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107th Black Hills Roundup Celebrates Record-Breaking Year

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The anticipation leading up to the Black Hills Roundup Rodeo is exciting as the community waits for the PRCA rodeo, carnival, fireworks, parade and all of the other activities that go along with the Fourth of July celebration. But in the blink of an eye, it's all over, everyone packs up and heads out just as fast as they came. But in that very short time period, some of the most amazing things happen.

The 107th Black Hills Roundup marked the first time ever that the PRCA performances on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July were all sold out. All of the assigned seating was gone. This year, the committee tried something different: standing-room-only tickets.

"We tried something new—kind of like the NFR does—they sell tickets that are standing room only. We advertised that we were sold out, but then we sold a few tickets that were standing room only. If people made the attempt to walk all the way down here, we went ahead and sold them a ticket to come in and stand," explained Bill Eastman, Chairman Roundup Committee. "They were standing under the VIP area and we just told them if there's an empty seat up in the crowd, you can go fill in, unless somebody shows up with a ticket. So I think we did very well."



The crowd stands up to honor the giant American Flag as it makes a lap around the arena. Longbrake photo

There was a new setup behind the grandstands that housed a big screen that played the rodeo performances live. There were chairs and tables for people to get comfortable at and enjoy the event. "We had a big screen TV over by the stage, so attendees could watch it from over there too," said Brenda Whetham, Secretary Roundup Committee.

During the last performance on the afternoon of the Fourth of July, Jake Finlay set a new

arena record in the saddle bronc riding with a score of 90.5 points on a Championship Pro Rodeo horse, Rebel Yell. The arena record had been 90 points and was tied last year by Waitley Sharon, Ordway, CO, and in both 2023 and 2024 by Sage Newman, who scored a 90-point ride each year.

In the barrel racing, another arena record was set. After the ground had been run on all week, Kim Squires turned in a

record-breaking run of 17.03 on the last day. The ground held up. "The weather was unbelievably good. We got a little bit of rain during the week, but we didn't get some of the big storms that the Fourth of July brings us, so we were very fortunate there, but we know the ground was actually good," said Eastman. "We actually brought in Dave Brandt to work our ground, he's very well loved by the barrel racing world

because he's so good at what he does. We're very happy to have brought him, and we'd like to make sure that he knows he's welcome back every year!"

After four rodeos and slack, the ground was still good enough to set the arena record on the last run of the rodeo. "It was perfect. I just talked to the guy that did the ground work, and he said he couldn't ask for anything better than when the

107th Roundup Contd. A6

Fourth of July Celebration Continues With Raptor Roundup

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum celebrated the Fourth of July in style this year as they participated in a large variety of events during the Black Hills Roundup celebration.

The Museum had a booth in the vendor area at the Roundup Grounds during the PRCA rodeos, and on July Fourth, they had a giant mosasaurus float in the parade. But they weren't quite finished celebrating, so they invited kids to come out and participate in the second annual Raptor Roundup on July 5.

"This year we had a great Fourth of July. The billboard on I-90 is working—we're getting lots of traffic. We're doing good! The last few days were pretty busy, obviously. We were closed

on the Fourth of July—we were doing the parade and all that," explained Walter Stein, owner.

The Raptor Roundup was a day dedicated to the young dinosaur lovers who wanted to hang out at the Museum and participate in dinosaur-themed games. As an added bonus, those kids who arrived dressed in a dinosaur costume got free admission to the Museum for the day.

Stein, talking into his megaphone, gave the rules to each of the games, and the kids participated and had a good time. You could hear their laughter and see smiles on their faces.

One of the favorite games was Robot Raptor Races, where the kids got to maneuver a remote control dinosaur around a race track, and the fastest time won.

In another game, Dinosaur Hunt, the kids had to capture the

Triceratops. The kids, armed with hard hats or foam batons, hunted for the bright green Triceratops roaming around the area. After the kids captured it, high-fives were given all around.

Two races were held outside. The first was Dinosaur Stampede, and the kids lined up holding an inflatable dinosaur on their back and raced about 20 yards. The second was the Raptor Riden' Race, where the kids climbed aboard the inflatable dinosaur and rode it to the finish line. A few of the little ones got bucked off the dinos and ended up on the ground rather than at the finish line.

The weather outside was hot, so some of the games were played inside the air-conditioned building. Those were the Excavation Game, Name the Dino Game and Find the Fossil, which rounded out the

Raptor Roundup Contd. A8



Outdoor races were held, including one where they carried inflatable dinosaurs on their backs. Longbrake photo

Community Celebrates Independence Day With Black Hills Roundup Parade

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—The Black Hills Roundup Parade is a popular Fourth of July tradition in Belle Fourche. Beginning long before the morning of the parade, bleachers begin going up in random areas around town along the parade route. Areas are cordoned off to save space, and lawn chairs are dropped off to hold spots along the route and ensure locals get the space they want.

Once July Fourth finally arrives, spectators line up along the approximately two-mile parade route to watch the floats, listen to the music, catch candy and prizes and dodge the water spray.

There are often dignitaries riding in the parade along with class reunion floats, horses and royalty. Frequent participants in the parade, Governor Larry Rhoden and First Lady Sandy Rhoden, have attended the Belle Fourche Parade every year he has been in office. Sandy

shared that there are many other parades in South Dakota on Independence Day, but Belle Fourche has the best parade of them all!

The theme "Home of the Brave, Range of the Free" gave parade competitors plenty of inspiration to dress themselves or decorate their floats. With 155 floats, the 107th Annual Fourth of July Parade was a spectacular, colorful celebration of patriotism and western heritage.

The Center of the Nation VFW Post 3312 was this year's Parade Marshal, and the Color Guard was the 842nd Engineer Company of the South Dakota Army National Guard. Stationed along the route were announcers Curt Westland, Brynton Oedekoven, Jim Kallas and Jack Verry. They kept the parade moving along and the crowd informed and entertained.

New this year was a trial run to keep the wet floats and the dry floats separated from each other, so that anyone who didn't

want to get wet would have a chance to move or leave the area before the floats with water guns, hoses and/or balloons were released. A fire truck moved along the route with a big banner warning that the wet floats were behind it. "It seemed to have gone well. I've heard good feedback about it," said Tessa Eaton, Parade Chairman. "I'm assuming we will continue doing that going forward."

Parade judges Ashley Pearson and Emily Olson picked winners for each category.

Winners for the 2026 Black Hills Roundup Parade

- McClure Ranch Memorial Award (best depicts this year's parade theme)—Peterson 601 Homestead
- Faye Kennedy Memorial Award (most patriotic entry)—American Colloid Company, a Minerals Technologies Company
- Eva Hanify Rail Memorial Grand Marshal Award (entry best representing our western heritage—awarded by the Grand Marshal)—TC Outfit



Marine Corps League members proudly carry the American and MCL flags. Hunter Anderson photo

- Historic Horse Drawn Wagon/Buggy—Brian Kline Funeral Home
- Religious Organization—N/A
- Business Float—Carr Coatings
- Organization—Naja Clown Patrol
- Band—SuFuDu Drumline
- Youth Group—Kids & Cops
- Riding Club (horse)—VLW Ranch
- Reunion/Generation Float—The Haywire Logger
- Riding Group (motorized)—Black Hills Classic CarsPa
- Best Dressed Western Youth (12 and under)—Young Riders 4H Club
- Musical Float—Belle Fourche Cowboy Band

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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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Karen Joyce Pummel, 86

Karen Joyce Pummel, 86, of Spearfish, South Dakota, passed away on July 1, 2026. She was born on September 9, 1939, in Shattuck, Oklahoma, to Bill and Vernice White, joining siblings Bob and Wildene.

She started school in Fargo, Oklahoma, and in 1951 her family moved to Grindstone, South Dakota. She attended several country schools where she made lifelong friends.

She graduated from Spearfish High School after her parents moved when her mom finished her degree at Black Hills Teacher College.



the Spearfish library, where her curiosity and love of reading found a home.

She and Blayne delighted in opening their home to family and friends. Their incredible cooking was legendary, and many of their happiest evenings were spent on the patio sharing good food, great conversation and a cocktail.

Karen never met a stranger. She was a hugger by nature, genuinely curious about others, and had a remarkable gift for making people feel seen and welcome.

Karen married Blayne Pummel on June 24, 1957, and she started working at Lawrence County Extension Office and then moved on to the U.S. Forest Service. She quit when Kevin Blayne was born in 1962. Two years later, Curtis Dale joined the family.

Karen went to work at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and worked until the Bell break up in 1984 and that's when she and Blayne purchased the Spearfish Clothier.

Whether gathering with her wine group, enjoying Bunco nights, traveling to new places or simply spending time with friends, Karen built lifelong connections wherever she went. She leaves behind an enormous circle of friends who were enriched by her generosity, laughter, and unwavering friendship.

More than anything, Karen embraced life fully, and those who knew her will remember her for the fun, warmth and authenticity she brought to every room she entered.

At that time, they purchased their first cabin and continued to have cabins. In 1990, grandson Lucas was born and they built their final cabin, many family and friends' memories were centered around cabin life.

They loved living in Spearfish and giving back to the community. She served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Lawrence County Chairman for the American Cancer Society and the Matthews' Opera House Committee Chairperson, just to name a few. It was sometime in June of 2026 when she turned her key in at the Wild Rose downtown gift shop, where she had enjoyed working with Emily and Tiara for years.

In addition to her parents, Bill and Vernice, she was preceded in death by Blayne's parents George and Lucille, brothers Clayton (Darlene) Pummel, Willard (Marie) Pummel, Ruth (Merle) Herberg, her brother Bob White, sister Wildene Fortune and son Curtis.

After Blayne retired in 2003, they purchased a fifth wheel and spent winters in California, Arizona and Florida, but were always anxious to get home to their sons and families.

Karen is survived by her husband of 69 years, Blayne, son Kevin (Lisa), grandsons Blayne and Lucas, bonus grandchildren; Christie, Joe, Zack, and Ashley, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Karen lived with an undeniable and enviable zest for life. She was a straight shooter with a warm heart, a proud Spearfish historian, and the quintessential boy mom who later embraced her role as grandma with the same enthusiasm and love.

The Pummel family would like to thank the Hospice House in Rapid City for their incredible care of Karen.

Services will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish. Memorial donations may be sent to the Hospice House at 224 Elk Street, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701, and the Spearfish Food Pantry at 131 Yankee Street, Spearfish, South Dakota, 57783.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels and Isburg Crematory of Spearfish. Online condolences may be written at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com

Raymond Kenneth Osborne, 83

Raymond Kenneth Osborne, affectionately known as Sonny by family and friends, peacefully passed away at Monument Health Hospital in Sturgis South Dakota on Tuesday June 30th 2026 at the age of 83.



time to retire in 2011, he moved back to Belle Fourche where he lived out his remaining days until moving into long-term care in Sturgis in January of 2025.

Sonny was born in Belle Fourche on September 14th 1942 to Vernon and Iscle "Babe" Osborne. As a young boy, he attended school at Belle Fourche Elementary and High Schools. On June 8th, 1964, he married Shirley Jeannette Holman. Together they had three children, Vernon, Doug and Melanie.

Sonny's wishes were to be cremated and laid to rest alongside his family members at the Pine Slope Cemetery, 200 SD-34, Belle Fourche, South Dakota. An Open House/ Visitation is scheduled for Monday July 13th, 2026 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Kline Funeral Chapel, 838 State Street in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Burial will immediately follow the Open House.

Sonny was a cowboy through and through and spent the majority of his younger years working on ranches in South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Nevada doing everything from care and feeding of cattle and horses to maintenance of buildings, fences, corrals and machinery. For about 10 years, he owned and operated his own contracting company building fences, sheds, barns and corrals, to include the corrals at the St. Onge Stockyards. Inevitably, Sonny was pulled back to what he loved doing most; working with horses. He focused on training, conditioning and showing horses for several ranches in Nevada. He took lots of pride in his work and for good reason; he was amazing at it. His knowledge, expertise, strong work ethic and dedication earned him numerous ribbons and trophies at local and National/World Horse Shows. When it came

Sonny is survived by his sister, Rosalie Schulz of Elko Nevada, his sons Vernon (Annie) Osborne of Bellevue, NE and Doug (Ada) Osborne of Crescent Valley, NV his daughter Melanie Osborne of Rapid City, SD and their mother Shirley Huff of Spearfish SD, 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews that called him Uncle Sonny.

Any cards, or donations to help cover costs can be brought to the Kline Funeral Chapel in Belle Fourche during the Open House on July 13th, or mailed to his daughter: Melanie Osborne at 308 College Lane Apt 2, Rapid City SD 57701.

An online guest book and video tribute is available at klinefuneralchapel.com

Todd Robert Hudson, 65

Todd Robert Hudson, 65, passed away on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at his home in Sioux Falls.



Please visit www.millerfh.com for full obituary details.



Pastor's Perspective

"Making Money Your Friend"

This Perspective is from Pastor Jack Hayford.

He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.' So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."



Money, growth and fruitfulness are closely tied together. People sometimes regard money as an unspiritual issue, but Jesus was very bold on the subject of finances. In the three years of His public ministry, people understood that He was interested in them, not in money. The basic principle of release for all fruitfulness, including finances, has to do with giving.

Salvation has no price tag; you can go to heaven even if you never give God a dime. Growth, however, often hinges on a decision to take a fundamental point of biblical commitment in giving. You determine whether the finances of this life are governed by world's system, or the Lord's. This what Jesus is teaching here: Which spirit are you going to be ruled by? By the Divine hand of God, who is the Giver of all, or the spirit of the world, which is mammon?

Prayer for the Week

Holy Lord, Thank You for grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

FFA Hosts 8th Annual Burger Bash



Belle Fourche High School FFA Chapter members serve burgers and hot dogs to the community at the 8th Annual Burger Bash. Longbrake photo(s)

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE—Community members gathered at Rail Park in downtown Belle Fourche on July 1 for the Annual Burger Bash hosted by the Belle Fourche FFA chapter. The event offered a chance to enjoy warm summer weather, local shopping and visiting with neighbors.

This event is in its 8th year. “It was first promoted through the Beacon—Doug Cole, eight years ago wanted to host an event trying to get people downtown . . . This year it’s the Belle Fourche Walking History—they’re the sponsor host—we find some sponsors to help offset the cost, and then it’s a free will donation to the public—just an outreach opportunity for the Belle Fourche Chapter,” explained Austin Bishop, Belle Fourche FFA Advisor.

The FFA members worked hard to secure community sponsorships to help with the event. “We talked to quite a few places on Main Street, and then me and

my brother went and talked to Ivory Dental in Spearfish and Country Gals Quilting out of Vale they’ve all donated money and sponsored this to help this event happen,” shared Kate Blair, FFA Secretary. “Redwater Meats donated all the beef that we used for the burgers.”

Redwater Meats donated locally raised beef burgers to support the FFA group and the Burger Bash. “We did 200 patties and 40 hot dogs, and there’s not many left,” said Bishop. “We had a very good turnout!”

While there is a free will offering bucket, the event isn’t just about fundraising, but about giving back to the community that supports them in all they do. “It’s more of a community outreach, honestly than a fundraiser (if we raise money) we use it for funds to go to leadership camps. We host a leadership day here at the high school as well, and so it helps kind of offset some of those costs,” explained Bishop. “We actually have eight officers and members at camp right now,

and so it just kind of helps offset some of these little camps and opportunities for these students, along with it helps out going to nationals. We had nine qualify for national FFA this year.”

Bishop, in his ninth year as that Belle Fourche FFA Advisor, said they were taking 13 students to Nationals this year. The event is October 19-25 in Indianapolis. “It’s gonna be one of those things where we have opportunity to really showcase our members and what they can do and accomplish—it’s very amazing,” he said.

With 70 active FFA members in the Belle Fourche Chapter, the program is going strong. Bishop credits the youth involved for all the success. “The kids make it easy—last year I was selected for the third time in a row—the Golden Owl District Five, and you know, I honestly don’t know why, because the kids are the ones that do it all, and I just make sure that the wheels on the bus don’t fall off,” he said. “The kids that we have, the students,

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these young adults, these leaders are awesome!”

Blair, who has been a member for four years, likes what she gets from FFA. “Getting relationships and friendships out of it, meeting new people and networking, while also learning new skills and just being involved in the community,” she said.

FFA offers a variety of opportunities that can fit many different interests. Bishop explained, “The benefit is leadership skills and community involvement. I mean, that’s what truly makes a great citizen, you know, is that kind of leadership qualities and just being involved. It’s

crazy because with FFA, there are so many opportunities for an individual to take and go their own route.”

Attendees had their choice between hamburgers and hot dogs along with chips and a cookie. A variety of cold drinks were offered as well.

Bishop is very appreciative of all of the community support that the Chapter receives. “The success we’ve had in the eight years that I’ve been here in Belle Fourche is pretty astronomical with the support we get from the community—it never ceases to amaze me what these kids can do,” he shared.



Looking for the right cold drink in the stocked coolers.



Belle Fourche Police officers stopped by the Burger Bash to enjoy some good food and cold drinks.

Belle Fourche 4-H Rodeo Participants to Pass Peace Torch with Int’l Peace Run Team



The 2026 team. Courtesy photo

BELLE FOURCHE—The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run (peacerun.org), history’s largest peace torch relay, will be in Belle Fourche on Friday, July 10th at 10:30am.

The international team from 7 different countries are on a 4-month journey through all

50 states in honor of the 250th Anniversary of America. They share a message that peace begins with the individual.

Along the route they meet with schools, youth organizations and groups to give local citizens an opportunity to express their hopes and dreams for peace.

The team will cover 87 miles on the 10th running from Belle Fourche to Rapid City on Rte. 85 passing the Peace Torch along the way.

For nearly 40 years the Peace Run has traversed over 160 nations throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and Aus-

tralia as a symbol of humanity’s universal aspiration for a more peaceful world.

A team of runners left New York City on April 16th and will pass the Torch along the over 10,000-mile route. The continuous relay will run through all 50 states in honor of the 250th Anniversary of America during the 4-month journey before arriving back in New York in August. The team will run in Alaska and Hawaii in September. The European Peace Run will begin in Helsinki, Finland on May 18th and will make presentations in 13 countries.

Since the inaugural Run in 1987, more than 7-million people have participated. Commendations have come from many world figures including Pope Francis, President Nelson Mandela, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Saint Mother Teresa, Olympians, state governors, city mayors and celebrities across the world.

Carl Lewis, 9-time Olympic Gold-medalist, said, “By carrying the Torch, you will be bridging cultural and social barriers, and all the boundaries that separate nation from nation. You will be the living proof of the ancient vision of having a beautiful and harmonious world.”

**SRI CHINMOY
ONENESS-HOME
PEACE
RUN**

The Peace Run was inspired by visionary Sri Chinmoy to give citizens a dynamic way to express their own hopes and dreams for a more harmonious world. An athlete, philosopher, artist, musician and poet, Sri Chinmoy dedicated his life to advancing the ideals of world harmony and said, “How can we have peace? Not by talking about peace, but by walking along the road of peace.”

Contact: Prakhara Harter (404) 275-1612

Photos from the Roundup Parade

Photos from the 2026 Roundup Fourth of July parade. Photo credits: Hunter Anderson



The United States Air Force Academy Band

Photo credits: Hunter Anderson

Originally established in 1955 at Lowry Air Force Base near Denver, Colorado, the United States Air Force Academy Band, located in Colorado Springs, uses the power of music to honor our nation's flag, leaders and veterans; inspire Airmen and Guardians and the next generation to serve; and connect the Department of the Air Force to the American public and audiences around the world.

One of only two Air Force premier bands and the only Department of Defense premier band located west of the Appalachian Mountains, the United States Air Force Academy Band provides year-round support to the United States Air Force Academy and the more than 4,000 cadets in the cadet wing, helping develop outstanding leaders of character and quality who will serve our country as officers in the United States Air Force and United States Space Force. Moreover, performance teams travel throughout the United States assisting the Air

Force Academy in recruiting students excited to pursue a world-class education and rewarding career.

Beyond supporting the United States Air Force Academy, the band travels throughout the states of Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming showcasing the excellence and professionalism of the United States Air Force and the Air Force Academy. These community relations concerts seek to inspire patriotism and service, and connect our nation's citizens to their armed forces.

Performing groups and individuals also regularly offer clinics to junior high, high school, and university students. Furthermore, band members are honored to deploy in support of the United States Air Forces Central Command mission, promoting troop morale, diplomacy, and outreach to international communities.

Typically, the United States

Air Force Academy Band shares information about the Air Force and Air Force Academy missions with 1.5 million live audience members, 75 million television viewers, and over 400,000 radio listeners each year.

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Hoerber, the 62 professional Airman-musicians of the United States Air Force Academy Band come together to create nine professional ensembles that have been featured in Carnegie Hall, the Grand Ole Opry, on Fox & Friends and SiriusXM radio. Whatever the event, the men and women of the United States Air Force Academy Band are prepared and proud to serve the Air Force and Air Force Academy missions around the world.

Their Freedom 250 Tour include concerts in Colorado Springs, CO, Mt. Rushmore, Belle Fourche, Rapid City, and Casper, Wyoming.

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From A1 107th Roundup
 first barrel racer and the last barrel racer to go actually win—he said that’s a ground man’s dream,” said Whetham.

Having the crowd involved in the rodeo experience makes the performances fun. “The crowd participation was awesome throughout all performances including the ranch rodeo. . . I thought today was awesome because it was America’s 250th—what a wonderful day to spend at a rodeo, especially the Black Hills Roundup,” shared Eastman. “Troop 200 out of Kentucky came here, and they had a 30-foot by 50-foot American flag that we had them bring out in the middle of the arena and stretch it out with first responders and veterans. . . And then we did the Pledge of Allegiance—Steve Goedert, one of our fine announcers, is a veteran and so what a wonderful guy to start the Pledge of Allegiance. After he said a few words, he shut up, and the crowd took over—it was touching—emotional.”

As many people know, the Fourth of July run is called Cowboy Christmas and the cowboys and cowgirls try to get to as many rodeos as they can. The Black Hills Roundup Rodeo paid out a total of \$182,885 in prize money as top contestants traveled through Belle Fourche during this busy rodeo week.

Even though the Black Hills Roundup is a big event, it is held in a rather small town where everyone is willing to help each other out. And on the Fourth of July, they did just that. “We had some great cowboys out today, and we had some cowboys that were in a hurry—like every Fourth of July—there are a lot of rodeos to get to,” explained Eastman. “So, the Sheriff’s Department brought down their paddy wagon, and we loaded up five cowboys in there as soon as they got off their saddle bronc horse, they all jumped in there, and the Sheriff’s Department gave them a ride to the airport, so they could get onto the next rodeo fast!”

Without a host of sponsors, the Black Hills Roundup couldn’t happen. “If it wasn’t for our sponsorship, we wouldn’t be doing what we’re doing,” said Eastman. “It’s very expensive to put on this whole deal, from a carnival to a parade to fireworks to four nights of rodeo and then a ranch rodeo—it’s very expensive, and so our sponsorships pay for a great portion of that, and we are so very thankful for them—very, very thankful!”

The same thing is true for the large amount of volunteers it takes to put the Roundup together. “I would like to reiterate how appreciative I am of all of the people that come forward

and help. The chairman’s duties are a tiny, little portion, but I’m so appreciative to know that we have so much support within the community and the surrounding area and beyond,” said Eastman. “Thank you to the City of Belle Fourche for their support and dedicated commitment to making this celebrated week so inviting, to all of our specialty acts, to all of our stock contractors with timed events and rough stock, to definitely all of the volunteers that did this for free, also the many Veterans and First Responders for their service to this community and this great country. We appreciated having such a great group available to be honored in the parade and Rodeo on the 4th of July. The BHR Team is very thankful for all the Queens that helped make this week so memorable. . . thank you!”

If anyone is still in the Black Hills Roundup Rodeo spirit, the 2026 Black Hills Roundup poster is still available. The profit from the poster funds the Black Hills Roundup Foundation, which raises money for various charitable organizations and also provides college scholarships. For \$30, you can get a souvenir to remind you of all the fun memories of the 107th Black Hills Roundup Rodeo. You can purchase them on the Black Hills Roundup website.



Two deputy sheriffs were mounted on horseback the whole week at the Black Hills Roundup Rodeo. Longbrake photo(s)



Announcer Andy Seiler does his job on horseback in the arena.



Matt Merritt entertains the crowd as the clown and barrelman. Stock ran into the banner and knocked it down, Merritt is attempting to fix it.



2026 Teen Rodeo South Dakota, Taryn Thompson, carries the American Flag during the National Anthem.



Kids entered the arena to catch a calf during the calf scramble.



Joe MacQueen, Millmerran, AU, rides Shotgun Blues from the Burch Rodeo Company in the Saddle Bronc Riding.



The One Arm Bandit entertains the crowd at the rodeo.



Pickup Men for the Black Hills Roundup Rodeo are Troy Crowser, T.K. Sampson and Clinthale Hale.



Governor Larry Rhoden and First Lady Sandy Rhoden visited the Black Hills Roundup Rodeo and met with Artemis House representatives.



Midway West Amusements Carnival at night.

Show Up!

by Belle LaVenue



Summer means outside music & indoor theater fun! Every Thursday is Hometown Thursday concerts at the CON Visitors Center welcomes all for danceable bands & food. The Arts Council music in Herrmann Park means beautiful evenings through this month, and late July will bring Minnesela to the stage.

MINNESELA UPDATE: THERE WILL BE 4 PERFORMANCES! JULY 23-26.

MINNESELA FUN FACT: The main character is named Emma & the actor portraying her is also an Emma - Emma Tinsley!

Getting to know the show that was born right here in this area, I checked out the BFACT summary of this western comedy at their website: "Originally produced by the Belle Fourche High School in 2010, this beloved show about the ghost town sister town of Belle Fourche tells the story of Emma as she travels from the big city to track down her hero and star of his own book, Tom Bragg, deputy of Minnesela. Tom has his own worries from a woman who wants to be his betrothed and the brother of a man he killed who wants him dead, and the truth of his own story catching up with him. These two collide, as well as many hilarious characters in the once thriving town of... Minnesela!"

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

- July 9, Hometown Thursdays, 6-9 PM: Jessica Loobey
- July 15, Concerts in Herrmann Park, 7 PM: Green Dolphin Jazz
- July 16, Hometown Thursdays, 6-9 PM: Brandon Jones
- July 22, Concerts in Herrmann Park, 7 PM: Northern Hills Community Band
- July 23, Hometown Thursdays, 6-9 PM: Wilt Brothers
- July 24-26, 7 PM: BFACT Production: MINNESELA
- July 29, Concerts in Herrmann Park, 7 PM: BFHS Drumline
- July 30, Hometown Thursdays, 6-9 PM: Tim Zach Band
- August 6, Hometown Thursdays, 6-9 PM: JJ Kent w Aces and 8s

Green Dolphin Jazz Quartet to play



Wednesday, July 15—The Green Dolphin Jazz Quartet will perform in Herrmann Park, 7:00-8:00 pm. Rain location is St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. The program will include jazz standards and swing tunes. Members include Christopher Hahn, trumpet; Janeen Larsen, keyboard; Terry Rathbun, drums; and Gary Renner, bass guitar. *Courtesy photo*

Belle Fourche Arts Council

2026 Concerts In The Park

JUN 30	USAF ACADEMY BAND 7 PM
JUL 1	BELLE FOURCHE COWBOY BAND 5 PM
JUL 8	DOUGLAS PHILLIPS 7 PM
JUL 15	GREEN DOLPHIN JAZZ 7 PM
JUL 22	NORTHERN HILLS COMMUNITY BAND 7 PM
JUL 29	BELLE FOURCHE HIGH DRUMLINE 7 PM

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

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belle fourche area Community Theater

MINNESELA

A COMEDY OF WESTERN PROPORTIONS
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Raptor Roundup From A1

fun for the day.

After all of the games concluded, it was time for prizes! Stein addressed the kids and their families and said, "I got prizes for everybody for participating in the event. Thank you, guys! You did a wonderful job! All of you did great! You guys don't have to go if you want to, go through the exhibits and look around some more, go for it!"

The Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum is busy preparing for their next big event, Rock'in Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show on August 15 and 16 during the last weekend of the Sturgis Rally. The event will have vendors and food trucks along with Pass the Mike Entertainment karaoke on Saturday, August 15, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Road State Ramblers from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and then the musical duo Bittersweet on Sunday, August 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and the West Dakota Band from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. You are invited to bring your lawn chairs and hang out for the day. Hitching Post Tap House will provide a beer garden. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



Kids preparing to start the race. Longbrake photo(s)



Walter Stein, owner of Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum, explains the rules to the next contest.



Kids who came dressed in a dinosaur costume got into the museum free of charge for the day.



Laughter could be heard as the participants captured the dinosaur after chasing him around the area.



In the Robot Raptor Race, each contestant had to guide the remote control Dino around the race track in the fastest time.



The kids raced on the backs of the inflatable dinosaurs by bouncing on them to the finish line in the Raptor Riden' event.



Even the Triceratops rode the inflatable Dino in the race.



After all of the competitions were over, all of the kids got to select a prize from the box. Kids had a hard time deciding which Dino artifact they wanted the most.

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12:00 Noon – Feeder Cattle Followed By Bred Cows

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- July 17th – Yrkg & Weigh Up Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- July 24th – Weigh Up Cow & Bull Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- July 31st – Yrkg & Fall Calf Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- August 7th – Yrkg & Fall Calf Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- August 14th – No Sale Due To The Sturgis Bike Rally
- August 21st – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- August 28th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
- September 4th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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

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2026 SHEEP SALES

- July 9th - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- July 16th – Regular Sale – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- July 23rd - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- July 30th – Regular Sale – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- August 6th - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- August 13th – No Sale Due To The Sturgis Bike Rally
- August 20th - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- August 27th – Regular Sale – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- September 3rd - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
- September 10th - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

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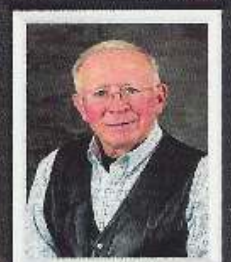


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Local.

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 July 22, 1926
RECORD ATTENDANCE AT PICNIC Four Thousand Is Estimate of Number at Experiment Farm Saturday of Last Week
Four thousand is the estimated attendance at the twelfth annual farm picnic at the Experiment Farm at Newell on Saturday of last week. They commenced arriving early in the morning and continued to come until late in the afternoon. A program of speaking, sports, airplane stunts, trick and fancy roping had been arranged, and at noon the big community picnic dinner. The speaking program of the morning was opened by Mayor Kennelly of Newell with an address of welcome. Speakers during the morning were Congressman Williamson who has given much time and thought to the problems affecting the project; George C. Kreutzer, director of reclamation economics who told of the proposed plans for settling the project. During the picnic, Clyde Ice threw one fit after another with his airplane, looping the loop, nose fives, tail spins, falling leaf, and many other stunts that brought gasps from the visitors. After lunch Leonard Stroud of Rocky Ford, Colo., and the McFarlane brothers of Merriam, Kans., gave an exhibition of trick and fancy roping on the large dance pavilion. Chas. M. Reid, president of the Irrigation District board, was the first, followed by C. F. Scofield of the United States Department of Agriculture; S. F. Miller of Chicago, assistant general traffic manager of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad; A. M. Ginn of Scottsbluff, Nebr., representing the Great Western Sugar Co., followed by Dr. Mead who knows reclamation, knows land settlement and brought message to the people of the Belle Fourche valley that was highly received.

75 years ago Belle Fourche Bee July 19, 1951
Commissioners Hike County Real Property Valuation 20 Percent
Butte county commissioners, who have been in session the past 15 days as a board of equalization, have authorized a general increase of 20 percent in all real estate valuations, both rural and urban. The final task before the board yesterday and today was to recapitulate assessment figures for the various taxing districts in the county. Last year's total Butte county property valuation was \$12,886,439. Concerning the boost in real property valuations, the board pointed out that this was the first raise since 1931, while personal property has been subject to annual increases. General livestock valuations were unchanged, and the unit price of different livestock has been previously determined by the state tax commissions. There were no material changes in valuations placed on agricultural implements, equipment and tools. The equalization board totals with adopted increase will be subject to review by the state tax commission at

Pierre. Returned approved lists from Pierre also will include property assessments on public utilities. When the final assessment figures are approved, the total is used in determining the mill levy necessary to support county and city government and the school districts operation. \$30 Million Belle Bank Debts Up 28 Percent Belle Fourche debits of \$30,080,000 for the first half of 1951 were 28 percent over the first six months in 1950, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. June debits showed a gain of 35 percent compared with June, 1950. South Dakota debits for the first six months of this year were 19 percent higher than the corresponding period in 1950. Figures for June showed a 10 percent rise in comparison with last June. Bank debit figures represent the dollar volume of checks drawn by deposits against their bank accounts. Most of these checks go in payment for gods, service, and debts. The debit total is considered a fairly good indicator of the general business volume.

50 years ago Belle Fourche Bee July 23, 1976
New Hospital Dedication Here Sunday
"The more I see of it, the more remarkable, it seems," is the way Otto Haeder, Executive Director of North Central Health Services, Inc. describes the new Belle Fourche hospital which will be dedicated Sunday. Hospital maintenance engineer A. J. Spiekermeier calls it "the most modern building in the state," and acting director of nurses Marilyn Liming says "it's absolutely beautiful." The public will have an opportunity to view the new \$2,000,000 Belle Fourche Health Care Center immediately following the ceremonies scheduled for 1:30 Sunday in the hospital parking lot. Judith Call, Secretary of the State Department of Public Health, Pierre, will be featured speaker at the dedication. Former Governor Archie Gubrud, Huron, state director of the Farm Home Administration which financed the facility, will also speak. Robert O'Donnell, chairman of Hospital Drive '75 will be master of ceremonies and the invocation will be offered by Rev. Robert Roth. The permanent book of memorials which lists individuals, businesses, and organizations that contributed to last year's hospital drive will be presented to Belle Fourche Health Care President Cliff Thomas. Welcome to the dedication ceremonies will be given by Mayor Henry Hespe, and the benediction will be given by Rev. Samuel Cusing. During the tour of facilities, organ music will be provided by Marian Nicholson and Beverly Redding. Members of the hospital and Northern Hills Nursing Home auxiliaries will serve refreshments in the waiting room of the clinic. Before doors close at 5:00 it's expected that several hundred Tri-State area residents will view the health care center which is located on a 25-acre site with entrance from 13th avenue in the southern edge of Belle Fourche. Visitors will walk down car-

peted halls to see 13 private or semi-private patient rooms on the east wing which are decorated in green, blue or orange, as well as four special care units which are in view of the nurses station. Surgical and obstetrical departments, kitchen, laboratories and radiology departments, as well as the adjoining doctors clinic will also be open to the public. Hospital administrator Larry Potter has explained that some equipment will not be available for Sunday's dedication and tour, as it is in use at the old hospital and will not be transferred until moving day Aug. 1. However, the new X-ray unit, laboratory equipment, and other new furnishings will be on hand. **Belle Brick Plant Fights for Survival** What's going to happen to the Black Hills Clay Products Company brick plant in Belle Fourche? The truth is that it is fighting for survival and its owners say they will keep the plant open as long as they can. The plant uses natural gas in its operation and has been notified by the Montana Dakota Utilities Company that it, along with other industrial users, will face a 20% cut in supplies. The gas company says it must preserve its supplies for small commercial and residential users. Howard Amen, who has been in charge of the Belle Fourche operations of the company, says a 20% cut would force the plant to close for at least 2 1/2 months this year, with the possibility of closing up to five months next year. Amen says the Belle Fourche plant cannot convert to coal or feasibly to oil. The firm also owns a larger plant at Hebron, N. D. The plant is facing the same curtailment problem, but there is a possibility they might be able to continue operation of the allocation for the Belle Fourche plant is transferred to the North Dakota plant. The Belle Fourche firm employs 20 persons, with an estimated payroll of almost \$200,000. Amen says the plant is currently going full blast and will be in operation at least until October. After that, some specific decisions will have to be made. One of the reasons the owners are unable to make a specific decision now is that they have a hearing before the Federal Power Commission in October. At that hearing they are asking for a change from priority from small commercial and residential users. Amen said 50 plants in a four-state area are affected by the curtailment decision, and 10% of those plants are in Belle Fourche. The four bentonite plants in the area are also affected, but it is expected they will be able to convert to some other form of energy. Belle Fourche plant is the only brick factory in South Dakota and the Hebron plant is the only one in North Dakota. Unless some answers can be found the curtailment could wipe out the brick manufacturing industry in tow states.



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Above: Belle Fourche Clay Products factory, opened in 1927, closed in 1970's after being sold to Hebron Brick. Below: Belle Fourche new 1976 Medical Center, hospital and clinic.



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June 25	Dakota Country
July 2	Williams & Wright
July 9	Jessica Loobey
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2026	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1	2	3
			Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo & Pasta Salad, breadstick	Baked Ham Scalloped Potato Asparagus & salad, Roll	Beef Brisket & Brats Baked Beans & Mac salad, chips
	6	7	8	9	10
	Sausage Peppers & Rice Dinner Salad & Roll	Chicken Cordon Bleu with Broccoli & Rice Carrots, Roll, Salad	Swiss Steak Roasted Potato & Carrots, Salad, Roll	Meatloaf with Mashed Potato, Gravy, Green Beans, Roll, Salad	Sloppy Joes Baked Beans, Coleslaw, chips
	13	14	15	16	17
	Beef Roast with Roasted Potatoes & Carrots Salad, Roll Milk & Fruit	Chicken Taco <u>With</u> Black Beans & Corn Spanish Rice	Turkey ala king over noodles Mixed Veggies, Biscuits	Beefy Mac & Cheese Corn, Salad, Roll	Indian Tacos Southwest Salad
	20	21	22	23	24
	BBQ Chicken Mac & Cheese Spinach Salad, Roll	Chicken Fry Steak Mashed Potato / Gravy Corn, Roll	Hawaiian Pork Brown Sugar Yams Brussel sprouts, Roll	Meatloaf with Mashed Potato/Gravy, Corn, Salad, Roll	Ham or Turkey Sandwich on a Croissant Pasta <u>Salad</u> , Chips
	27	28	29	30	31
	Chili Cheese Dog Fries & Pea Salad	Chicken Fry Steak Mashed Potato / Gravy Green Beans, Salad, Roll	Honey Chicken over Rice Creamed Spinach Dinner Salad, Roll	Beef Spaghetti Corn and Salad Garlic Toast	Cheese Burger Deluxe Fries, Dinner Salad Chips

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

Caramel Rolls - Friday Mornings - 7:30am - 10am

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YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL & HORSE SALE

SELLING ALL CLASSES

JULY 16, 2026

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 VIDEO: AUGUST 7, 2026, 5:00PM CT

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

July 9, 2026 WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 July 16, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL & HORSE SALE - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 July 23, 2026 WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 July 30, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 August 6, 2026 NO SALE - HAPPY RALLY WEEK!
 August 13, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 August 20, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 August 27, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL - SELLING ALL CLASSES
 September 3, 2026 ANNIVERSARY BBQ SALE - YEARLING SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL

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 Sept. 15TH
 Dinner at 5:30PM
 Show at 6:15PM

\$37 Adults
 \$18 Youth 6-17
 5 & Under Free

Reservation required 4 days in advance

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- Western-style garage with swinging doors
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- Basement could use a little TLC

S GIRARD AVE. HOME

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- New windows ready to be installed
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- Septic, water system, and basement need attention

OPEN HOUSE DATES

SUNDAY JULY 19
 1-3 PM

THURSDAY JULY 23
 4-6 PM

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<p>\$6.99</p>  <p>Sutter Home 4-Packs</p>	<p>\$19.99</p>  <p>Jose Cuervo Tequila 750mL</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>  <p>Sun Cruiser Tea & Lemonade 4-Packs</p>

Prices effective 7am-9pm Seven Days a Week **Next two weeks**
Wednesday **June 24th** through Tuesday, **July 7th**

40th Annual Spearfish Canyon Half Marathon & 5K

RUN OR WALK FOR THE CASA CAUSE!

JULY 11, 2026

REGISTER NOW and SAVE!

HALF MARATHON EARLY BIRD PRICING: \$75 AFTER JUNE 30: \$90

5K EARLY BIRD: \$40 AFTER JUNE 30: \$55

July 11, 2026
7:00 AM
Spearfish SD
605-722-4558

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Register by June 23 to receive a free shirt!

The 5K starts and ends in the Spearfish City Park. The half marathon route follows the Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway, starting near Savoy and ending in the Spearfish City Park.

NHCASA has been advocating for victims of child maltreatment in 8 counties of western South Dakota for 40 years. Your participation in this signature fundraising event fuels our mission and helps ensure every child has a CASA volunteer by their side. We hope you will join us for this momentous anniversary celebration.

LODGING DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE: HOLIDAY INN-SPEARFISH

For more information, please visit www.nhcasa.org or www.spearfishcanyonhalfmarathon.com

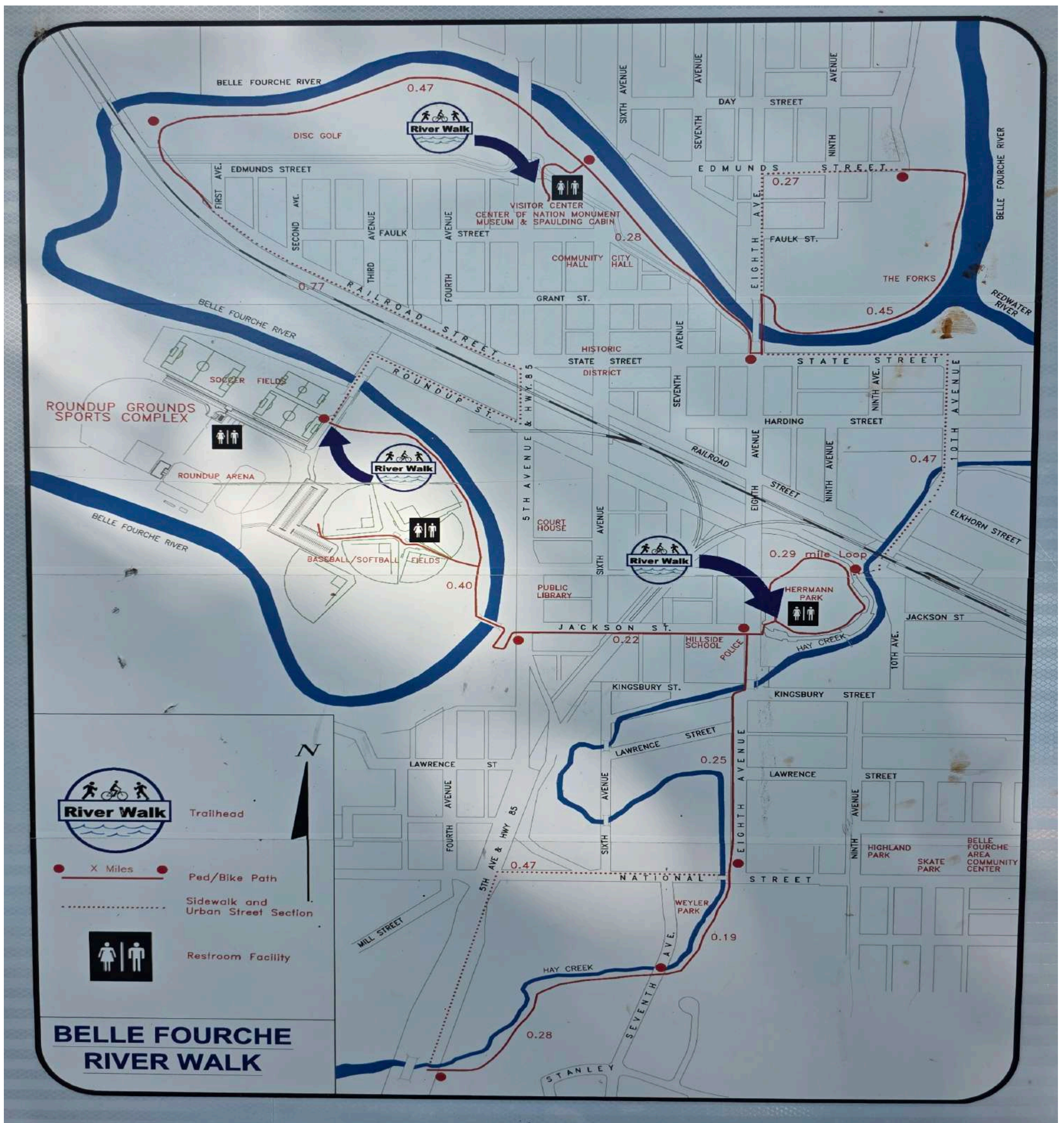
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Litter Walk Coming Up



Pastor Sheri Fadley
Special to the Beacon

The Belle Fourche Monument Health United Way Group (Nikki Hoyme and Clint Haffner) and the Belle Fourche Global

Methodist Church are teaming up for an upcoming Litter Walk event.

On Saturday, July 11 from 8:00-10:30am, we are coordinating a community wide litter walk. We are inviting the

public to meet at the church where they will receive garbage bags, gloves and choose an area where they would like to focus their efforts. We are going to encourage people to clean up along the parade route. Even

though it's a week after the parade, there always seems to be stuff lingering. Refreshments will be served starting at 10:00. We are planning this to be a family friendly activity where parents and grandparents, etc.

can nurture civic care for our community and the Lord's creation.

Pictured above is a map of the city with designated locations for the litter walk.

Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

EMMANUEL BAPTIST
Meet at Americinn Conference room
Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School 10am church
Men's Bible Study 10am at the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
10913 Sourdough Road, Belle Fourche website: ebcbf.org

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
901 Laurel St. Whitewood (605)-920-1959
Reverend Jill Jennwein
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VALE COMMUNITY COUNTRY CHURCH
Pastor Darla Dunn
402 Rosander St. Vale SD 57788
Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
605-210-0512



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BELLE FOURCHE COUNTRY CLUB

TOURNAMENT LINE-UP 2026

REGISTER ONLINE
No Deposit Needed

Early Bird	April 25th-26th	3 Person Scramble \$ 185 PER PERSON
Women's Open	June 13th	2 Person Scramble \$ 160 PER TEAM
Member Guest	July 31st- Aug 2nd	2 Person Chicago \$ 220 PER PERSON SKINS & DUCES INCLUDED
Club Championship	August 23th	Individual \$ 60 PER PERSON SKINS & DUCES INCLUDED
Couples Tournament	September 6th	2 Person Campman \$ 150 PER COUPLE → MEMBER \$180 PER COUPLE → NON MEMBER
Triple Crown	September 19th-20th	2 Person Teams \$ 180 PER PERSON 3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

HORSE RACE TO END

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

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

AI Is Already Reshaping Rural Business Competition

Love it or hate it, AI is here and facing that reality can assist your business greatly. There are three things quietly reshaping how small businesses compete. None of this requires a computer science degree. But ignore these trends for another year and you will feel it.



small team the output of a much bigger one. Trend Two: The newest shift is something called agentic AI. The tools you may have tried before are like a smart assistant who answers when you ask.

Agentic AI is more like an assistant who watches your inbox, flags urgent messages, drafts replies, books appointments, and follows up with leads without being asked. Gartner projects 40 percent of small and mid-size businesses will deploy at least one AI agent by end of 2026, up from just 8 percent at the start of 2025. Businesses already doing this report saving 12 or more hours per week.

Consider a small accounting firm in Austin that set one up for under \$100 per month. It reads incoming emails, sorts by urgency, drafts responses to routine questions, and creates follow-up tasks. The owner got her Sundays back. The biggest wins come from narrow tasks: answering the same five customer questions every day, booking appointments, sending invoice reminders. Not flashy, but exactly the repetitive work that drains an owner's week. No-code platforms have put these tools within reach of any owner willing to spend a few hours getting started.

Trend Three: This one may matter most, and it is the one fewest Main Street owners have heard about. When someone searched "best hardware store near me" a few years ago, Google showed a list of links. Today, AI-powered tools including Google's AI Mode, ChatGPT Search, and Perplexity increasingly answer that question directly. They

pick a business, describe it, and point the customer there. No list. No scrolling. One recommendation. Bain and Company research found that nearly 60 percent of searches now end without a click because the AI answered right on screen. Your website might rank well and still get passed over.

The businesses AI recommends are the ones keeping their Google Business Profile complete, collecting detailed reviews, and answering common questions in plain language on their websites. This used to be called good SEO. Now it is the difference between being picked or being invisible. Local businesses have a real advantage here. AI search favors geographic specificity. A shop that owns the phrase "best florist in Galena, Illinois" has a head start no national chain can take away.

Here are three things you can do this week. First, spend 30 minutes with a free AI tool like ChatGPT or Claude and ask it to write something you normally spend an hour on: a social post, a follow-up email, a product description. Notice how much time it saves. Then ask what else it could handle. Second, log in to your Google Business Profile at business.google.com and fill in every field. Add your hours, services, a few photos, and a description of who you serve. This is the single most important step you can take right now to appear in AI search results. Third, ask your three best customers to leave a detailed Google review this week. Not just five stars, but a few sentences about what you do and who you help. AI tools treat those reviews as evidence of your expertise, and the more specific, the better.

AI is not coming for Main Street. It is already here, and the businesses taking small steps now are the ones who will not have to scramble later.

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden



This is looking to be the warmest week of the summer with temperatures in the mid to high 90s.

This could be a great time for water sports and just taking it easy. The Fourth of July weekend brought us some moisture and some areas.

The highlight of last weekend was for some, July 3 is we once again after six years were able to enjoy fireworks at Mount Rushmore. The day was full of special programs from native American dances to the military band as well as a well-known country band. The secretary of interior spoke on the stage along with governor Larry Rhoden ending with

Donald J Trump. The audience of over 4000 people was full of excitement and good celebration. Some described the whole day and evening as epic. It is certainly a day to remember as we celebrated our 250th birthday of our country. On the Fourth of July, the Belle Fourche parade was watched by thousands of happy spectators. Larry Rhoden and family as well as many volunteers were there to pass out candy as they walked the parade. That parade was followed by the Deadwood parade at 3 o'clock, which went into Central city and Lead South Dakota. Casey and Francie BRINK along with Deb and Leo SCHNELL watched the Sturgis fireworks that eve-

ning from Francie's mother's home in Sturgis.

There was a potluck dinner after church services in Union center on Sunday. Larry and Sandy Rhoden left immediately and headed to Huron South Dakota to meet with leaders and take a look at the damage they received from the super high winds that they received early Thursday morning. The community had cleaned up much of the debris that had been littering the streets and yards of the town. Like a strong community from South Dakota they gathered themselves what they needed and got right to work. Just as the high more cleanup included the help of some women prisoners this clean up in here utilized

men prisoners. They seemed very happy to be able to help and their service is very much appreciated. They were in hopes of coming back to help clean up on Monday morning as well.

We live in a great country and it was so heartwarming to see how people and businesses celebrated our liberty and our freedom. Many businesses had flags on machinery and their store fronts. Farmers had bales of hay stacked to look like the American flag and much more. I hope we can continue the pride in our country and continue to reach out and help each other in times of need. That is just who we are as Americans. Happy birthday, Central Meade County, and beyond. Happy birthday America!



Capitol News July 5, 2026 by Karen Odell



Capitol and Tie Creek had a little more rain, this week. On most days, the temperature was pleasant, but Saturday warmed up for the 250th anniversary of our country. Sunday was extremely hot at around one-hundred degrees. Still the countryside is green, but mosquitoes have finally moved in at most places.

Alvin Cordell had planted a hay field at the Buck place, and Ryan went up to cut it. They got it baled. Then Ryan moved to the Yates place, and they just finished that on Sunday, and brought the tractors home. There will be a little hay at the home place, but the hot weather will soon slow the haying. Maree went to Belle Fourche, on Friday, to join the family, and watch the fireworks. Alvin went down on Saturday, and joined them to watch the parade. There was a little rain on Saturday, but Alvin read 103 degrees on his thermometer, on Sunday. Marlee went to church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, on Sunday, and helped serve cookies, cake and coffee to the congregation afterward.

Doug and Julia Davis went to the Winfred Straub funeral in Deadwood, on Tuesday. Then,

on Wednesday, they went to Belle Fourche for the Erma Albert funeral. Kay Latham rode with them down to the funeral. Kay also got to visit at Travis and Amanda Davis's house. Darwin and John Latham and the kids came down later. They picked Kay up on their way to the carnival, where the kids had a great time. On Thursday, Julia Davis worked at the courthouse in Buffalo. Doug and Julia got four-tenths of an inch of rain on Thursday. The rest of the week was mostly working cattle. They sorted and moved cows, and put out bulls. Saturday and Sunday got so hot that they worked early and late, but not in the heat of the day.

Last week, Ronda Cordell went to the Little Missouri Bible School program. When she left for home from the program, water was running everywhere. There had been a pouring down rain during the program. She had had several showers in the past two weeks that have totaled almost three inches. It has surely helped to keep some green color in the area, but still, sub-soil moisture is nearly non-existent. The continual wind can take some of the blame for that. The little showers have helped bring Ronda's garden up, and she can actually see her rows, but the weeds are coming, too. Only the squash and cucum-

bers were planted in hills.

Ronda spoke with son, Luke Basler, last weekend. Oren Basler, and the music group he is traveling with, arrived in London, England on June 25th. Luke sent Ronda a link so that she can see some of the pictures of the trip on Facebook. The group went from London to Paris, France; then to Crans-Montana, Switzerland, and were in Germany on Saturday. The buildings are designed with much intricate work. Many streets and court yards are covered with cobblestone or bricks. The music and singing, that the group is doing, is wonderful. Each performance has been videoed. Oren told Luke that there's no air conditioning there, so the heat has been a little miserable.

Carl Knapp came to Ronda's last week, to blade and put a crown on her driveway. This week, Tod Dague started hauling gravel on it. Carl came on the Fourth of July to spread the gravel row, so that it would be easier for Tod to finish hauling the last part.

On Friday, Ronda's lunch guests were Jay and Debra Swedberg, thier daughter, Ann, son-in-law Reggie, two-grandchildren and Debra's mother Marilyn, from Wyoming. They have spent several days at the Buck Ranch.

On Sunday, Ronda drove to Belle Fourche and on into

Wyoming a few miles to attend a 70's Class reunion at the home of Jack Kindsfater. There was about a dozen classmates in attendance. The thermometer on Ronda's car read 102, as she headed home, but the breeze and shade had made it a nice afternoon of visiting.

Karen Odell enjoyed a week of beautiful weather. On Thursday, she made a trip to Buffalo, for business, shopping and lunch at Blossoms 'n Brew. The Fourth of July was filled with the 250th celebration, and Karen watched on TV and computer, at various places all over the country. She could see celebrations at Medora, ND, Mount Rushmore, SD, Nashville, TN, Washington, DC and more. In the evening, she got to watch her own fireworks display that the Padden family produced to the north of Karen's house. It was like having her own celebration, and she enjoyed it better without the big crowds, and smoke, and loud

noise. It warmed up that day, and by Sunday it was very hot. Karen went to church at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook, and enjoyed playing piano, this week, for some great patriotic songs. Alan Loken gave the sermon, and a friend had come from the Hills on his motorcycle, and also gave an extra, very interesting speech, before going on north to visit Medora, ND. After the service, everyone enjoyed coffee, cake, and cookies that Mary and Marlee served. In the afternoon, Karen learned that her niece Keely, has a brand new little baby boy, that was born just a day after the big July 4th celebration. His two older sisters will soon be keeping him busy. During the week, Karen visited and texted with her family and friends.

Please keep the Moncur family in your prayers.

It's true that silence is sometimes the best answer.



PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES #41 "Cow Path Adventures"

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel

"Hey, DeAnn! Come help me. It'll be fun!" he said. When I was five, I idolized my older brother. Seldom did he have to work too hard to persuade me to accompany him in his adventures, and this was no exception.

Our father was concerned about the growing gopher population in the pasture. A cow could injure her leg if she stepped in a hole. He offered Delmer a nickel for every gopher he caught, big money for a nine-year-old.

So, the next afternoon I followed my brother to the shop. He found a metal trap with a chain attached and a wooden stake. At the water

tank, he grabbed two metal buckets. He filled one half-way. "You think you can carry that?" I rolled my eyes and hefted the pail.

We headed through the gate and down the cow path. The gray South Dakota dirt puffed with each step in the hoof-carved furrow. It felt warm and soft between my bare toes. Suddenly I felt something different oozing between my toes, a wet, warm, grainy mass. I had stepped in a fresh cow pie! Of course, just then Delmer glanced back, awarding me with his silly grin. "Good job, DeAnn." (He always has been good at encouragement.) Then he wrinkled his nose and ordered me not to get too close.

At the crick a small trickle of water rippled among the stepping stones. Swishing my

dung-laden foot in the tiny stream, I lost my balance and water splashed out of my bucket. My eyes shot to Delmer, praying he had not seen this mishap; thankfully, he trudged on.

I hurried to catch up but stopped as my brother held up his hand. A striped, brown creature stood next to a loose mound of soil. Paws at its side, the gopher watched us for two seconds, then dived down into a hole, emitting a bird-like trill.

Delmer rushed to the hole and motioned for me to hurry. By this time the water level in my bucket had decreased significantly.

He laid the trap on the ground. Stepping on the handle allowed him to pry the jaws open. Delmer then inserted the small lever into the notch. The trap was set.

A flat circle protruded from the center, attached to the spring. Pushing the circle snapped the trap shut.

Carefully he turned the trap over so the flat circle rested in the hole. He pulled the attached chain back and pushed the stake into the ground through the ring at the end. He reached for my bucket, only rolling his eyes a little as he poured the water slowly through the trap into the hole. All at once that trill sounded again ten feet away. The critter escaped through its back door and hightailed into the tall grass.

"Come on. Let's find another one." (Trappers never give up.) This time Delmer carried the bucket. We scouted another wretched rodent. Being fast learners, we knew we had to block the back door. Being a bossy big brother, he told me to put my foot over it. I narrowed my eyes. Pointedly, I glared at his sturdy shoes and then peered down at my bare,

not-too-smelly feet. Obviously, he missed the point. I slowly lowered my tender, vulnerable little foot onto the hole.

He set the trap. Trapper Del poured his full bucket of water into the hole. I imagined that gopher, frantically fleeing from the river of water rushing into his home, ready to bite anything in its path. I could almost feel teeth sinking into my poor foot. I shut my eyes and held my breath. Suddenly steel blades snapped. "We got him!" the trapper whooped.

"It'll be fun!" he said. The next time I heard those words I was a bit more wary.

The next time we went gopher trapping, I wore shoes.

The author's column appears in a growing number of Midwest newspapers. Kruempel has compiled and published her column stories every year for the last five years. She has also published a historical fiction series, "Promises to Keep." Her ten books are available on

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Roots #35 (From Archives)

“Good Fences, Stone Walls, and Boundaries”

Meg English news@bellefourchebeacon.com



I love to visit historic sites. In southern France you can't travel more than a few miles in any direction without

coming across the remains of a medieval castle, military fortification, or battleground. Some of the structures are modest in comparison to others, some have been carefully restored and are open to the public, some have fallen to ruins. However, all were built with the same purpose, to keep enemies out and to secure personal safe boundaries for those within.

The presence of these ubiquitous medieval fortifications here in the south of France remind me of the time-honored adage, “Good fences make good neighbors.” The words come from a poem by Robert Frost called Mending Wall.

Frost's poem, Mending Wall is all about boundaries. The proclamation “Good fences make good neighbors.” suggests how fences create necessary boundaries that help people get along better. That's why we need to keep building and maintaining walls.

“Good Fences make good neighbors.” is something that Frost's neighbor says. So, it's the neighbor's point of view that fences are necessary for maintaining good relationships between people. The phrase is repeated more than once.

To get along with his neighbor, the poet agrees to help mend the stone wall that separates his property from his neighbor's even though the fence seems pointless to him.

Frost, who was also a farmer, argues, “My apple trees will never get across

And eat the cones under his pines.”

Maintaining a stone wall is tricky, and hard work too. Stones are not content to stay

where you place them. They tend to topple and leave big open spaces in the fence and are perpetually in need of maintenance.

“To each the boulders that have fallen to each.

And some are loaves and some so nearly balls

We have to use a spell to make them balance:

‘Stay where you are until our backs are turned!’

We wear our fingers rough with handling them.”

The poet continues to help his neighbor rebuilt the wall year after year even though he becomes annoyed by his neighbor's inability to explain why the wall is so important.

“I see him there

Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top

In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.”

“He will not go behind his father's saying,

And he likes having thought of it so well

He says again,

‘Good fences make good neighbors.’”

Robert Frost was a quintessential American poet. He won the Pulitzer Prize four times. He is much admired for depictions of the rural life in New England, his use of everyday American speech, and his realistic portrayal of ordinary people. Several of his phrases such as “Good fences make good neighbors” have become ingrained in the American mindset.

Frost died at the age of 88 in 1963, shortly following his reading of an original poem at the John F. Kennedy's presidential inauguration.

There was a lot of fence building going on during Robert Frost's lifetime. Frost would have been in his late 60s when the Atlanticwall came into existence.

The Atlantic Wall refers to a vast collection of concrete fortifications built by the Germans between 1942 and 1944 along the Atlantic Ocean coast in Europe and Scandinavia. The purpose of the project was

to defend German occupied regions from Allied attacks during WWII. The wall of fortifications did its job well for a while. There were an estimated 25,000 bunkers built in the Atlanticwall most of them in France.

Over 17 million cubic meters of concrete and 1.2 million tons of steel were used to construct the wall. Over the years some of the structures have tumbled into the sea or have been demolished

However, many of them remain intact. The guns are mostly gone, long ago removed and repurposed. The fortifications no longer serve as barrier borders, but as

museums, and repositories of artifacts. Visitors are allowed to stroll among the ruins. With a little imagination one can imagine the formidable coastline environment from 1942-1944. The German bunkers left me with a chill when I first toured them. Deep holes in the ground near the towns remain in those areas too

remnants of war.

My granddaughter, Teannah, likes to talk about history. She's 13.

The bunkers are enormous, she commented when she saw a photograph of a soldier posing beside a concrete bunker in Normandy. “Ginormous” is of course a composite word blend of giant, gargantuan, and enormous.

I explain that the fortifications contained artillery, guns, soldiers' quarters. That it was ‘nice’ of the French workers to help them build the concrete bunkers in Normandy for free or in some cases nominal wages and “nice” of the French contractors who provided materials and likely profited from the exchange. I told her.

Teannah was hooked.

“Papa and I have been there.” “We have visited the coast of northern France near where the D-Day invasion took place in 1944. We'll take you there sometime.”

She nods and I can see that

she is interested in hearing more. I take advantage of the opportunity.

Mending Wall is a relevant poem. There is certainly no shortage of barriers and efforts to build fences in the world today. I'm thinking that when Rober Frost witnessed the Atlanticwall project he would have understood that it is human nature to build fortifications.

He would have asked what the barriers were for? Who or what were they intended to keep in our out? He would have understood that the phrase “Good fences make good neighbors” would be the response always. He would also have understood that boundaries are subject to movement and are not essentially permanent where they are originally placed, but that the idea of is everlasting. Somehow, it's helpful to understand how human nature works from the perspective of poetry and personal observation.



Some existing Bunkers on the Normandy coast of France as they appear today. Wikipedia Commons photo



Belle Fourche Beacon ‘Happenings’ and News Bytes Calendar

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

Belle Fourche Writers

Belle Fourche Writers July meeting schedule: The regular July meeting is Saturday, July 18 from 10 AM to Noon. All writers are invited to attend! Meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

Belle Fourche Recreation Center

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

Classes

Summer Recreation Activities Schedule Calendar - See adjacent posters details!

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

Museum opens mini exhibit on postage stamps - The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche will open a new mini exhibit on Saturday, June 27 entitled “History of Postage Stamps.” The exhibit will include storyboards and photos, a free take-home workbook and a book to read and a touchscreen quiz. A stamp enthusiast's stamp collection will also be on display and a basket of loose stamps will be available for those who might want to pick one out for themselves. Refreshments, including special cupcakes from Red Onion Marketplace, and beverages, will be available throughout the day.

Tri-State Museum holds Family Fun Day on June 21 entitled “Light and Color” - The event will include a fun science video about light and how different wavelengths of light waves appear as different colors. There will be experiments and activities with prisms and crafts involving the color wheel. Take-home workbooks will be available for all and refreshments will be served. There will also be a book-drawing. Admission is \$2 per person or free with museum membership. Reservations are helpful; call 605-723-1200. Since the 21st is Father's Day, all dads get in free!

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



Above: Monestary buildings at Fort de Belgarde, Perthus, Spain.

Below: Château de Requesens, La Jonquera, Spain.



THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



BF Rec Center Summer Parks & Rec Activities 2026

GOALS:

- To promote our local parks and the outdoors.
- To promote health and wellness in our community.
- To promote socialization with friends, make new friends, and interact with your community.
- To give kids ideas on activities they can continue doing all summer, with fun giveaways to help!



This program will incorporate all of our beautiful parks. Enjoy a park that you haven't been to before, or not in a long time!

We have giveaways and snacks too!

Please Note: This is not a childcare program. Ages 7 and under must be supervised by someone at least 12 years of age. Applicable BFRC rules/policies apply. A summer waiver must be on file in order to participate. All activities are weather permitting.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1-Parents: Complete your child's Summer Waiver at the Rec Center or at the park prior to an activity. (Waiver is valid for all of the summer activities.)
- 2-Pick up your monthly calendar. Available at the Rec, on Facebook @BFRecCenter, Instagram or our website www.bellefourcherec.com.
- 3-Park Activities are FREE. Rec Center activities require a membership or day pass. (Youth \$4 ~ Senior \$5 ~ Adult \$6 ~ Group of 2 \$10 ~ Family \$20)
- 4-Tell your friends and have fun!

Questions? Contact us @ 605-892-2467.

WHERE ARE THE PARKS?

PARK	STREET	LANDMARKS
Highland Park	National St.	Next to the Rec Center
Jones Park	11 th Ave.	Splash Pad
Herrmann Park	8 th Ave.	Circular Walking Path/Bowman Hall/Police Dept.
Weyler Park	7 th Ave.	Dog Park/Near Lynn's Dakotamart
Eagle Park	Elkhorn St.	Along Belle Fourche River
Thomas C. Gay	N. 8 th Ave.	North Park School/Kindergarten
Rail Park	State St.	Main Street/By Belle Flowers & Gifts
Robb Park	State St.	Main Street/Next to Upper Level Fitness
River Walk/Disc Golf Course	State St. & More!	Tri State Museum/Center of the Nation Monument



GIVEAWAYS: Must be present to win!

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



July

15th - Concerts in the park 7PM Herrmann Park

16th - Hometown Thursday 6PM

17th - Caramel Rolls & Coffee 7:30AM Belle Silver Lining, Fraud Prevention 9AM Belle Silver Lining, Angel Store 5PM BF Global

18th - Moose Lodge Steak Tip Night 5:30PM

19th - Family Fun Day 2PM Tri State Museum

20th - City Council Meeting 6PM

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

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F: 605.702.9206

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Belle Fourche, SD 57717
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F: 605.723.0186

Rapid City

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What Moves You?

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Shepherd of the Hills Church
825 W. Main Street in Lead

Next Clinic: Lead - July 23
Registration: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Free Clinic provides quality medical and emergency dental care to financially eligible northern Black Hills residents, ages 19-64. Medical services will be available at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius Street parking lot (below 825 W. Main Street).

Good Shepherd Free Clinic-Spearfish is open Monday nights at 1020 State Street for medical and emergency dental services.

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

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Thursday August 20th
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NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration for the Butte County Runoff Election to be held on July 28th, 2026, will close on July 13th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered, check the Voter Information Portal at www.sdsos.gov or call the County Auditor at 605-892-4485.

Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the County Auditor's office, Municipal Finance Office, Secretary of State's office, and those locations that provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact the County Auditor to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in form at (www.sdsos.gov).

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the County Auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration.

Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor

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BELLE FOURCHE Community LITTER WALK

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SATURDAY, JULY 11TH | **8:00 - 10:30 AM**

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July 11, 2026
7:00 AM
Spearfish SD
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The half marathon route follows the Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway, starting near Savoy and ending in the Spearfish City Park.

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The Valley Irrigator

Wed. July 8, 2026

Serving Newell, Vale and Nisland Communities

Fourth Summer Playday Brings Competition to Newell Arena



Checking out the barrel as he makes the turn in barrel racing. Longbrake photo

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
NEWELL—Young riders continue to take advantage of the opportunity to build their skills and gain experience during the 2026 Newell Family Summer Playday Series. The fourth gathering of the six-event summer series took place on July 6 under coopera-

tive weather at the Newell Arena. Youth ages 0-19 spent another Monday night working hard at honing their riding skills by showing up to either continue learning the patterns or taking the opportunity to practice full-speed competition runs in the arena. There are a variety of events that take place inside and outside

of the arena for all skill levels. Boys and girls compete against each other in all events except age 11-14 goat tying. Other events include barrel racing, pole bending, flag race, goat tying and goat tail untying, dummy roping, breakaway roping, dummy team roping and steer daubing. Members must enter to com-

pete in at least five of the six playday events to be eligible for year-end awards. However, anyone under age 19 can sign up and compete without being a member. Contestants can sign up online at newellcommunityclub.com. Registration closes at 1 p.m. on the day of the event.

There are only two scheduled playdays left. The next one is scheduled for July 13 beginning at 5 p.m. If you want to participate or watch, the last remaining dates are July 13 and July 20, with the year-end potluck on July 27.

Results D4



Helping little ones learn the barrel pattern and take the event at their own pace is part of the fun of the Summer Playday Series. Longbrake photo

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Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Reub and I went to Hettinger on Monday for his appointment at the eye clinic with Dr. Kludt. After his appointment we took the black pickup out to Laufer Vermeer to see what was wrong with it. Nate checked it over and made an appointment for us to come back on Wednesday to get it fixed. When we stopped at Cenex to gas up, we went inside to visit with the fun guys who stop there to have coffee and visit together. My old friend Allen McIntyre was there wearing a cap that had "Bad Guy" printed on it. I love Allen's humor and he inherited his sense of humor from his father Bill McIntyre who was a good friend of my father Bryce White. I used to love listening to the program "This, That and the Other Thing" on KNDC radio station every morning. I sure wish the station still had Allen on there for me to listen to every morning!

My health was back in

working order again on Tuesday. The pain is gone after the surgery I had on my back last week on June 23 at the Black Hills Surgical Center in Rapid City and I don't need pain pills anymore. I'm able to take care of my chickens again, wash clothes and hang them outside and do all the other things I wasn't able to do for awhile but I get tired pretty fast and I'm still not very steady on my feet yet. The Northwest Schools action was in Isabel on Tuesday.

There's another death to report: Erma Albert, 79 years young of Buffalo, went to be with her Heavenly Father June 22, in Spearfish. Funeral Mass was held Wednesday, July 1, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Belle Fourche with interment at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

Reub and I went to Hettinger on Wednesday to get Nate Weidinger to work on our pickup at Laufer Vermeer after he had gotten the part he needed. He got done

working on it by 3:00, but he had to order another part for it so we will take it back up there next week. Nate is a really handy mechanic. We were too late for coffee in Reeder when we left Hettinger but we might make it in time next week.

We are excited about the new set of twins born in our neighborhood on Wednesday, July 1, to Molly (Holt) and Matt Kerner at the Bismarck hospital! Tyce Matthew Kerner was born first weighing in at 3lbs 15oz and 16.9 inches long, Blaine Holt Kerner was the second born, weighing in at 4lbs 10oz and 16 inches long. The babies weren't due until September and they will probably have to stay in the hospital for quite a while but we can't wait to see them.

It was getting pretty hot on Thursday so Taz came up and put our window air conditioner in for us so we could relax in the cool air. I don't know what our old folks would do without that young man! The guys spent the day cutting and baling hay all day.

Corinne Erickson called me Friday afternoon to see how I was healing up and we had a good visit. She called again late that afternoon to tell me that my old friend Dave Gano had passed away about 5:00 that afternoon. Dave and I grew up together and we have been good friends forever. David Paul Gano, 82, of

Meadow, South Dakota, passed away on Friday, July 3. Memorial services are on Saturday, July 11, at Grace Bible Fellowship Church in Bison. Dave's family has our sympathy.

We watched President Trump on TV give his speech in South Dakota at Mount Rushmore Friday night with a lot of military airplanes flying over Mount Rushmore, including the new beautiful Airforce One that brought the president into our state to deliver his speech to the large crowd in attendance at Mount Rushmore. We got to see Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis and South Dakota's Governor Larry Rhoden talk to the crowd too.

Reub and I celebrated the 250th anniversary of Independence Day on Saturday, July 4th, by going to Hettinger to watch the parade Saturday morning and then we were invited out to our son Sage and Alaina's house to eat lunch and visit with a lot of friends. Alaina's mother Polly Markegard, her uncle Larry Stadheim, and her brothers Josh and Brandy Stadheim and Nathan and Kylee Stadheim and a lot of other family members. Josh Stadheim cooked a really delicious brisket for us and Polly Markegard brought a lot of really good food and we all ate too much. When we got home that evening, we watched President Trump on television give his message to America in Washin-

ton DC, about how wonderful our country has been for the last 250 years before the beautiful fireworks were shot off over DC.

We had a very patriotic church service Sunday morning starting out with all of us standing to pledge allegiance to the American flag followed with several beautiful American patriotic hymns. The Fortress VBS team that came from Minnesota to teach Vacation Bible School this week, James Adrian, Bennett Jones, Ellie Utecht and Lila Tschida, each of them gave a message about how they came to be Christians and why they came from the Bible School to teach VBS this week. Lanie and Matt Klug brought their kids down from North Dakota Sunday afternoon to attend VBS with Taz and Amanda's kids and they spent the afternoon in the swimming pool that Amanda got set up last week. Sunday Vacation Bible School will be Monday thru Friday 9:00-2:00 with the program at 2:00 on Friday and that's always a lot of fun.



Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

June 29, 1916

Seven automobiles bearing 30 Lead boosters came in from Vale Tuesday at 1:00 o'clock and they at once proceeded to let the natives in on the fact that they were going to have a celebration at Lead on the 4th. A feature of their parade was a troop of Scottish bagpipers (kilts and all) which entertained for some time. The boosters left about 3 o'clock for Belle Fourche by way of Nisland to spread the news.

A notice from Charles S. Price and John W. Price announces the business heretofore conducted by Chas S. Price in Newell will be conducted on and after July 1 as Price & Son. All accounts due to Charles S. Price will be payable to Price & Son.

J. H. Senovoy, Proprietor of Pioneer Dairy Farm announced that after July 1, all the milk furnished by the Pioneer Dairy Farm will be sold at 5 quarts for \$1.00 and sweet cream 2 pints for 25 cents.

July 1, 1926

One of the noticeable features of the tourist travel this season is that cars are coming from greater distances than ever before. Transcontinental parties are not unusual and even 1 car from Nome, Alaska, recently camped here. This indicates the extent to which the highway routes are gateway to the Black Hills.

Two young men from Colorado are helping thin beets at the Oscar Reppen farm. This is their first trip west and they are very interested in our locality and things which are new to them. They are on their way to the Pacific Coast and need a little extra travel money.

The "farm relief" most needed in the project country just now has hired help. With a shortage of male help, several farmers have hired women and girls to assist in the hayfields. And there are a good number of these Maude Mullers, too.

The 5-year-old daughter of Earl Wilson, living 5 miles east of town, was bitten by a rattlesnake last week and brought to the Newell Hospital. It required

some prompt treatment by Dr. Clark who brought her through the ordeal all right.

July 2, 1936

A fine of \$5 and Costs was assessed against John Hoover, Belle Fourche, yesterday in Justice T. J. Hartwell's Court on a charge of fighting. Joe Novotny of Hoover was complaining witness. Hoover is 74 years old and Novotny 77.

The Newell swimming pool will be under the supervision of 2 guards from 1:00 to 4:00 o'clock each afternoon. Gordon Van derBoom and Miss Enid Franklin will be on duty to serve as caretakers.

Among those who went to Hot Springs last Sunday to enjoy the medicinal warm water pool were Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. C. O. Fogelberg & son, Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Youngblutt, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Eccles, E. J. Pickrel, Paul A. Wiest and Boyd Gray.

July 27, 1946

Stories of unusual farming experiences featured the meeting of the Butte County Farm Bureau in Newell City Hall Friday, with Walter Milberg winning the award for the "tallest story" told. The Bureau went on record being decidedly opposed to Day-light Savings Time. President Phillip Vallery of Nisland reported briefly on the Executive Board meeting held recently in Huron. The business meeting was followed consisting of several musical selections and other related stories of unusual experiences by various members. Followed by lunch served by hosts and hostesses of the evening.

Lois Williamson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Williamson, Vale, received a painful cut on her hand last week when boxing with her brother, Gerold. Her hand broke the glass in the kitchen door, and she received a severe wound. She was brought to Dr. L. L. Theberge's office in Newell who took six stitches in the thumb and 4 stitches in her finger. Up until the accident, she held the upper fist.

An important notice from Jake's Radio Service at Kelly Electric at Belle Fourche, new life can be repaired to old radio

by Linda Velder

sets; so, don't be satisfied with anything less than perfect performance from your radio. Their expert repair service will give new life to your set and make your listening as enjoyable as the manufacturers intended it should be. Worth your time and money to drive the extra miles.

July 5, 1956

At the regular meeting of the Newell Community Club, Tuesday evening at the Skyroom of the Cove, they renewed their efforts to secure a lake north of Newell. The club approved a motion to share expenses with the proposed lake with the Izaak Walton League and efforts to convince the State Game, Fish & Parks Commission of the value of a lake such as the proposed project where there are so many possible benefits.

Dr. Glenn B. Rea, S D Livestock Sanitary Board, has urged South Dakota pet owners to have their pets vaccinated against rabies. He also advised that wild or domestic animals showing unnatural behavior should be watched. The disease is particularly heavy during the summer months, because animals are more active. The Laboratory confirmed cases of rabies in dogs, cats, squirrels, skunks, cattle, rabbits, rats and mice. In this state cases are scattered throughout the state.

Attorney General Phil Saunders urged a statewide crackdown on the criminal violations in selling of liquor and beer to minors. He noted that South Dakota Law prohibits the selling of liquor to any person under 21 and no-intoxicating beer and wine to anyone under 18 years of age. Saunders urged that the places and person under suspicion be kept under constant surveillance and that good results could be obtained by full vigilance and prosecution of all violators where or whenever possible. Not only legal stores, bars or taverns, but the independent local suppliers and most everyone knows who they are.

July 14, 1966

A breakfast fly-in and some aircraft competition is planned at Newell Airport on Sunday July

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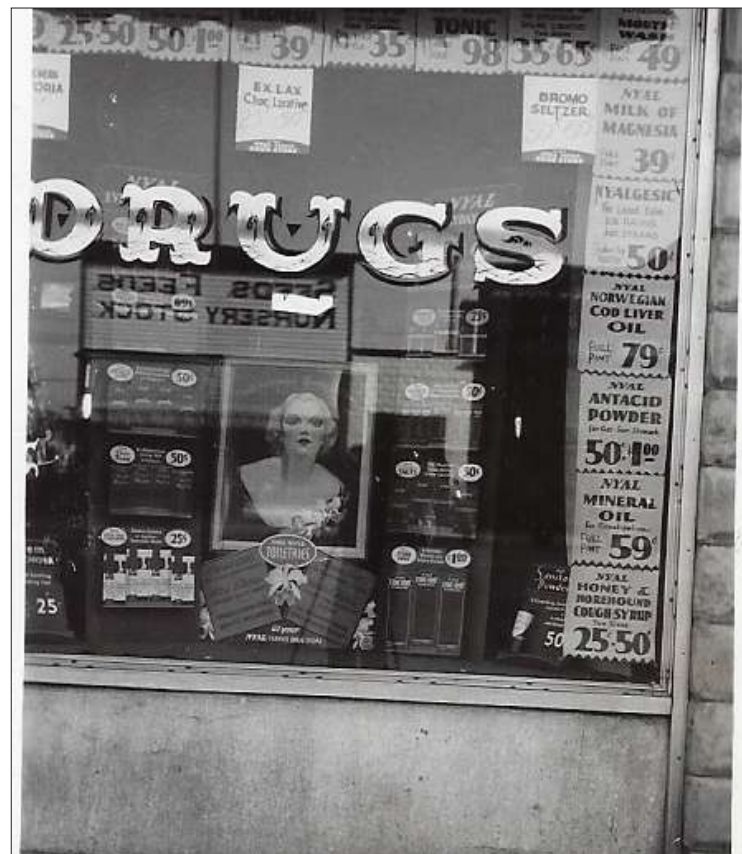
31, it was announced by local pilots. The breakfast for all to fly here from over a large area and will be the principal attention. However, some acrobatics, spot-landing contests and possibly parachute jumping will also be included to lend an air show flavor to the event. Pilot Darrel Blomberg, operator of the airport, flew Jean DeHaven, Wessington Springs, from Moorcroft, Wyo to Pierre and Miller last Saturday and will pick him up at Spearfish. DeHaven famous for his 20-mule team trekked 1800 miles from Death Valley, Cal to his hometown at Wessington Springs.

The Annual Old Timers Picnic sponsored by the Stoneville Steadies Extension Club will be held this Sunday in Bear Butte Park in Sturgis. Everyone

interested is welcome to attend, need not be a former resident of the Stoneville Community. Coffee will be furnished.

Clara Stolnack proprietor of Thrift Fabric Shop in Newell advises seamstresses to order your wool now for fall sewing or choose from the many colors now on hand in Botany, Wedgwood, Forsman, Homestead or look over the beautiful mix & match shades from J. P. Stevens in machine washables and bonded fabrics.

John Paul Wilson, son of Mrs. Myrtle Wilson, is one of 10 students at the University of South Dakota named to the Deans Honor List in the College of Fine Arts for the 1965-66, Second Semester with straight A's. Wilson is Senior Major in applied piano.



(L) The Tourist Park was a popular point to stop for travelers; (R) 1966, Newell Pilots hosted a Breakfast Fly-in for area Flying Clubs; (Above) In 1916, Drug Store changed to "Price & Son." Museum photos

Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Feeding SD at Dakota Life Center
July 9 • 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
Second Thursday every month

Summer Reading Program
July 10 • 10:30 a.m.
Newell Public Library

Big Summer Blowout & Car Show
July 11 • 8 a.m.
South Park

Newell Playday Series
July 13 • 5 p.m.
Rodeo grounds



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Results From D1

June 29 Results

0-3 Division

- Stick Horse Barrels
 1. Callen Westland, 12.63
 2. Autumn Bonefield, 13.41
 3. Brayzen Zimmer, 14.97
 4. Ridley Rosencranz, 15.19

Stick Horse Flag Race

1. Callen Westland, 4.12
 2. Brayzen Zimmer, 4.31
 3. Autumn Bonefield, 5.66
 4. Ridley Rosencranz, 5.75

Stick Horse Pole Bending

1. Callen Westland, 13.96
 2. Autumn Bonefield, 14.62
 3. Ridley Rosencranz, 15.34
 4. Brayzen Zimmer, 16.03

Wildcard

1. Brayzen Zimmer, 17.56
 2. Callen Westland, 17.72
 3. Ridley Rosencranz, 20.31
 4. Autumn Bonefield, 22.28

4-6 Division

Barrel Racing

1. Blue Williams, 19.948
 2. Quincie Lindskov, 28.784
 3. Latham McTaggart, 37.135
 4. Buckley Erickson, 42.183

Flag Race

1. Blue Williams, 9.510
 2. Tegan Lei, 14.448
 3. Skailyn Bossert, 14.882
 4. Callen Westland, 19.196

Pole Bending

1. Latham McTaggart, 41.843
 2. Quincie Lindskov, 44.521
 3. Tegan Lei, 61.292
 4. Skailyn Bossert, 73.240

Goat Tail Untying (No Horse)

1. McKenna Fox, 3.28
 2. Quincie Lindskov, 3.31
 3. Latham McTaggart, 3.38
 4. Blue Williams, 3.54

Dummy Roping

1. Tegan Lei
 2. Ridley Rosencranz
 3. Callen Westland
 4. Buckley Erickson

7-10 Division

Barrel Racing

1. Prairie Lei, 17.924
 2. Henry Bishop 18.657
 3. Rickeigh Lei, 19.602
 4. Charley McTaggart, 19.784

Flag Race

1. Prairie Lei, 6.749
 2. Windsor Erickson, 7.091
 3. Maxon Dell, 7.168
 4. Range Lei, 7.484

Pole Bending

1. Henry Bishop, 24.277
 2. Blaire Nordick, 24.656
 3. Maxon Dell, 24.740
 4. Prairie Lei, 24.882

Goat Tail Untying (On Horse)

1. Windsor Erickson, 7.58
 2. Rylan Jeffries, 7.83
 3. Range Lei, 7.98
 4. Maxon Dell, 8.28

Dummy Roping

1. Range Lei, 5.02
 2. Maxon Dell, 5.46
 3. Prairie Lei, 5.82
 4. Coy Westland, 7.31

Dummy Team Roping Header

1. Rylan Jeffries
 2. Tyndall Vetter
 3. Rickeigh Lei
 4. Koal Allen

Dummy Team Roping Heeler

1. Rickeigh Lei
 2. Treyton Vetter
 3. Prairie Lei
 4. Bristol Thiel

11-14 Division

Barrel Racing

1. Kaylee Lambert, 17.018
 2. Natalie Lei, 17.812
 3. Audri Bishop, 18.083
 4. Baylee Cammack, 19.650

Flag Race

1. Kaylee Lambert, 6.186
 2. Jace Hiles, 6.581
 3. Natalie Lei, 6.651
 4. Cooper Cermak, 6.991

Pole Bending

1. Audri Bishop, 23.284
 2. Jace Hiles, 28.404
 3. Cooper Cermak, 29.712
 4. Baylee Cammack, 30.902

Girls Goat Tying

1. Audri Bishop, 12.06
 2. Kaylee Lambert, 21.91
 3. Chaisley McTaggart, 23.54
 4. Paisley Braun, 29.63

Boys Goat Tying

1. Kase Lambert, 11.09
 2. Jace Hiles, 15.21
 3. Creece Norman, 18.28
 4. Tristan Wishard, 18.46

Breakaway Roping

1. Zane Sacersen, 3.31
 2. Jace Sacersen, 4.75

Dummy Team Roping, Header

1. Cooper Cermak
 2. Jace Hiles
 3. Tristan Wishard
 4. Audri Bishop

Dummy Team Roping, Heeler

1. Jace Hiles
 2. Cooper Cermak

15-19 Division

Barrel Racing

1. Alexis Cermak, 17.595
 2. Kalani Meyers, 19.673
 3. Presley Conry, 22.645
 4. Kaydence Lei, 24.562

Flag Race

1. Rachel Stranberg, 6.109
 2. Kalani Meyers, 7.322
 3. Kaydence Lei, 8.649

Pole Bending

1. Rachel Stranberg, 22.802
 2. Alexis Cermak, 24.452
 3. Hayden Johnston, 25.047
 4. Kalani Meyers, 26.013

Goat Tying

1. Rachel Stranberg, 11.52
 2. Kaydence Lei, 11.78
 Breakaway Roping
 1. Presley Conry, 3.210
 2. Kenlee King, 4.22
 3. Rachel Stranberg, 7.810

Steer Daubing

1. Presley Conry, 1.81
 2. Rachel Stranberg, 22.930

Wild Card Event: Ages 7-19

1. Cooper Cermak, 14.549
 2. Rachel Stranberg, 14.818
 3. Paisley Braun, 22.067
 4. Prairie Lei, 22.087

Family and Friends Gather to Honor John Heisler

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—Family and friends traveled near and far, some by air and some by car, but they all traveled to celebrate a man who means a great deal to them on a very special day. Some call him Dad, some call him brother, husband or grandpa and others call him friend or neighbor, but to them all, it seems, he is a special person.

You see, the long-time Newellite, John Heisler, turned 80 years old, and judging by the crowd at the NVN Center on July 5, he has touched a lot of lives over the years.

There was a lot of behind-the-scenes planning, and although it started as a surprise, John said, "I kind of figured it out!"

His wife of 35 years, Judy, explained, "We had to tell him, because you can't keep anything a secret from him!"

The coordination of getting John's three sisters, one brother and his five children and nine grandchildren plus all of their families to Newell took quite the effort. "Lots of family came in, it took a lot of planning," explained Judy. "The son (John) flew the granddaughter in from Nashville, he rented cars for Colleen—a special vehicle for her to come down from Aber-

deen and the two grandsons to drive her down, and then he rented a car for the nurse—she's the one that was taking care of Colleen, and he rented a car for her to come up from Denver."

There was an abundance of food for everyone to enjoy. "I catered all of it—I'm tired, I'm done, it's my last catering job! I'm going out with a bang," said Judy.

Everyone gathered to sing happy birthday to John and watch him blow out his candles. He shared his spotlight with his nephew's wife, Annie Mueller, who turned 69 on the same day.

The Heislars came to town about 30 years ago, and it was kind of by accident, not by plan, but they have made the most of it since arriving. "Well, I had a friend that retired before I did, and he had a nice place down by Hermosa, and I said, well, I knew that my time was coming with the company, so I said watch for a place for me," explained John. "He gave my name to a realtor. . . I wanted to live down where he did, in that area west of Hermosa, towards Keystone—it's really not as warm in the summer and not as cold in the winter. . . She sent us videos on a couple places and pictures and we looked at this (Newell home). I didn't



John Heisler is ready to blow out the candles on his birthday cake. Longbrake photo(s)

like the other places. We liked this—the price was right!"

John stays involved and active in the small town. Even though he is retired, he continues to work and volunteer. "I will be the president now of the Lions Club, and I kind of ran the Belle Fourche Irrigation

District for almost 20 years," he shared. He remains active in the workforce as he drives a school bus for the Newell School District.

As for turning another year older, well he has that all figured out too! "Well, I read up on it and it said, if you have

good balance and can walk good, you'll live long, but if you reach 80 and you lost your balance and can't walk around very well—you're short-lived," said John with a chuckle. He stays active and still has a few cows to take care of each day on the ranch.



John Heisler is presented with a special gift in honor of his 80th birthday.



Son of the birthday guy (both named John), spends time looking at the memorabilia display honoring his dad.

Vale Community Club's

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