

Buffalo Bytes



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CUSTER CONNECTIONS

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, growth, and vibrant energy. After winter, most people are thrilled to be outdoors and thinking about warmer weather. It's a time for us all to come out of sleepy hibernation and explore our areas. Spring is also the perfect time for you to connect with your customers, boost employee morale, and inject fresh life into your operations.

Here are a few fun ideas to celebrate the spirit of spring:

Embrace the Sensory Delights of Spring

One of the first things people notice in spring is the change of the smells in the air. It's easy to create an inviting space by keeping this in mind. But smells aren't the only captivating part of this joyful season. You might build on this by:

- Bringing the Outdoors In: Fill your workspace with the sights and scents of spring. Use fresh flowers, potted plants, or even nature-inspired artwork to create a refreshing atmosphere.
- Using Seasonal Scents: Use diffusers with light, floral, or citrusy essential oils to create an uplifting ambiance.
- Playing Spring-Inspired Music: Create a playlist of light, upbeat music.

Cultivate Growth and Renewal

Spring is an ideal time to start fresh. You might do this by decluttering, organizing, and/or refreshing your physical and digital spaces. Update your website, streamline your processes, and clear out any outdated materials. Get your employees (or clients) excited about what's to come by offering workshops, training sessions, or teambuilding activities that encourage growth and learning.

Additionally, we're now almost through with Q1. It's time to reassess your business goals and set new targets for the coming months.

Connect with Your Community

Winter is often seen as a season of hunkering down and hibernation. Spring, on the other hand, is a time for gathering. You can play this up in your business by:

- Hosting a Spring Open House: Invite customers to explore your business, enjoy refreshments, and learn about your latest offerings.
- Partnering with Others: Collaborate with other businesses or community groups to host a spring-themed event, fundraiser, or deals.
- Support Local Farmers and Artisans: Feature seasonal products from local vendors, showcasing the best of your community.

Introduce Something New

Spring is about rebirth and freshness. You might offer discounts, special packages, or limited-time products and services that reflect the season.

If weather allows, you could host outdoor events or activities, such as a sidewalk sale, a pop-up shop, or a picnic for your team.

Help customers break out of their "winter shell" by creating interactive displays that encourage customer engagement, such as a spring inspiration board, a photo booth with seasonal props, or the ability to "try before you buy." You could also offer light, healthy snacks and beverages, such as fruit-infused water, salads, or smoothies. You needn't be a food business to try this. For instance, a boutique might make cucumber water available to guests.

Marketing Strategies for Spring Success

If you want to bring new life to your business, keep in mind that spring is the perfect time to:

- Emphasize the themes of renewal, growth, and positive energy in your marketing and messaging.
- Use social media, email marketing, and in-store interactions to connect with your customers and share the spirit of spring—fun, festive, and bright!
- Foster a sense of optimism and enthusiasm among your team members and your customers.

By embracing the growth and joyful themes of spring, you can create a vibrant and engaging experience for your customers and employees alike. Capitalize on the positive energy of the season and you're sure to grow throughout the year.

Christina Metcalf is a writer and women's speaker who believes in the power of story. She works with small businesses, chambers of commerce, and business professionals who want to make an impression and grow a loyal customer/member base. She is the author of The Glinda Principle, rediscovering the magic within.

Medium: @christinametcalf Facebook: @tellyourstorygetemtalking Instagram: @christinametcalfauthor LinkedIn: @christinagsmith



Dawn Murray Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHAMBER STAFF

Dawn Murray Executive Director dmurray@custersd.com

Fred Baumann Information Associate *fbaumann@custersd.com*

Pat Hattervig Information Associate *phattervig@custersd.com* IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT from Rockin' R Rides:

Peggy and Randy - have retired from the trail ride business! After 25 years of offering trail rides in the Black Hills, including 20 seasons at Heritage Village and 2 seasons at Willow Creek, it's time for a new chapter!

We are eternally grateful to the Custer Chamber (members since 2003!) for all the support and referrals over the years. And a huge Thank You to all the other businesses who have faithfully referred riders to us. We appreciate the relationships/friendships forged over the past decades!

We will be staying in Custer and working on the next phase, including a couple of new businesses. For some history on Rockin R, you can check out our website *www.rockingrtrailrides.com*.

Happy Trails!

Adrianna Burgess Office Assistant *assistant@custersd.com*

Rachelle Woodford Office Assistant *bytes@custersd.com*

Joel Behlings Information Associate *info@custersd.com*

2025

Board Of Directors

Amy Bailey – President

Craig Reindl – Vice President

Michelle Fischer -Treasurer

Carrie Moore- Secretary

Amanda Allcock Corey Virtue Keely Mahony Miranda Boggs Ronni Calvird Printable contribution Form



Mark Naugle – School Liaison

Lydia Austin - CSP Liaison

Jessica Noteboom – BID Board Liaison



2024 Chamber Annual Report

Click To View

Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram



To have things added to Buffalo Bytes, please send to **bytes@custersd.com**. Items need to be received by Wednesdays at noon in order to be added to weekly Buffalo Bytes. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 20th

Dacotah Bank Mixer 35 S 6th Street 5-7PM

April 3rd

Ribbon Cutting Pain & Movement Solutions 1369 Montgomery St, #103 5-7PM

April 7th

Ribbon Cutting Petals and Pages 21 N 4th St 4:30PM

April 10th

Spring Fling Laughing Water Restaurant 12151 Ave of the Chiefs

April 17th

Faith Lewis Realty Mixer 14 Mt Rushmore Rd 5-7PM

April 18th

Ribbon Cutting Custer Rendezvous 537 Mt Rushmore Rd 5-7 PM

April 24th

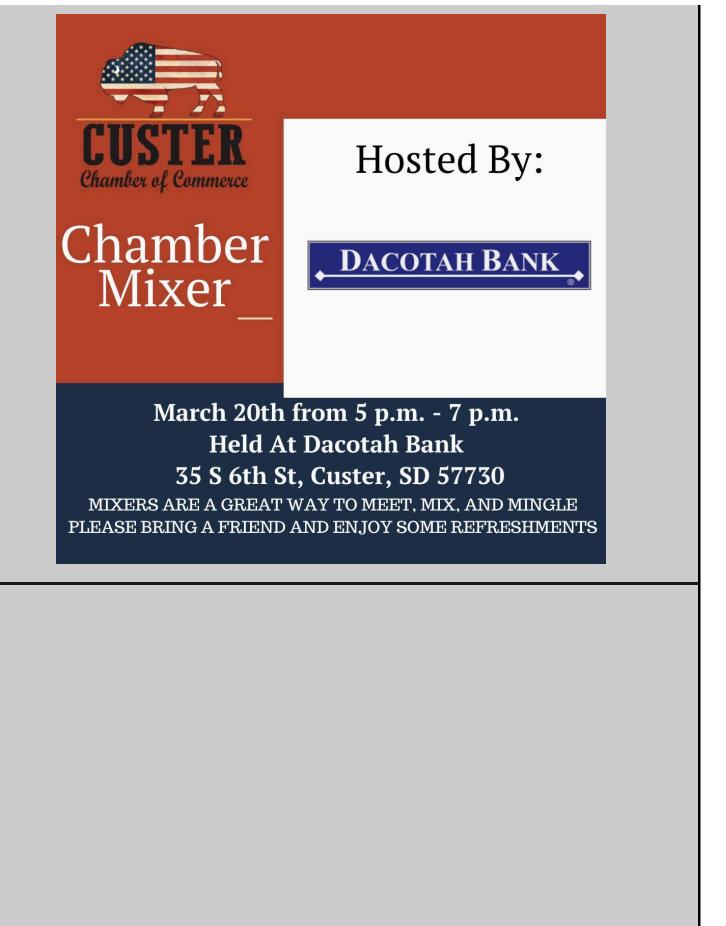
Service Animals, the ADA, and Your Business Pine Room at Library 447 Crook St 1 PM

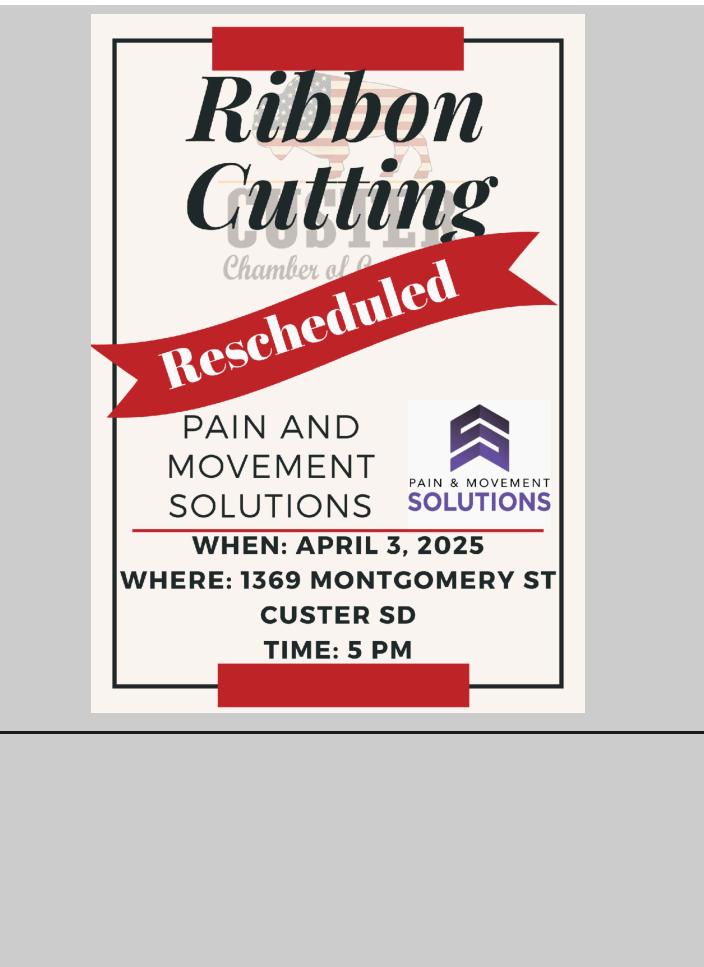
WEEKLY HUMOR

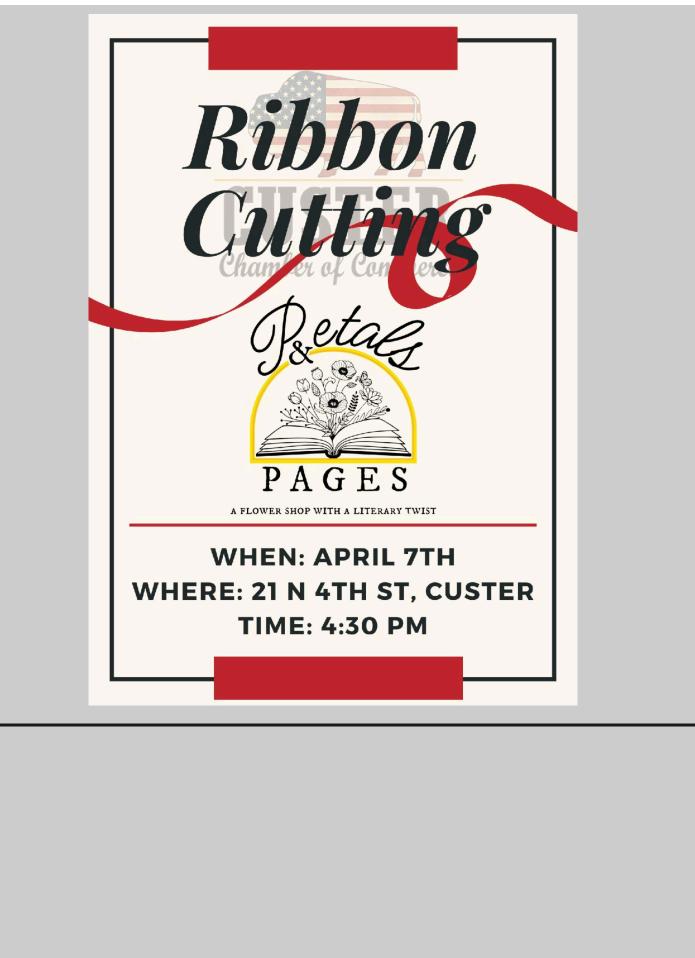
CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

Mixer Tonight!!

Bring a friend and come mix and Mingle while enjoying some great food!







2025 Chamber's Annual Spring Fling

Thursday, April 10 at Laughing Water Restaurant

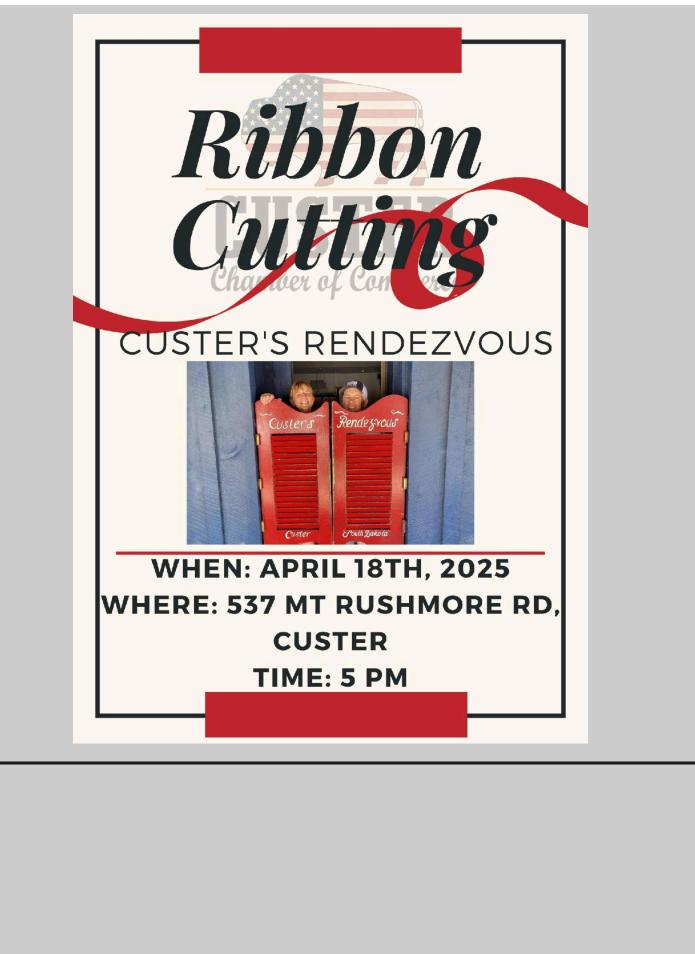
5:00pm Social Hour 6:00pm Heavy Hors D'oevres \$35 per person

Please RSVP to Dawn by April 3rd dmurray@custersd.com or 673-2244



Sponsoring this event is an opportunity to showcase your business and show your community support. Your sponsorship will be announced during the banquet and printed on all published materials.





Workplace Disability Network of the Black Hills & Custer Chamber of Commerce Presents

Service Animals, the ADA, and Your Business

Understanding Service Animals in Businesses and Other Public Spaces

Join us for an informative training session covering essential topics related to service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and what businesses need to know to ensure compliance and inclusivity.

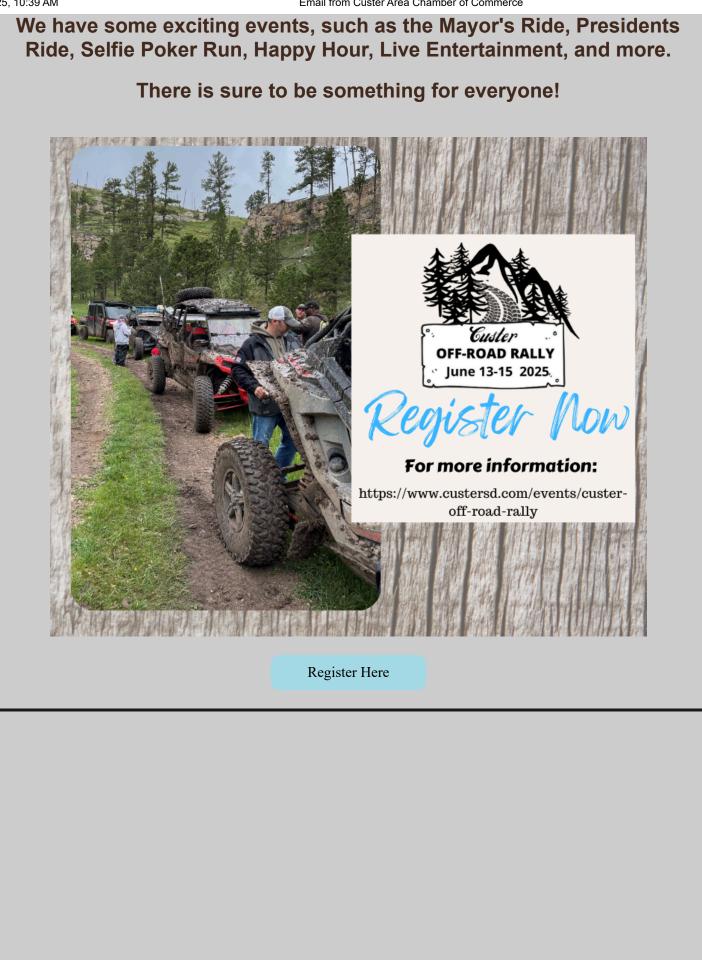
Date: April 24, 2025 Time: 1:00 pm Location: Pine Room, Custer Library 447 Crook St #4, Custer,



Who Should Attend? Business owners, professionals, customer service staff, managers, and anyone interested in learning how to support individuals with service animals.

Workplace Disability Network







Game On Arcade Custer Lawyer, PLLC

South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation **Black Hills Preservation Project** My XO Adventures Local Black Hills 555 Pro Books A & B Business Solutions **CJR** Painting Dave's Rock Shop St John the Baptist Catholic Church Black Hills Glass Restoration Sleep Better South Dakota LLC **Our Quilty Things** Gideons International- Southern Hills Camp Pain & Movement Solutions ZenBusiness Sweet Clover and Sage Salon

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

#MembershipMonday#

This week's membership spotlight is all about *My XO Adventures*. Here are some words about my xo adventures from the staff there.

"In March 2020, while leading a tour group in Cuba, Daniel faced a new challenge—the onset of a global pandemic. Forced to pivot, he returned to the U.S. and began brainstorming ways to keep his travel business alive. Stripping his life down to the essentials, Daniel transformed his van into a mobile home and hit the road, embarking on an epic journey across 38 states.

This bold move led him to the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he fell in love with the region's breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and cultural significance. Inspired by the area's beauty and potential, Daniel decided to make the Black Hills his new home and the foundation of My XO Adventures' operations.

Daniel believes in the power of travel to inspire, connect, and heal. His experiences taught him that obstacles are opportunities for growth and that dreams are worth pursuing, no matter the odds. From supporting local businesses during the pandemic to immersing himself in Indigenous cultures in Ecuador, Daniel's journey reflects his dedication to making a positive impact. Today, My XO Adventures is proud to offer exceptional tours in the Black Hills and Badlands

region, blending education, adventure, and respect for nature and culture. The company remains committed to sustainability, inclusivity, and creating unforgettable moments for every guest. Whether you're seeking the legends of the Wild West, the stunning beauty of South Dakota's landscapes, or a deeper connection with nature, My XO Adventures welcomes you to join the journey.

For more information, email us at info@myxoadventures.com or explore our tours."

AREA EVENTS

MIDWEST CAMPERS & RECREATION – Rapid City, SD COMPLETE DISPERSAL – ABSOLUTE ONLINE AUCTION

2 BIG DAYS - WEDNESDAY MARCH 19 & WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025

Located at 3045 Pool Drive, Rapid City, SD, across from the Windmill Pilot Travel Center at I-90 & Deadwood Ave.

First Auction Public Showings: Friday March 14 and Wednesday March 19 (Auction closing day) from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm each day. (Please inspect on showing dates only!)

Settlement-Pickup Day: Friday March 21 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm – Addn. pickup date Saturday March 22 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (if settlement has been made).

Featuring: '22 Kubota R540 Articulating Wheel Loader, with lg. material bucket and "Steve's Hitch" hydraulic trailer moving quick tach., 400+- hours, A-1; '22 Regal LX4 24' Bow Rider Runabout, w/Yamaha 250 outboard, bow thruster, power folding wake tower, restroom, custom cover, like new condition!

Selling a HUGE inventory of quality Recreational Vehicle – Camper – Trailer Parts and accessories including plumbing, electrical, electronics, leveling, jacks, towing, lighting, housewares, rooftop air conditioners, SEVERAL HUNDRED OF LOTS, ALL NEW INVENTORY!

ALSO: Toyota Diesel Forklift, Van storage trailers, ConEx storage container, Quick'tach Hydraulic Sweeper; quality slot-wall and gondola shelving, office items, LARGE asst. of qualitytools, power tools and shop items, new wheel balancer, large mechanics tool chests, heavy duty shop shelving, new tires, LARGE inventory of new trailer skinning materials, siding, windows, doors, roofing, etc.

Several used Campers, trailers, boats: Rockwood Premier travel trailer, Volvo toter home, several RV's of all types, 4 New Hoosier pontoon boat trailers, 5 runabout boats,

Auctioneers Note: As the property has sold, Midwest Campers & Recreation will liquidate its ENTIRE new and used inventory, as well as vehicles, tools, and equipment used in the business. If you own an RV or trailer (s), do not miss this opportunity to purchase quality items, in large and small lots, where YOU set the price. . . All selling WITHOUT MINIMUM OR RESERVE BID! This is a LARGE Auction utilizing online bidding only. See photos, descriptions, info and BIDDING at www.bradeenauction.com. Call ahead for assistance if you are unable to bid online. Thank you for making Bradeen Auctions YOUR Auctioneers for over 100 years!

Terms: Cash, Credit Card +3%, Bankable Check or Wire Transfer. 10% Buyer's Premium. Selling as-is without warranty of any kind. Descriptions believed accurate but are not guaranteed.

See complete details & photos on www.bradeenauction.com





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







Tractors-Horseless Carriage-Tools-Furniture-Appliances

Sedlesky & Guests

ONLINE BIDDING OPENS - Friday - March 21st, 2025 -

Closing Tuesday - March 25th, 2025, 4:00PM MST

3 Locations: 1) 25216 US Hwy 385, Custer, SD. 2) 120 Centennial Dr., off Hwy 385, Custer, SD. 3) Sunshine Storage – 25176 US Hwy 385, Custer, SD. Units 104 & 107

Featuring: 1800 Replica Horseless Carriage; Farmall B Tractor; Farmall M Tractor; Farmall A Tractor; Farmall Cub Tractor; Allis-Chalmers R, B, G & WD Tractors; Ford 9N Tractor; 1938 John Deere L Tractor; Flatbed trailer; Ferguson 3pt. Dirt Mover; Fagor kegerators; Kenmore kitchen appliances; Vintage pulleys; Wood chairs; gutters; drains; cove heaters; Dewalt tools; saddles; coolers; patio clock; camping gear; ice fishing poles; Craftsman tool box; work bench; furniture; air-compressors; Char-broil grill; lamps; chandeliers; gantry hoist and much more.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: ONLINE ONLY AUCTION. 10% Buyer's Premium. Complete detailed, Photos, Descriptions, terms & registration at www.bradeenauction.com.

Property inspection: Properties will be available for inspection on March 21st, 2025, at locations listed above from 11AM - 2PM MST.

Property Settlement & Pickup: All items must be settled for at Bradeen Auctions Office ~ 9 W. Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer and then picked up at property addresses, list provided at office, on March 25th, 2025, from 10AM to 3PM MST. No Exceptions.

Shipping Available Determined by Lot.

See complete details & photos on www.bradeenauction.com

OWNER: Ed Sedlesky & Guests



www.bradeenauction.com





March Open Sew – March 21 & 22, 2025 Register for one day or both 10AM – 4PM \$15 per day

Rag Quilt Class – March 31, 2025 9AM – 3PM \$30

Chenille Hot Pad Class – April 14, 2025 9AM – 3PM \$30

April Open Sew – April 25 & 26, 2025 Register for one day or both 10AM – 4PM \$15 per day Please register by the Monday prior to class by contacting

Jody Tomac 307.746.8550 OurQuiltyThings@gmail.com OurQuiltyThings on FaceBook



SOUTHERN HILLS FREE Nonprofit Workshop

Building Sustainable Income



- ① 11:00 AM 2:00 PM
- **Custer County Library**

Designed for staff at all levels!

This workshop will empower you to take control of your organization's financial future with a diversified fundraising strategy.

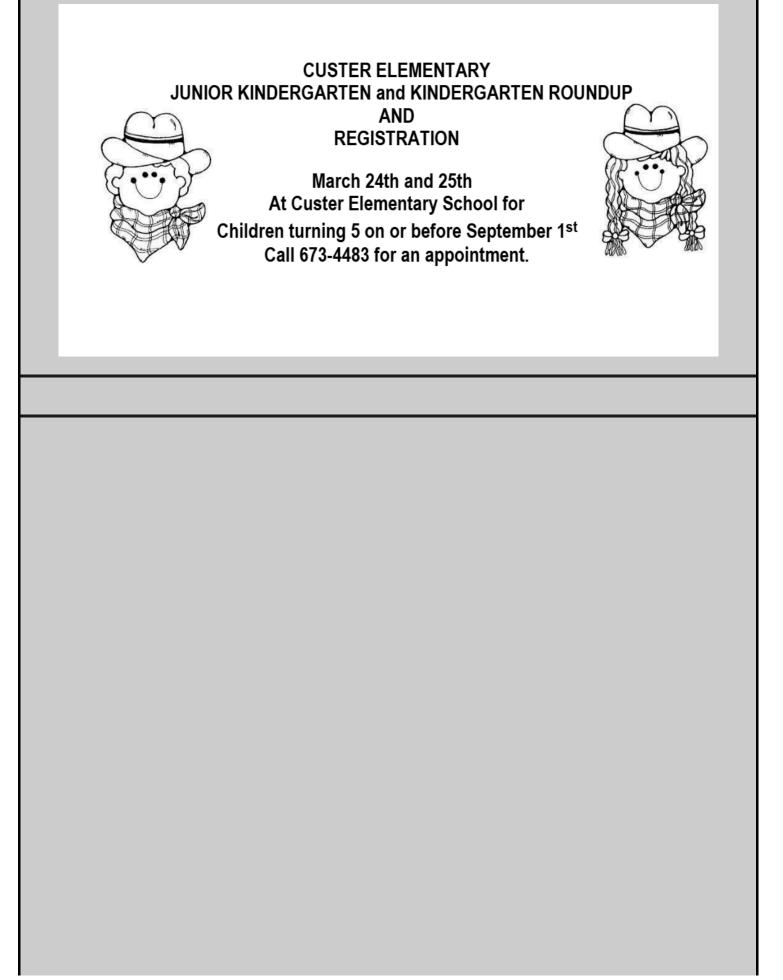
We will discuss pathways to income including: Events Appeals

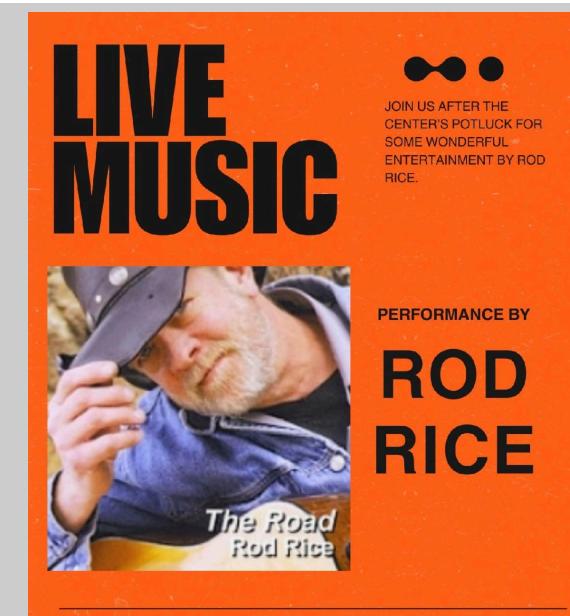
Grants

Donors



Register today: -> www.innovnp.com/npc-blackhills





25 MARCH 2025 AT 1PM

Location: Custer Senior Center, 538 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer, SD 57730

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ORDER YOUR TICKET AT WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM

Medicare Questions and Answers

with

Steve from Custer State Farm



Tuesday, March 25th 5:30pm-7:00pm 609 Mt. Rushmore Road, Custer

Join us for an informational session about Medicare and Medicare Supplement Insurance. Steve is an expert in both and will clear up any questions you have about either.

605-673-4141 steve@protectcuster.com





South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

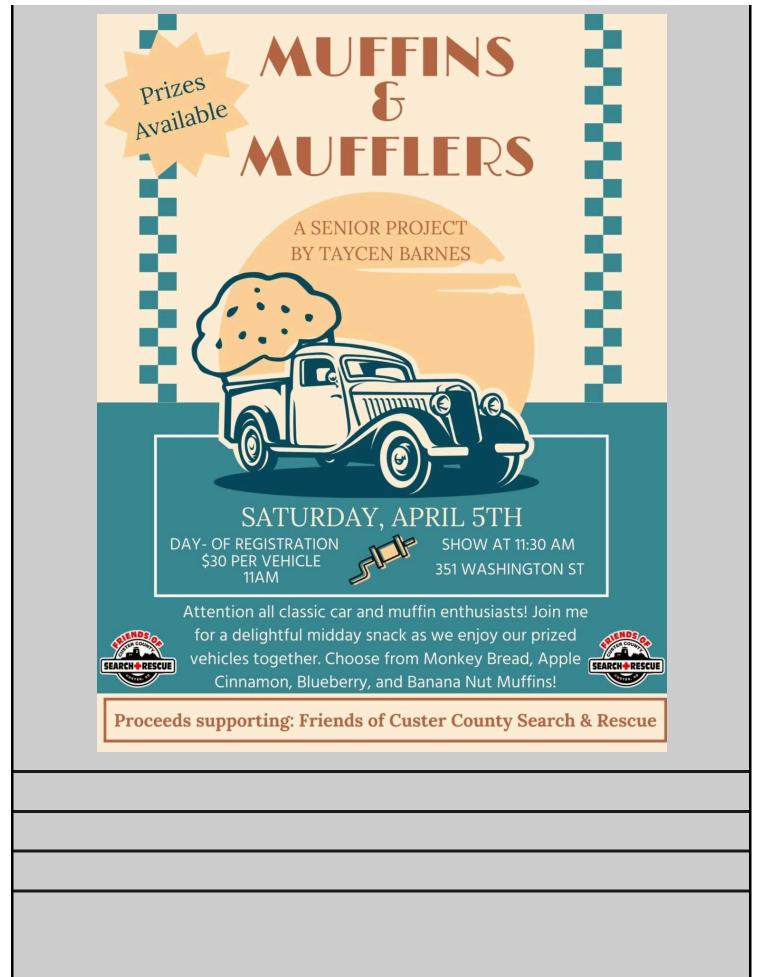
This is a One day Class Saturday March 29th 2025 9:00am to 4:30pm

The Enhanced Permit allows you carry in 38 stats including MN, NE, WI, NV, NH, WA, and SC

Class size is limited so register early.

For additional information or to register for the class you can e-mail the instructor at **echo.ft.sd@gmail.com**, call the shop at 605-673-3222 or e mail us southernhillstactical@gwtc.net











Call for Artists

Art Expressions Gallery in Custer, South Dakota is asking for your work to be displayed in our 10th annual

Small Pieces Art Show

"To see in color is delight for the eye, to see in black and white is a delight for the soul" ... Andri Cauldwell

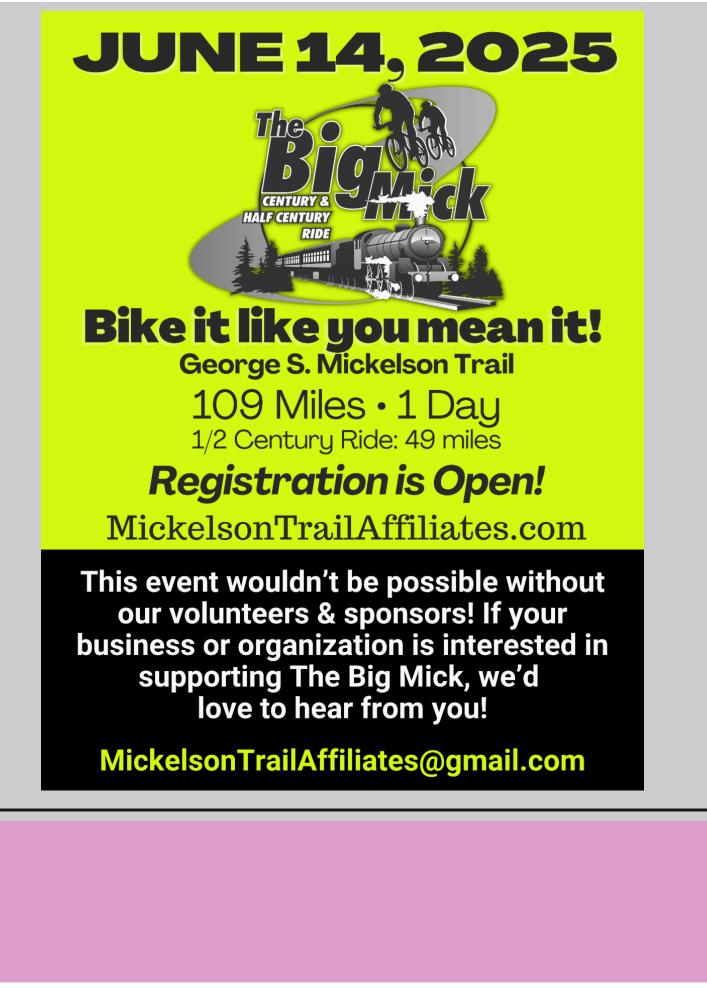
May 14th – June 4th, 2024

- Your entry DOES NOT have to reflect our theme. The Theme Award, for the best interpretation of our theme, is only one of many awards given.
- We will accept work in any medium. The piece must be the artist's original work presented in its original medium. Prints are acceptable only from original work in a digital or film medium.
- Although it may be smaller, the piece must fit in an 8x8x8 inch wall space. All pieces hang on the wall, so
 a hanger that will supports your art piece is required.
- Adult and two Youth divisions. Teen: age 13 through 17. Junior: age 12 and younger.
- \$20 Entry Fee for Adult, \$15 Teen, \$5 for Juniors, to be paid at the time the artwork is submitted.
- No jury selection.
- Art Expressions Gallery reserves the right to refuse any submission that is inappropriate.
- Art Expressions Gallery is not responsible for loss of or damage to the artwork displayed.
- No show submission may be removed until the end of the show.
- If you choose, we will list your item for sale. Art Expressions receives a 40% commission if we sell your
 piece while it is part of our show.

Timeline

Although we will accept pieces for display throughout the run of the show, judges will name the pieces receiving ribbons and other prizes before the show opens on May 14th. People's Choice will be named on June 4th during the closing reception. Bring your entries to the gallery or mail them to arrive in the week before the show opens. To make other arrangements, contact the gallery.

- May 4th- 10th Bring your work to the gallery.
- May 13th -- Judges select pieces receiving ribbons and other awards.
- May 14th Small Pieces Show Opens.
- June 4th Small Pieces Show Closing Reception at Art Expression Galley, 4:30-6 P.M. Please make every
 effort to attend. We will take your picture with your work. Awards will be officially presented, and
 pictures will be taken about 5:30 PM. You may take your piece(s) with you at 6 PM.
- June 4th June 11st -- Art can be picked up at the gallery during normal business hours.









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JOIN TODAY!

FIND YOUR STRENGTH FIND YOUR STRENGTH

At the Y, our supportive community will inspire you to find your inner strength so you can expand your health in spirit, mind and body.

CUSTER YMCA 605-673-5134 RCYMCA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

For a better us.®

the

The Cruisin' Canvas STUDIO Class Schedule

MARCH & APRIL 2025 (Minimum of 6 students per class preferred)

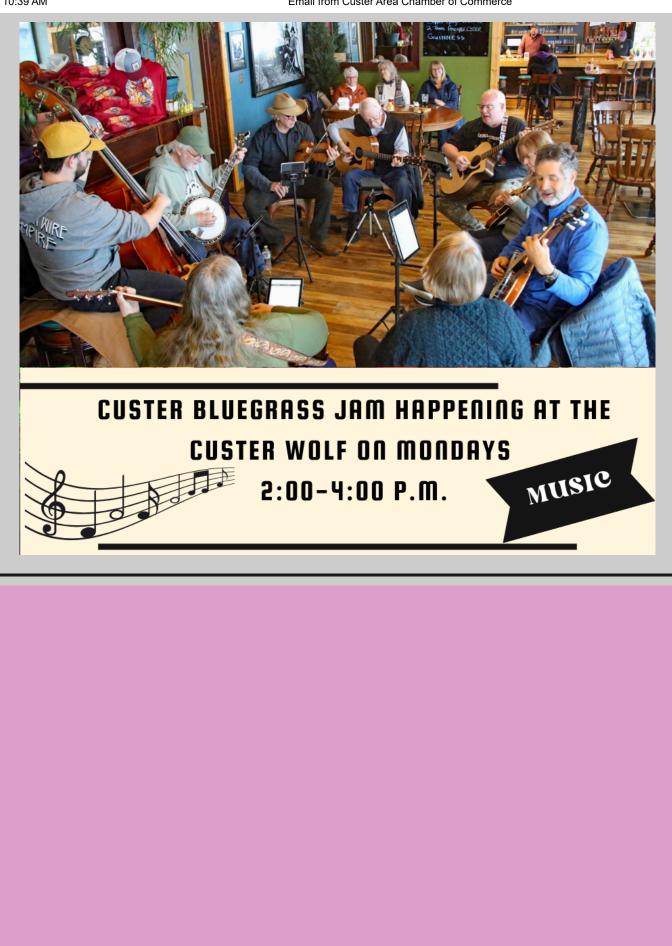
<u>Ladies Night</u> Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 PM March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

ART with Seniors Wednesday Afternoons, 1:00-3:00 PM March 12th & 26th April 2nd, 23rd & 30th

Kids Klub (Age 10+)

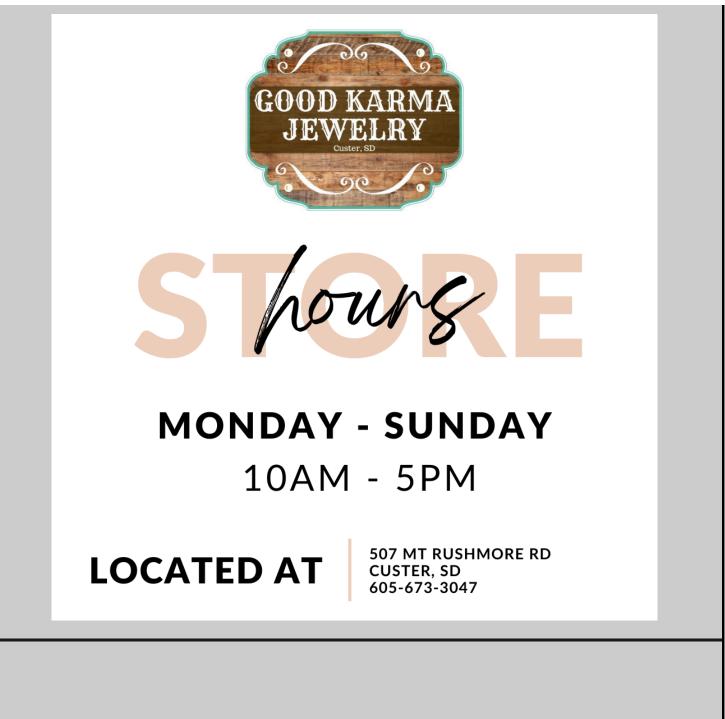
Friday Afternoons, 1:00-3:00 PM March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th April 4th, 11th & 25th

Please call ahead or email to reserve your seat! Tami@thecruisincanvas.com OR Call (970)481-8183









Now welcoming new clients

Your customers are online—are you? Social media isn't just a trend; it's your ticket to:

- Building trust with your audience
- Attracting new customers without breaking the bank
- Showcasing your unique story and products
- Driving traffic to your website

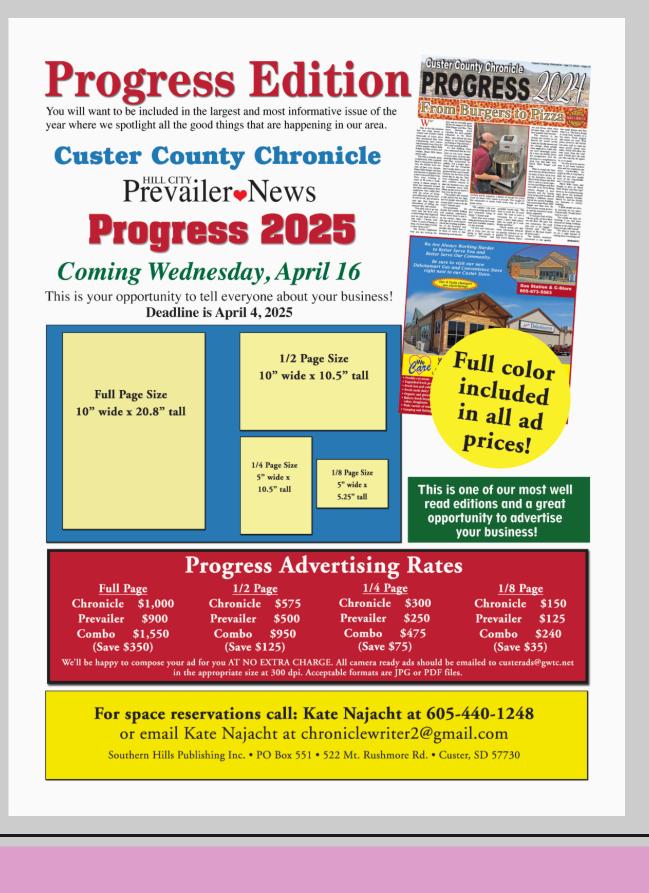
In today's world, if you're not on social media, you're invisible to countless potential customers! Let's grow your brand, connect with your community, and drive sales—all with the power of strategic social media content.



A quick hello from Southern Hills Publishing!

In December, our website saw more than 258,000 hits! Yes, that is correct! And that is a huge amount of traffic! We offer many advertising opportunities for our website; contact me to discuss! It's time for our annual Progress Edition of the Chronicle and Prevailer! This reports on all the good news from our communities: new businesses, growth to existing businesses, infrastructure and community upgrades, a tourism outlook and much more! This edition is the biggest and best-read issue of the Chronicle and Prevailer all year, so it's one you don't want to miss. (insert promo sheet) It's also time for the 2025 Black Hills Adventure Guide! With 35,000 copies distributed Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer, as well as online, this is your summer tourism magazine! Our Certified Folder rep said these fly off the shelves at the SD Department of Tourism Welcome Centers in Spearfish and Chamberlain. Another don't miss opportunity! (insert promo sheet)

Contact Kate at 605-440-1248 or *chroniclewriter2@gmail.com* to discuss how you can get the most bang for your buck with your Southern Hills Publishing marketing plan!



What do our visitors want?

Studies have shown they want: 1) An "Experience" & 2) History. You provide the first. We'll provide the second!



FICAF

First Interstate Custer Area Fund 648 Mt Rushmore Rd 605-673-2215 Curtis.Tyler@fib.com

The First Interstate Custer Area Fund is accepting applications for grants from qualified 501 (C) 3 organizations in the Custer area thru March 31. Recipients will be selected and grants funded during the Month of April, 2025.

Disbursements by the local board of directors are determined according to the needs of the community. Past disbursements from 1999 to date have totaled \$304,784.00 and have benefited a variety of local projects, historical organizations, and the arts and humanities.

If your non-profit organization would like to be considered in the disbursement of funds, please complete the First Interstate Custer Area Fund application form and return it to any board member or mail the form to First Interstate Custer Area Fund, 648 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD 57730. Completed applications can also be emailed to donna.cullum@fib.com.

Grant application forms are available from any local board member, please call Jenny Behlings 673-5436, Curtis Tyler 673-2215, Donna Cullum 673-2215, Nathan Wiederholt 673-2716, Misty Fish 673-4848 or Jen Hartshorn 605-255-5373 The deadline for completed applications for the annual disbursement of funds will be March 29, 2025. Funds will be disbursed during the month of April, 2025.

Feel like you're the only business not relocating this Spring?

Well, don't feel left out, here are some commercial opportunities for you to grow your business!



<u>Custer</u>

1.5 acres just off of Hwy 16 close to golf course. Level lot, utilities close and high traffic area! MLS 81403 \$230,000

1100 sf on 6th Street-just one block of central business district in Custer! Remodeled. Can be retail or office! MLS 82092 \$325,000

Hill City

Remodeled Log Office/Retail Building in Hill City. 1426 sf Super-Duper high traffic area! 451 E Main St, Hill City MLS 82641 \$399,000

1 acre at Three Forks area in Hill City Level lot and high traffic area! Ideal for short term rental, office, winery, strip center & more. MLS 80978 \$219,000

Aspen+Pine Realty Andrea Ronning, Owner/Broker 605-517-1130 andrea@aspenandpinerealty.com



Email from Custer Area Chamber of Commerce





Black Hills Playhouse Brings the Luck of the Irish with Exclusive Pass Sale

For Immediate Release

SOUTH DAKOTA – Get ready to embrace the luck of the Irish! The **Black Hills Playhouse** is celebrating the season with a **special limited-time offer**—the **Luck of the Irish Pass Sale**, available **March 1–17**. This is your chance to experience an unforgettable night of live theatre at a discounted rate—but act fast before this deal disappears.

What's Included for Just \$72.00 (+\$8.00 processing fee)?

- Two tickets to any upcoming Black Hills Playhouse performance
 - One large box of their famous popcorn
 - A total savings of \$18.00

Now, the only question is—which incredible show will you choose?

Season 79: "The Impossible Must Be Possible"

This season's lineup features four captivating productions that will transport audiences into worlds of mystery, music, and theatrical magic:

- Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express A thrilling whodunit filled with intrigue
 - Legally Blonde: The Musical A high-energy, feel-good Broadway hit
 - Waitress: The Musical A heartfelt story with show-stopping songs
 - The Book of Will A love letter to Shakespeare and the power of storytelling

Don't Miss Out

This **exclusive offer** is only available until **March 17**, so don't wait—**secure your Luck of the Irish Pass today** and get ready for an unforgettable theatre experience. **Purchase your pass now:** https://www.blackhillsplayhouse.com/passes

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kassi Blue-Scates Community/Development Associate kassi@blackhillsplayhouse.com

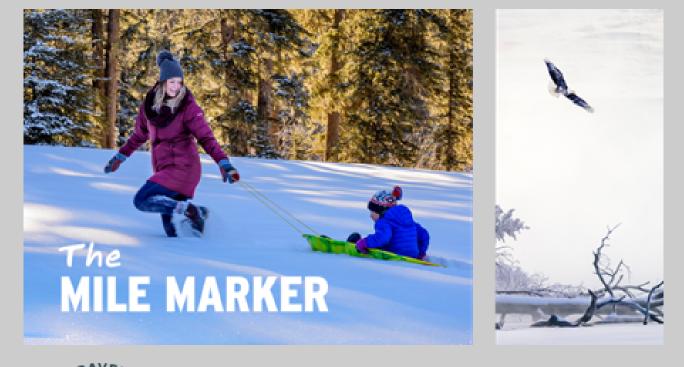
Custer State Park Announces Trail Upgrades and Temporary Closures

Pierre, S.D.- The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks today announced the start of a significant trail upgrade project aimed at enhancing the visitor experience and preserving the natural beauty of Custer State Park.

To facilitate these improvements, *portions of the Sylvan Lake Shoreline Trail will be temporarily closed,* while the entire Sunday Gulch Trail will be closed starting September 9, 2024, and continue into the spring of 2025.

For more information about the trail upgrades or the Sylvan Lake Master Plan, please visit *custerstatepark.com* or contact Lydia Austin at *Lydia.Austin@state.sd.us*

NEWS FROM THE STATE





Hello, Tourism Partners!

Greetings from Los Angeles!

As I write this quick message, Calvin Bloemendaal, our Research Manager, and I just finished the twoday Los Angeles Travel & Adventure Show at the LA Convention Center. It was an INCREDIBLE showing for The Mount Rushmore State!

The LA show had record-breaking attendance, and our booth was swamped with Southern Californians looking for adventure in our beautiful, inspiring, creative and unique state. We had dozens and dozens of folks who told us our state is definitely on their vacation bucket list. We also had SO MANY attendees stop and tell us that of all the trips they have taken in the USA, South Dakota was their very favorite. The excitement, genuineness, and sparkle in the eyes of those who shared their South Dakota vacation memories with us was nothing short of inspiring. I will be staying in Los Angeles for a few more days this week as I visit with members of the travel media as well as meet with a potential marketing partner whose event could very well put South Dakota in the spotlight in a big way in 2026. Stay tuned! Be sure and check out all kinds of great updates in the newsletter below. You'll read about Cole's recent Brand USA mission to India, Calley's work at the American Bus Association Marketplace in Philadelphia, and a deadline for completing our *Destination Development Program survey* (February 28). If you have questions about any of these items, please don't hesitate to reach out.

The 2025 legislative session is halfway over, and we want to take a moment to thank the Tourism Coalition of South Dakota (TCSD) for their outstanding work in keeping tabs on bills that affect the tourism industry in our state. As I shared at last month's tourism conference, we are so fortunate to have a newly revamped, dynamic, and strong advocacy arm for tourism in South Dakota that is working hard to make sure our industry's voice is heard in the halls of our state capitol. If you are not yet a member of the TCSD, please consider joining today. You can learn more about the Tourism Coalition *here*.

In closing, I want to share a very warm email message we received from two recent visitors to our state. It sums up so perfectly just how very special our state and its citizens are. The recent visitors wrote:

FEBRUARY 2025 SDVISIT.COM Email from Custer Area Chamber of Commerce

"We came to America over 50 years ago, and this trip to South Dakota felt like discovering its beauty all over again. The landscapes were incredible, but it was the warmth of the people that truly touched us. Even when we got stuck in the snow, two amazing drivers stopped to help us without hesitation. We were so grateful and moved \heartsuit . Thank you @travelsouthdakota for an experience we'll cherish forever!"

It doesn't get much better than that!

THANK YOU, friends, for being such kind people and for taking such great care of every guest who crosses the borders of our state. Keep up the great work! We are proud of you. All our best,

Jim and Team

PRESS RELEASE



Project Update Friday, March 7, 2025

Current Construction:

• Phase 2 construction operations currently involve off-road grading, tree clearing, and logging operations. The contractor is using a pilot car and flaggers as needed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (MT) on weekdays and some Saturdays.

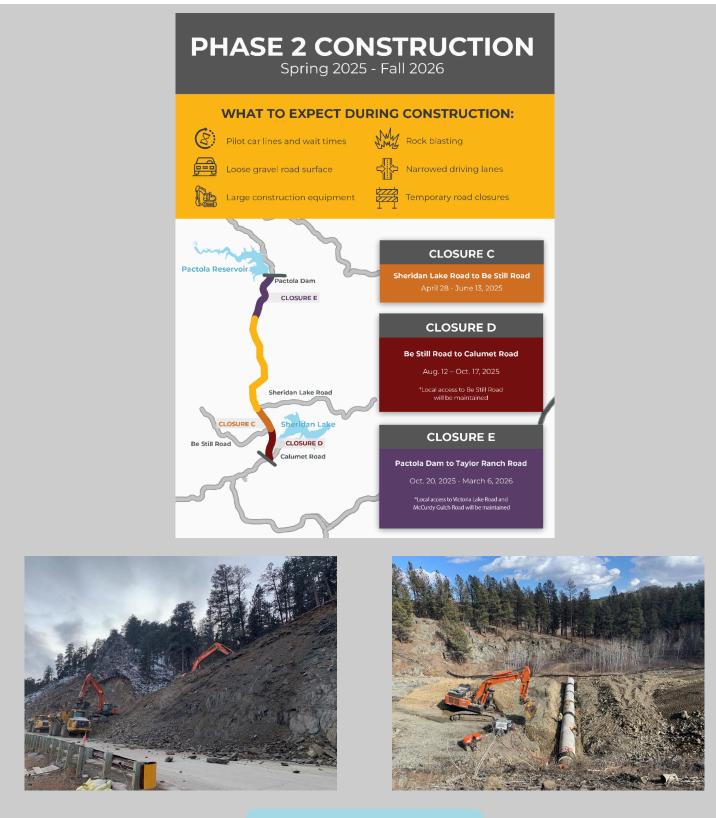
• Rock blasting is anticipated to take place on U.S. Highway 385 one-half mile north of Sheridan Lake Road during the week of March 17, 2025. Blasting times are yet to be determined. Users of Highway 385 can expect temporary road closures causing up to one hour of delay during rock blasting and subsequent

rockfall cleanup. The public is advised to stay away from the drilling and blasting area during this time. To avoid unknown wait times, please consider using an alternative route.

Upcoming Construction:

• Phase 1 (Pactola Dam to the Pennington-Lawrence County Line) permanent surfacing takes place this summer and will be completed by the end of July 2025. Currently, there are approximately two miles of gravel and three miles of hard surface between Pactola Dam and the Pennington-Lawrence County Line. During this time period, roadway users can expect the use of flaggers and pilot cars with delays up to15 minutes.

- Closure C (Sheridan Lake Road to Be Still Road) takes effect on Monday, April 28, 2025, and ends Friday, June 13, 2025. During this time period, the closed roadway will not be open to through traffic. Outside of the closure, but within the construction area, travelers can expect pilot cars and wait times, the use of large construction equipment, narrowed driving lanes, and loose gravel surfacing.
- Closure D (Be Still Road to Calumet Road) begins on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, and ends on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025. Closure E (Pactola Dam to Taylor Ranch Road) begins on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025, and ends on Friday, March 6, 2026.



View Construction Updates





- 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" to605-566-4041. 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.



WEEKLY INSPIRATION

HELP WANTED

https://app.constantcontact.com/pages/campaigns/email-details/



- Marketing Manager
- 🖊 Bartenders
- 🖊 Servers
- 🧹 Kitchen Team
- 🖌 Dish Washers

APPLY IN PERSON 351 WASHINGTON ST.





THE GOLD PAN SALOON

WE'RE HIRING! Join our FUN team! We're hiring bartenders at the Gold Pan Saloon! If you're reliable, friendly, enthusiastic, and have a passion for crafting great drinks and providing excellent customer service, we'd love to hear from you. Some experience preferred but not required. If you're the right fit, we'll train! Must be able to work well independently, or as a team. Bartenders are responsible for all aspects of their respective shift (stocking, cleaning, keg/soda changes, tills, opening or closing duties, etc), so self-motivation is a must. Seriously, we're looking for someone who brings the fun! A great personality is a must. If you can chat with customers, make them feel welcome, and add to the overall atmosphere of the Gold Pan, you're exactly who we're looking for. Stop by the saloon for more information and/or to leave a resume.

Ask for Hannah. #GoldPanSaloon #BartenderJobs #Hiring #CusterSD #blackhillsjobs #blackhills

Our friends down at @moccasinsprings are hiring



thedragonfly2024



Hiring Full Time Dishwasher \$14hr Wed-Sun

Email: soakinhotsprings@gmail.com

TXT: 605-891-9271

thedragonfly2024 Join our kitchen team as a dishwasher! \$14hr Full Time hours! ...

APPLYING FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE JOBS

STEPS (

To apply for a job, there are 4 basic steps:

- STEP 1: Create an Account on <u>USAJOBS.GOV</u>
 - Enter your profile information and create a resume.
 - Consider the Helpful Resume Tips.
 - Note: Visit <u>USAJOBS' Help Center</u> for more information on Getting Started
 - You do not need to create a USAJOBS account to search for jobs, but you do to create an account to apply for jobs.
- STEP 2: Search Jobs
 - Use the USAJOBS search feature to view jobs filtered by position and location or use the advanced search function search with more filters like pay or grade-level.
 - Review job opportunity announcements and save those of interest.
 - Carefully review the "Qualification and Evaluation" section to determine whether you could qualify for the position.
- STEP 3: Apply For Jobs
 - Carefully follow the instructions in the "How to Apply" section for each job announcement.
 - Submit any supporting documentation to verify your qualifications.
 - Leaving out a required document may result in you not being found eligible and/or qualified.
- STEP 4: Manage Your Career
 - Log into your USAJOBS account to obtain application status for positions for which you have applied.
 - Contact the agency for the specific followup questions or those related to the particular job.
 - The agency contact information is listed in the "How to Apply" section of the job announcement.

HELPFUL RESUME TIPS

- Make your resume includes your specialized experience as it relates to the duties section of the job announcements in <u>USAJOBS</u>.
- Include hours of work or full-time/parttime status for each job you include in the work experience section on your resume.
- Make your resume searchable.

COMMON SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- College Transcripts
- DD-214 (Certificate of Discharge)
- Recent Performance Appraisals
- SF-15 (App for Vet Preference)
- SF-50s (Official Personnel Actions)
- Vocational Certificates/Licenses

THE NPS HIRING EXPERIENCE

- Apply to a Job Announcement
- Notification of Results sent to Candidate
- Possible Invitation to Interview
- If Selected, a Tentative Offer Letter
- Completion of a Background Check
- · A Firm Offer Letter with a Start Date
- Entrance on Duty
- Successful Completion of a Probationary Period (if not previously completed)
- An Amazing Career with the NPS!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: NATIONALRECRUITMENTTEAM@NPS.GOV

KITCHEN CREW NEEDED

Part time Dishwashers!

Skogen Kitchen is hiring! Tips plus hourly wage (20\$hr average)

Family Meal



Fun Atmosphere

Stop in to meet us!





Job Description: Delivery Driver

Job Description Summary:

The Delivery Driver successfully executes the delivery of propane gas to patron locations, while providing excellent customer service. The Delivery Driver reports to the Service Manager.

Essential Functions:

Delivery of propane gas to customers as routed by dispatch.

Other duties as assigned (tank maintenance, assisting service department, basic vehicle maintenance).

Requirements:

Class B license with airbrakes and hazmat (X) endorsement

Education: High school diploma preferred

Willingness to learn company software and procedures

Physical:

Body Positions:	Sitting, standing, driving, bending, crawling, climbing
Body Movements:	Sitting, standing, driving
Strength:	Some lifting is required, up to 100 lbs

Working Conditions: Outside environment, driving and delivering in all weather conditions.

Travel: Daily travel to customer homes and business locations, other company facilities, no overnights.

Hourly Rate: \$24/ hr and up, DOE. Opportunities for overtime and advancement. Other compensation includes health insurance, 401(k) match, and PTO.

Please email your resume to stefany@mcgas.biz or call the office at 605-347-3811.



Job Description: Service Technician

Job Description Summary:

The Service Technician executes the installation, repairing, and operation of company equipment and appliances, while providing excellent customer service. The Service Technician reports to the Service Manager.

Essential Duties:

Tank delivery and setting. Diagnose and solve customer problems. Connect appliances. Install furnaces and heaters.

Requirements:

Hazmat CDL license.

Class B license with airbrakes.

High school diploma preferred.

At least 2 years of commercial driving experience preferred, but not required.

At least 2 years of maintenance/repair experience preferred, but not required. Excellent problem-solving skills. Attention to detail. Ability to collaborate with others in the organization. Enthusiasm, communication skills, and a passion for safety.

Body Positions: Sitting, standing, driving, bending, crawling, climbing Strength: Lifting up to 150 lbs

Working Conditions: Outside environment

Travel: Daily travel to customer homes and business locations, as well as other company facilities. No overnights.

Hourly Rate: \$25-\$35 DOE

Please email your resume to stefany@mcgas.biz or call the office at 605-347-3811.

Be sure to check out the Help Wanted section on our Website:



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

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