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Conversations Over Coffee: Public Meets with Police and City Leaders

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—Every Friday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., the public is invited to come enjoy caramel rolls and coffee at the Belle Silver Lining Senior Center. This past Friday, special guests were invited to the event.

On May 1, Police Chief Ryan Cherveny and City Administrator Jason LaFayette spent an hour answering questions and concerns raised by area citizens at the event.

The idea to invite speakers was first suggested by Clark Sowers, city council representative. “Clark kind of put a bug in my ear about it, so then he’s the one that kind of got it rolling,” said Belle Silver Linings Board President Marilyn Huston-Engle. “And we go, well, why don’t we do it at caramel rolls and Ryan and Jason picked a date—we only do them on Fridays.”

Turnout was good; the room was filled with folks wanting to learn about what’s going on in the city of Belle Fourche. “A lot of people came to listen. I would say we have maybe 30-some people for caramel rolls, but usually it is spread out from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.,” explained Huston-Engle. “So it was full!”

A lot of the questions were about the new police station. A few of the highlights were as follows: It was asked why the building for the police station was not put up for a public vote. LaFayette explained that the type of bond that was used



Police Chief **Ryan Cherveny** takes the opportunity to speak with the public about policing issues in Belle Fourche as well as the new police station. *Longbrake photo*

to fund the new facility did not require a public vote.

Another question that was asked had to do with whether there would be any holding cells in the new station. “There are three holding cells. Two of them are individual cells, and then there will be a larger one where the county will utilize for court where they can bring all of the inmates at once for court appearances,” explained Cherveny. “There is a mental health room, which

will help our costs as far as overtime. Currently, if we have somebody who’s on a mental health hold and there’s not a facility available anywhere in the state, we can sit on them at the new building. We’re currently having to pay people to stay in the hospital up to six days, which is paying somebody to sit there on overtime and somebody else to cover a shift. So that’s a huge burden financially for us. Being able to have them in-house,

in that room, will save us tremendously.”

Another questioner wanted to know that if there is a fitness facility being built in the new station, why didn’t the city, since they own the police department and the Rec Center, just give them membership. Cherveny answered, “So we all have memberships to the Rec Center. This fitness center... is minimal equipment. It’s a training facility where we can do tactical training,

hands-on training, stuff that we can’t do on a hard surface. So that’s what that room is essentially for. We can bring those trainings in. Self-defense classes for the community can be hosted there. If you fall on the ground, it’s going to be a padded floor versus getting concrete or the gym floor.”

The hour-long question-and-answer session cleared up a lot of misinformation by explaining the rationale behind a lot of the

Coffee with Cops Contd. A3



Above: Jammie with her boys. L to R: Gabe, Jammie, Ben, Mathew. *Below:* Jammie in #15 for the Broncos during the State Tournament in her freshman year of high school.



SDHS Basketball Hall of Fame Announces Class of 2026 inductees

Twelve South Dakota basketball standouts spanning multiple generations headline the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2026. The 16th annual induction banquet is set for Aug. 22 at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls.

The class is highlighted by three Mr. Basketball honorees — Rapid City Central’s Steve Anderson, Emery’s Chris Janssen, and Webster’s Lonni Stover — along with two Miss Basketball recipients: Belle Fourche’s Jammie (Coyle) Raba and Willow Lake’s Jennifer (Warkentien) Hojer.

Also being honored is the 1975 Freeman High School

boys basketball team, which will be recognized as a Team of Excellence. Coached by Ron Bennett, the Flyers capped a perfect 27-0 season with the 1975 Class B state championship. The team was led by all-state performers Bob Pidde and Keith Massey.

Banquet ticket information will be available soon on the Hall of Fame website at www.sdbbhof.com.

Jammie (Coyle) Raba (Belle Fourche 1996)

Raba was a productive point guard for the Belle Fourche Broncos. A 5-foot-7 guard, Raba powered the Broncos to the 1995 Class A state championship,

their only title in school history. Raba tossed in a Class A championship record 37 points in the championship win over Howard. Raba was a three-time all-conference and three-time all-stater for Belle Fourche. Raba averaged 28 points, 6.2 steals, 5 rebounds and 2.25 assists per game during her senior campaign. Raba, who was named the 1995 South Dakota Miss Basketball, scored 1,649 career points in high school. Raba later starred at Northern State University, where she was a three-time all-conference player and an All-American. Raba started 112 of 115 games and scored 1,856 career points.

Clay Anderson Inducted into the SDIAAA Hall of Fame

Clay Anderson was recently inducted into the South Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame. The SDIAAA is dedicated to all the men and women who, through their efforts, have made interscholastic athletics a positive experience for student-athletes. Their work has brought honor to themselves, their school, community and the SDIAAA.

Clay is a veteran educator with a 35-year career in K-12 education, marked by dedication to teaching, coaching, and athletic administration. A 1978 graduate of McIntosh High School, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Northern State University and began his career teaching and coaching numerous sports in McIntosh.

In the fall of 1992, Clay and his family moved to Belle Fourche as he took on the role of Activities Director for the Belle Fourche School District. During this time, he continued his professional growth by earning NIAAA Certified Athletic Administrator status and a master’s degree in educational administration.

Anderson contributed to many professional organizations during his career, serving on the SDHSAA Board of Directors, including Chairman,

and held leadership roles within the SDIAAA and NIAAA, including SDIAAA President and Region 8 Representative.

His contributions have earned numerous honors, including multiple Region Athletic Director of the Year awards, the SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award, the NIAAA State Award of Merit, the Athletic Director of the Year, the Steve Berseth Professional Development Award, and induction into the Belle Fourche High School Hall of

Fame.

Clay worked 26 years as Activities Director for the Belle Fourche School District retiring in 2019. He was supported in this role by his wife Melanie, also an educator for the Belle Fourche School District, who contributed 33 years and recently retired in May of 2025.

Clay resides in Belle Fourche and enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, doing yard work and home improvement projects. And you may still see Clay in the Belle Fourche High School gymnasium operating the shot clock for boys and girls basketball games. Congrats Clay!

Jim Thompson National Cowboy Hall of Fame Nominee

Jim Thompson and wife Sherry share 5 children, 19 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, the most important thing in their life.

Jim has also been selected to: Casey Tibbs Rodeo Hall of Fame in South Dakota. North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. Black Hills Stock Show Hall of Fame. South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame and South Dakota Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

As a lifetime PRCA announcer Jim was chosen as the Justin Committeeman of the year for his work with the Deke Latham rodeo in Kaycee, Wyoming in 2008.

He was selected to announce at almost every Finals type rodeo in the sport in his career including 7 times at the National Circuit Finals Steer Roping in Torrington, Wyoming.. 30 times at the Don King Days steer roping in Big Horn Wyoming, 15 times at the National High School Finals and over



3 decades at the Days of 76 in Deadwood, SD. In fact rodeos that he has announced have won the PRCA Rodeo of the year 28 times.

Aside from rodeo Jim has been the President of the South Dakota Broadcasters, twice elected as State Senator in South Dakota and currently serves as a member of the Sturgis, SD City Council.

He and his wife are members of the Black Hills Cowboy Church near Aladdin, Wyoming.



Pastor's Perspective

This Perspective is from Jean Helmer archives

"A Monastic Month"

I spent a month this summer as a Benetvision writer-in-residence at a Pennsylvania's Erie Monastery. I returned with much writing and research completed, with a clearer understanding of monastic life, and with new insights into what it means to "pray without ceasing."

Yes, I lived in a monastery. "Monastery" comes from a Greek term meaning "to live alone." Monasteries are the residences of men or women who are dedicated to a life of prayer and who are set apart from the world. They only leave the monastery for a special reason.

While I stayed in a cell—think small, single-occupancy dorm room. I was given an office and access to their well-stocked library. I was invited but not required to keep praise times with them.

Following Benedict's Rule, the monastics keep a structured schedule for daily activities. While breakfast was more of a mood than a schedule (served from 6-9 am), Morning Praise was at 6:30 sharp. Each service began with a reading followed by responsive intoning of psalms. Psalm 50:17 states, "God open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise."

In her commentary on Benedict's Rule, Judith Sutura explains, "Silence is kept until after Morning Praise when our lips are first opened for worship. These words break the night silence and they recognize that every word and action of the day is an act of God and a gift from God. The prayer is reciprocal. If God wills to open our lips for a new day, then they should be used to sing God's praise, proclaimed in everything we do thereafter." Speaking was saved for after morning prayer. Breakfast conversation was abbreviated as everyone moved to begin their daily ora et labora—labor and prayer. Visiting was for after dinner.

For Benedictines, labor and prayer are con-



joined. While the work of God begins in the chapel, it extends beyond the chapel doors into every action of daily life. Monastics pray while working. At first, I imagined them reciting psalms as they worked. I thought of prayer as talking to God, i.e. petitioning God to take action, thanking God for those actions. However, there is another side to prayer—the listening side.

Scriptures emphasize obedience to God. When I learned the Latin root of "obedience," to listen, the directive took on new depths. For the monastics, to be obedient requires them to become still enough to be aware of God's presence. It takes this quietness in order to hear God with the ears of our hearts. In Benedict's words, "Listen carefully to my instructions and attend to them. The labor of obedience will bring you back to God from whom you had drifted through the sloth of disobedience [through failing to listen]."

As a hallway sign reminded, "Silence is a gift we give one another." We were silent but not mute. We did not engage in idle conversations that were mere distractions from our work. I learned to unclutter my inner oratory—place of thoughts and feelings—to discard all "monkey brain" items and remain in only the present tense focused on the task before me with ears tuned to God's presence.

It brought to mind 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, and of love, and of self-discipline." Timidity goes beyond shyness. Timidity is the vice of being cowardly and not living up to one's full potential. I am learning to set aside timidity and to practice the self-discipline of being aware of God's constant presence. In that, may my work be united with God's great work so I may fulfill the purpose He has given me. Amen.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Genesis 8:22

As long as the Earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I ask for Your divine, angelic protection over my life, my family, and my loved ones throughout this week.

Protect us from harm, danger, and the hidden traps of the enemy.

As we go through our days, be our refuge and fortress, protecting our minds from anxiety and our hearts from fear.

I release all my worries to You, for I know You care for me.

Let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

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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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From A1 **Coffee w/ Cops**

decisions concerning the new police station.

Cherveny let everyone know that the estimated date of completion for the new police department was the end of November 2026 to the beginning of December 2026. The building is on track to open as planned.

When asked what the long-term goal for the new building was, Cherveny explained, "Long-term goal for the facility is sustainability. Essentially in 80 years from now—100 years from now—the building is still running... It's not going to be maxed out like our last building." He said the power was overexerted, the office space was too small, there was no place for evidence storage, and all of the problems with the old space can now be remedied for the next 100 years in the new space.

LaFayette spent time explaining what taxes go to running the city and told the room that there is no grant money available to pay for this type of bond used to build the Police Station. But that they will be looking for grants for items going into the building. He explained, "We are actively applying for grants to pay for some of the things with the new building, i.e., the security system and some of the equipment that they'll get in there."

The police chief informed the audience that there would be protection for the vehicles in the new space. In past hail storms, all of the vehicles but two were totaled and it cost the city \$300,000 in damages.

Cherveny explained the current staffing situation: "There are 16 certified officers right now—15 with hiring one to replace one. There are 19 staff total... so that's where we're at now. In the future, we should be (able to hold) up to 50 officers in that building."

LaFayette informed everyone that he can be found at City Hall and his door is always open if they have any questions. "I'm happy to answer anything, just come in, let's get the right information. That's what I want, I want transparency. I want to put the best answers forward," he said.

Mayor Randy Schmidt thanked the Belle Silver Lining Senior Center for hosting the event. "Any way that the city can get out information is great. So our information comes out during our meetings and they're all open to the public...this is a great event and thank you guys for hosting us, we really appreciate that. Thank you," he said.



An audience member takes the opportunity to ask questions of Police Chief **Ryan Cherveny** about the new police station.

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Clockwise from Top Left: Police Chief **Ryan Cherveny** and City Administrator **Jason LaFayette** answer questions from the community; Mayor **Randy Schmidt** thanks everyone for coming to the event, along with Belle Silver Linings Board President **Marilyn Huston-Engle**; Attendees spend time visiting after the **Coffee with a Cop and City Administrator** program. *Longbrake photos*



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COWBOYS TOO!

SPORT GOATS

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—American Family Insurance was officially welcomed to the community during a May 1 ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Owner Hunter Terhark cut the ribbon.

Terhark opened the insurance agency a year ago and has been busy building the business for this past year. After successfully reaching the one-year mark, he is ready to look toward the future. "God has blessed me, it's been wonderful. I used to be like, okay, I'm working for this guy and I have this hourly wage, I get paid every two weeks, and now it's like whatever I do—the harder I work, the better it is," he explained.

Terhark moved to the area from Mankato, Minnesota. "I went to school at SDSU. Once I got to South Dakota, I couldn't leave. I decided to stick around," he said. "Actually, I had a buddy I went to college with who bought a house out here... it happened to just kind of work out where I had a job and a place to stay, and it just kind of grew from there—my love for the Black Hills."

Starting out with a job at the police department, Terhark then worked for American Family Insurance for a couple of years in Spearfish. "Last year they offered me a spot to make my own, in the town that

Chamber Hosts Ribbon Cutting for American Family Insurance



Hunter Terhark cuts the ribbon to officially welcome him and his business, **American Family Insurance**, to the Belle Fourche community. He is flanked by insurance agent **Codee Lyons** on his right and his wife, **Marissa**, on his left. *Longbrake photo*

I live in, so I decided to take it and run with it," he explained.

And he couldn't be happier! "I absolutely love it! I mean, moving out here from cornfields as far as the eye can see, and now there's scenery with some nature to it, but it still has that good small-town feel that I grew up with," he said.

Last September, Terhark married his wife, Marissa, and they have a baby on the

way. He now is looking for opportunities to set his roots and grow from here. "Well, I am thinking about buying the building eventually, hopefully to expand, to get it bigger, and then take that and use that to get more involved," he explained. "We're very involved with donations and fundraisers and I was just elected as treasurer for Purple Pride, so we're doing that as well. I've been on that board

for about a year now. I look forward to getting involved in the community and just trying to find new ways to help out."

There is currently one other fully licensed insurance agent working with him, Codee Lyons. Terhark hopes to add more agents as time goes on. "I need more space to get more people so as we grow, I might have to either bust a wall out and go down more, or

go up."

For now, Terhark wants everyone to know how thankful he is for the support he has received so far. "I really appreciate you guys all coming out and for being a part of all this," he said.

You can find the American Family Insurance agency at 418 Railroad Street in the downtown area of Belle Fourche.

Broncs Set New Records at Howard Wood Dakota Relays Meet

Kandi Tonsager

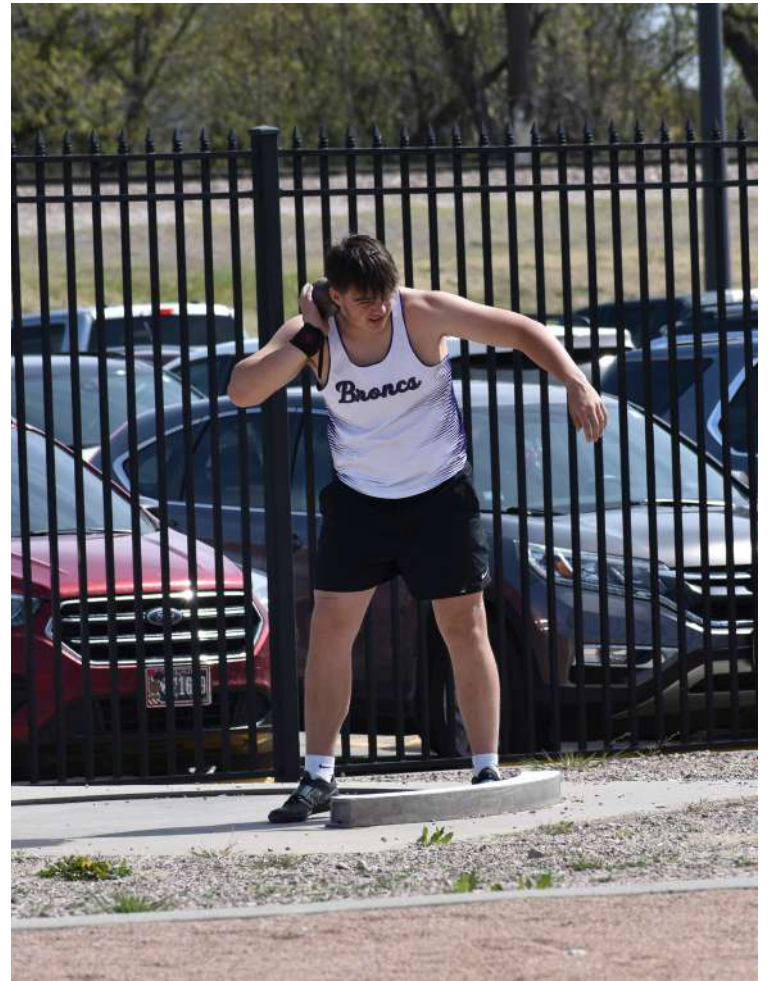
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The high school track and field team had a select few athletes qualify for the prestigious Howard Wood Dakota Relays meet hosted in Sioux Falls on May 1st and 2nd. This year's qualifiers were Gabe Raba in discus, Gavin Pearson in 400 meter run, and the boys 4x400 team of Gavin Pearson, Caeyn Howard, Griffen Biehl, and Slater Humbracht. For the Lady Broncs, Mya Nowowiejski qualified in the 400 meter run, Ansley O'Brien in the 100 meter hurdles and high jump, Rhys Pearson in the 1600 meter run and 3200 meter run and the girls 4x100 and 4x200 meter team of Jazlyn Olson, Ansley O'Brien, Mikka Dunavant, and Mya Nowowiejski, and the sprint medley team of Jazlyn Olson, Mikka Dunavant, Mya Nowowiejski, and Rhys Pearson.

All of the Bronc athletes made their mark at the meet, many coming home with new spots on leaderboards. Gavin Pearson ran a season best in the 400 meter with a time of 51.58, "placing him 17th overall against some of the best sprinters in three or four states," says Coach Wattier. He is currently number 7 in South Dakota Class A. Rhys Pearson made an incredible accomplishment earning a new school record in the girls 3200m run with a time of 11:17.14. This moves her into first place in school history! Ansley O'Brien ran a personal best in the 100m Hurdles with a time of 15.88. This puts her in the top 10 in South Dakota Class A. Our girls Medley team of Jaz Olson, Mikka



Left: **Rhys Pearson** with her 3200 meter run medal. Right: **Gabe Raba** throws for the Broncs. *Tonsager photos*



Dunavant, Mya Nowowiejski, and Rhys Pearson placed 6th in the Sprint Medley, this was a season best, just missing the school record by about half a second and moved them to third all-time in Belle Fourche history. The girls 4x100m Relay of Jaz Olson, Ansley O'Brien, Mikka Dunavant, and Mya Nowowiejski placed 6th, only losing to one other team from South Dakota.

The high school track and field team has a JV meet in Sturgis on the 5th, the Black Hills Classic in Sturgis on May 9th at 9am, and three more meets in the upcoming weeks.



Above: **Boys 4x400 Relay Team** of Gavin Pearson, Griffen Biehl, Slater Humbracht, Caeyn Howard. Below: **Rhys Pearson** distance races. *Tonsager photos*



Above: Gavin Pearson, 400 meter dash. Below: **Girls Sprint Medley** Relay Team of Jaz Olson, Rhys Pearson, Mikka Dunavant & Mya Nowowiejski. *Tonsager photos*

Bronc Distance Runners Participate in Earth Day

On April 22 the Belle Fourche High School track and field team's distance runners incorporated Earth Day cleanup efforts into their distance running practice. For their 5th year in a row they selected areas of need around town to pick up trash on Earth Day, a tradition they are proud to keep.

Coach Brit Clarkson states, "I am really proud of this team and their willingness to help out. They really look forward to this day every season and they always ask if we are planning to do it again next year".

The crew of 10 distance runners cleaned up along Hay Creek by the dog park, around Hermann Park, around the field by the Moose Lodge and even picked up a Conoco sign that had shattered into many pieces on the north side of town.



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Middle School Track Competes in Sturgis

Kandi Tonsager
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Sturgis Williams Middle School hosted a make-up quad meet Wednesday in April, with teams competing from Belle Fourche, Sturgis Williams, Stagebarn, and Lead-Deadwood. The meet had a limited number of events, featuring hurdles, relays, and field events.

Top results in the 100-meter hurdles were: 7th grade boys—Blake Willert took 5th, and Jackson Reeves took 9th; 7th grade girls—Bryn Coyle took 4th, Ruth Moore took 5th, and Hope Willert took 12th. For the 8th grade girls, Lux Kirstine took 5th, Kimber Mez took 11th, Elise Roberts took 12th, and Adeline Humbracht took 13th.

In the 4x100 relay, the 7th grade boys' team of Parker Martin, Grady Martin, Gunner Walding, and Kellen Williams took 1st place. The team of Eli Woxland, Jackson Reeves, Bayzen Curtis, and Caleb Cherveney took 8th place, and the team of Dale Humbracht, Erik Randolph, Braxton Patterson, and William Collins took 12th. For the 8th grade boys, the team of Elijah Beatson, Devyn Perschbacher, Cole Mailloux, and Bradley Dreiske took 1st place, and the team of Cade Pearson, Max Coyle, Oaklee Atkins, and Zane Baker took 6th place. For the 7th grade girls, the team of Kamyryn VanSickle, Gracie Hodge, Carli Knuteson, and Brynlee Barrera took 4th place, and the team of Britta Hagen, Aspyn McKinney, Rainley Roseland, and Talia Thompson took 6th place. For the 8th grade girls, the team of Irie McQueen, Berklee Nore, Kylie Bidwell, and Grace Long took 1st place; the team of Lux Kirstine, Gracelynn Gaffoglio, Skylar Randolph, and Lochlin Tibbs took 2nd place; and the team of Adeline Humbracht, Ember Olson, Elise Roberts, and Natalie Lei took 7th place.

In the 4x200-meter relay, the 7th grade boys' team of Sawyer Stone, Blake Willert, Braxton Patterson, and William Collins took 5th place. For the 8th grade boys, the team of Zane Baker, Jacob Tonsager, Kasen Lang, and Devyn Perschbacher took 4th place. For the 7th grade girls, the team of Brynlee Barrera, Bryn Coyle, Kamyryn VanSickle, and Paisley Featherston took 7th place, and the team of Morgan Wainman, Ainsley Schmeltzer, Emma Schulze, and Malaya Rodriguez took 8th place. For the 8th grade girls, the team of Adeline Humbracht, Kimber Mez, Lochlin Tibbs,

and Skylar Randolph took 2nd place, and the team of Aubyn Hartman, Piper Curran, Isabela Torberson, and Layla Drieling took 5th place.

In the sprint medley 800-meter relay, the 7th grade boys' team of Jackson Reeves, Eli Woxland, Blake Willert, and Sawyer Stone took 3rd place, and the team of Erik Randolph, Dale Humbracht, Bayzen Curtis, and Caleb Cherveney took 5th place. There were no 8th grade boys' teams in this race. For the 7th grade girls, the team of Ruth Moore, Jacey Nash, Kaezlynn Jones, and Madalynn Rhoads took 7th place; the team of Carli Knuteson, Aspyn McKinney, Rainley Roseland, and Ivy Roberts took 8th place; the team of all 6th grade girls—Gracie Hodge, Emma Schulze, Kyra Kerr, and Britta Hagen—took 9th place; and the team of Amelia Strickland, Talia Thompson, Hope Willert, and Morgan Wainman took 10th place. For the 8th grade girls, the team of Lochlin Tibbs, Irie McQueen, Chloe Schulze, and Natalie Lei took 2nd place.

In the sprint medley 1600-meter relay, the 7th grade boys' team of Austin Ramirez, Nathaniel Boicourt, Keaton Davis, and Maddox Clarkson took 2nd place. The 6th grade girls' team of Kyra Kerr, Ivy Roberts, Ainsley Schmeltzer, and Kaezlynn Jones took 7th place, and the 8th grade girls' team of Aubyn Hartman, Layla Drieling, Piper Curran, and Isabela Torberson took 3rd place.

The Sturgis quad also ran a couple of mixed relay events featuring two boys and two girls for each team. In the mixed 4x400 relay, the 7th grade team of Parker Martin, Emersyn Carmichael, Adilynn Burke, and Kellen Williams took 1st place; the team of Roman Randolph, Natalie Cvach, Charlie Huston, and Austin Ramirez took 5th place; the 8th grade team of Cole Mailloux, Skylar Randolph, Berklee Nore, and Blaine Moke took 1st place; and the team of Ben Raba, Grace Long, Kylie Bidwell, and Bradley Dreiske took 2nd place.

In the field events, in shot put, 7th grader Samson Cronk took 10th place. For the 8th grade boys, Ben Raba took 2nd place, Jacob Nash took 10th place, and Jacob Tonsager took 17th place. For the 7th grade girls, Malaya Rodriguez took 7th place, Amelia Strickland took 11th place, and Paisley Featherston took 14th place. For the 8th grade girls, Charlie Merjil took 4th place. In discus, for the 7th grade boys, Samson Cronk took 18th place. For the 8th grade boys, Ben Raba took 2nd place, Kasen Lang took 5th

place, Oaklee Atkins took 10th place, Jacob Nash took 14th place, Cade Pearson took 18th place, and Jacob Tonsager took 20th place. In girls discus, for the 7th graders, Amelia Strickland took 11th place, Malaya Rodriguez took 14th place, Natalie Cvach took 15th place, and Paisley Featherston took 16th place. For the 8th grade girls, Charlie Merjil took 4th place, and Layla Drieling took 5th place.

In high jump, for the 7th grade boys, Maddox Clarkson took 2nd place. For the 8th grade boys, Zane Baker took 2nd place, Elijah Beatson took 3rd place, and Max Coyle took 6th place. For the 7th grade girls, Charlie Huston and Emerson Carmichael took 3rd place. For the 8th grade girls, Berklee Nore took 1st place, and Gracelynn Goffoglio took 2nd place.

In long jump, for the 7th grade boys, Gunner Walding took 9th place, Roman Randolph took 11th place, Maddox Clarkson took 15th place, Parker Martin took 16th place, and Grady Martin took 19th place. For the 8th grade boys, Blaine Moke took 4th place, and Max Coyle took 6th place. For the 7th grade girls, Emerson Carmichael took 2nd place, Adilynn Burke took 5th place, Charlie Huston took 6th place, and Jacey Nash took 16th place. For the 8th grade girls, Berklee Nore took 2nd place, Grace Long took 3rd place, Irie McQueen took 6th place, Ember Olson took 7th place, and Chloe Schulze took 10th place.

In triple jump, for the 8th grade boys, Elijah Beatson took 2nd place, Cole Mailloux took 5th place, and Max Coyle took 6th place. For the 8th grade girls, Chloe Schulze took 4th place.

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Bronc middle schoolers traveled back to Sturgis for the annual Jeff Smit Invitational. This is a large invitational with a full roster, including 21 area teams. Top results for the Bronc boys were: 7th grader Kellen Williams took 3rd in the 100-meter dash; 7th grader Austin Ramirez took 5th place and 8th grader Devyn Perschbacher took 10th place in the 200-meter dash; 7th grader Maddox Clarkson took 3rd and 8th grader Bradley Dreiske took 3rd in the 800-meter run; and 7th grader Keaton Davis took 6th place in the 1600-meter run. In the boys 4x100-meter relay, the 7th grade team of Austin Ramirez, Roman Randolph, Gunner Walding, and Kellen Williams took 7th place, and the 8th grade team of Elijah Beatson, Cole Mailloux, Devyn Perschbacher, and Bradley Dreiske took 6th place. In the 4x200-meter relay, the 7th grade

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Charlie Huston jumps. Tonsager photo

team of Austin Ramirez, Kellen Williams, Eli Woxland, and Roman Randolph took 7th place. In field events, 8th grader Ben Raba took 4th place in shot put and 2nd place in discus. Maddox Clarkson placed 3rd in high jump. Max Coyle placed 4th in high jump, 8th in long jump, and 10th in triple jump. Elijah Beatson took 8th in high jump and 5th in triple jump. Blaine Moke took 9th in long jump, Zane Baker took 8th in high jump, and Cole Mailloux took 8th in triple jump.

Top results for the Bronc girls were: 7th grader Emerson Carmichael took 5th in the 400-meter dash; Aubyn Hartman took 8th in the 800-meter run and 4th in the 1600-meter run; Gracie Hodge took 10th in the 800-meter run; and Bryn Coyle took 7th place in the 200-meter hurdles. In the 4x100-meter relay, the 7th grade team of Charlie Huston, Natalie Cvach, Adilynn Burke, and Emersyn Carmichael took 8th place. In field events, Charlie Huston took 8th in high

jump, and Emerson Carmichael took 8th in long jump. For the 8th grade girls, Skylar Randolph took 10th in the 100-meter run; Berklee Nore took 2nd place and Grace Long took 9th place in the 200-meter dash; Layla Drieling took 4th in the 800-meter run and 8th in the 1600-meter run; and Lochlin Tibbs took 8th in the 200-meter hurdles. In the 4x100-meter relay, the team of Grace Long, Kylie Bidwell, Irie McQueen, and Berklee Nore took 3rd place. The sprint medley team of Gracelynn Gaffoglio, Lux Kirstine, Ember Olson, and Skylar Randolph took 5th place. In field events, Charlie Merjil placed 9th in discus. Berklee Nore placed 1st, and Gracelynn Gaffoglio took 9th in high jump. Berklee Nore took 1st, and Grace Long took 8th in long jump.

The Bronc middle schoolers have two meets left on the schedule: in Gillette on May 5th, and the Black Hills Conference meet, hosted in Spearfish this year, on Friday, May 8th.



(AL) Kamryn VanSickle in relay. (AC) Kylie Bidwell & Grace Long warm up after the race. (AR) Gracie Hodge takes off in relay. ((BL) Cade Pearson competes in Discus. (BC) Parker Martin, Kellen Williams & Grady Martin ready for relay. (BR) Skylar Randolph finishes 1st in her heat. Tonsager photos



Early Lines Form for Low-Cost Rabies Clinic

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The Belle Fourche Veterinarian Clinic and the City of Belle Fourche teamed up to offer low-cost rabies shots for cats and dogs in the area on Saturday, May 2. The event didn't start until 8 a.m., but excited animals and their owners began lining up at 6:30 a.m. to make sure they got in on the low-cost rabies shot. The city was also offering dog licenses for free during the event.

In addition to Belle Fourche residents, people traveled from Rapid City, Spearfish, Sturgis, Black Hawk, Deadwood, Lead, Hot Springs and even Sundance, Wyoming, to take advantage of the \$10 per pet charge for each rabies shot.

The charge for the shot is as low as possible for the occasion. "The amount changed a little bit just because they're doing a donation to Hobo's Healing Heart," explained Animal Control Officer Clint Haffner. "It covers the cost of the actual vaccine. I think the vaccine number was \$8 for the vaccine, and I think \$2 for the donation. The vet clinic actually makes nothing."

The Belle Fourche Vet Clinic had two stations set up inside the clinic, with a vet positioned at each one. Each vet also had a tech helping them to hold the animals. The long lines moved fairly fast. "It is a community service. It just gets some of these pets in here that maybe wouldn't get the shot otherwise. It just increases the safety for the public," shared Dr. William Marlatt. "The shot does two things: it protects the pet from the virus itself, but it also protects the public. Rabies is not a curable disease. It is 99.9% fatal."

Since Belle Fourche is in an area with wildlife, there will always be a chance for rabies to spread. "It is not going away as long as we have wildlife out there, but then you'll have vaccinated animals," explained Dr. Marlatt. "You decrease the opportunity for it to spread to domestic animals."

If you happen to have a pet that doesn't have a rabies shot

and it bites someone, the expenses could be costly. "Typically, what would happen is, first we will call to find out if it does have an up-to-date rabies shot. If it doesn't, then the dog's going to have to go through a quarantine process of 10 days and be examined at the beginning of that by a veterinarian for normal health signs and symptoms, and then compare it to the end at 10 days," said Haffner. "If there's an injury where somebody's been bit and they've got to go to the ER, then the person that owns the dog is responsible. They're responsible for all the vet fees, the doctor's visit fees and the ER visit fees. So typically, that can run in the range of \$3,000 to \$5,000."

Keeping your pets vaccinated against rabies is a must-do for pet owners that love their animals. "The rabies vaccine is one of the most effective vaccines we have for anything in the world," said Dr. Marlatt. "It's really well studied, it's extremely well functional and an extremely good vaccine."

The event could not be put on without all of the volunteers who come together to help out. "It is all the volunteers—this wouldn't be possible without them. There are some of the volunteers that are inside and some working outside, and honestly, they are what makes this happen," said Haffner. "Everybody has a different little role. People are taking their free time and giving it to us."

Volunteers this year include Clint Haffner, Animal Control Officer; Patty Eszlinger, Who Let the Dogs Out; Shannon Stores, daycare provider; Angie Vissia, Head Start; Chuck Lawless, VFW; Nikki Hoyme, United Way and Monument Health; Kasten Pedersen, United Way; and Andrea Pedersen, Monument Health and United Way.

If you have any animal issues or concerns, please remember to call through dispatch at 605-892-2737.



It takes a lot of hardworking volunteers to help put on the low-cost rabies clinic. Some of those volunteers include, from left, Patty Eszlinger, Shannon Stores, Angie Vissia, Chuck Lawless, Nikki Hoyme, Clint Haffner, Kasten Pedersen, Andrea Pedersen and Cooper (dog). Longbrake photo



Dr. William Marlatt gives a cat the rabies shot. Longbrake photo



The City of Belle Fourche offered free dog license tags during the low-cost rabies clinic. (Left) Pets line up to get their turn inside the Belle Fourche Veterinary Clinic. Longbrake photos



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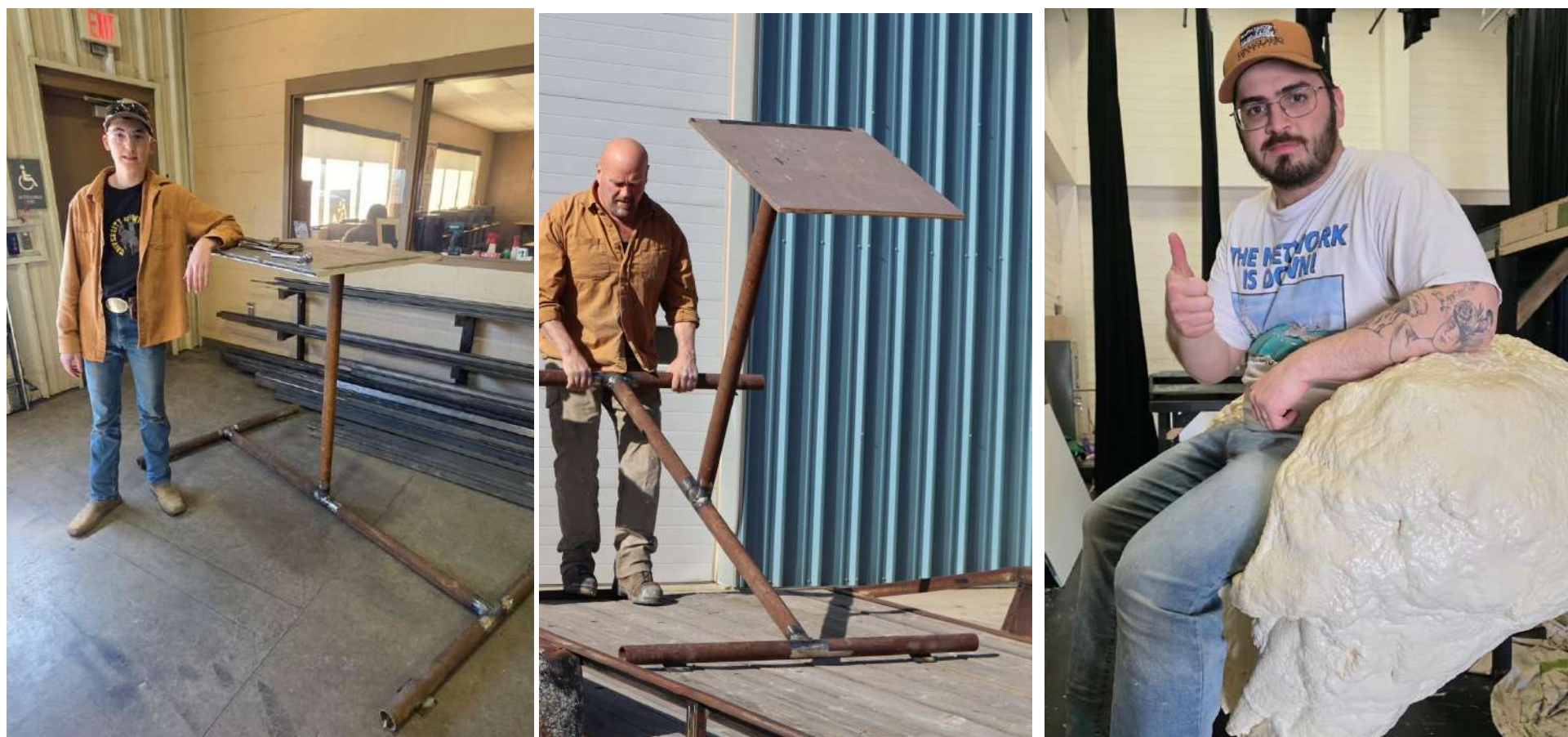
by Belle LaVenue



The Story of the Belle Fourche Theater Truffula Tree is Revealed!
The BFHS THEATER DEPARTMENT & CARR COATINGS OF BELLE FOURCHE teamed up to create the set feature most talked about in *Seussical the Musical* a week ago. I thought the audiences and members of our community would like to see how a Truffula Tree that held a bird, an egg, and an elephant came to life for the show!

- May 7, Thursday, BFMS Band Concert, BFRC Theater, 6:30 PM
- May 10, Saturday, BFHS Graduation
- May 12, Tuesday, BFMS 6th, 7th, 8th grade Chorus Concert, BFRC Theater, 6:30 PM
- May 25 & 26, Auditions for the BFACT Summer Production: *Minnesela*, a Comedy of Western Proportions

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



(L) The truffula tree skeleton was the creation of **Kasey Dobesh**, made in welding class with the help of Mr. Hartwell and Renee Norman. (C) **Chad Carr** of Carr Coatings prepares to turn the frame into a fantastic truffula tree form; (R) *Seussical* director, **Nathan Schreier**, tests the strength of the undecorated truffula tree: (Below L) Loaded up by *Seussical* director, **Nathan Schreier**, the frame was transported from BFHS to Carr Coatings by **Terry Hoscheld**; (BR) The truffula tree looks very different as it leaves the creativity factory at Carr Coatings.



(L) The truffula tree performed beautifully for three amazing performances on the Rec Center stage!; (R) . And rumor has it that the truffula tree lives on somewhere in Belle Fourche HS. Thank you Carr Coatings, the BFHS welders, & the theater artists!

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

May

- 7th - Candidate Forum 6Pm @ Grap's
- 8th - 7:30AM Caramel rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining, 9AM Bloom & Pie @ Posy Palace, 1PM Farewell Party @ Library, 5PM PTO Carnival
- 9th - 8AM Flea Market @ Community Hall, 8:30AM Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Connection Church

Happy Mother's Day - May 10th

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



2026  2026

HOMETOWN THURSDAYS

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

- June 4 Stereo Trip
- June 11 Tyler Bills
- June 18 Camp Comfort
- June 25 Dakota Country
- July 2 Williams & Wright



Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Pasque Ladies Fashions Marks Two Years in Downtown Belle Fourche

BELLE FOURCHE—Pasque Ladies Fashions celebrated its second anniversary on May 2 in downtown Belle Fourche. Two years of serving the community is not just a milestone, but a reflection of trust earned and lasting relationships built along the way.

Co-owner of Pasque Ladies Fashions Michelle Evans has worked hard to build and foster those bonds. “It’s been a long, short two years,” she said.

Of course, building good relationships with her customers is key to being successful. One of the ways to do this is to cater specifically to customer needs. “I ask a lot of questions when people come in—I meet them and greet them, and then I ask questions, is there something you’re looking for? Is there something we can help you find,” explained Evans.

“It is just figuring out who our customers are and what to do to bring them in.”

Evans is good at coming up with creative ways to get folks in the door. She has hosted private fashion shows that showcase new styles, allowing early access to those, held Galentine’s Day events, had a special fitting event with representatives from exclusive brands, and held special craft projects in the store, to name just a few.

Most recently, Evans and longtime employee Pat Main have started showcasing newly released styles in the store with a Facebook Live show called Tuesdays at Two with Pat and Michelle. “They are phenomenal! Tuesdays at Two with Pat and Michelle, we talk about all our new arrivals, and if we don’t have anything new that particular day, we just help restyle some things—we show you how you could wear the shirt, or jeans, or accessories,” shared Evans.

A lot of what Evans does



Celebrating two years in business, Pasque Ladies Fashions owner Michelle Evans marked the occasion with chocolate chip cookies and discounts for customers. Longbrake photo

with the store involves partnering with other businesses on State Street. Encouraging and supporting other small businesses is important to her. One such event is happening May 29 called Wine Up on State Street. This will be the second year for the event. Businesses on State Street will be open late and invite the community in for wine tasting and pairing along with shopping. There are 22 businesses signed up to participate in that event.

Pasque Ladies Fashions takes pride in its ability to partner with fashion brands and bring in exclusive fashions that cannot be found elsewhere in the same town. This is important because customers who shop at Pasque can have confidence knowing that when they come here, they

will find something different. “Exclusivity—the brands that are in our store are for our store, and they are zip code protected,” said Evans.

Part of being a small business owner is being able to make changes as needed to fit customer styles. “We are finding our groove and finding what our customers want, and we’re bringing in younger styles, because a lot of people are like, it’d be nice to find something here instead of going into Spearfish or Rapid,” said Evans.

Customers can look forward to a few fashion changes in the near future. “We’ll definitely be gearing up for younger styles. I’m actually looking at fall right now for the youth, for high schoolers and middle

schoolers,” Evans shared. “My daughter’s going into high school next year, and I don’t want to spend \$500 to \$700 every year for a prom dress. And so just finding something that is good quality and at a good price is definitely available here.”

For those that rodeo or anyone who likes the brand 7 For All Mankind jeans, new longer lengths are available in store. “Their pocket is iconic, the Sevens pocket, and they are great material. We have our first shipment of 36-inch inseam coming. We also have 32-inch and 34-inch, and now we are carrying the 36-inch,” explained Evans.

The store will be stocking exclusive Fourth of July merchandise. “We will have a big collection of T-shirts and

just everything themed in red, white, and blue. And we will have a couple of shirts available here, and then also at Cowboys Too, that will be tailored to us,” said Evans.

For the second year, Pasque will be holding Fashion the Fits styling event June 22 through July 4. There will be over 100 pairs of jeans in a variety of styles and fits for ladies to come in and find which jean works best for their bodies.

For a variety of community-wide and storewide events, keep an eye on the Pasque Ladies Fashions Facebook page. “Thank you to all of our customers—new and existing and future,” said Evans. “It’s been fun. I really enjoy it.”

VFW Post 3312 Marks Day of Service With Community Blood Drive



Above: JayCyn Ager gets instructions on what to do next after he gave blood at the VFW Post 3312 Belle Fourche blood drive. Below: Blood donors prepare to give blood. Longbrake photos



Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—If you know anything about the hard-working veterans that make up VFW Post 3312, you know they are actively volunteering in a variety of ways throughout the year in Belle Fourche.

The VFW Day of Service was May 1 and was just another way for them to be involved in the community. Blaine Anderson, VFW, said, “We’re getting out more and more and more. We used to be so invisible, and hopefully we’re fixing that too. We do exist!”

VFW Day of Service gave rise to the opportunity to give back in a unique way. Giving blood is the ultimate way to save a life, and for the first time ever, VFW Post 3312 decided to use its Day of Service to host a blood donation event.

On May 1, the event space at Grap’s Burgers and Brews was transformed into a blood donation center. Vitalant Blood Donation was in charge of the event.

At the beginning of the event, VFW Post 3312 set a goal to reach 25 units in blood donations. By 10 a.m., they were well on their way to reaching that goal. “Last time she sent me the list, we were at about 21 units already,” explained Chuck Lawless, VFW.

Service efforts at VFW Post 3312 extend beyond the Day of Service event. Be on the lookout for the VFW Post 3312 appearance of the Buddy Poppies. “The poppies will be going out into the stores next month,” shared Lawless. If you see the poppies in the stores of Belle Fourche, consider giving a donation in exchange for a poppy.

The Buddy Poppy program is the main source of funding

for VFW. The local VFW post disperses 91 percent of the collected donations to support local programs.

The local VFW Post 3312 Belle Fourche donates in the following ways: local veterans in need; veterans war memorials; Belle Fourche Honor Guard; Cops for Kids; Scholastic Books for Kids; Voice of Democracy; Patriot Pen; Pine Slope Cemetery inclement weather shelter; National Child Safety Program; long-term care veterans Christmas presents; Bronc Bird Buster HS Trap Shoot Club; BSA Troop 17 and Troop 117; Cub Scout Pack 17; baseball teams; provides U.S. and S.D. flags to public buildings; presents S.D. flags to BFHS graduates who enlist in the military; collects U.S. flags for retirement; BF Middle School Veterans Day program; Memorial Day program (shared with American Legion every other year); Memorial Day Veterans Avenue of Flags at Pine Slope Cemetery; and Belle Fourche Special Olympics.

While the VFW Post 3312 continues to serve the community in many ways, the organization is also seeking support of its own.

The local organization is putting out a call for volunteers to help with Honor Guard. “We need seven, and you generally have maybe 10 on the books, and somebody’s always at a doctor’s appointment,” explained Anderson. “In the guard, I know if I needed seven, I needed to call 14 or 15 to get seven.” At this time, there are not enough veterans signed up to field the seven needed to perform funeral honors if others happen to be busy. Reach out to Belle Fourche VFW Post 3312 if you can help.

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JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

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

Due to technical difficulties we have experienced with our computer system, please view the cattle market report for Friday, May 1, 2026 on our website at stongelivestock.com/market-reports

Friday, May 8, 2026

Pair & Feeder Cattle Special

10:00 AM – Weigh Ups

12:00 Noon – Feeder Cattle Followed By Pairs & Bred Cows

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

Pairs

Clays Ranch – 25 Blk Short Term Pairs
Chris Penner – 50 Blk Short Term Cows W/ Big Black Calves

Feeder Cattle

Brain Turbville – 7 Fall Calves
Troy Johnson – 20 Blk Hfr – 700-750# - Bt, Pc, Bv

Plus More By Sale Time!

2026 CATTLE SALES

May 15th – Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
May 22nd – Pair & Feeder Cattle Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
May 29th – Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
June 5th – Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
June 12th – Regular Sale – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
Saturday, June 20th – World Livestock Auctioneer Contest – Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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.

NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

May 7, 2026

Regular Sale

1:00 PM

Plus More By Sale Time!

Please Have Animals In By 10:00 AM
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Auctioneer: Casey Humble
605-490-9829
Fieldman: Gilbert Wood
605-456-2400
605-641-7100
Fieldman: Dustin Vining
605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, April 30, 2026

2000 HD For Today's Sale
Lamb Market Was \$\$ Higher
Slaughter Ewes Sol \$30 To \$40 Higher

Next Sale - May 7, 2026 - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats - Start Time 1:00 PM

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

BRED EWES - Sold by the Head

Hofeldt Livestock, Chinook MT.....28.....3yr Xbred.....178.....\$335.00
Arledge Livestock Co LLC, Robert Lee TX....18.....S-Brk.....185.....\$335.00

New Crop Lambs

Pitz Or Gnelle Dauwen, Tom, Faith SD.....200.....Lambs.....95.....\$419.00
Garman, Trevor, Belle Fourche SD.....31.....Lambs.....44.....\$492.50
Garman, Trevor, Belle Fourche SD.....52.....Lambs.....60.....\$437.50
Yoder, Leroy, Hulett WY.....24.....Lambs.....60.....\$437.50
Philipson, Gary, Vale SD.....14.....Lambs.....86.....\$420.00
Hofeldt Livestock, Chinook MT.....217.....Old Crop Lambs..110.....\$409.00

Slaughter Ewes

Borchgrevink, Lisa, Hammond MT.....10.....K Ewe.....168.....\$188.00
CWT Sheep Co.....16.....K Ewe.....115.....\$198.00
Garman, Trevor, Belle Fourche SD.....25.....K Ewe.....160.....\$185.00
Garman, Trevor, Belle Fourche SD.....25.....K Ewe.....141.....\$155.00
Hofeldt Livestock, Chinook MT.....13.....K Ewe.....198.....\$183.00
Hofeldt Livestock, Chinook MT.....66.....K Ewe.....175.....\$171.00
Hofeldt Livestock, Chinook MT.....39.....K Ewe.....160.....\$158.00
Meike Ranch Inc, Kaycee WY.....23.....K Ewe.....176.....\$188.00
Meike Ranch Inc, Kaycee WY.....31.....K Ewe.....166.....\$185.00
Meike Ranch Inc, Kaycee WY.....38.....K Ewe.....136.....\$155.00
Wilkinson, Jim, Reva SD.....7.....K Ewe.....189.....\$188.00

Slaughter Bucks

Cwt Sheep Co.....4.....Kbuck.....150.....\$217.00
Hofeldt Livestock, Chinook MT.....9.....Kbuck.....172.....\$163.00
Meike Ranch Inc, Kaycee WY.....9.....Kbuck.....207.....\$170.00
Weidenbach Ed, Broadus MT.....6.....Kbuck.....232.....\$160.00

2026 SHEEP SALES

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

World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC)

June 17–20, 2026

June 18 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. — St Onge Livestock BBQ & Contestant Draw at Spur Creek Saloon & Ranch, Newell, SD

June 20 – 8:00 AM - WLAC Competition Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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2026 SPRING BULL SALE LIST

May 15th – Turn-Out Bull Sale

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

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State Senator
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 TUITION FROZEN FOR 4 YEARS Legislative action froze tuition, making college more affordable and driving up enrollment.	 ENROLLMENT IS UP Affordability and confidence in BHSU's future brought students back.	 REPEALED LAWS THAT COST MORE THAN THEY SAVED Outdated mandates were repealed—saving money and reducing unnecessary burdens.	 CONSOLIDATED SERVICES Shared services across universities improved efficiencies and reduced costs.	 FINANCIALLY STABLE AGAIN BHSU is no longer on the brink—it's on solid financial footing with a brighter future.
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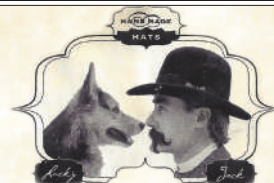
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Local.

Looking Back in Belle

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



by Mary Buchholz

100 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
May 20, 1926

FAVORABLE LEGISLATION FOR PROJECT Reclamation Relief Bill Has Passed Both Houses and Senate, Charges Off Million Dollars
A telegram received yesterday by the Bee from Congressman Williamson brings the glad tidings that the reclamation relief bill for the Belle Fourche project had passed both the house and senate. The telegram says, "Reclamation relief bill has passed house and senate. Charges off on Belle Fourche project over one million dollars. Supplemental contract expressly validated." This means that almost a half million dollars of construction errors, and non-irrigable lands, and over a half million dollars additional on lands that are unproductive on account of seepage and other causes, the total amount being over one million dollars. However, should these lands listed as unproductive be later reclaimed and become productive, the construction charges will again attach to the lands. Secretary Buchholz of the Water Users, Secretary Bronson of the Commercial Club of Belle Fourche, Secretary Myers of this state and George Wright of Huron spent several weeks in Washington in February working on this legislation.

Business Around the State: Camp Crook George Bonefield was in recently and we took occasion to get first-hand information about that fossil he recently unearthed near his ranch. He had a letter from the director of the state museum at Vermillion stating that a crew from that institution will probably be out here in June to make excavations, and that work will likely require two years' time. It is estimated that the mammoth expected to be recovered weighs approximately thirty-five tons and will make a displacement equal to a fair-sized room.

MEMORIAL DAY This year Memorial Day falls on Sunday. As usual the Legion will have charge of the services which will be held at the Legion hall, starting at 10 o'clock, and all the denominations in town will participate. Efforts are being made to secure a prominent speaker. After the service at the Legion hall, there will be a parade to the court house, where waiting cars will take all to the cemetery for a

short service and decorating of the graves, which will complete the service.

75 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
May 17, 1951

Roth Is Picking Up Round-Up Brahman Buckers in Texas Harley Roth, owner of the Ox-Yoke rodeo ranch near Tilford, is now in Texas to arrange shipment of the Brahma bulls which will be used in the Black Hills Round-Up here July 3-5, Secretary Joe Koller said yesterday. Last winter Roth attended a bucking bull sale at the Kinsley ranch near Houston, and managed to outbid several southern rodeo stockmen for 15 of the "best-by-test" brahmas at the sale, Kollar said. At the meeting of the Round-Up committee Monday night tentative plans were made to stretch a mesh wire fence between the chutes and the track railing to confine the bulls to a smaller area for the bull fighters. It will be the first year the bull-fighting has been made one of the main Round-Up attractions.

Hardtop on 30 Miles US 212 Is Contracted Thirty miles of bituminous surfacing on US Highway 212 from Mud Butte to east Maurine in Meade county, will be completed this summer under bids accepted by the state highway commission last week. Including both base course and bituminous surfacing, the project calls for 14 miles of the new construction from Mud Butte to Maurine and 16.5 miles of bituminous surfacing from Maurine east. The bids were part of a total of \$1,649,252 on 110 miles of state and county highway construction.

Enters 1st BEE Any person hoping to win the merchandise prize being awarded by this newspaper in connection with the coming Sixtieth Anniversary celebration will have to dig deep into the archives. Already submitted by Homer T. Couch is a quite-well preserved copy of the first issue of The Bee, published on May 27, 1891 as the first newspaper in the then new town of Belle Fourche. Couch, who with his wife resides on the ranch nine miles west of Belle Fourche on which his father files a preemption claim in 1888, found the original first issue in a trunk left him by his parents. The senior Couches had come to Deadwood in 1887, arriving there May 16. They came north later and stayed that summer at a ranch on Sourdough flats, which is a part of the present Walter Massey place. After

putting in a small crop, raising a garden and hauling hay to the Hills, they returned to Deadwood for the winter. They came back in the spring to file on the present homestead. For those who still have hopes of winning the merchandise award for the oldest Butte county newspaper brought to this office prior to June 3, there may still be some copies of the Butte County Star, published in Minnesela in the 1880's.

Penfold, Leslie, Broadhurst, Clary in State Track Meet Tommy Penfold, Kenneth Clary, Tom Broadhurst and Cleve Leslie, accompanied by Clar Lilevjen and Dan Hejde, left early this morning for Huron to enter the state track meet there Friday and Saturday. Penfold is to run in the open 100- and 220-yard dash, while the four boys make up a half-mile relay team. They will return Sunday afternoon.

50 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
May 21, 1976

Local Government Meeting Slated At Belltower Residents of Carter county, Mont. And other rural areas "interested and concerned about local government and taxes" are invited to attend the Communities Education Program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary at the Belltower Hall Wednesday, May 26, it was announced this week. Featured speaker will be R. A. "Dick" Mader of Gillette, who will talk about "Regionalism."

Livestock Owners Are Reminded of Per-Head Records Butte county livestock owners were reminded about the procedure on livestock assessments by Larry Christiansen, director of equalization, this week. Christiansen pointed out that since the 1976 legislature saw fit to postpone implementation of the per-head, per-day tax, there has been some confusion for owners of cattle, sheep and buffalo. For 1976, livestock is being assessed according to value just as it has been in other years. The tax becomes due Jan. 1, 1977 and is payable in the same manner as personal and real estate taxes. However, starting this year the owner is to maintain records of number of day cattle, sheep or buffalo are owned.

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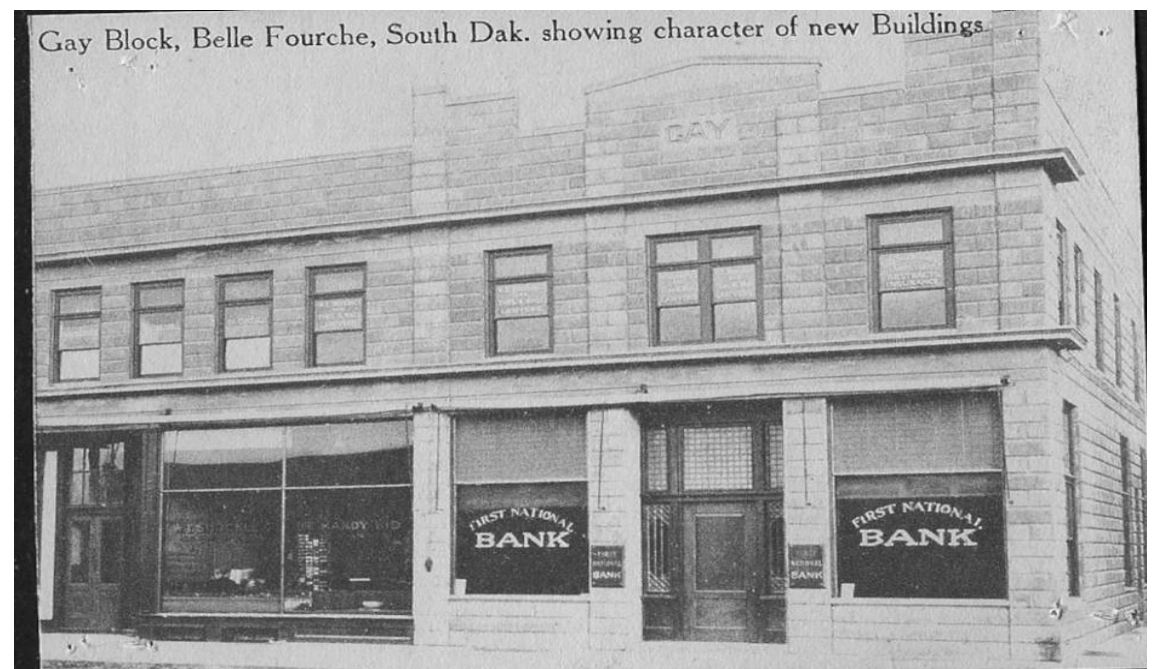
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4	Chicken & Rice Casserole with Steamed Broccoli Roll	5 Meatloaf & Gravy Baked Potato & Carrots Roll	6 Goulash with Cornbread Mixed Veggies Salad	7 Roasted Turkey Mashed Potato / Gravy Green Beans Roll	8 Chicken Sandwich Red Potato salad Peas
11	Roast Beef with Gravy Mashed Potato Green Beans Roll	12 Pork Loin with Rice Dressing & Gravy Peas & Carrot Roll	13 Ham & Bean Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Salad	14 Beef Spaghetti Dinner Salad Garlic Sticks	15 Parmesan Chicken Over Pasta Dinner Salad Garlic Stick
18	Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potato/ Gravy Green Beans	19 Beef Indian Taco Refried Beans Salad Chips	20 Sweet & Sour Pork over White Rice Asian Veggies	21 Meatloaf & Gravy Mashed Potato Green Beans Roll	22 Chicken Cordon Bleu Sweet Potato Mixed Veggies
25	Baked Chicken Roasted Reds Carrots Roll	26 Ham & Rice Casserole Cheesy Brussel sprout Dinner Roll	27 Swiss Steak Roasted Potato & Carrots Roll	28 Chili Cheese Dogs Steak Fries Dinner Salad	29 Hamburger Casserole Tater tots Dinner Salad Roll

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Sing Your Way to Texas: Talent Quest Comes to the Outlaw Bar

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—Do you like to perform? Are you a good singer or dancer? Do you light up the stage? Or maybe you just like to have fun and want to win an all-expense-paid trip to Fort Worth, Texas? The Outlaw Bar and Pass the Mike Entertainment are teaming up to host Talent Quest International Karaoke Championship qualifying rounds all summer long.

The first round was held April 24 and 25. If you missed the first competition, you have a few more chances to try to win the local competition and go to the finals. The qualifying rounds are scheduled for May 15 and 16, June 19 and 20, and July 17 and 18.

Belle Fourche, at the Outlaw Bar, is one of the only places in South Dakota to compete in the sing-off. "I believe we're the only establishment in South Dakota doing it this year," explained Michael Meemken of Pass the Mike Entertainment. "Last year we had people come from all over, from Custer, Miles City, Rapid City, Gillette.

Actually, the lady that won last year was from Gillette."

One weekend a month for the next three months, anyone can enter the official Talent Quest International Karaoke contest. Two winners will be chosen each weekend. Those two winners will go to the semifinals, which will be held August 21 and 22. "Basically what happens is, every month from now until August, we're going to qualify two people, and then in August we'll have the finals, and the winner of the karaoke contest will get a full, all-expense-paid trip to Fort Worth, Texas, to compete at Talent Quest International," shared Meemken.

You will be able to pick the songs you want to sing. "So what we're doing at the local level is you'll pick two songs that you sing really well, and then you'll dress up in costume and you'll want to entertain the crowd," said Meemken. "Crowd participation is judged, as well as how you perform the song you chose. We have separate categories that you're judged on—it's not a popularity contest."

Everyone has a chance to win. All you have to do is sign up. You can register on the night of each monthly contest. The top two from Friday night will come back Saturday night. "We'll pick the top two from Saturday night, and then about midnight, we'll start the finals for the weekend. The top two out of that last round will go to the semifinals in August."

The event is judged. Judges for all of the performances throughout the summer and the finals will be professional judges. "They have some sort of musical background or are in entertainment," said Meemken. "We take it seriously. The people that go on from here, I mean, they're representing South Dakota, so we want them to be really good."

Each monthly qualifier will win cash prizes for first and second place. The overall winner will receive their trip paid for to the finals. The International Talent Quest Finals are in October. "It's a weeklong—seven nights—so you gotta plan ahead. But it's a serious competition," said Meemken.



(L) Shamra Garrett won first place in the Talent Quest International Karaoke Championship qualifying rounds right here in Belle Fourche. She gets to come back and compete in the semifinals in August for a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to compete in Texas. (R) Ashley Olivaries placed second in the Talent Quest International Karaoke Championship qualifying rounds right here in Belle Fourche at the Outlaw Bar. She gets to come back in August to compete in the semifinals. Longbrake photos

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America's Time Capsule is the official, congressionally mandated time capsule, developed by scientists at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, preservation experts at the Library of Congress and the National Park Service to withstand 250 years underground.

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By John Newby "Building Main Street, not Wall Street" Your Locals Are Your Tourism Strategy

Here is a scenario playing out in communities across the country: the tourism board meets, budgets get approved, brochures get printed, social media campaigns get launched — and meanwhile, locals are loading up the car on Friday afternoon to spend their weekend, and their dollars, somewhere else. The tourism strategy is aimed at the horizon while the foundation crumbles underfoot. The sequence is backwards, and the data bears it out. Before a community can credibly invite the world in, it has to give its own residents a reason to stay.



economy through tourism in 2023 alone. But study those success stories and a pattern emerges: the tourism did not create the vibrancy; the vibrancy created the tourism. They invested in their cores first. They built dining scenes, public spaces, arts communities, and distinct identities that made residents proud to call the place home. Visitors followed.

The classic line from Field of Dreams "If you build it, they will come" turns out to be good economic policy. Build something worth experiencing, and you will not have to beg people to show up. But communities that skip that step and go straight to the marketing campaign are, as the saying goes, putting the cart before the horse.

Community leaders often talk about winning over outside investors, outside media, and outside visitors. The audience they should be obsessing over is harder to impress and more valuable to win: the people who already live there. Residents are your harshest critics precisely because they know the truth. They know that downtown rolls up its sidewalks at six o'clock. They know which restaurants are mediocre and which storefronts have been vacant for three years. Their skepticism is not cynicism, it's knowledge of the situation, and smart leaders learn to harness it rather than dismiss it.

When you win those critics over, something remarkable happens. Satisfied residents become the most effective marketing force a community can deploy. Word-of-mouth recommendations carry a credibility that no paid campaign can replicate. Destination marketing experts increasingly acknowledge this: satisfied locals sharing genuine enthusiasm on social media and in conversation generates the kind of trust that brochures simply cannot buy. Toronto's tourism organization learned this directly during the pandemic, when it pivoted its entire strategy toward inspiring residents to rediscover their own city. The response was immediate and enthusiastic — because they finally gave locals something to be enthusiastic about.

The pattern of communities spending heavily on tourism before they are ready is not a failure of intent. It is a failure of sequencing. Tax dollars flow toward tourism boards and marketing campaigns while the downtown sits on hospice. The community brands itself as something it is not yet prepared to be — and visitors who show up and find the gap between promise and reality are unlikely to come back or recommend the place to friends.

The right sequence looks like this: invest in the core first. Create an environment with quality restaurants, unique retail, compelling events, and inviting public spaces — the things locals have been driving elsewhere to find. When residents start spending their weekends at home instead of elsewhere, several things happen simultaneously: economic leakage stops, local businesses grow stronger, the local multiplier starts compounding, and the community starts generating the kind of authentic energy that outsiders can feel when they visit.

Events are a partial exception to the sequencing rule. Building a calendar of local events — festivals, markets, concerts, races — is worth doing at any stage of a community's development. Events create energy, give residents reasons to gather, and generate exactly the kind of organic social media content that reaches potential visitors. They are one of the few tools that serve both local vitality and tourism promotion simultaneously, which makes them a smart early investment regardless of where a community is on its transformation journey.

Balance is key, none of this is an argument against tourism. A well-functioning tourism economy funnels outside dollars into local businesses, creates jobs, diversifies the tax base, and strengthens community pride. Those are real and significant benefits. The argument is about order of operations.

Build the core. Create the heart and soul. Earn the loyalty of the people who live there. When that happens, the community's marketing becomes authentic rather than aspirational, and every satisfied resident becomes a credible ambassador carrying the message further than any paid campaign could reach. At that point, tourism does not just follow — it grows beyond what any committee meeting ever dared to project. The visitors will come. But first, give the locals a reason to stay.

Every dollar a resident spends at a locally owned business generates roughly 67 cents of additional local economic activity, compared to about 43 cents when spent at a chain. This is called the local multiplier effect, it compounds quickly. Research has found money spent at independent local businesses recirculates through the local economy two to four times more than equivalent spending at national chains. A study in Salt Lake City put it even more concretely: local restaurants recirculated 79 percent of their revenue back into the community, versus 30 percent for chain restaurants.

The point is not academic. When locals drive forty minutes to a larger city for a good dinner or a unique retail experience, that money does not come back. It is economic leakage — revenue that could have employed a neighbor, supported a local supplier, or funded a community event — gone. Multiply that pattern across thousands of households and hundreds of weekends, and a community is quietly hemorrhaging wealth it never stops to count.

Tourism is a symptom, not a cause and is worth pursuing. Tourism generates more than a trillion dollars annually in the American economy and supports over nine million jobs. When it works, it works spectacularly: Richmond, Virginia recorded a record \$3.7 billion in visitor spending in a single year. Greenville, South Carolina contributed \$2.3 billion to its local

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Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden, April 2026



Our warm, summer like days came to an end last weekend in preparation for a much cooler week. We received some moisture on a cool, cloudy Sunday which was welcome all over west of the river. We were happy to hear that Custer area received several inches of snow which will be a great help in preventing more fires. They certainly have had their share for this time of year. It is a love-

ly green hue in Central Meade County at this time. Some of the church crew went to Nellie's at Enning for lunch on Sunday. Jack Sellers and Darrell Wilcox, Sandy and Larry Rhoden, Lorie Hausmann and Bill Meirose enjoyed food and fellowship there. The Caden and Jori Smiley family also enjoyed lunch there on Sunday. They are expecting child #4 in October. Lorie Hausmann, and Larry

and Sandy Rhoden attended the Lincoln Day Dinner in Belle Fourche on Saturday evening. It was at a lovely venue south west of Belle Fourche. It was beautifully decorated and well planned out as they served a beef and mashed potatoes dinner and auctioned off desserts to raise funds. Governor Larry Rhoden delivered the invocation for the meal. Tom & Quinn Brunner and others provided a fine event and hosted many candidates who are running for office.

The final debate for the race for Governor was held on Monday evening at the Pavillion in Sioux Falls. It is a busy time for the Rhodens as Larry keeps busy with the many responsibilities of being Governor in all areas of the state. But he tries to stay engaged in what is happening at home as he works with his busy schedule. Larry will be singing with the Circuit Riders Quartet on Saturday at the Raymond Howie Funeral in Union Center. The funeral service begins at 10:00 am.

Amy Cammack is up and around after knee surgery. She has surpassed the 4 week mark so will hopefully be back to her very busy pace soon. Linda Opstedahl has recovered well from her illness and was in church on Sunday looking well and recovered. Time is flying by and before we know it, it will be May and school will be out. Vacation Bible School at Union Center will be from June 29 - July 2 for ages 5 and up. I you have questions or are interested in helping you may contact Melanie Cammack.

Capitol News

May 3, 2026

by Karen Odell

There have been some beautiful spring days, this week at Capitol and on Tie Creek. There were still a few snow-



flakes in the air, early in the week, but the moisture was very good and the country looks nice and green.

The calving is winding down at Ronda Cordell's, but many of the old timers would tell you, "You're not done calving till the last cow has calved." Ronda has had other issues, regarding calves, than the actual calving. On Wednesday, Jake Reynolds found a recently killed week-old calf near the driveway. It was actually still warm when she dragged it to the barn, with the cow following. It appeared that one coyote had grabbed the calf up high by the tail, (the tail had been snapped, leaving a mere five-inch stub), while the second attacker tore the flank area open. The beasts had been scared off, due to Jake feeding, and only a small amount of stomach area had been eaten. The next morning at 4:45, as Ronda was checking the cameras, two large coyotes were sniffing around in the calving lot south of the barn. On Saturday, Curt, Caden and Carsen Zolnoski came from Rapid City. Chad and Roudy Zolnoski, also came that day to return a trailer and visit. After supper, they left to go in to Camp Crook for a birthday party for Dana, at the Corner Bar. Ronda's last duty before bed is to check the cameras. Low and behold, the cows were on look-

out. When the system came into focus, two sets of coyote eyes could be seen. Ronda tried getting in touch with the guys by leaving them a message. The boys did go out to check about, when they got back from town, but nothing was seen. April fourteenth was Carsen Zolnoski's sixteenth birthday, so to honor the occasion, Ronda took the three of them to Ekalaka, that evening, for a very delicious supper at the Cantina.

This week began on a much-saddened note for Ronda. Sophie, the last of her five little Jack Russells, passed over the Rainbow Bridge on April twentieth, twelve days prior to her seventeenth birthday. An era is over, and what an era it has been. The stories that can be told of those five Jack Russell's are endless. Angel came over eighteen years ago. She belonged to Ronda's daughter, Cristen. When Cristen began working full-time and going to school full-time, she asked if Angel could stay at the ranch with Ronda until school was out. That's when life without house dogs changed. Angel didn't want to go back to live in Rapid City. A planned litter of pups was born in Ronda's bedroom. Cristen took two of the four puppies. Ronda's son and his wife took one. Ronda got the pick of the litter, Sophie, but as circumstances changed, the other three all came back home. What joy those five gave Ronda.

The Zolnoski's, except for Curt, all headed home on Sunday. Curt was attempting to get a field seeded before he left.

Dick and Erma Albert made

a trip to the Hills for Erma's Doctor appointment, on Wednesday. They got the sad news that a great-niece had passed away. On Friday, Dick went to the Senior Citizen dinner. He brought home a meal for Erma to eat later. Dick went to mass at the Catholic Church, on Sunday. It was a special event for seniors, and the members who were graduating this year, each got a quilt. It was also a special first communion day for a new member. Erma watched the service online at home. Dick got lunch from Saloon Number Three. In the afternoon, Father Lee came to visit and had communion for Erma at home.

Bruce and Lynn Gustafson made a trip to Belle Fourche, this week, and got a new window put in their pick-up. The crack just seemed to appear, one day, so they are not sure how it happened. There were some other little defects to the window, but now the whole thing is clear and perfect. They went to church at Little Missouri Church, on Sunday, and there was a good crowd there for the service.

Pete (Gordon) Anderson went to church at the Methodist Church on Sunday. After church, Mary Tarter provided a whole Sunday dinner for everyone. Then there was a church board meeting in the afternoon.

Julia Davis made a trip to Rapid City for her check-up with the doctor, on Monday. That trip always takes up a whole day. Then on Saturday, it was shearing day for Doug and Julia. The All-American Sheep

Shearing crew came to shear for them. Other helpers were Ashley Secrest, Tate Wolff, Mackenzie and Aislyn Buck, and Ty Moncur, too. Grandson, Rory Davis, had his jujitsu class in the morning, so his family came out in the afternoon. The calving has slowed down, and it is a relief to have the shearing done with.

Ernie and Rachel Melum have been busy working cattle and separating them to various pastures, this week. Tommy has nearly finished his school work for this year, and only has to finish up a couple of classes next week. Tommy went to town for Hunter Safety Class, on Saturday and Sunday. Ernie and Rachel met Tommy, and went to Baker on Sunday, for church services.

Helen Stevens came from Ekalaka and stopped at Dorothy Padden's on Thursday. They both went to Buffalo for the Senior Tea. Kalynn Padden is a senior this year, and she had three great-grandmothers and two grandmothers there for the senior tea. What a lucky girl. On Thursday, Dorothy and Bryce went to Bowman for the Raymond and Chris Lee bull sale.

Karen Odell got to talk to Mollie and Kyia Smith, and friend Bill Foulkes, this week. She sent her niece, Martha Evans, some pictures of Kellan's track meet and Kenna's junior prom, and texted with the whole family. On Friday, Karen discovered that Wolff's, in Camp Crook is now producing livestock. They haven't stayed up late to check on them, but they do have a new batch of baby kittens. One highlight of the week was that Karen's granddaughter, Kyia Smith, was selected for the all-state choir in Minnesota. She also

had a special part on one of the songs for the choir concert. Another highlight of her week was on Friday and Saturday, when she got to watch grandson, Kellan Odell, in the GPAC finals of track and field. He attends Mount Marty University in Yankton, and journeyed to Fairmont, Nebraska to compete in decathlon and javelin at the NAIA GPAC finals. The ten events of the decathlon would test the endurance of all. Kellan won the decathlon's javelin finals with a throw that broke the GPAC record. He was second in the open javelin competition with an even better throw, and he is qualified for the NAIA nationals in Ashville, North Carolina. Karen hopes to see those finals on-line on May 20th, too. In Decathlon, Kellan placed eighth after competing in all ten events, making it on the podium and earning himself a medal in that, too. His last event was a race and he was mighty tired, by then, after pole vault, shot, high jump, hurdles, and all the other ten events, but his win in javelin helped, and all he had to do was finish that last race to ensure earning his medal. It was almost as hard on the parents and grandparents who watched, and this grandma would not like to try it. He was against some great runners, but he did cross that finish line, and no one even worried about his time as long as he just finished. It was a few fun days, and Karen is so glad that she could watch on the internet. She even saw Cody, Kylie, and Carson in the stands.

Why is it that all disgraced politicians write a book?

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES

"Wheels, Keys and Freedom"



by DeAnn (Wolkow) Krumpel

"Don't lose the key!" Mom admonished in a way that made

me wonder if that metal key with the butterfly handle came with stories about my siblings. The key was attached to a string of red yarn and hung from a nail in what we called the porch, which was basically the entry.

The key was the secret to a whole new set of experiences on wheels—the steel wheels of roller skates. Ours, which were handed down through my siblings, clamped onto shoes and could be adjusted in length. The key was made to adjust the metal clasps that curved up on each side of the front and held the toe in place, and to tighten the nut underneath that locked the two metal foot plates together. The back of our shoes butted against a "heel" which had slots for leather straps that buckled in front of the ankles.

I sat outside on the wooden stoop. Stepping each shoe onto its metal platform, I pressed the ends together, then used the key to tighten the hexagonal nut that held the two plates in place. Satisfied that the skates were firmly attached to my shoes, I buckled the straps and stood up. In spite of much arm flapping and breath holding, I still had to pick myself up and dust myself off a few times. Eventually I caught on and learned to keep the wheels under my feet. The three yards of cement sidewalk provided barely enough runway to get started before having to turn around. The wooden surface of the stoop provided a whole new experience; the wheels turned faster and the "clunks" thumped louder with each skating step. Deciding I needed more space, I clunked up to the front door and did a roll/walk/teeter step into the house.

"Mom, is it ok if I go down to the basement

and skate?" Mom was likely envisioning me crashing into her jars of garden produce that lined the basement walls. She told me to be careful. Never did it occur to me to remove those skates going down the wooden steps or even to tighten them with the key. I simply butt-scotched down.

As often happens in life, great expectations turn to disappointment. The cement was rough down there. And the steps divided the room,

so I had to slow down and totter around them. Already-scraped knees got me back up the steps, though one skate flopped off its shoe and crashed along behind me.

Back outside, I removed the skates and sat on the stoop, chin in hands feeling sorry for myself. After what seemed like forever, Dad came through the yard gate. He took in his little girl's skinned knees and roller skates lying on the ground, one played to Big Foot size.

"If you sweep out the corn crib you can skate in there."

Suddenly, a whole new world opened. I spent many

afternoons that summer gliding (Ok, maybe lurching) back and forth in the corn crib, skate key swaying back and forth around my neck. I still crashed a few times. I still neglected to adjust the key-tightening places and ended up dragging one skate behind me when it fell off. The side door closed down behind me, giving me my own private space. The open-spaced red boards allowed the South Dakota breeze inside. I felt free and independent. I had wheels. What more could a kid ask for? And I didn't even lose the key!

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Roots #61 "Our South Dakota"

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I'm a bit chuffed. One of my poems has been selected to appear in a recently released

poetry anthology, Our South Dakota published by Scurfpea Publishing in Sioux Falls. It's available on Amazon and affordably priced at \$15. Scurfpea Publishing founded by poet Steve Boint. Since its founding in 2010, Scurfpea Publishing has supported regional poets through the publication of an annual volume of poetry. They publish other works as well.

Although I'm very proud to be among a cadre of accomplished poets statewide whose work has been chosen for inclusion in Our South Dakota, I'm especially proud that seven of these poets are active members of the Belle Fourche Writers Congratulations (in alphabetical

order) Margaret Bolte, Lynda Edwards, Meg English (ME, myself), Jean Helmer, Angela Hastings, Holly Mosely and Bruce Roseland.

The Our South Dakota project was initiated by Bruce Roseland, who is also the current Poet Laureate of our state

Our South Dakota is a collection of poetic impressions inspired by poets with South Dakota connection. Editors were Steve Boint, Bruce Roseland, and Geri Gutwein.

In this collection, memories, paradoxically mundane and sublime, are presented before a backdrop of timeless South Dakota weather and landscapes.

Belle Fourche is well represented by poets in the Our South Dakota collection and to some extent subject matter. My contribution to Our South Dakota is a poem titled 'Stalking Wild Asparagus'.

The poem is very specifically a Belle Fourche story about a friendship, culinary appreciation, foraging for wild foods, and horticulture prowess, all along the Belle Fourche

River.

The poem is about how my friend Nancy Wesseling and I shared our interest in foraging for wild edibles by stalking the banks of the Belle Fourche River for wild asparagus in May and June every spring over a period of several seasons. We had many favorite hunting grounds.

Forging for wild food is a favorite pastime for me inspired by my grandmother Nellie when I was small enough to have be at eye level with tall prairie grass. Walking through the grass in spring with my grandmother I was amazed to discover the coveted and camouflaged thin green asparagus tips. It was easier to find them then when I was closer to the ground and did not rely on bifocals. Searching for wild asparagus with my grandmother was an experience that inspired a lifelong appreciation of cuisine and nature. As it is, my dedication to the discovery of wild edibles has only become more pronounced.

Hunting for wild asparagus is a celebration of spring, and I want to remind my friend Nancy that the season of stalking wild asparagus time in Belle Fourche is upon us. The season begins sometime in May, possibly April, given global warming and extends through June.

Wild asparagus season is upon on in South Dakota. Little shoots are springing up along fence lines, roadside ditches under cottonwoods and along the banks of the Belle Fourche River.

Asparagus is common in western South Dakota. The tender stalks are nutritious and often considered a delicacy.

Wild asparagus can be found by searching for dried stalk remnants of last year's stalks. New stalks are likely to be sprouting from the base of the old stalks. There is some varying advice on how to cut the stalks. The stalks are said to grow back throughout the season if harvested with a knife cutting close to the base rather than snapping them off. Nancy tried hard to teach me this technique.

There is, of course some competition among stalkers of asparagus and it's advisable to go early, and to follow the protocol for harvesting. Be kind, thoughtful, and respectful of fellow stalkers. The walking path along the Belle Fourche riverfront at the Beautiful Fork is especially timely for connoisseurs of wild asparagus. I miss my friend, Nancy Wesseling and our annual asparagus hunting ritual. Sometimes a poem says it all.

Stalking Wild Asparagus

At the very center of the nation. in early summer Nancy and I graze the river path Beside the Beautiful Fork seeking sweet shoots of wild asparagus. Asparagus is elusive, We search carefully Watch closely part the brom grass, the thistle A serious occupation. Stalkers Stalking stalks With a plastic knife I snap the stalk, make a jagged break Nancy is more methodical. the plastic knife must slice the stalk cleanly level with the earth. Nancy's way is better, I agree, shrug but go back to my old ways. Larry will have fresh asparagus for supper either way Treasured stalks and stalkers We carry a bundle home Stalkers of stalks With a plastic knife Richer and nourished too.



WHAT IS ASPARAGUS? Asparagus is a long, green vegetable with pointy tips. It's the first vegetable to grow in the spring, often called a spring vegetable. Asparagus can be green, purple, or white! HOW DOES ASPARAGUS GROW? Asparagus grows from the ground in long, thin stalks. It starts out as a tiny shoot called a spear that grows taller each day. It can grow super fast—up to 10 inches in one day in the right conditions! HEALTH BENEFITS OF ASPARAGUS Asparagus is full of vitamins A, C, and K. It contains Fiber and Potassium. Nutrition Facts: Portion Size 134g, Amount Per Portion, Calories 27, Total Fat 0.2g, Saturated Fat 0.1g, Sodium 2.7mg, Total Carbohydrate 5.2g, Dietary Fiber 2.8g, Sugar 2.5g, Protein 3g, Vitamin D 0mcg, Calcium 30mg, Iron 2.9mg, Potassium 277mg. HOW DO YOU KNOW IF ASPARAGUS IS HAVING A GOOD TIME? Tasty

Belle Fourche Beacon 'Happenings' and News Bytes Calendar. The Beacon Happenings Calendar is public service listing of meetings, events, and things to do in and around Belle Fourche. Happenings announcements may be sent to:

Belle Fourche Writers Belle Fourche Writers May meeting schedule: The Monday editing meeting is Monday, May 4, from 2-4 PM. The regular May meeting is Saturday, May 23 from 10 AM to Noon. All writers are invited to attend! Meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

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

Classes Water-walking - This class is held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 - 8:15 am. This class involves walking in waist-deep to chest-deep water. Water resistance provides a low-impact, full-body workout that strengthens the core while also improving cardiovascular health. Silver Splash - This class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 - 12:15 pm. Silver Splash is part of our Silver Sneakers program. It involves a series of low-impact workouts with specially designed Boogie Boards. This class is great for core strengthening and for cardiovascular health.

Aquafit - We will hold Aquafit every Monday and Wednesday night from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. This class is higher intensity than what we currently offer. The workouts all involve using either dumbbells or foam weights. The class is designed to target multiple different muscle groups while also strengthening your core. 605-892-2467 bellefourcherec.com

Tri-State Museum Tri-State Museum opens Rocks and Minerals mini exhibit The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center mini exhibit entitled, "Rocks and Minerals," is now open. The exhibit will be in the Visitor Center and include rocks and minerals to examine, storyboards, photos, geologic equipment, a microscope, books and guides, a touchscreen quiz and a take-home workbook on the subject for young people.

There is no charge to enter the museum or see this mini exhibit which is up until June 12. The Tri-State is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche. It can be reached by calling 605-723-1200.

The Tri-State Museum created some new exhibits and refreshed some older ones. The changes occur in the mercantile and a new "transportation" exhibit in the center of the museum.

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

You are invited to join us for a meaningful and inspiring event in honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month. IN YOUR CORNER. "Every mind matters. Every life counts."

We are honored to welcome Nick Draine, a boxing coach, youth mentor, and community advocate, who will share his personal journey through mental health struggles and how he found purpose in mentoring youth and supporting others in the Sturgis community. His story is one of resilience, hope, and the power of having someone in your corner.

Event Details: Wednesday, May 6; 12:00 PM (Noon); 1428 Short Track Rd, Sturgis, SD; Lunch will be provided This event is an opportunity to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and remind our community that support and connection can make all the difference. We encourage community members, youth, families, educators, and professionals to attend and be part of this important conversation.

Please feel free to share this invitation with others who may benefit from attending. We hope you can join us for this impactful event as we come together to support mental health awareness.

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THE HOLDING OF HANDS edited by Steve Boint Scurfpea Publishing's 2022 poetry anthology

Our South Dakota an anthology of verse edited by Bruce Roseland Geri Mendoza Gutwein Steve Boint

THE DAKOTA SCOUT The Dakota Scout is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Together, they have more than 30 years of combined experience in South Dakota journalism that have earned them reputations as dogged reporters who've not lost touch with their neighbors' sensibilities. Be in the Know! Stay on top of what's happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you. www.thedakotascout.com • www.facebook.com/TheDakotaScout Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve





Rhoden, Hansen, Johnson, Doeden dig in as runoff chances grow for South Dakota GOP

An escalating barrage of campaign ads signals a volatile finish in South Dakota's Republican primary for governor – and the prospects of a potentially historic outcome.

While Congressman Dusty Johnson continues to hold the front-runner title in the race, the candidacies of Gov. Larry Rhoden, House Speaker Jon Hansen and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden in the June 2 primary remain viable. Uncertain and conflicting polling has odds of a runoff election as a real possibility.

Campaign spending and the political blitz flooding South Dakota's airways will intensify too.

"One might also expect endorsements from people the candidate trusts and for whom the voters will attribute a credible endorsement," said Michael Card, a retired political science professor who spent more than three decades teaching at the University of South Dakota.

Though crowded fields are not uncommon, no victorious gubernatorial candidate in modern South Dakota politics ever failed to earn the 35 percent of party voters' support necessary to advance to the November ballot.

Even a five-candidate GOP primary contest in 2010 avoided a runoff. That's when then-Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard easily won with 50 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff election with the second-place finisher – Brookings lawmaker Scott Munsterman.

Polling of likely Republican voters in this year's race shows a much more fractured electorate, and they signal the potential for a historic outcome.

Card, now a professor emeritus, says he expects the final weeks to feature more negative campaigning from the three candidates who have trailed Johnson in publicly released polls.

Card said the governor's race will drive Republican turnout, as well as municipal and school board races now being paired with the statewide primary.

But he doesn't anticipate the legislative change in election scheduling for city and school districts will affect partisan contests like the governor's race. The professor predicts a "roll off" for voters uninterested in local government, and contests for city and school board seats will continue to see lower turnout than statewide races.

"This will be an imperfect test of the hypothesis that lumping elections together will increase turnout," he said, saying Democrats and unaffiliated voters are still likely to stay home on Election Day because they do not have partisan primary contests to cast votes in.

The Sprint For the four men battling in the GOP primary for the party nomination to be governor, it's only Republican voters they need to court leading up to June 2.

And during their third and final debate Monday, April 27 – hosted by The Dakota Scout and broadcast by Sioux Falls Live from the Washington Pavilion in downtown Sioux Falls – the candidates sold themselves as the best vessel to ensure a conservative runs the state for the next four years.

Hansen, an attorney and veteran lawmaker from Dell Rapids, warned the

wrong choice would have consequences.

"You remember when Colorado was a red state? Then it slipped to purple. And now it's just as blue as any other blue state in the Union," he said. "I don't want that for South Dakota. But if we choose the wrong candidate in this election, that's exactly the path we're going down."

The abortion opponent also highlighted his street cred with social conservatives, telling voters that if they send him to the governor's mansion, they would be electing a governor "rooted in Biblical truth and conservative Republican principles."

Rhoden, who took over as governor when Kristi Noem was nominated to be secretary of Homeland Security, reminded voters that he was the only one on the stage who had served in the office. The Union Center rancher and longtime legislator pointed to his successes at shepherding property tax relief and a new men's prison through the Legislature.

Rhoden also contrasted his background with those of his opponents. He was the only one on stage who had made a living in agriculture. And he was the only one who had served his country in the military.

"And that's important to me — and it's significant in my heart — because one of the most distinct honors of being governor is being the commander in chief of the South Dakota National Guard," he said, noting that he was the first governor to have served in the South Dakota National Guard since World War II hero Joe Foss.



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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



Page 54
April 28, 2026 @ 4:30 P.M.
City of Belle Fourche
City Hall - 511 6th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Minutes for the City of Belle Fourche
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
511 6th Ave Belle Fourche, SD 57717

The Common Council of the City of Belle Fourche met in Special Session for orientation with Mayor Randy D. Schmidt presiding.

Members present were:
First Ward Council Members: John Fyffe and Kristal Steeves
Second Ward Council Members: Geno Pesicka
Third Ward Council Members: Dean Brunner and Vern Hintz
Fourth Ward Council Members: Tricia Fowler and Bob Somervold
Absent: Clark Sowers

Also present: City Attorney Kellen Willert, City Administrator Jason LaFayette, Police Chief Ryan Cherveney, City Engineer Brent Hardy, Public Works Director Ryan Stedille, Finance Officer Wayne Tonsager, Rec Center Director Jody Westberg, Museum & Visitor Center Director Kristi Thielen, Library Director Wanda Nelson, Library Director Josh Abraham, Code Enforcement Clint Haffner, Resource Manager Gina Carpenter, Operations Manager Patty Penrose

AGENDA

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. A quorum of Council Members may be present for this training. This is an informational meeting with no City Council action to be taken.
3. Motion Brunner, second Fyffe to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
4. Community Input - This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business. Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes.
5. Department Head introductions.
Each department head provided a brief introduction and outlined the responsibilities of their respective department.
6. Presentation by City Attorney Kellen Willert.
 - Discussed Conducting the Public's Business in Public pamphlet.
 - Laws Pertaining to Municipalities and Elected Officials.
7. Motion Hintz, second Fowler to adjourn at 6:33 P.M. Motion carried.

Approved: _____
Randy D. Schmidt, Mayor

Attest: _____
Wayne Tonsager, Finance Officer

Published once at the approx. cost of _____



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It is essential to be able to pass a background check and pre-employment drug test prior to employment.

Application may be acquired between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the Butte County Highway Administration office located at 117 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD. An application can be requested by calling 605-892-4414.

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% Dwayne Heidrich
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NVN Center Holds Successful May Day Tea Fundraiser

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—A May Day Tea party reminiscent of a high society afternoon tea was held May 1 at the Newell Vale Nisland Senior Center, where spring colors and a fancy tea service set the scene.

A modest fundraising idea turned into a fabulous party. Ladies were dressed in spring outfits, and some wore fancy hats. “My big thank you goes to Patty (Karas) and Wendy (Stone), they took a simple little idea of how can we raise money for the senior center, and they came up with this ravishing May Day Tea,” said Marg Adams, president. She went on to give a history of May Day and the importance of celebrating it. “So we encourage you to just sit back, relax, enjoy and be yourself at our May Day Celebration,” she said.

The exclusive event was by invitation only and was not advertised. Tickets to the event were \$20. “By word of mouth—we didn’t advertise, a lot of the ladies from the center invited friends, and then just word of mouth,” explained Patty Karas, NVN member. “It was our first try, so we didn’t want it to be so overwhelming. We didn’t know really how to plan it so we wanted to keep it to a minimum, and we figured if we made it invitation only, that we be able to plan it a little easier.”

The invitations were a hit, and all available tickets sold out, bringing a total of 34 ladies together for the tea party.

The NVN Senior Center was decorated with bright spring colors and transformed into a spring garden. “I think they were tickled with the way the hall looked—we didn’t want it to look like a senior center, we wanted it to look different,” shared Karas.

White table linens covered round tables, and each table was decorated with china tea cups and saucers. There was a host in charge of each table. “We had seven hosts that were going around and serving tea, making



Tina Bertolotto serves tea to her table. Longbrake photo

sure the plates were filled, and instructing them as to what we had for raffles,” said Karas.

Each table had beautiful centerpieces of real flowers donated by Joyful Blooms Flower Farm. At the end of the event, a lucky winner sitting at each table got to take home the fresh flowers. “One person at each table had a sticker underneath her saucer, and that person won the centerpiece, so they got to take that home,” said Karas. “And we also had antique hankies on the table that were folded together with a little band, and they got to take those home too.”

Pandy Pittman with the Quilt Bank donated fabric bundles to each attendee. All of the tea

cups and saucers were available to purchase for \$5. And it wouldn’t be a May Day event if the NVN Senior Center didn’t provide everyone with a May Day basket to take home.

A spring photo backdrop was created for each lady to have her picture taken to memorialize the event. “They all got to try on a different Kentucky Derby hat and take their picture there—everyone seemed to be having fun,” shared Karas.

There were several raffles, including one by Connie Snow, who donated a \$60 portrait sitting fee.

There were two vendors on site that sent everyone home with samples. “So with our vendors, we had Mia with

Ozell Herbs, from Rapid City—she brought her loose leaf tea, and each one of our guests were given a tea bag of their choice, explained Karas. “And then we had Tammy from DesJarlais Farms of Sturgis, and they got to have a honey straw from her. So that was kind of fun!”

The May Day Tea was a fundraiser to help fund projects at the NVN Senior Center. They came close to reaching their goal of raising \$1,000. Karas said, “we’ve done quite a bit of work so far, but there’s always something else to do.”

They are now working on replacing gutters, installing clips on the roof for the snow, and building a seating area

outside. “A lot of people walk in this town... and it’s nice to have a little bench for them to sit on and just visit and enjoy their day. So we are going to be putting that alongside of the hall, along with a little free library,” shared Karas.

Make sure to stop by the NVN Center on May 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a Mother’s Day Open House and see all of the renovations and changes to the building. “Anyone and everyone is welcome to come. We’ll be setting up similar to what we had for the May Day Tea party, but it’s going to be open to the public so they can come in and just see what we’ve accomplished,” explained Karas.

Photos Contd. D4

She Can Do It

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—A Junior at NHS believes she can follow her dreams and has set her goal on attending the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in Washington, DC this summer. The forum is set for July 5-12 at Georgetown University. Bailey Takes The Gun was nominated by a teacher, counselor, or through academic talent surveys. Bailey doesn’t know who nominated her, but is ready to attend the forum.

She received the invitation to the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) the last week of April and needs to raise over \$4,000 by May 20 to attend. NYLF is a tuition-based summer enrichment program open to many students.

Bailey has high goals including learning sign language, Korean, and maybe becoming a traveling culinary chef. She loves electronics, science, and computers. Already with a long list of places she has traveled to, Bailey is looking forward to seeing more of the world.

Haley Garner, Bailey’s mom, knows she can go places and she’ll do whatever she sets her mind to do.

Haley and Roxie Castillo will be accompanying Bailey on the trip to Washington. The threesome will be staying with a

host family.

The \$4,000 may seem like an insurmountable amount, but Bailey is sure “I can do it!” and is asking community members to join in her dream. There will be donation containers on display around the NVN area—BJ’s Conoco, First National Bank, and other areas. Haley said that there will be some Tribal assistance, also.

Here is an opportunity to encourage a young student to reach higher and bring back lasting memories to share.

The sample schedule includes a myriad of learning forums and adventures. On the second day the keynote speaker is Jonna Mendez, a former Chief of Disguise for the CIA. There will also be a focus on launching a professional network and hearing from a representative from the US Department of State.

Day Three is a day of exploration hearing from the Department of State, US Naval Academy, Department of Homeland Security, and the Korean Center.

Day Four is the Day of Defense, Day Five a Day of Intelligence, Day Six National Security in Action and Day Seven a Day of Reflection and Remembrance.

Bailey will be going to the National Cemetery, National Mall, and hearing keynote speakers from several areas of

national security.

Since 1992, the National Youth Leadership Forum: National Security has been hosted by Envision by WorldStrides, a nonpartisan educational organization.

During the eight days in Washington, DC, students test their judgment in the face of crisis and opposing views; hear from Internationally respected civilian policy-makers, military officers, members of the intelligence community, National Cemetery, the US State Department, a foreign embassy, or the US Department of Homeland Security.

The program is a college-level experiences and students may earn college credit.

Look for donation containers throughout the NVN area and help a student “Follow Her Dreams!”



Bailey Takes The Gun is dreaming to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security. Bruner photo

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Amanda and Taz had several of us down for supper at their house last Sunday evening to celebrate the twin's 3rd birthday. Julie Ulberg, Great Grandma Louise Jensen, Ron and Starla Jesnon, Reub and me, and Jace, Kami Jensen and their little boys Keen and Kage all came to help Scout and Shylo celebrate their birthday that was on the next day.

It was cold and windy when we got up Monday morning with a lot of snow on the ground with even some rain. Our great grandson Trace Klug and the twin's birthday was that day and Trace turned 10 years old. The snow had melted by that afternoon and it had left enough mud on the road to the highway that I put the pickup in 4-wheel drive to get to the highway when we went to Buffalo that evening for the grade school concert and kindergarten graduation at the school house. Little River Lu graduated from

kindergarten with her class of 19 cute kids. Kelcee Vroman did a great job of having the grade school kids entertain us with their concert.

There was another ZOOM call Tuesday evening with the SDPRLCA property rights scorecard.

Reub and I went to Hettinger Wednesday morning for my physical therapy with Cole Miller. We ate lunch at the American Legion and had coffee in Reeder on the way home with the Prairie Pioneers. My sciatic nerve was making my right leg so painful that night that I had to sleep in my recliner with my feet up.

Missy invited me to go up to South Heart with her Thursday afternoon so we could attend her grandson Trace Klug's concert that evening. Missy stopped at a Dollar store in New England to pick up some pizzas to take up there for supper before the concert and we all ate at Matt and Lanie's house before we went to that very entertaining concert. We also celebrated

Trace's 10th birthday that was on Monday, the same day as the Scout and Shylo's birthday.

There is another death to report: Paul Merlyn Bishop, 91, of Cleveland, TN, and formerly from Bison, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, April 26, at his home, surrounded by his children. A Remembrance of Life service was held Friday, May 1, at the Jim Rush Funeral Home in Cleveland, Tennessee.

These guys branded another big bunch of calves Friday morning with Missy and Amanda and the kids helping. With my right leg hurting so bad, I stayed at the house and just took care of my chickens because that was as far as I could travel.

I went to Bison to the Community & Family Extension Leaders (CFEL) meeting at the American Legion on Saturday after I was invited to speak about the history of this area. John Lopez spoke before lunch about his metal sculptures that he has built at the old Kokomo building in Lemmon and has taken them all over the world. That was really interesting and he showed pictures of some of the beautiful sculptures that he makes out of pieces of metal junk. He also brought some of the books he had written with pictures of some of his metal sculptures.

I spoke Saturday afternoon about how South Dakota be-

came a state after becoming part of the Louisiana Purchase that President Thomas Jefferson bought from France for 15 million dollars in 1803. Dakota Territory was divided up into states in 1889 and that's when South Dakota and North Dakota became states. Everyone in this area lived in Butte County until it was divided into Butte County, Perkins County and Harding County in 1908. I also talked about all the vacant towns around this area after the homesteaders left during the "dirty thirties". The vacant towns that were in Perkins County and Harding County that I could think of were Maltby, Vernal, Zeona, Cash, Govert, Glendo, Gill, Date, Chance, Bixby, Ashcroft, Usta, Watson, Sorum, Glenlevit, Penville, Redig, Bullock, Ashcroft, Seim, Ada, Evarts, Thunder Butte, Daviston, Strool, and Nashville and I've probably missed some. Before the CFEL meeting was over, Bridget Vanderpool played her guitar and sang some beautiful songs for us, including some songs she had written, one of which she wrote for her grandfather Wayne Besler before he passed away.

This Sunday was the last day of Sunday School at Slim Buttes Lutheran Church and Linda Mohagen had the Sunday School kids entertain us with a song during the church service. After the kids sang, Linda gave credit to all the

Sunday School teachers and gave each of them a coupon for a soft ice cream cone from the Reva Store. Next Sunday, May 10, is Mother's Day and then the worship service will start at 9:00 in the morning for the summer.

Reub and I went to the Gideon meeting at the Coal Springs Church Sunday afternoon. The Gideon meeting is usually on the second Sunday of the month, but since that Sunday is Mother's Day they decided to have the meeting a week early. This meeting was also election day for the offices in both the Gideons and the Auxiliary where everyone who had been in their office for three years was termed out and replaced by other elected members that we voted for that agreed to serve.

Pastor Henry Mohagen put this in the church bulletin on Sunday: "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

April 27, 1916

The new fire bell purchased by the Fire Company arrived last week but has not been placed on the tower for the reason that the structure was thought not strong enough to hold it, the bell weighing close to half a ton. The matter was taken up at the meeting of the Company, and the erection of the bell will be deferred until the town board has looked up the proposition of strengthening the tower. At any rate we have a fine fire alarm that can be heard more than a block away with the doors shut.

The Fruitdale Pioneer newspaper is again under the guidance of T. J. Melvin, A. C. Sheppard having up and left without notice. The Pioneer was established a little over 2 years ago by Mr. Melvin and has had a very successful run.

If you are troubled with onion flavor in your cream, stop at the LaBelle Cream Station and they will give you instructions on how to rid yourself of this trouble. Remember onion flavored cream brings less than first class cream. Drop in the next time you are in town.

April 29, 1926

When Peter Mintener Lumber Company finishes screening your home or place of business, no flies need to apply for admittance. Your choice of several different screen finishes is available.

High School Superintendent and Mrs. P. O. Hanson of Newell took a pleasure trip on Sunday to the Slim Buttes Battlefield in Harding County. They report a very pleasant journey going up by way of Hoover and returning through Buffalo, Redig and Castle Rock.

Mrs. Magdalena Schoepp, former Newell farmer, now of Hot

Springs, has offered for sale at \$5 per acre, 960 acres, 11 miles northeast of Newell, half cash, and balance in 5 years' time at 6%. Contact Mrs. Schoepp at 810 B. Street, Hot Springs, So Dak.

There have been quite a few grass fires around the neighborhood, due to dry weather and some necessary bonfires. Some of them have done no damage while others had to be watched and kept within bounds by plowing around them.

April 30, 1936

Einar Moutka, local agent for the Swedish American Steam Ship Lines, reports the sale of tickets to 2 families for passage to Sweden. Mr. & Mrs. Albin Anderson will sail from New York on May 16th and Mr. & Mrs. O. A. Peterson and son will leave New York on June 4th.

Don't fail to see "Fang & Claw", another of the famous Frank Buck animal pictures at the Arcade Theater on Friday, May 1st. Frank Buck is the world-famous explorer, and his animal pictures are actually taken in the jungles where these wild animals roam. Authentic and thrilling, every inch of the picture.

Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Holtry and daughter Patricia Ann made a business trip Saturday to Nisland, Belle Fourche and Spearfish. Nina Holtry, a student at Spearfish Normal returned to Vale with them to visit over the weekend. The Hamburger Inn, formerly owned by L. E. Burger has been purchased by the Holtry family. The Inn is closed this week for redecoration and repairs.

April 25, 1946

Mrs. Ernest Kent and Mrs. Jess Geers, Vale, presented a comedy pantomime "Song of the Plow" at the District meet-

ing of area Extension Clubs last Thursday at Belle Fourche.

South Dakota's Veterans will be able to take flying lessons under the Educational Provisions of the G. E. Bill of Rights, according to L. V. Hanson, Secretary of the State Aeronautics Commission, who said this week that as soon as plans for standardizing curriculum, flight schools and prices for instructions have been completed, the program will go into effect. At a meeting in Pierre last week approximately 50 airport operators formed an organization to assist State and Federal Departments in planning the program, of which Newell Municipal is qualified.

Henry Ypparila was a visitor in Lead Thursday. He and Mrs. Ypparila returned Wednesday from a West Coast tour, including the Bay Cities of Oakland, San Francisco and Berkeley. Where they visited several former Newell and Lead friends.

May 3, 1956

A second work session by City Foreman Lyman Bruce's Rake Brigade of young Newell softball players, postponed because of the weather from last Saturday, has been rescheduled for this Saturday, May 5th. Bruce requests that the boys who are receiving shirts and caps for their efforts report with necessary implements at the baseball park in the east part of town at 8:00 AM.

Newell will be represented by the Newell High School Marching Band, of approximately 48 pieces in the Annual West River Music Festival at Rapid City this Saturday. The band will be decked out in the bright new uniforms which arrived at Bunney's Cleaners this week. The band is under capable

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direction of Wm Glendenning. The parade of bands starts at 12:30 PM, downtown Rapid City, concert of individual bands beginning at 2:30 and massed band concert a 7:30 in the High School theater.

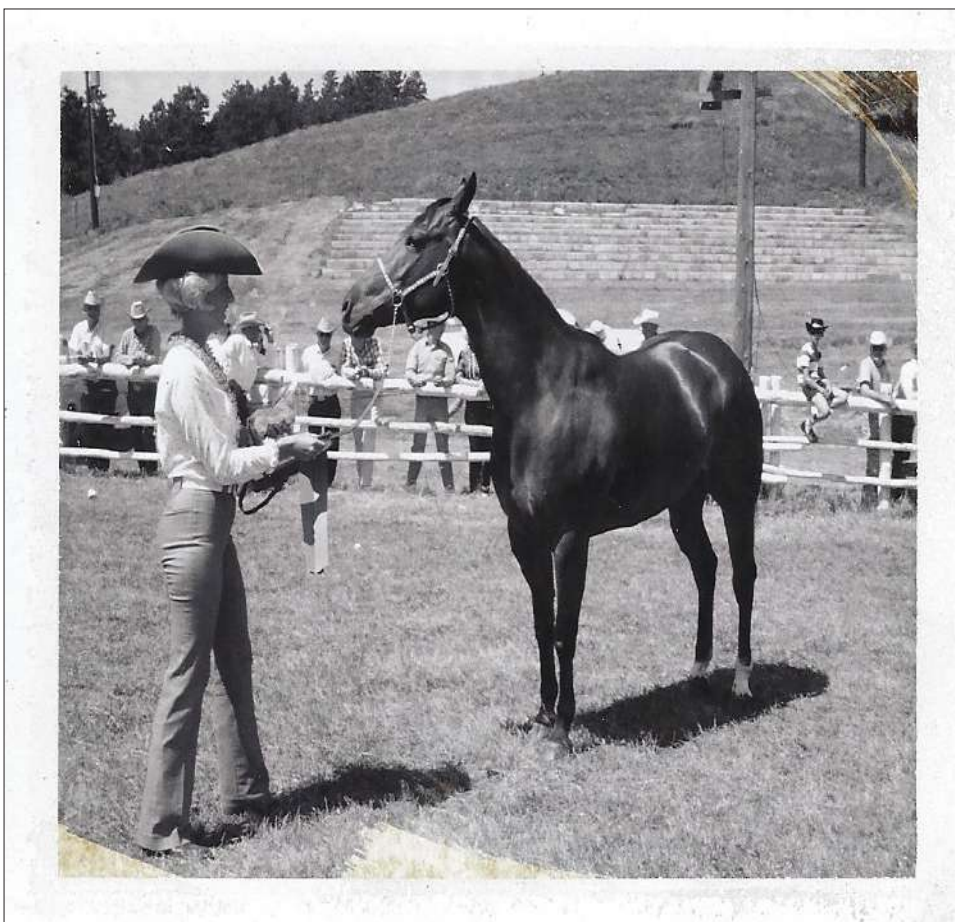
Mrs. Francis Jacobsen and Harlan and Mrs. Henry Jacobsen and Jerry attended the music recital at the Jerry Kuchera home Friday evening where the boys were guests, and each boy took part in the program. The fathers were guests and each boy played a selection from memory and one with music. Taking part were Harlan Jacobsen, Johnny Cram, John Paul Wilson, Bernard Barber, Sumner Price, Jerry Jacobsen, Andrew Pokorny. Larry Johnson and Lynn Kuchera. Lynn also played a trumpet solo, accompanied at the piano by Larry Johnson. Lunch was served by Mrs. Kuchera and the Jacobsen mothers.

May 12, 1966

An election to determine whether the proposed Vale Water Sanitary System will be incorporated as a water district will be held on Tuesday May 24, according to action taken by the Butte County Commission this week. The vote, which will be from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Vale Fire Hall, was scheduled after the County Board was presented a petition from the necessary percent of freeholders in the effected area of the issue. If passed, electors of the affected area will then elect a Board of Trustees.

Sale of Evert's Place, local recreation and pool hall, to Bob Koskela, effective Monday, has been announced by Evert Munroe, who has operated the establishment here for the past 10 years. The new owner is a native of the Newell area and engaged in farming and ranching all his life. Koskela will continue the operation under the name of "Bob's Place". Munroe, former Stoneville area rancher, is a Brand Inspector and Deputy Sheriff, announced he plans to make his home in Newell.

Ruth Ann Marty, Newell High School Grad and Freshman at Black Hills State College won all-around cowgirl honors at the Second Annual Lobo Days Collegiate Rodeo at Northern State College, Aberdeen, Saturday and Sunday. Jerry Golliher, also a Newell graduate and Black Hills State College student, won second place in the ribbon roping and also helped the boys win third place trophy in the meet. Other trophy winners were SDSU, Kansas State University, Black Hills State, North Dakota State and Northern State College.



(L) Ruth Ann Marty. (R) Mintener Building.

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

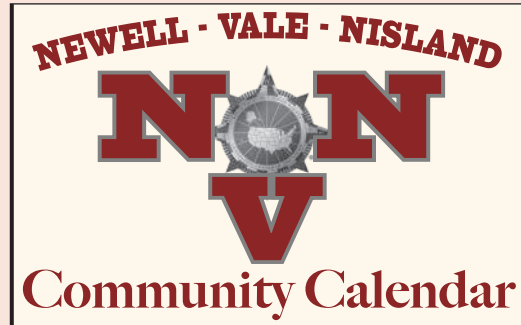
Newell Clinic now open at the Newell Evangelical Church
Call 605-204-9497

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

Newell Service Center

101 4th Street- Phone 605-456-3455



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



Meal Sponsored by:

Newell Hardware & Supply
320 Girard - Newell SD
605-456-2312
Open Mon-Sat 7:30 AM-5:30 PM/Sundays 11 AM-3 PM

212/79 Service Center

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

121 South Dartmouth Newell, SD
605-456-0133

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

VIP Agency

Auto, Home, Farm, Commercial

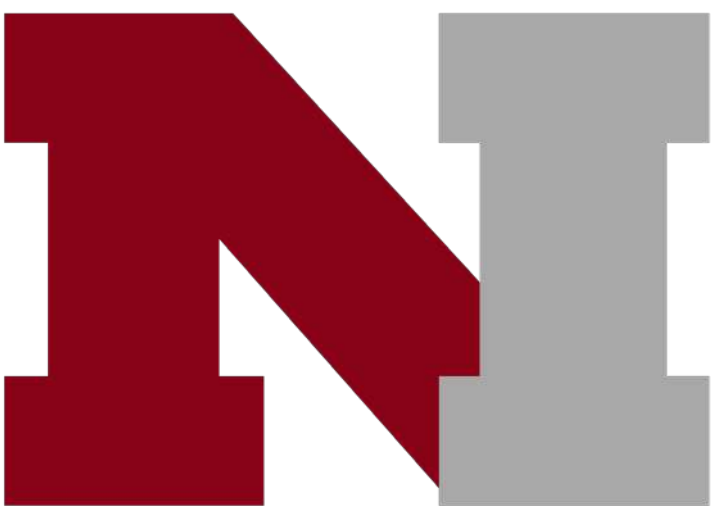
PO Box 426
Newell, SD 57760

VIPAgency@sdplains..com

Food Service End-of-Year Plan

NEWELL-As the 2025-2026 school year comes to an end, kitchen staff at Newell School will be using supplies in the coolers and freezers. Every day will be an adventure as food stores become more narrowed and the cooks begin to use more ingenuity to cover meals for the hungry students. Monday, May 4's meal will be pork patties and Tuesday, May 5's meal will be ham and pineapple pizza. The following days will include nutritious

meals but will have more than one entrée. As always, there will be fresh vegetables and fruit, along with milk and juice. The freezer still has entrees that fulfill the requirements needed to serve the students and the cooler has a variety of veggies and fruit to enjoy. Get ready for summer!



Newell Health Clinic



is accepting new patients!

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

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

(605) 204-9497

Wellness exams, chronic care management, DOT physicals.

Call today to book your appointment!

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

PatNP.com



MyCatholicDoctor



Tea Party Photos



Clockwise from Above: The NVN Center was transformed into an elegant tea party; Everyone was invited to purchase a special tea set to commemorate the special day. Each set was available for \$5; NVN Senior Center President Marge Adams welcomes everyone to the May Day Tea; Delicious desserts, finger sandwiches, and hors d'oeuvres were available for all to enjoy. Longbrake photos



(L) The Newell Community Club placed a bench in front of the newly opened Hitch'n Post Market on 219 Girard Avenue, Newell. Sit and relax, visit with friends and neighbors, or just sit and enjoy the sight of the new store! (R) The plaque on the new bench placed in front of the Hitch'n Post Market. Longbrake photos

CANDIDATE FORUM

will be held on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**
 in the **Newell City Hall** - 108 3rd Street, Newell, SD
Social time 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm MDT
(refreshments provided)
Forum will start at 6:00 pm MDT
The Primary Election is on June 2, 2026.
We want you to be an informed voter.

United States Senator
Justin McNeal * Mike Rounds

United States Representative
Marty Jackley * James Bialota

SD Governor
Larry Rhoden * Jon Hansen * Dusty Johnson * Toby Doeden

State Senator District 28
Sam Marty * Ryan M. Maher

State House of Representatives District 28B:
Lawrence (Larry) Schmaltz * Travis Ismay

Newell School Board
There are 2 candidates running with 1 positions open:
Todd Youngberg * Kurt Hocking

Other unopposed candidates and/or current representative for the School, County & State may be available to visit with also.

RESPECT & PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE

Butte County Auditor will be on hand with sample ballots and voter registration information, etc.

This is sponsored by the Whatever It Takes Coalition

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

80th Birthday Open House

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Darlene Stapp's 80th birthday at an open house on Saturday, May 9, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Newell Christian Fellowship, 308 4th St., Newell, SD. Please join us in honoring Darlene and helping celebrate this special milestone.