



Growth Celebrated at BF Development Corp. Annual Meeting

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—A celebration to honor all of the exciting growth that Belle Fourche has had over the past year was part of the agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting of the Belle Fourche Development Corporation on the evening of January 15.

Social hour followed by a buffet dinner was served up at the Branding Iron Steakhouse. After both glasses and stomachs were full, the business meeting was called to order by Board President Wendy Bowers. “I want to thank all of you for joining us—it’s always nice to see such a great turnout,” she said. “Belle Fourche is a growing community with so much to celebrate!

Community Economic Development requires strong leadership and relationships working together towards common goals!”

Current board members were recognized while three nominations for three open

Development contd. A3



Taking time to visit with neighbors and friends was part of the evening at the Annual Board Meeting. Longbrake photo

Coffee Mini-Exhibit Opens at Tri-State Museum

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BELLE FOURCHE—A brand new mini-exhibit just opened at the Tri-State Museum and Center of the Nation Visitors Center. A reception was held on January 17 to celebrate the latest offering.

If you love coffee, or if you ever wanted to learn about coffee, then this is the perfect exhibit for you. but first... Coffee is an extensive display of all the different aspects of coffee, from basic facts about the coffee bean, to its origin in Bonga, Ethiopia, to why we take coffee breaks and even

where to get a good cup of coffee in the area.

There is so much to see and learn at the exhibit. There is a special area for kids to discover and books to read about coffee, plus a free take-home packet full of activities, games and facts to learn.

Red Onion Marketplace provided coffee cupcakes for the event and the Museum provided fresh hot coffee.

Make sure to plan a trip to the Tri-State Museum to explore the mini-exhibit, but first...Coffee, because the mini-exhibits do not stay around long. This one runs



(Top R) A new mini exhibit opened at the **Tri-State Museum** called but first...Coffee. It runs through April 11; (L) Storyboards in the but first...Coffee exhibit informs the viewer where to find a good cup of coffee in the area; (R) The kids station at the mini exhibit offers free take home packets full of facts and activities for kids; (Far R) One of the pictures that greet visitors at but first...Coffee is, of course, a large cup of coffee. Longbrake Photos

St. James Lutheran Quilting Group Does Rewarding Work

Margaret Bolte
Special to the Beacon
The St. James Lutheran Quilting Group is an active and dynamic

group of women.
The group meets twice a month in the fellowship hall of St. James Lutheran Church in Belle Fourche,

South Dakota.
According to Betty Artus of St. James, the quilting group consists of dedicated ladies from St. James and other churches. In 2025, 167 quilts were completed, with 92 donated to charities and 49 sold to fund the group.

Ft Meade, VA, Black Hills recently thanked St. James for donating 34 quilts to veterans in the Hospice department of Fort Meade Veterans Hospital. At the VA, staff give quilts to patients individually as part of a special tribute.

According to Leo Nelson, a Veteran and a St. James Lutheran member who provides the quilts to VA staff, the quilt is used as a special recognition to comfort the patient in their final time in hospice. Leo shared that, “It is a private, solemn process, that upon the passing of a Veteran, the patient is covered with the quilt and is given a silent honorary salute in the hallway, as staff and patients quietly say a final goodbye to the soldier. The quilt is then given to the family.”

In addition to donating quilts to Ft Meade, the group also supports a variety of local services.

The Belle Fourche Police Department received 12 quilts, and 32 quilts were donated to the Canyon Hills charity.

“I am proud of our group. We are using our energy and time in doing God’s work. It is very

rewarding,” Betty said.

If you would like to participate in the quilting group, contact St. James Lutheran Church, Belle Fourche, South Dakota.



Leo Nelson, a Vietnam Veteran who delivers the quilts to Ft Meade. A solemn and honorable process is given to each Veteran in their last days.



A quilt that the group has completed for **St. James Lutheran Church**. Margaret Bolte Photos

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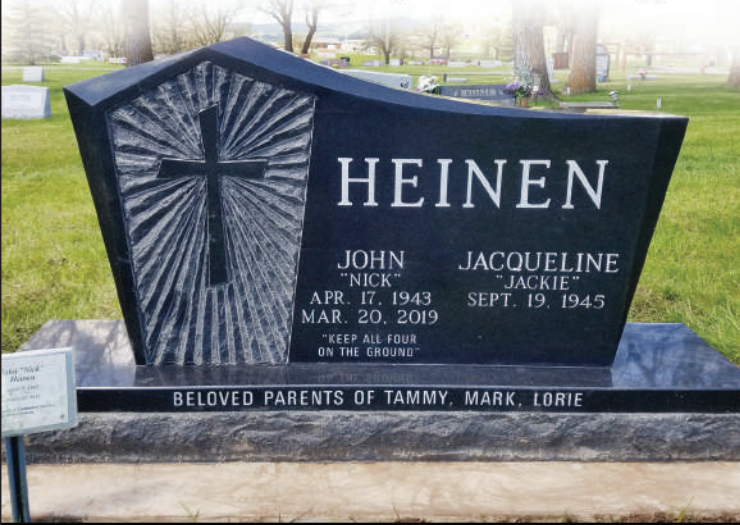


Most of us intend on "getting around to it someday," but that someday never comes and we leave our family wondering whether or not they did the right thing. **It doesn't have to be like that.** It's not pleasant to be reminded of our own mortality; we can laugh, cry, or do a little of both. Regardless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

Taking the time to make advanced funeral or cremation planning is a caring and responsible thing to do. Planning now, while we have the time to consider every option, can remove significant amount of the emotional and financial stress that every family must eventually face.
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Shepherd of the Hills Church
825 W Main Street in Lead
Next Clinic: Lead - January 8
and 22, 2026
Registration: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Free 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-Spearfish is open Monday nights
at 1020 State Street.

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

Mary Koens 74



Mary Koens, age 74 of Belle Fourche, died Monday, January 12, 2026 at the Monument Health Rapid City Hospital, following a very short fight against cancer, and just 3 months following her husband's death.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 10:30am Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Visitation will be held 5 to 7pm Friday at the funeral home. Friends may leave written condolences online, and view a video tribute at: www.LeveringtonFH.com

Mary Ann Hendren was born September 25, 1951 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She was the daughter of Lloyd and Irene (Widman) Hendren. In 1969 she graduated from the Washington High School in Sioux Falls. There she met her high school sweetheart, Ben Koens Jr., whom she would marry in 1970. Ben's career in Law Enforcement took them to many cities throughout South Dakota. In 2006 they moved to Western South Dakota. In Ben and Mary's younger years, Mary was a stay-at-home mom and together they were foster parents to many children, and worked with those with disabilities. For many years, Mary was the Director at the Artimis

House in Spearfish. Throughout her years working there, Mary worked for people with victims of violence. She had a big heart and impacted the lives of many. Mary volunteered many hours helping at the Good Shepherd Clinic in Spearfish and Meals on Wheels.

Mary was a loving mother and grandmother. She was kind, selfless, gracious, and forgiving, and always concerned about helping people understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. She ministered to many and she also disciplined many people. She was special to so many, especially her family. Mary will be missed so much.

Mary is survived by her children, Jennifer (Doug) Parrow of Newell, Brian (Kristal) Koens of Grotton SD, Julie (Cody) Swanson of Sioux Falls; Brent (Liz) Koens of Faulkton SD; 15 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren (and one on the way); nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; 3 grandchildren; and siblings, Robert, Patricia Hendren, James, John, Gerald, and Cynthia Wingert.



Pastor's Perspective

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

"Praise Is Your Pathway"

Many times the best way to be certain of the direction you're going is to look back and see where you've been.

Periodically, over the years, the Lord presses specific points upon us—points of truth He seeks us to acknowledge in the ongoing pattern of life. It is to these we turn, as to milestone markers.

Has praise been a hallmark of your life? Has praise been your constant practice? Has your understanding of praise and its role in your life been growing with the passing months and years?

A few basic reminders from Scripture can bring your life back on track...

From Acts 16:19-34: Darkness surrounds this hour as it did Paul and Silas in the Philippian prison. Their praise brought God's hand by an earthquake and out of the night a hopeless jailer was saved. Now, let your praises rise! As you praise continually, spiritual shock waves go out into the world around you. It will bring your release and the release of many into the Kingdom of God.



From Psalm 26: Praise is your pathway through the mired circumstances of the present world. Your step will be uncertain and slide unless you recognize that your praises form stepping-stones by which the Father paves your way into the future purpose He has for you.

From Job 38:4-7: As the morning stars sang His praise at creation, accompanying His great display of power with their worship, let your voices join with the heavenly song.

Praise the Lord. Sing unto the Lord. Sing with your spirit and sing with your understanding, for as you sing praises unto Him, He continues His great creative working...and in your midst you shall see the marvelous works of God, the Lord of the new creation.

"Let's just praise the Lord." Some might suggest this as a rather closed view of things. I disagree. It's the open door to everything, and the pathway God directs us to walk.

Pastor's Perspective

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

"Profit, Property, and Possessiveness"

Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, «What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?» 'So he said, «I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'» But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.' Then He said to His disciples, 'Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on...'"

Luke 12:13-22

One of the major objectives of the Word of God is to lead us into fulfillment; indeed, even profit. Acts 20:20 says, «...I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly...» And Isaiah 48:17, «I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.» These and many other Bible references indicate that it is God's will for His people to prosper in every way, including financially. However, Church history seems to clash with contemporary affluence.

How do we reconcile this seeming conflict? Does the fact that Jesus directed limitation of possessions for the sake of mobility in evangelism argue against «having?» (Matthew 10:9, 10). Does the traditional practice of clergy taking an oath of poverty make a valid statement essential to «truest holiness»? Is it proper for a sincere Christian to have savings accounts, insurance policies, and retirement plans and not be a victim of the covetousness this text decries? If our «practical reasoning» conflicts with the Word of God, one is wrong; or could it be that the Word of God is «impractical»? Let's see if we can come to terms with some of the issues around this sensitive and often controversial subject.

THE PROBLEM WITH PERSONAL WEALTH

There are at least three major problems regarding wealth, abundance, and affluence in the life of today's Christian. First of all, they are seldom recognized as such. A fundamental thanklessness surrounds much of our society. And as thanklessness perverts the creature when the Creator is not praised, so ingratitude perverts our possessions and monies when God-given abundance is not recognized and responsibly handled (Romans 1:21-32).

Secondly, personal wealth will never afford complete security. When we consider our personal resources to be our primary hedge against the uncertainties of tomorrow, we will never be satisfied that they are totally adequate (Matthew 25:14-30). The very real problem of «preparing for later years» is introduced in this text, but some of the more complex ramifications we face today are not addressed. The subject for Christians in today's society is complicated and compounded by additional aspects including the need for reassessing family relationships and caring for the aged.

Personal wealth also tends to lead to a loss of perspective. It is easy for someone who has been successful to slip into the self-congratulatory mode of thinking which says, «I have been very diligent and have amassed this fortune out of my own wisdom, determination, and energy.» In Mark 4:18, 19, Jesus shows how the entry of Kingdom truth has little chance of durable penetration («becomes unfruitful») where «the cares of this world, (and) the deceitfulness of riches» preoccupy the mind.

If my over-riding concern is how I'm going to protect my investments or my cash liquidity, I'm not likely to spend my energy on a maturing relationship with Jesus. He once said, «No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon» (Matt. 6:24).

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS ABOUT CONCERN OVER POSSESSIONS

The occasion of this teaching in Luke 12, verses 13-15 is where Jesus refuses to become an executor of an estate; He uses the squabble of brothers over inheritance rights to teach on the problems of «covetousness,» i.e. possessiveness. From this and the surrounding text, we can gain some insights into different problem areas regarding personal wealth;

1. There is a very human tendency for all of us to forget the source of our blessings (vs. 16). Jesus introduces the «fool» who illustrates His point. He fails to remember that everything with which he is dealing came from «the ground.» The Creator birthed his abundance; he is but a steward or caretaker of what God has granted him.

2. There is an inclination toward preoccupation with self (v. 17). The man's entire system is closed inwardly within himself. They constitute the thrust of his total consideration. In his system of things, possessions are for possessing. There is no thankfulness in his heart, nor is there any talk of sharing from his bounty.

3. We see the absence of a plan for abundance (v. 18). The waste and the shortsightedness of this mentality is apparent. The man plans to tear down barns to build bigger ones; and it never seems to occur to him that this is not necessarily the last crop he will ever harvest.

4. There is a failure to apply lifetime values (v. 19, 20). The contrast between the words «many years» and «this night» is startling. We must live in the light of James 4:13-15, «Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life?»

It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, «If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.»

5. A neglect of long-range plans is apparent (v. 20, 21). This seems to be a case of a man who not only forgot his ultimate accountability to God concerning everything he has as well as for who he is; but he even seems to have neglected to provide for his loved ones with a will.

The Guidelines We Observe From This Study

The Bible does not teach that abundance of resource is a hindrance to a God-intended order of life. (Note: «and is not rich toward God.») The problem is in the absence of balance, not in the absence of self-inflicted poverty.) BUT, the Bible does teach that abundance with possessiveness does become a source of hindrance to some, stopping spiritual growth: Luke 18:18-27; James 5:1-5; Joshua 6:17-7:26.

The Bible does not teach against provision for family and future. (contrast v. 21 with Proverbs 13:22). BUT, the Bible does teach against the unwise accumulation of resources subjecting them to loss and/or worthlessness (Luke 12:22-32).

The Bible does not teach that wealth is undesirable or unspiritual (Proverbs 10:22; III John 2). BUT the Bible does teach that our resources are to be managed under God's headship and in His name and behalf. We are stewards of HIS bounty, not ours; charged to distribute and/or multiply unto larger purposes that with which He has entrusted us (Ephesians 4:22 and text).

Ephesians 4:22-24

"To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Matthew 5:22

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' will be subject to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be subject to the fire of hell.

From A1 **Development**

positions on the Board of Directors were offered. All three candidates were automatically added to the board. Levi Buck will be serving his third term on the board, Karen Wagner will be extending the 13 years she has given to the board and the third addition to the board is a new, first-year board member, Trevor Kapsch.

Belle Fourche Economic Development Executive Director Hollie Stalder led the membership through a community update explaining the status of the community partnerships with City of Belle Fourche, Butte County, Butte County Railroad Authority, Belle Fourche School System, Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce and

NeighborWorks Dakota Home Resources.

Special Recognition was given to one community member. Stalder explained, "When we think of housing in Belle Fourche, one name is synonymous with commitment to our goals for home ownership, he's not afraid to challenge the status quo nor extenuating circumstances when it comes to helping people tackle home ownership obstacles..."

Mike Walker, thank you for making a difference in Belle Fourche, your work to date and the work ahead is no small feat!"

2025 welcomed over 20 new businesses to the Belle Fourche area. Those businesses were introduced and honored. Each one received a special certificate. The

businesses honored include: BC Excavation, Bluebelle SD Vacation Home, Breakfast Club, SodaK Shops, Buck N' Broncs Car Wash, CBH CO-OP Pellet Plant, Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum, Elizabeth Ann's Bridal, Epiphany Mental Health, Falina Selchert Real Estate Advisor, Highland Senior Solutions, iLevel Construction, Leaf It To Me, Little Leaps of Faith Christian Preschool, Pearson Block House, Pearson Block Candy Shop, Rising Hope Counseling, The Rustic C Boutique, Smokes N' Sips, Stampede Plumbing & Heating, Tats N Tees and The Homestead Store.

The next meeting for the Belle Fourche Development Corporation Board of Directors is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21 at 7 a.m.

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Bronc Wrestlers Compete in Spearfish Quad and Black Hills Conference

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
On Thursday, January 15th, the Broncs wrestling teams competed in a quadrangular hosted by the Spearfish Spartans.

Teams included the Douglas Patriots, Spearfish Spartans and Rapid City Central Cobblers. The Broncs beat the Patriots and came up short on team points against the Spartans and the Cobblers.

On Saturday, January 17th, the Broncs competed in the Black Hills Conference tournament hosted by Spearfish this year.

The boys had 3 open

weight classes leaving them short in points to defend their title as conference champions, however they did pull off a 3rd place finish beating out rivals, the Spearfish Spartans, by just half a point. In the 106lb weight class Caden Swaney placed 2nd, Jace Olson competed at 113lbs, Dylan Park competed at 120lbs, at 126lbs Cooper Conry placed 2nd, Preston Lake competed at 132lb, at 138lbs Garet Huston placed 3rd, at 150lbs Kolby Tibbs placed 4th, at 165lbs Koby Bowden placed 3rd, at 215lbs Dillon Streeter placed 4th and earning Black Hills Conference Champions for

the boys were Riley Dighton at 157lbs and at Heavyweight Luke Tonsager.

The Lady Broncs had 4 wrestlers compete. Charlie Huston earned a 4th place finish at 105lbs, and Lia Mundt earned a 3rd place finish at 115lbs. The Lady Broncs had two Black Hills Conference Champions, Kyra Vandenberg at 100lbs and AnnaBelle Dighton at 110lbs.

The Broncs teams compete next Saturday, January 24th in Chadron, Nebraska.

The home invitational is coming up next Friday and Saturday, January 30th and 31st at the Belle Fourche High School.



A Bench Full of Broncs Cheering on teammate Jace Olson during match against Spartan at Quadrangular.

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AnnaBelle Dighton has control



Bronc Captains (Dighton, Tonsager & Bowden) meeting with Patriot Captains at Quadrangular



Caden Swaney



Cooper Conry



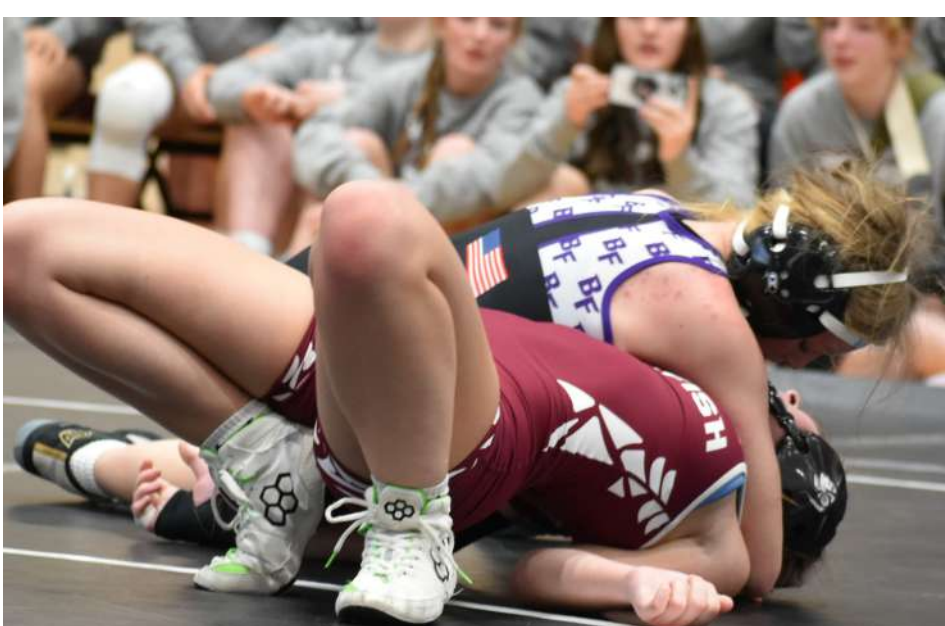
Charlie Huston



Dillon Park



Kolby Tibbs



Lia Mundt



Preston Lake

Bronc Basketball Hosts at Home

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

On Tuesday, January 13th, the Broncos hosted Lead-Deadwood at home.

The boys C team won over Lead-Deadwood 51-27. The Broncos led 12 to 4 after the first quarter, they scored and additional 10 points in the second quarter to Lead-Deadwood's 4, and 20 points in the third quarter to Lead-Deadwood's 7 points to bring the score to 42 to 15. In the fourth quarter, the Gold-diggers scored 12 points to the Broncos' 9 points, resulting in the final score to 51-27.

The boys JV team fell short to Lead Deadwood. The Broncos scored 21 points in the first quarter over Lead-Deadwood's 11 points, in the second quarter the Broncos kept their led with 17 points over Lead Deadwood's 14 points for a score of 38 to 25 going into the half. In the third quarter the Broncos scored 11 points while Lead Deadwood took off with 35 points during the quarter. In the fourth quarter, Lead Deadwood scored 19

points with the Broncos gaining an additional 7 points for a final score of 56-79.

The Varsity boys team took a loss of 46-64 to Lead Deadwood Tuesday night with first quarter scores close at 16 to 17, in the second quarter Lead Deadwood started to pull away scoring 19 points to the Broncos' 8 for a score of 24- 36 going into the half.

In the 3rd quarter the Broncos scored an additional 5 points to Lead Deadwood's 14 points and the Broncos outscored the Digger with 17 point to 14 points in the fourth. Lead scorers for the game were, Sern Weishaar with 11 points, Gabe Raba with 7 points, and Revyn Audiss with 6 points. Noah Mailloux and Ben Raba each scored 5 points, followed by Gavin Pearson and JP Jensen each with 4 points and Tatum Martin and Ian Voyles with 2 points.

On Thursday, January 15th, the Broncos played a makeup game against Newcastle that was held up due to inclement

weather in December from the Stateline Shootout.

It was a close game with a final score of 51-54 and on Saturday, January 17th, the Broncos hosted Bowman County with the Varsity game ending 44-54.

The Lady Broncos played their Stateline Shootout makeup game against Newcastle on Thursday, January 15th with a win 56-36. On Saturday, January 17th, the Lady Broncos fell to the Bowman County Bulldogs in a close matchup 30-34.

Next on the schedule for the Broncos is the Hill City Rangers with a 7:30 tipoff in Hill City, followed by Mahpiya Luta at home with a 3:30pm tipoff in the Belle Fourche High School gym and for the Lady Broncos, January 20th in Hill City with a 6pm tipoff, followed by the Winner Warriors on Thursday, January 22nd in Winner with a 5pm Central Time tipoff.

On Saturday January 24th they will host Mahpiya Luta at home with a 2pm tipoff in the Belle Fourche High School gym.

GOOD LUCK TO THE

Broncs

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Lady Bronc Basketball Action





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17 Petitions available: February 6th

 Belle Fourche City Hall 511 6th Ave. Belle Fourche, SD 57717




Chamber Annual Banquet

Friday February 13th

Chamber Banquet - Friday February 13th
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January
22nd - Burger Night 5:30PM @ Moose Lodge
23rd- 7:30AM Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining
24th - 9AM Pond Hockey @ Iron Creek Lake
BFACT Annual Meeting 2PM @ Branding Iron

Annual Banquet February 13th
Casino Night March 13th

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ABC - BC
COALITION MEETING

With guest speaker
Bill Elger from WPRC

"The Association Between Drugs and Violence"

Join us to enjoy lunch and hear the great information Bill has for us.

When: Friday, January 16th @ Noon
Where: Christian Life Center - 2020 Vista St. Belle Fourche

PLEASE RSVP BY 1/14/26

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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



We all like to know what's up in local fine arts events! Checking out this column each week is one way - but sometimes you can go directly to the source - such as the BFACT Annual Meeting

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater's ANNUAL MEETING - will be held JAN 24 at 2 PM, at the Branding Iron. Learn all about this season's upcoming shows, workshops, and community events. All are welcome to attend. Also, if you're interested in participating more directly, they are looking for new BFACT board members. Please contact Derek with any questions: director@bellefourcheact.com

All are invited to attend the PUBLIC PERFORMANCE of the BFHS ONE ACT on Monday, JANUARY 26th at 6:30 PM. The BFHS One Act cast, crew, and Director Michael Kane are getting ready for their competitive performance with their show, The Day the Internet Died. A public performance is a great way to get ready for regionals and entertain a live audience. The audience for this performance has really grown over the years as audiences have discovered how much theater fun can be packed into a one-act show.

BFACT DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP - JAN 28 at 6:30 PM - another FREE EVENT! Derek Olson, BFACT Executive Director, will be hosting this Directors Workshop for anyone interested in the many facets of directing.

Great things are happening in fine arts in January for the BFHS One Act, the BFMS band, and the Belle Fourche Area Community Theater.

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!

- January 19, Monday: BFMS Band Concert, 6:30 PM, BF Rec Center Theater
- January 24, Saturday: BFACT ANNUAL MEETING, All welcome, 2 PM at the Branding Iron
- January 26, Monday: BFHS One Act Public Performance, 6:30 PM BFRC Theater.
- January 28, Wednesday: BFACT FREE Directors Workshop hosted by Derek Olson, BFACT Executive Director.
- January 26, Monday: BFHS One Act Public Performance, 6:30 PM BFRC Theater.

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 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 Broncos. One area of growth we are particularly proud of is our partnership with Black Hills Special Services to strengthen 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 projects. 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 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

R. Orion Thompson, Ed.S Superintendent of Schools
Belle Fourche School District 9-1
2305 13th Avenue,



Belle Flowers & Co. Welcomes Chamber Mixer

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—A new month brought about a new opportunity for the business community to come together and connect at the monthly Chamber Mixer. This month, the Mixer was hosted by Belle Flowers & Co. Belle Flowers & Co. provided snacks and refreshments for everyone to enjoy as they networked and caught up on the goings-on of each other's businesses. The store was abuzz with laughter and conversation, as well as shopping and discovering what offerings Belle

Flowers & Co. has for future shopping endeavors. Michaela Horn, Chamber executive director, was on hand to welcome everyone. "Well, thank you guys for coming to the Belle Fourche Chamber Mixer. Thank you Belle Flowers & Co. for hosting us. Great job," she said. Horn went on to remind the crowd of the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on Friday, February 13 at the Community Hall. The event begins at 5 p.m. and will be followed by the celebration of the 115th birthday of the Belle Fourche Chamber. Contact the Chamber for tickets.

The Connect and Collect drawing is held at every Chamber Mixer. It is an incentive to come to the mixers. You must be a Chamber member to win and you must be present to collect it. Thus far, there has not been a lucky winner at the event. This month was the same outcome—Taco John's was the winner, but no one from the business was on hand to claim the cash. The \$365 pot rolls over to the next mixer. The next Chamber Mixer will be February 17 at Belle Chiropractic & Massage. It begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs through 6:30 p.m. Everybody is invited.



(Above) Attendees spend time networking with other Chamber of Commerce members during the January Chamber Mixer; (Above R) Brittany Wilkinson, owner Belle Flowers & Co., prepares snacks for the Chamber Mixer; (R) Chamber Director, Michaela Horn announces the winner of the monthly Connect and Collect drawing. Longbrake photos

BFACT
ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 24 @ 3PM | SOCIAL HOUR @ 2PM
BRANDING IRON & STEAKHOUSE

Directing
for community theater

WORKSHOP / **JANUARY 28**

2026
RESOLUTION RUN/WALK
at the Rec Center

Join us in January for our **MONTH LONG Resolution Run/Walk Community Mileage Challenge!**

Log your miles ALL MONTH!

1-Kick-Off: January 4 ~ 1:30 pm @ the Rec Center
-Group Event with Outdoor Laps around Highland Park/Rec Center (weather permitting) OR Indoor Laps around the walking track/gym.
-Set your **PERSONAL MILEAGE GOALS** for the month of January.
-Record your mileage weekly on the log sheets provided by the Rec.
-Mileage on ALL cardio machines counts as well!
-The Rec Center will post individual & total group mileage weekly.

2-Program Finale: February 1 ~ 1:30 pm @ the Rec Center
-Celebrate our January Mileage Goals with a Group Walk/Run inside or out!
-Enjoy our Group Social Event with healthy snacks and giveaways!
-Event shirts will be awarded this day!

Sign up **ANYTIME** December 22-January 31.

Cost:
Members \$15 (No shirt) or \$30 (With long sleeve t-shirt)
Nonmembers \$20 (No shirt) or \$35 (With long sleeve t-shirt)

Sponsored in part by: **Alpine Impressions & Wild Magnolia**

For more info, contact Tessa or Patty @ 605-892-2467 or tessa@bellefourche.org





Roots 48: Huck, Scout, Holden, Stand up for Truancy

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com



Going to school in America has changed over time.

Personally, I like schools. I like libraries, I like the smell of books, alongside bright shiny technology in the classroom. I like the excitement of each new school year, high school sports, social and competitive activities. I love attending school. I loved teaching school. I could go to school forever.

However, failure to comply in 8th grade home economics class nearly caused my expulsion. The year was 1972. At that time all girls were required to learn timeless household chores, cooking and sewing. Eighth grade home economics comprised eight long weeks of instruction in following simple recipes, measuring ingredients, cleaning the kitchen, followed by eight long weeks of making our own aprons.

Meanwhile, the young males were sequestered in the workshop learning drafting, wood-working and metal work.

Back in the home ec room, we females were assigned to kitchens in groups of four. Our first lesson was making toast and hot chocolate. My kitchen mates, Valerie, Loretta, and Kim were nice girls. It would have helped if our venerable instructor, had a sense of humor. Too bad that she didn't. It would have eased some tension for all of us.

Valerie, Loretta, and Kim took their instruction seriously. They created pretty Jello salads. They complimented one another on presentation. They paid attention to directions and were even quite patient with me when I swept the dirt out the door during cleaning time. The curriculum suited them and I'm certain they all became exceptional housewives.

Cooking, cleaning, mending

socks, and making tablecloths were of no interest to me at that time. Making toast was belittling. My disdain and resistance were transparent. I earned a D- in cooking and a D- in sewing too.

In reflection kids come to school with individual talents, interests, and learning styles. The traditional school curriculum is not always attentive to these differences.

Thus, kids who feel out of place in school for a variety of reasons, are more likely to stop going to school. Truancy has always been an issue, but it appears to be more pronounced in recent years.

Chronic absenteeism is when students miss more than 10% or more of school or about two days per month. Prior to COVID chronic absenteeism in South Dakota was 14% during 2018-2019. In 2025 chronic absenteeism was much higher at 22%.

<https://doe.sd.gov/attendance/?ref=sdnewswatch.org>

My experience in 8th grade wasn't pleasant, but skipping school never occurred to me. As a result, I gained some skills in peaceful, but attention generating resistance.

Perhaps, my disdain for washing dishes for school credit is what has drawn me to literary characters who have also had problems fitting in at formal traditional school settings.

Three literary characters come to mind: Huck Finn (The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn), Holden Caulfield (Catcher in the Rye) and Scout Finch (To Kill a Mockingbird).

Although fictitious, each of these characters has a voice that sheds some light on reasons for chronic absenteeism.

Huck Finn is an iconic and likable American literary character. Artists' representations of the colorful child protagonist of Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn usually depict a pensive ragged boy in a straw hat, perhaps fishing, and maybe pontificating with a corn cob pipe.

Huck is an orphan and an outdoorsy boy, who is expert at dodging school despite the persistent attempts of local social welfare to force his attendance.

Huck sees no value in traditional education. He prefers to spend his days with his pal Tom Sawyer, planning wild adventures or maybe floating on the dangerous Mississippi River on a raft without a life jacket.

A middle school aged thoughtful boy, Huck has endured profound childhood abuse and neglect in his short life. In his honest narrative, Huck has a lot to say about why he is so good at playing hooky.

To some extent, Huck's discomfiture with school involves sitting at a desk, wearing uncomfortable clothing, and having to be indoors. The confines of school seem unnatural and unnecessary to him. He'd rather be outside.

Racism and moral values become confused in Huck's young mind, no thanks to either his formal schooling or his social perimeters.

Early in the novel, Huck befriends Jim, a grown man and a slave attempting to escape to the free north. Huck has been taught that stealing is a sin, but that slavery is socially and morally acceptable. Huck's formal education has taught him that slaves are subject to the laws of property.

While helping Jim escape on a river raft, Huck wrestles with his conscience and considers taking Jim back to his "owner, but does not follow through.

Eventually, Huck realizes the ironic hypocrisy of what it

means to become 'sivilized' and wants no part of it. As he matures, Huck realizes that what is taught in traditional school has little to do with civilized values but more with perpetuating racial inequalities.

Huck Finn is not alone on the library shelves. Two other well-known characters Holden Caulfield (Catcher in the Rye), and Scout Finch (To Kill a Mockingbird) each had difficulty engaging with traditional school classrooms.

Many students identify easily with Holden Caulfield. Unlike Huck Finn, Holden Caulfield's New York parents have plenty of money. They send him to a one expensive preparatory school after another. This is necessary, because Holden keeps getting "kicked out" of schools for lack of effort.

Holden tries hard to please, but in the end, he can't tolerate the "phoniness" he associates with the Ivy league prep schools. In Holden's world, schools are incubators for falseness. They are incubators for cruel competition and meanness.

Holden suffers from grief and depression. He longs for innocence and wants to make the world better. Schools make great promises in their brochures, but to Holden it's all lies. School is not a place of comfort for Holden and like Huck he removes himself.

Scout is the six-year-old daughter of Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. She is frustrated that her young, inexperienced first grade teacher does not recognize that

she already knows how to read. At least Scout Finch has one clear advantage over Huck and Holden, she has a wise and supportive parent.

Scout finds that her teacher is condescending and the work in first grade seems like a pointless and endless process of construction paper rituals. Also, Scout is bullied by children whose parents disagree with her father's politics. For Scout, school is uncomfortable daily grind that she is taught to endure. Perhaps ironically, the bullying in the lives of Huck and Scout is indoctrination of racism in their communities. Holden's problems seem to be rooted in class structure.

Altogether, these characters represent the gamut of a national history steeped in problems with school engagement.

All three characters manage to learn, but not so much in the traditional classroom as in the world of real life. Scout must learn how to cope with the disappointments of formal schooling as well as taunts and threats that she experiences in school. Despite his chronic problems in the classroom and chronic absenteeism Holden is impressively well-read.

All the same, it seems tragic that all three missed out on a meaningful, formal education. Maybe there is a message in the literary narratives of Huck, Holden and Scout. Understanding the voices in literature has helped me feel a little less guilty about being 'different' in 8th grade. It has also helped better understand reasons for truancy.

The window of childhood is short, as is the window of time for positive school experiences.



THE BELLE FOURCHE
BEACON

**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 regular January meeting will be held on Saturday January 17. All writers are invited to attend! Meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

Belle Fourche Recreation Center Swimming Lessons Winter Session

Swim Lessons are returning to the Belle Fourche Rec Center and registration for our first session is now live!

Below are the dates and times for the lessons:
Every Tuesday and Thursday from January 13th to February 5th
Levels Q, 1, and 2 will be held from 5:00 - 5:45 PM
Levels 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be held from 6:00 - 6:45 PM
The price is \$60 and Members get a discount!

Other Pool Winter Activities

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.

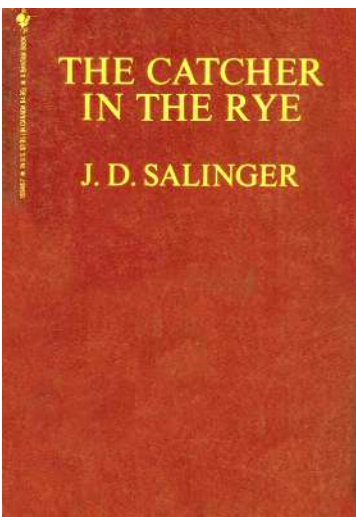
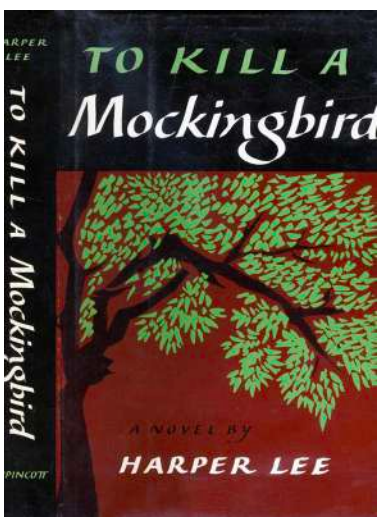
Aquafit - Starting December, we will hold Aquafit every Monday and Wednesday night from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. This class is higher intensity than what we currently offer. The workouts all involve using either dumbbells or foam weights. The class is designed to target multiple different muscle groups while also strengthening your core. 605-892-2467 bellefourcherec.com
Please register by January 12th so we have an estimate of how many will be in each class. For Inquiries, please email Collin at collin@bellefourche.org.

2026 Resolution Run/Walk Community Mileage Challenge!

This year's event has a NEW FORMAT and runs the whole month of January!
Set a personal mileage goal for the month. Track your mileage and turn in to the Rec weekly OR at the end of the month.
We will have a Program Finale on February 1st @ 1:30 pm at the Rec. This finale will include a group walk/run, healthy snacks, Wild Magnolia hot chocolate, giveaways and prizes. Event shirts will also be awarded this day!
Mileage can be accumulated in and out of the Rec and includes mileage on the bikes, treadmills, ellipticals, etc.
We are excited to see how many miles our community can accomplish!

Tri-State Museum

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the "January and the New Year" class scheduled for January 10 will be held on January 24 from 10 am to noon. You will learn fascinating facts about January, like where it got its name. \$2 per student (grades 3 through 5). Plenty of time to get registered, call 605-723-1200. The Roman god Janus approves.



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Tim Tetrault ~ Fieldman: 605-642-9792 • 605-641-0328
Ray Pepin ~ Fieldman: 605-892-5072

Tyler Escott ~ Fieldman: 406-853-5690
Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654
JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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

Cattle Report - Friday, January 16, 2026

Under 1500 HD
Lots of Demand For Breds

Next Sale - January 23rd - Feeder Cattle Special - 9 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Bred Cows - Sold By The Head

Thar Angus Llc, Rozet WY	12	Bld	3 Years	1207	\$4,050.00
Thar Angus Llc, Rozet WY	33	Bld	3 Years	1205	\$4,000.00
Thar Angus Llc, Rozet WY	23	Bld	4-5 Years	1154	\$4,000.00
Gaskill, Bill, Volborg MT	10	Bk	Mix Aged	1700	\$3,500.00
Gaskill, Bill, Volborg MT	13	Bk	Broken	1507	\$3,050.00
Jensen, Clifford A Or Lonna B, Whitewood SD	12	Red	Hfr	1209	\$4,000.00
Kruppe, Casey, New Underwood SD	19	Bk	Hfr	936	\$3,500.00
Opitz, Tom, Harford SD	18	Bk	Hfr	1215	\$3,950.00
Opitz, Tom, Harford SD	15	Bk	Hfr	1207	\$3,950.00
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	19	Bk	3 Years	1519	\$3,400.00
Schloreid Enterprises, Sundance WY	18	Bld	Mix Aged	1381	\$3,300.00
Schultes Ranch Llc, Howes SD	12	Bk	S-Ss	1437	\$3,200.00
Schultes Ranch Llc, Howes SD	11	Bk	Broken	1430	\$2,375.00
Schultes Ranch Llc, Howes SD	28	Bk	Broken	1367	\$2,975.00

Feeder Cattle

Blue Gate Solutions Llc, Gillette WY	19	B/R	Str	522	\$477.50
Blue Gate Solutions Llc, Gillette WY	16	B/R	Str	452	\$542.50
Powell, Stanley, Biddle MT	67	Bk	Str	649	\$433.00
Powell, Stanley, Biddle MT	16	B/R	Str	552	\$472.50

Weigh Up Cows

Bachand, Benny R, Sturgis SD	2	Bk	Owette	1397	\$180.00
Bachand, Benny R, Sturgis SD	3	Bld	Cow	1423	\$165.50
Bachand, Benny R, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1500	\$145.00
Beer Mug Ranch, Ludlow SD	6	Bk	Owette	1547	\$172.00
Beer Mug Ranch, Ludlow SD	1	Bk	Cow	1550	\$154.00
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	2	Bk	Cow	1505	\$170.50
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	1	Bld	Cow	1205	\$163.00
Busenitz, Wesley & Andrea, Osage WY	1	Bk	Cow	1300	\$170.50
Busenitz, Wesley & Andrea, Osage WY	1	Bk	Cow	1350	\$166.00
Dunning 3l Cattle Llc, Otter MT	1	Bk	Hfr	915	\$230.00
Dunning 3l Cattle Llc, Otter MT	1	Bk	Cow	940	\$210.00
Elmore Cattle Co, Gillette WY	19	Bk	Hfr	982	\$296.50
Elmore Cattle Co, Gillette WY	3	Bk	Hfr	1218	\$220.00
Gaskill, Bill, Volborg MT	4	Bk	Owette	1291	\$181.50
Gaskill, Bill, Volborg MT	3	Bk	Cow	1525	\$171.50
Gaskill, Bill, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Cow	1265	\$147.50
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Hfr	845	\$320.00
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Cow	1165	\$167.00
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Cow	1515	\$166.00
Gaskill, Wanda, Ashland MT	1	Bld	Cow	1325	\$163.00
Geer Family Trust, Osage WY	1	Bk	Cow	1530	\$170.00
Jensen Ranches, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Hfr	1250	\$220.00
Jensen Ranches, Whitewood SD	7	Red	Owette	1296	\$182.00
Jensen Ranches, Whitewood SD	3	Red	Cow	1473	\$170.50
Jensen Ranches, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Cow	1610	\$169.00
Jensen Ranches, Whitewood SD	1	Red	Cow	1375	\$157.50
Jensen Ranches, Whitewood SD	1	Bk	Cow	895	\$145.00
Jev Livestock Llc, St Onge SD	1	Bk	Cow	1265	\$146.00
Kruppe, Casey, New Underwood SD	1	Red	Hfr	910	\$312.00
Lenhart, Jade Or Cinnamon, Weston WY	3	Bk	Hfr	853	\$295.00
Lenhart, Jade Or Cinnamon, Weston WY	1	Bk	Hfr	855	\$260.00
Lenhart, Jade Or Cinnamon, Weston WY	1	Bk	Owette	1110	\$192.50
Lenhart, Jade Or Cinnamon, Weston WY	1	Bk	Owette	1305	\$182.50
Lenhart, Jade Or Cinnamon, Weston WY	1	Bk	Owette	1035	\$180.00
Lewis, Dan, Rapid City SD	3	Bk	Owette	1315	\$194.00
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	4	Bk	Hfr	1028	\$277.50
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	1	Bk	Hfr	935	\$230.00
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	8	Bk	Owette	1188	\$178.50
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	1	Bk	Owette	1305	\$175.00
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	1	Bk	Owette	1035	\$174.00
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	2	Cow	1700	\$168.50	
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	1	Bk	Cow	1165	\$162.00
Lightning Ridge Inc, Olive MT	1	Bk	Cow	1370	\$155.00
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	15	B/R	Owette	1394	\$177.00
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	5	B/R	Owette	1326	\$175.50
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	19	B/R	Cow	1321	\$170.50
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	1	Bk	Cow	1305	\$170.00
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	4	B/R	Cow	1136	\$160.00
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	1	Red	Cow	1590	\$157.00
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	1	Bk	Cow	1070	\$152.00
Moore, Eric, Miles City MT	1	Bk	Cow	1090	\$145.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Owette	855	\$190.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	11	Bk	Owette	1322	\$174.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	12	B/R	Owette	1485	\$172.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	9	B/R	Cow	1635	\$171.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	5	B/R	Cow	1539	\$171.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	16	B/R	Cow	1534	\$170.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	20	B/R	Cow	1491	\$170.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	16	B/R	Cow	1470	\$170.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	13	Bk	Cow	1359	\$168.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	3	Bk	Cow	1346	\$168.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	5	Bk	Cow	1293	\$168.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	22	B/R	Cow	1255	\$163.00
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	1	Bk	Cow	1865	\$147.00
Olson, Fred Jr (Or), Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Cow	1520	\$167.00
Opitz, Tom, Harford SD	1	Bk	Owette	1240	\$189.00
Peters, Henry (Toby) Or Connie, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1520	\$170.00
Schmidt, Cleve (Belle Fourche SD	14	Bld	Cow	1487	\$171.00

Schmidt, Cleve (Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Cow	1225	\$170.50
Redding, Clay & Dave, Forsyth MT	13	Rbd	Hfr	822	\$322.00
Redding, Clay & Dave, Forsyth MT	16	Red	Hfr	1044	\$270.00
Redding, Clay & Dave, Forsyth MT	1	Red	Hfr	1045	\$260.00
Redding, Clay & Dave, Forsyth MT	1	Red	Owette	1105	\$182.50
Redding, Clay & Dave, Forsyth MT	1	Red	Owette	800	\$180.00
Rice, Howard Or Mary, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1535	\$162.00
Rice, Howard Or Mary, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1920	\$152.00
Russell Lazy Pk Ranch, Lewistown MT	1	Bk	Cow	1460	\$167.00
Schloreid Enterprises, Sundance WY	6	Bk	Cow	1311	\$164.50
Schloreid Enterprises, Sundance WY	2	Bk	Cow	1242	\$134.00
Schultes Ranch Llc, Howes SD	7	B/R	Owette	1430	\$172.50
Schultes Ranch Llc, Howes SD	1	Chr	Cow	1505	\$171.50
Shaykett, Alan, Nisland SD	2	Bld	Hfr	1040	\$272.50
Shaykett, Alan, Nisland SD	3	Bld	Cow	1443	\$168.50
Shepperson, Bob J & Julie G, Upton WY	3	Bk	Hfr	940	\$275.00
Sleep Ranches Llc, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Owette	1715	\$172.00
Smith, Roddy J & Kathleen J, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Owette	1150	\$183.00
Smith, Roddy J & Kathleen J, Gillette WY	2	Bk	Owette	1365	\$180.00
Smith, Roddy J & Kathleen J, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Owette	1220	\$179.50
Smith, Roddy J & Kathleen J, Gillette WY	7	Bk	Cow	1235	\$158.00
Slohammer, Lucas & Melinda, Newcastle WY	1	Bk	Cow	1265	\$157.00
Thar Angus Llc, Rozet WY	1	Bk	Hfr	915	\$297.50
Thar Angus Llc, Rozet WY	1	Bld	Hfr	1050	\$265.00
Tibbetts, Trevor Box Elder SD	1	Bk	Owette	1225	\$173.00
Trupp, Ralph, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Hfr	900	\$282.50

Weigh Up Bulls

Dobesh, Dane Or Kristi, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Bull	1875	\$182.00
Dunning 3l Cattle Llc, Otter MT	1	Bk	Bull	1640	\$187.00
Gaskill, Roger Or Lisa, Ashland MT	1	Bk	Bull	1735	\$172.50
Miller, Jim, Hysham MT	4	Bk	Bull	1881	\$174.50
Miller, Jim, Hysham MT	1	Bk	Bull	1870	\$170.00
Miller, Jim, Hysham MT	2	Bk	Bull	1707	\$177.50
Miller, Jim, Hysham MT	1	Bk	Bull	1420	\$172.50
O Connor Crop & Cattle Co, Ekalaka MT	5	Bk	Bull	1781	\$187.00
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Bull	2020	\$167.50
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	1	Bk	Bull	1695	\$172.50
Sleep Ranches Llc, Spearfish SD	2	Bk	Bull	2390	\$195.00

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FAX: 605-456-2436

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Fieldman: Gilbert Wood 605-456-2400 605-641-7100
Auctioneer: Casey Humble 605-490-9829
Fieldman: Dustin Vining 605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, January 15, 2026

Lamb Market Sure Steady To \$10 Higher Again This Week
Slaughter Ewes Sold \$5 To \$8 Lower

Next Sale - January 22nd - Regular Sheep Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats - start time 1:00 pm

Animals should be here by 10:00 am so they can be weighed before the sale
Thank you for your business!

Lamb

Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	20	Lamb	64	\$365.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	72	Lamb	79	\$340.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	20	Lamb	92	\$317.00
Gaugler, Drew Or Erin, Lemmon SD	7	Lamb	70	\$350.00
Gaugler, Drew Or Erin, Lemmon SD	35	Lamb	93	\$276.00
Grate, Zane, Isabel SD	73	Lamb	95	\$272.00
Grate, Zane, Isabel SD	36	Lamb	110	\$239.00
Jensen, Andrew, Newell SD	6	Lamb	94	\$317.00
Mcoeur, Levi, Broadus MT	12	Lamb	80	\$337.00
Sulzbach, Stephen, Newell SD	6	Lamb	130	\$215.00

Slaughter Ewes

Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD	14	K Ewe	177	\$113.00
Humble, Casey, Mud Butte SD	19	K Ewe	146	\$106.00
Kizan, Josh & Heather, Nisland SD	5	K Ewe	206	\$108.00
McTaggart, Lance, Newell SD	8	K Ewe	165	\$113.00
McTaggart, Lance, Newell SD	5	K Ewe	225	\$108.00
Miller, Ryle, Sturgis SD	6	K Ewe	168	\$113.00
Nelson, Larry or Sandra Holcomb, Buffalo SD	16	K Ewe	168	\$119.00
Nelson, Larry or Sandra Holcomb, Buffalo SD	68	K Ewe	188	\$112.50

Slaughter Bucks

Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD	2	K Buck	207	\$114.00
Mcoeur, Levi, Broadus MT	6	K Buck	173	\$114.00
McTaggart, Lance, Newell SD	4	K Buck	207	\$114.00

Friday, January 23, 2026

Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special

9:00 AM - Weigh Ups

12:00 Noon - Bred Cows Followed By Feeder Cattle

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

Feeder Cattle

Brence Ranch - 190 Blk Strs - 700-850# - Bt, Pc, Wnd, Home Raised
- 60 Blk Hfrs - 600-700# - Bt, Pc, Bv

Duprel Ranch - 230 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 550-700# - Bt, Pc, Poured, Wnd

Keith Weyrich - 120 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 500-650# - Bt, Pc, Poured, Wnd

Clint Stinson - 100 Blk Hfrs - 575-650# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Hutchinson Ranch - 90 Red Strs - 550-650# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Josh Harmon - 75 Herf Strs & Hfrs - 600-700# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Ryan Xz Ranch - 75 Blk & Bldy Hfrs - 575-630# - Bt, Pc, Wnd, Bv, Home Raised

Roger Brown Ranch - 55 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 750-850# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Randy & Rhonda Valley - 53 Blk & Bldy Hfrs - 600-675# - Bt, Pc, Wnd, Bv - No Hfrs Kept

Richard Perli - 40 Blk Hfrs - 600-650# - Bt, Pc, Wnd, Bv
- 10 Blk Strs - 550# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Russell Millar - 20 Herf & Blk Bldy Strs - 575-675# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Brad Severson - 15 Red Hfrs - 600-625# - Bt, Pc, Poured, Bv

Kelly Keegan - 7 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 400-600# - Bt, Pc, Poured

Jon Aldren - 7 Blk Strs - 600-650# - Bt, Pc, Wnd

Plus More By Sale Time!

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/nd for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Regular Sale

1:00 pm

PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!

Please Have Animals In By Noon So They Can All Be Weighed Before The Sale!

2026 SHEEP SALES

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

2026 CATTLE SALES

January 30th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 6th - No Sale - Visit The Black Hills Stock Show
February 13th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 20th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 27th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 6th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 13th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 20th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 27th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 3rd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 10th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 10th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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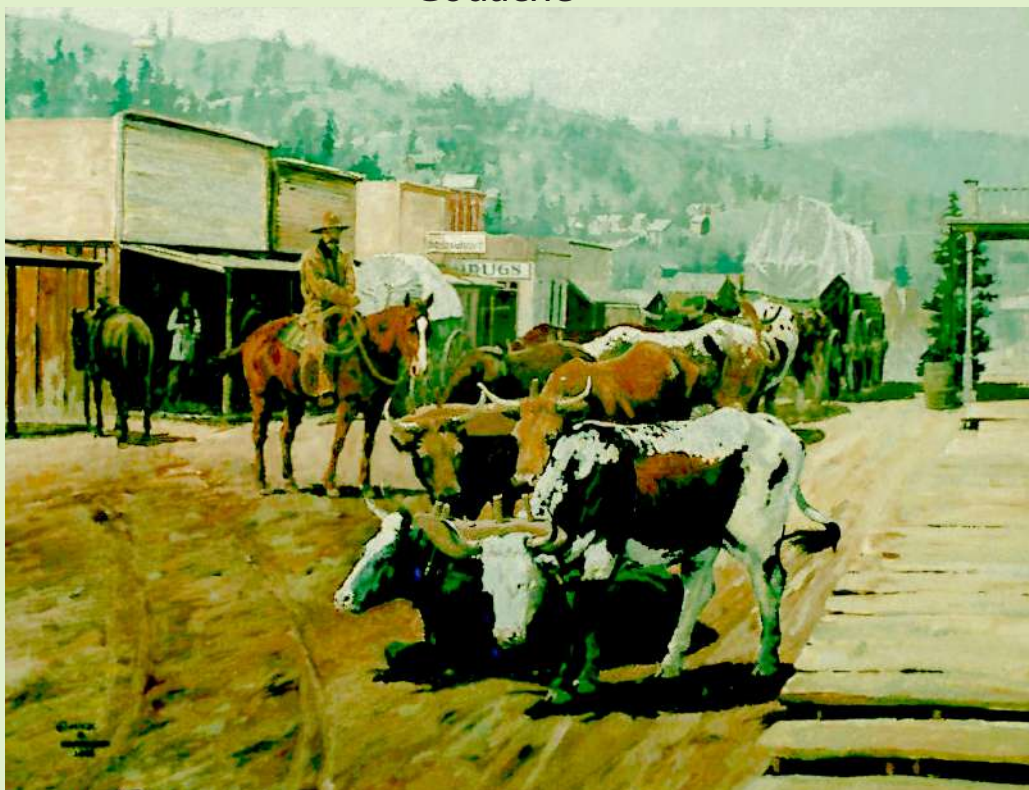
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Local.

Looking Back in Belle

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



by Mary Buchholz

136 years ago
Belle TIMES,
February 12, 1890
Local News
Charlie Lindsey, a thrifty rancher on the Belle Fourche, has a large herd of swine that have put in their time this winter eating dried rushes, and they are in fine condition now. They have tunneled into the hay stacks and picked out all the rushes that came within reach. This will perhaps be new to somebody.

100 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
February 4, 1926
ASK FOR ADJUSTMENT OF CHARGES Congress man Williamson and Senator Norbeck Introduce Bills in Both Houses Congressman Williamson of this district and Senator Norbeck of South Dakota have introduced bills in the house of representatives and the senate providing for adjustment of water charges and to grant certain other relief on the Belle Fourche irrigation project. Mr. Williamson introduced his bill on January 28 in the house and Mr. Norbeck introduced the same bill in the senate January 29. These bills provide for the charging off of substantial amounts of the construction charged against non-productive lands and provide that productive lands do not have to share in the expense of construction charges against the non-productive lands; charging off of the cost of mistakes made by government engineers; permit the settlers upon the project to pay the remaining construction charges upon a basis of five per cent of the annual gross production of the lands. Another bill will be introduced providing for resettlement of abandoned project lands.

OUR CITY SCHOOLS
Absence has been cut down as the amount of sickness in the city decreases. No new cases of contagious diseases have been reported for some time. Tuition statements for the first semester have been mailed to the various school districts. The high school this year draws 46 tuition students and the grades 14 all from South Dakota. Tuition in the high school is \$12 a month and in the grades \$6 a month. Miss Smiley with the aid of the county superintendent and the assistant county superintendent completed the health examination in the grades and high school.

Letters will be sent to parents who have children needing special attention of any kind. The examination which covered hearing, eye sight, height, weight, and teeth was to determine the physical condition of the pupils. It appears from the first examination, health in the Belle Fourche schools is very good.

75 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
February 1, 1951
Lois Shevling DAR Winner
Lois An Shevling, Nisland high school senior, was chosen Butte county's representative in the annual South Dakota Good Citizenship contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. County School Supt. Barbara Rearick announced that Miss Shevling was selected yesterday from a field of four candidates by a committee of three judges. Other girls entered in the county contest for which a \$100 U. S. saving bond were Joan Graham of Belle Fourche, Laurice Robbins of Newell and Marie Edwards of Vale. Second and third place winners in the state contest will receive good citizenship awards and all girls nominated in each county will be given certificates of recognition. A detailed list of the activities and qualifications on which Miss Shevling won the county recognition are listed on page 6.

Low Orman Lake Makes Spring Moisture a "Must"
Unless there is a good spring run-off in the upper watershed - either from snow or spring rains - it is evident that restrictions will have to be placed on water used for irrigating crops in the Belle Fourche district this coming summer. Project Supt. Fred Winkler reports there are currently about 75,000 acre feet of water behind Orman dam. Of this total, only 37,000 acre feet can reasonably be delivered to water users. The rest will be lost through percolation, evaporation and weed and canal loss. That amounts to about seven inches of water to each acre of land currently being irrigated on the project, he said. It is far short of the average 12 3/4 inches per acre used during the 1950 growing season. At the start of last season, following heavy February and March precipitation, there were 166,000 acre feet of water in Orman lake. Prior to the wet spring snows, the level of the lake was approximately the same as it is today. During the 1950 growing season, Winkler said, a total of 123,424 acre feet of water were used for irrigation, more than three times the amount available now before spring runoff.

8 Planes, 11 Pilots Licensed in County Up to yesterday morning, the treasurer's office had licensed eight airplanes in Butte county, together with the granting of operating licenses to 11 pilots and permits to two county firms retailing airplanes. Airplanes license have been issued to Western South Dakota Sheep Growers association, the E. M. flying service at Newell, the Busfield airport at Belle Fourche. The latter two also received dealer permits to sell airplanes. Individual owners of planes who have received licenses are Ralph Kirk of Hoover, Dr. Charles E. Baker, John Mednansky, Richard Busfield of Belle Fourche,

Day Hoover of Hoover and D. Leroy Webb of Nisland. The treasurer's office reports that up to yesterday morning 1951 licenses had been issued to 508 cars, 213 trucks, 34 trailers and two motorcycles. Permits also have been issued to two car dealerships.

50 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
January 30, 1976
Donahue Retired From Bank Regina Donahue, longtime employee of the Bank of Belle Fourche, retired as cashier at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the bank recently. Regina began her employment with the bank Oct. 1, 1942 and has seen the institution grow from on with 1 1/2 million dollars total assets to one with almost \$30 million today. She will continue as a director of the bank. In other action at the meeting, Ronald J. Myrbill was elected cashier and Elsie Keil assistant cashier. All other directors and officers were re-elected. In addition, the board voted to transfer \$200,000 from the undivided profits to the surplus account, making a total of over \$2 million in capital accounts.

Kill-Chill Plant Inquiry Under Way Are you interested in doing something about locating a lamb kill and chill plant in western South Dakota? Questionnaires relating to that subject are being distributed in Western South Dakota this week thru the cooperative and the Western South Dakota Sheep Growers Association. The questionnaire covers such matters as the need for such a plant in the area, type of market that should be developed, number of ewes lambed each year, number of feeders,, how many to slaughter, when marketed, how much involvement and whether or not the questioned producer is interested in producing or feeding lambs on a year-around basis. In the announcement concerning the questionnaire, officials point out that "one of the very important questions that needs to be answered is "Can there be enough lambs raised in the area to support a plant? " This is the basic purpose of the questionnaire. People are encouraged to return the questionnaire immediately. Mail it to Butte Electric Cooperative, Newell. It is not necessary for the person answering the questionnaire to sign the form. After the questionnaires have been tabulated and if there is an indication of interest, arrangements will be made for informational meetings so residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the possibilities of a kill and chill plant.



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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>Look What's Cooking at Belle Silver Lining Come Join us M-F 11 am-1 pm 828 Kingsbury St. Belle Fourche, SD Menu subject to change or modification.</p>				
<p>5 Beef Tips & Gravy Roasted Potatoes Spinach & Strawberry Salad</p>	<p>6 Liver or Deluxe Cheeseburger Mashed Potato & Gravy Mixed Vegetables</p>	<p>7 Chicken Enchilada Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Corn & Peppers</p>	<p>8 Pork Loin Scalloped Potatoes Green Beans Roll</p>	<p>9 Cheesy Beef and Mac Casserole Corn Bread Mixed Vegetables</p>
<p>12 Beef Lasagna Soup Tossed Salad Garlic Toast</p>	<p>13 Meatloaf Mashed Potato & Gravy Buttered Corn</p>	<p>14 Turkey Noodle Soup Garden Salad Biscuit with Butter</p>	<p>15 Chicken Sandwich Garden Pasta Salad Cowboy Beans</p>	<p>16 Breaded Fish Sandwich Bacon & Pea Salad Sweet Potato Fries</p>
<p>19 Tortellini Soup Garden Salad Breadstick</p>	<p>20 Turkey Pot Pie Roasted Veggies Dinner Roll</p>	<p>21 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn</p>	<p>22 Ruben & Sauerkraut Sandwich Fries Brussel Sprouts</p>	<p>23 Tuna Noodle Casserole Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll</p>
<p>26 French Toast Egg Bake with Oven Potato & Sausage</p>	<p>27 Chicken Cordon Bleu Mushroom Rice Salad</p>	<p>28 Turkey Club Sandwich Coleslaw Chips</p>	<p>29 Beef Stroganoff Butter Noodles Roasted Carrots Roll</p>	<p>30 White Chicken Chili Garden Salad Corn Bread</p>

Milk & Fruit Served with all meals
 Menu subject to change based on availability.

Don't miss the following events
New Years Eve Party - Dec. 31st - 7-9pm
Speakers 12pm on January 14th, 23rd & 28th





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Market Report - Thursday, JANUARY 15, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	S/HEAD
Kaufman Ranch Llc, Atzada MT	22	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1294	4500.00	\$ 4,500.00
	7	Black-Brd Cow 5/6yo	1329	4400.00	\$ 4,400.00
	19	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1586	4100.00	\$ 4,100.00
	6	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1537	4100.00	\$ 4,100.00
	14	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1561	3900.00	\$ 3,900.00
	18	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1572	3750.00	\$ 3,750.00
	40	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1550	3225.00	\$ 3,225.00
	10	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1594	3275.00	\$ 3,275.00
Dane & Kristi Dobesh, Belle Fourche SD	30	Bwf-Brd Hfr	1218	4625.00	\$ 4,625.00
	14	Bwf-Brd Hfr	1160	4500.00	\$ 4,500.00
	13	Black-Brd Hfr	1186	4350.00	\$ 4,350.00
	10	Hfr-Brd Hfr	1060	4150.00	\$ 4,150.00
	11	Bk/Bwf-Brd Hfr	1184	4325.00	\$ 4,325.00
	10	Hfr-Brd Hfr	1073	3950.00	\$ 3,950.00
Riley Lesh, Ekalaka MT	37	Black-Brd Hfr	1190	4425.00	\$ 4,425.00
	14	Black-Brd Hfr	1187	4050.00	\$ 4,050.00
Snook Land & Lvstk. Llc, Sundance WY	34	Black-Brd Hfr	1037	4000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	16	Black-Brd Hfr	1038	3800.00	\$ 3,800.00
Monty Lesh, Miles City MT	40	Black-Brd Hfr	1012	3850.00	\$ 3,850.00
	40	Black-Brd Hfr	977	3825.00	\$ 3,825.00
K & D Livestock Inc, Volborg MT	34	Black-Brd Hfr	985	3875.00	\$ 3,875.00
Labree Red Hill Ranch, Ekalaka MT	10	Black-Brd Hfr	1042	4000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Ben Or Lori Garman, Belle Fourche SD	45	Black-Brd Cow Sm/Bm	1393	3350.00	\$ 3,350.00
T Milliron Livestock Llc, Rozet WY	43	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1354	3275.00	\$ 3,275.00
Spur Land & Livestock Llc, Newcastle WY	15	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1435	3750.00	\$ 3,750.00
	4	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1205	3550.00	\$ 3,550.00
	17	Black-Brd Cow Sm/Bm	1444	3375.00	\$ 3,375.00
Double E Cattle, Ekalaka MT	5	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1212	3600.00	\$ 3,600.00
Dobrenz Family Trust, Ranchester WY	10	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1375	3900.00	\$ 3,900.00
	15	Black-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1533	3850.00	\$ 3,850.00
Oleson Ranch Lp, Newcastle WY	16	Bk/Bwf-Brd Cow 3/4yo	1108	3600.00	\$ 3,600.00
	9	Bk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1258	3575.00	\$ 3,575.00
	6	Red-Brd Cow 3-6yo	1383	3450.00	\$ 3,450.00
Mac Tooke, Ekalaka MT	21	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1330	2850.00	\$ 2,850.00

WEIGH-UPS

Todd Barkley, Baker MT	7	Black-Cow	1166	185.00	\$ 2,157.89
	1	Black-Cow	1325	179.00	\$ 2,371.75
Janet K Evans, Weston WY	4	Black-Cow	1233	183.50	\$ 2,261.63
Oleson Ranch Lp, Newcastle WY	6	Bk/Bwf-Cow	1380	177.00	\$ 2,442.60
	12	Black-Hfr	1086	200.00	\$ 2,172.50
Riley Lesh, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Hfr	1005	275.00	\$ 2,763.75
Spur Land & Livestock Llc, Newcastle WY	8	Black-Cow	1241	180.00	\$ 2,233.12
	1	Black-Cow	1450	176.00	\$ 2,552.00
	2	Black-Hfr	1013	275.00	\$ 2,784.37
Ben Or Lori Garman, Belle Fourche SD	28	Black-Cow	1474	176.00	\$ 2,593.48
	12	Black-Cow	1300	179.50	\$ 2,334.24
	14	Black-Cow	1340	184.50	\$ 2,471.64
Dave & Chase Hayden, Baker MT	25	Black-Cow	1282	181.50	\$ 2,327.19
	15	Bk/Bwf-Cow	1137	196.00	\$ 2,228.52
	5	Bk/Bwf-Hfr	998	240.50	\$ 2,400.19
Clark Blake, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Hfr	1025	252.50	\$ 2,588.12
Dave Garman, Belle Fourche SD	11	Black-Cow	1446	175.50	\$ 2,538.36
	9	Black-Cow	1338	178.50	\$ 2,387.93
Trevor Garman, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1445	175.50	\$ 2,535.97

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

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

January 22, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 9 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
January 29, 2026	BRED STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 9 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
February 5, 2026	NO SALE - ENJOY THE STOCK SHOW!
February 12, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 9 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
February 19, 2026	STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 9 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
February 26, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 9 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL

JANUARY 22, 2026

WUPS @ 9 AM MT | FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

PITCHFORK RANCH - MT
285 BLK MXD CLVS, 500-550#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, WEANED 75 DAYS

BOX L CATTLE CO - MT
270 BLK MXD CLVS, 750#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, WEANED 75 DAYS

MOBLEY LAND INC - MT
180 BLK/BWF STRS
550-650#, PC, BT SHOTS, NI, WEANED 80 DAYS

JAN EVANS - WY
135 - 125 BLK HFRS & 10 BLK STRS
475-575# / 450#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, DF

STANLEY STIEBER - MT
120 BLK/BWF STRS, 700-800#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, WEANED

BURDICK RANCH - MT
120 BLK STRS, 650#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, HR, POURED, WEANED 75 DAYS

GEORGE ETCHEMENDY - WY
90 RED MXD CLVS, 550#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, HR, WEANED 60 DAYS

PAUL PALCZEWSKI - SD
80 BLK HFRS, 550#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, WEANED 60 DAYS

CLABAUGH CATTLE CO - WY
75 RED STRS, 850#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, HR

BRIAN & HALLIE BUDMAYR - SD
70 BLK STRS, 700#
BT SHOTS, HR, DF, WEANED 60 DAYS

GAER RANCH - SD
60 HFR CLVS, 500-550#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, POURED, WEANED 75 DAYS

MT CONSIGNMENT - MT
55 BLK MXD CLVS
500-700#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI

JESSE & NASTEL DEAN - WY
35 BLK HFRS
550-650#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, BUNK BROKE, WEANED

ANNE GERGEN - MT
20 BLK MXD CLVS
500-650#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI, WEANED 90 DAYS

ROY BERRY - SD
8 YRL STRS
900#
ROY BERRY - SD
8 MXD CLVS, 500#
PC, BT SHOTS, NI

STOCK SHOW BRED COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL

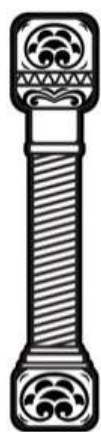
JANUARY 29, 2026

WUPS @ 9 AM MT | BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

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<div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$22.99 </div>  <p>Ole Smoky Flavored Whisky 750ml several varieties</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$19.99 </div>  <p>Jose Cuervo Tequila 750ml</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$19.99 </div>  <p>Lord Calvert Canadian Whisky 1.75L</p>
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$14.99 </div>  <p>Jose Cuervo Ready-to-Drink Cocktails 1.75L several varieties</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$19.99 </div>  <p>Summit Wine 3L several varieties</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$49.99 </div>  <p>Maker's Mark Whisky 1.75L</p>

Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Two weeks!**
Wednesday, **January 21st** through Tuesday, **February 3rd**

Position: Full-Time Director of Equalization and Planning
Reports to: Butte County Commission

Summary of Duties: The county Director of Equalization is responsible for confirming that all property in the county is accounted for on the tax list. They are also responsible for guaranteeing that these properties are all assessed in an equal and uniform manner.

Salary: \$66,901.43 Annual
Hours/Week: 40 hours per week M-F

Education Required: High school diploma required.

Abilities/Skills:
A successful applicant will have the ability to obtain the South Dakota CAA certification within one year, with prior property assessment or appraisal experience preferred, and experience with typical office software, such as Word, Excel, and Outlook. Advanced Excel experience preferred.

Additional Information: The work environment is split between typical indoor office duties and outdoor inspection of property activities. Travel will be required for certification and training.

Benefits: SDRS Retirement, Health insurance, Holidays, Vacation, Sick Time

Applications and a detailed job description 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 submitting 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



**Join us in January for our
MONTH LONG
Resolution Run/Walk
Community Mileage Challenge!**

Log your miles ALL MONTH!

1-Kick-Off: January 4 - 1:30 pm @ the Rec Center
-Group Event with Outdoor Laps around Highland Park/Rec Center (weather permitting)
OR Indoor Laps around the walking track/gym.

- Set your **PERSONAL MILEAGE GOALS** for the month of January.
- Record your mileage weekly on the log sheets provided by the Rec.
- Mileage on ALL cardio machines counts as well!
- The Rec Center will post individual & total group mileage weekly.

2-Program Finale: February 1 - 1:30 pm @ the Rec Center
-Celebrate our January Mileage Goals with a Group Walk/Run inside or out!
-Enjoy our Group Social Event with healthy snacks and giveaways!
-Event shirts will be awarded this day!

Sign up ANYTIME December 22-January 31.



Cost:
Members \$15 (No shirt) or \$30 (With long sleeve t-shirt)
Nonmembers \$20 (No shirt) or \$35 (With long sleeve t-shirt)

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For more info, contact Teasa or Patty @ 605-892-2467 or teasa@bellefourche.org

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SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM | CLOSED SUNDAY

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Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: **Nowell**

NEWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Location: **Newell Christian Fellowship Church-308 4th St.**
Date: **Monday, February 2nd**
Time: **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by **W.I.T Coalition**

Scan the QR code or contact Sabrina Harmon at 605-381-9186 or sabrina.harmon.wit@sdplains.com.

*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/FebruaryGift.

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SPORT COATS

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
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605 569-3057
Sermons: fightintheshade

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Sunday School: 11 a.m.
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Pastor Marveen Gentillon
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Sabbath School: 9:30am
Worship Service: 10:45am
Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

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Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

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The Rev. Sandy Williams, Priests Deacon
Rev. Mike Weaver
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Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
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ST. ONGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday School and Worship
at 8:30 a.m.
www.bfsoucc.org

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Father Kevin Achbach, Pastor
Father Max Vetch, Pastor
Mass Times:
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.
Daily Mass: Tues. & Thurs. 12:15 p.m.
Confessions available one hour
before all Masses

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

VALE COMMUNITY COUNTRY CHURCH
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402 Rosander St. Vale SD 57788
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605-210-0512



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Many traditional problems—declining population, shuttered storefronts, brain drain—can be traced directly back to a lack of innovation, dreams, and vision. A community with big dreams can travel farther than its leaders ever imagined. A community with an innovative spirit can reverse decades of decline and poor decisions. A community with strong will and vision can reach heights previously thought impossible.

If you build it—the vision, that is—they will come. And they won't just come. They'll follow leaders and business owners who dare to think differently, who see possibilities where others see

only problems, who transform empty buildings into incubators of opportunity. Don't let a lack of vision be your downfall. Let it be your driving force and mission. The question isn't whether your community can afford to invest in vision and innovation. It's whether you can afford not to.

John A. Newby is the author of the "Building Main Street, Not Wall Street" column dedicated to helping local communities, government and business combine synergies allowing them to thrive in a world where truly-local is being lost to Amazon and Wall Street chains. His email is john@truly-local.org

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By John Newby *"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"*
Local Vision Needs Incubation

Ray Goforth once said, "There are two types of people who will tell you that you cannot make a difference in this world: those who are afraid to try and those who are afraid you will succeed."



the time, yet each strike-out taught him what to expect next. Those failures became his teachers, turning every at-bat into a learning opportunity.

For local communities standing at the crossroads of growth or decline, this quote cuts to the heart of the matter. Too many towns are led by those stuck in small thinking and poverty mind-sets—people afraid to dream big and terrified of failure.

Why Vision Matters More Than Ever The Bible tells us in Proverbs that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Substitute "community" for "people," and you've captured the essence of local economic development. In my work with communities, businesses, and media companies across the country, one truth stands out: stagnation always traces back to a lack of vision. Show me a great community or business leader, and I'll show you someone with extraordinary vision. One simply cannot exist without the other.

Communities without vision aren't just standing still; they're actively sliding toward irrelevance with each passing day. But here's the thing about vision: it's easy to talk about innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity. Actually, putting those words into action and achieving results? That's the challenge. Let me offer some concrete ways local communities can turn vision into reality.

Turning Empty Buildings into Economic Engines So how can communities demonstrate vision while inspiring innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship? Most smaller towns share a common albatross: empty buildings. While not every vacant structure fits the bill, many of these old buildings are architectural gems just waiting for a loving occupant with fresh ideas. The numbers tell a compelling story. Incubated businesses have an 87% survival rate after five years, compared to just 44% for non-incubated businesses. That's nearly double the success rate—a difference that can transform a community's economic trajectory.

The Art of Failing Forward True innovators understand a fundamental truth: innovation requires failure. If you're not failing, you're not pushing hard enough. The art lies in failing fast, failing cheap, and knowing when to pivot. Every great innovator in history failed more than they succeeded—but each failure taught them something invaluable for their next attempt.

Consider Ty Cobb, one of baseball's greatest hitters with a lifetime batting average of .367. He failed to get a hit 63.3% of

Consider what's possible: The Koffman Southern Tier Incubator in Binghamton, New York, supports 65 member companies that have collectively generated \$817 million in economic impact, created 808 full-time jobs, and raised \$655 million in capital since 2017. Just last year alone, these companies created 199 new jobs. Hartford, Connecticut transformed an old Swift Gold Leaf Factory into a thriving community incubator for innovation, opportunity, and job creation. While Hartford isn't a small town, this model scales beautifully to communities of any size with even an ounce of vision. I encourage every community to create its own version of an incubator that promotes, encourages, and houses innovation, creativity, and local entrepreneurship. That's vision with action.

The Multiplier Effect The beauty of business incubators extends beyond the startups they house. They create ripple effects throughout the local economy—from increased spending at local suppliers to new jobs that keep young talent from leaving town. When you nurture one successful business, you're really investing in the entire community's future. Currently, there are approximately 1,400 incubators operating across the United States, serving as engines of job creation and economic revitalization. They're particularly effective in both highly specialized urban areas and diversified rural communities, where they provide crucial support networks that young businesses desperately need. Of all the topics I've explored over the past year, vision stands out as the most critical trait a local community can nurture.

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street" sponsored in part by:



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Stay on top of what's happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you.

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

www.thedakotascout.com • www.facebook.com/TheDakotaScout



Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Capitol News
January 18, 2026
 Alvin and Marlee Cordell went to Belle Fourche on Tuesday, to see grandson, Gavin Pearson, play basketball for Belle Fourche High School against Lead. Gavin is a senior this year at Belle Fourche. On Wednesday, Gene Secrest and Cody Selting came out to Alvin's. The three of them went to the Horton place to finish the new stockade up there. On Wednesday, Gene Secrest and Cody Selting came out to Alvin's. The three of them went to the Horton place to finish the new stockade up there. On Thursday, Mindy Byrne came to Alvin and Marlee's to vaccinate heifers. By Saturday, they were ready for more basketball, and they went to Belle Fourche to watch them

play Bowman. Marlee went to church at the Methodist Church on Sunday, and Alvin joined her for the pot luck that Debbie Long organized for Darla Hamel, who will be moving to Newell, next week. Dick and Erma Albert made their trip to the Hills for groceries on Tuesday. They decided not to venture out into the wind storm on Friday for the Senior Citizen Dinner. They went to church at the Catholic Church on Sunday, and then had lunch at Saloon Number Three with the Helms family and Mary Smith's family. Bruce and Lynn Gustafson stayed in out of the wind, most of the week. On Sunday, they went to the Little Missouri Church for a special service of baptism for Eleanore Arledge, daughter of Wade and Saxon. Then, they came back to the

Camp Crook Community Center for a special pot luck dinner for Darla Hamel. On Saturday, Julia Davis went to Belle Fourche to watch grandson, Kellan, play fifth-grade basketball. It was a fun time. They also watched the Buffalo fourth-grade play against Sundance. It was even more interesting, because Joe Price was the coach for the Sundance team. Morgan Buck had Sunday off, so Doug finished chores in the morning on Sunday, and then went to Camp Crook for the pot luck that was in honor of Darla Hamel. Dorothy Padden had a quiet week. The girls' and boys' basketball games with Sundance were postponed until later dates because of the wind predictions. Rapid City was to have seventy-mile-an-hour

winds, so bus travel would be precarious. The new schedule will have to put the girls' games on a different night from the boys' games. Dawn rode with BJ, Michelle and the girls to Mitchell for their wrestling meet. Their neighbor, Karen Odell was watching the same meet on youtube.com, because her grandson, Carson Odell was also wrestling there. On weekends, they are still helping BJ work on his house. The family had moved in just before Christmas, but there are still some things to finish. Karen Odell visited on the phone with Micki Odell in Tacoma, Mollie and Kyia Smith in Minnesota, Cody Odell in South Dakota, Bill Foulkes in Ohio, and Ralph Anderson in Florida. Kyia had taken an extra voice lesson to make up for the one she missed while playing volley-

ball. She got to see the Mount Marty University track meet on the computer. Grandson, Kellan Odell, a student there, competes in the decathlon, so she got to see lots of events that he was in. It is great to be able to see it on the computer web site. She even got to see Cody and Kylie and Kellan's other Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt and Cousin, who were watching from the stands. Then Karen got to watch Carson Odell in wrestling at the Mitchell tournament on youtube.com. Micki, Jesse, and Murphy in Washington were skiing in the mountains and then went to the Seahawks game. It is great to be able to travel such distances so fast. Also it is great not to have to buck the wind that tried to blow us away. Inflation is coming down so much that now, E just equals mc.



Central Meade County News
 By Sandy Rhoden January 18, 2026

The weather patterns have definitely included high winds, regardless of moisture with it or just plain winds. Sunday was extremely windy but folks still attended church services in Union Center. They did however, postpone their afternoon movie night and tucked in safely at home. Larry and Sandy returned home on Sunday morning and drove through snow packed roads, sleet, rain and a bit of sunshine. There was a solid wind all the way home but the roads were dry from

Bridger Hill to Union Center. They had lunch after church with Lorie and Gary Hausmann and Pastor Bill Meirose. Shirley Baker came through her knee surgery well and will now be undergoing therapy and healing. Many were able to hunker down a bit longer for a three day weekend due to Martin Luther King day on Monday. West River Telephone out of Bison is coming to Red Owl Hall on February 4, 2026 at 1:00 pm for a Cyber Security Training. They will be giving out info on

keeping you safe on e-mails, links, social media and other sites. All are welcome. Mary Anne (Keffeler) Lange will be saying farewell to Loftus Dental in Sturgis. There will be a celebration honoring her years of service on Friday, January 30 from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Loud American Roadhouse in Sturgis. Mary Anne has served the Loftus Dental family for over 36 years. A card basket will be available if you'd like to leave a note, as well as a time of sharing your memories and stories. Congratulations to Leigha Long of the Sturgis Scoopers basketball team for being named Athlete of the Week a

couple of weeks ago. She scored a career-high of 23 points in a win over Watertown in a recent Friday night game. Leigha is the daughter of Justing and Megan Long of Red Owl. Congratulations also goes to the Faith/Enning Ambulance Service for being selected for the "Volunteer EMS Service of the Year" award. This ambulance service does a great job of getting emergency medical care to the people in our very large rural Meade county which covers 3483 square miles. These folks went through the training, took the test and do the required CEUs on their own time to be able to provide our rural area with this great service. They

give up time with their families, weekends for trainings, get up and leave holiday meals and gatherings to help others for little pay. These dedicated volunteers make our rural area a much better place. The public has been encouraged to become a part of this important service. Online LIVE courses run Tuesday and Thursdays that began on January 13 - May 2, 2026. Students can earn college credits for taking the course and there is grant funding available for qualified individuals. Contact Kris Escott for more information. Thank you for your dedicated service, Faith/Enning Ambulance Service!

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES

by DeAnn (Wolk) Kruempel



Bare branches dip and sway, clinging to their papery white trunk. Snowflakes fly past my window while smoke-like puffs swirl along the ground. A squall, the meteorologist calls it. The scene from my living room window brings back memories of winters long past. Growing up on the farm, we had safe havens where we could play, imagine, and just be kids. One place in particular unfurls from the pages of my mind: Standing on tip toes, I managed to unlatch the red wooden door. I clambered over the cement foundation and tugged the door shut behind me, wrestling with the winter wind. At last, I turned to the familiar wonders of the barn.

"A Safe Place to Dream"

Dust motes danced in the warm light streaming through the windows. Mama Cat snoozed on a stack of straw bales. Musty smells of alfalfa, animals and manure greeted me. A hint of cow's breath lingered from the morning milking. When Blackie chewed the grain in her trough, a distinctive smell filled the room. Glancing up, I saw the kickers that Donald or Mom carefully fit onto the cow's back legs, preventing a hoof milk-bath. The metal bracelets attached to a chain hung on a nail between frame posts. Dusty leather bridles and collars stuck out above them. Dad said those were from the old days when he and Mom first started out, farming with horses. I slipped between the stanchion boards that kept Blackie's head in place when she was being milked. Straw-

filled pens waited for baby calves that would need warming up on frigid South Dakota nights. A small flock of bantams clucked quietly as they scratched, pecking at spilled corn, oats and other tidbits. Short horizontal boards nailed onto two posts formed steps that led up to the hay mow. I scoped the climb. Mom had said she worried about me going up there. Dad's eyes shined with their "kids would be kids" sparkle. "Just be careful," he said. I half shimmied up the steps with my short legs. Tall stacks of bales made an aisle that led to an opening in the floor. Delmer, Don or Dad tossed hay chunks down to the pen below where the bulls spent the winter. My heart pounded as I sidled up to that gaping, terrifying hole and peaked over the

edge. Two horrible sharp horns attached to a huge white head jerked back and forth as the bull chomped away a few feet below. I held my breath and backed up slowly, thrilled that I had survived the ordeal. I sort of climbed and sort of dropped back down the steep steps. Mom would be glad I didn't break my neck. After all that excitement and danger, I climbed up on the stack of straw bales back by the door. Mama Cat rubbed her head against my coat. I scratched under her ears and petted her soft gray fur. Cozy and safe in that big red barn, surrounded by beloved sights, scents and sounds, I imagined. I dreamed. I decided then and there that I was going to be a farmer when I grew up. I would own every farm animal God ever made. Mamma Cat purred. The yard gate clicked outside.

Buckets clanked. Our mother was heading out to do chores. I scrambled down from the bales and out that red door as fast as I could. I needed to tell Mom about my new dream. And I had to check out the chicken coop! DeAnn Kruempel grew up on a farm near De Smet, SD, the sixth child of Harrison and Mabel Wolk. She attended school at Erwin and De Smet and has lived in Benedict, ND, Toeterville, Akron, Missouri Valley and Logan, IA. The author worked in school and public libraries for more than 30 years. Her column has run in a growing number of Midwest newspapers for five years. Each year the author has published the stories into a book. She has also published a historical fiction series, "Promises to Keep." Her ten books are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.



Trevor Kapsch, Roundup Building Center new Economic Development board member introduces himself. Longbrake Photos



Hollie Stalder, Executive Director presents a Special Recognition Award to Mike Walker.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON NEW APPLICATION
 RETAIL (ON-OFF SALE) MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE
 RETAIL (ON-OFF SALE) WINE & CIDER
 SUNDAY SALES**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Butte County Commissioners will meet in the Commissioners' Room at the Butte County Courthouse, which is located at 839 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD, 57717 on **Tuesday, February 03rd, 2026 at 9:45 a.m.** to consider the Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License.

Said applicant is as follows:
 Silver Spur Ranch LLC
 Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License
 Sunday Sales

APPLICANT	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF LICENSE
Silver Spur Ranch LLC Steve Jung 10078 Wagon Wheel Trail Belle Fourche, SD 57717	Tract 2A-1 of Tract 2, of the SUBD of Sec 18, T8N, R1E, BHM, Butte County	Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine Sunday Sales

Notice is further given that any person, persons, or their attorney may appear at said scheduled public hearing and present objections to any or all applicants, if any objections there be.

Dated at Belle Fourche, SD, this 14th day of January 2026.
 /s/ Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

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The Valley Irrigator

Wed. January 21, 2026

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Newell Hosts Early Rounds of West River Basketball

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Once again, the West River Tournament kicked off in Newell, with the school holding both boys and girls basketball games for the opening rounds of the 44th Annual Boys and 35th Annual Girls Contests. Newell School District shared hosting duties with Hot Springs,

and both schools ran games on January 13, 15, and 16.

After the slate was set through the earlier rounds, the tournament moved to the Monument in Rapid City. The champions were crowned on January 17. Bennett County won the Girls Invitational, while Lead-Deadwood came out on top of the Boys West River Tournament.

The Newell girls team took

home 5th place honors, while the Newell boys team ended in 8th place at the end of the tournament.

Two Irrigators, senior Rachel Stranberg and junior Orrin Youngberg were both named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Newell girls basketball team started first-round play against New Underwood, and they lost 45 to 39. The ballers

came back to beat Moorcroft in the second round and went on to win against Hot Springs in the third round to end the tournament in 5th place.

The Newell boys team didn't fare as well, losing to Faith 55 to 44, Moorcroft 52 to 20, and Edgemont 57 to 22 to finish in 8th place.

The eight high school teams that competed in this year's West

River Girls Invitational were Newell, Hot Springs, Faith, New Underwood, Moorcroft, WY; Upton, WY; Edgemont; and Bennett County.

Eight high schools also participated in the West River Boys Invitational. They were Moorcroft, WY; New Underwood; Newell; Faith; Lead/Deadwood; Edgemont; Hot Springs; and Upton, WY.



(L) Boys basketball team takes a break against the **Faith Longhorns** at the **West River Tournament**. (R) Newell basketball player, **Orrin Youngberg** drives the ball to the basket during the **West River Tournament**. Longbrake photos



South Dakota Quarter Horse convention and banquet honored two Newell High school students. **Rowdy and Sorley Wetz** of Vale SD. Governor Larry Rhoden and AQHA CEO presented each a \$1250 scholarship for our standing SDQHYA members from **Wayne & Debi Holmes** Stockstill and Holmes Quarter Horses. Rowdy is an AQHYA Director for AQHA Region #2. He was also awarded an all expense trip to the AQHA convention in Las Vegas in March. Courtesy Photos



Newell Fire Claims Victory in Annual First Responder Dodgeball Showdown

Robbi Longbrake

NEWELL—Austin Auditorium at Newell High School was the site of an epic showdown on the evening of January 17, as the area's first responders faced off for bragging rights in the annual Dodgeball Tournament. Teams of six battled it out in an intense three minutes of dodgeball with rubber balls flying around the gym in a frantic attempt to eliminate players from the opposing side.

For the first time ever, Newell Fire came out on top, claiming the Wrench, the coveted winner's trophy. In the Championship round, they faced last year's winner, Butte Volunteer Fire, in a showdown that required tiebreakers in double overtime to decide a victor.

Both teams managed to stay alive for the entire three minutes of the first round, bringing the Championship round to an end with a tie.

For every tiebreaker this year, a coin was flipped, and whoever won the toss was able to choose the tiebreaker they wanted—tug of war or free throws.

The same format was used for the final round. Free throws was the chosen Championship tiebreaker. Each member of the team had the opportunity to shoot the ball two times, keeping track of each basket made.

At the end of the round,

Butte Fire had four points and Newell Fire had four points, forcing the Championship round into double overtime.

This time, each of the participating first responder teams was asked to vote on what they wanted to see for a tiebreaker, tug of war or free throws. Overwhelmingly, the choice was free throws.

Once again, each team lined up to make as many baskets as possible for their team. In the end, Newell Fire scored two baskets and Butte Fire made one, bringing the Championship round to a conclusion and crowning a new champion.

The tournament started with pool play, as each of the teams battled each other. After a break, the wins and losses were counted and the final brackets were made.

Participating first responders were: Belle Fourche Fire, Castle Rock Fire, Belle Fourche Ambulance, Newell Fire, Butte County Sheriff's Office, Newell Ambulance, Nisland-Arpan Fire, Butte Fire and Vale Fire.

Concessions were provided by Nisland-Arpan Volunteer Fire and Rescue Auxiliary. Walking tacos, walking desserts and bottled water were on the menu.



(L) The 2026 Dodgeball Champions, **Newell Fire**; (R) Another of the tiebreaker games was tug of war. **Butte Volunteer Fire** pulled **Nisland/Arpan** across the line with such intensity many of the Nisland/Arpan team members were pulled off their feet. Longbrake photo

Dodgeball Photos Contd. D4

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
Last Monday was another beautiful day with a temperature of 55 degrees, so I washed a bunch of laundry and hung it outside in that nice warm day. After I fed my chickens and the cats I got out my sewing machine and mended several garments that have needed to be fixed for quite a while. It was so nice outside that I had to take a couple long walks to enjoy this winter weather. We had Ladies Aid at the church Tuesday afternoon with Linda Mohagen as the hostess. We had our election that afternoon and Lori Besler is still president, Missy Olson is still vice president, Amy Johnson is still secretary-treasurer and Patsy Wilkinson is still the Sunshine Lady. They were voted into their same jobs because they do so well at them. I went down to the Reva Store to get groceries before heading home. The

Slim Buttes Free Lutheran Church council held their meeting at the church that evening. I had a ZOOM meeting that evening with SDRPCA to listen to Mary Nosbush from Deuel County tell us about Data Centers. It was kind of late when we left for Hettinger Wednesday afternoon to get my black pickup from Sage's house and take it down to Laufer Vermeer to get it worked on next week. By the time we picked up stuff from Runnings and White Drug it was too late to stop in Reeder for coffee but we did get home before it was dark to lock up my chickens. It was really windy when I went to my relative Barbara (Smith) Besler's funeral in Bison Thursday morning and I got to see a lot of friends and relatives. Barbara was a wonderful lady and she was my mother Lila White's cousin because Barbara's father Sampson Smith was a brother to my grandmother

Lydia Wilkinson. Barbara and Wayne Besler were married at Homme Lutheran Church in Prairie City in 1950 while my family was still living in Prairie City and I remember going to their wedding. All of my mother's family are gone, but Barbara is still survived by her sister Ramona Brockel. Barbara grew up on her parent's ranch just west of Glendo where my mother's family lived. My Great Uncle Sampson Smith sold the ranch to Pete Jacobs in 1947 and moved his family down to the old town of Strool south of Prairie City. Uncle Sam sold Buck Olson a pony for Reub and Doug when he moved his family to Strool. Reub's father, Buck Olson, bought the ranch from Pete Jacobs and Reub and I lived there after we got married before moving to the ranch where we live now. It was really cold and windy on Friday and I almost blew off the outside steps when I went out to do my chores early that morning. Casey and Taz got their chores done early that morning and everyone at the ranch went to Kristi (Lensegrav) Birkeland's funeral at the Dupree School that morning except for our old folks because we stayed home to do chores and Taz and Amanda left the kids with Grandma Starla Jensen. Kristi was buried at the Meadow Cemetery close to

her father Dave Lensegrav. Kristi was a good friend of Missy's and she was such a good person. Casey took the Harding County boy wrestlers to Sully Buttes Friday afternoon and the Harding County girls were wrestling in Gettysburg that afternoon. Casey took the Harding County boy wrestlers to Gettysburg on Saturday but the Harding County girls came back to Harding County. Troy Howard Chapman, 69, formerly from Bison, passed away peacefully at Garden Hills Assisted Living in Spearfish on Saturday, January 10. His funeral was Saturday, January 17, at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel in Spearfish with burial at Rose Hill Cemetery in Spearfish. Leslie Gene Kaitfors, 69, of Belle Fourche and formerly from Ralph, passed away in the hospital on January 14 from rapidly deteriorating health. His funeral was Tuesday, January 20, at the Ralph Lutheran Church with burial in the Ralph cemetery. All these families have our sympathy. That terrible wind in the night caused a lot of electricity to go off in western South Dakota Saturday morning when the temperature here was 3 degrees below zero so we were so glad we have a generator and a woodstove

to keep the lights on and the house warm! The power came on before noon so the linemen evidently got it fixed and the wind had finally quit blowing. It warmed up to 35 degrees that afternoon which felt pretty good. The wind was blowing hard again when we woke up Sunday morning when the temperature was 24 degrees and we got a little snow that barely covered the ground. That wind was so strong that some of us almost blew off the porch coming into the church that morning. I was really tickled to see Sam Marty's daughter Samantha come to church with him because we hadn't seen that sweet girl for a long time. The annual meeting for Slim Buttes Free Lutheran Church was that afternoon and Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen fed us all a really delicious lunch as a gift to us before the meeting. We voted for two new council members to replace Eric Schuchard and Taz Olson who were termed out after two years in office and Bill Holt and Casey Olson were elected to take over for them. With that awful wind, I'll leave you with these: *What did the tree say to the wind? Leaf me alone! *How do you know the wind is strong? It blows you away!

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

January 13, 1916
All who are interested in securing the adoption of the pending Suffrage Amendment are earnestly urged to attend the Butte County Suffrage Convention to be held in Fruitdale on Saturday afternoon, January 3, 1916. This Notice Issued from Nina D. Pettigrew, County Chairman. From the number of sample copies of the Irrigator that have been requested lately it would appear that more outsiders are becoming more interested in this section of the territory. You can help too by sending your friends a copy or giving us their names and we will send them.

The long looked for teen social gathering will be pulled off Saturday night in the new Vale Guild Hall. Bills have been posted.

January 14, 1926
Harry Cushman called at the Mahoney home Friday. Mr. Mahoney has been busy the last few days plowing snow off the roads between Mud Butte and Cedar Canyon.

A large delegation of Belle Fourche prominent businessmen came to Newell Monday to attend the meeting of directors of the Irrigation District. Those in the party were E. M. Sly; S. M. Simons; D. R. Evans; Jas T. Craig; M. J. Smiley; T. J. Overpeck; R. A. Highberg; Carl Quamberg; Wm Arnold; R. F. Voyles; H. L. Barnett and A. D. Ellison.

Buffalo meat from the "Scotty" Phillip Ranch at Ft. Pierre sold in Pittsburg, Penn as a New Year's Day novelty at \$1.25 per pound.

A partition is being removed from the second floor of the Bratton's Store with a view of enlarging the ready-to-wear department.

When the work is completed, this room will become one of the most commodious and attractive departments of the store. Bratton's stock clearance sale, this week prices greatly reduced to entice quick movement of this merchandise. Come see for yourself.

January 16, 1936
D. L. Wright, auctioneer of Belle Fourche, was a business visitor to Newell Wednesday. Mr. Wright is a graduate of the American Auction College and intends to enter the sale field in Butte County. A Community Sale on January 25th, one mile south of the Newell Depot. Bring anything you want to sell. Special prize of \$2.50 in trade at any store in Newell to the person bringing articles or livestock the furthest distance.

Superintendent T. J. Litsheim of Nisland brought a delegation of several boys interested in Boy Scout work to Newell Tuesday evening to visit with the Newell Boy Scouts. Mr. Litsheim plans to organize a troop in Nisland.

Rev. Carswell will hold Congregational Church services at the Nisland Community Building next Sunday at 11:30 AM as he will receive the CCC boys of Orman Camp that evening at Nisland for the sacred song services. The boys plan to favor the Vale people with similar services the evening of February 16th.

January 17, 1946
Local Selective Service Boards have now received instructions to stop the induction of all fathers, except volunteers, into the Armed Forces. New regulations provide that registrants be deferred with one of more children shall be placed in Class 111-A. The term "children" shall include legitimate

or illegitimate children from the date of their conception, children legally adopted, stepchildren or foster children and person are supported in good faith by the registrant in a relationship similar of parent and children but shall not include persons 19 year of age or over, unless they are physically or mentally handicapped.

Billy Dick, son of Mr. & Mrs. Dan Dick of Nisland, sustained a serious leg injury Thursday noon while riding on the fender of a car driven by Lawrence Bentz. Dick was the only one of 10 students riding in the car or on the fenders when the car crashed into a parked truck, to receive serious injury. He was taken to the Belle Fourche Hospital for treatment.

Mrs. Nellie Poole writes Newell relatives that she is getting awfully tired of Seattle rains and will be glad to see South Dakota's dry weather and sunshine again. Mavis Poole, who lives in Astoria, Oregon, writes she and Bernice Black are in the same classes. After school Bernice works in a dime store and Mavis in a café.

Mr. & Mrs. Dode Wiley and Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Glover, all of the Strool Community, and Mrs. Roy Kays of Des Moines, Iowa, were supper guests Thursday of Charles Wilson and Mr. & Mrs. Frank Martin. They also remained overnight.

January 19, 1956
A note from Mrs. Anna Fredlund, pioneer resident of the Vale and Newell area, now living in Sturgis advises that she has followed the Valley Irrigator since it was first published at Vale in 1907, but cannot see very well to read any more. However, in return for her wishes as a subscriber for more

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than 42 years, for "success always". The Valley Irrigator herewith will extend her free subscription as an honorary reader.

Mrs. Maurice Townsend, Newell, joined the Newell High School faculty this week, succeeding Mrs. Marvin Jastorff who resigned at the end of first semester to move to Sturgis with her husband. Mrs. Jastorff has taught classes here for 2 years. Mrs. Townsend, a graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University has formerly taught English, Latin and Dramatics in schools near Mitchell. She is teaching 5 classes of English and extra-curricular drama in the local school.

Motorists along the Street and Highway in front of the school are expected to use a little more caution in driving thereby, it was indicated this week. The local crew of the Black Hills Power & Light installed new overhead blinking lights at the intersections of the highway and 4th and 8th streets. Such lights were ordered from the Power Company by the city, which also assists police patrol of the street. Motorists are to observe a 15 m-p-h limit during school recesses or while children are going to and from school 8:00 to 9:00 AM; and 3:15 to 4:00 PM.

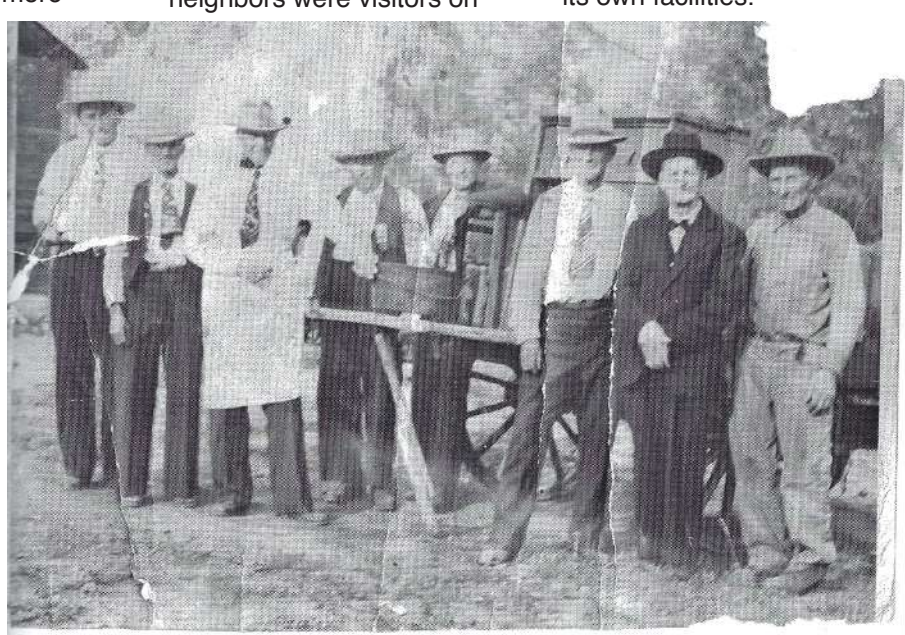
January 20, 1966
Dennis Beckham returned home from Ft. Lewis, Washington and is at the home of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Doug Beckham. The following friends and neighbors were visitors on

Sunday. They were Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Palo and family; Mary Palo; Mr. & Mrs. Dean Oliver and Debbie; Mrs. John Youngberg and Louise; Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Helmer and family and friends of Gary Beckham from school were John Bekken; Eugene Hukill; Gloria Ramsey and Bonnie Silvernagle.

Although admitting more than 2,200 carload shipments on the Newell Line in 1962, which would indicate a tremendous profit, Chicago & Northwestern Rail line officials submitted evidence of financial loss on its Belle Fourche to Newell and Braden to Empire Lines for 1963-64 and 1965 as it sought authority before the Interstate Commerce Commission Examiner in Rapid City for discontinuation of such lines. M. S. Reed, Assistant Chief Engineer for C & NW, testified that the lines the railroad sought to abandon were in such deteriorated and dilapidated conditions that maximum operating speeds had been reduced to 10 to 15 mph and carloads also limited as to weight. Stockmen from the Newell area testified that they believed that their land values would decrease if the rail lines were taken up and believed prices they received for livestock would be depressed by the extent the railroad now pays truckers for what it terms a "substitute service" inaugurated a few years ago to haul livestock from points along the lines to Belle Fourche in lieu of using its own facilities.



(L) Newell Boy Scout Troop hosted an informational meeting with Nisland boys (R) VVV Cowboys at a reunion in 1946, Dode Wiley and Clyde Glover still going strong in 1955.



VVV Cowboys September 15, 1946
George Shipley Clyde Glover Walter Halstead Ed Dipper Earl Nipper Dode Wiley Jim Brunly Dogee Schar

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

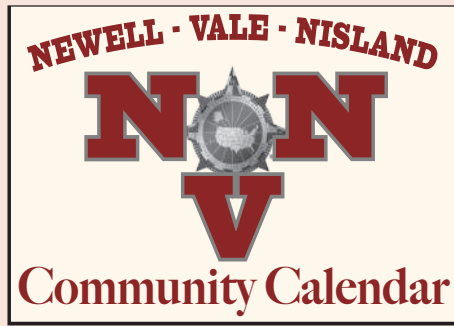
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Newell School

Newell Library Hours
Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday
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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

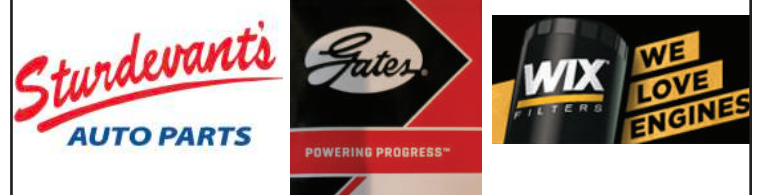


Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



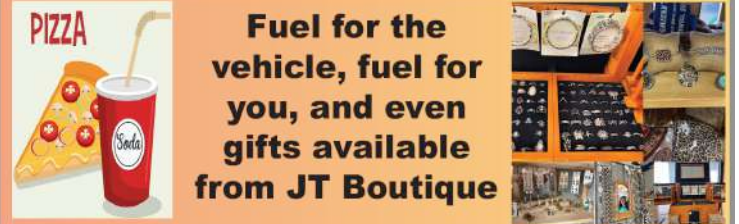
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JANUARY 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5) Egg Bites, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Chicken Nachos, Black Beans, Corn, Fruit, Milk	6) Pancakes, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Meal in a Peel, Ham, Broccoli, Cheese, Fruit, Milk	7) Maple Baked French Toast, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Pulled Pork on Flatbread, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	8) Waffles, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chili Dogs on Bun, Corn, Fruit, Milk	9) Egg Patties, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Chicken & Noodles, Corn Pudding, Fruit, Milk
12) Waffles, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Country Pie, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit, Milk	13) Breakfast Burrito, Fruit, Milk Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	14) Muffins, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Biscuit, Peas & Carrots, Fruit, Milk	15) Quiche, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Veggie Pizza Wrap, Carrot Salad, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	16) NO SCHOOL
19) French Toast, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Walking Tacos, Corn, Fruit, Milk	20) Pancakes. Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Salisbury Steaks, Bread Sticks, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Salad, Fruit, Milk	21) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Tater Tot Casserole, Fruit, Milk	22) Tornadoes, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Strips, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	23) NO SCHOOL
26) Croissant Sandwiches, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Spanish Rice, Black Beans, Fruit, Milk	27) Long Johns, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Fajita Casserole, Corn, Black Beans & Rice, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	28) Egg Omelet, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Fruit, Milk	29) Cheesy Eggs, Cereal, Juice Fruit, Milk Beef & Potato Bake, Roasted Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	30) NO SCHOOL



Newell Health Clinic
is accepting new patients!

located in the **Newell Evangelical Church**
on 8th street across from the Blue Line Diner.

We offer primary health care services for adults and children in the Newell-Vale-Nisland community.

(605) 204-9497

Wellness exams, chronic care management, DOT physicals.
Call today to book your appointment!

For info about Patrick or schedule a virtual TELE-HEALTH visit:

PatNP.com



LEGISLATIVE CRACKER BARREL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 * 9:30 AM
NEWELL CITY HALL
 108 3RD STREET, NEWELL, SD 57760

Do you have questions or concerns you would like to talk to your representatives about?

Legislative Cracker Barrels are held during the Annual SD Legislative Sessions (January—March) each year. This is an opportunity for community members to hear from their legislators and ask questions concerning the issue.

Refreshments will be served

This is sponsored by the Whatever It Takes Coalition

Our Area Legislative Representatives who plan to be there:



NEW Representative Travis Ismay District 28B



NEW Representative Jana Hunt District 28A



RETURNING Senator Sam Marty District 28

Other local legislators from District 29 have also been invited and will come if able.

Go to <https://sdlegislature.gov> to see what bills are being presented, find the session schedule, locate your representatives/senators and learn about what is happening within the State of South Dakota.

Come voice your concerns and THANK your Legislators for the work they are doing.

The Whatever It Takes Coalition is not affiliated with a political party, nor do we try to persuade you to vote one way or another. This is an educational program where you will receive information.



Help Patients in February and Receive \$15 Gift Card in Thanks

Donate in February and you'll receive a \$15 Rewards gift card! * Must use code GIVELOVE-2026-V when scheduling appointment to receive gift card.

Donor Rewards program opt-in required to redeem gift cards in the online store.

Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: Newell

NEWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Location: Newell Christian Fellowship Church-308 4th St.

Date: Monday, February 2nd

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by W.I.T Coalition

Scan the QR code or contact Sabrina Harmon at 605-381-9136 or sabrina.harmon.wit@sdplains.com.



*Terms and condition apply: see vitalant.org/FebDonorGift.

Find us @vitalant:



(TL) Last year's winning team, **Butte Volunteer Fire**, had to hand off the Wrench to the new dodgeball champions, Newell Fire; (TR) A dodgeball player on the **Vale Fire** team spends a few moments deciding who to take out on the other team; (CL) The last standing player one round was knocked off his feet by a blow from a ball thrown by the other team; (CR) Newell Fire team of six prepares to take on the competition at the dodgeball tournament.(BL) This team is getting a good, close look at the coin toss, hoping the flip favors their team; (BR) One of the tiebreaker games was shooting basketball free throws. Most baskets made, won.

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 MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM | SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM | CLOSED SUNDAY