

# BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC ID DEVELOPMENT



## BFDC Board of Directors Meeting

December 9, 2020

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Location: BFDC Conference Room - 5th & Grant Plaza, 608 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

## 2020 Festival of Trees

December 1st, 2020

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Belle Fourche Community Hall

Hosted by the BH Roundup Ag Committee. 605-645-9512 FMI

## Leadership Belle Fourche Class

December 17, 2020

Time: noon - 5:00 p.m.

Course Topic: Regional Industry - Yesterday and Today

Jan

27

*Save the Date*

Belle Fourche Development Corporation  
Annual Meeting

January 27, 2020

# Governor Kristi Noem visits the Center of the Nation



*GOVERNOR KRISTI NOEM'S FACEBOOK POST: SOUTH DAKOTA IS REAL AMERICA, AND AMERICA'S CENTER IS IN BELLE FOURCHE, SOUTH DAKOTA! IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CITY NESTLED THE BLACK HILLS. I LOVED HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE TOWN AND VISIT SOME BUSINESSES TODAY. COME VISIT!*



*INTEGRITY MEATS*



*COWBOYS TOO!*



*DESIGNS BY DAPHNIE*

## GOVERNOR NOEM PAYS SURPRISE VISIT TO BELLE FOURCHE | Belle Fourche Beacon

BELLE FOURCHE- South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem paid a surprise visit to Belle Fourche last Wednesday touring a few local businesses and discussing housing, economic development and COVID with community leaders. The unannounced visit was part of a swing through western South Dakota that saw Gov. Noem visit Buffalo and Bison after her stop in Belle Fourche.

“One of her aides called and told us (late Monday) that they wanted to come out for what they called a meet and greet,” said Gloria Landphere, Belle Fourche Mayor. “She was very interested in the things that were germane to Belle Fourche. We had very positive conversations.”

The Governor was accompanied by her husband Bryon Noem, Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden and staff members. Along with the mayor, city leaders that took part in the visit included Hollie Stalder, Executive Director of the Belle Fourche Development Corporation (BFDC), Renae Schaffer, President of the BFDC Board of Directors, and Travis Martin, Ward 2 City Councilman who also serves as the council’s liaison to the BFDC.

“South Dakota is real America, and America’s center is in Belle Fourche,” the Governor posted on Facebook. “It’s a beautiful city nestled in the Black Hills. I loved having the opportunity to explore the town and visit some businesses (last Wednesday).”

The assembly gathered for coffee and an informal roundtable at the Wild Magnolia coffee house (formerly Green Bean) on State Street a little after 9am on Wednesday.

“They wanted to hear how things were going within the community,” Stalder told the Beacon, “what are some of the needs, how’s our technology sitting, how’s our sales tax revenue looking, how’s our community development going. She was wonderful to talk to, and has a great crew that genuinely listened and that’s so refreshing in politics.”

Stalder said the governor talked with them about the \$1.9 million dollar FRA rail grant to build a new siding at the Industrial and Rail Park. The project is scheduled to finish mid-year 2021, if not before. Stalder said the governor asked about the economic impact the project is likely to have on the city. “She’s very engaged in what’s going,” Stalder said.

“She was aware of a couple of our other projects, and in general just wanted to know how Belle Fourche was going and kind of get a feel for the pulse of business in our community.”

The subject of COVID-19 did come up with the governor asking about the local impacts of the virus on the city’s population, its economy and how the city has responded to the pandemic.

“I told the governor that when the CDC first came out with their guidelines we had quite a lively discussion at council,” Landphere said. “We looked at example ordinances and decided to go the way of a resolution. Those were suggestions and we followed CDC guidelines with that and I think that’s the beauty of living here.”

They also discussed with the governor the number of coronavirus cases in Butte County and what concerns there may be in addition to how local entities are applying the CARES Act funding.

On the topic of housing the conversation turned to how much increased level of interest there is in the state since South Dakota decided to remain an open and free state during the pandemic.

“I’ve seen more interest as far as housing and developments right now than I’ve seen in probably 12 years,” said Martin who is also Title Operations Manager at the Belle Fourche office of Black Hills Title. “Property is definitely selling. If you talked to other realtors they’d say the same thing. We have very limited property right now. We touched on that with the governor.

“We’ve got a housing study that we’re going to be working on shortly and what that’s probably going to show is that we have a need in every category; multi-family, townhome, single family, affordable housing, work force housing.

“I think we’ve reached a point in Belle Fourche where we need houses, we need some more development,” Martin said.

The “Open for Business” national media campaign that the State has been running during the late summer and fall also came up. “We touched on that with Governor Noem briefly,” Martin said. “We’re definitely seeing an influx of people into South Dakota in our area and if we’re seeing it here I’m sure they’re seeing it statewide and the governor said they were.”

After coffee the group walked further downtown and stopped at Designs by Daphne Gallery. While Noem engaged owner Daphne Johnson in conversation, one of her aides made a purchase. Lt. Gov. Rhoden said he would return soon to do some more shopping in the city.

“It was very much an honor to have the Governor here,” Johnson said. “She talked about the store and asked how long I’d been here and why we decided to open up a store in Belle. She was asking about a lot of pieces and how they were made. She was very generous to spend so much of her valuable time here and we thanked her for that.”

Johnson, who once was the Assistant Attorney General for the state of Michigan, moved to the Black Hills region with her husband Paul upon their retirement. She opened the gallery in the spring of 2019 and explained to the governor the economic benefits of moving to the state and opening a business in Belle Fourche. From a policy standpoint she also expressed her appreciation to the governor for her stance on keeping South Dakota an open and free state during COVID.

“Regardless of what happens on the national level it’s very easy to see why a lot of people would still be wanting to move to South Dakota,” she told the Beacon. “I still get people that text me from Michigan wanting me to trade governors and I just tell them, no way, no way!” The group walked down the block to Cowboy’s Too next where they visited with owner George Wilson and marketing and sales coordinator Michelle Evans.

“We found out about the visit the evening before,” Wilson said. “She just came right through the door and stuck out her hand and said ‘I’m Kristi Noem’ and I said, ‘well of course you are!’”

The governor purchased a shirt and a sweater that were on display just inside the door. “We kind of did that just for her when she came in and she looked at it and said, ‘Ooh, I like that’ and Michelle said, ‘I put it out there just for you,’ so she ended up with that and a belt.”

Wilson said the governor asked about the business and the economy in general.

“We talked about business and what was going on in the state,” he said. “She was telling us how the economy was still going strong here, not like the other states that had completely shut down their businesses. It wasn’t a big political deal or anything like that. It was a very down to earth conversation, just like a couple of old friends sitting on the porch talking to each other.”

Next stop was at the Center of the Nation Monument behind the Tri-State Museum where the group paused for a photo and the talk turned to history. Bryon Noem has spent the past couple of years gathering stories about small town South Dakota, a subject for which he has a special interest.

“Seeing our larger communities flourish is exciting, but I want to make sure we don’t lose South Dakota’s rural culture either,” the First Gentleman said. “I want to remind people that these are some of the best places to raise a family or start a business.”

The conversation turned to the Johnny Spaulding Cabin and Mayor Landphere related to Mr. Noem about her father who once stayed in the cabin when it was at its previous location across from the post office.

“He was very interested in the buildings on State Street as well. He wanted to know about their history; what is in those buildings now and what used to be in those buildings in the past,” Landphere said.

The governor’s entourage then stopped at Integrity Meats on the city’s north side. The business celebrated its 20th year of operation this past August. Owners Larry and Alana Strickland along with their employees paused for a group photo in the shop before the governor departed for Buffalo, SD.

“You definitely get a sense that she’s concerned with the well-being of the entire state, not just east river,” Martin said. “She wants to know how smaller communities are doing, especially out here in the west; how we’re handling things and what we’re seeing as far as potential for growth. (She was) definitely interested in ways they can help us achieve.”



### Note from Jeanne Burchard-McKenna / BHHSC Family & Community Engagement:

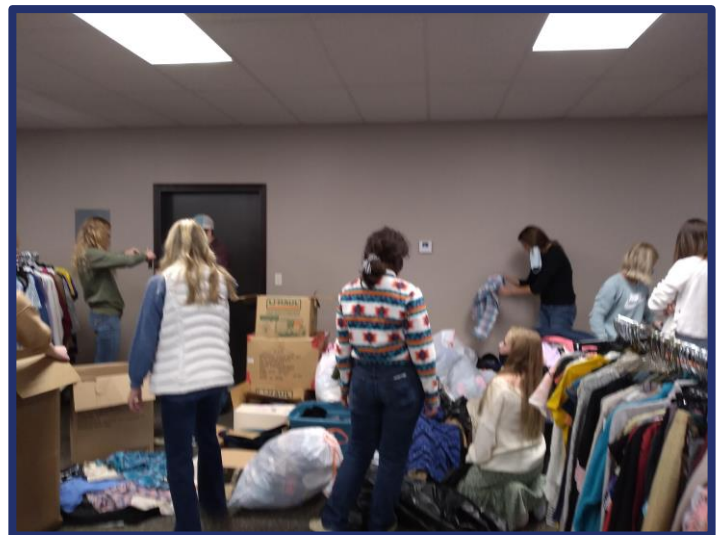
*Thank you to everyone who spread the word last week. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual regifting event at the Belle Fourche Development Corporation was a huge success. We had 22 students from the Belle Fourche Honor Roll Society and their teacher advisor, Stephanie Musilek, work the entire event including setting up and tearing down. I want to also thank, Hollie - Director of the Belle Fourche Development Corporation, who provided the venue again this year, and Dr. Pam Lange - Deputy Director of BHSSC for helping me with the event including the planning and paying for the sanitizing and misting of the room utilized. Special thank you to my dad, Victor Burckhard, who hauled clothing racks from Rapid City for our use and hauled them home at the end of the event. Thank you to my husband, Steven McKenna, who hauled the trailer full of items to and from the event, and he and Damon Lange for helping with tear down. My husband could not believe how hardworking the students were.*

*We had 99 families and community members attend the event with some families attending more than once. 21 families were from BF Elementary schools, 11 families were from BFMS, and 12 families were from BFHS. We had 3 families drive from Rapid City, 4 BF families whose children were in Headstart or preschools, and 8 BF families home school their children. 42 people attended from the community and did not have children in school.*

*We heard lots of thank you's and stories of appreciation.*

*Thank you for once again making this a successful event,*

*Jeanne*





## BARBERSHOP OPENS

Jeremy Polk is the owner-operator and Master Barber of JP BARBERING at 5th St, Suite 104 in Belle Fourche. Customers can book appointments by calling 701-264-0961, or walk-ins are welcome as well.

Belle Fourche Beacon Article

Hunter Anderson photo

## NEW CITY ENGINEER HIRED // Belle Fourche Beacon

BELLE FOURCHE - Brent Hardy, of Dickinson, ND, was sworn in as the new City Engineer for Belle Fourche on Monday evening Nov. 2nd. Mayor Gloria Landphere administered the oath of office to Hardy after the city council approved his appointment.

Belle Fourche has been without a City Engineer since May of 2016 when Ryan Kavan resigned, moving to Grand Island, NE. The post has been filled by Steve Nafus, Assistant City Engineer, on an interim basis.

The council welcomed Hardy during its meeting. Dirk Hoffman, Public Works Director, expressed his department's good wishes and said he looked forward to getting to know Hardy.

Hardy is a native of Ellendale, ND, where he graduated high school. He attended college in Rapid City, studying civil engineering at South Dakota School of Mines, graduating in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

After college Hardy moved to Wyoming where he worked for PCA Engineering in Gillette, specializing in civil engineering and land development services. Hardy was at PCA for nearly 11 years and then took a post with the Campbell County Rockpile Museum for 5 months. In July 2017 he took a position as a civil engineer at Interstate Engineering in Belfield, ND, and moved to Dickinson.

Hardy says he loves the outdoors and is an avid runner, having participated in several marathons including the Boston Marathon on more than one occasion. Hardy says he is looking forward to his new post and will assume his duties on Nov. 16th. The council was informed that Hardy is aware of the city's residency requirement that stipulate city department heads and supervisors must live within three miles of the city limits.

The council also approved Nafus' request for \$4,296.76 to purchase two new Dell computers for the city's engineering department. One computer was budgeted for replacement while the other was not, since the city had not hired a new engineer at budget time last year.

While serving in an interim capacity for the past 54 months, Nafus oversaw the massive \$4.13 million Eighth Avenue sewer interceptor replacement project. That three-year endeavor culminated last month with the completion of the new Day Street lift station. Also while Nafus served as interim director the city completed the Hay Street bridge replacement project. Nafus will continue in his duties as Assistant City Engineer.





505 Heritage Dr. | Spearfish, SD  
605-642-2654 | [Montana-Dakota.com](http://Montana-Dakota.com)

**PLATINUM MEMBER**



700 State St. | Belle Fourche, SD  
605-892-2536 | [PioneerBankAndTrust.com](http://PioneerBankAndTrust.com)

**PLATINUM MEMBER**

Office Space FOR RENT  
at 5<sup>th</sup> & Grant Plaza  
605-892-5066



**BELLE FOURCHE**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

2020

# FESTIVAL OF TREES

For years, our friends at First Interstate Bank have kicked off the Christmas season with the annual Festival of Trees benefit auction. While many community events have fallen by the wayside this year, we believe the Festival of Trees is far too meaningful to cancel.

The Black Hills Roundup Ag Committee are making adjustments, and moving forward! This year, to give attendees the comfort of increased social distance, the Festival will be held at the Belle Fourche Community Hall as we continue the tradition of community celebration and support.

*Please Join Us*

**IN ATTENDANCE OR VIRTUALLY:**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**5-6:00 PM SOCIAL | AUCTION AT 6:00 PM  
BELLE FOURCHE COMMUNITY HALL**

**JOIN US VIRTUALLY ON FACEBOOK**

**via the Belle Fourche Chamber or Black Hills Roundup facebook pages!**

Auction trees, wreaths and other items will be accepted through November 15th, but quantities are limited.

**If you wish to participate as an auction item donor, or need information regarding absentee bidding, please call Joan (605-645-9512), Chad (892-2041) or Ashley (605-892-2536).**

Never have the needs of our area non-profits been more urgent than they are in this time of economic uncertainty, and your support means more this year than ever before.

**We look forward to celebrating our community with you!**





# Green Bean Coffeehouse Will Have New Owners

The Belle Fourche Green Bean Coffeehouse is changing hands, and owners Aaron and Tina Neiman couldn't be happier about the transition.

Danielle Voyles and her partner, Troy Jensen, have decided to take the leap into the world of small business and, on November 1, the two Belle Fourche natives will officially be the new owners.

"We are very excited to take on this new adventure and to serve the community," remarked Danielle. She added, "We love this shop already and can't wait to make our own."

Some things will change; many things will remain the same. For one, you can expect a continuation of the wide selection of gourmet coffee, blended drinks & teas and the extensive menu of delicious breakfast, lunch and made from scratch dessert items.

They will be doing business under the name: Wild Magnolia Coffee Bar & Eatery.

Danielle has been a Green Bean employee for 7 1/2 years and has been the manager of the business the last 2 1/2 years.

"She is kind, creative, smart and is completely capable of taking this business further than we ever could, stated Neiman. "She's done an amazing job as manager the past 2 1/2 years, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them both!"

Stay tuned for more details over the coming weeks and be sure to congratulate them on their new venture: The Wild Magnolia Coffee Bar & Eatery.

*Article courtesy of the Belle Fourche Beacon staff*



*GREEN BEAN COFFEEHOUSE NEW OWNERS DANIELLE VOYLES AND TROY JENSEN WITH IVER JENSEN, NINE YEARS OLD AND HARLOW JENSEN, FIVE. COURTESY PHOTO*