

# BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Leadership Belle Fourche

Graduation  
April 30, 2025

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Branding Iron

## BFDC Board of Directors Meeting

May 21, 2025

Time: 7:00 a.m.

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

Contact us to work with our team for connections to the resources to take your business to the next level. Whether starting a new business or expanding an existing business, we can connect you with resources to help. Contact us here: 605-892-5065



**Belle Fourche  
Development  
Corporation**

**2025 Investment Campaign ~**

*Your investment creates opportunities in Belle Fourche!*

**Membership Is an Investment  
In The Future Growth And  
Development Of  
Our Community.**

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[bfdcsd.com/memberships/](https://bfdcsd.com/memberships/)

# BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## LEADERSHIP



*Leadership Belle Fourche Ring Container Tour with David Vandenberg*

### February Session:

- The class met at the Belle Fourche REC Center for the BFHS Career Learning and Community Fair. This event has been held for many years designed to help students see a career pathway if they don't have one in mind, or are unsure. As a part of the class, we take a look at workforce development and how our school system is working to help in this arena.
- Industry tour tomorrow at Ring Container.



# American Estates



1 Mile West on Sourdough Rd  
Belle Fourche  
**\$320,000 - \$369,000**

## Open House

**Saturday, April 26: 2-4 PM**  
**Sunday, April 27: 2-4 PM**

## Property Highlights

- Choose an existing home or have one built
  - In-floor Heat
  - Heated Garage
- All Appliances Included
  - Zero Entry
  - ICF Construction
  - Master Bedroom



**Kade Welfl**  
605-210-0010  
KADEWELFL@GMAIL.COM



## New Domino's Operating Partners Bring Passion and Experience

Ryder Heitz /  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The new Domino's in Belle Fourche isn't just another pizza place—it's a dream come true for its new local part-owners, Jessica Work and Corey Auwerter. With deep roots in the area and over a decade of experience with the company, the couple is excited to bring their passion for pizza and community to their new home.

Originally from Rapid City, Work and Auwerter were managing the Domino's in Box Elder when they decided to pursue their longtime goal of franchise ownership.

"We've always wanted to own a Domino's," Work said. "Back in 2020, we realized our house had skyrocketed in value, so we sold it and used the profits to invest in this opportunity."



*New Domino's Operating Partner Jessica Work (left) and General Manager Cory*

Their journey led them to Alan Irwin, a franchisee who owns multiple Domino's locations in Wyoming and North Dakota. Initially, the couple set their sights on Hot Springs, gathering data and even preparing a presentation to pitch their plan. But after a Skype meeting with Irwin, he proposed an alternative—Belle Fourche. "He told me, 'I know you have your heart set on Hot Springs, but what about Belle Fourche?'" Work recalled. "It's close to your family, the population is growing.' And I just said yes, because I was like, yes, yes, I'll do whatever. I mean, I'm in."

Finding the right location took time. They considered multiple buildings, including an old bowling alley, before finally securing their current spot, thanks to local property owner Doug. "Doug had reached out to us saying, hey, I heard you wanted a Domino's. We have a workout center right here. You guys can have a Domino's here. And we just were like, yes. I found out on my birthday too. So this was a birthday dream come true," explained Work.

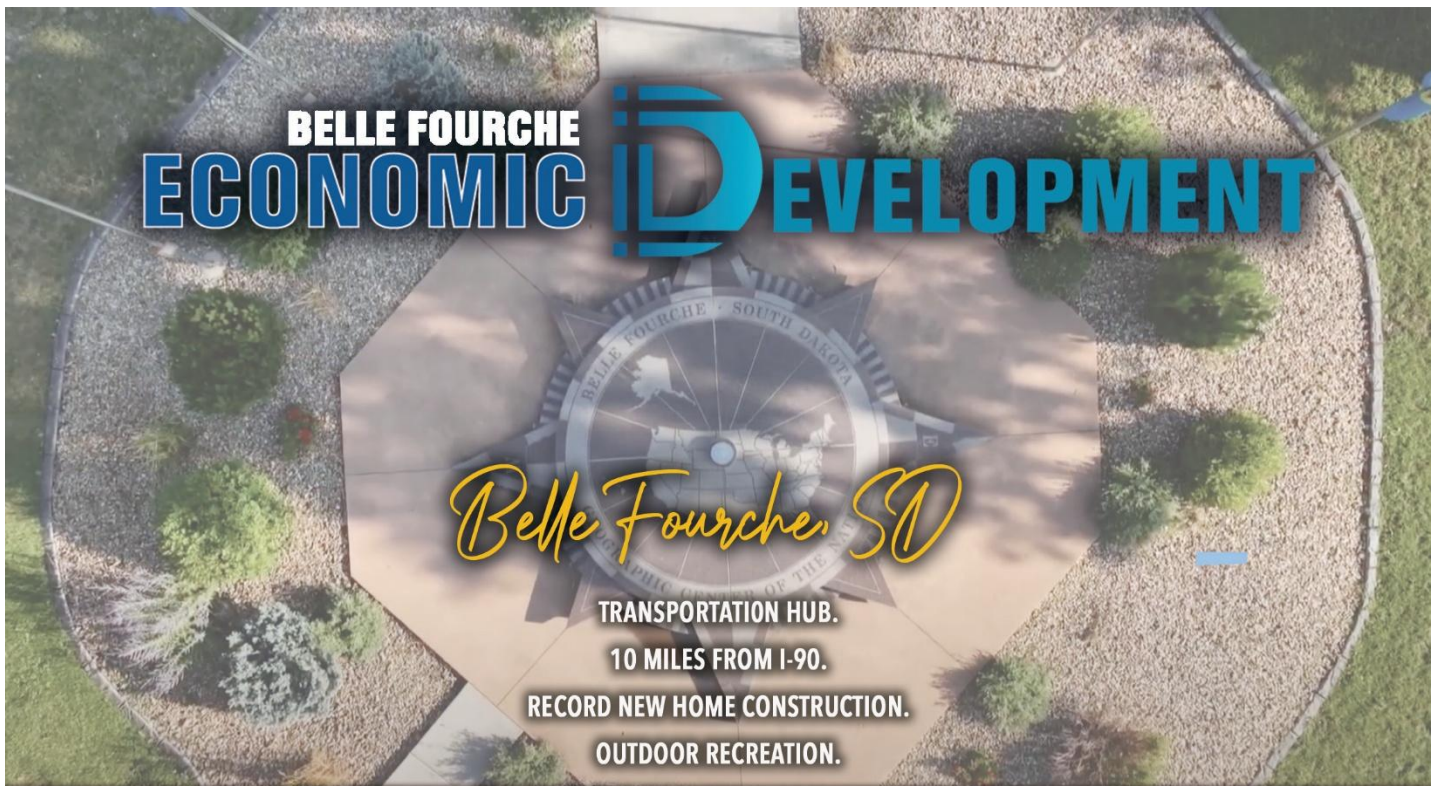
Since moving to Belle Fourche two months ago, the couple have embraced small-town life. "We were very involved with our Box Elder community," Auwerter said. "I feel like this is a lot more of, you know, everyone's a lot more friendly and relationships close knit, which is great. Everyone's been really nice."

The couple's connection to Domino's runs deep—so deep, in fact, that it's how they met. "He was my opening driver. He showed up late. Kind of crazy," laughed Work. The couple has now been married for five years and has two children, ages six and four.

As they run the store together, Auwerter serves as the General Manager while Work is an Operating Partner. They split shifts, ensuring one of them is always available. "People are like, how do you guys work with each other? We're just a team," Auwerter said. "We both really love our jobs and the home life side of it is just having good communication." Work and Auwerter are currently in a five-year partnership with Irwin, after which they will purchase the store outright. "Alan has been incredibly supportive," Work said. "This is an amazing opportunity, and we're grateful for it."

With weekly specials and an emphasis on community engagement, the new Domino's is eager to serve Belle Fourche. "We're really blessed to be out here, and we love Belle Fourche and our community," said Work. "I hope everyone knows that."





**3 NEW HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENTS UNDERWAY!**



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Belle Fourche is a community with strong leadership and alliances to help make the development process seamless. We are focused on aligning with companies to build community.

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WATCH OUR VIDEO!



# A New Home for Black Hills Title



*Outside of Black Hills Title Company's new location. It was the old Radio Shack*

By Robbi Longbrake

BELLE FOURCHE—Last week Black Hills Title got the keys to their brand new home, located at 1903 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD.

The old location was on 6th Street, right behind the old Wells Fargo building. The new location is in the old Radio Shack building. “We enjoyed being downtown, we just kind of outgrew it—we remodeled that building as much as we could for our needs, but it was time,” said Travis Martin, Title Operations Manager. “We were looking for quite awhile and waiting for the right thing to come up.”

The Radio Shack location provided the ability to create everything the business needed. “This was just one big open room,” explained Martin. “Now we’ve got three offices and a conference room, and then a lobby area and a break room in the back and good storage. We also have an employee bathroom and a customer bathroom, which we never had before!”

The move from downtown allowed for way more space inside the building, as well as, outside.

“We just ran out of space downtown, so this worked out great for us, to be able to move out here on this main drag,” explained Martin. “It’s wonderful! We have good parking now that is just for our office, so it works out good—easy in and out for people.”

While they have only had access to the new building for a week, they have already put the conference room to work. “We have had a few closings so far, people are really seeming to enjoy the space too,” said Martin.

After all of the finishing touches are done, look for Black Hills Title to have an open house and invite the public to see the new space. According to Martin, “we’re still kind of in the process of piecing together some things—some cabinets that are still coming in, and the sign isn’t our final sign that’s up now.”

## Dr. Steve Willard Appointed Acting President of Western Dakota Technical College

The Western Dakota Technical College (WDTTC) Board of Trustees has named Steve Willard, Ed.D., Acting President, effective Monday, Feb. 24.

Dr. Willard, who has served as Chair of the WDTTC Board of Trustees since Fall Semester 2024 and has been a board member since 2020, brings extensive experience to the interim role. Previously, he served as Superintendent of Schools for the Belle Fourche School District and has worked as a Principal and Career and Technical Education educator.

Lynn Kendall, WDTTC Board of Trustees Vice Chair and Regional Public Affairs Manager for Black Hills Energy, will assume the role of Interim WDTTC Board Chair during Dr. Willard's tenure as Acting President.

Christine Goldsmith, who has served as Acting WDTTC President following the passing of President Ann Bolman, Ed.D., in September 2024, will continue in her role as Vice President for Finance and Operations through March 2025, after which she will pursue a new career opportunity outside of Rapid City.



"On behalf of the WDTTC Board of Trustees, we sincerely appreciate Christine's leadership and dedication during this transition," Dr. Willard said. "She stepped into a challenging role with professionalism and commitment, and we are grateful for her contributions. We wish her all the best in her next endeavor."

The WDTTC Board of Trustees is currently conducting a comprehensive search for the next college president, with the goal of announcing a successor before the start of the Fall 2025 Semester. This process aims to identify a leader who aligns closely with WDTTC's vision and values.

"Despite the challenges of the past several months, Western Dakota Technical College continues to thrive," Dr. Steve Willard said. "Our dedicated faculty and staff remain fully committed to student success, and their hard work is evident every day. We are preparing for a large graduating class this spring, and I have no doubt our graduates will build successful careers and positively impact their communities."

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### ABOUT WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTTC) was established in 1968 and is the only technical college

serving the western South Dakota region.

WDTC offers more than 40 programs in a variety of fields, including Business and Computers, Construction and Manufacturing, Energy and Environmental Technologies, Health Sciences, Legal and Public Services, and Transportation Technologies.

Ninety-nine percent of Western Dakota Technical College's most recent graduates are working, continuing their education, or are enlisted in the military per the WDTC 2023 Placement Report. There were 353 respondents out of 399 graduates surveyed. [\*Placement information is derived from graduate surveys, faculty-collected data, placement surveys started six months after graduation, and the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation. Overall placement rate is figured by: (responding graduates employed, continuing education, or in military service)/(responding graduates who are seeking employment). The number of program graduates are unduplicated by CIP code.]

Western Dakota Technical College faculty, staff, and administration focus their efforts on helping students gain the skills and experiences they need to succeed. Through hands-on learning, internships, and industry partnerships, WDTC students graduate ready to make a real and immediate contribution to their employers and to their communities.

For information about WDTC, call (800) 544-8765 or (605) 718-2565 or send an email to [Admissions@wdt.edu](mailto:Admissions@wdt.edu). Visit us on the web at [wdt.edu](http://wdt.edu).



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# Belle Fourche Development Corporation

## 2025 Investment Campaign ~

*Your investment creates opportunities in Belle Fourche!*

Membership is an investment in the future growth and development of our community. Select your investment level and return this Member Application with your pledged amount.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Belle Fourche Development Corporation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

☐ Platinum  
\$1,000 or above

☐ Gold  
\$500 - \$999

☐ Silver  
\$250 - \$499

☐ Bronze  
\$100 - \$249

☐ Associate or Individual  
\$50 - \$99

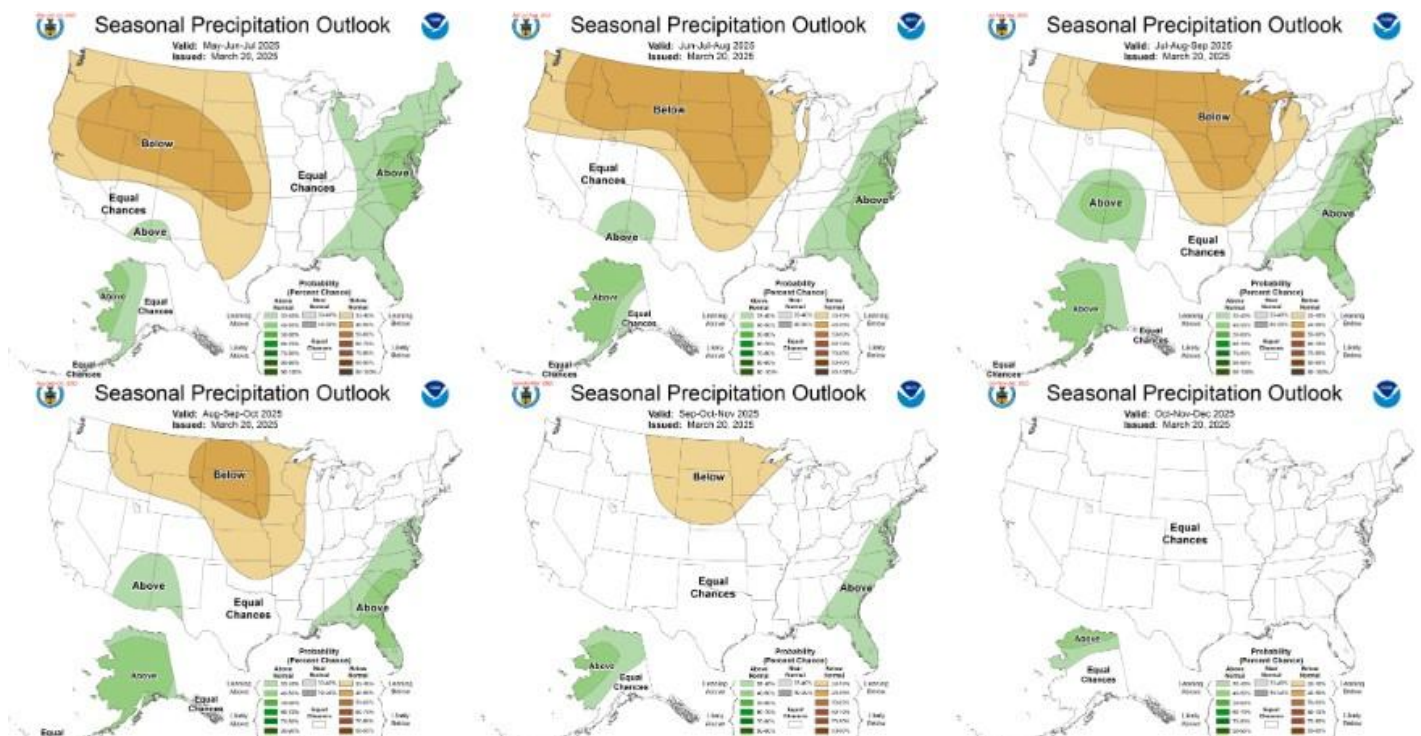
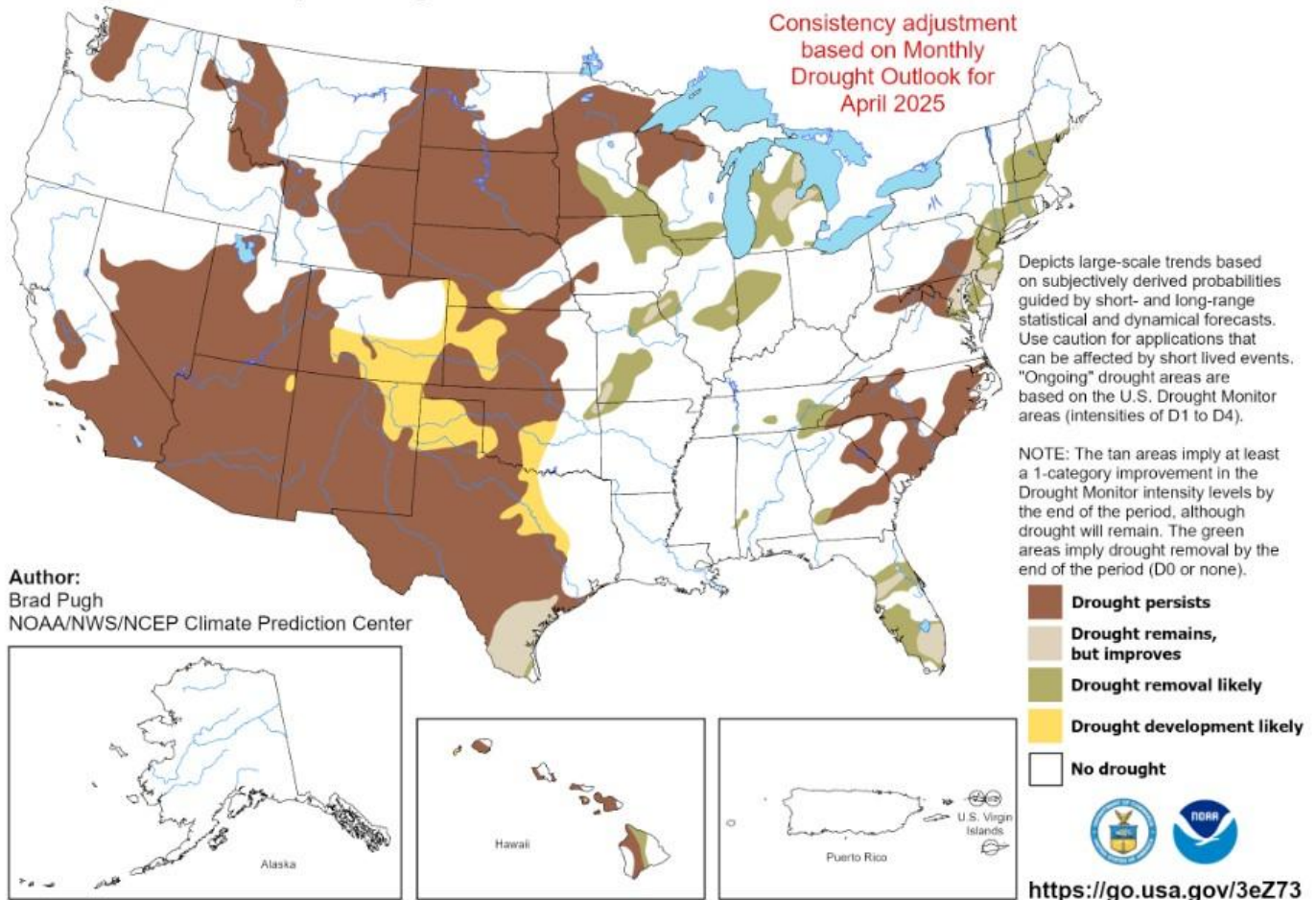
**See page 2 for investment benefits and payment options**

**Page 1**

# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

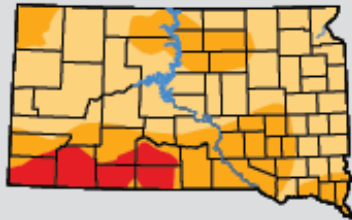
Valid for April 1 - June 30, 2025  
Released March 31, 2025





# Drought 2025:

Where to find sound advice and tools to help work through it



## US Drought Monitor South Dakota

The Drought Monitor: Quick weekly Updates of drought conditions in South Dakota with one click on the web

[https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/pdf/current/current\\_SD\\_cat.pdf](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/pdf/current/current_SD_cat.pdf)

Also see future drought outlook at <https://www.weather.gov/unr/drought>



## Pray for Rain, Plan for Drought

—Sound advice from South Dakota ranchers who have successfully battled drought over the years. Includes:

Video interviews with ranchers Bart Carmichael, Jim Faulstich, Dan Rasmussen, Larry Wagner, Luke Perman, Jeff Zimprich, and others.

Publications on how to rotate, rest and recover pastures to be resilient with drought.

Mentor contacts with a list of ranchers who will talk on the phone about how they drought-proof their ranch by planning ahead for resilience to drought, when they sell livestock, how they protect their grass, etc.

Courtesy of the South Dakota Grassland Coalition. <https://sddroughtplan.org/>



## Straight from South Dakota ranchers and experts

—A continuing compilation of soil health and grazing tips, including drought related topics, in a variety of online formats, that includes:

Podcasts and short-read blogs featuring South Dakota ranchers on how they are making their ranches resilient.

Free brief fact sheets on topics such as South Dakotas drought tool, what's involved in a drought contingency plan, trigger dates, calving on grass, the keys to resilient ranches, and more.

Video interviews with ranchers, conservationists and consultants including Jim Kopriva, Drew Anderson, Pat Guptill, Lealand Schoon, Van Mansheim, Emily Helms, and others that center on components of soil health and sound grazing systems. <https://www.growingresiliencesd.com/drought-management>

## SDSU Extension and USDA/NRCS assistance

—South Dakota State University Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and conservation district offices are involved in many of the recommendations for drought resilience. Visit their local offices or their websites.

Produced by the Growing Resilience team on behalf of the South Dakota NRCS and its partners. More information online at: <https://www.growingresiliencesd.com/>



## Guidance from resilient ranchers during the dry spell in 2022

*There were worries about drought just three years ago. Here's what ranchers experienced in planning ahead for drought had to say then. Their advice still applies.*



### *Advice on Navigating a Dry 2022*

"We've all been through droughts. They're inevitable here. We can't stop them, but there's a lot we can do to prepare to make them less stressful and hurtful to our operations. Our entire board has drought plans and grazing plans—a few thoughts from some board members are shown below. We'd be happy to talk with you about what we've learned."

*Board of Directors,  
South Dakota Grassland Coalition*



When we comingled our herds, that meant all of our animals were eating in one spot on our ranch. The most impactful thing about that is all the rest of our ranch was recovering and better prepared for drought."

*Brett and Lori Nix    Murdo, SD    Past Board Chair*



"The next drought is right around the corner; we'll always need a flexible drought plan. It avoids surprises, avoids getting yourself painted into a corner. Put your attention on your grass resource."

*Jim Faulstich    Highmore, SD    Board Vice Chair*



"If I'm going to be short on forage, I know I'll have to get rid of some cattle. Overgrazed pasture can take 3 to 5 years to recover; well managed grass recovers quickly. Whatever decision you make, make it to protect your pastures."

*Pat Guptill    Quinn, SD    Past Board Member*



"Not planning is a plan to fail, I really believe that. Drought is what threw us into management-intensive grazing. I look at drought as a way to make our ranch better, improving grass and herd management skills to improve profits."

*Bart Carmichael    Faith, SD    Past Board Member*



"Good grazing practices show benefits in dry years. That's the first part of our drought plan. The second part is to start selling livestock, and then be prepared to bring those numbers back when it rains again. Think months ahead."

*Dan Rasmussen    Belvidere, SD    Board Consultant*

More information on the web at [www.sddroughtplan.org](http://www.sddroughtplan.org)



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[SD.nrcs.usda.gov](http://SD.nrcs.usda.gov)



## Governor Rhoden Helps Break Ground for the New Police Department



**BELLE FOURCHE**—The community of Belle Fourche was invited to celebrate the historic groundbreaking ceremony for the new home of the Belle Fourche Police Department on the afternoon of March 20. The ceremony was held at the location of the current police department building, where the new facility will be built with several special guests joining in on the festivities.

South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden was on hand for the momentous occasion, as well as Mayor Randy Schmidt. Police Chief Ryan Cherveney welcomed the large crowd to the event explaining, “Today we break ground on a new police facility that will enhance our training, strengthen our department and serve as a symbol of the strong partnership between law enforcement and our community and our commitment to public safety.”

Belle Fourche Mayor Randy Schmidt also welcomed the community and discussed the significance of the new building. “This building will give our officers the tools and resources that they need to train, serve, and protect our community at the highest level. Today we are building more than just a new police department, we are building a stronger Belle Fourche,” he said. Governor Larry Rhoden expressed how nice it was to be back in Belle Fourche. He spent the first part of his career in the legislature and Belle Fourche was part of his district.

“I got to know Belle Fourche really well. “I’ve always been fond of Belle Fourche,” he said. “It’s an honor to be here...it’s just kind of a breath of fresh air to get out west.” Governor Rhoden went on to explain how important law enforcement is to him personally.

He has many family members including a son and brother-in-law in law enforcement. “I have a number of law enforcement in my family, my younger son, is the Deputy Sheriff in Pennington County, and my brother, John, spent a long time as Deputy Sheriff from Meade County.”

The Governor underscored the importance of the respect he has for those who serve and protect our communities. “In South Dakota we still respect law enforcement and first responders and the people that put themselves in harm’s way so the rest of us can sleep easy at night. That means a lot to me,” he stated. “We value our law enforcement officers, and we value them as contributing members of our society, so I want to thank you!”

Contractor, RC Scull of RCS Construction took the stage to kick off the physical groundbreaking event. “I want to say it’s an honor and privilege to be part of this project. We’re excited to get started and break ground, so let’s grab a shovel and break ground for this new building.

**Robbi Longbrake**  
news@bellefourchebeacon.com