



Belle Fourche Beacon

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VOL. 9 ISSUE 11

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Center of the Nation Cheerleaders Selected for Macy's Day Parade

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—Six cheerleaders have been selected to travel to New York City in November to represent Belle Fourche in the Macy's Day Parade.

The prestigious Macy's Day Parade is an annual tradition that began in 1924. It always takes place on Thanksgiving morning. This year it will be held on November 26 and is often considered the official start of the Christmas season.

Those going on the trip this year include Mollie Collins, Adela Grusing, Aubrey Wilbur, Hope Sinkey, Chelsea Zinke and Lucila Merjil. A few of the cheerleaders got to participate in the parade in 2024, the last time Belle Fourche was selected. "It's the 100th anniversary of the Macy's Day Parade," explained

Carie Merjil, cheer mom and chaperone. "A lot of them are going into their senior year—it's their last chance. They got rained out pretty good last

time, soaked to the bone—we're hoping for some nice weather!"

Performers are invited to send in an audition application and video. "They have to do an audition video with a dance, a cheer and jumps, and then they send it in, and we wait," explained Merjil. "...typically they do it as a group, one group, and then the group gets picked to go."

Being selected to participate in the Macy's Day Parade may be a great honor, but it also comes with a large price tag.

All of the cheerleaders and their chaperones must raise around \$4,000 per person to pay for the six-night, seven-day experience, plus airfare. From now until September 1, 2026, the Center of the Nation Cheerleaders will be hosting a variety of fundraisers.

The cheer team has had a few fundraisers at the Moose Lodge and has plans for many more. They are also selling

Macy's Parade Contd. A6



Six **Center of the Nation Cheerleaders** from Belle Fourche have been selected to participate in the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** this year. Those making the trip to New York are back: **Mollie Collins, Adela Grusing and Aubrey Wilbur.** Front: **Hope Sinkey, Chelsea Zinke and Lucila Merjil.** Courtesy Photo

City Council Candidates Answer Voters' Questions Ahead of April 7 Election

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—A special election is being held Tuesday, April 7 at the Belle Fourche Community Hall. There are City Council seats open in Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 3.

The Butte County Republicans along with the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce hosted a Belle Fourche City Council Candidate Forum.

It was an evening that introduced all of the candidates to the voters and provided an opportunity to ask them questions in a relaxed setting. The event was held at Grap's Burgers and Brews on the evening of Thursday, March 19.

The Candidate Forum was moderated by Tom Brunner, County Commissioner and

Butte GOP Chairman. He asked questions and gave the audience a chance to ask questions as well.

All candidates were given the opportunity to answer each question, and were allowed three minutes for their answers.

The evening began with the opportunity for the candidates to take the microphone and introduce themselves, in their own words, to everyone listening.

The event was live-streamed on the Facebook pages of the Belle Fourche Chamber, the Butte County Republican Committee and was carried on Dirt Road Radio, 103.1 FM KYDT and 1450 AM KBFS.

After Brunner welcomed everyone to the event and explained how the evening

Forum contd. A8



A large crowd filled Graps backroom for the City Council candidate forum. Longbrake photo

Belle Fourche AAU Club Takes 13 Wrestlers to the Podium at State



Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The Belle Fourche AAU Club had 21 state qualifiers this year. The tournament was held over 3 days in the attached original arena at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls. On Friday, March 20th, the 14U and USAW Freestyle Juniors competed all the way through their brackets to the podium in a single day tournament.

The Broncos had 3 ladies place in the 14U division, Madalynn Rhoads placed 8th, AnnaBelle Dighton placed 5th and Charlie Huston placed 4th in their respective weight classes.

The 14U boys division for the Broncos had 2 placers, Logan Gleason at 3rd and Jaxon Linch at 2nd. The USAW Freestyle Juniors division Broncos saw both Broncos place

as well with Luke Tonsager at 3rd and Caden Swaney at 2nd.

On Saturday, March 21st there were 2 sessions of wrestling held with 6U and 8U running through the "blood rounds" just before placing matches in the morning and the 10U and 12U divisions running through the blood rounds in the afternoon.

Those that made it to the placing rounds wrestled placing matches after the Parade of Athletes on Sunday morning, March 22nd.

The Broncos had 2 boys in the 8U division place, Brooks Lynch at 7th and Easton Swaney at 8th, and 2 girls place, Mila Hudson at 5th and Riley Mehlhaff at 8th. The boys 10U Broncos had a 6th place finisher, Nash Lafrentz, and the girls 10U had an 8th place finisher, Nora Hodge. In the 12U boys division, Bayzen Curtis placed 7th and in the

girls 12U division, Gracie Hodge placed 5th.

Moving the 14U division to Friday with the Freestyle wrestlers alleviated the congestion for Saturday in the original attached arena at the Premier Center, which holds a capacity of just over 5,000.

On Saturday alone, there were 527 athletes competing in the morning session and 728 athletes competing in the afternoon session, according to Sioux Empire Wrestling.

The 14U division had a record number of registered athletes this year and used all 8 mats of the arena.

The Juniors division was moved to a conference room with 2 mats and chairs for spectators moved in. As wrestling continues to grow in numbers, venues to house the state competition has been

AAU contd. A4

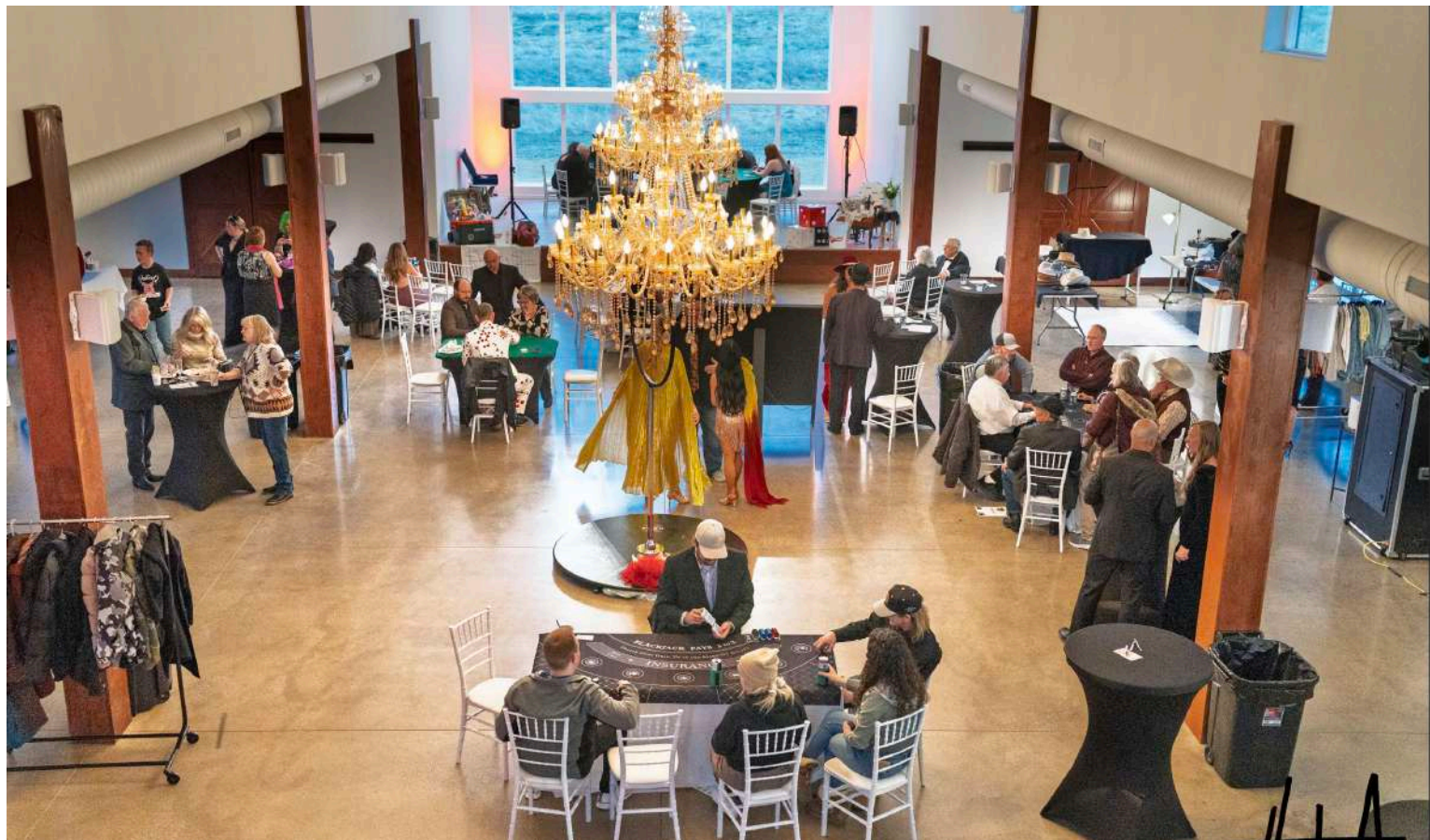
Chamber Hosts Successful Casino Night

The Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce brought community members together for an evening of entertainment, games, and prizes during its second annual Casino Night, an event designed to combine fun with local engagement and fundraising.

Held as one of the chamber's signature social events, Casino Night featured a lively atmosphere where guests tried their luck at casino-style games operated by local volunteers.

Attendees moved between gaming tables throughout the evening, earning chances to win 3 prize packages valued at a

Casino Night Contd. A6



Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Casino Night was held Friday March 13th, 2026 at the accommodating **Silver Spur Ranch!**

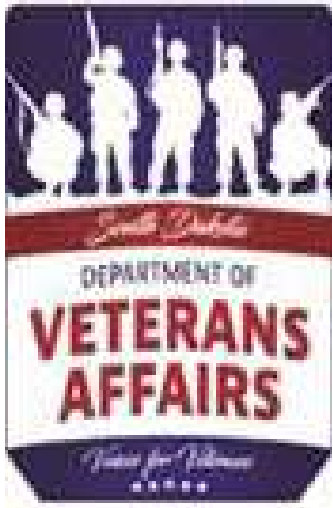
MEDAL OF HONOR DAY – MARCH 25

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – On March 25, the nation will unite to observe Medal of Honor Day, a day dedicated to honoring the courage, heroism, and sacrifice of the men and women who have earned the United States highest military distinction, the Medal of Honor.

Established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861, the Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through acts of valor performed above and beyond the call of duty. Each recipient's bravery embodies the very spirit of service and selflessness that defines America's armed forces.

To date, more than 3,500 service members have received the Medal of Honor. Their acts of heroism span every major U.S. conflict, from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism. These individuals risked their lives to protect their fellow service members and civilians, demonstrating great personal sacrifice.

A Medal of Honor tribute is displayed on the first floor of the west wing of the South Dakota State Capitol, honoring ten vet-



erans with ties to our state. Each name is accompanied by the community where their memorial can be found:

- U.S. Army, Brigadier General Charles D. Roberts (Fort Meade)
- U.S. Army, Captain Willibald C. Bianchi (Brookings)
- U.S. Marine Corps, Captain Joe J. Foss (Sioux Falls)
- U.S. Army, Captain Arlo L. Olson (Toronto)

- U.S. Marine Corps, Private First-Class Herbert A. Littleton (Spearfish)
 - U.S. Army Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble (Sisseton)
 - U.S. Air Force, Colonel Leo K. Thorsness (Brookings)
 - U.S. Air Force, Colonel George E. "Bud" Day (Vermillion)
 - U.S. Army, General Patrick H. Brady (Hot Springs)
 - U.S. Army, Specialist Four Michael J. Fitzmaurice (Hot Springs)
 - U.S. Navy, Captain Elmer Royce Williams
- "Medal of Honor Day reminds us that freedom is not simply given, but safeguarded through extraordinary courage and unwavering sacrifice," said Jeremiah Scheider, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "The heroes we honor today faced unimaginable challenges and chose valor over fear, showing us that true strength lies in selfless service. Their legacy calls on us to live with the same resolve, to support those who serve, and to ensure that their example continues to light the path for generations to come."

Black Hills Reads celebrates 85,520 books read by Read Across America Day

South Dakotans turned pages into miles this winter—logging more than 85,520 books and driving the Race to Read 'book mobile' over 17,064 miles statewide.

The seven-week reading challenge, which began January 11 and concluded on Read Across America Day, brought together families, classrooms, and entire communities to turn reading into a shared statewide adventure. Participants earned miles by reading books or pages, with bonus miles awarded through weekly Facebook challenges. This year's challenge saw outstanding engagement across all age groups and regions.

Key Challenge Highlights:

- 85,520 books read statewide
- 1,526 participants across South Dakota
- 17,064 miles 'driven' through reading
- 1,580 bonus books earned through Facebook

challenges

Top Performers:

- Top Community: 21,827 books
- Top Organization: 6,914.8 books
- Top Family: 1,832.8 books
- Top Individual: 1,553.8 books

"We're continually inspired by how families, classrooms, and entire communities come together for this challenge," said Lisa Stanley of Black Hills Reads.

"Watching South Dakota turn reading into a statewide adventure shows the incredible commitment our communities have to early literacy."

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is one of the strongest predictors of future academic success. The Race to Read Challenge gives families and educators a fun, motivating way to build consistent reading habits and celebrate early literacy across the state.

A variety of teams

shared encouraging comments throughout the challenge. One rural school said they were 'trucking along,' while others noted that children 'couldn't wait to watch the car travel across South Dakota.' These joyful moments highlight the importance of creating positive literacy experiences for kids.

For more information, please contact Lisa Stanley at (605) 343-5872 or lisa@unitedwayblackhills.org. About Black Hills Reads

Black Hills Reads (BHR) is the United Way of the Black Hills's education initiative, which helps ensure children are proficient readers by the end of third grade. BHR promotes early learning and literacy opportunities for more than 20,000 early learners under nine and their families throughout the Black Hills and Western SD. Visit the Black Hills Reads page to learn more about the BHR initiative.

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Chamber Mixer



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March 26th
4:30PM - 6:30PM
10907 Sourdough Rd
Belle Fourche

PASQUE

LADIES FASHIONS

Spring Arrivals

502 STATE STREET BELLE FOURCHE

North & South Park Feb. Students of the Month!



left to right top row: Cinch Cornia, Avalynn Martin Del Campo, Anderson Burke, Hattie Featherston, and Ashlynn Ellendorf. Front row left to right: Coy Westland, Harper Geib, Sloane Norris, and Nathaniel Fisher-Kentstler. Second picture: Aliza Adams *Courtesy Photos*

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Belle Fourche AAU Club Takes 13 Wrestlers to the Podium at State

AAU from A1
Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

the capacity of Brookings and Aberdeen, leaving an alternate between Rapid City's Monument and Sioux Falls' Premier Center.

For wrestlers still looking for off season competition, next weekend will be Black Hills Nationals hosted in Rapid City at the James Kjerstad Event Center.

narrowed.
The competition was historically held in The Corn Palace, then went to a 4 year rotation among Aberdeen, Brookings, Rapid City and Sioux Falls until outgrowing



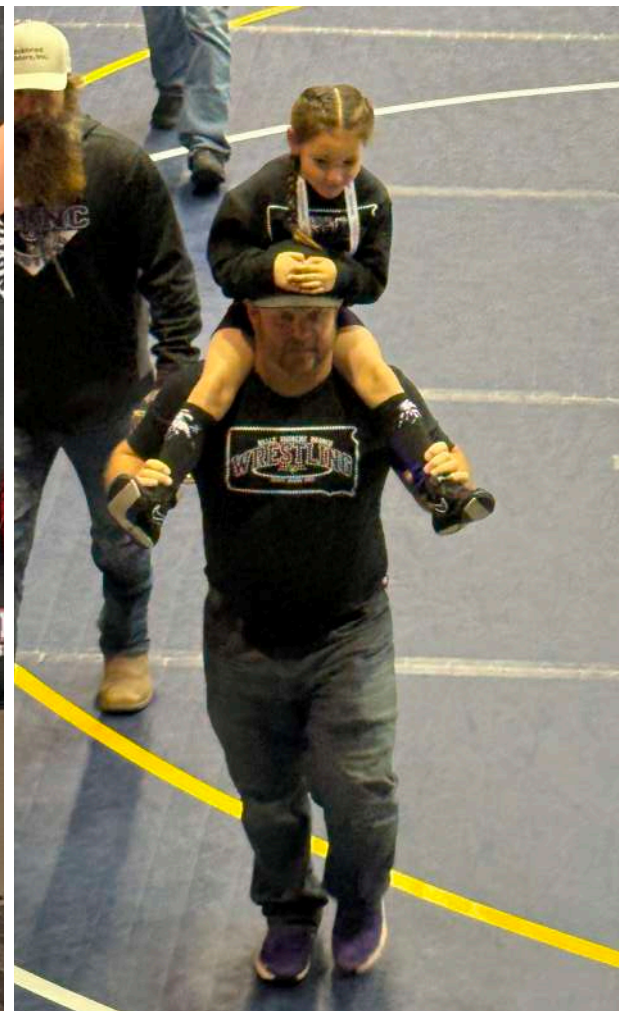
Keeping an eye on the action



Madalynn Rhoads 90 lbs 14u 8th place



Mila Hudson placed 5th place in girls 8U 44 (R) Mila with **Coach Swaney** marching in the parade of champions.



Nash Lafrentz 10u HWT 6th Place



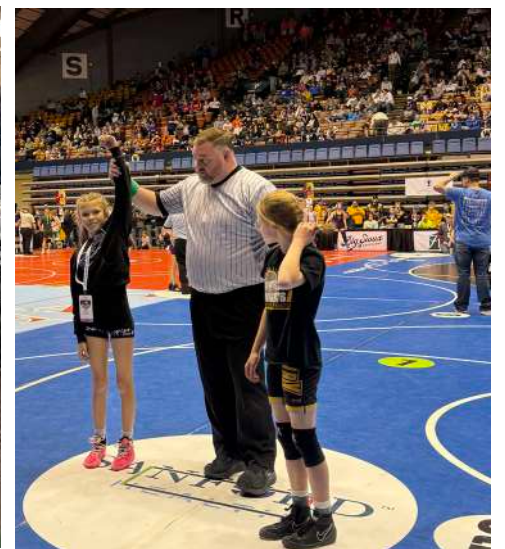
Bird's eye view of the parade of champions



(L) **Laiklynn Ager** 8u 50lb (R) Broncos state qualifiers (L) **Laiklynn Ager** 8u 50lb (M) **Neeko Pfister** 14u 140lb (R) **Nash Lafrentz** 10u HWT 6th place



Bazen Curtis and **Gracie Hodge**



hand raise for 5th



(Above) Girls 12U 5th **Gracie Hodge** (Below) Girls 14U 8th **Madalynn Rhoads**, 4th **Charlie Huston**, 5th **AnnaBelle Dighton**



Freestyle 2nd **Caden Swaney** 3rd **Lucas Tonsager** (Below) **Brooks Lynch** 6th place finisher 8U



Kasten Pederson



GOOD LUCK TO THE
Broncs
BASKETBALL TEAMS!



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(Top L) Riley Mehlhaff ready to wrestle (TR) Joey Tonsager (BL) Bayzen & Stephanie Curtiss, AAU Club Officer. (BR) Caden & Easton Swaney with medals



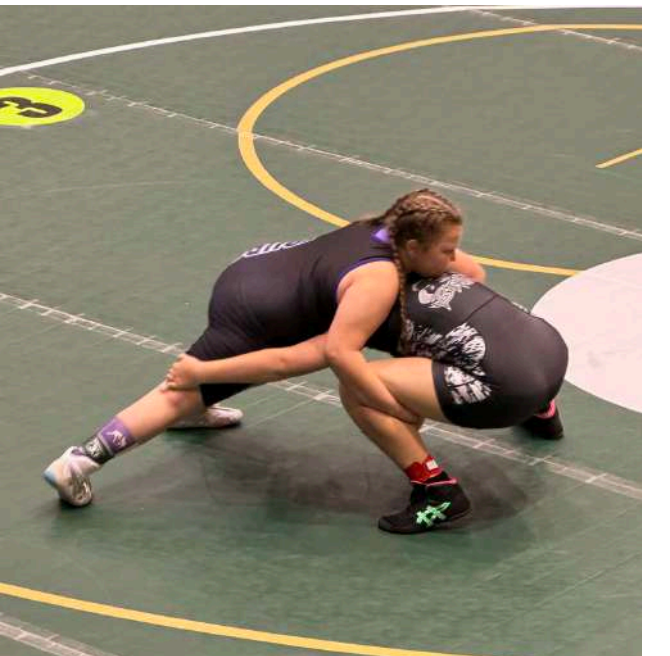
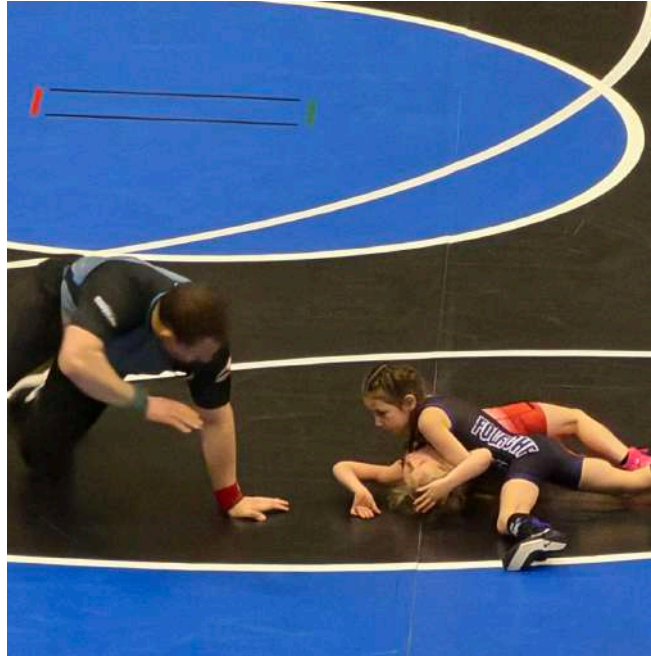
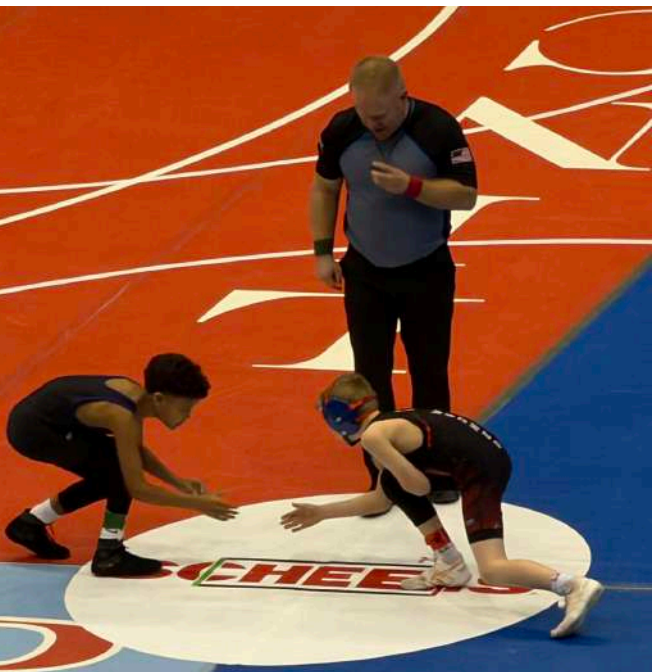
12th Annual WELLNESS FAIR AND MARKETPLACE
 Saturday, April 18th 2026
 9:00 am-3:00 pm

VENDOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Contact Tessa for more information
 605-892-2467 or tessa@bellefourche.org



(AL) Brooks Lynch (AC) Caden Swaney and Jaxon Linch (AR) Easton Swaney & Brooks Lynch with medals in 8U division (BL) Elizabeth Tonsager (BC) Laiklynn Ager (BR) Riddick Randolph



(L) Riley Mehlhaff; (C) Mila Hudson (R) Lizzy Tonsager 12U girls

Macy's Parade From A1 Butter Braids. Merjil shared, "We are doing May 2—tip night at the Moose—all the Macy's Day cheerleaders will be waitressing and all of the tips will go to them. July 18 we're doing a Dart Tournament at the Cowboy with a dessert raffle and a bucket raffle and a dart tournament, and then many, many bake sales—we'll do them down at Hometown Thursdays." This trip is a time to explore new locations and meet new friends from all over the country. Some of the scheduled sight-seeing trips, according to the website, include attending the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, seeing a Broadway show, visiting the Empire State Building, Times Square, the Statue of Liberty Harbor Cruise, shopping at Macy's and other New York stores, ice skating at Rockefeller

Center, visiting the 9/11 Memorial, and seeing Central Park. "The kids, when we're there, they practice at 6 a.m. and they practice four hours and then they get a little bit of fun time to go to Broadway shows or whatever and then they have to be back to practice from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.," said Merjil. "They have eight hours plus of practice every single day for six days. The day of the Macy's Day Parade we were up at 4:30 in the morning, curling hair—they are exhausted. They are having the time of their lives, but it is very intense!" The efforts to raise money for the trip couldn't be accomplished without the community supporting them along the way. Merjil expressed, "We appreciate the community support—they have been amazing and they continue to be amazing!"

From A1 Casino Night minimum of \$500.

Tickets for the event were offered through the chamber, with proceeds supporting chamber initiatives and community programming. It also offered members and vendors an opportunity to showcase their luxury products to the community.

There was something special about the quiet moments at the Silver Spur Ranch before the doors opened and the Casino night energy filled the room.

Chandeliers glowed, the floor was polished and every thing readu for the night of fun.

The room was soon filled with laughter, Friendly competition, and the buzz of a great community that came together to wenky the night of fun.

It was more than a Casino Night, it was a community celebration!

Sponsorships made the evening possible; local businesses contributed support for prizes, activities, and event operations. Volunteers played a major role in keeping the event running smoothly, serving as dealers and helping guests enjoy the gaming experience.

In addition to the games, attendees were treated to live entertainment from a comedian, adding laughter and energy to the night. Guests

also enjoyed food throughout the event, creating a full evening of socializing and community celebration.

Casino Night drew residents from across the area who came ready to play, connect, and compete for the prize packages. Organizers said the event continues to grow as a popular opportunity for local businesses and residents to gather in a fun setting while supporting chamber efforts, supporting members and other local vendors.

The chamber promoted the evening as a night of prizes, vendors, and entertainment, building on the success of previous years and encouraging continued community participation.



Attendees tried their luck trying to beat the dealers at the **Black Jack Tables**. Hunter Anderson Photos



The Glitz and glamour of Las Vegas was exemplified by the constant entertainment the night provided. (More Photos C6)

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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



Belle Fourche Area Community Theater begins their season this weekend with with *Curtain Call: A Night of One Acts* on March 27-29. These shows will be on the stage at Community Hall on Friday, & Saturday nights at 7 PM & Sunday afternoon at 3 PM. According to BFACT publicity, this will be performances of four amazing one-acts, including two comedies, a dramedy and a drama. You won't want to miss this wide-ranging night of theater that includes an original short one-act by local author Arianna Scherer. Check out bellefourche-act.com for a synopsis for each of the shows and to buy tickets.

The Belle Fourche High School Theater's spring musical, *Seussical*, is officially taking over the Belle Fourche Rec Center Stage. Do you want to know who's in the show? (Yes! You guessed! That was rhyme, now a second time!) Here is your cast & crew: *Ensemble*: Alice Biden, Brahnson Brink, Maddie Dalton, Tace Hartman, Slater Humbracht, Avery Mastin, Trey Shannon, Aolani Stone & Chelsea Zinke; *Gertrude*: Trinity Hostetter; *Bird Girl Trio*: Kate Blair, Tiril Brattas, & Abby Schmidt; *Mrs. Mayor*: Mollie Collins; *Yertle the Turtle*: Sonja Cropper; *Thing 1 & Thing 2*: Nathan Erhart & Samuel Savery; *Jojo*, Iva Hale; *Wickersham Brothers 1, 2, & 3*: Andy Pruitt, Logan Willert, & Trevor Welles; *General Schmitz*: John Hale; *Cat in the Hat*: Derek Scott; *Mayzie*: Alexa Stone; *Mr. Mayor*: Dillon Streeter; *Sour Kangaroo*: Kaeli Thompson; *Grinch*: Kale Williams; *Horton*: Timothy Thompson; *Stage Manager*: Madisyn Carson; *Tech*: Riley Okeson, Cierra Erhart, & Braxxton Reid. The show will be April 24-26.

Your presence at all the upcoming events is much appreciated, so **don't forget to add all these upcoming fine arts events to your calendars!**

Mar. 27-29, BFACT's *Curtain Call: A Night of One Acts* @ the Belle Fourche Community Hall, Fri/Sat at 7 PM; Sun at 3 PM

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

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

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



Belle Fourche Area Community Theater begins their season this weekend with with *Curtain Call: A Night of One Acts* on March 27-29. These shows will be on the stage at Community Hall on Friday, & Saturday nights at 7 PM & Sunday afternoon at 3 PM. Excellent refreshments will be available, too!

The French Family Band Takes the Stage at March 30 Center of the Nation Concert

The French Family Band takes the stage of the Belle Foruche Rec Center on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 7:00 PM as the fourth concert in the Center of the Nation Concert Association's concert series.

Nashville-based but hailing from Australia/New Zealand, this family band features Stuie & Camille French on guitars/vocals, and son Sonny on guitars/vocals.

Taking inspiration from the country and western swing icons of decades past, one can hear echoes of Chet Atkins, Anne Murray, and Merle Haggard in the covers and originals they perform.

When Covid hit, the French Family pivoted to Facebook Live concerts from home and developed a following of nearly 180,000. Since then, the band has appeared on stage at the Grand Ole Opry several times and won 4 Australian Golden Guitar Awards.

The uncommon gifts of Camille, Stuie and Sonny rival the stars of country's Golden Age.



2026 2026
HOMETOWN THURSDAYS
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

June 4	Stereo Trip
June 11	Tyler Bills
June 18	Camp Comfort
June 25	Dakota Country
July 2	Williams & Wright
July 9	Jessica Loobey
July 16	Brandon Jones

Notice of Testing Automatic Tabulating Equipment

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment will be tested to ascertain that it will correctly count the votes for all offices and measures that are to be cast at the Primary Election held on the 2nd day of June 2026.

The test will be conducted on the 27th day of May 2026 at 10 o'clock a.m. at the Butte County Auditor's Office which is in the Butte County Administrative Building, at 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2026.

Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

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From A1 Forum

would run, the introductions began.

Ward 1 candidates are John Fyffe and Wilma Goehring. Fyffe began by introducing himself, "My name is John, I call Belle Fourche my home. I do work in Rapid City, so I travel back and forth." He went on to say he works in construction as an estimator and project manager for a large commercial glazing firm. He has been married for 25 years and has five children. He also has four dogs and no cats.

Goehring then introduced herself, "... I have ears to hear, a heart to care, and proof that I can create some action." She went on to tell the audience that she was instrumental in helping to get a dog park in Belle Fourche. "One summer, I sat out—I went to flea markets, I sat right on our corners, made a nuisance of myself and people stopped in and asked me, 'What's going on?'" She presented over 100 surveys to the City and now there is a dog park in Belle.

Goehring is a graduate of Partners in Policy Making and serves on the PAIMI Disability Advisory Council as well as the Behavioral Health Advisory Council for DSS. "It's a Governor appointed position, and I've been in it now for a term and a half," she said.

Ward 2 has four candidates vying for one open seat. They are Falina Selchert, Aydalou Cazer, Faith Melanson and Geno Pesicka.

Selchert introduced herself, "I'm Falina Selchert, many of you already know me—I'm very active in our community. Currently, I'm a wife—we just celebrated 20 years together. I'm a mom of three boys, and they range in age from 14, 11 all the way down to six. And my passion for serving the community came because I was the kid that got forgotten about." She went on to explain how she went down a bad path and ended up moving away from Belle Fourche. Her journey brought her right back home. "I thought the grass was greener on the other side, until I visited some of these other states and some of these other communities, and then I realized the grass is greener where you water it. And so I came back home to water our grass here," she said.

Keeping very busy, Selchert serves on four boards and two different committees. "I've talked to my family about it, they're totally fine with the sacrifices that we're making, because they know that it's for the betterment of our future and it's creating a better Belle Fourche for them and to raise their kids here," she explained. As a real estate agent, Selchert says she talks to people moving in and out of Belle Fourche all of the time. "I get to share my passion for Belle Fourche with the people who are moving into our community, to really let them know whether Belle Fourche is going to be a good fit for them—because it's not for everybody—we are not Spearfish—we are uniquely Belle Fourche, and I want to preserve that as much as possible as we move forward into the future," she shared.

The next candidate to speak was Ayda Cazer. "I have lived in Belle Fourche all my life, but I have worked in different areas. I've been a forklift driver, I've been a haul truck driver in the mines, and now I plan on staying here after I retire," she said. "I do a lot of volunteer work. I just want to be able to help the community. And just what I see, and things that people talk to me about that they would like—I like to listen to them, and, of course, I like to talk a lot!" She said that everyone knows

who she is and you can find her all over Belle talking to people. "I want to help the community... because it is a great community. I want it to stay that way. I want to be a part of it—so that's why I'm running," said Cazer. She explained that she decided to get involved because during the last City Council elections, nobody was running for the open seats, so she wanted to get involved—now there are four people running for Ward 2 seat. "I hope that I can do some good for this community," she said. "... I've got a family of six kids, and I've got 13 grandkids and 13 great grandkids, so I'm pretty busy with them going to all kinds of sports and everything else in the community. And I love Belle!"

The third person running for Ward 2 was up next to speak. Faith Melanson is married with one child. Her baby is three months old. "I've grown up in this community a long time. I've grown up in 4-H and that kind of helped me with my leadership stuff and beyond that, I haven't done a whole lot—I'm only 22, most of you probably realize I'm not the oldest looking person here, and so, I mean, I don't have a track record of what all I can do and stuff like that, and I'm pretty young and just kind of starting out. I do love this community," she said.

Melanson says she has a house here and she plans to raise her daughter in Belle Fourche. "I just want what's best for this community, and make sure that we're here a long time and sustainable."

The last candidate for Ward 2 to introduce himself was Gene Pesicka. "Most of you know me as Gino—I like long walks on the beach. I'm an Aquarius—I moved to Belle Fourche 16 years ago. I've been kind of involved with a little bit of everything ever since—soccer, baseball, cross country, events at the high school, but most of you probably recognize me from being on stage in some sort of production," he explained.

Pesicka and his wife owned the Leaky Pot Cafe for six years. He currently works as a technician at Carl's Trailer. "I have believed in this community from the moment I set foot in here. There's been many times I've thought about—it's time to try something else, but something always keeps pulling me back. I don't think enough people in this town realize how fortunate we are to live where we live—we're kind of secluded from all the chaos in the rest of the country, the rest of the world," he said. "We have a great way of life here, and I want to see it be better."

Ward 3 has one candidate with one open seat. Vern Hintz is running unopposed. Vern took the opportunity to let the community know about his background. "I just spent 10 years on the council in Mo-bridge, about 200 miles east of here. Did a lot of things that a lot of people didn't like, but they needed to be done, and you got to have somebody like that on there. I'm not the best with the English language—so I use French a lot—I learned that in school," he said. Hintz worked for McGas for 12 years and in the propane industry for 25 years. He said that he thinks transparency is important. "I'm into transparency, that has been lacking here a lot through the years that I've been on there—they all preach it—if you gotta tell somebody, 'I'm honest,' keep your hands in your pockets, because somebody's going to get in there and steal everything you got," said Hintz.

After introductions were finished, Brunner began asking a variety of questions that the candidates had to answer to



Moderator Tom Brunner



Vern Hintz Ward 3



Falina Selchert Ward 2



Geno Pesicka Ward 2



Faith Melanson Ward 2



Aydalou Cazer Ward 2



John Fyffe Ward 1



Wilma Goehring Ward 1



All the City Council candidates took turns answering questions from left: John Fyffe, Wilma Goehring, Falina Selchert, Aydalou Cazer, Faith Melanson, Geno Pesicka and Vern Hintz. Tom Brunner is in the back. Longbrake photos

the best of their ability. All of their answers can be found on a rewatch of the livestreams on Facebook. Please take the opportunity to watch the answers to the following questions: 1) What is your position record regarding removing people from Council? Should the council be able to do that, or should it be solely in the hands of the voters?; 2) What do you think is Belle's number one asset? When you travel outside of Belle, what do you brag about to others?; 3) On the other hand, what about Belle Fourche don't you like? What's the number one detriment in Belle Fourche?

What would you change and what do you think needs work and attention?; 4) If you could choose your committees, what committees would you like to serve on?; 5) I'd like to hear from each candidate what their definition is of a conflict of interest for them in their position as City Council; 6) What could be done to beautify downtown?; 7) In terms of transparency and communication, how do you feel like you effectively represent the interests of your people and communicate what's going on without conflicting your NDA?; 8) Would you encourage and take part in revisiting policies and

ordinances and are there any current policies and ordinances that you would like to see updated or improved? Mayor Randy Schmidt was in the audience supporting all of the candidates. "I'd like to thank all the candidates for choosing to run and putting yourself out there. We all know that's not an easy thing to do, but thank you and we will be glad to have a full Council when this is all over, again," he said. "I appreciate Tom for narrating this for us and the Chamber for putting this on. So thank you guys!"

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March

26th - 1PM - Writing @ Belle Silver Lining, 4:30PM Chamber Mixer @ Highland Senior Solutions

27th - 8PM LIVE Music @ High Plains Restaurant & Bar

28th - 10AM Easter Egg hunt @ baseball fields

29th - 8AM Lions Club Pancake Feed (399 Stanley St)

30th - 7PM French Family Band @ Rec Center

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JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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Cattle Report - Friday, March 13, 2026

Just Under 1000 Hd - Weigh Up Cows & Bulls \$2 To \$4 Higher - Light Test On Feeder Cattle

Cactus Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale Results

\$6873 Ave On 47 2 Yr Old Angus Bulls
\$9500 Ave On Top 6 Bulls
\$9195 Ave On Top 9 Bulls

Next Sale - March 27th - Grass Cattle, Replacement Hfrs & Mills Cattle Bull Sale - 9 AM
Thank you for Marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Weigh Up Cows

Anderson, Jon, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	1285	\$235.00
Anderson, Jon, Rapid City SD	3	Bk	Cow	1573	\$181.00
Brown, Kyle or Shannon, Sturgis SD	4	Bk	Hfrt	935	\$332.50
Brown, Kyle or Shannon, Sturgis SD	1	Bld	Cow	1235	\$184.00
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	1115	\$277.00
Bruch, Bruce, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Cow	1380	\$180.50
Burleson Rev Trust, James A, Newcastle WY	1	Bld	Cow	1240	\$177.50
C & W Ranch, SD	2	Red	Owett	1445	\$186.50
C & W Ranch, SD	1	Rbd	Cow	1425	\$185.50
C & W Ranch, SD	1	Bk	Cow	1440	\$179.00
C & W Ranch, SD	34	BR	Cow	1673	\$179.00
C & W Ranch, SD	34	BR	Cow	1665	\$179.00
C & W Ranch, SD	33	BR	Cow	1635	\$179.00
C & W Ranch, SD	1	BR	Cow	1635	\$179.00
C & W Ranch, SD	15	BR	Cow	1388	\$179.00
C & W Ranch, SD	7	Bk	Cow	1590	\$178.50
C & W Ranch, SD	20	BR	Cow	1694	\$178.50
C & W Ranch, SD	6	BR	Cow	1549	\$178.50
C & W Ranch, SD	37	BR	Cow	1502	\$178.50
C & W Ranch, SD	6	BR	Cow	1499	\$178.50
C & W Ranch, SD	1	BR	Cow	1499	\$178.50
C & W Ranch, SD	2	BR	Cow	1598	\$178.00
C & W Ranch, SD	6	BR	Cow	1387	\$178.00
Clark, Merle J, Hulet WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1080	\$277.50
Clays, Marshal, Olive MT	1	Bk	Hfrt	1125	\$280.00
Clays, Marshal, Olive MT	4	Bk	Hfrt	1348	\$207.00
Clays, Marshal, Olive MT	1	Bk	Cow	1485	\$184.00
Clements, Austin, Glenoive MT	2	Bk	Hfrt	822	\$320.00
Collins Ranch LLC, Biddle MT	1	Bk	Hfrt	1045	\$280.00
Collins Ranch LLC, Biddle MT	2	Bk	Hfrt	1117	\$275.00
Collins Ranch LLC, Biddle MT	1	Bk	Hfrt	1020	\$250.00
Collins Ranch LLC, Biddle MT	1	Bk	Cow	1455	\$182.00
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	2	Bk	Hfrt	1055	\$300.00
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	7	BR	Cow	1284	\$181.50
Daly Livestock, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1655	\$178.00
Edwards, Marty, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1050	\$270.00
Edwards, Marty, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1385	\$182.00
Frausto, John, Gillette WY	1	Char	Cow	1740	\$179.50
Frausto, John, Gillette WY	1	Char	Cow	1485	\$179.00
Frausto, John, Gillette WY	1	Char	Cow	1835	\$177.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	1	Bld	Cow	1525	\$185.75
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	1	Bld	Cow	1925	\$180.75
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	1	Bld	Cow	1710	\$180.75
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	34	Bld	Cow	1565	\$180.75
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	15	Bld	Cow	1620	\$180.75
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	3	Bld	Cow	1353	\$179.00
Grubi, Christopher, Sturgis SD	2	BR	Hfrt	932	\$306.50
Grubi, Christopher, Sturgis SD	2	Bk	Hfrt	1072	\$283.00
Grubi, Christopher, Sturgis SD	6	Bk	Owett	1276	\$186.00
Grubi, Christopher, Sturgis SD	2	Bk	Cow	1527	\$182.00
Hanson, Chris or Kelle, Piedmont SD	2	Bld	Hfrt	1330	\$221.00
Hook, Lenord, Alva WY	1	Bk	Cow	1425	\$179.00
Hook, Lenord, Alva WY	1	Bk	Cow	1320	\$169.00
Humbrecht, John, Camp Crook SD	2	Bk	Owett	1302	\$201.00
Humbrecht, John, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Cow	1470	\$180.00
Humbrecht, John, Camp Crook SD	5	BR	Cow	1298	\$175.00
Ipy Ranch LTD, Devils Tower WY	1	Bk	Owett	1230	\$190.00
Ipy Ranch LTD, Devils Tower WY	1	Bk	Cow	1555	\$180.50
Jaeger Family Trust, Kevin M & Ashley J, Newell SD	1	Bk	Cow	800	\$170.00
Kammerer, Jacob, Wal SD	1	Bld	Hfrt	1040	\$297.50
Kammerer, Jake, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	905	\$330.00
Kammerer, Jessica, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	1060	\$287.50
Kammerer, Matt or April, Rapid City SD	2	Bk	Hfrt	945	\$320.00
Kammerer, Matt or April, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	1100	\$265.00
Kammerer, Matt or April, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Cow	1595	\$180.00
Kieffer, Pam, Rapid City SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	970	\$328.00
Konechne, Jim A, Rapid City SD	2	Bk	Hfrt	1297	\$225.00
Lehrkamp, Michael C or Joleen M, Caputa SD	3	Bk	Cow	1380	\$179.50
Lehrkamp, Michael C or Joleen M, Caputa SD	1	Bk	Cow	1425	\$176.00
Lindskov, Aaron or Tana, Newell SD	1	Bld	Cow	1375	\$182.00
Lindskov, Aaron or Tana, Newell SD	1	Bld	Cow	1425	\$177.00
MacKaben, Chad, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	890	\$330.00
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD	3	Bk	Hfrt	1053	\$308.00
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Cow	1425	\$181.00
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Cow	1495	\$177.00
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Cow	1300	\$177.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulet WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1205	\$240.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulet WY	1	Bk	Cow	1140	\$183.00
Nuckolls Ranch, Hulet WY	7	Bk	Cow	1241	\$181.00
Olson, Grant, Broadus MT	1	Red	Hfrt	1065	\$285.00
Perit, Keith, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	990	\$315.00
Peters Rev Trust, Henry (Toby) Or Connie, Sturgis SD	1	Red	Cow	1395	\$184.00
Peters Rev Trust, Henry (Toby) Or Connie, Sturgis SD	2	Red	Cow	1555	\$181.00
Peterson, Jon, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	880	\$330.00
Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis SD	2	Bk	Hfrt	1067	\$295.00
Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	1110	\$230.00
Rbj Ranch West LLC, Sundance WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1130	\$267.50
Rbj Ranch West LLC, Sundance WY	1	Bk	Owett	1240	\$190.00

Ryan Xz Ranch LLC, Aladdin WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1200	\$235.00
Ryan Xz Ranch LLC, Aladdin WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1390	\$212.50
Ryan Xz Ranch LLC, Aladdin WY	1	Bk	Hfrt	1255	\$212.50
Ryan Xz Ranch LLC, Aladdin WY	2	Bk	Cow	1445	\$179.50
Ryan Xz Ranch LLC, Aladdin WY	1	Bk	Cow	1440	\$177.00
Schulz, Dana or Krystl, Piedmont SD	1	Bk	Hfrt	1060	\$303.00
Schulz, Dana or Krystl, Piedmont SD	1	Char	Cow	1420	\$178.00
Sleep Ranches LLC, Spearfish SD	5	Bk	Hfrt	898	\$330.00
Sleep Ranches LLC, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Cow	1315	\$185.00
Sleep Ranches LLC, Spearfish SD	1	Bk	Cow	955	\$172.50
Smith, Roddy J & Kathleen J, Gillette WY	1	Cow		1400	\$175.00
Stohammer, Lucas & Melinda, Newcastle WY	3	Bk	Hfrt	1203	\$228.00
Stohammer, Lucas & Melinda, Newcastle WY	3	Bk	Cow	1448	\$183.00
Stohammer, Lucas & Melinda, Newcastle WY	1	Bk	Cow	1750	\$177.00
Tripp, Ralph, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Cow	1535	\$181.00
Uhlir, Bart, Hermosa SD	4	Red	Hfrt	868	\$320.00
Uhlir, Bart, Hermosa SD	1	Red	Hfrt	1195	\$222.00
Uhlir, Gage, Hermosa SD	1	Red	Cow	1205	\$179.00
White Jr, George William, Devils Tower WY	1	Bk	Cow	1370	\$180.50
Wy Consignment	2	Bk	Hfrt	967	\$318.00
Wy Consignment	4	Bk	Hfrt	1188	\$267.50
Wy Consignment	3	Bk	Owett	1273	\$198.00
Wy Consignment	6	Bk	Cow	1401	\$179.50

Weigh Up Bulls

C & W Ranch, SD	1	Bk	Bull	1825	\$188.50
C & W Ranch, SD	1	Bk	Bull	1695	\$187.50
C & W Ranch, SD	1	Bk	Bull	1610	\$200.00
Clark, Merle J, Hulet WY	1	Bk	Bull	1865	\$222.50
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	1	Bk	Bull	2155	\$212.50
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	2	Bk	Bull	2072	\$215.00
Duprel Livestock, Vale SD	1	Bk	Bull	1700	\$185.00
Dysart Family Revocable Trust, Troy D. or Cindy S, Newcastle WY	1	Bk	Bull	1680	\$190.00
Humbrecht, John, Camp Crook SD	1	Bk	Bull	1275	\$212.50
Humbrecht, John, Camp Crook SD	1	Char	Bull	1410	\$177.50
Johnson Ranch LLP, Buffalo SD	1	Bk	Bull	1720	\$187.50
Johnson Ranch LLP, Buffalo SD	1	Herf	Bull	1160	\$227.50
Johnson, Troy, St Onge SD	1	Bk	Bull	1630	\$193.50
Koch, Kevin, Owanka MT	1	Bk	Bull	1555	\$202.50
L & L Ranch Inc, Hammond MT	2	Bk	Bull	1960	\$195.00
L & L Ranch Inc, Hammond MT	1	Bk	Bull	1715	\$185.00
Lindskov, Aaron or Tana, Newell SD	1	Bk	Bull	1360	\$211.00
Mader, Dave, Biddle MT	1	Bk	Bull	1625	\$215.00
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD	1	Bk	Bull	1965	\$212.50
Maude, Marion D, Hermosa SD	1	Bld	Bull	2200	\$217.00
Moeller, Chris Moeller & Amanda, Gillette WY	1	Bk	Bull	1335	\$186.00
Rbj Ranch West LLC, Sundance WY	1	Herf	Bull	2135	\$197.50
Rbj Ranch West LLC, Sundance WY	1	Herf	Bull	1910	\$192.50

Friday, March 27, 2026

Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special

9:00 AM - Weigh Ups

11:00 AM - Bred Cows Followed By Feeder Cattle

1:00 PM - Mills Cattle Company Angus Bull Sale

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

Feeder Cattle

Baxter Mcpherson - 90 Blk & Bldy Strs & Hfrs - 600-700# - Bt, Pc
Tee Ridley - 70 Blk & Red Strs - 400-600# - Bt, Pc
Alan Ista - 55 Blk Mostly Strs - 500-600# - Bt, Pc, Ni, Hfrs Bv
Jack Duprel & Sons - 50 Blk Bldy & Herf Hfrs - 675-725# - Bt, Pc, Bv
Hay Creek Surface - 45 Red & Blk Strs - 600-625# - Bt, Pc, Poured
Warren Crawford - 35 Blk Hfrs - 550-650# - Bt, Pc, Bv
Crago Land & Livestock - 28 Blk Strs - 650-725# - Bt, Pc

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2026 CATTLE SALES

April 3rd - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 10th - Grass Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 17th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

2026 SPRING BULL SALE LIST

March 27th - Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale
April 3rd - CK Bar Ranch Sim-Angus Bull Sale
April 17th - Baker Lemar Angus Bull Sale
April 24th - Jordan Cattle Co Sim Angus & Angus Bull Sale
May 15th - Turn-Out Bull Sale

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.

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Auctioneer: Casey Humble
605-490-9829

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

Sheep Report - Thursday, March 19, 2026

Lambs Sold Higher Today
Slaughter Ewes Sold Steady
Bred Ewes Sold On A Lower Market

Next Sale - March 26th - 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!

Bred Ewes - Sold By The Head

Turbiville, Trent, Buffalo SD	68	2-3yr	160	\$360.00
Turbiville, Trent, Buffalo SD	23	4yr-S	176	\$350.00
Turbiville, Trent, Buffalo SD	94	6yr	165	\$315.00
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX	40	6yr	175	\$300.00
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX	30	6yr	175	\$270.00
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX	192	6yr	175	\$265.00
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX	50	6yr	175	\$260.00
Dale Edwards Inc, Broadus MT	16	2-4yr	159	\$355.00

Feeder Lambs

Bohlander Ranch Co, Douglas WY	4	Lamb	100	\$310.00
Lulias, Linda, Buffalo WY	10	Lamb	118	\$280.00
Niemi, David & Roxi, Buffalo SD	6	Lamb	101	\$310.00
Rodriguez, Christopher, Clearmont WY	17	Lamb	86	\$325.00
Rodriguez, Jason & Jolene, Buffalo WY	11	Lamb	67	\$412.50

Slaughter Ewes

Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX	29	K Ewe	167	\$125.00
Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD	11	Lamb	118	\$80.00
Dale Edwards Inc, Broadus MT	22	K Ewe	185	\$124.00
Dale Edwards Inc, Broadus MT	23			

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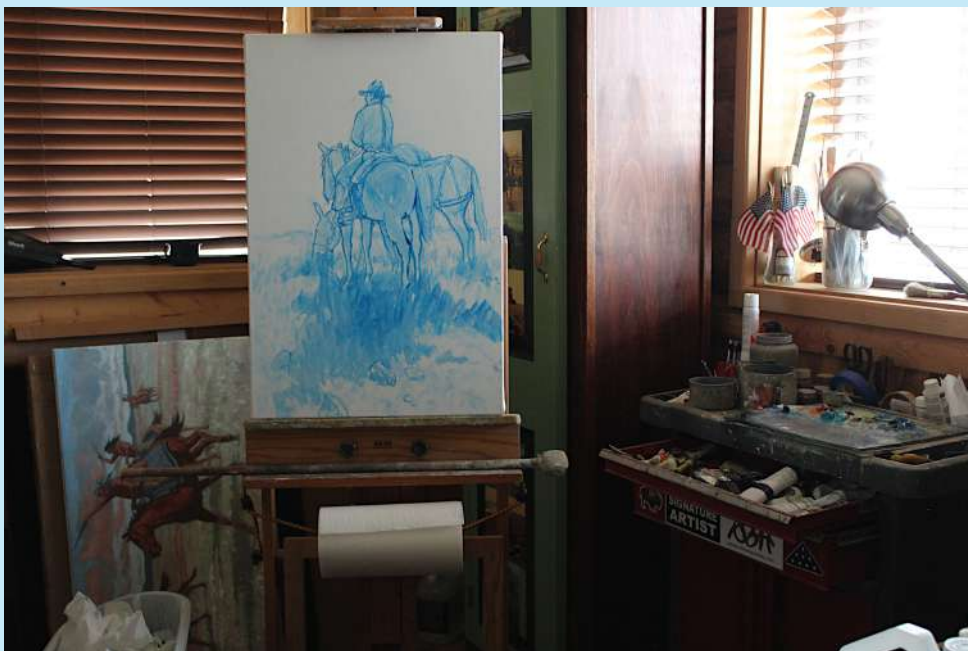
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Local.

Looking Back in Belle

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



by Mary Buchholz

**136 years ago
 Deadwood Pioneer-Times
 Dec 30, 1890**

Belle Fourche The railroad depot at this new town on the Elkhorn road, at the crossing of the Belle Fourche, will be completed in a few days. Work on a freight warehouse will begin next week. H. T. Cooper will move his freight and passenger outfit from Whitewood to Belle Fourche as soon as stables can be built at the latter place. All freight and passengers for Sundance, Beulah, Spearfish, Camp Crook, and the Little Missouri country will now go via Belle Fourche. The large ditch for irrigating and manufacturing purposes, conveying the waters of the Redwater to a point 60 feet above the new town, will be pushed to completion at an early day. A number of new buildings will be put up and the town fairly started on its prosperous journey the coming month.

**100 years ago
 Northwest Bee
 March 28, 1926**

STOLEN HARNESS WAS RECOVERED

Deputy Sheriff Long Finds Stolen Property Cashed in a Culvert Near City of Sturgis Sheriff Craven last week caused the arrest of two young men named Harry Record and Harley Henefin, charged with grand larceny. It is alleged that Record and Henefin stole two sets of harness, the property of Orrin Stearns and Harry Helmer, on or about March 21, the theft occurring near Fruitdale. The defendants were arraigned in Justice Sellers' court last Saturday, both waiving examination, and they were held to the circuit court for trial, bonds being fixed in the sum of \$500 each, which they were unable to furnish at this writing, and they are confined in the county jail. When Deputy Sheriff Lang went to Fruitdale to investigate the reported theft of the harness, it was learned that an automobile had been used to carry away the plunder, and on account of a peculiar track made by one of the tires, he was able to follow the trail into Sturgis. Here it was learned that the car had been loaned to Record and Henefin by a man named Johnson. Henefin was found in Sturgis and arrested by the Meade county officers, while Record was found at a camp near Whitewood, and arrested by the sheriff of Lawrence county, at the instance of the Butte county officers. Deputy Sheriff Long believed that the stolen harness had been cached some place along the road between Sturgis and Fruitdale, so he took the back trail from Sturgis, searching every culvert and his efforts were rewarded by finding the harness about two and one-half miles out of Sturgis, hiding in a culvert. The stolen property is valued at about \$175.00.

DAMON HEARING CONTINUED

The preliminary examination of Charles M. Damon, charged with embezzlement and misappropriation of bank funds, which was set for last Saturday, before Justice Rich was continued by stipulation until April 5. Damon, former president of the defunct Live Stock Exchange bank of Newell, was recently arrested by Sheriff Craven, upon complaint of the State Banking department. The information charges Damon with embezzlement upon fifteen different counts, and with making excessive loans of the bank's funds upon two counts. Bonds in the sum of \$5,000 was fixed for Damon's appearance at the preliminary examination, which the defendant promptly furnished. George Philip of Rapid City appeared as counsel for Damon, while the state is represented by State's Attorney Seward and Dan McCutchen, the latter representing Ward B. Clarke, examiner in charge, who signed the information.

The Live Stock Exchange Bank of Newell was closed by order of the state banking department on December 6, 1914, and has since been in process of liquidation, in personal charge of G. D. McMahon, assistant examiner, under Warde B. Clarke of Belle Fourche, who is examiner for all the closed banks of the county. Practically all the illegal acts are alleged to have been committed during the years 1923 and 1924. As the president and managing officers of the bank, Damon is charged with fifteen different acts of misappropriation of funds, altogether involving a total amount of \$13,411.00. Two indictments are for making loans to shareholders of the bank to the amount of \$13,562.00 in excess of the limit allowed by state law. Of the five Butte county banks closed during the years 1923 and 1924, this is the first prosecution instituted by the banking department against any of the officers of the defunct institutions.

**75 years ago
 The Belle Fourche Bee,
 March 27, 1951**

Offers Suggestion for New Repayment Program for Keyhole Dam Suggestion which might make Keyhole dam more acceptable to water users of the Belle Fourche irrigation district have been advanced by Senator Francis Case following recent discussions in Washington. In a letter to officials of the Belle Fourche irrigation district, Case reviewed recent developments, then offered some suggestions which district officials might follow in trying to reach a satisfactory agreement on the Keyhole problem. Case is suggestion that the Bureau of Reclamation complete Keyhole dam as designed but delay relocation of the highway until it is certain that it needs to be

relocated. This, he pointed out, may mean a possible saving in cost as well as eliminating the inconvenience to some of the Wyoming ranches." Personally, "said Case, "I have grave doubts that the flood storage will call for all the space allotted for it more than once in 20 years. But it will be nice to have it if it is needed, even if the highway went out of commission for a day or so once in 20 years." Case also had a suggestion or two with respect to the repayment contract. He proposed that a "per acre" liability be made applicable only to those irrigators along the inlet canal and Johnson lateral who would be in position to receive a direct and certain benefit from upstream storage.

Belle Youth Featured on State College Band Program at Auditorium Tonight

The South Dakota State College band, under the direction of Professor Carl Christensen, will present a concert in Belle Fourche tonight. The concert will be offered in the high school auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Sixty of the 150 State College musicians have been selected to make this annual spring tour, scheduled for the week of March 26. Arrangements have been made for appearances in eleven South Dakota cities, and other performances are being considered. Soloists scheduled to participate in the concert are Trombonist James Boise, from Pipestone, Minn., and Victor Fondy, Belle Fourche, who will present an euphonium solo. The full band will provide accompaniment for these individual performers.

**50 years ago
 Belle Fourche Bee
 March 26, 1976**

Belle Couple Buys Highland Grocery Highland Grocery, owned and operated for the past five years by Helen Long, has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Christiansen. Mrs. Long, Arleen and David will move this weekend to Vancouver, Wash. They will stay with Mrs. Long's daughter and family. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lewis until they find a home of their own. Arleen, 15 and David, 12 will enter schools there next week. Mrs. Long plans to work, but has no definite plans.

Belle Girls State Delegates

Girls State delegates and alternates for 1976 were announced Friday by the American Legion Auxiliary. Rita Satzinger - she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Satzinger. Rita is a member of the student council, band, band ensembles, Nation Honor Society, gymnastics, GAA, Pep Club, Broncettes, Hi Times. She took part in the math contest and debate and was a YCC member last year. Rhoda Ortega - Rhoda is the daughter of Mrs. Peggy Ortega. She has been active in debate, National Forensics League, GAA, grls track, math contest, has been a cheerleader throughout her high school years, member of the National Honor Society, Pep club and student council. She has participated in gymnastics, declam, debate and was a YCC member. Colleen Courtney - Colleen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Courtney of Capital. She is secretary of the Rodeo Club, a member of the National Honor Society, mixed chorus, GAA, Hi Times, declam and participated in the science fair. Sharon Hushka - She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hushka. Sharon has participated in debate, is a member of the Thespians, all-school play, musical, National Honor Society, mixed chorus, vocal ensemble, vocal solos, GAA and Hi Times.



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 Belle Fourche, SD 57717
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 Email: mrlawpc@mrlawpc.net

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June 11	Tyler Bills
June 18	Camp Comfort
June 25	Dakota Country
July 2	Williams & Wright
July 9	Jessica Loobey
July 16	Brandon Jones
July 23	Wilt Brothers
July 30	Tim Zach Band
August 6	JJ Kent w/ Aces & 8's

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	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	2	3	4	5	6
	BBQ Meatballs Baked Potato Broccoli Salad Roll	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato/Gravy Buttered Corn	Pepper Steak Bits Rice & Mixed Veggies Dinner Roll	Meatloaf Mashed Potato/Gravy Green beans Roll	Tuna or Chicken Salad Sandwich Garden Salad
	9	10	11	12	13
	Taco Salad with Black Beans & Spanish Rice Chips	Glazed Ham Sweet Potato Green Beans Roll	Beef Spaghetti Dinner Salad Garlic Toast	Smothered Pork Chops Oven Potato & Gravy Peas & Carrots	Beef Stew OR Cod Dinner Salad Roll
	16	17	18	19	20
	Ruben Sandwich & Sauerkraut/ Carrots & potatoes	Beef Stroganoff with Egg Noodle Broccoli Roll	Orange Chicken Buttered Rice Green Bean Roll	Meatloaf Mashed Potato/Gravy Corn Roll	Fish or Hamburger on a bun Potato Salad & Veggie
	23	24	25	26	27
	Chicken Cordon Bleu Buttered Noodle Spinach Salad Roll	Fried Chicken Oven Roasted Potato Corn	Pork Loin Rice Pilaf & Corn	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato & Gravy Dinner Salad	Chicken Enchiladas OR Fish Black Beans with Rice Green Beans
	c 30	31	<p>Join us M-F 11 am-1 pm 828 Kingsbury St. Belle Fourche, SD Menu subject to change or modification.</p>		

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



Don't miss the following events

3/3 Bingo at Branding Iron 7pm | 3/11 - Computer Awareness 1pm
 3/19 - Hearing Health 11:30am | 3/26 Writing Workshop 12pm
 Meat Raffle benefitting BSL at Circle Lounge from 2-4pm 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/4, 4/18



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Yard Foreman: 605-569-0114

FIELDMEN

BRETT LOUGHLIN - 605-210-0615

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BEN GREENOUGH - 307-620-5553

SHANE MOKE - 605-641-7961

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Market Report - Thursday, March 19, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$HEAD
Jay Mcpherson, Piedmont SD	21	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 3/4	1149	4600.00	\$4,600.00
	16	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 5/6	1448	4550.00	\$4,550.00
	17	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1450	4200.00	\$4,200.00
	16	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Bm	1453	4000.00	\$4,000.00
Ellis Livestock, Pompeys Pillar MT	50	Blk/Bwf-Brd Hfr	1066	4500.00	\$4,500.00
Cross Four Cattle, Miles City MT	41	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1295	4350.00	\$4,350.00
	13	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	964	4150.00	\$4,150.00
	20	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1382	3600.00	\$3,600.00
	20	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1382	3650.00	\$3,650.00
	18	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1447	3650.00	\$3,650.00
	21	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1374	3650.00	\$3,650.00
	19	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1392	3650.00	\$3,650.00
	38	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1367	3725.00	\$3,725.00
	8	Black-Brd Cow Sm	1426	3450.00	\$3,450.00
	39	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1321	3100.00	\$3,100.00
	17	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1321	3100.00	\$3,100.00
	23	Black-Brd Cow Bm	1344	3100.00	\$3,100.00
	36	Black-Brd Cow Sm/Bm	1209	2550.00	\$2,550.00
	32	Black-Brd Cow Sm/Bm	1235	2525.00	\$2,525.00
Bill Mankin, Gillette WY	23	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Bm	1359	3500.00	\$3,500.00
Carl & Vicky Black, Rozel WY	3	Black-Brd Cow 3/4	1277	4300.00	\$4,300.00
	9	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow Bm	1386	3600.00	\$3,600.00
	2	Black-Brd Cow 5/6	1328	4150.00	\$4,150.00
Travis Or Julie Hurst, Buffalo SD	2	Black-Brd Cow 3/5 (Fall)	1155	3250.00	\$3,250.00
	3	Black-Brd Cow Bm (Fall)	1243	2300.00	\$2,300.00

WEIGH-UPS	WT	BID	\$HEAD
Jw & Joey Moore, Sundance WY	1	Black-Cow	1250 257.50 \$3,218.75
	1	Black-Cow	1130 270.00 \$3,051.00
	1	Black-Hfrt	1025 310.00 \$3,177.50
	1	Black-Hfrt	1090 285.00 \$3,106.50
	1	Black-Cow	1300 215.00 \$2,795.00
Riley Lesh, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Cow	1560 175.00 \$2,730.00
	1	Black-Cow	1405 177.00 \$2,486.85
Richard Gantz, Alva WY	1	Black-Cow	1245 183.00 \$2,278.35
Perino Ranch, Newcastle WY	1	Black-Hfrt	885 300.00 \$2,655.00
James A McCoy, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1375 176.00 \$2,420.00
Walter J Gordon Rev Trust, Aladdin WY	1	Black-Cow	1745 167.50 \$2,922.87
Eric Jennings, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Cow	1605 171.00 \$2,744.55

	1	Black-Cow	1475	190.00	\$2,802.50
	3	Black-Cow	1357	208.00	\$2,821.86
Peggy Bruch Trust, Sturgis SD	1	Black-Cow	1300	178.50	\$2,320.50
Bruce Blair, Piedmont SD	1	Black-Cow	1820	165.00	\$3,003.00
	1	Black-Cow	1815	173.00	\$3,139.95
	1	Bwf-Cow	1570	174.00	\$2,731.80
	1	Bwf-Cow	1625	154.00	\$2,502.50
	1	Black-Cow	1775	161.00	\$2,857.75
Center Of The Nation Cattle, Newell SD	2	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1390	177.00	\$2,460.30
Jim Scofield, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1480	171.00	\$2,530.80
	1	Black-Cow	1645	165.00	\$2,714.25
Cole/Gina Ketelsen, Sturgis SD	2	Black-Hfrt	973	315.00	\$3,063.37
Owen Rumph, Biddle MT	1	Black-Cow	1335	176.00	\$2,349.60
Harry Tavegia, Osage WY	1	Bwf-Cow	1295	205.00	\$2,654.75
	1	Black-Cow	1550	174.00	\$2,697.00
	1	Bwf-Cow	1510	174.50	\$2,634.95
Cold Creek Ranch Inc, Hulett WY	1	Black-Cow	1360	177.00	\$2,407.20

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MARCH 26, 2026

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APRIL 2, 2026

****ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS****

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

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

March 26, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10 AM MT
April 2, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL
April 7, 2026	BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
April 9, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH BULL SALE
April 16, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL & HORSE SALE
April 23, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
April 30, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES

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RECEIVING STATIONS

Broadus, MT Travis Linch 605-892-5951	Forsyth, MT Scott Anderson 406-351-1844
Ekalaka, MT Riley Lesh 406-697-0573	Jordan, MT Jason Bollinger 406-690-8344
Wyoming Brett Loughlin 605-210-0615	Wyoming Mike Greenough 307-620-2597

July 3 Fireworks at Mount Rushmore: Ticket Lottery Opens April 8th

The National Park Service has announced plans for a July 3, 2026 Independence Day celebration at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The evening will conclude with a fireworks display over Mount Rushmore.

Due to the scale of the event, attendance on July 3 will be limited to ticketed participants, with tickets distributed through a lottery on Recreation.gov.

LOTTERY WINDOW:

April 8 at 8:00 AM (MT) - April 12 at 9:59 PM (MT)

- Each applicant may enter the lottery once
- Applicants may request up to four tickets
- Tickets are available to U.S. residents only
- Lottery results announced April 14

Each lottery selection will include tickets for up to four people and either parking garage access at the memorial, OR shuttle transportation from

Rapid City.

Ticket holders will be able to enter Mount Rushmore beginning at 1:00 PM, with event programming currently sched-

uled to run approximately 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM.

Seating within the memorial amphitheater will be first-come, first-served.

ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS AT MOUNT RUSHMORE:

JULY 2ND

- Memorial grounds

open at 5:00 AM

- Interpretive programs throughout the day
- Ranger talks and educational programming across the memorial grounds
- Evening concert by the U.S. Air Force Academy Band **JULY 3RD**
- Memorial closed to general visitation
- Open to ticketed guests only beginning at 1:00 PM
- Event programming scheduled approximately 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- Fireworks display over Mount Rushmore National Memorial **JULY 4TH**
- Memorial grounds open at 5:00 AM
- Special events beginning at 9:00 AM
- Presidential reenactors and Indigenous demonstrations
- Evening performance by the U.S. Air Force Academy Band



Event Details and FAQs
Are tickets required for the July 3 celebration?

YES. The park will be closed to general visitation effective 11 pm on July 2 and will reopen for only ticketed participants the afternoon of July 3.

Are the tickets reserved seating?

Seating will be available on a first-come-first-served basis within the developed area of the Memorial. Ticket holders can enter the park beginning at 1 pm.

The special events are currently scheduled to begin at 4 pm and conclude around 10 pm.

Is there a cost for the lottery?

There is a non-refundable \$1 fee for the lottery. No refunds will be issued in the event of cancellation.

Who can apply to the lottery?

Each applicant may enter the lottery once but can request up to

four tickets. Tickets are available to US residents only and are non-transferable.

Ticket holders age 16 years and older will need to present valid government-issued photo ID with their ticket for entry. All participants older than two years must have a ticket.

Is parking available?

Each ticket, for a group of four people or fewer, will include one parking space within the Memorial or shuttle access to the event from Rapid City.

Tickets will be assigned at random with either parking garage or shuttle options. In the lottery application, tickets can be requested for either and/or both the parking garage and shuttle options; however, only one option will be awarded.

Parking garage option includes an event ticket for up to four

people and one vehicle entry to the parking garage at the Memorial. All vehicles, including the vehicle storage areas, will be searched for prohibited items.

Shuttle option includes an event ticket for up to four people and shuttle transportation from Rapid City to the park and back to Rapid City from the park. Free parking will be available at the shuttle stop in Rapid City.

When will lottery applicants be notified of the results?

Applicants will receive lottery results on April 14. Successful notices will include additional details and instructions for attendees. All event details are subject to change with little notice.

Notifications of lottery results are via email. To ensure the receipt of important messages related to the lottery, please up-

date email address and contact information before entering the lottery. Please also add Recreation.gov to your address book or safe senders list and check your "spam" or "junk mail" folder for notifications.

How does the lottery on Recreation.gov work?

Recreation.gov offers many tools for participating agencies to use to help manage visitation, one of which is the lottery application process.

The Recreation.gov lottery process is based on a fair and randomized distribution system to ensure equal access to this special event. Everyone who submits a lottery application has the same chance of securing a ticket.

Is there a rain date for the fireworks display?

No.

Is there another place to view the programming at the event if I can't get a ticket?

Not at the Memorial. We recommend visiting Travel South Dakota for more information regarding watch parties, live streaming, and broadcast viewing opportunities.

How is the park addressing concerns about fire risk, wild-life, water, and other environmental impacts related to the July 3 fireworks event?

The National Park Service works with fire specialists, other subject matter experts, and partner agencies to plan for events like this and to make sure the park and its resources are protected.

For more information visit this page: ParkPlanning - SUP 2026 Independence Day Holiday Fireworks Event.

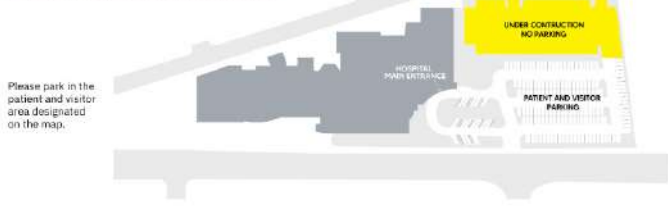


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SPEARFISH HOSPITAL PHASE ONE COMPLETION

March 26 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Take a tour of the new space and enjoy refreshments.



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<p>\$44.99</p> <p>Minden Mill Rye & Bourbon Whiskey 750 ml</p>	<p>\$69.99</p> <p>Lynn's Single Barrel Jack Daniels 750 ml</p>	<p>\$19.99</p> <p>Bota Box Wines 3L</p>

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Wednesday, **March 25th** through Tuesday, **April 14th**

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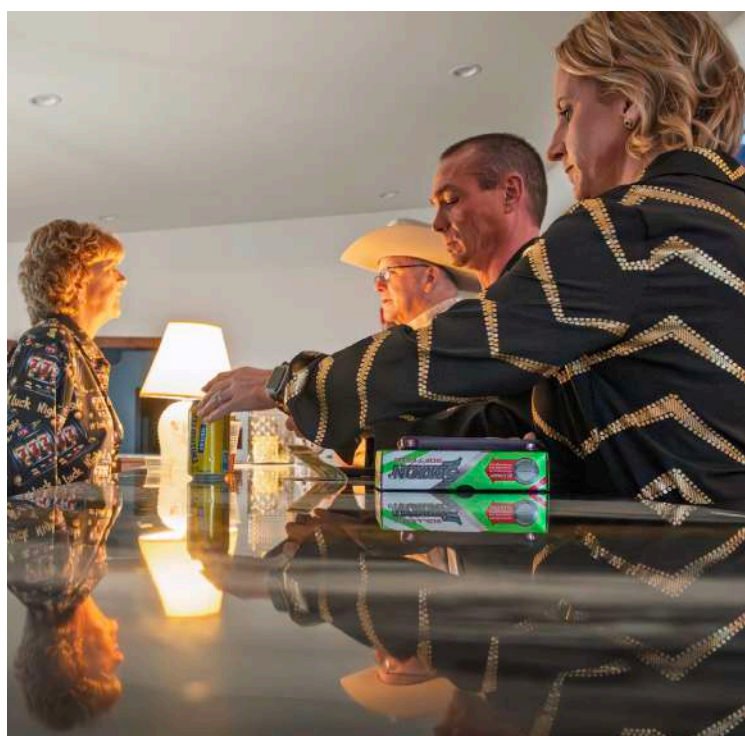
Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce



(Below) Don & Deb Elliott stretch out a generous "arms length of 50/50 raffle tickets. (Above) Some of the performers were "on fire" for the evening!



(Above) No shortage of glitz & glamour at the event. (Below) Roxie provided the same excellent service at the Casino Night event that the **Branding Iron** always gives.



Area Church Schedules

BLACK HILLS GOSPEL ASSEMBLY

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

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CONNECTION CHURCH (SBC)

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

EMMANUEL BAPTIST

Meet at Americinn Conference room
Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School 10am church
Men's Bible Study 10am at
the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
Call for location.
website: ebcfb.org

FIRST BAPTIST

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

901 Laurel St. Whitewood
(605)-920-1959
Reverend Jill Jennwein
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
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NEW COVENANT PCA

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

NEWELL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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

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
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Sunday School: 11 a.m.
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290 W Highway 14
Pastor Darren Purdy and
Pastor Marveen Gentillon
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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

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SUMMIT OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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892-4630 or 892-4389
Pastor Rick and Diane Brennan
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship
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Wednesday: September - May
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
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REGISTER ONLINE No Deposit Needed

Early Bird	April 25th-26th	3 Person Scramble \$ 185 PER PERSON
Women's Open	June 13th	2 Person Scramble \$ 160 PER TEAM
Member Guest	July 31st- Aug 2nd	2 Person Chicago \$ 220 PER PERSON SKINS & DUCES INCLUDED
Club Championship	August 23th	Individual \$ 60 PER PERSON SKINS & DUCES INCLUDED
Couples Tournament	September 6th	2 Person Campman \$ 150 PER COUPLE <- MEMBER \$180 PER COUPLE <- NON-MEMBER
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support, without a plan — that's not a strategy. That's a wish. The communities and businesses that thrive are the ones that treat local economic growth as the high-stakes competition it actually is — and decide, deliberately, which side they want to be on.

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

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By John Newby "Building Main Street, not Wall Street" "Hope Is a Poor Business Strategy"

Every year, thousands of small businesses open their doors with the same quiet prayer: *maybe if we're good enough, people will find us.* They sign leases, stock shelves, hang their signs, and wait. For a while, it feels like it might work. Then, slowly, it doesn't. This isn't a story about bad people or bad ideas. It's a story about a bad strategy — one so common it barely gets named. It's called hope.



The statistics bear this out in painful detail. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, roughly 20% of small businesses fail in their first year. By the end of year five, about half are gone. By year ten, only about 35% remain. Hope, it turns out, has a terrible track record.

But here's what gets missed in that story: the failure isn't entirely on the business owner. Communities share the weight of it too. Think of a town as an ecosystem. When local businesses thrive, that money doesn't disappear — it circulates.

Economists refer to this as the "local multiplier effect." Studies have consistently shown that money spent at locally-owned businesses recirculates within the community at a significantly higher rate than dollars spent at national chains, which funnel profits out of town to distant shareholders. Every time a community chooses a local option over a national one, it's making a quiet investment in itself.

The math gets interesting quickly. Consider this: ten new local businesses, each employing just five people, creates 50 jobs. Open ten of those businesses every year, and in five years you've added 250 local jobs — the same economic impact as landing a single large employer, but without the tax incentives, infrastructure demands, or risk of a sudden

relocation announcement that wipes out half the workforce overnight. Local businesses, by contrast, tend to stay. They have roots.

Forward-thinking communities have figured this out. They've stopped waiting for a big manufacturer to come to town and started building wealth from the ground up — one entrepreneur at a time. They buy local first, before ever looking outside.

They create support networks: mentorship programs, small business development centers, accessible financing. They ask which local needs aren't being met and then actively help local entrepreneurs meet them, rather than defaulting to a national chain that delivers a familiar but forgettable experience.

And then there's tourism — perhaps the most underutilized lever of all. You don't need to be a major metropolitan area to draw visitors. Today's traveler isn't necessarily chasing the Eiffel Tower. They're chasing something they can't find at home: a unique downtown, a quirky local market, a festival that only happens here. Every tourist who walks into a small town brings spending power with them.

Think of each visitor as a fresh injection of outside money into the local economy — money that didn't exist there yesterday, and that stays when they buy dinner, find a gift shop, or book another night.

The towns that understand this don't wait to be discovered. They define what makes them worth discovering, and then they tell that story loudly and clearly.

The lesson isn't that hope is useless. Hope is what gets people out of bed. But hope without structure, without community

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden March 23, 2026

We experienced very spring like, maybe summer like weather last week. We enjoyed over 80 degree temperatures by the end of the week. While Saturday was a beautiful day, the very strong

winds came up later in the evening. It rearranged some furniture, but didn't seem to do significant damage for the most part.

There was a 95th birthday celebration for Floyd Cammack after church on Sunday.

It consisted of family and friends staying for a pot luck dinner after church as well as birthday cake.

Floyd had sons Gary and Lane in attendance as well as Gary's and Mike's family members that included grandchildren and great grandchildren. Cody and Liz Rhoden and girls came out for church and more

time at the Rhoden Ranch after the birthday celebration. Deb Schnell and Edna Smith also came out to give birthday wishes to Floyd.

There will be a District 29 Legislative Candidate Forum in Union Center at the Central Meade County Community Center on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

There are two candidates running for the state Senate who

are John Carley of Piedmont and Pastor Bill Meirose of Sturgis, who pastors in Union Center.

House candidates are Terri Jorgenson of southern Meade County, Cathy Rice of the Piedmont area, Gary Deering of the Herford area and Gary Cammack of Union Center.

It should be a good, informative forum sponsored by Meade County Republican Women.



Capitol News
March 15, 2026
by Karen Odell

This week has brought intrigue. At Capitol and on Tie Creek, we were trying to imagine what the weather would be like each day, and each day was a surprise. First there was a snow storm with about three to four inches on the ground, with the night temperature reaching down to about zero. Then in a day or two, the high temperature reached upward to nearly eighty degrees. March is an interesting month. These high temperatures broke many records. Now we can't even guess what is coming next week.

The local activities have slowed down dramatically, this week. Everyone had been listening or watching the state girls' basketball tournaments in Montana for Baker, and in South Dakota for

Harding County. Both teams made us proud, and gave us some exciting games to watch. Now, things have calmed into calving season, and everyone is remembering to get up to check the cows. That is keeping many people busy, but it doesn't seem newsworthy, and is pretty routine most of the time.

Dick and Erma Albert made a trip to Rapid City, again this week, for Erma's doctor's appointment. She was also glad to get her ID renewed, while visiting the air base. Dick went to the Catholic church for mass, on Sunday, and then went to Saloon Number Three to bring lunch back home for him and Erma.

Lynn Gustafson joined others for the Diligent Doers Extension Club meeting in Camp Crook on Wednesday. The meeting was held at the City Building. On Thursday, Lynn

went to the City Building again, to join in the Bible Study. Last week, the snow storm had caused church to be canceled at the Little Missouri Church, so they were glad to join in church again this week.

Karen Odell had a quiet week, but things became more interesting on the weekend.

Grandson, Murphy Hinds, was playing in his first flag football game in Tacoma, WA. Jeff and Amanda Odell were spending the nice warm day trimming trees in Iowa. Mollie and Kyia Smith went to Duluth, MN for some shopping, and for Kyia to play with her team in a volleyball tournament. It was Kyia's team's first overnight travel to a tournament, and they were having a great time.

Kellan Odell was on tour with a college class from Mt Marty College. Their tour covered sites in western South

Dakota and Wyoming, so these places were not new to Kellan, because he visits here often.

Kenna Odell is already beginning to look for the right college to attend. She will be a senior at Mitchell High School next year, making her grandmother age even faster. Cody, Kylie, and Carson brought Kenna to Spearfish over the weekend, so that she could visit Black Hills State University on Monday. Karen met with them in Spearfish on Sunday, and they had lunch together at Killian's Restaurant, and then visited at Kylie's aunt and uncle's, in the afternoon. Karen stopped to get groceries at Lueders, and then also stopped in Alzada on the way back home.

Things have calmed down for Dorothy Padden, too, since wrestling and basketball are over for the year. Soon track season will begin, but now there are things like prom and graduation to prepare for. Dawn will take a

calving break from picture taking, for a week or two. Dorothy will rest up, and be ready to be a fan for the next school event or track meet. Dawn and Dorothy Padden attended the Diligent Doers' Extension Club meeting in Camp Crook, on Wednesday. Yvonne Yoder was the hostess, and the meeting was held at the City Building in Camp Crook. The club is especially preparing for a gathering in recognition of Mary Brewer's one-hundredth birthday. What an exciting event! They will help with the celebration, and have scheduled it for April 4th, the Saturday of Easter weekend. It will be held at the Camp Crook Community Center from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. They are hoping for good weather and a big crowd, for such a special day.

Teddy Roosevelt was right. He said, "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you actually care."

Letter to the Editor

The Beacon received the request to publish a retraction. We only print official governmental minutes as submitted for requested publication.

John M. Tracy request:
To the Editor,

I am writing regarding your publication of statements asserting that I and/or my business had "pending criminal charges" in 2023.

Official records from the South Dakota Unified Judicial System confirm that no such charges were ever filed or pending against me or my business during that time.

The statement is false and has caused harm to our business and reputation. We request that you review the source of this claim and issue a prompt correction or clarification to prevent further harm. Please confirm receipt

of this request and your intended course of action.

Sincerely,
John M. Tracy
3J Oil Medics, LLC & Towing

Hello,
I'm reaching out regarding a documented issue involving the removal of my company, 3J Oil Medics (3J Towing), from the Butte County law enforcement towing rotation in October 2023.

This situation involves public officials, recorded county commission meetings, and statements that appear to conflict with court records.

- Key points:**
- We were removed the same day a court order was allegedly served
 - The order was not served on the registered owners
 - No court has ever found us in violation or in contempt

- Officials publicly stated we had criminal charges pending
- Those statements were recorded, transcribed, and reported

Since our removal, one towing company has become the sole provider for law enforcement towing in the county.

We have documentation, audio recordings, transcripts, and financial records showing the impact. I'm not asking you to take my word for anything—I can provide all supporting evidence for independent review.

If this is something you would be interested in looking into, I would be happy to share a concise summary and supporting materials. Thank you for your time,
John M. Tracy
605-641-5194

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Salary: \$21.80 - \$24.57 DOQ
Hours/Week: 40 hours Mon-Fri

Education Required: Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.

Abilities/Skills:

A successful applicant will have strong knowledge of clerical practices and procedures, excellent written and verbal communication skills, knowledge of grant writing, knowledge of budgeting and SD DOT reports, good time management, and organizational skills.

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

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“Teunah and I change the ending Part 3”

Meg English news@bellefourchebeacon.com



“The door is big enough; just look, I can get in myself!” she crept up and thrust

her head into the oven. Then Gretel gave her a push that drove her far into it, and shut the iron door, and fastened the bolt. Oh! then she began to howl quite horribly, but Gretel

ran away and the godless witch was miserably burnt to death.

Gretel, however, ran like lightning to Hansel, opened his little stable, and cried: ‘Hansel, we are saved! The old witch is dead!’ Then Hansel sprang like a bird from its cage when the door is opened. How they did rejoice and embrace each other, and dance about and kiss each other!

And as they had no longer any need to fear her, they went into the witch’s house, and in every corner there stood chests

full of pearls and jewels. ‘These are far better than pebbles!’ said Hansel, and thrust into his pockets whatever could be got in, and Gretel said: ‘I, too, will take something home with me,’ and filled her pinafore full. ‘But now we must be off,’ said Hansel, ‘that we may get out of the witch’s forest.’

When they had walked for two hours, they came to a great stretch of water. ‘We cannot cross,’ said Hansel, ‘I see no foot-plank, and no bridge.’ ‘And there is also no ferry,’ answered Gretel, ‘but a white duck is swimming there: if I ask her, she will help us over.’ Then she cried:

‘Little duck, little duck, dost thou see,

Hansel and Gretel are waiting for thee?’

There’s never a plank, or bridge in sight,

Take us across on thy back so white.’

The duck came to them, and Hansel seated himself on its back, and told his sister to sit by him. ‘No,’ replied Gretel, ‘that will be too heavy for the little duck; she shall take us across, one after the other.’ The good little duck did so, and when they were once safely across and had walked for a short time, the forest seemed to be more and more familiar to them, and

at length they saw from afar their father’s house. Then they began to run, rushed into the parlour, and threw themselves round their father’s neck. The man had not known one happy hour since he had left the children in the forest; the woman, however, was dead. Gretel emptied her pinafore until pearls and precious stones ran about the room, and Hansel threw one handful after another out of his pocket to add to them. Then all anxiety was at an end, and they lived together in perfect happiness. My tale is done, there runs a mouse; whosoever catches it, may make himself a big fur cap out of it.



KICK UP YOUR HEELS WITH LINE DANCING THURSDAYS @ 5:30 PM IN APRIL Belle Fourche Rec Center

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.

Belle Fourche Writers Belle Fourche Writers March meeting schedule: March 21 from 10 AM to Noon. Belle Fourche Recreation Center Notes from Belle Fourche Rec Center Aquatics Manager: As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! March Events Youth Strength & Cardio kicked off March 6th. Classes Water-walking - This class is held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 - 8:15 am. Silver Splash - This class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 - 12:15 pm. Aquafit - We will hold Aquafit every Monday and Wednesday night from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. Tri-State Museum The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center offers new exhibits. The Tri-State Museum created some new exhibits and refreshed some older ones. In the mercantile, the case that has exhibited dolls features a new collection of 12 dolls from the museum’s extensive Millicent Henderson collection. Also, in the mercantile is a mini “haberdashery,” filled with vintage men’s clothing and toiletries. Across the floor from mercantile is the museum’s collection of salt and pepper shakers. 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. 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 The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

Open Houses 5-7PM THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.WATSONHENNESSEYGROUP.COM (605) 340-0898

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THE DAKOTA SCOUT The Dakota Scout is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Stay on top of what’s happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you. www.thedakotascout.com • www.facebook.com/TheDakotaScout Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



12th Annual WELLNESS FAIR AND MARKETPLACE

Saturday, April 18th 2026 9:00 am-3:00 pm

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605-892-2467 or tessa@bellefourche.org

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3. Turn in your application January 1-March 31, 2026
4. Complete FAFSA

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QUESTIONS?

Deni Martin, Program Manager
Build Dakota Scholarship
605.347.1804 - deni@bulldakotascholarships.com

Rita Nelson, Workforce Relations Coordinator
Build Dakota Scholarship
605.760.4284 - rita@bulldakotascholarships.com

Learn more about the program at BuildDakotaScholarships.com

Social Security & Medicare Basics

Hosted by



12 pm Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Belle Silver Linings Senior Center
828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD

Guest speakers

Ashley Sanders, NSSA
Certified National Social Security Advisor



Stephanie Salazar
Health & Life Insurance Advisor



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2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Western Dakota Technical College**
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2-Year Program, AAS Degree

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1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Precision Technology Option
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- Mitchell Technical College**
- Agronomy
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Precision Ag Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Southeast Technical College**
- Horticulture
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Sports Turf Management
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Western Dakota Technical College**
- Environmental Engineering: Controlled Environment Agriculture
2-Year Program, AAS Degree

BUILDING TRADES/CONSTRUCTION

Lake Area Technical College

- Building Trades Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Heavy Equipment Operator
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Mitchell Technical College**
- Architectural Design & Building Construction
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Electrical Construction & Maintenance
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Heating & Cooling Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Southeast Technical College**
- Construction Management Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Electricians
1-Year Program, AAS Degree
- HVAC/R Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Mechanical Systems
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Plumbing Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Western Dakota Technical College**
- Construction Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Electrical Trades
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- HVAC/Refrigeration Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Plumbing Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma

HEALTHCARE

Lake Area Technical College

- Dental Assisting
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Dental Hygiene
1-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)
1.5-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Medical Assisting
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Medical Lab Technician
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Paramedic
2-Year Program, Diploma
- Registered Nursing (RN)
1-Year Program, AAS Degree*
- Surgical Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Mitchell Technical College**
- Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Medical Assistant
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Medical Laboratory Technician
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Medical Office Professional
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Radiologic Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Registered Nurse (RN)
2-Year Program, AAS Degree*
- Southeast Technical College**
- Cardiovascular Sonography
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Dental Assisting
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Invasive Cardiovascular Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)
1.5-Year Program, Diploma
- Medical Assistant
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Medical Laboratory Technician
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Paramedic Sciences
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Registered Nurse (RN)
1 or 1.5-Year Program, AAS Degree*
- Respiratory Therapy
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Surgical Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Western Dakota Technical College**
- Dental Hygiene
2-Year Program, AAS Degree

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Lake Area Technical College

- Computer Information Systems
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Southeast Technical College**
- Computer Programming
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Systems and Network Security
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Western Dakota Technical College**
- Computer Science: Information Technology Specialist
2-Year Program, AAS Degree

PUBLIC SERVICE

Lake Area Technical College

- Law Enforcement
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Child Care Technician
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Mitchell Technical College**
- Entrepreneurship
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Southeast Technical College**
- Early Childhood Specialist
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Law Enforcement Science
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Western Dakota Technical College**
- Law Enforcement Technology
2-Year Program, AAS Degree

WELDING

Lake Area Technical College

- Welding Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Mitchell Technical College**
- Welding & Manufacturing Technology
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree
- Southeast Technical College**
- Welding
1-Year Program, Diploma
- Western Dakota Technical College**
- Welding & Fabrication
1-Year Program, Diploma OR
2-Year Program, AAS Degree

*As well as an RN program, must hold active and current LPN license without restrictions. Contact school for details.



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Each technical college has their own Build Dakota Industry Partner Program. To learn more or to inquire about becoming a partner, please contact the schools directly.



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Melissa.Waldner@lakeareatech.edu



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CONTACT BUILD DAKOTA:

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605.347.1804 - deni@bulldakotascholarships.com

Rita Nelson, Workforce Relations Coordinator
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- ORAL PRESENTATIONS: 8AM TO 3PM - MEIER HALL ROOMS 203 & 207 (FULL SCHEDULE TBA - SEE QR ^)
- POSTER PRESENTATIONS: 3PM TO 5PM - STUDENT UNION LOBBY

APRIL 2ND - KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 4PM IN MEIER HALL AUDITORIUM
- FEATURING TRUE CRIME PODCASTER DELIA D'AMBRA!
- "FROM PRINT TO PODCASTING: WHY INTENTIONALITY AND INTEGRITY IN YOUR RESEARCH MATTERS"

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TRUE CRIME JOURNALIST PODCASTER
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
28TH ANNUAL BLACK HILLS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



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Delia D'Ambra is an investigative journalist, writer, and storyteller who has covered gripping stories for local, national, and international audiences for more than a decade. Her curiosity, ethics, and compassionate approach to reporting has set the standard in an industry that requires a precise balance of transparency and tenacity. Delia has created, hosted, or executive produced more than half a dozen chart-topping true-crime podcasts streamed by millions of listeners who find themselves drawn to detailed and heart-pounding interviews. Delia was born and raised in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and works wherever stories take her.

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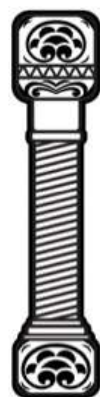


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Local 4-H Participants Attend Mandatory Livestock Training



Veterinarian **Sammi Hansen** explains to the class how to read medicine labels. *Longbrake photo*

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—The Lucky Ten 4-H Club and Whatever It Takes Coalition teamed up to host a 4-H Livestock Class at the Newell Christian Fellowship Events Center on March 22.

The class is mandatory for any 4-H participant who intends to show livestock at the Butte/Lawrence County Fair and/or State Fair. Veterinarian Sammi Hansen led the training. “I’m also the Swine Superintendent down at the local county fair, and do vet check in. And so for this type of class, they have to have someone that has the knowledge of animals,” she explained.

Hansen’s experience in working with youth was

apparent in the way she engaged the kids in learning and participating in the workshop. She would ask a question and ten hands would go up in the air; after a kid answered, Hansen would toss a piece of candy in their direction. The children were excited to participate and get a reward for trying.

The program started with Hansen describing to the audience the importance of sending a thank-you card to a sponsor. She then went over the steps in writing such a card: 1) Greeting, 2) What are you thanking them for? 3) What impact will it have? 4) Warm closing, and then followed it up by writing a practice thank-you card utilizing the steps the youth had just learned.

Next, Hansen broke down the steps in calculating the costs of feeding a lamb or other animal for the year, including grain, alfalfa and hay. She explained how to fill out the 4-H paperwork needed for reporting the costs.

The vet went on to explain how to keep track of vaccinations and treatments given to the 4-H animal each year. “You’re going to learn to look at a vaccine or a vaccine label—if you’ve been through one of my classes, we’ve done this same vaccine label prior—what I want to know is, on this product, how many ML or CC’s are we going to give,” said Hansen. “That’s all you have to write on this sheet.”

Hansen also reminded the group of the three places to

inject a sheep and to read the warnings on the label that tell you when you must stop giving shots prior to slaughter.

Time was spent going over how to write the official ID number.

Hansen told the participants about a new program coming to the fair this year and encouraged everyone to take lots of pictures of the youth caring for their animals. “The last thing I would like to tell you guys about is about a program we are bringing to the county fair this year...If you raise your own livestock, it is highly important to be taking pictures with them as they are lambing, kidding for the goats, or calving...I went out and gathered sponsors throughout the country. These

are producers wanting to give back to producers—that is you guys—4-Hers. They have donated money, and I’m not talking \$20, I’m talking \$1000s that will be divided among you kids,” shared Hansen. “So if you finish your own livestock, please take a picture, and you will enter at the fair.”

If you or your child want to show an animal in the County or State Fair this year, you must attend the livestock class. If you missed this one, there is one more scheduled for April 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the First Interstate Bank in Belle Fourche.

4-H Photos Contd. D4

Local Vendors Gather for Spring Fling



Area folks enjoy shopping the various vendors at the Vale Community Hall during the Spring Fling. *Longbrake photo*

VALE—Sunshine and warm spring weather welcomed visitors to the first ever Spring Fling Vendor and Craft Fair on March 21 at the Vale Community Hall.

The Spring Fling event provided an opportunity for local businesses to come together and offer up their wares to the public. As the first gathering of the season, the event drew a strong turnout. Quite a few people showed up to support small businesses and shop for unique items. A total of 22 vendors were on display at the Vale Community Center.

Smokin’ Hot Catering LLC provided lunch for the event. They served up smoked cuisine that included chopped beef,

pulled pork, BBQ nachos, Cuban sandwich and Bay of Pigs sandwich along with sides of coleslaw, corn casserole and smoked Mac N Cheese.

Small business owners Jessica Gatzke and Laura Wiedewitsch worked together to host the event. “So I actually did the Small Business Saturday down here and we just asked if we could do another event down here for local vendors that don’t have a storefront—so they can come out and show off their products and get their name out there,” explained Gatzke.

Gatzke owns Wild Lightening Boutique and Wiedewitsch owns Tastefully Simple. Both ladies had booths for the event and travel around

the area to other vendor events.

“I also put on the vendors down at the Butte Lawrence County Fair and I do Cowboy Christmas,” said Gatzke.

The duo expressed how supportive the Vale Community Hall Board members have been.

“They share our event like crazy for us on Facebook, and yes, they’re very supportive,” shared Wiedewitsch.

Vendors at the event included: Tastefully Simple, South Dakota Simple Cookin’, Laura W, Tastefully Simple Consultant; Wild Lightning Boutique; Jessica Gatzke; J Ranch Crafts; Nicole Wood Jones; Mary Kay; Tonya

Spring Fling Cont. D4

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Customers pick up some unique items during the Spring Fling in Vale, SD. *Longbrake photo*

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

It was -6 degrees when we got up last Monday morning but it warmed up to 40 degrees later in the day that didn't melt much of that snow we got last Sunday when they had to cancel church.

Tuesday, March 17, was St. Patrick's Day and it was warm and windy outside. I always celebrate St. Paddy's Day because my great grandfather Charles Wilkinson was 100% Irish so I wore green all day and the little people went to school wearing green because they didn't want to get pinched for not wearing green. I did get to pinch Reub though, because he wasn't wearing green! My hens gave me 18 eggs that day and I don't think they're even Irish, although 6 of them are white!

We went to Reeder on Wednesday to visit with John and Phyllis Brown in Reeder about the chop auger that John is working on for us and then we went on to the Hettinger clinic so Reub

could get an ultrasound of his carotid artery and that went really well. The 70-degree weather that day sure melted a lot of snow. I had a good visit with Deb Beld while Reub was at the clinic about her brother Ashley Beld who has been missing from his home in Reeder since February 23. Deb's mother and my mother were really good friends while they were growing up together over at Glendo and we pray that law enforcement finds him soon. We stopped for coffee with the Prairie Pioneers in Reeder on the way home and I was still wearing green. Leroy Olson was also wearing a green cowboy shirt that his handy wife Donna had made for him, so both of us were still honoring the Irish.

Reub and I went to the Lenten Service and supper Wednesday evening and Josi and Reave Schuchard served us a delicious supper before the service. When we were ready to head home after the service those sweet girls

sent a bunch of their yummy doughnuts home with Reub. Thank you, girls!

Thursday was a warm day with a temperature of 79 degrees and it would have felt better without the wind that blew all afternoon. My chickens sure like this warm weather and they are laying a lot of eggs because it is no longer cold outside.

Friday, March 20 was the first day of Spring and it always reminds me of what Reub's mother Amy Olson used to say when Spring arrived, "Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the flowers is?". The kids don't have school on Fridays so River Lu came up to our house to help Great Grandpa Reub finish putting the puzzle together that Sandy Dan started when he was up here helping with the work a couple weeks ago. They got it finished that afternoon so I took a picture of it with my phone and texted it to Sandy Dan and he thought it was cool!

It was so nice Saturday afternoon that I took a long walk down south to the dump and then up north to the old place to look at what remains of the place that Reub's grandfather Delos Olson started back in 1898 when he worked for the E6 cattle company and lived in a dugout. Delos moved his family up here in 1899 and built a rock house connected to the dugout where the family lived. When the kids were old

enough for school, Delos built a log room on the south of the rock house for the school and then hired a teacher to teach the kids while she lived with the family. Later on, Delos built a rock granary north of the house and that's where his son Lance Olson had his back broken when he was unloading something from the back of the team and wagon and he was paralyzed from the waist down. All those buildings have fallen down and caved in and the only building still standing east of old house across Olson Creek is the big barn that Delos built a long time ago that Reub, Casey and Thad fixed up in the early 1980s.

Howard Nelson lost his dear wife: Sandra Jane (Schlenker) Nelson, age 84, passed away Friday, March 13. Her funeral service was Saturday, March 21, at the Hettinger Lutheran Church. Howard has our sympathy and Sandi will be missed.

It was a little cooler than it was on Saturday when we went to church on Sunday but it still felt pretty nice outside. A good bunch of people came to Slim Buttes Lutheran that morning and the choir stayed after church to practice the songs we are going to sign at the Hymn Sing at the Grace Bible Fellowship Church in Bison on Sunday, March 29, which is also Palm Sunday.

With Spring springing on us this week, I'll leave you with

these Spring jokes:

- *It's springtime already? You've got to be pollen my leg.
- *Did you hear about the cashew and the walnut that threw a party when spring arrived? It was nuts.
- *How do birds know how to fly north in the spring? They wing it.
- *If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims.
- *Why do hummingbirds hum? Because they don't know the words.
- *What kind of socks do gardeners wear? Garden hose!
- *What kind of shoes do frogs wear when spring comes? Open-toad.
- *Why are trees so forgiving? Every spring they turn over a new leaf.



Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

March 16, 1916

The Agronomy Department of the State College recently tested samples of sweet clover seed sent in by a South Dakota farmer and discovered that they contained no western sweet clover seeds whatsoever. This indicates that every farmer should satisfy himself that he buys pure seed and that he plants what he thinks he plants. The foregoing tests were unhulled sweet clover contained 75% of red and Alaska clover, 11% inert matter and 10% dodder, red grasses, curled dock, barnyard grass, old witch grass, timothy, Kentucky blue grass. Lambs' quarters, smartweed, foxtail, sheep sorrel and sow thistle.

Ladies of the county; Mrs. E. Hoffman will do all kinds of first-class dress-making, also cleaning and pressing of suits. Bring in your farm produce and she will take it in exchange for work. She is located over Christian's Store.

Nine-pound boy was born to Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Wilkinson early yesterday morning. Mrs. J. H. Lewis met with a painful accident while on her way to the Wilkinson home to assist her daughter. The poles of the buggy in which Mrs. Lewis was riding dropped to the ground, stopping the rig so suddenly that she was thrown out. She sustained severe bruises about the face.

March 18, 1926

In Newell on Saturday, March 20th, beginning at

1:30 PM, goods of all kinds donated by the public will be sold to the highest bidder for the benefit of the M. E. church. Articles of every kind, eatables, livestock, furniture and machinery will be acceptable. The sale will take place between Newell Hardware and Fairmont Creamery. Please list goods with Rev. Walker or Auctioneer Scott.

May we look forward to a time perhaps 50 years from now, where the circus as added attraction a "Wild East Show", reproducing the hold-ups and battles of the gunman as they occurred in the lawless early years of the 20th Century, before the cities were civilized.

"Track" will come next week when the first call of track candidates will be issued. Newell School was not represented last year in the track meet at Rapid City but this year the school hopes to send a good team to the meet. Principal King will have charge of the boys, considerable interest is being taken, and a good team will be developed. Mr. King was a member of the Yankton College track team for several years and holds some of the college track records.

March 19, 1936

In a recent court case, th Limited fishing will be permitted in the lake at the Newell Golf Course this year, according to rules and regulations drawn up this week by Directors of the Newell Community Club and the City Commission in cooperation with the

by Linda Velder

South Dakota Fish & Game Commission. The lake was stocked several years ago with bullheads and bass, and these fish are now of sufficient size to permit fishing. Open season from June 15 to October 1 fishing permitted only on Wednesday and Sunday, with a string limit of 10 bullheads and 3 bass and lake will be posted.

June 1935, a pup coyote was caught near Camp Crook, where he was tagged by a government biological survey man and turned loose. Last week James Carleton, a trapper living on Powder River, 30 miles north of Gillette, Wyo, captured the animal which was identified by the department at Denver by the number on his tag.

The James Motor Company of Rapid City made arrangements last week to open a used car department in Newell and secured a vacant lot just south of the Standard Oil Service Station where used cars will be on display. George Miller of Newell will be their local agent.

A change in ownership of the auto repair shop formerly known as the "Butch Garage" was made the past week when O. W. "Butch" Brennamann withdrew from the partnership. Fred and Ernest Gardner purchased Mr. Brennamann's interest and will continue the business at the same place. Mr. Brennamann is opening a repair shop of his own in the old Dunn Building, recently vacated by the Newell Implement Company.

March 14, 1946

Judge J. G. Hartwell declared he would crack down on bad checks writers in Butte County and did just that for Leo Sullivan, who was arraigned last week on a charge of issuing checks without funds. Sullivan was fined \$100 in costs and ordered to pay the value of the checks. In addition, was sentenced to 15 days in jail. Hartwell declared there has been altogether too much bad check passing in our area and that he has decided to make such action costly for violators.

The War Department has advised that effective immediately, parcels not exceeding 22 pounds in weight, 48 inches length or 72 inches in girth combined, containing articles requested by the addressee may be acceptable for mailing to any personal overseas. Personal recordings, voice or instrumental, provided they are suitably prepared for transmission through the

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A communication was read at the Board of Commission meeting Monday evening from the US War Department asking for a 5-year contract with the City of Newell in which permission would be granted to the US Government to allow transient use by military aircraft of the landing area of the Municipal Airport. By motion of Commissioner Thompson, second by Mayor Winkler, the Mayor and City Auditor G. Martin Berg were authorized to sign and accept the contract offered by the War Department.

March 22, 1956

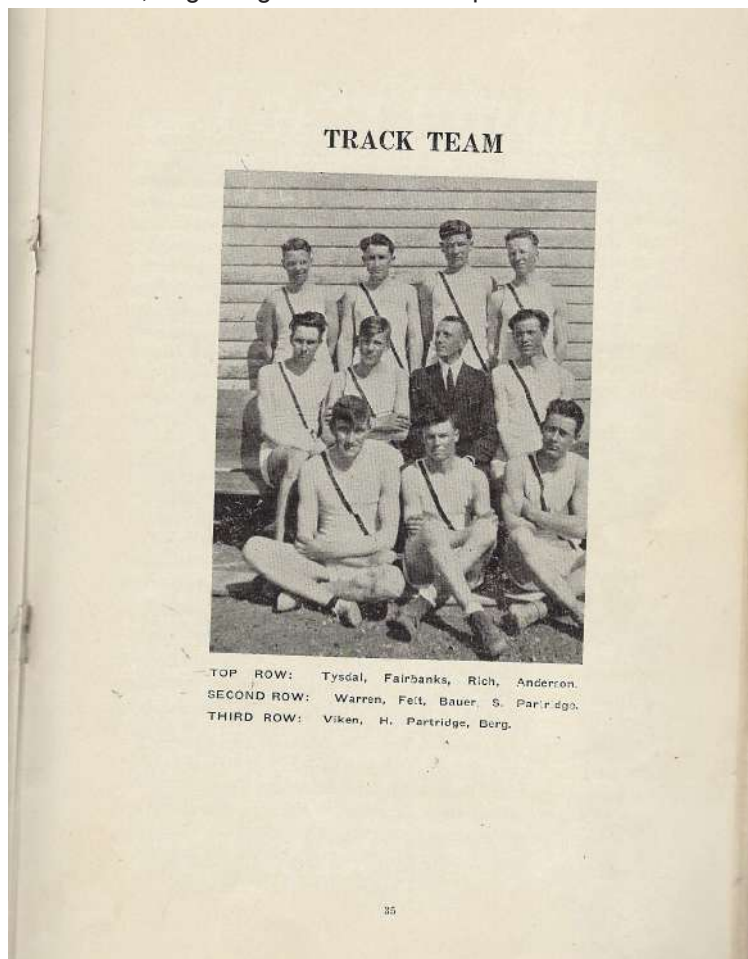
The State Game, Fish & Parks Commission gave favorable comments to the proposed lake north of Newell at a meeting of that group in Pierre this week. It would probably be approved by the SD Highway Department would re locate that cooperation of State Highway 79 affected. Butte county would also have to agree to handle a change in a county road.

The Empire Chicks 4-H Club met March 15, at the home of Sandra Kimball. Membets practiced sewing on bias tape, rick-rack and finished tea towels. The group also and practiced for 4-H Fun Night to be held at Nisland. A delicious supper was served by Sandra and

her mother after the meeting. Mrs. Schnell, Mrs. Kimball and Mrs. Kindsfater were kind enough to let the girls use their sewing machines.

Among those enjoying television Sunday at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Govert Van derBoom were Mr. & Mrs. Andy Garness of Sturgis, Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Brodsky, Mr & Mrs. Virgil Van derBoom, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Orwick, Mrs. Dewey and Mr. & Mrs. Irving Winger. A nice pot luck luncheon was thoroughly enjoyed.

The first of the new band uniforms arrived this week. The bright maroon and white uniform, including hat. The committee voted to dispense with a belt, which they felt was unnecessary due to the cut of the uniform jackets and to secure in lieu thereof. A school patch with the word "Newell" appearing across a lyre. The Band-Aids which conducted the fund drive, advised that patrons who have not yet contributed, can still do so.



TRACK TEAM

TOP ROW: Tysdal, Fairbanks, Rich, Anderson.
SECOND ROW: Warren, Felt, Bauer, S. Partridge.
THIRD ROW: Viken, H. Partridge, Borg.



Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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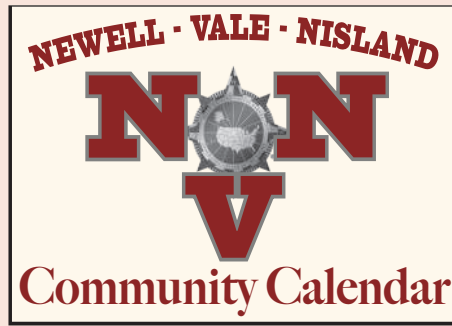
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Summer Campus CleanUp
Every Wednesday, 4-6 p.m.
Newell School

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

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

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



Newell Service Center

101 4th Street - Phone 605-456-3455



Automotive and Pickup Repair Shop - Sturdevant's Parts Store - Oil Lube & Filter Service - Gates-Belts & Hoses & Custom Hose building - + We sell all classes of Tires & do Tire repair- ATV Services



Menu Sponsored by:

Newell Hardware & Supply

320 Girard - Newell SD
605-456-2312

Open Mon-Sat 7:30 AM-5:30 PM/Sundays 11 AM-3 PM

212/79 Service Center

Fuel for the vehicle, fuel for you, and even gifts available from JT Boutique

121 South Dartmouth Newell, SD
605-456-0133

106 8th Street P: 605-456-1321
F: 605-456-1621

VIP Agency

Auto, Home, Farm, Commercial

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Newell, SD 57760
VIPAgency@sdplains.com

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) Waffles, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Chicken Nachos, Mexican Sweet Corn, Fruit, Milk	3) Egg Omelet, Muffins, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Turkey or Ham Subs, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	4) Egg Rolls, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk Chicken Quesadillas, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	5) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Cook's Choice, Fruit, Milk	6) NO SCHOOL
9) Cheesy Eggs, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Nuggets, Peas & Carrots, Fruit, Milk	10) Turkey Bagel Breakfast Sandwich, Fruit, Milk Sweet & Sour Pork, Sugar Snap Peas, Fruit, Milk	11) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Patty Sandwiches, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	12) Croissant Sandwiches, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Cook's Choice, Fruit, Milk	13) NO SCHOOL
16) Pancake Wraps, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Grilled Hot Turkey Sandwiches, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk	17) St Patrick's Day Biscuits & Gravy, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Cottage Pie, Cabbage Soup, Irish Soda Bread, Fruit, Milk	18) Pancakes, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk French Dip on Flatbread, Mixed Veggies, Fruit, Milk	19) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk BBQ Pork Patties, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk	20) NO SCHOOL
23) Hashbrown Eggs, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Fruit, Milk	24) Tomatoes, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Fruit, Milk	25) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit, Milk	26) Cheesy Eggs, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Cook's Choice, Fruit, Milk	27) NO SCHOOL
30) Scrambled Eggs, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Chicken Cordon Bleu, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	31) Quiche, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk Pigs in a Blanket, Pork 'n Beans, Fruit, Milk			

Salad Bar available. Menu is always subject to change!



Spring Fling From D1

Onstott; 5W Farm & Ranch, Amber Wich; Tell A Friend To Tell A Friend HAT BAR, Sheila Varns Huck; Pampered Chef Cooking with Lindsey, Lindsey Duprel; Laser Engraved Decor, Betsy Childers; Annika's Alpaca Beans, Annika B.; Dustina Chord Signs; Something From GG, Ginny Lee; Handmade Greeting Cards, Michelle Lynn Williams Betts; Gayle's Show Box & Boot, Gayle Cerullo; High Quality Saddles, LLC & Palomino Leather, Ashley Beazer High; R.G. Bees, LLC, Renee Brunson Sell; Nana's Jams (& Girl Scout cookies), Laurie Losch Parker; Peterson 601 Homestead, Lacy Jaymes Peterson; Jewelry by Bobbie, Bobbie Bishop; Scentsy, Bergstedt Fragrance & Décor Specialist; Handmade Soaps & More, Mickie Daigle; Book by Author Ruby I. Gabriel and Monument Health, FREE blood pressure screenings.

Animal Class Photos



Above: At the end of the class, all of the youth handed in their pencils. **Below: (L)** During the presentation, if a youth answered a question, they received a piece of candy for their efforts. At the end of the program, kids who didn't receive a piece of candy were invited to take one on their way out. **(R)** Kids spent time learning how to write thank-you cards and then had time to practice writing one. Longbrake photos



Whatever It Takes Coalition LUNCHEON MEETING INVITATION

When:
Monday, April 27, 2026 * 11:30 am
Free Luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m. with program to follow.

Where:
Newell Christian Fellowship Community Hall
306 4th Street, Newell, SD 57760

Program:
Christine Allen & Verla Little with NH Diversion (Teen Court • Diversion • Truancy Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) will be here to give a overview of what they do at Northern Hills Diversion and will have a few youth that will do a mock trial to give us a first hand experience of the program.



Helping Youth Become Contributing Members of Their Community.

Please let me know if you can make it, so I can plan accordingly.
Want to make sure I have enough for lunch and seats set up.
sabrina.harmon.wit@sdplains.com * 605-381-9136

Newell Lion's Club



PANCAKE SUPPER

Friday, April 17, 2026
5:00 pm—7:00 pm
at NVN Senior Citizen Center



Bring your Friends and Family out for supper.



Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Biscuits & Gravy, Milk, Juice & Coffee
Free will donation

Fundraiser for the Newell Lion's Club
(The Newell Lion's Club hands out scholarships, sends youth to camps, offer medical donations, do eye screenings, etc.)
Help us Help the Community

There will also be a **Silent Auction & Bake Sale**

If you would like to donate a Silent Auction Item please contact:
Neil Vollmer at 605-456-1055 or Judy Heiser at 605-210-2586.
You can bring the Bake Sale items to the supper or turn into a Lion's Club member beforehand.



IM-SERIES PLASTIC SEPTIC TANKS

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