



Belle Fourche Beacon

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Save the Vets Charity Event Raises Over \$16,000

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE— For the fourth year in a row, State Street was shut down as the Save the Vets Charity event took over the area in front of The Circle Lounge. The Armed Forces of America Motorcycle Club, Belle Fourche Chapter, raised over \$16,000 throughout the day-long fundraising event on August 15.

The day started with several area businesses competing in a Smoke Off. The public got to taste test all of the meat. Each entrant also prepared a side dish. After all of the tasting was done, the public got to cast a vote for their favorite of the day. The People’s Choice Award went to the Circle and Trisha Fowler—32 votes were cast for her dish. The placing was the same in both the meat category and side-dish category. First place was awarded to Fire and Iron with the Cowboy, with second going to Trisha Fowler and The Circle and third place was Tammy Westland and the Hitching Post Tap House. Many of the winning teams donated their cash winnings directly to the Save the Vets Charity.

Armed Forces of America Motorcycle Club is the driving force behind the event and has been doing some sort of charity event every year for the past 13 years. This year all of the mon-



The crowd starts to gather outside of the Circle Lounge to take part in the live auction. Longbrake photo

ey raised will benefit the SGT Colton Levi Derr Foundation, an organization that helps raise awareness about the profound challenges that veterans face while reintegrating into civilian life and provides resources to combat veteran suicide.

This is the third year that this organization has been chosen to receive the funds. The Motorcy-

cle Club has chosen it for a few reasons. “Because the fact the family and the charity is organized out of Rapid City, so the money that we raise stays locally and not going to a national organization. We know where the money is actually going to and what it’s going to be used for,” explained Bow Eckenberg of Armed Forces of America

Motorcycle Club, Belle Fourche Chapter. “It is a huge cause for me—as a veteran that’s struggled with PTSD and all that kind of things. Even my brothers in the club have struggled with it [suicide] and lost family members from it—that’s a huge thing that hits home.”

A special guest speaker, Jerry Derr, the Foundation’s founder

and father of SGT Colton Levi Derr, was on hand to share the story about his son. “He came home Easter of 2012—he just gotten out of Afghanistan and completed his mission. When he got back to South Dakota, all of his friends and family and everybody thought he was just

Save the Vets Contd. A4

Volunteers Pull 250 Tires From Belle Fourche River



The group of volunteers who helped clean up the Belle Fourche River. Courtesy photo

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—Volunteers once again teamed up to continue to beautify the Belle Fourche community on August 14. This time, their target was all of the dirty old tires that had been dumped into the Belle Fourche River near the Round-up Sports Complex.

A group of over 20 individuals led by Nikki Hoyme, Clint Haffner, Brit and Trey Clarkson joined forces with the Belle Fourche Broncs Cross Country Team, their parents, the Monument Health United Way Volunteer Group and David Prozeller to remove tires from the Belle Fourche River.

In addition to detracting from a naturally beautiful place, the old tires that were dumped in the river can damage aquatic habitats, harm wildlife and contribute pollutants to the water. “We wanted to do it because it is a giant eyesore in our community right along the bike path and also the pollution being caused by the tires breaking down isn’t good for the environment,” explained

Cleanup Contd. A5

Building Teams, Raising Awareness

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—With the 6th annual Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk about one month away, September 19, co-directors Amanda Kramp and Sonia Ribordy held a gathering to provide an opportunity for all team leaders to come together and support each other. The Hitching Post Tap House hosted Heart of the Walk: Captain Gathering on the evening of August 11.

The Out of the Darkness Walk is held yearly to raise awareness about mental health and support suicide prevention. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is a nonprofit organization that advocates for suicide prevention and mental health laws and education. They have chapters in all 50 states.

The Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk co-directors are actively seeking new team

leaders for the upcoming walk. Anyone can be a team leader. “It’s really any size, I mean, we have had people sign up as just one person and that’s it—they’re team captain of their own team,” explained Kramp. “Teams just get more people involved. As a team captain you can sign more people up for it and bring more people into the walk—trying to be the person to pull everyone together. Obviously, the more people that are there and participate then the bigger the turnout is for it and the more people are made aware.”

Money raised from the walk helps support the South Dakota chapters in providing educational resources and healing support for suicide loss survivors. “There are 16 teams right now and 83 participants. We’ve already raised \$11,000 for it,” shared Kramp.

The evening was an informal gathering meant to help team

OOTD Walk Contd. A3



The Hitching Post Tap House hosted those interested in being a team captain at the Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk. Longbrake photo

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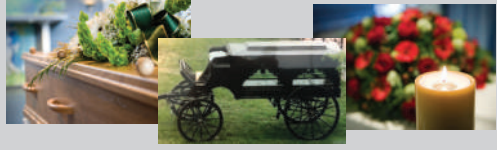
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Most of us intend on "getting around to it someday," but that someday never comes and we leave our family wondering whether or not they did the right thing. **It doesn't have to be like that.** It's not pleasant to be reminded of our own mortality; 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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Dennis Duane Artus, 85

Dennis Duane Artus was born December 20, 1940 in Deadwood, South Dakota. He was the son of Oren and Elna (Penttila) Artus. Dennis graduated from the Belle Fourche High School in 1958, and in 1962 he received his B.S. Degree from Black Hills State University. Following his high school graduation, Dennis helped construct many missile silo sites throughout the area. On August 14, 1973, he was united in marriage to Betty Moppin, in Waukegan, Illinois. Following their marriage, they moved to Washington, where Dennis worked as a Director for the Olympia Brewing Company. In 1980, Dennis earned his Masters Degree in Management, from the Lake Forest College in Lake Forest Illinois.

In 1976, Dennis began to put his true talent to work, which was the entrepreneurial spirit of consulting businesses that needed help. For many years, Dennis purchased companies that were failing and he would fix the issues and sell them. Many times he did this with, companies located all over western America. Some were trucking firms and one was even a light bulb company. Dennis was truly talented as a business consultant.

In 2000, Dennis and Betty moved to Belle Fourche and in 2003 they wanted to live closer to their children and grandchildren, so they moved to Wisconsin. In 2020 they returned to Belle Fourche. Dennis enjoyed the outdoors and nature, and hunting and fishing were his favorite hobbies in life. He also was an intelligent



man. He had a head for business, and he could fix anything that needed repair.

After a sudden diagnosis with cancer in May, Dennis went home to heaven at the age of 85 on Monday, August 17, 2026 at the Heartland Senior Living Center in Spearfish. He is survived by his wife, Betty of Belle Fourche; daughter, Rebecca (Daryl) Scheifla of Florence AZ; 2 sons, Douglas Artus of Pewaukee WI, Brent (Michelle) Artus of Pleasant Prairie WI; 8 grandchildren, Michael, Michelle, Kali, Shannon, Cameron, Aaron, Elena, Alex; 4 great grandchildren; sister, Darleen Cobb of Belle Fourche; and brother, Sherwin (Kaycie) Artus of Highland Hills CO. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Mark Artus; daughter, Karen Miller; and brother-in-law, Jim Cobb.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 10:30 am Monday, August 24, 2026 at the St. James Lutheran Church in Belle Fourche, with Ronda Mehrer officiating. There will be no visitation. Inurnment will take place at Pine Slope Cemetery. Friends may leave written condolences, view a video tribute, and view the funeral service on Dennis's obituary page, located on the funeral home's website: www.LeveringtonFH.com

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. James Lutheran Church.



Patricia Moldenhauer, 91

Patricia Moldenhauer, age 91, formerly of Cambria, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at Hillside Manor in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

Inurnment will be at Stone Cemetery in Burnett, Wisconsin on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Joel Certa-Werner officiating.

Patricia was born on June 14, 1935 to Roger and Evelyn Williams. On August 9, 1958, she was united in marriage with Wayne "Pete" Moldenhauer. Pat worked various jobs over the years, but the one she treasured the most is when she and Pete owned and operated Prairie Repair in Burnett. After they retired in 1997, they moved to Belle Fourche, South Dakota and enjoyed "retirement". Pat was always busy doing something and she enjoyed being active in the local Moose Lodge as a Woman of the Moose where she earned the four degrees that are based on merit. After Pete passed away, she stayed busy but eventually



moved back to Wisconsin and settled in Cambria near her siblings.

Pat is survived by her siblings, Shelby Heller of Randolph, Howard (Audrey) Williams of Randolph, Darleen McConochie of Cambria, and Donald (Pam) Williams of Doylestown; many special nieces and nephews, including two special great nieces, Lisa Neuendorf and Amanda Herrick who have been there to provide for her daily needs. She is further survived by other relatives and friends. Pat was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Pete in 2004; her brother, Richard Williams; her sister, Beverly Draheim; and a special nephew, Glenn Neuendorf.

If desired, donations may be made in Patricia Moldenhauer's name to the Jane Morgan Memorial Library in Cambria.

The Koepsell-Murray Funeral Home in Beaver Dam is serving the family. www.KoepsellFH.com

Sonia Jean Geis, 59

Sonia Jean Geis, 59, passed away at home on the evening of Wednesday, August 5, 2026, surrounded by her family and so much love.

Sonia was born March 13, 1967, in Rapid City, South Dakota. She spent her school years in Sioux Falls and her summers in Aspen, Colorado, a place she loved deeply throughout her life. Her family spent those summers tuning and rebuilding pianos for the Aspen Music Festival, and Sonia carried on that tradition as a piano technician herself. Aspen also brought so many wonderful people into Sonia's life, many of whom became lifelong friends.

Sonia met the love of her life, Gary Michael Geis, during his final year of college. Gary says he became the luckiest man in the world 40 years ago when he met his beautiful wife. Sonia was 21 and Gary 25 when they married on May 28, 1988, and a year later they welcomed their first child in Aspen.

In so many ways, Sonia and Gary grew up together. They raised Brittany, Gavin and Garrett while figuring out life alongside one another, taking each chapter as it came and always finding reasons to have fun along the way. After nearly four decades of marriage, they were still flirty and playful and happiest in the simple moments - country music playing at home, a cocktail in the backyard hot tub, a movie together at night, time in the Aspen Valley, and family vacations and little adventures over the years.

"Family over everything" has always been the Geis family saying, and Sonia lived it. Family came first. Their closeness was something friends and family always admired, and no matter what life brought, they went through it together. Sonia and Gary gave their children good bones for navigating life: love your people, keep moving forward and always come back to family.

Sonia was energetic, bubbly, loving and fun. She loved country music, putting on her cowboy boots and dancing, and simply moving her body. Fitness was a big part of her life, and she was an avid fitness instructor, teaching aerobics and fitness classes throughout the years. She loved skiing and hiking in the mountains and especially loved playing tennis, including being part of the tennis team in Aspen. Sonia was also a travel agent and piano technician, carrying on the



Schoppert family tradition of working with pianos. She loved cooking for her family and filling the Geis family home in Boulder with friends, food, music, laughter and memories. She had a warm smile, a kind heart and was always willing to help.

As a mom, Sonia was there through thick and thin. She loved her kids unconditionally and without judgment, and would happily talk to you for as long as you would let her. She loved her horoscopes and got such a kick out of how well everyone in the family seemed to align with their signs. She was a precious mom - supportive, accepting and always there.

At the end of May, Sonia and her family learned that she had stage IV uterine carcinosarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer. Everything changed incredibly quickly. She fought hard for more time with the people she loved, making it through two rounds of chemotherapy before the cancer continued to progress and her kidneys began to fail. When her body could no longer keep fighting, Sonia came home, where she wanted to be. In her final days, she was held, cared for and surrounded by the same love she had given her family throughout her life.

Sonia is survived by her husband and love of her life, Gary Michael Geis; her children, Brittany, Gavin and Garrett Geis; her mother, Joan Petrik Schoppert; and her sisters, Rochelle Schoppert and Shanna Gulbrandson. She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Schoppert, and her brother, R. Scott Schoppert.

A funeral service for Sonia will be held Friday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Boulder, Colorado, followed by a reception. Friends and family are also invited to an open house celebrating Sonia's life on Saturday, August 15 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Geis family home in Boulder. The address will be shared privately.

Sonia leaves behind a lifetime of love, laughter and memories that will live on in the family she held so close. We know she is somewhere beautiful now - healthy, free of pain, with music playing and mountains all around her.

Family over everything. Always.
Rocky Mountain high. We love you forever.

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

From A1 **OOTD Walk**
captains in any way they need-
ed, to inform them on ways to
expand their teams and to learn
about the difference they are
making in the community. The
Hitching Post provided sea-
soned tots and cookies along
with a variety of refreshments
to go along with the informative
evening. A variety of handouts
and educational SWAG was
given out.
If you are interested in leading
a team but you didn't make it to
the event, there is still plenty of
time to sign up. You can reach
out to Sonia or Amanda and they
can direct you on the process,
or you can go to the website
and sign up on your own. "Just

Google 'Out of the Darkness
Walk Belle Fourche' and you'll
go to register for it— you'll go
through and put all your infor-
mation in and create your team,"
said Kramp.
If you are unable to preregis-
ter online, that is no problem!
Kramp said, "we also have a lot
of people that register the day of
the walk too. They don't want to
do it online, so they just come
to the walk and register. We also
get a lot of donations the day of
too—people just get checks or
cash on that same day."
Make plans to participate in
this year's Out of the Darkness
Walk in Belle Fourche. Check-
in begins at 8 a.m. on September
19 at Herrmann Park. Partici-

pants can walk the entire route
or stay close to Herrmann Park
and walk laps there.
There will be a variety of
stations set up along the path,
including but not limited to a
water station, a welcome station,
a bubble gum station, a dog
watering station and a pebbles
and pedals station. "So the ped-
als are if you are just walking
in remembrance of someone
and you want to release a petal,
you can release that," explained
Ribordy. "If you've got a lot of
worries and stuff and you're
walking through, that pebble is
to drop it—you can just leave it
there for that day, that moment
anyway."



Co-director Sonia Ribordy discusses the Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk. Longbrake photo

Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Museum Rock'in a New Event

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—The
Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Mu-
seum tried something new this
weekend, turning the outdoor
spaces around the Museum into a
gathering place for the first-ever
Rock'in Rock, Mineral and Fos-
sil Show. They invited the public
to come out and enjoy the two-
day event on August 15 and 16.
Vendors and food trucks lined
the open spaces along the road
and parking area, giving visi-
tors plenty to see and do as they
explored the event. Inside the
Museum, the Hitching Post Tap
House set up a beer garden and
offered a variety of drinks for
thirsty eventgoers.
Turnout on Sunday was a little
more robust than on Saturday,
although a steady stream of visitors
came both days. "I think every-
thing went fairly well, actually.
We had over 100-some people

here today (Saturday). It wasn't
as big as I would have liked, but
this is our first time—so putting
it in realistic perspective, this is
not bad for the first try," shared
Walter Stein, owner.
The Rock'in event was free.
The Museum offered discounted
rates for anyone who wanted to
peruse all of the dinosaur finds
and fossils inside. Expedition
Outpost Gift Shop offered 10
percent off of everything in the
store.
The stage featured free musical
acts each day. On Saturday,
Michael Meemken with Pass
the Mike Entertainment kept the
crowd jumping, playing karaoke
favorites. The stage was busy
with entertainers of all ages tak-
ing the mic and singing a tune.
Live music was on the pro-
gram for Sunday with musical
duo Bittersweet performing from
1 p.m. to 3 p.m., followed by the
West Dakota Band playing from
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Folks brought

their lawn chairs and enjoyed the
live entertainment.
Stein had hoped to capitalize
on the crowds attending the
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally by
attracting some of the bikers
to the museum. However, very
few motorcycles turned into the
complex. Families did turn up,
and kids enjoyed the music and
the dinosaurs inside the museum.
There were also lawn games for
them to play.
A silent auction was going
on inside as well, with dinosaur
teeth, bones, fossils, rocks and
other treasures up for auction,
offering something for everyone
while helping to support the
Museum. Some of the vendors
on site included Pink Misty
Minerals, Outlaw Fossil Prep
and Sales, Wilderness Treasure,
Amende's Crafts, Asian Eat-
street, Sergeant Poppers, Kernels
and Kandies, The Artemis House
and Petal and Bean.



(Clockwise from Above) The Hitching Post Tap House provided the beer garden during the Show; Pass the Mike Entertainment, Michael Meemken hosted karaoke on Saturday afternoon; Shopping at one of the vendors at the Show; A Jurassic Park Jeep was on display. Longbrake photos







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The seating area was a busy place on Sunday afternoon.





Save the Vets
Contd. from A1

great because he looked great... when he got back he and I had a conversation... And he said, 'no, I'm not good at all,' he shared. "The Saturday before he was to report back to duty, right after he left South Dakota, he took his life and committed suicide. So we founded the foundation in his name, and we've been going since 2012, working with vets and trying to help them in that transition and when you're having a rough time realize, there are people out there that care and there are resources out there."

In addition to the Smoker, a live auction, 50/50 raffle and a gun drawing were all money-raising activities for the day.

The one-day event honoring Veterans was the culmination of months of planning, as efforts to raise money for the very important cause began in January. "Preparation begins usually January 1—it takes a lot of time and effort to get everything worked out. You know, our vendors and our donations and everything—we had Vortex donate this year—I reached out to them at the beginning of the year, it takes some time because they're corporations, it takes time," explained Eckenberg.

All the hard work securing donations for the live auction paid off. The live auction raised \$6,690.

The highest bid of the day went to an American bald eagle art piece that brought \$800.

Bringing the community together was half of the fun for the occasion. "Turnout this year has been pretty decent, but with the rally and the weather it's not as big as we'd like—it can always be bigger," said Eckenberg. "That's one thing we strive for is make it bigger and better and promote State Street and do better for our community!"

The wife of Master Sergeant Jeffrey Mark Cole donated \$1,000 on behalf of her husband. "He served 26 years in the Air Force. He retired at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. And he passed away January 30, 2025—he's buried at Black Hills National Cemetery," she shared.



The crowd starts to gather outside of the Circle Lounge to take part in the live auction. Longbrake photos



Fire and Iron with the Cowboy received first place in both the smoked meat and side dish categories.



Members of the Armed Forces of America Motorcycle Club hold up a quilt that is up for live auction. Bow Eckenberg served as the auctioneer.



Tammy Westland and the Hitching Post Tap House received third place in both the meat and side dish categories.



Jerry Derr, Colton's father and founder of his Foundation, spends time talking about his son.



Trisha Fowler and The Circle received the People's Choice Award, as well as second place in both the side dish and smoked meat categories.

From A1 **Cleanup**

Hoyme. “We hope this helps make the Roundup Complex look even better.”

The massive undertaking took a while to plan and even involved a practice run that included removing a few old tires from the water to ensure they had a safe way to get them out when everyone else was there to help. The tires have been piling up for many years. “People have commented to Clint and I over the past 10 years, on and off about how bad the tires in the river looked,” shared Hoyme. “Brit Clarkson and I have talked about wanting to do what we could to remove tires for the past couple of years. With the dry conditions we decided to give it a go this year.”

The group successfully pulled 250 tires out of the Belle Fourche River. Tires of every size, from bicycle and car tires to truck and tractor tires, were removed. The project took around 10 hours, including some prep time and follow-up cleaning. Most of the adults in the group took the day off work to complete the project, including Brit and Trey Clarkson, Clint Haffner and Nikki Hoyme. The city of Belle Fourche worked with volunteers to coordinate the disposal of the tires. They provided a roll-off dumpster to collect the old tires.

The crew focused on just a small portion of the river and there are still more tires that need to be removed. “We hope we made a large dent in the

number of tires in the river there,” said Hoyme. “We know there are more tires in there and ideally there would be another cleanup when the water is down.”

This dedicated group of citizens continues to find projects that benefit the community. From cleaning up tires to trimming trees and picking up trash after the Fourth of July parade, they are very hard-working. If you would like to get involved in a cleanup project, reach out and lend a hand. “We believe in trying to be a part of a solution versus just being aware of a concern and either looking the other way or complaining to others about it,” shared Hoyme.

Good Luck
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Finding the tires in the river. *Courtesy photos*



Hooking the rope on the tire to pull it out of the river.



Some of the tires pulled out of the river. (Below) Getting into the river.



Pulling a huge tractor tire out of the Belle Fourche River.



Carrying another tire out of the river.



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Show Up!

by Belle LaVenue

The Getting Our Acts Together BFACT Cast is announced! Director ToiLyn Flick has assembled ten excellent performers - many whom you will recognize from past productions - to tell the story of "Good Neighbors" in September's regional evening of one act shows.

The cast: Evie Stewart: Whitney Bridgers; Malcolm Stewart: Louis Mehlhaff; Madam Mystic: Geno Pesicka; Reese: Savanna Kitzmiller; Tanner: Darian Pesicka; Rennie: Alanya Drabek; Toby: Silas Pesicka; Baron Von Barron: Colin Hanzlik; Deke Allington: Carston Sechser; Detective Darius: Loki Larive. **Tune in next week for an introduction to the plot & comments from the director!**



Center of the Nation Concert Association has announced their 26-27 Concert Series Performances! The first concert will be **September 24th**, so get your tickets soon from a CON board member or the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce. The variety of musical genres and great ticket prices make this a very popular concert series. Season tickets for all five concerts are \$50 for individuals, \$25 for students, and \$120 for the family.

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater Board is looking to fill a vacancy on their volunteer board for the position of "Member at Large". They will hold the election at the upcoming August BOD Meeting on August 24 at 7pm at the Branding Iron. You must be a BFACT Member to vote in the election, and you can become a member at the meeting. You can nominate others or yourself. This term runs through the end of 2027.

For more information on how the BOD runs, you can read the BFACT Bylaws on their website: <https://www.bellefourcheact.com/who-we-are/>

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August 28th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
September 4th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
September 11th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
September 18th – Early Spring Calf & Yrlg Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
September 25th – Spring Calf & Yrlg Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
October 2nd – Spring Calf & Yrlg Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
Friday, October 9th – Spring Calf & Yrlg Special
Saturday, October 10th – 1st Saturday Weigh Up Special
Friday, October 16th – Spring Calf & Yrlg Special
Saturday, October 17th – Bred Cow & Weigh Up Special
Wednesday, October 21st – 1st Wednesday Spring Calf Special – Noon
Friday, October 23rd – Spring Calf & Yrlg Special
Saturday, October 24th – Weigh Up Special
Wednesday, October 28th – Spring Calf Special – Noon
Friday, October 30th – Spring Calf Special Featuring Hereford Influence
Saturday, October 31st – Bred Cow & Weigh Up Special
Wednesday, November 4th – Last Spring Calf Special – Noon
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Friday, November 20th – Spring Calf Special
Saturday, November 21st – Bred Hfr & Cow & Weigh Up Special
Saturday, November 28th – Annual Thanksgiving Bred Heifer & Stock Cow Special
December 4th – Spring Calf Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
December 11th – Bred Hfr & Cow Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
December 18th – Spring Calf & Bred Cow Special – Last Sale Of 2026

2026 SHEEP SALES
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
September 17th – Annual Replacement Ewe, Ewe Lamb & Feeder Lamb Special –
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September 24th - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
October 1st – Replacement Ewe & Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
October 8th - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
October 15th – Replacement Ewe & Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
October 22nd - Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
October 29th – Replacement Ewe Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
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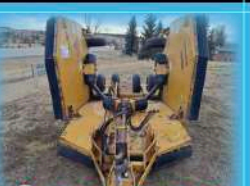
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Looking Back in Belle

These articles come from newspaper microfilm from the Belle Fourche Public library, using a new microfilm reader and printer. The photographs are from the Tri-State Museum. Stories of Minnesela and the Minnesela-Belle Fourche Feud are from the Belle Fourche History published in 1988, pages 46-48.



by Mary Buchholz

Few people remember the thriving little village of Minneselam first town in Butte county, which included the region from the north line of Lawrence county to the present North and South Dakota boundary. “Of all those which became ghost towns of the Black Hills country none reflected more promise during its heyday than Minnesela, a pawn in the game of frontier exploitation,” wrote Joe Koller in South Dakota Historical collections. Nor did any of those short-lived towns which were forced to give up as resident and businesses moved away, die in a harder-fought struggle for existence. Hope, ambition, greed and knavery were interwoven in the town’s determination to live and grow into a city of thw wide open spaces of Dakota. First to settle in the area along Redwater were Johnny Spaulding and his brother-in-law William Davis and his family in 1878. Soon there were families living along the Redwater and the Belle Fourche near the junction of the streams. Among the early settlers were the McClures, Eatons, Sellers, Bergs, Barnettts, Giles, Slaughters, and others. Seth Bullock and his partner Sol Star, mayor of Deadwood, established a horse ranch at the confluence of Belle Fourche and Redwater and raised trotting horses, a strain of blooded stock (near the present location of New Generation Feeds)

Soon there was a need for a town; prominent among those agiation in the community were Axby Choteau and Edward Bowman, Deadwood lawyers and D. T. Harrison. These men were politicians and opportunists and they vizualized a town, end of the railroad, the big open range with thousands of cattle, beef to be shipped each fall- a real “Chicago of the west.” The community secured a post office established Dec. 30, 1880. Erastus Green postmaster called Florence. A.P. Ault of Deadwood surveyed and platted the land for town lots on Feb. 28, 1882. The name chosen for the town was that of the stream upon which it was located, in Indian language ‘minnie’ (water) “sela” red. Redwater – Minnesela. The Butte county was established by the Dakota Territory governor N. Ordway designated Minnesela as the county seat and appointed the county officials. A commercial irrigation system was discussed and the Minnesela Flour mill was established, Harrison was president of the company and owned the majority of the company. The balance was sold with par value of \$2500 per share. Minnesela town became the trade center for a large area to the northwest, north and northeast; with hardware store, managed by Billy Mitchell, a large hotel, grocery store owned by Mr. Johnson; general store established by Mr. and Mrs. M. Isbell, in which it was said anything from a needle to a threshing machine could be found; 3 blacksmiths; a Methodist church; school and jail.

In 1884 the Marquis DeMores started a stage line from Bismarck to Deadwood with a station on the Belle Fourche river three miles from Minnesela. This was an affront to Minnesela. If there was to be a stage line throught the area the station should have been at Minnesela, an established town, they argued. However, there was a saloon at DeMores, the first in the area. And the women of Minnesela had won on their effort to keep their town free of the sale of demon rum. No liquor was to be sold anywhere in the town. This probably decided the location of

the stage stop. The stage line did not pay and operated only a few months.

In 1887 the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad reached the northern edge of the Black Hills and established the town of Whitewood making Crook City a ghost town. Minneselans, who had been watching breathlessly as the rails pushed their way to and around the Hills were agog. A railroad! Big plans were made. Price of lots went up.

Cattlemen of the range were clamoring for a shipping point away from the settlements and threatened to drive their beef stock to the Northern Pacific, located at the time in northern Dakota Territory. They trailed the cattle east to the Missouri River, put the herds on a ferry and loaded them onto the railroad going toward Chicago. Residents in Minnesela figured that the railroad company would pay well for track and depot sites and enlarged the townsite in preparation. Everyone was excitedly wondering how much property would sell for, how high a price to ask, whether to buy more land or not. Deadwood was also working to get the railroad to build to that town. Minneselans arranged a meeting with railroad officials. And then to their discomfiture residents of the town learned that the railroad expected the land they used to be donated. The officers let it be known that an 80 acres tract just south of town was open for filing and that they rather favored that location. Unnoticed, Douglas Sayre, who raised fast blooded horses, slipped out. Taking his best horse he made for the land office in Rapid City. At close of the meeting T. G. Carter, railway right-of-way man, drove to Whitewood where he commandeered an engine and he, also, went to Rapid. As he went into the land office he met Sayre coming out, smiling broadly. The 80 was filed on. Sayre was offered \$500.00 for the tract, which he called the “Golder Eighty.” He laughed, offered it for \$5000, saying the price was raising by the hour. No takers. With no assurance of the railroad, promoters began giving up. Bowman, Harrison and Choteau quietly unloaded much of their properties. However finally the railroad did begin to lay rails to the northwest, passing a mile west of Minnesela, and onto the stock yards site across the Belle Fourche river. Residents of both the town and nearby community were pleased to have the stock yards across the river to avoid having large herds driven across

grass and farm land. If the railroad men knew where the depot was going, they kept tight lipped. Thus Minneselans had hope. “Surely,” they argued, “when there was a town founded, businesses operating, a church, school, and other advantages of an up-and-going town willing and ready, it was not reasonable to think another site would be chosen.” During the time since the founding of Minnesela, barely ten years, there had been much progress. There was mail service to and from Snoma, Hulett, Wyoming, and other points. Church services, a good school, business from a large area and recreational activities.

Minnesela was a live pioneer town in 1890. And residents wanted the railroad with the station at that place. The town was located on a flowing stream, had level land. All were breathlessly waiting, planning enlarging business to ready for increased trade and the influx of new settlers. And then the blow fell. The railroad had passed them by, founded another town. The fight over the the terminal of the railroad, which would mean loading pens, a station and other advantages, was a bitter one – unethical to the extreme. No one knew who to trust. Minnesela got the shock of its life when Black Hills papers published the story of F. E. and M. V. plans to build a spur across the Belle Fourche river to accommodate the shippers. Bullock advised T. G. Carter, who was railrood man who was buying right-of-way for the railroad, that across the river west of the forks there was a flat with water holes on Middle Creek. He advised building the pens there. As for the station, it was still thought it would be located on Minnesela’s west side. Bullock further infomed railroad authorities that a station had been contracted for on the Bullock land, south of the river. “If you want another at Minnesela that’s all right by me,” he said, “but we are going to have one here. Call it Belle Fourche, will you?” The pens were finished and the first train load of cattle pulled out Sept. 16, 1890. Within 30 days 1315 carloads of cattle had been shipped. Belle Fourche was born. These stories were written by Lucy Lytton Peterson, newspaper journalist and historian who had been raised east of Minnesela by her step-dad Julius Shaykett and Joe Koller, commercial club president and professional photographer from Belle Fourche.



Marker located by the Butte Co. Historical Society; Minnesela, thriving small town in newly created Butte County, established 1880.

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10 Orange Chicken Jasmine Rice / Egg Roll Broccoli Salad	11 Chicken Cordon Bleu Roast Potato Creamed Spinach Roll	12 French Dip w/au jus Glazed Carrots Dinner Roll	13 Swedish Meatballs Buttered Noodles Roasted Veggies Rolls & Salad	14 Hot Hamburger / Gravy Mashed Potato & Corn Roll & Salad
17 Salisbury Steak Rice Pilaf Creamed Spinach Roll	18 Walking Taco Mexican Rice and Beans & Salad	19 Honey Baked Ham Cheesy Potato Broccoli, Roll	20 Meatloaf / mashed Potato / Gravy Buttered Corn & Roll	21 Ham & Potato Soup Cheese Sandwich, Salad
24 Hot Beef Sandwich Mashed Potato / Gravy Green Beans, Salad	25 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato / Country Gravy, Carrots Salad & Rolls	26 Pork Chops & Gravy Roasted Potato Zucchini Salad, Roll	27 Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo with Pasta Mixed Veggie, Salad Breadstick	28 Liver & Onions / Cheese Burger, Carrots Fries Salad & Roll
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August 27, 2026..... YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
Sept 3, 2026..... ANNIVERSARY BBQ SALE – YEARLING & SPRING CALF
..... SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL
Sept 10, 2026..... YEARLING & SPRING CALF SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
Sept 17, 2026..... YEARLING & SPRING CALF SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
Sept 24, 2026..... YEARLING & SPRING CALF SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
October 1, 2026..... YEARLING & SPRING CALF SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
October 8, 2026..... YEARLING & SPRING CALF SPECIAL
October 9, 2026..... WEIGH-UP COW SPECIAL & FALL CLEAN UP LOOSE
..... HORSE & BELLE FOURCHE LIVESTOCK INVITATIONAL
..... RANCH HORSE SALE
October 15, 2026..... SPRING CALF SPECIAL
October 16, 2026..... WEIGH-UP SPECIAL
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PROGRAM DATES:

COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

September 16, 2026

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Personality Profiles; State Street Business & History; BF School & CTE Tour

October 21, 2026

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Belle Fourche Regional Industry – Yesterday and Today; Land & Ag Management; AG Business Tours

November 18, 2026

8:30 am-4:30 pm

City Operations & Tours

December 16, 2026

8:30 am-4:30 pm

County Operations & Tours

January 20, 2027

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Economic & Community Development – Local, State & Federal Level; Entrepreneurship – What it Takes; Transportation

February 17, 2027

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Bring Your “A” Game; Industry Tour; Workforce Development

March 17, 2027

8:30 am-4:30 pm

NeighborWorks Dakota Homes Resources & Community Housing in Belle Fourche, Healthcare; Schools; Community Industry Tours

April 21, 2027

7:00 am-5:00 pm

Day of Excellence (Live in Rapid City – National Speakers)

April 28, 2027

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August 19 - Hatch Chili Roasting @ Lynn's
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August 20 - 4:30PM Chamber Mixer @ Buck N
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August 21 - 7AM Board of Directors Meeting,
7:30AM Caramel Rolls & Coffee, 4PM Angel
Store @ BF Global Methodist

August 22 - 6AM Sunrise on State

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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.

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(605)-210-2150
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10am Sunday Morning Worship
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Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
Friday Evening Celebrate Recovery
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FIRST BAPTIST
807 8th Ave. 892-4178
Pastor Tim Smith
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15am
Morning Worship - 10:30am
Wednesday: Salt and Light Youth -
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5:00pm Soup & Sandwich
5:30pm - Salt and Light

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
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717 Jackson St. Sunday:
9:35 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
901 Laurel St. Whitewood
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Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study

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decided to steer it instead of getting run over by it. That decision does not require a big budget or a technology department. It requires one honest look in the mirror and a willingness to make a change before the market demands one.

While the above addresses businesses, the same holds just as true for our communities. If we cling to the past, trying to avoid what is coming, we all lose, plain

and simple. If we meet change head on, all the while managing it so we can maintain those things we hold most dear, we have hope of survival. Anything short of that is suicide pact with destiny. Don't fear change, manage it, adapt to it, harness the good that comes with it. By doing that, your community wins in the long-run and future generations will look back you for your efforts.

By John Newby

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

Change Has Already Arrived. Will You Manage It?

Over the years, I've written more columns than I can count about the need to accept change, I guess that is my area of greatest concern for businesses and communities. Maybe it is time to be a bit more candid. Change is not a wave headed toward us. It already broke over our Main Street communities years ago, and many are still standing in the runoff wondering when it will arrive.

Business owners I chat with nearly every day know the feeling. The phone rings differently now. The customer walks in already knowing more than the clerk. The competitor down the road or three states away moved faster than anyone expected. Economic trends are changing as well, online shopping is no longer something the wealthy do, nearly everyone does. None of that is coming someday. It is already here, sitting at the counter or in our community, waiting for us to notice and step to the plate and act.

History can be a blunt teacher as was shown by Eastman Kodak. Kodak's own engineer built the first digital camera in 1975, decades before most households owned one. Company leadership looked at the invention and quietly filed it away, worried it would threaten the film business that paid the bills. By 1996 Kodak was worth close to thirty billion dollars and employed well over a hundred thousand people. Sixteen years later



it filed for bankruptcy, brought down by the very technology it had invented and refused to build a future around. That is not a story about bad luck. It is a story about a company that saw change coming and chose comfort over management of it.

Main Street does not get to sit this one out either. New federal legislation, the AI for Main Street Act, has moved through Washington this year specifically because policymakers recognized a widening gap between large companies that can afford new tools and small operators who cannot. Recent research backs up the urgency. Among the smallest employer firms, adoption of generative tools doubled in a single year, and businesses with any kind of online presence are adopting at nearly seven times the rate of those without one. This gap is not closing on its own. It closes when owners decide to close it.

Here is where I want to be honest rather than alarmist, because fear does not build anything. Nearly half of new businesses in this country still close within five years, and the reasons are rarely one dramatic mistake. It is usually a slow accumulation of small refusals. Refusing to update the website. Refusing to learn the new payment system. Refusing to ask a younger employee to explain what everyone else already knows. None of those refusals feel

fatal in the moment. Strung together over a few years, they are exactly how a Main Street fixture disappears.

Managing change is different from surviving it. Surviving change means reacting once the damage shows up in your revenue numbers, scrambling for a fix after the customers have already found somewhere else to spend their money. Managing it means building a habit of asking, every month, what has shifted in how your customers find you, pay you, and talk about you, and then making one deliberate adjustment before the shift forces your hand. That habit costs almost nothing. It does not require a consultant or a new department. It just requires admitting, out loud, if necessary, that comfort is not a strategy and never was one.

I think about business owners in my own county who have done this well. They did not chase every new gadget that crossed their desk. They picked the one or two changes that mattered to their customers, learned them properly, and left the rest alone. That is management, not surrender. It is entirely possible to hold onto what makes a local business feel like home, the greeting at the door, the memory of how someone takes their coffee, while still updating how you run the register and how you show up online. The heart of the business and the tools of the business are two different questions and confusing them is how good owners talk themselves out of necessary change.

The businesses and the communities still standing in ten years are not the ones hoping change slows down. They are the ones who

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden



This past weekend looked a lot healthier than the week before in Central Meade County. With periodic rains totaling almost 2 inches

folks are thrilled.

Starting on Tuesday, August 11, the Union Center area received 1.4 inches, followed by smaller doses for the following 3 consecutive day. The moisture turned our brown prairies and yards into a nice shade of green.

Capitol News Karen Odell August 16, 2026



We had another good rain this week, at Capitol and on Tie Creek. Alvin Cordell had a half-inch of rain earlier in the week.

Things are still green and the grass is still growing.

Ryan Cordell will be working on a second cutting of hay, in his Montana pasture. He has had calves develop pneumonia because of the extreme high temperatures dropping to extreme lows. Those extremes are hard on the calves. Marlee Cordell went to Buffalo, on Thursday, to stock up on groceries. On Friday, Alvin and Marlee went to the Old Timer's Picnic at the Community Hall in Camp

Not only does the prairie look better, but thankful our fire danger has lowered. We had a light shower on Sunday afternoon that encourages us to know that more is possible.

The buzz of bikes traveling east and west on Highway 34 has quieted and we seem to be back to our normal pace in the Sturgis area. Word from business owners was that the numbers of Rally attendees was down. It's hard to tell with the bikers spreading throughout the Black Hills and not concentrat-

Crook. Then, they went to the arena for the Matched Bronc Ride during the Harding County Fair. The weather was good for the events. They spent all of Saturday at the fair. There was prairie dog golf, beanbag competition, 3 on 3 basketball, the Theater Museum, and the free picnic in the evening. There was a good parade on Sunday. Ashley and Cade Pearson came out to attend the fair on Sunday. Alvin got to visit with Sylvia McKinley from near Chicago, who was granddaughter of Carol Padden. Alvin remembers when Carol's son, Jimmy, visited at Camp Crook for a summer, and played baseball with him on the Camp Crook boy's team. Marlee stayed in Camp Crook, with Ashley and Cade, for the entire day, on Sunday. Archery antelope hunting season has started.

ed so much in Sturgis.

On Tuesday of last week Larry and Sandy Rhoden attended the Military Appreciation Day program held on Mainstreet Square in Sturgis where Larry spoke. Charlie Gray was one of the two who were honored for his life's service to the military. Larry served with Charlie in the Sturgis 842nd Engineering Company. While Charlie was attending OCS (Officer Candidate School) Training, Larry was attending NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) Training at Camp Rapid. Charlie was his platoon leader during that training. Charlie was the father

Alvin did not have hunters this week, but expects some to come next week.

Lynn Gustafson spent much of the week getting ready for the fair. The Diligent Doers had their cake walk and bake sale, on Friday, after the Old Timer's Picnic. Lynn and Bruce visited with Gordon 'Pete' Anderson, his sister, Deb, and his mother, Dixie, who were visiting at Pete's. On Saturday, Bruce and Lynn went to the picnic at the fair building. On Sunday, they attended church at the gazebo, across from the fair building. There were around fifty people at the service. They watched the parade, visited the fair building, and had a good visit with Randy and Traci Routier

Dorothy Padden had a very busy week. She went to Camp Crook for the Old

of Becka (Gray) Smith of Union Center, married to Brian Smith. There was a reception for Charlie after the program held at the First Interstate Bank with guests and Charlie's family members.

Students and teachers of Meade 46-1 School District have over a week of summer vacation left. Their first day of school is Thursday, August 27.

After the Rally is always the Central States Fair which begins this year on Friday, August 21 through Saturday, August 29 in Rapid City.

Those winners in 4-H will be attending the South Dakota State Fair from Wednesday, September

2 through Monday, Sept.7 which is held in Huron, SD.

We have been enjoying watching the millet field just east of our place, wondering if it will make it through the weeks of dryness and then the hail. We are reminded that we have no control over the environment and we are always at the mercy of the climate where we live. Through the tough times of drought, fires, hail, and winds we live in a community that continues to always look for the blessings despite the loss we may have suffered. Have a great week and look for the many blessings coming your way.

Timers' Picnic, on Friday. She stayed at the Community Center for the cake walk and bake sale, sponsored by the Diligent Doers. Daughter, Lorraine Chin, had come, a few weeks ago, to prepare the Theater Museum for the fair. Lorrain's daughters came from Philadelphia and Muscatine to help her, and get reacquainted with cousins. Sylvia McKinley, a grand-niece, came from near Chicago to visit with family, too. Sylvia is the granddaughter of Carol, Benny's sister. Everyone enjoyed the museum, and did lots of visiting there. The electricity went off on one day, and without windows, the museum was completely dark, so Lorraine had to close until the lights came back on. Dorothy enjoyed the really good parade, on Sunday, and the weather was good, too.

Chancey Odell visited at Karen Odell's, a couple of

times this week. He and Megan had been to the fair in Camp Crook, and he was on hand as an EMT at the rodeo. Chancey did some on-line research that helped him work on Karen's mower. The August rains have drawn out the mowing season, but there is no complaint about the rains. We are very lucky to have had some nice rains, this summer. Karen's phone seems to want to call people on its own, but it is still nice to visit with them, when they call back. Megan's garden is producing, too. Karen had made a trip to Camp Crook, on Tuesday, to shop at Wolffy's and mail a letter.

Don't let anyone know that 'laughter is the best medicine', or you will soon be required to pay a doctor to get a prescription to pay a pharmacist to pay a drug company for permission to laugh.



PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES #47 by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel “Life Lessons from a Steamy Kitchen”

It was hot! Hot outside and even hotter in the kitchen. Two kettles boiled away on the back burners, steam surging from around the covers and up into the air. The normally appealing scent of cooking potatoes and green beans added to the thickness in the room. A cast iron frypan waited for the drippings from the meatloaf in the oven. Last minute, Mom would whip up some milk gravy.

Mom and my older sisters spent much of the morning preparing for the noon meal, which we called dinner. We picked and snapped green beans, peeled potatoes and

watched as our mother seasoned and mixed a big bowl of ground beef and patted it into the biggest loaf pan. Even the oven seemed to put off steam that hot summer day. The apple pies baked earlier contributed their part.

Though the windows were open, the unfailing South Dakota breezes, um, failed. As the youngest, most spoiled child in the family, I was likely thinking of creature comforts and ways this creature could be more comfortable.

“Mom, we should get an air conditioner.” I sat in a chair while Mom worked at the stove. Stores had air conditioning back then, but it was rare in South Dakota

farm homes. In 1902, Willis Carrier, known as the “Father of Air Conditioning,” invented a machine that enhanced human comfort for years to come. It was not until the 1960s that the cooling system became affordable for homes, especially rural homes. Central AC didn't breeze in until the 1970s.

“We don't need one,” Mom replied as sweat beaded on her forehead. I tried to think of ways to make the kitchen cooler. What about just having cold sandwiches? Maybe open a can of pork and beans? Could we just keep the refrigerator door open? But I knew Mom would not accept any such solutions. Sandwiches would be delivered to fields

later along with cookies and something to drink. This was “lunch,” the four o'clock break that everyone enjoyed. It would be unheard of to have sandwiches twice in one day; no, sandwiches were not an option. I also knew our mother's philosophy on feeding her family. Her farmers worked hard. Whether hauling bales or plowing fields, even on the most sweltering days, they needed good hot meals and plenty of food. Growing up, Mom had worked next to her mother in the kitchen and in the fields. She believed a wife's role was crucial for the success of the family farm.

If takeout had been a thing then, I probably would have suggested it, though Mother would have been appalled. “We don't waste good money on something we don't need.” She would have then kindly informed me that people pay

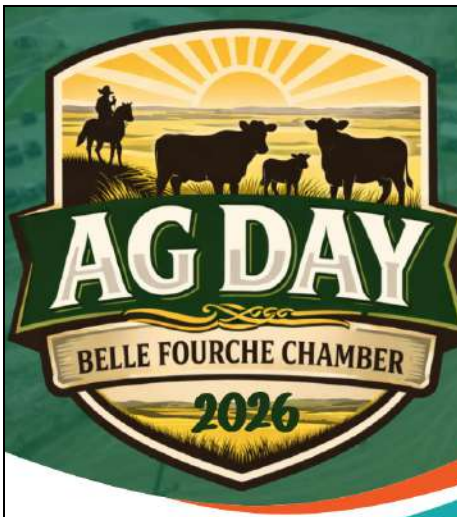
dearly for the convenience of having someone else cook for them.

Obviously, I was not going to come up with any viable cooling solutions.

When the farmers came in for dinner, Don and Delmer washed up while Dad plugged in the big box fan and set it on low to move air around the kitchen table. We ate, talked and enjoyed Mom's cooking. No one complained about the hot kitchen, not even once.

After pie and coffee and a twinkle-eyed “Excuse me!” following a big belch, Dad stood. He put his arm over Mom's shoulders and gave her a peck on the cheek. “Thanks for the good dinner. I don't know what we would do without you!” How cool was that!

Read more of the author's stories! Kruempel's ten books are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.



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1PM - 6 PM
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Belle Fourche, SD

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

- SHOP LOCAL VENDORS
- FOOD TRUCKS
- CONNECT WITH AG BUSINESSES/ RESOURCES
- TEST YOUR SKILLS IN THE AG OLYMPIC GAMES
- CHANCES TO WIN PRIZES
- SHOW OFF YOUR BEST MULLET
- EXPLORE FARM & RANCH EQUIPMENT
- KIDS ZONE



SCAN ME



BLACK HILLS ROUNDUP GROUNDS
220 ROUNDUP ST.
BELLE FOURCHE, SD 57717









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

Next Clinic: Lead - August 13 & 27
Registration: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

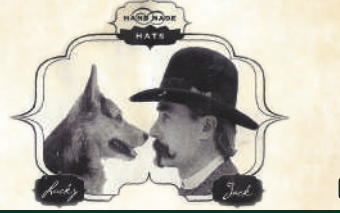
Good Shepherd Free Clinic provides quality medical and emergency dental care to financially eligible northern Black Hills residents, ages 19-64. Medical services will be available at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius Street parking lot (below 825 W. Main 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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Custom and Handcrafted Hats
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Jack Scholl (605) 645 - 1654
Craftsman 519 Grant St. Belle Fourche



8-5 Monday-Friday
8-12 Saturday
Closed Sunday

Hastings Livestock Poly & Galvanized Water Tanks in Stock
605-892-2613 | 1700 5th Avenue



BELLE
BELLE FOURCHE
DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT

Roots #73

“Big Fires and Things in the Attic”

Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com



As readers may recall, last week’s Roots Grow Deep and Strong commentary was based on a homesteader’s description of a prairie wildfire in 1883. O.W. Coursey’s memoir *Pioneering in Dakota* (1937) recalls many events the Coursey family experienced as homesteaders near Huron between 1883-1887. Coursey’s descriptive memoir is reminiscent of how our prairie ancestors might have responded to devastating events.

Coursey’s narrative reminded me of another catastrophic fire experienced by Anne Bradstreet, a Puritan wife and mother of eight children.

In “Verses upon the Burning of our House, July 10th, 1666”. Bradstreet describes how a fire consumed her home, and quickly turned the family’s possessions to ashes before her eyes. She describes the furnishings, the various household items, as she reflects on the happy memories associated with each.

Bradstreet is sad upon parting with her earthly treasures when they are destroyed in the fire, but she does not take much time to mourn. She reminds the reader that there are more important aspirations in one’s life and greater gifts in the afterlife. She explains that such possessions are nice to have, but are not meant to be permanent.

Even for some present-day readers who may not adhere to Bradstreet’s belief system there is comfort in the poem’s message.

The Coursey family is more concerned with earthly possessions because these items mean survival. However, they too are stoic in the face of loss and adversity.

The descriptions of fire in both writings ring true, but the forward-thinking positive take on cruel reality may seem a

little alien to people today. That is, not unless we can think of fire as a kind of ‘downsizing.’ Downsizing is a familiar term that describes the elimination of clutter in one’s personal space. To practice downsizing is a considerate gesture to those who may outlive us as the purging of clutter does not become a burden to someone else. However, avoiding downsizing may be seen as an opportunity to get even with recalcitrant children or inattentive relatives. Vengeful attentions aside...

The idea of “downsizing” brings up some questions: Why is there often an emotional connection to possessions? What things do we really need? Why is it better to have more possessions than other people?

The truth is that having too much stuff can may ultimately become a burden. Who doesn’t get tired of cleaning out the garage, buying more totes for storage, and adding more shelving to the closets to maximize the space?

“Stuff” is maybe not that important after all. Anne Bradstreet explains most clearly.

Verses upon the Burning of our House, July 10th, 1666
BY ANNE BRADSTREET
Here Follows Some Verses
Upon the Burning
of Our house, July 10th.
1666. Copied Out of
a Loose Paper.
In silent night when rest I
took,
For sorrow near I did not
look,
I wakened was with
thund’ring noise
And piteous shrieks of
dreadful voice.
That fearful sound of “fire”
and “fire,”
Let no man know is my
Desire.
I, starting up, the light did
spy,
And to my God my heart did
cry
To straighten me in my
Distress
And not to leave me
succourless.

Then, coming out, behold a
space
The flame consume my
dwelling place.
And when I could no longer
look,
I blest His name that gave
and took,
That laid my goods now in
the dust.
Yea, so it was, and so ‘twas
just.
It was his own, it was not
mine,
Far be it that I should repine;
He might of all justly bereft
But yet sufficient for us left.
When by the ruins oft I past
My sorrowing eyes aside did
cast
And here and there the places
spy
Where oft I sate and long did
lie.
Here stood that trunk, and
there that chest,
There lay that store I counted

best.
My pleasant things in ashes
lie
And them behold no more
shall I.
Under thy roof no guest shall
sit,
Nor at thy Table eat a bit.
No pleasant talk shall ‘ere be
told
Nor things recounted done
of old.
No Candle e’er shall shine in
Thee,
Nor bridegroom’s voice e’er
heard shall be.
In silence ever shalt thou lie,
Adieu, Adieu, all’s vanity.
Then straight I ‘gin my heart
to chide,
And did thy wealth on earth
abide?
Didst fix thy hope on
mould’ring dust?
The arm of flesh didst make
thy trust?
Raise up thy thoughts above

the sky
That dunghill mists away
may fly.
Thou hast a house on high
erect
Framed by that mighty
Architect,
With glory richly furnished,
Stands permanent though this
be fled.
It’s purchased and paid for
too
By Him who hath enough to
do.
A price so vast as is
unknown,
Yet by His gift is made thine
own;
There’s wealth enough, I
need no more,
Farewell, my pelf, farewell,
my store.
The world no longer let me
love,
My hope and treasure lies
above.



The Great Fire of London. Oil painting. Yale Center for British Art.



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 June meeting schedule: The next editing meeting is **Tuesday, September 8** (the day after Labor Day Monday) from 2-4 PM. The regular September meeting is **Saturday, September 19** from 10 AM to Noon. All writers are invited to attend! Meetings are held at the Belle Fourche Public Library.

Belle Fourche Recreation Center

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

Classes

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

Tri-State Museum holds “A Day for Art” class

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche will hold an “A Day for Art” class for kids on Saturday, August 22.

There will be a class for PreK-3rd grade from 10 to noon. Kids will get a chance to study photos of famous art, read a book and draw or paint an art piece of their own. There will also be songs, stories and a gathering circle.

There will be a class for older kids from 1-3. It will include information about famous artists, the chance to draw or paint an art piece and a video about artist Vincent Van Gogh.

Snacks are provided at each class. Registration is \$2 per student or free with membership and will be taught by Programs and Events Assistant Sheila Culhane. Pre-registration is strongly urged; call 605-723-1200.

December 20 – A Nutcracker Christmas. How were they invented and how has a holiday ballet made them famous!

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



T: Anne Bradstreet. Wikipedia.
B: Leather Fire Bucket c. 1600s. London Museum.



THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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

Stay on top of what’s happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you.

www.thedakotascout.com • www.facebook.com/TheDakotaScout



Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



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



Birthday Celebration!



MaryLou Coyle will turn 95 years young on Tuesday, September 1st. She will be celebrating with her 7 children, grandkids, great grandkids and great great grandkids on Saturday, August 29th. Please help her family celebrate this amazing woman with a card shower. Cards/well wishes can be sent to her at 2078 10th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.



Center of the Nation Sportsman's Club

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

OPEN HOUSE!

SEE IT. EXPERIENCE IT. BE A PART OF IT.

AUGUST 30, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Whether you're visiting for the first time or coming back to see all the improvements, we invite you to check out our range and everything we have to offer!



TOUR OUR RANGE
See our facilities and recent improvements.



MEET OUR MEMBERS
Learn about our club, programs, and how we operate.



SUPPORTING YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS
Teaching safety, building skills and confidence, and competing at local, state and national levels.



GET INVOLVED
Find out how you can become a member or volunteer.



LUNCH PROVIDED!
Come for the tour, stay for lunch!

SAFE GUN HANDLING. RESPONSIBILITY. SPORTSMANSHIP.
THAT'S WHAT WE TEACH. THAT'S WHAT WE SUPPORT.

BUILDING TOMORROW'S SHOOTING SPORTS COMMUNITY
Safety. Responsibility. Sportsmanship.

BRING YOUR FAMILY • BRING A FRIEND • ALL ARE WELCOME!
10606 3V Rd, Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Center of the Nation Sportsman's Club

Find us on Facebook for updates and more information!
[FACEBOOK.COM/CONSPORTSMANSCLUB](https://www.facebook.com/consportsmansclub)

We look forward to seeing you there!

September 21st 10:00AM | Tri-State Museum

Service Animal Training

- New Laws Effective July 1, 2026
- What businesses need to know

Heidi Mecham-WDN



October 14th 12:00PM | Grap's Burgers

Managing Conflict:

- Define conflict and develop deeper understanding of the topic
- Understand different conflict profiles and styles

-Kellie Kolb SDSU



November 4th 6:00PM | Branding Iron

Change Management

- Moving people through change
- Organizing for success
- Measuring outcomes

Meg McNeese - Rose Group Intl





Kindly RSVP to the Chamber due to limited spaces per class

FREE for members
\$5 for non members

www.bellefourchechamber.org
605-892-2676



Coed Sand Volleyball Tournament

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

\$125/TEAM



LIMITED TO 9 TEAMS. PLAYERS MUST BE AGE 14+. REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY AUGUST 12!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT TESSA @ 605-892-2467.

Belle Fourche Chamber Mixer



Thursday August 20th 4:30PM-6:30PM



Minutes for the City of Belle Fourche Monday, August 17, 2026
511 6th Avenue,
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
The Common Council of the City of Belle Fourche met in Regular Session with Mayor Randy D. Schmidt presiding.

Members present were:
First Ward Council Members: John Fyffe and Kristal Steeves
Second Ward Council Member: Gene Pesicka

Third Ward Council Members: Dean Brunner and Vern Hintz
Fourth Ward Council Members: Tricia Fowler and Bob Somervold
Absent: Clark Sowers

Also present: City Attorney Kellen Willert, City Administrator Jason LaFayette, Police Chief Ryan Cherveny, City Engineer Brent Hardy, Public Works Director Ryan Stedillie, Finance Officer Wayne Tonsager, Library Director Josh Abrahams, Resource Manager Gina Carpenter, Museum & Visitor Center Director Kristi Thielen, Chamber President Michaela Horn, Kristin Conzet, Rhonda Fuhrer

AGENDA
1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion Fowler, second Pesicka to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion Brunner, second Fyffe to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting of July 22, 2026. Motion carried.
4. Mayor's Report.
A. Western Dakota Regional Water System (WDRWS) Project – Kristin Conzet, Executive Director of WDRWS, gave an update on their efforts to bring sustainable water supplies to western South Dakota.
5. Community Input – This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business. Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes.
NEXT MEETING DATE/REPORTS
City Council – Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chamber
Airport – Third Wednesday Quarterly, October 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Conference Room
Ambulance – Fourth Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. – Newell Ambulance Hall
Chamber of Commerce – Friday, August 21, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. – Chamber Office – The Belle Fourche Chamber recently assisted with vendors for Heroes Honor Ride at the Tri-State Area Museum and will hold a mixer Thursday from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at Buck N' Broncs Car Wash with Highmark Federal Credit Union. The Chamber also has a Belle Fourche article coming out in the September issue of Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine, and Ag Day will be held September 19 from 1:00–6:00 p.m. at the Belle Fourche Rodeo Grounds.
Legal-Finance – Second and Fourth Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. – Council Chamber
Economic Development – Third Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. – 5th & Grant Plaza
Library – First Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. – City Hall Conference Room – Library Director Abraham reported that 1,168 patrons visited

the library in July, with 1,036 books and audiobooks checked out through Libby and 3,822 items checked out from the library building. He also reminded everyone that two state park passes are available for checkout and that story time will resume on the second Tuesday of each month beginning September 8, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.
Museum & Visitor Center – Second Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. – City Hall Conference Room
Parks & Rec – Wednesday after the Second Monday, September 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. – Council Chamber
Planning & Zoning – First and Third Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. – Council Chamber
Police – Second Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. – Council Chamber
Public Works – Second and Fourth Monday, August 24, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. – Council Chamber
Senior Center – Third Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. – Belle Fourche Senior Center
PUBLIC HEARING
6. Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit – Use Permit Request for Adult Daycare Center in Commercial District. Owner, Applicant: Teton Estates LLC, Tim Frey, Lots 10 & 11, Block 11, Original Townsite, 523 Grant Street, City of Belle Fourche, Butte County. Rhonda Fuhrer spoke in support.
CONSENT AGENDA
The following items are placed on the consent agenda for approval by a single vote. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda by the Mayor or a Council Member for separate consideration.
7. Recommend approval of Public Works Director Ryan Stedillie's recommendation to hire Spencer Somervold as Landfill Equipment Operator I for the Public Works Department – Landfill Division. It is further recommended that he be hired at \$21.00 per hour. (Item pulled and placed on Regular Agenda as item 0.5)
8. Recommend approval of Public Works Director Ryan Stedillie's recommendation to hire David Van Gorkom as Landfill Equipment Operator I for the Public Works Department – Landfill Division. It is further recommended that he be hired at \$22.00 per hour.
9. Recommend approval for the final plat of:
Owner, Applicant: Vanocker Development Inc.
Lot A Revised and Lot B, Formerly a portion of Lot A, Bunkhouse Subdivision, SW ¼ of Section 15, T8N, R2E BHM, City of Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota
The proposed plat creates Lot A in Revised and Lot B by dividing Lot A in Bunkhouse Subdivision. Upon review, the following items were noted:
Need to remove the signature blocks for the Butte County Commissioners and Planning Commission.
RESOLUTION
Resolution No. 23-2026
RESOLUTION OF COMMON COUNCIL
APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF Lot A Revised and Lot B, Formerly a portion of Lot A, Bunkhouse Subdivision, SW ¼ of Section 15, T8N, R2E BHM, City of Belle Fourche,

Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Youngberg Rd - SE1/4 of Sect. 10 & SW1/4 of S11, T8N, R6E
Butte County, SD – approx. 2,000' N of the Lewis Rd intersection.
D. Abatements:
I. Abatement: \$779.08
Motion by Brunner, Second by Kari to approve the Travel Request for Corey Somervold to go to the Conference. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Julie Brunner, the Register of Deeds, gave her monthly activity report. Julia Day gave her activity report for Dispatch.
Discussion was held regarding mental health.
A public hearing was held at 9:46 A.M. regarding the New Application Retail (On-Off Sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine & Cider Sunday Sales – Silver Spur Ranch, LLC. No person spoke at the hearing.
Motion by Batterman, Second by Brunner to go into Executive Session for Personnel 1-25-2(1) at 9:46 A.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Chairman Erk declared the meeting out of Executive Session with no action at 10:15 A.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Jasen Saivong presented his activity report from the last few months for the Veterans' Service Office.
Jason Boke from Northern Hills Technology reported on the current projects they've been working on. Discussion was held.

Butte County, South Dakota
Owner, Applicant: Vanocker Development Inc.
WHEREAS, the Belle Fourche Planning Commission has recommended approval of the plat, as above described, on August 5, 2026, and it has been viewed by the City of Belle Fourche Common Council.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the plat as described be hereby approved this 17th day of August 2026.
10. Recommend approval of the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on State Street from 5th Avenue to 7th Avenue.
Motion Steeves, second Hintz to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Schmidt requested to move item 1 to the Regular Agenda. Motion carried.
REGULAR AGENDA
0.5 Motion Brunner, second Steeves to approve of Public Works Director Ryan Stedillie's recommendation to hire Spencer Somervold as Landfill Equipment Operator I for the Public Works Department – Landfill Division. It is further recommended that he be hired at \$21.00 per hour. Motion carried.
11. Motion Fowler, second Steeves to approve the conditional use permit for an adult daycare center in Commercial District:
Owner, Applicant: True Properties LLC, Teton Estates LLC
Lots 10 & 11, Block 11, Original Townsite
523 Grant Street
City of Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota
If the Commission and Council are inclined to grant approval of the requested use-permitted-on-review, staff recommends that said approval be conditioned upon successful licensure by the State of South Dakota Department of Human Services – Long Term Support and Services. Staff have, during review, contacted South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) in regard to daycare licensure and DSS has stated that their jurisdiction only covers ages birth to fourteen years so provided no individuals served, no DSS license is needed.
Motion carried.
12. Motion Pesicka, second Somervold to approve to ratify the remaining committee.
Library Board – 3 Year Term
Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. – City Hall – Conference Room
Council Representative: Geno Pesicka
Chairperson: Beth Morey (2028)
Members: Maureen Beals (2029), Marcus Bevier (2028), Paul Howard (2029), Sheila West (2027)
Motion carried.
13. Motion Brunner, second Pesicka to approve payment of invoice S44817C, payment 14, to Brosz Engineering for Project 2023-01 – 11th Avenue Reconstruction, in the amount of \$24,760.00. Motion carried.
14. Motion Fowler, second Somervold to approve payment of invoice 4968, payment CA#15, to Uda for Project 2024-16 – New Police Department Building, in the amount of \$10,967.20. Motion carried.
15. Motion Brunner, second Fyffe to approve payment of invoice 35494 to FMG Engineering for Project 2024-16 –

New Police Department Building, in the amount of \$3,844.70. Motion carried.
16. Motion Pesicka, second Fyffe to approve Change Order 2 for AIP 3-46-0072-021-2025, Project 2026-8 – Hanger Taxilane Reconstruction, in an increased amount of \$26,820.00. Motion carried.
17. Motion Fyffe, second Somervold to approve payment 2 to Rogers Construction Inc for AIP 3-46-0072-021-2025, Project 2026-8 – Hangar Taxilane Reconstruction, in the amount of \$107,418.15. Motion carried.
18. Motion Pesicka, second Fyffe to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.
19. Informational.
A. Councilperson Hintz reported drainage issues on 11th Avenue after heavy rain, where runoff bypassed a storm drain and flowed into a neighboring yard. City Engineer Hardy said they would review the area and coordinate with Brosz Engineering to determine the cause.
B. Councilperson Pesicka thanked Sally Mason for leaving a photo of his son for him in the Council Chamber.
C. Mayor Schmidt reported an issue with items being placed on Ziebach Street and noted that officers addressed the matter, including enforcement action.
D. City Attorney Willert updated the Council on possible changes to open meeting laws, noting the changes should provide greater clarity. He anticipated the Attorney General would propose the changes during the next legislative session.
E. Finance Officer Tonsager informed the Council that the next budget meeting would be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
20. Motion Steeves, second Pesicka to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried.
BILLS
21 ELECTRIC LLC 1831.01;
A&B BUSINESS INC. 252.42; A&B WELDING SUPPLY CO INC 30.15;
ACCUSOURCE INC 47.34; AESZ 10929.00; ALL NET CONNECTIONS 7446.58; ALPINE IMPRESSIONS & FASTBREAK 149.50; AT&T 1558.86;
AUSTIN HAGEN 200.00; BARBARA SCHMIDT 200.00; BARCO PRODUCTS 366.18; BELLE FOURCHE DEVELOPMENT CORP 695.00;
BENNETT MAIN GUBBRUD & WIL-LERT 2352.75; BETH REID 400.00;
BF REC CENTER 145.00; BICKLE'S TRUCK AND DIESEL SERV 314.62;
BLACK HILLS PIONEER 1823.28;
BLACK HILLS PURE INC 62.25;
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC 24760.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO 4759.12; BUTTE CO REGISTER OF DEEDS 493.00; BUTTE COUNTY 4-H RODEO 900.00; BUTTE COUNTY AMBULANCE 38604.16; CBH CO-OP 4219.71; CORE & MAIN 2704.02;
CUES INC 10080.68; DAKOTA EQUIPMENT RENTAL 49.33; DANIEL BUTLER 400.00; DANIEL ST. PIERRE 13443.44; DAWN HUNTER 200.00; DERRICK WRIGHT 43.00;
DIESEL MACHINERY INC 964.74;
EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY 670.00; EQUIPMENT SERVICE PROFESSIONALS 652.10; FIRE PRO 764.00; FMG ENGINEERING 3844.70;
FRONTIER GLASS OF BELLE 369.17; HAUCK ELECTRIC & CONTROLS INC 472.59; HAWKINS INC 9248.06; HDR ENGINEERING INC 2625.00; HORIZON EQUIPMENT SERVICE LLC 225.00; JAMES DE-

RANLEAU 5718.65; JENNY SCHOLL 200.00; JOHNER GRAVEL 4720.50;
KANOPY 30.00; KONE INC 399.48;
LAWSON PRODUCTS 3286.24;
LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CO 348.48; LILY ODELL 200.00; MARCO TECHNOLOGIES 1346.29; MARLENE HERMAN 200.00; MCGAS PROPANE 86.00; MCLEODS PRINTING & SUPPLY 437.48; MICROMARKETING 1813.90; MIDCO BUSINESS 159.65; MIDSTATES GROUP 155.88; MILLET SOFTWARE 60.00; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES 1299.31; MONTANA SENIOR NEWS 325.00; MONUMENT HEALTH 90.00; NORTHERN TRUCK EQUIPMENT CORP 838.16; NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS 454.07; NUESYNERGY 107.00; O REILLY AUTOMOTIVE INC 388.52; PATRICIA A ESZLINGER NIESENT 3500.00; PAUL HIGBEE 85.00; POWER HOUSE 298.40; PRAIRIE AUTO PARTS INC 1357.31; RANDY'S DISCOUNT TIRES 1220.00; RASMUSSEN MECHANICAL SERVICES 801.00; REDWATER YOUTH LEADERSHIP 500.00; RESERVE ACCOUNT 633.84; ROGERS CONSTRUCTION INC 107418.15; ROUNDUP BUILDING CENTER 67.42; RUNNINGS 1069.44; SACRISON ASPHALT 1186.38; SAMANTHA VANMATRE 200.00; SANFORD HEALTH OCCMED 280.00; SANTA BARBARA CONTROL SYSTEMS 1750.00; SD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 548.53; SERVALL UNIFORM & LINEN SUPPLY 296.85; SOUTH DAKOTA 811 69.44; SOWERS & SON DIRTY LAUNDRY 264.81; SUPERIOR SANITATION 1404.00; SWANEY ELECTRIC 990.75; TINA WEILAND 400.00; TREC BADLANDS 200.00; TREE PROS 1300.00; TRUE BUILDERS 13268.07; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES 290.00; UDA ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN 10967.20; WAREING BELLE FOURCHE 934.18; WARNE CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT CO 395.20; WELLS PLUMBING & FARM SUPPLY 2739.13; WEST TIRE & ALIGNMENT 1006.54; WESTERN PEAKS LOGISTICS LLC 19.67; WHISKEY AND WILDFLOWER 300.00; WINNERS CIRCLE 5.00
AUGUST 2026 PAYROLL:
MAYOR/COUNCIL: \$8,454.93;
CITY ADMIN: \$2,988.32;
FINANCE DEPT: \$2,039.11;
HUMAN RESOURCES: \$4,038.15;
CUSTODIAL/MAINT: \$25,817.09;
ENGINEER DEPT: \$5,918.85;
POLICE DEPT: \$131,028.75;
BLDG INSP/ADA: \$1,227.42;
CODE ENFORC/ACO: \$6,683.73;
STREET/SHOP: \$3,051.23;
CEMETERY: \$15,259.47;
BFRC ADMIN: \$20,538.42;
BFRC PROGRAM: \$10,984.59;
BFRC AQUATICS: \$23,399.37;
PARKS: \$11,696.96;
LIBRARY: \$20,649.47;
MUSEUM COMPLEX: \$31,840.93;
WATER: \$51,856.46;
SEWER: \$44,700.01;
SOLID WASTE COL: \$5,343.96;
SOLID WASTE DSP: \$88,848.13.
TOTAL: \$516,365.35.
Approved

Randy D. Schmidt, Mayor
Attest:

Wayne Tonsager, Finance Officer
Published once at the approx. cost

Regular Meeting Minutes Butte County Commissioners Belle Fourche City Hall Chambers 511 6th Ave. Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Thursday August 6,2026
THE BOARD OF BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONVENED AT 9:30 A.M. on August 6, 2026. Commissioners present were Erk, Brunner, Batterman, Kari, and Ager.
Chairman Erk called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Motion by Brunner, Second by Ager to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of the information from Wolff's Plumbing regarding the water meter for the Courthouse to be moved to 11.5; a travel request from Corey Somervold (that missed the deadline) to be moved to 4.5; and an Executive Session for Personnel to be moved to 4.25. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Bud Harris prayed over the meeting. No people participated in Public Comment.
Motion by Brunner, Second by Batterman to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Consent Agenda - The following items were placed on the consent agenda for final action to be taken on all items by a single vote. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda by any member of the Commission for separate consideration.
A. Bills per Printout
B. Apportioning and Other Payments
C. Application for Occupancy on The Right of Way of County Highways:

Motion by Ager, Second by Brunner to purchase 6 – 15” tablets with keyboard docking stations. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Motion by Batterman, Second by Kari to approve the changes to the fire district boundaries. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Motion by Ager, Second by Kari to approve the 2nd reading of Butte County Ordinance 2026-01 an Ordinance Authorizing State and Federal Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Background Checks for Specific Categories of County Employment Applicants was held. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Motion by Ager, Second by Batterman to approve the Approval of New Application Retail (On- Off Sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine & Cider Sunday Sales for Silver Spur Ranch, LLC. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Discussion was held regarding the relocation of the water meter in the Courthouse.
Motion by Ager, Second by Brunner to accept Wolff's Plumbing's bid to put in a new meter and a valve in the boiler room, and leave the existing meter in place. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Committee Reports –
Commissioner Ager wanted to remind people of Ambulance Appreciation Luncheon that will be held on Saturday, August 29th at noon at the Nisland Fire Hall.
Commissioner Kari had nothing new to report.
Commissioner Batterman had nothing

new to report.
Commissioner Brunner stated that the Highway Department did a good job on watering roads during the fair.
Commissioner Erk noted that they might need 2 more loads of gravel, and then it would be good until next year.
There wasn't any Unfinished or Old Business brought forth to the Commission.
Informational –
Auditor Capp mentioned the SD Association of County Commissioners & Officials have their convention Sept. 15 – 16th in Sioux Falls. Commissioner Ager gave a reminder of the additional sales tax that could be added by the county.
Commissioner Brunner also reminded the group that an ordinance needed to be drafted regarding the data center question that was on the 2026 Primary Election.
Motion by Ager, Second by Kari to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 A.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.
Payments
SALARY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE/PLANNING \$8,459.28, AUDITOR'S OFFICE \$13,538.98, BUILDING- \$885.32, COMMISSIONERS \$4,173.46, DISPATCH \$15,759.59, ELECTION-\$0, EM/911 \$1,018.54, EXTENSION \$1,994.40, HIGHWAY DEPT/WEED CONTROL \$33,455.53, JUDICIA- \$0, NURSE'S/WIC OFFICE \$0, REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE \$5,959.93, SHERIFF/JAIL DEPT \$25,696.88, STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE

\$17,473.09, TREASURER'S OFFICE \$10,719.54, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE \$905.22
COUNTY SHARE FICA
BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$10,751.30
SDRS RETIREMENT
BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$8,125.01
GROUP INSURANCE
BUTTE COUNTY SHARE \$0
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
K HUNT \$1,250.00, KNY LW \$5,575.45, MNMNT \$486.40, RDLGY ASSC \$99.00, R BCHMN \$60.00, RGRS CNSTRCTN \$312,826.67, T HAUGN \$60.00, WCKRLW \$789.45
PUBLICATIONS RENT/LEASE
A&B BSNSS \$263.85, CBP \$661.88, RELX \$367.00
REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE
DKTA LMBR \$69.58
SUPPLIES
GLCK \$1,949.75, GRSSNBRG \$64.44, OFC MPRM \$159.93, PTNY BWS \$680.55, QPP \$833.77, WARNG BF \$55,053.00, WSTRN STATNRS \$1.54
TRAVEL/CONFERENCE
UTILITIES
AT&T \$1,171.32, BH NRGY \$62.93, BLUPK \$245.01, CLRTY \$217.10, MDCO \$1,452.69, RFUS SLUTNS \$238.14.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:
Chad Erk, Chairperson

ATTEST: Annie Capp, Butte County Auditor.

Upcoming Events			
AUGUST 19, 2026	AUGUST 21, 2026	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	
Hatch Chili Roasting	Angel Store		AUGUST 24, 2026
Lynni's Dakotamart, 600 National St #2002, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	1804 7th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA		4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
			Pub Works
AUGUST 19, 2026	AUGUST 21, 2026	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	AUGUST 24, 2026
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	BFHS G-Soccer		5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Cribbage or 10 Point Pitch			Leg-Finance
Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	AUGUST 21, 2026	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	AUGUST 24, 2026
	BFHS B- Soccer		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
			Trap Night
AUGUST 20, 2026	AUGUST 22, 2026		Center of the Nation Sportsmans Club, 10606 3v Road, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Cars and Coffee		
Commissioner meeting			
AUGUST 20, 2026	AUGUST 22, 2026 - AUGUST 23, 2026		AUGUST 25, 2026
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Get the Green		INP Bridges to Boards
Chamber Mixer			
Bucks N Bronc Car Wash	AUGUST 22, 2026		AUGUST 25, 2026
	Sunrise on State		Music trivia at the outlaw
AUGUST 20, 2026	AUGUST 22, 2026	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	AUGUST 25, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	BFHS B-Soccer		10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Moose Lodge Burger Night			Pinochle
AUGUST 20, 2026	AUGUST 22, 2026 - AUGUST 23, 2026		Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Get the Green		
Townhall Meeting	AUGUST 23, 2026		AUGUST 25, 2026
Venue 519, 519 5th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	Club Championship		12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
	Belle Fourche Country Club, 10941 SD-34, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA		BHFCU Spearfish Branch Ribbon Cutting
AUGUST 21, 2026			
Chamber online shop closes	AUGUST 23, 2026		AUGUST 25, 2026
	Tampa Ruff Riders visiting		5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
AUGUST 21, 2026			BFHS G-Soccer
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM			
Board of Directors Meeting	AUGUST 23, 2026		AUGUST 25, 2026
Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce, 509 Grant St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	Movie Night		6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
	Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA		Range Work Nights
AUGUST 21, 2026			Center of the Nation Sportsmans Club, 10606 3v Road, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA
7:30 AM - 10:00 AM			
Caramel Rolls & Coffee	AUGUST 23, 2026	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	AUGUST 25, 2026
Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	BFHS B-Soccer		7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Newell Community Rallies to Help School After Storm

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—On Sunday, August 16, a severe storm came through Newell fast and furious, bringing with it intense rainfall and high winds before leaving as quickly as it came. But in its wake, it left the little town with a lot of damage.

The Newell School District was supposed to start the 2026-2027 school year on August 17, but the fierce storm caused a delay. Sheets of rain hit the school so fast it caused flooding. Most of the buildings took on water. The flooding was so bad that the first day of school had to be postponed by a day.

This isn't the first time the old school has had some problems, so when the head of maintenance, Ryan Niman, received the call that water was coming into the school, he knew what to do. "They called me during the storm and let me know that water was coming in, and I said, 'All right, we have a plan, we know what to do and as soon as it stops, we'll come clean up.' And so by the time I got here, people were already working," he explained.

With the amount of water the storm dumped in a very short time, the school didn't stand a chance! "It was definitely a lot of water. In our main drain area, out in front of our main entrance, I was in water probably about ankle to mid-shin deep," said Niman. "That flows right towards our front doors, and then in the basement of the high school, about the same—enough to cover your foot and same in the Austin lobby as well."

With so much water falling from the sky, very little of the school was left untouched. "Our ag science building does very well and that one didn't have any flooding. Our main building



The aftermath of the storm at the Newell Golf Course. Longbrake photos

down our main hallway was the biggest one hit. Luckily, our classrooms are a little elevated from our main hallway, so water didn't make it into any classrooms," shared Niman.

"But our middle school gym, our main hallway, our teachers' lounge did have some water in it. Our old high school building was built in 1922, I believe, water made its way down to the basement in there, and then also our Austin Auditorium building—the parking lot there also kind of flows towards the building, and so the lobby there also was flooded. So we had three buildings in three different major areas that had standing water."

Newell School District was able to put out a call for help

with the emergency cleanup of the flooding right after it occurred. The citizens of Newell showed up and cleaned up the mess so the school could open for the school year on Tuesday, August 18.

Over 20 eager helpers came to the school on a Sunday evening to help clean up the water before any real damage could occur. "Multiple families just started showing up with shop vacs and fans—there were multiple students that live in town that walked down to the school to help, so it was great—it was great to see," explained Niman. "We were able to catch it in time to where the water didn't sit for very long or build up."

All of the help made quick

work of the cleanup. "I estimated we were going to be there until at least midnight cleaning up, but I had no idea that like 20 minutes later there would be as many people here as there was, and we got everybody out of here a decent hour so that everybody could go home and rest," said Niman.

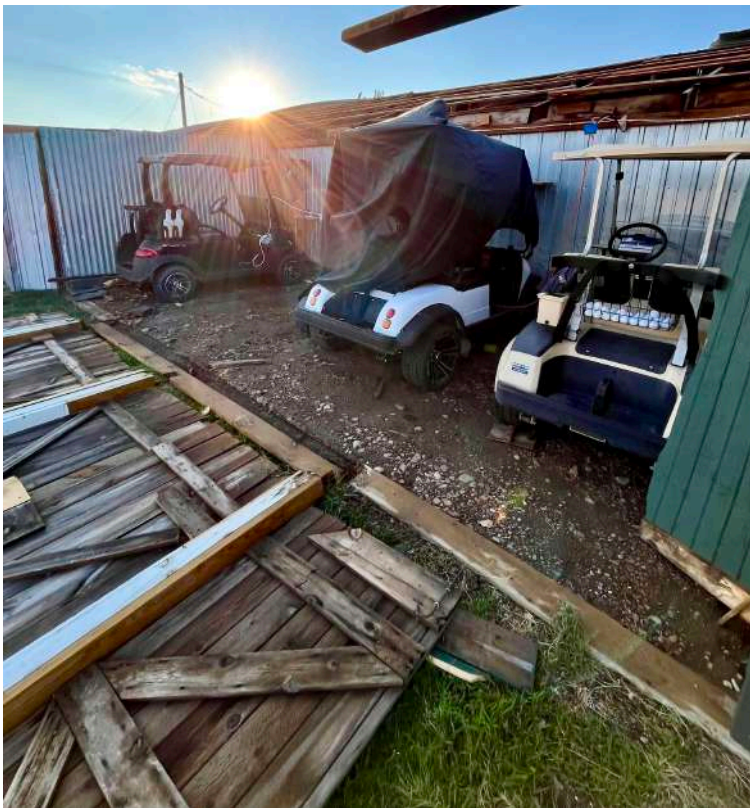
Fans were left to run all night to help the school dry out, and by the next day, everything was back to normal and ready to welcome students back to school.

The quick turnaround was made possible by those who showed up to help. "We are really thankful to the community. I mean, if the water would have got left here overnight, or if I'd have been by myself—the few of us, we'd have been here all night

easily. So, to be able to have it cleaned up and fans running and everyone home by 8 p.m., that was just amazing."

Just outside of town, at the Newell Golf Course, the same storm ripped the roof off of the golf cart garage and knocked down power lines. The area was closed and the public was asked not to drive out to the golf course or the parking lot until the power lines were fixed. The clubhouse was closed as well. By Monday morning the power was restored and the lines were fixed.

Throughout the town there were reports of downed tree branches but the city was unable to collect them until the road to the dump dried out, so for now, the cleanup continues around Newell.



Helicopter Draws a Crowd in Downtown Newell



Training with the Black Hills Life Flight rescue crew. Longbrake photos

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NEWELL—If you wondered what the heck a helicopter was doing flying around the town of Newell a few weeks ago, you were not alone! Black Hills Life Flight was here on a training mission with the area's first responders on July 21 at the Newell Ambulance Hall.

Circling town is part of their landing protocol. "So people may have noticed they circled the town—they circled the town twice, up high and then down low—and the reason for that, they said that's standard procedure, because they are looking at obstacles that we can't see," explained Sherry Hocking, Newell Ambulance Director.

Black Hills Life Flight agreed to fly in for the local training. They were scheduled to land about a block away from the Ambulance Hall, in the open city lot.

"Black Hills Life Flight agreed to come up and do our training for us...the crew was going to come up with the helicopter. The guy that was doing the classroom training took a walk with a few of the crew members and they went over and looked at the lot and came back," shared Hocking. "The instructor said, 'Let's just put her down right here between the fire hall and the ambulance hall' and so that was their decision, and they did it."

Yep, that is right! The helicopter landed right in town, on the street in front of the Ambulance Hall. "They recommend 100 by 100 landing zone, but you can do it much smaller and so we blocked off the road at Girard, and then right beyond the ambulance hall—so that nobody could drive in there, and that's where they dropped that bird down," said Hocking.

Helicopter Contd. D4



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Reub and I went to Hettinger last Monday to get 12 pints of blueberries that came into Knudson Feeds that day. We stopped in Reeder on the way to Hettinger to take a sack of beets out of my garden to Phyllis Brown and Reub had John Brown order a part for him. We stopped in Reeder on the way home from Hettinger to have coffee and some good visits with the Prairie Pioneers.

A lot of people got hailed out on Tuesday but we didn't even get any rain here. Most of the storm was in western Harding County and it went southeast from there, so it completely missed us. We have been so dry that I've had to water all my raised bed gardens and the flowerbeds every day. We're not missing the hail though! I hosted Ladies Aid

that afternoon with six of us in attendance. Missy wasn't able to go because the hay was ready to bale so she had to go baling and Linda Mohagen was still up in North Dakota.

The guys worked the calves at the east ranch Wednesday morning with Bill Holt, Ron and Jace Jenson and little Keen Jenson coming down to help them and Copper, Knox and River Lu were over there helping too. Missy and Amanda took breakfast to them and also helped work the calves. That afternoon Casey and Missy picked up Copper, Knox and River and headed up to North Dakota to get Matt and Lanie's kids to take them all to Medora, North Dakota for the show and to spend the night there. Jace Jenson brought Keen and Kage down here to play with the twins while all the other kids were gone and they really had fun. Keen even caught one

of my hens for me that got out of the chicken pen. A couple guys working for Dish satellite TV came here that afternoon to improve how our television works here and they really got it improved. We got a nice little shower of much-needed rain late that afternoon.

Reub and I went up to Reeder on Thursday to get the sprayer Reub uses to kill weeds that John Brown had fixed. Reub hauled it home on the flatbed behind his red pickup while I drove ahead of him with the black pickup with both of us going pretty slow so we got passed a lot. Everybody else here on the ranch went to Baker, Montana, to the rodeo that evening. Copper and the twins rode with Taz and Amanda, and Casey and Missy took Knox and River Lu with them.

The weather has started to cool off around here with the temperatures below the 100s on Thursday and Friday. We got another little shower of rain Friday morning before Josi Jenson came down to visit her sister Amanda and play with her nieces and nephew for a while. The Harding County Fair in Camp Crook is going on now and Taz and Amanda took their kids over to watch the Bronc Match that afternoon. That would have been fun for us to watch, but Reub went spraying weeds over

by Glendo that afternoon.

There is another death to report: Lila Mae (Hendricks) Maier passed away at the age of 83. Funeral services for Lila Maier were on Saturday, August 15, at the Hettinger Lutheran Church with burial at the Hettinger Cemetery. When my sister and I were growing up we lived with Grandma Wilkinson for almost a year after our mother Lila Mae (Wilkinson) White had a heart attack when she was only 24 years old and we spent a lot of time with the Hendricks kids. We weren't related, but they were just like family to us and sadly, now the only Hendricks still alive is Doris Lee in Hettinger. I've heard that Lila Mae Maier was named after my mother Lila Mae (Wilkinson) White and I believe it's true. I always thought of Lila's brother Bill Hendricks as my Uncle Bill when he and his brothers used to come over to Grandma Wilkinson's house at Glendo so they could play and sing some really beautiful country music with Uncle Stanley Wilkinson and Uncle Harold Wilkinson, while Aunt Daisy Wilkinson played the piano. The Wilkinsons and the Hendricks weren't related, but we sure were family!

Reub and I went up to Hettinger to go to Lila Mae Maier's funeral on Saturday

and got to visit with a lot of friends, including Lila's sister Doris (Hendricks) Lee. Our friends Lane and Ann Dingfelder played and sang several beautiful songs that Lila asked them to play at her funeral.

We went to church Sunday morning at Slim Buttes Lutheran and Pastor Henry Mohagen let us know that Bob Tenold would probably get out of the hospital in Bismarck on Monday after he has recovered from his surgery. Becky Holt and Mary Lou Holt served us coffee and a delicious lunch after church. There will be a church service in the Slim Buttes at 10:00 next Sunday with a potluck after the service. Slim Buttes Lutheran will host the Hymn Sing at the church on August 30th, which is always a fun evening.

Pastor Henry put this in the church bulletin Sunday morning: Prayer of David. "To you I call, O Lord my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit. Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place." Psalm 28:1-2

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

August 10, 1916

The State Board of Agriculture invites the people of the state to avail themselves of the camping facilities afforded at the State Fair grounds. Such conveniences as running water and sewer promote sanitized camping. Camping parties may bring their own camping outfit or one may be secured from a tent and awning company.

A bunch of Nisland boosters accompanied by the band drove into Newell Monday on an advertising trip in the interest of their baseball tournament next Saturday and Sunday. The Commercial Club suggested all those from Newell who attend the tournament at Nisland, to make the trip in autos, to agree on some time to start and all go as a body. Talk about it.

Frank Jewett, Fred Gullinger, R. E. Adams, C. N. Simons and Earl Mullinex left Saturday for the Omaha market with 11 cars of stock. They returned here this Saturday by the same mode.

August 12, 1926

Arthur Brisbane says if you paint your kitchen blue you will have less flies, as flies dislike bright blue. We pass his suggestion along for what it might be worth.

Mrs. Emma Highley and son Duart, with Mr. & Mrs. Ray Petit, made a trip to the Southern Hills Thursday and Friday. They took a look at the Needles, went to Wind Cave and several other points of interest, so that they will be able to carry away with them some fine memories of Black Hills scenery.

Mrs. Emil Milberg entertained a number of ladies at the Missionary Society Wednesday afternoon. As the President and Vice President were both unable to attend, they dispensed with any business proceedings and gave themselves over to a general gab fest. Needless to say, they enjoyed that as well as a good lunch provided by Mrs. Milberg. Accord-

ing to the custom, they presented their latest bride, Mrs. A. Johnson, with a wedding present, which was a lovely little velvet rug.

August 13, 1936

A change of schedule of the Northern Black Hills Baseball League brings the Newell-Ft. Meade game to Newell Sunday, instead of at the Fort. The soldier ball-tossers are tough this year, but our boys have lately been chewing on hard tack and old boot legs and think they are fit to fight anything that comes along. The game on Sunday will be the last league game for the Newell boys on the home diamond.

Two more WPA projects in Butte County have been approved to help carry out the work relief program. One is the graveling on a county road starting 1 mile south and 2 miles east of Newell, running 3 miles to intersect highway 212. At Fruitdale 3,000 feet concrete sidewalk is to be constructed on the Main Street and extending toward the school. The Fruitdale work is starting at once and the Newell graveling job may not be started right away, as it is more suitable for winter employment. About 30 men will be employed.

On Sunday, the Neighborhood Club members and their husbands surprised Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jenson in honor of their 20th wedding anniversary. The ladies brought ice cream and cake, which they served at the close of the afternoon. After presenting the Jenson's with a gift, the guests departed wishing them many more happy anniversaries.

If the person or person returns the 3 saws, hammer, drawknife and square taken from Hal Paulson's back yard Monday night, nothing more will be said.

August 8, 1946

Miss Bonna B. Price, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wm Price and Harvey Knuteson Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Knuteson Sr. all from Newell were united in marriage at

by Linda Velder

a ceremony performed at the Congregational Church 4:30 Sunday, with Rev Glenn VanVactor officiating at the single ring ceremony. Maid of Honor was Miss Bille Price and Best Man Johnny Price. Miss Grace Wold was organist and Miss LeNore Taft soloist. After a wedding trip through the Hills, the young couple will be at home on the Kunteson ranch east of Newell.

Three candidates filed petitions for Butte County Commissioner for the same district, R. D. Long, Bernie R. Richards and Floyde V. Riggs. Present incumbent Clarence E. Lewis could not be persuaded to seek re-election.

Veterinarians and livestock sanitary board members from both Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming met at the Newell US Experiment Farm Tuesday to discuss improved livestock conditions in their respective areas and work being carried on at the farm. After inspecting sheep and considering the parasite study project at the Farm, urged intensification of this work. They adopted a resolution instead of 4-month work, they asked for a year-round program at the farm to seek improved methods of parasite control.

August 16, 1956

Dr. Clark reports he has sprayed his apple trees several times at 2-week intervals and the apples are free of worms. If you contemplate using Whitney Crabs, better reserve yours soon. He will notify you when they are ready for pick up.

E Z Stitches Club met Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Andrew Syverts with 14 members present. Roll Call was answered with a sewing hint. A game, Know Your Trees was played, and Mrs. John Barber received the traveling prize. She also received a birthday gift from her "secret pal". At the close of the meeting lunch was served by Mrs. Robert Fabricuis assisted by Mrs. A.



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C. Getty.

Former Nisland resident was electrocuted Saturday in an accident at the Northwest Wood Preserving Co. near Deadwood. Perry Lee Dachler, 33, was repairing the roof of the preserving plant, when he apparently slipped onto a high voltage line. No one witnessed the accident, but it was noted a few minutes later by another employee. All efforts to revive him failed. He graduated from Nisland High School, married Dorothy Tryon of Hoover and has 3 sons. Burial was in the Whitewood Cemetery.

August 25, 1966

J. Riley Price, Zeona is a State Hall of Fame Nominee due to his long association with amateur softball and baseball. More than 50 years of umpiring in South Dakota games, Mr. Price will be honored between special softball games at the Newell lighted field Saturday evening when taken into the Hall of Fame. Price will be calling the balls and strikes in a game between Newell Has-beens and Newell Jay-

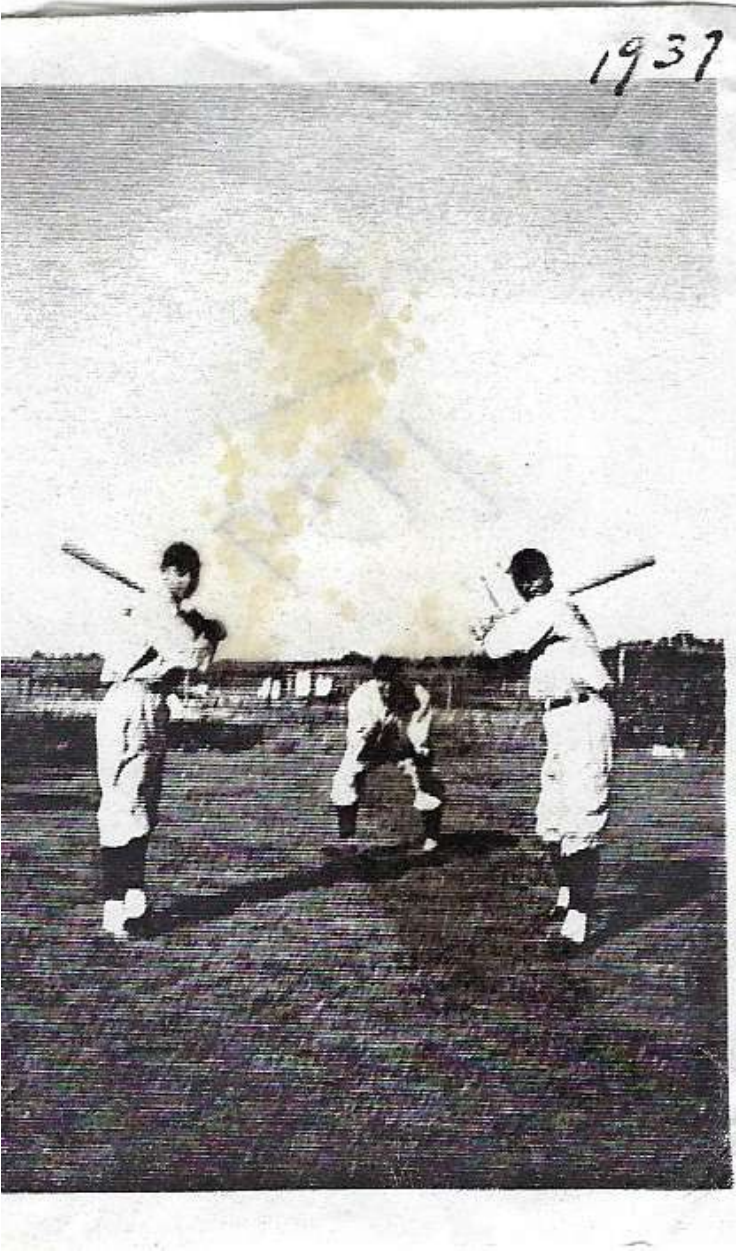
cees and honored between the second game between Belle Fourche Livestock and Tri-County-Hafner Eagles of Newell and will umpire the first inning between those teams. Wherever you find a ball game, you will find Riley Price and always available for any and all games.

Chip Dye of Newell, one of the smallest exhibitors in Open Class at the Butte County Fair. Chip, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dye, showed his yearling Suffolk ewe which won a blue ribbon. The picture-shy grand champion, in medium wool category, was reluctant to be shown and a photo shoot. The Grand Champion fought Chip all the way in the show ring. He was barely able to hold the animal.

Mrs. Susan Verhulst, Harvey Lindulla and "Bumps" Flaigg were callers at the Guy Hoefer home near Prairie City Sunday. Bumps was then an overnight and breakfast guest at the De-Jaeger-Verhulst home.



(L) 1926, Horse Creek Missionary Society. The meeting turned into a "Gab Fest"; (R) 1936. Newell Baseball team practice before the big game. Museum photos





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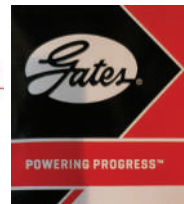
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2026 NEWELL LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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[www.facebook.com/
NewellCommunityClub](http://www.facebook.com/NewellCommunityClub)

SATURDAY 8/29

Rodeo Queen Pageant – 8:30am
Rodeo Queen Coronation – 6:30pm

THURSDAY, 9/3

Cowboys for Christ Church Service
6:30pm – Ram Sale Bldg.

FRIDAY, 9/4

Quilt Show Registration & Check In
1:00–3:00pm, City Hall
Newell Museum Open
1:00-5:00pm, City Hall

SATURDAY 9/5

5K Fun Run/Walk – 7:00am Registration / 7:30 Walkers Start / 7:45 Runners Start
Ranch Rodeo & Calcutta – 1:30pm, Arena
Cowboy Mini Jeep Race – Around 3:30pm, Arena
Quilt Show Viewing – 1:00-5:00pm, City Hall
Newell Museum Open – 1:00-5:00pm, City Hall
Fireman's BBQ – 5:00-7:00pm, Fire Hall
FFA Goat Roping – 6:00-7:30pm, Behind Ram Sale Pens
Newell Bar Dance featuring Williams & Wright – 9:00pm, Newell Bar

SUNDAY 9/6

J.D. Mutchler Memorial Team Roping – 9:00am Reg. / 10:00 Breakaway / TR After
Car Show – 8:00-10:00am Registration / 10:00-1:00pm Show, South Park
Good Eats & Sweet Treats – 8:00-2:00, South Park
Tractor Pull – 12:00-2:00pm Weigh Ins / 2:30pm Tractor Pull, Girard Street
Corn Hole Tournament – 1:30pm Registration / 2:00pm Tournament, South Park
Quilt Show Viewing – 1:00-5:00pm, City Hall
Newell Museum Open – 1:00-5:00pm, City Hall

MONDAY 9/7

Parade – 8:30-9:30am Line Up & Registration / 10:00am Parade
Midwestern Meat Locker 'Frank' Cookout – 11:00-2:00, South Park
First Natl. Bank Sponsored Kids' Games – 10:30am, South Park
Chicken/Regular Bingo – 12:00-4:00pm, NVN Center
NVN Meal (Sloppy Joes/Hot Dogs) – After the Parade, NVN Center
Newell Labor Day Rodeo – 8:00am Slack / 1:00pm Rodeo
Quilt Show Viewing – 10:00-5:00pm / Quilt Pickup – 5:00pm
Newell Museum Open – 10:00 a.m.-4:00pm, City Hall





Helicopter From D1

And when a helicopter circles the town and lands right on the street, folks want to know what is happening. There was quite a gathering in downtown Newell with the rescue workers that were in training along with the curious community. “We had 25 to 30 people there—firefighters and ambulance personnel. And then we had a lot of people that came out, they were intrigued and they came to look and they had questions,” said Hocking. “It was like the whole town—we had a lot of people. We had looky-loos all over the place—they drive by and then they turn around and drive back—like that’s a helicopter!”

When the helicopter landed on the street, it was very convenient for those in training, but it was also very windy! “Well, we all got sandblasted because you know when that bird comes down, there’s a lot of force with those rotors—they turn so fast. And I mean, dust, you were covering your face, and we were such close proximity to it. If we’re out on the highway or in a field, the helicopter will land a little bit away from us,” explained Hocking.

It was quite a sight to see the helicopter landing in town, but it was for a very important reason. All of the emergency personnel need to know how to set up a landing zone, what information to gather for the crew flying in and all of the rules that go along with bringing a patient to the Life Flight. Hocking said, “We had a good representation

from all fire departments. We had a dispatcher here because it takes a coordinated effort to land that helicopter, you know, take care of the patient, make sure everybody’s safe, and it takes all of us.”

The training gave the participants a chance to interact directly with the Life Flight crew and learn all of the information that they needed to gather when asking the Life Flight crew to come pick up a patient.

The first responders were also reminded of the safety precautions they needed to follow when approaching a Life Flight helicopter. “There are a lot of instructions before you can go near that helicopter. Like you can’t be anywhere near the back of it, you can’t be anywhere near the tail of a helicopter—they say no loose clothing, no hats, nothing that would fly off that would ground them—because if something like a hat flies off your head and it hits the rotor, it grounds them,” explained Hocking.

Hocking hopes that all of those present at the training will go back to their fire departments and share all the information they learned. “It was very good training. I think we started at 7 p.m. in the classroom, took a break at 7:30 p.m. and went out to the helicopter. They were probably at that helicopter I would say half an hour to 45 minutes, and then we came back into the classroom. We didn’t get done till a little after 9 o’clock. Everybody said they thought it was excellent training,” said Hocking.



(Above) Listening to the trainers explain expectations when working together. (Below) Landing the Black Hills Life Flight helicopter on the street in front of the Ambulance Hall and preparing to train first responders on what to expect when working together.



WIT Coalition Builds Connections With New School Staff

Robbi Longbrake

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NEWELL—Members of the Whatever It Takes Coalition (WIT) came together for the monthly meeting on August 14 at Newell Christian Fellowship Community Hall. The coalition is a group of Butte County citizens united to do “whatever it takes” to help form cohesive partnerships within the community.

With the start of a new school year, it is fitting that the August Whatever It Takes Coalition meeting would focus on getting to know the Newell School District staff. Those who are new to the area were invited to have lunch with the Coalition to learn about WIT and the resources they have to offer. Staff who have been with the district in previous years were also invited to join. The meeting was held over the lunch hour and provided a free meal to those in attendance. Lunch featured a salad bar and a dessert bar. A variety of salads, vegetables, fruits, meats, cheeses and crackers were served. Cookies, cakes and pies along with coffee, tea, lemonade and water were also provided.

Because the teachers and staff were on their lunch break, the meeting got underway while everyone was enjoying their meal. Sabrina Harmon, director of WIT, informed everyone, “we’re hoping that we’ll have everybody tell us who they are and what grade they teach or

whatever, and then the WIT Coalition people will also stand up and talk about how they’re affiliated and how they can help you at the school. I would like to make sure everybody signs in and then gets a little incentive from us to take as a reminder of how great you are and how much we appreciate you!”

Pastor Lance Putnam with Newell Christian Fellowship introduced himself and spent time educating the group about the services his church offers. “One of the things we offer is we have faith-based youth programming on Wednesday nights. This goes from pre-school all the way through high school, and what this does for parents is if parents have to work late or something like that, they can bring the kids over for these programs. We provide a meal, we provide snacks, and then there’s obviously supervised instruction for them. Then all of our volunteers go through their own background checks, like everybody else as well,” he explained.

Putnam went on to share with the group the kind of services he can offer. “We do offer temporary trauma-informed counseling services for anyone in the community that’s dealing with loss or substance abuse or trauma issues...this service we provide in the community is designed to be a temporary, immediate—kind of a band-aid until we can get them plugged into more long-term services,”

he explained. “These are just some of the resources that we provide here through our church. And again, if you have families that are interested, or families that are going through struggles, please reach out to myself or Sabrina, and we can help you guys—either students or families—get them plugged into some of these resources.”

The meeting included representatives from a variety of services available in the community, including a 4-H educator, American Legion representative, City of Newell maintenance manager and Newell mayor, along with other community members. This provided those new to the area with a variety of people they can connect with should a need arise. The Chief Deputy of Butte County Sheriff’s Office, Jason March, was also on hand to introduce himself and talk about services.

The new PK-12 principal, Mark Galpin, was at the meeting as well as Thomas Vail, the new Newell School District superintendent. There were many new faces at the meeting. All teachers and staff with the Newell School District introduced themselves and shared their roles within the district.

The meeting ended with Pastor Putnam leading everyone in a closing prayer. The next WIT meeting will be held in September.



Pastor Lance Putnam and WIT Director Sabrina Harmon address the group. Longbrake photos



Everyone enjoying lunch while visiting with neighbors.



Free lunch was provided for all WIT meeting participants.