

SHARE:



[Join Our Email List](#)



When viewing on a mobile device- please scroll down and click on "view entire message" to view Buffalo Bytes in correct formatting

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!



Our **2026 Old Time Country Fourth of July Celebration** is just around the corner, taking place on **Saturday, July 4**. We are looking forward to another memorable day celebrating our nation's independence while honoring the military members, veterans, their auxiliaries, and first responders who have served our country and communities.

This year's celebration is packed with activities for all ages, including the **Kids' Parade, Patriots Parade, Old Time Country Fair** at the 1881 Courthouse Museum, **Kids' Fair** featuring inflatables, face painting, Flag Ceremonies, and live entertainment, the **VFW Welcome Home Street Dance, Patriots Alley** with a hot dog lunch sponsored by **American Legion Auxiliary Unit #46**, and the spectacular evening **fireworks display** at Pageant Hill.

For a complete schedule of events, please visit the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or our website at www.custersd.com.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who sponsored the 2026 Fourth of July Celebration and to those who generously donated toward this year's fireworks display. Your support helps make this one of the Black Hills' premier Independence Day celebrations.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the many volunteers who have donated their time to assist with the Kids' Fair, parade, and other activities throughout the day. Community events like this would not be possible without your dedication and generosity.

We would also like to recognize **Rushmore Thunder CMA** and the **City of Custer** for assisting during the parades and the staff of **Custer State Park** for their help in preparing Pageant Hill for the evening fireworks. A special thank you to the **Custer Ambulance Service** for providing medical coverage during the fireworks display and helping keep everyone safe. We also extend our sincere appreciation to **Mayor Bob Brown** for generously loaning his trailer and UTV, which were invaluable in helping transport equipment and support the fireworks operation.

Finally, a very special thank you goes to the dedicated firefighters who once again help make the best fireworks show in the Black Hills possible: **Argyle Volunteer Fire Department, Fairburn Volunteer Fire Department, Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, Pringle Volunteer Fire Department, South Dakota Wildland Fire**, and the **Custer Volunteer Fire Department** for providing fire trucks and crews to support the event.

Thank you all for helping make Custer's Old Time Country Fourth of July Celebration a safe, patriotic, and unforgettable experience for our residents and visitors alike.

We look forward to celebrating with you on July 4!

Happy Independence Day!

THANK YOU FIREWORKS SPONSORS

Gold Pan Saloon Bingo • Lynn's We Care Program
Cookie Jar Project • Dave's Rock Shop & Busskohl Family
Freeman's Electric Service • Premier Family EyeCare • NXTLAW
Brad & Mary Hanisch in memory of Peggy Riter
Horatio's Homemade Ice Cream
Nielsen Enterprises, LLC • Rick & Wanda Wheeler
Chalet Motel • Lori Kraus-Svoboda • Starr Insurance
Black Hills Federal Credit Union • Amelia & Isaiah Brown • Jerry & Julie Gehrels
In memory of Adrian Anglin (Revolutionary War Veteran) • Beaver Lake Campground
Mike & Patti Chase • Custer Mt Rushmore KOA Campground • Warren & Bambi Graham
Desmond McGrath • Hank & Joyce Whitney • Pat & Stephen Winter
Todd Weller • Richard Janis • Paul & Teri Tedford • *Donner Business courtesy of Foster Sign Print and Tech*
Including the Numerous Anonymous Donors & Monies Generously Donated via Local Business Collection Committees & Events!

250TH

4TH OF JULY

CUSTER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

ANGLES VFD
CMA RUSHMORE TRUCKS
CUSTER AMBULANCE
CUSTER STATE PARK
CUSTER VFD
FRANKLIN VFD
HIGHLANDS VFD
PRINGLE VFD
SA WILLOW FIRE

LIBERTY

BOYDINN INN

CUSTER

WHEELER ELECTRIC SERVICE

Southern Hills Publishing

Cherokee

VFW

MINUTES NOT MILES FROM PATRIOTIC FUN!

THANK YOU 4TH OF JULY SPONSORS

FREEDOM

Aspen Federal Credit Union
Black Hills Energy
Black Hills Federal Credit Union
Custer Hospitality
Dacotah Bank
Evergreen Media
Kieffer Sanitation
Nielsen Enterprises, LLC
NXTLAW
Pizza Mill
Premier Family Eyecare

PATRIOT

Chalet Motel
Custer Dental Studio

STARS & STRIPES

American Family Insurance
Ronni Calvird Agency
American Legion Post 46
Crazy Horse Memorial
Horatio's Homemade Ice Cream
Monument Health
Custer Hospital and Clinic
Starr Insurance

Dawn Murray
Executive Director

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

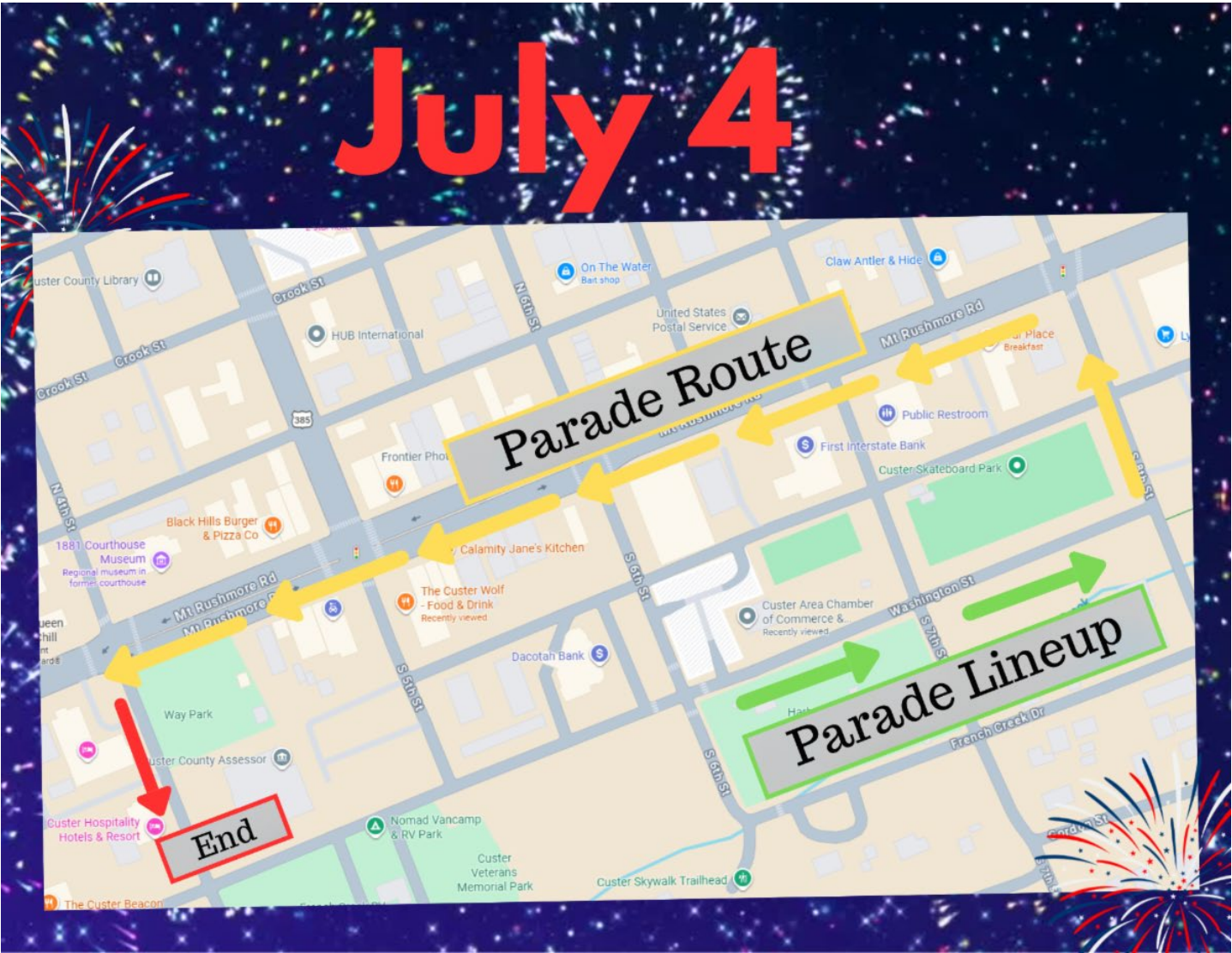
A full list of 2026 events by the Chamber and other organizations.

[Click to download calendar](#)

July 3rd-4th
4th of July Celebrations

July 17th- 19th
Gold Discovery Days

[https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Buffalo-Bytes-July-2--2026.html?oid=1116591913941&aid=dRkK96HBngM\[7/2/2026 2:08:44 PM\]](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Buffalo-Bytes-July-2--2026.html?oid=1116591913941&aid=dRkK96HBngM[7/2/2026 2:08:44 PM])



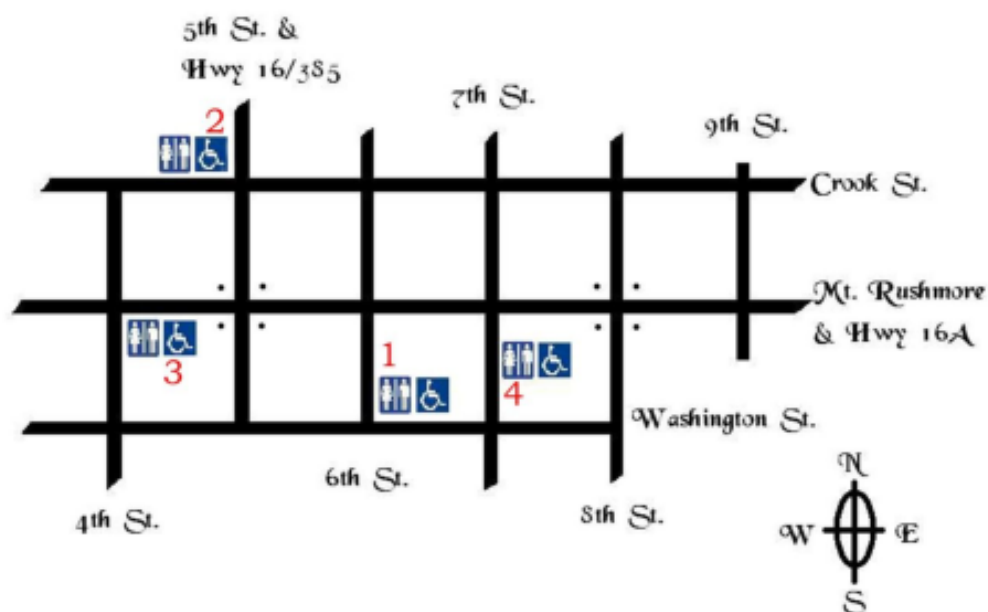


**JUST A REMINDER :
SOUTH 6TH STREET
AND THE CHAMBER
PARKING LOT WILL BE
CLOSED
SATURDAY, JULY 4TH**

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Are Located At:

- 1. The Custer Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau during business hours (6th Street & Washington Street)**
- 2. The Courthouse Annex building 8:00am – 5:00pm weekdays South or East entrances (5th St & Crook St)**
- 3. Way Park during 7:00am – 10:00pm (4th Street & Main)**
- 4. City Park during 7:00am – 10:00pm (summer season only) (by tennis courts, 7th Street & Washington)**



**Brought to you by Custer City, the
Custer Area Chamber of Commerce
and Visitors Bureau, and this
establishment.**

Asus- office > Chamber Signs & Forms > PUBLIC RESTROOMS 2025 Spring/Summer

BUSES ARE COMING

June Schedule

COLLETTE BUS TOUR

BUS TIMES

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM

THURSDAY & SATURDAY

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

TUESDAY & SUNDAY

INSIGHT VACATION

BUS TIMES

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

FRIDAY



CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



2026 Mickelson Trail Summer Trek Reception



Sponsored by

Lynn's



Dakotamart
CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA



Custer's July 4th Celebration

THURSDAY JULY 2

10AM

Patriotic Story Time at 1881 Courthouse Museum

FRIDAY JULY 3

10AM – 5 PM

Old Time Country Fair at 1881 Courthouse Museum

6 PM

Live Music (VFW)

6 PM

Trivia Night (Custer Beacon)

9 PM

Freedom 250 at Mount Rushmore Watch Party
(Custer Beacon and VFW)

SATURDAY JULY 4

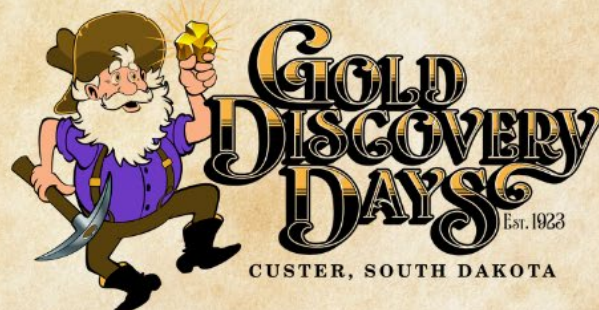
9AM – 5 PM	Old Time Country Fair at 1881 Courthouse Museum
10:10 AM	Kids' & Patriots' Parade (Mt Rushmore Rd between 8th St and 2nd St)
10:30 AM– 2 PM	Patriot Hot Dog Stand on 6th Street
10:30 AM – 3 PM	Patriot's Alley on 6th Street
11 AM	Flag Ceremonies at Veterans Memorial Park (Washington & 5th Street)
11 AM – 4 PM	Children's Fair at Way Park
6 PM– 10 PM	Veterans Tribute Street Dance– featuring Johnny Lonesome Band (Washington St)
7 PM– 11 PM	Live Music BH Allstars (Custer Beacon)
Dark (9:30 PM)	Fireworks put on by Custer Chamber and Friends (at Pageant Hill)

Minutes not miles

From Patriotic Fun!

Printable Copy

WANTED



MOTHERLODE SPONSOR \$500+

GOLD PANNER SPONSOR \$300

MINER SPONSOR \$200

PROSPECTOR SPONSOR \$100

SPONSORS



Business Name:	
Contact Person:	
Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	Phone:
Email:	

Please check the following sponsorship opportunities that interest you:

Gold Discovery Days Sponsorship

- ☐ Mother Lode Sponsor- \$500+
- ☐ Gold Panner Sponsor- \$300
- ☐ Miner Sponsor- \$200
- ☐ Prospector Sponsor- \$100

Bounce House Wrist Band Sponsor- \$25 each

*Purchase wristbands from the Chamber to be given to area students in need.
(as identified by the Custer School District and the Custer YMCA)*

Wristbands _____ @ \$25= \$_____

Gold Discovery Days Car Show Sponsor

- ☐ Event Sponsor- \$_____

Gold Discovery Days Royalty Banner Sponsor

Banners _____ @ \$70= \$_____

- ☐ Invoice Immediately

- ☐ Invoice Before Event

Total \$

*Please submit your company logo as you would like it presented in all event materials, to
Dawn at dmurray@custersd.com

Please return form by **June 26, 2026** in order to be included on the GDD shirts & Poster

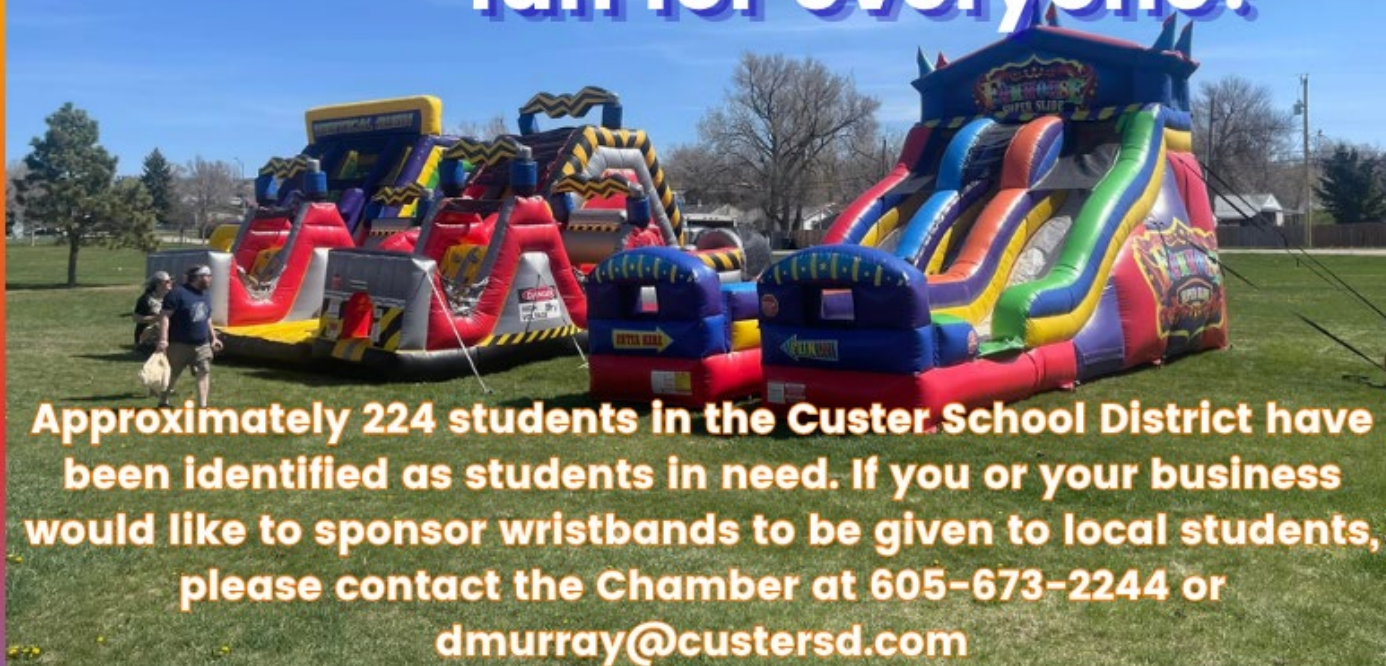
Questions? Contact: Dawn Murray, Office Manager | dmurray@custersd.com | 605-673-2244

Mail to: Custer Area Chamber of Commerce | PO Box 5018, Custer, SD 57730 | **Fax:** 605-673-3726

Printable Gold Discovery Days Sponsorship Form



Let's make Gold Discovery Days fun for everyone!



Approximately 224 students in the Custer School District have been identified as students in need. If you or your business would like to sponsor wristbands to be given to local students, please contact the Chamber at 605-673-2244 or dmurray@custersd.com





**PURCHASE GOLD DISCOVERY DAYS
CUPS FROM THE CHAMBER FOR
\$3.00**

SELL EMPTY CUPS FOR \$5.00

pre-purchase cups by Monday, July 6



July 15th





Network Troubleshooting & Installtion LLC
John's Handyman Service
The Black Hills Bakery- Gluten Free
Black Hills Disc Golf Club
Hobo's Healing Heart
Black Hills Roofing
Wolff's Plumbing & Heating
Aardvark Pest Management
Custer Reloading Center
Fort Welikeit Campground
Black Hills Sewer and Drain Solutions
KND Accounting Solutions
Weather Tite Exteriors
Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine
Wild Spruce Market
Fly Badlands
PDQ Specialty Products
Xtreme Sports Simulators
The Christians Team-Broker Heath Shields
The Hills Finest-Bridal by Michelle

Don't Panic, LLC



Membership Spotlight: Fly Badlands

Wall Municipal Airport, Wall SD

605.215.0640 – www.flybadlands.com – info@flybadlands.com

See the Badlands from the sky - in a real airplane!

Fly Badlands offers the best way to experience the Badlands - from above. Based out of Wall, our narrated scenic flights give you stunning views you can't get from the ground. We offer a one-of-a-kind opportunity for locals and travelers alike to witness the breathtaking beauty of the Badlands from an entirely new viewpoint. Our immersive, narrated air tours bring the region to life, blending captivating stories of its rich cultural roots, dramatic geological formations, fossil beds, and vibrant natural history. Whether you're a local who has driven through a hundred times, or an explorer seeing the Badlands for the first time, we guarantee you'll have an entirely new perspective by the time we land.

At Fly Badlands, we offer more than just a quick ride. Flying by plane allows us to cover more of the park and truly see the scale of this magnificent landscape.

Choose from our 40-minute, 60-minute flight adventures, Sunrise or Sunset flights, designed to highlight the most dramatic features of Badlands National Park.

Traveling with family or a group? Ask about our family discounts. Call for a flight today!



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

2026 Custer
Chamber

Member Spotlight



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@custersd.com — we can't wait to feature YOU!





Early Learner Summer Challenge



Beginning June 1st,
Early Learner Custer is hosting a Summer Challenge for
Custer-area families with children ages 0-8!

Over the summer complete activities,
explore our area, and win an awesome prize!

How to Participate:

1. **Scan the QR Code!** Scan the code to get all the details - see all the participating organizations, events, and much more!
2. **Keep Track of Your Sheet!** Keep this sheet and fill with stickers or details of your adventures!
3. **Complete Adventures & Collect a Sticker!** Visit a local participating businesses, organizations, or events, do the activity, and get an official sticker from the staff!
 - Honor System: Doing an honor system activity? Just have a parent initial the box and jot down a quick detail about the challenge.
5. **Turn in your sheet** with 10 completed activities to the Custer Library or Custer Chamber of Commerce by Saturday, August 15th, 2026.

Contact us at earlylearnercuster@gmail.com with questions.



Participating Organizations: Sentinel Federal Credit Union, Custer Lutheran Fellowship, Custer State Farm, Custer Area Chamber of Commerce, South Dakota Public Broadcasting*, Custer State Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Black Hills Reads*, Growing Roots Preschool, Custer YMCA Child Development Center, Modern Woodmen of America, Custer County Library and MORE!

*Honor System Participants

Printable Copy

The **JOIN US FOR**

OLD TIME COUNTRY FAIR

AT THE

1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

Custer, South Dakota

JULY 3
10AM - 5PM

JULY 4
9AM - 5PM

20+ VENDORS!

FAMILY FRIENDLY!

FOOD | FUN | ENTERTAINMENT | LOTS OF SHOPPING!

Celebrate Independence Day Weekend the Old-Fashioned Way!

STOP BY THE CUSTER SENIOR CENTER

LOCATED DOWNTOWN
JULY 4TH



TO ENJOY AN
ICE CREAM
FLOAT !!

ROOT BEER,
ORANGE,
CREAM SODA,
PEPSI \$5



Celebrating 55 years!

PLENTY OF SEATING INSIDE



BLACK HILLS
**PARKS &
FORESTS**
ASSOCIATION



CUSTER COUNTY
LIBRARY

FIELD NOTES

**A BLEND OF NATURE TRIVIA
&
STORY TIME!**

Through pictures, videos, and stories, you'll learn about naturalist skills and tracking survival techniques and gain deeper insight into our local flora and fauna. Test your knowledge as we dive into questions about the natural world and uncover the hidden meanings behind animal signs and calls!

**THURSDAY
JULY 9TH @ 4 PM**



South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

Saturday July 18th 2026 9:00am to 4:30pm

The Enhanced Permit allows you carry in 39 states including
MN, NE, WI, NV, NH, WA, NM and SC

Class size is limited so register early.

For additional information or to register for the class you may
contact the instructor at www.sodakian.com, contact us at
605-673-3222 or by e-mail at
southernhillstactical@gwtc.net



CUSTER FARMER'S MARKET

SATURDAYS

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

June through October

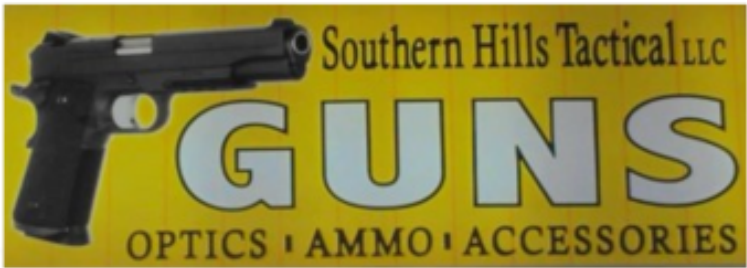
Located in Way Park in front of
Custer County Courthouse

Featuring produce, food and crafts
from local farmers and artisans

For more information contact
GORDON CLEVELAND
605-673-5230



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK



Young Men (13-19 yrs)
Handgun Familiarization Course

Covering:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1- Situational Awareness | 3- Firearms Safety |
| 2- Legal, Ethical & Moral Issues | 4- Handgun Training |

July 22, 2026
Noon - 5:00
@ Southern Hills Tactical
Custer, SD
\$95

Registration Required:

Call or Text:
605-515-8238
Email:
echo.ft.sd@gmail.com

Instructors:
Phillip Shively
Police Capt. Ret.
Current Reserve Officer
EMT
NRA Instructor
SD Use of Force Instructor

Charlotte Shively
Police Reserve Officer
Advanced EMT
NRA Instructor
SD Use of Force Instructor

Music in Harbach Park

Summer 2026

Custer, SD

Live Looping with
QUAKEQUATION

June 23rd

August 11th

September 8th

6:30-8:30 PM

Sponsored by







EVERY TUESDAY, ALL SUMMER LONG!

TUESDAY NIGHT GROUP RUN

Join us every Tuesday night in Custer for a 3-4 mile group run! Plus, stick around for drinks and social hour afterwards and enjoy 50% off your first beverage and 10% off one item in the store!

We will be meeting at the South Dakota Outdoor Shop at 5:30pm every Tuesday from June 2nd through September.

All Ages and abilities welcome, including walkers.



**429 MOUNT RUSHMORE RD.
CUSTER, SD 57730**

5:30PM EVERY TUESDAY

For all questions please contact Kurt J.
at (530) 744-5504



5 SESSIONS - ONLINE

CO.STARTERS® BOOTCAMP™

DISCOVER

PROMOTE

BUILD

LAUNCH

ABOUT THE BOOTCAMP

The Rural CO.STARTERS Online Bootcamp is a fully virtual, hands-on program designed for aspiring entrepreneurs across **South Dakota and neighboring states**. In just five focused sessions, you'll collaborate with peers and experienced facilitators to shape your idea and take real steps toward launching a business.

This interactive experience guides you through five key stages: **Ideate** your concept, **Discover** your customer, **Promote** your value, **Build** your model, and **Launch** with clarity and confidence.

Whether you're starting from scratch or refining an existing idea, this bootcamp equips rural entrepreneurs with practical tools, personalized support, and a community of like-minded doers.

HOSTED BY

Brookings Regional Growth Alliance, Dakota Resources, Dakota Wesleyan University, Glacial Lakes Area Dev., Northern Innovation and Startup Center, Southern Hills Economic Dev., Sturgis Economic Development Corp.

DETAILS



Wed., July 15th -
Fri., July 24th
Every Other Week Day



10:30 A.M. -
12:30 P.M. MDT



100% Online



No Cost
Registration
Required



SCAN TO REGISTER

CUSTER COUNTY BURNING REGULATIONS

Black Hills Fire Protection District • Custer County, South Dakota

These regulations apply to all state and private lands (excluding municipalities) within the [Black Hills Fire Protection District](#) located in Custer County, South Dakota.

These regulations do not apply to lands owned by the Federal Government. Permits are issued by the [South Dakota Department of Public Safety](#) – Wildland Fire. Permits are not required for open burning outside of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, including campfires, burn barrels, and slash pile/debris burning.

WARNING: Violation of Ordinance 20 may result in a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both.

BURNING RESTRICTIONS

All burning activities are subject to current weather watches, warnings, and county burn restrictions.

Condition	Gas Grills / Gas Fireplaces	Charcoal Grills	Campfires (By Permit Only)	Burn Barrels (By Permit Only)	Slash Piles / Debris Burning (By Permit Only)	Broadcast Burning
No Watches or Warnings	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
High Wind Watch	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
High Wind Warning	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Fire Weather Watch	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Red Flag Warning	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
County-Wide Burn Ban	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Visit the [National Weather Service](#) website for current watches and warnings.
- Slash pile permits within the City of Custer are issued through the [Custer Volunteer Fire Department](#).
- Slash pile burning season runs from November 1 through March 31.
- Small slash piles (up to 6 ft × 6 ft) require a minimum of 2 inches of continuous snow cover.
- Large slash piles (greater than 6 ft × 6 ft) require a minimum of 6 inches of continuous snow cover.
- Charcoal grills are permitted unless a county-wide burn ban is in effect.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

- [Custer County](#) Open Burning Regulations (excluding municipalities) – Ordinance 20
- [City of Custer](#) – Ordinance No. 944
- United States Forest Service Restrictions – [Black Hills National Forest](#)

GOOD KARMA

— ★ J E W E L R Y ★ —

NEW & EXCITING

Wine Flights



\$20

With The Wind
WINE FLIGHT

3 - 3oz Pours

★

Belle Joli
WINE FLIGHT

3 - 3oz Pours

SIP. SAVOR. SUPPORT LOCAL.
LOCALLY MADE. DELICIOUS. PERFECT FOR ANY OCCASION.

★ 507 MOUNT RUSHMORE RD., CUSTER, SD ★





Happy Fourth of July, Tourism Friends — and Happy 250th Birthday, America!

As I write my comments, the team and I are in the throes of final preparations for the *July 3 Freedom 250 Fireworks Celebration at Mount Rushmore*. In partnership with the National Park Service and Department of Interior, we began working on this special event more than a year ago. After more meetings that we can count, we are just about ready to showcase the nation's Shrine of Democracy to households around the globe. For all the latest information about the July 3 event, including temporary road closures and a livestream link that will be available to all who want to tune in, please check out details at SDVisit.com/Fireworks and TravelSouthDakota.com/RushmoreFireworks.

Because we are all very busy prepping for the celebration and you are busy hosting our visitors, here are some quick updates for you:

- During the Fourth of July holiday, visitors to your city, town, or attraction may be looking for things to see and do, be sure and share our *Stars & Stripes Passport* with them. It contains many fun, historic and patriotic stops throughout the state.
- We are excited to debut a new feature in this *Mile Marker* called Research Spotlight. Every month, we will use this new section of the newsletter to feature the latest travel and tourism research in very digestible, easily understood bullet points. We hope this will help you stay in-the-know about the latest data and sentiment from the traveling public.
- The Travel South Dakota team and industry partners had a fantastic showing recently at IPW in Fort Lauderdale, our nation's largest international travel-trade show. Keep reading below for a quick update on this successful effort.
- Further down in the newsletter, you'll see we are seeking your input about SDVisit.com, our industry website. We are reviewing this website to make it even more helpful to you, so please help us by participating in this very short survey.
- The Governor's Tourism Advisory Board will meet July 16 in Box Elder at THE BOX. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. MT, and we'd love to have you join us if you are in the area.

Okay, back to preparing for the Mount Rushmore fireworks!

We want to wish all of you a fun, safe and festive holiday as we mark this tremendous milestone in our nation's history. May your holiday be filled with pomp & pageantry. Cheers to the next 250 years! May God bless you, The Mount Rushmore State, and the USA!

All our best,
Jim and Team



GREAT FACE PROGRAM & GREAT PLACE PROGRAM

With another busy summer in full swing, we wanted to send a quick reminder about the **South Dakota Great Face Program** and the **South Dakota Great Place Program**.

These programs put a spotlight on the people and businesses that exemplify great service. We truly appreciate those who consistently and continuously go above and beyond to help visitors at every opportunity, and here's one way to let them know.

South Dakota Great Face

Nominations must include:

- Three (3) or more positive comments or feedback from customers regarding the nominee during January-September.
- Positive comments from peers.
- A testimonial from the manager or supervisor as to why they believe the nominee is worthy of the *South Dakota Great Face* recognition.
- Additional information regarding the nominee's community involvement outside of work.
- Completion of the *Online Hospitality Training* program or a hospitality training assigned by a supervisor during January-September.

Great Face nominations must be *submitted online* no later than September 30.

For helpful strategies on how best to gather the necessary information for your nominations, we recommend *watching the recording* of our recent Insider Session on the Great Face Program.

South Dakota Great Place

Applications must include:

- Evidence of excellent customer service, including:
 - Current year visitor feedback and positive reviews.
 - A current employee recognition program. (The *Great Face Program* is a sufficient program.)
 - Participation in a hospitality training program. (The *Online Hospitality Training* program is sufficient for this training.)
- Examples of updates made to enhance the customer experience. This can include upgrades to your business, welcome gifts for visitors, upgraded conference facilities, upgrades to lodging, flowers designed to welcome visitors, etc.
- Information about the business' involvement in the local tourism industry and community.

The deadline for **Great Place** applications is also **September 30** and the application(s) must be *submitted online*. Each **Great Place** applicant who filled out the final page of the application will be automatically considered for the *George S. Mickelson Award*, which is presented at the annual South Dakota Governor's Conference on Tourism in January.

Go to SDVisit.com for more information. If you have any questions, contact Industry Training & Legislative Relations Manager, *Bailey Tysdal*.

TRAVEL SOUTH DAKOTA WINS TWO PRESTIGIOUS TELLY AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thurs., June 18, 2026

CONTACT: *Katlyn Svendsen*, Global Public Relations & Content Services Senior Director, Travel South Dakota, (605) 773-3301

PIERRE, S.D. – Travel South Dakota won two prestigious awards at the 2026 Telly Awards. Standing out among over 13,000 global entries, Travel South Dakota, in partnership with Karsh Hagan and Matador Network, earned the following awards:

- Silver for “Into the Roundup,” Travel & Tourism – Series
- Bronze for “Unexpected South Dakota,” Travel & Tourism – Campaigns

“Into the Roundup” is a five-episode video series spotlighting not only the annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup, but also Western culture and the preservation efforts to protect one of North America’s most iconic animals—the American bison. The series, produced in partnership with Karsh Hagan, offers a rare, immersive look at South Dakota’s proud traditions.

“Unexpected South Dakota” is a three-episode series, produced in partnership with Matador Network, highlighting the unexpected sights, sounds, and tastes of The Mount Rushmore State. With an emphasis on preserving heritage, history, and the delicate balance of natural spaces, each episode shows viewers how to experience South Dakota in new and meaningful ways.

Winning a Telly Award is a highly respected mark of excellence among peers, agencies, and brands. Founded in 1979, The Telly Awards celebrate the best work created within television and across video for all screens. Receiving more than 13,000 entries globally from six continents and all 50 states, Telly Award winners represent work from some of the most respected advertising agencies, television stations, production companies and publishers from around the world. Travel South Dakota’s work was selected by a judging body of over 250 executives from television networks, production companies, global agencies, immersive content studios, and streaming platforms around the world.

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:

Each series can be accessed by clicking on the red links in the copy above or by clicking [here](#) for “Into the Roundup” and [here](#) for “Unexpected South Dakota.”



-National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

11149 US Hwy 16
Building B12
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-8300 phone
605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

Release Date: July 2, 2026

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aimee Murillo / Chief of Interpretation/ aimee_murillo@nps.gov

Jewel Cave Hosts Blue Star Families Volunteer Group CUSTER, SD – Jewel Cave National Monument hosted a volunteer project with Blue Star Families on Saturday, June 20. Blue Star Families worked with monument staff to pick up trash in the monument's Historic Area. Seven volunteers with Blue Star Families met at the Jewel Cave visitor center and then hiked on the Canyons Trail to the Historic Area, where they spent nearly two hours picking up multiple bags of trash – including nearly the entire front end of a car. While it was forecasted to be a rainy day, fortunately the rain held off for the trash-pick up and hike, and afterwards the volunteers were able to join a cave tour. Blue Star Families is the largest nonprofit serving and representing military and veteran families. This nonprofit was founded in 2009 by military family members to empower military families to connect with their civilian neighbors to create strong communities of support. The June 20 event was part of the "Military Families Outdoors" program. Military Families Outdoors, administered by Defense Health Agency and the National Park Service, brings together the expertise of Blue Star Families, and Wilderness Inquiry, to provide engaging outdoor wellness experiences for service members and military families across the country. Jewel Cave National Monument appreciated this collaborative effort and working with Blue Star Families.



THEATRE 605

BLACK HILLS PLAYHOUSE

Theatre 605 Black Hills Playhouse Presents *1776*

Tickets are [on Sale](#) Now!

For Immediate Release

Black Hills, S.D. — Theatre 605 **Black Hills Playhouse** presents *1776*, the award-winning musical about the signing of the Declaration of Independence. *1776* opens **June 28 and runs through July 12**, featuring 15 performances, including a special **4th of July Matinee**.

It's the summer of 1776, and the nation is ready to declare independence ... if only our founding fathers can agree to do it! It's hot as hell in Philadelphia. The Revolutionary War is in full swing. John Adams, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson are trying to convince the members of the Second Continental Congress to vote for independence from the shackles of British tyranny. Treason is on the line. What will they do?!

A Meet & Greet Reception will be held after the 2:00 pm opening matinee. Audience members are invited to enjoy refreshments and appetizers and to meet the cast and crew who bring this story to life.

A Pay-What-You-Can performance of *1776* will be held on **June 27 at 7:30 pm. Plan to arrive early**, as this is expected to be a well-attended preview performance, and seating is first-come, first-served. Concessions available on site.

[Click here for more information](#), or call the friendly box office staff at 605-255-4141.

Book by Peter Stone, Music & Lyrics by Sherman Edwards.

***Custer State Park passes are required and can be purchased in the snack bar.**

****Rating: Musical • Kids 9+, some suggestive humor**

###

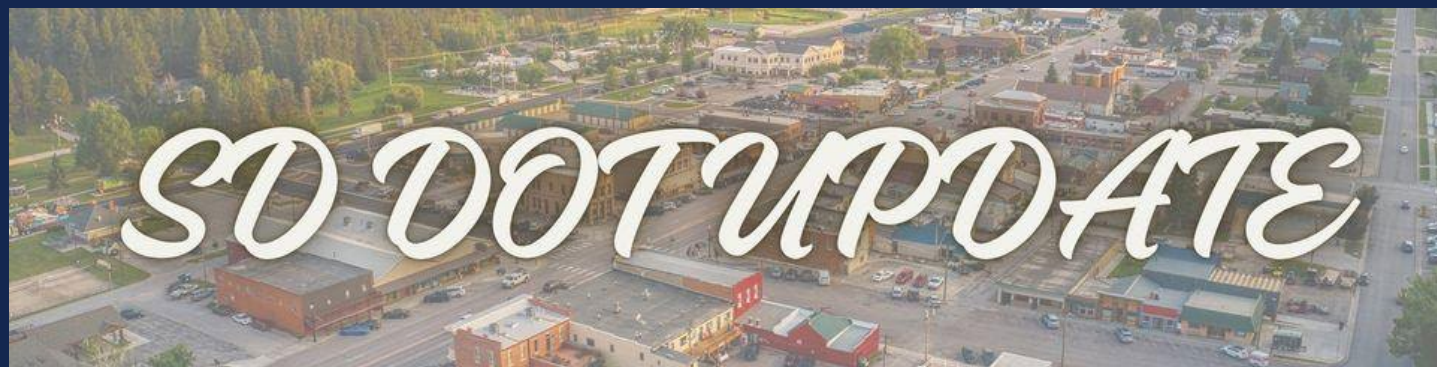
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW:

Linda Anderson

Executive Director

605 939-5271

linda@theatre605.org





U.S. HIGHWAY 385 CONSTRUCTION

ROAD CLOSURE

CLOSURE E

Pactola Dam to Custer Gulch Road

Oct. 20, 2025 – March 6, 2026

*Local access to Victoria Lake Road maintained

A map showing the route of U.S. Highway 385 through South Dakota. The route is highlighted in orange. A section of the route near Pactola Reservoir is highlighted in dark red, indicating a road closure. The map includes labels for Pactola Reservoir, Sheridan Lake, and Rapid City. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the dark red line as "Road Closure" and the orange line as "Detour".

Project Update

Friday, June 26, 2026

Current Construction:

- Construction activities are continuing in the U.S. Highway 385 construction area (Pactola Dam to Calumet Road). Traffic is controlled by flaggers, and motorists can expect delays of up to 15 minutes on weekdays and some Saturdays. Work generally occurs during daylight hours.
- The contractor is monitoring for and repairing potholes as needed.
- Blotter operations are underway. Currently, the driving surface within the construction area is a combination of pavement, blotter (a hard, packed surface that resembles asphalt), and gravel. By the end of July, blotter material with painted pavement markings (striping for lanes, etc.) will be fully installed throughout the construction area, creating a uniform driving surface.
- Additionally, oil is being applied to the blotter layer of the new road surface to help bind the material and create a smoother, more durable roadway. While the oil is fresh, the surface may feel slick, so drivers are encouraged to be cautious and allow additional stopping time, especially in wet conditions.





Upcoming Construction:

- Independence Day: Construction activities will not take place on Saturday, July 4, 2026.
- Sturgis Rally: Construction activities will be paused starting on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, and will resume on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026.

[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

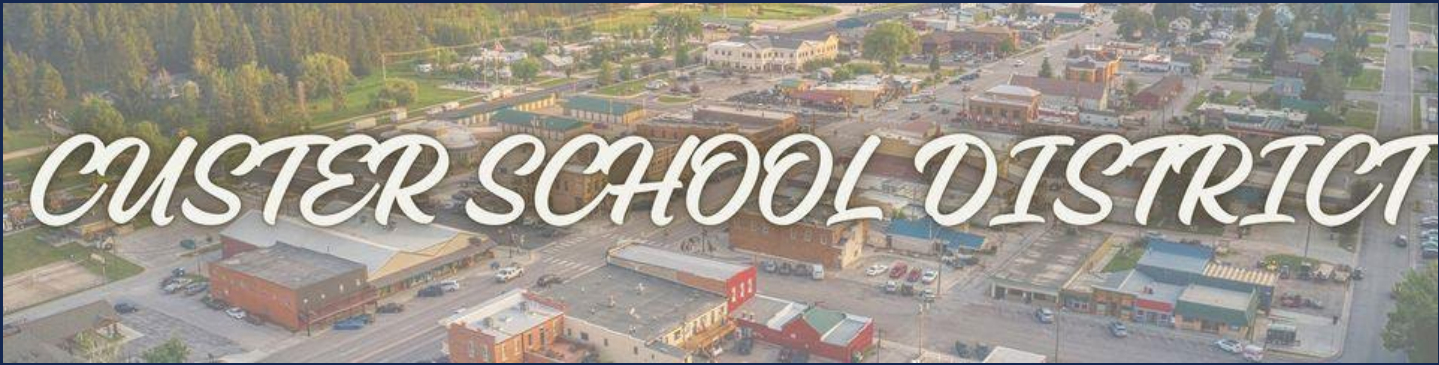
PENNINGTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE TO SHERIDAN LAKE

FREE TEXT ALERTS:
Text “US385” to 605-566-4041





June Activities





To educate every student
to his or her potential

Schools Out For SUMMER!!



*“Liberty means
responsibility. That is why
most people dread it.”
(George Bernard Shaw)*





Job Available;

Custer Senior Center

Gift Shop Manager/Center Assistant

This job is for someone 55 years or older
as it is a grant from NICOA.

35- 40 hours a week

10 AM until 5 PM

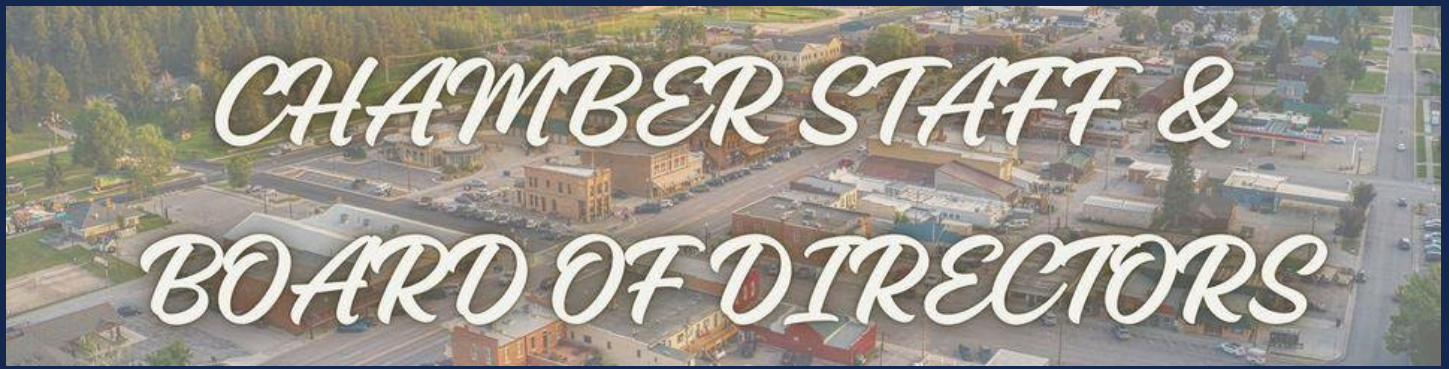
Monday through Friday

Please contact Lori

at the Custer Senior Citizen's Center
in person or at **605-673-2708**



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



CHAMBER STAFF

Dawn Murray
Executive Director
dmurray@custersd.com

Fred Baumann
Information Associate
fbaumann@custersd.com

Lacey Curl
Office Assistant
[**assistant@custersd.com**](mailto:assistant@custersd.com)

Office Assistant
bytes@custersd.com

Joel Behlings
Information Associate
info@custersd.com

2026

Board Of Directors

Craig Reindl – President

Corey Virtue – Vice President

Michelle Fischer – Treasurer

Carrie Moore– Secretary

Amanda Allcock

Amy Bailey

Miranda Boggs

Ronni Calvird

Scott Eastman

Julie Jenniges – City Liaison

Tim Frederick – School Liaison

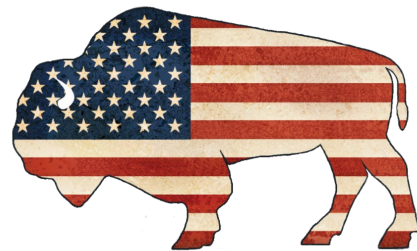
Lydia Austin – CSP Liaison

Jessica Noteboom – BID Board Liaison



Our Address:
615 Washington Street
Custer, SD 57730

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



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

[Visit our Website](#)

Custer Area Chamber of Commerce | 615 Washington St. PO Box 5018 | Custer, SD
57730 US



[https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Bufalo-Bytes-July-2--2026.html?soid=1116591913941&aid=dRkK96HBngM\[7/2/2026 2:08:44 PM\]](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Bufalo-Bytes-July-2--2026.html?soid=1116591913941&aid=dRkK96HBngM[7/2/2026 2:08:44 PM])