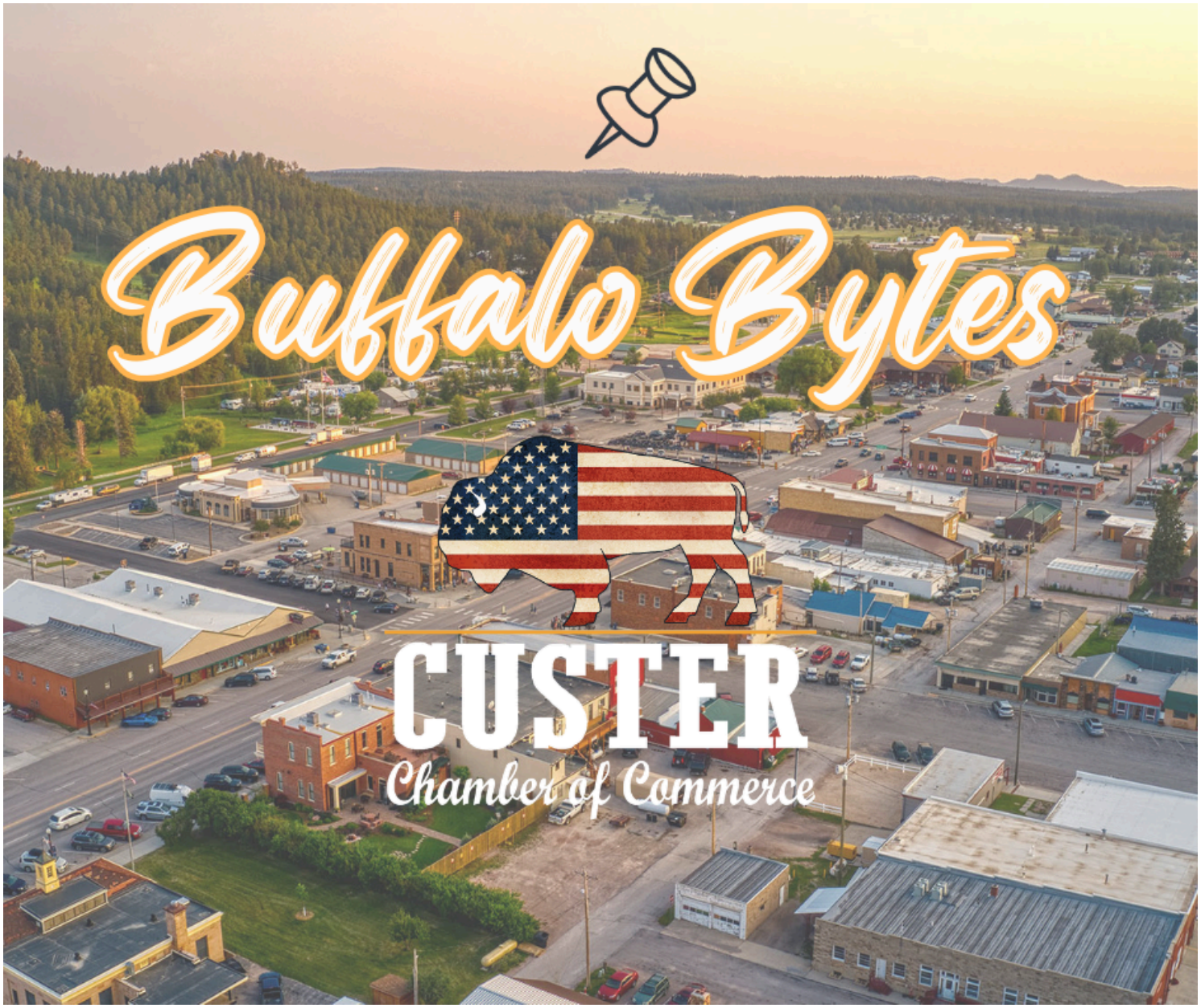


When viewing on a mobile device- please scroll down and click on "view entire message" to view Buffalo Bytes in correct formatting

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!





“Bring in the recipe card. We’ll help you frame it so you can see the handwriting on both sides.”

That sentence could do more for a frame shop’s holiday marketing than another “Give something meaningful” graphic. It provides shoppers with an idea for the recipe card tucked in a kitchen drawer and shows them what someone in your shop knows how to do. It's creative, heartfelt, and useful. And it's not something that others will tell you to do. It shows the unique value proposition of working with you.

Large retailers can produce polished holiday campaigns at scale. You can build yours around the people customers will meet and the advice they’ll get when they come in. A recommendation from the person who uses the product, a tip from the owner who’s answered the same question for years, or a quick look at how your team packs an order gives you material that comes straight from your business. The more specific it is, the more it sounds like you and helps people get to know you.

This Small Business Season, “It’s the Thought That Counts” in the details your team thinks through for customers. Those details can make a strong case for shopping with you without turning your campaign into a debate about where people should spend their money.

Ask for a Staff Pick with a Reason

“What’s your favorite product?” will get you a list. “What would you give someone who loves to cook and already owns every kitchen gadget?” is more likely to get you a story worth sharing.

Maybe an employee suggests a jar of preserved lemons and explains how she uses them to perk up a weeknight dinner. Now the shopper has a gift and a serving idea to write on the card. Your employee has helped solve a problem a generic gift guide can easily miss and the reason behind the gift makes it much more appealing.

Ask a willing team member for one recommendation for a specific person, occasion, or budget. Capture their answer in two sentences, add the price and how to buy it, and use the same recommendation on a shelf card, in your email, and on social media. One good answer can earn its keep in three places.

Share the Answer You Give All the Time

What do customers ask you before they feel comfortable buying? Every question that falls in that category is a holiday marketing idea.

A bike shop owner, for instance, could explain what to bring when buying a helmet as a gift and how the recipient can come in for a fit check. That’s a detail the shopper may not have thought of. A caterer could show how they’d plan food for an open house where people come and go, compared with a dinner where everyone sits down together at the same time.

Use the words you'd use with a customer standing in front of you. Then give readers an easy next step. "Tell us how many people you're expecting and how they'll be eating. We'll help you figure out what to order." That's a post a shopper can use, and it gives them a preview of what it's like to work with you.

You could even create a chatbot that can help with sizing or serving questions, so the potential shopper needn't wait to place an order. Make it easy for them to do business with you. And since you upload the advice to the AI chatbot yourself, it can be exactly what you would ask and say if you were picking up the phone and answering in person.

Show a Detail Your Team Thinks Through

Your team probably does things customers appreciate all the time. Sadly, the customers probably have no idea who the proverbial elves are in Santa's workshop. Take a photo or record a quick clip of one of those steps. Explain what the detail does for the customer. A video of someone closing a pastry box is easy to scroll past. Add "We label the tops so you can set up the dessert table without opening every box," and you've shown the thought behind an ordinary task.

You've also given customers a concrete way to connect shopping local with the people their purchases support. They can picture the person who helps them choose and the person who gets their order ready.

Give Your People a Say in What You Share

Invite employees to participate and make it easy to pass. Explain where the feature will appear and let them approve the quote and image (or video) before it goes live. Someone who enjoys giving recommendations might prefer to share a tip without their last name or have the camera show only their hands.

Keep the story focused on the work they're comfortable sharing. Check photos and videos for order slips, customer names, and other private details. If you want to use a feature somewhere new, check with the employee first. And always make sure they've signed a media usage consent form. It's easy to do this as part of your onboarding process but it's also nice to include them before it hits their social media stream.

If you're not sure how to promote your team and what their areas of expertise are, it's likely you're too close to what you do and the services you provide. If that's the case, start with one question at your next team huddle or meeting. "What did you help a customer figure out this week?" Share one answer, with permission, where someone facing the same decision will see it.

When a shopper walks in and says, "I saw your post. I brought the recipe card," your marketing has already done what your people do best. It helped someone see what was possible and thus, changed their holiday.Just in case you haven't looked at a calendar recently, the holiday season is upon us and that means Small Business Season is at our door. Yes, we said, "Small Business Season," because don't our small businesses deserve more than a single day?

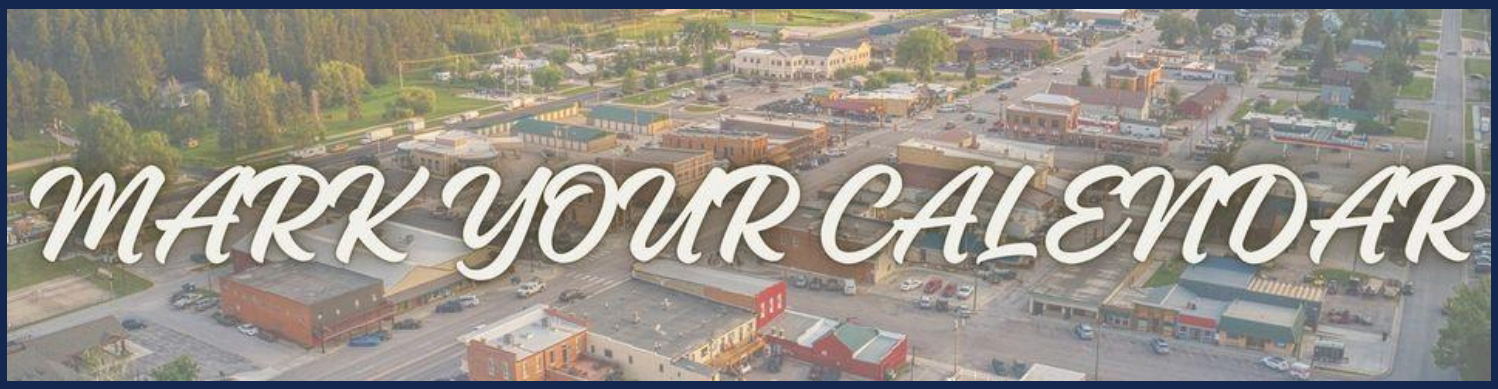


Dawn Murray
Executive Director

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Click to download calendar



November 19

Annual Stuff-A-Truck Food Drive Delivery Day

Drop donations off to Chamber by 5pm on November 18

November 19

Mixer at Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services

5pm

December 4

Christmas Cash Drawing

2pm

December 5

Christmas Parade

5pm





Fillable nomination form

Thank you to these community leaders for signing up for the 2027 Custer Chamber magazine! We would love to include you on this list too!

1881 Courthouse Museum
Black Hills Energy
Black Hills Federal Credit Union
Bradeen Real Estate and Auctions
Carr Electric
Carson Drug
City of Custer
Crazy Horse Memorial

Custer Heating & Air Conditioning
Custer Hospitality
Custer School District
Custer State Park
DGR Engineering
enCore Uranium
Golden West Telecommunications
Horatio's Homemade Ice Cream
Image 360
Lampert Properties
Lynn's Dakotamart
Miner's Cup
Monument Health
Mt. Rushmore Brewing Co.
Nelson's Oil & Gas
New Trails
Nielsen Enterprises
NXTLAW
PDQ Construction
PDQ Specialty Products
Pizza Mill
Premier Family Eyecare
RP Lumber
Sentinel FCU
Shepherd of the Hills
Starr Insurance
Tallgrass Landscape Architecture
Theatre 605/BH Playhouse
Xtreme Sports Simulators
Art Expressions
Black Hills Parks & Forest Association
Custer Dental Studio
Happy Scoops
Lewis Realty
Lintz Bros. Pizza
Maria's Mexican
Sleep Better South Dakota
Wolff's Plumbing

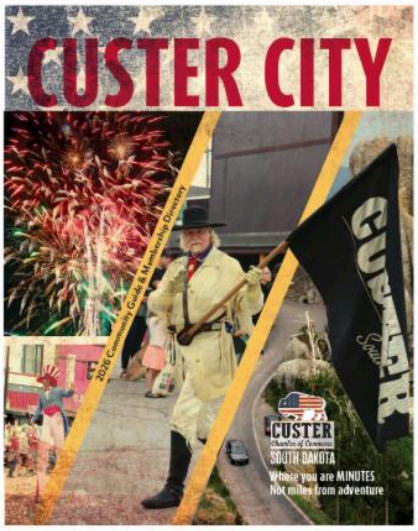
Contact Kate TODAY to be a part of this amazing group!
605-440-1248
chroniclewriter2@gmail.com

Your Custer-area magazine!

Everything you need to know about Custer and Custer County!

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

2027 Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Business and Membership Directory



Your Custer Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is producing the 2027 Chamber Business and Membership Directory with helpful features for chamber members, Custer visitors and potential residents. This beautiful, full-color directory will include great photography, a community profile, a calendar of special events, accommodations, attractions, restaurant listings and a complete categorical directory of all chamber members in full magazine-size layout.

We'll print 15,000 copies of this directory, which will be distributed to prospective visitors and residents who call our community seeking information about traveling to the region, or relocating their home or business to the Custer area. In addition, thousands of copies will be distributed at our Visitor Information Center and at chamber businesses such as local motels, restaurants and campgrounds. **This will be our primary economic development and business recruitment piece!**

If you'd like to distribute your message to thousands of potential customers who will visit Custer or are inquiring about living here, just give the folks at Southern Hills Publishing a call at 605-673-2217. Don't miss this opportunity. Thanks for your continued support.

Craig Reindl
Chamber President

Plus:
Our website gets more than 1 million visits per month!

15,000 Copies

Full Page Size
7.708" wide x 10.139" tall
With bleed (8.875" wide x 11.305" tall)

1/2 Page Size
7.708" wide x 5" tall

1/4 Page Size
3.75" wide x 5" tall

1/8 Page Size
3.75" wide x 2.5" tall

We'll be happy to compose your ad for you AT NO EXTRA CHARGE. All camera ready ads should be e-mailed to custerads@gwtc.net in the appropriate size at 300 dpi. Acceptable formats are JPG or PDF files.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL RATES!

Advertising Rates
Full-Color Ad

Full page ad	$1750
Half page ad	$950
Quarter page ad	$650
One eighth page ad	$500

Premium pages are back page, inside front, inside back page, and page 3 and are an additional $100.

DEADLINE: Oct. 23, 2026

For Space Reservations, Call Kate Najacht at 605-440-1248
or email Kate at chroniclewriter2@gmail.com
Southern Hills Publishing Inc. • PO Box 551 • 431 N. 5th St. • Custer, SD 57730 • 605-673-2217
www.myblackhillscountry.com



Chamber Mixer

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Hosted By:

BRADEEN
100 YEARS
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS
Custer, SD • 605-673-2629

November 19th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Held at Bradeen Real Estate & Auctions
9 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD 57730

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



19th Annual

STUFF A TRUCK PROJECT

Help us fill the truck with food for our community!

ITEMS NEEDED:



- Canned cranberry sauce



- Boxes of stuffing



- Cake mix



- Large boxes of instant potatoes



- 6 oz boxes of jello (not sugar-free)



- Frosting tubs

Together,

our efforts will help stock the shelves at the **Custer Food Pantry** and ensure they have everything needed for their Christmas food baskets.

Bring items to Custer Chamber Office by

NOVEMBER 18

Thank you!



Register for Pink Friday

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Sign up TODAY

to participate in the
Christmas Cash Drawings.

Please decorate and put your Christmas Cash boxes out on or before November 27th. The Custer Chamber will collect the slips weekly, call the winners and distribute the prizes.

1st Drawing Dec 4th
2nd Drawing Dec 11th
3rd Drawing Dec 18th



To participate contact the Custer Chamber
605-673-2244 or via email, dmurray@custersd.com

SCAN HERE

Sign up by Friday, November 13, 2026

Sign up to participate today!



Printable parade registration

Candy Cane Hunt

9:30 A.M.



Custer Elementary School Playground
Ages 0-11

It looks like Santa's elves dropped candy canes all over the playground. We need your help to pick them all up!!!

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce



Get your business signed up to participate in our Christmas Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, December 5, 2026.

Contact the Chamber to sign up TODAY!!

SPONSOR

Christmas Events!

Santa Sponsor	$500
Rudolph Sponsor	$300
Elf Sponsor	$200
Ornament Sponsor	$100

Email Dawn at dmurray@custersd.com

2026 MIXER DATES

JANUARY 29-GOLD PAN

FEBRUARY 19-PREMIER EYE CARE

MARCH 19- CUSTER'S RENDEZVOUS

MAY 21- LEWIS REALTY

SEPTEMBER 10-CAMP BOB MARSHALL

NOVEMBER 19- BRADEEN REAL ESTATE

DECEMBER 10- STARR INSURANCE

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Connect · Collaborate · Grow

STRONG BUSINESSES • A VIBRANT COMMUNITY • A BRIGHTER CUSTER

2027 Chamber Mixers

GOOD PEOPLE • GREAT CONNECTIONS • A STRONGER CUSTER

MONTH	BUSINESS	MIXER DATE
JANUARY	First Interstate Bank	1/28/2027
FEBRUARY	Custer Area Arts Council & Black Hills Creative Exchange	2/25/2027
MARCH	Custer Senior Center	3/25/2027
MAY	Lewis Realty	5/27/2027
SEPTEMBER	Black Hills Parks & Forest	9/30/2027
NOVEMBER	Edward Jones	11/18/2027
DECEMBER	Lampert Real Estate	12/9/2027



Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram



November 18th



1. 1881 Courthouse Museum
2. Adventure Rentals
3. Aflac- Matti Schrivers
4. Al Cornella Refrigeration Service
5. All Net Connections
6. American Family Insurance- Ronni Calvird Agency, Inc
7. American Legion Post 36
8. Around the Map Travel
9. Art Expressions Gallery
10. Aspen Federal Credit Union
11. Aspen+Pine Realty
12. Baker's Bakery
13. Bavarian Inn
14. Bear Country USA
15. Beaver Lake Campground
16. Beecher Rock Storage
17. Begging Burro, LLC
18. Big Pine Campground
19. Black Granite Construction
20. Black Hills Badlands
21. Black Hills Balloons
22. Black Hills Bungalows
23. Black Hills Chemical
24. Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc
25. Black Hills Energy
26. Black Hills Federal Credit Union

27. Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine
28. Black Hills Parks and Forest Association
29. Black Hills Pizza Hut
30. Black Hills Souvenirs & Gifts (Rushmore Custom T's)
31. Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services
32. Branch Construction Services, LLC
33. Buffalo Ridge Camp Resort
34. Buglin Bull
35. Busy Ewe Farm & Fibers
36. Calamity Jane Kitchen
37. Calamity Peak Lodge
38. Carr Electric Company, LLC
39. Carson Drug
40. Chalet Motel
41. Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
42. Chief Motel
43. Christy Chamberlain & Bob Reich
44. City of Custer
45. Claw Antler and Hide, Inc
46. Coca-Cola Bottling Co High Country
47. Colleen Hennesy & Jim Frank
48. Common Cents
49. Crazy Horse Memorial
50. Crossroads Church
51. Custer Ace Hardware
52. Custer Ambulance Service
53. Custer Area Arts Council
54. Custer City Lodge #66
55. Custer County Airport
56. Custer County Candy Co.
57. Custer County Chronicle
58. Custer County Conservation District
59. Custer County Democrats
60. Custer County Library Foundation
61. Custer County Republican Central Committee
62. Custer Dental Studio
63. Custer Golf Corp/ Rocky Knolls Golf Course
64. Custer Hospitality (Best Western, Econolodge, Super 8, Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn)
65. Custer Laundry
66. Custer Lutheran Fellowship
67. Custer Mile High Garden Club
68. Custer Mt Rushmore KOA
69. Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild
70. Custer Rotary
71. Custer Senior Center
72. Custer State Farm- Steve Engelbrecht Agent
73. Custer State Park
74. Custer YMCA
75. Custer's Gulch RV Park
76. Dacotah Bank
77. Dakota Greens-Custer Greenhouse and Nursery
78. Dakota Photographic
79. Dave's Rock Shop
80. Day's Inn Custer
81. Deep Creek Art Gallery
82. DGR Engineering
83. Diane Dennis
84. Don & Arlayne Barmore

85. Double Diamond Ranch, LLC
86. Eagles Landing Lodge
87. Edward Jones- Kris Zerbe
88. Edward Jones- Mark Koch
89. Edward Jones-Jared Slagel
90. Elk Haven Vacation Cabins, LLC
91. Encompass Payroll
92. enCore Energy
93. EO Bungalows
94. Feel Good Café
95. First Choice Lock and Key
96. First Interstate Bank
97. Floors and More Cleaning and Restoration
98. Four Mile Old West Town & Campground
99. Freedom Hills Wealth Management
100. French Creek Supply
101. George S Mickelson Trail- BH Trails
102. Gideons International Southern Hills Camp
103. Gold Camp Cabins
104. Gold Pan Saloon
105. Good Karma Jewelry
106. Green Owl Media
107. Harney Peak Chapter of DAR
108. Highmark Credit Union
109. HomeSlice Media Group
110. Honest Paint Co
111. J & M Lawncare LLC
112. Jewel Cave National Monument
113. Jim and Patti Lee
114. John & Diana Carson
115. John & Marci O'Connell
116. Jorgensen Log Homes
117. K & S Stagecoach Stop
118. K2 Masonry & Concrete
119. Kenneth Kuper VFW Post 3442
120. Kieffer Sanitation
121. Lampert Properties
122. Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC
123. Lewis Real Estate
124. LFC Veterinary Service
125. Linda Young
126. Lintz Brothers Pizza
127. LJ's Recovery & Transport
128. Local Black Hills
129. Lynn's Dakotamart
130. Mammoth Site
131. Maria's Mexican Restaurant and Maria's Mexican Concession
132. McCoy PC
133. McGas Propane
134. Mickelson Trail Affiliates
135. Miner's Cup
136. Monument Health- Custer Hospital and Clinic
137. Mountainview Baptist Church
138. Naomi Harldson
139. NARFE
140. Nelson's Oil and Gas, Inc.
141. New Trails Ministry
142. Nielsen Enterprises, LLC

143. Nomad VanCamp & RV Park
144. NXTLAW PC
145. Operation Black Hills Cabin
146. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
147. Outlaw Ranch
148. Pain & Movement Solutions
149. PDQ Construction, Inc
150. PDQ Specialty Products
151. Performance Outdoor Services
152. Petals and Pages
153. Pizza Mill
154. Prairie Hills Transit
155. Premier Family Eyecare
156. Purple Pie Place
157. R.I.S.E.- Custer
158. Rabbit Bicycles Rental & Repair
159. Reed Christensen Chimney & Maintenance
160. Reptile Gardens
161. Rising Hope Counseling, LLC
162. Road Runner, Inc
163. Rock Solid Enterprises, LLC
164. Ronald McDonald House South Dakota
165. Rush Mountain Adventure Park
166. Rushmore Photo and Gifts
167. Rushmore Vacation Rentals
168. Sagacious, Inc (Mt Rushmore Brewing Co & Pounding Fathers)
169. Sage Creek Grille
170. Sentinel Federal Credit Union
171. Servall Uniform & Linen
172. Sew What
173. Shady Rest Motel
174. Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church
175. Simon Contractors of South Dakota, Inc
176. Skogen Kitchen
177. Sousley’s HillBilly Barbeque Catering
178. South Dakota Department of Labor
179. South Dakota Outdoor Shop
180. South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
181. Southern Hills Family Medicine
182. Southern Hills Title
183. Splish Splash Car, RV and Dog Wash
184. Spokane Creek Cabins & Campground
185. Sprockets Fun Foundry
186. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
187. Star Ridge Advertisments
188. Starr Insurance
189. Stars & Stripes by Steph
190. Steve and Yolanda Davis
191. Stockade Lake Cabin
192. Sturgis Mustang Rally
193. Sunset RV Park
194. Sylvan Rocks Climbing School and Guide Service
195. Tallgrass Landscape Architecture
196. Tanglewood Estate
197. TC Horsecamp
198. Tennyson Investments
199. The Cruisin’ Canvas
200. The Custer Beacon

201. The Custer Wolf
202. The Hills Finest- Bridal by Michelle
203. The Quilted Buffalo
204. Theatre 605- Black Hills Playhouse
205. Travel Custer
206. United States Forest Service Supervisor's Office
207. United Way of the Black Hills
208. Valhalla Legal, PLLC
209. Weather Tite Exteriors
210. Western Dakota Tech Foundation
211. Western Tire Chain, LLC
212. Wild Spruce Market
213. Wind Cave National Park
214. Wind Song Valley Gardens
215. Workplace Diversity Network of the Black Hills
216. World Fossil Finders Museum
217. Xanterra, Mt Rushmore
218. Xtreme Sports Simulators
219. Zonta Club of the Black Hills



Black Hills Sewing Services
Edward Jones- Jeff Rich
Deep Roots Pilates, LLC
Black Hills Creative Exchange
Built Right Roofing & Construction
Network Troubleshooting & Installation 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



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

2026 Custer Chamber

Member Spotlight

THIS COULD BE YOU!

Our Chamber is powered by people like you—passionate, dedicated, and committed to making Custer a stronger, more vibrant community. Whether you're a local business owner, entrepreneur, or community advocate, there's a place for you here!

Join today and be our next Member Spotlight!

✨ THIS COULD BE YOU! ✨

Every week, the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce shines the spotlight on one of our incredible members—and your business could be next!

Our members are the heart of our business community. From local shops and restaurants to service providers, entrepreneurs, organizations, and community champions, we love showcasing the people who make Custer special. ❤️

Want to see YOUR business featured? Join the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce and become part of a network dedicated to supporting, promoting, and growing our local business community.

🌟 Join today. Be our next 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! 📸



Support Our Vets

RAFFLE

PROCEEDS BENEFIT OPERATION BLACK HILLS CABIN

$5/ 1 ENTRY **$25/** 6 ENTRIES



Holiday Basket | *$225 value*



Fishing Basket | *$175 value*



Relaxation Basket | *$85 value*



Game Basket | *$80 value*



Jesse Brown Nelson Print
$600 value



Coffee/Tea Basket | *$100 value*

NOV 9-20

WINNERS DRAWN NOV 23

OPERATION BLACK HILLS CABIN

Black Hills FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

VOLUNTEER DAY

Clean Up the Sky Walk Hiking Trail

HELP KEEP OUR TRAILS SAFE, CLEAN, AND ENJOYABLE FOR EVERYONE!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

SKY WALK HIKING TRAIL

Come out and lend a hand! We need volunteers to help clean up the Sky Walk Hiking Trail. Together we'll:

- **LAY GRAVEL** in areas that have been washed out.
- **SWEEP OFF THE TRAIL** to remove dirt, debris, and build-up.
- **PICK UP OBSTACLES** (like branches, rocks, and other debris) on the trail.





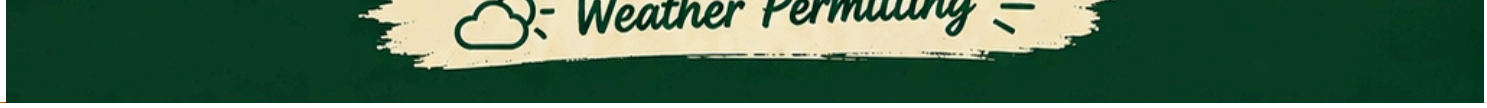
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Whether you're an individual, family, or group — your help makes a difference!

MEETING AT:
Sky Walk Hiking Trail Head

This is also part of Koleden Niemann's Senior Project

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THE SKY WALK TRAIL CLEAN, SAFE, AND BEAUTIFUL!



Select-A-Gift is now accepting donations

for gifts to be distributed at the 2026 Community Christmas on December 19th. This long-standing program of the Custer Ministerial Alliance has provided hundreds of Christmas gifts for children and adults alike. Just last year, 677 gifts and gift cards were distributed to members of 251 lower-income families in Custer County.

Christmas trees bearing donation envelopes are located at the Custer Chamber of Commerce, St. John's Catholic Church, Highmark Federal Credit Union, and Custer Lutheran Fellowship. Donations may also be mailed to Select-A-Gift, PO Box 366, Custer, SD, 57730.

If you know of a person or family who may qualify for this program, please have them contact Donna McConnell at The Storehouse, 605-673-3565.

Custer Senior Center

Bake Sale and

Soup & Pie Fundraiser

November 19, 2026 –

BAKE SALE @ 9:00 AM
Homemade Baked Goods

Soup & Pie @ 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Homemade Soups,



Fresh Made Bread



& Pies



$10.00

Buys you 2 servings of Soup, Bread, and 1 slice of Pie

Purchase Extra Soup & Pie.

To Go Orders available.

Chili, Potato Soup & Cabbage with Sausage Soup

SPONSOR:

Black Hills FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

GOOD KARMA JEWELRY

Custer, SD

PINK FRIDAY

Shop Small • Love Local

Friday, November 20, 2026

EVENT HOURS: 10 AM–5 PM

10% OFF	All women's clothing, shoes, purses, wallets & hats
10% OFF	All knives
20% OFF	Select women's silver gemstone bracelets
15% OFF	Navajo turquoise & white buffalo jewelry
10% OFF	Select women's silver gemstone rings

More sales throughout the store!

One discount per item.

Participating in the Pink Friday Shopping Passport

507 Mt. Rushmore Rd.,
Custer, SD

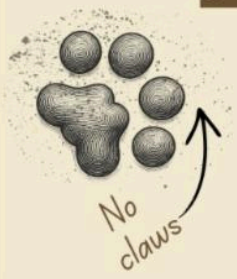
REGULAR HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 10 AM–4 PM
Friday–Saturday: 10 AM–6 PM
Sunday: 11 AM–4 PM


BINGO
AT THE BEACON
Benefiting Black Hills Parks & Forests Association
Wednesdays • Oct 21–Dec 9, 2026
6:30 PM MT • Custer, SD
351 Washington Street
Bring cash. Bring friends.
CUSTER BEACON
BLACK HILLS PARKS & FORESTS ASSOCIATION
17
5
28
BINGO

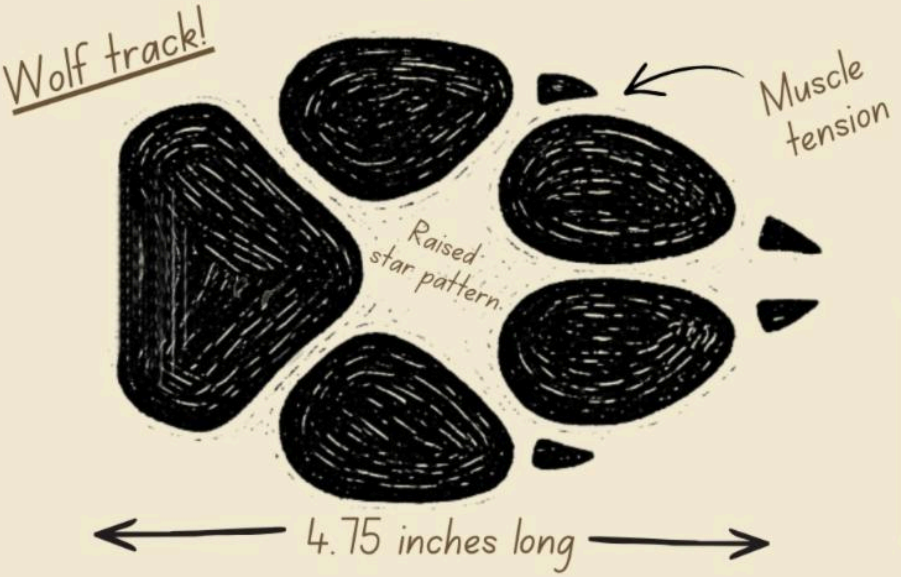
Black Hills Parks & Forests Association Presents

Nature's Clues





See what you've been missing!



Details and tickets here:



Four Hour Intensive
$25 per person
Group rate available

Saturday, November 14th
10AM-2PM
At Wind Cave National Park

Tracks · Scat · Sign —— Hands On · Interactive · Q&A

With Tom Tonkin, Education Specialist BHPFA.ORG

BLACK HILLS PARKS & FORESTS ASSOCIATION


CUSTER NON-PROFIT
BOARD JAMBOREE
Connecting Boards. Strengthening Leadership. Building Community.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026
4:30 PM - NETWORKING & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
5:00-8:00 PM - MEAL & EVENT ACTIVITIES
LOCATION: LAUGHING WATER RESTAURANT AT CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL
WHAT TO EXPECT
BOARD BUILDING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
(interactive activities, annual planning, mission review, 2027 prep)
SHARE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S STORY
(introduce, share mission, service, needs)
CONNECT & COLLABORATE
(discover opportunities, share resources, support)
SPECIAL FEATURES
• KEYNOTE SPEAKER
(engaging presentation on leadership & growth)
• PROFESSIONAL BOARD PHOTOS & HEADSHOTS
(individual & group photos for website, marketing by two photographers)
• DINNER TOGETHER (Native American taco bar, cookies, refreshments)
ALL OFFERED AT NO COST!
(Meal, Event, Photographers)
A NON-PROFIT BOARD MINI RETREAT
CONNECTING BOARDS. STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP. BUILDING COMMUNITY.
BRING YOUR WHOLE BOARD!
For all types of community leadership groups.
PLEASE REGISTER YOUR BOARD
so we can plan for dinner.
We look forward to an evening of community, collaboration, and connection to make Custer even stronger!
RSVP HERE
https://bit.ly/4gC40if


Your business needs technology that works as hard as you do.
Attend Brewing Business Success, a free educational discussion about smarter communications, streamlined operations, and tools to improve efficiency and help businesses grow.
Golden West TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Limited spots
RSVP today!


JOIN US AT
Brewing Business Success
Thursday, Nov. 19
Noon - 1 p.m.
Custer District Admin Building - Board Room
527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD
Enjoy a complimentary lunch, meet the team, and enter our gift card drawing.
Discover reliable communication solutions built to support how you work today and into the future.
Connect with experts. Gain valuable insights. Discover tools that simplify your workday.
This session is limited - RSVP to secure your spot today!
goldenwest.com/brewing



Kids train like nature's greatest ninjas while mastering essential outdoor and naturalist skills! In this hands-on, 6 week adventure, kids build balance, physical strength, and sensory awareness as they learn to move silently through the forest like a fox, stalk like a bobcat, and spot hidden wildlife most people walk right past. Every session is a new challenge and lesson about how nature is full of ninja warriors that use the stealth and skills of a ninja to survive.

Beyond physical challenges, students cultivate real academic and scientific habits: developing field journaling techniques, learning spatial mapping, practicing quiet observation in dedicated "Sit Spots," and analyzing the hidden survival strategies of regional wildlife.

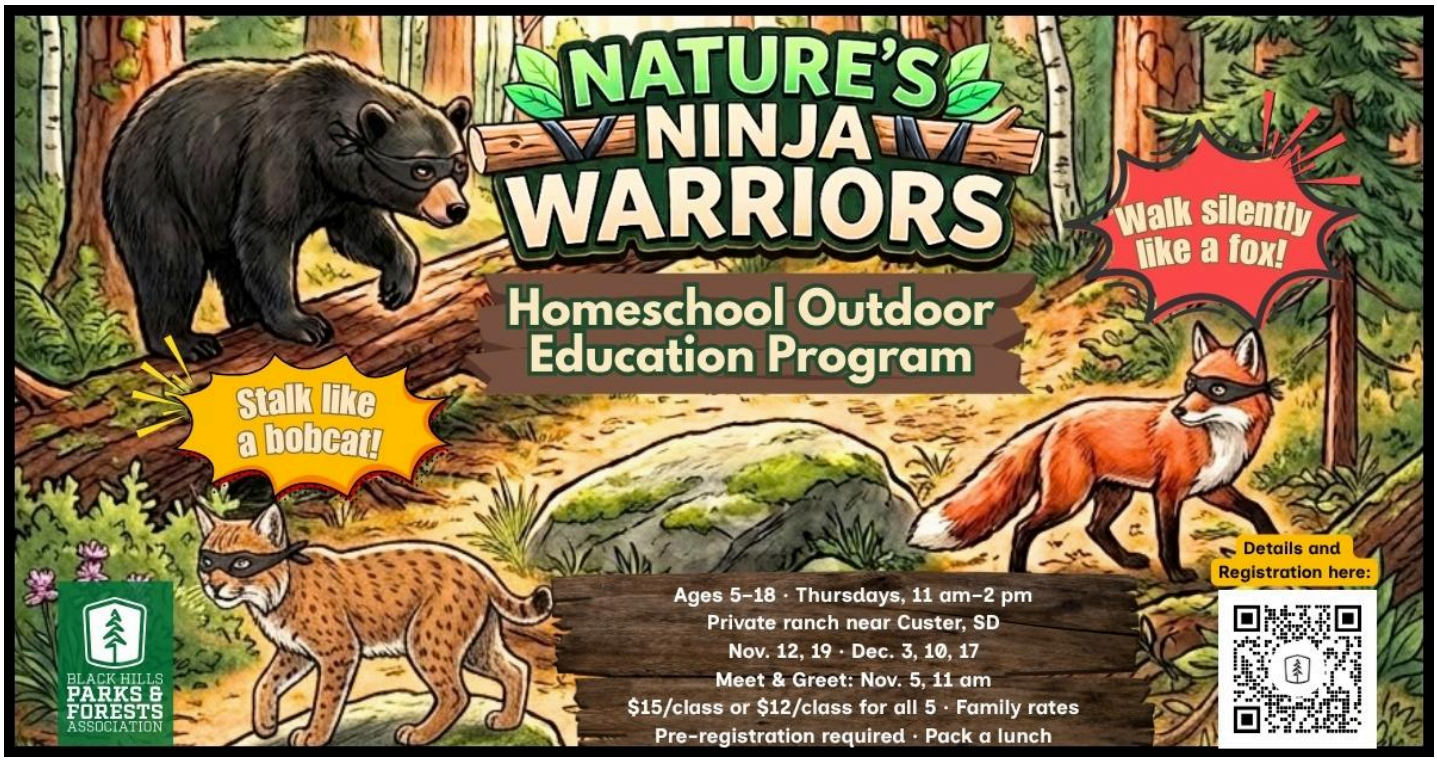
With a perfect balance of structured learning time for real world biology, naturalist skills, and unstructured safe forest exploration, your child will gain confidence, self-discipline, and a deep, active relationship with the natural world.

The dates and times for this program are, Thursdays from 11am till 2pm on November 12th, 19th, (One week off for Thanksgiving break is here) and December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. November 5th from 11am to 12 noon will be an optional meet and greet for parents and students, including a tour of the property and getting to know the instructors and each other.

Cost: Mods - $12 each for all 5 classes, $15 for drop ins, 15% off for siblings that register for the same sessions. 15% membership discounts apply.

The classes will take place on a private ranch near Custer S.D. and the directions will be emailed once registration is completed.

Follow the QR code or register here: *https://donorbox.org/events/970914*



BLACK HILLS PARKS AND FORESTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Hike With A Naturalist



National
Take a Hike Day
Tuesday
November 17th

Jewel Cave
National
Monument
From 9am to 11am

BLACK HILLS PARKS & FORESTS ASSOCIATION

Meet at the Visitor Center

Free and open to all ages


Turkey bingo!
Sunday, November 22 starting at 2 PM!
All ages welcome! Stay tuned for more details!


OPEN HOUSE: NOV 28
11 AM - 6 PM
SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS FROM 1-2 PM
JOIN US ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY FOR TREATS; DOOR PRIZES, HOT COCOA & MORE!
CUSTER COUNTY CANDY CO.
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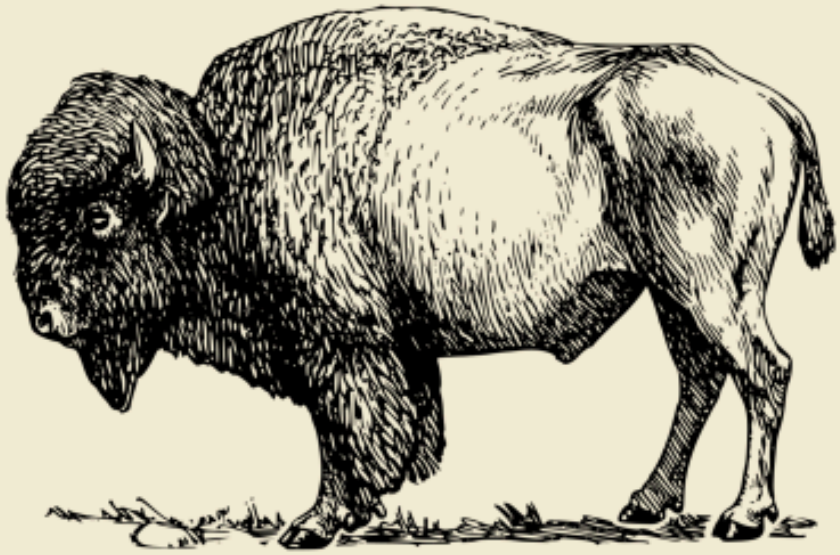
Black Hills Parks and Forests Association
Presents

The Secret Life of Mammals





The hidden survival secrets of your wild neighbors



$15 per ticket
$40 for a group up to four

December 5th
2PM-4:30PM

Bison · Wolf · Mountain Lion · Elk · Pronghorn · & More

BLACK HILLS PARKS & FORESTS ASSOCIATION

Slides ~ Videos ~ Live Q&A

For more details

Held at the BHPFA Nature Shop, 833 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD
BHPFA.ORG



Click for registration form

From Vine to Boutique

Fashion showcase

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
Wednesday, December 9th, 2026
4pm to 8pm

Done

Start with a sip at the winery,
see the latest styles come to life,
then follow us to the boutique
for exclusive specials!

~ With the Wind Winery ~
285 Main Street, Hill City
Drink and food specials available.
~ See styles come to life starting at 4:30PM
~ Shop JQ Clothing Co. ~
224 Main Street, Hill City
after the show until 8PM

WITH THE WIND
VINEYARD & WINERY

JQ CLOTHING CO.
EST. 2013




AmaWaterways
Tulip Time
RIVER CRUISE
AROUND THE MAP
TRAVEL
Sail into Spring in Europe
DEPARTURE DATE
March 19, 2027
BEGINNING AT
$3,279
per person
7 nights • all inclusive
aroundthemaptravel1@gmail.com • 307.760.7175
Limited time offer. Additional discounts may apply.


ANNOUNCEMENTS


You're part of the
AmaFamily
Your exclusive early access starts November 5
ONLY FOR PAST AMAWATERWAYS GUESTS
Reserve 2027 and 2028 Europe and Colombia river cruises
Complimentary land package + stateroom upgrade
Exclusive access: November 5–18, 2026
AROUND THE MAP
TRAVEL

COME SEW WITH US

AT QUILTED BUFFALO



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

Sew Along All Winter Long:

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday

11:00-5:00 (Excluding Holidays and Special Events)

$5 per person/ per session

Come share sewing time with your friends and get some projects finished

We're Here All Year!

Did you know Custer County Candy Company is open year-round? If you haven't stopped in to our new location, or if it's been a while, we invite you to come in and see what we've been up to.

We still have 12 flavors of ICE CREAM!
We also have COFFEE!
Follow us on Facebook to see our newest creations and POP-UP SPECIALS!

Located at 522 Mt. Rushmore Rd
605-673-3911





Open Sun-Mon: 11-5
and Sat: 11-6



CUSTER COUNTY Candy COMPANY •EST. 2001




The Big Mick
CENTURY & HALF CENTURY RIDE
REGISTRATION IS OPEN
THE BIG MICK
109 MILES • ONE DAY
DEADWOOD TO EDGEMONT
JUNE 12, 2027
GEORGE S. MICKELSON TRAIL • BLACK HILLS, SD
Register at: TheBigMick.com

TEAMMATES
MENTORING

TeamMates.org



About TeamMates

- TeamMates is a school-based mentoring program that matches students with an adult mentor based on shared interests or experiences.
- Mentors meet with their mentee once a week for about 30 minutes.
- Mentors and mentees focus on building friendships by playing games, talking about their strengths, working on a project, or just having a conversation.
- Our matches build lasting relationships.

OUR MISSION

To positively impact the world by **inspiring** students to reach their full potential through mentoring.





Be Inspired: Become a mentor.

Become a TeamMates mentor and help shape your community's future. Our students need mentors. By becoming a mentor, you'll play a big part in building the future of your local community by helping students **reach their potential.**

A TeamMates Mentor is:

- A safe, adult friend
- Non-judgmental
- Caring
- Willing to learn
- A promise keeper
- A strengths spotter
- Able to meet weekly
- Ready to have fun

83%

Mentors Feeling More Engaged at Home or Work

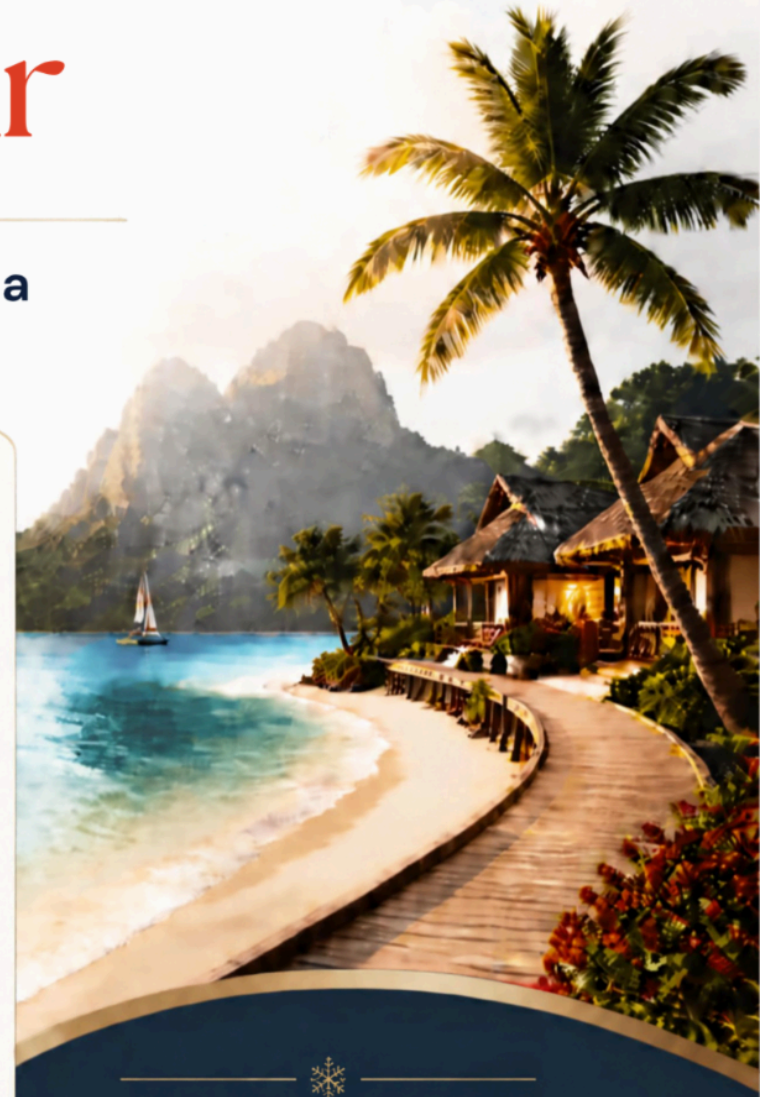
LITTLE WAVES LIFELONG RIPPLES

"Little Waves, Lifelong Ripples" reminds us that even the smallest acts of kindness, encouragement, and consistency in mentoring can create a lasting impact. Every meeting, conversation, or shared laugh might feel like a small wave in the moment, but those moments add up, shaping a young person's confidence, goals, and sense of belonging for years to come. It's a reminder that **mentorship doesn't just change one day, it can change a lifetime.**

Please connect with TeamMates Program Coordinator,
Teri Reynolds 605.673.3154 teri.reynolds@k12.sd.us

Christmas is in the Air

It's Not Too Late to Book a Holiday Adventure



Around The Map Travel

Your Local Travel Advisors

Our travel advising services are complimentary.

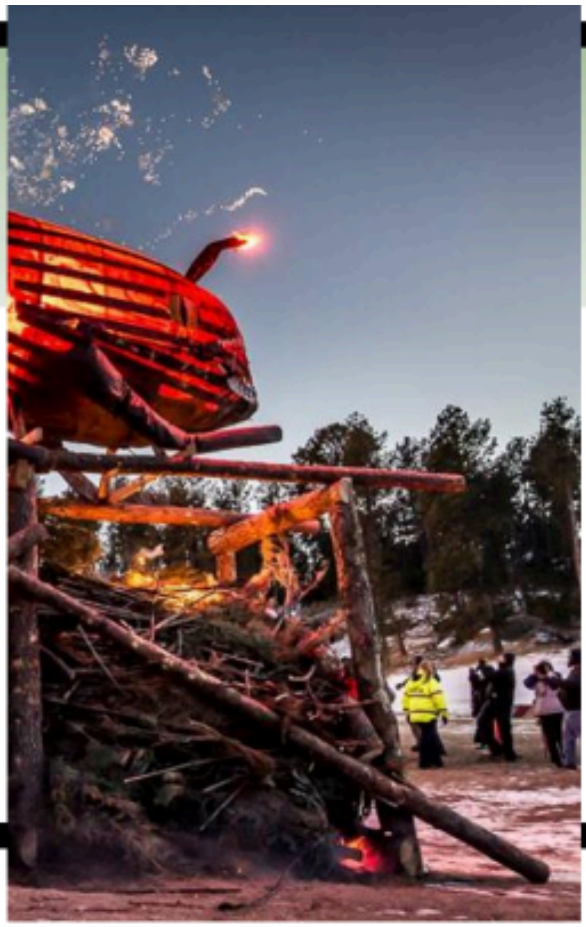
- all-inclusive getaways
- river cruises
- family vacations
- memorable holiday adventures

AROUND THE MAP TRAVEL

Scan to learn more and start planning

aroundthemaptravel1@gmail.com

307.760.7175



THE BURNING BEETLE

2027 SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

January 16, 2027

The Burning Beetle is a community celebration that focuses on our connection to the Black Hills. Its goal is to foster appreciation for our forest home, encourage support for the arts in our community and to be an economic booster. Your continued support of this event and its objectives are much appreciated and necessary to provide our many arts programs in the Custer community. We are looking forward to another amazing event with renewed vigor and an expanding team of volunteers to make 2027 the best one yet!

DEADLINE TO CONFIRM SPONSOR NAME ON SHIRTS IS 11/15/2026

EVENT SPONSOR LEVELS

IN-KIND SPONSOR
Determined case-by-case

BRONZE SPONSOR $100 -$249
Included in all event MARKETING

SILVER SPONSOR $250-$499
Included in all event MARKETING
1 TORCH BEARER TICKET 1 OFFICIAL SHIRT

GOLD SPONSOR $500-$999
Included in all event MARKETING
2 TORCH BEARER TICKETS 2 OFFICIAL SHIRTS

EVERGREEN SPONSOR $1000 OR MORE
TOP LEVEL MARKETING EXPOSURE
4 TORCH BEARER TICKETS 4 OFFICIAL SHIRTS

BUSINESS NAME	_____
INDIVIUAL/FAMILY NAME	_____
CONTRIBUTION $	_____
CONTACT	_____
EMAIL	_____
CONTACT PHONE #	_____
MAILING ADDRESS	_____
CITY, ST ZIP	_____
SHIRT SIZE(S)	_____
WILL YOU BE A BUG CRAWL VENUE?	YES NO

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION & CHECK TO:
Custer Area Arts Council (BBB)
PO BOX 310 CUSTER, SD 57730
EMAIL YOUR LOGO TO: CusterBurningBeetle@gmail.com

Custer Area Arts

NARFE FALL GATHERINGS

(National Active and Retired Federal Employees)
Chapter 2200: Custer, South Dakota

September 18	Pizza Hut, Custer Mike Bielmaier, Custer Ambulance
October 16	Forest Service Supervisor's Office BlueCross/Blue Shield Representative Open Season
October 23 (12-2 pm)	Pizza Hut, Custer Adam Kaemingk, Senator Rounds Aide
November 20	Springs Lodge, Hot Springs Aging Brain/Aging Gracefully
December 18	Crazy Horse – Laughing Water Restaurant Holiday Celebration

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Luncheon Begins at 11:30
Adjourn By 1:00

In an effort to continue improving the online information we provide to visitors, we're sharing the following link to a page with information about off-season camping in the Black Hills National Forest.

Please feel free to share this link with visitors who inquire by email or phone about camping options during the off-season. We hope this will be a helpful resource when answering questions and assisting visitors with their trip planning.

Thank you for helping us provide visitors with accurate and useful information!

https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills/recreation/season-campground-information

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Black Hills National Forest | September 2026

Black Hills National Forest

2026/2027 Off-Season Campground Information

Campground Name	Start of Reduced Off-Season Rates	Daily Fee	Units	Lake or Stream	Spur Length (Maximum)	Remarks
Bearlodge	10/01 - 12/14/26	$15	8	None	25 ft	Closes 12/15
Beaver Creek	10/01 - 12/14/26	$0	8	Beaver Creek	45 ft	Sites are outside of the main campground gate. Closes 12/15
Bismarck Lake	10/1/26	$15	5	Bismarck Lake	45 ft	Sites are outside of the main campground gate.
Boxelder Forks	10/01 - 12/15/26	$15	3	Boxelder Creek	45 ft	Sites are outside of the main campground gate.
Black Fox	10/01 - 11/30/26	$0	9	Rapid Creek	45 ft	Closes 12/1 for snowmobile routes.
Castle Peak	10/1/2026	$0	9	Castle Creek	45 ft	Off-season access may require a snowmobile or skis.
Comanche Park	10/1/2026	$15	5	None	25 ft	Construction is pending, which may cause limited access.
Cook Lake	10/01 - 12/14/26	$5 Day Use $15 Night	15	Cook Lake	45 ft	B Loop is open. All other loops are closed. Closes 12/15
Custer Trail	10/1/2026	$0	16	Deerfield Lake	50 ft	Remote location, with lake access for ice fishing.
Ditch Creek	10/1/2026	$0	13	Ditch Creek	50 ft	Off-season access may require a snowmobile or skis.
Dutchman	10/1/2026	$0	9	Deerfield Lake	50 ft	Top Loop is open. All other loops are closed.
Hanna	10/1/2026	$15	6 - Tent Only	Spearfish Creek	0 ft	Walk-in tent sites are open during the off-season.
Redbank Springs	10/01 - 10/31/26	$15	4	None	50 ft	Closes 11/01
Reuter	10/1 - 12/14/2026	$15	24	None	30 ft	Closes 12/15
Rod & Gun	10/01 - 11/30/26	$15	7	Little Spearfish	50 ft	Closes 12/01
Roubaix	10/1/2026	$15	9	Roubaix Lake	25 ft	C Loop is open. All other loops are closed.
Sheridan Lake South	10/1/2026	$15	30	Sheridan Lake	60 ft	Woodsy Loop is open. All other loops are closed.
Summit Ridge Cabin	Year Round	$75	1	None	N/A	Reserve at www.recreation.gov - Area roads are not maintained; off-season access may require a snowmobile or skis.
Sundance (Horse Camp)	10/1/2026	$15	10	None	50 ft	Horse facility (corrals & stalls). No water after 09/11
Timon	10/01 - 11/30/26	$15	7	Little Spearfish	60 ft	Closes 12/01
Whitetail	10/1/2026	$0	17	Deerfield Lake	50 ft	Lower Loop (including toilet) is open. Upper Loop is closed.

Closed for the Off-Season on October 1: Bear Gulch Group Campground, Dalton, Grizzly, Horsethief Lake, Oreville, Pactola Reservoir, Sheridan Lake North Group Sites, Steamboat Rock, and Strawberry.
Closed for the Off-Season on October 31: Iron Creek and Willow Creek Horse Camps.
Fees: Self-Pay at all open campgrounds. The Stay Limit is 14 days in a 28 day period at all developed campgrounds.
Roads: Not maintained during the off-season. Sites above are open until weather prohibits access or closed on date(s) noted above.
Garbage: Pack It In, Pack It Out at all sites
Plan Ahead: All campsites are first come, first serve and offer a picnic table and fire ring. Vault toilets are available. Drinking water is NOT available.
** All information is subject to change, due to inclement weather, decreased staffing, and sporadic conditions beyond control.*

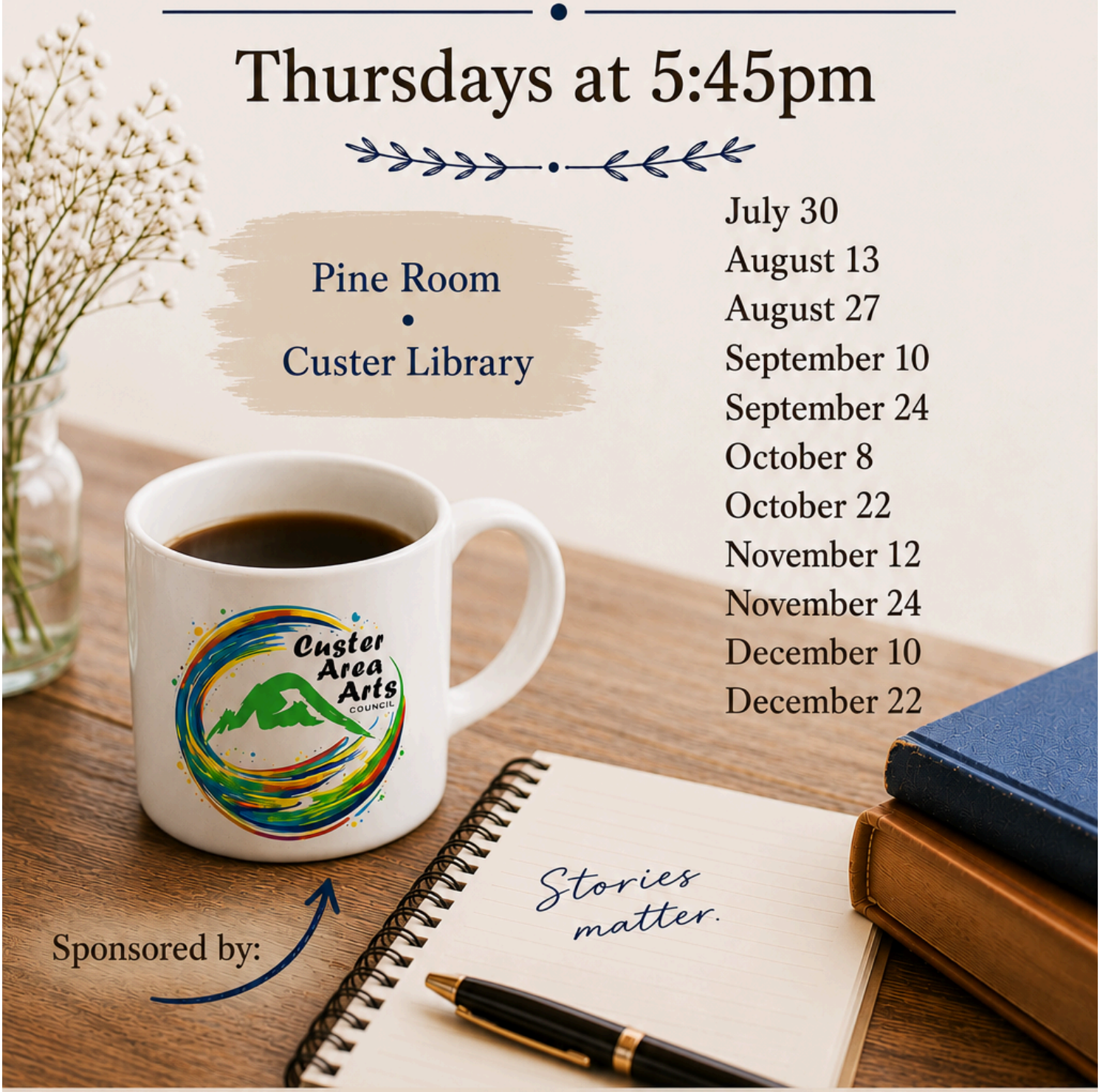
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Custer Writers Group

Thursdays at 5:45pm

Pine Room
•
Custer Library

July 30
August 13
August 27
September 10
September 24
October 8
October 22
November 12
November 24
December 10
December 22



Sponsored by:

Free & Open to the Public

Free & Open to the Public



TRAVEL SouthDakota

OCTOBER 2026
SDVISIT.COM





Greetings, Tourism Friends!

As I write this message, I'm looking out my window to see maple trees blazing red against a blue sky, beautiful, yellow ash tree leaves floating to the ground in a brisk wind, and stunning sumac bushes with orange and fiery red leaves showing off their very best autumn wardrobe. The fall colors this year are extraordinary. I was able to get to Sica Hollow State Park near Sisseton recently to take in the breathtaking fall foliage there (if you've never been, put it on your bucket list). What an amazing time of the year in our state.

There are also hunters out in our golden fields, dressed in blaze orange, shouting "Rooster!", and engaging in a South Dakota tradition that is unmatched anywhere in the world. For those participating in *Rooster Rush 2026* and extending an extra warm welcome to our hunters, thank you!

Like you, as we continue with our shoulder season work and look to the winter, we have a lot going on. Here are some quick highlights for you:

1. The planning pace is getting even faster for the *2027 Governor's Conference on Tourism*. It's going to be another GREAT one! The conference website is live — *www.SouthDakotaTourismConference.com* — so be sure to register, check out sessions & speakers, and get your hotel rooms booked. Putting on what has become one of the premier state tourism conferences in the country would not be possible without your generous support. We'd love to have you become a sponsor, so please check out these *sponsor & exhibitor opportunities*. You can also reach out to *Shawntae Moran* on our team with questions about sponsorships or exhibitor booths.
2. Also, don't forget to nominate worthy industry members for one of the prestigious *Tourism Awards*. Information about the awards, as well as nomination forms, can be found at this *link*. The nomination deadline is coming up quickly on Tuesday, November 17, 2026.
3. We recently sent an email asking for your help to complete a survey about our *Great Place Program*. We need your input on what is working, what isn't, and what can be improved. We appreciate the help. Here is the *survey*. Please contact *Bailey Tysdal* with any

questions.
4. Read more below about our fall marketing campaign as well as our latest Travel Trends & Insights about consumer sentiment and behavior.

When you receive this email, I'll be in Toronto, Canada, participating in a Brand USA Executive Roundtable with leading Canadian travel & tourism companies about ways we can reignite Canadian travel to the U.S. I'm eager to share my thoughts and honored to be one of a handful of travel & tourism leaders from our country to participate in this important forum.

Please reach out anytime the team and I can be of any assistance to you. We'll be attending the Black Hills & Badlands and Glacial Lakes & Prairies annual meetings this week as well as the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association's board meeting. We hope to see many of you at these events. Thank you for all your support, friends! Happy Halloween!

All our best,
Jim and Team



Celebrate National Take a Hike Day at Wind Cave National Park

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. — Wind Cave National Park invites the public to celebrate National Take a Hike Day on Tuesday, Nov. 17, with a ranger-led adventure through the park's backcountry. Participants can choose between two guided hikes, one along the scenic Lookout Point Loop and the other to Rankin Ridge, the highest point in the park.

The day's activities begin at 9 a.m. in the visitor center with a 45-minute program on hiking preparedness, including the 10 hiking essentials, wildlife safety and Leave No Trace practices. Afterward, participants will carpool to their chosen trailhead and explore the park's prairies, canyons and expansive views alongside park rangers.

The Rankin Ridge hike is approximately 1 mile long, takes about one hour to complete and gains 250 feet in elevation. The trail leads to the highest point in the park, where hikers can enjoy views of the badlands on a clear day.

The Lookout Point Loop is 4.5 miles long, takes about two hours to complete and gains approximately 200 feet in elevation. Hikers will follow Beaver Creek before climbing out of the canyon and traversing a prairie dog town, offering a view of several of the park's distinctive landscapes.

"Hiking is proven to have many health benefits, ranging from building stronger muscles and improving balance to improving mental health," said **Wind Cave National Park Superintendent Eric Gabriel**. "I'll be leading the group taking the Lookout Point Loop. It'll be a nice opportunity for people to get out in nature and enjoy the park."

Hikers should dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring water, sunscreen and snacks or lunch. In case of bad weather, hikes may be canceled but the visitor center talks will still take place.

National Take a Hike Day is celebrated every year on Nov. 17 to encourage people to enjoy the benefits of walking in nature.



Photo Caption: As part of National Take a Hike Day, Wind Cave is offering ranger-led hikes on November 17.



Save Up to 20% on Season 81 With These Flexible Passes
Our annual Holiday Pass Sale is back, and it's the best deal we offer all year. From November 1 through December 31, you can save up to 20% on flexible ticket packages for our 2027 season.

Each ticket package provides flexibility for attendees. Tickets can be redeemed for any 2027 season regular show performance and used by anyone, making them ideal for sharing with friends or family. Whether as a thoughtful gift or a personal treat, these passes offer convenience and value for all theatre lovers.

Passes Available Include:

- **Stocking Stuffer:** Includes 2 flexible tickets
- **Secret Santa**: Includes 4 flexible tickets
- **Shout it From the Rooftop:** Includes 8 flexible tickets
- **Shining Star:** Includes 16 flexible tickets

These packages are the perfect gift for the holiday season, and the Theatre 605 team is ready to assist you with your purchase.

Tickets can be purchased conveniently online at *theatre605.org* starting November 1 or by calling (605)255-4141 starting November 2.

Season 81 Lineup

***Clue* | June 6 - 20 2027**

It's a dark and stormy night, and our cast of oddball characters have been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each guest has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well, dead.

***Guys and Dolls* | June 27 - July 11, 2027**

Guys and Dolls takes us from the bustle of Times Square to the dance clubs of Havana, to the sewers of New York City, as it shows the lengths a guy will go to when he truly falls in love with a "doll."

***Disaster!* | July 18 - August 1, 2027**

Disaster! pays homage to the 70s, an era of bell-bottoms, platform shoes, boogie dancing and…disaster movies. It's 1979, and New York's best-dressed are queueing up to board The Barracuda, a new floating casino and discotheque.

***Morning View Drive* | August 8 - 14, 2027**

An elderly couple must defend their home against two bungling burglars. When two con men scheme to rob their home, chaos ensues–think Home Alone for seniors!

Head to our website for full show descriptions and more!

Theatre 605 is a division of the University of South Dakota College of Fine Arts. South Dakota Arts Council Support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

THEATRE 605
BLACK HILLS PLAYHOUSE

Theatre 605 Names Deb Kuehn and BankWest 2026 Philanthropists of the Year

Awards presented at the "Party in Portugal" themed Black, White, & Red Gala, honoring a lifelong Playhouse patron and a corporate partner whose ties date to the theatre's founding

For Immediate Release

SOUTH DAKOTA — Theatre 605 honored longtime patron and board member Deb Kuehn from Rapid City as its 2026 Philanthropist of the Year at the Black, White, & Red Gala on Oct. 10. The organization also presented its first Corporate Philanthropist of the Year award to BankWest, a partner whose support reaches back to the theatre's founding as Black Hills Playhouse 81 years ago.

Deb Kuehn, 2026 Philanthropist of the Year

Kuehn, a certified neonatal and family nurse practitioner at Monument Rapid City Hospital, serves on the Theatre 605 board's finance and gala committees. She grew up with the Black Hills Playhouse. Her father covered it for the Rapid City Journal, and the Sunday matinee musical was a family tradition. Years later, she brought her mother, then in her 90s, out to see plays.

Those who work with her describe a donor who notices what the theatre needs and quietly takes care of it. "Deb is primarily an extraordinary caregiver who sees a need and thinks about how she can fill it," said Linda Anderson, Executive Director, Theatre 605.

In accepting the award, Kuehn recalled the first time she gave through a matching gift, at the suggestion of Theatre 605's Development Director Jeff Kingsbury, and the joy she felt as she watched her contribution multiply. She also remembered the summer COVID closed the theatre while preseason costs still had to be paid. She said she gives because the theatre reaches people at every stage, from summer camp to the all-inclusive programs that welcome artists with developmental and physical disabilities.

"I give because I believe storytelling is not a luxury; it is a necessity," Kuehn said. "And most importantly, I give so that the next generation, regardless of their background, can walk through the doors and see their own stories brought to life."

BankWest, 2026 Corporate Philanthropist of the Year

BankWest's ties to the theatre began in the 1940s, when Charles Burke II, father of the bank's current COO, was working in Custer State Park as a University of South Dakota intern. He came across Camp Lodge, an abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and it was

proposed as a home for the new Black Hills Playhouse. Gov. Sharpe gave his approval.

"Enriching through the arts is enriching culture," said Robert Burke, Chief Operations Officer, BankWest. "Culture is the glue that keeps us together, and it inspires imagination and creativity which then enriches our community."

Among the bank's earliest gifts was the investment in sound and lighting equipment for the theatre's touring program, then called Dakota Players, which carried productions across the state. BankWest has since supported capital projects and maintenance needs, and it is the exclusive sponsor of Kids Go Free Nights, which give families a way to bring children to live theatre at no cost.

"When I think of BankWest, I think of gratitude," said Linda Anderson, Executive Director, Theatre 605. "They've been there for us through the decades, and we couldn't be more grateful."

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW:
Gretchen Lindenberg
Operations Assistant
605 858-1603 (cell & text)
gretchen@theatre605.org

About Theatre 605

Theatre 605: Telling Stories. Changing Lives. A division of the University of South Dakota College of Fine Arts, Theatre 605 carries forward the legacy of the Black Hills Playhouse, which has staged professional summer theatre in Custer State Park since 1946. Its touring residencies bring professional artists into communities to build full productions with local students. Jr. Camps offers a summer theatre camp for students in grades 5 through 12, and Expanding Stage creates ensemble productions for performers of all ages and abilities. Learn more at theatre605.org.





U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Release Date: Sept. 23, 2026
Release Number: SD-20019-01

Media Contact: James.Hodgman@sba.gov
Follow us on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, & Instagram

SBA Relief Available to Oglala Sioux Tribe Businesses, Private Nonprofits, and Residents Affected by Adverse Weather

Low-interest disaster loans now available

WASHINGTON — In response to a Presidential disaster declaration issued Sept. 1, the U.S. Small Business Administration announced the availability of low-interest federal disaster loans to businesses, private nonprofit organizations, and residents affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding occurring June 2 – 4.

The disaster declaration covers the Oglala Sioux Tribe, which is eligible for both physical damage and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the adjacent South Dakota counties of Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Jackson, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, and Todd, and the Nebraska counties of Cherry, Dawes, and Sheridan are eligible to apply for economic injury loans.

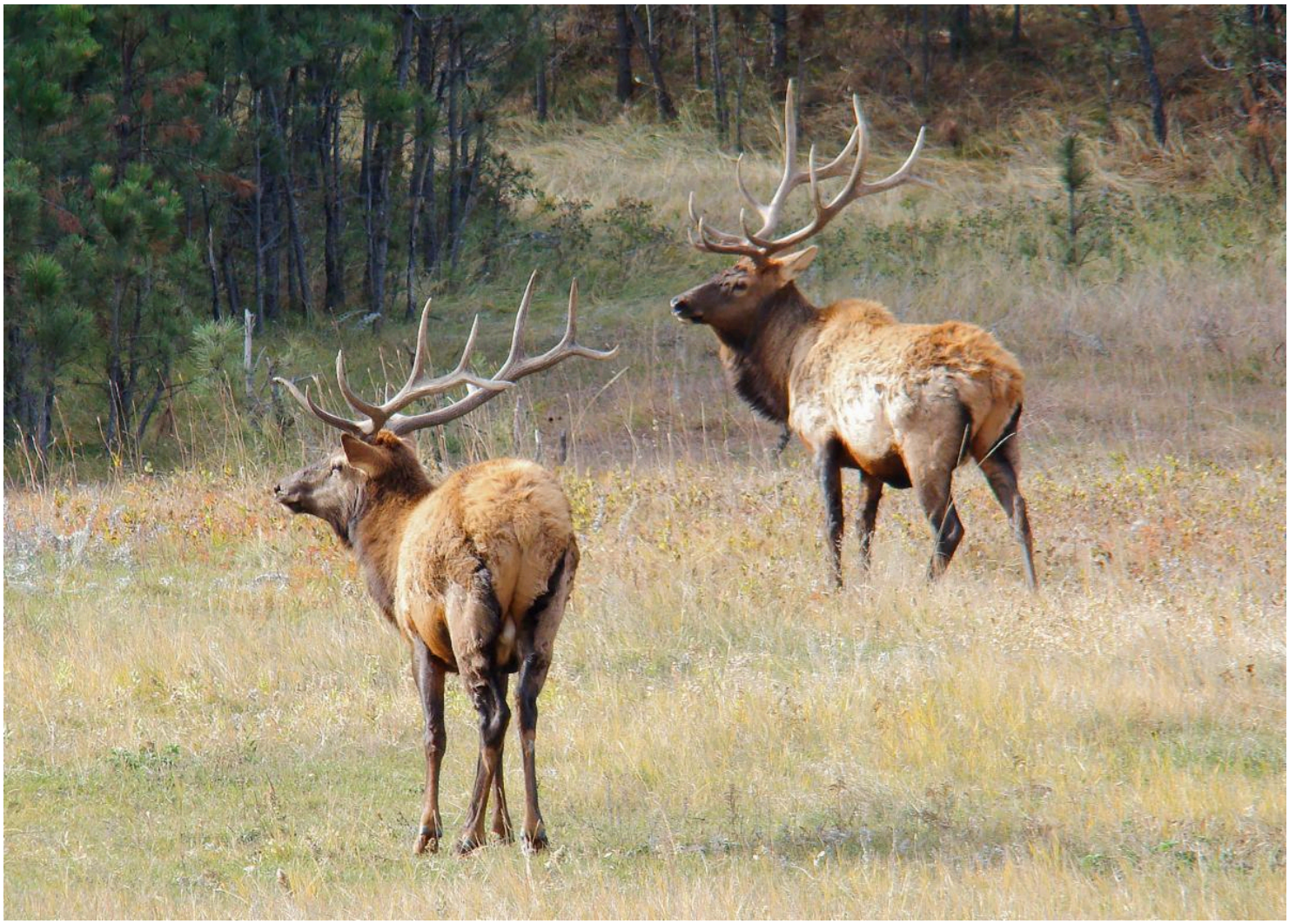
Businesses and nonprofits are eligible to apply for physical damage loans and may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery, and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for home and personal property loans and may borrow up to $100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances. Homeowners may apply for up to $500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.

Applicants may also be eligible for a loan increase of up to 20% of their verified physical damage, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include strengthening structures to protect against high wind damage, upgrading to wind rated garage doors, installing a safe room or storm shelter, elevating flood prone structures, adding a sump pump, or French drains to help reduce damage from future storms and flooding.

The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and private nonprofit organizations — including faith-based organizations — impacted by financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business or private nonprofit did not suffer any physical damage. The



HOT SPRINGS, SD – Wind Cave National Park will offer ranger-led elk bugling programs on select evenings in September and October in addition to daily cave tours.

The Rocky Mountain elk's high-pitched whistle heralds the arrival of fall and the elk's mating season. On Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings from September 14 through October 10, meet on the front lawn of the Wind Cave Visitor Center at 7 p.m. for a ranger presentation about elk, followed by a drive to a pullout within the park to listen to elk bulging. Participants should bring a flashlight, a camp chair or blanket to sit on, and dress warmly.

Fall Cave Tour Schedule

Cave tours along different tour routes are offered daily throughout the fall. Fall routes include the Natural Entrance, Fairgrounds, and Garden of Eden. For all tours, participants are encouraged to bring a light coat or sweater and good walking shoes.

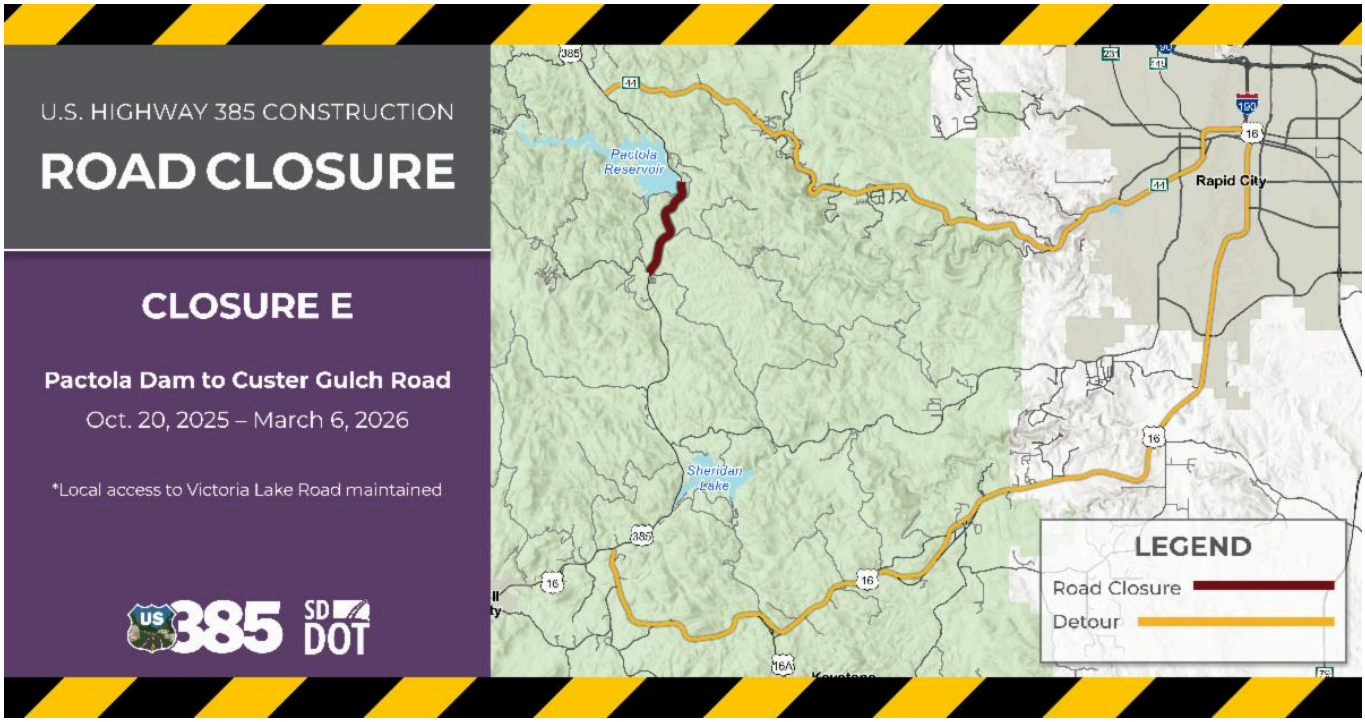
- The Natural Entrance tour lasts approximately 75 minutes and involves 300 stairs and is offered through September.
- The Fairgrounds tour lasts 1.5 hours and involves 450 stairs and will be offered starting October 1.
- The Garden of Eden tour lasts one hour and involves 150 stairs and is offered year-around.

Learn more about guided cave tours at *www.nps.gov/wica/planyourvisit/guidedtours*. Reservations for cave tours can be made up until two days before the tour at *www.recreation.gov*.

Fall Visitor Center Hours

The park visitor center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through September. Beginning October 1, winter hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit the park's website at *www.nps.gov/wica* or call the park at (605) 745-4600.





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” 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.

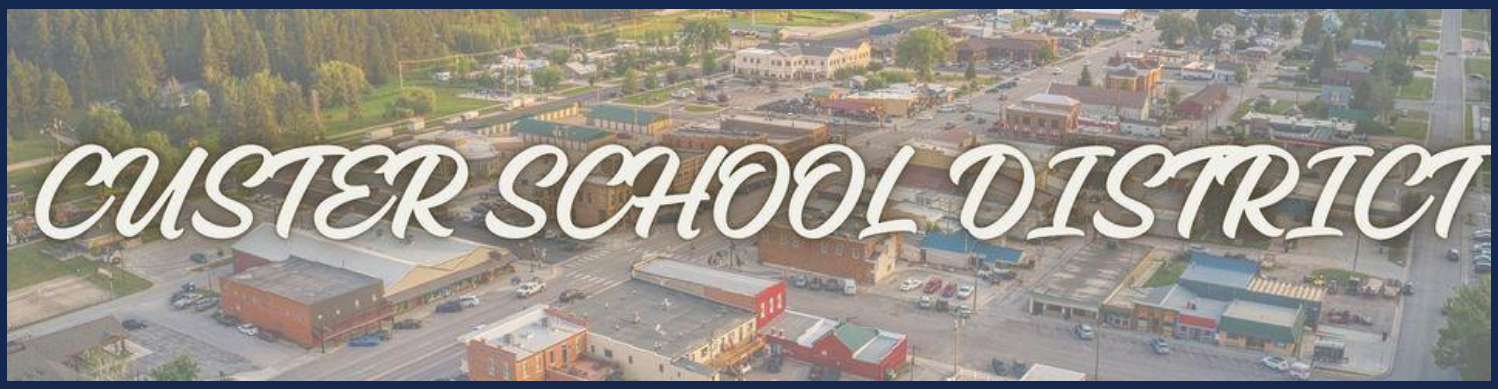
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November Activities





To educate every student
to his or her potential

SEPT 2026 ~CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
TIDBITS & CSD Job Vacancies



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★★★★★
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328+ REVIEWS

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

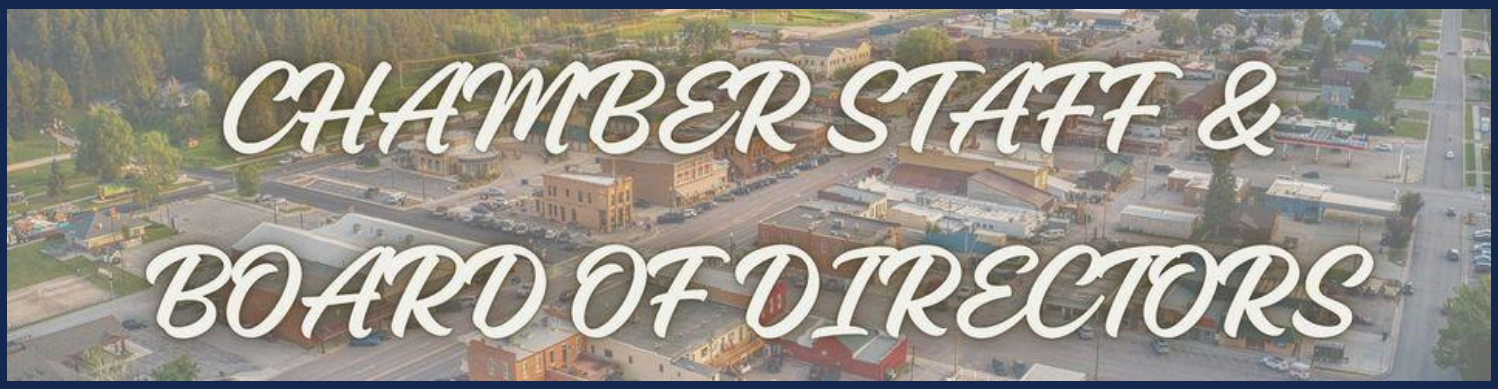
Monday through Friday

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

Office Assistant
bytes@custersd.com

Joel Behlings
Information Associate
info@custersd.com

2026

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Our Address:
615 Washington Street
Custer, SD 57730

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

dmurray@custersd.com /*custersd.com*

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