



Belle Fourche Beacon

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From the Center of the Nation, a Ride to Honor a Hero

Robbi Longbrake
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BELLE FOURCHE—For the second year in a row, the Heroes Honor Ride brought the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally directly to the Center of the Nation. On the morning of Sunday, August 9, motorcycles began lining up in the Tri-State Museum and Center of the Nation Visitors Center parking lot.

Spots were limited to the first 200 riders to register for the 40-mile ride that left from Belle Fourche and traveled via a police escort to the Buffalo Chip.

Before the Heroes Honor Ride (HHR) could begin, the hero who was to be honored had to be introduced to everyone and presented with a custom Indian motorcycle. “I want to thank everybody for coming out to Belle Fourche and being a part of this day. I hope what you guys are about to experience is something really special—and everybody has a safe ride,” said HHR board president, Jesse Cunningham.

Starting at the Center of the Nation is an important part of the HHR, with the Center of the Nation Monument serving as the staging area for the annual event. “We are here at the Center of the Nation Monument, right now centrally located in the United States, we could not be more surrounded by our American hero men and wom-



Kickstands up as they all head out on the Heroes Honor Ride. Longbrake photo

en,” explained Cunningham. “We have people every day that go above and beyond, and those are the type of people that we’re trying to recognize... Today, everybody who showed up on the ride, you guys get a vote for what we’re going to do next year. We’re tallying up those votes right now and we’re going to make an announcement this

evening and we’re going to start taking nominations for next year’s category.”

This year’s motorcycle celebrates several significant milestones. “This year with our bike, we have a lot to celebrate. It’s the 86th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, but it’s also the 250th celebration of our country—we have that here on our bike, rep-

resented with the 250 with the race numbers—but it’s also the 125th [Anniversary] of Indian motorcycles. That’s why we went with the Indian Challenger this year, and we have the 125th anniversary on the bike here as well,” said Cunningham.

Custom bike builder Derek Spitsnogle spent three weeks rebuilding the bike. “That one

we didn’t pull the engine out and stuff like that, but we broke the whole bike down and did some fabrication stuff, and changed some parts—changed the style of a bunch of the stuff, and then obviously the paint job and the seat—it was about three weeks. We did it fast, but it

Honor Ride Contd. A5

Hometown Thursdays Ends Summer on a High Note



The Hometown Thursdays Beer Garden is a crowd favorite. Longbrake photo

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BELLE FOURCHE—Thursday, August 6, brought the final summer evening of live music and visiting with friendly neighbors by the river. All summer long the community gathered together every Thursday evening to enjoy the familiar combination at Hometown Thursdays.

The last Hometown Thursdays evening of the summer brought beautiful weather to enjoy one last Thursday outside to soak in the summer breeze before the days start to get shorter and the weather turns colder.

JJ Kent with Aces & 8s took the stage to entertain the crowd with country music favorites. The dance floor was busy as couples took to the open space to move to the music. The band was sponsored by Joe Dirt Septic & Drain, LLC, Kevin Fuhrer Construction, Highmark Credit Union, and Wells Plumbing & Farm Supply.

The Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk was on hand to sell 50/50 tickets for a fundrais-

Hometown Thurs Contd. A4

Habeck Hooligans Ride for Purple Pride

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BELLE FOURCHE—For 18 years, Habeck Trucking has been bringing the community together during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for a fun day filled with a Poker Run along with good times with family and friends, all for a good cause.

This year the annual Habeck Hooligans Poker Run took place on Sunday, August 9, with all proceeds raised from the event going to Purple Pride. “So we just decided to get a hold of the Purple Pride gals—this is our fourth year with them—they do a lot of youth activities and stuff like that so everything stays local,” explained Mike Habeck, owner of Habeck Trucking.

For a registration fee of \$35, participants get a lot for their money. “To make it more simple, when you register, you pay and you get a meal and a T-shirt

and your poker hand for \$35,” shared Habeck. “Then you draw three cards when you register, and then of course they write that down. And then instead of drawing cards on our stops, we just wait and draw the other two when we get back.”

The Poker Run takes the riders on a 175-mile journey with stops at Captain Ron’s in Hulett, WY, Dewey’s Place in Moorcroft, WY, Cowboy Bar in Upton, WY and Dime Horseshoe Bar in Sundance, WY before returning to Habeck Trucking for a final gathering.

The ride is set up to be an independent ride, heading out on the trek whenever the riders are ready. “We don’t have kickstands up like some do, because it’s kind of hard with other traffic going on—we’ve got people that were here right at five to nine this morning—we just let them go,” said Habeck. “Because if you get 100 people trying to go at one time, at the



Poker Run Contd. A3

The line to register for the Poker Run. Longbrake photo

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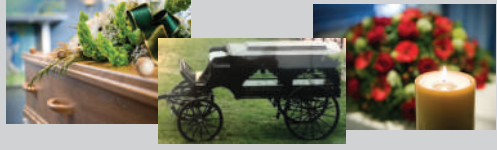




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Most of us intend on “getting around to it someday,” but that someday never comes and we leave our family wondering whether or not they did the right thing. **It doesn’t have to be like that.** It’s not pleasant to be reminded of our own mortality; 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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Marlene Griffith, 94

Marlene Griffith, age 94 of Spearfish and formerly of Faith, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 8, 2026 at her home, with her loving family by her side.

The funeral service will be held 11am Friday, August 14, 2026 at the Faith Community Center in Faith SD with Pastor Calvin Chapman officiating. Visitation will be held 4pm to 7pm on Thursday, at Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche, and one hour prior to the funeral service in Faith. Interment will take place at Faith Cemetery. Friends may leave written condolences and view the funeral service on Marlene’s obituary page, located at: www.LeveringtonFH.com.

Marlene Joyce Dore was born May 27, 1932 in Sidney, Montana. She was the daughter of George and Myrel (Lowry) Dore. Marlene spent her childhood playing outdoors as much as she could, with cousins, friends, and her brothers, Bill and Jerry (Dean). Being the youngest of 3 kids, and the only girl, she learned to play pretty “rough and tumble” even though her momma loved to dress her in frilly dresses and pretty hair bows. Marlene’s childhood was where her love for the great outdoors began.

The family moved to Ennis Montana in the early 1940’s, where Marlene attended school. Her mother ran a dress shop and her dad owned and operated a grocery store on main street. Later they moved to Ennis Lake where they owned and operated a tourism business. Many of Marlene’s favorite memories were from Ennis Lake. She loved horses and one day while she was riding her favorite horse and carrying glass bottles in saddle bags for recycling, she encountered a bear on the trail. She remembered turning and running as fast as her horse would go all the way home. Needless to say, the bottles didn’t survive the trip too well.

Due to economic burdens during wartime, the family was forced to sell the business and make a move to Faith SD, where Marlene’s step-dad Doc MacLean operated his business. Marlene attended high school in Faith, where she made many life-long friends, and also met the love of her life, Darrel Griffith.



In 1950 she graduated from Faith High School and following, on July 10th, Darrel and Marlene were united in marriage. To this union, five children were born: Debbie, Jim, Terri, Doug, and Rick. Following their marriage, Darrel and Marlene moved onto the Griffith Family Ranch, located east of Faith, and raised their family there. Along with the ranching, they began training horses and eventually built an indoor training facility. Their home was always buzzing with clients as they delivered and picked up their horses. Marlene never failed to make an extra place at the dinner table for whoever might show up at mealtime. Darrel and Marlene trained and showed horses in the SD Cutting Horse Association, where Marlene and her favorite horse, Frosty, achieved awards. She showed off her training skills by having Frosty perform his many tricks.

Marlene’s joy was her family and serving others. She loved to paint and do artwork and crafts. In later years she was known for making lamps out of iron scrap and old water pumps. For many years she taught Sunday School and left a lasting impression with those children, and shared her love for the Lord. She loved the Lord with all her heart and was baptized at the Church of Christ in April of 1989. She wrote in her Bible: “The most precious and exciting event in my life – I have come to know Christ as I’ve never known Him before.” Marlene was a special mother and grandmother, and she will be missed greatly by them all.

Marlene is survived by her two daughters, Debbie Stewart and Terri (Phil) Kissack, both of Spearfish; 3 sons, Jim Griffith of Texas; Doug Griffith of California, Rick (Jina) Griffith of Rapid City; 10 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Darrel in 2014; grandson, Jeremy; granddaughter, Jennifer; brothers, Bill and Jerry Dore; and son-in-law, Russ Stewart.



Pastor’s Perspective

“Symbols of the Holy Spirit”

This Perspective is from Pastor Jack Hayford.

The Holy Spirit doesn’t seek to be mysterious, but He is the most mysterious of the Godhead. We can read in the Word about the Father, and we can read about the Son who came and walked among us. But Jesus tells us that when the Spirit comes, He will not speak of Himself; that “whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13 KJV).

The workings of the Holy Spirit are invisible, glorious, and gentle, and within them, He never tells us about Himself. He comes to glorify Jesus—helping us to see Jesus more, to understand Jesus better, to respond to Jesus more obediently, and to love Jesus with a deeper heart of commitment.

So the symbols of the Holy Spirit become essential to our gaining an understanding of what He’s like, not only in an objective way of analyzing truth, but also in the subjective way that He comes to penetrate our lives—ways in which the reality of the invisible penetrate the visible.

In each of the following seven ways, the Lord desires to move into our realm. Just as the Holy Spirit manifested for a moment in a dove and lighted upon Jesus, He wants to penetrate you and me with the glory of the invisible God that becomes visible in us—to flood His life into ours that we might then overflow it to others.

The Holy Spirit Comes as Rain
Rain has a dual implication. First as refreshing where there has been dryness and barrenness (Joel 2:23-29). Second, as restoration where there has been loss (Isa. 28:11-12).

The “pouring out” Peter refers to at Pentecost (Acts 2:17) is not an abstract use of the word; it has to do with “latter rain” that brought about the hastening of the harvest and fruitful crops. The Lord is saying that He will send rain to fields [people] that are totally barren as a promise of hope.

Needing to be refreshed doesn’t mean that I’ve backslid or sinned. The Holy Spirit, coming as rain, comes to bring refreshing and restoration.

The Holy Spirit Comes as Rivers
Rivers are channels or conduits to places where the refreshing of water is needed. John



pinpoints that the work of the Spirit as “rivers of living water” was to become available after Jesus’ ascension (John 7:37-39).

The Lord wants people to get in touch with who He is, and that takes people who will let the rivers of living water be awakened in them and then gush out of their lives. So the Holy Spirit is manifest

in rivers.

The Holy Spirit Comes as Wind

The Holy Spirit, coming as wind, depicts His power and His guidance. When Jesus tells Nicodemus about the new birth experience (John 3:8), He tells him that it is not like a tangible birth where you can see the baby is born and check the clock for its time of arrival. The work of the Spirit breathes into a life, and something transpires that people cannot recognize. There’s a dynamism but also a gentleness, like the wisp of a breeze.

At Pentecost (Acts 2:3), it wasn’t a wind that blew in; it was the sound of a rushing wind—like a hurricane. That sound, not the sound of the people speaking in tongues, is what drew the crowd in. The Holy Spirit as sovereign God is dynamic, irresistible, and unstoppable.

The Holy Spirit Comes as Oil

The anointing—the oil of Scripture—is directly related to the Holy Spirit’s work in our life (2 Cor. 1:21-22). The Holy Spirit’s anointing makes us sensitive (1 John 2:20). How many times have you sensed something was wrong, or something was right, but you didn’t know why or how you knew? The Holy Spirit, by His anointing and presence, confirms what He is—the Spirit of Truth, of Holiness, of Wisdom.

As prophets, we are called to speak the Word of the Lord. There are times when the Holy Spirit will give you words of comfort, exhortation, or sensitive counsel to say to other people. As priests, the Lord wants to anoint us for worship to renew us, so that our worship doesn’t become stale, habitual, or formal. And as kings, we don’t just get anointed once for all. It takes fresh anointing from the Holy Spirit for the dominion of His Kingdom and the authority of His life to happen through us.

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, as we begin this week, renew our strength when we feel weary and remind us that we do not have to carry every burden alone. Teach us to trust You when we cannot see what lies ahead. Give us courage in challenges, wisdom in our decisions, and peace when our hearts are troubled. May Your Spirit refresh and strengthen us as we walk through this week with hope and purpose. Amen.

From A1 Poker Run
stops it makes it a little more difficult for them [the bars]. It's easier to filter them through rather than 100 people showing up at one time."
The tour is set up to explore Wyoming. "We go west. It kind of gives everybody a chance to get out in the open—you're not packed in with all the rally stuff going on," said Habeck.
After a fun day of exploring the open spaces to the west, everyone meets back at Habeck Trucking at 5 p.m. Winners must be present to claim their winnings. The best poker hand receives \$500, with second getting \$250 and third winning \$125. There is also a \$125 prize

designated to the worst hand of the day.
After a long day of travel, food and drinks are ready for the bikers when they get back. "We got about 60 pounds of pork cooking—last year we had 45 pounds but it was gone when we got done! So we made a little more this year," said Habeck.
Habeck credits the sponsors for making the Poker Run fundraiser successful and benefiting the youth. "So it kind of fluctuates, I mean, if we get a good year and we get over 100 people this year it should be somewhere between three and four grand that we will raise—net, that can go [to Purple Pride]," explained Habeck.

Sponsors this year included Wareing Carl's Trailer Sales; Belle Fourche Veterinary Clinic; City of Belle Fourche; Morris Law Firm; Smokes N Sips; Lueder's Food Center; Lynn's Dakotamart; Redwater Meats; St. Onge Bar; Crossroads Trailer Sales & Service; Belle Chiropractic; In The Black Bookkeeping & Payroll Services; ProRate 48; Grossenburg Implement; All Net Connect; Alpine Impressions/Fast Break; 212 Tanning; Tri-State Chiropractic; CBH CO-OP; Acrisure Insurance; Mid-State Utility Trailers; Neumiller Truck & Auto Body; Peterbilt of Sioux Falls; Pete's Clothing & Hodge Bootery; Quality Quick Print and AmericInn.



Mike Habeck, owner of Habeck Trucking, visits with other participants getting ready for the Poker Run. Longbrake photo



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Participants gathering at Habeck Trucking getting ready to leave on the Poker Run. Longbrake photo

Church Group Brings Food and Fellowship to Judy's Assisted Living Center

Margaret Bolte
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—Residents at Judy's Assisted Living Center enjoyed a morning of food, fellowship, and heartfelt conversation on Thursday as volunteers from St. James Lutheran Church, Belle Fourche, South Dakota, continued their monthly outreach tradition. The gathering, known as "Cookies and Chatter," has been a cherished ministry for the past three years.
Each first Thursday of the month, the ladies of St. James Lutheran Church arrive with homemade treats and warm smiles, spending time visiting with residents who often have limited social interaction. Their visits include shared snacks, friendly conversation, and scripture readings that offer comfort and companionship. Residents

of Judy's Assisted Living Center, located in Belle Fourche, say the time together is a welcome break from their daily routine.
This week's visit featured cherry cheesecake, watermelon, cantaloupe, and homemade fudge served in the dining area. Conversations centered on gratitude and the importance of kindness, encouraging residents to reflect on small joys and the value of connection.
"We come here to remind them they're not forgotten," said ministry coordinator Genevieve Skogberg, who has helped organize the monthly visits since the program began. "A simple conversation or sharing a meal can brighten someone's entire week. Our ladies are dedicated to these special visits, and we are honored to spend time with each other."

Center manager Judy Riedel, RN, said residents eagerly anticipate each visit, often asking, "Are they coming?" She described the gatherings as a time of togetherness—sharing stories, enjoying food, and building a sense of family within the center. Staff members assist residents throughout the event, helping create a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
"I can't thank St. James Lutheran Church enough for the energy and effort they bring when visiting our residents. It is always a special day," one center aide said.
St. James Lutheran ladies will continue the tradition of "Cookies and Chatter," as residents of Judy Assisted Living Center look forward to the first Thursday of each month.



Residents enjoy each other's company at Cookies and Chatter. M. Bolte photo



Cookies and Chatter Event at Judy's Assisted Living. M. Bolte photo



St. James Ladies visit Judy's Assisted Living Center. M. Bolte photo



Hometown Thurs
Contd. from A1

er. The ticket sales raised \$560 with \$280 going to the lucky winner and \$280 to the fund-raising efforts. “I just want to holler out because you guys are amazing! You guys stepped up and you bought so many tickets,” said Sonia Ribordy, Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk director. “I just wanted to promote the walk—the walk happens September 19 and it’s a free walk to attend. The walk

is for mental health awareness and suicide prevention, bringing hope to those whose lives have been affected by suicide—have those conversations and check on your people, that’s what it takes.”

The only food truck on site was PooterQ BBQ, and they ran out of buns for their BBQ sandwiches halfway through the evening. Visitors could still choose from Brain Freeze, Crazee Cow Ice Cream, Pearson Block Candy Shop and Kernels

& Kandies for a sweet treat.

The Tri-State Museum offered a variety of activities for the youth. The bouncy house was a popular option. This was only the second time during the summer series that the blow-up house was outside. Rain and heat kept the house inside the museum for the comfort and safety of the kids.

An activity center was set up for the kids to create a story wheel, color and play with Play-Doh if they wanted. Chalk was

out along the sidewalk for anyone feeling creative, and lawn games were also available for play. The weather was perfect for a train ride around the park along the river and many kids took advantage of the fun ride.

Hometown Thursdays have been bringing a series of musicians to the public since 2013. The event brings friends, neighbors and families together to enjoy an evening of visiting, live music and delicious food. There is also a variety of vendors and

a beer garden for adults.

It takes a community effort to pull off Hometown Thursdays each summer. Chip Conner, President of Hometown Thursdays, addressed the crowd and said, “Thank you JJ Kent and his whole crew. Thank you Hometown Thursdays crew, thank you everyone that shows up all season to make this a community event. Also, thank you sponsors—thank you everybody!”

Photos: Final Hometown Thursday of 2026



Hometown Thursdays offers a lot of fun activities for kids to participate in, including a train ride around the park.



The chalk was out for people to create sidewalk art.



The Out of the Darkness Walk was in charge of the 50/50 raffle during the last Hometown Thursday of the summer.



Hometown Thursdays President Chip Conner, Belle Fourche Out of the Darkness Walk Director Sonia Ribordy and JJ Kent draw for the winning 50/50 ticket.



Making use of the dance floor during the live music entertainment provided by JJ Kent with Aces & 8s.



The bouncy house was the place to be for the little ones.



Programs and Events Assistant Sheila Culhane demonstrates how to make a story wheel, the weekly activity.



JJ Kent with Aces & 8s entertained the Hometown Thursdays crowd.



Heroes Honor Ride board president Jesse Cunningham presents Mayor Randy Schmidt and City Administrator Jason LaFayette with challenge coins for being part of the Heroes Honor Ride. Longbrake photos



Registration for the Heroes Honor Ride takes place at the Center of the Nation Monument in Belle Fourche.



Hero Todd Peters pins his military stripe onto the Honor Flag.



HHR honoree Todd Peters with his wife on his custom-built Indian.



All the riders participating in the second annual Heroes Honor Ride surround the Center of the Nation Monument with this year's honoree in the center.

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From A1 Honor Ride

was about three weeks of 18 to 20 hour days,” he shared. “All of these guys, Ace and Jesse and all these HHR guys, all came to the shop and helped me, they all pitched in, and I wouldn’t get done if they didn’t help.”

Spitsnogle says he likes to participate in the Heroes Honor Ride as a way to give back to a good cause. “It’s an easy way for me to say thank you, and so that’s the biggest part of it. It’s such a good cause. Such good people, and I know the organization is legit, and I know everything’s

done right,” he explained.

Working on this motorcycle was a new experience for the custom bike builder. “They all ride Indians, they’re big in Indians, and Jesse’s told me we were doing an Indian this year and I was like, uhh...but now looking back at it, I love it. I mean, it’s one of my favorites,” shared Spitsnogle. “It’s a style that I’ve never built before, I’ve never tried to design a bike that way before—it’s like a performance style, newer modern style graphics, that kind of stuff—which is fun.”



HHR Hero Todd Peters' daughter Erica reads what she submitted to the HHR about her father.



Last year's Heroes Honor Ride honoree Preston Yager was on hand for the second annual HHR.



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Butterfly Wishes & Chocolate Kisses Event Raises Over \$5,000 for Domestic Violence Survivors

Shirley Speaks Foundation
Special to the Beacon

BELLE FOURCHE—The Shirley Speaks team is overwhelmed with gratitude after the incredible success of this year's Butterfly Wishes & Chocolate Kisses event. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we welcomed a fantastic turnout and raised more than \$7,000 to support domestic violence survivors in our region.

One of the most meaningful moments of the day was our live butterfly release. Each butterfly represented hope, healing, and transformation, and we were thrilled to watch the butterflies take flight - a beautiful reminder that, with support and encouragement, new beginnings are possible.

Guests also enjoyed sampling a variety of delicious chocolates,

spending time together, and learning more about the mission of Shirley Speaks. The event was filled with laughter, connection, and a shared commitment to making a difference in the lives of survivors.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated, sponsored, and helped make this event possible. Your kindness and generosity ensure that Shirley Speaks can continue providing hope, healing, resources, and support to individuals and families affected by domestic violence.

Together, we are proving that when a community comes together with compassion, lives can be transformed - one act of kindness at a time.

From all of us at Shirley Speaks, thank you for believing in our mission and helping us continue this important work.

CBH CO-OP Foundation Awards \$10,000 Grant to St. Onge Volunteer Fire Department for New Firehall

CBH Co-Op
Special to the Beacon

ST. ONGE, S.D. — The CBH CO-OP Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the St. Onge Volunteer Fire Department to support construction of its new firehall, an investment aimed at strengthening emergency services and rural vitality in the St. Onge community.

The St. Onge Volunteer Fire Department has served the community since 1948, providing fire protection, rescue, emergency medical services, community assistance and mutual aid to surrounding areas.

The department's current firehall was constructed in 1950 and no longer provides adequate space for all of the department's vehicles and equipment. The new facility is intended to give the department the space and resources necessary to meet the needs of a growing community for decades to come.

The \$10,000 grant will help fund site preparation for the new firehall, including fill material, surveying, dirt work, water and sewer installation,

contracted equipment and labor associated with preparing the site for construction.

“Projects like this are

ment to strengthening rural communities throughout its service area and investing in projects that create mean-

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exactly why the CBH CO-OP Foundation was created. A volunteer fire department is an essential part of a rural community, and this project will serve families, businesses, agricultural producers and visitors to the St. Onge area for generations. We're proud to invest \$10,000 in a project that will have such a lasting impact", said Mike Galloway, executive director of the CBH CO-OP Foundation.

The grant reflects the CBH CO-OP Foundation's commit-

ingful, long term community impact.

The St. Onge Volunteer Fire Department identified residents, businesses, the fire department and visitors to the area as beneficiaries of the new facility.

For additional information about the St. Onge Volunteer Fire Department new firehall project, contact: St. Onge Volunteer Fire Department; Email stongevfd@gmail.com; Phone: 605-645-3450.

Show Up!

by Belle LaVenue

We have learned this summer that the show goes on and Belle Fourche shows up! Now we are very close to that back-to-school time and more events for our young performers.

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/>

Your presence at all the upcoming events is much appreciated, so don't forget to add all these upcoming fine arts events to your calendars!
 August 20, Thursday, Belle Fourche Schools are back in session! Watch next week for updates regarding upcoming events from the BFSD Fine Arts Dept.
 September 17, Thursday, 7 PM: BFACT hosts GOAT One Act Performances at the BF Rec Center Theater
 September 24, Thurs, 7 PM: CON Concert Series - "Made in America", Alliance Brass.



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER EVENT!

High Plains
WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER & MUSEUM



Sunday
AUGUST 23

FREE BBQ at 12 PM

**LIVE MUSIC EVENT:
Strait George at 2 PM**

825 Heritage Drive - Spearfish, SD

Live Music Tickets: \$50
Advanced reservations required

All are welcome to the
FREE BBQ at 12 PM

Strait George

Featuring JJ Kent with
Aces & 8s performing
"Strait George - A George
Strait Tribute"



Mick B. Harrison
PAINTINGS
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Jim & Janice
Clarkson



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Belle Fourche Chamber Mixer



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CAR WASH



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



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We appreciate your business. Call any one of us any time if you have stock to sell. We are glad to come to your ranch.

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Ray Pepin ~ Fieldman: 605-892-5072

Scott Crowser ~ Fieldman: 605-645-2654

JL Driskill ~ Fieldman: 307-660-5422

Cody Tupper ~ 605-569-3589

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

Cattle Report - Friday, August 7, 2026

right at 1700 hd today
lots of demand for yearlings
weigh up cows & bulls were \$1 to \$2 lower

NO SALE AUGUST 14th DUE TO THE STURGIS BIKE RALLY
NEXT SALE - August 21st - Yrlg, Tested Open Hfrs & Fall Calf Special Special - 9 AM

Thank you for Marketing with St Onge Livestock!

YRLGS				
Brownfield Ranch Inc, Hammond, MT.....	52...	Bldd ... Str.....	1115.....	\$311.25
Brownfield Ranch Inc, Hammond, MT.....	38...	Bldd ... Str.....	1033.....	\$312.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	10...	Bldd ... Str.....	1099.....	\$305.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	107...	Blk... Str.....	952.....	\$334.75
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	17...	Blk... Str.....	809.....	\$356.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	51...	R/Ch... Str.....	961.....	\$332.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	59...	R/Ch... Str.....	864.....	\$352.50
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	63.....	Str.....	779.....	\$368.00
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	75...	Bldd ... Str.....	664.....	\$414.50
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	64...	Blk... Str.....	768.....	\$368.00
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	43...	R/Ch... Str.....	767.....	\$360.50
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	54...	Bldd ... Hfr.....	834.....	\$339.75
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	53...	Bldd ... Hfr.....	813.....	\$339.50
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	80...	Bldd ... Hfr.....	681.....	\$390.00
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	23...	Herf... Hfr.....	804.....	\$331.00
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	72...	R/Ch... Hfr.....	826.....	\$342.00
Spear 3 Ranch [St Onge, SD.....	33...	R/Ch... Hfr.....	645.....	\$386.00
Briggs, Chase, Sturgis, SD.....	12...	Blk... Hfr.....	890.....	\$328.00
Daly Livestock, Gillette, WY.....	1...	Red... Bull.....	785.....	\$295.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	995.....	\$307.00
Oshoto Flying M Operations Llc, Gillette, WY.....	18...	Blk... Hfr.....	957.....	\$314.00
Perli, Keith, Piedmont, SD.....	18...	Bldd ... Hfr.....	867.....	\$332.50
Wagner, David, Hulet, WY.....	21...	B/R... Str.....	913.....	\$328.00

WEIGH UP COWS				
Baker, Gary Or Nancy, Hermosa, SD.....	2...	Blk... Owette.....	1300.....	\$185.00
Barlow Livestock Inc, Gillette, WY.....	4...	Red... Hfr.....	886.....	\$280.00
Barlow Livestock Inc, Gillette, WY.....	7...	Red... Owette.....	1027.....	\$227.00
Barlow Livestock Inc, Gillette, WY.....	1...	Red... Owette.....	865.....	\$217.50
Barlow Livestock Inc, Gillette, WY.....	7...	Red... Cow.....	1080.....	\$179.00
Barlow Livestock Inc, Gillette, WY.....	1...	Red... Cow.....	955.....	\$172.00
Behrens Ranch Llc, Hermosa, SD.....	1...	Xbrd... Owette.....	1275.....	\$205.00
Black Sheep Cattle Co, Bridger, MT.....	16...	Blk... Owette.....	1465.....	\$188.00
Black Sheep Cattle Co, Bridger, MT.....	18...	Red... Owette.....	1375.....	\$188.00
Black Sheep Cattle Co, Bridger, MT.....	35...	Blk... Cow.....	1434.....	\$179.00
Black Sheep Cattle Co, Bridger, MT.....	6...	Mix... Cow.....	1387.....	\$175.50
Brown, Kyle Or Shannon, Sturgis, SD.....	2...	Blk... Owette.....	1210.....	\$203.00
Brown, Kyle Or Shannon, Sturgis, SD.....	4...	Bldd ... Owette.....	1390.....	\$183.00
Brubaker, Curtis, Joliet, MT.....	1...	Red... Cow.....	1405.....	\$175.00
Brubaker, Curtis, Joliet, MT.....	2...	B/R... Cow.....	1205.....	\$174.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	5...	B/R... Cow.....	1252.....	\$176.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	35...	B/R... Cow.....	1471.....	\$174.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	3...	Blk... Cow.....	1205.....	\$172.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	13...	B/R... Cow.....	1456.....	\$172.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Blk... Cow.....	1315.....	\$170.00
Fitzgerald, John, St Onge, SD.....	1...	Blk... Owette.....	1310.....	\$184.00
Millar Angus, Sturgis, SD.....	4...	Blk... Cow.....	1398.....	\$170.00
Millar Ranch Inc, St Onge, SD.....	1...	Red... Cow.....	1395.....	\$173.50
Pleasant Valley Cattle Co Inc, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Blk... Owette.....	1265.....	\$192.50
Tveidt, Bernard, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Blk... Hfr.....	1085.....	\$265.00
Tveidt, Sheldon, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	R/bld ... Hfr.....	890.....	\$320.00

WEIGH UP BULLS				
Ayer Ranch Llc, Beulah, WY.....	2...	Blk... Bull.....	1727.....	\$214.00
Baker, Mike J, St Onge, SD.....	4...	Blk... Bull.....	1200.....	\$266.00
Baker, Mike J, St Onge, SD.....	21...	Blk... Bull.....	1033.....	\$297.00
Behrens Ranch Llc, Hermosa, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	2020.....	\$201.50
Black Sheep Cattle Co, Bridger, MT.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1405.....	\$216.00
Coal Creek Ranch Llc, Gillette, WY.....	2...	Blk... Bull.....	1622.....	\$217.00
Croel, Roger R, Sundance, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1180.....	\$217.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1895.....	\$195.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1780.....	\$208.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1635.....	\$209.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	2130.....	\$212.50
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	2...	Char... Bull.....	2057.....	\$213.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1790.....	\$214.00
Crowser, Scott Or Carla, Whitewood, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1650.....	\$218.00
Cullum, Steven C, Custer, SD.....	1...	Red... Bull.....	1525.....	\$215.00
Daly Livestock, Gillette, WY.....	1...	Red... Bull.....	1285.....	\$220.00
Duprel, Jack, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	2130.....	\$204.00
Duprel, Jason Or Nellie, Newell, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1330.....	\$215.00
Fuller, Mike, Gillette, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1385.....	\$203.00
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis, SD.....	2...	Blk... Bull.....	2020.....	\$205.00
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1950.....	\$207.50
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1840.....	\$210.00
Green Mountain Angus, Sturgis, SD.....	3...	Blk... Bull.....	1331.....	\$216.00
H-C Feeders, Rozet, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1850.....	\$206.00
Hett, Donn, Buffalo, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1105.....	\$283.00
Hubbard Cattle Co, Reduse, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1840.....	\$208.00
Hubbard Cattle Co, Reduse, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1600.....	\$197.00
Karels, Adam, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1685.....	\$200.00
Komes, Timothy J, Sturgis, SD.....	1...	Herf... Bull.....	2005.....	\$203.00
Lazy Hd Llc, St Onge, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1760.....	\$215.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	2055.....	\$203.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1965.....	\$204.50
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1670.....	\$211.50
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1940.....	\$208.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1775.....	\$205.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1760.....	\$197.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1695.....	\$210.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City, SD.....	1...	Char... Bull.....	1545.....	\$218.00
Mcfarland, Chris, Rapid City, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1335.....	\$222.50
McKee Properties Llc, Deadwood, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1895.....	\$205.00
Millar Ranch Inc, St Onge, SD.....	1...	Herf... Bull.....	1865.....	\$211.00
Millar Ranch Inc, St Onge, SD.....	1...	Herf... Bull.....	1755.....	\$212.00
Millar Ranch Inc, St Onge, SD.....	1...	Herf... Bull.....	1600.....	\$217.00
Persson, Ben Or Tomye, Gillette, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1665.....	\$215.00
Peterson, Garrett, Spearfish, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1475.....	\$210.00
Ryan Yz Ranch Llc, Aladdin, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1730.....	\$206.00
Rypkerna Family Ranching Llc, Hermosa, SD.....	6...	Blk... Bull.....	1594.....	\$212.50
Rypkerna Family Ranching Llc, Hermosa, SD.....	2...	Blk... Bull.....	1312.....	\$227.00
Schell Long Pine Ranch, Capitol, MT.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1900.....	\$216.00
Shortgrass & Company, Belle Fourche, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	2025.....	\$207.00
Shortgrass & Company, Belle Fourche, SD.....	1...	Red... Bull.....	1860.....	\$191.00

Sigman, Bryce Or Sandra, Sturgis, SD.....	4...	Blk... Bull.....	1105.....	\$273.00
Snook Revocable Trust Carla K, Hulet, WY.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1955.....	\$209.00
Soelzer, Steven F, Piedmont, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1870.....	\$200.00
Tavegie & Troy & Kelli Tavegie, Todd, Newcastle, WY1.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1850.....	\$203.00
Vallery, Randy & Rhonda, Nisland, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	2325.....	\$206.50
Vallery, Randy & Rhonda, Nisland, SD.....	1...	Blk... Bull.....	1730.....	\$207.00
Wagner, David, Hulet, WY.....	1...	Red... Bull.....	1115.....	\$275.00
Young, Roger, Broadus, MT.....	2...	Blk... Bull.....	1887.....	\$215.50
Young, Roger, Broadus, MT.....	1...	Herf... Bull.....	1830.....	\$207.00

Friday, August 14, 2026

NO SALE DUE TO THE STURGIS BIKE RALLY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

YRLG & FALL CALF SPECIAL

9:00 AM – WEIGH UPS

12:00 NOON – BRED COWS & PAIRS FOLLOWED
BY FEEDER CATTLE

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

2026 CATTLE SALES

August 14th – No Sale Due To The Sturgis Bike Rally
August 21st – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
August 28th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
September 4th – Yearling Special – Selling All Classes Of Cattle
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
Friday, November 6th – Spring Calf Special Featuring Red Angus Influence
Saturday, November 7th – Bred Hfr & Cow & Weigh Up Special
Friday, November 13th – Spring Calf Special
Saturday, November 14th – Bred Hfr & Cow & Weigh Up Special
Friday, November 19th – Spring Calf Special
Saturday, November 21st – 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

Looking for Help at the Newell Sheep Yards on
Wednesdays & Thursdays every week.
Please call Barney at 605-641-2333 or
Justin at 605-680-0259.

2026 4-H & FFA LIVESTOCK SALES

Saturday, August 15th – Harding County, Camp Crook, SD – 2 pm
Saturday, August 15th – Fallon County, Baker, MT – 4:30 pm
Go Support Your Local 4-H'ers & FFA Members -
They Will Appreciate It!

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

We are reps for

SUPERIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Video Auction Time is Coming up very, quickly - If you are considering filming your Calves or Yearlings for Fall Delivery Contact Us For Your Video Marketing Needs



2026 SHEEP SALES

August 13th – No Sale Due To The Sturgis Bike Rally
August 20th – Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
August 27th – Regular Sale – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
September 3rd – Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
September 10th – Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
September 17th – Annual Replacement Ewe, Ewe Lamb & Feeder Lamb Special – Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats – 10 AM Start
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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605-490-9829

Fieldman : Gilbert Wood
605-456-2400
605-641-7100

Fieldman : Dustin Vining
605-354-9966

Sheep Report - Thursday, August 6, 2026

Big Run Of Sheep Today Selling Right At 6800 Hd
Lambs Sold Steady & Slaughter Ewes Sold Steady To \$2 Higher

NO SALE AUGUST 13th DUE TO THE STURGIS BIKE RALLY!
NEXT SALE - AUGUST 20th - FEEDER LAMB SPECIAL - Selling All Classes of
Sheep & Goats - START TIME 1:00 PM
EXPECTING 4000 TO 5000 FEEDER LAMBS

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

Feeder Lambs

Adami Ranch, Llc, Buffalo, WY	121	Lamb	86	\$353.00
Bollinger, Tim, Timber Lake, SD	93	Lamb	84	\$353.00
Crago, Ralph Or Becky, St Onge, SD	38	Lamb	76	\$360.00
Crago, Ralph Or Becky, St Onge, SD	257	Lamb	95	\$334.00
E Heart Ranch, Hammond, MT	44	Lamb	63	\$374.00
E Heart Ranch, Hammond, MT	40	Lamb	80	\$332.00
Falzerano, Warren, Belle Fourche, SD	99	Lamb	81	\$358.00
Hafner, Laurie, Ludlow, SD	46	Lamb	60	\$374.00
Hafner, Laurie, Ludlow, SD	93	Lamb	78	\$346.00
Harrington, Chad & Sonja, Hammond, MT	13	Lamb	41	\$500.00
Harrington, Chad & Sonja, Hammond, MT	102	Lamb	56	\$392.50
Harrington, Chad & Sonja, Hammond, MT	277	Lamb	72	\$367.00
Harrington, Chad & Sonja, Hammond, MT	97	Lamb	87	\$347.00
Harrington, Garrett Or Katie, Broadus, MT	98	Lamb	67	\$381.00
Harrington, Troy & Debbie, Hammond, MT	52	Lamb	48	\$437.50
Harrington, Troy & Debbie, Hammond, MT	269	Lamb	66	\$381.00
Harrington, Troy & Debbie, Hammond, MT	84	Lamb	84	\$347.00
Kronberg Land & Livestock, Bison, SD	142	Lamb	71	\$358.00
Meeks, Jaymi, Lantry, SD	67	Lamb	59	\$392.50
Meeks, Jaymi, Lantry, SD	187	Lamb	76	\$366.00
Mills, Troy, Boyes, MT	142	Lamb	80	\$355.00
Mills, Troy, Boyes, MT	85	Lamb	93	\$329.00
O Dea Livestock Llc, Philip, SD	50	Lamb	85	\$320.00
O Donnell, Jordan Or Ashley, Ismay, MT	18	Lamb	50	\$445.00
Ollila, David, Newell, SD	93	Lamb	88	\$337.00
Page, Ben Or Fran, Faith, SD	95	Lamb	86	\$345.00
Randall, Curt, Broadus, MT	76	Lamb	80	\$341.00
Randall, Curt, Broadus, MT	29	Lamb	101	\$311.00
Reaves, Ernie & Allan, Broadus, MT	101	Lamb	71	\$365.00
Reaves, Ernie & Allan, Broadus, MT	385	Lamb	89	\$341.00
Reaves, Ernie & Allan, Broadus, MT	17	Lamb	114	\$307.00
Richter, Cathy, Buffalo, SD	75	Lamb	99	\$322.00
Riesland Ranch, Broadus, MT	24	Lamb	63	\$380.00
Stark, Ryan Or Allison, Vale, SD	32	Lamb	65	\$374.00
Stark, Ryan Or Allison, Vale, SD	43	Lamb	85	\$332.00
Tenold, Robert, Reva, SD	104	Lamb	83	\$330.00
Veit, Morgan, Dupree, SD	147	Lamb	82	\$360.00
Veit, Morgan, Dupree, SD	68	Lamb	102	\$322.00
Wendt, Jay D Or Lisa, Newell, SD	40	Lamb	90	\$319.00
Wendt, Jay D Or Lisa, Newell, SD	134	Lamb	111	\$316.00
Zezas, Karen & Jim, Buffalo, WY	74	Lamb	66	\$384.00
Replacement Ewes - Sold By The Head				
E Heart Ranch, Hammond, MT	10	2-4yr	184	\$370.00
Slaughter Ewes				
Borchgrevink, Lisa, Hammond, MT	42	K Ewe	178	\$141.00
Borchgrevink, Lisa, Hammond, MT	35	K Ewe	160	\$134.00
Harrington, Chad & Sonja, Hammond, MT	20	K Ewe	155	\$141.00
Harrington, Troy & Debbie, Hammond, MT	8	K Ewe	151	\$134.00
Kronberg Land & Livestock, Bison, SD	24	K Ewe	165	\$141.00
Kronberg Land & Livestock, Bison, SD	139	K Ewe	147	\$134.00
Meeks, Jaymi, Lantry, SD	13	K Ewe	183	\$134.00
Ranschau, Roger, Spearfish, SD	22	K Ewe	114	\$172.50
Schalesky, Tw Or Faye, Faith, SD	19	K Ewe	164	\$141.00
Schalesky, Tw Or Faye, Faith, SD	13	K Ewe	149	\$134.00
Tanner, John, Edgemore, SD	10	K Ewe	174	\$141.00
Zezas, Karen & Jim, Buffalo, WY	28	K Ewe	183	\$141.00
Zezas, Karen & Jim, Buffalo, WY	10	K Ewe	160	\$134.00
Slaughter Bucks				
Bertolotto, Louis, Newell, SD	3	K Buck	258	\$121.00
E Heart Ranch, Hammond, MT	3	K Buck	256	\$121.00

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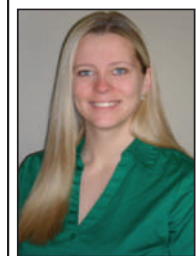
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Looking Back in Belle

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.

137 years ago
Black Hills Weekly Times |
August 15, 1889|
Butte County A more thorough and pleasing instance of transmogrification would be difficult to find that that presented by the Butte County Star, since the advent as publishers of Messrs. Dawley and Sayre, whose accomplishments as printers and newspaper men are indicated by every line, letter and feature of their paper. The Star is not only a handsome but a very readable sheet, and a credit to the Hills and of South Dakota. From its newsy columns we take the following: Prominent gentlemen are at work in the Interest of Minnesela and Spearfish, to get if possible, a daily mail line between the two places. It now takes five days for a letter to reach here from Spearfish, da distance of only fourteen miles. William Todd of False Bottom, has ten acres of sode corn that stands just four inches high about the sod, and has only been in the ground two weeks. How is that for high? Three gentlemen, who names we did not learn, have located an extensive horse ranch about fourteen miles below here. Thoroughbred, highbred trotters and draft horses will be their three specialties. Butte county is already democratic by a small majority when it comes down to a slow down. The republican majority given on the 14th of May, was due to the fact, that Butte county wanted a representative and got it, there being no candidate in the field for this couity in the Third district, of any other political complexion .

100 years ago
Northwest Bee
August 5, 1926
Grocery Changes Hands A deal was made on Tuesday whereby E. M. Sly purchased the grocery stock, fixtures and bakery equipment of the C. & G. Grocery and Bakery. The sale was made by the executors of the estate of the late J. W. Couch, senior member of the C. & G. firm. Several bids were made for the property, but that of Mr. Sly was the highest and it was sold to him. The grocery stock will be moved to Mr. Sly’s store as rapidly as possible, as he has sold the bakery equipment to the Model bakery. Mr. Sly will retain possession of the building lately occupied by the C. & G. store, for several months, having purchased tenants’ equity, which expires next August. It is understood that

Brackett’s drugstore will occupy the building in the near future.
Broadus Banks Combine The Powder River County Bank purchased the assets and good will of the First National Bank of that city and took over the business of that institution. It is said that the directors of both institutions have felt for some time that the best interests of the community would be served by this action. W. T. Waite tendered his resignation as cashier of the First National bank and will return to his ranch on Little Powder river. Powder River and Carter counties may feel justly proud of the record made by their financial institutions during the several years last past when almost every other county in the state had one or more bank failures. The strength of the banks in Broadus and Ekalaka has never been questioned by those who are conversant with financial matters and have been in position to know.

75 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
August 14, 1951
Russia Will Probably Stir Up Row At Peace Parley **Kremlin Will Try to Spilt U. S. And Asiatic Countries On Jap Pact** Washington – U. S. authorities predicted today that Russia’s decision to attend the Japanese peace treaty conference will stir up a row almost certain to increase friction in the troubled Far East.

Diplomatic sources said the Kremlin was sure to try to split the United States and Asiatic nations on the peace pact, and probably would convince some Asiatics that the United States is trying to impose a “white Man’s” peace. NO CHANGE Officials were certain, however, that the treaty itself would not be changed much in spite of the Soviet maneuvering. The Soviet delegation, to be headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, is certain to attack U. S. treaty proposals and demand changes that will appeal to some Asiatics. A “final” treaty draft sponsored by the United States reached many foreign governments today. A last-minute changed recognized Japan’s full sovereignty over its own territory. The United States rejected proposals by India and Indonesia which would have limited American influence in the Pacific.

Local News Charles Hejde, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hejde, is receiving treatment at the Belle



by Mary Buchholz

Fourche hospital for an injured knee. Charles was cutting kindling and the ax slipped striking his knee. Stitches were administered.

50 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
August 15, 1976
Belle Fourche women isn’t doing badly For one who has just taken black and white photography, Mrs. Helen Runholt of Belle Fourche isn’t doing badly. In fact, she won the sixth and final week of the Rapid City Journal Summer Snapshot Contest. And she also got second place in the last week of competition. And she also won first place last week, which amounts to two \$10 winners checks in as many weeks. Her first place winner, chosen from 52 entries, was a character study of 95-year old Frank “Boomer” Glover of Belle Fourche. Glover is one of the few living members of the Cow-boys of ’02, all of whom worked on a famous cattle roundup of that year. Glover is a resident of Belle Fourche and well known as a maker of diamond willow wood canes. That’s what won second place this week for Mrs. Runholt – a closeup of Glover’s gnarled hands as he carves on a piece of diamond willow. Mrs. Runholt’s winning photo last week – a farmstead scene – was on the first roll of black and white film she ever shot.. She had used color film four years and switched to black and white for the Journal contest.
Fastpitch Softball It’s hard to pin down the Thorpe jewelry team, which played in the Rapid City Men’s Fastpitch Softball League, is sponsored by a Deadwood business and is composed about equally of Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base players.
But Manager Bob Prieve says the team is out to “make a name for South Dakota” in next week’s Northern Regional “AA” tournament at Duluth. Last weekend at Mitchell the Thorpe team captured its first state “AA” championship by winning five straight games. For most of Thorpe’s players, the regional tournament will be a new experience, but Gene Keil, the standout pitcher picked up from Belle Fourche, is a tournament veteran.



Prize winning black and white photo of 95-year old Frank “Boomer” Glover by Mrs. Runholt

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2026

AUGUST

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Menu subject to change based on availability.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3 Beef Roast Baked Potato/ Gravy Creamed Spinach Salad & roll	4 Turkey ala king over noodles Mixed veg & Roll	5 Broccoli Cheese Soup Ham & Cheese Melt Salad	6 Meatloaf / mashed potato / Gravy Green Bean / Roll	7 Tomato Soup Ham & Cheese Sandwich Salad
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
31 Turkey Club Sandwich Veggie Pasta Salad Baked Beans				

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Market Report - Thursday, August 6th, 2026
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FEEDERS	HD	DESC	WT	BID	\$/HEAD
Landers Lst Co Inc, Hot Springs SD	58	Blk/BwF-Yrlng Str	1012	331.75	\$3,356.96
	58	Blk/BwF-Yrlng Str	1013	331.75	\$3,361.82
	58	Blk/BwF-Yrlng Str	1016	331.75	\$3,370.98
	71	Blk/BwF-Yrlng Str	929	340.25	\$3,161.21
Rafter Diamond Llp, Buffalo SD	30	Black-Yrlng Hfr	963	312.00	\$3,003.00
WEIGH-UPS					
Charles Or Rosalie Tennis, Vale SD	1	Black-Cow	1230	197.00	\$2,423.10
	1	Black-Cow	1705	170.50	\$2,907.02
Mcdonald Ranch Inc, Aladdin WY	1	Black-Cow	1305	185.00	\$2,414.25
Eugene Roberts, Carlie WY	1	Herf-Cow	1240	182.50	\$2,263.00
Tom Hayes, Alzada MT	1	Black-Cow	1385	176.00	\$2,437.60
	1	Black-Cow	1470	171.00	\$2,513.70
Cliff Kling, Belle Fourche SD	10	Red-Cow	1544	172.50	\$2,662.53
	1	Red-Cow	1320	177.00	\$2,336.40
Ben Garman, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1450	184.00	\$2,668.00
Scott West, Oshoto WY	1	Black-Cow	1470	179.00	\$2,631.30
Justin Edwards Liv, Wright WY	1	Black-Cow	1185	191.00	\$2,263.35
	6	Blk/BwF-Cow	1383	183.00	\$2,529.97
BULLS					
Matt Gilbert, Buffalo SD	1	Black-Bull Df	2330	213.00	\$4,962.90
Kevin Reindl, Custer SD	1	Black-Bull Df	2125	217.00	\$4,611.25
Otto Schlosser, Hulet WY	1	Black-Bull	2045	215.00	\$4,396.75
	1	Black-Bull	1910	212.00	\$4,049.20
	1	Black-Bull	2280	208.00	\$4,742.40
Andrew Cathey, Hammond MT	1	Black-Bull Df	1810	218.00	\$3,945.80
Mike Richter, Whitewood SD	1	Red-Bull Df	1875	219.00	\$4,106.25
Jake & Ashley Odonnell, Ismay MT	1	Black-Bull Df	2025	219.00	\$4,434.75
	1	Black-Bull Df	2075	210.00	\$4,357.50
Matt Earley, Broadus MT	1	Black-Bull Df	2010	218.00	\$4,381.80
Kim Or Cliff Kling, Belle Fourche SD	1	Red-Bull	2215	218.00	\$4,828.70
Matt Perino, Newcastle WY	1	Herf-Bull	1790	213.00	\$3,812.70
	1	Char-Bull	1760	215.00	\$3,784.00
Took Ranch, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Bull	2065	219.50	\$4,532.67
James Or Linda Bird, Volborg MT	1	Black-Bull	1820	213.00	\$3,876.60
	1	Black-Bull	1880	215.00	\$4,042.00

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NO SALE - HAPPY RALLY WEEK!
AUGUST 13, 2026

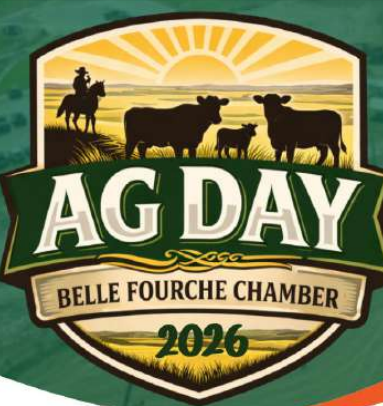
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August 13, 2026 NO SALE- HAPPY RALLY WEEK!
August 20, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
August 27, 2026 YEARLING & WEIGH-UP SPECIAL – SELLING ALL CLASSES
Sept 3, 2026 ANNIVERSARY BBQ SALE – YEARLING & SPRING CALF SPECIAL & WEIGH-UP 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
October 22, 2026 SPRING CALF SPECIAL
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October 30, 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

5:30 p.m.

Graduation – Location TBA
- Social 5:30; Dinner & Graduation at 6:00
- Concludes by 7:00

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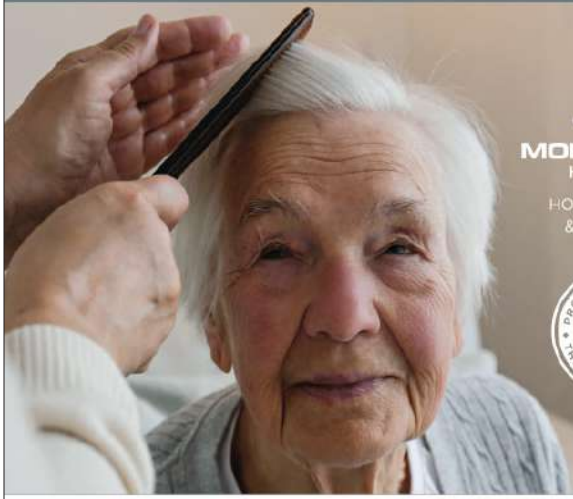
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6:00 PM TO
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Sunday School: All ages 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

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Sunday School:
1st & 3rd Sundays, 11 a.m.
Priesthood Meeting, Relief Society,
Young Men and Young Women:
11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

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(605)-210-2150
Pastor Stephen Carson
Worship Pastor Ashton Rone
Sunday Worship: 8:30 or 10:15 am

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Belle Fourche, SD
Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School
10am Sunday Morning Worship
Men's Bible Study 10am Wednesday
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
Friday Evening Celebrate Recovery
6:30PM
website: ebcbsf.org

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

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

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901 Laurel St. Whitewood
(605)-920-1959
Reverend Jill Jennewein
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Adult & Teen Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
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Pastor Sheri Fadley
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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

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Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

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Worship: 11 a.m.

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maintained, or it erodes. Here at home, I see the same pattern in miniature. The chambers, Main Street organizations, and tourism organizations that thrive are the ones where residents attend the annual meeting, participate on local boards, and volunteer for the committee nobody wants to chair. The quiet organizations, the ones where three people make every decision because nobody else shows up, tend

to drift, eventually struggle and then become extinct. So here is my ask, and you can do it before the day is out. Look up when your next local election is, whether it is a city council seat, a school board race, or a special district vote, and put it somewhere you will actually see it. Then tell one neighbor to do the same. That is how Main Street gets built, one vote and one conversation at a time.



Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

By John Newby

“Building Main Street, not Wall Street”

Voting Turnout Impacts Community Wealth

Let me start by saying that voter engagement impacts the vibrancy, poverty levels, and wealth of your community in a big way. Only one in five eligible voters shows up when a mayor’s race lands on the ballot. School board seats, the ones deciding how our children are taught and how our property tax dollars get spent, sometimes draw as few as five to ten percent of eligible voters. Meanwhile, when the same races get moved onto the same ballot as a presidential election, turnout can triple or more. That gap between what we care about and what we show up for is not just a civics problem. It is an economic one.

I have spent years writing about what makes a Main Street thrive. New storefronts filled apartments above them, a farmers’ market that draws people downtown on Saturday mornings. But underneath all of that sits something less visible and more foundational: whether the people who live in a place participate in deciding what happens to it. The research on this is not soft or sentimental. It is measurable, and it points in one direction.

When Baltimore shifted its local elections onto the same calendar as state and federal races in 2016, turnout jumped from thirteen percent to sixty percent. That is not a small shift. That is the difference between a handful of the most



connected residents choosing who runs the city and something closer to the whole community having a say. Researchers who study municipal elections consistently find that when timing, awareness, and simple logistics improve, so does participation, and so does the sense that local government belongs to everyone rather than a select few.

There is another signal worth noting. Two decades ago, roughly four percent of voters left down ballot local races blank once they got past president or governor. By 2024, that number had fallen below one percent. More voters are finishing the whole ballot, not just the top of it, which means more of us are weighing in on the county commission and the school board rather than skipping past them.

The economic case is where this gets interesting for those of us focused on Main Street rather than Wall Street. During the last major recession, the National Conference on Citizenship tracked states by their civic health, meaning how often residents attended public meetings, helped neighbors, volunteered, and voted. The ten states that scored highest on civic engagement and nonprofit density had an average unemployment rate of nearly two percent lower than the less connected states and communities. Let me repeat

that number, states with high social cohesion kept unemployment two full points lower than similar states without it, even after accounting for other economic factors. Civic participation, in other words, acted like an economic shock absorber.

There is a poverty angle too, and it comes from some of the most rigorous economic research done in the past decade. Researchers at Opportunity Insights, working with anonymized data from tens of billions of friendships, found that the strongest predictor of whether a child born into a low-income family climbs into the middle class is not the poverty rate of their neighborhood or its racial makeup on their own. It is economic connectedness, meaning how often people of different income levels know each other and interact as neighbors and equals. Children raised in counties with high economic connectedness saw incomes rise by twenty percent on average compared to children raised in disconnected counties. Voting, attending the pancake breakfast, sitting on a board, joining the volunteer fire department auxiliary, these are the everyday mechanisms that build the kind of cross class relationships that connectedness requires.

None of this means every ballot measure or candidate is the answer to poverty. It means the habit of showing up, in the voting booth and at the town meeting and on the sidewalk talking to a neighbor, is itself a form of community infrastructure. Just like sidewalks and broadband, civic participation must be built and

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Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden



I'm not sure, but I wouldn't be surprised to find out that we are setting new records for the hottest consecutive days in a row. Last week was hot and by last weekend temperatures in Central Meade County hit 112 degrees with Sunday hitting 108. The rest of the week looks to be in the upper 90s or hotter. If prayers

for rain were ever needed, now is the time. Over the weekend the folks in Meade County were finding hilltops to keep watch on possible fires. The lighting on Saturday ignited several fires, we heard 18, north of Union Center up to Hy.212. As election day for the Governor's runoff race approached us last week, we were on the road and

time did not allow for me to write the CMC News. As I sit here on the home stretch on Sunday evening, we have done all that we can do to serve the state of South Dakota. Larry has continued to stay busy as Governor while keeping up with his campaign. The schedule has been heavy for the last two months. Tuesday night should be the end of a grueling, 2nd campaign and folks should have a nice break from mailers and texts by

the time you read this news. As the first Sunday of the month, this is a reminder there will be a pot luck dinner after church services next week in Union Center. It's hard to believe the end of July is almost here. Any hay that's bailed up seems to be very slim this year. We have had wonderful, abundant moisture for the last two years so this year's condition is a bit hard to accept. Reggie and Jennifer Rhoden were blessed with a baby daughter on July 23 in Rapid

City. Louise Holly Rhoden came into the world at 8:51 pm weighing 7lb. 90z. and was 19 inches long. Big brother Lincoln settled into his new role right away and seems to adore her. Louise Holly is the tenth grandchild of paternal grandparents, Larry and Sandy Rhoden of Union Center. Maternal grandparents are Albert and Holly Bruch of Sturgis. Louise joined her family at home in Rapid City on Friday, July 24th. The Lord never stops His blessings from flowing.

It's already fair time, for the people at Capitol and on Tie Creek. That means school starts right away, too. Many people went to Ekalaka for the fair this week. Ronda Cordell was busy last week. Direct Electric had come to set up some Generac generators. When they tried to get them registered there was a glitz of some kind in Ronda's internet, so the generators had to be manually started. With the help of Curt and Carsen Zolnoski, Oren Basler and Erik Berglund most of the hay has been rolled up in bales. The crop was less than a fourth of what had been baled in ordinary years. Ronda thinks she's forgotten what those years were like. The last six years have produced far from what they previously had gotten. Drought and hoppers are a challenge against getting the hay fields back in production. Hay production is down in a widespread area of the country, and the buying and transporting costs are up. Alfalfa is pushing \$300 per ton, and other hay is over \$200 per

ton. Ronda is glad to have quite a lot of hay leftover. Lots of temperature records have been broken during this 'Heat Dome' siege of high temperatures. What rain has fallen, during this time, evaporates and is gone in no time. Lisa Koranda came to spend a few days in Camp Crook. She and Ronda went to Buffalo, in July, for lunch, a day late for her birthday. That Wednesday, Jake Reynolds, Oren and Ronda dropped tires off at Farmers Union, and went on to Baker for supplies and lunch. "The 'Effie Barn', as we know it, is slowing being torn down. Ronda has pulled half a five-gallon bucket of nails. Curt can't believe the number of nails those old timers pounded in 1909. Ronda is trying to salvage some of the old wood for other projects. The Bobcat has been of good help for lowering sections. It had to go, even though it's sad to see it go. Seventeen-year-old Swiss Miss, her calf and Doe-doe have been keeping an eye out wondering where their shade is going. During the last week of July, Ronda went to Spearfish for an eye appointment and a knee consultation with Dr. Little's nurse. She will be ha-

ving knee replacement on August 31st. This Sunday, Ronda took in the Ladner Ice Cream Social and program, which is always so enjoyable. Ryan Cordell and Collin have been busy hauling hay. Alvin and Marlee Cordell's grandson, Gavin Pearson, has already gone to Dickinson, where he will attend college and begin football practice. Alvin and Marlee went to Buffalo, on Friday, to meet with some friends for supper. They had a great visit with Dennis and Claudia Price and Laurie and Terry Goehring. It was good to see them and visit again. On Sunday, Alvin and Marlee went to Ekalaka for the parade, and to take part in the benefit supper for Travis Walker. The parade was great, and they especially liked seeing the beautiful teams of horses and wagons. The super was a wonderful success, and the auction brought in a good sum, to help the family with their great amount of hospital expenses. Alvin and Marlee enjoyed visiting with Frank and Karen Nies. It is always fun to see friends again, whom you seldom get to see.

Doug and Julia Davis have been keeping busy. On Wednesday, they had to take one of their huge sheep dogs to the Belle Vet Clinic. There was an infection in her ear. The huge dog did not enjoy going into the clinic, because she is used to only being out with her sheep. Julia went ahead and called her, and Doug pushed from behind and they got her inside to be weighed. The veterinarians discovered a hay needle way down inside the ear canal, and she was happy after they got it out. On Thursday, Julia made a trip to Rapid City for her visit to the Pain Management Clinic. The traffic was terrible, because the bike rally is near. The interstate has speed restrictions, and there were lots of highway patrol cars among them, giving out lots of tickets. Julia saw a few near accidents, and was glad when she was home again. This week the Fair Board will be working to get things ready for the Camp Crook fair, so Julia was baking cookies to feed the workers as they work to prepare for the fair next weekend. Lorraine Chin has also been working to get ready for the fair. She came up from Texas, last week, and is working in the Theater Museum

to have things ready. Her exhibits improve each year, and we appreciate all the work she does. Dorothy Padden went to Belle Fourche with Bryce and Dawn Padden last Wednesday. They had lunch at the Stadium, and then, went to Spearfish for a special birthday party for their granddaughter. On Friday, Lorraine and Dorothy went to Ekalaka for the Fireman's Supper and to listen to the music behind the fair exhibit hall. Chancey Odell came over to visit Karen Odell on Monday. They had a good visit, and Chancey did a little work on Karen's mower. The grass is growing quickly, and will keep Karen busy. Karen's grandson, Murphy Hinds, was playing baseball in Tacoma, and his team moved up to the semi-finals of their tournament. We will see how they play in next week's game. Granddaughter, Kyia Smith, in Minnesota, is busy with music. Jeff and Amanda in Iowa have a great garden and a new dog to keep them busy. Cody's family, in Mitchell, seems busy going in all directions, too. Now days, some people's brains are so far out in left field that it's possible they've been singed by solar flares.



PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES #44

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel

"Blessed to Have Them"

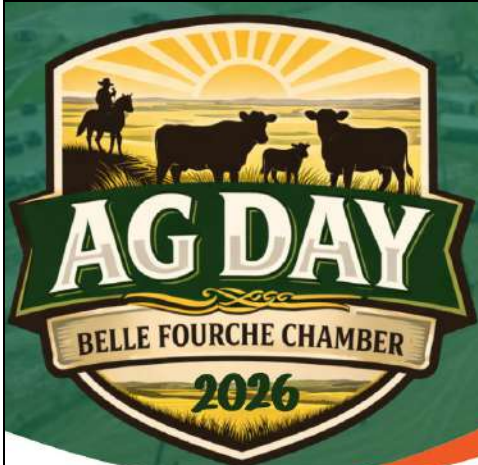
"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." The older I get the more I agree with this statement by Maya Angelou. There are people in this world who simply know how to make others feel special. No matter our age, this conveyed sense of belonging is a wonderful feeling, but I believe it makes an even greater impression on youngsters. My siblings and I had lots of aunts and uncles. Back then people had big families.

But pressed between the pages of my mind are fond memories of one particular aunt. Born in 1907, one of twins, Julia was a few years older than our mother. She grew up on a farm near Erwin, SD where the girls worked just as hard as their brothers. It was not uncommon for Julia and her sisters to head outside before dawn, help milk the 30 cows by hand, then return to the house and help their mother whip up seven loaves of bread. Julia never married or had children of her own, but she knew how to treat her nieces and nephews to make us feel treasured. I can still see that twinkle in her eyes when she sat next to us

at the kitchen table and told us the story of the mean goose that tried to chase her from the pond. She would ask about our lives and truly listen to us. I loved sitting by my aunt at the annual REA meetings. She would find a package of Spearmint gum in her purse and offer me a stick. When the time came for the drawing for door prize winners, Julia held her ticket. Inevitably, as the numbers were called, she would smile. "That's me!" She would go collect the electric hand mixer, which she would later store in her pantry next to the electric can opener she won last year. When Mom and I

stopped to visit Aunt Julia, I got special treatment. "The Watkins salesman came last week." She smiled as she brought the bottle of Watkins cherry nectar concentrate from the pantry. I think Mom was nervous when my child-hands reached for the beautiful gold-rimmed wheat glass that held my drink. Julia wasn't worried. "You'd better have some cookies to go with that!" she winked. "Do you want to play my piano? I'm getting pretty good at it. I practice a lot!" she chuckled. Julia fitted a brown paper roll in the holder, then sat next to me on the bench. Until I got old enough to reach the pedals, my aunt's feet would pump away. The keys on that player piano dipped and rose all by themselves while music poured out. "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do, I'm half

crazy all for the love of you..." Our sister Deloris recalls sitting next to our cousin, Ruth at the piano. Each girl had a foot on a pedal. Aunt Julia cheered them on, almost as delighted as the children. I hope you have had an aunt or uncle, a grandparent, other relative or friend who made you feel loved and cherished. Even better, I hope you can BE that caring person for others. Believe me, they will remember how you make them feel. The author's column appears in a growing number of Midwest newspapers. Kruempel has compiled and published her column stories every year for the last five years. She has also published a historical fiction series, "Promises to Keep." Her ten books are available on Amazon. Contact Kruempel at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.



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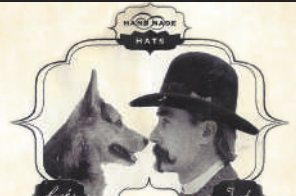
Next Clinic: Lead - August 13 & 27
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Good Shepherd Free Clinic provides quality medical and emergency dental care to financially eligible northern Black Hills residents, ages 19-64. Medical services will be available at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead. Enter the church through the Julius Street parking lot (below 825 W. Main Street).

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Roots #73

“Little Fires Everywhere”



The following statements are generally accepted as truth: Little wildfires are common. Little wildfires can become big wildfires. Big wildfires are super-scary, dangerous, and expensive.

Fortunately, given the current concern with wildfires, there’s a national organization that publishes vital information on wildfires. <https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn>

The National Fire Emergency Center (NFEC) in Boise, Idaho consists of several agencies whose mission is to help fire-fighting agencies throughout the US know what’s burning and where.

The NFES has a social media and Facebook presence too. <https://www.nifc.gov/about-us/social-media> <https://www.facebook.com/NIFCFire/>

Tracking wildfires is one thing, but experiencing a wildfire is another.

For our prairie ancestors, wildfires were just another routine scourge among many others.

In his biographical work, *Pioneering in Dakota* (1937) O.W. Coursey recalled several fires near the family homestead near Huron between 1883-1887.

Coursey described one October prairie fire in 1883; “The prairie grass which had grown luxuriantly that summer, began, to turn, powder dry early in August. It turned brown; became crisp, and the cattle hated to eat it. And so, they began to appear here and there, early in September.

It [the fire] got started away up north some-where, and it was moving southward and devouring everything in its pathway. It looked and acted like a great luminous Bird of Destruction. Its feet were on the ground, moving forward at a rapid pace. Its head was in the skies. Its long sweeping wings were spread out across a wide range of prairie and were fanning great waves of flames. Its paunch was a big seething pot of fire that consumed all that came into it, and begged for more.

It was three days and nights making its way down into the south-central part of Dakota Territory, leaving nothing but blackened prairies, charred; remains of stock and of some people, behind it.

The first evening there was a golden-mellow tinge along the northern horizon, and occasionally tiny shafts of light would shoot up, something after the fashion of miniature Northern Lights.

Father knew what it meant: the prairie was on fire: Calling us all out to see the fire-sign, he said ‘it will probably be onto us in about three days. We must get ready for, it’. We all went to bed that night with forebodings in our souls.

Mother, with her great mother-heart already aflame with anxiety for her six children, and for our stock and other belongings; went into, our sod house, all alone, and turning her tear-stained face heavenward to pray.

Twice during the night father got up and went out to see if conditions had changed any, or to learn if he had been mistaken in his estimate of the distance, and if the fire might be nearer to us than he had calculated.

The night was clear and beautiful, and the thermometer was well above the freezing point, even though it was near the middle of October. A stimulating wind was coming, from the north. The sky was growing a trifle pinker, showing that the fire was making good progress.

October haze, augmented by great clouds of smoke from the prairie fire, obscured visibility the next day. The colorful horizon could not be seen during the day, but as night came on, the northern sky, became tremendously, illuminated. It betokened, the solemn fact that nothing but a miracle could save us from the attack.

Father estimated that the fire would be upon us by the next night, and his calculations proved correct. Toward evening, the third day, he enlarged the fire guard to the north of our premises.

All day our family walked around with bowed heads. A few neighbors rode up, exchanged anxieties and then rode away, to their own homes to make final arrangements for the attack.

Lily, the calf, and our two cows refused, to go far from home to forage that day. The horses in the sod barn were also visibly nervous. They held their heads high in their stalls, The chickens in the sod hencoop were delirious, and the roosters began crowing in the evening as if it were morning.

Presently rabbits and coyotes began bounding past our place. They too, were obeying the law of self-preservation.

Fortunately, the wind which had been blowing steadily from the north for three days and nights, began to lower toward sunset.

A little before midnight the blaze reached our home; but by this time the wind had died down appreciably, and the fire, although still leaping into the skies, had lost much of its vigor; and had been greatly diminished in its speed.

The fire spread all around our premises, leaving in its path absolutely nothing that was not protected by the wide fire guard. On and on it went, industriously crackling consuming - plundering destroying, committing arson, murder and theft, all at the same time.

The next morning, all was utter blackness as far as the eye could reach. The prairie, in every direction, looked as if some unknown force had stretched a big black blanket over all of it.

There wasn’t a single blade of grass left standing anywhere. Mother walked out to the west end of our sod house, stood in its shadow, and with her hands wrapped up in her apron looked out across the blackened domain, with a far-away look in her eyes. The tears came; she bit her lips.

Some of the fires ran from ten to thirty miles before they could be got under control. Homesteaders would plow fire guards around their homes but, these were scarcely any hindrance to the great leaping flames that rushed over hills, swept through valleys, and ate their way across the prairies, consuming everything in their paths.”

Despite the lack of early warnings, and few tools for fighting wildfires the Coursey family survived the 1883 fire to live through more fires and other disasters. The number of children grew from six to eight.

O.W. Coursey’s memoir was published in 1937. The writing has some lively metaphors and the descriptions are vivid. However, as with any memoir, given the passage of time and the subjective nature of memory, the narrative may be a bit idealized.

The author’s mother is oddly stoic. She embraces the harsh homesteading life with incongruous enthusiasm and gratitude. The wildfire descriptions ring true, but not the idealization of what was a very harsh existence.

In fact, life is still hard in many ways and wildfires literal or figurative, are super-scary, dangerous, and expensive.



Top: Sod House near Aberdeen, 1892. Library of Congress
Bottom: Prairie fire near Strandburg, circa 1900s. South Dakota State Archives



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 August meeting is **Saturday, August 15** 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

August Family Fun Day at the Tri-State will be “Creamy, Delicious Ice Cream”

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche will hold a family fun day on Sunday, August 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. entitled “Creamy, Delicious Ice Cream.”

The event will consist of a short video on the history of ice cream from ancient treats to modern desserts, and then a presentation by Crazee Cow Ice Cream, about the business of making ice cream and running an ice cream shop. They will also provide some ice cream.

There will be crafts, and a drawing for the book, “Curious About Ice Cream,” as well as take-home workbooks for all.

The event is \$2 per person or free with membership. The Tri-State is located at 415 Fifth Avenue in Belle Fourche.

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.



Author O.W. Coursey.



BF Rec Center Summer Parks & Rec Activities 2026

GOALS:

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



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

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

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

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

Questions? Contact us @ 605-892-2467.

WHERE ARE THE PARKS?

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



GIVEAWAYS: Must be present to win!
Disc Golf Frisbees, Kickball, Pickleball Paddle & Ball Set, Wiffleball Set, Water Balloons, Basketball, Sidewalk Chalk, Art Supplies and more!

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

August 19 - Hatch Chili Roasting @ Lynn's Dakotamart

August 20 - 4:30PM Chamber Mixer @ Buck N Broncs Car Wash

August 21 - 7AM Board of Directors Meeting,
7:30AM Caramel Rolls & Coffee, 4PM Angel Store @ BF Global Methodist

August 22 - 6AM Sunrise on State

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



AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE



August 27th
6:30 pm
Everyone welcome!

see the school

meet the teachers

drop off supplies

Registration paperwork will be available to fill out.
If you can't make the open house,
please contact Tina as it needs to be filled out prior to Sept. 8th.

Fall Educational Series

"To promote and support our members by strengthening our community."

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

Service Animal Training

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

Heidi Mecham-WDN





-Kellie Kolb SDSU

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

Managing Conflict:

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



Meg McNeese - Rose Group Intl

November 4th 6:00PM | Branding Iron

Change Management

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



www.bellefourchechamber.org
605-892-2676

Kindly RSVP to the Chamber due to limited spaces per class

FREE for members
\$5 for non members



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.



BUCK N' BRONCS CAR WASH

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



Belle Fourche Chamber Mixer



Minutes for the City of Belle Fourche Monday, August 3, 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 Members: Clark Sowers and Gene Pesicka
Third Ward Council Members: Dean Brunner and Vern Hintz
Fourth Ward Council Members: Tricia Fowler and Bob Somervold
Also present: City Attorney Kellen Willert, City Administrator Jason LaFayette, Police Chief Ryan Cherveney, 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, Rec Center Director Jody Westberg, Assistant City Engineer Steve Nafus

AGENDA
1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion Brunner, second Fyffe to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion Steeves, second Fowler to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2026, the Special Council Meeting of July 21, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting of July 22, 2026. Motion carried.
4. Mayor's Report.
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 – First and Third Mondays, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm – Council Chamber
Airport – Third Wednesday Quarterly, October 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm – City Hall Conference Room
Ambulance – Fourth Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 5:30 pm – Newell Ambulance Hall
Chamber of Commerce – Friday, August 21, 2026, at 7:00 am – Chamber Office
Legal-Finance – Second and Fourth Mondays, August 10, 2026, at 5:30 pm. – Council Chamber
Economic Development – Third Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 7:00 am – 5th & Grant Plaza
*Library – First Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm – City Hall Conference Room
– Library Director Abrahams reported that the summer reading program ended July 25, with grand prize drawings planned for early August, and staff will return to inventory, barcoding, and paperwork. He noted new children's shelves have been ordered, he has started State Library certification toward future accreditation, he and Sam will attend the September library conference in Pierre, and story time will resume September 8, 2026.

*Museum & Visitor Center – Second Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 5:30 pm – City Hall Conference Room – Museum & Visitor Center Director Thielen reported July visitation rebounded to 5,916, with visitors from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 25 foreign countries, along with strong attendance from Family Fun Day, children's programming, Peace Runners, Road Scholars, and bus tours. She also reported record July store sales of \$12,555, ongoing archiving of the Jim Ross photo collection, launch of the new museum website, and plans to begin creating public access to the archives, noting the museum is fortunate to be doing well compared to some regional museums. Belle Fourche, SD 57717
*Parks & Rec – Wednesday after the Second Monday, August 12, 2026, at 5:30 pm – Council Chamber – Rec Center Director Westberg reported that the Rec Center expects increased use during the Black Hills Motorcycle Classic and noted that students are beginning to return as the school year approaches. She also highlighted upcoming August events and congratulated the Belle Fourche Area Community Theater on its successful production.
Planning & Zoning – First and Third Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 4:00 pm – Council Chamber Police – Second Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 4:30 pm – Council Chamber
Public Works – Second and Fourth Mondays, August 10, 2026, at 4:30 pm – Council Chamber Senior Center – Third Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm – Belle Fourche Senior Center
PUBLIC HEARING
None at this time.
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.
1. Recommend approval to accept the resignation of Christopher Wood as Equipment Operator I for the Public Works Department – Landfill Division. His resignation was effective August 8, 2026.
2. Recommend approval of Police Chief Ryan Cherveney's recommendation that Brandon Wolfe be transferred to School Resource Officer for the Belle Fourche Police Department, effective August 10, 2026.
3. Recognition that Matthew Raber received a wage adjustment for successful completion of the Lifeguard with CPR/AED for the Rec Center. This results in a wage adjustment to \$16.33 per hour and is effective July 19, 2026.
4. Recognition that Rebekah Jones received a wage adjustment for successful completion of the Lifeguard with CPR/AED for the Rec Center. This results in a wage adjustment to \$16.33 per hour and is effective July 19, 2026.
5. Recommend approval of Rec Center Director Jody Westberg's recommendation to hire Brenna Beckman

as a part-time Lifeguard for the Belle Fourche Rec Center – Aquatics Division. It is further recommended that she be hired at \$16.51 per hour.
6. Recommend approval of Resolution 24-2026 – Declaring Surplus.
RESOLUTION 24-2026
A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC OR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND DIRECTING DISPOSAL
WHEREAS, the City of Belle Fourche is the owner of certain unneeded surplus personal property; and
WHEREAS, the City has determined that it would be in the best public interest to dispose of said personal property.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City as follows: Department Disposal Method
Surplus Items: Fire Department: 1999 Chevrolet C7H042 Fire Truck Engine 2 Dated at Belle Fourche, South Dakota, dated this 3rd day of August 2026.
7. Recommend approval of the 13th Annual "Save The Vets" charity run, smoke-off competition, and bike wash on Saturday, August 15, 2026, on State Street between 5th Avenue and 6th Avenue. Set-up will begin at 10:00 am, and the event will end approximately 6:00 pm.
8. Recommend approval of the walking procession on Saturday, August 15, 2026, starting at 9:00 am at St. Paul Catholic Church, proceeding north to State Street, turning east on State Street to 8th Avenue, turning south on 8th Avenue to Jackson Street, turning west on Jackson Street to 6th Avenue, turning north back to St. Paul's. Contact is Mary Bohlmann.
9. Recommend approval of the CONBA's Cars & Coffee event on Saturday, August 22nd, 2026, from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. Streets closed will be 7th Ave. between State St. and Railroad St. and Railroad St. between 6th Ave. and 7th Ave.
10. Recommend approval of Ivy Zimmerschied's Mix & Consume Permit for a Company Picnic to be held August 15, 2026, at Bowman Hall.
Motion Hintz, second Brunner to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.
REGULAR AGENDA
1. Motion Fowler, second Somervold to approve an automatic budget supplement of \$202,502.93 to the CIP Fund; Airport Improvement Project (102-4350-43307) for construction of the Airport Taxi Lane Reconstructions, AWOS III project, and Hangar Access Road and Electric Gate project. Reimbursement revenue received from AIP grant funding #3-46-0072-19-2023, reimbursement #3- Final, 3-46-0072-20-2024, reimbursement 1 and 2-Final, and 3-46-0072-21-2025, reimbursement #1. Motion carried.
2. Motion Somervold, second Brunner to authorize to advertise for bids for AIP # 3-46-0072-024-2026, Project

2026-12 – Airport Terminal Remodel Project. Motion carried.
3. Motion Steeves, second Pesicka to authorize Mayor Randy Schmidt to sign a letter of support for Neighborhood Housing Services of the Black Hills, Inc. DBA Neighborhood Works® Dakota Home Resources. Motion carried.
4. Motion Brunner, second Hintz to authorize Mayor Randy D. Schmidt to sign Agreement for Professional Services with KLJ for Airport Project Number 3-46-0072-024-2026 for design and bidding of Airport Terminal Remodel. This project is part of the Airport CIP plan. Motion carried.
5. Motion Pesicka, second Steeves to approve of 18th Annual Habeck Hooligans Poker Run's request for the City to donate use of tables and chairs for their event on August 9, 2026. Motion carried.
6. Motion Somervold, second Fyffe to approve payment 13 to GTI for Project 2023-10 – Phase 3 11th/12th Avenue Reconstruction, in the amount of \$106,644.86. Rollcall vote: Fowler; Aye, Hintz; Aye, Sowers; Aye, Fyffe; Aye, Steeves; Aye, Pesicka; Nay, Brunner; Aye, Somervold; Aye. Motion carried.
7. Motion Somervold, second Fyffe to approve payment of invoice S44608S, payment 2 – Final, to Brosz Engineering for Project 2026-6 – Land-fill Fill Progression Survey, in the amount of \$20,965.00. Motion carried.
8. Motion Fowler, second Hintz to approve payment 15 to RCS Construction for Project 2024-16 – Police Department Building, in the amount of \$768,512.49. Motion carried.
9. Motion Brunner, second Somervold to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.
10. Informational.
A. Councilperson Fowler encouraged the Council to proactively consider implementing water restrictions, noting that many neighboring communities have done so and expressing concern about residents watering during the hottest part of the day. Public Works Director Stedillie reported that the City's water storage tanks remain full. Well No. 3 has significantly strengthened the water system, and water restrictions have not been necessary during his tenure except in the event of a major emergency.
B. Councilperson Hintz complimented the appearance of the newly striped crosswalks. Public Works Director Stedillie stated the contractor was expected to complete the remaining striping on Wednesday after finishing work on another project.
C. Councilperson Sowers requested excusal from City Council on August 17, 2026.
Motion Brunner, second Hintz to excuse Councilperson Sowers on August 17, 2026. Motion carried.
D. City Finance Officer Tonsager reminded Council of the upcoming budget meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 5:00 pm.
E. Police Chief Cherveney thanked

the Council members who supported the citywide camera system, explaining that the cameras not only deter crime but also help solve incidents, and that they were recently used to help identify suspects in a state kidnapping case, leading to the safe recovery of the victim. He also thanked Common Cents for participating in Emily's Hope, a program that will make free Narcan kits available locally to help reverse opioid overdoses, noting the kits should be available there sometime next week.
11. Motion Somervold, second Steeves to adjourn at 6:25 pm. Motion carried.
Bills
A&B BUSINESS INC 322.14; A&B WELDING SUPPLY CO INC 77.55; A&J SCREENING 307.00; ALBEN INC 28336.45; ALL NET CONNECTIONS 5953.32; AMERICAN CONTRACTING CONSULT 2551.03; APEX COMPANIES 615.00; AXON ENTERPRISES INC 25401.86; BF VETERINARY CLINIC PC 60.00; BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL 2582.78; BLACK HILLS WILBERT VAULT CO., INC. 200.00; BROSZ ENGINEERING INC 20965.00; BUTTE CO TREASURER OFFICE 33.00; CAPFIRST EQUIPMENT FINANCE INC 120901.79; CBH CO-OP 1181.70; CBH CO-OP 190.50; CBH CO-OP 12685.24; DAKOTA LUMBER CO 498.07; DAVID PROZELLER 1870.00; GTI COMPANIES INC 106644.86; HILLYARD 762.41; INTERSTATE ALL BATTERY CENTER 255.60; JAMES DERANLEAU 459.00; JEITZ LAWN SERVICE 435.00; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 3946.98; KBFS-AM 1450 BELLE FOURCHE 24.00; MARCO 208.50; MCGAS PROPANE 185.00; MIDCO BUSINESS 959.97; MIDCONTINENT TESTING LABS 210.00; MIDSTATES GROUP 125.11; NAONI BRICKER 64.32; OFFICE EMPORIUM 2846.22; PORTERFIELD ELECTRIC SPF INC 2312.19; PROLINE EQUIPMENT RENTALS LLC 211.60; RCS CONSTRUCTION 768512.49; SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE 3334.32; SOWERS & SON DIRTY LAUNDRY 18.00; STOTZ EQUIPMENT 15.95; STURDEVANT'S AUTO PARTS 1868.74; SUN N SAND ACCESSORIES 60.00; THE DUCK COMPANY 2251.65; THE KNOTHOLE 65.70; TOYNE 56.28; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES 9994.33; VAN DIEST SUPPLY COMPANY 6476.40; VERIZON 1649.47; WARNE CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT CO 42.14; WESTERN PEAKS LOGISTICS LLC 17.54; WESTERN STATES FIRE PROTECTION 4377.00; WOLFF'S PLUMBING & HEATING 1386.06
Approved _____
Randy D. Schmidt,
Mayor
Attest: _____
Published once at the approx. cost of Wayne Tonsager, Finance Officer.

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:

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:
1. 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.

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, REGIST- \$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, WCKRLE LW \$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, GRSSNBGRG \$64.44, OFC MPRM \$159.93, PTNY BWS \$680.55, QQP \$833.77, WARGN 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, MDCCO \$1,452.69, RFUS SLUTNS \$238.14.
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: Chad Erk, Chairperson
ATTEST: Annie Capp, Butte County

Upcoming Events		
AUGUST 7, 2026 - AUGUST 15, 2026	AUGUST 13, 2026 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	God, Guns, and Grub
Breakfast Buffet	Moose Lodge Burger Night	
Vale Community Country Church, 402 Pierre Rd, Vale, SD 57788, USA		
AUGUST 11, 2026	AUGUST 13, 2026 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Hot Rods for Hatcheries
Music trivia at the outlaw	Moss + Mirror Workshop	
AUGUST 11, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	AUGUST 7, 2026 - AUGUST 15, 2026	Black Hills Bulk Foods Pop Up Market
Pinochle	Breakfast Buffet	
Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	Vale Community Country Church, 402 Pierre Rd, Vale, SD 57788, USA	
AUGUST 11, 2026 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	AUGUST 14, 2026 - AUGUST 16, 2026	Rock'n Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show!
Leavin' Page Town	Ranch Productions	
AUGUST 11, 2026 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM	AUGUST 14, 2026 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Moose Lodge Steak Tip night
Line & Swing Dance Lessons	Caramel Rolls & Coffee	
	Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	
AUGUST 11, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	AUGUST 7, 2026 - AUGUST 15, 2026	
Range Work Nights	Breakfast Buffet	
Center of the Nation Sportsmans Club, 10606 3v Road, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	Vale Community Country Church, 402 Pierre Rd, Vale, SD 57788, USA	
AUGUST 7, 2026 - AUGUST 15, 2026	AUGUST 14, 2026 - AUGUST 16, 2026	
Breakfast Buffet	Ranch Productions	
Vale Community Country Church, 402 Pierre Rd, Vale, SD 57788, USA		
AUGUST 12, 2026 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	AUGUST 15, 2026	
Cribbage or 10 Point Pitch	Annual Save the Vets Charity Run	
Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA		
AUGUST 12, 2026 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	AUGUST 15, 2026 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM	
Parks & Rec	Bake Sale & Vendor Market	
	Belle Silver Lining Senior Center, 828 Kingsbury St, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, USA	
AUGUST 7, 2026 - AUGUST 15, 2026	AUGUST 15, 2026 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	
Breakfast Buffet	Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race & Trail Run	
Vale Community Country Church, 402 Pierre Rd, Vale, SD 57788, USA		
	AUGUST 15, 2026 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	

Noem ‘not planning to run’ but doesn’t rule out a political future as her statue is unveiled

Republican former governor of South Dakota returns to Pierre for ceremony

Megan O'brien
South Dakota Searchlight
PIERRE — Former South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said Friday after the unveiling of a statue in her honor that she won't rule out any future campaigns but is not planning to run for U.S. Senate in two years.

Noem, a Republican, was rumored as a possible Senate candidate this year but is not challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Mike Rounds. Another South Dakota Republican U.S. senator, Majority Leader John Thune, will face a decision about running for reelection in 2028. Politico reported earlier this week that Thune anticipates running, but the outlet anonymously quoted other senators who said he might retire.

Noem is serving as special envoy for the Shield of the Americas, a position that President Donald Trump created earlier this year. She said the job includes working with other countries to secure their borders.

"I'm not planning to run for Senate in 2028," Noem said. "So, I'm planning to build a lot of fence, continue to help other countries build departments of homeland security and work with the State Department to help President Trump continue to be successful."

She also expressed confidence in her ability to win if she decides to seek an elected office in the future.

"Oh, I wouldn't take it off the table," Noem said. "I may someday, but you know, we ran 13 races and won them all, so campaigns don't scare me, but I've got a lot of other things to do, too."

Noem's comments to a gaggle of reporters came after a South Dakota foundation unveiled a bronze statue of her outdoors in the state's capital

city — part of a project to honor all the state's ex-governors with statues — in front of a crowd of about 100 people. The statue is at the entrance to the Hilger's Gulch nature area near the Capitol complex. Noem's official portrait was also unveiled for display with other ex-governor portraits inside the Capitol building.

During her speech, Noem extended thanks to her daughters, sons-in-law, four grandchildren and mother for attending. Her son is serving as a missionary in the Middle East, Noem said, and was unable to attend. Noem said her husband, Bryon, also could not attend.

Noem praised the work of her former lieutenant governor and successor, Gov. Larry Rhoden, along with his wife, first lady Sandy Rhoden, who both attended.

"They have been incredible people of integrity to lead South Dakota," she said. "I've been grateful for them and all that they have done."

Noem's statue was added to Pierre's Trail of Governors. It's supported by a foundation that uses donations to commission, build and maintain the dozens of statues throughout the city. All former governors are now represented on the trail.

Noem's statue depicts her leading her favorite horse, named Iceman, by the reins. It cost \$150,000, which was more than past statues that cost \$78,000, according to Leroy Foster of the foundation.

Donors for Noem's statue included family members and political allies, according to the Trail of Governors website. The biggest donation was for at least \$68,000, from the late Wyoming investment manager Foster Friess, who unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for Wyoming gov-



A close-up view of former Gov. Kristi Noem's statue featured on the Trail of Governors in Pierre, South Dakota. Beside her is a statue of her horse, Iceman. (Photo by Meghan O'Brien/South Dakota Searchlight)

ernor in 2018.

The sculptor, John Lopez, is an artist from Lemmon, South Dakota, known for his large, welded creations of figures including bison, horses and cowboys.

Noem's path through politics

Noem entered politics by winning a seat in the state House of Representatives in 2006, where she served from 2007 until 2010. That year, she entered a competitive field to secure the Republican nomination for U.S. House, winning the primary election and later ousting incumbent Democrat Stephanie Herseth Sandlin.

Noem was elected as the first female governor of South Dakota in 2018, with an endorsement from Trump, defeating the state's attorney general in a Republican primary. She sparked national controversy during

her first term in office with her hands-off approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Noem won a second term as governor in 2022, and then became the subject of negative headlines and scrutiny nationwide in 2024 with the release of her book, "No Going Back," in which she recounted fatally shooting a misbehaving hunting dog and an unruly goat.

She resigned in 2025 to become secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for immigration enforcement, border security, disaster response, cyber and airline security, and protecting dignitaries.

Protests against increased enforcement activity by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is part of the department, spread across the nation during Noem's tenure. In January, ICE agents shot and

killed two American citizens during enforcement actions in Minneapolis.

Following the shootings, Noem faced congressional hearings where she was criticized for her handling of ICE and numerous other actions, even including questions from a Democratic lawmaker about multiple media reports that she has a romantic relationship with her adviser, Corey Lewandowski, who was not in attendance Friday.

Meghan O'Brien is the audio reporter for SD Searchlight where she covers the state government and its impact on South Dakotans. She's previously reported in Nebraska with a focus on health care and rural communities across the state.

South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

Johnson, Rhoden camp confirm behind-the-scenes runoff alliance

South Dakota Congressman Dusty Johnson deployed campaign staff, voter data and donor network in

Joe Sneve
Dakota Scout
Gov. Larry Rhoden's decisive victory in South Dakota's first-ever Republican gubernatorial runoff was aided by a previously undisclosed deployment of U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson's political operation.

Both Johnson and the governor's campaign have confirmed publicly for the first time that Johnson's field staff, voter data and campaign resources were enlisted in Rhoden's runoff effort against opponent Toby Doeden.

"I had some great field staff and some great data and we were able to deploy both of those to be helpful to Larry," Johnson told The Dakota Scout of his off-radar involvement in the GOP primary election

during the eight weeks that followed his third-place finish in the June 2 election behind Doeden and Rhoden.

Johnson never publicly endorsed Rhoden, who defeated the Aberdeen businessman in the July 28 election by more than 40 points. But behind the scenes, Johnson redirected pieces of the political operation he had built through his congressional campaigns and gubernatorial bid — sending staff to knock doors across the state while encouraging longtime allies and donors seeking his guidance to support the governor over Doeden.

Johnson also steered his network of deep-pocketed Republican donors toward Rhoden, a move reflected in the governor's campaign contributions sky-

rocketing in the days following the June 2 primary.

"A large number of donors asked me for my opinion on the runoff, and I was happy to tell them I was helping Larry," Johnson said.

Rhoden campaign manager Ian Fury acknowledged Johnson quietly aligned his political operation with the Union Center rancher in what turned out to be a historically lopsided victory.

"Our team invested heavily in a robust get-out-the-vote operation. We knocked tens of thousands of doors and made hundreds of thousands of calls. But it's difficult to ramp that up quickly, and we're grateful for Team Dusty's help to boost our efforts," Fury said, remarks that came after he had told The Scout that Doeden's inability

to win over Johnson's network was not what proved most costly for the runner-up.

Instead, the failure to mobilize support from the primary's fourth-place finisher created a larger obstacle for the Doeden campaign.

Despite finishing last, House Speaker Jon Hansen's operation gained momentum in the lead-up to June 2 while building one of the state's most engaged volunteer networks.

Hansen never endorsed either candidate. But unlike Johnson, Hansen did not actively direct his organization, grassroots supporters or volunteers toward Doeden, who had positioned himself as more closely aligned with the political views of voters who favored Hansen in the June 2 election.

Doeden, who declined to comment for this story, openly, aggressively — and unsuccessful-

fully — worked to bring Hansen into his camp both before and after the candidates entered the race in early 2025.

When Doeden still could not bring the Dell Rapids lawmaker on board in a two-way race, his chances of becoming South Dakota's next governor sank.

Fury said internal polling throughout the campaign indicated that, among the four candidates in the race, Doeden was "the furthest under water with Hansen voters." He said the failure to repair damage from the political attacks Doeden directed at Hansen during the lead-up to the June 2 primary hurt Doeden's standing.

Hansen's voters broke to Rhoden, not Doeden.

"Some of Jon's people are the most politically engaged in the state," Fury said. "Avid Hansen supporters became avid supporters of the governor."

South Dakota Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of United States Marine Corps Private First-Class Randolph S. Hutchinson

Sioux Falls, SD – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) will host a Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication to honor United States Marine Corps Private First-Class Randolph S. Hutchinson.

The ceremony will be on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (MT) at the Wakpala School (12250 SD HWY 1806) in Wakpala.

This dedication is part of a statewide initiative established during the Noem-Rhoden Administration and expanded under Governor Rhoden. In partnership with the South Dakota Departments of Veterans

Affairs, Military, and Transportation, the program establishes enduring tributes that honor service and serve as a lasting reminder to future generations.

The SD HWY 1806 bridge over the Oak Creek, south of Wakpala, will be dedicated as the PFC Randolph S. Hutchinson bridge.

PFC Hutchinson served with honor and distinction, and this dedication will ensure their legacy continues to inspire all who travel this roadway.

SDDVA invites the public to attend and recognize this hero's sacrifice and service to our nation.



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Community Rallies Behind Vale Volunteer Fire Department



The Vale Community Hall was packed with folks for the Corn Feed. Seating extended to picnic tables set up outside as well. Longbrake photo

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

VALE—There is something special about bringing the community together over a meal, especially when it is for a good cause. When that good cause is helping the local Volunteer Fire Department during a really hard fire year, then the community is sure to show up and show support, right?

A resounding yes, as proven by the turnout at the annual Vale Volunteer Fire Department Corn Feed held on August 8 at the Vale Community Hall. The Community Hall was filled to the brim with neighbors showing up to sup-

port the Fire Department. There was also overflow to the outside picnic tables. They were full, too. “It is a good fundraiser and it brings a lot of people together here, and we need it, that’s for sure,” explained Mike Grubl, Vale Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief. “Just like any of these area departments, we travel a long ways and especially this year our resources are—our funds are getting down. But you know, we’re not in terrible shape, but we still got to get through August.”

The hot, dry summer has brought a rough season for the local fire departments. They

are called out to fight fires almost daily. As a result, their resources are getting depleted. Even though it is a volunteer fire department, it has a lot of expenses involved in fighting fires. “Anything that goes into [fighting fires] even if it’s extrication gear or extrication stuff—none of that’s cheap and it takes a toll on us—but we look at it as, if we can buy one piece of equipment that might be a \$10,000 deal—if it saves one life then we know it’s well paid for—so we work at that and try to better our department every year or every time we get a chance,” said Grubl. “I’m blessed that we got such a good crew and

we got great departments that are around us—we’re like a team and a family.”

The Corn Feed fundraiser has been around for quite a while and then the VFD took a break from having the annual event for about 10–12 years. They started having the Corn Feed about eight years ago and have been having it every August since.

Fire Chief Grubl has been the leader of the VFD for the past 23 years. He has around 28 volunteer firefighters at the VFD but relies on all of the surrounding fire departments when needed. “Some of ours are some of the Butte Fire Department guys, and then we do

a lot with Sturgis—right now we have about six of ours that are doing shifts for Sturgis during the rally.”

All of the crews work together to take care of the entire area. “I just can’t say enough about how proud I am of our crews that are here and what we see every day—we are trying to eliminate some of the bigger catastrophes that could happen. Our extrication crews, between all of us up here, are just like you’re in Meade County, they are good,” said Grubl.

Jim Hanson and Matt Hanson provided the ears of corn

Cont. D4

Youth Rodeo Takes Center Stage on the Fair’s Final Saturday

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

NISLAND—While the rest of the fair was winding down, the youth rodeo kids were just getting started! Once again, the last Saturday of the Butte-Lawrence County Fair was dedicated to the Nisland Fair Youth Rodeo, giving the young riders a day of their own to compete under the hot August sun. The Nisland Fair Youth Rodeo was held on August 1 at the Nisland Fair Grounds Arena.

This year, the rodeo was under new direction. Camarae Lei and Brady Lei took over rodeo producer duties from Alicia Jacobs. Jacobs had been running the show for the past ten years, with her dad, Rich Kokesh, and older sister, Meg McNeese, directing the small rodeo in the years before her.

The Nisland Rodeo is in good hands; the Leis are ready to step in and take over. “Me and my husband have been helping Alicia for the last two years,” explained Camarae. “She [Jacobs] was just ready to retire from it and we were already helping her so we just stepped in and took over.”

The rodeo can’t go on without volunteers helping out along the way. “It went good—we had a lot of help from a lot of parents, and it went pretty smooth today, I think,” shared Camarae.

The husband and wife team plans on continuing to lead the rodeo in the years to come. They are invested in doing their part to keep the rodeo tradition alive so other kids get to experience the joy of competing in the Nisland Youth Rodeo. Around 50 kids, including the Leis’ four



Top: Winners and contestants in the Nisland Fair Youth Rodeo. Left: Getting an award for all your hard work is exciting! Right: Atty Eastman competes in the pole bending in the 14-18 girls division. Longbrake photos

daughters, came out to compete in a variety of events at this year’s Nisland Fair Youth Rodeo.

The events were for both boys and girls from under age six to age 18. They were as follows: Pee-Wees under 6 (all events on ground/stick horse): Barrels, Flag Race, Pole Bending, Goat Tail Snatching, Boot Race, Dummy Roping;

Ages 7-9: Barrels, Poles, Goat Tail Untying, Flag Race; Ages 10-13: Barrels, Poles, Goat Tying, Flag Race; Ages 14-18 Girls: Barrels, Poles, Goat Tying, Breakaway; Ages 14-18 Boys: Steer Dobbing, Breakaway, Flag Race and Gated Keyhole.

Entries were taken online and required a nominal fee from \$5 per event for the non-

horse events to \$10 for all other events not using livestock and \$15 for events utilizing goats, calves or steers.

This was the fourth year buckles were awarded to first-place winners. Cheryl and Curt Westland donated all prizes for second-, third- and fourth-place winners, allowing all of the competitors who placed to receive awards as well. Older

youth could pick between fly boots, halters and sports boots, and younger kids could choose between stuffed animals, grooming kits and braiding bands.

Kristy Eastman lent her voice to announcing duties throughout the rodeo, helping keep the events moving along and the crowd informed.



Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The wind was blowing so hard last Monday that I didn’t hang the flag up outside because I didn’t want it ripped up. Reub went with me to Rapid City with my last appointment with Dr. Troy Gust to see how well I healed up after my surgery in July and everything looked good so he told me I was free to do anything I wanted to do. I had to drive straight into that hard wind on the way home so I didn’t get very good gas mileage.

It was nice and cool on Tuesday when the temperature was only 77 degrees, but it warmed up on Wednesday. When we got up Wednesday morning the temperature was only 38 degrees, but it warmed up to 87 degrees later in the day and Reub was spraying weeds around here. Our great

grandson Knox Leroy had his birthday that day and he turned eight years old. Wow, that sure happened fast! I gave Knox his birthday card early that morning because Taz, Amanda and their kids were all going to Sioux Falls for a state school board meeting for the next couple days.

Reub went spraying at the east ranch and his sprayer developed a leak in a hose, so Reub called John Brown about it and then hauled the sprayer up to Reeder Wednesday morning for John to fix it for him. I picked up Reub in Reeder and then we went to Hettinger to have lunch at the American Legion. We stopped in Reeder on the way home to have coffee with the Prairie Pioneers.

Casey went to Buffalo on Thursday so I called him on his cell phone while he was over there and had him stop at the Reva Store on the way home to

have Vince cut me a chunk of that delicious cheese he keeps there and bring it home for me, which he did. Missy was up in North Dakota that day visiting their daughter Lanie Klug.

Missy came home late Friday afternoon and I called Lanie on Friday, August 7, because that’s her birthday and we had a good visit. That granddaughter of ours is such a little sweetheart. I had to call Dish TV that afternoon because I couldn’t get the television to work. I could hear the sound, but couldn’t see the picture but after waiting for a while they called me back and finally got the television to work again.

Reub and I went to June (Brockel) Shinabarger’s Celebration of Life at Grace Fellowship Church in Bison Saturday morning and joined a lot of friends and family to say goodbye to my sweet Christian relative. June (Brockel) Shinabarger, age 69, was born in Sturgis, went to grade school near Scotch Cap and graduated from Bison High School in 1975. June’s mother, Ramona (Smith) Brockel was my mother’s cousin because Ramona’s father, Sam Smith, was my Grandmother Lydia (Smith) Wilkinson’s brother. Ramona is the last one left alive in her family and all of my mother’s family are no longer here, so it

was nice to be able to see her again, even if it was at a really sad funeral. June was buried in the Bison Cemetery north of town.

Sadly, there is another death to report: Sandra Faye (Goplin) Hofland, “Sandi” passed away peacefully on July 30, at West River Regional Medical Center in Hettinger. She was 75 years old. A Gathering of Family and Friends “Celebration of Life” was held on Saturday, August 8, at The Granary in Hettinger.

Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen were up in North Dakota on Sunday getting to see their new born great grandchild so Pastor Tom and Karen Davis came down from Hettinger so Pastor Tom could give a really good sermon at Slim Buttes Lutheran that morning. Bob Tenold wasn’t in church because he was in the hospital in Bismarck after having surgery so we prayed for our dear friend. Karen Wilkinson fed us a delicious lunch with coffee after church. Reub and I went to the Gideon meeting at the Coal Springs Church south of Meadow Corner Sunday afternoon and got to visit with a lot of Christian friends. We prayed for a lot of people with health problems and people who had lost loved ones.

When we got home from the Gideon meeting the yard

was filled with people who came to Knox’s birthday party that evening. Great Grandma Louise Jenson, Grandma Starla and Grandpa Ron Jenson, Grandma Missy and Grandpa Casey Olson, Jace and Kami Jenson and their boys, Trent and Syd Turbiville and their kids, Taz and Amanda and all five of their kids, and Huxton Parmely were all there already but they didn’t have supper until after we showed up to help them eat all that delicious food along with the cake and ice cream. All those kids sure had fun riding bikes, jumping on the trampoline, chasing each other around the yard and playing with the kittens before they ate the hot dogs, watermelon, cake and ice cream. It was a really fun birthday party for Knox!

Pastor Henry Mohagen left this in the church bulletin for us on Sunday: For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him. Ephesians 1:15-17

Then and Now in Newell

“Looking Forward to our Past”

July 27. 1916

All the schools in the Newell School District will begin on August 28th, a week earlier than most schools in the county. All plans should be made earlier that all may be present on the first day. The board has decided to transport pupils from the district to the school. The routes have not been definitely laid out. It is the desire of the board that all persons who contemplate bidding on these transportation routes, to give a bid and name to the school board before their next meeting August 11. The High School for the coming year will offer courses in the 9th, 10th and 11th years only.

The Valley Irrigator this week is mailing statements to all subscribers who are more than 6 months in arrears. Owing to the rapidly advancing prices in all materials that go into a newspaper it is necessary that these statements meet with immediate response. Do not put it off, kindly remember that they have bills to pay too.

L. E. Tanner former clerk of the US Reclamation Service, Newell office now in Washington D. C. is offering for sale his 80 acres one mile south of Newell, has direct road, 48 acres irrigatable, 45 under cultivation, 10 acres alfalfa, 2 acres in orchard and small fruit. \$3000 or \$800 easy terms, 6%. He needs money to complete law education. Write USRS, Washington, DC. August 6, 1926

It was reported that the Odd Fellows picnic held at Spearfish last Friday had a small attendance. The following people from Vale were present, Mr. & Mrs. Russel Arndt, Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Long and Reggie, Mr. & Mrs. Wm Glover, Jake Tetens and Paul Holst. Reggie carried away 2nd prize in the “Past Noble Grand” race at the picnic.

The 6th Annual Butte County

Fair will be held at the County Fair Grounds at Nisland September 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The splendid exhibits will make this year’s fair the best ever held. Community organizations, schools both rural and city, boys & girls 4-H clubs are busy preparing exhibits. Should prove of educational value to all who visit the fair this year. All horse lovers should not miss the opportunity to see the harness horse program. It will be of special interest to everyone.

A herd of about 500 horses passed through Vale last Thursday from Montana enroute to Rapid City and this was quite a sight to experience.

A car collision on Friday night on the culvert near the Cunningham farm south of town resulted in two badly twisted Fords, the occupants of both cars however, escaping without injury. One of the cars was being driven without lights which accounts no doubt for the smashup. All parties to the mix-up are strangers in this section.

August 6, 1936

The Butte County Commission on Tuesday appointed Sam N. Moses as the County Sheriff to fill the unexpired term of A. C. Craven, who died last Sunday. Sam Moses, old time cowman and peace officer, is well and favorably known in northwest territory, comprising the old range cattle country. He also served as stock detective where he earned an enviable reputation for always getting results. His brother Wm Moses served as sheriff for Butte County 25 years ago. Moses announced that he would retain the deputies who presently serve.

Glenn Flathers, forest ranger at Camp Crook, accompanied by Mrs. Flathers and Joe Carrier, Welfare Director at Buffalo, took lunch here Monday enroute to Rapid City on business.

by Linda Velder

The office of the Butte County Superintendent of Schools announced that the rural schools in Butte county will open on August 31st, which will allow for 2-weeks Christmas vacation. A pre-school meeting will be held for all rural teachers in the Court Room at Belle Fourche this Saturday. At 8:00 AM.

August 1, 1946

Community boosters with electric or gas stoves which they desire to lend in order to assist with the success of the Labor Day celebration, are urged to contact either Dave Richards or Arne Lund. Several good stoves or large hot plates are urgently needed.

Supplies of coal are still critical in the US, according to government statistics and it is expected that there will be no improvement in supplies this winter over those of a year ago. Coal dealers are still being allotted coal on a quota basis and it is unlikely there will be any increases. Consumers desiring to obtain coal should order and lay away their requirement at the earliest possible date.

Mrs. Albert Albertson of the Twilight Community became the first rattlesnake victim in the Newell territory this year on Sunday when she was struck by a rattler while picking wild currents near her home. She was given first aid, then brought to Newell immediately for treatment and is reported she recovered from the effects of the bite.

August 9, 1956

Allen Klein was elected President of the Future Farmers of America at the Chapter meeting held in the Ag Room of the School Saturday evening. Other officers elected, Vice President Gary Babb, Secretary Dick Wilson, Treasurer Allen Schallenbrger, Sentinel Everett Barber and Reporter George



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Breidenbach. Wilson, Casmier Klein and Buzz Sinner of Newell and Jim Gollither of Hoover and Ervin Keil of Zeona were selected as owners of the Sears-Roebuck hogs and SOKOTA corn. Reports were handed to Advisor Walter Johnson, which will be turned in at the office at the 38th Annual State FFA Conference at Brookings, August 6 through 9th.

Mrs. Zoder Gollither of Hoover has taken over duties as temporary Postmistress at the Hoover Post Office. Mrs. & Mrs. Chas Flaigg who have been proprietors there, moved to Ft. Pierre to seek employment. Mary Gollither called on Patti Jacobsen Saturday afternoon. Patti had returned from Brookings where she attended 4-H Club Week.

Funeral services for Mrs. Julia Sheridan, 92-year old, long-time resident of the Hoover Community were held Saturday morning from St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Newell. Burial was in the family lot in the Mason Cemetery under direction of Frost & Son Funeral Home, Belle Fourche. Mrs. Sheridan came to the US in 1878 and to the ranch at Hoover in 1910. Mr & Mrs. Tom Burke hosted the Burke and Sheridan families for dinner after the funeral services.

August 13, 1966

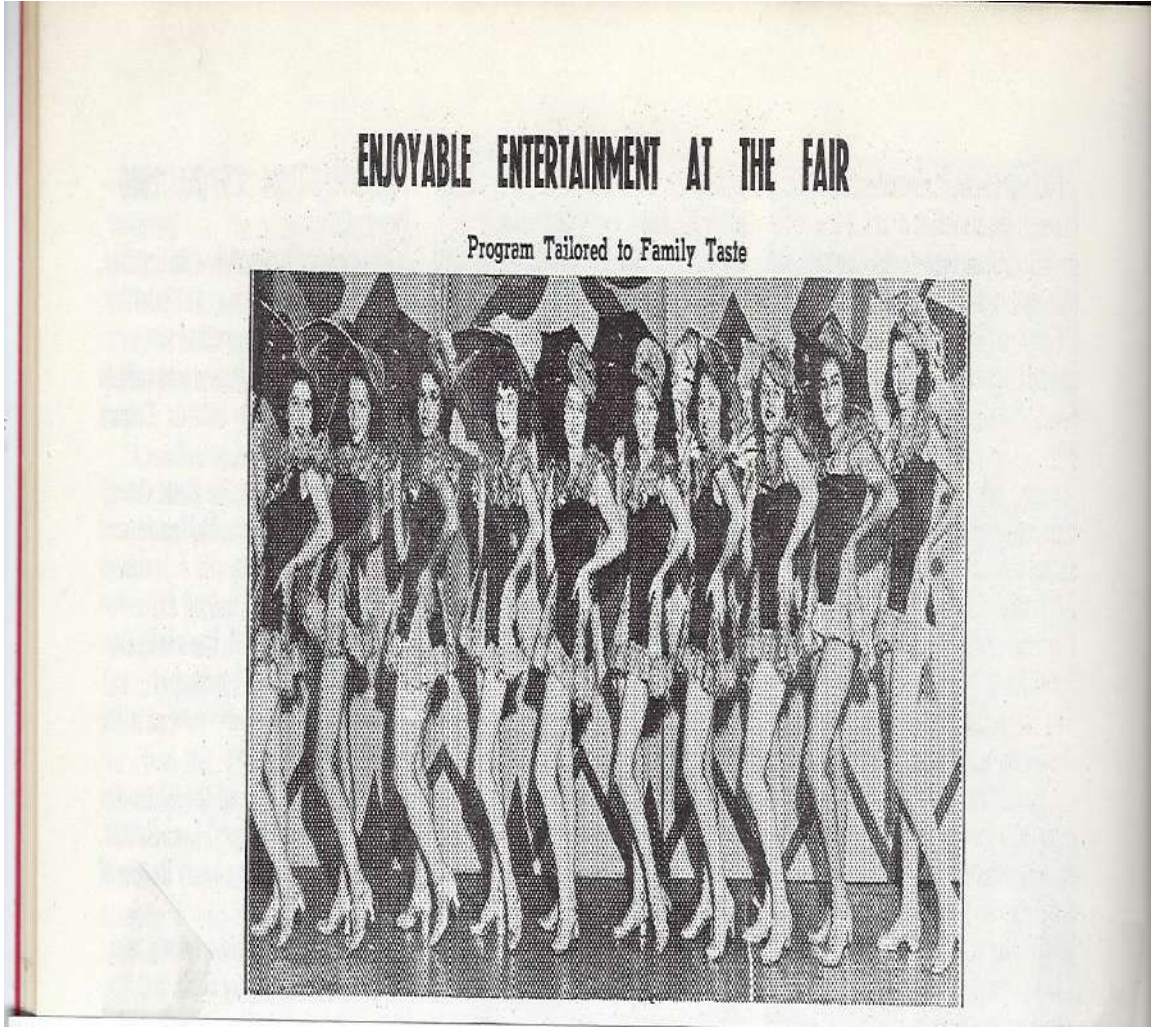
Trampoline artistry and precision tumbling will be presented

by the Wright’s during the stage show at the Butte County Fair at Nisland, Friday night. They do unique double routines and spectacular leaps and catches. Their hand-balancing, together with knock-about skills, add even more variety and suspense to their acts.

The Newell FFA and their parents are planning to tour the Missile Control facility north of Newell this Sunday, announced by Walter Johnson, advisor. The group will meet at the High School Voc-Ag room at 2:00 and caravan from there, They plan to have an introduction using film slides and follow-up with the tour of the facility.

David Erk Castle Rock and Tom Henwood Belle Fourche each caught a calf at the Annual Days of ’76 Calf Catching Contest. Bruce Gottfredson’s calf that he caught last year received a purple ribbon.

June Schnell, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Schnell graduated from Western Nebraska General Hospital School of Nursing at Scottsbluff. The impressive graduation ceremony with Mrs. & Mrs. Schnell and family, Mr. & Mrs. Art Heitz, Jr. & family and Fred Miller and Rexine of Vale attending. Miss Schnell has accepted a staff nurse position at the Western Nebraska General Hospital.



(L) Butte County Fair Entertainment - always wholesome and family friendly. (R) 1926, A herd of horses was trailed through Vale to Rapid City. Museum photos



Here’s What’s Happening in Newell!

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Corn Feed From D1

for the Corn Feed. The fire department members donated the meat for the hamburgers and hot dogs served at the Corn Feed. There were also a variety of salads and side dishes brought and shared by the community. A full table of desserts was also available.

Outside there were lawn games and water games as well as a swimming pool for the young ones to enjoy.

A silent auction and a live auction in addition to a “fill the boot” free-will donation for the food all worked together to raise funds for the Vale Fire Department. “The biggest thing is if it ain’t our department, please donate to your local fire departments, they need the help,” encouraged Grubl.



The dessert table was a popular place to visit. Longbrake photo(s)



Dipping the corn on the cob in butter made it even better!



The Corn Feed also had a silent auction fundraiser where people could bid on items and try to win them.



Newell Health Clinic

is accepting new patients!

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