



Sly's Grocery Serves Up Silver-Plated Laughs

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—Oh no—the local newspaper had a misprint, and customers wanted what the ad promised! What could go wrong? Another delightful presentation of 1903 Reader's Theatre Company at the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center was held on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

The play, *Sly's Grocery*... and the Silver-Plated Cake Server, was written by Museum Director and playwright Kristi Thielen. The play was set in Belle Fourche in 1932. The action unfolded over six scenes.

Set in *Sly's Grocery Store*, the owner of the store, played by Angela Hastings, ordered too much flour. In an attempt to get rid of the extras, she ran an ad in the paper for a giveaway of a free chromium-plated cake server from Silver Brothers Flour with a purchase of five pounds of flour.

In a mixup, the newspaper confused Silver Brothers for Silver-Plated and thus offered a much more expensive silver-plated cake server for free with each five-pound bag of flour purchased. The comical antics of the townspeople trying to get their hands on a free silver-plated cake server ensued.

With more than 80 plays to her credit, Thielen has perfected the art of crafting fun, historical, and witty scripts. She completed this one in roughly two weeks. "I knew that I wanted to set something at *Sly's*—I love grocery



At the end of the play, **Samuel Savery** received the best recognition when he was greeted by a huge hug after he finished his curtain call. Cast from left: **Patrick Luebben, Bobbe Ward, Angela Hastings, Joan Gerkin, Sheila West, Colleen Anderson, Lynnea Luebben and Katharina Steeves.** Longbrake photo

stores—there's so much stuff and people coming and going! So I knew I wanted to do something at *Sly's*. Then I was going through newspapers and I saw the one that talked about the legitimate giveaway that they had in 1931," she explained. "It was Gold Medal Flour, but I didn't want to use that because of the trademark.

But they had it, and apparently it went well. That doesn't work for a comedy—things have to go wrong! So I thought, what could go wrong? Then I came up with the rest of it." Being a museum director, Thielen has access to a lot of history, which she is able to use in her writing. "Much of

what you hear is accurate—the beginning of the play when Hattie reads a newspaper piece about a blizzard, that is accurate. The prices that you hear, those are all accurate...they came right from the paper," she said. The play consisted of ten roles. The actors just got the

script and started working on their parts five days before the production. Those involved include Angela Hastings, Mrs. Voorhees; Katharina Steeves, Hattie Gridlock; Lynnea Luebben, Grace Trenkl; Samuel Savery, Orville Smoot; Bobbe Ward, Effie Hartwell; Colleen An-
1903 Reader's contd. A8

Belle Chiropractic & Massage Hosts February Chamber Mixer

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BELLE FOURCHE—Shockwaves, chair massages and tasty hors d'oeuvres greeted visitors at the February Chamber of Commerce Mixer hosted by Belle Chiropractic & Massage on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Guests had the chance to experience the clinic's innovative services firsthand while networking with other local business leaders. Dr. Colton Backhaus was set up and ready to introduce all Chamber Mixer visitors to what his business has to offer.

He had an area set up to demonstrate his Shockwave machine, a unique service that isn't easy to find in this area. "It's a radial pressure wave—it's called shockwave. So think of shock wave like an explosion—it shoots in the tissue and breaks up scar tissue adhesions and helps regenerate healthy tissue—it's kind of like rebuilding the house," he shared. "When you hit a spot that's tender, you can really feel it!"

A fellow chamber member from Quality Quick Print, Trevor Madsen, sat down to give the Shockwave a try. He has chronic knee pain. After a few minutes of



Dr. Colton Backhaus, Belle Chiropractic & Massage, uses his Shock Wave machine on Trevor Madsen, QQP. Longbrake photo

treatment, he was quite impressed. "It's like it is good, but at the same time, it's not super comfortable! Normally, no matter what I do, if I move it (knee) it normally clicks, and right now it feels very loose and the rest of it feels pretty good!"

The Shockwave machine can treat a variety of issues. "You would come in for many different issues, especially tennis elbow, rotator cuff, knee arthritis or plantar fasciitis," said Backhaus.

Another room was set up to give free chair massages.

The newest addition to Belle Chiropractic & Massage is massage therapist Jocelyn Wallace. She arrived at the business just one day prior to the mixer but was ready to give massages. Her services include Swedish, relaxation, therapeutic massage, sports & lifestyle recovery, medical massage, prenatal massage, cupping, scraping (IASTM), trigger point therapy and hot rock therapy.

Dr. Backhaus took over Belle Chiropractic & Massage from Dr. Abby Johnson four years ago. He grew up in Bismarck, North Dakota, and discovered and fell in love with the Black Hills area when he was an undergraduate at Black Hills State University. He left to finish his education but knew he wanted to come back one day. "I wanted to come back over here somewhere, and Dr. Abby was ready to be done...and so I only worked here for like six months, and then I took over the clinic," shared Backhaus.

The Dr. has been enjoying getting to know the community. "It's been super good! I really like it. I played golf league last year and that was super fun—getting to meet everybody. All of the patients have been really good too!"

Belle Chiropractic & Massage Manager and Colton's mom, Tammy Backhaus, worked hard making all of the hors d'oeuvres for the Chamber Mixer. She prepared an elaborate spread of finger foods and

New Permanent Exhibits Added at Tri-State Museum

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BELLE FOURCHE—There is so much regional history on display at the Tri-State Museum and Visitors Center that visitors could spend hours learning about Indian tribes, Black Hills Round Up history or ranching artifacts.

New permanent exhibits have recently been installed to ensure a wide range of historical topics are covered. A new exhibit detailing haberdashery has replaced the christening dress display. The haberdashery exhibit features the history and artifacts of men's wear including men's hats, ties, belts, gloves and more.

Transportation from the Covered Wagon to Railroads to Automobiles is the title of another new permanent exhibit. "This is transportation and it goes from wagons and buggies right to cobblestone—we have bricks from the Jefferson School," explained Jada Udager, Collections Archivist. "I mean, how cool is this 1916 license plate?" Some of the items in this display

include pictures of historic cars, six wooden spokes for a wagon wheel found at Orman Dam and a wagon seat.

The *Minnesela, A Town That Once Was and Is No More* exhibit was updated. "I brought the *Minnesela* display over here and brought actual artifacts over about *Minnesela*—we didn't have any of those before," shared Udager. Souvenir items and historical pictures make up some of the items in this display.

Another new exhibit that is in the process of being built focuses on photography. "This one's so brand new it doesn't even have any boards on it yet—I just did this one this week and it's photography," said Udager. "This is a glass plate negative of when the post office was being built in 1917!"

There is always something fun to see at the Tri-State Museum! Stop by and check out any of the new permanent exhibits or the latest mini exhibit or temporary exhibit. They are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The experience is free.



New artifacts have been added to the permanent exhibit "**The Minnesela, A Town That Once Was and Is No More**" exhibit. Longbrake photo

refreshments.

Michaela Horn, Chamber Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the mixer and held the Connect and Collect drawing. The drawing is \$385. To be entered into the drawing, participants must be Belle Fourche Chamber members and be present to win.

If the person or business is not present, the entire pot rolls over to the next month. Hersrudes won

the cash pot, but no one from the business was at the mixer, so the pot will carry over to next month.

The monthly mixers are designed to provide businesses the opportunity to get together and spend time learning about each other, networking and connecting in a relaxed atmosphere.

The next mixer will be March 26 at Highland Senior Solutions, starting at 4:30 p.m.

BFCT Volunteer of the Year



Belle Fourche Community Theater Executive Producer Derek Olson presenting Terry Hoscheid the "Volunteer of the Year Award at their Volunteer Appreciation Gala February 21st. Courtesy Photo

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Brian Kline
Owner

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Alice Evans 93

Alice Evans, age 93 of Belle Fourche, died Sunday, February 22, 2026 at the Belle Estate Senior Living Center in Belle Fourche, with her loving family by her side.

The funeral service will be held 10:30am Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Interment will take place at Pine Slope Cemetery.

Alice was born on August 1, 1932 and grew up on the family farm 17 miles north of Midland, SD. She was the youngest of two children born to John Jeffery and Anna (Wolff) Willoughby. She attended grade school in rural Haakon County and graduated in 1950 from Midland High School.

On August 27, 1950 Alice was united in marriage to George Evans in Midland. They made their home on the So Dak Ranch where George was employed. In 1952, while living on the ranch, their daughter Valerie Ann was born. Later they moved into Hayes when George accepted a job with the SD Highway Department. In 1961 George was promoted and they relocated to Isabel, SD. After his retirement in 1992 they moved to Belle Fourche. In 2019 they moved into Belle Estate Assisted Living. After George passed away in 2021, Alice returned to their home in Belle with "Ginger", her precious cat, where she lived independently until the last few months due to an unexpected health issue.

Alice's greatest joy was taking care of her family and home; so she remained a stay-at-home wife and mother for many years. When she ventured out into the working world, tooling candles for Hel-Mar Industries in Isabel was her first place of employment. She thoroughly enjoyed working with her hands and creating beautiful candles. Next, she became a cook at the Isabel School and loved greeting all the kids as they came through the lunch line. After a back injury which led to retirement, she joined Valerie at "Mom & Me", a home-based crafting business, which took them to craft fairs meeting many interesting people. Alice was a member of St.



James Lutheran Church in Belle Fourche. In her later years she spent Sunday mornings with Pastor Salem and Dr. David Jerimiah. Everyone loved getting her homemade buns, caramel rolls, fudge, and divinity at Christmas. She also enjoyed sewing, crocheting and working outside with her flowers and garden.

Grateful for having shared her life include her daughter, Valerie (Al) of Belle Fourche, grandson, Tigh Garr of Belle Fourche, great-grandson Preston Garr of Rapid City, sisters-in-law Betty Shannon, Sturgis, SD and Verona Evans, Rapid City, SD, and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She also leaves behind her special companion "Ginger."

In addition to her husband George of 70 years; Alice was preceded in death by her parents and step father Robert L. Evans; daughter Constance Marie; grandson Harvey Albert Garr, Jr.; brother, Wallace Willoughby; sister-in-law's Jean Telford and Irene Willoughby; brothers-in-law Robert Evans, Gene Telford, and Philip Shannon.

Alice will now complete her long-awaited reunion with her loving husband, daughter and loved ones who have gone before her. She will be laid to rest by her husband at Pine Slope cemetery in Belle Fourche.

The family would like to thank the considerate and kind hearted staff for the care she received at Rolling Hills Healthcare before moving to Belle Estate. They are also very grateful for Lindsey Sainbury, Jennifer Karp and the compassionate staff at Belle Estate for the excellent and invaluable care they provided as well as Stillwater Hospice of the Northern Hills.

Should friends and family desire; memorial tributes may be made to one of the following organizations dear to Alice's heart: St. James Lutheran Church or Shriners Children's Hospital.



Psalm 52

*I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.
Why do you glory in evil, you tyrant,
while the goodness of God endures continually?
You plot destruction, you deceiver;
your tongue is like a sharpened razor.
You love evil rather than good,
falsehood rather than the word of truth.
You love all words that hurt,
O you deceitful tongue.
Therefore God shall utterly bring you down;
he shall take you and pluck you out of your tent
and root you out of the land of the living.
The righteous shall see this and tremble;
they shall laugh you to scorn, and say:
This is the one who did not take God for a refuge,
but trusted in great riches and relied upon wickedness.
But I am like a spreading olive tree in the house of God;
I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.
I will always give thanks to you for what you have done;
I will hope in your name, for your faithful ones delight in it.
I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.
Faithful and steadfast God, nourish your people in this wicked world,
and, through prayer and the Scriptures, give us our daily bread;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Thank you

*Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has reached out with love and support during the heartbreaking loss of our son, Dagan Burns. We are incredibly overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity shown through cards, meals, flowers, plants, kind messages, and most of all, your prayers.
Each act of kindness has meant more to us than words can fully express. During this unimaginable time, your compassion has brought comfort and strength to our family.
Thank you for surrounding us with such care and for honoring Dagan's life in so many meaningful ways. We are truly blessed to live in such a supportive and loving community.*

*With heartfelt appreciation,
Donovan and Jonette Burns and Family*

The Lord Jesus frees us from Satan's power

Some of the Jewish leaders reacted vehemently to Jesus' healings and exorcisms and they opposed him with malicious slander. How could Jesus get the power and authority to release individuals from Satan's influence and control? They assumed that he had to be in league with Satan. Jesus asserts that no kingdom divided against itself can survive for long. We have witnessed enough civil wars in our own time to prove the destructive force at work here for the annihilation of whole peoples and their land. If Satan lends his power against his own forces then he is finished. Cyril of Alexandria, a 5th century church father explains the force of Jesus' argument:

Kingdoms are established by the fidelity of subjects and the obedience of those under the royal scepter. Houses are established when those who belong to them in no way whatsoever thwart one another but, on the contrary, agree in will and deed. I suppose it would establish the kingdom too of Beelzebub, had he determined to abstain from everything contrary to himself. How then does Satan cast out Satan? It follows then that devils do not depart from people on their own accord but retire unwillingly. "Satan," he says, "does not fight with himself."

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February 17 City Council Meeting

Ryder Heitz

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BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche City Council held its second regular meeting of the month on Monday, February 17.

During the Mayor's Report, City Administrator LaFayette provided additional context for Consent Agenda Item 1, explaining that the annexation had been approved by Planning and Zoning on December 2, 2020, and by the City Council on December 7, 2020; but the final resolution needed to officially record the annexation was inadvertently never prepared.

The oversight was discovered when the property owner later applied for permits and the property was still listed as county land, and legal counsel confirmed the only remaining step was to finalize the resolution since ownership had not changed and prior approvals were in place.

He noted the matter was a housekeeping issue related to COVID-era disruptions,

apologized for missing documentation in the packet, and committed to including full historical materials in future Council agendas.

There was no community input at this meeting.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of Stellar ScaleTech from Stellar Programming & Consulting in the amount of \$36,500. Councilperson Steeves asked how much income the landfill is losing with the current software.

Landfill Superintendent Gallagher explained it is not losing direct revenue but is losing significant staff time correcting billing and data entry errors, while also lacking detailed reporting and Wyoming waste tracking.

He stated the proposed Stellar system would improve reporting, out-of-state tracking, and allow potential surcharges.

Gallagher added the software would be funded by reducing spending in the Disposal/Recycling, Landfill Cover Dirt, and Gravel/

Asphalt budget lines, and Patty McKenzie noted minor program adjustments may be covered under monthly technical support while larger changes could involve a small cost. The motion carried.

City Administrator LaFayette said he emailed council members for topic ideas for the upcoming District 10 meetings so organizers can focus on district-specific issues. He asked members to respond so two topics can be selected and submitted, preferably by Friday even though the deadline is next Monday. He noted that one council member has already provided suggestions.

Councilperson Sowers stated he drove by the landfill to check for blowing trash and emphasized that any amount of litter is unacceptable, but noted the site looked much improved after City crews worked to clean it up.

City Engineer Hardy informed the Council that construction of the Hat Ranch well house has begun.

The next City Council meeting will be March 2 at 6 p.m.

BLM announces April 2026 sale of oil and gas leases in the Dakotas

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Bureau of Land Management today announced an oil and gas lease sale scheduled for April 28, 2026, to offer 23 oil and gas parcels totaling 8,993 acres in North Dakota and South Dakota.

The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in November 2025 and held a public comment period that closed in January 2026 on the parcels and the related environmental analysis.

A 30-day public protest period to receive additional public

input opened today and will close March 23, 2026.

Leasing is the first step in the process to develop federal oil and gas resources. Before development operations can begin, an operator must submit an application for permit to drill detailing development plans. The BLM reviews applications for permits to drill, posts them for public review, conducts an environmental analysis and coordinates with state partners and stakeholders.

All parcels that are included

in a federal oil and gas lease sale include appropriate stipulations to protect important natural resources. Information on current and upcoming BLM leases is available through the National Fluid Lease Sale System. BLM lease sales are held online through EnergyNet.

The parcels BLM analyzed, as well as maps and instructions on how to submit a protest, are available on BLM's ePlanning website at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/Project-Home/?id=3f-39daf8-a7f2-f011-8407-001dd80db62a>.



SDSU West River welcomes nearly 100 new nurses into profession, more than 100 new students into program

BROOKINGS, S.D. — Feb. 17, 2026 — It was a celebration so large that South Dakota State University's College of Nursing had to find a new, bigger venue. The fall 2025 Rapid City pinning and hooding ceremony needed more space to accommodate the entire nursing cohort and family and friends.

The Dec. 15 event at The Monument recognized the achievements of nearly 100 graduates. It's the largest such ceremony in western South Dakota.

Then, the college held an induction ceremony on Jan. 29 for more than 100 new BSN students at the Rapid City site.

Both signal rapid growth for the university's West River nursing program.

A cause for celebration Christina Plemmons, the college's assistant academic dean for cooperative programs in Rapid City, attended the December pinning and hooding ceremony. "This ceremony recognizes the students' accomplishments and welcomes them into the nursing profession," she said.

After the tests and clinicals are done and before they receive an official diploma, South Dakota State University nursing graduates receive a pin.

The pin is meant to be worn proudly on a coat or pair of scrubs. It's a rite of passage; it's a tradition. It's a reason to gather and celebrate.

The ceremony uplifts both in-person and online students. Master's and doctoral nursing students often do all their coursework online, which makes the graduate hooding part of the ceremony especially meaningful.

They can attend and celebrate their achievement at the site that's closest to where they live.

"It's a chance for graduates to be celebrated and to celebrate with family, friends and future employers in their community," Plemmons said. "This recognizes the accomplishment of the student and those who have supported them along the way."

The final or near-final step on their journey

Knowing that some West River graduates won't be able to make the trip to Brookings in May for commencement, the college incorporates what it can to make the pinning and hooding ceremony particularly special for them.

Graduates wear their cap and gown, the stage party is in full regalia, and SDSU's graduation song rings out in the venue.

College of Nursing Dean Mary Anne Krogh kicks off the ceremony by sharing her vision for the future of the graduates.

While they walk across the stage to receive their hood or pin, a member of the stage party reads personal messages of gratitude written by each student. The graduate also receives an SDSU-yellow rose and a handshake from the dean.

"Students are excited to have their family and friends in attendance, especially family members who are nurses themselves, since then the student is carrying on a legacy of nursing in their family," Plemmons said.

The family in attendance may include grandparents down to children. Plemmons

said many graduates are parents and look forward to having their children see their accomplishment.

"After the ceremony, there's more celebration," she said. "Everyone's in very high spirits. The students have lots of enthusiasm and excitement for embarking on their careers."

Addressing the nursing shortage

These graduates are entering a profession that needs them. The nation is going through a nursing shortage, which is impacting South Dakota.

"There's been a call across the nursing profession to expand programs to meet the needs of the nation, state and for us in Rapid City," Plemmons said.

The college expanded its accelerated nursing program to Rapid City in 2021. Students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in as little as 12 months.

There's also been an emphasis on empowering future nurses to learn in the way that works best for them.

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For rural students with farming and ranching responsibilities, SDSU's nursing program offers online learning and targets clinical placements in or near their home community.

"The College of Nursing is always looking to create programming that meets the needs of anyone who wants to be a nurse.

That helps ensure there are nurses to meet the needs of the people of South Dakota," Plemmons said.

Every new nurse has a job waiting for them after graduation. Many students have already accepted a job offer before the pinning and hooding ceremony.

Welcome to the program

A month and a half later, the focus shifted to the next generation of new nurses at the induction ceremony. When students enter the nursing

program, there's equal pomp and circumstance.

"We have a ceremony for BSN students to receive a blue coat with their blue scrubs," Plemmons said.

Dean Krogh also speaks at this event in Brookings and Rapid City, meaning she'll bookend the students' nursing education careers when they make it to the pinning and hooding ceremony at the end of their studies.

The induction ceremony welcomed 103 West River nurses into the program this January, mirroring the nearly 100 nurses who received their pins or hoods during the December event.

Plemmons says those numbers are good news for South Dakota.

"By and large, these nurses are planning on impacting health care in some significant ways. And we have humble students, so I think it's important to lift them up by literally inviting them up on stage, so they have their time in front of family and friends."



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SPORT COATS

Bronc Wrestlers Advance

Kandi Tonsager
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 The Bronc wrestling teams competed in regional tournaments over the weekend with the Lady Broncs competing on Friday, February 20th, followed by the boys on Saturday the 21st at Rapid City Central High School.

The Lady Broncs had two of their five competitors earn top 4 spots punching their tick-

ets to state. Kyra Vandenberg and AnnaBelle Dighton will be competing for the Lady Broncs.

The boys had 4 participants earn top spots and move onto state. Caden Swaney, Cooper Conry, Kolby Tibbs, and Riley Dighton will be competing in the state tournament at the Denny Sanford Premier Center beginning on Thursday, February 26th.



Riley Dighton



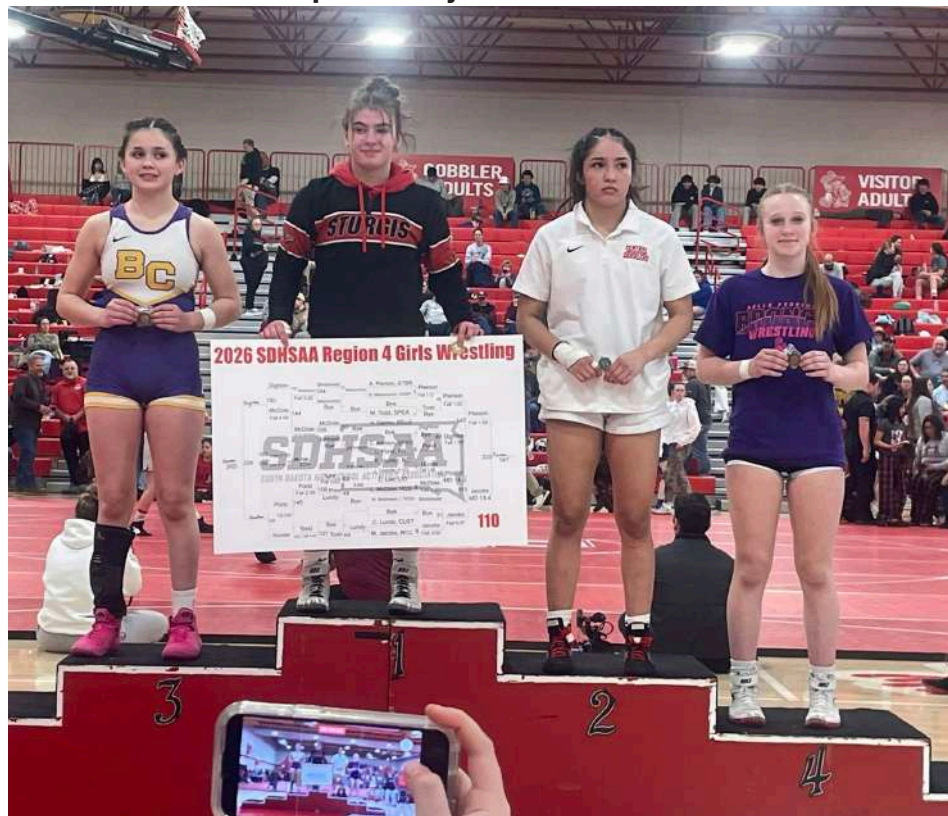
Cooper Conry



Caden Swaney helps teammate Jace Hiles reposition for a match.



Kyra Vandenberg Region 4 Champion.



AnnaBelle Dighton 4th place finish.



Koby Bowden and opponent both consulting coaches between periods.



Kolby Tibbs



Bronc Corner during a match.



Lucas Tonsager pinning opponent in semifinals

Bronc Basketball & Cheer Honor Seniors

Kandi Tonsager
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On Tuesday, February 17th, the Broncos hosted Sturgis for both boys' and girls' basketball. Ahead of the games senior players were honored. Two Bronc cheerleaders were also honored.

Senior Gavin Pearson, son of Wade and Ashley Pearson, plans to attend Dickinson State University to play football and pursue an Ag Education degree after graduation. Senior Sern Weishaar, son of Seth and Nicole Weishaar, plans to attend college for finance or marketing while rodeoing at the college and professional levels.

Senior Reagan Hatling, daughter of Brandon and Julie Hatling, plans to attend

BHSU to pursue a degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

Senior Danali Larson, daughter of Ryan and Wendy Larson, plans to attend college to earn a degree in psychology.

Senior Emma Juelfs, daughter of Nathan and Kerri Juelfs, has enjoyed being a manager for girls' basketball and hopes to continue to be involved with the program.

Senior Ysabelle Angeles, daughter of Adam and Jessica Green, plans to attend college at BHSU to earn an associates degree in pre-nursing.

Senior Adalae Grusing, daughter of Shawn and Mikayla Trainor, plans to work with Early Intervention or pursue a degree in Special Education

after graduation.

Good luck Bronc seniors!

The Broncos fell short to Sturgis 58-62 for the boys and 23-38 for the girls. On Friday, February 20th, the Broncos travelled to Wall with final results 39-72 for the boys and 31-60 for the girls.

The boys host Faith on Friday, February 27th at the Belle Fourche High School with JV at 4:30 and Varsity tipoff at 6pm, followed by a tournament in Custer on Saturday for the last regular season games.

The Lady Broncos have completed their regular season games. They will travel to Custer for their first region 8A game. Both teams are 5-15 on the season.

GOOD LUCK TO THE

Broncs

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Gavin Pearson



Sern Weishaar



Emma Juelfs



Ysabelle Angeles



Danali Larson



Raegan Hatling



Adalae Grusing



Matt Nehl welcomes daughter Emma onto the court with tipoff impersonation.

BFACT Celebrates Volunteers at Annual Gala

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—An evening dedicated to those who volunteer, sponsor or attend any of the Belle Fourche Area Community Theater (BFACT) events was held Saturday evening, February 21.

The Volunteer Gala was held at the Branding Iron Steakhouse Banquet Room. Attendees showed up dressed to the nines in keeping with the Broadway theme, and the evening was packed with events.

Executive Director Derek Olson started the evening with a warm welcome to the crowd. "This is such a wonderful turnout, thank you so much for being here! Thank you so much for participating in the last year and all the previous years!"

Thank you so much! You all are what makes BFACT keep going year after year after year," he said. "Last year was our 15th season—it was an amazing season—we're already on to our 16th season."

The first recognition of the night was for Volunteer of the Year. There were three nominees: Terry Hoscheid, Crystal Woods and Emma Tinsley. This is a new award, just started this year. "It took us 15 years to get around to it, but we're doing Volunteer of the Year, which is something new we are trying this year because we want to make sure that we recognize the people that make BFACT run."

So this year, our board of directors nominated three people, and then we chose from those three people for our Volunteer of the Year," explained Olson. "Keep an eye out in 2026, we're going to do it differently. We're going to have a different nomination process that's going to be open to the public."

The first-ever Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Terry Hoscheid. Season passes for all 2026 BFACT events were awarded to all the nominees.

Following the award ceremony, the premiere of the documentary Stage Directions was held. "Okay, we're going to get started with our documentary here—ahead of our 2025 season, our board of directors decided that we wanted to commemorate our

15th season, so we contracted an amazing local filmmaker, award-winning filmmaker... Anna Robins, to do a documentary," shared Olson. "We did some video shooting even in 2023, in 2024 and even a little bit in 2025—she's been working on this pretty nonstop for quite a while."

Robins introduced her film and added, "It was really a privilege to be asked to do this project, I really wanted to do it!"

The room was quiet as everyone watched the film and the history of BFACT unfold. Thunderous applause rang out at the end of the film. Olson said, "Thank you so much everybody for watching it. It's been a true labor of love for everybody that's been involved in it."

He went on to explain that the documentary would not be released to the public just yet as BFACT was going to submit it to a few upcoming film festivals.

The BFACT 2026 season is taking shape, and Olson shared the important dates for the year. Up first for the 2026 season is Curtain Call, a night of one-acts on March 27 through 29 at the Community Hall.

New this summer, at the end of July, BFACT is going to be doing their first Western called Minnesela. "If you know anything about the area, Minnesela is an old ghost town outside of Belle Fourche," said Olson.

"It is a Western comedy... if you've ever wanted to do a Western on stage with a lot of fun, guns, bar fights and breaking bottles!"

In December, to wrap up the 2026 season, BFACT will perform A Seussified Christmas Carol, with Toi Flick directing. After all of the business was taken care of, Pass the Mike Entertainment took the gala in a different direction. DJ and BFACT board member Michael Meemken turned up the energy with good music, trivia and karaoke.

There was also a photo booth like opportunity with a Polaroid camera and photo props to commemorate the evening.

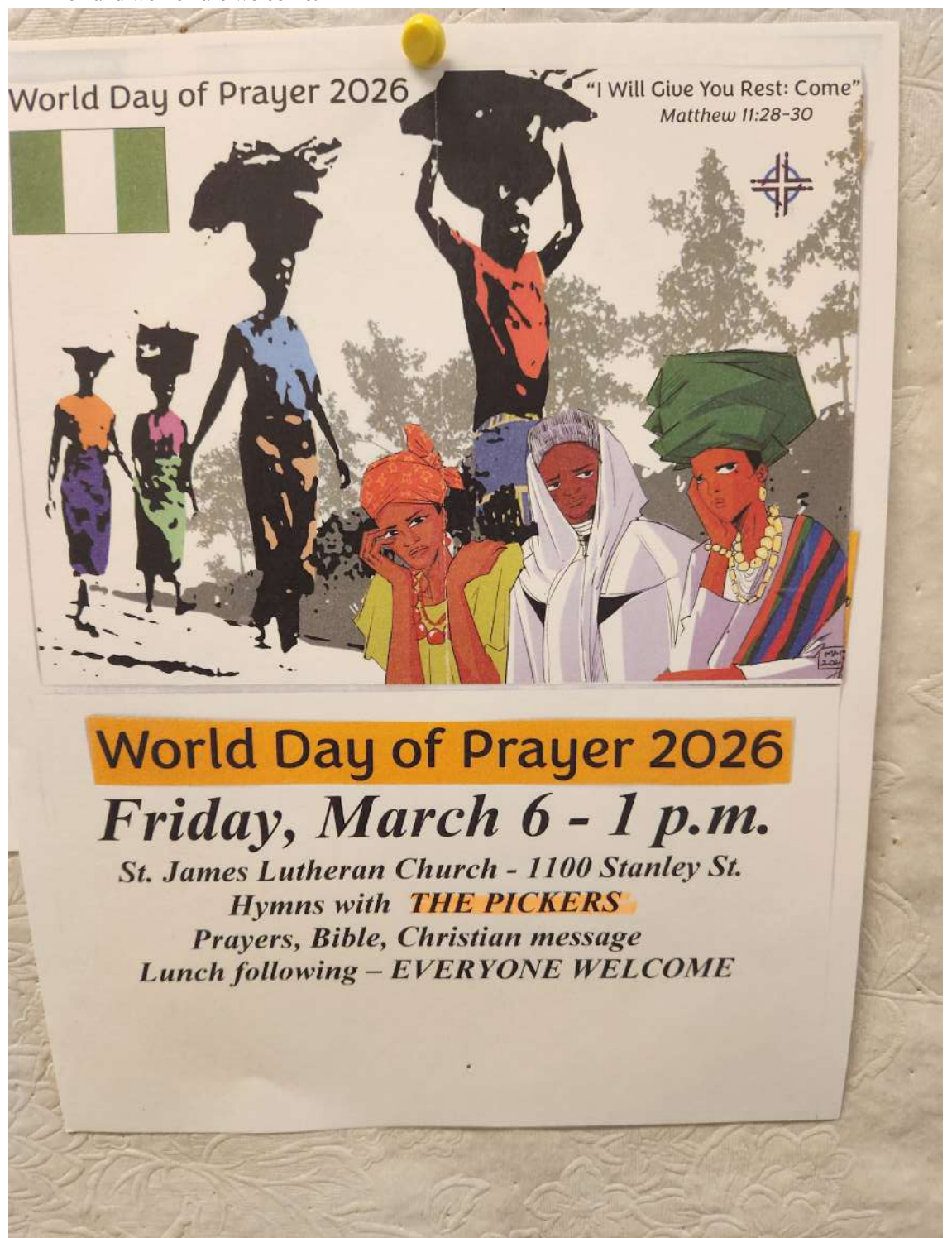
World Day of Prayer at St James Lutheran

March 6, 2026 - 1 p.m. St. James Lutheran Church, 1100 Stanley St, Belle Fourche, SD

Everyone is invited to the World Day of Prayer event on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 1 p.m., at St. James Lutheran Church, 1100 Stanley Street, in Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

There will be hymns with music by The Pickers. Prayers and a Bible message will be shared. Donations will be taken to help women and their families in Nigeria, West Africa, who are living in poverty. Lunch following the event.

Men and women are welcome.



(Top) Attendees of the Volunteer Gala were treated to the premier of the documentary, *Stage Directions*, directed by Anna Robins; (Below) Toi Flick, Reva Potter and Derek Olsen spend time visiting at the BFACT Volunteer Gala. Longbrake photos



BFACT volunteers enjoying each others company, as well as the evening in general.



(Top) Executive Director Derek Olson, welcome attendees to the Volunteer Gala; (Below) After all of the business was finished, *Pass the Mike Entertainment* hosted trivia and karaoke. Longbrake Photos



Show Up

by Belle LaVene



Come join the Belle Fourche Fine Arts Boosters for the Community Variety Show on Sunday, March 1st at the Tri-State Museum and Visitors Center, from 2:30-4:30 PM. This FUNraiser showcases local talent & the arts. There will be complimentary sweets & snacks, an art area & prizes for the kiddos, & performers of all ages. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth. All proceeds support Belle Fourche fine arts students & programs, so you can enjoy an afternoon of entertainment for a good cause.

Belle Fourche Area Community Theater hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Gala on February 21st at the Branding Iron social room. The crowd of volunteers enjoyed the premiere of the documentary Stage Directions. To commemorate their 15th Season, BFACT worked with local filmmaker Anna Robins to create this film all about BFACT's history and future. The first BFACT Volunteer of the Year (2025) was awarded to Terry Hoscheid for his set design and construction for various shows, including the ambitious Charlie & the Chocolate Factory and Murder on the Orient Express sets.

This week the BFHS Theater department has auditions for the spring musical, *Seussical!* This high-energy comedy will bring to life some of Dr. Seuss's most loveable characters. Show dates are April 24-26 with two evening performances and a Sunday matinee.

The Belle Fourche Middle School Theater has begun practices for their show *VOLTAGE - a suspenseful robot comedy*. The show will be on March 13 & 14 in the Rec Center Theater. Set building is underway as the tech crew creates a view of the future onstage. In addition to drama coaches Reva Potter & Rachel Crittendon, volunteers Terry Hoscheid as tech director and Colleen Anderson as costumer are helping the students bring the story to life.

Belle Fourche Area Community Theater opens their season with *A Night of One-Acts at the end of March*. It will be an evening of four one-acts March 27 - 29. The one acts and the directors are "Dissonance" & "What's Going On", directed by Arianna Scherer; "Will You Be My Nemesis?" directed by Crystal Woods; "Adapted & Destroyed: A Tale of Storytelling Gone Wrong" directed by Sharon Thompson.

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!**

Feb. 25 & 26, Tuesday & Wednesday AUDITIONS for the BFACT show, *Atomic Lobsters From the Center of the Earth*, 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Belle Fourche Rec Center Theater.

MARCH 1, Saturday, BFACT's first ever 90's PROM FUNDRAISER - 6 PM to 12 AM, Belle Fourche Community Hall.

Mar. 13-14, Friday & Saturday, MS Play, *VOLTAGE*, @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm

Mar. 16, BFHS Band / Chorus Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm

Mar. 17, BFMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Spring Choir Concert, @ the Rec Center Theater, 6:30 pm

Mar. 27-29, *A Night of One Acts*, Belle Fourche Community Theater, @ the Rec Center Theater

April 13, BFMS/BFHS Jazz Concert @ the Rec Center Theater, 7:00 pm

April 24-26, BFHS Musical - *Suessical!*

Maybe YOU know what SHOW is UP next? Share your fine arts tidbits and upcoming events at bellelavenue@gmail.com. I especially love the juicy backstage dish and green room gossip! Mark your calendars, friends, so you don't forget to **Show Up!**



(L) BFACT Volunteer of the Year, Terry Hoscheid, and drama coach, Reva Potter, pictured in front of the finished *Willie Wonka* set. (R) Terry and volunteer crew busy constructing the set.



(L) Terry's favorite part of the *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* set was the massive moving gate that opened for Wonka & Co.

THE BELLE FOURCHE FINE ARTS BOOSTERS PRESENTS

The Belle Fourche Community Variety Show & Art Exhibition

A CELEBRATION OF OUR LOCAL ARTISTS & PERFORMERS

Sunday, March 1, 2026 2:30 - 4:30 PM

Tri-State Museum

\$10 for Adults - \$5 Students

Enjoy complimentary SWEETS & SNACKS!

Fun for kids - art table & art contest prizes!

Every ticket entered into the prize drawing!

Want to Join the Show & Share your Talent?

Artists & Performers of ALL Kinds & Ages are INVITED- Entries are due by Feb 22nd

CONTACT BF FAB TO JOIN THE SHOW OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
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All proceeds support Belle Fourche fine arts students & programs.



Some unartistic vandals placed their taggings on several State Street locations.





From A1 1903 Reader's

derson, Irene Bennett; Sheila West, Marjorie Whaley; Joan Gerkin, Florence Steel; Blaine Anderson, Dr. Cecil Ferguson; and Patrick Luebben, William Newmann.

1903 Reader's Theatre allows actors to read from their scripts, but they still perform on stage, utilize costumes, and

have a set. The crew included playwright/director Kristi Thielen; sound, Kim Reusaw; and house manager and lights, Jean Maher.

Admission to the production was \$2 per person or free with museum membership.

The next 1903 Reader's Theatre will be Christmas in the Cave Hills and is set for Dec. 18 and 19.

1903 Reader's Theatre Company



Florence Steel played by **Joan Gerkin** reacts to something rude that Irene Bennett played by **Colleen Anderson** said inside Sly's Grocery Store.



From left: Irene Bennett played by **Colleen Anderson**, Marjorie Whaley played by **Sheila West**, Florence Steel played by **Joan Gerkin**, Orville Smoot played by **Samuel Savery** and Grace Trenkl played by **Lynnea Luebben** fight for groceries. *Longbrake photos*



(L) Marjorie Whaley played by **Sheila West** and Mrs. Voorhees played by **Angela Hastings** discuss grocery store problems; (R) Hattie Gridlock played by **Katharina Steeves**, Mrs. Voorhees played by **Angela Hastings** and Grace Trenkl played by **Lynnea Luebben** check out the paper to see what it says today at Sly's Grocery.



(L) Effie Hartwell played by **Bobbe Ward** complains to Hattie Gridlock played by **Katharina Steeves**; (R) William Newmann played by **Patrick Luebben** tries to sneak back into Sly's Grocery Store to get another Silver-Plated cake server but Mrs. Voorhees played by **Angela Hastings** catches him. Orville Smoot played by **Samuel Savery** looks on.



Local **Girls Scouts**, with volunteering parents braved Saturday's cold, windy weather to bring their Girl Scout cookies to sell at the firehall parking lot.



Spearfish **D.C. Booth** gift shop manager **Nancy Pummel-Cole** accompanied by her sister **Eloise Lentz**, Montrose, Colorado attended the **2026 Public Lands Convention & Trade Show** in Daytona Beach Florida Feb. 22-26th. *Courtesy Photo*

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

Cattle Report - Friday, February 20, 2026

Bred Cattle Market Was On Fire! Had A Barn Full Of Buyers

Next Sale - February 27th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - 10 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle			
Bred Cows - Sold By The Head			
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	22	Blk...Hfr	1072 \$4,350.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	42	Blk...Ss	1472 \$4,260.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	9	Blk...Ss	1490 \$4,250.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	39	Blk...Broken	1430 \$4,100.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	20	Blk...Broken	1405 \$4,025.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	40	Blk...Broken	1403 \$4,025.00
Arlidge Livestock Co Llc, Robert Lee TX	42	Blk...Hfr	883 \$4,450.00
Arlidge Livestock Co Llc, Robert Lee TX	11	Blk...Hfr	829 \$3,950.00
Bull Ranch, Ashland MT	39	Bldd...Hfr	895 \$4,075.00
Dye, Robert E Jr (Chip), Alzada MT	25	Blk...Mix Aged	1263 \$3,400.00
Talcott, Duane, Hammond MT	21	Blk...Broken	1435 \$3,950.00
Talcott, Duane, Hammond MT	11	Blk...Ss	1423 \$4,200.00
Talcott, Duane, Hammond MT	16	Blk...Broken	1407 \$3,725.00
Talcott, Duane, Hammond MT	12	B/R...Broken	1393 \$3,550.00

Weigh Up Cows			
Arlidge Livestock Co Llc, Robert Lee TX	1	Blk...Cow	1430 \$174.00
Bruch Ranch Llc, Sturgis SD	1	Blk...Hfr	1170 \$200.00
Bruch Ranch Llc, Sturgis SD	1	Blk...Cow	1580 \$182.00
Cordell-Pearson, Ashley, Aladdin WY	1	Blk...Hfr	1075 \$200.00
Cordell-Pearson, Ashley, Aladdin WY	2	Blk...Cowette	1150 \$198.00
Cordell-Pearson, Ashley, Aladdin WY	1	Blk...Cow	1355 \$179.00
Crowley, Clinton E Or Stephanie, St Onge SD	1	Blk...Cowette	1370 \$184.00
Crowley, Clinton E Or Stephanie, St Onge SD	5	Blk...Cow	1436 \$175.00
Engesser, Jace, Spearfish SD	1	Blk...Cow	1070 \$165.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Blk...Hfr	1005 \$287.50
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT	1	Blk...Cow	1555 \$179.00
Grubi, Christopher, Sturgis SD	3	Blk...Hfr	1046 \$285.00
Grubi, Christopher, Sturgis SD	3	B/R...Hfr	1025 \$262.50
Hart, Jordan, Piedmont SD	1	Xord...Cow	550 \$182.50
Jewett, Tyler Or Sally Belle Fourche SD	1	Herf...Cow	1405 \$162.00
Mackaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD	2	Blk...Hfr	1002 \$242.50
Mackaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD	1	Blk...Hfr	1250 \$206.00
Mackaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD	1	Blk...Hfr	1095 \$200.00
Mackaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bld...Cow	1510 \$180.00
Mackaben, Laney, Belle Fourche SD	1	Blk...Hfr	940 \$217.50
Mackaben, Morgan Or Shawnalyn, Belle Fourche SD	1	Blk...Cow	1310 \$178.00
Mitchell, Sabrina W, Aladdin WY	1	Herf...Hfr	970 \$270.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	4	Blk...Hfr	977 \$237.50
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	1	Blk...Hfr	840 \$215.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	10	Bldd...Hfr	1108 \$200.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	4	Blk...Cowette	1153 \$192.50
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	25	Bldd...Cowette	1238 \$189.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	1	Blk...Cowette	1295 \$186.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	22	Bldd...Cowette	1313 \$184.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	1	Bld...Cowette	1435 \$184.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	1	Blk...Cow	1500 \$180.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	2	Bldd...Cow	1242 \$176.00
R & J Cattle, Whitewood SD	1	Blk...Cow	1200 \$171.00
Schmidt, Cleve, Newell SD	5	Blk...Cow	1623 \$179.00
Schmidt, Cleve, Newell SD	1	Blk...Cow	1385 \$178.00
Schmidt, Cleve, Newell SD	1	Blk...Cow	1365 \$160.00
Skvazab, Mark, Lead SD	1	Blk...Cowette	1330 \$185.00
Skvazab, Mark, Lead SD	1	Blk...Cow	1650 \$161.00

Weigh Up Bulls			
Duprel, Allen M, Sturgis SD	1	Blk...Bull	2085 \$195.00
Dye, Robert E Jr (Chip), Alzada Mt	3	Blk...Bull	1856 \$193.00
Knutson, Karl, Vale Sd]	1	Blk...Bull	1480 \$192.50

Friday, February 27, 2026

Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special

10:00 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 NH-No Implants

Feeder Cattle

KC Ranch - 140 Red Strs - 600-700# - Bt, Pc, Wnd
- 25 Red Hfrs - 550-650# - Bt, Pc, Wnd
John Humbrecht - 130 Blk & Char X Hfrs - 650-700# - Bt, Pc, Wnd
Ken & Logan Bird - 115 Blk Hfrs - 725-760# - Bt, Pc, Ni, Poured, Bv
Gottfredson Ranch - 100 Blk Hfrs - 650-750# - Bt, Pc, Wnd
Dan & Bill Gaskill - 100 Blk Hfrs - 750-800# - Bt, Pc, Ni, Bv - All Sav Angus & Millar Angus
Jack Duprel & Sons - 80 Blk & Herf Strs - 725-800# - Bt, Pc, Wnd
Ck Bar Ranch - 10 Blk Hfrs - 600-700# - Bt, Pc, Bv
Cody Pekron - 5 Red Angus Hfrs - 650# - Bt, Pc, Bv

Plus More By Sale Time!

2026 CATTLE SALES

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 17th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

2026 SHEEP SALES

March 5th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 12th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 19th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
March 26th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 2nd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 9th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 16th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 23rd - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
April 30th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 7th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 14th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 21st - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
May 28th - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

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

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

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Fieldman: Dustin Vining 605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, February 19, 2026

Lambs Sold Higher Again This Week
Slaughter Ewes Sold Steady

Next Sale - February 26th - Regular 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!

Feeder Lambs

Peachey, Rodney Or Gloria, Newell SD	10	Lamb	49	.....	\$460.00
Peachey, Rodney Or Gloria, Newell SD	14	Lamb	86	.....	\$380.00
Davis, Doug Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD	21	Lamb	64	.....	\$399.00
Davis, Doug Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD	81	Lamb	81	.....	\$397.50
Hettinger Research Center, Hettinger ND	56	Lamb	83	.....	\$385.00
Cjr Ranch Llc, Gillette WY	14	Lamb	92	.....	\$375.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulett WY	20	Lamb	81	.....	\$380.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulett WY	8	Lamb	105	.....	\$297.50
Page, Ben Or Fran, Faith SD	11	Lamb	122	.....	\$270.00
Peterson Sheep, Lemmon SD	5	Lamb	121	.....	\$290.00
Phillippi, Renetta, Hammond MT	74	Lamb	103	.....	\$260.00
Phillippi, Renetta, Hammond MT	69	Lamb	108	.....	\$260.00

Slaughter Ewes

Cjr Ranch Llc, Gillette WY	59	K Ewe	147	.....	\$150.00
Cjr Ranch Llc, Gillette WY	109	K Ewe	157	.....	\$145.00
Davis, Doug Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD	3	K Ewe	145	.....	\$135.00
Phillippi, Renetta, Hammond MT	8	K Ewe	220	\$135.00

Slaughter Bucks

Hausman, Brittany, Buffalo SD	1	K Buck	200	\$130.00
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NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

FEBRUARY 26, 2026
REGULAR SALE
1:00 PM

BRED EWES

SAGE ASKIN - 250 2 YR OLD EWES - LAMB 5/8 - WF BUCKS - 20 MICRON WOOL

LAMBS

SAGE ASKIN - 60 EWE LAMBS

Please Have Animals In By 10:00 AM
So They Can All Be Weighed Before The Sale!

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Video Auction Time is Coming up very, quickly - If you are considering filming your Calves or Yearlings for Fall Delivery Contact Us For Your Video Marketing Needs

THE BELLE FOURCHE FINE ARTS BOOSTERS PRESENTS

The Belle Fourche Community



Variety Show & Art Exhibition

A CELEBRATION OF OUR LOCAL ARTISTS & PERFORMERS

Sunday, March 1, 2026 2:30 - 4:30 PM

Tri-State Museum

\$10 for Adults - \$5 Students

Enjoy complimentary SWEETS & SNACKS!

Fun for kids - art table & art contest prizes!

Every ticket entered into the prize drawing!

Want to Join the Show & Share your Talent?

Artists & Performers of ALL Kinds & Ages are INVITED- Entries are due by feb 22nd



CONTACT BF FAB TO JOIN THE SHOW OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
bfhsfab@gmail.com or text 303-856-4835

All proceeds support Belle Fourche fine arts students & programs.

BFHS RODEO TEAM

BANQUET & FUNDRAISER AUCTION

Saturday March 7, 2026
Belle Fourche Community Hall
Live and Silent Auction

Steak Dinner

Tickets - \$30

Doors Open @ 4:30 - Dinner @ 5:00 -

Auction to Follow

Tickets May Be Purchased From Any Belle Fourche High School Rodeo Member



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



February

25th - 1PM Cribbage at Belle Silver Lining

26th - 5:30PM Moose Lodge Burger Night

March

2nd - 6PM City Council

3rd - 6PM BINGO @ Branding Iron for Belle Silver Lining

Casino Night March 13th

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

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Aaron W. Roseland
Attorney at Law
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"Looking Back in Belle" Sponsored by:



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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

He is married, has two children – a three year-old daughter and an 18 month-old son.

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Daily Post
March 3, 1976

One More Step – Editorial
Sometimes we fear we overdo our talk about Orman Dam and the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. At the same time, we feel we are justified in our continuing comments because most residents outside the project don't really appreciate what the area has, because most people do not realize the contribution the dam make to the area's economy and because we feel that the project's potential is just now beginning to develop. The announcement by the Bureau of reclamation that they are to let bids for repair work on the project next month is heartening news. If congress comes thru with the funds budgeted by President Ford everything will be set for long needed improvements on the dam. Those improvements will do two things. First the new spillway and the new rock rap-rapping should improve the safety of the 70 year-old dam. In the second place, the improvements mean an additional 20,000 acre feet of water in the reservoir. On bad years this could mean the difference between a poor crop and a profitable one. On good years it would mean the difference between a good crop and a better one, plus improved recreational facilities because of a larger lake area. It is no secret that the Belle Fourche Irrigation project has been no banana. There have been troubles and complications from the start, primarily because the project was one of the first of its kind in the country and the biggest of it kind at the time.

FLB Announces Rapid-Belle Merger
A merger of the Federal Land Bank Association of Rapid City and Belle Fourche has been approved by stockholders effective April 1, it was announced this week. The action means the headquarters office will be located in Rapid City and the Belle Fourche unit will become a branch office. The decision also means that the office will serve only South Dakota counties. No mention was made of the Wyoming activities of the local office, but it was assumed they will be transferred to a Wyoming association. Offices will be maintained in Bison on the first and third Tuesday of the month and in Martin on the second Wednesday of each month. The association will serve Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Shannon and Washabaugh counties. Officers of the new association are Wynne Snyder, president; Charles Sutton, vice-president; James Hericks and Michael Saunders, loan officers; Jeanne Schnell and Donabel Ross, administrative assistants.

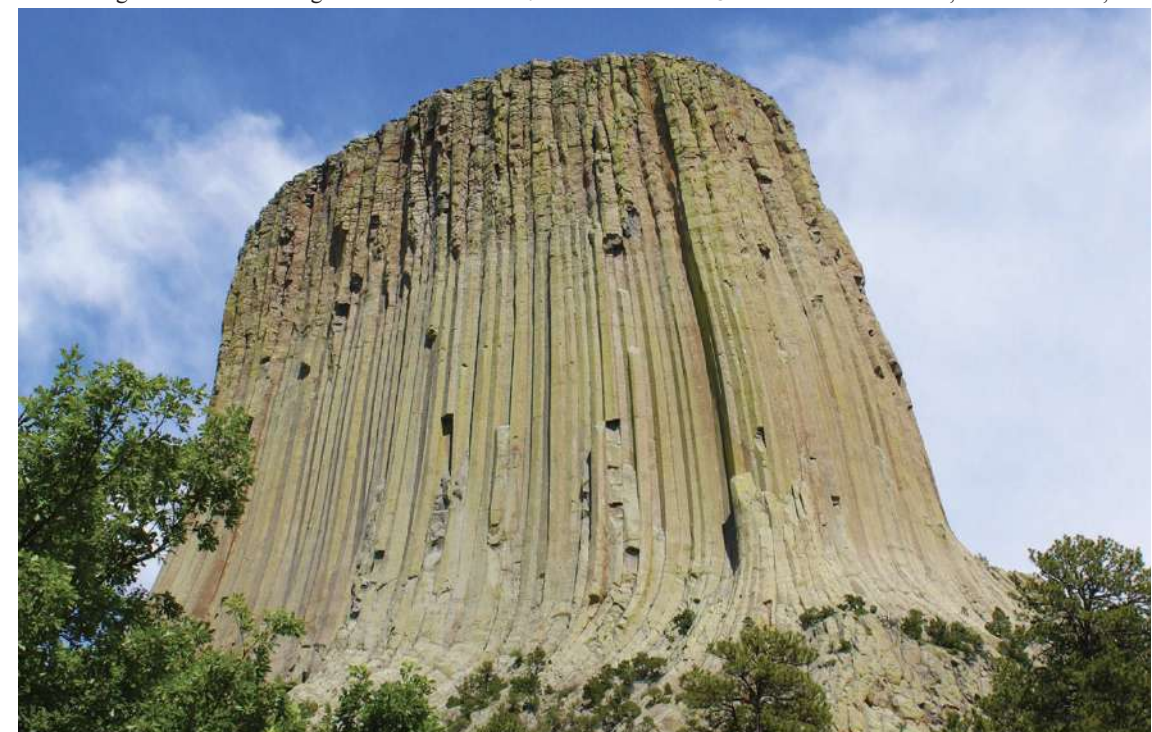
Winnieckie Is Officer of Month
Bernard (Bud) Winieckie Butte County veterans service officer, has been selected by the South Dakota Division of Veterans Affairs as the South Dakota Service Officer of the Month, it was announced this week. In a letter of congratulations, it was noted that Winieckie is one of the state's newer service officers and "has adopted himself to the veterans service work in an exceptional and very commendable manner. The Division of Veterans Affairs is proud to have Bud on the team." Winieckie is a native of Michigan. He entered the Air Force in 1953 and retired in 1973 after 20 years of service as a master sergeant. He was a supervisor and flight chief on heavy bombers. He was a Korean veteran and a Vietnam veteran, having flown many missions over Southeast Asia. Commander Bob Helmer of the local American Legion congratulates Winieckie. "We are also proud to have Bud on our team," said Helmer. He pointed out that Bud is resourceful and determined. He described how Winieckie made use of the American Legion Children and Youth program to aid a needy family whose bread-winner was hospitalized with a serious operation. "When all help seemed in vain, Bud came thru,"

124 years ago
Black Hills Weekly Times
August 2, 1890
Bulletin: J. W. Driskill and H. W. Taylor will go to the range tomorrow, when active preparations will at once begin for shipment of 10,000 head of steers for the Chicago market. They will begin shipping as soon as the road is completed to the proposed stockyards on the Belle Fourche. The steers are getting in prime condition, and present prospects indicate the the finest grade of beef cattle ever sent in from the range will be of this season's shipments.

A National Park J. H. C. Grabill, on his late trip to the Devil's Tower, took with him the following petition which was signed by everyone to whom it was presented. "We, the undersigned, citizens of the United States, and of the state of Wyoming, believing that the United States government should preserve and set apart for the free use and enjoyment of all its citizens, those areas and portions of the public domain containing natural scenery, which, on account of their beauty and natural interest, will tend to improve, elevate and refine the taste of the people, do hereby unite in this petition. That all that portion of land lying between the Belle Fourche river and Lake creek, including the Devil's Tower and Little Missouri Buttes, in Crook county and the state of Wyoming."

100 years ago
The Northwest Post
March 4, 1922
Death of "Daddy" Wiles Theodore Wiles, familiarly known as "Daddy" Wiles, passed away on Tuesday evening at six o'clock at the county farm, where he had been cared for the past year. During that time he had been a partial invalid, and his death was the result of the infirmities of old age. Funeral services will be held this afternoon, conducted by Rev. D. D. Collins, at the grave in Pine Slope cemetery. Mr. Wiles was aged about seventy-nine years, and was a native of New York. Very little is known of his early life, but he came to the Black Hills some twenty years ago, operating a greenhouse in Deadwood until about fifteen years ago, when he came to this city and established the Belle Fourche greenhouse, which he conducted until a little over a year ago, when failing health and a heavy property loss caused by hail, practically put him out of business. It is reported that he is survived by one daughter, whose address is unknown.

BAD SUNDAY BLAZE The worst fire that has visited Belle Fourche for several years occurred Sunday afternoon, and only for the very efficient work of the Volunteer Fire department, several houses would have been wiped out by the flames, as the wind was blowing a terrific gale at the time. As a result of the fire, the Ray Wood house in the southeast part of the city, occupied by J. W. Brackett and family, was badly gutted and damaged, while the household effects were damaged to the extent of between \$400 and \$500. The residence, a fine, modern bungalow, was built at a cost of \$4,500, and is damaged to the extent of about half that amount. It is now owned by Mrs. W. W. Wood, mother of Ray Wood, and the loss is amply covered by insurance. The loss sustained by the Bracketts will be total, as they carried no insurance. The fire started shortly before two o'clock, caused by the ignition of a tub containing several gallons of gasoline. Mrs. Brackett was cleaning a silk dress in the kitchen, using gasoline for the purpose. She was stooping over the tub, rubbing the silk sleeves of the garment together, when she suddenly felt a sort of prickly sensation in her lower limbs, followed by waves of heat arising, and had presence of mind enough to leap backward, just as the explosion of the gas fumes took place, and the tub of gasoline ignited and blazed up. Although quite painfully burned about the face and arms, Mrs. Brackett, who was alone in the house at the time, rushed to the telephone and gave the fire alarm to the central office, also calling husband at the drug



Devils Tower National Monument was the first United States national monument, established on September 24, 1906, by **President Theodore Roosevelt**. The monument's boundary encloses an area of 1,347 acres (545 ha).

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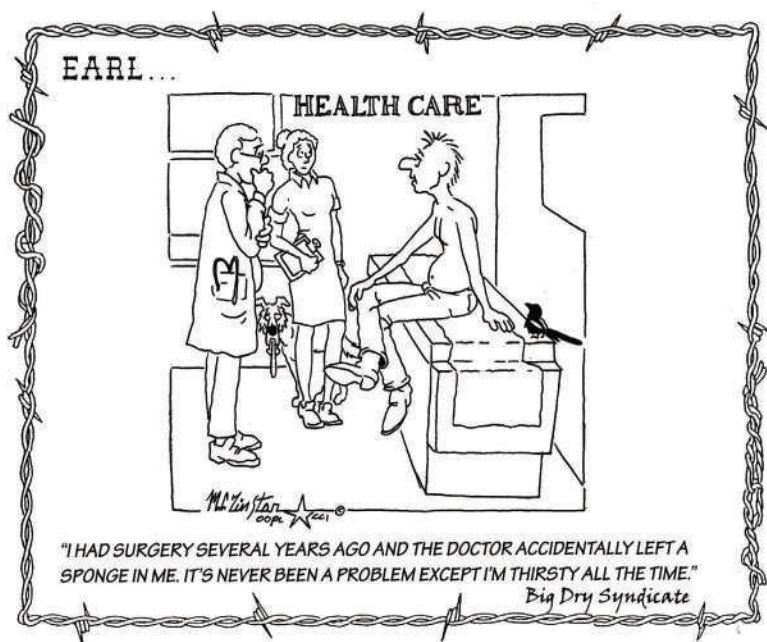
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Check out our Facebook Page for local events

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

February
 25th - 1PM Cribbage at Belle Silver Lining
 26th - 5:30PM Moose Lodge Burger Night

March
 2nd - 6PM City Council
 3rd - 6PM BINGO @ Branding Iron for Belle Silver Lining
Casino Night March 13th

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

CASINO NIGHT

Friday March 13th
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2026	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	2 Chicken & Rice Bake Creamed Spinach Garlic Toast	3 Zuppa Toscana Soup Dinner Salad Bread Stick	4 Hawaiian Pork Roasted veggies & Potato with Dinner roll	5 Meatloaf Mashed Potato & Gravy Peas & Carrots, Roll	6 Chicken Enchilada Black beans & corn with Spanish Rice
	9 Honey Sesame Chicken Buttered Noodles Asparagus Roll	10 Beef Braut & Sauerkraut With Onions & Peppers Pasta Salad	11 Ground Beef & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Cheesy Broccoli, Roll	12 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato & Gravy Dinner Salad	13 Ham & Broccoli Cheddar Soup Dinner Salad
	16 Roast Beef With Gravy Potato & Bacon & Green Beans Roll	17 Meatloaf Mashed Potato & Gravy Corn Roll	18 Pork Stir Fry with Rice Asian Vegetables Egg Rolls	19 Baked Ham Cheesy Potatoes Green Beans with Bacon Roll	20 Fish options
	23 Pulled Pork Sandwich Coleslaw, Baked Beans Chips	24 Swedish Meatballs Egg Noodles Mixed Veggies, Roll	25 Chicken Nuggets Roasted Brussels Sprouts & Carrots Fries	26 Liver & Onions or Cheeseburgers Fried Potatoes Dinner salad Roll	27 Fish options Beef Taco OR Fish Taco Cilantro Rice & Black Beans

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

Look What's Cooking at Belle Silver Lining
 Come Join us M-F 11 am-1 pm
 828 Kingsbury St. | Belle Fourche, SD
 Menu subject to change or modification.



Don't miss the following events

2/3 Bingo at Branding Iron Balls Roll 7pm | 2/11 - Chartable Giving 12pm | 2/26 Writing Workshop 12pm
Meat Raffle benefitting Belle Silver Lining at Circle Lounge 2-4pm 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/4, 4/18

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Market Report - Thursday, February 19, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$HEAD
Todd Family Lp, Upton WY	37	Black-Brd Hfr	1140	5100.00	\$5,100.00
	21	Black-Brd Hfr	1174	4825.00	\$4,825.00
T Millron Livestock Llc, Rozet WY	29	Black-Brd Hfr	1106	4600.00	\$4,600.00
	16	Black-Brd Hfr	1135	4650.00	\$4,650.00
Paul Palczewski, Ludlow SD	37	Black-Brd Cow	1268	4800.00	\$4,800.00
	26	Black-Brd Cow	1439	4700.00	\$4,700.00
	35	Black-Brd Cow	1506	4250.00	\$4,250.00
	16	Black-Brd Cow	1511	4250.00	\$4,250.00
	17	Black-Brd Cow	1535	4250.00	\$4,250.00
	12	Black-Brd Cow	1435	3900.00	\$3,900.00
	20	Black-Brd Cow	1436	3600.00	\$3,600.00
Ellsbury Ranch Llc, Sundance WY	12	Black-Brd Hfr	1160	4550.00	\$4,550.00
	12	Black-Brd Hfr	1112	4700.00	\$4,700.00
Odis Or Edith Hewson, Buffalo SD	8	Blk/Bwf-Brd Hfr	991	4600.00	\$4,600.00
	11	Blk/Bwf-Brd Hfr	990	4100.00	\$4,100.00
	9	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow	1431	4900.00	\$4,900.00
52 Ranch Inc / Qt Ranch, Glendive MT	9	Black-Brd Hfr	1136	4300.00	\$4,300.00
Clark Rhinehardt, Bighorn MT	22	Black-Brd Hfr	839	3700.00	\$3,700.00
Thomas Ranch Inc, Alzada MT	20	Blk/Bwf-Brd Hfr	991	4200.00	\$4,200.00
Dennis Denson, Ashland MT	9	Black-Brd Cow	1534	3700.00	\$3,700.00
	10	Black-Brd Cow	1562	3550.00	\$3,550.00
Dan Or Mary J Zimmerschied, Cantile WY	15	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow	1404	4350.00	\$4,350.00
	12	Black-Brd Cow	1421	3750.00	\$3,750.00
	9	Black-Brd Cow	1419	3175.00	\$3,175.00
Rod & Corine Schaffer, Broadus MT	24	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow	1338	3850.00	\$3,850.00
Ritterberger Beef Inc, Fairburn SD	12	Black-Brd Cow	1495	3750.00	\$3,750.00
Sorenson Farms, Forsyth MT	34	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow	1395	3125.00	\$3,125.00

WEIGH-UPS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$HEAD
Bruce Blair, Piedmont SD	1	Black-Cow	1465	182.00	\$2,666.30
	1	Black-Cow	1455	181.00	\$2,633.55
	1	Black-Hfr	1105	235.00	\$2,596.75
	1	Black-Cow	1270	199.00	\$2,527.30
	1	Bwf-Cow	1555	180.00	\$2,799.00
	1	Black-Cow	1270	199.00	\$2,527.30
	1	Black-Cow	1175	207.50	\$2,438.12
Jeff Plucker, Aladdin WY	1	Black-Cow	1575	174.00	\$2,740.50
Harry Tavegia, Osage WY	6	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	1078	272.00	\$2,930.80
	1	Herf-Cow	1040	215.00	\$2,236.00
52 Ranch Inc / Qt Ranch, Glendive MT	1	Black-Hfr	1155	212.50	\$2,454.37
	1	Black-Hfr	1085	240.00	\$2,604.00
Dan Or Mary J Zimmerschied, Cantile WY	1	Black-Cow	1295	181.00	\$2,343.95

Green Acre Ranch Inc, Olive MT	1	Black-Cow	1300	189.00	\$2,457.00
	1	Black-Cow	1395	183.00	\$2,552.85
Amdahl Angus, Piedmont SD	1	Black-Cow	1385	186.00	\$2,576.10
Wayne & Nicole Jordan, Alva WY	1	Black-Cow	1380	187.50	\$2,587.50
	1	Black-Cow	1130	235.00	\$2,655.50
Lenord Hook, Alva WY	1	Black-Hfr	1005	252.50	\$2,537.62
BULLS					
Retf Or Abbra Scoggin, Belle Fourche SD	1	Red-Bull Drug Free	1830	209.00	\$3,824.70
	1	Red-Bull Drug Free	1800	202.00	\$3,636.00
	1	Red-Bull Drug Free	1680	203.00	\$3,410.40
Dennis Denson, Ashland MT	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2155	209.00	\$4,503.95
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2310	201.00	\$4,643.10
Snook Land & Livestock, Sundance WY	3	Black-Bull Drug Free	1770	200.00	\$3,540.00

BRED COW & HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL
MARCH 5, 2026
WUPS @ 10 AM MT | BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

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FEBRUARY 26, 2026

WUPS @ 10 AM MT | FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

February 26, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 5, 2026	BRED COW & HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 12, 2026	FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 19, 2026	BRED COW & HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
March 26, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10 AM MT
April 2, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL
April 7, 2026	BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
April 9, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH BULL SALE
April 16, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL
April 23, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
April 30, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & J SPEAR CATTLE CO BULL SALE

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Defense & Industry Symposium Returns

BOX ELDER, S.D. — National defense priorities, emerging technology, and economic development will take center stage in the Black Hills when the Defense & Industry Symposium returns April 8-9, 2026, at the Box Elder Events Center.

The annual symposium brings together military leadership, defense contractors, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence experts, government agencies, and higher-education partners from across the country — positioning the Black Hills as a strategic hub in national security and innovation conversations.

Hosted by the Black Hills Military Advisory Coalition and presented by Northrop Grumman, the event highlights how global defense decisions intersect with regional workforce development, infrastructure investment, and long-term economic growth.

Topics at the 2026 symposium include artificial intelligence and cyber defense, energy and infrastructure resilience, war-gaming scenarios, doing business with the federal government, and the relationship between

family quality of life and force readiness — issues that directly affect military communities and local economies throughout western South Dakota.

Organizers say the event is designed not only for defense professionals, but also for business owners, educators, students, and community leaders interested in how national security initiatives influence jobs, technology adoption, and regional stability.

The symposium also provides rare access to national-level speakers and decision-makers without requiring travel outside the region, drawing attendees and exhibitors from across the defense and technology sectors.

Registration is now open for attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors. Additional information is available at bhsymposium.com.

Contact:
Tony Nishimura — Media & Event Inquiries
tony.nishimura@ellsworthauthority.org | 605-484-8864

Tif Robertson — Communications & Coordination
tif.robertson@ellsworthauthority.org | 605-545-7865

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Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Two weeks!**
Wednesday, February 18th through Tuesday, March 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

Defense & Industry Symposium
PRESENTED BY NORTHROP GRUMMAN
BOX ELDER, SD

April 8-9 2026

For updated information and to register, visit bhsymposium.com

Belle Fourche
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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ASK AT THE FRONT DESK FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE GAMES!!

SPEARFISH SD – The 2026 Lawrence County District 31 Legislative Crackerbarrels will be held February 28th at the Deadwood Gulch (304 Cliff St, Deadwood). Event will be held at 10:00 AM.

The District 31 Lawrence County Cracker Barrels are organized by the Spearfish and Deadwood Chamber of Commerce to give the community an opportunity to meet with our elected officials.

Legislative Crackerbarrels in your area offer access to your local legislators, as well as the chance to hear their answers on a variety of legislative topics. Each elected official will give an update on the committees they serve and bills that have been introduced. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions in writing at the event. Senator Deibert, Representative Odenbach and Representative Fitzgerald have been invited to sit as a panel to give updates on the current legislative session.

Our legislators are also available at that time to answer questions from the audience. The events are free to attend.

For more information, contact the Spearfish Chamber 605-642-2626 or the Deadwood Chamber 605-578-1876.

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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: ebcfbf.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 Jennwein
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10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
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1804 7th Ave. Belle Fourche
605-892-2405
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(ABA) - 2.2 miles east on Hwy 34
723-1092
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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

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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

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Belle Fourche Rec Center
Sun: 9:30-12:30.
Contact: Nathan Thompson
605 569-3057
Sermons: fightintheshade

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120 Ryan Rd., Spearfish
605-642-0924
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Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

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

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

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Wednesday: September - May
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
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far better position than those who don't.

Communities thriving are ones that accepted this reality early and asked a different question. Not "how do we get people to come back?" but "why would someone choose to come here?"

The answer, every time, comes back to experience. To the things that can only happen in a place, with other people, in real time. To the memories that are made not in front of a screen but on a sidewalk, in a park, at a table shared with strangers who become, for an evening, neighbors.

Browse the main streets of a hundred American towns, you will find a creeping sameness. The same chain restaurants at the edges of town, the same vacancy signs in downtown windows, the same sense something has quietly slipped away. The communities

that push back against that sameness, that insist on being distinctly and unapologetically themselves, are the ones that survive. More than survive — they become the places people seek out, talk about, and return to.

The stone cast across the water doesn't need to be large. A piano on a sidewalk. A mural on a wall. A concert under the stars. It just needs to hit the surface — and the ripples will follow.

John A. Newby, author of the "Building Main Street, Not Wall Street" column, assists communities and their local media companies combine synergies allowing them to not just survive, but thrive in a world where truly-local is lost to Amazon, Wall Street chains and others. His email: john@360MediaAlliance.net.

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

There is a moment — if you've ever experienced it — that is hard to forget. You're walking through a downtown you've never visited, and something stops you.



remarkable results. The cost is modest. The impact is not. A stranger sits down and plays something from memory. A small crowd materializes without any announcement. A child watches, wide-eyed, having never seen a piano up close before. None of it is plannable. All of it is real. And not a single line of code in the world can replicate it.

Maybe its music drifting out of an open doorway, or a mural so vivid it seems to glow from the brick. Maybe it's the smell of something baking, or a crowd gathering around a street performer you didn't expect. Whatever it is, it pulls you in, slows you down, and makes you feel like this place has a pulse. That feeling is not an accident. It is the result of a community that decided, deliberately and with conviction, to fight for its own survival.

That is the central truth that every community fighting for its economic future must internalize: unique, human experiences are the one competitive advantage that cannot be copied, discounted, or shipped overnight. You cannot out-convenience a warehouse the size of a small city. You cannot beat algorithms at their own game. But you can offer something that algorithms will never understand — the feeling of being somewhere that feels alive.

That fight is happening across America in small and mid-sized cities refusing to surrender their downtowns to vacancy signs and the gravitational pull of online shopping. And the communities winning that fight are doing so not always with deep pockets, but with creativity, shared purpose, and clear-eyed understanding of what they offer no website ever can.

Greenville, South Carolina offers a compelling case study in what sustained, community-driven investment can accomplish over time. Years ago, Greenville's downtown struggled. Storefronts sat empty. The energy had drained away to suburbs and strip malls that sprouted around them. What followed was not a single grand gesture, but a series of decisions made by people who believed the downtown could rise again. Streets were made walkable. A hidden waterfall buried under a concrete bridge, was uncovered and made a centerpiece of a

Consider the quiet revolution of outdoor piano installations. It sounds almost too simple. A refurbished upright piano — painted by a local artist, placed on a sidewalk or in a public square — and suddenly a street corner becomes a gathering place. Cities like Ottawa, IL., Galena, IL., Branson, MO, and dozens of smaller communities have embraced the concept with

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Capitol News
February 22, 2026
by Karen Odell

Winter came again to Capitol and Tie Creek. The week began fairly nice, but on Thursday, the temperature dropped to around zero, and stayed in the single digits all day. Even by Sunday, the night low was down to about zero. Dick and Erma Albert had a quiet week. Both had annoying colds to contend with. On Monday, they went to Bowman for a tax appointment. Then they rested up until Friday, when they attended the Senior Citizen dinner. They celebrated Kay Ovitz's birthday, and Kay had brought angle food cake and topping for everyone. Dick and Erma went to the Catholic Church on Sunday. There were fewer people there this week, possibly because of athletic activities. After church, Dick and Erma went to Saloon Number Three for lunch. Alvin and Marlee Cordell traveled to Buffalo, on Monday afternoon, for the girls basketball games with Bison. On Tuesday, they went to Belle Fourche to see grandson, Gavin Pearson play basketball for the Belle Fourche High School team against Sturgis.

It was a close and exciting game. Alvin went with Ryan and Collin to the Horton Place, on Wednesday, to fix a water line break. The digging was not too hard, and they put in a section of new water line. On Saturday, Alvin and Marlee went again to Belle Fourche to see the Buffalo fifth grade boys play two games of basketball. Ryan is one of the coaches for the boys.

That evening they went in to the Camp Crook Bar for supper, and to watch the Ekalaka boys' and girls' basketball games at the Miles City tournament on TV. The Ekalaka boys won against Jordan, but the close game by the girls, also against Jordan, ended up with a loss. On Sunday, they took a

drive up to the Sheep Mountains, and checked to be sure their water was good at the Horton place. Ryan has been working on the house that was moved in at the Loken place, and Alvin is getting sheds ready for calving. Lynn Gustafson went to the Diligent Doers Extension Club meeting at the City Building, in Camp Crook, on Wednesday. She spent the rest of the week cooking for the soup supper. On Sunday evening, Bruce and Lynn went to the Camp Crook Community Center for the Little Missouri Church soup supper.

Dorothy Padden listened to the boys basketball games at home, this week. She rode along with Dawn to Rapid City for boys' and girls' wrestling.

The meet designated state qualifiers, and three girls and four boys from Harding County School are qualified for state. Others will be allowed to go as alternates in case a student can't compete.

Karen Odell had a sports-filled week. She enjoyed watching parts of the winter Olympics, each day. Then on Friday, she had a great day on the computer watching her grandson, Kellan, at the GPAC championships at Dordt University in Iowa.

Kellan does the heptathlon for Mount Marty University. Kellan competed in seven events that included running, jumping and throwing events. As a freshman, Kellan had some tough competition, but he scored especially well for his first year. The top winners would go on to the national competition. Because he was in seven events, Karen got to spend both Friday and Saturday watching Kellan's events. She kept in contact with her niece, Martha Nau, in Ohio, where there was a funeral for her brother, Ron Evans. Martha sent the internet website for the funeral, so Karen got to join the family on-line. She was very impressed with the music and loved hearing her nephew's beautiful voice for the first time, and she loved hearing him even

singing a line of Welsh in his song. Two friends called, and visited for a long time, that day. Her classmate, Bill Foulkes, called, and she had a wonderful long visit with a good friend, Fran Benroth, who had visited with family and friends at the funeral. In her younger days, Fran had been an excellent competitive ice skater, but she and her family chose a less hectic home life, rather than the continuous demands of competition. Her college friend, Jeanne Dineen, offered to pick Karen up at the airport, but the weather on Thursday, turned very cold, so Karen gave up on traveling to the funeral. Her high school classmate, Mary Ann Balsler, also called, and Karen will talk to her next week. Kellan's competition and calls from friends helped her through a bittersweet day. Karen visited with Mollie and Kyia Smith and Micki Odell, and texted with Cody and Jeff Odell. You can't ever win by compromising integrity, for your own heart always feels the shame.



Central Meade County News
By Sandy Rhoden February 22, 2026

While the temperatures have been more winter like, it looks like we will be seeing a bit of a warm up this week.

While February seems to be flying by, next Sunday will already be another pot luck dinner after church services in Union Center. There is always pot luck dinner on the first Sunday of the month after church service in Union Center.

Larry and Sandy Rhoden missed this last Sunday's services as they were in Washington DC with other Governors and First Ladies for the National Governor's Association. They were able to catch up with Kristi and Bryon Noem and also had a brief chat with the President when it was their turn for a picture with

him in the Oval Office. They chatted with others like Secretary of War Hagseth who sat at their table with his wife. He offered up the prayer for the dinner at the White House. Dr. Oz, Secretary of State Rubio, and others were there to share a brief chat with.

Both Larry and Sandy met the Governor of Texas for the first time. The conference covered a wide range of topics including the border, property taxes, energy and much more. The highlight was the military band, symphony and choir that was amazing as they performed at the dinner at the White House.

At Martha's Second Hand store near Enning she had all Valentine related items listed as free last weekend. Martha

Hall is working hard to see that treasures are available and that many items are able to be repurposed at a good price. Just a reminder that doing a little shopping there serves a good cause.

A little ways down the road from Martha's is White Owl Creek Boutique right there at White Owl. Several ladies have made special trips from Pierre to shop at White Owl Creek Boutique more than once.

Ladies love the help and advice they get and love the unique items they find. It is just another sweet gem you can enjoy in Central Meade County.

The Copper Coffee & Goods in Union Center is another gem to check out for a fun morning. Delayna Richter always has something special going on like bakery specials,

discount coupons, CPR Training and much more. It's all offered in a homey and inviting atmosphere. If you haven't had a chance to see the historical Union Center School that has been renovated and moved south of the Central Meade School you might want to stop in.

You may also want to get a cut, style or do your nails right there at Sage Brush Salon. Baily Enright is the operator of the business that resides in the old schoolhouse that John and Sylvia Rhoden purchased and moved. Sylvia once taught at the school back in the 1980s.

We will learn more about that during the 100th year celebration.

Planning for the 100th birthday of Union Center is in the works. Many activities are being planned so stay tuned for later updates.

There was a cyber training at Red Owl Hall recently that was very informative.

There was a nice turnout for Kathryn Spring's 95th birthday on Sunday at the church in Union Center. Her actual birthday is February 24 so feel free to call and wish her a happy birthday! Shirley Baker, John Rhoden and Lorie Hausmann led some music. Dan and Kathy Rhoden and Jan Tiff were among some of the guests along with many of Kathryn's family.

Her great granddaughters Jesse, Joanne and Emma Spring sang a special at the celebration and a nice tribute was offered up to Kathryn. Edna Smith was in attendance and will celebrate her 94th birthday this week.

We continue to be blessed that they both are active and a part of our community, even though Edna still drives out from Sturgis for church and Rural Neighbors.

Legals

Position: Full-Time Deputy Auditor
Reports to: Butte County Auditor

Summary of Duties:

The Sworn Deputy Auditor's main emphasis will be on Local, State, and Federal financial reporting. Other duties include maintenance of County asset inventory, insurance, and leases, administering and training the Financial, Payroll, and Human Resources Software (Tyler Incode). The Deputy Auditor will perform Auditor duties in the Auditor's absence.

Salary: \$23.87-\$29.49 DOQ
Hours/Week: 40 hours Mon-Fri

Education Required: GED/High School Equivalent - Bachelor's degree preferred

Abilities/Skills:

A successful applicant will have knowledge of accounting principles and financials, strong numerical aptitude and attention to detail, skills in Microsoft Office, leadership skills, supervisor experience, knowledge of insurance policies and claims process, written and verbal communication skills, time management, and organizational skills

Benefits: Retirement, Health insurance, Holidays, Vacation

Applications may be picked up at the Auditor's office at the Butte County Administration building 117 5th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

Interested individuals can apply by the submission of an Application, Resume and Cover Letter addressed to the Butte County Auditor, Attn: Annie Capp, 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Phone 605-892-4485. Email: auditor@buttesd.org

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BUTTE COUNTY SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Butte County Courthouse, Belle Fourche, SD on March 19, 2026 at 10.00AM (MT).

A list of tracts available for lease may be obtained at the Butte County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD, 57501-5070 at (605) 773-3303.

You may also visit the SPL website www.sdpubliclands.sd.gov. Phone bidding will be allowed on a recorded conference line at 1-848-777-1212 with access code of 18892020#

Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.

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

Notice is hereby given that on the 03rd day of March 2026 at the hour of 09:45 a.m., the Board of Butte County Commissioners will be in session at the Butte County Courthouse in the City of Belle Fourche at 839 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota for the purpose of considering and adopting a supplemental budget to cover expenses of certain functions of County Government that were not provided for in the Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2025.

Budget Supplements from Cash Reserves (Increase in spending authority over original approved budget)

Account Number	Description	Amount
101-161	Gen Gov Buildings	\$ 232,000.00
101-153	Court Appointed Atty	\$ 6,400.00
201-311-435	Hwy Road and Bridge - Minor Equipment	\$ 69,000.00
206-750	Wheel Tax	\$ 1,100.00

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

Dated at Belle Fourche, South Dakota this 13th day of February 2026.

Board of Butte County Commission
/s/: Chad Erk, Chairperson

ATTEST: /s/: Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

Published on Wednesday, February 18th, 2026
Published on Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

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Southern Hills: March 20

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Spearfish Foundation for Public Education to Host Annual "3 Cheers Celebration" Fundraising Event

Spearfish, SD – The Spearfish Foundation for Public Education invites the community to attend the annual "3 Cheers Celebration," on Thursday, February 26th at 5:30 PM at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center. This is an evening dedicated to honoring excellence in education and raising vital funds to support teachers and students in the Spearfish School District.

The celebration brings together educators, families, business partners, and community members to recognize the impact of public education and the generosity of those who make it possible. Proceeds from the event directly benefit innovative classroom grants and programs

that enhance learning opportunities for students across the district.

A highlight of the evening will be the announcement of the Spearfish School District Teacher of the Year, recognizing an outstanding educator whose dedication and commitment has made a meaningful difference in the lives of students. The event also features food, grant presentations, silent and live auction, and a heads and tails raffle.

"The 3 Cheers Celebration is more than a fundraiser, it's an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the incredible work happening in our schools every

day," said event organizers. "Every ticket purchased and every auction bid placed helps fund creative, innovative projects that enrich the educational experience for our students."

Admission \$15 General Admission and \$5 for Spearfish School District teachers and staff. Community members are encouraged to register in advance and preview available auction items online. To register and view auction items, visit <https://givebutter.com/c/SFPE2026>



“Long Live Extension Clubs”

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
Most



South Dakotans tend to maintain strong emotional ties to our rural past. And

we like living in small communities. As such, since the early 1900s county extension clubs have played an important role in the development in our state.

Extension clubs were one result of the Smith-Lever Act passed by congress in 1914. In the early 1900s for the first time in history, more people lived in cities than in the countryside.

At that time, people in rural areas lacked amenities such as telephones or electricity and the quality-of-life gap between urban and rural dwellers was growing at an alarming rate.

The Smith-Lever Act was an attempt to bridge the gap by bringing consumer science education to rural areas.

Extension clubs were formed to disseminate homemaking skills that encouraged raising healthy children, maintaining happy homes, and creating quality community life. These clubs were not church based, but were government created and thus were inclusive of the best interests of the larger community.

There were numerous extension clubs throughout South Dakota. One of the oldest was the original Crow Peak Extension Club. According to the following article the organization was very active.

“The Crow Peak Extension Club came into being on February 8, 1925 under the

supervision of Evan W. Hall, county agent and May Kiethline of the State Extension Office in Brookings. It was the oldest extension club in Lawrence County and the only club in South Dakota to have three Eminent Homemakers as members. According to the organization’s constitution, meetings were to be held in the homes of the members, in alphabetical order, on the first Wednesday of the month. Various homemaking demonstrations were held, such as First Aid in the Home’ ‘Desserts that are Different’, and a fair exhibit entitled, ‘Something Cooked or Sewed’.

From May 2, 1934 until sometime in 1936, the Crow Peak Extension Club belonged to the Federation of Women’s Clubs.

In 1938 a delegation was sent to the National Demonstration Council meeting in Lexington, Kentucky.

During World War II two Netherlands families were sponsored and packages were sent to them.”

The club also sponsored a reading program, a 4-H Club project that involved raising and donating money and time for disabled children and the elderly, learning about Civil Defense and recycling. At Christmas time a potluck supper and program by the 4-H club members marked the occasion along with a visit from Santa.

In 2011 state budget cuts hit extension clubs hard. The state decided to all but eliminate funding for these vital community resources.

Sadly, there is a misconception that homemaking is not as important as it was in the past. However, isn’t it the truth that homemaking skills are just

as important and necessary as they always were. Homemaking skills have changed, but they are still essential to quality of life.

The home enriches our lives. Finding the right teapot, completing a shelving project, or preparing an attractive and nourishing meal for guests or family makes life richer. For 40 years I have been trying to recreate my grandmother’s beautiful Thanksgiving dinners. I love the scent of clothes when they have been hung out to dry. Once when we lived in Wyoming we lived in an area where the local homeowners’ association prohibited this activity, so I had to hang clothes out to dry in secret. Considering that everyone lived on 20 to 60 acre parcels, the rule seemed absurd anyway.

The ritual of home life is emotionally satisfying. Even

routine cooking and cleaning are necessary for sound emotional and physical health.

When we have vacationed together, by brother-in-law and his wife spend their free vacation time in a reverie of washing clothes, performing routine repairs to the holiday cottage, shopping for the right ingredients, and cooking. Because their work lives prevent them from spending much time at home, they find joy and relaxation by replenishing the lack of home in daily life.

Homemaking is both art and skill. People express their individuality in their homes through furnishing, color, and arrangements. The home provides a satisfying outlet for personal and artistic expression. As people continue to spend more time at work, they continue to need the routine of daily chores, safety and the outlet

for creative expression that the home provides.

At one time, I rejected the stereotyping of women’s work aligned to cleaning and cooking, but I have come to understand that home life means much more. Both men and women benefit from learning and practicing a wide range of homemaking skills.

The art of creating a satisfying and enriching home environment should never go out of style.. They continue to have a vital role to play in our communities. Today, we need more help than ever raising children and balancing the often awkward responsibilities of work and home. Extension clubs today offer so many more activities and opportunities in addition to traditional homemaking skills. So for these reasons, extension clubs are of critical importance.



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:

Belle Fourche Writers

Belle Fourche Writers February meeting schedule: Saturday, February 21 from 10 AM to Noon. All writers are invited to attend! Meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

Belle Fourche Recreation Center

Notes from Belle Fourche Rec Center Aquatics Manager: As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! My email is listed below: collin@bellefourche.org 605-892-2467 as well as the Rec Center front desk number 605-892-2467.

March Events

The 3rd-6th Youth Girls Volleyball Camp starts March 3rd. Register by February 24th for the early bird rate!

Youth Strength & Cardio kicks off March 6th. This class targets 6th-9th grade kids, teaching them how to use the weight and cardio machines and gets them set up on a beginner training program.

Classes

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 - 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

Tri-State Museum

Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center offers new exhibits

The Tri-State Museum spent January freshening some exhibits and creating other new ones. The changes occur in the mercantile and a new “transportation” exhibit in the center of the museum.

In the mercantile, the case that has exhibited dolls features a new collection of 12 dolls from the museum’s extensive Millicent Henderson collection. These new dolls are from the 1940s-1980s and include a Madame Alexander doll, a Romanian doll and a distinctive burlap doll of Central American origin.

Also in the mercantile is a mini “haberdashery,” filled with vintage men’s clothing and toiletries. “We’ve had a number of exhibits about women’s and children’s apparel, but nothing that focused on men,” said Collections Archivist Jada Udager. “We thought this was a chance to feature artifacts we’ve not featured before.”

Across the floor from mercantile is the museum’s collection of salt and pepper shakers. The museum has so many of these that the entire four-shelf case could be completely refreshed. Some of new novel shakers include a lock and key, loaves of bread – and a little green alien in a spaceship.

A new exhibit in the museum’s mid-section is “Transportation: From Stagecoaches to Trains to Cars.” This exhibit includes images plus artifacts such as spokes for wagon wheels, a lady’s travel case, a miniature car and a vintage model stagecoach crossing a “path” with grass on either side of the roadway. There is also a brick roadway made of the few surviving bricks from Belle Fourche’s brick factory.

This exhibit also includes a basket with vintage postcards from places across the U.S. and abroad, which can be examined by visitors.

There is no admission charge to visit the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center, which is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche. For more information, call 605-723-1200 or visit the website at www.thetristatemuseum.com

Belle Fourche Arts Council to hold third annual Photography Contest

The Belle Fourche Arts Council will hold its third annual “Rural Life Expressions” Photography Contest in February, with the final judging and public reception to take place on February 28 from 5-7 p.m.

Submissions can be made through February 20, and participant categories include Under 18 and Adult. Subject categories include Landscape, People and Animals. There is an entry fee of \$20 per entrant and this covers four submissions, with two maximum per category.

Prizes will be awarded for each subject category: 1st place - \$175; 2nd place - \$100; 3rd place - \$50. There will also be awards for People’s Choice for each subject category.

Entries will be on exhibit in the Tri-State Museum gallery from February 24 through February 28 and prizes will be awarded at the Tri-State Museum & Visitor Center reception on Saturday, February 28 5-7pm. Entry forms and additional info, available online at <http://www.rurallifeexpressions.com>.

Mail or drop-off entries to: Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center, 415 5th Avenue. If sent via mail, the postmark date must be no later than February 20, 2024. For additional information, please call 605-723-1200.



Lawrence County America 250 Flag Reveal Event

PIERRE, S.D. – The America’s 250th South Dakota Commission, in partnership with Spearfish GMC Cadillac and Maximum Promotions, is hosting an America 250 South Dakota flag raising ceremony.

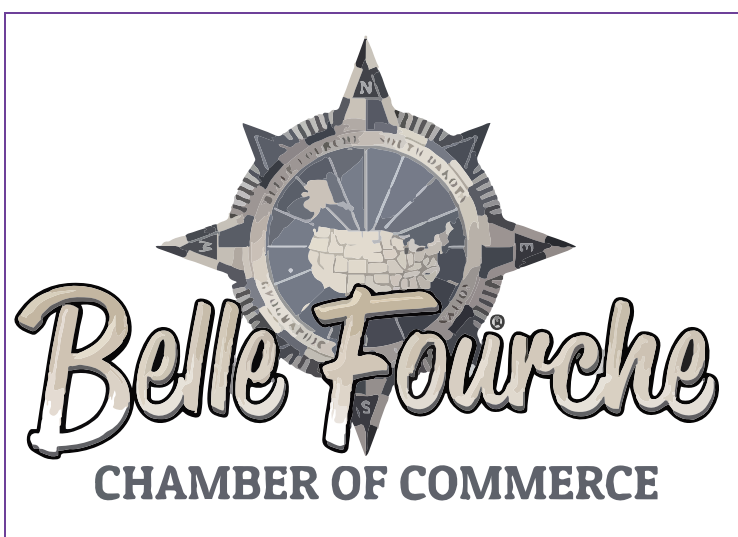
This event marks the start of a historic year as we celebrate America’s 250th

birthday.

WHAT: Lawrence County America 250 Flag Reveal Event

WHEN: Friday, February 27, 2026, at 12:00 pm MT

WHERE: Spearfish GMC Cadillac, 1910 N Main Street, Spearfish, SD 57783



THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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

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Newell School Choir Shares Valentine's Cheer at NVN



Middle School and High School students make up the **Newell School Choir**. The group performed at the **NVN Center** for the public to enjoy. *Longbrake photo*

Choir at NVN

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—For the second year in a row, the folks at the NVN Senior Center were treated to a lovely Valentine's Day-themed concert performed by the Newell School Choir. The community was invited to the center to listen to the talented singers perform on Feb. 17.

Newell Choir student Jace Schulte, kicked off the program as the MC. He welcomed everyone to the show. "Welcome to our Valentine program. We're here today to have some fun and sing some songs that might just stick in your head all day!"

The choir was made up of both middle school and high school students. They spent close to 30 minutes singing a variety of songs, including "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" by Queen, "You Are My Sunshine," "Marie Laveau," and "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran.

At the end of the musical show, Choir Director Kimberly Bachman opened the floor to anyone in the audience to ask questions of the performers. "So boys and girls in the crowd, these are all middle schoolers and high schoolers—are there any questions that you would like to ask them? They will answer any questions that you have," she said.

In turn, she asked the singers if they had any questions

for the audience. One singer asked, "What would you rate us?" Without hesitation, the crowd answered back with a unanimous "10!"

According to Bachman, the group began practicing in January to prepare for the Valentine's Day show. Choir is a popular activity at Newell School, with 32 students participating in the group.

If you missed the musical performance but are interested in watching them perform, mark your calendars for the Newell K-12 Spring Music Program to be held next month, Thursday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held at the Austin Auditorium at Newell School.

Choir Photos Contd. D4

Newell Health Clinic



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PatNP.com



The local community showed up to enjoy the free breakfast put on by the **Vale Community Club**. *Longbrake photo*

Vale Community Hall Serves Up Pancakes

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

VALE—For as long as most anyone can remember, the annual Pancake Feed at the Vale Community Hall has been a February tradition. This year did not disappoint. The event was held Sunday, February 22.

Hot pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy were cooked up fresh by the members of the Vale Community Club. Hot coffee, juice and bottled water were also plentiful.

The event is free and held to show appreciation to the community. "It's more of a community meal that the club puts on—it's free to the community and donations are welcome but nothing's required," explained Angie Hanson, Community Club President. "We just want to get everybody together."

One big change this year was the time of the event. In the past, the pancake feed was always offered during the supper hours. This year the time shifted to morning hours, beginning at 11 a.m. and running until 1 p.m. "This year we had it during the daytime,

usually we have it from like 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., but we've decided to change it up because the attendance was kind of low—we thought maybe, if we had it during the daytime, we would get a better turnout," shared Hanson.

The earlier time for the Pancake Feed coincides with the after-church crowd, who may want to stop by for breakfast! "That's what we were shooting for, getting the word out to anybody who was attending church, we'd ask the local pastors to remind the congregation about the Pancake Feed," said Hanson.

Long-time pancake flipper and the head chef every year, Dan Dunn, was on hand once again this year to cook up pancakes for everyone.

Two exciting events are coming up in the near future at the Vale Community Hall. On March 21, you will want to take part in the Spring Fling and beginning in April, bingo will be back, so make sure and mark your calendars to attend the upcoming community events.

Pancake Feed Photos D4



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Monday was President's Day so we didn't get any mail that day. It was a nice day so Reub and I put more firewood in the entryway for when it gets colder outside. Casey had left for Buffalo for wrestling practice with the Harding County wrestlers when Taz got the alert that there was a fire over east at the Nash ranch so Taz and Reub jumped into the fire-fighting unit and headed over there to help put the fire out. The wind wasn't blowing hard and it was just a small grass fire. The fire headed down toward the Big Nasty Creek and the guys got it put out pretty quick. Thank God the wind wasn't blowing like it was later in the week. Nash's and a whole lot of other neighbors were here to help put out a fire on our ranch several years ago and we are really thankful to live in this neighborhood with so many good people here to help with whatever our

problems are!

Reub helped the guys move the cows across the highway from Coyote' Butte to the pasture northeast of the buildings Tuesday morning because the cows will be calving soon. They brought some of the cows that looked like they are getting close to calve into the lot across the creek so they can keep an eye on them.

It was really windy and cold when Reub and I went to Lemmon on Wednesday to meet with Attorney Jim Elsing to get the new wills he wrote for us. We asked our dear friends Audie and Wendy Brockel to come and sign the wills as witnesses for us and it was really nice to be able to visit with them a little while. We stopped in Hettinger on the way home to get stuff from Runnings but we had to hurry to get home in time to get ready for the Ash Wednesday Lenten service and potluck supper at the church that evening with communion during the

service. A nice crowd came to enjoy the service and fellowship after the supper.

Congratulations to Kaylen Padden for being chosen as the National WWII Museum's 2026 Billy Michal Student Leadership Award recipient from South Dakota! The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award is presented annually to one student from each state and the District of Columbia who embodies the American spirit in his or her community. Kaylen will get to travel to New Orleans for a leadership weekend and awards ceremony this summer.

There are more deaths to report: Frank Rosenau, 95, of Lemmon, passed away on Friday, February 13. Frank's funeral service was Saturday, February 21st at his ranch with burial at Greenhill Cemetery.

Vernon Coe, age 89, of Sturgis, passed away Saturday, February 14, at his residence. His funeral service was February 20 at Kinkade Funeral Chapel in Sturgis with burial at the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Kenneth Doerr, 96, of Hettinger, passed away on Thursday, February 19, at the Western Horizon's Care Center in Hettinger. His funeral service is tentatively set for Monday, March 16, at the United Methodist Church in Hettinger and burial with Full Military Honors will fol-

low at the Hettinger Cemetery.

Thursday, February 19, was our son Sandy Dan's birthday and this winter was a lot better than the year he was born in 1979. The winter of 1978 and 79 was horrible and there were weeks when the snow was so deep we couldn't make it out to the highway to take our kids to school. We had been blocked in for two weeks when Reub got the snow plowed enough to make it out to the highway the day I went into labor. Reub took me to the hospital in Hettinger and went home that evening after Sandy was born. I was listening to the weather the next morning and there was another blizzard rolling in. Reub's parents, Buck and Amy Olson, had their car in Hettinger getting fixed, so I called the garage and asked if their car was fixed yet. They said it was, so I asked them to bring it up to the hospital for me and then I packed up, wrapped Sandy Dan in a warm blanket, and headed for home after calling Reub to let him know we were coming. The blizzard didn't start until I turned south at Reeder and headed down Highway 79 where the drifts on both sides of the road were higher than the roof on our house and there was only room for one vehicle on the highway. It was a struggle to make it

through the blizzard and the bad road but when I made it down to the road into our place Reub and Pastor Phil Rokke were waiting to get us into the ranch safely. That was a stupid thing to do, but thank God we got home without getting stuck on the highway and it was two more weeks before we could get out again!

Casey and Missy left Thursday afternoon to go to the Harding County girl's wrestling regionals in Rapid City on Friday and the Harding County boy's wrestling regionals in Hill City on Saturday.

Edgar Meza, the Game Warden from Lemmon, came to see us Friday morning to see if we wanted to keep this ranch as a walk-in area. We agreed to put it in walk-in for another 5 years and had a good visit. This was the first time we'd met Edgar and he's a really nice guy.

Casey came home Saturday night, but Missy stayed to go to our granddaughter Brinley (Olson) Powell's baby shower in Rapid City Sunday afternoon.

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with the little kids. She asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

From the back, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

February 17, 1916

C. L. Woodford left Monday for Atchison, Kansas, after a 5 weeks stay here in charge of the local store. Chas. Woodford and bride arrived Saturday from Atchison and for the present are stopping at the Newell Hotel, no suitable house being procurable at this time. Mrs. Woodford is a very charming lady to meet, and we feel that she will make many friends in our little city that is now her home.

Hugh's Orchestra of Whitewood will be here on Friday the 26th to play for the Leap Year Dance Ladies bring your husband or somebody else's fellow to the dance. All ladies will have a chance to purchase a ticket for they are already on sale.

H. R. Bower will have on the track at Newell about March 1st Black Hills pitch posts and also wood for fuel. Place your order now by writing to H. R. Bower at Savoy, So. Dak.

Louis Maass has has his new house ready for the plasterers for over a month. These fair-weather temps him to go ahead and do it himself to get the job done. Mr. & Mrs. Henry Maass visited the Louis Maass new house on Sunday.

February 18 1926

The Nisland woman who shot jackrabbits through the hole in the barn has nothing on O. A. Loose, of Bison who doesn't even have to go off his front porch to replenish his family larder. Mr. Loose keeps his neighbors, awake by his nightly bombardments, he has bagged 20 rabbits already in the last few nights. The accommodating jacks hop onto his front lawn and even hold their games of fox and geese while Loose's rifle mows them down.

Martin Mahoney and Glen Peregrine helped Mr. Titus butcher a hog last Monday. Mrs. Peregrine spent the day at the Schuelke home. The Peregrine children have about recovered from their long siege of sickness and are now back in the Mud Butte School.

Mr. & Mrs. Ole Soma entertained the Card Club Saturday evening at one of the most enjoyable parties we have had. The home was decorated in honor of Saint Valentine and we all enjoyed Mrs. Soma's refreshments very much. Play honors were won by Mrs. Louis Maass and Mr. Rowan.

February 20, 1936

Clyde Ice, of the Black Hills Airport was flying for the Watertown Airways, was sent to investigate storm conditions in Meade County on Sunday by Governor Berry, had to make a forced landing near Dalzell and fears were expressed for his safety. Radio broadcasts were made all day on Monday, but Tuesday noon Mr. Ice succeeded in reaching Rapid City. Mr. Ice explained that the blizzard made flying extremely hazardous and kept him grounded near a farmhouse all day Monday. With no telephone communications near, he was unable to send word of his safety, although he stated that he listened to the radio broadcasts.

While a state crew was opening Highway 212 near Orman Lake last week a large band of antelope was noticed close to the road. The animals had no doubt drifted with the storm from the north country. Henry Graber, of Hastings, Minn, a former resident of Newell about 10 years ago, was visiting old friends here Wednesday. He was accompanied to town by his brother John, CCC foreman at Camp Orman and is spending several days with him before returning to his home.

Another carload of coal was received at the lumber yard last Wednesday but that didn't supply all who were in need. The last carload was taken within a couple of days. Due to the low temperatures last week, and no fuel, the steam heating plant at the Vale School building froze up and bursted the boiler and several radiators. Repairs have been made and the rooms can now be heated

by Linda Velder

satisfactorily.

February 21, 1946

Mrs. Lyman Bruce and little Bobby are at a nursing home in Sturgis while Bobby is receiving medical attention. The child developed a high temperature while the family was enroute home from a business trip to Rapid City. A doctor was consulted in Sturgis and pronounced the ailment as a sever attack of the flu.

Jerry and Jackie Malcolm and Scotty and Beverly Breckenfeldt and their mothers were guests at a birthday party for Dickie Wilson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wilson and his sister at their home Sunday.

Late Sunday night the Walter Neisses Pool Hall, known as Walt's Place, and the Hice Bowling Alley & Lunchroom were broken into and a quantity of cash and merchandise stolen. About \$70 was taken from the pool hall, cartons of cigarettes, razor blades and other items of merchandise from the Cowling Alley. At each place only, part of the cash on hand was taken and on Wednesday 2 local juvenile boys were apprehended and signed confessions to the burglaries. They turned over to the Sheriff \$58 cash, cigarettes and razor blades. The boys will be charged with burglary and juvenile delinquency before the County Judge, who is at present absent from the jurisdiction.

Workmen are putting up a new modern ceiling in the Guy Keniston & Co. Store, making a decided improvement in the appearance of that business establishment. Further repair plans included a new front to the building, work to proceed at once.

February 23, 1956

Oliver Skow, carpenter from State College Experiment Station. at Brookinas arrived



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here this week and has begun work at the US Field Station on building a poultry house. Mr. Skow is converting the old picnic house into the poultry house in preparation for the new poultry project to be started at the station. According to Supt. Harry E. Weakley, it is planned that the chickens will be brought in and the project started early this summer.

Pollyanna Club met Thursday at the home of Mrs. Ralph Milberg. Thirteen members enjoyed a luncheon consisting of a variety of salads prepared by Mrs. Garrett Kimball and Mrs. Donald Reid. After lunch Mrs. Rudy Jaskela gave a Safety Talk and the club voted to give \$5 to the Band-aid Uniform Fund. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Frank Marin with Mrs. Glendon Swanson as hostess. Each member is to bring some articles to be auctioned and Roll Call will be answered with a safety rule.

Senator Francis Case reports that the much-discussed farm bill is out of committee as of February 10. Now following the job of examining the bill and checking on how it will fit the needs and desires of farmers and ranchers in South Dakota. The final form of this bill depends on Senate consideration and then reconciliation with the House of Representatives. Some points to consider; support prices on the basic commodities, whole milk and butter-fat products supported, Soil Bank, acreage reserve, Conservation Reserve to limit tillage, vegetation commodity

set-aside, reforested of forests and share cropping to protect present acreage allotments.

February 24, 1966

Word has been received here for the promotion of Lt. M. James Breckus to First Lieutenant in Viet Nam. Currently Lt. Breckus is stationed near Bien Hoa and is serving in the Medical Service. His wife, Cherrill, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. F. Lyn Gladstone of Newell, lives in Sturgis where she is teaching music in the Sturgis School System.

An important special election is set for next Monday called to decide not only the future fate of Vale High School at the time but the educational future of the children of that community. This election is a vital one and every voter is urged to study the facts and exercise your duty as a citizen to vote.

Who is to blame when it comes to the problem of juvenile delinquency? These and many other questions will be answered at the panel discussion to be held February 28 at 7:30 PM at the Congregations Church in Newell. Serving on the panel, moderator will be Fr. Lawrence Welsh; panel members are Bill Anderson States Attorney; Verlin Cavier welfare; Bill Hannah Probation Officer; Walter Johnson and Clarence McGuir School Principals. This program being sponsored by the Butte County Extension Homemakers. The Belle Fourche panel will be on March 1 at 7:30 PM at the First National Bank Corral Room. The public is cordially invited to this meeting.



2. Is the interior of Walt's Place that was robbed in 1946.



Sam Bober attended the 1956 Farm Bill observed the signing by President Eisenhower. He was probably the main promoter of it.

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

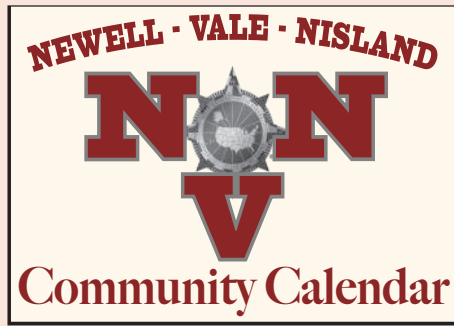
Feeding South Dakota
Second Thursday every month,
1:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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



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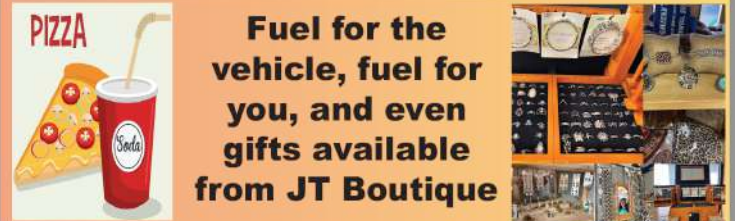


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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2) Tornadoes, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Shredded Turkey & Gravy on Flatbread, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk	3) Egg Omelet, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Pizza Wraps with fresh veggies, Fruit, Milk	4) Pancake Turkey Wraps Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Meatball Subs, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	5) Biscuits & Gravy, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Grilled Cheese Sandwich or Tuna Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	6) NO SCHOOL
9) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Goulash, Peas & Carrots, Fruit, Milk	10) Long Johns, Fruit, Milk Chicken Nachos, Roasted Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	11) Pancakes, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Corn Dogs, Potatoes, Fruit, Milk	12) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Parmesan, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	13) NO SCHOOL
16) NO SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S DAY	17) Hashbrown Eggs Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Patties, Green Beans, Broccoli Salad, Fruit, Milk	18) Long Johns, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Sloppy Joes, Mixed Veggies, Fruit, Milk	19) Breakfast Quiche, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Nuggets, Spicy Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	20) NO SCHOOL



Celebrate Recovery Support Group is now meeting at **Emmanuel Baptist Church**

Every Friday at 6:30 pm.
10913 Sourdough Rd.
Come for potluck on the last Friday of each month.



Nels Morell freighting supplies from Newell to Fairpoint 1914 (pictures omitted from earlier edition)



Penny Post Card Valentine sent 1912. St. Valentine's Day was celebrated in schools, homes and churches

Valentine's Day Choir & Pancake Feed



Top left: A Newell Choir Member speaks to the audience, letting them know what is coming up next in the program. **Top right:** Rhonda Waterland, Vale Community Club member, serves up pancakes at the annual Pancake Feed. **Bottom left:** After the music ended, the students spent time visiting with the NVN Senior Center members and other attendees. **Bottom right:** There was so much delicious food to choose from. In addition to pancakes and sausage, biscuits and gravy were on the menu. *Longbrake photos*



Newell FFA Club members present at the FFA Petting Zoo on February 21. **(R)** Newell FFA Chapter President, **Rowdy Wetz** and his pet turkey. *Longbrake photos*

FFA Members Share Ranch Life at Community Petting Zoo

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—What better way to teach about animals than to offer a bunch of sweet, loving animals for the public to pet and feed? That is exactly what the Newell FFA did on Saturday, Feb. 21, at its petting zoo.

As a kickoff event for National FFA Week, the club set up the event for the public to attend.

“So it’s National FFA Week starting Sunday, and we didn’t feel like doing anything Sunday, so we wanted to do it today. We normally do the petting zoo at the school, but we wanted more community involvement, so we took it down here to the rodeo grounds,” explained Newell FFA President Rowdy Wetz.

The event hoped to use the animals to attract kids and introduce them to the FFA. They hauled in a lot of animals for the event but primarily focused on animals that one would find on a ranch. “We have donkeys, we have a pretty big mule, American Quarter Horses — two of them! And then some turkeys, a sheep, a goat and a cow,” said Wetz.

The activity is meant to be a learning experience for all of those involved. “I think it introduces them to what livestock is about, bringing in the culture of what ranchers do by showing

them what we raise and what our production produces in the end and what the beginning might be,” explained Rachel Stranberg, Newell FFA reporter. “We’ve got a little lamb, a little goat, and they show from the beginning to the end. We’ve got a nice set of lambs, from the ewe to the lamb, and it kind of just presents what beginning start is, and then we get to the end result of a mom being able to reproduce and being able to show those kids what the rancher life is like.”

Many of the animals at the FFA petting zoo were animals that belonged to Newell FFA members. “A lot of the animals are from our FFA members, but we do have one who we called out to ask to bring the miniature donkey—that’s John, so he brought out the miniature donkeys for us,” shared Stranberg.

In past years, the petting zoo was held at Newell School. Moving locations gave the FFA members practice in how to find and arrange a new location and set up a community activity. “So it also helps us to use our words to speak up and ask—hey, can we use this spot? We’ve had to ask the community to use this place instead of the school and then being able to accept the fact that we had to do it on a different day,” said Stranberg.

Newell FFA Chapter has

a whole host of fun activities planned to celebrate National FFA Week.

Wetz explained, “Monday, it is red versus green and also drive your tractor to school day.”

“Tuesday, the 24th, is red, white and blue day—and that’s going to be a trivia hunt as well,” added Stranberg.

The fun continues all week. “Wednesday, we have what we call Ag Olympics for high school, middle school and elementary—get those kids and have some fun! As well as teachers—can’t forget about them,” said Wetz. “And that dress-up day is Western.”

“And then you get into Thursday, Feb. 26, with blue and gold day, and then coloring contest, which is involving the middle school and high school—and we kind of round it out there,” said Stranberg. “We do get into Friday, where we do a teacher breakfast—our officers will come in and make breakfast for them as they do have a teacher in service. We round out the week for the teachers as a thank you to them.”

The petting zoo and all of the activities planned to highlight National FFA Week are all aimed at one basic purpose: “get kids excited for FFA as well as agriculture,” explained Wetz.



Above: One of the animals at the petting zoo was an extra large **Mule-Percheron cross**. Below: A very curious turkey. *Longbrake photos*

