



Belle Fourche Beacon

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VOL. 8 ISSUE 3

Belle Fourche, SD Wednesday • January 15, 2025

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New Year Starts for County Commission

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE-The new year for the Butte County Commission started with closing 2024 business and saying goodbye to Commissioner Karrol Herman.

Business for 2025 began with Judge Day swearing in new commissioner Tom Brunner and State's Attorney Tim Barnaud, both beginning four-year terms.



Above Judge Day swearing Tom Brunner & below Tim Barnaud

County Treasurer Debbie Lensegrav was absent due to illness.

Next on the agenda, the commissioners chose a chair and vice chair. James Ager was elected as Chair by a three to two vote. Chad Erk will serve as Vice-Chair after a unanimous vote.

Commission committees were not set down at this time and will be done at the next meeting. Chair Ager said that the positions are selected by the chair and need to be considered fully before any decisions are made.

Commission meeting dates and times were discussed. Opinions from the public leaned toward more evening meetings, mentioning that more people could attend. It was also suggested to have the second meeting of the month as an

Butte County A3

GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY
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Crossroads
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Belle Fourche, SD
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Pizza Hut
1824 5th Ave.
Belle Fourche, SD
605-892-2371

First Drawing to be held December 2nd

State Library Funding Cuts, Oh Dear!

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
In her recently announced Budget for the People, Governor Kristi Noem made budget cuts. "To balance the budget, we're proposing \$71.9 million in budget reductions and discretionary changes," Noem said.

Although the governor didn't specifically single out the state library in her budget address in December, her budget does call for a reduction of over \$1 million in state general funds and nearly \$1.4 million in federal fund expenditure authority to decrease the state library by 12 employees.

For library patrons, the news was unsettling. Wanda Nelson, Librarian at the BF Public Library offered some

insight.

"First of all, the cuts to the State Library don't affect our budget. We don't get money from the State, just services.

We are supported by the City of Belle Fourche. So, our hours will not be affected.

That being said, there are numerous services that the State library provides for us and all libraries across the state. They provide 59 electronic resource databases such as: newspapers, test study prep, historical, children's literacy, academic journals, health resources, genealogy, career, reference, and more. The cost of these databases would be

Library Cuts Contd. A3



Belle Fourche Public Library interior view. Photo from Library Internet site

Michaela Horn, Cover Girl!

Meg English

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
Many people in Belle Fourche will recognize Michaela Horn's exuberant smile in this photograph.

Michaela was recently featured on the December 2024 cover of Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine.

Michaela is the Director of the Belle Fourche Chamber

of Commerce and is also a cheerleading coach for the Belle Fourche School District. Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine features men and women in the area who are dedicated to making a difference in their communities.

Here's the link to the full story https://issuu.com/michelscom/docs/bhl_-_december_2024



Michaela Horn

"Belle Fourche Economic Development Annual meeting"



Board member Karen Wagner addresses the group gathered for 2025 Belle Fourche Economic Development meeting at the Branding Iron Steakhouse & Lounge. Courtesy Photo

Students Compete in Welding Competition

Robbi Longbrake

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
BELLE FOURCHE—The 5th Annual Weld-Off competition was held at Lake Area Technical College on December 4, 2024. Eleven Belle Fourche High School students traveled to Watertown, SD to take part in the competition.

According to Jim Hartwell, welding and plasma cam teacher, "the students went to a welding competition over in Watertown and we had a student take second out of 300 students."

The competitions was open to high schools students in grades 10, 11 and 12, with two separate divisions, beginner welders and advanced welders.

Beginners had less than one year experience and advanced students had over a year welding experience.

The event drew over 400 students from South Dakota and Minnesota, representing 40 high schools. Awards were given to the top three in each welding division. There was also a written welding knowledge test.

In the beginner welding division with almost 300 contestants, Belle Fourche High School sophomore, Conner Crowser won 2nd place.

Eight Belle Fourche High School students competed in the Advanced Welding division with around 100 other com-

petitors. They all placed in the top 25.

On the written welding test, Belle Fourche High School excelled.

They had five students who tied for the highest score in the written test competition. Because there was a five-way tie, the prize was awarded by a drawing and junior Kyle Hendrickson was declared the winner.

Students had an opportunity to win scholarships and prizes, in addition, tours were given of various manufacturing and technical programs. The day included an opportunity to network with event sponsor companies.



Belle Fourche High School students traveled to Watertown to compete in a Weld-Off, from left Mason Nehl, Alex Norlin, Soren Kopp, Cortez Rodriguez, Allison Jewett, Kyle Hendrickson, Conner Crowser, Tucker Hughes, Roenn Ruziska, Silas Carson, & Dylan Park. Courtesy photo. (More welding competition on A8)

Wareing Motors Raises Over \$11,800 for Local Food Pantries

Belle Fourche, SD and Sturgis, SD – Wareing Motors is thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of its 12th annual Food Drive fundraiser, which raised a total of \$11,818.45 for area food pantries.

The Belle Fourche location raised an impressive \$7,209.25 for the Belle Fourche Compassion Cupboard, while the Sturgis location collected \$4,609.20 for the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry. Funds were raised through a combination of customer donations and a generous contribution from Wareing Motors itself. For every vehicle sold during the campaign period, Wareing Motors donated \$100 to the designated food pantry. Additionally, customers had the opportunity to "round up" their service department purchases, with Wareing Motors matching these contributions.

"We are incredibly grateful to our customers and the entire

community for their overwhelming support of this year's Food Drive," said Jim O'Byrne, General Manager of the Belle Fourche location. "The funds raised will make a significant difference in the lives of families in need."

Tim Kugler, General Manager of the Sturgis location, echoed these sentiments, stating, "We are proud to support the vital work of the Kiwanis Food

Pantry and are humbled by the generosity of our customers. We look forward to this food drive every year and the positive impact it has on our community" Wareing Motors extends its sincere thanks to all who participated in this year's Food Drive. Their generosity will help ensure that families in need have access to nutritious food for the coming months and hopefully beyond.



Wareing Motors, formerly Scott Peterson Motors, 38th 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche

Beacon Newspaper is a Work in Progress

Doug Cole

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
We often refer to the Beacon as "a work in progress". Primarily because the news and activities of a community and its newspaper never stop moving or get completed.

We began in 2018 with a US Post Office permit that is a

variation of Every Door Direct Mail. It allowed us to choose by Zip Code and Carrier route where the paper would be delivered to.

For the first 5 years we distributed over 9,000 copies in seven counties in the Tri-State trade area and asked people to voluntarily subscribe. Many

of you did and continue to subscribe.

Of late we have asked people to please subscribe to sustain the publication and have started organizing reminders to inform when your one year subscription needs to be renewed.

That coupled with a "Gift Work in Progress" Contd.A6


THIS VALENTINE'S DAY GIVE HER

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When someone you love becomes a Memory, the memory becomes a Treasure. -Unknown-

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website: klinefuneralchapel.com



Brian Kline
Owner



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JACQUELINE "JACKIE" SEPT. 19, 1945

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New Listing in Belle Fourche!
Beautiful 5-6 bedroom home, 2 fireplaces, 30x30 attached garage and a 30x48 shop/garage w/ loft. Sunroom w/ hottub, over 4100 sq.ft. 2 lots with a total of almost 1 acres. Great views and great location. Don't miss this gem of a property.

\$499,000

Located in a high-traffic frontage near Belle Fourche. Over 7 acres to have your animals, build a home, or have a business.




Renee Bisgaard, Broker/Owner
605-641-9242

608 5th Ave. #5
Belle Fourche, SD 57717



Gary Wright 70



Gary Wright, born on January 24, 1954, to Howard and Lola Wright, passed away peacefully on January 6th 2025.


Gary grew up with his brother, Milton Wright. As an uncle, Gary held a special place in the hearts of his nieces and nephews—Cerese, Dustin, and Chris.

Above all, Gary was a devoted father to his two sons, Steven and Derrick Wright. He took immense pride in raising them, always guiding them. He inspired them to face life's challenges with courage and grace, leaving a lasting imprint on their lives.

Gary will be remembered for his cantankerous attitude, warm heart, and unwavering loyalty to those he cared about.

Gary is preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Lola Wright. He is survived by his brother, Milton (Rhonda); his nieces and nephews, Cerese, Dustin, and Chris; his beloved sons, Steven and Derrick (DeArly); and grandchildren Tyrian and Bowen.

Kitty Byrd Dyer



Kitty Byrd Dyer of Brooksville, FL passed away on Sunday, January 5, 2025, surrounded by family and friends. She was born April 13, 1947 in Wheeling, WV and raised in Fort Seybert, WV by her loving parents James and Grace Dyer.


Kitty was a gifted artist, a mother to seven beloved children, and an accomplished author of many books, poems, and songs. She had a relentless love of learning which culminated in receiving a Master's Degree in English and Creative Writing from the University of South Dakota. Afterward she became an Associate Professor of English at Si Tanka University, a small tribal university in Eagle Butte, SD.

Kitty's dedication to her faith in Christ was revealed in the work she did. She was a renaissance woman with a deep love for nature and an adventurous spirit that led her from her childhood home in West Virginia to make her home in many places around the country.


Wherever she went, she was loved by everyone and she touched many lives. Her life has left a legacy of love and an example of a life well lived. She will be greatly missed.

Kitty is survived by her husband Dennis Burghart and previous spouse S. Phillip Toothman, her children, Stephen, James, Aaron, Ivan, Regina, Mary, and Catie, her beloved nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Kitty will be laid to rest in Fort Seybert, WV with a view of the mountains she loved. In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree or donate to charity in her name. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin, WV and Brewer & Sons Funeral Home in Brooksville, FL.



Verla Floraine Groseclose 86



Verla Bischoff was born at Belle Fourche, South Dakota Oct 14, 1938 to Mary and Edward (Fritz) Bischoff of Alzada, Montana. Verla Floraine Groseclose passed away from alzheimer's on January 7, 2025 at her home in Belle Fourche at age 86.

Verla completed grade school at the country school at Five Mile School near Alzada and graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1957. Verla's parents owned a 15,000 acre sheep ranch 10 miles North of Alzada, Montana where she lived during all her childhood years. She loved the ranch memories.

After high school graduation she attended Bible Standard College at Eugene, Oregon for four years. There she met her husband Arthur Groseclose of Juliaetta, Idaho. They were married in 1961 at Belle Fourche. They lived in Oregon all their married years until August, 2024 when they moved to Belle Fourche. They recently observed their 63 anniversary together.

In the 60's and 70's Verla and Arthur pastored Churches in Eugene and Riddle Oregon. During the 1980's, after her two children were raised, Verla worked for 20 years as a home care giver for the elderly in the Roseburg, Oregon area. During the 1990's she and her husband cared for Arthur's parents until their decease.

She was a faithful giver of her tithes and offerings. She faithfully gave the one tenth tithe to the local church. She gave above that always of her own earnings and retirement income. Some extra giving included Child Evangelism Fellowship, local Youth for Christ and the ministry of Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor and TV minister.

Arthur's mother taught Verla to make quilts. She then made quilts as a ministry to the pregnancy center, the women's shelters and for many friends.


Verla received Jesus as her Savior at age 13 at Albion Montana and confirmed that decision at the Alzada Open Bible Church where Grace Pluimer was her pastor. This was an experience for which she was very thankful, because she felt this changed her whole future. "Because of the little church at Alzada, I got acquainted with the college and met my Christian husband" she wrote.

She was preceded in death by her parents Mary and Edward (Fritz) Bischoff, by her brother Eddie Bischoff and a nephew, Greg Bischoff.

Verla is survived by her husband Arthur of Belle Fourche; by a son James (Jenny) Groseclose of Belle Fourche, by a daughter Mary Garrett of Pearcy, Arkansas, by a nephew, Gary Bischoff, by a sister-in-law, Edith Bischoff; and by 5 grandchildren: Chelsey & Brandon Groseclose and Matthew, Tyler and Serenity Garrett.

A private graveside and burial will take place at Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche. A memorial service may be scheduled at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Kline Funeral Chapel of Belle Fourche. An online guest book is available at klinefuneralchapel.com



Pastor's Perspective

"A Shepherd King"



The Reverend Donna Schaper reminds us that epiphany is the season of realizations. "What we experienced under the star is revealed anew. Epiphany is the gradual dawning of light."

Annually, I read Matthew's familiar account of the visit of the Magi (Mt 2:1-6). "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?" they ask. Immediately I began humming a passage from Handel's Messiah, "For unto us a child is born; King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and He shall reign forever and forever!" I love the image of an infant king, the "Long-expected Jesus, born to set his people free." I took great comfort in a king who would "set all things right," and, of course, this king would favor "my kind of folks." The kingly savior required only acceptance and thanksgiving: "Praise you, Lord!" Thank-you, Jesus!"

Then, year's starlight caught on verse 6, a verse I'd either failed to notice or had dismissed as unimportant. The of Advent readings and the then up-coming national election made me reflect on leadership styles. The recent epiphany reading in Matthew brought with it a gradually dawning light that revealed to me my arrogance and ignorance.

Verse 6 states, "It has been written, 'from you shall come a ruler who is shepherd my people.'" A shepherd king? Aren't the words "shepherd" and "king" nearly opposites? Certainly, the words represent two profoundly different types of leadership.

Was Matthew quoting the prophet Micah to draw a parallel between Jesus and King David, the shepherd boy? Or was Matthew preparing us for Jesus' message of "this is the way to the Father"? Oh, I know Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd...he leads me beside still waters." I am familiar with the parable of the ninety-nine sheep and one lost lamb. I know scriptures refer to us as sheep, but, really—a shepherd king? A SHEPHERD!

These images brought uncomfortable thoughts. During our early agricultural days, I learned just enough about sheep to know they cannot be driven from behind, nor forced to go where they do not choose to go. Try pushing them along and they scatter willy-nilly. Sheep can only be led from in front—get ahead of them, catch their attention, and then walk the trail that leads them to where they are supposed to be.

At a Bible study, I was reminded that, for centuries, Jesus' followers were first known as "People of the Way." It is a phrase oft repeated in songs, "O Lord, walk with me." "Show me the way,"

As previously stated, "King" had been my focal point. An early Advent reading from I Samuel had given me pause. While Samuel was a fair and righteous leader, the same could not be said of his sons. They were self-serving and oppressive. People rebelled and demanded to have a king like the neighboring countries had. Samuel cautioned the people (I Samuel 10-23): "This will be way of the king who reigns over you: he will take your sons, daughters, and harvests, and you will be his slaves...and in that day, you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourself, but the Lord will not answer you in that day." This year, I realized verses 19-23 were chillingly near to my own demands. "But the people said 'no,' [we demand] a king over us so that we may be like all nations. Our king will judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." When Samuel repeated the request to the ears of the Lord, "the Lord said to Samuel, 'Obey their voice and make them a king.'"

The uncomfortable the starlight had revealed myself, my selfish self to me. Like the Israelites, I wanted a Santa-King who would fight my battles for me—requiring me only to say, "Praise You!" and "Thank You, Lord." I wanted a Santa-God to judge us "naughty" or "nice,"—naturally putting me into the "nice" category, and then Santa-God would give me my every wish.

I wonder how many times and ways have I only been willing to serve God as His advisor and director? How often do I spend my prayer time giving God MY to-do list. "Grant me this. Do that. Give me whatever I think is best." In the epiphany light, I realize that I need to stop making demands and ask simply that the pathway I am to take will be revealed to me. I need to focus on The Way. I look at where Jesus led. He associated with folks deemed "least of these" and "unworthy of place at the tables."

Jesus non-violently confronted abusive and self-serving practices of leadership both in the Roman government and in the temple leaders and rulers. Jesus withdrew from the crowds for times of prayer, for times to check in with the Father. His earthly ways left a clearly marked trail for me to follow. When I look at the path the Shepherd King walked, I begin to see what is expected of me if I am to be a follower of The Way. I must set aside self-righteousness and focus my eyes on the shepherder.

Jesus, open our minds and hearts to the message of your life. Transform us into instruments of your way. Amen.

Psalm 20:7
□Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God□

Psalm 104:14
□He □God□causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that He may bring forth food from the earth.□

Roots Grow Deep and Strong # 31 "Catalonia Traditions"



Meg English

Some traditions are more peculiar than others. For example, in Catalonia there is a popular practice at Christmastime of painting a happy face on the end of an ordinary fireplace log. The log is propped up by two smaller branches placed diagonally beside the face. The log called 'Caja Tio' appears to be sitting up. 'Tio' means tree trunk and 'caja' is a Spanish word for 'poop'. So, Caja Tio literally translated is a Pooping Log. A red hat, called a berretina is placed on the Tio's head and typically a small blanket covers his or her posterior. Caja Tio is a happy and friendly little log and is especially beloved by children.

Catalonia is substantial region in northeastern Spain well known for its geographic diversity. Its borders surround a good part of Spain and a smaller part of France. The capital city of Catalonia is Barcelona, famous for art, architecture, museums, restaurants. Catalonia has a population of over 8 million people and encompasses nearly 13,000 square miles.

Catalonians are altruistic in their national and cultural identity. Many Catalonians want independence from Spain and France and want to form their own government. So far that has not worked out. The Catalanian resolve for independence has gone on for several generations and has resulted in some contentious skirmishes with the governments of France and Spain.

The history of Caja Tio has a long history grounded in Catalanian resolve that does not appear to be going away. Catalanians have a good sense of humor too.

Around the first of December, the children start feeding Caja Tio in hopes that he or she will get fat enough by Christ-

mas to "poop" out presents. Children sing a song to Caja Tio to encourage him as they beat the log with sticks.

The song goes like this:
Caga tió, (Poop log)
tió de Nadal, (Log of Christmas)
no caguis arengades (Don't poop salted herring)
que són massa salats (They are too salty)
caga turróns (Poop turróns)
que són més bons! (They are much better!)

At Christmastime children may be asked to go to another room to pray while Caja Tio empties his or her bowels. Small, wrapped gifts, and plenty of Turrón, a traditional Spanish candy, made of toasted almonds, honey, sugar, and egg white will be waiting for the children when they finish praying, a gift from Caja Tio.

Apparently, the origin of Caja Tio began as a Pagan ritual connected with the winter solstice. In rural Catalanian villages, people would set fire to large logs. Presumably burning the log gave light in a time of darkness and somehow the tradition of adopting a log and caring for it in the home evolved.

Dark winter nights, recipes for turrón, logs, and

defecating have been around for hundreds of years in Catalonia. As every good farmer knows, poop is fertilizer that makes things grow. Defecation is practical, disgusting, and funny. That's where the tradition of placing a figure called a 'cagener' in the background in nativity scenes. Part of the fun of viewing a nativity scene is to try to spot the cagener, a man

with pants around his ankles, defecating. Although such a tradition may sound profane, the Catalonians seem to enjoy it and it along with Caja Tio has lasted.

There are some wonderful videos about Caja Tio on Utube. Some good search words are Caja Tio, Catalan Christmas, Pooping log. Cadjener figures are available for sale on Amazon and believe it or not, Turrón is quite delicious.



Can you find the **Cadeger** in this nativity scene?



Caja Tio photographed in a church nativity scene at **Santa Eglise** in southern France

Library Cuts from A1

too much for our library, and most others to replace.

ILL (interlibrary loan) services would not be possible without the State library's infrastructure, Share-It. We would lose the State Park Pass Program which promotes literacy and recreation through partnerships with state parks. They provide us with themes for summer reading programs as well as an online format for our reading program. They pay for our website and Wi-Fi tracker. They also offer training for librarians and library boards.

It isn't likely to go away because we pay for that service. However, the State Library administers the collection and acts as a facilitator between the libraries and overdrive."

As you can see, the State

Library is very important to us and all libraries and all citizens!"

Wanda made suggestions for anyone who wants to advocate for the state library. "People can advocate for the State Library by calling their legislators: Representative Travis Ismay, home: 605-456-2146, Capitol: 605-773-3851; Senator Sam Marty, home: 605-866-4477, Capitol: 605-773-3821"

The South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) has some addition suggestions at this link: https://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/page/Advocacy?fbclid=IwY2xjawHpKYtleHRuA2FI-bQIXMQABHc08_usu3R-fAUr7u5DrFKN0_nOPnl-gOTnraLg7s8b-2SJZNkd-qskbF8fw_aem_IURITIneG-WIdE92Y7g3ryQ

4-H Extension Club Notes

Extension clubs in Butte Lawrence County continue to offer a wide array of activities to learn, grow, and have fun for all ages. In addition to the usual scholarship applications, deadlines for myriad activities, and preparations for The Rapid City Stock Show in February, hippology competition practice is underway.

Hippology is the study of anything having to do with horses. Many 4-H clubs in United States form teams and participate in competitions annually. The competition may cover any equine subject including training, dressage, health, history and origins of breeds, anatomy, physiology, horse industry, horse management, genetics, colors, types of tack, nutrition and reproduction.

Competing teams are quizzed on their knowledge. The contestants must demonstrate their horse knowledge in more than one way. Team members must show how ability to judge horses, take a written examination, and perform a team problem solving activity.

Horse Quiz Bowl and Hippology will meet to practice

each Thursday after school in Spearfish at the Senior Center until 5:30 PM.

This includes all Thursdays through February 8th. Competitions will take place in February. Anyone interested in participating can contact the Butte Lawrence County Extension Office at (605) 892-3371 for details.

Altogether there are more than 70 project areas available in the Butte Lawrence County 4-H Program. Shooting sports is one of these. Two shooting sports groups are active in Butte & Lawrence counties. Both groups are open to all 4-H local members.

Butte County 4-H shooting sports meets weekly on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 PM and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. All practices are held in the basement of the Economic Development building in Belle Fourche. For more information, please contact Amy Clark at 605-569-0408.

Lawrence County Sharp Shooters meets weekly on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM at the Historic Homestake Opera

Butte County from A1 evening meeting.

Commissioner Tom Brunner moved to have the second monthly meetings as an evening meeting. A roll call vote resulted in three nay and two aye votes. After a lengthy discussion, the commissioners decided to keep the meeting times the same as the previous year. There will be evening meetings March 18, June 17, and September 16 with the possibility of another in December. The evening meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

Seventeen resolutions were approved by the commissioners. The resolutions established the official depositories, official newspaper, named deputies and clerks, polling locations, wages, travel expenditures, naming Brosz Engineering as the engineering firm for the county, axle weight limits, and requirements for alcoholic beverage renewals, among several others. The rates for indigent burial and cremation were not established awaiting more information.

Resolution 2025-03 established a disbursement schedule for funds to be paid out. There are over a half dozen entities that receive funds from Butte County's budget. The schedule of payments and amounts are as follows:

January Payments:
25% Cities/Towns Road Rever-

sion. 1 pmt of \$12,523;
Teen Court. 1 pmt of \$5,000
Prairie Hills Transit. 1 pmt of \$4,800;

Compass Point. 1 pmt of \$1,200;

CASA. 1 pmt Action for Betterment of Community 1 pmt. \$1,200;

BH Children's Home Society 1 pmt of \$480
Library Services 1 pmt. of \$6,773.75 to City of Belle Fourche;

1 pmt of \$4,064.25 to City of Newell

Others: Artemis House 4 pmts of \$962.50 in March, June, Sept., and Dec.

Community Health Nurse 4 quarterly payments per State billings

Belle Silver Lining 1 pmt of \$10,000 in May;

BF Economic Development 1 pmt of \$20,000 in May

BH Council of Local Gov't 1 pmt of \$5,515 in May

BF Chamber of Commerce 1 pmt of \$9,600 in May

County Fair 1 pmt of \$10,000 in May

Ambulance. 1 pmt of up to \$106,406 contribution, upon Butte County Commission approval

Fire. 2 pmts of \$29,389.50 in June and December

Planning Commissioner.

1 pmt of \$1,200 each at-large Planning Commissioner in December

Weed Board. 1 pmt of \$300 each at-large Weed Commissioner in December

State's Attorney Tim Barnaud gave his first report before the commissioners.

He highlighted the areas that his office would focus on and where the biggest concerns would be. Drug related crimes and domestic violence are top issues.

"We will be hard on them," Barnaud said.

The county commissioners appoint a member of the community to a position on the Planning Commission. After interviewing several prospective applicants, Sue Broadhurst was chosen by the Commissioners.

Broadhurst noted that she is looking forward to being a part of the Planning Board and serving in that capacity.

Following Executive Session, committee reports were given. With no new business at the time, the commissioners adjourned the meeting.

The next regular commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 21 at 9:30 a.m.

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



Jan 16 - Pasque Ladies Fashions Chamber Mixer 4:30PM

Jan 17 - Caramel Rolls & Coffee @ Belle Silver Lining 7:30AM, Job Fair @ BF Chamber 2PM, Angel Store @ BF Global Methodist 5PM

Jan 19 - Family Fun Day @ Tri State Museum 2PM

Jan 21 - Chutes for Charity BINGO @ Branding Iron 6PM

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

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PO Box 576 Belle Fourche, SD 57717

www.bellefourchebeacon.com

Your Support is appreciated!

House Shooting Range in Lead. For more information, contact Kristy Eastman (605) 920-0248 or Levi Brownell at (605) 645-5679. These are special interest groups that meet in addition to regular club work.

For more information of help finding a 4-H club to join, contact the Butte/Lawrence Extension Office at (605) 892-3371.

Butte Lawrence County also offers agriculture services Private Applicator Training Webinars are available through SDSU Extension and the SD Department of Agriculture. Webinars will be available at the Butte Lawrence County Extension office in Belle Fourche. Dates will be January 22, February 12, March 19, April 16. For more information: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/agricul->

ture/safety-training

Another service offered by the Butte Lawrence County Extension office is a quick nitrate test for all grains, water from dams, ponds.

The nitrate test determines suitability for livestock. Also available are soil sample, feed sample and water testing kits to be sent to Servi-tech labs. Hay probes and soil sample probes as well.





Sec. of State Monae Johnson announces re-election bid

Republican, Rapid City native confirms she wants second term as constitutional officer

Austin Goss

www.thedakotascout.com

The 2026 election cycle has officially begun.

Secretary of State Monae Johnson became the first candidate to publicly declare her candidacy for statewide office in the next mid-term election Thursday night, announcing she intends to seek a second-term in the office she has occupied since December 2022.

"It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as your Secretary of State," Johnson said in a press release to The Dakota Scout. "Together, we've made significant strides in improving our office, ensuring that South Dakota's elections remain secure and accurate, and supporting our state's vibrant business community. There is more work to be done and I am excited to build on the foundation we've created."

The incumbent touted her accomplishments as Secretary of State — including modernizing South Dakota's voter registration system, hiring a cybersecurity analyst to safeguard elections, and helping to implement post-election audits for the first time in the state's history.

She said she has also focused on voter engagement and registration through various initiatives, while strengthening Second Amendment rights by securing reciprocity agreements for South Dakota's enhanced concealed carry permits with other states.

A Rapid City native who previously worked in the Secretary of State's office under former Secretary of State Chris Nelson, Johnson said she plans to continue her efforts to modernize office systems, improve transparency, and bolster election security, if reelected.

"South Dakota deserves leadership that reflects our shared values of honesty, hard work, family and service," Johnson. "I am ready to continue this important mission, ensuring our state's democracy remains strong and secure for generations to come."

Johnson capitalized on election integrity and security concerns following the 2020 presidential election, capturing support of Republican delegates ahead of the 2022 South Dakota GOP Convention. Backed by election integrity activists, she upset former Secretary Steve Barnett to secure the nomination before cruising to victory in the general election the following fall.

The Republican nomination for Secretary of State — along with other statewide offices like attorney general and lieutenant governor — is decided by party delegates via convention, to be held in Rapid City in June 2026.

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Bronc Basketball in Action



Reagan Hatling splits the defense.



Aurora Voyles gets a shot off.



Harvey Walding shoots under the basket.



Adian Keil gets open to shoot. St. Thomas More Photos Courtesy Jamie Hockenbary

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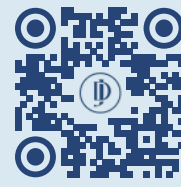
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Broncs Host Douglas



(Above) Cheerleaders keep the student section energized. Clockwise from left: **Denali Larsen** gets a shot in; **Emma Nehl** shoots; **Isaac Voyles** shoots underneath; **Emitt Lipp** gets a rebound. *Photos Courtesy Jamie Hockenbary*

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THANK YOU ALSO TO THE BELLE FOURCHE BEACON FOR THE COVERAGE AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER EVENT ORGANIZERS & CHAPERONES!

LET'S DO IT AGAIN ON DECEMBER 31, 2025!



Show Up

by Belle LaVenue



The BFHS is back in the theater preparing for the One Act Contest. This year's show is *The Customer is Always Wrong*, a comedy. According to director, Michael Kane, the show looks at the trials and travails of young job seekers, as they go through the interview process and get out into the working world, for the first time. But the interview process is just the beginning, as the show gives us a peek into what the kids have to deal with when it comes to a paying clientele. Audiences can expect a show that is funny, witty and a bit too realistic at times. The large number of characters in this one act production are played by 16 BFHS thespians: Lily Tippmann, Iva Hale, Kaeli Thompson, Logan Willert, Avery Mastin, Derek Scott, Zach Gerbracht, Dillon Streeter, Tim Thompson, John Hale, Denali Biegert, Tace Hartman, Trevor Welles, Sonja Cropper, Ember Shannon, and Denali Biegert. The crew includes Hunter Brown, Madison Dalton, and Madisyn Carson. Come support the BFHS theater and enjoy an entertaining show on Monday, January 27th at 7 PM at the Rec Center Theater.

The Belle Fourche Area Community Theater Annual Meeting on January 25th is a great time to find out about ways to join theater productions. BFACT offers opportunities for actors, set builders, costume designers, lights & sound technicians, and tech crew backstage. According to BFACT, this year's meeting will be a little different: Starting at 1pm they will have an Open House where the Board will speak about what it means to be a part of BFACT as an organization, and you can ask questions. Then at 2pm they will start their Annual Meeting where you can learn about everything accomplished in the 2024 Season and what is in store for 2025. The group will also hold Board of Director elections. This election is open to members, so you must be one to vote. You can pay for your annual membership at the meeting itself. Individual memberships are only \$25. BFACT will also serve delicious snacks and drinks, so make sure to mark your calendars and learn how to get involved in for 2025 and into the future!

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!*

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!*

January 20: BFMS Band Concert @ the BF Rec Center Theater, 6:30 PM

January 25th: BFACT Annual Meeting @ 1 PM at Venue 519

January 27th: BFHS One Act, *The Customer is Always Wrong*, free community performance @ BF Rec Center Theater, 7 PM.

Maybe YOU know what SHOW is UP next? Share your fine arts tidbits and upcoming events at bellelavenue@gmail.com. I especially love the *juicy backstage dish and green room gossip!*

Community Calendar

Belle Silver Lining Lunch Program

Every day of the week

11:00 am – 1:00pm Belle Silver Lining Senior Center; 828 Kingsbury St 605-892-6285

Belle Silver Lining is open so come and enjoy a different lunch menu Monday thru Friday.

\$7 suggested donation.

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Check with the staff if you have items to donate.

AA Meetings

Meetings are held on

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays at 8pm at 806 6th Ave, Belle Fourche.

Writer's Group

Regular Meeting: Meeting will be Saturday, at 10 AM.

B F Public Library, 3rd Sat.as always.

Any and all writers are invited to attend.

Meals On Wheels Program Ongoing

11:30am-12:30pm Monday through Friday
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From A1 Work in Progress

Card give away incentive subscriptions are gaining.

Subscriptions coupled with ad sales are two legs of newspaper income, but we need to saddle up the three-leg chicken to get and stay in the black.

That third leg is eligibility of being the legal newspaper for city, school, and county.

The Beacon meets the threshold required as of July 2025, and can hopefully provided that service for our local government entities.

In the meantime as we wait to meet that "legals" threshold we are forced to take action that will reduce costs.

Our highest weekly expense is

the cost of the postal deliveries.

We will continue to provide the paper on a weekly basis, but your route may be delivered on a rotation basis.

This week's paper should have been delivered to the entire 7 county Tri-State area, but as we move forward the Beacon will provide locations in the community where the paper can be picked up.

In Belle at present the Beacon is available at Print Market. In Spearfish, at Safeway, Green Bean, & Blackbird Espresso.

As this develops we will be adding pickup locations throughout the area.

Currently the entire pages of the Beacon can be accessed

and read at www.bellefourche-beacon.com as well as all past issues.

This works well on a computer or tablet, but is a bit difficult to manipulate on a 3x5 inch phone, so we are working on developing an online edition that can be more easily accessed and viewed.

As we said in the headline of this article, "The Beacon Newspaper is a Work in Progress"

We apologize for any inconvenience, but it is our desire to continue to bring you local and state news of interest and impact on our community and throughout the Tri-State trade area.

Thank you.
Belle Fourche Beacon

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First Interstate Bank Grants

Robbi Longbrake
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

BELLE FOURCHE—The last day of the year brought cash awards to local nonprofit agencies. The First Interstate Bank Greater Belle Fourche Foundation awarded \$19,014.48 to 13 different agencies. The amount awarded was based on the needs of each group. Those who received the awards were honored at the First Interstate Bank in Belle Fourche at 10:00 a.m. on December 31. Started in 1989 the First Interstate Bank Greater Belle Fourche Foundation has been

awarding grants for 35 years. The funds are managed by the South Dakota Community Foundation and only the income off of the fund is distributed as grants to non-profit agencies each year. The current First Interstate Bank Greater Belle Fourche Foundation board members are Brenda Butler, Patti Konechne, Sandra Clooten and Mike Tyndall. The board is responsible for reviewing and distributing the funds. They received grant requests from 13 agencies this year and were able to award funds to

each group. The 2024 grant recipient are: Belle Fourche Senior Center, Belle Fourche Recreation Center, Bronc Bird Busters, Parents Who Care Newell, Center of the Nation Concert Association, Victims of Violence - Artemis House Shelter, Realtors for Kids, SD West River Spay and Neuter Coalition, Special Olympics - Spearfish Peaks, Parents Who Care Belle Fourche, Teammates Mentoring of South Dakota - Belle Fourche, St. Paul Church Christmas Store for kids, and Belle Fourche Youth Baseball.



First Interstate Bank Greater Belle Fourche Foundation awarded grants to local nonprofit agencies from left: Mike Tyndall, First Interstate Bank Greater Belle Fourche Foundation; Traci Nowowiejski, Parents Who Care; Debora Alickson, Special Olympics Spearfish Peaks; Mary Wendt, Center of the Nation Concert Assn.; Beth Morey, West River Spay and Neuter Coalition; Madison Eggen, Artemes House; Tessa Anderson-Voyles, Belle Fourche Rec Center; and Cory Voyles, Belle Fourche Youth Baseball. *Courtesy photo*



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Belle Fourche Students Attend "Weld-Off" Competition at Lake Area Technical

Katelyn Smith
Special to the Beacon

Eleven Belle Fourche High School students went to Watertown, SD for the Lake Area Technical College (LATC) Weld Off on December 4th. There were two categories: a Beginner Division, and an Advanced Division.

There were about 400 students from South Dakota and Minnesota representing 40 high schools.

There were just under 300 students in the Beginner Division and about 100 students in the Advanced Division. Belle Fourche High School had five students who scored the highest on the written test part in the competition.

With the five-way tie they had a drawing and junior Kyle Hendrickson was the winner. LATC gave out the first three positions in both Divisions of the competition and in the Beginner

Division sophomore Conner Crowser won 2nd place.

There were two other Intro students, and one was in the top 25 and the other top 90 out of almost 300 students.

There were 8 advanced students in the competition, and they were all in the top 25 of almost 100 advanced students. All students represented Belle Fourche High School very proudly.



(L) Sophomore **Conner Crowser** won 2nd place in the Beginners Division. (R) Junior **Kyle Hendrickson** was the winner of the written exam for the Weld Off. (Photos Courtesy of Belle Fourche School District)



While in Watertown the group toured the Terex Utilities plant. The students were able to see how the fiber glass booms were made. They were able to see all the steps taken to build a boom truck like the one the students are standing by. They also were able to see the design department of the company. The students loved the tour.



Edward Jones



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(Clockwise from left) Senior, **Allison Jewett** just finished her weld and was feeling good about the job she did; Senior, **Soren Kopp** finishing up his wagon and it is looking good; Senior, **Cortez Rodriguez** just finishing his first long weld on the wagon; Sophomore, **Conner Crowser** it doesn't look like much here, but it got him 2nd place in the beginner's division when it was finished; Sophomore, **Dylan Park** is looking to see what needs to be done next on his wagon; Junior, **Alex Norlin** welding out the bottom of the wagon and doing a fine job of it; Junior, **Kyle Hendrickson** is just finishing his wagon only if he can find the last wheel; Junior, **Mason Nehl** just finished his wagon and is feeling good with the welds he made; Junior, **Roenn Ruziska** wondering who interrupted him while he was welding. Darn camera men! Courtesy Photos



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Dobesh, Dane, Belle Fourche SD	10	Herf	Hfr	999	\$3,075.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	37	Bld	Hfr	1068	\$3,050.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	38	Bld	Hfr	1029	\$2,925.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	53	Bld	Hfr	1046	\$3,035.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	46	Bld	Hfr	1038	\$3,025.00
Schaffer, Enoch, Broadus MT	34	Bld	3 Years	1040	\$3,010.00
Kimsey Ranch Llc., Moorcroft WY	48	Bld	Hfr	942	\$2,925.00
Anderson Ranch, Ten Sleep WY	10	Red	Solid	1377	\$2,525.00
Anderson Ranch, Ten Sleep WY	10	Red	Solid	1345	\$2,425.00
Burghdurf, Cheryl, Camp Crook SD	10	Bld	Broken	1401	\$2,175.00
Dale Lyman Ranch Inc, Ten Sleep WY	24	Bld	Broken	1291	\$2,050.00
Irion, Rusty, Miles City MT	15	Bld	Broken	1269	\$2,000.00
Jensen Ranch, Whitewood SD	12	Red	S-Ss	1575	\$2,650.00
Kretschman, Kale Or Kimberly, Gillette WY	13	Bld	Hfr	913	\$2,900.00
Mills, Troy, Boyes MT	20	Bld	Broken	1324	\$2,075.00
Rittberger, Karen, Buffalo Gap SD	39	Bld	Broken	1419	\$2,175.00
Rittberger, Karen, Buffalo Gap SD	42	Bld	S-Ss	1455	\$2,635.00
Shoun, Scott, New Underwood SD	12	Bld	3 Years	1132	\$3,175.00
Sleep Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD	11	Bld	Broken	1427	\$2,300.00
Triple T Enterprises, Newcastle WY	13	Bld	Broken	1528	\$2,300.00

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Anderson Ranch, Ten Sleep WY	5	B/R	Hfr	986	\$229.00
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Dobesh, Dane, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bld	Cow	1275	\$163.00
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Fields, Michael, Torrington WY	1	Dair	Cow	1080	\$123.00
Frederickson, Nate, Spearfish SD	1	Bld	Cow	1410	\$131.00
Geier Family Trust, Osage WY	2	Bld	Hfr	980	\$224.00
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	2	Red	Cow	1155	\$128.00
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	3	B/R	Cow	1320	\$126.50
Horst, Vernon, Newell SD	2	Bld	Cow	1592	\$133.00
Irion, Rusty, Miles City MT	1	Bld	Cow	1530	\$124.00
Irion, Rusty, Miles City MT	1	Bld	Cow	1590	\$124.00
Jensen, Clifford Or Lonna, Whitewood SD	8	Red	Hfr	1179	\$168.50
Jensen, Clifford Or Lonna, Whitewood SD	10	Red	Cow	1406	\$130.00
Jensen, Clifford Or Lonna, Whitewood SD	6	Red	Cow	1466	\$129.50
Jewett, Tyler Or Sally, Belle Fourche SD	1	Herf	Cow	1090	\$160.00
Kimsey Ranch Llc., Moorcroft WY	2	Bld	Hfr	862	\$240.50
Kokesh, Rich Or Shery, Belle Fourche SD	1	Bld	Cow	1240	\$120.00
Komes, Brandon, Sturgis SD	1	Bld	Cow	1620	\$127.00
Komes, Timothy J, Sturgis SD	1	Herf	Cow	1540	\$125.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	7	Bld	Cow	1150	\$166.00
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	4	Bld	Cow	1212	\$162.50
Lindblom, Brad, Hermosa SD	1	Bld	Cow	1155	\$132.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	15	Bld	Cow	1219	\$164.50
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	3	Bld	Cow	1275	\$141.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	3	Bld	Cow	1548	\$131.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	1	Bld	Cow	1075	\$129.00
Lindblom, David Or Starla, Rapid City SD	5	Bld	Cow	1318	\$121.50
Mills, Troy, Boyes MT	1	Bld	Hfr	940	\$200.00
Mills, Troy, Boyes MT	3	Bld	Cow	1408	\$132.00
Nicholas, William & Bryan J, Spearfish SD	1	Bld	Cow	1555	\$121.00
Oedekoven, Jason & Dawna, Nisland SD	1	Bld	Cow	1490	\$130.00
Op Bar Ranch Llp, St Onge SD	2	Herf	Cow	1382	\$129.00
Op Bar Ranch Llp, St Onge SD	1	Herf	Cow	1625	\$125.00
Op Bar Ranch Llp, St Onge SD	1	Herf	Cow	1905	\$120.50
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	3	Bld	Cow	1260	\$151.00
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	4	Bld	Cow	1672	\$132.50
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	10	Bld	Cow	1438	\$130.00
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	2	Bld	Cow	1365	\$120.50
Riley, John Or Mike, Volborg MT	5	Bld	Cow	1362	\$120.50
Rus, Greg, Rock Valley Ia	1	Bld	Cow	1335	\$148.00
Schaffer, Enoch, Broadus MT	7	Bld	Hfr	945	\$204.00
Scott, Bob, Box Elder SD	1	Rbld	Cow	1330	\$138.00
Shepperson, Anita, Upton WY	4	Bld	Hfr	891	\$238.50
Shepperson, Anita, Upton WY	1	Bld	Hfr	1025	\$187.00
Shepperson, Anita, Upton WY	1	Bld	Cow	1120	\$131.00
Shepperson, Anita, Upton WY	7	Bld	Cow	1348	\$124.00
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	5	Bld	Hfr	1030	\$193.50
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	2	Bld	Hfr	925	\$190.00
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	2	Bld	Hfr	1030	\$173.50
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	2	Bld	Cow	1205	\$144.00

Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	1	Bld	Cow	1565	\$130.00
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	1	Bld	Cow	1005	\$130.00
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	1	Bld	Cow	1360	\$120.00
Simons, Sully Or Debbie, Beulah WY	13	Bld	Cow	1208	\$120.00
Sleep Ranch Llc, Spearfish SD	8	Bld	Hfr	1091	\$178.50
Thompson, Ted, Whitewood SD	2	Bld	Cow	1295	\$121.50
Triple T Enterprises, Newcastle WY	1	Bld	Cow	1455	\$120.00
Warner, Adam Or Lynn, Rozet WY	2	Bld	Hfr	985	\$188.00
Warner, Adam Or Lynn, Rozet WY	7	Bld	Hfr	1171	\$176.50

Weigh Up Bulls

Frederickson, Nate, Spearfish SD	2	Bld	Cow	1697	\$151.00
Frederickson, Nate, Spearfish SD	1	Herf	Cow	1830	\$150.00
Gottfredson Elm Creek Ranch, Newell SD	1	Bld	Cow	1690	\$138.00
Jerde, Doug, Reva SD	1	Bld	Cow	2090	\$144.00
Ryan Xz Ranch Llc, Aladdin WY	1	Bld	Cow	1260	\$155.00
Schmidt, Rocky, Buffalo SD	1	Red	Cow	2110	\$145.00
Schmidt, Rocky, Buffalo SD	1	Red	Cow	2105	\$147.50
Tetrault, Tim Or Roxie, St Onge SD	1	Red	Cow	1190	\$182.50
Triple T Enterprises, Newcastle WY	2	Bld	Cow	2042	\$165.00
Triple T Enterprises, Newcastle WY	1	Bld	Cow	1790	\$150.00
Triple T Enterprises, Newcastle WY	1	Bld	Cow	1090	\$211.00

Friday, January 17, 2025

Feeder Cattle & Replacement Heifer Special
9 AM - Weigh Ups, Cows, 12 Noon - Bred Cows followed by Bred Cattle
BT-Braning Time Shots PC-PreCondition Shots DF-Drug Free
BV-Bangs Vaccinated NI- No Implants

Feeder Cattle

Lindsey Ranch - 190 Blk Strs - 550-675# - BT, PC, Weaned
Keith Weyrich - 110 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 550-600# - BT, PC, NI
Minow Ranch - 100 Blk Hfrs - 625-675# - BT, PC, Weaned, BV - Fancy
Hutchinson Ranch - 90 Red Angus Strs - 450-600# - BT, PC, Weaned
Roger Brown - 80 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 650-750# - BT, PC, NI, Weaned
Amie Mader - 55 Mostly Blk Strs - 575-600# - BT, PC
- 20 Blk Hfrs - 575-600# - BT, PC, BV
Ryan Xz Ranch - 75 Blk Hfrs - 600-650# - BT, PC, NI, Weaned
Harkin & Murphy - 70 Blk Mostly Hfrs - 570-650# - BT, PC, NI, Weaned
Philip Rusley - 62 Blk Hfrs - 550-650# - BT, PC, Weaned
KC Ranch - 45 Red Strs & Hfrs - 500-600# - BT, PC, Weaned
JIEV Livestock - 40 Red Hfrs - 525-550# - BT, PC, Weaned
Behrens Ranch - 40 Blk & Bldy Hfrs - 500-550# - BT, PC
Darrell Penny Oedekoven - 40 Blk & Red Hfrs - 550-650# - BT, PC, Weaned, Poured, BV
Open Box Ranch - 35 Blk Hfrs - 600-650# - BT, PC, Weaned, Poured, BV
Tom & Susan Vore - 32 Char Hfrs - 700-750# - BT, PC, Weaned
Kammerer Livestock - 20 Blk Strs - 600-650# - BT, PC, NI, Weaned
Dale Hogen - 20 Blk Strs & Hfrs - 500-600# - BT, PC
Cheryl Burghdurf - 10 Blk Str & Hfrs - 500-600# - BT, PC, Weaned

Plus more by sale time!

2025 CATTLE SALES

January 24th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
January 31st - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 7th - No Sale - Visit The Black Hills Stock Show
February 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
February 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 7th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 14th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 21st - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
March 28th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 4th - Bred Heifer & Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 11th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 18th - Pair & Bred Cow Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle
April 25th - Feeder Cattle & Replacement Hfr Special - Selling All Classes Of Cattle

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Sheep Report - Thursday, January 9, 2025

Nice run today
Lamb market was \$\$ higher on all weights
Slaughter ewes sold \$10 to 20 higher also!

Next sale - Jan. 16 - Regular Sheep sale- Selling all classes of sheep and goats
Animals should be here by 10 AM so they can be weighed before the sale
Thank you for your business!

Feeder Lambs

O'Donnell, Jordan Or Ashley, Ismay MT	112	Lamb	68	\$293.00
O'Donnell, Jordan Or Ashley, Ismay MT	19	Lamb	54	\$290.00
O'Donnell, Jordan Or Ashley, Ismay MT	39	Lamb	90	\$210.00
Matthews, Max, Bison SD	89	Lamb	86	\$224.00
Matthews, Max, Bison SD	5	Lamb	111	\$196.00
Parks, Leroy & Kelly, Nisland SD	193	Lamb	102	\$195.00
Akers, Jean, Lodgepole SD	7	Lamb	62	\$278.00
Akers, Jean, Lodgepole SD	22	Lamb	82	\$232.00
Akers, Jean, Lodgepole SD	16	Lamb	101	\$190.00
Bauman, Rick, Beulah ND	6	Lamb	100	\$209.00
Braun, Elizabeth, Newell SD	17	Lamb	77	\$260.00
Brown, Tim, Buffalo SD	9	Lamb	108	\$190.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	42	Lamb	111	\$186.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT	113	Lamb	114	\$186.00
Grata, Zane, Isabel SD	5	Lamb	55	\$335.00
Grata, Zane, Isabel SD	72	Lamb	99	\$210.00
Grata, Zane, Isabel SD	40	Lamb	116	\$172.00
Grata, Zane, Isabel SD	45	Wthr	79	\$259.00
Lancaster, Bill & Range, Volborg MT	21	Lamb	102	\$195.00
Lynch, Mark, Plentywood MT	6	Lamb	62	\$278.00
Lynch, Mark, Plentywood MT	50	Lamb	75	\$254.00
Moberg, Matt, Baker MT	7	Lamb	67	\$322.50
Olson, Tammy, Froid MT	56	Lamb	98	\$200.00
Wulf, Randy, Newell SD	6	Lamb	96	\$209.00

Slaughter Ewes

Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	22	K Ewe	160	\$100.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	14	K Ewe	174	\$94.00
Bucklin Ranches, Redstone MT	8	K Ewe	141	\$92.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT	18	K Ewe	154	\$100.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT	5	K Ewe	235	\$94.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT	28	K Ewe	177	\$94.00
Bucklin, John, Scooby MT	5	K Ewe	126	\$92.00
Burke, Joe Or Jane, Newell SD	9	K Ewe	168	\$94.00
Grata, Zane, Isabel SD	7	K Ewe	152	\$112.00
Secrest, Shannon Or Ashley, Buffalo SD	11	K Ewe	160	\$100.00
Secrest, Shannon Or Ashley, Buffalo SD	6	K Ewe	177	\$94.00

Slaughter Bucks

Williams, Charlie Or Erin, Alzada MT	21	Kbuck	202	\$102.00
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NEWELL SHEEP YARDS

Thursday, January 16, 2025
Regular Sheep Sale 1:00 PM

Please have animals in by 10:00 AM
So they can all be weighed before the sale!

2025 SHEEP SALES

January 23rd - Feeder Lamb Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
January 30th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 6th - No Sale - Check Out Sheep Day At The Black Hills Stock Show
February 13th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 20th - Bred Ewe Special - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats
February 27th - Regular Sale - Selling All Classes Of Sheep & Goats

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/head for our vet to do them. Please call us if you have any questions.

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

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Robert's Reds Gouache



A study piece at a friend's ranch near Red Owl.



Mick Harrison

VIEWPOINT : Education savings accounts will empower parents and improve learning in South Dakota

Guest column by South Dakota Education Secretary Joseph Graves

www.thedakotascout.com

In her 2024 Budget Address, Governor Noem announced an educational innovation for the parents and students of South Dakota: Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs). She explained that this investment would pay for a portion of private school tuition or curriculum for alternative education for South Dakota kids. And this endeavor has my full support.

Now, I spent 38 years, well over half my life, working in public schools. I love what they do for the children of our state and nation. And South Dakota has some excellent public schools. All four of my children graduated from the Mitchell School District after receiving an education that allowed them to succeed anywhere. Which they promptly did.

So, if all that is true, why am I supporting the ESA bill? After all, some public-school advocates have boisterously voiced their objection to this concept.

First, we must empower families in their decision-making on the education of their children. For ages, educators have known that the number one factor in a child's academic success is the active involvement of their parents. That needs to begin with the selection of

their preferred school option. For a myriad of reasons, some parents view the default option, public school, as less than appealing. They want a different opportunity for their child, and they should have options.

Second, such school options should be available to all parents, regardless of ability to pay. If your immediate response is that such options already exist – private schools and homeschooling – you are correct. But they only exist for some parents: parents who have enough money to pay private school tuition or have one parent leave the workforce in order to teach at the family homeschool. Some parents don't have that ability. They struggle to pay the mortgage and put food on the table. Tuition will put their family budget in the red, as will going from two breadwinners to one. Education can be expensive, but that shouldn't mean that those without should be left with just one option.

Third, South Dakota has educational deserts, and we need to fix that. Nobody likes to talk about it, but we have parts of our state where literally 0 percent of students read at grade level. Most people don't concern themselves with that reality because it doesn't affect their children. But that is the sort of neglect no society should tolerate. ESAs will make academic achievement possible by providing more

opportunities for their students.

Finally, we need to provide greater competition within the educational marketplace. In every field of human endeavor, performance improves with greater levels of competition. In this way, ESAs will benefit public schools, as well. Let's unleash that powerful force for improvement on all schools.

The program is straightforward. Parents of eligible students who apply would receive access to an ESA, amounting to 40 percent of the allocation provided to public schools for each of their students, or about \$3,000. Parents could use the funds to pay tuition for private schools, microschoools (programs in which homeschooled students gather for instruction), virtual school courses, and various materials for alternative instruction. They could also use the funds to purchase curriculum, instructional materials, and some limited technology to support their education.

The education status quo is simply not good enough. Improving it requires something new. Decades of new educational programs and increased spending have not done the trick, unless the trick is increasing taxes and ballooning federal budgets. On behalf of children and parents who currently feel left without viable options, I absolutely support ESAs.

Dr. Graves is the Cabinet Secretary for the SD Dept. of Education.

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Looking Back in Belle

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.

124 years ago
THE TIMES
December 28, 1899
G. A. R. NOT UNREASONABLE Commander Shaw Says It Only Asks Justice for Veterans

Philadelphia, Dec. 23 – Colonel Albert D. Shaw, sommander-in-chief of the G. A. R. stopped here on his way from Washington to New York and conferred with Adjutant General Stewart relative to the pension legislation recommended by the last national encampment. In speaking on the subject of penions, Colonel Shaw said to a reporter: "So far as the Grand Army is concerned, all they ask is that the present pension laws be excuted with exact justice and in conformity to the spirit that placed them on the stature books of the nation. The Grand Army as an organiation is not asking unreasonable things."

100 years years ago
Belle Fouche Bee
January 3, 1925
HOMESTEADER FROZEN

John Dempsey, age 30, a homesteader near Clough, sixty-five miles northeast of Belle Fourche, was found frozen to death Friday evening of last week. No definite information is available as to the circumstances but neighbors who found the body are of the opinion that Dempsey had been out looking after some stock on the range and had started for his home but became so numbed by the cold that he lost his way, and after struggling along for a while fell unconscious to the snow. The body was taken to Sturgis and prepared for burial at Chalk Buttes. Nothing is known of the young man's relatives.

BAKERY TO NEW LOCATION Tuesday evening of this week the Model Bakery was moved to its new location, two doors east of the Hampton House. Proprietor Broadley of the bakery has had the oven completely overhauled and so arranged that it will have a greater capacity. The interior of the room has been completely remodeled, and when the fixtures are in place the Model Bakery will be one of the most attractive places in town. Some time during the coming month, the C & G Grocery will move to the Levinger building, vacated by the Model Bakery.

MRS PAUL G. AMES Mrs. Paul G. Ames of Ralph, S. D., died at the hospital at Miles City, Mont., Friday of last week, death following an operation for adhesions which was performed Thursday evening. The body was brought by train to Belle Fourche, funeral service being held Wednesday afternoon at the Methodist church and burial was at Pine Slope cemetery. The service was conducted by Rev. D. D. Collins. Jennie Bell Wright was born September 28, 1878, at Lead,

S.D. being the first girl born in that mining came, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Wright who were pioneer settlers in the Black Hills, coming to Custer, S. D. in 1876. Miss Wriugh attended the public schools of Lead, later graduating for the high school at Deadwood and the state's normal at Spearfish with the class of 1899. After graduation who followed the teaching profession for several years, teaching at Vale, Hay Creek and other places in this county, as well as for four years at Terry. On June 26, 1907, she was united in marriage to Paul G. Ames. To this union one child, a daughter, Flora Delle, was born, who with the husband and mother, Mrs. H. S. Wright, of Fruitdale, mourn the loss of the loved one. While living in the Hills, Mr. and Mrs. Wright conducted the Globe hotel in Lead, as well as a rooming and boarding house at Trojan. In 1883 they took up a ranch near Fruitdale, some members of the family appending a portion of each year there. In 1900 the family moved to the ranch, and have since lived in that vicinity. After her marriage, Mrs. Ames lived near Ralph, in northern Harding county. She has always kept her interest in educational matters, and has been a power for good in school work in her community. She was a member of the Methodist church of Deadwood, and of late years has been superintendent of a Sunday school near Ralph. Her loss is a sad one to her family, who have the heartfelt sympathy of their many friends.

75 years ago
Belle Fourche Bee
December 29, 1949
Tri-State Markets Nearly \$8 Million of Stock A total of 144,634 head of livestock – the biggest annual consignment in the history of the Belle Fourche Livestock Exchange – were marketed here during 1949 and brought a total of \$7,904,261 to Tri-State area producers, Manager Jess Guidinger said today. The overall total included 54,523 cattle and calves, 73,846 sheep, 15,109 hogs and 1,308 horses. Leading in all except sale of horses, the current year's figures compared with 38,296 cattle, 67,558 sheep, 11,289 hoges and approximately 1400 horses that were sold in 1948. Because of the somewhat lower average prices, the total cash return was not very considerable larger than a year ago. Dry range conditions this summer and fall and last winter's severe blizzards, which made ranchers and farmers hesitant about wintering large herds this year, were largely responsible for the heavy run of cattle and sheep at the local sale ring. Biggest single day of the year from a sales standpoint was October 6 when \$416,977.49 worth of livestock was auctioned. With two regular sales and a special calf sale that week, the receipts reached an all-time peak of \$743,427. In that one week 6,480 cattle and calves, 5,010 sheep and 338 hogs were sold. The Mcleod ranch, managed by Floyd Kercher, submitted the year's biggest single consignment – a total of 400 heard of cattle.

50 years ago
The Belle Fourche Bee
January 2, 1975



by Mary Buchholz

Steve Evans to Head 1975 B. H. Roundup Steve Evans will serve as chairman of the 1975 Black Hills Roundup July 3-4-5, it was announced yesterday. Evans was selected to direct the show at the 53rd annual meeting of the directors of the Tri-State Fair and Sales Association, parent organization of the Roundup.

Evans begins a new generation of chairmen for the annual show. His father, Frank Evans, served as a chairman of the event at one time. The grounds committee, U. A. Jarvi and O.V. Gillette, reported on the improvements made at the grounds- including rodeo chutes and corrals which were installed last spring, and summer. The new corrals, moving of the bleachers and judging stand have added about \$20,000 to the grounds.

S. G. Smith Rites Held Thursday S. G. Smith, 78, remembered by many as the man who served as marshal for the annual Black Hills Roundup parade for 27 years, died Sunday at the John Burns Memorial Hospital after an extended illness. Rites were held Jan. 2 at the United Church of Christ with Rev. Samuel Cushing officiating. Burial was in Pineslope Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites planned. Smith had been active in a number of community affairs for many years. He was a long-time member of the Chamber of Commerce and had served as president. He was a long-standing member of the Black Hills Roundup committee and had served as assistant arena director and racing chairman. He was a charter member of the Belle Fourche Lions Club and had served as president. He was a charter member of the Isaak Walton League, a long-standing member of the Bit and Spur Club, past president of the Shrine Clown Patrol and a member of the Shrine Club. Seth G. Smith was born June 30, 1896, in Indiana Township, Marion county, Iowa. He attended grade school at Attic, Iowa, and high school at Knoxville, Iowa. Smith moved to Deadwood in 1922 and on Oct. 18 of that year was married to Pearly Atteberry at Belle Fourche. The couple lived in Deadwood for a short time, then moved to Rapid City for three years and in 1927 came to Belle Fourche where Smith opened a jewelry store, which he operated until June 30, 1968. Following the death of his first wife, Smith was married to Gladys Howell. The couple had lived in Belle Fourche since. Surviving are his widow Gladys; tow daughters – Mrs. Robert (Jean Claire) Dahlinger, Belle Fourche and Mrs. Welden (Willie Ellen) Thomas, Law Vegas; three step-daughters – Mrs. M. J. (Arletta) Heimbaugh, Belle Fourche; Mrs. Loial (Wanda) Hass, Bellevue, Wash.; Mrs. Dennis (Linda) Wohlueter, Colorado Springs, Colo.; one step-son, Don Howell, Los Angles; three grandsons; 20 step-grandchildren; one brother, Lawrence, in Michigan; a sister, Mrs. Grace Kendrick, Knoxville, Iowa.



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CANDLES AND MIRRORS #14

By DeAnn Kruempel

"Hope Springs Eternal"

The night is not quite silent. There is a soft gentle sound like tiny bells whispering a happy song meant only for the heart to hear. A shiny golden angel shimmers red to blue to green as she turns, reflecting the lights that are nestled around her. Under a canopy of stars, the angel's baton circles round and round, lightly tapping six hanging chimes. Clearly inscribed on the angel is the word, "HOPE."

The brass ornament, powered by a string of lights, calls to me every year from my Christmas tree. The sound, the sparkle and the continuous movement send a message as powerful as a hundred-voice choir: there is hope for the future.

Sometimes we have to look for it. Sometimes it shines as brightly as the sun on a cold winter's day. But always there is hope. Struggling small town newspapers keep printing pictures of high school sports heroes and little children talking to Santa. A group of volunteers devotes a huge share of time and resources to rescuing and finding homes for cats and dogs, simply because they love animals.

A community joins together to raise \$40,000 with their Festival of Trees to help local organizations, including a church's shopping spree for kids. People pitch in when water damages their public library. Extension directors and staff and 4-H leaders selflessly give their time to educate and support youth in every positive endeavor.

One woman bakes hundreds of dozens of cookies and donates every penny to her local cancer fund. Volunteers support food and clothing pantries. A young man singlehanded-



ly raises money to build a monument for veterans. Youngsters and adults dig, plant, cultivate and harvest, working side-by-side to raise food for their town. The program is youth-inspired.

Scientists are working around the clock to develop better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. Studies are exploring new methods of fighting dementia. Plant biologists are exploring new plants that can produce more food, tolerate drought or absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Caring people across the globe are working to cultivate compassion, encouraging all of us to broaden minds and open hearts. Often it is our younger generation which provides the impetus to build on common ground.

Some days I hate to admit it, but I don't see many reasons to be optimistic; hope is the last thing on my mind. There are times when I fear for our grandchildren and the world that we are handing to them. What will their future hold? Those are the times I need a reminder—the shiny little angel that keeps turning, keeps playing her soft, eternal song.

My wish for you this new year is a life full of gentle signs of hope that go on and on and on.

Read More!

All of the stories from Kruempel's previous columns have been published into books to keep you smiling and remembering! Those four books, along with her historical fiction series, "Promises to Keep," are available on Amazon and make great gifts. Contact the author at deannkruempelauthor@gmail.com.



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Market Report - Thursday, January 9, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Calves			
Hamilton Inc, Osage WY	97	Black-Str	593 357.50 \$2,121.59
	98	Black-Str	510 396.00 \$2,020.61
	51	Black-Hfr	508 349.00 \$1,773.05
Lacy Williams, Broadus MT	98	Black-Str	574 357.00 \$2,048.74
	19	Black-Str	461 404.00 \$1,861.58
	58	Black-Hfr	521 344.00 \$1,790.57
	17	Black-Hfr	428 389.00 \$1,663.54
Dave Hayden, Baker MT	100	Black-Str	589 347.00 \$2,044.35
	114	Black-Str	515 391.00 \$2,012.10
	76	Black-Hfr	493 346.50 \$1,707.19
Frank J Nies, Ekalaka MT	62	Black-Hfr	560 334.00 \$1,871.20
Jodi Massie Or Ben Blake, Belle Fourche S	18	Blk/Bwf-Str	575 348.00 \$2,001.00
	19	Black-Hfr	534 334.00 \$1,782.50
Glenn L Clabaugh Rev Trust, Gillette WY	75	Rd/Blk-Str	837 281.75 \$2,359.18
Mt Consignment	79	Blk/Bwf-Str	731 300.25 \$2,195.24
Rauth Ranch Inc, Alva WY	113	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	513 347.00 \$1,780.90
	37	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	419 392.00 \$1,641.10
Dave Gaer, Newell SD	82	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	530 344.00 \$1,822.15
	59	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	441 385.00 \$1,697.91
	14	Rwf/Hfr-Hfr	526 285.00 \$1,500.32
Travis Or Julie Hurst, Buffalo SD	39	Black-Hfr	473 344.00 \$1,625.62
Emmons Cattle, Olive MT	18	Blk/Bwf-Str	552 362.00 \$1,999.04
	65	Black-Hfr	603 306.50 \$1,847.25
	15	Black-Hfr	513 341.00 \$1,750.46
J.J. Or Cathy Land, Boyes MT	64	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	548 338.00 \$1,853.71
Mccabe Ag Llp, Ekalaka MT	77	Black-Hfr	561 329.50 \$1,846.91
	10	Black-Hfr	672 283.00 \$1,900.34
Randy & Sheila Burggraf, Aladdin WY	13	Black-Str	514 387.50 \$1,991.15
Brown Ranch Llp, Mammoth ND	89	Blk/Bwf-Str	679 308.00 \$2,092.32
	29	Blk/Bwf-Str	686 300.50 \$2,062.56
	20	Blk/Bwf-Str	537 366.00 \$1,966.33
	16	Rwf/Bwf-Str	673 285.00 \$1,916.62
	53	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	658 291.00 \$1,915.93
	18	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	537 335.00 \$1,798.76
Tom Andrews, Biddle MT	14	Black-Str	400 430.00 \$1,718.46
Todd Anderson, Ludlow SD	12	Blk/Bwf-Str	659 316.00 \$2,081.65
	7	Hfr-Str	621 305.00 \$1,893.17
Producers Livestock, Belle Fourche SD	93	Rd/Blk-Str	565 334.00 \$1,886.56
	29	Rd/Blk-Str	496 365.00 \$1,809.26
	76	Rd/Blk-Hfr	545 313.00 \$1,704.82
	44	Rd/Blk-Hfr	471 348.00 \$1,637.57
Tim Reich, Belle Fourche SD	28	Char-Hfr	556 304.50 \$1,692.69
Johnson Sheep & Cattle L, Belle Fourche S	20	Black-Str	498 391.00 \$1,947.18
	6	Rd/Blk-Str	419 402.50 \$1,687.14
	28	Black-Hfr	515 339.00 \$1,746.45
	6	Black-Hfr	411 372.50 \$1,530.35
Greg/Susan Herden, Brookway MT	20	Rd/Blk-Str	571 338.00 \$1,929.98
	22	Rd-Hfr	538 339.00 \$1,822.12
Travis H Byrne, Vale SD	16	Black-Str	654 320.00 \$2,092.00
	5	Blk/Bwf-Hfr	596 297.00 \$1,770.12
Dennis Denson, Ashland MT	12	Black-Str	650 305.00 \$1,982.50
Clint Stinson, Miles City MT	16	Black-Hfr	473 342.50 \$1,621.52
	6	Black-Hfr	372 385.00 \$1,430.91
Two Tone Cattle Co, Spearfish SD	26	Black-Str	457 396.00 \$1,810.93
	34	Black-Hfr	470 334.00 \$1,570.29
Wyatt Lesh, Miles City MT	37	Black-Str	522 370.00 \$1,932.00
Bull Ranch Inc, Ashland MT	27	Black-Str	547 339.00 \$1,855.08
Paul Or Judy Hinkhouse, Nisland SD	67	Rd/Blk-Yrig Str	845 270.00 \$2,281.50
Ryan Larson, Spearfish SD	33	Blk/Bwf-Yrig Hfr	867 228.50 \$1,979.98
Gall Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	27	Black-Yrig Hfr	789 247.50 \$1,952.50
Cows			
Jardee Ranch, Ekalaka MT	1	Black-Cow	1550 130.00 \$2,015.00
	1	Black-Cow	1685 129.00 \$2,173.65
	4	Black-Cow	1663 134.50 \$2,236.06
Brian Or Jessica Mccollum, Moorcroft WY	1	Black-Cow	1425 127.00 \$1,809.75
John Or Jeff Hughes, Belle Fourche SD	1	Black-Cow	1520 127.00 \$1,930.40
Tom Trigg, Sturgis SD	1	Black-Cow	1120 150.00 \$1,680.00
Twenty One Ranch Inc, Sundance WY	2	Red/Rwf-Hfr	1210 162.50 \$1,966.25
	1	Red-Cow	1285 124.00 \$1,593.40
	2	Red/Rwf-Cow	1058 179.00 \$1,892.92
Matt Or Karen Disney Family, Sundance W	2	Red-Cow	1375 126.00 \$1,732.50

	2	Red-Hfr	1010 178.00 \$1,797.80
	1	Red-Yrig Hfr	840 220.00 \$1,848.00
Travis Linc, Belle Fourche SD	15	Char-Cow	997 208.00 \$2,073.76
	4	Black-Cow	1383 127.50 \$1,762.68
	4	Black-Hfr	1106 169.00 \$1,869.56
Ryan Larson, Spearfish SD	1	Black-Cow	1070 116.00 \$1,241.20
	2	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1235 124.00 \$1,531.40
Jed Or Jacob Smith, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1175 177.00 \$2,079.75
Sand Rock Angus, Broadus MT	1	Black-Cow	1405 154.00 \$2,163.70
	1	Black-Cow	1350 127.00 \$1,714.50
Gall Ranch Inc, Broadus MT	6	Black-Yrig Hfr	852 251.50 \$2,141.94
	19	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1109 121.00 \$1,341.50
	7	Black-Cow	1123 181.00 \$2,032.37
	1	Black-Cow	985 114.00 \$1,122.90
Shane Finn, Nisland SD	1	Black-Cow	1410 127.50 \$1,797.75
	1	Red-Cow	1285 130.00 \$1,670.50
	1	Red-Cow	1595 133.00 \$2,121.35
Anne Gergen, Broadus MT	5	Black-Yrig Hfr	987 216.00 \$2,131.92
	1	Black-Cow	1475 114.00 \$1,681.50
	1	Black-Cow	1150 178.00 \$2,047.00
	1	Black-Cow	1165 112.00 \$1,304.80
	1	Black-Cow	1370 127.00 \$1,739.90
Agri Steer Inc, Johnson Lake Ne	6	Black-Cow	1396 130.50 \$1,821.56
	1	Black-Cow	1280 113.00 \$1,446.40
	1	Black-Cow	1345 129.00 \$1,735.05
	1	Black-Cow	1755 132.00 \$2,316.60
	1	Bwf-Cow	1325 125.00 \$1,656.25
	9	Rd/Blk-Cow	1661 134.50 \$2,233.44
	4	Blk/Bwf-Cow	1291 124.50 \$1,607.60
	1	Red-Cow	1365 129.00 \$1,760.85
	1	Bwf-Cow	1165 177.00 \$2,062.05
	1	Black-Cow	1295 124.00 \$1,605.80
Crossed Sabres Llp, Hill City SD	1	Black-Yrig Hfr	1150 203.00 \$2,334.50
	1	Black-Yrig Hfr	1025 215.00 \$2,203.75
	1	Black-Cow	1260 119.00 \$1,499.40
	1	Black-Cow	1240 174.00 \$2,157.60
Stanley Lewis, Nisland SD	3	Rd/Blk-Cow	1668 132.50 \$2,210.54
	1	Red-Cow	1250 128.00 \$1,600.00
Bulls			
Travis Linc, Belle Fourche SD	1	Red-Bull Drug Free	1790 170.00 \$3,043.00
	2	Red-Bull Drug Free	1475 155.00 \$2,286.25
	5	Red-Bull Drug Free	1657 168.00 \$2,783.76
	1	Red-Bull Drug Free	1835 172.50 \$3,165.37
969 Ranch, Broadus MT	1	Black-Bull	1975 154.00 \$3,041.50
Dillon Or Julia Lemmeny, Reva SD	1	Black-Bull	1320 135.00 \$1,782.00
Mark Or Marcia Lu Lemmeny, Reva SD	1	Black-Bull	1350 142.00 \$1,917.00
Snook Land & Lvsik, Sundance WY	3	Char-Bull Drug Free	1673 152.50 \$2,551.83
	3	Char-Bull Drug Free	1820 155.00 \$2,821.00
	1	Char-Bull Drug Free	1560 152.50 \$2,379.00

BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL

JANUARY 16, 2025

WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | BREDS @ 12 MT

COMPLETE DISPERSION

CARSON HIDLIND-MT

26 BLK/BWF MXD AGED COWS

CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, AI BRED

(TAHOE), REPRO SHOTS, POURED

BRED HEIFERS

MT CONSIGNMENT-MT

70 BLK HFRS

CLV 3/1, BRED BLK

BRED COWS

TWO TONE CATTLE CO-SD

200 3-6YO BLK COWS

BRED BLK, CLV 3/1 - 45 DAYS, BRED

TO RUSHMORE & GREEN MTN

ANG BULLS, SHOTS, POURED

CHARLES BELTCH -WY

45 4-7YO PUREBRED COWS

CLV 3/20 - 60 DAYS, BRED TO

FREDRICKSON & BELTCH BULLS,

SCOURGUARD & SHOTS

WACEY OR SAM ORTMANN-MT

40 BLK, FEW RED MXD AGED COWS

BRED BLK, CLV 4/10

ONDRIZEK & FLEGG-WY

40 - 15 BLK COMING 3YO COWS

/ 25 BLK SM-ST COWS

3YO - CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, BRED

TO MILLER ANG BULLS, REPRO

SHOTS, POURED & MXD AGED -

CLV 4/1 - 60 DAYS, BRED BLK &

HEREF, REPRO SHOTS, POURED

WARREN CRAWFORD -WY

25 BLK MXD AGED COWS

CLV 4/1 - 55 DAYS, BRED TO

CONNELLY ANG BULLS

DARRELL ENNEN-SD

10 BLK BM COWS

CLV 3/5 - 60 DAYS, BRED TO MT.

RUSHMORE BLK ANG, VIRASHIELD

(SPRING), POURED (FALL)

S LAZY R RANCH -WY

8 BLK MXD AGED COWS

BRED BLK, CLV MAR/APR,

POURED, SHOTS (LEPTO)

RANCH TESTED

O'TIWAHE RANCH -MT

60 - 8 SIM ANG HFRS / 12 3YO

/ 20 4-6YO / 20 7-8YO

CLV 3/15, BRED BLK, HFRS BRED TO

TRUE NORTH SIRE, SHOTS, POURED

FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL

JANUARY 23, 2025

WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT | FEEDERS @ 12 MT

UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE

January 30, 2025	BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
February 6, 2025	NO SALE THIS WEEK!
February 13, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
February 20, 2025	BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
February 27, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
March 6, 2025	BRED CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS @ 12 MT
March 13, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
March 20, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
March 27, 2025	REGULAR SALE - ALL CLASSES @ 10 AM MT
April 3, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT
April 10, 2025	BRED CATTLE & PAIR SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, BREDS & PAIRS @ 12 MT
April 17, 2025	FEEDER CATTLE & WEIGH UP SPECIAL - WEIGH UPS @ 10 AM MT, FEEDERS @ 12 MT

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Economic Development Banquet Highlights



Area Church Schedules

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

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

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

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

EMMANUEL BAPTIST
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Andy Anderson, Pastor
9am Sunday School 10am church
Men's Bible Study 10am at the Senior Center
Women's Bible Study Tuesday 9am.
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website: ebcfb.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 11 a.m.
Worship Nursery available
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.,
Learning and Discovery Study

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Pastor Darren Purdy and
Pastor Marveen Gentillon
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Morning Prayer: 9:00am
Sabbath School: 9:30am
Worship Service: 10:45am
Bible Study-Tuesday: 6:00pm

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920 N Main Street, Spearfish
Sunday Service 10 a.m. in person and on Facebook.
Pastor Randy Hedge
605-642-8253

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN
1100 Stanley Street
Open for in-house worship
Sunday Worship 10:AM with coffee
fellowship following the service.
Watch live-streamed services:
www.sjclbellefourche.org
Wednesday at 5:55 PM during
the school year.
Watch our Sunday service
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at 8:30 a.m.
www.bfsoucc.org

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Father Francis Nsubuga, Assoc. Pastor
Mass Times:
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.
Daily Mass: Weds. & Thurs. 12:15 p.m.
Confessions available one hour
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892-4630 or 892-4389
Pastor Rick and Diane Brennan
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship
Kidz Church Immediately Following
Wednesday: September - May
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
Kidz Alive (Kindergarten - 6th Grade)

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



Capitol News
January 5, 2024
Capitol and Tie
Creek have a new
year, and things
instantly changed.

We've already gotten some moisture this year with about a foot of snow. Things instantly cooled down to about zero, and winter has really begun.

Alvin and Marlee Cordell went to the Christmas Eve Candle lighting service, at the Methodist Church in Camp Crook. Then on Christmas, all of their family was home for the day. Wade and Ashley Pearson and their family, and Jay Cordell came on Christmas Eve. Ryan and Tawni and their family came over on Christmas Day, and Marlee had a big Christmas dinner for them. Grandson, Cade Pearson, stayed out at the ranch for a week and helped with chores. Ashley came out again on Friday, and spent the night. Then, Ashley and Cade went home on Saturday. Last Sunday, Alvin and Marlee went over to visit at Terry and Laurie Goehring's, for a soup supper. On New Year's eve, Cade and Marlee saw the ball drop in Times Square on TV, to begin the new year.

Bruce and Lynn Gustafson went to the candle-lighting service at Little Missouri Church, on Christmas Eve. Then, later they had guests for Christmas Eve. Their guests were Matt and Janet DeBow, Dean, Mary and Rock Tarter, Linda Matthews, and Rod and Yvonne Yoder. Last Sunday, they went to church at the Lutheran Church in Ludlow, for the group parish service. They had gotten about six inches of snow. Ronda Cordell had made a trip to Rapid City on December 15th, to stay over with Cristen and Jayda Westling, and go to an appointment the next day. Diane Wear and Joey Douglas had come to stay at the ranch and tend chores. Linda Hannah accompanied Ronda to the Little Missouri Church services and Christmas program earlier that day. Cristen and Jayda had gone to northern Colorado and brought back a two-month-old, full sister for Cudley. Sixteen-year-old Sophie hadn't been impressed with Cudley's play antics, so it proved to be a wonderful decision to have a playmate. Ronda took a pot of chili to the Camp Crook Community Cookoff. It proved to have been well worth it. Marlee Cordell was the overall winner. It was a wonderful evening for both youngsters and adults, with food, caroling, and other activities. On December 21st, Ronda's Missouri family arrived. And on Sunday, Jake Reynolds came from the Lang Ranch to get Oren and Arlie Basler. Jake and Arlie helped Ronda decorate some cookies. Jamie and Konnor Basler helped finish the cookie decorating on Monday. Ronda's whole clan came for supper and gift opening, on Christmas Eve. It included the families of Chad, Curt, Clint, Luke and Cristen. They all gathered again at Clint and Denise Zolnoski's for breakfast on Christmas morning. Then, Oren and Arlie were taken to meet their mom for Christmas at the Reynolds's Ranch. At Zolnoski's, the Secrest families and Hannah's joined the others for a late afternoon dinner on Christmas. This week, Ronda made a trip to Ekalaka to get sinus meds. The Basler's made a couple trips for parts in Belle Fourche and Miles City.

The Belle Fourche Vet Clinic breathe new life into empty buildings but also preserve the unique character and history of small-town downtowns. In conclusion, empty buildings are far more than just eyesores; they are existential threats to the viability of small-town downtowns. The economic, social, and psychological costs of these vacant structures are immense and far-reaching. However, with concerted effort, innovative thinking, and community engagement, it is possible to reverse this trend. By addressing the issue of empty buildings, small towns

came to bangs vaccinate the heifer calves after Christmas, and there was lots of help around. On Saturday, Luke, Jamie, Konnor and their three dogs headed for Missouri, and again, the quiet solitude takes a bit of getting used to. Doug and Julia Davis spent Christmas at Alfreda Davis's with all her family. Jake's family was there, and Travis's family came in the afternoon after visiting Amanda's family in Montana. Everyone came out to the ranch for a few days visiting, but the flu visited the kids, too, while they were there. Travis's family finally had to move back their flight home.

Rachel Melum brought Christmas supper to Junior and Shirley Melum's. Ernie and Tommy and Karen Odell joined them in the wonderful supper. Afterward, Karen played piano and Rachel played violin for a Christmas eve concert. Junior and Shirley's daughter, Andrea, came from Kansas City for a New Year's visit. Rachel cooked again for a New Year's Day dinner for the whole family. Saturday brought colder weather and snow. Shirley has been busy quilting this week, and now has some quilts ready for the quilter. BJ Padden enlisted his mom and dad to help him work on their new house. The prediction of bad, cold weather made them hurry to get the huge area insulated. Dawn was busy insulating, and Bryce was busy outside getting pipes covered for the geo-thermal system before zero weather. On Christmas Eve, all of Bryce's family gathered at Dorothy's and Helen Stevens joined them, too. On Christmas Day, Bryce and Dawn went to her sister, Michelle Tooke's, for a special T-shirt Christmas. It was a great fun time together. Wrestling started again on Monday, and they went to Buffalo for a huge boys' tournament. The girls had their tournament after the New Year, and Brandon and Ashley went to Spearfish to coach the girls' team. Brenton had earned a close second place, and this time, Kanyn also got second in her tournament, too. Karen Odell enjoyed Christmas at home and talked and texted to all the kids and grandkids in the far reaches of the earth. It was a great day, and Santa had made it to her house, too. In the afternoon, Karen went down to Shirley and Junior Melum's for a Christmas supper. Rachel made everything and brought it over to Shirley's. The table was beautiful with Christmas tablecloth, napkins and decorations. The meal was beautiful, too, and tasted so good. After the supper, Karen played Christmas music on the piano, and Rachel played the songs on her violin. It seemed like a perfect Christmas evening, and we had a wonderful time. Karen made a trip to Buffalo on Tuesday, because the weather forecast predicted cold and snow, so she wanted to stock up in case of a blizzard. Karen didn't stay up to see the New Year come in, but she watched the parade on New Year's Day, and saw The Ohio State football game. She got to see the 'best band in the land', but you would think the announcers, (who had nothing to say that added even an iota to our own observations), would shut up and let us see and hear those two wonderful bands. She enjoyed the one minute they showed of each band, and the

can reclaim their downtowns, restore their economic vitality, and rekindle the sense of community that is the heart and soul of rural America. **John Newby is a nationally recognized Columnist, Speaker, & Publisher. He consults with Chambers, Communities, Business & Media. This column appears in 60+ newspapers and media outlets. As founder of Truly-Local, he assists chambers, communities, media, and businesses in creating synergies that build vibrant communities. He can be reached at: John@Truly-Local.org.**

Capitol News Contd. C6

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The Silent Scourge of Small Communities

Empty buildings are a silent scourge ravaging small town downtowns across America, leaving a trail of economic devastation and community decay in their wake.



contagion, infecting neighboring properties with decreased value. Vacant properties cause losses in property values that can amount to millions. This domino effect can trigger a wave

of foreclosures and abandonment, further exacerbating the problem. The aesthetic blight of empty buildings sends a powerful negative message to both residents and visitors. As noted by the Preservation Leadership Forum, a deteriorating building can significantly hamper a community's ability to attract new residents, businesses, and investment.

Empty buildings are magnets for crime and pose significant safety hazards. They strain local resources as municipalities struggle to maintain these properties and respond to associated emergencies. A community can spend staggering on services related to vacant and abandoned properties that include code enforcement, police and fire dispatch.

The economic toll of vacant buildings is staggering. Abandoned properties result in an estimated \$1.15 billion annual loss in property taxes, with \$255 million of that in Chicago alone. This massive shortfall in tax revenue cripples local governments' ability to provide essential services and maintain infrastructure. Empty storefronts also create a vicious cycle of disinvestment. As businesses close, foot traffic decreases, making it harder for remaining establishments to stay afloat.

The National Vacant Properties Campaign defines these problematic properties as those posing threats to public safety or where owners neglect basic financial duties. These structures not only endanger residents but also burden local governments with costly nuisance abatement and crime prevention efforts.

This downward spiral quickly turns a once-thriving downtown into a ghost town. In Youngstown, Ohio, the deindustrialization left 6,000 vacant buildings in 2013, accompanied by rising crime rates and declining public services. Vacant buildings act as a

The most insidious effect of empty buildings is their impact on community morale. These vacant structures symbolize neglect and apathy, eroding the sense of pride and identity that

is crucial for small town vitality. Empty storefronts suggest unsafe conditions, complacency, and a lack of community pride. This psychological toll can be devastating, leading to a loss of confidence in the overall economic performance of the region.

When residents lose faith in their downtown, they're more likely to take their business elsewhere, further accelerating the cycle of decline.

Sprawl also undermines the traditional role of downtowns as community centers but also increases infrastructure costs. Moreover, the abandonment of downtown buildings often coincides with broader economic challenges.

It has been found that having many abandoned buildings correlate with a 7.3% unemployment rate and a 35% poverty rate. These statistics paint a grim picture of the comprehensive decline that can follow when downtowns are hollowed out.

Addressing the issue of empty buildings requires a multifaceted approach. Some communities are taking innovative steps to revitalize their downtowns. In Waynoka, Oklahoma, a group of citizens banded together to purchase and renovate empty buildings, creating a model for community-driven renewal.

Other strategies include implementing vacant building ordinances, offering targeted incentives for improvements, and creating public-private partnerships to repurpose abandoned spaces.

The reuse of vacant buildings can be a powerful tool for economic development. Cities like Phoenix, Arizona have implemented programs specifically aimed at promoting the reclamation of existing spaces. These initiatives not only

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Main theme for South Dakota politics in 2025? Buckle up

Stu Whitney

www.sdnewswatch.org
Though it's an off year in election terms, 2025 will pack a considerable punch within the scope of South Dakota politics.



The drama begins in January, when Gov. Kristi Noem is scheduled to begin committee hearings in Washington after being appointed as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security by incoming President Donald Trump, whose inauguration is Jan. 20.

Noem's proposed executive branch role is just part of South Dakota's influence in the nation's capital. Sen. John Thune was chosen by his Republican colleagues as Senate Majority Leader in November, and Rep. Dusty Johnson has emerged as a close adviser to Speaker Mike Johnson in the House of Representatives.

In Pierre, the surging populist GOP wing assumes control of legislative leadership as Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden prepares to take the reins from Noem in a challenging budget year, with the session starting Jan. 14.

Amid this backdrop, candidates will start plotting for 2026, when South Dakota will elect a new governor as well as hold races for U.S. Senate and U.S. House and constitutional offices such as attorney general, secretary of state and state treasurer.

Here's a quick rundown of what to expect as a jam-packed political year begins:

Noem fast-tracked as Homeland secretary

Noem's appointment to Homeland Security is considered high priority by the Trump administration as it seeks to hit the ground running on proposed immigration reforms.

The South Dakota governor's confirmation timeline is right behind Trump's choices for secretary of Defense (Pete Hegseth) and secretary of State (Marco Rubio), with those national security picks expected to have committee hearings the week starting Jan. 13.

Noem has met with members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which is chaired by Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and will consider her

nomination.

She cannot be formally nominated until Trump is sworn in Jan. 20, and the committee can't vote until that occurs. So the earliest that her

appointment can be confirmed by the committee and sent to the full Senate is likely Jan. 21 or 22.

Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, which means they can lose three GOP votes and still pass measures or appointees, with Vice President-elect J.D. Vance breaking ties.

If Noem survives, as most expect, Trump's team wants her to be publicly active out of the gate, which likely means a trip to the Southern border to stress a crackdown on illegal immigration.

As a member of the House, Dusty Johnson is not involved in the confirmation process. But he told News Watch that he's confident South Dakota's governor will hold up under the "advise and consent" scrutiny of the Senate.

"There are certainly some appointments that are more controversial in nature," Johnson said. "(Noem) is a pretty straightforward, traditional, conservative pick, and I would think she's in excellent shape. She knows how to make decisions and doesn't get scared at the prospect of making a tough call."

As for how the 53-year-old Noem will handle a job that puts her in charge of a network of 22 agencies and 260,000 employees tasked with keeping the United States safe from outside threats, there are differences of opinion. Jeh Johnson, who served as Homeland Security secretary under President Barack Obama from 2013-17, told News Watch in November that he wishes Noem success "in promoting the department's missions and its people." But Johnson, former general counsel of the Department of Defense, added a note of caution as Noem prepares to join an administration that has vowed to carry out mass deportations of illegal immigrants in the country, facing likely legislative and legal hurdles along the way.

"I fear she will be placed in the untenable position of having to publicly defend the Trump administra-



SD Gov. **Kristi Noem** introduces **Donald Trump** during a 2023 event in Rapid City, S.D., where Noem endorsed him for president. Now Noem is on the verge of becoming secretary of the **Department of Homeland Security** in the new

tion's most controversial and harshest immigration enforcement policies," Jeh Johnson said. "I suspect there will be many days when she wishes she were back in South Dakota."

Thune bolsters relationship with Trump

Thune is settling into his role as Senate majority leader, a job he apprenticed for while serving as a right-hand man for former longtime Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who remains in the Senate.

One of Thune's biggest challenges will be managing the demands and expectations of Trump, who has called for quick action from Senate Republicans on confirming Cabinet posts and getting in step with White House prerogatives.

Thune would prefer to insulate the Senate from

such pressure under the constitutional balance of power. That wish was granted in December, when 38 GOP senators voted against Trump's preferred bill to extend government funding while also suspending the debt limit for two years, which would have eased the path for White House priorities such as border spending and tax cuts.

Congress later passed a temporary funding bill that did not address the debt ceiling, despite Trump saying on social media that he would support primary challenges against Republicans who opposed his wishes. Thune's rocky relationship with Trump, dating back to the 2016 presidential campaign and inflamed by the U.S. Capitol riot of Jan. 6, 2021, has seen signs of recent repair.

Thune and Trump were seen hanging out together in a private suite at the Army-Navy football game on Dec. 14, and Thune also visited the President-elect at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida recently to discuss legislative strategy.

Another fragile alliance, the one involving Thune and Noem that highlights their contrasting political styles, is not necessarily under repair but is being mitigated for what both consider the greater good of Republican leadership in Washington.

Thune met with Noem to discuss her Homeland Security appointment and the shared recognition that many of Trump's immigration aims will run through the Senate and Noem's office if she's confirmed. Thune has listed border security as one of his top political priorities entering the 2025 session, along with tax relief, military strength and energy deregulation.

Johnson rises in House stature, eyes 2026

Though the 2026 primary for South Dakota governor is still 18 months away, the race has been bubbling beneath the surface for months.

Dusty Johnson has been the most active among potential contenders, building a campaign war chest of more than \$5.5 million while wrangling top-level South Dakota donors in anticipation of a race that could begin as early as spring 2025.

Other likely candidates include Rhoden and South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley as well as a contender from the populist wing, with state Rep.

Politics Contd. C5



Workers install **Sen. John Thune's** nameplate on the door of the Senate Republican Leaders suite at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 3, 2025. Thune was chosen by his Republican colleagues as Senate Majority Leader in November. (Photo: Courtesy of Thune staff)



South Dakota Gov. **Kristi Noem** speaks March 13, 2024, at a town hall meeting at the high school in Mitchell, S.D. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota



South Dakota Rep. **Dusty Johnson** kisses his wife, Jacquelyn, next to his three sons after declaring victory in his U.S. House re-election race at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, S.D., on Nov. 5, 2024. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South



Main theme for South Dakota politics in 2025? Buckle up Contd.

Stu Whitney

www.sdnewswatch.org
Scott Odenbach of Spearfish mentioned frequently after recently being named House majority leader.

Odenbach worked closely with Speaker of the House Jon Hansen of Dell Rapids to bolster anti-abortion and land-owner rights initiatives while urging the ouster of “establishment” legislative incumbents in the 2024 election, all of which were successful efforts.

“One thing I learned from high school and college athletics is that my coach would tell me, ‘Run your own race,’” Jackley told News Watch. “So it doesn’t make any difference to me if somebody else is running for governor. I’m going to do what is best for me and the state, and that decision won’t be affected by other individuals.”

Johnson has insisted that he’s in no hurry to formally launch a gubernatorial campaign. One political insider noted that there’s no advantage to “hanging out there as a punching bag for 14 or 15 months, especially when you’ve got so much money and you’re well known.”

He has hired a media consultant to help keep him well-positioned amid a temperamental Republican electorate in South Dakota, with the goal of fending off Trump-fueled challenges against him.

The congressman shared with top supporters an internal poll from Axis Research that showed him at 31% among 306 “known Republican primary voters” in South Dakota from Nov. 10-12, compared to 22% for Jackley, 10% for Rhoden and 7% for former state legislator and U.S. House candidate Taffy Howard. The poll showed 31% as undecided, with a margin of error of 5.6 percentage points.

Johnson’s visibility as a sitting U.S. congressman gives him an early edge, said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University in Aberdeen. But the undecided numbers and the fact that Rhoden hasn’t become governor yet means there’s a long way to go.

“My strong suspicion is that Dusty is way ahead of the other figures in name recognition, giving his support a bit of an artificial strength,” Schaff told News Watch. “As other candidates raise money and increase their name recognition, the numbers may change.”

Mason-Dixon poll co-spon-

sored by News Watch in October showed Johnson with a favorability rating of 51% among Republicans in the state, well behind Noem (76%) and Trump (72%). Those results bolstered the conventional wisdom that he needs to win over hard-right voters to secure the GOP primary.

For now, Johnson is focused on his work in Congress, where he has emerged a key dealmaker as Republican leadership walks the tightrope of a razor-thin majority in the House. He has emphasized his coordination with the Trump administration as it seeks to carry out its agenda in Congress.

“Right now, 99% of my time is focused on this first 100 days (of Trump’s presidency),” Johnson, 48, told News Watch. “You know, shame on us if we don’t secure the border, cut regulations and push back on the Chinese Communist Party. And if I take my eye off those things, our chance of success won’t be as good.”

Rhoden prepares to take reins in Pierre

One of the state’s biggest political stories in 2025 could be the ascension of Rhoden, who will likely become the first South Dakota governor to assume office in the middle of a legislative session in Pierre.

The 65-year-old Meade County rancher is already sizing up a Legislature fraught with budgetary battles and potential Republican infighting. The 2024 election was a triumph for limited government populists, who seized leadership roles and will test the remaining influence of pro-business institutionalists when it comes to pipelines, prison projects and property tax.

Rhoden, a legislative veteran who ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Senate in 2014, will have ample opportunity to prove his political dexterity in the current GOP environment, setting the tone for a potential re-election bid.

The Union Center resident has assembled a “kitchen cabinet” to prepare for his new role. That group of close advisers includes Steve Westra, former commissioner of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development; Board of Regents president and former state legislator Tim Rave; and Sioux Falls lawyer and lobbyist Matt McCaulley.

The search for a lieutenant governor has focused on Sioux Falls to provide a West River/East River balance come election time. Rhoden’s preferred choice is Westra, but there are concerns about whether his past



South Dakota Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden, speaking March 13, 2024, at a town hall meeting in Michell, S.D., will become South Dakota’s 34th governor if Gov. Kristi Noem is confirmed as secretary of the **Department of Homeland Security** in Donald Trump’s administration. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

GOED battles with limited-government legislators would complicate his confirmation.

Christine Erickson, a former state legislator and Sioux Falls city councilor who has West River roots, has also been considered for the role.

From an electoral view, Rhoden has a chance to use the increased visibility of the governor’s office as a launching pad for 2026. While not a polished speaker, his status as a “true-blue cowboy from Union Center” is seen by political insiders as a potentially effective counter to Dusty Johnson’s bookish zeal.

Rhoden’s ability to raise money and encourage allies may hinge on how he handles the upcoming legislative session. Having served in both the House and Senate, he understands the process well enough to navigate the choppy waters of a Republican party divide.

He’ll need to complement those efforts with the executive mettle and mature leadership that South Dakotans want to see as the face of their state moving forward.

Plenty of comparisons have been made to Walter Dale Miller, another West River rancher

and veteran legislator who served as lieutenant governor under Gov. George Mickelson. Miller took the reins of leadership at age 67 after Mickelson was killed in a plane crash in April 1993.

Miller ran for governor as an incumbent in 1994 and was challenged by Bill Janklow, a former governor and more savvy politician who won by a margin of 54% to 46%, setting up his return to Pierre for two terms.

Rounds re-election in 2026

The general consensus is that 70-year-old U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, who is up for re-election in 2026, will enter the fray at least one more time to seek a third term in Washington.

This means that Rounds, who has publicly criticized Trump’s stances at times in the past, might need to tread lightly to avoid a populist primary challenge in a state where opposing Trump too stridently can alter political fortunes.

Thune, by contrast, isn’t up for re-election until 2028, the final year of Trump’s term.

Rounds has not ruled out running for governor as a means of returning home to Pierre, where he served as a state

legislator and was South Dakota governor from 2003-2011.

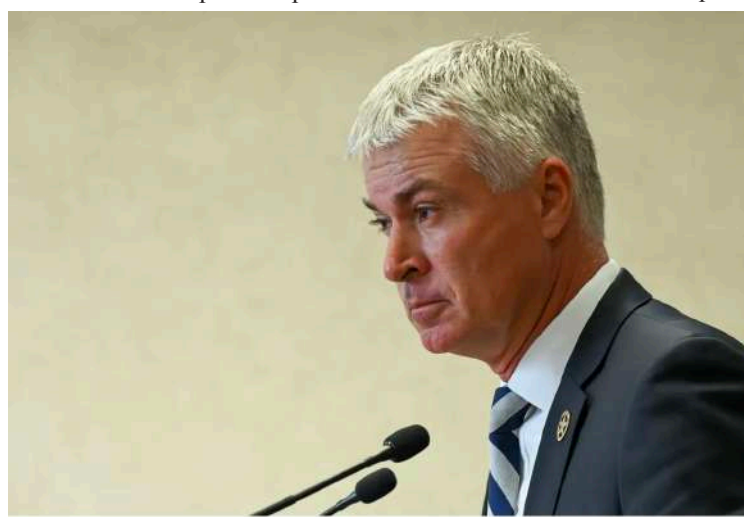
The gubernatorial option was viewed by some as a contingency plan for Rounds if Noem decided to run for Senate, though Trump’s presidential win and Noem’s administration role shifts that scenario.

The names most frequently mentioned for U.S. House in 2026, assuming Dusty Johnson runs for governor, are state Sen. Casey Crabtree of Madison and state Rep. Tony Venhuizen of Sioux Falls, former chief of staff to Daugaard and Noem.

Howard, who challenged Johnson from the right in the 2022 U.S. House primary and finished with 41% of the vote, is also a possibility for the 2026 race.

Share your thoughts on this story

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit news organization. Read more in-depth stories at sdnewswatch.org and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they’re published. Contact investigative reporter Stu Whitney at stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org.



Attorney General Marty Jackley is viewed as a potential candidate to make another run for governor in 2026. (Photo: Samantha Laury / Sioux Falls Argus Leader)



South Dakota U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds speaks during an event to celebrate the **Lewis and Clark Regional Water System’s** connection to Madison, S.D., on Aug. 21, 2024. (Photo: Mike Rounds Facebook)

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SCOUTING REPORT | S.D.'s Rose Bowl coaches

Jonathan Ellis
www.thedakotascout.com
South Dakota left a bit of its football legacy at the Rose Bowl prior to this year's clash between the Ohio State Buckeyes and Oregon Ducks...

University in 1987's Rose Bowl, and Brad coached in the iconic game in 2014. Joe said his grandson had the placard made. It's in place near one of the main entrances, he told The Dakota Scout.

then returned to Minnesota in 1979 to lead the program that started his college career. He coached the team for five seasons. He was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 1988. Tim Salem is currently on the coaching staff at Georgia Tech.



South Dakota had another tie to this year's Rose Bowl. Dave Engelmeyer, a retired florist from Burke, helped decorate four floats that participated in the Rose Parade...

Decorating the floats is a meticulous endeavor. Even railings on steps must be covered in sheets of processed seaweed that are glued to the metal. "There cannot be one square inch of anything that is not covered with floral," he said.



Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden January 5, 2025

It is officially winter in Meade County with an additional 6 or so inches of snow since Christmas. The prairies are white and we've been experiencing single digits.

School is back in full swing as the holiday vacation came to an end on Monday. The legislative session is coming up, but not before January 14 which is the latest day possible to start session.

Meade County, Dist. 29, will be represented by three first time legislators. We lost Dean Wink, Gary Cammack and Kirk Chaffee who were all strong in agriculture, tax structure, business and leadership.

Our newly elected legislators are Teresa Jorgenson from southwestern Meade County, with John Carley and Cathy Rice from the Piedmont/Summerset area.

From C3 Capitol News

game was almost as good, too. She talked to a high school classmate, Bill Foulkes, in Ohio, and to her brother, Ron Evans. It is good to hear their voices and learn a little news from family back home.

officiated and shared some good memories of Elsie and the family. She was known as having the gift of gab, and was spunky, friendly and funny, yet determined and enjoyed being surrounded by family and friends.

The crew with the CMC Community Center did a wonderful job, as usual, of directing traffic and providing the family with a wonderful service.

I would like to take a moment to thank and let the CMC Board of Directors know how much they are appreciated for the care of the building and the business they take care of to maintain and run a public facility as they do.

A pot luck dinner was held after church in Union Center on Sunday. It began to snow but the roads were still drivable.

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BFACT Shows for 2025 Season



Labor secretary's kidney transplant inspires organ donation advocacy

Marcia Hultman on mend after decision to give organ

Austin Goss

www.thedakotascout.com

About 5,833 living people donated one of their kidneys in 2024.

Marcia Hultman, 61, never thought she would be one of those people. That is, until she found herself at a high school reunion with friends in Belle Fourche.

"Back in 2021, I had a close friend from there just casually sharing that she needed a kidney transplant," Hultman explained. "I walked away from that conversation literally thinking 'why not me?'"

After about two years of medical testing, Hultman and her friend learned they were not compatible to do a transplant together. Intricate factors like blood type, tissue type, and cross matching — a mixing of two people's blood are mixed to see if the recipient's cells attack the donor's cells — are used to determine whether or not a transplant is possible.

"We decided to do what was called a 'paired donation,'" Hultman explained. "They do it so it feels like you are donating to the person you are paired with — in theory, you donate on the same day they receive, but the donor has their kidney shipped off somewhere else in the United States."

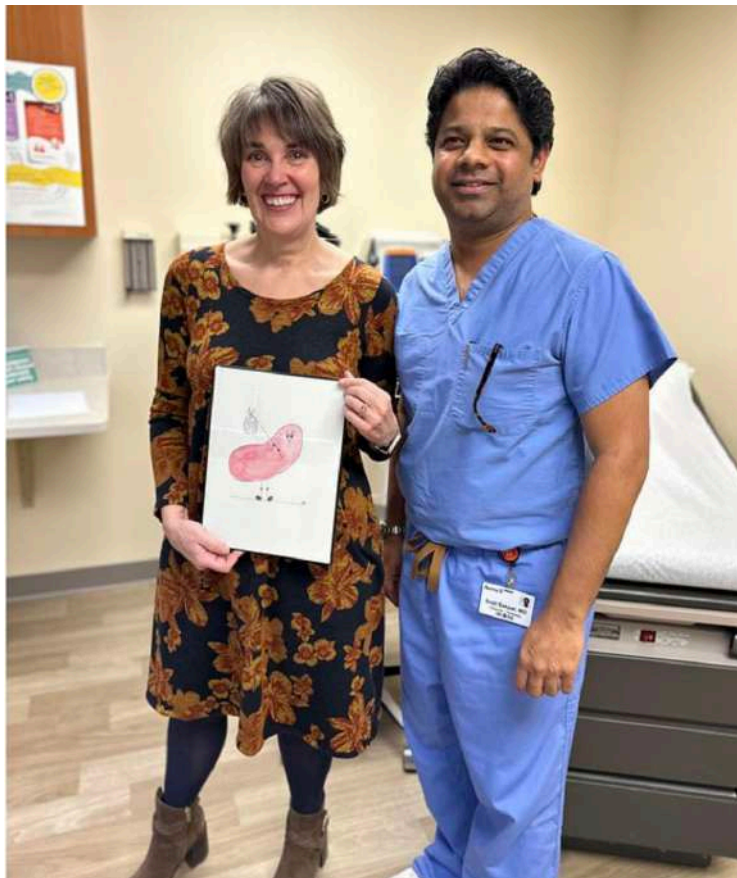
Her childhood friend, too, would soon get the kidney that she needed based on her extreme urgency — she was receiving dialysis on a daily basis. Hultman's decision to contribute helped get her scooted up the list — her friend got her new kidney in October 2023.

And once Hultman, South Dakota's labor secretary since 2014, had become set on donating an organ, there was no turning back for her.

She continued down the path to donating, working with Avera to conduct the litany of tests and requirements asked of a person if they want to be eligible. In addition to typically having to be at least 18 years of age, one must have a certain BMI, be in generally good physical and mental health overall, not be a smoker, and be invested in the process for altruistic reasons — you cannot get paid for the organ itself, though donors are not expected to bear the financial costs of donating.

There are certain incentives available to those who make the plunge. Specific non-profits will help to cover lost wages accrued while attending appointments and recovering post-surgery. As well, kidney donors are given priority in the event they ever need to get one, and their families and close friends can also potentially receive priority through the National Kidney Registry's transplant voucher program should they ever develop a need.

South Dakota's largest and longest-running transplant center, the Avera Transplant Institute, has conducted thousands of organ transplants since its founding. While organ donations from living or deceased



Secretary of Labor Marcia Hultman with Dr. Sujit Sakpal, a transplant surgeon and critical care specialist at the Avera Transplant Institute, after donating her kidney. (Submitted)

people are all welcomed, health outcomes when organs are donated by living people tend to be better.

Compared to the roughly 6,000 living kidney donations per year in the United States, about 19,654 are donated each year from deceased donors.

"The Avera Transplant Institute is partnered with the National Kidney Registry (NKR) to provide patients multiple options for matched living kidney donation or inclusion in paired chains where a friend or family member can donate on behalf of the patient they would otherwise be incompatible for," said Dr. Sujit Sakpal, a transplant surgeon and critical care specialist. "In terms of willing donors, we've seen how generous South Dakotans are for people in their communities. Marcia is another example of that."

After years of preparation and reflection, Hultman finally made her donation in October 2024 (saying the exact date could inadvertently reveal the receiver), almost exactly a year after the friend who made her first consider the experience got hers. She had two options about where to donate her kidney — she could allow it to go anywhere in the United States, or keep it in the region. After undergoing the procedure in Sioux Falls, she decided to keep it closer to home.

"I opted to keep it regionally," Hultman explained from her office in late December, her first day back to work. "I'm a fourth-generation South Dakotan. I thought it would be nice to keep it close to home."

The experience has ignited a passion for organ donation advocacy for Hultman. She's working to raise awareness about the need for living and deceased donors, both in South Dakota and beyond. According to the National Kidney Foundation, there are approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a kidney transplant, while only 25,487 kidney transplants occurred in 2024. A for-

mer school teacher, correctional facility instructor, and now a decade-long veteran of the Department of Labor, Hultman says everyone deserves second chances in life.

"This was just another way to give that," Hultman said. "It is my hope that my giving gets others to think about donating, too."

If you're interested in becoming an organ donor, you can learn more here.

Become a Donor

Help save lives and make your neighbors in the Upper Midwest healthier by donating or registering to donate organs, eyes, tissues or blood.

One organ donor can save up to eight lives, while one tissue donor can save lives or improve the quality of life for up to 50 people. Avera partners with LifeSource and Dakota Lions Sight and Health to provide donation opportunities.

Those willing to be an organ donor should make their wishes known to those closest to them, and say "yes" to organ donation on their driver's license, state identification card, will or health care directive. You can learn more about organ donation or sign up to be a donor at the United Network For Organ Sharing (UNOS).

Living Kidney Donation

Healthy adults can give the gift of life by donating a kidney to a relative or friend experiencing end-stage kidney disease. Doctors will ensure that you can live a healthy life with one kidney. Kidney patients who receive a kidney from a living donor have increased life expectancy and less risk of complications. Call the Avera Transplant Institute at 866-686-1062 to learn more.

Bone Marrow Donation

For thousands of Americans with severe blood diseases—such as leukemia and lymphoma—a blood and marrow transplant offers the greatest potential for a cure. Give a patient hope by registering to donate bone marrow. Seventy percent of patients must look

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outside their families for a suitable donor, so your offer of a donation will make a significant difference.

Blood Donation

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs

blood. Nationwide, 36,000 units of blood are needed every day. Contribute to your community's well-being by giving blood to the Community Blood Bank in Sioux Falls or other regional sites.



B's Buzz

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Communication is a large part of this business and of life itself. How many times have you said something, saying it clearly (you think) and it's not understood the way you wanted it to be understood.

That happens often at our house. But I think it's mostly because there's someone here who doesn't hear clearly or it might be because it's not said in "husbandese" and so isn't understood.

Recently, I relayed the fact that I needed to be in Newell around 6 p.m. to cover the fire department dodgeball game. We were at our youngest granddaughter's birthday party in Belle Fourche and it got done earlier than expected, so I mentioned that we could head to Newell and be to the game on time.

We put on our coats and said our goodbyes and got hugs from everyone. I was ready. But no, my spouse decided to visit a bit longer. And longer. And longer. (He likes to visit)

Several times I gently reminded him we needed to go to the game. He just looked at me and kept talking (I don't think he really heard me). That's ok, because he doesn't get out much, but it was getting closer and closer to 6.

Finally, I mentioned again that we needed to get to the dodgeball game and out we went.

In the car, I asked him why he didn't leave when we needed to so we could get to the game.

"A dodgeball game? I thought you said volleyball game? In Newell? What time?" he asked.

Imagine an exasperated sigh from my side of the car. Then a giggle.

"I said dodgeball game at 6. I told you a couple of days ago," I said.

"Well, that was too long ago. I can't remember that long," was the comeback.

Another sigh. That's our life, I thought.

Communication between spouses can get pretty complicated!

I've thought of writing things down, but glasses are not always handy either. I guess I'll just keep trying. Maybe in another 50 years, he'll understand what I say.

Who knows? I'll keep working on the communication part and enjoy the ride!

Winners! Butte Fire Department



Members of the Butte Fire Department, the newest fire department in Butte County, were the winners of the Dodge Ball Tournament this weekend. Members are Zion Henderson, Tye Davis, Colby Crago, Curt Westland, Taten Fox, Justin Kolb, Joey Nachtigale, Clete Schmidt, Jeff Hughes, Todd Leither, Mark Hespe, Mike Wilbur, Jim Davis, Ivan Davis, and Charlie Davis.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4

Betty Bruner photo

Vale Ag Show Draws a Crowd

Betty Bruner
news@bellefourchebeacon.com
Vale Ag Show Draws a Crowd

VALE-A crowd gathered at the Vale Community Hall Wednesday to view vendors and make plans for the coming summer cropping year. Twenty vendors were set up and showing what they had to offer to the community. There was

something for nearly everyone, from banking to irrigation to food to enjoy.

The annual event drew somewhere between 75 and 100 community members. Not only is a time to see what the new year can bring, but it's an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors.

Vendors at the event included:

- Butte Equipment
- Newell Golf Course
- VIP Insurance
- Belle Irrigation
- First National Bank, Newell
- Butte Conservation District
- Belle Watershed,
- KBHB
- WRCTC
- Matt Hanson with Pioneer Seed

- Grossenburg Implement
- Leber Ag
- SD Prairie Dog
- Tastefully Simple
- Warne Chemical
- Buffalo Ranch Supply
- Farm Credit Services
- CBH Cooperative
- SD Stockgrowers
- Jenner Equipment
- Freedom Auction



Above: A noon meal was prepared and served by members of the Vale Community Club.

Center: These smiling faces served a delicious noon meal at the Vale Ag Show. From the left Greg Wetz, Angie Hansen, and Wanda Dunn.

Below: There were 20 vendors on hand at the Vale Ag Show. The Vale Community hall was filled during the show held January 8.

Betty Bruner photos



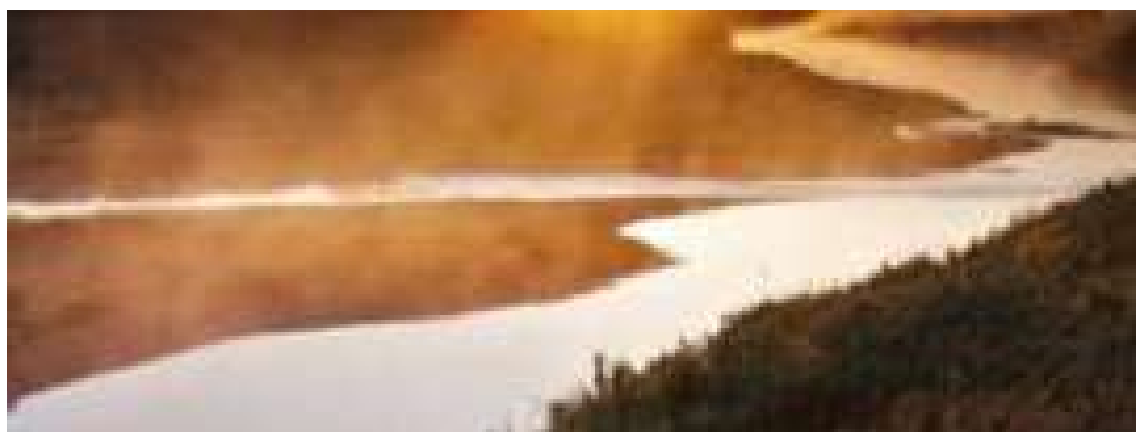
To everyone who has supported us after Travis's death, we would like to express our sincere thanks for all the calls, texts, visits and food.

Thank you for taking the time to come to the funeral and visitation. Your presence and support made a huge difference during this difficult time and made things a little easier.

Thank you to Leverington Funeral Home and Belle Flower Shop for doing such a wonderful job.

Thank You For Your Love & Caring,
Ron and Linda Swan
Ashley, Marshall, Kylee, Mason, & Jax Wells
Kelli, Travis, Piper, Oaklee, & Truett Escott

Grand River Roundup



Betty Olson

news@bellefourchebeacon.com

Our sewer froze up with the nasty cold weather last Sunday but Taz got it fixed for us so we didn't have to quit using water in the house, bathing or flushing the toilets. I don't know what these old folks would do without those young folks to help us. It was pretty cold most of the week so it sure feels like winter.

I lost a young relative on Sunday. Lane Sheridan Kopren, age 29, Prairie City, passed away Sunday, January 5. A Rosary was held Friday, January 10, with a visitation at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Bison. Funeral services were Saturday, January 11, at the Bison School Gymnasium. A family burial service will take place at the ranch where Lane will rest on a knob overlooking the land and the family he loved. He is survived by his

wife Shauna and their three children Blaire (4), Malcolm (2) and Petra (4 months). In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established at Dacotah Bank for his family. Contributions can be made payable to the Lane Kopren Memorial Fund or Shauna Kopren. Lane was the grandson of my cousin Jean Kopren and will deeply missed by all his family and friends.

Reub and I went to Hettinger on Monday so he could get an ultra sound on his carotid artery that he had surgery on a while ago and, thankfully, everything looks just fine. Taz hauled a few calves to the sale barn in Faith that day.

I woke up sick on Tuesday so I wasn't able to go down and wish Amanda Happy Birthday that day because I didn't want to share this with her and her family. Casey took the Harding County wrestlers to a wrestling

meet at Lead that afternoon. Teri Dee called me that evening to let me know that she had her hip replaced on Monday and she is doing pretty well.

It was a nice day with no wind on Wednesday and Taz and Casey went up to Jace Jenson's that day. Reub read my column from last week and let me know I'd made another mistake, imagine that! I said that "Amanda, Matt and the kids came back to the ranch to pack up and head back to North Dakota". Actually, it was LANIE and Matt who took their kids back to North Dakota, not Amanda, so sorry about that! I really need someone to proof read this column for me.

I was really sick on Thursday with a fever of 101 degrees, so this column is going to be shorter than usual because I'm not going to visit anyone to share this sickness. Casey went to Buffalo Thursday afternoon

to take the Harding County wrestlers to the tournament in Hettinger on Friday and Saturday.

Taz is a director for the Harding County Stockgrowers and he went into Buffalo for the Harding County Stockgrowers meeting Friday afternoon at the REC Center while Amanda and the kids stayed home.

Reub is going to take me to the Hettinger walk-in Clinic Saturday morning after he feeds the cows, so just in case they decide to put me in the hospital I'm going to send my column off really early.

With the terrible mess California is in right now with all the fires that could have been prevented, I'll leave you with this:

California - LARGEST INSANE ASYLUM IN THE WORLD

Interesting that the LA Times did this. It cost him his job. Whether you are a Democrat or Republican, this should be of great interest to you! Just one State - be sure and read the last part... try for 3 times.

This is only one State....

If this doesn't open your eyes, nothing will!

From the L.A. Times:

1. 40% of all workers in LA County (10.2 million people) are working for cash; and not paying taxes. This is because they are predominantly illegal immigrants, working without a green card.

(Donald Trump was right)

2. 95% of warrants for murder in Los Angeles are for illegal aliens.

3. 75% of people on the most wanted list in Los Angeles are illegal aliens.

4. Over 2/3 of all births in Los Angeles County are to illegal alien Mexicans on Medi-Cal, whose births were paid for by taxpayers.

5. Nearly 35% of all inmates in California detention centers are Mexican nationals; they are here illegally.

6. Over 300,000 illegal aliens in Los Angeles County are living in garages.

7. The FBI reports half of all gang members in Los Angeles are most likely illegal aliens from south of the border.

8. Nearly 60% of all occupants of HUD properties are illegal.

9. 21 radio stations in LA are Spanish-speaking.

10. In LA County, 5.1 million people speak English; 3.9 million speak Spanish. (There are 10.2 million people, in LA County.

(All 10 of the above facts were published in the Los Angeles Times)

Less than 2% of illegal aliens are picking our crops, but 29% are on welfare. Over 70% of the United States' annual population growth, (and over 90% of California and New York), results from immigration. Also, 29% of inmates in federal prisons are illegal aliens. We are fools for letting this continue.

Then and Now in Newell

"Looking Forward to our Past"

January 14, 1915

Will Chase has purchased one of the latest model motorcycles from McDonough & Bushnell. The machine is a Harley-Davidson twin and is equipped with electric lights.

The home talent play, which was to have been given by the Newell Dramatic Club on January 16, has been postponed until Saturday, January 23. "The Noble Outcast" is now playing at the Theatorium. Are you wise?

William Wilson is building a modern 9-room residence on his place 3 miles southeast of Newell. Charles Wilson is building a new and up-to-date hog house, which is intended

a crowd watched the liquor start gurgling on its way to the Missouri River. Let this be a warning for illegal manufacturers in and about Newell and Butte County.

Messer. T. S. Overpeck and M. J. Smiley of Belle Fourche, who were delegates to go to Chicago for the purpose of interesting the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company in the matter of the Vale extension, in connection with the proposed beet sugar factory, returned home Saturday and gave a very optimistic report. The community feels certain that favorable action on the extension will be taken by the company. The decision will be

by Linda Velder

will be served at 12:00 sharp and everybody will be welcome.

John Middleton, driving a gravel truck, was injured Wednesday evening shortly after dusk, when his truck crashed into another gravel truck parked alongside the road near Carl D. Anderson place south of town. Both trucks are hauling gravel for the Inland Construction Company job north of Newell. A car going south failed to dim and blinded Middleton. He was brought to the Newell Hospital for treatment and was able to be moved to his home today.

January 11, 1945

PFC Charles W. Kirk, son of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kirk of Newell, was one of three American soldiers, who raided a concrete Nazie troop shelter and captured 22 German prisoners. It happened about a month ago in the 102nd Division, 9th Army Sector, along the Siegfried Line. It was raining and a high cold wind was blowing, and our troops were slogging along, creeping closer, taking to foxholes when the enemy fire got too hot. Knocking out the shelter was their 3rd attempt. They had crawled under fire to the haystack, carrying 120 charges of explosive dynamite caps, fuse igniters, time fuses and TNT.

At their regular meeting on Tuesday of this week, the Board of Education appointed A. T. Lyons as Truancy Officer for the Newell School District. The Board directed the Superintendent to require pupils who have been absent because of illness, to show evidence that they did not have a contagious disease or that they return with a doctor's approval. All other pupils must have a valid excuse.

Effective January 1, 1945, Newell airport has been officially designated as a "landing area for Civil Airport Operations, by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, Washington, D. C. There is now a good prospect of getting a substantial allotment of federal funds for improving the field. City Commissioner Arthur Thompson, who is in charge of the airport informs the council. Mr. Thompson, Commanding Officer of Civil Air Patrol will do all they can to improve the facilities at the airport. The CAP has put in application for one of the old CCC buildings at Camp Orman after the usual government red tape has been unfolded, they are confident the building (21'x42') will be turned over to the city after renovations.

Note: The Valley Irrigator issues for 1955 have been missing for many years. It is

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believed that it was loaned to a group in the early 1990's for research to make a Trivia Game. If anyone has seen or knows where a large bound set of Valley Irrigators is, please notify the Newell Museum. Check your attic, garage, basement, etc. No questions asked.

January 7, 1965

The US air force announced plans to launch a test Minuteman ICBM during March 1965 from a typical Strategic Air Command launch facility of the 44 Missile wing Ellsworth Air force Base, about 10 miles north of Newell. The especially prepared test Minuteman Missile will be unarmed. The first stage engine will contain only enough live propellant to sustain several seconds of powered flight. The 2nd and 3rd stages will contain no propellant although they will conform to the same weight and balance. The test missile is expected to rise less than 1 mile and impact less than 2 miles from the launching point. No overflight of residential areas is involved in the interest of public safety.

US Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman announced Thursday that the US Field Station at Newell, the only such federal installation in SD and one at the hub of a 19-million acre area of Pierre shale soils comprising parts of 5 states, was to be closed down

as of April 1. In announcing the closing by Executive Order, closing of the Newell facility would result in annual savings of \$165,800. It is one of 36 to be closed across the country for an estimated annual savings of over 5 million dollars.

Local Engagements Announced this week: Judith Lyn Milberg, daughter of Walter C. Milberg of Newell, engaged to Kurt Lee Simons, son of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Simons of Zeona. Both young people are graduates of Newell High School and Miss Milberg is attending SDSU at Brookings. A spring wedding is planned; Renee I. Heinzman, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sabastian Heinzman of Newell became engaged to Richard Teppo, son of Mr. & Mrs. Arvo Teppo, Newell. Miss Heinzman is a Senior at Newell High School and Mr. Teppo is employed at the Ernest Persche ranch. A spring wedding is planned; Vickie Lee McKee, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Duane McKee, Anthony, KS engaged to A2c Jim Gollhier, son of Mr. & Mrs., Z. N. Gollhier, Hoover. Miss McKee will graduate from NW State College, Alva with a BA Degree in Elementary Education. Mr. Gollhier is a graduate of Newell High School, attended SD State prior to Military duty with Air force at Briggs Air Force Base, ElPaso, TX.



Bushnell and McDonough posing in front of the Newell Garage with a customer. 1915 Newell Museum

mostly for breeding purposes. It is 21'x42'. Andrew Heggland, who lives east of town, is building an icehouse.

January 8, 1925

A bounteous luncheon will be spread next Saturday afternoon at the Newell Lodge Hall, under the auspices of local businessmen, to which all the farmers who contemplate raising cucumbers are invited. The real host at this affair, however, is the Squire-Dingee, the Pickle Company of Chicago. The company recently shipped to Newell a big carton containing innumerable samples of the various kinds of pickles and other table delicacies put out by them and the local community decided to share the liberal supply of goodies with everyone interested in promoting the pickle industry. The hour is set for 2:00 o'clock and continuous so long as the viands hold out. The ladies of the Newell Civic League will do the serving and everything is free.

About 800 gallons of wine and liquors were dumped into the catch basin leading to the city sewer by officers while

announced in a short time.

January 10, 1935

Wedding Bells are ringing throughout the Valley: A Chevrier party consisting of friends from Vale and Empire, surprised Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Gutsche last Friday evening at their new home near Nisland. Mrs. Edith (Payne) Gutsche is the elementary teacher at Nisland.; A wedding dance was given Saturday night at the Luther Hill home, with Miss Betty Simons and Alex Sinner, son of Jake Sinner, as the honored guests. The couple were married about a week ago; Mr. & Mrs. Vance McKimm of Lead were dinner guests New Year Day at the home of her sister Mrs. Ernest Ashley, Vale. Gladys Lindgren, our former teacher, and Vance McKimm were married on December 31. Their witnesses were Miss Flora McKimm, Lead and Milton Baldwin of Vale.

The Lutheran Ladies Aid will meet at the church parlors on Saturday at 2:00 PM to make final plans for Lamb Feeders Day at the Experimental Farm on January 16. Dinner that day

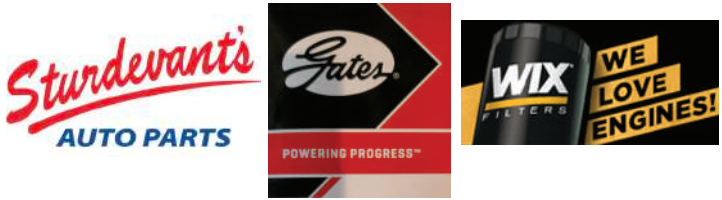


US Experiment Farm. 1925. It was a "show place", folks came from all over to tour the crops, animals and soil experiments or host picnics or other public gatherings. Newell Museum

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Here's What's Happening in Newell!

Tuesday, January 14, 4:30 p.m.
BH Farmer's Market, South Door of Nisland Town Hall, contact Gwen 605-430-8052 or Paula 605-645-9170

Saturday, January 18, 5-7 p.m.
Nisland-Arpan Fire Auxiliary Soup and Dessert. Nisland Fire Hall

Saturday, January 25, 9:30 a.m.
Cracker Barrel Legislative Session, Newell City Hall

Sunday, January 26, 11-2
Newell Lions Club Lunch Fundraiser for Sabrina Harmon

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

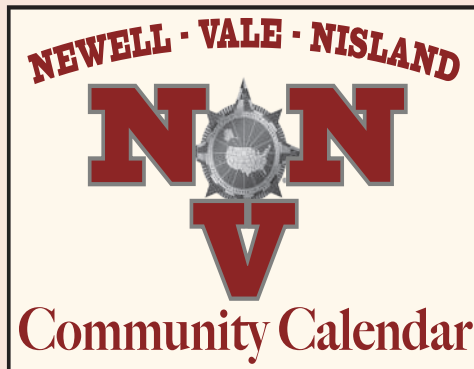
Wednesday
Story Time with Patty
Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 11 a.m. All ages welcome

Whistle Stop Market
First Saturday of every month through April, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Newell Senior Center

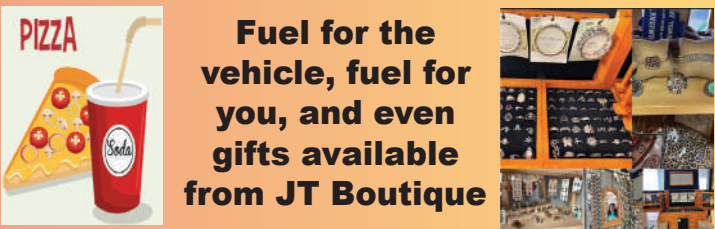
BH Farmer's Market
Second Tuesday each month, 4:30, Nisland Town Hall

Feeding South Dakota
Second Thursday every month, 1:30

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



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for medical expenses incurred during a triple bypass surgery

Tuesday: January 14 Soup Supper
4:30 until soup runs out

50/50
Tickets

Thursday: January 16 Taco Supper
4:30 until tacos run out

Baked
Goods

Friday, January 17 Soup Supper
3:00 p.m. until the soup runs out



Austin Auditorium

501 Dartmouth

Newell, South Dakota

Freewill Donation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 6) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk Tomato or Broccoli Soup	7) Hashbrown Eggs, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Salisbury Steaks, Gravy, Fresh Rolls, Fruit, Milk Cheesy Mac Soup	8) Pancakes, Sausage, Cereal, FF, Juice, Milk Sloppy Joes on WG Bun, Corn, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk Chicken Tortilla Soup	9) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Spanish Rice, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	10) NO SCHOOL
13) Yogurt Parfait, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Hot Dogs, Chips, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	14) Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Tomato Soup, Kale Rumble, Fruit, Milk	15) French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Cheese Sauce, Broccoli, Fresh Rolls, Fruit, Milk	16) Turkey Wraps, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chili, Sweet Rolls, Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Milk Broccoli Cheese Soup	17) NO SCHOOL
20) Long Johns, Donuts, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Spaghetti & Meatballs, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk	21) Bagels, Scrambled Eggs. Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Corn Dogs, French Fries, Fruit, Milk Pepperoni Pizza Soup	22) Blueberry Muffins, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Italian Pasta Bake, Coleslaw, Fruit, Milk	23) Quesadilla, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Chicken Patty Sandwiches, Corn, Fruit, Milk	24) NO SCHOOL
27) Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Ropa Vieja (Shredded Beef over Rice), , Fruit, Milk Turkey Noodle Soup	28) Maple Baked French Toast, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Turkey Stuffing Casserole, Corn, Milk	29) Breakfast Taco, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Beef Straganoff, Noodles, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk	30) Egg Bites, Cereal, Juice, FF, Milk Tater Tot Casserole, Fruit, Milk	3) NO SCHOOL

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Newell Wrestling

Newell Wrestlers went to the largest tournament they have attended yet in Presho. The Mid-Dakota Monster has 30 teams from across the state.

It was a great preview of who they may face later at regions and state. Most brackets con-

tained over 26 wrestlers each.

Our wrestlers put up a tremendous fight. Will, Joe, and Dyson were short of reaching the placing rounds despite their best efforts. Bodie was able to advance his way into 8th place.

Our Newell Wrestlers represented themselves and our school well. They showed great sportsmanship even when matches didn't go their way and were always supporting one another.



Courtesy Photos



Newell Public Library

Now Hiring

Part-time Library Director

- Must be comfortable working with the public, especially children
- High School diploma or equivalent
- Proficient in Word, Xcel, Outlook and willing to learn other programs
- Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-12pm and 12:30pm-5pm
- Wage depending on experience and qualifications

Pick up applications at the library, Newell city office or online at TownofNewell.org under Forms and Applications and return to library with resume.

Firefighters Dodge the Ball

Betty Bruner

news@bellefourchebeacon.com
 NEWELL-Local firefighters joined ranks and put on a rousing display of handiwork dodging a ball that didn't seem like it could go in a straight line.

There were 11 teams set and ready to compete against each other. The annual event is a fund raiser for the Nisland/Arpan Fire and Rescue Department.

The Auxiliary added walking tacos and some delicious desserts to the evening.

With Whoops and Hollers, the crowd enjoyed watching the firefighters battle it out. The firefighters had a difficult time,

though, making the small foam balls go in the right direction and some came pretty close to many of the spectators!

The evening was a total success according to those in charge!

The teams that were represented were:

- Nisland/Arpan Fire
- Newell FD
- Vale FD
- Belle Fourche FD
- Butte FD
- Castle Rock FD
- Sturgis FD
- Sturgis Ambulance
- Belle Fourche Ambulance
- Newell Ambulance
- Butte County Sheriff's Dept.



Top: The stare by Calvin Fickbohm was set to intimate, but the ball didn't connect.
 Center: Chris Jones tossed the ball toward an opponent.
 Bottom: Set and ready to go!

Photos by Betty Brunerw

Weekly BB Skill Camp

NEWELL- There will be a weekly basketball skills camps for 1st - 5th grade girls.

They will receive instruction on dribbling, passing, shooting, and more!

Parents are welcome and

encouraged to attend and assist during these camps. It takes a village!

If there is enough interest, there may be a possibility of registering for tournaments and camps in the spring/summer.

Coach Tiffany Strain said "I am excited to expand our youth girls' basketball program. I have always had a passion for this sport, and I want to foster that same love for the game in our future Lady Irrigators."

Please feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns.

Tiffany Strain 605-645-7254 (call or text)

