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Postal Customer

VOL. 9 ISSUE 5

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • February 4, 2026

\$1.25

Celebrating One Year of Morning Favorites at the Breakfast Club

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—After a year of serving pancakes, eggs, sausage, omelets, bacon, toast and a variety of other breakfast favorites, the Breakfast Club celebrated its first year in business on February 1.

Just one year ago, Rhonda and Marty Schild took a chance on a new type of business and opened a cafe that specializes solely in breakfast food and is only open during breakfast hours. A year later, patrons are still showing up for early morning eats.

The day was marked by a robust turnout with a rush to get the daily special, a 6 oz sirloin, eggs and hash browns or home fries for \$17.50. The special was sold out within just a few hours of opening.

The first year of a business can be hard. “It’s a learning curve, but the community has been great,” said Rhonda. “Our big thing is having a welcoming place and having quality food.”

The Schilds did have to make changes as the year rolled along. “We made quite a bit of changes, we changed up the menu. We remodeled and redecorated and different things like that,” explained Rhonda.

A small business is often as good as its staff and in the case of the Breakfast Club, Rhonda thinks she has found some keepers! “We’ve got a good, solid staff. They’re great. They work well together,” she said. “Both of my cooks are excellent cooks.”

My entire staff is awesome! My husband and I—he’s, in fact, in the back doing dishes as we speak! He and I come in and try to help out as much as possible.”

The biggest struggle for the first year of business has been finding and keeping quality staff. “Oh my goodness, we went through more staff in the year of this place than I’ve gone through in more than 12 years of owning the Outlaw,” said Rhonda.

But a quality staff is in place now. “The crew I have now, they are solid. They’ve actually—most of them have been here for six months,” said Rhonda.

The Breakfast Club currently employs five people with plans to hire more in the summer.

The restaurant seats about 55 customers, and the goal is for everyone to feel like they’re eating with friends and family. “We pride ourselves on excellent food in a home-



Employees of the **Breakfast Club** welcome patrons to the first year celebration. Back: **Cory Craig**, Kitchen Manager; **Shawn Kaiser**, Cook; Front: **Jamie Marshall**, Front end Manager; **Jennifer Sanchez**, Server; **Rhonda Schild**, Owner; **Marty Schild**, Owner; not pictured, **Kianna Frasier**. Longbrake photo

like atmosphere, you will feel like home when you come in—we’ll razz you, we’ll tease you! We want you to feel welcome—that’s the big point,” said Rhonda.

You can find daily specials at the Breakfast Club and their hours are currently 5 a.m. to noon, seven days a week. Look

for expanded hours in the summer.

The owners believe in supporting other small businesses in Belle Fourche and purchased much of the steak for the daily special from Lueders and much of their produce and dairy from Lynn’s. Rhonda shared, “We, as much as possi-

ble, we buy locally, of course!”

The Schilds are looking to expand their business during their off hours. They are moving into the private event space.

Currently, they are putting together menu options for private events and have booked a graduation to cater in May.



Kayla Jones, owner **Leaf It To Me** among her many house plants. Courtesy photo

A Growing Business Rooted in a Love for Plants

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—Spider plants, cactus, ferns, maranta, rubber plants and peace lilies are all living things that make those without a green thumb very uneasy, but they make Kayla Jones very happy! She has turned her passion for house plants into a business here in Belle Fourche. “I really love plants. My daughter loves counting how many plants I have in my house, and we were up to 220,” she explained.

Leaf It To Me opened for business in August of 2025 and has been slowly building up over the past few months. “So initially I started my business to take care of plants at business offices so that they could have the beauty of plants, but not have to worry about taking care of them,” explained Jones. “I quickly decided that I also want to help residential people, because sometimes people love plants, but they just don’t know how to properly care for them.”

Jones really wants to help everyone and anyone, businesses or individuals, that may need guidance with house plants. She will come to your home and help you with your

plants.

She works with local businesses and takes care of their plants on site. She will also give lessons on how to repot and care for plants, or take plants in and rehab them at her home and then give them back. “Ultimately, I want people to know that I have a genuine desire to help both them and their plants,” she said.

Doing a home-based business gives the wife and mother plenty of time to devote attention to her family. Kayla and her husband, Jucole, have two children, Jay, 15, and Kae, 11. She said her kids “have been our greatest blessings. My friends have also become like family to me; I wouldn’t be where I am today without this community.”

This is the perfect business for an active mom. “I also needed a job to be flexible around their schedules. We are a very active soccer family, so I needed to be able to go everywhere,” said Jones.

For the upcoming year, Jones has one simple goal. “It’s probably a silly goal, but my main goal is just to provide as much help as I can and still be active in my family,” she explained. With that goal in mind, the

plant entrepreneur explained, “The main thing I want to focus on is helping people enjoy plants, no matter how I can help. If they just need me to come into their home and water every so often. Or do checkups, I would really be open to anything with indoor plants.”

Jones has contracts with some local businesses where she does tasks such as ordering plants for them. In one case, she spent three weeks treating plants that had mealy bugs. At another business in town, she does everything—they don’t do anything with them—she goes in and takes care of their plants once a week.

If you have any plants under stress, need help or guidance, are not sure what to do with your plant, need a plant sitter or caretaker, or have any other problem that may come up, don’t hesitate to reach out to Jones.

It is her business and her passion. “I want to be someone that they can call and be like, can you help me with my plants this week? I don’t ever want anyone to give up their love for plants,” said Jones.

You can reach out to Kayla through her business page on Facebook, Leaf It To Me.

Birthday Celebration Sweetens Sunday at Crossroads

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—Birthdays are always a reason to celebrate and this week at Crossroads Diner, two of their own had birthdays and so of course, they invited the public to share in the special occasion on Sunday, February 1.

General Manager Ember Kleinhans turned 28 and the omelet guy, Clint Millage, turned 50 and together they celebrated the momentous occasions at the cafe. “We are at work anyway and we are already here and seeing everybody, so we might as well share it with them and share cake and ice cream with everybody,” explained Kleinhans.

The Crossroads, located in the Mid-America Travel Plaza, offers a breakfast/lunch style buffet, drink included, every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. On this special day, they added a few extra treats to the buffet. Kleinhans said, “So today we just put some extra stuff out, like the cake and ice cream is included and we put out fried chicken and some lunch stuff—we just kind of amped it up a little bit!”

One of the unique items offered on this weekly buffet includes made to order omelets. You can order an omelet any way you want it and Millage will cook it up for

you right on the spot, hot and fresh—even on his birthday! “So we just wanted to celebrate with everybody—we made cake and we bought ice cream to share with everybody,” said Kleinhans. Cake and ice cream was free and offered to everyone throughout the day.

Beginning in the new year, the diner has started offering the option of ordering off the menu during the buffet so everyone gets the opportunity to order and enjoy whatever they want!

With Valentine’s Day right around the corner, Crossroads staff is busy planning for the special occasion. The diner is already decorated with red and pink hearts, streamers and balloons for the holiday.

Adding to the Valentine’s Day mood, they are offering lovely specials. “We have a Sweetheart Special coming up for Valentine’s Day!”

We’re doing prime rib, ribeye steaks and sirloin steaks—and it’s all inclusive,” explained Kleinhans. This will be all inclusive dinners for two!

So if you want to bring your love, date or even a friend to celebrate the day, it is recommended you call ahead and reserve your spot to make sure you get a table.



Crossroads, birthday guy, **Clint Millage**, serving up fresh omelets he makes to order. Longbrake photo (Additional Photos A7)

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Brian Kline Owner

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

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Mary Lou Larive 98

Mary Lou Larive, age 98 of Belle Fourche, went home to heaven on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Rolling Hills Healthcare Center in Belle Fourche, with her loving family by her side.



A Celebration of Life Service will be held in the spring. Arrangements are pending with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Friends may leave written condolences and view a video tribute online at: www.LeveringtonFH.com

Mary Lou Solaas was born October 14, 1927 to Martin and Anna (Maher) Solaas at their home in Colome SD. She was the fourth and the only girl of five children, and she grew up in various areas of the Black Hills. Mary Lou greatly loved her four brothers, her brothers-in-law, her sisters-in-law, and her many nieces and nephews that she counted as her own.

While living in Spearfish she met Robert Larive. They were united in marriage on January 19, 1946. She made her own wedding dress and reported it was warm enough for shirt sleeves that day in January. Robert and Mary Lou lived and worked on various dairies in the northern hills area, as well as were employed at trucking jobs, all the while raising their growing family. Seven children were born: James, Connie, Gary, Paulette, Carolyn, Larry, and Mary Beth

In 1968 Mary Lou and Robert moved their family to the Kankakee, IL area to pursue better employment opportunities. Robert worked as a welder, while Mary Lou enjoyed being a maternity and surgical aid at a local hospital. She made dear life-long friends while working at the hospital. In 1975, Mary Lou and Robert moved back to the Black Hills where Robert again worked for dairies and ranches until his retire-

ment, while Mary Lou and her good friend Alice owned and operated an upholstery business, as well as her other adventures during those years caring for the elderly and babysitting precious little people.

Some of her other joys were sewing, crocheting, and teaching others to sew or crochet. Using those gifts, Mary Lou was always making gifts or completing alterations for her kids, grandkids, great grandkids, and her dear friends. Many keepsakes of her artistry will always be held dear.

Mary Lou loved sharing her love for the Lord. She rarely missed an opportunity to pray with and to love on folks who needed it. She loved blessing others and was eager to give her time and resources to help others. She greatly loved her family and always said that her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were her greatest joys in life. Mary Lou lived very independently in her own apartment, even at the age of 98. Just this past month, due to an illness, she moved into the Rolling Hills Healthcare Center. The family is extremely grateful to the wonderful staff for the tender care Mary Lou received during her short stay.

Mary Lou is survived by her children: Gary (Kelly Brimhall) of Rapid City, Larry (Debbie) of Bradley, IL, Carolyn (Daryl) Grusing of Belle Fourche, and Mary Beth (Alan) Kindsfater of Belle Fourche; 17 grandchildren; and many great and great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robert, daughters Paulette and Connie; Son James; and her four brothers.



Rosemary Buck Geis

Rosemary Buck Geis passed away peacefully in Sparks, Nevada on January 26, 2026 surrounded by family. She was born on February 3, 1940, in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Dr. Robert and Lucille Buck, and spent much of her life devoted to faith, family, education, and service to others. Rosemary grew up in Belle Fourche, where she lived in the same home until she got married.



We learned to love education and music thanks to our mother's influence. In high school, she was an ambitious and successful student. She was a member of the Honor Society, a clarinet player in the school band, a soprano in the choir, and a talented pianist. Music remained an important part of her life, and she and her friends often performed together as a singing group at school functions and special events.

Our mother empowered us with the ability to recover from challenges and persist through obstacles. At 16, Rosemary survived a life-changing accident. A gunshot injury grazed her spinal cord, leaving her temporarily paralyzed. She spent months in hospitals in Colorado and South Dakota. Through determination and aqua therapy, she relearned how to walk. Being left-handed, she learned to do everything with her right hand. Her resilience then defined her strength and perseverance for life.

Despite missing months of school, Rosemary caught up and graduated with her class in 1958 from Belle Fourche High School. After graduation, she traveled with her Girl Scout troop to Cuernavaca and Mexico City, an experience that helped spark her lifelong love of travel.

Our mother laid a foundation for our lives, emphasizing the importances of family, community service, our Catholic faith, and education. Rosemary began her undergraduate studies at the University of Denver before transferring to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. She later married her high school sweetheart, Kenny Geis, and together they built a life rooted in education, family, and adventure. After living in several places across the country, they ultimately settled in Fallon, Nevada, where they raised their four children, Nancy, Deborah, David, and Douglas, who were the pride and joy of their lives.

In Fallon, Rosemary devoted two decades to teaching second grade, shaping the lives of countless young students with her patience, kindness, and love of learning. She was an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and participated in the Ladies Guild, Red Hat Society, AAUW, bridge clubs, and Girl Scouts. During her final year as Girl Scout Cookie Mom, her garage was filled with cookies until the family dog snuck in and ate most of them.

After retiring, Rosemary moved to Sparks, Nevada, to be closer to her children. She became a dedicated member of Holy Cross Catholic Community, participating

in the Joy Club and Holy Red Hats, serving as a Eucharistic Minister to nursing homes, and teaching catechism. She also cherished spending time with her grandchildren, attending school events, extracurricular activities, and volunteering as a guest reader in classrooms. Our mother taught us to embrace the joy of living. Rosemary had a passion for travel and visited many states, including Hawaii and Alaska, as well as destinations abroad such as the Caribbean, Canada, Italy, France, and Spain. She especially loved cruising and welcomed every opportunity to explore somewhere new.

If you knew Rosemary, you also knew she was a sports fanatic. She loved the San Francisco Giants. Her family knew not to visit during the Giants' baseball games unless you were there to watch, not visit. She enjoyed Fantasy Football and the NCAA basketball tournament bracket. She proudly displayed her trophies for Fantasy Football with her team's name as Sparky.

Rosemary is preceded in death by her husband of 31 years, Kenneth Geis; her parents, Dr. Robert and Lucille Buck; and her brother, Bob Buck.

She is survived by her four children: Nancy (Ray) Leisy, Deborah (Todd) Galati, David (Claudine) Geis, and Douglas Geis; eight grandchildren: Briana (Tyler) Trout, Nicole (Pierce) Wisnovsky, Anthony (Sidney) Galati, Gillian Geis, Brandon Leisy, Gelina Geis, Garrison Geis, and Ciara Geis; one great-granddaughter, Kennedy Trout; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Suzanne and Bill Howe and LeeAnne and Gene Schmidt; sisters-in-law Nancy Buck, Charlene Gatzje, and Judy Geis; brothers-in-law Tam Gatzje and Bob Geis; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has shared in our mother's wonderful life. She loved life, and life loved her.

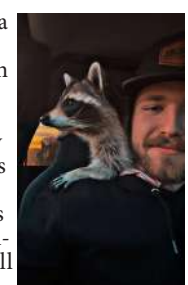
Our mother was a beautiful lady. She was very caring, loving, and had a wonderful sense of humor. Our hearts are broken, but the memories keep us smiling. We know how blessed we are to have had the best mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. We will miss her greatly.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 5650 Vista Blvd., Sparks, NV. A reception will follow at Red Hawk Golf Course Event Center at 6600 N. Wingfield Pkwy., Sparks, NV. She will be laid to rest next to her husband in Fallon, NV, at the Churchill County Cemetery, 500 Rio Vista, Fallon, NV, on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 2:30 pm with a reception to follow at St. Patrick's Parish Hall at 850 W. 4th St., Fallon, NV.



Dagan 'Dags' Jerik Burns 21

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of a wonderful man, Dagan 'Dags' Jerik Burns, who left this world far too soon at the age of 21. Dagan was born with his twin brother Devin on February 12, 2004, in Spearfish, South Dakota to Donovan and Jonette (Finley) Burns. He passed away on January 31, 2026, near Platte, South Dakota as the result of a tragic vehicle accident.



Despite being born premature and spending his first eight days in the NICU, Dagan was eventually blessed with good health. While Devin was still ailing, a nurse suggested that Dagan be placed next to his twin to speed up the healing process. Dagan was able to go home and thankfully his brother followed two days after.

Dagan lived in the same house almost his entire life. During high school, he was involved in wrestling, shooting sports, and especially football as an integral part of the Belle Fourche Broncos varsity team. Dagan graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 2022. Afterwards, he went to work for his brother Jeff Burns' company, B&B Recycling in Winner, South Dakota. He was very excited to work side by side with Jeff. In the fall of 2024, he moved back to Belle Fourche and worked for JGrub, excavating power lines in North Dakota. However, Dagan missed working with family in the recycling business. In early January 2026, Dagan returned to Winner and B&B Recycling, where he was working around the time of his passing. He was set to work at B&B's new upcoming recycling yard in Webster, South Dakota.

Dagan loved his family and he loved animals. He was known for his kindness, incredible work ethic, and his love of hunting. He had an incredible wealth of practical knowledge and was a valued hand at brandings. He

would lend anyone a helping hand at the drop of a dime. Dagan was loved by many and will be greatly missed. Forever 21

Dagan is survived by his loving parents Donovan and Jonette Burns of Belle Fourche; twin brother, Devin Burns of Belle Fourche; brother, Dylan Burns of Brooklyn, NY; brother, Jeff (Mercedes) Burns of Platte; sister, Ashley (Brandon) Weber of Watertown; brother, Nathan Gollnick of Arlington; brother, Josh (Emily) Bloom of Stickney; maternal grandfather, George Mohler of Crawford, NE; maternal grandfather, Dean Finley of Crawford, NE; paternal grandmother, Susie Burns of Ortle; aunts Amy (Chris) Rudloff of Douglas, WY; Donita Burns of Ortle; uncles Doug Burns of Sioux Falls; Darin (Rachel) Burns of Sanford, NC; eight nieces, five nephews, numerous cousins, and his beloved pet raccoon, Scrapy whom he adored. He is welcomed into Heaven with open arms by his Grandma Marlene Mohler, his Grandpa Stub Burns, and his cat Diego.

The funeral service will be held at 10:30 am Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Belle Fourche Community Center. Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 pm Friday at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Interment will take place in Pine Slope Cemetery. Fellowship will follow at the Branding Iron. Friends may leave written condolences, view a video tribute, and view the funeral service as well, on Dagan's obituary page located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com



Danielle Craig, age 41

Danielle Craig, age 41 of Belle Fourche, died Friday, January 30, 2026 at her home.



A private family service will take place at Grace Fellowship Church in Spearfish. Arrangements with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. Friends may leave written condolences online at www.LeveringtonFH.com

Danielle Eve Cahalane was born July 29, 1984 in Ogden, Utah. She was the daughter of Timothy and Kay (Sutherland) Cahalane. Her father served in the military for several years and as a result, Danielle grew up in many areas of the world. One of them was Aviano, Italy. Danielle graduated from high school in Lincoln Nebraska. She lived in Utah for a time, as well as Indiana, Ohio, and in 2013 she moved to Spearfish. Since 2019 she has lived in Belle Fourche. Danielle worked at several different places during her life. They include

being the Shop Supervisor in the Auto Care Center of Walmart, in Columbus Ohio; a plumber apprentice for Wells Plumbing in Belle Fourche; and Maintenance Supervisor in Spearfish and Belle Fourche.

Danielle enjoyed the outdoors and she loved animals. Her favorite holiday was Halloween. She was kind and loving, and enjoyed photography. Recently she took a trip to Alaska and she treasured those memories made there.

Danielle is survived by her children: Liam of Belle Fourche, Naomi of North Carolina, Zephina and Levi of Spearfish; parents, Tim and Kay Cahalane of Spearfish; and sisters, Audrey Hobbs of Kansas City MO, and Mandy Hazelton of Elizabethton TN.



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Chamber Hosts Legislative Cracker

BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce hosted a Legislative Cracker Barrel on Saturday, January 31 at Venue 519. Representatives Travis Ismay (District 28B), Jana Hunt (District 28A) and Sam Marty (District 28) spent the afternoon discussing bills and answering questions from an audience of locals.

Tom Brunner acted as the event's discussion monitor. The W.I.T. Coalition (Newell) also sponsored the event, along with a Cracker Barrel in Newell that same morning.

One topic of discussion was the proposed brand inspection bill that would make private inspections statewide.

Jana Hunt, a proponent for the bill, explained that as inspections currently work

in the state, only half of the state's cattle get inspected, leaving the entire East River portion of the state without inspections.

Cattle theft has been a prevalent issue around the state; Hunt said that the SD Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (Hunter Roberts) stated that cattle theft is only an issue on Indian reservations.

Brushing off the issue as a "reservation problem" is concerning to Hunt; and "should be concerning to anybody that supports ag in our state," she said.

Travis Ismay encouraged the crowd to participate in local politics. "If you guys have an idea for a bill, please tell me before session starts," he said.

Property taxes were another hot topic of discussion. Currently, there are over 30 bills trying to address property taxes. "One of my biggest concerns when we're dealing with it is, what are the unintended consequences?"

We spend so much time arguing our different ideas," said Hunt. "I hate to say this, but I don't know if we're going to have a satisfactory solution this session."

Legislative Cracker Barrels are held every year during the annual South Dakota legislative sessions and are an opportunity for community members to hear from their legislators.

The Chamber of Commerce noted that it would keep the public updated as to whether there will be another Cracker Barrel this year.



At the Belle Chamber sponsored Cracker Barrel at Venue 519, District 28A State Representative **Jana Hunt** explains the need for expanding Brand inspection to East River. *Beacon Photo*

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

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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**

Bronc Wrestling Hosts Home Tournament

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Bronc wrestling teams competed in a duel in Sturgis on Thursday January 29th followed by hosting their home two-day tournament on Friday January 30th and Saturday January 31st.

They then helped host the Belle Fourche AAU Club's home Bronc Dailey Invite on Sunday, February 1st by running tables, refereeing and towel tapping.

The Broncos had 5 placers go 5-5 in the placing rounds in the home tournament with many great matches. At 106lbs, Jaxson Linch went 4-2 and placed 5th, at 126lbs Cooper Conry went 3-2 and finished 5th, at 156lbs Koby Bowden went 4-2

for a 5th place finish and your two champions were Luke Tonsager with a 4-0 finish at Heavyweight and Riley Dighton with a 4-0 finish at 157lbs, also earning Outstanding Male Wrestler for the tournament.

Additional Bronc wrestlers on the roster for the home invite were, Jace Olson at 113lbs, Teedin Humble at 120lbs, Dylan Park at 126lbs, Preston Lake at 132lbs, Jace Hiles at 132lbs, Kolby Tibbs at 150lbs, and Dillon Streeter at 215lbs.

The team finished 6th out of 19 teams.

The Lady Broncs wrestled in the Belle Fourche Area Community Center this year to provide additional space and timeliness to the tournament, which was a success.

The ladies had 2 placers for the Broncos at their home invite, AnnaBelle Dighton went 3-1 for a 3rd place finish and Kyra Vandenberg went 4-0 for champion at 100lbs as well as earning Outstanding Female Wrestler for the tournament.

A first for the Bronc wrestlers to earn both male and female outstanding wrestlers! Additional wrestlers on the roster for the Lady Broncs were Lia Mundt at 115lbs and Jasmine Reason at 120lbs.

The Lady Broncs placed 10th out of 21 teams for their 4-wrestler crew.

The Broncs teams compete next in Hill City on Saturday, November 7th, followed by a duel in Morecroft before the Regionals meet in Rapid City on Saturday, February 21st.



Volunteer Coach -and former Bronc heavyweight wrestler- Michael Streeter with brother Dillon Streeter current Bronc 215lb wrestler before a match



(L) Heavyweight bracket hanging out together watching matches at Belle Invite 1-30-26; (R) Porter Manke & Grace Long sell *Dirty Sodas* to raise money for the *Bronc Grapplers Wrestling Club* at the Bronc Dailey Invite 2-1-26. Tonsager Photos



(L) Riley Dighton Outstanding Boys Wrestler; (C) Kyra Vandenberg Outstanding Girls Wrestler; (R) Finals Round Face Offs at the Bronc Invite 1-31-26



(L) AnnaBelle Dighton 110lb;

(R) Teedin Humble 120lb



(L) Coach Tevin Gomez with former Bronc Wrestler Thomas McCoy discussing matches at the Belle Invite; (C) Towel Tappers ready for a match at the Belle Invite 1-31-26 Lizzy Tonsager, Easton Swaney & Bryn LaFayette; (R) Koby Bowden 165lb; (Additional wrestling Photos in C)

Bronc Basketball

Kandi Tonsager

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Broncs took on the Hot Springs Bison over the weekend and pulled off a win with a score of 49-43. This was the second win of the season for the Broncs after a 10 game losing streak which takes their season record to 2-11.

The win came under Coach John Shanklin's first game as head coach after Coach Jimmy Martin retired. Coach Martin had been with the Broncs the past 2 seasons as head coach and after an impressive 53 year career in coaching in South Dakota, 32 of those spent in Belle

Fourche.

Coach Martin expressed it was never about the win record, rather helping to develop young men. Many Bronc players gave credit to Coach Martin when asked about their basketball career influences.

The Broncs look to take on Mobridge-Pollock this week on Thursday, February 5th on the road and Custer at home on Saturday February 7th with a 5:30pm tipoff in the Belle Fourche High School gym. JV will play at the Belle Fourche Middle School at 2:30pm.

The Lady Broncs boasted a victory over the Bison with

a score of 57-25. This after a 4 game losing streak took the Broncs to 4-10 record. Reagan Hatling was lead scorer with 19 points and 11 rebounds in a very good showing, followed by Emma Nehl with 11 points on the board.

This was the highest scoring game for the Lady Broncs on the season. The Lady Broncs took on Sturgis Brown Scoopers on Tuesday, February 3rd, to be followed by Mobridge Pollock on Thursday, February 5th, both on the road.

On Saturday, February 7th they host Custer at home with a 4pm Varsity tipoff at the Belle Fourche High School gym. JV plays at 2:30 in the High School gym.



Center of the Nation Implant Clinic
 19026 US Hwy 85
 Belle Fourche, SD 57717
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 NehlDental.com

Lady Bronc Basketball Action



Denali Larson was leading scorer for the lady broncs; (Below) Coach Martin



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Belle Fourche Beacon 'Happenings' and News Bytes Calendar

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

Belle Fourche Writers

Belle Fourche Writers February meeting schedule: Monday February from 2-4 PM. 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

Swimming Lessons Winter Session

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

Below are the dates and times for the lessons:

Every Tuesday and Thursday February 5th

Levels Q, 1, and 2 will be held from 5:00 - 5:45 PM

Levels 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be held from 6:00 - 6:45 PM

The price is \$60 and Members get a discount!

Other Pool Winter Activities

Our pool will be closed to the public every Tuesday and Thursday from 5 PM - 6:45 PM for swimming lessons. This will be from January 13th to February 5th. The following week we will be back to normal business hours. We will be open after for lap swim until 7:30 PM afterwards. Thank you to everyone who signed up for lessons! We are excited to offer them again.

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

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

Hello Everyone!

I hope you are all having a fantastic year so far. Attached you will find the February Pool Calendar and the Group Fitness Class schedule for this month. Please let me know if you have any questions!

February 10th is now a make up day for our swim lessons due to the weather being bad for a couple of our sessions. Our pool will be closed from 4:45 PM - 6:45 PM for the make up day.

Thank you for all of your continued support! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

-Collin Cramer Aquatics Manager collin@bellefourche.org

Tri-State Museum

Auditions set for next 1903 Reader's Theatre production

Auditions for the next 1903 Reader's Theatre production will take place on Monday, February 9 and Tuesday, February 10 from 6-8 p.m. The play is a comedy entitled "Sly's Grocery . . . and the Silver-Plated Cake Server" and performances will take place on Friday, February 20 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 21 at 2 p.m.

There are roles for 3-4 men and 5-6 women. Rehearsals will run from Sunday, February 15 through Thursday, February 19, all from 6 to 8 p.m.

The 1903 Reader's Theatre Company is named for the year that Belle Fourche was founded. It is ideal for those who like to do theatre, but do not want to memorize lines or have long rehearsal periods.

The play "Sly's Grocery . . . and the Silver-Plated Cake Server," relates the comedy that ensues when an ad in the local paper gives misinformation about a giveaway that accompanies a purchase of Silver Flour. Sly's Grocery was a Belle Fourche grocery store of decades ago and there was an actual 1929 giveaway that accompanied a flour purchase. This real event inspired the play, but its content and its characters are all works of dramatic fiction.

For more information about the production or auditions, please call 605-723-1200. The auditions and performances will take place at the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

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

Tri-State Museums holds "Groundhogs!" class on February 21, 2026

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a class on groundhogs on Saturday, February 21 from 10 to noon for third-fifth graders.

This class will be taught by Programs and Events Assistant Sam Comes. Students will learn about groundhogs, their habitat and cultural significance. The class will include a PowerPoint, a video, paper activities and a craft to make a groundhog. There will also be a drawing for the book, "Groundhog," by Samme Jacknell.

Admission to the class costs \$2 or is free with museum membership. All students must pre-register by calling 605-723-1200.

This is the second of monthly classes that will be held in 2026. To obtain a rack card listing all the classes, stop in at the museum or call and one will be mailed to you.

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

Tri-State's February 15 Family Fun Day is "Origami Art"

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center will hold a Family Fun Day on Sunday, February 15 from 2-4 p.m. entitled "Origami Art."

Families will see a short film detailing an origami project, then make some origami art of their own. There will be a drawing for the book, "The Origami Book for Kids," and there will be take-home workbooks for all. Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$2 per person or free with museum membership. Reservations are helpful; call 605-723-1200.

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

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 from February 2 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, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. If sent via mail, the postmark date must be no later than February 20, 2024. For additional information, please call 605-723-1200.

City Council Opportunity!

Ward 1, 2 & 3 opening

Have you ever thought about serving your community?

Now's your chance!

There are currently open seats on City Council, and petitions will be available starting February 6th for those interested in running. If you're passionate about making a difference and shaping the future of our city, we encourage you to consider this opportunity.

Petitions available: February 6th

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



WINTER BALL

DENIM AND DIAMONDS

Belle Fourche Community Hall

Tickets

Single - \$20

Couple - \$35

Table - \$150 (8 per table)

Day of price goes up \$10

Dinner provided, Alcohol for purchase

JANUARY 31

AT 6PM

Tickets can be picked up at Belle Fourche Chamber



Chamber Banquet - Friday February 13th

Reserve your table today!

\$300 - table for 8

BELLE

BELLE FOURCHE

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT

The 2026 Lawrence County District 31 Legislative Cracker-Barrels:

Will be held Saturday, February 7th at the Joy Center (1351 St Joe St. Spearfish, SD) and Saturday, February 28th at the Deadwood Gulch (304 Cliff St. Deadwood).

Both events 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.

Show Up

by Belle LaVene



FINAL NIGHT for BFACT AUDITIONS: Thursday, 2/5: Auditions are coming up for the first show of the BFACT 2026 Season, "Curtain Call: A Night of One-Acts" on February 5 at 6:15pm at the BF Rec Center Auditorium. Come audition for a role (or roles) in four different one-acts that range from comedy to drama. You don't need anything prepared, just bring yourself. If you are unable to make auditions and need to schedule a different time, please email director@bellefourcheact.com. The show itself will be 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.

BFACT VOLUNTEERS are invited: The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater invites all volunteers, sponsors, and patrons to the 2026 Volunteer Gala on February 21 at 7pm at the Branding Iron Steakhouse Banquet Room. BFACT plans to "party the night away" as they celebrate all their volunteers for an amazing 2025 Season and for what will be an unforgettable 2026 Season. There will be music, games, karaoke, trivia, giveaways, and so much more! Branding Iron Steakhouse food, as well as their full menu and bar, will be available. The theme for the Gala will be Broadway, so come in your theater best, or come dressed as your favorite theater character. Whatever it is, just make sure you come in the spirit of celebration! Don't miss out on this night that will surely be a blast. Note: the Gala is open to all ages!

Getting ready to take over the theater this week, is the BFMS Theater cast and crew with practices for their show, VOLTAGE, an electric comedy about robots. Pay attention, Elon Musk - a future full of robots might not be the dream you imagine! Their show is also well into the future: We will see them onstage in mid-March.

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!

February 5, Thursday: AUDITIONS for BFACT A Night of One-Acts, 6:15 PM. BF Rec Center Theater.
March 13 & 14, Friday & Saturday: BFMS performances of Voltage, 7 PM @ the BF Rec Center Theater.
March 21, Saturday: BFACT Volunteer Gala, 7 PM @ the Branding Iron.
March 27-29, BFACT presents "Curtain Call: A Night of One-Acts"



Turn out was great at **Crossroads** for the first **Moose Lodge** steak tip night of the new year.

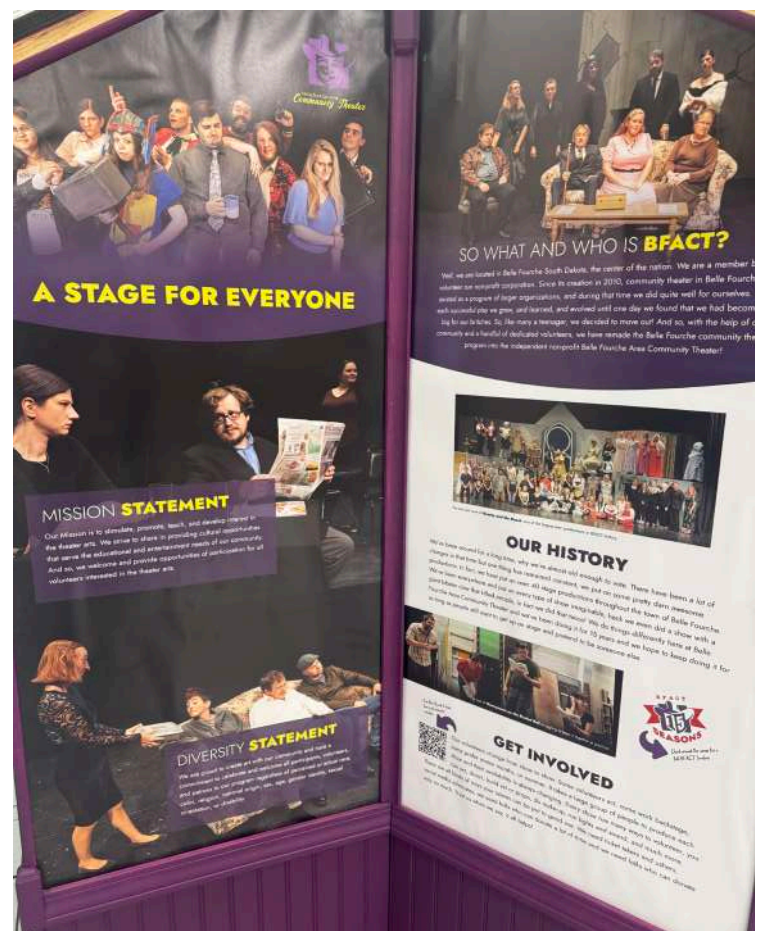
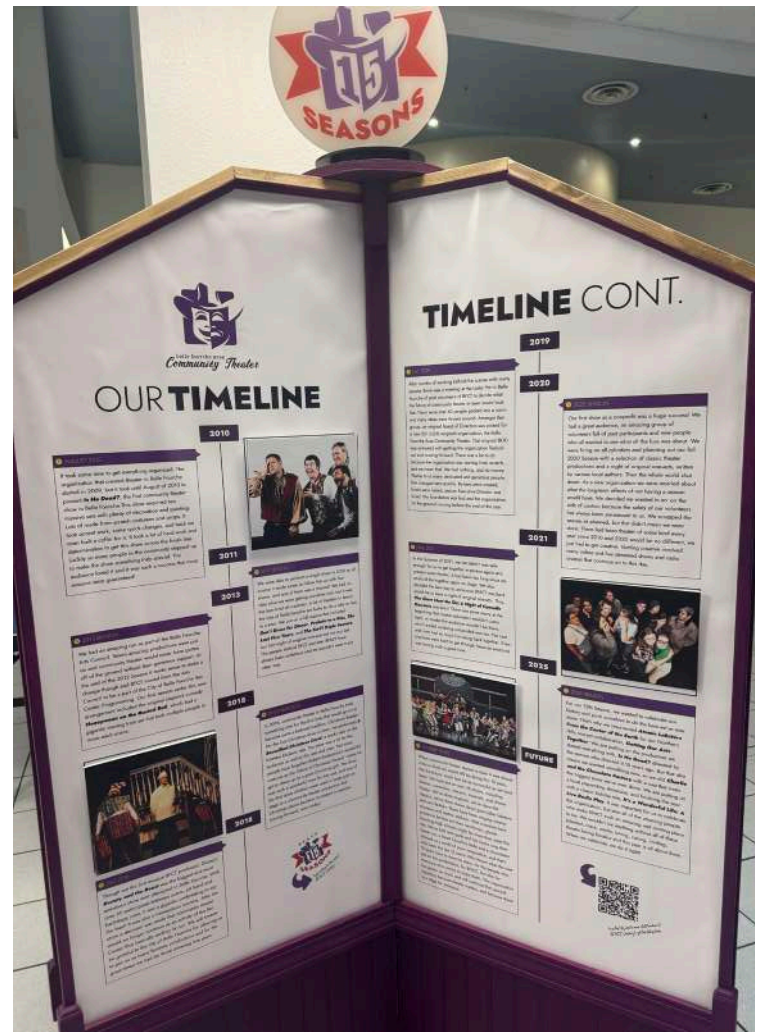


Customers enjoyed cake and ice cream and the **Crossroads Diner** is all decked out for **Valentines Day**. Longbrake photos



Crossroads birthday gal, **Ember Kleinhans**, General Manager, takes care of her customers.

Belle Community Theater Kiosk in Belle Rec Center



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Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The world needs more poetry. Robert Frost's short verse "Fire and Ice" is provocative and timely. The poem was first published in 1920, not long after World War I, the "the war to end all wars."

Some say the world will end in fire.
Some say in ice
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if I had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

The poem is not so much about fire and ice literally, but rather fire and ice are meta-

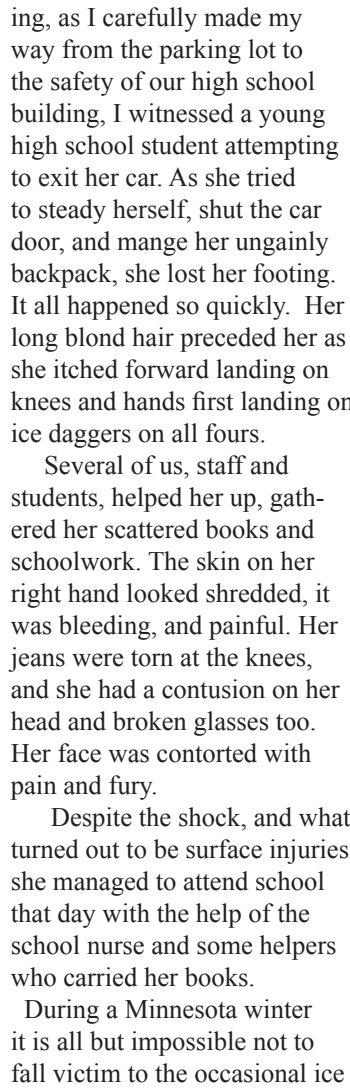
"Fire, Ice and Irony"

phors for two divergent human emotional responses and their destructive tendencies. Fire refers to hatred and the implication that hatred is a sort of 'fire.' Hatred is explosive, hard to contain and destructive. Ice represents indifference for the welfare of others. Ice is cold, solid, and inimical. Both 'Fire' and 'Ice' in Frost's poem are metaphors for ways individuals, families, societies, and countries have been known to interact with one another. The speaker in the poem sounds like a casual observer who has witnessed a lot of human history, most of which consists of a good share of human conflict. The speaker suggests that ice (cold indifference) and fire (hot raging hatred) are more similar than different. However, in the larger picture, the speaker believes that ice (cold indifference) will be the more likely cause of whatever significant catastrophe awaits the world.

While this message in Frost's poem may be sobering, it makes me think of ice. Just to be clear, I am referring to ice as frozen water, a brittle transparent crystalline solid. My husband and I lived in St. Paul, Minnesota for quite a few years early in our careers and we know a lot about winter. Living in Minnesota left us with some immutable memories of bitter cold, excessive snow, unpredictable ice, and a lexicon of essential survival tips. Ice is an indispensable component of winter in Minnesota. In Minnesota winter comes early and blankets the world as we knew it with layers of snow, often preceded by freezing rain. Roadways, sidewalks, outdoor decks, even handrails become slick and dangerous. From the first snowfall in October, November or December until sometime in mid-March (maybe) there is no way to distinguish where parking lines begin and end, so parking

lot became a jumbled mess and dangerous places to walk. Minnesota winters are not to be disdained. Throughout winter, Minnesota may experience an occasional unseasonal 'heatwave' or two when the temperature may rise above freezing for a few hours. This normal freeze-thaw cycle leaves slippery spots everywhere, and treacherous black ice on highways. In parking lots with a lot of slushy snow melt, the slush may refreeze quickly when the temperature drops suddenly leaving behind jagged, icicle daggers that are hard to see and easy to trip over. Slips and falls are one of the leading causes of serious injury in Minnesota. According to the State Health Department, falls led to 12,000 hospitalizations and 30,000 emergency room visits in 2024. Older adults are more susceptible to injury perhaps, but even the young and athletic succumb to dangerous ice. One dark January morning, as I carefully made my way from the parking lot to the safety of our high school building, I witnessed a young high school student attempting to exit her car. As she tried to steady herself, shut the car door, and mangle her ungainly backpack, she lost her footing. It all happened so quickly. Her long blond hair preceded her as she itched forward landing on knees and hands first landing on ice daggers on all fours. Several of us, staff and students, helped her up, gathered her scattered books and schoolwork. The skin on her right hand looked shredded, it was bleeding, and painful. Her jeans were torn at the knees, and she had a contusion on her head and broken glasses too. Her face was contorted with pain and fury. Despite the shock, and what turned out to be surface injuries, she managed to attend school that day with the help of the school nurse and some helpers who carried her books. During a Minnesota winter it is all but impossible not to fall victim to the occasional ice

Often ice appears invisible hiding on the dark surface of paved roadways as if preparing a trap for unsuspecting motorists. Perhaps Minnesotans should take the opportunity to stay indoors all winter. Although there is a certain temptation to be drawn to indoor activities, that is not what Minnesotans do. Ironically, winter in Minnesota is quite beautiful. When the weather is extremely cold, which is most days, snow makes a pleasing crunching squeaky sound underfoot. On sunny days, the twinkle of ice crystals glisten in the air. Minnesotans don't just huddle indoors all winter. Back in 1885, a group of newspaper correspondents from back east visited Minnesota. They wrote that the state was as "uninhabitable" as Siberia. Minnesota business leaders responded to this critique by organizing a winter festival to highlight the beauty and vibrancy of life in Minnesota during the winter. Thus, the first St. Paul Winter Carnival took place in 1886. An enormous ice palace was built to celebrate the glory of winter. <https://www.wintercarnival.com> They gear up for the weather. Minnesotans don't just survive during winters, they thrive. In the land of 10,000 plus lakes Minnesotans know how to skate. They know how to drill holes in ice that is several feet deep to catch fish and they enjoy it. People in Minnesota are innovative. Minnesotans also enjoy sailing iceboats built with racecar like fuselage, blades like the kind on ice skates, and sails. With reference to Frost's use of 'ice' as a metaphor for cold indifference. Today, ice might be Minnesota's metaphor for solidarity in the face of hatred. In Minnesota ice doesn't have a lot to do with cold indifference but it has everything to do with Minnesota character, tenacity and resolve. Ice may be a seasonable scourge. But at the same time, Minnesotans know how to skate.



(Top) Skating rink in Minneapolis. (Public Domain image); (2nd) **Winter Carnival Palace** 1997 (Public Domain image) (Middle) Ice skating in Minnesota has a history. (Public Domain image) (Bottom) **Winter Carnival Palace** 1887. The castle was constructed on February 1, 1886 at a cost of \$5,210 with a height of 106 feet. (Public Domain image; (Top R) Speed skater (Public Domain image); (BR) One of several ice sculptures prepared for the annual **St. Paul Winter Carnival**. (Public Domain image)

Shepherd of the Hills Church
825 W Main Street in Lead

Next Clinic: Lead - February
12 and 26
Registration: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Cattle Report - Friday, January 30, 2026

Light Test On Feeder Cattle Today - Lots Of Demand For Bred Hfrs & Cows!

No Sale February 6th - Visit The Black Hills Stock Show
Next Sale - February 13th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - 9 AM
Thank you for marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Bred Hfrs & Cows - Sold By The Head

21 Ranch Inc, Sundance WY.....	16	Herf.	Hfr	1062	\$3,985.00
21 Ranch Inc, Sundance WY.....	43	Red	Hfr	1037	\$4,375.00
21 Ranch Inc, Sundance WY.....	56	Rbld	Hfr	1032	\$4,375.00
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT.....	50	Bk	Hfr	1127	\$4,275.00
Hagedorn, Matt, Volborg MT.....	17	Bk	Hfr	1171	\$4,075.00
Hagedorn, Matt, Volborg MT.....	11	Bk	Hfr	1158	\$4,125.00
Kretschman, Kelby K Or Lacey D, Avada WY.....	14	Bk	S-Ss	1581	\$3,475.00
Kretschman, Kelby K Or Lacey D, Avada WY.....	11	Bk	Mix Aged	1495	\$4,025.00
Lambert, Bill & Or Marcia, Osage WY.....	40	Rbld	Hfr	1084	\$4,000.00
Ryan Xz Ranch Llc, Aladdin WY.....	20	Bld	Mix Aged	1425	\$3,225.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	32	Bk	Hfr	1446	\$3,450.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	11	Bk	Broken	1422	\$2,825.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	12	Bk	3 Years	1275	\$3,850.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	24	Bk	Hfr	1095	\$4,175.00
White Jr, George William, Devils Tower WY.....	10	Bk	Mix Aged	1426	\$2,975.00

Weigh Up Cows

Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	4	Bld	Hfr	1068	\$272.50
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Herf	Hfr	1025	\$262.50
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Bld	Owette	1250	\$182.50
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1470	\$175.00
Bauer, Bradley Or Rhonda, Union Center SD.....	2	Bld	Cow	1210	\$151.00
Bauer, Casey, Union Center SD.....	1	Bld	Owette	1220	\$182.50
Bauer, Casey, Union Center SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1595	\$176.00
Bauer, Casey, Union Center SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1250	\$152.00
Boomsma, Dirk, Box Elder SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1510	\$176.00
Boomsma, Dirk, Box Elder SD.....	2	Bk	Cow	1550	\$173.00
Boomsma, Dirk, Box Elder SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1635	\$161.00
Burghdoff, Lex, Ludlow SD.....	1	Bk	Hfr	885	\$300.00
Burghdoff, Lex, Ludlow SD.....	1	Bld	Hfr	1020	\$287.50
Burghdoff, Lex, Ludlow SD.....	2	Bld	Cow	1442	\$179.00
Burghdoff, Lex, Ludlow SD.....	6	Bld	Cow	1273	\$169.50
Burghdoff, Lex, Ludlow SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1085	\$162.00
Burghdoff, Lex, Ludlow SD.....	2	Bld	Cow	1327	\$147.50
Cahoon, Jeanette Or Dan, Sonnette MT.....	2	Bk	Hfr	1052	\$267.50
Davis A & B Family Trust, Alfreida S, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Bk	Hfr	945	\$301.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD.....	3	Bk	Hfr	948	\$316.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Bk	Owette	1060	\$180.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1455	\$178.00
Davis, Douglas Or Julia, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1450	\$150.00
Gantz, Jodi, Soenic SD.....	1	Bk	Hfr	985	\$272.50
Gilbert, Matt & Carmen, Camp Crook SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1905	\$156.50
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD.....	2	Bk	Hfr	1050	\$297.50
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD.....	2	Bk	Owette	1252	\$182.50
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD.....	9	Bk	Cow	1430	\$179.00
Hutchinson Trust, Drew & Judy, Aladdin WY.....	2	Red	Cow	1390	\$178.00
Hutchinson Trust, Drew & Judy, Aladdin WY.....	3	Red	Cow	1201	\$169.50
Hutchinson, Clay Or Jessica, Aladdin WY.....	1	Red	Cow	1510	\$174.00
Jewett, Tyler Or Sally, Belle Fourche SD.....	1	Herf	Cow	1260	\$160.00
Keegan, Kelly, Hermosa SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1270	\$178.00
Nixon, Reni, Alzada MT.....	1	Bk	Owette	1015	\$207.50
Nixon, Reni, Alzada MT.....	2	Bk	Cow	1645	\$162.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulet WY.....	2	Bk	Cow	1165	\$160.50
Red Water Ranch Llc, Sundance WY.....	1	Red	Hfr	950	\$300.00
Red Water Ranch Llc, Sundance WY.....	1	Bk	Owette	1065	\$182.50
Robertson, Craig, Capula SD.....	1	Bk	Hfr	900	\$240.00
Robertson, Craig, Capula SD.....	1	Bld	Cow	1515	\$179.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	1	Bk	Hfr	1100	\$252.50
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	12	Bk	Owette	1348	\$181.50
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	28	Bk	Cow	1494	\$179.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	1	Bk	Cow	1475	\$179.00
Smith Cattle Co, Olive MT.....	1	Bk	Cow	1640	\$161.00
Smith, Fred, Whitewood SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1655	\$166.00

Sleen, Dallas, Soenic SD.....	1	Bk	Owette	880	\$222.50
Tveidt, Bernard, Sturgis SD.....	1	Bk	Cow	1595	\$166.00

Weigh Up Bulls

Bull, Greg, Ashland MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	1890	\$174.50
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	2110	\$157.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	1975	\$170.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	2	Bk	Bull	1942	\$185.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	1840	\$175.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	1705	\$184.00
Fruit, Tracy, Broadus MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	1215	\$217.50
Kc Ranch Llc, Rozet WY.....	1	Red	Bull	2045	\$191.00
Kc Ranch Llc, Rozet WY.....	1	Red	Bull	1875	\$194.00
Masteiler, Terrance, Rozet WY.....	1	Bk	Bull	1820	\$182.50
Millers Crow Creek Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD.....	2	Bk	Bull	1320	\$197.50
Millers Crow Creek Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD.....	1	Bk	Bull	975	\$255.00
Nixon, Reni, Alzada MT.....	1	Bk	Bull	1740	\$165.00
Thompson, Ted, Whitewood SD.....	1	Bk	Bull	1630	\$174.50
Undeberg, Landon, Sundance WY.....	1	Herf	Bull	1170	\$222.50

Friday, February 6, 2026

NO SALE

VISIT THE BLACK HILLS STOCK SHOW!

2026 CATTLE SALES

- February 13th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- February 20th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- February 27th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 6th - Bred Hfr & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 13th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 20th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- March 27th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 3rd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 10th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- April 17th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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

2026 SHEEP SALES

- February 19th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- February 26th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goat

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

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Sheep Report - Thursday, January 29, 2026

Good Run Of Sheep For January
Lamb Market Sold Mostly Steady With The 90# Lambs Selling \$10 To \$15 Higher
Slaughter Ewes Sold Steady To \$5 Higher

No Sale February 5th Due To The Black Hills Stock Show
Next Sale - February 12th - Bred Ewe Special - 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

Bucklin, John, Scooby MT.....	15	Lamb	92	\$290.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT.....	46	Lamb	111	\$267.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT.....	29	Lamb	128	\$231.00
Carpenter, Kaela, Outlook MT.....	14	Lamb	112	\$267.00
Darling Creek Ranch Llc, Meadow SD.....	11	Lamb	56	\$400.00
Darling Creek Ranch Llc, Meadow SD.....	15	Lamb	77	\$350.00
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD.....	5	Lamb	97	\$292.50
Kronberg Land & Livestock, Bison SD.....	43	Lamb	71	\$350.00
Martin, Wendy, Box Elder SD.....	9	Lamb	138	\$225.00
Olson, Steve, Froid MT.....	42	Lamb	109	\$280.00

Slaughter Ewes

Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD.....	10	K Ewe	156	\$107.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT.....	17	K Ewe	191	\$116.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT.....	20	K Ewe	154	\$108.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT.....	12	K Ewe	205	\$118.00
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD.....	5	K Ewe	183	\$116.00
Martin, Wendy, Box Elder SD.....	6	K Ewe	236	\$118.00

Slaughter Bucks

Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT.....	5	Kbuck	201	\$114.00
Darling Creek Ranch Llc, Meadow SD.....	4	Kbuck	218	\$114.00
Hewson, Troy Or Elaine, Newell SD.....	5	Kbuck	221	\$120.00
WWF Livestock, Alzada MT.....	17	KBUCK	200	\$114.00

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, February 5, 2026
NO SALE
VISIT THE BLACK HILLS STOCK SHOW!

FEBRUARY 12, 2026
BRED EWE SPECIAL
1:00 PM

BRED EWES

CHUCK WATERLAND - 113 3 YR TO SOLID MOUTH EWES - WF & BF BUCKS - 4/1 - SHORN
SAGE ASKIN - 36 5 & 6 YR OLD EWES - WF BUCKS - MARCH
- 40 5 & 6 YR OLD EWES - BF BUCKS - 5/10
FISHHOOK RANCH - 80 6 YR OLD EWES - WF BUCKS - 4/5
CASEY HOLMES - DISPERSION- 3 TO 6 YR OLD EWES - SAMS BUCKS - 3/1

PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!

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

THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT SOUTH DAKOTA'S DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Representative Jana Hunt Special to the Beacon

Cattle theft is a major concern of livestock owners at all times but especially now at a time when the price of cattle is at an all-time high. Stewarding cattle is not only a difficult and fulfilling lifestyle, it's a 24/7 job.

Livestock producers realize the sacrifices and work it takes to care for their livestock, and they recognize the importance of their product for our nation and the entire world. Thankfully, here in South Dakota we are professionals at raising and producing the best beef in the world. This is a claim many in our state government proclaim proudly. That is why I am deeply concerned by the reality that our Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), Hunter Roberts, has no clue what Western South Dakotan livestock owners undergo in the support of agriculture.

I was shocked when during DANR's report to our House Agriculture Committee our secretary implied that if our West River ranchers' cattle are stolen, they don't monitor or steward their cattle well. His recommendation to prevent cattle theft is to check on your cattle more than once a month. He targeted operators with cattle on Reservation lands instead of acknowledging an historic and persistent problem throughout our entire state.

The exact statement that made me question our Secretary was as follows: Hunter Roberts: "Not to cast any aspersions, but: You

need to know where your cattle are. They're, they're your livestock.

You need to pay attention to where they're at. I mean—so many stories—it's like you drop them off on the Reservation and come back a month later and think they're going to be there. That's - not - not what I would recommend. And that's a different jurisdiction as well which makes it even more fun."

It seems this Department Secretary is more content to watch South Dakotan Livestock producers' livelihood be threatened rather than digging in to understand and aid in resolving their issues. Issues that are, unfortunately, in part due to the state statute that discriminates livestock owners based on where they live in this state.

For generations our state has promoted two different sets of brand law jurisdictions and two different accountability levels on each side of the Missouri River.

I would recommend anyone reading to follow the video link to hear for yourself the entire report of DANR. The Secretary begins with his report at 11:40. I would specifically note that the Secretary starts talking about the Brand Board and its relating issues at the time of 19:55. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=730e-UP2sSV0&list=PLCvVBOK6II-HuXXW5Zbypw2u3Xy1MP7w-MO&index=45>

If you took the time to watch the above video, I ask you to take time to note that DANR used a subliminal image in the presentation. Subtle messaging is important. The picture used in the presentation

to aid in visualizing the brand inspection area implied that based on land mass, West River has significantly more land mass than East River.

This picture showcased the ingrained belief held by DANR that cattle theft is a West River problem, when, in fact, it's also an East River problem because most of the established West River cattle producers have known for years and years that many cattle that are being stolen go East River where there is no brand inspection or proof of ownership required.

My question is: How well is the Brand Board communicating to DANR the desire of West River producers to stretch the brand jurisdiction statewide? In my opinion, they are not representing those that pay into the fund well. If they were, DANR would not hold such an aloof and disconnected view of this issue in our state. If you would like to see the disproportionate image DANR utilized in its report, view the link below:

https://www.sd.gov/sdbrandboard?id=cs_kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0045439&sys_kb_id=96cc2a3d971d3a1042f3b-546f053afd0&spa=1

I questioned the Secretary during his report and asked him if DANR would support a state wide brand inspection area. DANR Secretary replied to my question they would be neutral if there is a bill to pursue the state wide brand inspection area. However, I was quickly confused

when he followed up with comments that promoted the ideology that a state wide brand inspection area was not needed. He went into detail explaining why they haven't pursued or promoted a state wide brand inspection law and that our current biased law is sufficient.

The current law promotes inequality before the law. In our current statute, West River is mandated by state statute to pay a tax on brand inspections. At the same time our law implies that East River is superior to West River and is not mandated to pay the inspection fee. Rather, each county is allowed opportunity to choose to opt into this tax. Of course, individual counties are not going to opt into a tax that West River is carrying the majority of the financial burden for. (I would specifically note that

I question the Secretary about the Brand Board and its relating issues on the video link at 38:24). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=730e-UP2sSV0&list=PLCvVBOK6II-HuXXW5Zbypw2u3Xy1MP7w-MO&index=45>

Overall, I was very disheartened by the report of DANR in relation to the Brand Board. The lack of knowledge of what it means and

takes to be an agricultural livestock producer in Western South Dakota by the Secretary of Agriculture is deeply disturbing.

For a Secretary to our biggest producing industry to disregard the very financially devastating issue of cattle theft in a flippant and, in my opinion, disrespectful attitude, destroys trust in our entire state government.

Again, the mandatory brand inspection for West River does little to nothing to stop cattle theft unless the brand inspection is mandated and enforced statewide and especially at our state line borders to adjoining states.

If you, like me, found the Secretary's report concerning, I would ask you to please voice your concerns via email to the legislative body at <https://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/Contacts/71> and to the governor's office at https://iqueryconnect.lmhostediq.com/iqueryconnect/EForm.aspx?_cid=FSL_SD_GOV&_fid=2100060.

I would also like to ask if any of our livestock producers would like to see in state statute the brand inspection statewide,

Please email or call/text me at: jana.hunt@sdlegislature.gov or 605-200-2057.

Jana Hunt
SD House Representative, District 28A
(Corson, Dewey, Perkins, and Ziebach Counties)



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Looking Back in Belle

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



by Mary Buchholz

fans all over the country can just mark one thing, and that is that the Round-Up this year will be a red letter affair with more contestants, more thrills, and a larger crowd than ever before.

75 years ago

The Belle Fourche Bee February 15, 1951 Kindergarten Fund From School Budget

A savings of approximately \$750 will be effected through elimination of the kindergarten program Supt Frank Kober said yesterday following Monday night's action of the board of education to dispense with the summer school program inaugurated last year. It was pointed out at Monday night's meeting that the local district is now expending \$38,410 for elementary teachers' salaries, \$54,690 for junior and senior high school, or a total of \$100,100 for instructional service; \$7,700 for nursing and clerical service; and \$11,580 for custodial service.

Material Shortages, Curbs May Prohibit New Bank Building

If federal restrictions do not interfere and necessary building materials are available, the First National Bank of the Black Hills will begin construction this year on a new \$150,000 bank building in Belle Fourche. "Scarcity of materials and governmental curbs on new construction may halt our going through with plans which have been in the making for several months," Vice-President DeWitt Malvin, local branch manager, said yesterday. "Plans for the new bank building are now in the architect's hands for completion of the final drawings and specifications" Preliminary architect's drawings of the proposed building call for a one-story structure 130 feet long by 35 feet wide. "If our plans materialize, we hope to begin tearing down the present bank building early this spring," Malvin said. Arrangements already have been discussed for moving temporary bank headquarters to the east lobby of the Don Pratt hotel.

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee

Old Fort Meade Is Focal Point 170 Take Part in Annual Tour By Rozella Bracewell Some 170 people from the Black Hills area, Millersville, Fort Pierre, and Aberdeen, traveled in 55 vehicles with more joining in at Bear Butte, went on the sixth annual Caravan Tour sponsored by the Butte County Historical Society September 14. The tour began at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial park Chapel south of Sturgis. It then drove over the graveled Memorial Military Highway, stopping at the Old Fort Meade post cemetery, to Fort Meade, then proceeded on to Bear Butte State park where there was an unexpected bonus of viewing, from a distance the two white teepees of a fasting Cheyenne Indian from Montana. He and his family arrived at Bear Butte the night before on a religious pilgrimage. Trail boss was Vernon Hoist and emcee was Kenneth Wetz, president of the society, both of Vale.

Explosion Causes Damage An Explosion Sent an air compressor tank streaking thru the roof of the Henderson Auto Electric building on State Street near the Tri-State Museum Monday morning. No one was injured, but damage to the building was extensive. Compressor tank sailed thru the roof. Cause of explosion was not determined, Gary Henderson, son of the operator, Dale Henderson, was in the office at west end of the building when blast occurred. He felt impact of explosion but was not injured. Flying debris shot into the street, one piece striking Henderson's motorcycle which was parked at the curb and causing extensive damage to a wheel. Blast occurred about 8:25 a.m. Acting Police Chief Jerry Orcutt said if the explosion had occurred 15 or 20 minutes sooner it might have injured some of the many children who walk by the building on their way to the Roosevelt school each morning.

126 years ago
THE TIMES January 28, 1900 EAGAN HIMSELF COMMITTED CRIME

Story That an Innocent Man Was Hung at Sioux Falls Discredited by Attorney MADE A COMPLETE CONFESSION Said That He Struck Wife Over the Head With a Pair of Cleavers and Then Choked the Life Out of Her. Sioux Falls, S.D. Jan 23 - A prominent lawyer of this city, who shortly after the execution of Thomas Eagan, which occurred in this city in 1882, says that the latter made a full confession to his attorneys of the crime he was supposed to have committed. He therefore discredits the story, which created a sensation here, to the effect that Mrs. James Van Horn, who died in the state of Washington, on her death made a confession to the murder of her mother, for which crime Eagan was hung. Eagan's story was that on the morning of the crime he and his wife had a quarrel. Eagan was a small man and a cripple, while his wife was a large and powerful woman. During the quarrel Mrs. Eagan hit her husband a blow which felled him to the floor of the shanty. While regaining his feet, his hand came in contact with a pair of cleavers which had been used hold the parts of a drag together. He grabbed this and upon arising struck his wife over the head rendering her senseless. While she was on the floor he gave her several more blows with the cleave, but as she still breathed he finished her by choking the life out of her with his hands. He then dumped the body into the cellar, where it was later found. The above statement from this prominent attorney sets at rest all rumors of a confession that one else had committed the crime.

AN INNOCENT MAN MAY HAVE BEEN HUNG Death-Bed Confession of Murdered Women's Mother Makes a Startling Revelation. CRIME COMMITTED AT SIOUX FALLS Body Was Found In Year 1881 in Cellar With Rope Around Neck - Egan Proclaimed Innocence. A sensation has been sprung here by the rumor that Thomas Egan, who was hanged in this city on the 1eth of July, 1882, was not guilty of the crime. The story goes that Mrs. William Van Horn, daughter of the murdered woman, recently died in the state of Washington and that on her death bed she made a confession stating that she

did the killing and then placed the clame on Egan, who was her stepfather. The crime was committed in 1881. The body of Mrs. Egan was found in the cellar of the house with a rope around her neck and several wounds on her head which were made with a picket pin. After Egan's arrest the suit of clothes worn by him on the day of the killing were found hidden in the barn. They were covered with blood. Egan stoutly claimed his innocence even to the very last, and upon the scffold called upon God to showere curses on those who had sworn his life away. At the hanging, which was done by Sheriff Joseph Dickson, there was great bungling. The first attempt the tope broke, letting the body fall to the ground below. The body was carried back to the platform, but before the noose was adjusted the trap was accidentally sprung, and the body slipped through to the ground. The body was again brought back and successfully hanged.

100 years

The Belle Fourche Bee February 5, 1925.

HOSPITAL RE-OPENED

The board of directors of the Belle Fourche Hospital desire to announce that they have moved into their new quarters, one door east of the W. B. Penfold residence, and hope within a short time to hold a public opening. The hospital has been remodeled and is well equipped to take care of patients. Miss Florence Smiley and Miss Sadie Hoover, graduate nurses from St. Luke's hospital, Chicago, are in charge of nursing and are capable of handling any kind of cases. The hospital is non-denominational and under the support of the city and any doctor is permitted to bring patients to the hospital. The phone number is 184 and any information needed will be glad give by the nurses.

ROUND-UP WORK

STARTS Preparations for the 1925 Tri-State Round-Up to be held in Belle Fourche, July 2, 3 & 4 are now well under way. A budget of \$10,000 has been voted for this year's show, \$2,500 of this amount to be used for contracting talent, which will insure the best in the country. Already many letters are being received from contact hands who want to come to the show this year, and from concession men who want space on our streets. Round-Up



(Top) **Butte County Bank** established in 1889, became First National Bank of Black Hills.
 (Bottom) Built a new building in 1951.

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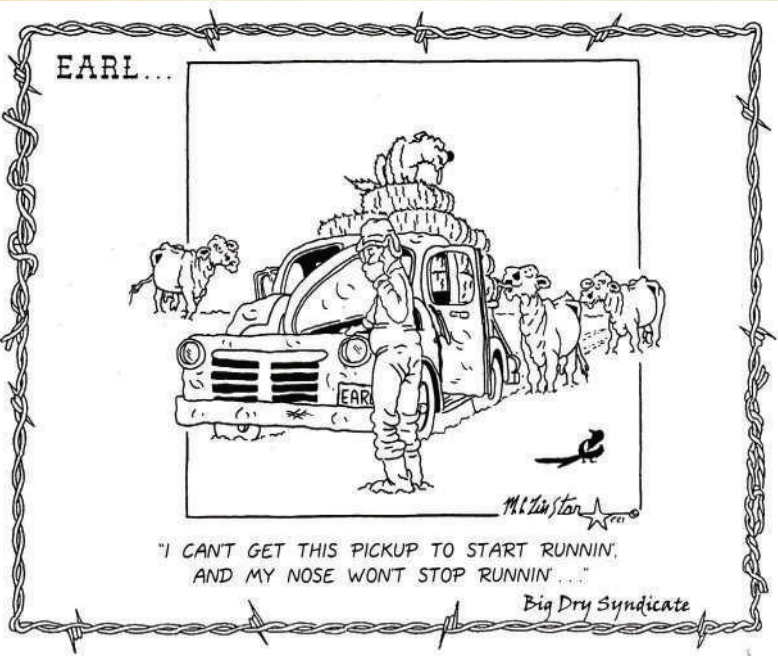
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- RO'S
- SALT

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 - Chartiable 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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Your Support is appreciated!

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Market Rep: 605-544-3316
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BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615
MIKE GREENOUGH - 307-620-2597
BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553

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TYLER GAER - 605-222-9513
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Market Report - Thursday, JANUARY 29, 2026
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	S/HEAD
WILLSALL RANCH, WILLSALL MT	25	BLACK-BRD COW 3YO	1208	4450.00	\$4,450.00
	25	BLACK-BRD COW 3YO	1190	4450.00	\$4,450.00
	25	BLACK-BRD COW 3YO	1205	4450.00	\$4,450.00
	25	BLACK-BRD COW 3YO	1178	4450.00	\$4,450.00
	40	BLK/BWF-BRD COW 3YO1101	4300		\$4,300.00
BRUCE CRAGO, BELLE FOURCHE SD	21	BLACK-BRD HFR	1198	4200.00	\$4,200.00
	17	BLACK-BRD HFR	1209	4100.00	\$4,100.00
BRIAN & HALLIE BUDMAYR, BELLE FOURCHE SD	12	BWF-BRD HFR	1101	4050.00	\$4,050.00
DANE & KRISTI DOBESH, BELLE FOURCHE SD	7	BWF-BRD HFR	1144	4025.00	\$4,025.00
	3	HERF-BRD HFR	968	3800.00	\$3,800.00
TLT CATTLE CO, BELLE FOURCHE SD	13	BLACK-BRD HFR	1167	4000.00	\$4,000.00
SHAWN & KATHY FLIGGE, UPTON WY	15	BLACK-BRD COW 3YO	1117	4200.00	\$4,200.00
	5	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1421	3500.00	\$3,500.00
QT RANCH LLC, LINDSAY MT	18	BLACK-BRD COW 3/4YO1146	4100		\$4,100.00
6 CREEK FARMS, EKALAKA MT	22	BLACK-BRD COW 3/4YO1313	4000		\$4,000.00
	9	BLACK-BRD COW 5/6YO1506	4050		\$4,050.00
	14	BLACK-BRD COW SM	1496	3850.00	\$3,850.00
	24	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1447	3200.00	\$3,200.00
BRIAN CREEK CATTLE CO LLC, DAYTON WY	29	BLACK-BRD COW SM	1379	3675.00	\$3,675.00
	14	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1265	3150.00	\$3,150.00
DANE & KRISTI DOBESH, BELLE FOURCHE SD	6	HERF-BRD COW 3/6YO	1174	3800.00	\$3,800.00
	3	HERF-BRD COW SM	1465	3200.00	\$3,200.00
GREG YATES, EKALAKA MT	13	BLACK-BRD COW SM	1459	3750.00	\$3,750.00
	8	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1431	3450.00	\$3,450.00
BURDICK RANCH, BAKER MT	13	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1521	3350.00	\$3,350.00
TOMAS MARTINEZ, EDGEMONT SD	8	HERF-BRD COW SMBM1483	2900		\$2,900.00
LAZY Y QUARTER CIRCLE LLC, ALADDIN WY	20	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1330	2750.00	\$2,750.00
	4	BLACK-BRD COW BM	1396	3150.00	\$3,150.00

VERONA CATTLE CO, WYARNO WY	9	BLACK-BRD COW 3/4YO1403	4000		\$4,000.00
	4	BLACK-BRD COW 5/6YO1164	3850		\$3,850.00
	6	BLACK-BRD COW SM	1414	3850.00	\$3,850.00
	5	RED-BRD COW SM	1364	3350.00	\$3,350.00
TROY MILLS, BOYES MT	11	BLK/BWF-BRD COW BM 1455	2900		\$2,900.00
WEIGH-UPS					
TRAVIS OR JULIE HURST, BUFFALO SD	7	BLACK-COW	1304	172.50	\$2,249.89
	1	BLACK-HFRT	1215	195.00	\$2,369.25
	4	BLACK-HFRT	924	262.50	\$2,424.84
	1	BLACK-HFRT	925	235.00	\$2,173.75
TYLER HILMER, CAPUTA SD	1	BLACK-COW	1515	145.00	\$2,196.75
BURDICK RANCH, BAKER MT	1	BLACK-COW	1500	172.50	\$2,587.50
WILLSALL RANCH, WILLSALL MT	1	BLACK-COW	960	240.00	\$2,304.00
BRUCE CRAGO, BELLE FOURCHE SD	1	BLACK-HFRT	1050	275.00	\$2,887.50
	1	BLACK-HFRT	1015	285.00	\$2,892.75
JOSH SIGMAN, VALE SD	1	HERF-COW	1690	155.00	\$2,619.50
	1	HERF-COW	1535	156.00	\$2,394.60
LAZY Y QUARTER CIRCLE LLC, ALADDIN WY	1	BLACK-HFRT	910	300.00	\$2,730.00
6 CREEK FARMS, EKALAKA MT	1	BLACK-COW	1445	171.50	\$2,478.17
CATHLEEN OR WESLEY WOOD, BELLE FOURCHE SD	1	BWF-COW	1505	168.00	\$2,528.40
BULLS					
T C OUTFIT LP, VALE SD	1	BLACK-BULL	2145	202.50	\$4,343.62
CHARLES & ROSALIE TENNIS, VALE SD	1	BLACK-BULL	2090	190.00	\$3,971.00
SNOOK LAND & LIVESTOCK, SUNDANCE WY	8	BLACK-BULL	1859	197.50	\$3,672.26
	2	BLACK-BULL	1683	187.50	\$3,154.68
RONNIE OR VONDA MAHAFFY, NEWELL SD	1	BLACK-BULL	1740	200.00	\$3,480.00
	1	BLACK-BULL	1605	197.50	\$3,169.87

NO SALE - ENJOY THE STOCK SHOW!

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

February 12, 2026..... FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL – WUPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
February 19, 2026..... STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL – WUPS @ 9 AM MT, BRED CATTLE @ 12 PM MT
February 26, 2026..... FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL – WUPS @ 9 AM MT, FEEDER CATTLE @ 12 PM MT

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Kim Kling - Kem Kjerstad

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

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Travis Linch | 605-892-5951

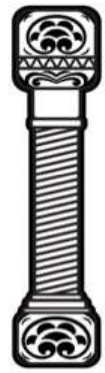
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Scott Anderson | 406-351-1844

Jordan, MT
Jason Bollinger | 406-690-8344

Ekalaka, MT
Riley Lesh | 406-697-0573

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Sip, Style & Embellish at Weather Hat

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—Even though it was a brisk winter evening outside, inside the Weather Hat Company the atmosphere was anything but cold. Guests came together to craft the perfect hat at the Sip N' Style on the evening of January 27.

Along the wall, a handcrafted selection of wool ladies' fashion hats greeted participants. Each lady picked out the perfect hat for her. Hats were offered in a variety of shapes and colors. After the hat was chosen, the gals spent time personalizing their hats, allowing their personality to shine through.

Jennifer Scholl led the ladies through the process. She was able to share decorating techniques and offer advice on ways to design the hats, along with tips on how to best anchor the

new embellishments to the hat.

In a separate room, just off the main room, a selection of hatbands, feathers, flowers, ribbons, leather, gems, scarves, rhinestones, and other decorative details were available to help make each hat one-of-a-kind. Jennifer said, "You can get as crazy as you want!"

All the hats were ready to be styled. "We are creating a little bit of a personal look for each person, so you have the hat, and then we are decorating—they get to go through all the drawers and all of the boxes and all the cubbies, looking for something that they might want to add to it," explained Jennifer.

Jennifer enjoys hosting the Sip N' Style events. "I have always done Sip events, I've done Sip N' Styles for the last couple of years. I started in '23," she said.

The evening was relaxed and the atmosphere was calm as the gals looked through all of the details, finding just the right looks to suit their style.

Wine and water, along with a variety of snacks, were offered. "Take a break, have another drink of your wine, have a little bit of munchies, and then come back," encouraged Jennifer. "We are having a nice, relaxed, fun evening—we are not stressing—we refuse to stress!"

If you missed this event, Weather Hat Company plans to offer a few more chances to participate. "Hat bars are hugely popular right now! And so I think I'll do one every month," said Jennifer.

Space is limited, so watch the Company's Facebook page for the next event and grab your spot!



(Top) Jennifer Scholl, Weather Hat helps pick just the right decorations for finishing the hat to make it look perfect!
(Bottom) Ladies at the Sip N' Style event search through all of the embellishments to find just the right item for their hat.
Longbrake photo

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for all mankind
7
.....*Jeans*



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RELIEVE - HEAL - MAINTAIN

GENTLEMAN'S NIGHT CHAMBER
MIXER



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4:30-6:30PM
1407 5th Ave. #200

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January 26, 2026
In mid-December, we let families and school staff know we would be testing our school's water. On December 29, 2025, we tested our school's water to see if it contains lead, a heavy metal that can cause health problems if ingested (swallowed). We received lab results on January 23, 2026 and learned that our water contained lead in some areas of our schools. We have identified the faucets, water fountains, and/or pipes that contain lead. Because of the level of lead found in water, the EPA requires we address these fixtures. When those water fixtures have been removed or replaced, we will send an update to parents and staff. Lead is a heavy metal that can cause health problems if ingested (swallowed) and was commonly used in building construction into the 1980s. Since lead was commonly used in building construction, we knew we might find lead in our school. It's important to remember the level set by EPA for taking action is 10 parts per billion or more. The EPA says a way to visualize one part per billion, is one drop of water in one-billion drops of water, or one drop of water in a swimming pool. Beginning in November 2027, every school in South Dakota will be required to perform this testing. Belle Fourche School District volunteered to be a part of an early testing program and will therefore receive funding to help remove and replace the affected fixtures that were found to contain lead. For more information visit: <https://doh.sd.gov/topics/diseases/infectious/sd-clppp/lead-poisoning-resources/> Lead was found in drinking water in the Belle Fourche High School during testing done on December 29, 2025. Belle Fourche School District has taken every faucet and water fountain out of service that was found to contain lead at 10 parts per billion or greater. Our School District will replace those faucets and water fountains during the spring/summer of 2026. There are some faucets and fixtures that will have the water turned off and taken out of service or completely removed. Some levels of lead were found in drinking water in the Belle Fourche Middle School and South Park Elementary during testing done on December 29, 2025. The testing showed varied results, but with the amounts of lead less than the 10 ppb threshold. While it is not required by the EPA to remove or replace the affected fixtures, State funding may be available to replace these fixtures because of the school's participation in the early testing program. On December 29, 2025, we tested the North Park school's water to see if it contains lead, a heavy metal that can cause health problems if ingested (swallowed). We are happy to report that lab results show our water did not contain lead. As new guidance comes in, Belle Fourche School District will continue to stay ahead and keep you informed every step of the way. If you have questions, please contact Tommy Coyle, Director of Facilities and Transportation, (605) 723-3360.



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Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Two weeks!**
Wednesday, February 4th through Tuesday, February 17th

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

SPEARFISH SD – The 2026 Lawrence County District 31 Legislative Crackerbarrels will be held Saturday, February 7th at the Joy Center (1351 St Joe St. Spearfish, SD) and Saturday, February 28th at the Deadwood Gulch (304 Cliff St, Deadwood). Both events 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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AAU Bronc Dailey Invite 2-1-26

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

EMMANUEL BAPTIST
Meet at Americinn Conference room
Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School 10am church
Men's Bible Study 10am at the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
Call for location.
website: 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 Jennewein
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Sunday Worship 10:AM with coffee
fellowship following the service.
Watch live-streamed services:
www.sjlcbeellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

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

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

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

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Contact Scott Huber / Owner (605) 892-2220
221 Industrial St • Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Email: scott@ezfabricationandwelding.com
jennifer@ezfabricationandwelding.com

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ment is not a hobby or a side project; it is demanding, emotional, and sometimes exhausting work.

Yet there is nothing more rewarding than watching your town shift from decline to confidence because a few people refused to quit. As Winston Churchill reminded us, "Never, never, never give up" — and that may be the most practical piece of advice for anyone leading local transformation.

10. Dare to be unmistakably you - The easiest way to be invisible is to be generic. Your community's greatest asset is its uniqueness — the stories, traditions, landscapes, businesses, and quirks that no one else can copy. When you design experiences, people cannot get in the next town or on a screen, you attract visitors, new residents, and investors who want to be part of something authentic, not interchangeable.

When communities and local media, like those championed in the "Building Main Street, Not Wall Street" effort, align around these ten elements, they do more than survive. They create places where truly-local still matters — and where Main Street becomes the heartbeat, not the afterthought, of community life.

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

COWBOYS TOO!

JEANS

COWBOYS TOO!

TODDLER
girls & boys

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

Top 10 Elements of Community Transformation

Transformation in small communities never starts with a grant, a groundbreaking, or a ribbon-cutting. It starts with people who decide their Main Street deserves better than being an afterthought in an Amazon-and-big-box world. These ten elements, inspired by Jimi Coplen's "Rural Spark" work and shared through Truly-Local, are less a checklist and more a mindset shift for every town that wants to thrive.

1. Leadership that actually leads - Every meaningful win in a community can be traced back to a handful of leaders who were willing to see farther, risk more, and stay with it longer than anyone else. Sometimes it takes several election cycles and a few hard lessons to get the right team in place, but once you do, everything changes. Strong leadership is the constant — the engine that pulls every other car on the transformation train.

2. Build an ecosystem, not just a building - Chasing one big company with tax breaks and incentives is yesterday's playbook, and it fails most of the time. Instead, transformative communities create an ecosystem where startups and small businesses can launch, stumble, learn, and grow. When you nurture local entrepreneurs with mentoring, flexible space, patient cap-



ital, and a culture that celebrates risk, you tap into the same spirit that built this country in the first place.

3. Talk with people, not just at them - Communities get into trouble when a small group decides it already knows all the answers. Real transformation requires ongoing conversations with longtime residents, new arrivals, business owners, students, and even your critics. These conversations surface new ideas, reveal hidden barriers, and build trust through transparency — all of which you must have if you want change to last.

4. Break the old economic development mold - If your economic development strategy looks like something copied out of a 1980s manual, it is time to tear it up. That might mean recruiting a niche business you admire and figuring out a creative way to bring it to town, even if a local champion must buy it and pair it with young talent interested in that field. There is more than one way to grow an economy, and the communities that win are the ones willing to experiment instead of waiting for a factory that never comes.

5. Small places are back on the map - People are leaving large cities for smaller, more livable communities, and that trend creates a once-in-a-generation window

of opportunity. The question is whether your town is simply smaller, or genuinely appealing. Investing in infrastructure, walkable streets, vibrant shops, local entertainment, and memorable dining isn't fluff; it is your recruitment strategy for new residents who could live almost anywhere.

6. Quality of life beats cash on the table - Companies and entrepreneurs look first at whether their people will want to live in your community; the tax incentives come later, if at all. Many send quiet advance teams to experience your housing, schools, parks, downtown, and nightlife before ever taking a meeting. If your quality of life is mediocre, no amount of financial packaging will make up for it, so the smartest move is to build a town that sells itself.

7. Do one meaningful thing first - Trying to fix everything at once is the fastest route to burnout and frustration. Pick one project that matters, get broad buy-in, and pour your time, money, and energy into doing that one thing well. A single visible win — a revived block, a new event, a cleaned-up park — can change the mood of a whole town and create momentum that makes the next step easier.

8. Start small, think big, grow steady - Every community has limits: budget, people, time, and energy. The trick is to know your strengths and weaknesses, choose a right-sized project, and let success stack on success. Rome was not built in a day, and neither is a thriving Main Street, but each completed project makes the next one more believable & achievable.

9. Accept that this is hard work - Community develop-

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Capitol News
February 4, 2026
by Karen Odell
On Tuesday, Dick and Erma Albert took their car to Belle Fourche for an appointment to get some work done. Erma had a doctor's appointment in Spearfish, too. Both appointments were finished about the same time. Dick picked Erma up, and then they did some shopping.

They both went to the Friday Chicken Dinner at the Senior Center. They celebrated Sandy Lyons's birthday with a delicious cake that Jaci Teller had made, and some ice cream, too. Erma stayed to play cards in the afternoon.

At church on Sunday, they learned that Father Lee was

going, with some friends, on a trip to France. They had some special sites that they hoped to see, and we all hope they will bring home lots of pictures.

A visiting priest will come to Buffalo on February second and thirteenth. After church, Dick and Erma went for lunch at Saloon Number Three. They had lunch with the Helms family, Mary and Randy Smith and their granddaughter, who had sung responses and led the singing in church.

Alvin Cordell went to Camp Crook on Wednesday, for a meeting of the cemetery board. Scott Moseley and Gerald and Becky Burghduff joined him. On Thursday, Alvin and Marlee went to Belle Fourche for the basketball games against Hot Springs. Their grandson, Gavin

Pearson was playing for Belle Fourche. On Saturday, they went to Buffalo to watch the games against New Underwood. The girls had an easy win, but the boys' game came right down to the wire before they finally won their game. Somewhere, they caught the flu, so they rested up on Sunday.

Bruce and Lynn Gustafson went to the annual meeting at the Little Missouri Church, that was held on Wednesday night. There was a pot luck afterward. They stayed home until Sunday, when they went to the Sunday church service. Doug Davis hauled some cows to St. Onge on Thursday. He hurried to clean his stock trailer, and then went to help move Darla Hamel's things

to Newell on Saturday. Darla is moving to an apartment, and will not have as much space for her belongings, but her daughter, April, will come to help her get settled in.

Dorothy Padden was fighting a cold, this week, so she stayed home. It helps to be able to see the high school events on the NFHS online sports. Ashley got it set up so she could to see some of the sports at home. Ashley and Brandon were busy coaching wrestling, but this time Dorothy did her watching at home.

Karen Odell had a quiet week. There was a trip to Camp Crook to mail a letter and get some groceries at Wolffy's. She got some painting done in the kitchen, and a little writing and research done, too. On Sun-

day, she went to Camp Crook for church and played for the hymns.

A few birds had mysteriously also visited the church, but Mary Tarter had run them out and done some cleaning. Mary also brought some delicious tarts to go with after-church coffee. In the afternoon, Chancery Odell came over for a visit, and to check to see if the big winds, last week, had done any damage at Karen's. He reminded Karen of the bingo night coming up this week in Camp Crook.

Bingo night will begin again at the Camp Crook Community Hall on Thursday at 6 o'clock, this week.

You might as well turn your troubles over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway



Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden February 1, 2026

The cold snap ended on Saturday after a cold week. Saturday and Sunday provided much melting of the white stuff and cleared the roads from ice or slush.

There were a number of

accidents to be seen if on I90 headed to Rapid late last week. Black ice was an issue but we are now enjoying safe, dry roads.

The Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo had record attendance on Friday, and Saturday appeared to be the same. On

Saturday night Larry and Sandy Rhoden enjoyed riding on the stagecoach at the half way portion of the Bronc rodeo. It was Sandy's first experience and Larry's second. It was a fun experience and certainly a view from a different location than normal.

Pennington County is searching in the Hills area around Sheridan Lake & Pactola area for Jeremy Taylor

who is fleeing from the police since Friday.

Folks should stay out of that area at this time and there is a heavy law enforcement presence at this time.

They should also keep their doors and vehicles locked. He has a felony warrant from Ohio and is armed.

The first event of the BH Stock Show & Rodeo was the Celebrity Showmanship. It's a

popular event as local and state officials & Leaders select an animal from the animal nursery and then show the animal in the show ring and are judged.

While all were very impressive with their abilities and creative stories about their animals, the overall winner of the show was Governor Larry Rhoden.

He won a thermos that was presented to him at the end. A good time was had by all.

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel



She could have said, "You take care of the supper dishes, DeAnn. I am going to rest in my chair." Dad

would have supported her; she had put in more than a day's work on the farm. I may have complained (softly), but I would have washed the dishes. As the youngest, most spoiled child, my life was not too tough. But instead, our mother began clearing the table and said, "I'll wash. You dry."

Three neat stacks were perfectly arranged in the middle drawer of the metal cabinet by the sink. The stacks were smooth, flat squares of cloth. On the left was the tallest pile. Colorful, embroidered stitches beamed from a bleached-white background on these lovely, but

worn dish towels, the everyday towels. The stack on the right was a mix of older towels, some with whimsical stitches faded from many trips through the Maytag.

There were also pretty prints—flour sacks, Mom said. Some were thin and patched. These were used to dry pots and pans, and eventually graduated to the rag bag. In the very back of the drawer were the brand new, beautifully embellished towels that were only used when company dried the dishes after sharing a meal.

Mom turned on the sink faucet, squirted in Dove dish soap, and gently placed glasses and cups into the hot water. I reached for a towel from the left stack, one for everyday dishes. A delightful scent of Tide, bleach and fresh air, all mixed together, filled my senses as I unfolded the iron-creased fabric. And for the

next half hour, wrapped in its magic, I learned. I learned of a one-room schoolhouse and the expectations of girls when Mom was growing up. I learned about the war, worry, rationing and doing without. I learned how Mom met Dad, and about their life as they started out on the farm.

Threads of history intertwined with family, love, hardship, perseverance and faith. At the time I had no idea that those moments with my mother in front of the kitchen sink, dish towel in my hands, were threads that fashioned the tapestry of my life. Many years later, the memories pressed between the pages of my mind unfold like that dish towel.

That large square of fabric that wiped water spots from glasses and turned silver to mirrors, was so much more than a piece of cloth. It was a

work of art. Sparkling clean and pressed, that beautifully embroidered towel embodied the human desire to add beauty and meaning to everyday objects. It taught economics. We learned to make the best of what we had. The old eventually became threadbare and graduated to the rag drawer; nothing should be wasted.

Mom's purpose in her classification system was to keep the new, beautifully embellished towels just that, new and pretty. "I like to keep them nice." I can still see her smile.

That carefully hemmed length of cotton, whether a flour sack or newly purchased fabric, is a tangible connection to history. The stories our mother shared and the time we spent together became deeply intertwined with the threads of those old dish towels. They connected love and family with memories and tradition.

"I'll wash. You dry." Did our mother know what a difference those words would make in my life and those who carry on

after me? That someday I would hold one of those cherished towels close to my heart and remember?

Yes, today I am quite certain that Mom knew. She knew all along that that dish towel was much more than a piece of cloth.

DeAnn Kruempel grew up on a farm near De Smet, SD, the sixth child of Harrison and Mabel Wolkow. She attended school at Erwin and De Smet and has lived in Benedict, ND, Toeterville, Akron, Missouri Valley and Logan, IA. The author worked in school and public libraries for more than 30 years.

Her column has run in a growing number of Midwest newspapers for five years. Each year the author has published the stories into a book. She has also published a historical fiction series, "Promises to Keep."

Her ten books are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.

Legals

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

Tuesday, January 06, 2026

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

THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENE AT 9:30 A.M. on January 6, 2026. Commissioners present were Ager, Erk, Batterman, Kari, and Brunner.

Chairperson Ager called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Kari, Second by Batterman to approve the meeting agenda with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Bud Harris led in a moment of prayer Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to approve the Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2025, with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Erk, Second by Batterman to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from December 30, 2025, with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Old/Unfinished Business - discussion was held regarding moving audio-video equipment from the commissioner's room to the courtroom for future meetings.

No 2025 Committee reports or New Business to report for 2025. Commissioner Ager called the 2025 year officially closed.

Beginning at 9:36 AM the following citizens appeared during the Public Comment Session: Sue Broadhurst spoke on public comments during the 30Dec2025 meeting.

Chamber Director Mikayla Horn gave a Chamber Report including new members, upcoming events, and Cracker Barrel on January 31, 2026.

Chairperson Ager stated that the Reorganization for 2026 was to commence. Chairperson Ager called for nominations for 2026 Commission Chairperson.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to nominate Commissioner Erk as 2026 Commissioner Chairperson. Motion by Batterman, Second by Brunner to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Chairperson Erk took the seat as 2026 Commission Chair.

Chairperson Erk called for nominations for 2026 Commission Vice-Chairperson. Motion by Kari to nominate Commissioner Brunner as the 2026 Commission Vice-Chairperson Motion by Ager nominated Commissioner Batterman as the 2026 Commission Vice-Chairperson. Nominations ceased, and a vote was held with votes tallied as Brunner - three (3), Batterman - two (2). Commissioner Brunner took the seat as Vice-Chairper-

son for 2026. 2026 Committee Appointments were discussed and established by Commissioner Erk. Discussion was held regarding the dates and times of the 2026 meeting schedule.

Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to establish the 2026 Commission meeting times on the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m. and evening meetings on March 17, 2026, June 16, 2026, and September 15, 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M. Other special meetings were scheduled. Motion by Brunner, Second by Ager to pass Resolution 2026-01 Establish Official Depositories. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-01

Establish Official Depositories

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-20-13 requires the County Board of Commissioners to approve the designation of each depository for the deposit of county funds, and WHEREAS, several different financial institutions are doing business in Butte County and meet the requirements established under SDCL Chapter 7-20, and

WHEREAS, the Butte County Treasurer has requested the following financial institutions be designated as official depositories for the fiscal year 2026: Pioneer Bank & Trust 700 State Street, Belle Fourche, SD, First Interstate Bank 41 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD, Northern Hills Federal Credit Union 2211 Dakota Ave, Belle Fourche, SD, Highmark Federal Credit Union 1842 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD, First National Bank 217 Girard Avenue, Newell, SD, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Butte County Board of Commissioners designate the above named financial institutions as official depositories for Butte County for the fiscal year 2026. Dated this 6th day of January 2026. BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS /s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp

Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR Motion by Ager, Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-02 Naming Deputies & Clerks. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-02

Naming Deputies & Clerks WHEREAS, under SDCL 7-7-20 if in the judgment of the Board of County Commissioners it shall be deemed necessary for the office of County State's Attorney, County Treasurer, County Auditor, Register, of Deeds, and Director of Equalization to have deputies or clerks to assist in the daily operations of their offices, and

WHEREAS, the volume and workload of these offices exceed the abilities of a single individual, and WHEREAS, the Butte County Fiscal Year 2026 Budget has funds allocated for the deputy or clerk positions, and WHEREAS, the fixed number of deputies or clerks to be employed, the time of employment, and compensation which they shall receive must be set,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Butte County Board of Commissioners authorize the County State's Attorney to employ two full full-time deputies, three full-time clerks, the County Auditor's office to employ two full-time deputies, three full-time clerks, the Register of Deeds office to employ a full-time deputy, and the County Treasurer's office to employ a full-time deputy, three full-time clerks for the fiscal year 2026 at the compensation rate as established in the Year 2026 Wage Resolution. Dated this 6th day of January 2026.

BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR

Motion by Batterman, Second by Kari to pass Resolution 2026-03 To Establish a Disbursement Schedule for Funds Paid Out. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-03

To Establish a Disbursement Schedule for Funds Paid Out

WHEREAS, each budget year over a half dozen entities receive funds from Butte County's Fiscal Budget, and WHEREAS, the request for these budgeted funds are as the entities deem and the request for funding are not always timely, and

WHEREAS, in order to eliminate future cash flow and revenue problems and to improve the financial and managerial controls of County Funds and to provide the entities receiving funds for the fiscal year 2026 a firm payment schedule to work with, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the established schedule of payments and amounts are authorized for automatic payment with the mid monthly payments:

25% Cities/Towns Road Reversion-One payment of \$12,523.00 in January.

Teen Court- One payment of \$ 5,000.00 in January.

Prairie Hills Transit-One payment of \$ 5,000.00 in January.

Compass Point-One payment of \$ 1,500.00 in January. CASA

Action for Betterment of Community One payment of \$ 1,500.00 in January.

BH Childrens Home SocietyOne payment of \$ 600.00 in January.

Library Services- One payment of \$ 7,136.87 to City of Belle Fourche on or before January 19, 2026.

One payment of \$ 4,282.13 to City of Newell on or before January 19, 2026.

Artemis House- Four payments of \$ 962.50 in Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec6.

One payment of \$ 4,282.13 to City of Newell on or before January 19, 2026.

Community Health Nurse-Four quarterly payments per State billings. .

Soil Conservation-- Two payments of \$1,250.00 each in April and August

Predatory Animal-Twice a year as prescribed by law and billed by the State.

Belle Silver Lining-One payment of \$10,000.00 in May

B.F. Economic Development-One payment of \$15,000.00 in May

B.H. Council of Local Govt- One payment of \$ 5,685.00 in May

BF Chamber of Commerce-One payment of \$ 9,000.00 in May.

County Fair-One payment of \$10,000.00 in May.

Ambulance-One payment of up to \$114,620.00 contribution, upon Butte County Commission approval.

Fire-One payment of \$90,000 in February and Two payments of \$30,647.50 in June & December.

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Courthouse Commission Meeting Room 839 5th Avenue

Belle Fourche, SD 57717 Phone: 605-892-4485

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.

BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR

Motion by Ager, Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-04 Name of Official Newspaper for Legal Publication. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. A discussion was held regarding publishing in the Belle Fourche Beacon.

RESOLUTION 2026-04

Name Official Newspaper for Legal Publication

WHEREAS, under SDCL 7-18-3 the Board of Commissioners are required to designate three (3) legal newspapers in the County, or in case there are not three (3) legal newspapers within the county, then as many as are legal, as the official newspapers for the County, for publication of Commissioner's proceedings and notices and

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-18-3 requires the designation of the County's official newspaper be made at the first meeting in January in each year, and BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Butte County Board of Commissioners name the Black Hills Pioneer as the official newspaper for the year 2026. Dated this 6th day of January 2026.

BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR

Motion by Kari, Second by Batterman to pass Resolution 2026-05 Establish Election Polling Locations. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-05

Establish Election Polling Locations

WHEREAS, under SDCL 12-14-1 each year the County Board of Commissioners are required to establish the election polling locations for the upcoming year, and

WHEREAS, THE Butte County Auditor's Office has recommended the following polling locations for the year 2026:

Absentee Voting:

Upon availability of ballots until 5:00 P.M. the day prior to Election Day-

Butte County Auditor's Office in the Butte County Administration Building 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Election Day Voting:

Contd. C5 Butte County Commission



Butte County Commission Contd. from C4

Belle Fourche Wards 1, 2, 3, 4/Precincts 21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28
Belle Fourche Community Hall Belle Fourche Community Hall Belle Fourche Community Hall Belle Fourche Community Hall Belle Fourche Community Hall

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Butte County Board of Commissioners approve the above named election polling places for the year 2026.
Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR

RESOLUTION 2026-06

Establishment of Annual Wages for fiscal year 2026
WHEREAS, in accordance with SDCL 6-1-10, a list of annual salaries for Butte County Officials and employees for the Year 2026 must be published, and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the following list is the annualized salaries and hourly pay rates for Butte County employees in the Year 2026.
Salary employees: Barnaud, Tim - States Attorney \$115,829.26, LoBaido, Anthony - Deputy States Attorney \$80,453.14, McCartney, LeEllen - PT Deputy States Attorney \$70,699.20, Lamphere, Fred - Sheriff \$83,455.42+Emergency Manager \$11,287.26, Brunner, Julie - Register of Deeds \$69,896.63, Lensegrav, Deb - Treasurer \$69,147.83, Capp, Annie - Auditor \$66,901.43+Commissioner Assistant \$12,978.12, Wilson, Cristina - Director of Equalization \$67,650.23+Planning Director \$3,758.37, Saivong, Jasen - Veteran Service Officer \$23,535.59+EM Administrator \$12,185.43, Ager, James, Commissioner \$19,106.36, Batterman, Terry - Commissioner \$19,106.36, Brunner, Tom- Commissioner \$19,106.36, Erk, Chad - Commissioner \$19,106.36, Kari, Jason - Commissioner \$19,106.36.

Hourly employees:
Abraham, Heather \$21.80, Bachman, Becky \$26.51, Beguin, LaRae \$23.56, Building Maintenance (TBD) \$21.80, Coleman, Adrian \$24.54, Cooper, Kim \$24.93, Day, Allie \$24.84, Day, Julia \$28.98, Fickbohm, Collette \$26.36, Fowler, Daniel \$27.64, Fox, Krinda \$26.01, Franke, Brian \$20.22, Freed, Dennis \$28.28, Goshorn, Megan \$22.80, Hahne, Bailey \$30.82, Hale, Cassandra \$23.62, Hanzlik, Colin \$23.98, Hanzlik, Melody \$23.54, Heidrich, Dwayne \$35.75, Heidrich, Sandra \$28.44, Hendrickson, Lindsey \$22.80, Herman, Josh \$25.14, Homola, Aric \$30.82, Johnston, Lorita \$28.44, Jones, Polly \$26.15, Keegan, Kelly \$30.21, Kenoyer, Patrick \$30.82, Kindsfater, Mary Elizabeth \$28.08, Kluck, Tracy \$24.54, Larson, Mark \$25.14, Lippincott, Stephanie \$22.79, Mahaffy, Lonnie \$25.14, March, Jason \$33.36 + EM Admin \$3,009.57, Mckenzie, Casey \$30.82, Monier, Marc, \$25.14, Pickett, Victoria \$26.36, Ramirez, Johnna \$24.57, Rath, Crystal \$27.25, Riley, Cindy \$24.93, Scheller, Siri \$24.93, Simmons, Teena \$20.71, Smith, Anthony \$27.92, Somervold, Corey \$28.08, Stegelman, Sean \$27.76, Stuen, Kordell \$29.11, Thompson, Katy \$28.98, Thompson, Mary \$24.57, Tokley, Lori \$26.36, Walker, Courtney \$23.56, Welles, Amy \$29.44, Yule, Bailee \$24.80, Zeestraten, John \$25.14
Other
Planning Commission \$1,200.00 per year, Coroner \$175.00/call + \$25 Admin, Guards/Matron \$21.00/hour, Part Time Certified Law Enforcement \$22.00/hour, Election Workers \$25.00/school - Deputy \$200.00/election - Superintendent \$250.00/election, Post Election Audit and Recount board \$20/hr, Weed & Pest Board \$300.00 per year.

Table with 5 columns: General Staff, Skill Level 1, Skill Level 2, Skill Level 3, Office Supervisor. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

Table with 5 columns: Sworn Deputies, Sr Sworn Deputy. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

Table with 5 columns: Equalization/ Planning, General Skill Level 1, General Skill Level 2, General Skill Level 3, Assessor Skill Level 1, Assessor Skill Level 2, Assessor Skill Level 3. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

Table with 5 columns: Sheriff Department, Sheriff Deputy 1, Sheriff Deputy 2, Sheriff Deputy 3, Chief Deputy, Civil Deputy, Civil Deputy 2, Civil Deputy 3. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

Table with 5 columns: Dispatch Center, Skill Level 1, Skill Level 2, Skill Level 3. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

Table with 5 columns: Highway, Highway Supervisor, Highway Administrator, Foreman, Mechanic, Skill Level 3, Skill Level 2, Skill Level 1, Starting. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

Table with 5 columns: States Attorney, Legal Assistant, Paralegal. Rows show Starting, Step 2, Step 3, Full Wage values.

General Staff Skill Level Butte County Employees rates are adjusted an additional \$0.36/hour at 6, 11, 16, and 21 years of service.
Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to pass Resolution 2026-07 Worker's Compensation Declaration. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-07

Worker's Compensation Declaration
WHEREAS, the elected and appointed officials of Butte County are included in the annual Worker's Compensation wage calculations and insurance premiums, and
WHEREAS, SDCL 62-1-3/4 states that elected and appointed officials may be covered under Worker's Compensation if so determined by the County Board of Commissioners, and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Butte County Board of Commissioners do elect to treat elected and appointed officials of Butte County as employees for the purpose of Worker's Compensation as defined under Chapter 62-1 of the SDCL.
Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Roster Nisland, Lewis, Stan; Fickbohm, Ronald; Fickbohm, Calvin; Seieroe, Ken; Vallery, Randy; Heidrich, Bill; Ward, Riley; Noziska, Bill; Wells, Fred; Brunner, Colleen; Yule, Maynard; Lewis, Tom; Fickbohm, Pam; Vallery, Rhonda; Heidrich, Sandy; Butcher, Jeremy; Kitzan, Josh; Simmons, Stefanie; Jones, Chris; Mills, Brian; Lewis, Eric; Dell, Jeff; Lewis, Parker; Miniger, Chad; Wich, Isaac; Lewis, Darin.
Castle Rock
Braun, Dusty; Burke, Chase; Burke, Clint; Burke, Cody; Burke, Joe; Burke, Pat; Deschamps, Kevin; Duprel, Jason; Erk, Chad; Erk, John; Erk, Paul; Fox, Brian; Fox, Randy; Fox, Owen; Oster, Mark; Sperle, Raydelle; Wendt, Gary; Wendt, J.D.; Wendt, Rory.
Butte
Arneson, Shawn; Bahe, Peyton; Blair, Britton; Blair, Chad; Blair, Edward; Blair, Mary; Burman, Cody; Crago, Bruce; Crago, Colby; Crago, Tanya; Davis, Charli ; Davis, Ivan; Davis, Jim; Davis, Tye; Fox, Tate; Fritz, Kayla; Fritz, Tyler; Hansen, Darrell; Hanson, Cotey; Henderson, Zion; Hespe, Mark; Horman, Jac; Horman, Jeff; Horman, Trey; Kolb, Justin; Kukuchka, Chase; Leitner, Todd; Nachtigall, Trey; Olson, Bailey; Parrish, Erynn; Schmidt, Clete; Schmidt, Cleve; Schmidt, Kristy; Turbiville, Brian; Van Holland, Callie; Westland, Curt; Wilbur, Dylan ; Wilbur, Kody; Wilbur, Mike
Vale
Grubl, Mike; Eaton, Crystal; Brunner, Joel; Bruch, Mark; Blair, Britton; Blair, Chad; Blair, Ed Bruh; Bruce; Hansen, Jim; Casteel, Ryan; Eaton, Brett; Blair, Mary; Grubl, Brittany; Grant, Zachary; Hespe, Mark D.; Casteel, Mike; Ketelsen, Cole; Lamphere, Lane; Olson, Brad; Stark, Ryan; Bruch, Mike; Tennis, Charles; Stetson Stover; Davis, Jim; Crago, Colby; Bahe, Peyton; Cibic, Jesse; Hanson, Sandy; Bruch, David; Davis, Tye; Leber, Sydnee; Casteel, Kenneth; Casteel, Charley; Van Asma, Matt.
Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to pass Resolution 2026-08 Naming of Butte County Sheriff Deputies. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-08

Naming of Butte County Sheriff Deputies
WHEREAS, the Butte County Sheriff's Office has established a reserve sheriff deputy staff, as well as a fulltime deputy staff according to the South Dakota Law Enforcement Board of Standards, and WHEREAS, the following individuals have been awarded certificates of achievement from the State of South Dakota Law Enforcement Board of Standards, and

WHEREAS, these individuals have been deputized by the Sheriff of Butte County,
WHEREAS, Jason March serves as full-time Chief Deputy Sheriff, and
Bailey Hahne, Casey McKenzie, Aric Homala, and Patrick Kenoyer serve as full-time Deputy Sheriff Officers in Butte County and

WHEREAS, Cassandra Hale and Colin Hanzlik serve as Civil/Transport Deputy Officers, and WHEREAS, Brian Franke and Cassandra Hale serve as 24/7 Technicians, and. WHEREAS, Daniel Fowler, Chris Brill, Joshua Pickett, Adam Lee, Dennis Mez, Jaryd Pugh, Heath Gran, Bailey Keller, David Pruitt, and Aaron McKeown serve as Reserve Deputy Officers,

WHEREAS, Butte County Sheriff Fred Lamphere does recommend to the Board of Butte County Commissioners that all officers are in good standing,

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Butte County Board of Commissioners upon the recommendation of the Sheriff of Butte County do hereby appoint all deputies in good standing as either reserve or full-time sheriff deputies in Butte County as stated above, and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that all the above deputies shall be classified as county employees and shall be covered under Worker's Compensation as defined under Chapter 62-1 of the SDCL.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to pass Resolution 2026-09 Establishment of Travel Expenditure Rates. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-09

Establishment of Travel Expenditure Rates
WHEREAS, since the cost of fuel, meals, lodging and travel, in general, are ever increasing, and WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are required to review the rate of reimbursement annually, and WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have the duty and authority to establish the County reimbursements methods and rates, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Butte County Board of Commissioners set the mileage rate for usage of personal vehicles for County business based at the state rate of \$0.70 per mile, overnight lodging shall be set at the least cost of available room.

In-State Lodging \$110.00 + tax and Out-of-State Lodging \$175.00 + tax. Meal rates based at the state rate for breakfast, lunch and dinner shall be the actual cost up to a maximum (In-State) of: breakfast \$6.00, lunch \$14.00 and dinner \$20.00 and maximum (Out-of-State) of: breakfast \$10.00, lunch \$18.00 and dinner \$28.00. All travel expenditures shall be submitted on a county travel voucher to the Auditor/Treasurer for review and payment.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Kari , Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-10 Butte County Investment Policy. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-10

BUTTE COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY
WHEREAS the Butte County Treasurer is responsible for the safekeeping of county monies, the investment of county monies and the availability of county monies,
AND WHEREAS the County Treasurer must work in close cooperation with the County Auditor and County Commissioners,

AND WHEREAS the County Treasurer wishes for the input of the County Commissioners in administering these duties,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED according to SDCL 4-5-8, that the county treasurer use the banks designated by the Butte County Commissioners as official depositories for savings accounts, checking accounts and certificate of deposits,

AND that the County Treasurer invest in savings accounts, certificate of deposits, and US treasury bonds as she finds advantageous in the interest of county monies,

AND that all interest earned, be deposited into the county's general fund or be reinvested into the certificate of deposit and savings account.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to pass Resolution 2026-11 Designate Engineering Firm. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Discussion was held regarding potentially going out for bids for engineering services.

Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____
Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Kari, Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-12 PILT Money. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Designate Engineering Firm
WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners are to designate an engineering firm to represent and advise Butte County and
WHEREAS, Butte County has a standing business relationship with Brosz Engineering and WHEREAS, Brosz Engineering is currently the Engineering Firm on numerous

Butte County Road and Bridge Projects,
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that Brosz Engineering shall be named as the designated Engineering firm for Butte County for the year 2026.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s.
RESOLUTION 2026-12

PILT Money
The Butte County Board of Commissioners will designate the PILT payment to the 2026 Budget. The PILT payment will be received into General Fund.
Passed and approved this 6th day of January 2026.

/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Kari, Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-13 Butte County Weight Per Axle Limits. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-13
Butte County Weight Per Axle Limits
WHEREAS, the County of Butte, South Dakota, is responsible for the maintenance of certain highways under its jurisdiction,

WHEREAS, it appears that said highways, by reason of deterioration, rain, snow or other climatic conditions will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the use of vehicles thereon is prohibited or restrictions as to the weight of vehicles are imposed, and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to SDCL 32-14-6 and any laws amendatory thereto, be it resolved that effective March 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, the load limit on all Butte County oil roads will be posted at 6 ton per axle.

- 1. Arpan Road 4 Miles
2. Fruitdale Road - 2 Miles
3. Gray Road - 1.1 Miles
4. Halle Rae Road - 0.5 Miles
5. Helmer Road from Snoma South to Ziebach 1.5 Miles - Posted 6 ton per axle year round
6. Orman Road 1 Mile
7. Sourdough Road 1 Mile
8. Valley Township Road 6 Miles
9. Ziebach Road
10. Snoma Road from city limits east to McCoy Road - 1.3 miles

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED; that there shall be erected and maintained signs designating provisions of this resolution as provided by state law and that this resolution shall not be effective until or unless such signs are erected and maintained.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED; that the County of Butte shall request the South Dakota Highway Patrol to enter the County of Butte to ensure compliance with State Laws about vehicle weight and with the weight laws established by this resolution.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to pass Resolution 2026-14 For the Establishment of a Fee to be Charged upon Redemption of a Tax Certificate. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

BUTTE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2026-14

A Resolution For The Establishment Of A Fee To Be Charged Upon Redemption Of A Tax Certificate
WHEREAS, SDCL 10-23-8 permits the sale or assignment of tax certificates to persons other than the County, and

WHEREAS, these tax certificates may be redeemed by payment of taxes owed, along with applicable interest; and

WHEREAS, upon redemption of any tax certificate held by someone other than the County, pursuant to SDCL 10-23-8 a fee shall be deducted from the proceeds paid to the holder of the tax certificate, and

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-23-8 permits the County Commission to establish a fee not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00),

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Butte County Board of County Commissioners that upon redemption of a tax certificate held by someone other than the County, a fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) shall be charged to the holder of a tax certificate to be paid out of the proceeds due to the holder of that certificate.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED the fee charged pursuant to SDCL 10-23-8 and this Resolution shall be paid to the Butte County Treasurer.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.
BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON
ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR
Motion by Kari, Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-15 Establishing the Requirements, Fees, and Regulations for The Issuance of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Discussion was held regarding creating an ordinance in the future.

RESOLUTION 2026-15

ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENTS, FEES, AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES WITHIN BUTTE COUNTY BE IT ORDAINED BY BUTTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA:

WHEREAS, the Butte County Board of County Commissioners believes that alcoholic beverage licenses are a privilege and not a right, and

WHEREAS, Butte County reserves the right to refuse approval, renewal, or transfer of any alcoholic beverage license in the event an applicant or the holder of the license refuses to comply with applicable requirements of Title 35 of the South Dakota Codified Laws (SDCL) and

WHEREAS, SDCL § 35-2-1.2 requires any applicant or person seeking transfer of an alcoholic beverage license to submit an application to the governing body of the County in which the applicant or transferee intends to operate; and

WHEREAS, SDCL § 35-4-11.1 requires the Board of County Commissioners to determine the number of alcoholic beverage licenses the County will approve and the fees to be charged; and

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that:



Legals/Public Notices From C6

1. The total number of available alcoholic beverage licenses in Butte County is determined by SDCL § 35-4-11.1 and is based on the population residing within Butte County, but outside the limits of any incorporated municipality or improvement districts within Butte County. 2. Butte County currently has six (6) on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses available. Application Process: 1. If any alcoholic beverage license becomes available in Butte County, a notice will be published in the legal newspaper of the County for at least two (2) consecutive weeks, stating that the Board of County Commissioners will be accepting applications for the available license and setting a deadline for submission of applications. 2. Applicants must submit all applications for alcoholic beverage licenses, including new licenses or transfers of existing licenses, for businesses intending to operate outside the corporate limits of any municipality within Butte County, to the Board of County Commissioners for approval as required by SDCL § 25-2-1.2. 3. Any application for transfer of an alcoholic beverage license must also comply with the requirements of SDCL § 35-2-7. 4. All applications must be accompanied by an application fee. a. As required by SDCL § 35-4-2(2) and (6), application fees for new alcoholic beverage licenses are ten thousand two hundred and forty-three dollars (\$10,243.00). b. Application fees for renewal of existing alcoholic beverage licenses are nine hundred dollars (\$900.00). 5. All applications must include proof that the premises to which the license is being issued or transferred has, or shall have within one year, a sufficient structure in which to conduct the operation of an on-sale liquor business. No alcoholic beverage license will be issued or transferred to any applicant if there is not an approved place of business for the operation of the license. a. Proof may include (but is not limited to) pictures of any existing structures or plans and specifications of proposed structures, along with proof of ownership or a valid lease of the premises. b. As required by SDCL § 35-2-2.1, all applications must include an agreement that the premises used for the sale of alcoholic beverages are considered public premises for the purpose of search and seizure laws and are open to inspection at all times, including all buildings, safes, cabinets, lockers, storerooms on the premises along with any records and books pertaining to the sale and ownership of alcoholic beverages. 6. The Board of County Commissioners may give conditional approval to allow for construction of an approved structure, with the alcoholic beverage license to be issued to the applicant when the structure is completed. a. If the alcoholic beverage license is not issued within one year of conditional approval, the Board of County Commissioners may extend the conditional approval for up to six (6) additional months if the delay is not the fault of the applicant. b. Under no circumstances will an alcoholic beverage license be held on conditional approval for more than eighteen (18) months. Approval Process 1. As required by SDCL § 35-2-3, the Board of County Commissioners shall set the time and place for a public hearing to consider any application for alcoholic beverage licenses that come before the board. 2. As required by SDCL § 35-2-5, the Butte County Auditor shall publish a notice of the time and place where the Butte County Board of County Commissioners will consider applications for alcoholic beverage license at least one week prior to the public hearing. The notice will also inform the public that any interested person may appear and be heard either in favor of, or objecting to, the issuance of the license. 3. The Board of County Commissioners will consider the application and any objection to the application before making a final decision to issue or not to issue available licenses. 4. Pursuant to SDCL § 35-2-1.2, the Board of County Commissioners may approve or disapprove an application for alcoholic beverage license, or the transfer of an existing license, depending on whether the Board finds the applicant is a suitable person to hold the license, whether the Board considers the proposed location suitable for sale of alcoholic beverages, and whether the application and applicant meets all other statutory requirements. 5. As required by SDCL § 25-2-6.2, all applicants must be of good moral character and may not have a felony conviction. If the applicant is a corporation, all managing officers of the corporation must be of good moral character and may not have been convicted of a felony. 6. Any application fees will not be refunded once the license is approved by the Board of County Commissioners and issued by the State. 7. As required by SDCL § 35-2-5.1, if the Board of County Commissioners does not approve an application, it shall specify the reasons for disapproval on the application and return the application and fee to the applicant. The applicant may not submit another application for an alcoholic beverage license for one (1) year from the date of the denied application. However, if the denial was based on the suitability of the location for the license, the applicant may not submit another application for three (3) months from the date of the denial as long as the renewal is based on a different location. Renewal Process 1. Applicants for renewal of existing on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses must follow the same application process set forth above. 2. Renewals of existing licenses may be approved without a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners unless one or more of the licensee's employees has been subject to a criminal penalty for violation of the alcoholic beverage control law or the license has been suspended. 3. As required by SDCL § 32-2-5.3, the Board of County Commissioners may not reissue any alcoholic beverage license to the same licensee or the licensee's transferee if the license has not been actively used during the two (2) years preceding the date of the current application. a. "Actively used," as defined in SDCL § 32-3-5.3 means that the licensed premises was open to the public during regular business hours for sale and consumption of distilled spirits for at least sixty (60) days during the two preceding years. 4. The Butte County Board of Commissioners will not reissue an alcoholic beverage license unless all taxes incurred by the licensee or his transferee because of the operation of the licensed premises are paid or are not delinquent. 5. No license will renew or reissue until all property taxes that are the liability of the licensee levied on the licensed property are paid or are not delinquent. Revocation or Suspension Process 1. The Butte County Board of County Commissioners may recommend that the Secretary suspend or revoke any alcoholic beverage license issued for violation of any provision of SDCL Chapter 35. 2. As required by 35-2-11.2, the Board of County Commissioners must give notice to the licensee of proposed revocation or suspension recommendation only after a public hearing on the issue. 3. The licensee must have at least thirty (30) days' notice of the proposed recommendation and date set for a public hearing. 4. The Butte County Auditor shall publish a notice of the public hearing in the County's official newspaper at least one week before the public hearing in a form approved by the Board of County Commissioners. 5. Grounds for revocation or suspension of an alcoholic beverage license are found in SDCL § 35-2-10. Dated this 6th day of January 2026. BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS /s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR Motion by Ager, Second by Batterman to pass Resolution 2026-16 A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Suspension on Tax Certificate Sales. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. BUTTE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2026-16 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION ON TAX CERTIFICATE SALES WHEREAS, SDCL §§ 10-23 et seq. provides for an annual sale of tax certificates for the amount of delinquent property tax due on real property, and WHEREAS, the legislative scheme for Tax Deeds found in SDCL §§ 10-25 has recently changed, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Butte County will temporarily not sell tax certificates for delinquent property taxes payable in 2026, and prior years. BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Butte County will not issue Tax Deeds to holders of tax certificates, including certificates held by the County and by third parties, until questions surrounding constitutionality of the tax deed process are resolved. Approved and adopted this 6th day of January 2026 /s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, BUTTE COUNTY AUDITOR Motion by Kari, Second by Brunner to pass Resolution 2026-17 A Resolution Authorizing the Butte County State's Attorney to Accept Service of Process on Behalf of Butte County. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Butte County Resolution Number 2026-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUTTE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT SERVICE OF PROCESS ON BEHALF OF BUTTE COUNTY WHEREAS, from time to time individuals or others may bring judicial action naming Butte County as a party to the action, or require documents to be officially served on Butte County, and WHEREAS, Butte County may want to accept service of process under the provisions of SDCL 15-9-20, and WHEREAS, the Butte County Board of Commissioners is empowered to accept service, and WHEREAS, acceptance of service is time-sensitive and should acceptance of service be deemed advisable, it should be accomplished within a reasonable period of time; and WHEREAS, The Board finds it is appropriate for the Butte County State's Attorney to accept service and provide requisite notice of the service of process and the action involved to the Board. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commission of Butte County that the Butte County State's Attorney may accept service of process on behalf of Butte County. IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Butte County State's Attorney will notify the Butte County Board of Commissioners of any service of process at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting held after service is accepted. Approved and adopted this 6th day of January 2026. /s/: Chad Erk s Chad Erk, CHAIRPERSON ATTEST:/s/: Annie Capp _____ Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor Motion by Batterman, Second by Ager to establish Indigent County Burial Rates at \$2,000.00. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to approve the Consent Agenda Items with no changes. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Consent Agenda - The following items were placed on the consent agenda for final action to be taken on all items by a single vote. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda by any member of the Commission for separate consideration. a. Bills per Printout b. Apportioning and Other payments c. Auditor's Monthly Settlement with Treasurer d. Travel Request: i. Dispatch: Larae Beguin to attend LETC Training in Pierre, SD from 02/01/2026 to 02/05/2026. Recess taken at 10:17 AM. Reconvened at 10:21 AM Highway Superintendent Heidrich gave an activity report including hauling gravel, fixing signs, waiting on supplies to finish replacing damaged signs. Superintendent Heidrich provided insurance information on #202 & Trailers. The trailers will be fixed in Fargo, ND. The truck was totaled and county can either buy back or cash out. Heidrich suggested buying back for \$10,156.00 (for parts) and take \$44,445.75 remaining from insurance and purchasing a used truck based on the total cost of the truck and the needs and requirements. Options for other trucks. Motion Kari, Second by Brunner to buy back the total truck for \$10,156.00 and take \$44,445.75 remaining from insurance. Ager – Aye, Kari – Aye, Batterman – Nay, Brunner – Aye, Erk – Aye. Motion Carried. Motion by Ager, Second by Batterman to authorize Highway Superintendent Heidrich to research and

purchase a used semi. Ager – Aye, Kari – Nay, Batterman – Aye, Brunner – Nay, Erk – Nay. Motion Failed. Discussion was held regarding letting department heads manage their budgets. Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to authorize Highway Superintendent Heidrich to research and purchase a used semi up to \$65,000. Heidrich will notify Highway Committee members when he finds a truck to purchase. Motion Carried. Ager – Nay, Kari – Aye, Batterman – Nay, Brunner – Aye, Erk – Aye. Motion Carried. Commissioner Ager received a call regarding a cattle guard that needs replaced on Civil Defense Road. Head Dispatcher Katy Thompson gave an activity report including call numbers, call response times, and training. The latest hire is a re-hire, which will lower costs. Dispatch received some furniture from Lawrence County. Surplus items in Dispatch were discussed. Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to surplus items in Dispatch. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Sheriff Lamphere presented the new hours/days for autopsies. Based on charge increase the budget may need to be supplemented. Sheriff Lamphere also spoke on the benches where inmates sit for court appearances. Will require a new process and may need additional staff and a monitor to the courtroom. Sheriff Lamphere discussed the possibility of surplus one of their vehicles for the Building Maintenance employee. State's Attorney Tim Barnaud presented an annual activity report including case load – 2025 was a busy year, prevalent types of cases (alcohol, drug, domestic abuse), diversion programs, and number of jailed residents (9). A discussion was held regarding the 2026 Opioid Distribution. ABC, Compass Point, New Dawn, NH Drug Court. Motion Batterman, Second by Ager to distribute 2026 Opioid funds equally between ABC, Compass Point, New Dawn, and NH Drug Court. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Recess taken at 11:20 AM. Reconvened at 11:25 AM. Treasurer Debbie Lensegrav provided a written activity report for Jul-Dec 2025, including County fees, Total MV Vehicle Fees, 2025 Issued Certificates, Tax Notices, Assessment Freeze Applications, and Distress Warrants to the Sheriff. Auditor Capp provided an activity Report including petitions for the 2026 Election, Cleaning, Building Maintenance, and Property Tax Bills. Motion by Batterman, Second by Brunner to authorize Commissioner Erk to sign the Tenant's Notice Of Termination - 2398 5th Avenue, Suite 102B. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. No action was taken on Tenant's Notice Of Termination - 2398 5th Avenue, Suite 103. Motion by Kari, Second by Brunner to accept Double Star Termination of Services. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. A three-month notification was given on December 19, 2025. Discussion was held regarding additional cash transfers needed for General Fund Cash to be below 40% of the 2026 budget. Batterman recommended money into Building fund, Hwy Truck & Equipment fund, and Technology fund. Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to transfer \$150,000 Hwy Truck & Equipment fund (201-107.1) and \$200,000 to Building fund (101-107.1). Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman, to amend \$200,000 to the Technology fund instead of the Building fund. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to approve the following Cash Transfers - \$350,000.00 CashTransfers \$200,000.00 \$150,000.00 \$ 350,000.00 Made 01-06-2026 From General Fund Cash to GF Technology (101.107.2) From General Fund Cash (101-101) to Hwy Truck & Equipment (201-107.1) Total Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to approve Special Event Liquor License – High Plains Restaurant 01/23/2026. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. States Attorney Tim Barnaud began a discussion regarding Belle Fourche airport zoning. SA Barnaud believes we comply with requirements/regulations, and no action is needed at this time. It was recommended that a revision to the subdivision ordinance be made. Butte County Commissioners Room Remodel quote was discussed. Motion by Ager, Second by Batterman to accept the Ainsworth Benning quote minus the replacement of the carpet in Commissioner's Room. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Motion by Batterman, Second by Kari to appoint Heidi Lewis to a four-year term (Jan 2026 - Dec 2029) on the Butte County Planning Commission. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Motion by Ager, Second by Brunner to enter into Executive Session for Personnel 1-25-2(1) at 12:04 AM. Exited at 12:35 AM with the following action. Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to accept the resignation of DOE Cristina Wilson with regret. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Job to be posted internally and externally immediately. Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to enter into Executive Session for Cybersecurity 1-25- 2(6.d) at 12:36 PM. Exited at 12:55 PM. No action taken as a result of the Executive session. Committee Reports were given; Batterman - EDC meeting received a grant for railroad expansion, Erk - Fair-board meeting – will be getting bids on replacing wood siding with steel. Wood siding on the Pavilion will be the next project. Looking at grants. There was no Unfinished/Old/New Business to report. Informational – Representative Ismay said if anyone has any questions on bills he is sponsoring to give him a call or email. Legislation was discussed. Motion by Brunner, Second by Ager to Adjourn the meeting at 1:03 PM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. PAYMENTS SALARY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE/PLANNING \$9,208.57, AUDITOR'S OFFICE \$16,896.26, BUILDING- \$0, COMMISSIONERS \$4,158.92, DISPATCH \$16,367.20, ELECTION- \$0, EM/911 \$989.72, EXTENSION \$1,936.80, HIGHWAY DEPT/WEED CONTROL \$32,217.95, JUDICIA- \$0, NURSE'S/WIC OFFICE \$1,213.92, REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE \$4,794.20, SHERIFF/JAIL DEPT \$27,564.05, STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE \$11,854.82, TREASURER'S OFFICE \$10,519.00, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE \$878.85 COUNTY SHARE FICA BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$10,421.82 SDRS RETIREMENT BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$7,621.69 GROUP INSURANCE BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$31,431.48 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ARCHTCTRL SPCLTS \$600.83, ASSN CO WD & PST BRDS \$950.00, BTLR WNDW \$150.00, CMDN CO SHRF \$46.00, CPMFRST EQPMNT FNANC \$92,633.56, C BRLL \$252.00, RPD CTY \$280.00, CLBTB & SPRLCH \$1,361.40, CRNWLL \$109.90, CO DRG \$117.56, FEDX \$58.60, HUGHS CO \$345.00, JHNS & KSL \$862.01, K HUNT \$1,250.00, LWS & CLRK BHMVRL HLTH \$225.00, MEADE CO AUDTR \$43,795.00, NLSN LW \$925.93, OFC FIRE MRSHL \$160.00, PNNINGTN CO \$904.00, RDWTR 4-H \$400.00, RDWD TXCLGY LAB \$29.56, SD DPT TRNSPT \$1,178.43, SD SOS \$30.00, SD ST ATTY ASSN \$1,011.18, SDSU XTNSN 4-H \$800.00, TNA HGN \$60.00, TYLR TCH \$5,414.78, WTNS FEES \$20.00, WACKRL \$8,898.03, YNKTN CO \$50.00 PUBLICATIONS BF BCON \$125.00, BH PNR \$374.46 RENT/LEASE A&B BUSINESS \$247.87, CBP \$941.60, DJ CNSTRCTN \$2,800.00, PTNY BWS \$801.42, THMSN RTRS \$371.97 REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE ANDRSN PLMBNG \$157.51, AUTO PRS \$434.20, OBRLS RDTR \$180.00, SML PNT S \$1,451.61, WHTSTR \$63.20. SUPPLIES A PRUIT \$61.62, BUTTE CO EQPMT \$2,840.38, NLND TRCK PRTS \$1,243.64, NH SHTG SPRTS \$65.00, OFC MPRM \$458.31, OLD SOUL \$33.00, O'RLLY AUTO PRT \$11.39, QQP \$20.98, ULINE \$8,580.36, WST TIR \$5,022.16 TRAVEL/CONFERENCE UTILITIES BH NRGY \$3,623.20, BLUPK \$2,670.77, BF CITY \$369.76, MDU \$1,507.14, RFUS SLTNS \$393.55 _____ APPROVED: , Chairperson _____ ATTEST: Annie Capp, Auditor.



NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR 2025 BUTTE COUNTY Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of February 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 No. 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 - \$ 69,000.00 206-750 Wheel Tax \$1100.00 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 12th day of January 2026. Board of Butte County Commission /s/:Chad Erk, Chairperson ATTEST: /s/: Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor Published on Wednesday, February 4th, 2026 Published on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026

Working on Solutions for you at the Capitol in Pierre

Newell Cracker Barrel

NEWELL-Saturday, January 31, saw local legislators and Newell citizens gathered in the Newell Community Hall to discover some of the legislation being discussed at Pierre during regular session. Some of the 25-30 citizens were ready with questions for Travis Ismay, District 28B Representative, Sam Marty, District 28 Senator, and Jana Hunt, District 28A Representative.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Butte County Commissioner Tom Brunner, each legislator gave a bit of background on themselves and their endeavors at the legislative sessions.

Rep. Ismay assured the audience that he looks forward to answering any questions they have and was present to hear their comments and concerns.

Sen. Marty said at the present time, the Senate was on "the slow side" and was not involved with many bills.

Rep. Hunt explained that the house is not cohesive and is divided on several issues. She encouraged citizens to let representatives know what concerns them and let them know before a bill heads to the floor for debate and vote.

One of the top discussion matters is the importance of agriculture in the state. Rep. Hunt explained that one of her goals is to protect and promote agriculture. One of her concerns is the Brand Board. Rep. Ismay is also part of the Ag Committee and wants the Brand Board to cover the entire state. Presently, the Brand Board covers West River, making the discussion



Following the **Cracker Barrel** session at the **Newell Community Hall**, several citizens had comments with each legislator present. *Bruner Photo*

one of West River vs East River when it comes to regulations.

Butte County Sheriff Fred Lamphere advised that cattle stealing and the presence of the Brand Board has been a problem for many years.

"It takes a lot of process to investigate," he said.

The sheriff is the first call, law enforcement knows what's going on and will handle the

situation. However, many times the livestock can go to East River or be dumped on the reservation where law enforcement has no real jurisdiction.

"The rules leave when cattle go East River," he concluded.

Another big battle in South Dakota and the entire nation is a push on "cell protein" or manufactured meat. According to Rep. Hunt, there are bills

coming to stop "the attack on beef on the hoof". She mentioned an interesting video on YouTube by Mr. Beef on Upside Foods that expounds on cell protein.

The manufactured meat must be labeled in South Dakota in grocery stores, but there's no way of knowing if the "meat" is used at restaurants or fast food places.

Commissioner Brunner

cautioned the audience to be vigilant and watch what the feds are doing.

The question of property taxes was asked and why the state is not doing more to keep taxes in line. Rep. Ismay explained that land taxes come from the county. The state has jurisdiction on how it's collected, but it's local control to use it.

Cracker Barrel Contd. D3

Fresh Pies and New Updates at NVN Senior Center

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—If you ever get a hankering for a fresh homemade pie, the NVN Senior Center in Newell has you covered! The fourth Tuesday of every month is Pie Day! The Center hosted the monthly Pie Day on January 27.

Members of the Senior Center bake pies for the occasion. They start out with around ten pies and usually sell out by the end of the day. There is always a variety of pies to choose from at each sale. If pie isn't your thing, homemade caramel rolls are also available, along with coffee.

The regular monthly sale is

a fundraiser for the Center. The members have been working hard raising funds to upgrade the building.

They recently upgraded the roof, kitchen, ceiling, flooring, and paint, to name a few of the fixes.

The membership just got the news of damage to the bathroom. The floor has shifted and needs to be fixed. This expense will cost them approximately \$5,000, so they are busy working to raise the money to cover this latest, and hopefully last, large expense.

"We are remodeling our restrooms—to the tune of \$5,000—so we can really use the revenue," explained Patty Karas,

member. "We need to grind that huge crack down—they will grind it down, and then level it out and then put new tile down."

The good news is the problem is mostly cosmetic. "So there's nothing wrong with the foundation. The ground in Newell shifts all the time. This building was built on a cement pad, so once it gets a hairline crack, it just goes," said Karas.

NVN Senior Center has a lot of plans for the new year. Mark your calendars and support the local facility if you can!

Every Monday night, beginning at 6 p.m., is Bingo night. On February 9, Bingo night will be extra festive as it is

their Valentine's Day celebration. In addition to regular bingo, there will be a chance to win a gift card to High Plains Restaurant and a raffle for a Valentine's Day basket.

"We have a lot of fun," said Karas. "We normally take a little break and everybody brings treats, and so we enjoy a little halftime treat and visit—it's just really a nice, nice evening!"

The NVN Center hopes to have an Open House to encourage the public to come and see all of the new upgrades and renovations to the building. "We hope to have an open house sometime in April, and let people know that we've got the place available for rent,

for a reasonable price—and everything is ready to go! We're really putting a lot of work into it," explained Karas.

On May Day, the Center has a special event planned you won't want to miss! "We are going to have a High Tea on May Day," shared Karas. "We are going to have a fundraiser on May Day.

We'll have a tea vendor and we'll have a honey vendor, and then I hope to get someone that will come in and take pictures of us in fun hats. We will have our treats and we'll have a backdrop in front of the piano!"

If you have questions or are interested in joining, renting, or participating in the Center, you can reach out to 605-456-2186.



(L) The **NVN Senior Center** storage room used by the local food pantry has been renovated. The old carpet was removed, the walls were freshly painted, and new curtains were added. (R) **NVN Senior Center** is a nice place to hang out. After enjoying pie or caramel rolls and coffee on **Pie Day**, locals often stay and play cards together. *Longbrake photos*

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Last Sunday was Sanctity of Life Sunday and we brought home a baby bottle to fill with money to donate to the Bella pregnancy help center in Spearfish. The weather warmed up a little this week but it still feels like winter. It was 18 degrees below zero when we got up last Sunday and it only warmed up to 9 degrees below that day.

We lost another friend: Virginia Caroline (Clark) Gerbracht, 75, from Faith, was peacefully called home into the loving arms of Jesus on January 24, after enduring cancer with grace and faith. Her funeral will be February 7 at 1:30 at the First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis.

The temperature when we got up Monday morning was 10 degrees and it warmed up to 31 degrees later on that day and every day was warmer than the cold weather last week.

I went down to quilt at the church on Tuesday and spent the day quilting with Patsy Wilkinson, Margareta Hanson and Connie Weishaar. It was fun working and visiting with those nice ladies. Casey took the Harding County wrestlers to a wrestling meet in Lemmon that afternoon. I had a ZOOM call that evening with SDPRLCA to hear Tonchi Weaver speak about Victory West River and Sen. Lapka speak about HJR 5001.

Reub and I took the red pickup to Hettinger on Wednesday to get our black pickup from Laufer Vermeer after they got it fixed and the oil changed in it. After getting the stuff we needed from Runnings and White Drug, including the squeeze Reub gets from his cousin Roxie Finck, we headed home with both pickups and stopped in Reeder to have coffee and some good visits with the Prairie Pioneers. It was a nice day on Thurs-

day so Reub and I went over to Coyote' Butte that morning to cut up some dead trees for firewood to haul home in the side-by-side. We came home to eat lunch and went back over there to cut up more firewood to burn in the woodstove. It made me think about what our grandparents and great grandparents did to heat their houses and cook their food when there weren't hardly any trees growing around here back then. All they had to burn was not very good coal they dug up in several places around here and to burn 'cow chips', which was just dry cow manure. I can remember when my sister Judy and I were living with our Grandma Lydia Wilkinson at Glendo when we were just little kids after our mother had a heart attack and Dad was taking care of her in Prairie City. Grandma would send us out in the pasture to pick up the dried cow chips so she could cook lunch for us in her wood cookstove in the house in the summertime with no air conditioning even on a hot day in the summer. When you stop to think about that, we've got it pretty good now because even if the woodstove quit our propane stove would keep us warm.

There was more snow on the ground when we woke up Friday morning and the

temperature only got to 20 degrees, but without any wind it didn't feel very chilly outside when Casey left to take all the Harding County wrestlers to the tournament in Belle Fourche.

It rained a little in the night and I had to drive through icy roads on the way down to the Cracker Barrel in Belle Fourche Saturday morning to listen to the legislators in District 28 tell us about what they have been working on in Pierre. We heard good messages from District 28 Sen. Sam Marty, 28B Rep. Travis Ismay, and 28A Rep. Jana Hunt. I wanted to go to the Craker Barrel in Newell at 9:30 that morning but couldn't get my chores done in time, but they had a good crowd show up to listen to them there too. If you want to keep track of what the legislature is doing in Pierre go to https://sdlegislature.gov/ to read about the bills, the legislators and the government. I really like that Rep. Jana Hunt is bringing a bill to make brand inspection across the state to stop cattle and horse thefts in western South Dakota because we've been needing state-wide brand inspection forever. If you would like to voice your concerns about this via email to the legislative body at https://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/Contacts/71 and

to the governor's office at https://iqconnect.lmhosted-q.com/ixextranet/EFORM.aspx?_cid=FSL_SD_GOV&_fid=2100060 please do so soon.

Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen's son Robert and his family came to church Sunday morning to listen to Pastor Henry's sermon and it was so nice to see them again. They were on their way back to North Dakota after going to the Stock Show in Rapid City and it sounded like they had fun down there. They stayed to visit with Pastor Henry and Linda and have lunch with them that afternoon before heading north.

With all the chaos in Minnesota, I'll leave you with this: RECENT QUOTES FROM SEN. JOHN KENNEDY from LOUISIANA.

*I BELIEVE AMERICA WAS FOUNDED BY GENIUSES BUT IS NOW RUN BY IDIOTS.

*I BELIEVE YOU CAN'T FIX STUPID, BUT YOU CAN VOTE THEM OUT OF OFFICE.

*WE DON'T HAVE A GUN CONTROL PROBLEM, WE HAVE AN IDIOT CONTROL PROBLEM.

*FREE ADVICE FRIENDS, IF GOVERNMENT TELLS YOU NOT TO BUY A GUN, BUY TWO.

Then and Now in Newell

January 27, 1916

A debate was given at the parent packed Mud Butte School house by the school students on Thursday. The subject discussed was "Resolved That Fire is More Destructive Than Water". The affirmative side won.

The bachelors in the Horse Creek vicinity are all keeping undercover on account of this being Leap Year. The tension was a little lessened recently when one of our charming spinsters made her selection. The old maids will hold an oyster supper and humorous entertainment at the Newell Odd Fellows Hall Friday evening at 8:00 PM. Everybody invited, admission only 25 cents, men get in Free.

Vital statistics for Butte County issued January 14th for 1914 and 1915: deaths 1914 43, 1915 52; births 1914 135, 1915 121; marriages 1914 84 1915 78 and deaths 1914 45 and 1915 3.

January 28, 1926

M. E. Hafner, left yesterday for Detroit, Michigan, where he will be present at the ordination of his brother Aloysius, to the priesthood on February 7th. He expects to stop in Minneapolis and Chicago on his way eastward, to visit friends and relatives.

Owing to the frequent changes in temperatures and snowfalls, farmers are having difficulty in finding time to put up ice. The ice is also of a very poor quality. Henry Maass is helping his brother put up ice this week. His wife and little daughter, Greta, went with him Tuesday, it being the first time Mrs. Maass had been able to be out since her recent sickness. H. O.

"Looking Forward to our Past"

Calhoun has a force of men busy this week putting up his annual ice supply in spite of the unsettled temperatures, ice is of a very good quality.

The sugar beets of western South Dakota are the highest in sugar content of any in the United States outside of a small area in Montana according to Federal Agriculture figures. The tonnage per acre is greatest in the country. Local people would like to know the pickle and canning industries expand to such an extent that by rotation all the year-round business prosperity would ensue.

January 30, 1936

Articles of Incorporation were filed in the Secretary of State's office for the Black Hills Seed Company, with capital stock of \$12,000. Directors of the company are S. H. Bober and Rose Bober, both Newell and J. E. Martin of Sioux Falls. The office will be located at Newell.

The Vale School was closed on Monday morning for the balance of the week or until much better weather conditions prevail. Earl Edwards has assisted Karl Koeppe with the daily mail route during the past week. Together they have found it impossible to complete the circuit. Thus, they met with an accident and managed to get into town late in afternoon. Mr. & Mrs. James. Dolphin visited Friday evening at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Wilson. Due to the drifted roads, they were compelled to remain overnight. Mrs. Wilson was entertaining her sister, Mrs. Potter.

The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company is this week holding a series of meetings at which

motion pictures are being shown depicting the progress made towards better farming practices. Beet raisers all over the district have been invited to attend the meetings in their District. The pictures have been shown at Spearfish and Vale and scheduled for Newell January 27, 2:00 PM at the Arcade Theater; January 30th Nisland at 7:30 PM at the Legion Hall, Belle Fourche 31st PM at the Belle Theater and Rapid city 31st 7:30 PM at Alex Johnson Hotel.

January 24, 1946

Miss Rose Winkler visited from Friday until Sunday at the home of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. George Winkler. Miss Nell Winkler of Rapid City also spent the weekend with her parents and sister. On Monday evening On Monday evening the Winklers took their daughters to Rapid City from where Rose left enroute to Alaska, where she has been assigned to a Civil Service position in payroll clerical work.

Major F. Lyn Gladstone arrived home Sunday night for a visit with his family. Monday, Maj. & Mrs. Gladstone and daughter Cherie left for Lemmon for a week's visit with the former's parents, Judge & Mrs. Frank Gladstone and his brother Scotty, who is visiting there prior to returning to overseas duty.

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett McDermott have sold their store and garage to Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sundstrom, who took possession at once. The Sundstrom's have also bought the Mud Butte Store and Post Office from Mrs. Goff and will combine the two stores this spring. Sam is a WWII Veteran, and we wish success in his business venture.

February 2, 1956

Lorman Lange, Newell, 1955 state light-weight amateur boxing champion, was among the winners on an interesting fight card conducted by the American legion at Dupree Wednesday evening. In his first match since winning the state title at Belle Fourche last spring, Lange at 135 pounds won a decision from Silk, a 147-pound fighter from Ft. Yates, North Dakota.

WRCTC West River Cooperative Telephone Company. Phone 605.244.5213 www.sdplains.com Proud communications provider of the Newell, Vale & Nisland areas.

According to the local boxing coach Don Moore, Lange expects to enter the Golden Gloves Tourney in Belle Fourche this week.

Game Warden Harry Henderson of Belle Fourche discussed requirements of South Dakota's new hunting law at the regular meeting of the Newell Explorer Scouts at the Harry Weakley home on Monday evening. Henderson advised that tests must now be taken by all applicants for hunting licenses under 16 years of age and discussed possibilities of setting up a place to conduct the necessary training. Attending were Harold Shipley; David Bliss; Rodney DeGarlais; Jerry Lee, Lynn Laumer; Lynn Kuchera; Eddie Weakly; Darrel Barber; Jack Malcolm, Roger Caton and Norman Williamson.

A cooperative telephone meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Wester last Friday evening, in consideration of installation of telephone service. Those in attendance were; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Klein; Mr. & Mrs. Ed Newill; Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Knuetson; Mr. & Mrs. Tiltman Bekken; Everett Barber; Ed Breidenbach and Bernard Laumer. At the close of the productive meeting, lunch was served by the hosts.

February 3, 1966

Darlene Payne, Nisland, info A 1945 Chevrolet, weighing around 1,000 pounds, has been placed on the Newell City Reservoir west of town and has been put to work for a scoreboard for Newell High School lighted athletic field, according to action approved by the Newell Jaycees at a regular meeting Thursday night. The organization approved to award \$100 cash to the winning donor of funds for the project who most closely determines when the

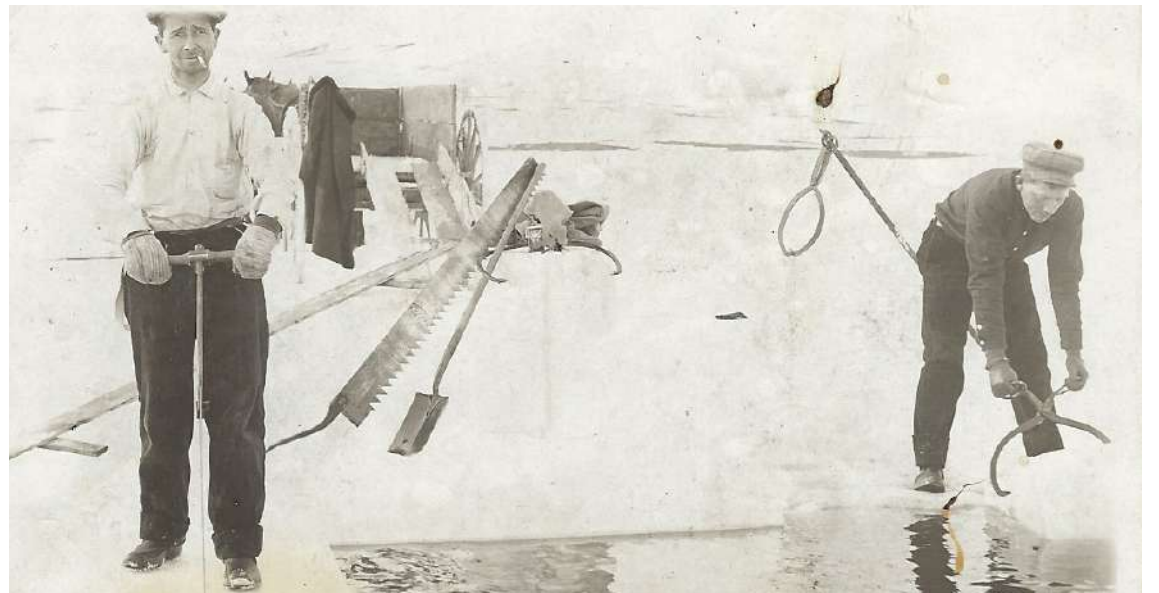
vehicle breaks through the ice. A special recording clock will be installed in the car later, to determine the exact time, to the second such as "2:36.05 PM, April 16", when the car has broken through the ice sufficiently to stop the clock.

Mrs. Earl Jones entertained members of the Newell Garden Club at her home Friday afternoon. Three new members were welcomed: Mrs. Leo Ahonen, Mrs. Clara Heston and Mrs. Edward Yoder. Projects for the coming year were discussed and Mrs. Ahonen gave instructions on flower arrangement on a budget. A delicious lunch was served.

Operations of the Vale High School will be discussed at the end of the current 1965-66 school term, according to action taken at a special meeting of the Vale School District Board of Education there on Monday.

Reasons for discontinuing operation for the High School, the board noted that the district would run into serious financial difficulty in continuing to operate same and that available revenues might force into a reduction in the curriculum not in the best interests of the students. Although the Vale District is still debt free, the board also noted that the school building had deteriorated to a point which it would be necessary, in order to continue a High School go either extensive remodel the present building or build a new structure, thus placing a heavier burden on taxpayers who are already assessed a maximum of 40 mills for operations of the district. The present high school building was built in 1914 and became the first rural high school in western South Dakota where a 2-year course was taught until 1927 when a 4-year accredited high school came to be.

BOBER SEED HOUSE. Field and Garden Seeds, Nursery Stock - Poultry Feed. Newell, S. Dak. Phone 52. List of local businesses and services including Martin Irrigator, Masonic Temple, McMayhan Frances, McCabe Sarah, Michelson Sam, Middleton John, Milberg Emory, Modern Beauty Shop, Montagne Charolene, Mueller Glen, Mueller Victor, Munroe C W, Munroe Eugene, Newell Cash Store, Newell Dry Cleaners, Newell Hardware, Newell High School, Newell Supplement Co, Newell Jewelry, Newell Liquor Co, Newell Shoe Shop.



(L) Bober Seed Company as appeared in an 1940 phone book (R) Johnny "Rawhide" Strong and Henry Johnson cutting Ice on the river

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

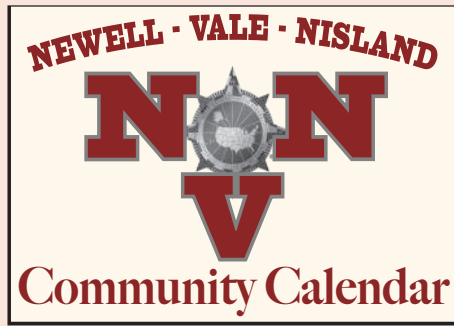
Wednesday Evenings
Summer Campus CleanUp
Every Wednesday, 4-6 p.m.
Newell School

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

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

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



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Support Local Business From the Beacon and Irrigator.
Your support of local businesses, makes it work.
We're Newell-Vale-Nisland proud!

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

Cracker Barrel
Cont'd from Pg D-1
At this time, the state wants a "cookie cutter" plan for taxes, but as Ismay said, "Don't let the state fix it." It's important to elect conservatives to local commissions that will be responsible.
A bill brought in the Senate recently was discussed by Sen. Marty and Rep. Hunt. SB203 calls for a financing plan to be in place before bringing it to a county or city commission by any entity that is asking for TIF (Tax Increment Financing). A plan must outline how the project costs will be paid for using future tax revenue increases.

Additionally, "the local government entity responsible for the district must find that the social or economic benefits of the project outweigh its costs to property owners and taxing authorities within the district."
There was a brief discussion on a question from School Superintendent Dr. Pandi Pittman concerning accountability for all students. She asked when there would be data on the proficiency in math and science from alternative schools.
Rep. Ismay said that he felt

it was unnecessary that home-schooled or alternative school students should have to do any testing.
As the morning came to an end, Rep. Hunt again emphasized that she was working in government to protect individual rights. "I want to be challenged," she said, and encourages her constituents to email her. Both Rep. Ismay and Sen. Marty echoed her words.
Email addresses can be found at the South Dakota Legislature website: sdlegislature.gov.
The Cross-Over Day for bills is February 24, 2026.



From the left-Moderator County Commissioner **Tom Brunner**, Rep. **Travis Ismay**, District 28B; Sen. **Sam Marty**, District 28, and Rep. **Jana Hunt**, District 28A.

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.

Newell Health Clinic

is accepting new patients!

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

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

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PatNP.com



THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT SOUTH DAKOTA'S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Rep Jana Hunt

Special to the Irrigator Cattle theft is a major concern of livestock owners at all times but especially now at a time when the price of cattle is at an all-time high.

Livestock producers realize the sacrifices and work it takes to care for their livestock, and they recognize the importance of their product for our nation and the entire world.

That is why I am deeply concerned by the reality that our Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), Hunter Roberts, has no clue what Western South Dakotan livestock owners undergo in the support of agriculture.

His recommendation to prevent cattle theft is to check on your cattle more than once a month. He targeted operators with cattle on Reservation lands instead of acknowledging an historic and persistent problem throughout our entire state.

They're, they're your livestock. You need to pay attention to where they're at. I mean—so many stories—it's like you drop them off on the Reservation and come back a month later and think they're going to be there.

which makes it even more fun."

It seems this Department Secretary is more content to watch South Dakotan Livestock producers' livelihood be threatened rather than digging in to understand and aid in resolving their issues.

I would recommend anyone reading to follow the video link to hear for yourself the entire report of DANR. The Secretary begins with his report at 11:40. I would specifically note that the Secretary starts talking about the Brand Board and its relating issues at the time of 19:55.

The picture used in the presentation to aid in visualizing the brand inspection area implied that based on land mass, West River has significantly more land mass than East River. This picture showcased the ingrained belief held by DANR that cattle theft is a West River problem, when, in fact, it's also an East River problem because most of the established West River cattle producers have known for years and years that many cattle that are being stolen go East River where there is no brand inspection or proof of ownership required.

My question is: How well is the Brand Board communicating to DANR the desire of West River producers to stretch the brand jurisdiction statewide? In

my opinion, they are not representing those that pay into the fund well. If they were, DANR would not hold such an aloof and disconnected view of this issue in our state.

I questioned the Secretary during his report and asked him if DANR would support a state wide brand inspection area. DANR Secretary replied to my question they would be neutral if there is a bill to pursue the state wide brand inspection area.

However, I was quickly confused when he followed up with comments that promoted the ideology that a state wide brand inspection area was not needed. He went into detail explaining why they haven't pursued or promoted a state wide brand inspection law and that our current biased law is sufficient.

At the same time our law implies that East River is superior to West River and is not mandated to pay the inspection fee. Rather, each county is allowed opportunity to choose to opt into this tax.

Of course, individual counties are not going to opt into a tax that West River is carrying the majority of the financial burden for. (I would specifically note that I question the Secretary about the Brand Board and its relating issues on the video link at 38:24).

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it means and takes to be an agricultural livestock producer in Western South Dakota by the Secretary of Agriculture is deeply disturbing.

For a Secretary to our biggest producing industry to disregard the very financially devastating issue of cattle theft in a flippant and, in my opinion, disrespectful attitude, destroys trust in our entire state government.

I would ask you to please voice your concerns via email to the legislative body at https://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/Contacts/71 and to the governor's office at https://iqconnect.lmhostediq.com/iqextranet/EFForm.aspx?_cid=FSL_SD_GOV&_fid=210 0060.

I would also like to ask if any of our livestock producers would like to see in state statute the brand inspection statewide, please email or call/text me at: jana.hunt@sdlegislature.gov or 605-200-2057.

Jana Hunt SD House Representative, District 28A (Corson, Dewey, Perkins, and Ziebach Counties)

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