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VOL. 9 ISSUE 12

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • April 1, 2026

\$1.25

Honoring the Nation's Legacy: Belle Fourche Marks 100-Day Countdown

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Belle Fourche, the Center of the Nation, kicked off the countdown to the 250th birthday of America—marking 100 days until we reach America's birthday, July 4, 2026.

The community came together to honor and celebrate the momentous occasion by holding the South Dakota 250th Flag Raising Ceremony at the Tri-State Museum and Center of the Nation Visitor Center. On March 26, the South Dakota flag was lowered, and the South Dakota Commemorative 250th Flag was added underneath and raised back up, signaling the official start of the countdown to the last 100 days before the nation's historic birthday.

The Belle Fourche VFW Post 312 handled the flag-raising honors. "Well, South Dakota, as I understand, is the first to come up with a commemorative flag for the United

Countdown Contd. A3



After the flag-raising ceremony, all in attendance gathered for a picture. Longbrake photo



Parents and children gather at the baseball diamonds and anxiously await the start of the annual **Easter Egg Hunt**.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Brings Egg-citement!

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Every year, hundreds of brightly colored eggs are spread across the green grass for excited kids to run around and gather as many of the little plastic bulbs as they can.

The event begins at 10 a.m. sharp and is over in no time, but those few minutes fill the little ones with joy.

For the past 14 years, since 2012, the Center of the Nation Business Association (CONBA) has been in charge of putting on the event. Even though the actual hunt is over fairly quick, a lot of time is put into planning and preparing for it. Stacey Raisanen, CONBA member, said, "We are super thrilled that we could continue the over 50 year tradition."

Children are divided into different fields based on their ages: starting with ages zero to

two, then three to four, five to six, seven to eight, and finally nine- and ten-year-olds.

There is also a field for special needs. "The special needs field has no nuts, and it is set up for kids that may be anxious around so many people, or that can't move as quickly," explained Raisanen.

After all of the eggs are gathered, all of the kids and their families group together and go through and open each egg. Laughter and excitement can be heard as the kids discover what is inside each egg. When they are finished, all of the plastic eggs are deposited into empty boxes to be used again the following year.

Raisanen makes sure to hold a few extra eggs and prizes back to give to kids that maybe didn't have great luck hunting for eggs. "If your child does not get more than five

Easter Egg Hunt contd. A3

Pancakes and Purpose: Lions Club Fundraiser Draws Crowd

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—All you can eat hot and fluffy pancakes, sausage patties and drinks were served up by the Belle Fourche Lions Club on Sunday morning, March 29.

The Belle Fourche Lions Club is celebrating their 90th anniversary this year!

They do a variety of fundraisers throughout the year: All Car Rally Food Truck, Black Hills Roundup Ushers, Aluminum Can Collection and the Pancake Feed.

"Lions Club has been doing this Pancake Breakfast for about 15 or 16 years now and it's probably our single biggest fundraiser," explained Tom Nary, Lions Club.

A fairly recent addition to the Pancake Breakfast is the silent auction. "Something that has changed since the

beginning is that several of our donors—rather than buying tickets to the event—donated prizes, so we've incorporated and added the silent auction to the eating portion of the event," said Nary. "The number of donations was a lot less than what we have today. So it appears to be growing!"

It was all hands on deck for cooking, serving, cleaning tables and collecting money for the club members. "I think we started off with about 13 or 14 members this morning," explained Nary.

The event was held at the Belle Fourche Moose Lodge, and for \$5 per person you could eat all the pancakes you wanted! Kids under 5 ate for free. "This has been very good, we've been busy. We haven't had a huge rush, but we've been pretty consistently busy all morning," said

Nary. Keeping consistent with their mission to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding, along with public service and community improvements since 1936, a portion of the Pancake Fundraiser proceeds will be donated to community needs, though the exact organizations haven't been picked yet.

"We haven't decided yet for this year, but I can tell you, for example, last year we donated to the Compassion Cupboard here in town, the Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, and the Artemis House in Spearfish," shared Nary. "We haven't decided yet, but it would be similar nonprofit charity organizations."

Lion's Club contd. A8



(L) **Tom Nary** pours hot coffee and visits with people. (R) Folks are taking the opportunity to support the **Lions Club's Silent Auction** and possibly get a good deal! Longbrake photos



A special guest showed up at the Easter Egg Hunt—The Peep! Peep gets down to the child's level to visit with her. Longbrake photos



Happy Easter!

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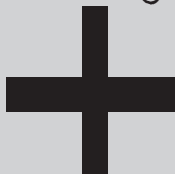
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Brian Kline
Owner



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

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Beverly Mattson 91

Beverly Mattson, age 91 of Casper WY, died Friday, March 20, 2026 at the Edgewood Vista Senior Living Center in Spearfish SD.

A Celebration of Life service will be held 12 noon Friday, April 10, 2026 at the First Christian Church in Casper WY. Inurnment will take place 9:30am Friday, April 10, 2026 at the Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery in Evansville WY. Funeral arrangements are with Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche SD. Friends may leave written condolences and view a video tribute on Beverly's obituary page, located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com

In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to the Casper Meals on Wheels: 1760 East 12th St. #4005; Casper, WY 82601

Beverly Ann Thompson was born November 22, 1934 in Richmond Missouri. She was the daughter of Forrest and Eunice (Keys) Thompson. Beverly grew up in Richmond where she graduated from high school in 1952. In 1956 she graduated from the University of Missouri with a B.S. in Nursing. In 1958 she was united in marriage to Earnest Scott Jr., 'Scotty'. Prior to their divorce in 1974, Beverly and Scotty lived in Moscow ID, Jackson WY, Carlsbad NM, Sequoia-Kings Canyon Nat'l Park in CA, Coulee Dam Nat'l Park in WA, Dinosaur Nat'l Park in UT, Yellowstone Nat'l Park in WY, and Casper Wyoming. In 1981, Beverly was united in marriage to Roger



Mattson. For many years they lived in Casper. Roger died in 1999. For the past few years, Beverly has lived in Spearfish SD to be closer to her family.

Beverly was a Registered Nurse for many years. In her career she worked as an O.R. Nurse or as a Staff Nurse in most of the towns she lived. From 1974 - 1984 she was a Registered Nurse at the Shepherd of the Valley Care Center in Casper. Beverly was also a member of the First Christian Church in Casper, where she was a long-time member of the choir. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels, A.A.U.W., Viva La Joie, and Red Hatters Meadowlarks Chorus. Beverly excelled in her career in nursing. Traveling was something she enjoyed to do, and she loved her beloved dog, Scruffy who died in 2001.

Beverly is survived by her children: Karla Scott of Newcastle WY, Kelly (Gabby) Bush of Belle Fourche SD, Lance (Leah Glenn) Mattson of Albuquerque, NM; step-children, Linda Mattson of Daly City, CA, Nancy (Jeff Ryan) Mattson of Tacoma, WA, Roger 'Chip' Mattson of Casper WY; grandchildren, Alexandra, Paige, Elena, and Adam. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roger Mattson; and sister, Martha Lee.



Kathryn Ann (Schuldies) Edwards

On March 17, 2026, Kathryn Ann (Schuldies) Edwards peacefully went into the arms of Jesus.

Kathy was born in Belle Fourche, SD, and lived in the area much of her life, including Nisland, the Arpan, Belle, and Newcastle, WY. But her longest residence was in Vale, SD, where her husband, Orville, and she farmed his family farm together for over 30 years, until both retired to their blue home on the hill.

Our mother loved the color red and she loved flowers. She enjoyed gardening both flowers and vegetables and canned like no other! She had a flair for arts and crafts and took pride in all the work she did on them...quilting so many blankets for family and friends, as well as quilted photo albums. She loved cross-stitching and embroidering. She was an amazing bowler (until her shoulder gave out on her), scoring 264 pts as her highest achievement. She was an avid card player, spending many evenings with friends and family playing games such as Michigan Rummy, Canasta and Rummy Down. And, while on her own she played so many games of solitaire we thought the spots would wear off the cards! She also enjoyed occasionally riding with Orville on his Honda Goldwing Tryke, having gone on several overnight trips with friends and trips through Spearfish Canyon where they enjoyed stopping at Cheyenne Crossing for a bite to eat.

She was a very involved member of the Lutheran Church in Vale and enjoyed doing what she could to help it survive until it didn't. Mom and Orville went to many Lutheran conferences and mom loved being a part of the Lutheran women's organization. She enjoyed singing hymns not only in church but at home.

Mom had a very strong work ethic. Besides working the farm, she spoke often of working as a phone operator in Belle and working for over 15 years, as well as working for Dr. Jim Lane's optometry office, in Newcastle, as his optician and assistant. She became very adept at selecting frames for patients and also repairing and fitting frames. It is there that she got to know the many people of the community.

Mom was a strong woman, sometimes stubborn, but always passionate. She fought the good fight and won against breast cancer and open heart surgery but her

body and her Savior said it was time to go and so she submitted with grace and peace. Mom has gone to heaven to see her Lord and those who passed before her.

Mom is preceded in death by her parents, Conrad (Connie) and Emma Schuldies, husband, Robert Ray Cobb, ex-husband, Gene Winkleblack, and most recently her husband of 38 years, Orville Edwards, her brother, Richard Schuldies, son-in-law, Vern Garner, brother-in-law, Robert Ruff, as well as others.

Mom is survived by her two daughters, Roberta (Robbie) Ann Cupps (James) and Connie Jean Garner, five grandchildren: Shane, Jamie, Mattie, Autumn and Amber, as well as 14 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, Larry and Russel Schuldies, sisters-in-laws, Deanna Schuldies, Carolyn Ruff, and Charlotte Pauley, just to name a few.

We would like to thank the following people who helped Mom along the way and made her smile: *The Wednesday morning Vale Cafe group, including Betty Terrill and Debbie Timm. You gave Mom something to look forward to every week.

*Neighbors and Friends in the Edwards Farm area, including Mildred Brunner and Mike and Cami Grubl

*Niece and Nephew, Carolyn and Gerald Schuldies, who were the first to be by her side at her passing and so many times before.

*Sister-in-law, Deanna Schuldies, who lived just a few rooms down from Mom at Edgewood

*The many Friends and Staff at Edgewood Assisted Living in Spearfish, who made Mom's short stay so enjoyable and homey. She loved you all!

Mom will be laid to rest with Orville at the National Cemetery in Sturgis.

A Celebration of Life for Mom will be held on May 22 at 12:00 p.m. at the Vale Community Center. All are welcome to come and celebrate Kathy with her family. A short service will be held and lunch will be served.

A memorial is set up in Mom's name for the Vale Fire Department and the Newell Ambulance Service.

You may sign her online guestbook at www.



Clayton Teppo, 50

Clayton Teppo, 50, of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, passed away unexpectedly on March 28, 2026, surrounded by his family at Monument Health Rapid City Hospital.

Clayton was born on October 8, 1975, in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Delmar Teppo and Bernadine (Gunhammer) Teppo. He grew up in Belle Fourche and graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1995. He made countless memories there with his siblings, cousins, and lifelong friends.

In high school, Clayton met Krista Wells, and the two were married in 1996. Together, they had three daughters, Megan, Kelsey, and Kaylee. Clayton was a proud dad, and his girls meant everything to him. He was also a loving grandpa to his two granddaughters, Mariah and Penelope, whom he adored.

Clayton loved being outdoors—whether it was fishing, riding four-wheelers, or cruising around in his Blazer.

He had a way of making anyone smile and turning even an ordinary day into a good one. He made people laugh effortlessly, and if you knew him, you likely have a memory of him that still makes you laugh.

More than anything, Clayton loved his family. He helped give his daughters a fun and adventurous child-



hood, and those memories will be held onto forever.

Clayton is survived by his daughters, Megan Teppo (fiancé, Matt Vogel) of Saint Paul, Minnesota, and Kelsey Teppo of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; his granddaughters, Mariah Titus and Penelope Vogel; his brothers, Delmar "T" (Tiffany) Teppo Jr. of Spearfish, South Dakota, and Sean (Megan) Lien of Rapid City, South Dakota, James (Joanna) Lien of Prior Lake Minnesota; and his sister, Stacia Teppo of Faarevejle, Denmark; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kaylee; his father, Delmar Teppo; his mother, Bernadine Teppo; his brother, Fred Lien; and his dear friend Mark Kissick.

The funeral service will be held 10am Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche with Pastor Chris Lenning officiating. There will be no visitation. Interment will be held in Pine Slope Cemetery. Friends may leave condolences and view his video tribute online at: www.LeveringtonFH.com



Janice Helmer 91

Janice Helmer, age 91 of Spearfish, died Sunday, March 29, 2026 at the Heartland Senior Living Center in Spearfish.

The funeral service will be held 10 am Friday, April 3, 2026 at the Belle Fourche Global Methodist Church. There will be no visitation. Interment will take place in Pine Slope Cemetery. Friends may leave written condolences and view her video tribute online at: www.LeveringtonFH.com

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Heartland Home Hospice.

Janice Nada Lindstad was born November 6, 1934 in Lemmon, South Dakota. She was the daughter of Emil and Lucille (McVey) Lindstad. As a young girl, Janice would spend part of her summers at her Grandma Minnie's home in Bison. In 1939 the family moved to Belle Fourche where Janice played saxophone in the school bands, the Cowboy Band, and the Lindstad Family Band. While in high school, Janice worked at the Belle Theater and J.C. Penny's. After graduating in 1952, she married her high school sweetheart, Don Helmer, on August 24th of that same year. Together they lived on the Helmer Ranch, located southeast of Belle Fourche, where Cindy and Mike were added to the family. In the fall of 1955, along with Don's parents John and Blanche, Don and Janice purchased the ranch located across the road, and moved there. Jana and Scott rounded out the rest of the young family there.

Janice enjoyed taking care of the bum lambs every spring. The family also raised Appaloosa horses and spent much of the summers training and showing horses. Janice taught leathercraft to the kid's 4-H club, and the family always had western belts with their name on the back. She was also the coach for Jana and Scott's



softball teams and was in the women's bowling league. She collected antique bottles and loved searching old ghost towns in the Black Hills with her dad any of the kids that wanted to tag along. Another pastime was rattlesnake hunting with her "snake charmer" shotgun.

In the late 1960's Don and Janice took in a foster child named Dean. Dean became a family member for a couple of years. In 1985 they moved to their ranch by Spearfish Creek, where she kept busy creating a beautiful yard and serving as a CASA volunteer. After Don's passing in 1999, Janice moved to Spearfish where she continued to live until her death.

Janice is survived by her daughter, Cindy (Charlie) Johnson of Belle Fourche, and their children: Kerri and Joni; son Mike (Lori) Helmer of Beulah WY, and their children: Lacey, Tarina, and Ryan; daughter, Jana (Matt) Hoffman of St. Onge, and their children: Janesa, Marie, and Kelsie; son, Scott (Elizabeth) Helmer of Trion GA, and their children: Seth, Trent, Margaret, Forrest, and Haley. She is also survived by 21 great grandchildren; and 1 great great grandchild; brother, Wayne Lindstad of Spearfish; and sister, Joan Dingeman of Spearfish.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; grandson, Michael Johnson; sister, Betsy Mosely; brother-in-law, Paul Dingeman; and sister-in-law, Mae Lindstad.

The care and the kindness shown to Janice by Heartland Home Senior Living and Hospice was excellent and greatly appreciated.



Thank you

The family of Alice Evans extend our sincere appreciation to the many who thought of our family before and after Alice's death.

Please know that your kindness has brought great comfort and will always be remembered

Thank you and God bless.

Al & Valerie Garr & Family



(L) Mayor **Randy Schmidt** welcomes everyone to the flag ceremony; (C) Pastor **Tim Smith** from the **First Baptist Church** gives the invocation; (R) **Belle Fourche High School** student **Autsey Stiefvater** sings the National Anthem. *Longbrake Photos*

From A1 Countdown

States, 250th anniversary—the first state.

There are other states that are looking into it as well, but we're the first state to have one officially produced," explained Blaine Anderson with VFW Post 312. "It's going to fly under the State flag."

Mayor Randy Schmidt welcomed the community to the event and gave some background information about the area and the state.

Everyone then joined together to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Tim Smith from the First Baptist Church provided the invocation. "We gather here today with grateful hearts that we stand together in community, united in purpose and pride for our country,"

He said. "...As we begin this countdown to 250 years of our nation's independence, we ask for your continued guidance. Lord, grant us wisdom as we lead, strength as we serve, and humility as we remember those who gave so much so that we could stand here today."

A beautiful rendition of the National Anthem was sung by Belle Fourche High School student Autsey Stiefvater.

Brian Aspen, school social worker, discussed the significance of being at the Center of the Nation, where the Nation's flag, South Dakota's flag, and POW/MIA flag fly every day as a reminder of who we are and what we stand for.

Even though Belle Fourche is a small town, it is

part of something much bigger. "In 100 days, the United States will celebrate 250 years of Independence—that's 250 years of grit, sacrifice, bravery, and a deep love to this day.

That legacy wasn't built all at once; it was built over time by people willing to stand up, step forward, and believe in something greater than themselves.

Today is one of those moments where we pause and then we move forward," he said.

Troy McKenney, Chuck Lawless, Blaine Anderson, Nick Jackson, and Dan Noss from the VFW Post 312 helped raise the SD 250th Commemorative Flag.

Aspen thanked everyone for coming. "Thank you for joining us today right here in the Center of the Nation. We've taken part in something meaningful—

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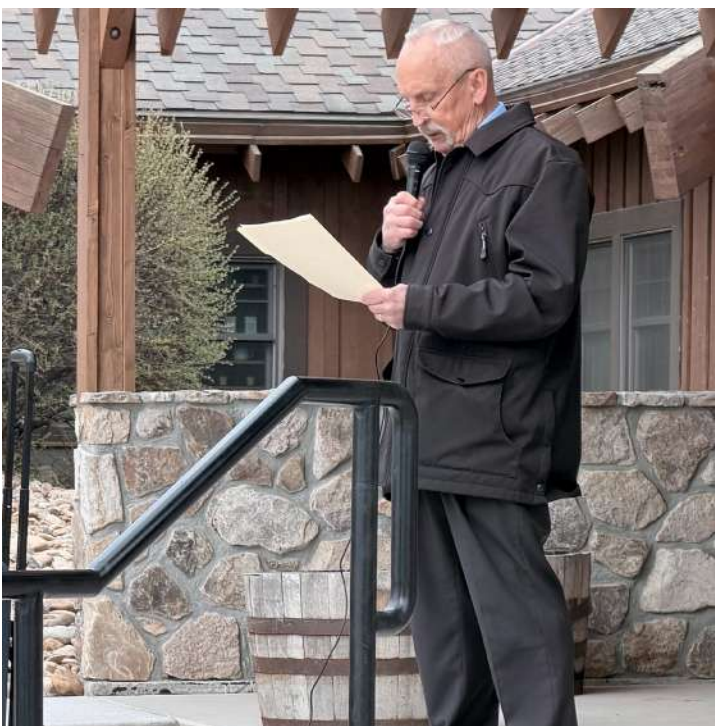


kicking off the countdown to America's 250th birthday!

We're excited for what's ahead and look forward to celebrating the Fourth of July right here in Belle Fourche...

thank you for coming, and God Bless America."

The 100 days to America's 250th birthday countdown event, leading to July 4, 2026, was sponsored by the City of Belle



(L) Mr. **Brian Aspen**, school social worker, addresses the crowd. (R) Members of the **VFW Post 312** hold up the **South Dakota Commemorative 250th Flag**. From left: **Blaine Anderson**, **Troy McKenney**, **Chuck Lawless**, **Dan Noss**, & **Nick Jackson**. (Below) From the **VFW Post 312**, **Dan Noss** and **Blaine Anderson** place the **South Dakota Commemorative Flag** under the **South Dakota State Flag** to raise them together. *Longbrake photos*

From A1 Easter Egg Hunt

eggs, you can come see us at the van over here and we have held back some eggs—because some kids aren't really into the whole picking up the egg thing yet—so we get it," she announced.

And sure enough, after a few moments, a parent and her kids came over to the van, explaining that two of her boys didn't get any eggs. "They were out there running around, but they didn't get any—we kind of got here a little bit later," she explained. Raisanen quickly bagged up eggs and prizes and handed them to the boys—the smiles on their faces were priceless. "It was a big turnout! I would say there were probably at least 600 children here," she said.

While CONBA supplies all of the candy and toys that go inside the eggs, Raisanen orders it all. She is also in charge of gathering volunteers to help stuff the eggs. Each year, over 6,000 plastic eggs have to get stuffed with good-

ies. Hosted at the AmericInn, filling eggs took place March 10, 12, 17, and 24.

Volunteer numbers to put together the Easter eggs were down this year. "Purple Pride came twice, 4-H helped, we had business association members help, and then members of the community came—but the volunteers were down by about half this year," said Raisanen.

Since the egg filling began at 5:30 p.m., Raisanen made sure to have plenty of food available. "I was raised that if you are going to ask people to come during dinner hour, you gotta have something for them to eat," she said. "It is a fun time! We had Domino's the first night, we had nachos the second stuffing night, we had Chinese the third night, and we had fruit trays and Domino's chicken the last night!"

The morning of the Easter Egg Hunt begins early for the CONBA members. Raisanen was out at the baseball diamonds at 7 a.m. getting



things set up. Other members showed up to help out. Signs designating where each age group had to hunt and thousands of eggs had to be placed on the grass prior to the start. And after it is all done for the day, planning for the next year starts all over again!



(L) As soon as the **Easter Egg Hunt** is over, parents and their kids find a seat and start opening the eggs; (R) A little girl is excited to get a hug from the bright yellow **Peep!** *Longbrake Photos*

Bronc Wrestlers Earn Multiple Awards

Kandi Tonsager
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The evening of Friday March 27th saw many awards for the Bronc wrestlers.

5 athletes earned their first time Varsity letters with wrestling emblems, 2 athletes earning their first Varsity letter in wrestling while already having earned a letter in another sport, therefore receiving their first wrestling emblem for their letter, and 13 athletes earning bars to place under their emblems on their letters.

Bars are earned in subsequent years of Varsity lettering after initially earning your sport's emblem. Athletes earning their letter and emblem were Preston

Lake, Jaxon Linch, Jace Olson, Dillon Streeter, Charlie Huston and manager McKenzie Ewalt.

Those earning their emblems for wrestling after lettering in a previous sport were, AnnaBelle Dighton and Jasmine Reason. Those earning bar one were, Teedin Humble, Dylan Park, Caden Swaney, Kolby Tibbs, and manager Ambree Kirstine.

Athletes earning bar 2 were Spencer Bush-Graslie and Koby Bowden. Four athletes received their 4th bar, Garet Huston, Riley Dighton, Lucas Tonsager and Kyra Vandenberg.

Two athletes, Riley Dighton and Dylan Park, earned Academic All-State by being a Senior athlete who participated for at least 3 years and main-

tained a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

As a team, both the boys and girls teams earned South Dakota High School Athletic Association Academic Achievement awards, which requires 3.0 GPAs as a group.

The boys earned a 3.12 team GPA and the girls earned a 3.27 team GPA.

Three athletes earned Black Hills Conference All-Conference for a championship title at the Black Hills Conference meet, Riley Dighton, Lucas Tonsager and Kyra Vandenberg.

Three athletes earned a sweatshirt for 20 pins or more in the season, Caden Swaney with 20 pins on the season, Riley Dighton with 27 pins on the season, and Kyra Vandenberg with 29 pins on the

season.

Team awards were as follows: Men's Wrestler of the Year- Riley Dighton, Women's Wrestler of the Year- Kyra Vandenberg, Men's Underclassmen of the Year- Jace Olson, Woman's Underclassmen of the Year- AnnaBelle Dighton, Men's Most Improved Wrestler- Caden Swaney, Women's Most Improved Wrestler- AnnaBelle Dighton, Men's Grit Wrestler of the Year- Caden Swaney, Women's Grit Wrestler of the Year- Jasmine Reason.

Most team points earned for the men was Riley Dighton with 218 points and most team points earned for the women was Kyra Vandenberg with 232. Most takedowns for the men's team was Caden Swaney with 90 and for the women was Kyra Vandenberg

with 79. Most match points for the men's team was Caden Swaney with 442 and for the women, Kyra Vandenberg with 423.

Coach Cory Nueharth thanked the managers, Ambree Kirstine and McKenzie Ewalt, for their dedication to the team over the season, as well as families, businesses in the community who helped with donating items and providing venues.

And the high school athletic department and booster club, the AAU and Grappler clubs and other individuals who helped out throughout the season to help make it a success.

He mentions upcoming off-season opportunities for workouts, open mats and competitions to help the team out for future success. Nice work on a great season Bronc wrestlers!



Bronc Wrestlers 2025-2026 Awards Banquet



(L) 7th graders AnnaBelle Dighton & Charlie Huston piggyback piggyback on managers Ambree Kirstine and McKenzie Ewalt at awards night (C)Bronc Wrestling Awards Banquet highlight were shown on the big screen; (R) Coach Nathan Juelfs holding up Senior Gift to display. Tonsager Photos



(L) AnnaBelle Dighton & Kyra Vandenberg (ML) Dillon Streeter with his Letter & Emblem and brother, Volunteer Coach & former Bronc Wrestler Michael Streeter; (MR) Managers Ambree Kirstine & McKenzie Ewalt with Awards Night gifts; (R) Senior Dyaln Park receiving award; (Below) Caden Swaney with Season Accomplishments; Jasmine Reason with Ladies' Bronc Grit Award; Spencer Bush-Graslie receiving Senior Gift; Kyra Vandenberg recieves awards; Preston Lake receiving Varsity Letter. Tonsager Photos





(Top L) Kyra Vandenberg and Coaches Tevin, Nathan & Cory (TR) Senior Gareth Huston & 7th grader Charlie Huston at conclusion of their high school season together (BL) Coach Cory Nueharth Awarding 20 Pin Sweatshirts; Senior Riley Dighton and sister, 7th grader AnnaBelle Dighton with awards for high school season; (R) Senior Riley Dighton hugs mom, Chelsea at the conclusion of wrestling career awards night. Tonsager Photos



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Track Season Kicks Off for the Broncs

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

On Thursday March 26th, the Bronc high school track team had their first meet in Newcastle, Wyoming with some chilly, wet temps in the 30s.

Coach Wattier says, “despite the cold, wet day, the Broncs had some kids step up and give some standout performances.”

On the girl’s side, Ansley O’Brien made the Belle Fourche High School’s Top

10 List in the 200 meter dash. Rhys Pearson won the 1600 meter run.

Lia Mundt, Misty Drieling, Abbey Clendening and Rhys Pearson won the 3200 meter relay race.

On the boy’s side, Joseph McLennan moved up to 9th on the Belle Fourche High School’s Top 10 list in discus and won the shot put.

Gabe Raba moved to 7th on the BFHS Top 10 List in the discus and won the discus event

at the Newcastle meet.

The Bronc track and field team has 42 athletes out this year and are looking forward to a full JV and Varsity schedule running through the end of May with State A being held in Sioux Falls on May 28th-30th this year.

This week the Broncs will travel to Sturgis on the 2nd for the Early Bird Invite and to Douglas on the 7th for their Early Bird Invite.

Home invites for the high

school track team this year are Saturday April 18th at 8am for the Center of the Nation Invite and Tuesday April 28th at 8am for the Northern Hills Invite.

Head coach is Matthew Wattier, distance coach is Brit Clarkson, throwing coach is Kyle Haxton, and jumping coaches are Kyle Graslie and Samantha Comes.

For the Bronc middle school track and field team, the first meet of the year kicks off Tuesday March 31st at Douglas, followed by Tuesday April 7th in Sturgis for a quad.

The middle school has 8 meets planned for the year between March 31st and May 8th.

The home invite for the middle school this year will be on Friday April 17th at the Belle Fourche High School beginning at 9am.

Their season wraps up with Black Hills Conference in Spearfish on May 8th at 9am.

Head coach for the BFMS track and field team is Sarah Thompson, with assistants, Brody Benson, Lars Dunavant, and Karlee Gusso.

TRACK SCHEDULE 2026 BELLE FOURCHE

HEAD: MATTHEW WATTIER | ASSTS: BRITTANY CLARKSON, SAMANTHA COMES, KYLE GRASLIE & KYLE HAXTON

DATE	MEET	SITE	TIME
3/26 – Thursday	Newcastle Invite ^	Away	9:00 am
4/2 – Thursday	Early Bird Invite (Sturgis) ^	Away	9:00 am
4/7 – Tuesday	Douglas Early Bird Invite (Box Elder)	Away	9:00 am
4/10 – Friday	Queen City Invite (Spearfish)	Away	9:00 am
4/14 – Tuesday	Spearfish JV Invite ^	Away	11:00 am
4/16 – Thursday	Track O’Rama (O’Harra) ^	Away	9:00 am
4/18 – Saturday	Center of the Nation Invite (Belle)	Home	8:00 am
4/21 – Tuesday	Rapid City JV Invite (O’Harra)	Away	11:00 am
4/23 – Thursday	Custer Invite	Away	9:00 am
4/28 – Tuesday	Northern Hills Invite (Belle)	Home	8:00 am
			10:30 am CST
5/1-2 – Friday / Saturday	Howard Wood Relays (Sioux Falls)	Away	9:00 am CST
5/5 – Tuesday	JV Invite (Sturgis)	Away	10:00 am
5/9 – Saturday	Black Hills Classic Invite (Sturgis)	Away	8:00 am
5/12 – Tuesday	Mountain West Invite (Lead)	Away	10:00 am
5/14 – Thursday	Black Hills Conference Invite (Custer)	Away	9:00 am
5/19 – Tuesday	Last Chance Invite (Rapid City – O’Harra)	Away	9:00 am
5/28-30	State A – Sioux Falls	Away	TBA

Bold @ Belle Fourche | Red – Playoff / State | ^ Denotes Update on 1/14/2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK SCHEDULE 2026 BELLE FOURCHE

HEAD: SARAH THOMPSON | ASSTS: BRODY BENSON, LARS DUNAVANT, KARLEE GUSO & JIM MARTIN

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	Start Time
3/31 – Tuesday	Douglas (Box Elder) Invite	Away	9:00 am
4/7 – Tuesday	Sturgis Quad	Away	1:00 pm
4/11 – Saturday	Spearfish Invite	Away	9:00 am
4/17 - Friday	Belle Fourche Invite	Home	9:00 am
4/21 – Tuesday	Custer Invite	Away	TBD
4/24 – Friday	Lead-Deadwood Invite ^	Away	Cancelled
5/2 – Saturday	Jeff Smit Invite – Sturgis	Away	8:00 am
5/5 – Tuesday	West River Invite – Rapid – Sioux Park	Away	8:00 am
5/8 – Friday	Black Hills Conference Invite (Spearfish)	Away	9:00 am

Bold @ Belle Fourche | ^ Denotes Update on 3/18/26

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SD has the longest stretch of Republican Governors

Michael Klinski
 michael.klinski@sdnewswatch.org

South Dakota has the longest uninterrupted Republican hold on a governor's office of any state in the country.

A Democratic governor has not held office in South Dakota in more than 47 years, when Harvey Wollman was the 26th governor of the state after replacing Richard Kneip, who resigned. He was replaced by Republican Bill Janklow in his first eight-year term on Jan. 1, 1979

Utah has the second-longest run of Republican governors – a Democrat last served in 1985.

South Dakota has had three Democratic governors since the 1950s (five overall): Ralph Herseith (1959-1961), Kneip (1971-78) and Wollman (1978-79).

Only two Democrats have earned more than 45% of the vote since the party last held the state's highest office. Billy Sutton received 47.6% of the vote against Republican Kristi Noem (51%), and Lars Herseith got 48.2% of the vote against George S. Mickelson (51.8%) for the first of his two terms.

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South Dakota News Watch is an independent nonprofit. Read, donate and subscribe for free at sdnewswatch.org. Contact freelance reporter Michael Klinski: michael.klinski@sdnewswatch.org.

Rec Center 3rd-6th grade Youth Girls Volleyball Camp



The Belle Fourche Rec Center just wrapped up its 3rd-6th grade youth girls (above) volleyball camp.

This camp was led by BFHS coach Kayla Sprigler and 23 high school girls volleyball players. The Rec Center programming team provided the girls with two Friday nights of game play to learn more about the game and show off the fundamentals they learned at camp.

The program had a record setting number this year of 86 girls participating. *Courtesy Photos*



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Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



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:** Kasey Dobesh, Riley Okeson, Cierra Erhart, & Braxton Reid. The show will be April 24-26: Friday & Saturday at 7 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. 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!

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 started their season this past weekend with *Curtain Call: A Night of One Acts*. Audiences enjoyed four shows for the price of one - three energetic comedies and one poignant drama. CAST PHOTO - Back row L to R: Isabella Quijano, Tyler Schone, Stephanie Bussiere, Emma Euneau; Next Row: Whitney Bridger, Kelsey Gronlund, Carston Sechser, Nathan Erhart, Loki Larive, Next Row: Kaitlyn Roth, Hunter Cazer, Madysyn Carson, Kaeli Thompson, Madison Dalton, MaryBeth Runnels, Front Row: Hope Cazer, Tim Thompson, Talia Thompson, Dylan Swan, Melody Dennis, Ainsley Jewett, & Kelsie Reid; Not Pictured: Crystal Woods, Arianna Scherer, Ari Dosch. Photo Courtesy BFACT

2026 2026
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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



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Highland Senior Solutions Welcomes Chamber Members at March Mixer

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The March Chamber Mixer was hosted by Highland Senior Solutions and the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, March 26.

Highland Senior Solutions took the opportunity to showcase to Chamber members all that they have to offer.

“So we are brand new to the Belle Fourche community, we just opened our Adult Day Services here December 15 of this year—we wanted to invite everybody in and show everyone our new space,” explained Karli Jewett, Director.

Part of the business highlights included tours of their

recently opened Independent Living Cottages.

“We’re hosting here in our Adult Day Services Center and we also just recently opened our Independent Living Cottages right next door and so we’re taking people through tours over there and showing them what we have to offer for those,” said Jewett.

Highland Homes currently has four cottages and will eventually expand to offer 12 Independent Living Cottages. “Those are rented out monthly,” shared Jewett.

“They include one meal per day, and there is a housekeeping and a laundry service every other week that we provide as well.

All utilities, lawn care, snow removal and maintenance are

included in that as well.”

The first two units opened in February and the second two units opened in March.

“They will be filled next week but we are starting on a waiting list for those interested,” said Jewett.

The Highland Adult Day Services Center is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. “We focus on socialization, interaction, nutritious meals.

We do exercise here daily as well, and then we also are able to provide personal care—so if anybody needs any assistance with bathing, things like that, we can offer that support as well,” explained Jewett.

Charcuterie, desserts and drinks were provided while

Chamber members explored Highland Senior Solutions and networked with other Chamber members.

“We’re just really grateful for all the support that Belle Fourche has shown us so far,” expressed Jewett. “We’re happy to welcome everyone in!”

Around 6 p.m., Chamber Director Michaela Horn addressed the crowd. “Thank you to Highland Senior Solutions and their staff for putting this on, this has been lovely!

If you haven’t had a chance to meet Karli or take a tour through the cottages, I really suggest that you do.”

It was then time to do the Connect and Collect Drawing, with \$400 up for grabs.

With help from Chamber

volunteer Mike Reade, this month’s business was chosen.

New Generation was drawn, but no one from the business was present, so the money rolls over to the April drawing.

The Connect and Collect Drawing is held every month. All the names of businesses that belong to the Chamber of Commerce are entered into the drawing.

Someone from the business has to be present to claim the money.

If no one is in attendance, the pot rolls over to the following Chamber Mixer.

The next Chamber Mixer is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Alley Fitness will be hosting the event.



(L) Filling up on good food and networking with fellow Chamber members at the March Chamber Mixer; (R) Chamber Director **Michaela Horn** and Chamber volunteer **Mike Reade** draw the lucky winner for the **Connect and Collect** drawing; (Below) Chamber members take the opportunity during the **Chamber Mixer** to catch up with friends and neighbors. *Longbrake Photos*



From A1 Lion’s Club

Lions Club member Deena Nible was in charge of collecting money and keeping track of the number of people through the door.

As of around 11 a.m., nearly 300 people had already been in to support the Lions Club and eat a fresh pancake breakfast. The event ran until 1 p.m.

For anyone interested in becoming a Belle Fourche Lions Club member, they are always looking for new people to join!

They meet twice a month and plan community service projects. You can find them on Facebook at Belle Fourche Lions Club.

Generous business and individuals who donated items for the Silent Auction include: Los Agaves, Stadium Sports Grill, Hersrud’s of Belle Fourche, Office Emporium, Crossroads at Mid-America Travel Plaza, Belle Fourche Country Club, Hills Interiors, Pioneer Bank and Trust, Allison’s Pantry—Melodey Zupan, Runnings, The Breakfast Club, Dinosaurs of Hell Creek Museum, Yes Way Wine and Spirits, Quality Quick Print, Belle Chiropractic, Buck ’N Brocs Car Wash, Belle Fourche Dry Cleaning, AmericInn, Lynn’s and Grap’s Burgers & Brews—Jim Grapentine, Krystyna Wood, Kaitlynn Holberg and Deena Nible.



Hardworking volunteers doing various jobs in the kitchen. *Longbrake photos*

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April

1st - Dinosaur Museum Grand Opening

3rd - 7:30AM Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining (Open to public)

Happy Easter

7th - SPECIAL ELECTION
6PM BINGO @ Branding Iron

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Cattle Report - Friday, March 27, 2026

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Mills Cattle Co Angus Bull Sale Results

\$8118 Ave On 38 Yrkg Angus Bulls
\$8250 Ave On Top 6 Bulls
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Next Sale - April 3rd - Regular Sale & Ck Bar Ranch Sim-Angus Bull Sale - 10 AM
Thank you for Marketing with St Onge Livestock!

Feeder Cattle

Table listing various feeder cattle with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Butcher Cows

Table listing various butcher cows with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Table listing various cattle with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Weigh Up Bulls

Table listing various weigh up bulls with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Friday, April 3, 2026

Regular Cattle Sale

10:00 AM - Weigh Ups

12:00 Noon - Feeder Cattle Followed By Bred Cows

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

Bred cows

Randall - 30 BK Hfns - Bred Blk - 4/15

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2026 CATTLE SALES

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

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 scrapes tag in place to sell. These tags can be obtained by the producer for FREE by calling 1-866-873-2824. If they come to the sale barn without being tagged, you will be charged \$4/hd for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.

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

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Sheep Report - Thursday, March 26, 2026

Not Many Lambs In The Offering Today But What We Had Sold Steady To Higher Fleshy Slaughter Ewes Sold \$30 Higher, Medium & Thin Ewes Sold \$10 Higher A Lot Of Bred Ewe Buyers & They Sold On A Very Active Market

Next Sale - April 2, 2026 - Regular Sheep Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats - Start Time 1:00 PM

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

Bred Ewes - Sold By The Head

Table listing bred ewes with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Feeder Lambs

Table listing feeder lambs with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Slaughter Ewes

Table listing slaughter ewes with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

Slaughter Bucks

Table listing slaughter bucks with columns for name, sex/age, price, and weight.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

April 2, 2026

Regular Sale

1:00 PM

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Plus More By Sale Time!

Please Have Animals In By 10:00 AM
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2026 SHEEP SALES

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

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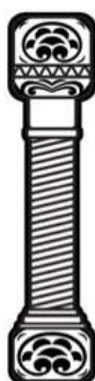
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Looking Back in Belle

These articles come from newspaper microfilm from the

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

136 years ago
Belle TIMES,
February 12, 1890
Local News

Charlie Lindsey, a thrifty rancher on the Belle Fourche, has a large herd of swine that have put in their time this winter eating dried rushes, and they are in fine condition now.

They have tunneled into the hay stacks and picked out all the rushes that came within reach. This will perhaps be new to somebody.

100 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
April 2, 1926
NEWS ITEMS FROM OVER THE STATE

Pierre – excavation began last Thursday for the first pier of the state highway across the Missouri. Steel for the bridge arriving daily and erection of the machinery and equipment houses is completed.

Two Banks Closed Two banks in Perkins county closes their dorrns, the first one being the Perkins County Bank of Chance, the other one the First National Bank of Lemmon. The latter was the largest bank in Perkins county.

MARRIED Saturday of last week Miss Clara L. Parker of Belle Fourche and Floyd C. McFarlane of Twilight, S. D. were united in marriage. Rev. Mary H. Mitchell of the Congregational church performing the ceremony at the home of Mrs. Mary L. Kirk in Belle Fourche. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Parker of Belle Fourche and was a graduate of the Belle Fourche high school with the class of 1923. She attended Spearfish normal school for one year and since then has been a teacher in the schools of Butte county. The groom is a popular young rancher of eastern Butte county. They will make their home on the groom's ranch near Twilight, S. D.

Ryther-Kinghorn On March 28, 1936, at the home of M. A. Jacobs at Camp Crook, Félix Edward Ryther and Miss Florence Avis Kinghorn were united in marriage. Rev. Mrs. I. M. Hervey officiating. Immediately after the ceremony a delightful dinner was enjoyed by the wedding party. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kinghorn of the Two Top country northeast of Belle Fourche She is a graduate of the Belle Fourche high school and for the past few years has been teaching in the school of this county. For the past year she has been teaching at St. Onge. The groom is also a teacher employed in the school of St. Onge.

CONSIDERS VACATION IN HILLS *President Coolidge Appreciates Invitation to Establish Summer White House in Wonderland of America* Congressman Williamson has written President R. L. Bronson of the Associated Commercial Clubs of the Black Hills that he has extended to President Coolidge an invitation to

spend his summer vacation in the Black Hills. Replying to the invitation, the President's secretary advised Mr. Williamson that the invitation was very much appreciated by the President and will be given consideration. Francis Case of the Hot Springs Star is father of the idea to have the president establish the summer white house in the Black Hills. While there is no certainty that the President will come to the Hills this summer, steps are already being taken to provide a "Summer White House" should the invitation be accepted. Congressman Williamson suggests the State Game Lodge in the State Park as the only suitable place in the Hills.

75 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee,
April, 1951

Civic League Plans Belle Beautification Projects Belle Fourche's Civic League is undertaking a project of city beautification, plans for which were discussed at a meeting of the League held in the city hall Tuesday evening. Mrs. T. W. Thompson, representing the Girl Scout Council, reported that both the Boy and Girl Scout troops are working on a project of planting trees on Highland park. The troops will draw up a plan to be submitted to the League for final approval. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Herman Berglund were appointed to a committee to see what could be done about improving appearance of entrances to town and Rev. L. A. Johnson is to contact the Ministerial Association to see what can be done about placing signs proclaiming church services of the city at each entrance. Every member of the League has been asked to interest her club in city beautification and to bring a suggestion to the next meeting. The League made plans to cooperate with the city during Clean-Up Week April 23 to 28.

Masonic Rites Are Held for R. J. Steen Funeral services for R. J. Steen, pioneer resident and rancher of Belle Fourche and Tri-State area, who passed away Friday night were held Monday afternoon at the Masonic Temple. Interment was in Pineslope cemetery. Robert James Steen was born Feb. 20, 1878, in Nashville, Tenn., and when a boy moved with his parents to Oklahoma, then to Canyon, Texas, where he grew to manhood. In 1909 he came to Belle Fourche and in June of that year was married to Emma Hoffman. Mr. and Mrs. Steen made their home in this city for a year and in 1910 homesteaded in northern Crook county, Wyo. In 1945 the couple moved from the ranch into Belle Fourche, and shortly afterward he and son Robert purchased the livestock commercial fee business located in the former alfalfa mill building at the end of Elkhorn avenue. Mr. Steen was a member of the local Masonic lodge, and in his span of over 40 years in the Tri-State area took an active part in communi-

ty and civic affairs. There was hardly a rancher in the tri-state area whom Bob did not know by his first name. Surviving relatives include his widow, three sons, Robert W., Louise M and Travis H, all of Belle Fourche, two brothers, Buford of San Antonio, Texas, and William Steen of Trent, Texas; one sister Mrs. Emma Masenheimer of Stockton, Calif., and five grandchildren.

50 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
April 8, 1976

Among Top 20 The Black Hills Round-Up to be held July 3-4, is among the top 200 Bicentennial events in the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration's "Discover Bicentennial America" publication, it was learned this week. Other South Dakota events among the top 200 are the Czech Days at Tabor and the United States Day at Mount Rushmore. This information was reported by the South Dakota Traveler, a Division of Tourism report.

Laura Lilyquist, Belle Fourche High School senior, is the recipient of the state PEO Scholarship of \$300 to Cotty College, Nevada, Mo., and was also awarded the Black Hills Area PEO scholarship in the amount of \$304. Announcement of the scholarships was received here by the local Chapter AT, PEO, sponsors of Miss Lilyquist for the scholarships. Luara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Westley Lilyquist. Laura, besides her regular classes, participated in chorus and FHA in 1973-74; GAA bowling and French Club in 1974-75 and track and gymnastics in 1975-76. She has been accepted to Cotty College.

Former Nisland Woman to Present Concert Sunday The Black Hills Art Assn. with the support of the South Dakota Art Council thru a National Endowment for the Arts Grant, is sponsoring a concert by Mary Alice Spencer, pianist. The program of contemporary music and art exploration will be presented at Woodburn Hall, Black Hills State College campus, Spearfish, at 8 p.m. April 11. Miss Spencer will perform spontaneous improvisations, using expressive ideas derived from locally solicited art pieces compositions written donated by community artists. The program will include a guided piano exploration as well as performance of selected compositions written by South Dakota contemporary composers. A native of South Dakota, who studied at College conservatory of Music, Yankton, where she was a student of Lewis Hamvas, Julliard Schol of Music. She earned the M. M. in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music, having studied with Madame Karin Dayas, Paris Conseratoire de Musique. Miss Spencer has also studied with Beth Miller, Harrod School of Piano, Lincoln, Neb. Miss Spencer is a performer-teacher of piano, accompanying piano and accompanying pedagogies and musicianship at South Dakota State University. Miss Spencer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Spencer, Spearfish, formerly of Nisland.





Erin L. Melling
Attorney at Law
Licensed in SD, ND, and MT



Aaron W. Roseland
Attorney at Law
Licensed in SD and ND

South Dakota Office:
1409 5th Ave.
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Phone: (605) 723-1659
Email: mrlawpc@mrlawp.net

North Dakota Office:
602 Adams Ave., Suite 1
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone: (701) 567-2418
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Market Report - Thursday, March 26, 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

BRED CATTLE	HD	DESC	WT	BID	SHEAD
Jerry & Rhonda Wilkinson, Douglas WY	10	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 3/4	1174	5050.00	\$5,050.00
	8	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 3/4	1186	4900.00	\$4,900.00
	10	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow 5/6	1291	4450.00	\$4,450.00
	18	Blk/Bwf-Brd Cow Sm	1298	3950.00	\$3,950.00
Trask Land & Livestock, Wasta SD	10	Black-Brd Cow 5/Bm	1370	3600.00	\$3,600.00
Tom Wilson, Buffalo SD	8	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow 3/6	1238	3800.00	\$3,800.00
	8	Rd/Blk-Brd Cow Sm	1309	3000.00	\$3,000.00
WEIGH UPS					
Christensen Ranch Inc, Newcastle WY	9	Black-Hfrt	1084	268.00	\$2,906.31
Monte Miller, Sundance WY	7	Black-Hfrt	1000	300.00	\$3,000.00
Tom Riggs, Broadus MT	5	Black-Hfrt	1120	279.00	\$3,124.80
	1	Black-Cow	1250	215.00	\$2,887.50
J-Six Enterprises, Vale SD	1	Black-Hfrt	965	312.50	\$3,015.62
	1	Black-Hfrt	955	327.50	\$3,127.62
Perino Ranch, Newcastle WY	5	Black-Hfrt	853	331.00	\$2,823.43
	1	Black-Cow	1300	182.50	\$2,372.50
	3	Char/Red-Hfrt	815	330.00	\$2,689.50
	1	Char-Cow	1235	183.00	\$2,260.05
Eugene A Or Linda Roberts, Carlie WY	1	Black-Cow	1270	178.50	\$2,266.95
	1	Black-Cow	1265	178.50	\$2,258.02
Bc Cattle Company, Vale SD	1	Rd/Blk-Cow	1445	179.00	\$2,586.55
	1	Red-Cow	1240	175.00	\$2,170.00
James Klein, Dell Rapids SD	1	Black-Cow	1175	177.00	\$2,079.75
	1	Black-Cow	1185	177.00	\$2,097.45
Lloyd Davis, Osage WY	1	Black-Hfrt	940	307.50	\$2,890.50
	1	Black-Hfrt	955	327.50	\$3,127.62
	1	Black-Cow	1080	242.50	\$2,619.00
	1	Black-Cow	1085	240.00	\$2,604.00
	1	Black-Cow	1290	181.00	\$2,334.90
Anna Sulzbach, Newell SD	1	Bwf-Cow	1370	180.50	\$2,472.85
Scheldorf Ranch Inc, Sundance WY	1	Herf-Cow	1375	178.00	\$2,447.50
	1	Herf-Cow	1130	212.50	\$2,401.25
Iron Mountain Cattle Co, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Hfrt	920	330.00	\$3,036.00
	1	Black-Hfrt	1090	290.00	\$3,161.00
Crossed Sabres Llp, Hill City SD	1	Black-Cow	1120	279.00	\$3,124.80
	1	Black-Cow	1230	221.00	\$2,718.30
Tom Wilson, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Cow	1470	180.00	\$2,646.00
	1	Black-Cow	1355	181.50	\$2,459.32
	1	Black-Cow	1645	178.50	\$2,936.32
Marty Mopherson, Piedmont SD	1	Black-Cow	1440	180.00	\$2,592.00
Lucas & Melinda Stolhammer, Newcastle WY	1	Bwf-Cow	1420	180.50	\$2,563.10
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	1	Bwf-Cow	1585	175.00	\$2,773.75
	1	Black-Cow	1585	175.00	\$2,773.75
	1	Red-Cow	1470	175.00	\$2,572.50
B & L Betz Cattle Company Inc, Clearmont	1	Black-Cow	1305	179.50	\$2,342.47

Sleep Ranches Llc, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Hfrt	920	307.50	\$2,829.00
	1	Black-Hfrt	885	320.00	\$2,832.00
	1	Black-Cow	1295	210.00	\$2,719.50
	4	Black-Cow	1319	180.00	\$2,373.75
	1	Black-Cow	1265	181.00	\$2,289.65
Ryan Casteel, Vale SD	1	Bwf-Hfrt	1060	300.00	\$3,180.00
	1	Bwf-Hfrt	1060	295.00	\$3,127.00
Wayne & Carol Oedekoven, Sturgis SD	1	Black-Cow	1380	180.00	\$2,484.00
	1	Bwf-Cow	1535	179.00	\$2,747.65
BULLS					
Tom Riggs, Broadus MT	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1955	225.00	\$4,398.75
T Milliron Livestock Llc, Rozet WY	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1990	222.50	\$4,427.75
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2065	220.00	\$4,543.00
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2130	222.50	\$4,739.25
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2205	220.00	\$4,851.00
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1975	225.00	\$4,443.75
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2085	222.50	\$4,639.12
Y Y Cattle Inc, Volborg MT	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	2205	207.50	\$4,575.37
	2	Black-Bull Drug Free	1593	212.50	\$3,384.06
Muleshoe Ranch Inc, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1970	207.50	\$4,087.75
	1	Black-Bull Drug Free	1790	200.00	\$3,580.00

GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL

APRIL 2, 2026

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

IVN CATTLE CO -SD 110 - 90 BLK STRS & 20 BLK HFRS (FALL CLVS), 500-600# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, AI SIRE SCHULTZ LLC -MT 110 BLK MXD CLVS, 600# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, POURED, CB	JEFF PLUCKER -WY 50 BLK MXD FALL CLVS 600-700#, PC, BT SHOTS, NI, POURED, WEANED PAT BURKE -SD 40 BLK HFRS, 600-650# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, POURED
TLT CATTLE CO -SD 90 BLK/RED STRS, 650-700# THREE ROUNDS OF SHOTS, NI ANDERS CATTLE CO -SD 80 BLK STRS, 775# THREE ROUNDS OF SHOTS, NI DAVE MADER -MT 75 BLK HFRS, 575-625# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, PRE-BREEDING SHOTS	MECAHA CATTLE CO-SD 40 BLK HFRS, 650-700# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, HR NANCE CATTLE CO -MT 35 BLK STRS, 700# BT SHOTS, NI, POURED COLE KETELSEN-SD 25 BLK HFRS, 700# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, BV, PRE-BREEDING SHOTS
CURRENT RANCH -WY 60 RED ANG HFRS, 550# PC, BT SHOTS, NI, HAY FED	

BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE

APRIL 7, 2026 @ 1:30PM MT

ATTENTION ON-LINE BUYERS

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REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH BULL SALE

APRIL 9, 2026

WUPS @ 10AM MT & BULL SALE @ 1PM MT

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

April 2, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10AM MT & FEEDER CATTLE @ 12PM MT
April 7, 2026	BAR 69 ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE @ 1:30PM MT
April 9, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & REICH CHAROLAIS RANCH BULL SALE - WUPS @ 10AM MT & BULL SALE @ 1PM MT
April 16, 2026	GRASS CATTLE & BANGS VACCINATED HEIFER SPECIAL & HORSE SALE - WUPS @ 10AM MT & FEEDER CATTLE @ 12PM MT & HORSE SALE TO FOLLOW
April 23, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES - WUPS @ 10AM MT
April 30, 2026	PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - WUPS @ 10AM MT & PAIRS & FEEDER CATTLE @ 12PM MT
May 7, 2026	REGULAR SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES & J SPEAR CATTLE CO BULL SALE
May 14, 2026	PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL & HORSE SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
May 21, 2026	REGULAR SALE & TURNOUT BULL SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
May 28, 2026	PAIR & FEEDER CATTLE SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES

Sub-Sponsorship opportunities will close Friday- April 3rd.

- Social media posts highlighting your business, focused on the different event zones or activities.
- Small logo featured on flyers and other printed marketing materials.
- Opportunity for prominent booth space.
- Sponsor sign to display at your business.
- Business 2x4 sign displayed (provided by business) by an event zone.

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TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
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Maher announces run for Dist. 28 Senate seat

Isabel businessman Ryan Maher announced last Wednesday, March 25, that he has filed for election to the South Dakota State Senate seat representing District 28. Maher filed his candidacy for the seat currently held by J. Sam Marty (R-Prairie City). The House Primary election is June 2.



accomplishments as sponsorship of legislation to establish county highway capital improvement funds and providing critical support for roads, bridges and infrastructure in rural communities. He also held key leadership roles, including

Assistant Majority Leader and Republican Whip, and served on influential committees such as Appropriations, Government Operations and Audit, and the Legislative Executive Board. Maher's practical experience includes being a former Isabel School Board member, Chairman of the Isabel Board of Trustees, and Chairman of the Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative board of directors. He says his background as a small business owner and his history in banking, insurance and agriculture have shaped his focus on common-sense solutions.

Maher has served at various levels of state government over two decades before being bumped by Rep. Jana Hunt (R - Faith) in the District 28 Primary election in 2024. A native of Isabel, the 49-year-old Maher is also a local insurance agent and owner/operator of The Occidental General Store in Isabel.

"After years of fighting for the hard-working families, ranchers, and small businesses across northwestern South Dakota," said Maher. "I'm ready to return to Pierre and continue delivering results for our district."

Maher continued by saying District 28 deserves a senator who understands the unique challenges and opportunities within the region.

"From our farmers and ranches to our schools and local economies - I'm committed to building on the progress we've made and charting a stronger future for all of South Dakota," he added.

The highlight of Maher's legislative career came in the 2020 session when he served as prime sponsor of Senate Bill 55. Working closely with the South Dakota Board of Regents, his legislation created a task force to study the operations and functions of the state's public universities. The resulting reforms streamlined administration, promoted collaboration between institutions, consolidated programs where appropriate, and improved efficiency - ultimately delivering better value for students, families and taxpayers while preserving the quality of higher education across the state.

"We were doing DOGE before DOGE had a name," Maher said. "We need to take this same tactic to the other agencies in state government, to stop the duplication of services and ultimately making government more efficient."

Maher lists additional

Monument Health Spearfish Hospital Named 2026 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals

Jakob Kjerstad, Rapid City Post

SPEARFISH, S.D. — Monument Health Spearfish Hospital has been named one of the 2026 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals in the nation by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, according to an announcement released Tuesday.

The recognition is part of Chartis' annual Top 100 award program, which highlights performance among rural hospitals using the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX.

"It's an honor and a privilege

for our teams to serve the community,"

Thomas Worsley, Spearfish market president, said in a statement. "As we have worked diligently to provide great care, particularly in the midst of a transformational campus construction project, it's a great honor to be recognized amongst these other fine hospitals."

Chartis officials said the award reflects strong performance in key areas that affect rural hospital operations, quality, finance and patient experience.

"The delivery of care within rural communities is more complex today than at any point

in recent memory," Michael Topchik, executive director of The Chartis Center for Rural Health, said in a statement. "This year's Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals and Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals have emerged as true leaders — committed to their mission through a powerful combination of resilience, dedication, and innovation."

Now in its 16th year, the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX uses publicly available data to evaluate hospitals nationwide.

The assessment is used by rural hospitals, health systems, hospital associations and state offices of rural health to monitor performance.

The recognition adds to Monument Health Spearfish Hospital's profile in western

Chutes for Charity

Hello to all our incredible friends, sponsors, golfers and generous neighbors. As we get ready for one of Chutes For Charity's big fundraisers of the

year we wanted to get you the first chance to get signed up and ready to tee off.

We do have a chance for



anyone interested in being a hole sponsor to once again help us with this type of support if you are unfortunately unable to physically golf our tournament.

Hole sponsors get their business or name on a placard placed at a hole for all the golfers able to see your support and know your generosity, you will receive recognition on one of the golf holes and on social media, all for \$100 dollars.

We also have a new Corporate Sponsorship this year we are excited about, there are only Nine available.

This sponsorship will be available at each of the nine holes, you can hand out swag items with your logo on it, play a quick game to give away sweet prizes to winners, even advertise your business for future sales, specials or even employees!

You will be allowed to set up a small shade type tent and have a table for display. This corporate sponsor fee will be \$500 and whatever you choose to hand out to golfers.

For more information, contact Bev at 605 210 1406 or Denise at 605 892 5445.

Please reach out with any questions.

Lynn's DAKOTAMART logo with tagline 'Your Hometown Neighborhood Grocery Store!' and 'Better Choice for Value!'. Below the logo, it says 'Now available at Lynn's Belle Fourche'.

Beer, Wine, & Spirits...

Grid of product advertisements: Sunny D Vodka Seltzers (\$8.99, 4 pack), Jack Daniels RTD's (\$9.99, 6 pack), Fireball Blazin' Apple & Cinnamon Whisky (\$18.99, 750 ml), Minden Mill Rye & Bourbon Whiskey (\$44.99, 750 ml), Lynn's Single Barrel Jack Daniels (\$69.99, 750 ml), Bota Box Wines 3L (\$19.99).

Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week Two weeks! Wednesday, March 25th through Tuesday, April 14th

Commercial Building advertisement for \$149,900 in Belle Fourche. Includes photos of the exterior and interior, and a photo of Renee Bisgaard, Broker/Owner. Contact info: 605-641-9242, 1911 N. Main Street Spearfish, SD 57783.



South Dakota as health care providers across the Black Hills continue to navigate growing demand, rural access challenges and facility expansion projects. For Monument Health, the

award spotlights the Spearfish hospital's role in serving patients in northern Black Hills communities and across western South Dakota.

Advertisement for 'RED WHITE and BIRDIE' golf tournament on June 27th at 9AM. Includes details like '9-HOLE TOURNAMENT 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE', 'SAVE THE DATE', and contact info for Bev (605-210-1406) and Denise (605-892-5445).

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
901 Laurel St. Whitewood
(605)-920-1959
Reverend Jill 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
www.bellefourchegmc.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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www.sjclbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
live on Facebook.

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

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

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Pastor Rick and Diane Brennan
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Kidz Church Immediately Following
Wednesday: September - May
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
Kidz Alive (Kindergarten - 6th Grade)

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Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
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By John Newby "Building Main Street, not Wall Street" "Rising Water Raises All Ships in the Harbor"

Drive through rural America today and the math tells a sobering story. More than two-thirds of all non-metropolitan counties lost population between 2010 and 2020 — the first decade-long rural population decline ever recorded in U.S. history, according to research from the University of New Hampshire's Carsey School. The industries that once anchored these communities — manufacturing, agriculture, energy production — have contracted or automated. Young people leave for cities where the jobs are plentiful, and the earnings premium is real. What remains is a shrinking tax base, aging infrastructure, and the gnawing sense that help from the outside is not coming.



another for the same thin slice of tourist and outside dollars. That competition, however understandable, is self-defeating. The real competition is not the town twenty miles down the road — it is the well-financed urban destination two hours away. Consider the logic that drives corporate retail site selection. Burger King builds next to McDonald's. CVS opens across the street from Walgreens. These are not mistakes. They are deliberate strategies rooted in a simple truth: competing brands clustered together generate more total traffic than either could attract on its own. Where there are bodies, there is business, and some of that business flows to everyone in the vicinity. Small-town leaders should apply the same thinking to their regional geography.

This is the foundation of destination marketing, regional branding, and cooperative marketing — terms that describe a powerful but underutilized strategy for smaller communities. When towns in a single county, or several adjacent counties, pool their resources and market themselves as a unified regional experience, they can punch far above their individual weight. Research bears this out. A study of collaborative tourism marketing efforts found that coordinated regional programs produced wider market reach, meaningful cost efficiencies, and measurable regional economic contributions that no single community could have achieved independently. In one well-documented case, Norfolk and Virginia Beach — normally

fierce competitors — ran a joint campaign during the pandemic called "Together at Last" that generated \$6 million in hotel sales. The lesson scales down as surely as it scales up. Larger markets understand all of this instinctively. They have well-funded Chambers of Commerce, full-time economic development staffs, glossy print and digital publications, professionally managed databases, and the human capital to execute sustained marketing campaigns. They attract media coverage, corporate investment, and talented workers. Smaller communities, meanwhile, compete in their shadow — and the gap is widening. The question is not whether the playing field is fair. It is not. The question is what smaller communities intend to do about it.

Here is what that looks like in practice. Neighboring communities can combine resources to produce a regional print and digital magazine — and yes, print still matters, reaching audiences that digital-only strategies miss — that promotes the entire area and is distributed throughout surrounding markets. A shared publication broadens the advertiser base for every participating community and makes professional production financially viable where it otherwise would not be. That same collaboration can anchor a regional database of visitors and potential customers that every local business can access and use.

Regional trail initiatives — culinary routes, heritage tours, outdoor recreation corridors, arts venues — give visitors compelling reasons to move across the entire area rather than stopping at a single destination. Research from the University of Minnesota Tourism Center has found that festivals and events can generate up to seven times their cost in local economic impact when properly integrated into a regional strategy. These are not exotic concepts. They are practical tools that larger markets use every day

This is the reality facing small communities across the country, and it is why the go-it-alone approach to economic revival is almost certain to fail. Funds are scarce. Marketing expertise is hard to find and harder to afford. The volunteer energy needed to sustain a transformation effort is finite. At worst, communities simply give up. At best, they settle for marginal, muted progress — and quietly watch more dollars drain away to larger neighbors. But there is a better way, and it begins with a simple observation: most small communities are not alone on the map. They sit within a cluster of similarly sized towns spread across a county, or several counties, that share geography, heritage, and the same fundamental challenge. For decades, many of these communities have competed against one

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THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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

The **Dakota Scout** is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Together, they have more than 30 years of combined experience in South Dakota journalism that have earned them reputations as dogged reporters who've not lost touch with their neighbors' sensibilities. Be in the Know!
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.
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BELLE FOURCHE COUNTRY CLUB
TOURNAMENT LINE-UP 2026
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
HORSE RACE TO END Triple Crown	September 19th-20th	2 Person Teams \$ 180 PER PERSON 3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

<https://www.bellefourchecountryclub.com/tournaments/> 605-892-3472

and that smaller communities can deploy just as effectively when they stop competing and start competing together.

The digital toolkit available to communities today makes this more achievable than ever. Email marketing platforms, social media management tools, texting databases, and regional websites can be built and maintained at a fraction of what they cost a decade ago.

A consortium of small towns that coordinates its digital presence can reach a regional audience with the same professionalism as a major destination, provided the effort is strategic and consistent. Studies on small-town marketing indicate that coordinated programs involving a broad base of local businesses show dramatically greater economic impact than fragmented, go-it-alone efforts.

None of this requires waiting for rescue from the outside. Federal and state governments face their own fiscal pressures, and the track record of top-down solutions for rural communities is not encouraging. Rural America is home to roughly 60 million people — about 18 percent of the national population spread across 72 percent of its land area — yet it consistently receives less policy attention and investment than its numbers and economic contribution would warrant. Larger nearby cities have little incentive to invest in the communities at their fringes. That reality will not change soon.

What can change is the relation-

ship between neighboring small communities. When those towns marshal their combined energy, identity, and resources into a coherent regional strategy, they can expand the flow of tourism and outside dollars into the entire area. The individual community retains its own identity and character — that authenticity is, in fact, one of the most powerful marketing assets a small town possesses in a world where travelers increasingly crave experiences that feel genuine rather than manufactured. But it markets that identity as part of something larger, something worth the drive. Small communities across this country have survived hard times before, and the ones that will thrive in the years ahead will not be the ones that waited for someone else to act. They will be the ones that looked to their neighbors, found common cause, and decided together to raise the water for every ship in the harbor.

John Newby, Pineville, MO., is a nationally recognized publisher, community, business and media consultant, and speaker. He authors "Building Main Street, not Wall Street," a column appearing in more than 50 communities nationwide. He is the founder of Truly-Local, dedicated to helping communities create excitement, energy, and synergy with local media to become more vibrant and competitive. He can be reached at info@Truly-Localllc.com.

Capitol News
March 29, 2026
by Karen Odell

We had our March calving snowstorm, at Capitol and on Tie Creek. The snow came down in showers, and was very wet. We were glad for the moisture. Then, things warmed again, and by Wednesday, our snow was mostly gone. By Saturday, spring was here.



Tommy Melum is busy studying for the Montana state FFA competitions, next week. He will compete in four events, so he will have to

remember lots of things in lots of areas of study.

This week Tommy went to the high school prom, and invited Lily Schallenger. Ernie and Rachel went to Ekalaka on prom night, to watch the Grand March,

and enjoy seeing the kids dressed in their finest clothes. Calving is in full swing at the Melums.

The Black Hills State University basketball team was in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this week, for the national competition. Some area people got to hear the play by play, and some got to see the game on TV at the Corner Bar in Camp Crook.

It was a great game. Black Hills was the eighth place team, and they had to play the first place team to see if they could advance. Black Hills was within two points in the second half, and they never gave up, even against the top team in the country. It was still a close game all the way, but they couldn't gain the ten point difference at the end.

Alvin Cordell is busy with calving, now. Ryan and Tawni

come to night check cows. Marlee Cordell went to Spearfish, on Friday, for the Queen City Classic youth basketball tournament.

Youth teams come from all surrounding areas to compete. Ryan's family was there, and Marlee got to watch her grandchildren play. Marlee came home on Saturday. She went to church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, on Sunday, and served refreshments and coffee after the service. That evening, Alvin and Marlee had supper at the Corner Bar in Camp Crook. Karen Odell visited with cousin, Ralph Anderson, and high school friend, Bill Foulkes, this week. Karen's niece, Martha Nau from Ada, Ohio, declared they were taking a trip to Wales, next year, and needed to know where, in Wales, some of her ancestors came from.

Karen has saved lots of family history, so she sent Martha some of that information. Karen worked on taxes, this week. Things became exciting on the weekend.

First, on Friday, Karen learned that grandson, Kellan Odell, had qualified for the NAIA college national's competition in javelin, in his first outdoor track meet at Mount Marty University. He had competed in indoor track, this winter, but that did not include javelin competitions. He competes in the heptathlon, so he had other events on Saturday, too. Next, Karen learned that grandson, Murphy Odell, had placed first in the kata forms division of his karate class in Tacoma. Then, Karen got to see and hear Amanda Odell's bell choir concert in Iowa. Jeff helped with that concert, too. It was absolutely beautiful. That was not all. Granddaughter, Kyia

Smith, was one of four from her school to get to participate in honor choir in Minnesota. Kyia had just finished her volleyball season, this week, too. Their middle school team had improved quickly, and did very well. Then on Sunday, Mollie got to see Kyia's honor choir concert. What a good week. On Sunday, Karen attended church at the Camp Crook Methodist Church and played piano for the hymns. Alan Loken conducted the service for Palm Sunday. Everyone enjoyed coffee and snacks after the service.

Easter is on the way. Please remember that there will be a hundredth birthday party for Mary Brewer on Saturday, at the Camp Crook Community Hall. If we call tentative people "scardy cat" and "big chicken", is it proper for animals to demean their frightened children by calling them "you big human"?

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Thursday
April 30th
12 PM
1405 5th Ave

For businesses and families

4 Guest Speakers - this is one you won't want to miss!

The Fayville Agency (Globe Life) Edward Jones & more!

Jennifer Tomac is Western South Dakota's first and only Certified Elder Law attorney. She is passionate about education - specifically regarding Estate Planning possibilities

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Marriage Officiant
of Belle Fourche

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RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC

SATURDAY MAY 2, 2026
8AM - 12PM

LOCATED AT:
Belle Fourche Veterinary Clinic
406 Summit Street
Belle Fourche, SD

COST:
\$10 Rabies Vaccine *CASH ONLY
No appointment needed!
Some of the proceeds will be donated to Hobos Healing Heart

The City of Belle Fourche will be onsite for city licenses.

Please leash all dogs and have cats in carriers!
Have Questions? Call 605-892-2618 for more information

Chalko Arts Center presents
Moving Beyond Bars
Reclaiming Identity Through Creative Expression

Moving Beyond Bars brings together artwork created by more than forty-five women incarcerated at South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre, South Dakota and the Women's Prison in Ocala, Florida. Directed by Suzanne Costello and Andree Allright, this intensive three-week arts residency engages participants in a multidisciplinary creative process that integrates visual art, movement, and writing as pathways for reflection, healing, and self-expression.

April 1 - May 15, 2026
Chalko Arts Center at Mič'izya Luta
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
Reception: Thursday April 23, 2026 4-7p

You're Invited
to a
90th Birthday Celebration
for
Carol Hunt Vercoe

Sunday, April 12, 2026

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Spearfish Senior Center
1306 N. 10th Street
Spearfish SD 57783

NO GIFTS PLEASE

It's Time Again for the
Belle Fourche Flea Market

Saturday, April 11th 8am-2pm
Belle Fourche Community Hall - 6th Ave

- Crafts, Home Decor, glassware, candles
- Homemade baked goods, sweets & spices
- Jewelry, purses, books, collectibles
- Antiques, tools, and much more....

Stop by and support our community by shopping local vendors!!!

Delicious homemade food and great coffee available for purchase too!!

Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

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



"A Scary Fairy Tale, a Serious Serial Part 4"

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com



Today's Roots

Grow Deep and Strong installment is part 4 in a serial story, titled "A Scary Fairy Tale, a Serious Serial".

"Scary Fairy Tale, a Serious Serial" is the retelling of Hansel and Gretel, a classic Grimm's fairy tale.

The storyteller is the author of this regular Beacon column, Roots Grow Deep and Strong.

Thus far in our story, Hansel and Gretel have experienced a serious of misfortunes.

Subsequently, lured by a colorful, candy house, the starving children are entrapped by a cannibal witch whose three distinctive, unsightly, black chin hairs are especially unnerving.

The icky, evil witch goes about feeding Hansel to 'fatten' him up as the tender flesh of young children becomes increasingly savory, succulent, satisfying.

Unfortunately for the witch, and while she prepares the oven to bake Hansel, the kids tricked her into inspecting

the oven. When the witch sticks her head in, Gretel helps her get in all the way and slams the oven door.

The oven is on full and the witch succumbs to a horrible death by immolation. As the cottage was remote and well-hidden no one heard her screams for help.

I didn't know this would be such a long story," Tea said.

"Neither did I," I said, "This is the conclusion, and I mean it this time."

"So, what happens to the kids? I hope they finally get away?"

"Well, yes Tea, in the Grimms' story Hansel and Gretel escape."

"With the treasure?" "Yes."

Teaunah was thoughtful. "Do they get in trouble for murdering the witch and stealing the treasure?"

"No," I said. "In the original Grimms' version Hansel and Gretel leave the cremated witch and her candy house behind, take as much treasure as they can carry and set out on their own.

They trudge through the forest and eventually come upon a vast body of water. A magic talking duck appears to transport them across the water.

"Oh that's so dumb..." Tea interrupted

"They recognize their father's house in the distance. The father is overjoyed to see them. The stepmother is dead. The father apologizes for his two attempts to kill them, and they all live happily ever after."

"That's the dumbest ending I've ever heard. I don't care for it." Said Teaunah.

"That's why we are going to rewrite it." Said I.

"You start." Said Teaunah. "No you." Said I

"I will." Said Teaunah. "I think that Hansel and Gretel were dirty and smelly when they left the witch's compound in the forest. Do you think they might have had lice?" Tea grimaced.

"So, at this point in our story, Hansel and Gretel have learned a lot about 'stranger danger'.

They probably come across a road rather than a big lake, because that just seems more likely. They really want to find someone they can trust, but they don't trust anyone, so they hide in the shrubbery alongside the road.

"Police cars usually have cages and locked doors to keep the officers safe from suspicious characters." I say, "Police officers are usually nice, but they are big, and they wear a lot of safety equipment, and I imagine Hansel and Gretel were traumatized all over again.

"Oh, they do." Teaunah reassures. "At the police station,

the officers are friendly and nice, they gave the kids granola bars and sodas, and there's a room with toys and books. Then, as the police station was next to the DSS office, the kids are introduced to their new social worker, named Bella.

"I'm glad things are going better for the kids." I say.

"Yeah, me too." She says, "However, there's a big news story leak about the kids, what happened to them, how they were found, and all about the treasure they stole and all that. It goes all over social media.

Tea continues, "As Hansel and Gretel are now wards of the state, the kids are granted a meeting with their dad under supervision, of course. They feel sorry for him. The dad cries his heart out and is sorry about leaving them out in the wood to die (twice).

"We could live happily with our father now." Gretel suggests. Hansel felt sorry for the father too. He was kind of pathetic. "Yes," Hansel agrees. Our father has had a bad life and we can help him."

However, a judge saw things differently and terminated the father's parental rights.

Then, Hansel and Gretel are adopted by a very nice couple with no children of their own. They grow up strong and healthy in a loving home in the countryside with a dog named Spot, and a host of other animals. They also had a kind, understanding CASA worker who remained a lifelong friend to them.

"I like this story better now." I say.

"So do I." Teaunah says. But there's more. Hansel and Gretel use their money, which had grown to a very substantial amount, to start a chain of Tea and Florist shops that becomes world famous. They use their profits to fund philanthropic organizations for abandoned and neglected children.

So, they decide to go 'no contact.' In the end, at least Hansel and Gretel and those who have loved and cared for them live happily ever after." Thus ends the embellished tale of Hansel and Gretel co-authored by Meg and Teaunah English

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 Recreation Center, March Events, Classes, Tri-State Museum, Northern Hills CASA. Belle Fourche Writers March meeting schedule: March 21 from 10 AM to Noon. Youth Strength & Cardio kicked off March 6th.



KICK UP YOUR HEELS WITH LINE DANCING THURSDAYS @ 5:30 PM IN APRIL. Fun • Fitness • Friendship. Belle Fourche Rec Center 1111 National St. 605-892-2467

THE DAKOTA SCOUT. The Dakota Scout is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



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

NORTHERN HILLS AREA CASA CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

- April 1 - Spearfish Chamber Coffee Connection; NHCASA Office; 8:00 - 9:00 AM
- April 1 - Caring Community Night; Sawyer Brewing; Spearfish; 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- April 6 - Arby's Fundraiser Night; Spearfish; 4:00 - 7:00 PM
- April 9 - Community Cup O'CASA; Brew Berry Bistro; Sturgis; 9:00 - 10:00 AM
- April 16 - Community Cup O'CASA; That Place; Lead; 9:00 - 10:00 AM
- April 23 - Community Cup O'CASA; Wild Magnolia; Belle Fourche; 9:00 - 10:00 AM
- April 30 - Community Cup O'CASA; Ally's Eats; Spearfish; 9:00 - 10:00 AM

We are excited to connect with our local community members to raise awareness about the CASA mission and child maltreatment. Wear blue in April to support child abuse prevention. Consider getting involved and discover how **YOU** can change a child's story!

Pinwheels for Prevention launched in 2008 as a national campaign to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. Pinwheels represent playfulness and joy. They serve as a physical reminder of the great childhoods we want for all children. As a symbol, the cyclical nature of the pinwheel calls to mind the positive cycles of love and support we want to help families create. It also signifies America's efforts to change the way our nation thinks about prevention by focusing on community activities. Prevention happens when a community comes together to bring awareness and education to the issues surrounding child maltreatment. Every child deserves the chance to be raised in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment.



Please stop by Northern Hills CASA, located at 741 N. 5th St. in Spearfish, during the month of April and "Pick a Pinwheel" from our garden. Display it to demonstrate your commitment to preventing child abuse.

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



Get answers to questions ~

- Why would I need a Social Security account before I retire?
- How much can I earn before Social Security payments are taxable?
- What do I need to know before I sign up for Medicare?
- When do I sign up for Medicare?
- What are the Medicare A, B, C & Ds?

Free & open to the public!

WOMEN'S 2026 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SEASON TENTATIVELY STARTS APRIL 9
GAMES: THURSDAY FROM 6-9PM
We will play some Tuesdays if needed.

REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY APRIL 2ND | \$300

4 TEAM MINIMUM - League format will be determined depending on number of teams registered.

Team manager's will be surveyed to determine preferred format.

All players must sign roster PRIOR to play.

- League is for ages 14 and up. *Players under 18 require a parent signature.*
- Teams have two weeks to make roster changes.
- Please have subs to plan for unexpected illness, injury, and life circumstances.
- Playing with illegal players will result in forfeit of game(s).

We are still looking for officials.

If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact TESSA AT 605-892-2467 OR TESSA@BELLEFOURCHE.ORG.

BLOOD DRIVE SOON!



BLOOD DRIVE

Belle Fourche Rec Center
Wellness Fair & Marketplace

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 18
TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

111 NATIONAL ST.

Please schedule your blood donation appointment by scanning the QR code or visit www.donors.vitalant.org and enter the blood drive code: bellefourcherec.org. Let's save lives together at the 12th Annual Wellness Fair & Marketplace. Join us for a variety of vendors, door prizes and refreshments too. For more details, call the Belle Fourche Rec Center at 605-892-2467.



For more information visit us at vitalant.org or call 377-258-4825. **Because of you, life doesn't stop.**



RANDOM DRAW COED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
REGISTER BY APRIL 8, 2026
Members \$20 | Non-Members \$25

Teams are randomly drawn
Wait to be contacted with team & game info

For more information contact:
TESSA AT 605-892-2467 OR TESSA@BELLEFOURCHE.ORG.



28TH BLACK HILLS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



BLACK HILLS
STATE UNIVERSITY

ATTENTION BHSU COMMUNITY! YOU ARE INVITED!
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- Learn about student research at BHSU!
- Visit with student researchers from natural sciences, behavioral sciences, social sciences, art, literature, and more!
- Three Featured Events! (see below)



SCAN ME

APRIL 1ST - PRESENTATIONS

- 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
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DELIA D'AMBRA

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



"FROM PRINT TO PODCASTING: WHY INTENTIONALITY AND INTEGRITY IN YOUR RESEARCH MATTERS"

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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BELLE FOURCHE REC CENTER WELLNESS FAIR
April 18, 2026

It's Time Again for the ...
Belle Fourche Flea Market
Saturday, April 11th 8am-2pm
Belle Fourche Community Hall - 6th Ave

- Crafts, Home Decor, glassware, candles
- Homemade baked goods, sweets & spices
- Jewelry, purses, books, collectibles
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Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

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The Valley Irrigator

Wed. April 1, 2026

Serving Newell, Vale and Nisland Communities

Music, Dance, and Art Take Center Stage at Newell's Spring Concert



The Third Grade played Boogie Woogie on their recorders. Longbrake photo

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
NEWELL—From the first notes of Five Green and Speckled Frogs to a flash mob finale, Newell students filled Austin Auditorium with music, dance, and art on the evening of March 26. The annual Spring Concert and Art Show featured performances from kindergarten through high school, leaving the audience clapping and singing along.

Leading the show was Newell Band and Music Director Kimberly Bachman. Marty Jump accompanied the performers on the piano.

Held in Austin Auditorium, the gymnasium was decorated with giant spring flowers to set the stage for a special spring program. The show began with

the Kindergarten and First Graders taking the stage to sing Five Green and Speckled Frogs, Ants in Our Pants, and A Dinosaur Ate My Lunch.

Up next, the Third Grade stole the show with their recorders while they played Boogie Woogie. Following that number, the Second Grade joined them on stage to sing Almost Summertime, Bought Me a Cat, and Don't Need Riches.

Singing three songs, including Commercial Break, the Fourth and Fifth Grade took center stage. They sang an audience favorite, Take Me Out to the Ball Game, and Rock and Roll is Here to Stay. Their third number was announced to "please stand by for a commercial break." The

students then sang a song about a variety of pies! At the end of the song, Bachman announced there was actually no pie—the audience booed!

The Middle School and High School Choir sang Dust in the Wind. Bachman accompanied them on the guitar. The audience was treated to special performances by flute player Bianca Bierman and lead guitar player Jonah Braning. They followed up that performance with Crazy Little Thing Called Love.

After all of the singing subsided, the Middle School and High School band began to play Mexican Clapping Song and Low Rider. The Fifth Grade band played When the Saints Go Marching In, featuring Erin McTaggart on the trumpet.

The Fifth Grade band challenged the MS/HS band to a Battle of the Bands, playing the same song and letting the audience pick the winner by applause. Both bands played extremely well. The Fifth Grade added choreographed movements that won the crowd over. They were overwhelmingly picked as the winners.

A special presentation was given to Mrs. Bachman. Her students surprised her with a banner, flowers, candy and a bunch of hugs. She is retiring, and the kids wanted her to know they will miss her.

The final number of the night was the grand finale, a flash mob! A few people started out on the gym floor dancing, and throughout the song, more

and more students joined them until everyone was dancing. A good time was had by all. Bachman thanked everyone for coming and joining in on the fun!

Mrs. Reedy's art classes displayed their work in the gym entry for parents, families, and friends to enjoy.

Concert Photos Cont. D4



Clockwise from above: Some of the art on display during the Spring Program.

During the song Dust in the Wind, Bianca Bierman played the flute while Jonah Braning played lead guitar.

Music students made a special presentation to their music teacher, Kimberly Bachman. She is retiring at the end of this year. Her students presented her with a banner, a plant, and candy.

Longbrake photos

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

Every Friday at 6:30 pm.

10913 Sourdough Rd.

Come for potluck on the last Friday of each month.





Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

I had a High Plains Western Heritage Center board meeting last Monday morning in Spearfish with the new director Juliet Main. I just love going to the HPWH because there is so much history stored in that museum. If you have never visited it, you have really been missing a lot of good stuff so stop in next time you're in Spearfish. Reub's relative Terry Matson is on the board but he wasn't there because he was down in Arizona, but it was fun visiting with the other members, including Jim Clarkson who grew up in Buffalo.

I spent most of the day on Tuesday making a big pot of chili with brownies and lemon bars to take to the supper at the Lenten service on Wednesday evening. With all the fire danger from this dry weather, Reub got the sprayer in his side-by-side filled with water and ready to fight fire in rough country that afternoon. Casey and Missy went into

Buffalo for the Harding County High School Athletic Awards that evening where Casey is the wrestling coach. I had a ZOOM call that evening with SDPRLCA to listen to Sen. Taffy Howard and Rep. Julie Auch speak about the 2026 General Budget, which was very interesting.

Reub and I went to Hettinger on Wednesday to get parts and other stuff from Runnings and meds from White Drug, where Reub always gets a squeeze from his cousin Roxie Finck. We stopped to have coffee with the Prairie Pioneers in Reeder on the way home but couldn't stay very long because I was going to help serve supper at the Lenten service and supper that evening at 5:30. Autumn Wiechmann also brought a lot of stuff to share and Bev Heier brought some delicious goodies too. The really amazing thing for me was that my chickens gave me 22 eggs that day!

It snowed hard here Thursday morning and there was

a car wreck just north of our ranch when the driver hit a big patch of ice and slush which shot the car off the road. The sheriff, the fire department, EMTs and other folks came to rescue the passengers but no one was killed and only injured a little. I drove down to Erin Klempel's house south of Reva that afternoon to pick up my Alison's Pantry order along with Lousie Jensen's and Missy's orders and the highway was just wet with no ice on it by then. I stopped at the Reva Store on the way back to pick up groceries for me and a jug of milk for Casey and Vince told me about the wreck north of our place. Reub had a long visit on his phone with his brother that afternoon while all the snow was melting. Later on, after the snow had melted, it started snowing again that left the ground white again. Ordinarily, I'm not a big fan of snow, but as dry as it's been lately, I love seeing that moisture show up so we don't have to worry so much about fires. I got a call from Les Wolf in Texas that evening to talk about politics in South Dakota and we had a really good visit.

By Friday morning all the snow had melted and I had to wear my mud boots when I left the house to take care of my chickens, but the water dried up later in the day so I could go back to wearing shoes. Reub went over to Coyote' Butte to drag the

cow manure after it had softened up in the moisture, which made a pretty easy job for him. Casey, Missy and Taz were tearing down the old stockage across the creek that afternoon to get it cleaned up to build a new one. Our great grandson Knox came up to visit us that evening and he really entertained us!

There is another death to report: Gloria Perot, 82, of Hettinger, passed away at the Billings Clinic Hospital in Billings, MT on Sunday, March 15. Her funeral was at the Abundant Life Assembly of God Church on Saturday, March 28, with burial at the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery near New Leipzig, ND.

Reub was over at the east ranch dragging dried cow manure again on Saturday but it had dried up since the day before so it was hard to break up. I saw on Facebook that morning that it was "Happy Grandsons Day" so I tried to get in touch with all our grandsons and it was sure fun being able to talk to several of them. Casey, Missy and Taz spent most of the day setting new big posts to build the new stockage to replace the old one that they tore down the day before. Missy is really good help for those guys!

Sunday was Palm Sunday and Laura Johnson gave her testimony at church about her and her sister Marsha being sent to the Children's Home

Society in Sioux Falls after their grandparents thought that they were too old to raise them. They weren't there very long before they were adopted by a couple with the last name of Johnson who were not related to Laura's husband Bill Johnson. Laura gave a wonderful testimony that brought tears to my eyes and we are so glad that she is living here in our community because she is a great teacher and a wonderful musician.

With Easter coming, I'll leave you with this:

*How can you tell where the Easter Bunny has been? Eggs mark the spot!
*What did the Easter Egg say to the other Easter Egg? Have you heard any good yolks today?



Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

March 23, 1916

The coyotes did a great amount of howling last night and this, the old timers say, is a sign of cooler weather. Certainly, our March weather so far has seemed too good to last. And speaking of howling, the Vale people are thinking of having a trained choir. Under efficient leadership of Rev. & Mrs. Smith and with the excellent local talent the choristers wouldn't stand second in line among the Hills towns at least.

"The Buzzard's Shadow" is the title of the picture show at the Theatorium Saturday evening. A Mutual Masterpicture in five acts. Featuring the popular stars Harold Lockwood and Mary Allison. Show starts at 8:00 PM.

H. R. Bower and son, Eric, arrived here Tuesday afternoon having driven overland from Savoy. They have spent the greater part of the winter cutting posts and firewood on government allotment in the Hills. Mr. Bower now has a car of posts and a car of firewood on the tracks and disposed of two cars at Fruitdale on his way here.

March 25, 1926

My wife, Alta Marie Newcomb, has left my bed and board and I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by her on and after March 23, 1924. Important announcement made by Frank J. Newcomb.

While Andrew Syverts was getting gas at Fairpoint Store, someone lighted a match. There was a flash and the truck was on fire. Nels Sevareid yelled, "Get quilts, Ed." He did and they succeeded in smothering the blaze on the hose of the filling station and they put flour in the car cab. Most damage done was to the cushion of the truck.

Last Friday was "Tag Day" in Newell. Pretty little, red-printed tags were liberally distributed along the auto parking spaces by Deputy Sheriff Sanders, assisted by Town Marshall Lawell. Thirty more car owners who neglected to secure 1926 numbers were thus gently reminded that the day of reckoning had arrived. Judge Goff did a rushing business in taking applications.

March 26, 1936

A special election held Tuesday. Voters of Vale Township of municipal control and sale of liquor. A total of 255 votes were polled, with 156 favoring municipal sale and 99 opposed. The vote was reported to have

been the largest ever polled in the town. At present time there are two places in the town of Vale where liquor is sold, one on-sale and one off-sale.

Henry Granberg received severe facial injuries and lost several teeth last Friday while attempting to crank a tractor engine. The motor back-fired and the engine crank struck him on the jaw. He was brought to the Newell Hospital where Dr. Clark had to take several stitches to close the wound and adjust the face.

Rev. C. D. Erskine, pastor of Presbyterian Church, Sturgis officiated at a double ring wedding Wednesday afternoon, when Miss Ella Mauch married Arthur I. Jeremiason and Miss Elsie Mauch was wed to James M. Malcolm. The brides are daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Matt Mauch of Nisland. Mr. Jeremiason is a farmer near Belle Fourche and Mr. Malcolm's home is in Nisland.

Overheard at Woodford & Woodford this week: A grubby urchin walked into the store where he addresses the clerk to purchase "A soft man's collar". The assistant said softly, "You mean a man's soft collar, do you mean like this?" The boy eyed it momentarily, then he replied, "No, a clean one."

March 21, 1946

The need for a new modern hospital in Newell was discussed at a meeting of the Newell Community Club. Prominent citizens of the community gathered to talk about the feasibility of such a project. The meeting was held at the Stockmen's Café, was proceeded by a dinner and representatives were present from various points of the Newell trade area. Dr. Sion Sherrill of Belle Fourche gave the group advice and counsel. Dr. O. Clark talked about the plans to retire and urged that concrete plans be worked out for a new hospital. Not only for convenience for the area people but also enticement for a young Doctor to locate to Newell. A general meeting will be called in the near future, in which it is hoped every organization in Newell will be represented as well as the general public.

Coast-To-Coast Store welcomes Johnny Price back, who has recently received his discharge after 30 months service in the South Pacific, with the US Navy as a Machinists Mate 2/c. Johnny will endeavor to serve their customers as

by Linda Velder

faithfully as he served his country. Johnny is the son of Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Price. He is now associated with his father in management of the local Coast-To-Coast Store.

The use of gasoline from unmarked containers has resulted in a number of fatal accidents in the area over the past year. State Director of Licensing, Roy A. Nord said this week in urging all persons who use gasoline in small quantities to keep the product in receptacle marked for that purpose painted in red. Also, it is unlawful to keep any other petroleum products except gasoline and low flash test products in red containers. Law Enforcement officers have been ordered to enforce the measure in an effort to decrease accidents, many occur because safety measures are violated.

Stockmen's Café is now serving fountain lunch. Try a delicious sandwich with coffee. The Stockmen's is famous for serving a clean, wholesome and inexpensive lunch. Stop in the next time you are in Newell or just out and about for lunch. Won't you?

March 29, 1956

A. J. Smith, Newell City Assessor, announced he was moving from the City Hall to the west room in the basement of the Hafner Building (Post Office), where he will be available to assist taxpayers until the middle of April. The self-listing tax forms are due April 10 and can either be mailed or brought to him down the west stairway of the Hafner Building. The move was being made, so there would be no interference with kindergarten which starts Monday in the front room of the City Hall.

Sufficient polio vaccine has been allotted the Newell area so that children who received their first 2 shots can

receive their 3rd next week, it was announced by Dr. J. F. Pokorny, local physician. Children are urged to come in for their final immunization shots after school Monday and Tuesday, Dr. Pokorny advised. The vaccine is furnished free of charge through the State Department of Health.

Billy Heston was proclaimed Butte County Junior Corn Growing Champion at a banquet held in honor of the South Dakota Corn Growing Championships at Huron. His yield of 88.26 bushels per acre was the top yield in all Butte County, in 1955 National Selected 2 Acre DeKalb Jr. Corn Growing Contest. Runner-up winner was Dick Wilson with a yield of 82.94 bushels per acre and 3rd place winner, Dan Fredlund with a yield of 82.01 bushel per acre. The 3 young men are from the Newell area.

March 31, 1966

About 25 neighbors met at the Ray Schild home Saturday evening for a welcoming party for the Schild family who recently moved to the area. Lunch was brought by the group and the evening was spent in visiting and getting acquainted with their new neighbors.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Kirk are staying out at the Gerald Kirk ranch at Mud Butte, where Mr. Kirk is helping with lambing chores. A group of friends drove to the Kirk ranch Friday evening, where they helped Mrs. Ralph Kirk celebrate her birthday. The evening was spent playing cards and a birthday lunch was served.

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Mrs. Thornton Vallery won the Newell Toastmistress traveling trophy at a regular meeting of the club Thursday, on her speaker's choice topic, a magazine article "Disorganization Women". Other speeches included "Coffee Time" by Mrs. Kenneth Anderson and "Second Class Mail" by Kathy Reichstein. Final plans were also completed for the District Speech contest which will be held at the Congregational Fellowship room, April 16. The word lesson was presented by Mrs. Carl Morgan and parliamentary procedure lesson by Mrs. Tom McDermott. The next meeting will be April 12 at Butte Electric Cooperative Hospitality Room at 7:30 PM, when the organizations By-Laws will be reviewed and adopted.

The twin ribbons of white concrete that have been inching across the state the 6 years, will lace together then the entire east river area this summer as another 72 miles of Interstate are scheduled for completion this year. Only 260 miles remain untouched, however right-of-way acquisition and preliminary engineering are underway on the entire uncompleted portion of the remaining in our area are: 115 mile stretch of I-90 between Kodoka and Chamberlain, 28 miles of I-90 from Sturgis to the Wyoming border. South Dakota will see a step-up in Interstate construction this year. South Dakota can complete its entire system under the 1972 deadline if US Congress makes the necessary appropriations.



Here's What's Happening in Newell!

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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 Concert Photos



Above: (L) Kindergarten and First Grade sing for the audience. (R) Marty Jump plays the piano for the singers. Below: (L) The Middle School/High School Band donned sombreros to play Mexican Clapping Song. (R) The Second and Third Graders teamed up to sing three songs. Longbrake photos



Mrs. Bachman hugs and thanks the students who gave her special gifts. Longbrake photo

All the students on the floor for the flash mob. Longbrake photo

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 an 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:
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