stories are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.

COWBOYS TOO! SPORT COATS

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA) IN CIRCUIT COURT : SS COUNTY OF BUTTE) FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Table with 2 columns: Plaintiff (THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN SIOUX FALLS) vs. Defendant (RAYMOND D. HUSEBY d/b/a OUTLAW EXPRESS). Case number: 09 CIV. 25-179. Title: SUMMONS.

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.

Dated at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this 22nd day of October, 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

list and then the guys love it because they come in, they can shop, they get 10% off, we wrap it for free, and they're done," explained Cheryl Westland, co-owner. "They know exactly what they want!"

offer more to the community. "It's really been nice to be downtown because we get more walk in traffic, we're more visible and the community is very good to us both on the pharmacy side and in here, they're supportive and they seem to shop local, which is very much appreciated," said Cowan.

COWBOYS TOO! JEANS

THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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



Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Cindy Cowan, co-owner, helps a customer pick out beautiful jewelry. Longbrake photo



Visiting with friends and neighbors, while shopping was a fun part of the evening. Longbrake photo



Shopping seemed a natural ability of the attendees of Ladies Night Out. Longbrake photo



A big part of the Ladies Night Out was picking out items for a personal wishlist. Longbrake photo

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Join Us!

As we celebrate our community's many successes!

We cordially invite you to join us for our annual meeting as we recognize our community accomplishments and look at the future of Belle Fourche.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

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.

BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RSVP by January 12th, 2026 to Hollie Stalder
Email: director@bellefourchedevcorp.com
or call ~ 605-892-5065

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Holiday Spirit Shines Bright at Parade of Lights

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—There is a long-standing tradition in Belle Fourche: the day after Thanksgiving is made for small-town celebration! Not only is it the ramp-up to the holiday season and Black Friday, but it's also time for the magical Parade of Lights!

This year, businesses and organizations came together to make it an unforgettable day for all in attendance. Black

Friday shopping kicked off first thing in the morning, with an emphasis on supporting small businesses all day long. Starting around 4 p.m.,

Belle Silver Lining hosted a Chili Feed at the Community Hall. Musical guests, the Cowboy Band, performed, and Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand for pictures.

At the Tri-State Museum, the Center of the Nation Business Association (CoNBA) sponsored Carriage Rides that

traveled around town. CoNBA accepted free-will donations for the horse-drawn rides on behalf of the Compassion Cupboard.

Several downtown businesses offered cookies and hot cocoa to warm up the cold attendees before, during, and after the Parade of Lights. Around 5 p.m., Pearson Block Candy Shop offered cookies and cocoa for anyone wanting to stop by. SML Southside Conoco stayed open to offer a free cup of hot cocoa.

During the parade, free hot chocolate was provided in front of COWBOYS TOO, and following the parade, the Connection Church Belle Fourche served hot cocoa, hot cider, and cookies on the way to the tree-lighting ceremony.

Eager business and parade participants began lining up for the Parade of Lights around 5 p.m. in the parking lot of the Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department on National Street. At 6 p.m., the bright, colorful

floats began the trek around the parade route, starting at the Fire Department, then going north on 8th Avenue all the way to State Street, turning left on State Street, and following the street to the stoplight.

Since the parade happens after dark, in order to keep everyone safe, floats were asked not to throw candy. They could hand it out if they wanted to walk along the route with the floats.

After the last float passed, the crowd was invited to walk over to Durr Park for the lighting of the City Christmas tree.



(TL) *American Colloid Company* had a brightly decorated float full of shiny lights; (TR) *High Plains Restaurant*, Newell SD, had a fun lit-up float in the Parade of Lights. (CL) *CONBA* offered carriage rides prior to the Parade of Lights. Any funds raised went to the *Compassion Cupboard*; (CR) After the *Parade of Lights*, on the way to the *Lighting of the Christmas Tree*, attendees were invited to stop at *Connection Church* for hot cocoa, hot cider and cookies; (BL) After the Parade of Lights, the public was invited to the *Lighting of the City Tree* in *Durr Park*; (BR) *Cowboys Too!* float carried special guests, *West River's Authentic Santa and Mrs Claus*.
Courtesy photos



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"SERVING THE TRI-STATE AREA SINCE 1935"

Market Report - Thursday, December 11, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

FEEDER CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Ron Or Sherri Rooney, Miles City MT	87	Black-Str	587	443.50	\$ 2,601.86
	40	Black-Str	493	502.00	\$ 2,472.97
	51	Black-Hfr	527	401.00	\$ 2,111.93
	18	Black-Hfr	441	409.00	\$ 1,803.00
Ben Or Lori Garman, Belle Fourche SD	90	Black-Str	580	465.00	\$ 2,695.19
	76	Black-Str	482	531.00	\$ 2,561.37
	99	Black-Hfr	577	398.00	\$ 2,296.74
	119	Black-Hfr	494	440.50	\$ 2,176.58
Ronald A Adam, Sturgis SD	69	Black-Str	512	492.50	\$ 2,522.45
	12	Black-Str	667	350.00	\$ 2,333.33
	25	Blk/Bwf-Str	397	530.00	\$ 2,105.16
	30	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	577	380.00	\$ 2,192.60
	18	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	484	411.00	\$ 1,991.06
Lazy Y Quarter Circle Llc, Aladdin WY	19	Black-Str	573	441.00	\$ 2,527.62
	26	Black-Str	444	552.50	\$ 2,453.31
	63	Black-Hfr	476	432.50	\$ 2,059.86
	40	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	579	385.00	\$ 2,227.22
Trusler Inc, Ashland MT	63	Black-Str	459	550.00	\$ 2,522.14
	52	Black-Hfr	429	463.00	\$ 1,988.22
Paul Or Judy Hinkhouse, Nisland SD	45	Black-Yrng Str	956	321.50	\$ 3,073.18
	23	CharRed-Yrng Str	913	318.00	\$ 2,904.16
Yy Cattle Co, Volborg MT	15	Black-Str	588	431.00	\$ 2,535.71
	17	Black-Hfr	602	364.00	\$ 2,190.42
	12	Black-Hfr	494	422.00	\$ 2,083.62
Howard & Diana White, Upton WY	37	Black-Str	539	488.00	\$ 2,631.24
	13	Black-Str	452	547.50	\$ 2,472.17
Castleberry Inc, Ekalaka MT	16	Bwf-Str	687	377.00	\$ 2,590.69
Riley Lesh, Ekalaka MT	21	Bwf-Str	661	374.00	\$ 2,471.07
	24	Rwf-Str	633	377.50	\$ 2,390.83
Brunson Family, Aladdin WY	17	Black-Str	688	371.00	\$ 2,552.26
	9	Black-Str	559	462.50	\$ 2,584.86
Elmer Brehm, Belle Fourche SD	15	Blk/Bwf-Str	636	378.00	\$ 2,402.82
Emmons Cattle, Olive MT	20	Blk/Bwf-Str	720	366.00	\$ 2,635.20

WEIGH-UPS					
Mulshoe Ranch Inc, Belle Fourche SD	22	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1126	248.00	\$ 2,791.69
	20	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1437	176.50	\$ 2,535.42
	5	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1203	186.00	\$ 2,237.58
	5	Black-Cow	1163	173.00	\$ 2,011.99
Amie Mader, Biddle MT	4	Red-Hfrt	1034	235.00	\$ 2,429.31
	8	Rd/Blk-Cow	1380	173.00	\$ 2,387.40
Arthur L Hauber, Hulett WY	2	Bwf-Cow	1240	176.00	\$ 2,182.40
	1	Black-Cow	1160	171.00	\$ 1,983.60
	1	Bwf-Cow	1545	174.50	\$ 2,696.02
Dennis Quaring, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1395	173.50	\$ 2,420.32
	1	Rwf-Cow	1290	174.00	\$ 2,244.60
Jodi Massie Or Ben Blake, Belle Fourche S	1	Black-Cow	1645	175.00	\$ 2,878.75
	1	Bwf-Cow	1560	175.00	\$ 2,730.00
Howard & Diana White, Upton WY	1	Black-Cow	1245	202.50	\$ 2,521.12
	1	Black-Hfrt	905	255.00	\$ 2,307.75
John S Or Bonnie Johnson, Buffalo SD	3	Black-Cow	1395	172.00	\$ 2,399.40
Jim Klein, Dell Rapids SD	1	Black-Cow	1335	170.00	\$ 2,269.50
Shannon Or Emily Wiggers, Newell SD	1	Black-Hfrt	1085	250.00	\$ 2,712.50
	1	Bwf-Cow	1565	172.50	\$ 2,699.62
	1	Bwf-Cow	1790	170.50	\$ 3,051.95
Kelley Nible, Buffalo SD	1	Red-Cow	1310	174.00	\$ 2,279.40
	1	Red-Cow	1545	173.00	\$ 2,672.85
	1	Red-Cow	1250	176.00	\$ 2,200.00

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL

DECEMBER 18, 2025

WUPS @ 9 AM MT | BREDS @ 11 PM MT

<p>COMPLETE DISPERSION SCHULTZ RANCH -MT 175 BLK 3YO-ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 50 DAYS, BRED TO STEVENSONS DIAMOND DOT ANG BULLS, HR</p> <p>AGE DISPERSION TC OUTFIT -SD 260 BLK 4YO COMING 5YO BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, BRED TO GREEN MTN ANG ADVOCATE 1/2 BROTHER, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>BRED HEIFERS PAUL HINKHOUSE -SD 114 BRED BLK HFERS, 925-950# BRED BLK, CLV 3/25 - 60 DAYS, BW OF 74-78LBS, REPRO SHOTS</p> <p>TODD MECCAGE-MT 110 BLK BRED HFERS, 1100# BRED BLK, CLV 3/10 - 60 DAYS, BRED TO DEGRAND ANG LBW BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED, FANCY, GENTLE, ONE BRAND, ORIGINATED FROM CROSS W LIVESTOCK & MEDICINE ROCK ANG</p> <p>BRUCE CRAGO -SD 45 BLK BRED HFERS, 1150# BRED BLK, CLV 3/1 - 14 DAYS, A'ED TO SELECT SIRES BULL - NEW ADDITION, REPRO SHOTS, POURED, HR, CAKE BROKE, FANCY</p> <p>LAWSON MCGILL-MT 42 BLK BRED HFERS, 1050# BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 45 DAYS, BRED TO WITTKOPP ANG LBW BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p>	<p>DAN & MELISSA BIRD -WY 40 BLK BRED HFERS, 950# BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 45 DAYS, BRED TO COOK & LEFFINGWELL ANG CLVING EASE BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>CATHEY RANCH -MT 37 BLK BRED HFERS BRED BLK, 37 HD - CLV 3/15 - 30 DAYS, BRED TO DIAMOND D ANG BULLS, NO BRANDS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>SUZANNE & TOM D JR TRUSLER -MT 35 BLK BRED HFERS BRED BLK, CLV 3/10, BRED TO BAKER LEMAR ANG BULLS</p> <p>HOUSTON CREEK CATTLE CO-WY 34 BLK/BWF BRED HFERS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 30 DAYS, BRED TO MOHNNEN ANG BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>WES & LISA STEPLER -MT 32 BLK BRED HFERS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1, THREE CYCLES, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>PAT KING-WY 30 BLK HFERS BRED BLK, 15HD - A'ED TO CLV 2/7, 15HD - BULL BRED TO CLV 3/1 - 4/10, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>RULE LIVESTOCK -WY 11 BLK BRED HFERS BRED BLK & HEREF, CLV APRIL, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>LABREES RED HILL RANCH -MT 10 BLK BRED HFERS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 30 DAYS</p>	<p>BRED COWS VICTOR JONES -WY 220 BLK 4YO-SM BRED COWS BRED BLK, 20HD - CLV 4/1 - 30 DAYS, 20HD - CLV 5/1-6/30, BRED TO JORGENSEN ANG BULLS, POURED</p> <p>CC RANCH-MT 150 BLK 3YO BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1, BRED TO KREBS & VERMILLION ANG BULLS, POURED, STEVENSON ANG GENETICS</p> <p>WES & LISA STEPLER -MT 90 BLK 3YO-ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/10, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>MOKE RANCH -SD 50 BLK ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/10 - 60 DAYS</p> <p>LOEHING INC -MT 50 BLK ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>BALLOU ANGUS-WY 40 BLK ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/1 - 45 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>CATHEY RANCH -MT 40 BLK 9YO COMING 10YO BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/10 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>WACEY & SAM ORTMAN -MT 30 BLK & RED HFERS-6YO BRED COWS BRED BLK SIM, CLV 4/10, BRED TO GATEWAY SIM ANG BULLS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p>	<p>BOX L CATTLE CO -MT 27 BLK ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV APR/MAY RULE LIVESTOCK & MIKE</p> <p>DUNCAN -WY 23 BLK 3YO-ST BRED COWS BRED BLK & HEREF, CLV APRIL- MAY, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>WAYNE & CHRISTINA POLLAT -WY 21 BLK 4-7YO COWS BRED HEREF, CLV 3/25 - 45 DAYS, GENTLE, CAKE BROKE</p> <p>BROWNFIELD RANCH -MT 20 HEREF/BWF ST BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 3/20 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>TOM RIGGS -MT 15 BLK 11YO BRED COWS BRED ANG & SIM X, CLV 3/15 - 60 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED, WEANED 640# CLVS ON OCT. 20</p> <p>STOTZ CATTLE CO-WY 15 BLK MXD AGED BRED COWS BRED HEREF, CLV 5/22 - 45 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>HAIAR ENTERPRISES-WY 10 BLK/BWF MXD AGED BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 5/1 - 30 DAYS, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p> <p>PAT KING-WY 6 BLK 3-7YO BRED COWS BRED BLK, CLV 4/20 - 5/25, REPRO SHOTS, POURED</p>
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NO SALE - MERRY CHRISTMAS!
DECEMBER 25, 2025

****ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS****
ON-LINE BUYERS REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY
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Ekalaka,MT Riley Lesh 406-697-0573 Brett Loughlin 605-210-0615					
Bear Ridge Ranch, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Cow	1625	172.00	\$ 2,795.00
Art & Leanne Viall, Kinsey MT	28	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1412	172.00	\$ 2,429.19
Fort Peck Tribal Farm & Ranch, Poplar MT	11	Black-Cow	1399	168.50	\$ 2,357.46
	25	Black-Cow	1218	168.00	\$ 2,045.90

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE	
December 18, 2025	CHRISTMAS STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL WUPS @ 9 AM MT, BREDS @ 11 PM MT
December 25, 2025	NO SALE - MERRY CHRISTMAS!
January 1, 2026	NO SALE - HAPPY NEW YEAR!
January 8, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - 10 AM MT
January 15, 2026	BRED STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - 10 AM MT
January 22, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - 10 AM MT
January 29, 2026	BRED STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - 10 AM MT

26th Annual Festival of Trees Benefits Local Agencies

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE Generosity took center stage at the 26th Annual Community Festival of Trees. The Belle Fourche community joined together to raise over \$47,500 for local agencies that support those in need. The Festival of Trees marks the start of the holiday season for the area. It brings the community together to enjoy an evening of food, drinks, friends and family—all for a good cause on the evening of November 25. Mr. Harlan Stephens welcomed



Harlan Stephens

everyone to the event. "Thank you for coming, and we're very happy to have you again here tonight, and we're all looking forward to having this opportunity to kick off our holiday season in the spirit of giving to support the great organizations that are beneficiaries of tonight's auction," he said. "Thank you to all of our representatives from the various organizations—you folks are why we're all here tonight and we're thankful for all that you do for our community—so thank you for being here!" After Stephens led the group in the singing of Jingle Bells, Curt Westland took to the microphone to begin the auction. A total of 12 trees were decorated to be sold to the highest bidder. Following that, wreaths and a live auction of donated items rounded out the night. Businesses that decorated trees included: Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce, Belle Fourche FFA Chapter, Belle Fourche Police Department & Code Enforcement, Croell, Jackson Dental Clinic, Monument Health Belle Fourche Rehabilitation and Clinic, Outlaw, Pete's Clothing and

Hodge Bootery, Pioneer Bank and Trust, Prairie Hills Pharmacy, Rolling Hills Healthcare and Runnings of Belle Fourche. The highest selling tree of the evening was Oh Holy Night by Monument Health Belle Fourche Rehabilitation and Clinic, it brought \$3,000. The second highest selling tree of the night brought a final bid of \$2,800 for the Pioneer Bank and Trust tree, Over the Hills and Through the Woods. The third highest money maker for the evening went to the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce and their Cat in the Hat tree that contained items from 35 Chamber Members. The Belle Fourche FFA Chapter members were on hand to help bring out and present each wreath as it was auctioned and each item donated for the live auction. A taco bar, desserts and refreshments were provided for the event participants to enjoy. Westland said, "how about that taco bar tonight—provided by Integrity Meats, that's right, it's all donated—100% of it, it is donated! Integrity Meats, Lueders Food Center and Lynn's Dakotamart donated

everything! Hats off to you guys, thank you so much! The hot cocoa bar provided by CBH and refreshments provided by First Interstate Bank, thank you to those guys!" The community service organizations that were picked to receive the donations this year were: Belle Fourche Meals on Wheels, Belle Fourche Ministerial Association, Belle Silver Lining, Butte County Child Protection Team, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #12 and Greater Belle Fourche Foundation. At the beginning of the evening a representative from each of the recipients was on hand to introduce their organization and inform the public on their mission. There was an extensive offering of silent auction items that the public could bid on throughout the evening. The proceeds of the silent auction went directly to the St. Paul's Catholic Church Shopping Store—Kids Shopping for their Families. The Festival of Trees is put on each year by the

Black Hills Roundup Ag Committee. This year's members include: Baylee Wolff, Chad Pelster, Harlan Stephens, Jeff Main, Joan Manke, Kelly Milliken, Luke Lensegrav, Melissa Kraft, Sue Kokesh and Tom Carlsen. *(more Photos C4)*



Monument Health Belle Fourche Rehabilitation and Clinic's tree was the highest-selling tree of the night. It brought in \$3,000 for a good cause.



(Above) Charlie Huston takes the podium at 6th place. (R) Charlie in action. (Below) Conner Crowser 6th in JV; (Below L) Conner working to control.



(TL) Kolby Tibbs 6th place finish; (TR) Colby pressuring for the pin. (BL) Garet Huston work back points (C) Riley Dighton working control;



Junior Leaders has voted to donate Lynn's receipts to the Silver Lining Senior Center for their fundraiser to take seniors to the Capitol to see the Christmas Trees. If you have any receipts laying around please get them turned in ASAP to support this wonderful cause!!

The 4-H Policies and Procedures have been published to the SDSU Extension website and can be found here:
<https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h/learn-about-sdsu-extension-4-h/4-h-policies-procedures>

These guidelines have been established to aid South Dakota 4-H's mission of positive youth development.

I pledge...

my *head* to clearer thinking,
 my *heart* to greater loyalty,
 my *hands* to larger service, and
 my *health* to better living for
 my *club*, my *community*,
 my *country*, and my *world*.





COBBLER WRESTLING

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.aau.org to obtain their membership.

Email questions to cobblerwrestling@gmail.com



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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

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

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920 N Main Street, Spearfish
Sunday Service 10 a.m. in person
and on Facebook.
Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

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892-2446
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The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon
Rev. Mike Weaver
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Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
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Watch our Sunday service
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www.bfsoucc.org

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Father Kevin Achbach, Pastor
Father Max Vetch, Pastor
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Daily Mass: Tues. & Thurs. 12:15 p.m.
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SUMMIT OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
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892-4630 or 892-4389
Pastor Rick and Diane Brennan
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship
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Wednesday: September - May
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
Kidz Alive (Kindergarten - 6th Grade)

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402 Rosander St. Vale SD 57788
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By John Newby "Building Main Street, not Wall Street"
"The Art of Letting Go: How Subtraction Creates Community Success"

Picture a gardener standing before an overgrown rose bush. She doesn't add fertilizer first. She doesn't plant more roses around it. She pulls out her pruning shears and starts cutting away the dead branches, the diseased stems, the shoots that steal nutrients from healthy growth. Only then does the rose flourish. Communities work the same way. Einstein understood this when he warned us to "stay away from negative people—they have a problem for every solution." Yet in towns across America, well-meaning civic leaders keep adding initiatives, forming new committees, and launching programs while ignoring the dead weight dragging everything down.



their historic district was crumbling. Instead of quick fixes, they committed to long-term preservation policies. Fifty years later, their downtown generates over \$3 billion in annual economic impact. The short-term pain of strict building codes created long-term prosperity.

The Disease of Diminished Dreams - Here's a harsh truth: most struggling downtowns don't have a resource problem. They have a courage problem. After decades of Walmart supercenters and Amazon boxes, many communities have internalized defeat. They set goals designed not to inspire but to avoid embarrassment. "Let's get three new storefronts occupied this year" sounds reasonable until you realize there are 47 empty ones.

Randy Pausch, the Carnegie Mellon professor famous for his "Last Lecture," put it perfectly: "It's not about the cards you're dealt, but how you play the hand." Downtown Roanoke, Virginia, was dealt a terrible hand in the 1980s—70% vacancy rates, crime, abandonment. They chose to play aggressively anyway. Today, their downtown hosts 200+ businesses and generates \$142 million in annual sales.

The Excuse Epidemic - We're too small. "We don't have the tax base." "Young people won't stay here." "We can't compete with online shopping." Every struggling community has its favorite excuse, worn smooth like a worry stone from constant handling. But data from the National Main Street Center shows that communities of all sizes—from 2,000 to 200,000 residents—have

achieved downtown revitalization. Size isn't destiny. Mindset is.

The Silver Bullet Mirage - Communities love searching for that one big answer—the factory that will employ 500 people, the developer who'll transform the downtown, the grant that funds everything. It's community development as lottery ticket. Meanwhile, successful towns embrace the compound effect. Bentonville, Arkansas, didn't transform overnight when the Crystal Bridges Museum opened. They spent 15 years improving their downtown incrementally—better sidewalks, façade improvements, local business recruitment, bike trails. The museum amplified existing momentum rather than creating it from nothing. Studies show that consistent 1% improvements yield extraordinary results over time. A downtown that gets 1% better each month is 12.7% better after a year—and those gains compound.

The Perfectionism Paralysis - "We can't start the façade program until we have design guidelines." "We shouldn't recruit that business—it's not quite right." "Let's study it for another six months." Perfect becomes the assassin of great. In the time you spend perfecting a plan, three more storefronts close.

The Toxic People Problem - Here's the hardest cut to make: the chronic naysayers. You know them. They attend every meeting armed with why things won't work. They remember every failed initiative from 1967 on. They spread negativity like dandelion seeds. Research on emotional contagion shows one negative person in a group can decrease collective performance by 30-40%. Conversely, excluding toxic individuals from projects increases success rates by that margin.

Successful communities don't convert the unconvertible. They marginalize negativity by making it irrelevant, surrounding it with so much positive momentum that it withers from isolation. The

The mathematics of community development reveals an uncomfortable truth: sometimes addition happens through subtraction. Research on organizational behavior shows that eliminating barriers often produces better results than adding resources. A Stanford study found that removing obstacles to productivity increased output by 40%, while adding incentives improved it by just 7%. So what should communities prune away?

The Tyranny of Next Quarter - Walk into most city council meetings and you'll hear discussions about this year's budget, next month's festival, or next week's ribbon cutting. Rarely do you hear about 2035 or 2040. Yet successful communities from Chattanooga to Bentonville built their transformations on 20-year visions. Consider Charleston, South Carolina. In the 1970s,

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN SIOUX FALLS,	09 CIV. 25-179
Plaintiff,	
vs.	SUMMONS
RAYMOND D. HUSEBY d/b/a OUTLAW EXPRESS.	
Defendant.	

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)	FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
	File No. 09PRO24-000019
In the Matter of the Estate of)	
ALAN J. BENNETT,)	NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased.)	AND NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
	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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rose bush grows beautiful not because of what you add, but because of what you remove. Your community is no different. Sometimes the bravest thing a leader can do is reach for the pruning shears.
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



Capitol News
Dec. 14, 2025
By Karen Odell

The deep freeze descended upon Capitol and Tie Creek this week. It was mostly above zero, but after the nice weather, we felt it was very cold.

Dorothy Padden has been visiting during the cold weather. She went to Laurel, Montana to stay with her son, Brett and Stacey Padden, and stayed for a couple of weeks. She got to see all her grandchildren, and lots of their activities and programs that they participated in, while she was there. Kids from Colorado Springs were there to visit, too. Jess was home part of the time, and they kept Dorothy on the run. Laurel had eight inches of snow, so travel was limited for a couple of days. When Dorothy made the trip home, the roads were just ok. It was a great visit.

Dick and Erma Albert made a trip to the Hills on Tuesday,

for a hair cut. Erma went to the chiropractor in Buffalo on Wednesday, and the physical therapist on Thursday. On Friday, they both went to the Senior Citizen dinner in Buffalo.

The Catholic Church was full on Sunday. The children's Christmas program followed the mass, and then, there was a pot luck dinner for everyone. They enjoyed talking to friends near and far.

The Jim and Keri Erk family was there from Wyoming, and it was great to see them again. Erma spent Sunday evening visiting on the phone with friends and family far away. Marlee Cordell went to Belle Fourche on Monday, and enjoyed seeing grandson, Cade Pearson, in the eighth grade choir concert.

Wade Pearson brought a truck load of posts, on Wednesday, for Ryan Cordell. Then he picked up some hay at Lankey's to take back with him. Alvin spends much time feeding. The

cold weather makes things hard to start and the chore a little longer. Alvin has been watching the rodeo, and sports, on TV. Marlee, Ryan, Tawni, Kymber, Kynlee and Barrett attended church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook on Sunday. Kymber, Kynlee and Barrett helped with the service.

Bruce and Lynn Gustafson spent a quiet week, during this cold weather. They went to Church at the Little Missouri Church on Sunday, where they had their Christmas Program, followed by a pot luck dinner. There were lots of kids, and the church was filled with participants and guests.

Doug and Julia Davis worked sheep on a cold Wednesday. Julia ran the gate with her crutch arm, and then had a very sore and swollen arm to contend with. They hauled wether lambs to Newell. They got caught in the freezing rain on the way home, but luckily decided to turn off onto the gravel at

Redig. They learned, later, that black ice had halted travel on the highway both north and south of Buffalo, and they were lucky to choose the gravel. Julia's arm kept her at home on Sunday, but the Wise Men at the Little Missouri Church needed their treasure boxes, and Julia had gotten them ready for the program, so Doug took them, so the Kings could use them during the church Christmas program.

Karen Odell didn't travel far during this cold week. She made a trip to Wolff's and mailed some letters in Camp Crook. She did lots of talking, though, and visited with brothers Jim and Ron Evans in Ohio. She also visited with cousins Ralph Anderson and Ray Clevenger in Florida. She talked to Micki and Murphy Hinds, and Mollie and Kyia Smith, and Cody Odell. Jeff, Amanda, and Kylie Odell, and Jesse Hinds texted along with the rest of the family. Karen got to see Amanda Odell

in the local bell choir as they provided Christmas music for shoppers at the mall in Iowa.

She also got to see Kellan Odell win a race in college track. He is a member of the Mount Marty University Track team. Technology is a great alternative, when you can't be there for the kids' events. Sunday morning was very cold, and when Karen went out to drive to church, the doors of her vehicle were frozen shut. After working awhile, she got a door open. The vehicle did not enjoy starting, but after running a short while, it was ready to go. By the time church was over at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, things had warmed up a lot.

Hope everyone can come to the candle-lighting services. The Methodist Church in Camp Crook will have Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting service at 4:30 on Christmas Eve. Little Missouri Church's service will be at 4:00 on Christmas Eve.



(TL) Community members lined up to bid on the silent auction items; (TR) Taco salad with all the fixings, dessert, and drinks were offered free of charge. (BL) The tree decorated by **Pioneer Bank and Trust** was the second highest-selling tree of the evening. It went for \$2,800. (BC) **Harlan Stephens** and **Joan Manke** say some cheers and explain the purple tree decorated by **Pete's Clothing and Hodge Bootery** in honor of the **Belle Fourche Broncs**.



Curt Westland was the auctioneer for the evening. (Below) BF FFA Reporter **Justus Marshall** presents the wreath decorated by **Joyful Blooms Flower Farm** for bidding to begin.



Representatives were present on behalf of the organizations designated to receive the money raised during the **Festival of Trees**. Organizations represented are, from left: **Belle Silver Lining**, **Meals on Wheels**, **Butte County Child Protection Team**, **Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #12**, **Greater Belle Fourche Foundation**, **Belle Fourche Ministerial Association**, and front: **St. Paul's Catholic Church Shopping Store**.



The Community Hall was full for the Festival of Trees. Long-brake photos



Newell School District K-12 Christmas Program

Guest Contributor
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Oh, what a night in Newell, Thursday December 11th when the kindergarten through twelfth grade took the stage during the annual Newell School District's Christmas program.

Under the direction of Kimberly Bachman, the evening was filled with entertainment. "I have taught the students you can be a performer, or you can be an entertainer. When you perform, the audience watches you. When you entertain, you interact with an audience, and you invite them to your party on stage. The energy can be contagious."

The students chose to be entertainers and contagious, it certainly was!

The students drew in the audience with their singing, dancing, and instrumental skills. Kindergarten and first grade belted out Santa Claus is Coming to Town and Little Snowflake. The Second and Third Grade delighted

the audience with their memorization of the lengthy list of specific descriptions in Must Be Santa then boogied to It is a Boogie Woogie Holiday. When the Fourth and Fifth grade took the stage, they revealed a part of their Christmas list being Superhero Action figures which led into the singing of the traditional Lone Ranger Song followed by You've Got a Friend in Me.

They ended with Holly Jolly Christmas to which the young men, with intentions to make the audience laugh, danced their fun dance to the cheers of the audience. Middle School and High School Choir entered the stage with traditional Christmas songs. A breakout all lady ensemble sang a beautiful rendition of Silver Bells.

The fifth-grade band entertained with Jingle Bells and Jolly Old St. Nicholas in a flawless fashion. This was their first concert. They played with such confidence and joy it wowed the audience.

Next was the middle school and high school band. A new drumline has started this year. It was the first time to show off "drumline cool." They did just that! Sporting sunglasses and top hats, they smoothly played their cadences. The rest of the band joined them on Good King Wenceslas and Dreidel song followed by their final piece Ode to Joy.

The evening ended with a grand finale of Run Run Rudolf, a favorite of the children. They not only sang the song, but they also danced to the audience's delight. In fact, the energy was so contagious, a few people in the audience got up and danced along.

Excitement, joy, and pride prevailed when the students at Newell School District presented their program.

We were so very pleased to have Mrs. Marty Jump as the piano accompaniment.

It was an evening, that will not be forgotten anytime soon! Merry Christmas.

(Additional photos on D4)

There Could be Exciting Plans for Newell Senior Center

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL-Representatives from Interstate Engineering spoke before the Newell City Commission at the regular commission meeting Monday, December 8.

Kristin Thompson enthusiastically gave several areas her firm could help Newell with funding assistance and strategic planning. She explained that the firm helps to navigate through financial planning with access to grants and other areas of finance. There are several areas in the town that she and her co-worker, Zach Grapentine, had observed that needed improvement and could be handled through Interstate Engineering. Services include water and wastewater solutions, funding assistance, transportation engineering, strategic planning, and site design.

After asking several questions, the commissioners decided to pursue the idea of using Interstate Engineering further.

There was discussion surrounding the approval of a building permit for a "tiny house" purposed by Joe Macdowell. The concern was that according to the city ordinance, the house must be at least 700 sq. ft. however, Macdowell's home was listed as 600 sq. ft. After a brief phone call, Macdowell explained that the plans had been rewritten for the home, making it 800 sq. ft. There were several questions from Macdowell concerning water and sewer hookups.

Further study must be done by both parties before final approval.

Several lots owned by David and Debra Krcelic on Elmira were combined into one large lot.

A question brought forward by Wendy Stone after she had been in contact with Zach Schindler at Willow Creek Wind Farm concerning placement of a street sign on the east side of Girard and 4th St. There is a history of packages being dropped off at the wrong address. Stone lives on the west side of Girard and the Willow Creek Wind Farm is on the east side.

Schindler volunteered to pay for an official street sign, which he would take a photo and send to Google Maps. The readdressing must be made at the county level, but once the address is corrected the city voted to pay for half the cost of a new sign.

Grant Truskowski, biologist at the SD Game, Fish and Parks, sent an email on behalf of a local citizen who has asked about the possibility of a vault toilet to be placed at Golf Course lake somewhere near the fishing pier. More research needed to be done by the commissioners, so it was decided that more discussion would be handled at the next commission meeting.

Museum Curator Linda Velder continues to dig into the history of the area and assist others with various projects. She is compiling aspects of Newell History for the new Facebook page and is updating the NHS Alumni and Hope Cemetery Records.

Velder would like to see an initiation of a community-wide celebration for the nation's, South Dakota's, and Newell's anniversaries upcoming in the next year. The Pierre Historical Society needs the information.

The next Newell city meeting will be held January 12, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
There were more deaths to report: Eugene Burrer, 65, rural Adams County Farmer/Rancher, passed away at his home on Tuesday, December 2. Service of Remembrance for Eugene was Saturday, December 6, at the Hettinger Lutheran Church in Hettinger with burial at the Hettinger Cemetery.
Leotta (Wulf) Smith, 104, passed away peacefully at Southwest Healthcare Services Hospital in Bowman on Sunday, December 7. Her funeral was Saturday, December 13, at the Hettinger Lutheran Church in Hettinger. Burial of Leotta's ashes will be at a later date next to her husband, Bud Smith at the Hettinger Cemetery.
Last Monday was a beautiful warm day so I washed two weeks of dirty laundry to hang outside in the sun to dry in that 44-degree weather. That laundry smelled so

good when I brought it inside to fold and put away. Reub and I took advantage of the beautiful weather to cut a bunch of firewood, load it in his side-by-side and bring it to the house to burn when it gets cold out. Casey and Taz went down to put windows in my Aunt Patsy Wilkinson's house in the warm weather.

It was really warm but so windy on Tuesday that I was glad I'd got the washing done before the wind hit. Casey and Taz were down working on Aunt Patsy's house again. I had a ZOOM call that evening to hear Steve Sibson speak on the history of economic development in South Dakota which was very interesting. Because of the ZOOM call, I missed the first part of the National Finals Rodeo that evening but got to watch the last of it.

It was warm and windy on Wednesday when Reub and I went to Hettinger. We met up with Clyde Jesfield when

we stopped to visit at Cenex and he gave me a copy of Owen Stensland's story that Clyde's cousin Susan Hallen had given him. Owen was Osmund Stensland's older brother and he wrote about how he came to the USA from Norway in 1906 by way of England and landed in New York after nine days crossing the ocean. Owen couldn't speak English so on his trip by train he missed the place he was supposed to get off the train, so the conductor had to find a man who could speak a little Norwegian so he could get sent back to where he was supposed to get off the train.

They found a couple of Swedes at a blacksmith shop who bought breakfast for him and then got him on the train again to go back to Linton, North Dakota where he was supposed to be.

Owen had two Jesfield cousins that had sheep ranches along the South

Grand River and while he was headed down to South Dakota to get to them, he had to cross the flooded Cedar Creek in North Dakota and wound up at the old town of Seim, South Dakota, which is now under the Shadehill Dam.

He finally made it to his Jesfield cousins' sheep ranches and worked there until 1908 when he came west into Harding County to work at the Umpire Sheep Company where the manager Art Allison ran 10,000 sheep.

That ranch is the Hackamore Ranch that Doug and Clint Doll and their families have now. He homesteaded in Harding County and proved up on it after he returned from WWI and he was the first person to apply for citizenship in Harding County. Owen married Elene "Nina" Giannonatti in 1919 and they had three kids, Gladys, Mial and Gene. He closed his story that after getting married he "lived a happy life ever after" and he passed away at his ranch southeast of Ludlow in 1972.

Thursday, December 11, is a sad day for me because that is my father, Bryce White, and my sister, Judy Ann Amor's birthdays and I always think about how much I miss both of them. The nice warm weather with a temperature of 45 degrees melted a lot of the ice and snow outside and that made me happy. I walked over across Olson Creek to the shop and had to slosh through a lot of water! I had

a ZOOM call that evening with the SD Coalition of Counties so I reduced the sound on the TV so I could watch the rodeo while on the phone.

It was cold again on Friday so all that water froze to ice, making it hard to get to the chicken coop without slipping and falling down, but I made it. Reub fed the cows for the first time that morning and Casey took the Harding County wrestlers to a tournament in Rapid City on Friday and Saturday. Thank God it sounded like the highway was okay to drive on that day.

It was cold when we woke up Saturday morning and a lot of snow fell in the night because the ground was covered with that white stuff. When I looked at the thermometer that morning it said it was -1 degree, but without the wind it felt pretty good outside. We watched the last performance of the National Finals Rodeo that evening and those Wright boys really did well. Every night that we watched the rodeo was really entertaining for us. It's been a long time since Reub used to rodeo but we still love to watch every rodeo that we can.

The thermometer registered 11 below zero in the night before we woke up Sunday morning! With all this snow and cold, we don't hear about much global warming anymore. I'll leave you with this:

*Global warming is a joke. Even the Antarctic ice sheets are cracking up.

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

December 16, 1915

The bean social given for the benefit of the Vale Community building will be postponed for a time on account of sickness in the club. The community building purchased by the Ladies' Guild will be completed in the near future.

T. H. Provines, who with his family has been occupying housekeeping rooms over Christians', moved to his homestead east of town. Mr. Provines has been named as watchman at the government camp near his place. Last week we forgot to mention that the office of the Water User's Association had moved from the bank building to the Reclamation new office. L. E. Tanner and family left yesterday for Washington D C, where they will make their home in the future.

Mr. Tanner has been transferred to the Washington USRS office. The Irrigator and their many friends wish them happiness and success in their new home.

A team is wanted to draw a Sexton Road grader out of a ditch near Arpan, to the Newell Garage for repairs. Teamsters need not fear, for the beater has been partly halter broken before.

December 10, 1925

Fire destroyed the farmhouse of Math Persche northwest of Newell at 10:00 o'clock Thursday evening and two of their children, Helen 8 years old and Adolph 12 years old, perished in the flames. In suffering the loss of children, the loss of all personal household effects and clothing. The fire had attained such a headway that the parents and other children were barely able to escape. The house of 5 rooms was well a built structure with brick flue valued at \$1,000 and contents \$500. Learning of the shocking tragedy, the entire Horse Creek neighborhood and Newell, lending aid to the stricken family. The Persche family have established themselves temporarily in a house on Blythe place until a new home can be erected.

Charles E. Hart of Vale was in Newell Monday making

inquiry to the whereabouts of his 16-year-old son who left home November 29th and has not been heard from since. The boy, when last seen was riding a light bay horse, branded triple T on right shoulder. Mr. Hart states that the boy was without funds and undoubtedly stopped at farmhouses for shelter and meals. If any Irrigator reader can furnish information Mr. Hart will be very grateful.

December 12, 1935

The TB test was given in the school rooms on Monday to both Vale and Empire students. Also, those wishing it were given smallpox and diphtheria antitoxin. Dr. Chassell, Butte County Health Department, Belle Fourche, administered the tests.

Will Rogers comes to us at the Arcade Theater on Friday and Saturday. In "Life Begins at 40", a triumph in entertainment. Do not miss this one. This is smash entertainment. The story holds your interest from the very beginning. The famous Rogers' witticism and plenty of amusing situations will more than delight you. Come early, for seats will be at a premium.

No work projects for eastern Butte County have yet been approved by the State Work Progress Administration. The announcement that a project to employ 127 men for construction work on the Irrigation Project was ready, is erroneous, according to F. C. Youngblutt, Project Superintendent, who stated that additional details remain to be approved by the Washington office before the work could begin. Efforts are now being made to have other projects approved so that men living in eastern Butte County can secure much needed employment.

December 13, 1945

Skyway Air Service is the name of a new aviation company formed by Donald McFall of Rapid City and Les Marquant of Lead. They have started full operations at Newell and Belle Fourche. Mr. McFall will take up a home in Newell and Mr. Marquant will headquarter at Belle Fourche. McFall is enthusiastic about the splen-

by Linda Velder

did facilities offered for private planes at Newell, on account of its location within the city limits and availability to the Business District. Both men are currently staying at the Newell Hotel.

Area shoppers have been advised by local retailers that stuffed animals will be plentiful in Santa's pack, but Dydee, the pre-war favorite doll that drank from a bottle and had its diapers changed, can't be expected until 1946 for V-J Day came too late to make rubber available for Christmas toys. Doll furniture such as cradles, beds and highchairs will be available but in limited quantities. Doll carriages are being manufactured in volume but there will be only a limited number of metal parts.

Sturgis Scoopers won over the Vale Beetdiggers last Wednesday evening at the Vale gymnasium by a score of 51 to 22. On Thursday the Vale basketball boys met the St. Martin's team in Sturgis and lost another hard-fought game 27 to 20.

December 15, 1955

At the proceedings of the Board of Newell City Commission, a written suggestion was read, that the town still needs some definite action by the city board to set up a safety patrol system by the school. It was noted that blinker lights have been ordered, and a crew of workmen is expected to install the system soon.

Mrs. Bertha Overgard, Vale, housewife, was announced as a prize winner in a national "Enter-Your Butler Sweepstakes" sponsored jointly by Butler Manufacturing Co and farm equipment dealers. Mrs. Overgard, wife of Vale Superintendent V. H. Overgard, was completely surprised when she got the second prize, a new General Electric TV console. The TV was delivered to Dutton Lumber company for presentation to Mrs. Overgard. She entered the contest last summer by signing her name during a visit to the local Butler Blue Ribbon Farm Dealers display room.

Scarves and other presents that had been chosen

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to give to the Crippled Children's Hospital were shown by members for roll call at the regular meeting of the Happy Helpers 4-H Club on Monday in the 8th grade room of the Newell School. December 22nd was set as a date for caroling and members drew names for giving silly gifts. The hostesses Alice Longpre and Shirley Smeenk served cake and hot chocolate.

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December 9, 1965

Mrs. Donald Breidenbach, Newell won 1st place in the adult wool style contest held at Belle Fourche in conjunction of the Western South Dakota Sheep Growers Association & Auxiliary. Jean Wilson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wilson, also won honors at the District in Make it Yourself With Wool contest in the Sub-deb Division. Mrs. Breidenbach received \$35.00 in cash and a jewelry award as the most fashionable entry. Winning 2nd was Mrs. Dale Ingalls, Mud Butte. Mrs. Keith Milberg, Newell was chairman of the adult contest.

Keith Miller left Tuesday for Seattle, Washington, where he will be employed by Boeing Aircraft Corp. Keith arrived home November 24, for a visit with his parents Mr. & Mrs. Doug Miller and daughters, after receiving his separation from 2-year duty with the US Army.

Myron (Curley) Lee was the successful bidder on purchase of \$8000 of the former Newell Implement Company, garage building and 7 lots sold at suction by F. B. Roberts of Belle Fourche, former owner. Curley plans to move his Curley's Garage & Implement business to that location around the first of the year. He is now operating his business in the Amunson Building just east of the Corner Café, along 3rd Street.

Butte County Farm Agent, Kenneth Leslie attended the state County Agent conference. The theme "Understanding South Dakota's Economics & Social Environment" had many topics. He says several speeches referred to our thinly populated areas, here out west, where farms are so far apart, that each has his own tom cat.



The Math Persche home that burned down, killing 2 children; 1925



Rubber dolls were still not available as Christmas gifts right after the War, 1945. Several displayed at the Newell Museum

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

Feeding South Dakota
Second Thursday every month,
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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



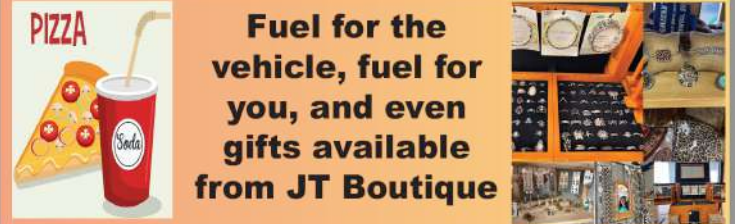
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1) Scrambled Eggs, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Mini-Corn Dogs, Fruit, Milk	2) Quiche, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Spaghetti and Meatballs, Vegetable, Fruit, Milk	3) Hashbrown Eggs, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Ham or Turkey Subs, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk	4) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Pizza, Corn, Fruit, Milk	5) NO SCHOOL
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) NO SCHOOL
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) COOK'S CHOICE, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk COOK'S CHOICE, Fruit, Milk OUT AT 1:30	19) NO SCHOOL
22) CHRISTMAS VACATION	23) CHRISTMAS VACATION	24) CHRISTMAS VACATION	25) MERRY CHRISTMAS! 	26) NO SCHOOL

Menu is subject to change!

Middle School and High School have access to fresh Salad Bar

N

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Russet Potatoes
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**Half Ham
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\$1.29
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Butt Portion \$1.69 lb.



General Mills
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All Varieties • 12-14 oz.

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Best Choice
Vegetables
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Select Varieties
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Birds Eye
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Regular or Light
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Big Crescent Rolls
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Best Choice
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Prairie Farms
Cottage Cheese
2% or 4%
24 oz.

\$3.49



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Cheese Balls or Rolls
All Varieties • 5-8 oz.

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Kaukauna
Cheese Balls or Log
All Varieties • 6 oz.

\$3.49



Kaukauna
Spreadable Cheese Cups
6.5 oz.

\$3.69



Pillsbury
Pie Crust
14.1 oz.

\$3.99



Best Choice
Heavy Whipping Cream
16 oz.

\$2.99



Prairie Farms
Egg Nog
Two Varieties
1 quart

\$3.99



Simply
Juice
All Varieties • 52 oz.

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Reddi Whip
Whipped Topping
All Varieties • 6.5 oz.

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Nestle
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Coffee Creamer
All Varieties
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Philadelphia
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Sliced Strawberries
15.5 oz.

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Reames
Egg Noodles
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Rolls
Sweet or Dinner
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16 oz.

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Cooks or Sugardale Bone-in
Half Ham Shank Portion
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80% Lean
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USDA Choice "Certified Angus Beef" Bone-In
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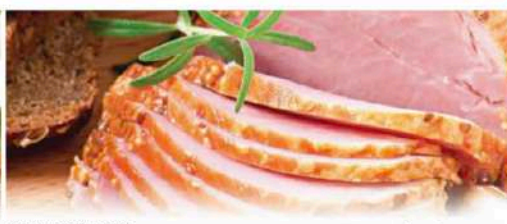
USDA Choice "Certified Angus Beef" Boneless
Prime Rib Roast
\$19.99
 lb.



USDA Select Bone-In
Prime Rib
\$15.99
 lb.



Hormel's Bone-In
Spiral Sliced Half Ham
\$2.49
 lb.



Hormel's Cure #1 Boneless
Half Ham
\$3.99
 lb.



Cloverdale Boneless
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John Morell's "SBO"
Half Ham
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John Morell's "SBO"
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EZ Peel Raw Shrimp
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Honey Smoked Fish Company
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 All Varieties • 8 oz.
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Supreme Choice
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 Large 2 lb.
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Treasures of the Sea
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