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**(S.D.)-Buffalo Moved From Spearfish Heritage Center**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 12/17/2012 08:19 AM

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) - The buffalo that have been an icon of the High Plains Western Heritage Center in Spearfish have been removed from the pasture.

Center officials say that recent development near the display pasture has sparked safety concerns, so the buffalo were loaded into trailers Wednesday by officials with the Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, located near Buffalo, S.D. The male and two heifers were then slaughtered.

Center director Peggy Ables says the center couldn't risk someone climbing the fence and getting hurt.

The buffalo had roamed the center's north pasture for nearly 20 years.

Ables says plans are in place to add three longhorn cattle to the display for the 2013 tourist season.

She says that longhorns, more than other cattle breeds, represent the Old West.

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