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To be included in Buffalo Bytes, please email your items to *bytes@custersd.com*. Submissions must be received by Wednesday at 5:00 PM to be included in that week's issue.
Thank you!

CUSTER CONNECTIONS

Dear Chamber Member,

We are excited to share that Custer Restaurant Week will take place February 23–March 1, and we're looking forward to celebrating our local dining scene while encouraging residents and visitors to support Custer businesses.

As part of Restaurant Week, we will be offering prize drawings to help drive participation and excitement throughout the week. We are reaching out to ask if your business would be willing to donate a prize—such as a gift card, merchandise, or a service—to be included in our promotional giveaways.

Donating a prize is a great way to:

- Gain visibility during Restaurant Week promotions
- Support local restaurants and the Custer business community
- Attract new customers to your business

All donating businesses will be recognized in our Restaurant Week marketing and promotions. If you are interested in contributing or would like additional details, please let us know.

We truly appreciate your support and your help in making Custer Restaurant Week a success.

Thank you for supporting our local community.

Warm regards,
Dawn Murray



Dawn Murray
Executive Director

MINIMUM WAGE REMINDER

Effective Jan. 1, 2026:

- the minimum wage for non-tipped employees in South Dakota is \$11.85/hour.
- the minimum wage for tipped employees in South Dakota is \$5.925/hour.

South Dakota minimum wage requirements apply to all employees; however, no minimum wage requirements apply to independent contractors.

2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

A full list of 2025 events by the Chamber and other organizations.

[Click to download calendar](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 28th

GDD Planning Meeting
Custer Beacon
5:05PM

January 29th

Chamber Mixer
hosted by Gold Pan Saloon
5:00PM-7:00PM

February 3rd

4th of July Planning Meeting
Legion Post 46 Room
10:30am

February 5th

Open House
hosted by Monument Health

5:00PM-7:00PM

February 19th

Chamber Mixer
hosted by Premier Eye Care
5:00PM-7:00PM

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



To make participation simple and flexible, Dakota Greens is offering two options this year:

Full-Service Basket – \$175

Includes watering services, fertilizer, and plant replacement as needed throughout the season. A no-maintenance way to keep your business looking vibrant all summer long..- (\$100 watering service May-End Sept., and \$75 for Basket)

Basket Only – \$75

Just want the basket? This option lets you purchase the patriotic planter without maintenance services included.

Whether you choose the convenience of full service or prefer to care for your basket yourself, your participation helps us fill Custer with patriotic color and community pride.

If you'd like to participate or need more information, please contact the Chamber Office. Let's work together to make this summer one to remember as we honor 250 years of America's story.

Get Signed Up

**Congratulations to the 2026-2028
Custer Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors members**



AMY BAILEY
COREY VIRTUE
MIRANDA BOGGS



Chamber Mixer



Hosted By:



January 29th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Held At The Gold Pan Saloon

508 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD 57730

**MIXERS ARE A GREAT WAY TO MEET, MIX, AND MINGLE PLEASE
BRING A FRIEND AND ENJOY SOME REFRESHMENTS**



SPONSOR
CUSTER
RESTAURANT WEEK
FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 1

GOLD	\$300
SILVER	\$200
BRONZE	\$100
MENU	\$ 50

PRIZE SPONSORS ALSO NEEDED



Email Dawn at dmurray@custersd.com

Chamber Mixer



Hosted By:



February 19th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Held At Premier Eye Care

23 N 1st St, Custer, SD 57730

**MIXERS ARE A GREAT WAY TO MEET, MIX, AND MINGLE PLEASE
BRING A FRIEND AND ENJOY SOME REFRESHMENTS**



WEEKLY HUMOR



Thank you
for renewing your
Chamber Membership

Thank you so much for renewing your membership with the Custer Chamber! We truly appreciate your continued support and partnership.

- 1. 1880 Train
- 2. 1881 Courthouse Museum
- 3. 21 Electric
- 4. A & B Business Solutions

- 139. Highmark Credit Union
- 140. Hills Inn
- 141. HJEM am
- 142. Holiday Inn Express

5. A Walk in the Woods	143. Homeslice Media Group
6. Abundant Life Fellowship of Custer SD	144. Homestead Carpet Care
7. Aflac -Carol Perrigo	145. Honest Paint Co
8. Al Cornella Refrigeration	146. Horatio's Homemade Ice Cream
9. All Net Connections	147. Hounds, Pugs, and Hugs
10. ALPHA Builders, LLC	148. J & M Lawn Care
11. American Family Insurance- Ronni Calvird Agency	149. Jacqueline Hartwick
12. American Legion Post #46	150. JAM Heating and Cooling LLC
13. Aspen Federal Credit Union	151. Jewel Cave National Monument
14. Aspen+Pine Realty	152. John & Diana Carson
15. Bakers Bakery	153. Jon G Gindhart, D.C., PLLC.
16. Bavarian Inn	154. Jorgensen Log Homes Inc
17. Bear Country USA	155. JQ Clothing Co
18. Beaver Lake Campground	156. K & S Stagecoach Stop
19. Beecher Rock Vehicle Storage	157. K2 Masonry & Concrete Inc
20. Begging Burro Mexican Bistro and Tequila Bar	158. Ketel Thorstenson
21. Best Western	159. Kieffer Sanitation
22. Big Pine Campground	160. Kitchens by Karla
23. Black Granite Construction	161. Lampert Properties
24. Black Hills Badlands	162. Lasting Impressions Unlimited
25. Black Hills Balloons	163. Laurie Arthur
26. Black Hills Bronco Adventures	164. Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC
27. Black Hills Burger & Pizza Co	165. LFC Veterinary Service
28. Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial	166. Living Outreach Church
29. Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc	167. LJ's Recovery and Transport, LLC
30. Black Hills Enclave	168. Local Black Hills
31. Black Hills Energy	169. Lynn's Dakotamart
32. Black Hills Federal Credit Union	170. Marci & John O'Connell
33. Black Hills Parks & Forests Association	171. Maria's Mexican Restaurant
34. Black Hills Pizza Hut	172. McCoy PC dba Custer Lawyer PLLC
35. Black Hills Playhouse	173. McGas Propane
36. Black Hills Power Bikes Rentals and Boutique	174. Mickelson Trail Affiliates, LLC
37. Black Hills Preservation Project	175. Miner's Cup, LLC
38. Blind Guy Custom Window Coverings	176. Moccasin Springs
39. Bradeen Real Estate and Auctions	177. Monument Health- Custer Hospital/Clinic
40. Branch Construction Services, LLC	178. Mountainview Baptist Church
41. Buffalo Ridge Camp Resorts	179. Mt Rushmore Brewing Co/ Pounding Fathers
42. Buglin' Bull	180. Murray Auto Repair LLC
43. Busy Ewe Farm & Fiber	181. My XO Adventures
44. Calamity Jane Kitchen	182. Naomi Haraldson
45. Calamity Peak Lodge	183. NARFE
46. Camp Bob Marshal	184. Nelson's Oil & Gas
47. Carr Electric, Co, LLC	185. New Trails Ministry, Inc
48. Carson Drug	186. Nielsen Enterprises, LLC
49. Certified Folder Display Service, Inc	187. NXTLAW PC
50. Chalet Motel	188. Operation Black Hills Cabins
51. Chamberlain McColleys Funeral Home	189. Our Place
52. Chapel in the Hills	190. Our Quilty Things
53. Charley and Norma Najacht	191. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
54. Chief Motel	192. Outlaw Ranch
55. Christy Chamberlain & Bob Reich	193. Pain & Movement Solutions
56. City of Custer	194. Patti & Jim Lee
57. Claw Antler and Hide	195. PDQ Construction
58. Coca-Cola Bottling Company	196. Petals & Pages
59. Colleen Hennesy and Jim Frank	197. Pizza Mill
60. Comfort Inn & Suites	198. Pleasant Valley Farm and Cabins LLC
61. Common Cents	199. Plenty Star Ranch Retreat
62. Community Education of the BH	200. Prairie Hills Transit
63. Crazy Horse Memorial	201. Premier Family Eyecare
64. Crossroads Church	202. Purple Pie Place

65. Custer Ace Hardware	203. Pye-Barker Fire & Safety
66. Custer Ambulance Service	204. Rabbit Bicycle Rental & Repair
67. Custer Area Arts Council	205. Reed's Chimney Sweeping, Handyman & caretaking
68. Custer Cares	206. Regency CSP Resorts
69. Custer Chiropractic, PC	207. Reptile Gardens
70. Custer City Masonic Lodge #66	208. Rise Custer
71. Custer County Airport	209. Road Runner Inc
72. Custer County Candy Company	210. Rock Solid
73. Custer County Chronicle	211. Rocket Motel
74. Custer County Conservation District	212. Rod and Avis Converse
75. Custer County Democratic Party	213. Ronald McDonald Charities
76. Custer County Library Foundation	214. RP Lumber Co Inc
77. Custer County Republicans	215. Rush Mountain Adventure Park
78. Custer Dental Studio	216. Rushmore Photo & Gift, Inc
79. Custer Golf Corp/ Rocky Knolls Golf Course	217. Rushmore Vacation Rentals
80. Custer Heating & Air Conditioning	218. Sage Creek Grille
81. Custer Lions Club	219. Sentinel Federal Credit Union
82. Custer Lutheran Fellowship	220. Servall Uniforms & Linens
83. Custer Mile High Garden Club	221. Sew What
84. Custer Mt. Rushmore KOA	222. Shady Rest Motel
85. Custer Piecemaker Quilt Guild	223. Shepherd of the Hills
86. Custer Rotary	224. Simon Contractors of SD, Inc
87. Custer Senior Center	225. Skogen Kitchen
88. Custer State Farm- Steve Engelbrecht Agent	226. Sleep Better South Dakota, LLC
89. Custer State Park	227. Sousleys HillBilly Barbeque Catering
90. Custer Subway	228. South Dakota Outdoor Shop
91. Custer's Gulch RV Park & Campground	229. South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation
92. Custer's Rendezvous	230. Southern Hills Animal Clinic
93. Dacotah Bank	231. Southern Hills Family Medicine, PLLC
94. Dakota Greens - Custer Greenhouses & Nursery, Inc.	232. Southern Hills Law, PLLC
95. Dakota Photographic	233. Southern Hills Tactical
96. Dave's Rock Shop	234. Southern Hills Title Co.
97. Days Inn	235. Splish Splash Car, RV and Dog Wash
98. Deep Creek Art Gallery	236. Spokane Creek Cabins & Camp
99. DGR Engineering	237. Sprockets Fun Foundry
100. Diane Dennis	238. St John the Baptist Catholic Church
101. Don & Arlayne Barmore	239. Star Ridge Advetisments
102. Double Diamond Ranch	240. Starr Insurance
103. Eagle's Landing Lodge	241. Stars and Stripes by Steph
104. Early Learner Custer	242. Steele Collision & Glass
105. Econolodge	243. Steve and Yolanda Davis
106. Edward Jones- Mark Koch	244. Stockade Lake Cabin
107. Edward Jones-Jared Slagel	245. Studt Construction, Inc
108. Edward Jones-Kris Zerbe	246. Sturgis Mustang Rally
109. Elk Haven Vacation Cabins	247. Sunset RV Park
110. enCore Energy Corp	248. Sunshine Storage
111. EO Bungalows	249. Super 8
112. Evergreen Media	250. Sweet Clover and Sage Salon
113. Faith Lewis Real Estate Inc	251. Sylvan Rocks Climbing School and Guide Service
114. Feel Good Café	252. Tallgrass Landscape Architecture
115. First Choice Lock and Key	253. Tanglewood Estate
116. First Interstate Bank	254. Tennyson Investments
117. Floors and More Cleaning and Restoration	255. The Cruisin' Canvas
118. Four Mile Old West Town & Campground	256. The Custer Beacon
119. Fred & Wendy Hlava	257. The Custer Wolf Food & Drink
120. Freedom Hills Wealth Management	258. The Mammoth Site
121. Freeman's Electric Service, Inc.	259. Thomas Home Improvement
122. French Creek Campground & RV Park	260. Travel Custer
123. French Creek Supply- NAPA Auto Parts	261. United States Forest Service Supervisor's Office
124. French Creek Tree Fellers, LLC	262. United Way of the Black Hills

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 125. | Frenchy's Hideaways | 263. | Valhalla Legal, PLLC |
| 126. | George Mickelson Trail | 264. | Vector Design Print and Tech |
| 127. | Gideons International Southern Hills Camp | 265. | VFW Post #3442 |
| 128. | Glen Erin Campground | 266. | Vineyard Black Hills |
| 129. | Gold Camp Cabins, LLC | 267. | Western Skies Real Estate |
| 130. | Gold Pan Saloon/ Calamity Jane | 268. | Western Tire Chain LLC |
| 131. | Gold Valley Camp | 269. | Windsong Valley Gardens |
| 132. | Golden West Telecommunications | 270. | Workplace Disability Network of the Black Hills |
| 133. | Good Karma Jewelry | 271. | World Fossil Finders Museum |
| 134. | Green Owl Media | 272. | Xanterra |
| 135. | Grizzly Gulch Adventure Golf | 273. | YMCA |
| 136. | Growing Roots, Inc | 274. | Zonta Club of the Southern Black Hills |
| 137. | H&R Block | | |
| 138. | Harney Peak Chapter, NSDAR | | |



PDQ Specialty Products
Xtreme Sports Simulators
The Christians Team-Broker Heath Shields
The Hills Finest-Bridal by Michelle

Don't Panic, LLC
Rising Hope Counseling, LLC
Custer Laundry
Lintz Brothers Pizza
Around the Map Travel
Winmore, LLC
Bridle Ridge Horse and RV Camp LLC
Bottoms Up Taphouse
Grant Administration & Consulting LLC
Aflac- Matti (Kelley) Schryvers
Quilted Buffalo
Performance Outdoor Services
Western Dakota Tech Foundation
Encompass Payroll
South Dakota Department of Labor &
Regulation
On The Water
Elk Mountain Retreats and Tours
Rushmore Custom T's
Drover's Ridge
Black Hills Open-Top-Tours
Village of Boyd
Boyds Antiques and Unique's, Inc
Custer Sheds- by Old Hickory
Nomad Vancamp & RV Park

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Membership Spotlight

Want your business in this spot and on facebook?



Email

ASSISTANT@CUSTERSD.COM

for more Information

#Membership Monday

◆◆ Membership Spotlight Time! ◆◆

We love shining a light on the amazing businesses that make our community great! ◆◆

Would you like to see your business in the spotlight?

Send a short write-up and a few photos to assistant@ustersd.com — we can't wait to feature YOU!

◆◆

AREA EVENTS



Register in the shop or on-line at QuiltedBuffalo.com under the Classes or Calendar tab.

LEARN TO QUILT CLASSES WITH JODY TOMAC OF OUR QUILTY THINGS

January 5, 12, 19, 26, Monday's, 9AM to Noon, \$20 registration & \$80 instructor fee OR
February 6, 20, 27, March 6, Friday's 9AM to Noon, \$20 registration & \$80 instructor fee.

TEMPERATURE QUILT AND WANDERER'S WIFE MONTHLY MEET-UPS

January 7th, 11AM to 3PM, First Wednesday of each month, there will be prizes!!
\$40 registration for the year.

MONDO BAG CLASS

January 8th & 9th, 11AM – 4PM, 2-day class. \$5 registration & \$30 instructor fee.

SCRAPPY STRING PIECING CLASS

January 4th, 11AM – 4PM, \$15 registration and scrap fabric for piecing.

OPEN SEW

January 24th, 11AM – 4PM, \$5 registration.

5TH FRIDAY FAT QUARTER SALE

January 30th, Buy 4 FQs, get the 5th FQ free.
In shop only.

END OF MONTH / END OF BOLT SALE

January 31st, Purchase all the fabric left on the bolt and receive 25% off the regular price. Sale & Clearance fabrics not included.



Custer Senior Center's Rolls ARE BACK!

Beginning on January 9th, 2026 the Senior Center will roll out another delicious season of cinnamon and caramel rolls. The Center will be selling rolls January 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th. We know how much you've missed our homemade caramel rolls—and they're finally making their return!



Caramel & Walnuts = \$4
Caramel = \$3.50
Frosted = \$3
Plain = \$2.50

Please call (605)673-2708
to place an order. Selling
every Friday beginning on
January 9th!

538 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Custer, SD 57730



Kids Paint Party this Friday at The Cruisin' Canvas Studio, 122 N. 6th St. Custer
Please **RSVP**, tami@thecruisincanvas.com OR text (970)481-8183

LEARN TO QUILT CLASSES

WITH JODY OF OUR QUILTY THINGS



Sew Quick pattern by Fabric Cafe

Ready for some fabric fun? Over 4 Mondays in January OR 4 Fridays in February/March you will learn how to cut fabric with a rotary cutter and ruler, sew a quarter-inch seam, nest seams, and attach borders & binding. **Class schedule is January 5, 12, 29, 26 from 9AM to Noon OR February 6, 20, 27, March 6 from 9am to Noon**. Cost is **\$100** and seats are limited to 8 sewists. Stop by the store for more information & a supplies list. Pattern and supplies can be purchased separately from the Quilted Buffalo.

Minimum of 4 students must be registered by January 2nd for January classes and February 4th for February classes. Register in the shop or online at QuiltedBuffalo.com through the Classes or Calendar tab.

Mondays in January
OR
Fridays in February

9AM to Noon

Quilted Buffalo Classroom
757 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD
Jody Tomac – Our Quilty Things
307.746.8550

Bingo January 13th



Bingo!

Gold Pan Saloon
6:00 PM





Custer VFW Post #3442 Jan Highlights

Tues, Jan 13th: House Meeting 5 p.m.

Thurs, Jan 15th: Auxiliary Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Post Meeting - 7 p.m.

(bar closes at 6 p.m.)

Fri-Sun, Jan 2nd-4th: Battle of Buckhorn Pool Tournament

Fri, Jan 16th: Steak Nite 5:30 - 8 p.m.

with Brent Morris @ 7 p.m.

Sat, Jan 17th: State Line Ramblers @ 7 p.m./Beetle Burn

Fri, Jan 23rd: Gun Bash & Karaoke w/Joey

(immediately following Queen of Hearts)

Mon, Jan 26th: Cub Scout Derby Race 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Fri, Jan 30th: Midnight Sun Band @ 7 p.m.

NEW: Meat Bundle Drawing on Sundays -

Jan 11th, 18th, & 25th @ 4 p.m.

Fridays at 6 p.m.: Queen of Hearts Drawing

Updated Kitchen Hours: Wed-Sat Noon - 2 p.m. & 5 - 8 p.m.

(not available on Steak Night)



JANUARY 15TH, 2026

CUSTER SENIOR CENTER'S SOUP & PIE FUNDRAISER

Join us on **Thursday, January 15th from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM** for our monthly Soup & Pie Fundraiser! For just \$10, enjoy a warm bowl of soup, fresh-baked bread, a delicious slice of pie, and your choice of beverage. Come share a great meal, connect with neighbors, and help support our local Senior Citizens Center. We look forward to seeing you!



3 Soups to
choose from

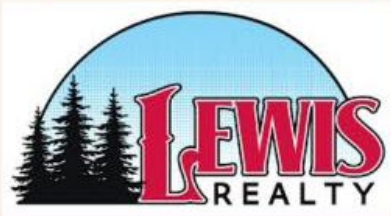


Freshly Baked Bread



Many different slices
of pie to choose from

THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR FOR
SPONSORING THIS EVENT AND SUPPORTING THE
CUSTER SENIOR CENTER:



FOR ONLY
\$10.00

THE BLUEPRINT

Custer County Democratic Party



Monthly Breakfast Get-together

Saturday, January 10th (*Note Date Change*)

9:00AM, Pancakes & Perspectives

Crazy Horse Memorial - Laughing Water Restaurant

1215 Avenue of the Chiefs, Custer, SD

RSVP by Friday noon, January 9th to ccsddp21info@gmail.com



2026 Kickoff = Legislative Advocacy Night

Thursday, January 15th : 5:30PM Socialize 6:00PM Event Begins

Custer County Library – Pine room - 447 Crook St, Custer, SD 57730

Join us for an engaging evening of conversation and community building. We'll start by socializing and hearing directly from leaders about key issues. Then stick around for a dynamic discussion on how to confidently engage representatives and advocate for what matters.

Come for the connection. Leave empowered.



Custer County Democrats of SD
PO Box 5065 - Custer, SD 57730
ccsddp21info@gmail.com
[@custercountymdemocratsofsouthdakota](https://www.facebook.com/custercountymdemocratsofsouthdakota)

January is the month to recommit - to justice, equality, and the promise that tomorrow can be better than today.

The Custer County Democrats invite everyone who values and supports our vision to promote Democracy, Economic Justice, Universal Human Rights, Environmentalism, and a Culture of Peace to join our growing community.

“Living in Community in Our Natural Environment”

– A 2026 Burning Beetle Learning Event –



Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:30 pm

Pine Room, Custer County Courthouse Annex

“A forum for understanding our natural environment.”

6:15	<i>Gathering/Refreshments</i>	Host: Custer County Conservation District
6:30	<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>	Hank Fridell, Chair, Burning Beetle Committee
6:35	<i>History and Photography: 1997-2017 Pine Beetle Epidemic (From Forest to Yard)</i>	Paul Horsted, Dakota Photographic, LLC
7:00	<i>Preparing your home & property for fire – landowner experience.</i>	Lane Ostenson, SD Wildland Fire; Tim Behlings, Landowner & Rapid City FD & Custer VFD (ret)
7:30	<i>A wildlife primer for Black Hills landowners</i>	Ben Puckett, Private Lands Habitat Biologist, SD Game, Fish & Parks
7:50	<i>Community conversation – Q&A's, cost-share programs</i>	Dave Thom, Custer County Conservation District
8:00	<i>Adjourn</i>	



BURNING BEETLE JAN 17 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY JAN 15

6:30PM FOREST TALK - PINE ROOM CUSTER COURTHOUSE ANNEX

SATURDAY JAN 17

2:30PM DOORS OPEN FOR TORCH TICKET SALES @ CHS

PRE-BURN LIVE MUSIC AT 

3:30PM VARIETY SHOW @ CHS AUDITORIUM

5:00PM LINE-UP FOR TORCH MARCH@CHS PARKING LOT

5:15(ish)PM TORCH MARCH FROM CHS TO PAGEANT HILL
FIRE JUGGLING PERFORMANCE @ PAGEANT HILL

5:30(ish)PM **BURN BEETLE BURN & FIREWORKS**

6:00PM BUG CRAWL! LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN



GET YOUR BEETLE GEAR!

AVAILABLE AT





**OFFICIAL HOODIES
CAPS & STICKERS**





EveryDay Strong

a new initiative from

United Way of the Black Hills



What you will learn:

- Anxiety and depression are growing among kids and teenagers, but simple actions today can change the lives of our youth.

- **A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH.**

There's one main thing that youth need to thrive: the presence of just ONE caring adult in their life. EveryDay Strong will show how you can be that caring adult.

Wednesday, January 28th @ 6pm

Custer Lutheran Fellowship
US-16 E Alt, Custer, SD 57730

Presented by:

LOST & FOUND®







SHEJUMPS x BHPFA x THE CUSTER BEACON

FILM SCREENING: Girl Winter Film Tour

CUSTER| SD

Celebrate Galentine's Day with BHPFA and SheJumps!

The Girl Winter Film Tour features six short films that highlight stories of perseverance, creativity, and connection to the mountains—told by and about women redefining what it means to thrive in winter.

All are welcome to attend!

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS!



Feb. 13, 2026
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm MT
Custer Beacon, Custer, SD

Grab a drink, enjoy delicious appetizers, and relax in the cozy atmosphere of the Beacon.

Timeline:
6:00 pm- Doors open
6:30 pm- Welcome and raffle!
6:45 pm-7:00pm- Women's Adventure Film Tour

Win great prizes from Yeti, Smith Optics, Rumpl, and more!



Black Hills Parks & Forests Association | www.blackhillsparks.org | 605-745-7020



WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA GARDENING

Thursday Mar 5, 2026
6 - 7 p.m. MT

Hill City Public Library
341 Main Street
Hill City, SD



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

JUNE 13, 2026



Bike it like you mean it!

George S. Mickelson Trail

109 Miles • 1 Day
1/2 Century Ride: 49 miles

Register Now!

MickelsonTrailAffiliates.com




We Ride at Dawn!

Event starts in Deadwood, ends in Edgemont

Registration Includes: Meals • Snacks

Day Pass • Rider Support • T-Shirt • Trail Swag

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sporting goods, Quality furnishings, Shop & Firearms Online Auction
Online Bidding Closes Tuesday Jan. 20th, 2026, 4:00 PM



Ron Bradeen - Jeff Storm - Travis Mayer, Auctioneers
605-673-2629 • Custer, SD
www.bradeenauction.com





HOMESCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURES

Exploring nature through guided hikes, engaging storytelling, hands-on observation, and creative journaling.

LIMITED SPOTS!!

JAN-MAY 2026
Last Thursday of the month 9 am- Noon

For ages 5-12

COST PER CLASS	REGISTRATION REQUIRED	LOCATION
\$10, BHPFA members get 15% off	 www.bhpfa.org	Circle Z Ranch Outdoor Learning Area, Custer, SD <i>Inclement weather location: The Trailhouse, Custer, SD</i>

MONTHLY TOPICS

JANUARY 29 Nature Observation Skills	FEBRUARY 26 Black Hills Mammals
MARCH 26 Outdoor Survival Skills	APRIL 29 Spring Changes
MAY 28 Voices of Nature	

Please come dressed for all weather conditions; we will be outside for the entire program. Parents are not required to stay on site.



BLACK HILLS
PARKS &
FORESTS
ASSOCIATION



the
TRAILHOUSE
a creative gathering space
www.TrailhouseArts.com

www.bhpfa.org | 605-745-7020 | Supporting Wonder & Exploration since 1946



Stay Informed & Engaged!

Sign up for weekly updates, action alerts and texts during the 2026 legislative session.



It's Your Industry – Help Us Protect it!

Anticipated and known legislation:

- Outfitter & Guide licensing
- Repeal of tax exemptions on advertising
- Repeal of tax exemptions on rodeo services
- Potential legislation to redirect tourism tax to property tax relief
- Legislation to change local economic development tools
- Legislation to change GOED Future Funds
- Campground expansion
- Airport legislation
- And many more to come

We need everyone in the tourism industry to be aware, be prepared and support advocacy efforts with calls and emails when legislators need to be contacted!



605-660-1078



carmen@tourismcoalitionsd.com



tourismcoalitionsd.com



CUSTER COUNTY CWPP

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Custer County is updating its CWPP in cooperation with representatives from local, state, and federal agencies and other organizations with a stake in wildfire preparedness and mitigation. The project is being facilitated and supported by contract staff from Bintel Inc.

The CWPP is a plan developed by a community in an area at risk from wildfire. The Community Wildfire Protection Planning process is the collaboration between communities and agencies interested in reducing wildfire risk.

We welcome your feedback on how wildfire affects you for the purposes of the CWPP.

Survey Topics:

- county wildfire risks
- landowner mitigation
- evacuation planning



Scan for Survey



What is included in a CWPP?

- fire history, behavior, and probability
- firefighting capabilities & water supplies
- evacuation routes
- wildfire community hazard ratings
- wildfire mitigation recommendations
- home ignition zone recommendations

For more information about the project contact
sesser@custercountysd.com



Take Survey

Hats on, Gloves up! Let's Warm The
Community



Winter Hat & Glove Drive

DROP OFF LOCATION
EDWARD JONES: KRIS ZERBE
245 MT. RUSHMORE RD
CUSTER, SD 57730



**Donate: Hats/gloves brand new or
clean in good condition**

All sizes needed from infant to teenager!



For more information call Aubrey at 605-673-4092 or
email at aubrey.frasier@edwardjones.com

DONATIONS NEEDED



– Empower Job Corps Classes –



Donate your old (working) sewing machines to Job Corps to aid in helping students build the skills and gain the hands-on experience needed to launch a successful career, pursue higher education, or join the military.

**Drop off your donations
at Custer Senior Center**

LOVE LOCAL GIVE LOCAL

**HELP LOCAL PROJECTS THAT MATTER TO YOU
& YOUR BUSINESS!**

CHAMBER MEMBERS:
PLEASE CONSIDER A BUSINESS DONATION

HIGHLIGHT YOUR BUSINESS & SUPPORT CUSTER'S FUTURE!

DONATE AT THE CITY OFFICE OR SPEAK TO A COMMITTEE MEMBER

CURRENT PROJECT:

REBUILD & REVIVE WEST DAM AND PARKS



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[WWW.CUSTERCDF.COM](http://www.custercdf.com)

NEWS FROM THE STATE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thurs., Jan. 1, 2026

CONTACT: Katlyn Svendsen, Global Public Relations & Content Services Senior Director, Travel South Dakota

Travel South Dakota's Rose Parade Float Wins Americana Award

Pasadena, Calif. – Travel South Dakota's *Carved in Stone; A Legacy of Teamwork* float in the 2026 Rose Parade® presented by Honda, has been awarded the "Americana Award." The award recognizes the "most outstanding depiction of national treasures and traditions," honoring the artistry and collaboration behind South Dakota's most spectacular float yet at the 137th Rose Parade.

"As we kick off a new year and our nation's 250th birthday, our goal is to share the bold spirit that defines South Dakota with millions of viewers around the world," said James Hagen, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Tourism. "This award is a testament to the incredible teamwork behind the float and to the iconic landmarks and cultural treasures that make South Dakota an unforgettable destination."

Travel South Dakota's award-winning float showcased Mount Rushmore National Memorial alongside the signature experiences that draw nearly 15 million visitors to the state each year. Parade viewers saw South Dakota's famous faces rise above a vibrant landscape of adventure — from thundering bison to the cultural reverence of the Dignity: Of Earth & Sky sculpture. The state's natural beauty and heritage were brought to life through more than 40,000 floral elements, including corn, wheat, sunflowers, light blue iris petals, and palm bark that formed a bison's coat.

South Dakota's presence in Southern California extended beyond parade day. During Decorator's Week in Pasadena, Travel South Dakota hosted immersive experiences featuring locally inspired treats, interactive moments, and social media-friendly activations that allowed visitors to interact directly with the state's culture and creativity.

"It feels incredibly meaningful to engage with people who have yet to discover that South Dakota is their favorite road-trip getaway," said Hagen. "We hope that this time next year, Californians and those who may be viewing the Rose Parade are reminiscing about their own experiences in South Dakota."

The 2026 parade marked Travel South Dakota's second appearance in the Rose Parade, following its first entry in 2016, and served as a national kickoff to America's 250th anniversary celebration.

Travel South Dakota's *Carved in Stone; A Legacy of Teamwork* float was designed and built by Artistic Entertainment Services.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Travel South Dakota and the South Dakota Arts Council. The department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.

-30-

Media Notes: See [this link](#) for photos of the 2026 Travel South Dakota Rose Parade float. See [this link](#) for a photo of the rendering of the float.

About the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® and Rose Parade® presented by Honda:

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses® is a volunteer organization that hosts America's New Year Celebration® with the Rose Parade® presented by Honda, the Rose Bowl Game® presented by Prudential and a variety of accompanying events. The Association's 935 Members supply more than 80,000 volunteer hours, which will drive the success of the 137th Rose Parade, themed "The Magic in Teamwork," on Thursday, January 1, 2026, followed by the College Football Quarterfinal at the Rose Bowl Game presented by Prudential.

Visit TournamentOfRoses.com, follow us on Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and X, and like us on Facebook.



PRESS RELEASE



Black Hills Parks & Forests Association

Supporting wonder and exploration through stewardship of **your** public lands.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Patty Ressler

Email: pressler@blackhillsparks.org

Government Shutdown Leaves Public-Lands Partner with More Than \$105,000 in Lost Revenue

HOT SPRINGS, SD – Black Hills Parks and Forests Association, a nonprofit that supports National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service sites in South Dakota and Nebraska, reports more than \$105,000 in lost revenue following the 43-day federal government shutdown. The financial hit affects the organization's ability to fund educational programs that thousands of visitors rely on each year, including Junior Ranger activities at several national parks and forests.

BHPFA operates 16 stores inside federal land agency facilities across the region, including Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, and ranger district offices for the Black Hills and Nebraska National Forests. These locations provide most of the nonprofit's operating income.

"Our partner retail operations make up 89 percent of our operating revenue," said BHPFA Executive Director Patty Ressler. "October is usually a strong sales month for us. Losing this revenue will impact how we support our federal partners, especially the education programs families count on."

Because the shutdown closed federal facilities to visitors, BHPFA's stores were unable to operate during one of the most active visitor periods of the fall season. The organization says the shortfall threatens funding for interpretive materials, youth education, and community outreach programs that help connect people with public lands.

To stabilize its budget, the nonprofit is launching a year-end fundraising effort supported by a \$50,000 matching gift. The appeal aims to prevent interruptions to partner support and to maintain staffing levels for the organization's nine full-time employees.

"A gift at this time will assure our federal partners there will be no gaps in funding their education programs," Ressler said. "It also helps us keep our staff employed so we can continue serving the parks and forests our communities care about."

BHPFA has also opened a holiday market at its new headquarters at 833 Mt. Rushmore Road in Custer, offering seasonal hours through Dec. 24.

About Black Hills Parks & Forests Association:

Black Hills Parks & Forests Association (BHPFA) is a nonprofit partner of the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. The organization supports wonder and exploration through stewardship of public lands. In 2025, BHPFA has provided over \$100,000 to its agency partners for educational programming, interpretive materials, and public outreach across South Dakota and Nebraska.

Proud non-profit partner of Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Black Hills National Forest, Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands, & the National Grasslands Visitor Center

26611 US HIGHWAY 385 | HOT SPRINGS, SD 57747 | 605.745.7020

BlackHillsParks.org

At 11 a.m. MT today, Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, a road construction project is scheduled to begin on U.S. Highway 16A near Custer. The reconstruction project to replace a box culvert structure and multiple pipe culverts is located 14 miles east of Custer or nine miles west of the S.D. Highway 79 intersection.

Highway 16A will be closed from the intersections of Highway 16A/Iron Mountain Road to Custer State Park's Wildlife Loop. **This closure will be in place until April 2026.** Additional work will include replacing multiple pipe culverts, building gabion walls, and mill and overlay asphalt from Custer State Park's east entrance to the west entrance for 13 miles. Custer State Park's Wildlife Loop and Iron Mountain Road will remain open throughout the project.

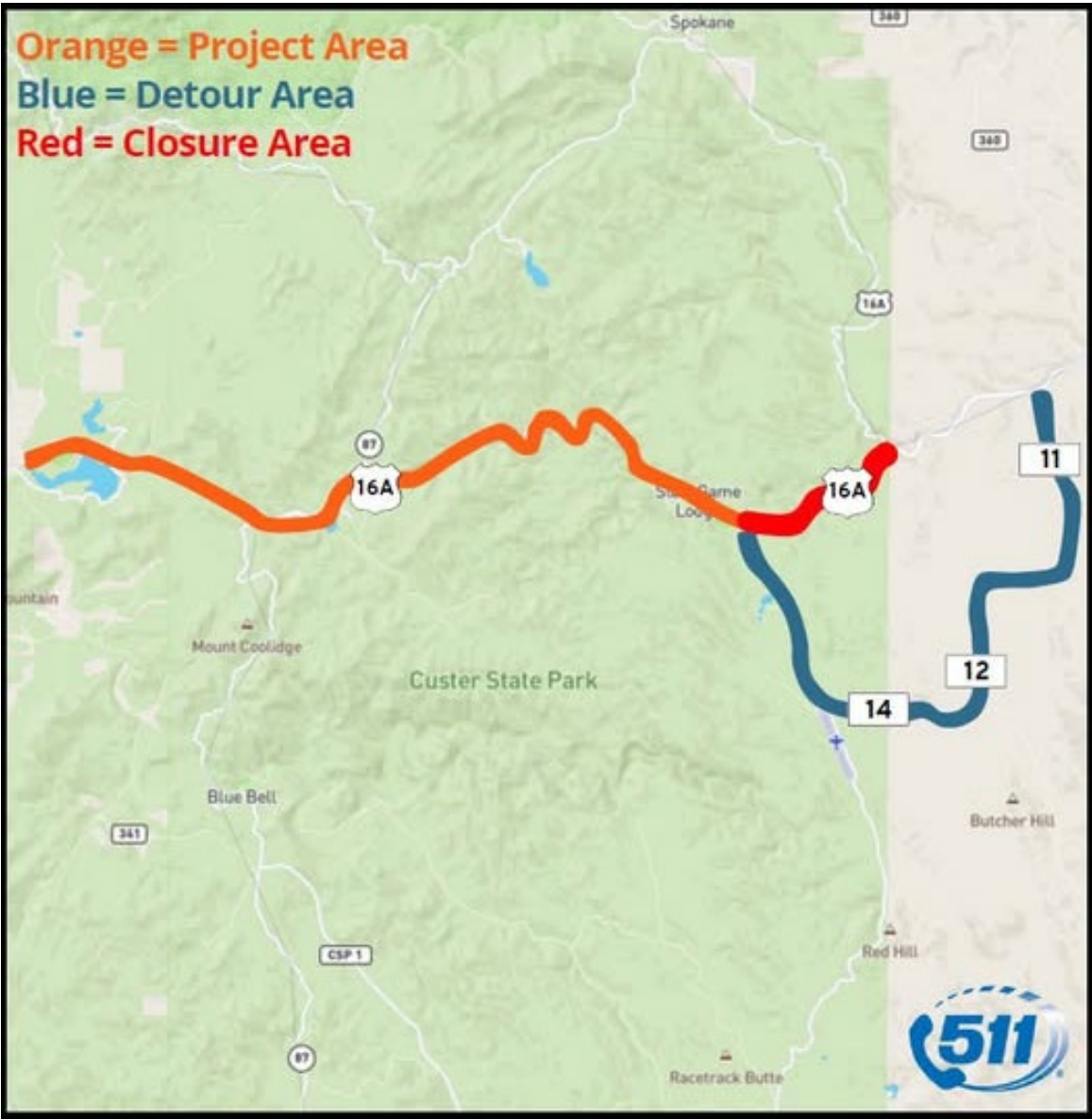
During the Highway 16A closure, there will be a detour in place. The detour route is from the intersection of S.D. Highway 36 and Custer County's Ritterberger Road, south two miles to Cobb Road intersection, west one mile on Cobb Road, south one and one-half miles on Cobb Road to the intersection of LH Road, west approximately two miles on LH Road to Custer State Park's Wildlife Loop Road, and then north two miles on the Wildlife Loop Road back to Highway 16A. Motorists should be aware that the detour on Ritterberger Road, Cobb Road, and LH Road includes six miles of gravel. The Wildlife Loop Road is two miles of asphalt with a reduced speed limit of 25 mph.

S.D. Highway 40 between Hermosa and Keystone also provides a detour option for area motorists.

Find additional project information at <https://dot.sd.gov/16a-culverts>. This website includes project updates, photos, and a downloadable map that demonstrates the project area and detour route.

The overall project completion date is October 2026.

#SDDOT #SD511



South Dakota DOT Update





Project Update

Friday, Dec. 12, 2025

Current Construction:

- Closure E (Pactola Dam to Taylor Ranch Road) is currently in place and ends on Friday, March 6, 2026. Outside of the closure area, construction crews are continuing work on the roadway.
- The driving surface within the construction area is a combination of pavement, blotter (a hard, packed surface that resembles asphalt), and gravel. U.S. Highway 385 from Wrinkle Valley Road to 1/2-mile from South Sanders Ranch Road and from Sheridan Lake Road to 1/2-mile to the north is gravel.
- Pilot cars with wait times of up to 15 minutes are being used within the construction as needed during working hours.
- In the event of winter weather, the South Dakota Department of Transportation will plow and maintain the construction area as well as Custer Gulch Road.
- Within the closure area, the contractor continues to conduct planned rock blasts, the excavation and replacement of culverts, and grading of the roadway.

Construction Paused for Holiday Break: Construction will be paused from Friday, Dec. 19, 2026, through Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026. During this time, Closure E (Highway 385 from the south end of Pactola Dam to Custer Gulch Road) will remain in place. The construction area will be maintained during winter weather events.



[View Construction Updates](#)

❖❖ Construction Zone Reminders ❖❖

- Follow posted speed limits in construction zones.
- Be aware of flaggers and other construction workers in the construction area.
- If you are following a pilot car, stay with the line, and do not stop or exit your vehicle in the project area.
- It is illegal to go beyond cones and barriers within construction zones even when the contractor is not working.

Stay Connected

Take a moment now to share this email with neighbors, friends, coworkers, and anyone else who might be interested in the U.S. Highway 385 Construction Project. Then encourage them to sign up for these project email updates at <https://us-385.com>.

A free text-in service is being used to communicate any major traffic changes. To subscribe, simply text "US385" to 605-566-4041. Subscribers can unsubscribe at any time.

HWY 385 ROUTING INITIATIVE



BH&B is sharing information related to the upcoming *Hwy 385 infrastructure improvement project* that will include *routing options* and continuous business promotion. BH&B's goal is to educate and to explain that this simple detour will not prevent, nor should it discourage visitors from enjoying their vacation in the Black Hills.

Visit Route Reimagined

A free text-in service is being used to communicate major traffic changes.

To subscribe, simply text "US385" to 605-566-4041.

Subscribers can unsubscribe at any time.



U.S. HIGHWAY 385 CONSTRUCTION

PENNINGTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE TO SHERIDAN LAKE

FREE TEXT ALERTS:
Text "US385" to 605-566-4041



Custer Senior Center

January Activities

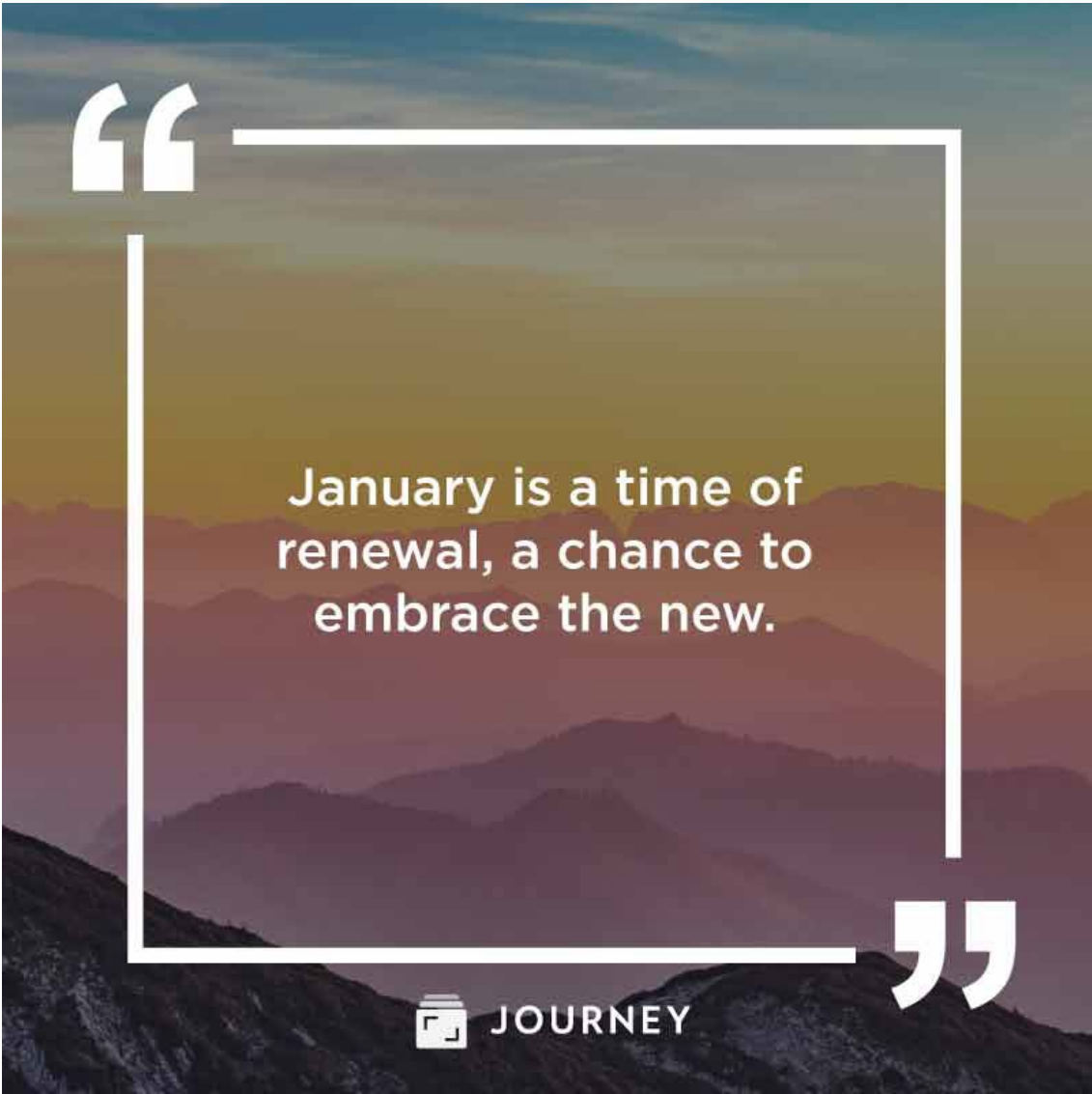
Custer Senior Center Activities Calendar - January 2026						
--- OPEN Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM ---						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PRAIRIE HILLS TRANSIT BUS Transit Bus to Rapid City meets at the Center 1st & 3rd Thursdays. Leaves Custer between 7:00-8:00 AM. Returns to Custer around 3:00 PM. \$20 Round Trip. CALL 1-877-673-3687 24 Hours in Advance for Reservations. \$4 Round Trip for Custer Destinations				1	2	3
				   HAPPY NEW YEAR	   CENTER CLOSED	   CENTER CLOSED
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM Men's Pool 9:00 AM WAYS & MEANS MEETING 12:00 AM Pinochle	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM TAKE DOWN & STORE DECORATIONS	1:00 AM Ladies' Billiards	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM-NOON CINNAMON ROLLS 11:00 AM STRENGTH, STEP, STRETCH 12:30 PM Bingo 2:30 PM NEWSLETTER TEAM MTG	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM Men's Pool 12:00 AM Pinochle	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	1:00 PM Ladies' Billiards	TRANSIT BUS TO RAPID & RETURN 7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 11:00 AM-1:00 PM SOUP & PIE EVENT	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM-NOON CINNAMON ROLLS 12:30 PM BINGO HOLIDAY PARTY	BURNING BEETLE
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY (Center Open) 7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM Men's Pool 12:00 AM Pinochle	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 12:00 PM MEMBER POTLUCK 1:00 PM STORYTELLER LINDA HASSELSTROM	1:00 PM Ladies' Billiards	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM-NOON CINNAMON ROLLS 11:00 AM STRENGTH, STEP, STRETCH 12:30 PM Bingo	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00 AM Men's Pool 12:00 AM Pinochle	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee	1:00 PM Ladies' Billiards	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee	7:00 AM Physical Fitness 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 9:00-NOON CINNAMON ROLLS 12:30 PM Bingo	



To educate every student
to his or her potential

[Latest Newsletter](#)

WEEKLY INSPIRATION



HELP WANTED



Making a Difference Together!

Premier Family Eyecare is looking for a dependable, self-motivated, compassionate person with a customer service background and good computer skills to help at our front desk.

Candidate must be able to:

- Work as a part of a team
- Greet patients in a polite, prompt, and helpful manner
- Update patient information
- Collect patient copays
- Ensure completion of any required forms
- Inform clinical staff of patient's arrival
- Maintain orderly waiting areas
- Coordinate, schedule, and reschedule patient appointments
- Answer questions as able or assist the patient in getting questions answered
- Answer telephone, screen calls, and take messages as needed
- Assist patients with frame and lens options
- Dispense contact lenses and glasses

We are looking for a full-time employee, but maybe flexible for the right candidate.

No night or weekend hours required. Experience is preferred but not required.

If interested, please contact Premier Family Eyecare at 605-673-2716 or email resumes to custereye@gwtc.net

Volunteer Recreation Position Open in the Southern Black Hills



Looking to spend your summer in the beautiful Black Hills? If so, you may be interested in a new volunteer vacancy announcement for the southern hills. The Black Hills National Forest and Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands are teaming together to host some volunteers to help at various recreation sites. Routine maintenance and some enhancement projects are planned, along with some visitor engagement through sporadic site visits. If you need a trailer pad for housing, one is available in Hot Springs, South Dakota, specifically tied to this position. The camping pad is free, with full hookups; in exchange for the site, the selected volunteer is required to work 32 hours per week (typically four, 8-hour days).

Working in public lands is a wonderful way to see the beauty of our nation's natural and cultural history. The southern Black Hills offer some fantastic opportunities for attractions, shops, restaurants, cultural sites and museums, and other vacation-like options. With three days off each week, volunteers will enjoy a summer filled with some challenging work assignments and projects yet relax in the outdoor atmosphere and local hospitality of western South Dakota.



<https://www.volunteer.gov/s/volopprecord?listing=a09Sj00000Jny1hYAB>

WE ARE HIRING



Ready for a Summer Job That's Anything But Ordinary?

If you're looking to spend your summer surrounded by South Dakota's stunning landscapes, wildlife, and adventure—this is the opportunity for you.

Custer State Park is hiring for a variety of seasonal positions that offer more than just a paycheck—they offer real-life experiences, outdoor work, and the chance to be part of something special. Whether you're interested in parks, wildlife, customer service, or just want to be part of a dynamic team, there's a spot for you.

- Applicants must be 17 or older
- Competitive wages
- Housing available

Typical season runs mid-May through Labor Day (some positions may start earlier or end later)

Most roles involve working outdoors and interacting with visitors—so if you love nature and people, this is your chance to shine.

Questions? Call the park office at 605-394-2693

We can't wait to meet our 2026 crew—come join the team and make this summer unforgettable!

#HiFromSD #SDInTheField #DiscoverBlackHills

View job descriptions and apply with the links below:

Naturalist - <https://bit.ly/4q4jnYo>
Custer State Park Campground Attendant - <https://bit.ly/48FUINr>
Gate Attendant/Information - <https://bit.ly/4oTs2LV>
Ground Maintenance - <https://bit.ly/4josgiZ>
Resource Technician Crew Leader - <https://bit.ly/4pHtC55>
Resource Technician - <https://bit.ly/4s1yROj> See less



We are seeking qualified candidates to join our team in the ***Black Hills Visitor Information Center.***

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to ara@blackhillsbadlands.com or give Ara a call at 605-355-3600.

Visitor Information Center Host: <https://bit.ly/3KKeh4f>

Visitor Information Center Supervisor: <https://bit.ly/4pMSWWF>



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- PART-TIME OR FULLTIME
- PAY \$20.00-\$25.00
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- Stop in to apply in person
- Send Your CV to Colby at
Carsondrug@gwtc.net
- Apply on Indeed





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SOLUTIONS

JOIN OUR TEAM!





CUSTER, SD

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

- Clinic Director Opportunity, mentorship available
- Serve as primary care for all musculoskeletal conditions in general outpatient private practice.

Email office@painandmovementsolutions.com to learn more.



WE ARE HIRING

Physical Therapist Aide

Custer Location

Looking for a flexible, part-time position in a positive, healthcare setting? We're seeking a dependable, detail-oriented individual to support our clinic team and keep things running smoothly behind the scenes.

Cultivate relationships within the healthcare realm and work with industry leading therapists while serving as a crucial player in meeting our patients' goals.

- 8-10 hours/week
 - Weekdays during business hours (flexible scheduling)
- \$14/ hour, part-time
- Great for students interested in healthcare or physical therapy
- Send resume to julie@painandmovementsolutions.com for consideration



1369 Montgomery Street, Custer, SD 605-574-1802



Hiring Experienced Server

**\$12 per hour
plus tips**

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CENTER**

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**For more information please call:
(605)673-2708**

**538 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Custer, SD 57730**



HELP WANTED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PART-
TIME WORKERS YEAR-ROUND.

APPLY TODAY

CUSTERCANDYCO@GMAIL.COM

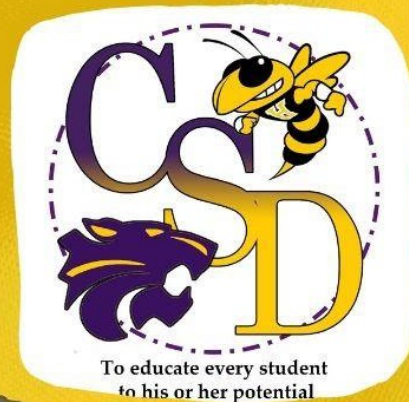
Outlaw Ranch



Outlaw Ranch is looking for a part-time assistant cook/baker. Our beautiful space offers a welcoming working environment. Experience preferred, will train. Pay DOE. Hours for this position vary throughout the year, as we host a wide variety of retreats from August-April, and we host summer camps for ten weeks from late May through July.

Please call Jamie at 605-673-4040 for more details.

Join Us.



BE A PART OF OUR EDUCATIONAL TEAM!



Current Openings:

- SPED PARAPROFESSIONAL @ CES
- Substitute Teachers & Custodians- at all schools
- To apply: <https://www.csd.k12.sd.us/page/current-career-opportunities>
- Call Custer School District 605-673-3154

www.csd.k12.sd.us

Be sure to check out the Help Wanted section on our [Website](#):

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dmurray@custersd.com

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info@custersd.com

2025

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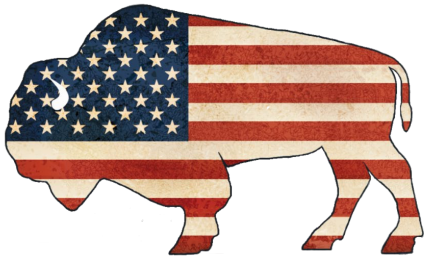
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Our Address:
615 Washington Street
Custer, SD 57730

Phone Numbers:
605-673-2244
800-992-9818



CUSTER
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Visit our Website

dmurray@ustersd.com /ustersd.com

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