



Buffalo Bytes



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

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!

CUSTER CONNECTIONS



Walk into almost any chamber networking event and you'll see people are chatting in small groups, exchanging business cards, grabbing coffee, and making introductions.

Some attendees leave with new relationships that turn into referrals, partnerships, and customers. Others leave with a pocket full of business cards, most of which will be forgotten, and pulled out later wondering who they belong to.

The difference usually isn't personality, the flashiest elevator pitch, or the biggest company. More often than not, it's the small habits that either encourage people to keep talking to you or quietly push them away. If networking feels like work with little return, one of these common mistakes could be getting in your way.

1. Talking More Than You Listen

It's natural to want to explain what you do. After all, that's why you're there, right?
Not exactly.

While a conversation about what you do is easy for both sides, people remember how you made them feel far longer than they remember your list of services. If you dominate the conversation, you've missed the opportunity to learn what matters to the other person. You've failed to recognize what could have become an open door to future connections and business.

Instead of launching into a rehearsed pitch, ask questions.

- What brought you to today's event?
- What's been keeping you busy lately?
- What's something exciting happening in your business?

People enjoy talking about themselves, and they'll often volunteer information that helps you identify ways to help them or connect them with someone else.

Ironically, the less you talk about yourself, the more memorable you become.

2. Treating Every Conversation Like A Sales Opportunity

Few things end a conversation faster than realizing you're being treated like a prospect instead of a person. Networking isn't speed dating for sales.

While most people will tell you the goal is more sales, you can't start there. First, you want to build trust. The business owner you meet today may never become your customer. They might, however, refer five people to you over the next three years. They may become a strategic partner. They may invite you to speak to their organization.

Those opportunities only happen when relationships come first.

People buy from people they know, like, and trust. Networking helps create the "know" and like part. The trust takes time.

3. Staying With People You Already Know

It's comfortable to walk into an event and immediately find coworkers, longtime members, or familiar faces. It's also one of the easiest ways to limit your return on investment.

Challenge yourself to meet at least three new people at every chamber event.

If someone is standing alone, introduce yourself. If you see a group, ask if you can join the conversation. Most people appreciate someone taking the first step because they're just as nervous as you are.

This is critical at any networking event. After all, your next customer probably isn't the person you've known for the last ten years. If they wanted to hire you, they already would have.

4. Forgetting to Follow Up

Networking doesn't end when the event does.

In fact, that's when the real work begins.

If you had a meaningful conversation with someone, don't wait weeks to reconnect. Send a short email.

Connect on LinkedIn. Mention something specific you discussed.

"Enjoyed meeting you at the chamber breakfast. I appreciated hearing about your expansion plans. I'd love to continue the conversation over coffee sometime."

Simple. Personal. Easy.

Many business owners attend networking events regularly. The people who follow up are the ones who stand out.

5. Focusing on What You Can Get Instead of What You Can Give

The best networkers have a different mindset.

Instead of asking, "Who can help me?"

They ask, "Who can I help?"

Introduce two people who would benefit from meeting each other. Recommend someone for a project that's outside your expertise. Share someone's social media post or attend their ribbon cutting.

Generosity has a way of coming back around. Business communities thrive when members become connectors instead of collectors.

The Best Networking Tip Isn't Really About Networking

Every chamber has members who seem to know everyone. They walk into a room and conversations naturally begin. That's probably because people can tell they're genuinely interested in others.

Approach networking with curiosity instead of an agenda. Ask thoughtful questions. Listen carefully. Look for ways to help before looking for ways to sell.

Y

ou'll build stronger relationships, earn more referrals, and discover that networking becomes much less about working the room and much more about becoming part of the community.

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.

Facebook: @metcalfwriting

Instagram: @christinametcalfauthor

LinkedIn: @christinametcalf5



Dawn Murray
Executive Director

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

[Click to download calendar](#)



October 15

Chamber Annual Awards Dinner
State Park Events Barn
5:30pm

October 24

Monster Mash Pub Crawl
Throughout Custer
4pm

October 30

Merchants Trick-or-Treat Throughout Custer 4pm



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

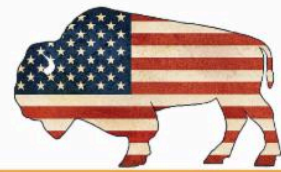
Contact Kate TODAY to be a part of this amazing group!

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!**

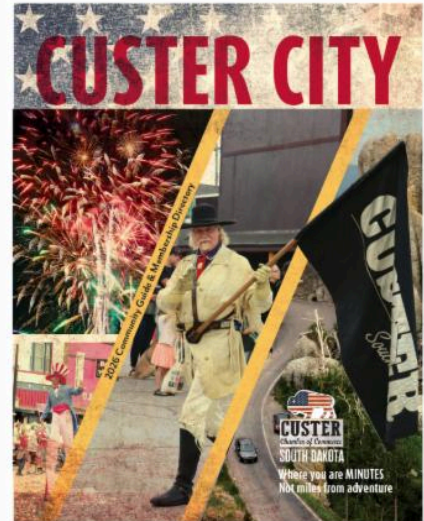
Full Page Size
7.708" wide x 10.139" tall
With bleed (8.875" wide x 11.305" tall)

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.



**15,000
Copies**

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



IMPACT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT 2026

Strengthening Leaders · Connecting Community · Custer, SD
 Facilitated by the Custer Area Economic Development Corporation

The IMPACT Leadership Development Program encourages and equips present and future leaders to strengthen our community.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 👉 Practical leadership-building activities & challenges
- 👉 Keynote presentations from guest speakers & local leaders
- 👉 Personalized evaluation to pinpoint strengths & work through shortcomings
- 👉 Networking with fellow local professionals and community advocates

WHO SHOULD APPLY?
 Anyone looking to develop their leadership skills, grow professionally, or play a more active role in Custer's economic and civic future!

EVENT DETAILS:

WHEN: Every Monday October 5 – November 16, 2026	TIME: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM	WHERE: The Trailhouse in Custer, SD
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HOW TO REGISTER:

SCAN TO REGISTER



bit.ly/IMPACT2026Custer

Questions? Email: custeredc@gmail.com

Great leaders aren't born; they're built!

The IMPACT Leadership Development Program was created to equip present and future leaders with tools that make a real difference in our workplace and community.

If you're looking to:

- Pinpoint your core leadership strengths
 - Overcome personal skill bottlenecks
 - Expand your professional network in Custer
 - Learn directly from seasoned local experts
- ...then save your seat today! Spots are limited.
 When: Oct 5 – Nov 16 (Mondays only, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
 Where: The Trailhouse, Custer

Chamber Member Benefit: Chamber members who complete the IMPACT Leadership Development Program can bring proof of course completion to the Chamber to receive \$50 in Custer Cash.

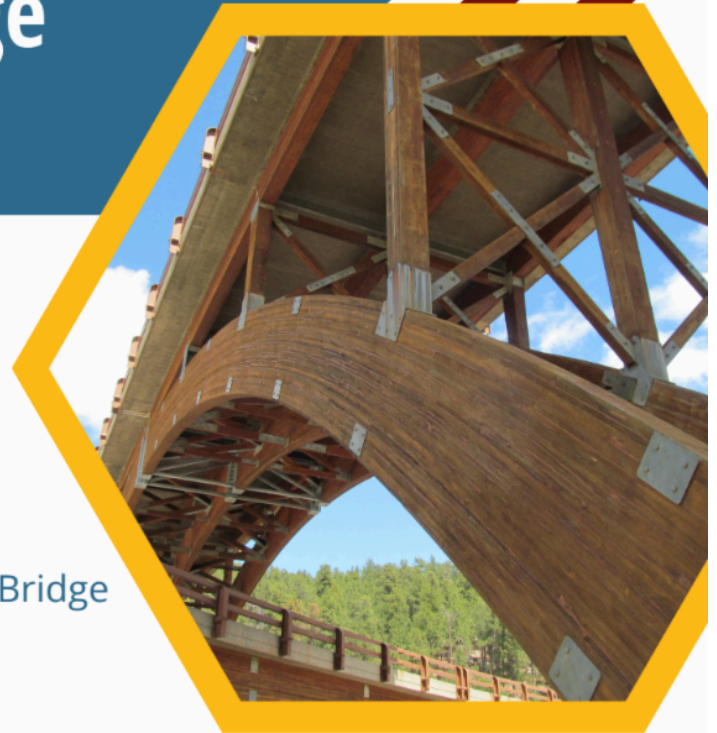
Apply here: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSf6gvmyI8vhID.../viewform>

Cost: \$250 (scholarships available)
 Applications close: September 26th
 Questions? Email custeredc@gmail.com

U.S. HIGHWAY 16A

Keystone WYE Bridge

SD  DOT



CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Tentative Schedule:

- Sept. 8, 2026 - Oct. 30, 2026

Location:

- U.S. Highway 16A at the Keystone WYE Bridge

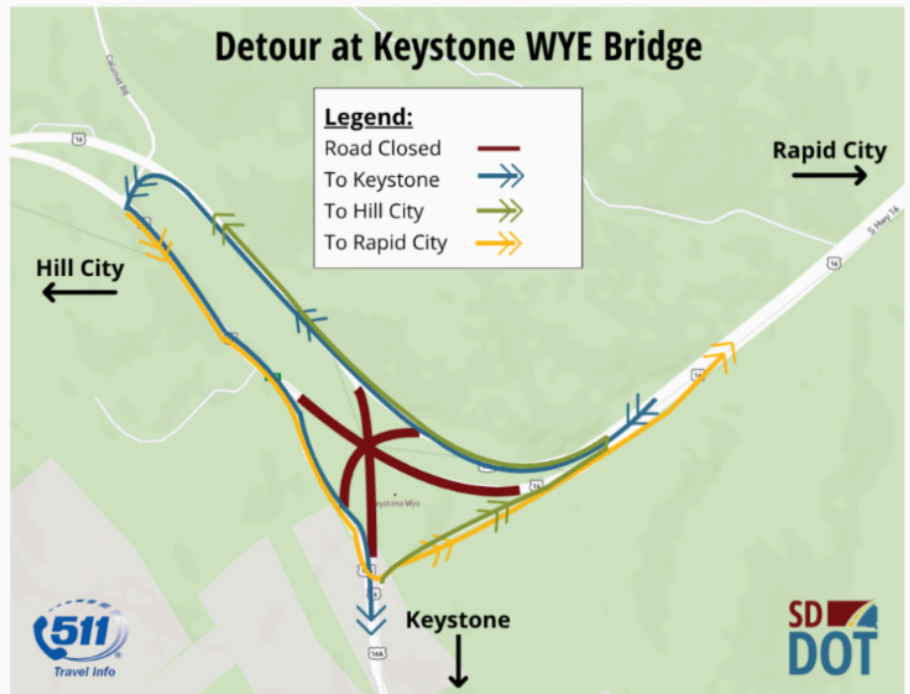
Benefits:

- Bridge Deck Overlay
- Bridge Repair

Alerts:

- The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph for the duration of the project.
- Once the detour is in place, flaggers may temporarily stop traffic to allow construction equipment to enter and exit the work zone.

For questions, contact the
Custer Area Office
at 605-981-5089.



Visit <https://sd511.org> or dial 511 for information on the detour.



CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 ANNUAL CHAMBER
**MEMBERSHIP
AWARDS BANQUET**

Sponsorship



GOLD SPONSOR ~ \$350

includes 3 free meals



SILVER SPONSOR ~ \$250

includes 2 free meals



BRONZE SPONSOR ~ \$150

includes 1 free meal



If you are interested in being a sponsor,
contact Dawn at
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.

The Custer Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors & Staff
cordially invite you to attend the
2026 Annual Chamber Membership Banquet
Thursday, October 15th at Custer State Park Event Barn

Social Hour 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Award Presentations

Adjourn 8:30 pm

Custom Buffet Dinner featuring:

Pan Seared Chicken with a creamy wild mushroom Sauce

Herb Walleye with a Citrus Beurre Blanc

Slow Roasted Beef Pot Roast with gravy

Served with:

Mixed greens salad - blue cheese, candied pecans, and white truffle vinaigrette,
green bean almonidine and parsnip mashed potatoes

Dessert

Triple Layer Chocolate Cake

\$60/person (includes drink ticket)

RSVP by Tuesday, October 6, 2026 Cancellations after Oct. 9th will be billed.

To register, call the Chamber at 673-2244 or email dmurray@custersd.com

GET REGISTERED



MONSTER Mash

SIGN UP YOUR BUSINESS
TO BE A POKER RUN
STOP!

OCT 24

POKER RUN STARTS AT 4 PM
ENDS AT THE CUSTER BEACON
AT 9 PM

COSTUME CONTEST &
MONSTER BASH TO FOLLOW
10PM-12AM

CLICK LINK TO SIGN UP

SPONSORS NEEDED



Grim Reaper - \$300



Bare Bones - \$200

Phantom - \$100



Sponsoring this event is a great way to showcase your business while also demonstrating your support for the Custer community.

✦ Sponsorship perks include:

- Your business announced and thanked during the Monster Mash After Party at the Custer Beacon.
- Your business name/logo printed on all published event materials.
- Community recognition for helping make one of Custer's favorite Halloween events possible!

**If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact
Dawn at dmurray@custersd.com or 673-2244**

MERCHANTS

Trick
OR
Treat



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 30
4:00PM-6:00PM

Get your business
signed
up now!



Boo!



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

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

Networking Happens Here!

CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA
MINUTES NOT MILES FROM ADVENTURE

Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram





October 14th



1. Adventure Rentals
2. Aflac- Matti Schrivvers
3. All Net Connections
4. American Family Insurance- Ronni Calvird Agency, Inc
5. American Legion Post 36
6. Aspen Federal Credit Union
7. Bavarian Inn
8. Big Pine Campground
9. Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc
10. Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine
11. Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services
12. Branch Construction Services, LLC
13. Buffalo Ridge Camp Resort
14. Busy Ewe Farm & Fibers
15. Calamity Peak Lodge
16. Carr Electric Company, LLC
17. Christy Chamberlain & Bob Reich
18. City of Custer
19. Coca-Cola Bottling Co High Country
20. Colleen Hennesy & Jim Frank
21. Crazy Horse Memorial
22. Custer Area Arts Council
23. Custer City Lodge #66
24. Custer County Democrats
25. Custer Hospitality (Best Western, Econolodge, Super 8, Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn)
26. Custer Lutheran Fellowship
27. Custer Mile High Garden Club
28. Custer Mt Rushmore KOA
29. Custer Senior Center

30. Custer State Farm- Steve Engelbrecht Agent
31. Custer YMCA
32. Custer's Gulch RV Park
33. Dacotah Bank
34. Dakota Photographic
35. Deep Creek Art Gallery
36. DGR Engineering
37. Double Diamond Ranch, LLC
38. EO Bungalows
39. Feel Good Café
40. First Choice Lock and Key
41. Good Karma Jewelry
42. J & M Lawncare LLC
43. Jorgensen Log Homes
44. K & S Stagecoach Stop
45. Kieffer Sanitation
46. Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC
47. Lewis Real Estate
48. LFC Veterinary Service
49. Linda Young
50. LJ's Recovery & Transport
51. Local Black Hills
52. Local Black Hills
53. Mammoth Site
54. McGas Propane
55. Mickelson Trail Affiliates
56. Miner's Cup
57. Monument Health- Custer Hospital and Clinic
58. Mountainview Baptist Church
59. NARFE
60. New Trails Ministry
61. NXTLAW PC
62. Operation Black Hills Cabin
63. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
64. Pain & Movement Solutions
65. Performance Outdoor Services
66. Petals and Pages
67. Pizza Mill
68. Rabbitt Bicycles Rental & Repair
69. Reptile Gardens
70. Rising Hope Counseling, LLC
71. Ronald McDonald House South Dakota
72. Rush Mountain Adventure Park
73. Rushmore Vacation Rentals
74. Saghe Creek Grille
75. Sentinel Federal Credit Union
76. Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church
77. Simon Contractors of South Dakota, Inc
78. Skogen Kitchen
79. South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
80. Southern Hills Family Medicine
81. Spokane Creek Cabins & Campground
82. Sprockets Fun Foundry
83. Star Ridge Advertisements
84. Starr Insurance
85. Stars & Stripes by Steph
86. Steve and Yolanda Davis
87. Stockade Lake Cabin
88. Tanglewood Estate

- 89. The Hills Finest- Bridal by Michelle
- 90. United Way of the Black Hills
- 91. Valhalla Legal, PLLC
- 92. Weather Tite Exteriors
- 93. Western Dakota Tech Foundation
- 94. Western Tire Chain, LLC
- 95. World Fossil Finders Museum



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! 📸





**UNITED
WAY**

FUNDRAISER

to benefit the United Way of the Black Hills
in the Southern Hills



JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

August 26 – October 14, 2026

AT THE CUSTER BEACON

FOR BINGO, FUN & TO SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

FUN BEGINS AT 6:30PM • COME EARLY TO GET YOUR TABLE!

**FINISH OFF THE SEASON WITH OUR
GRAND FINALE BINGO NIGHT ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026**



Kubota - Volkswagen - Tools – Sporting Goods – Ammo

ESTATE AUCTION

Daniel Kruse Estate & Guests – Custer, SD

ONLINE BIDDING OPENS Friday · October 2nd, 2026

- Closing Tuesday · October 6th, 2026, 4:00 PM

Two locations: Lots 3-898 are located at 25192 US Hwy 385 S. Custer

Lots 900+ are located at Bradeen Auctions, 9 W. Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer



Featuring: '71 Volkswagen Bug; '13 Chevy Silverado K1500; '03 Chevy K1500 Suburban; '12 Kubota L3800 Loader/Backhoe; Titan Man-Basket; Quick-tach rotary mower w/omni gear hydraulics; Bobcat SD 200 quick-tach snowblower; Wolverine quick-tach hydraulic breaker; Troy-bilt storm 2620 26in. snowblower; Toro recycler 60V w/flex force power system mower; Bad Boy 5ft. 3-point rotary cutter (new); Pinecone rake; Dethatcher; Strongway garden tractor aerator; Quick-tach tiller; John Deere Lawn Sweeper; Anvils; Elk Antlers; very large selection of fishing poles and tackle; Wolf Hides; Fifth wheel hitch; Buggy wheels; Log Splitter; The Competitor trap thrower; Silver dollars & many coins; Apollo Moon Landing newspapers; Wolf C36C 6 burner range; tools; toy tractors; duck decoys; wall hangings & décor; Carved painted buffalo skull; Military jackets several firearms with ammo and so MUCH MORE!

Property Inspection: Items will be available for inspection at Bradeen Auctions at 9 W. Mt. Rushmore Rd. & 25192 US Hwy 385 S, Custer, SD on Tuesday Oct. 6th, from 11am to 2pm. See the detailed descriptions & photos in the online catalog, at www.bradeenauction.com.

Property Settlement & Pickup: All items must be settled for Thursday Oct. 8th between 10am & 2pm at the Bradeen Auctions Office at 9 W. Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer. No Exceptions. Shipping is available on select items.

See complete details & photos on www.bradeenauction.com

OWNER:

Daniel Kruse
Estate & Guests
Custer, SD

BRADEEN
100 YEARS

REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS

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





LIVE MUSIC KIDS FAIR VENDORS
TEAGUE & CASEY MIDNIGHT SUN BAND
BAD RIVER BAND
BEER GARDEN TRAIN RIDE BOUNCY HOUSES
FOOD TRUCKS VENDORS HAY RIDES TIE-DYE STATION
PIE EATING & PET COSTUME CONTESTS CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 3 | 11 AM - 9 PM

BUFFALO RIDGE CAMP RESORT

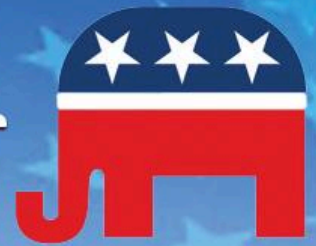
245 CENTENNIAL DRIVE, CUSTER, SD 57730

10% off all Custer Hospitality Hotels & Buffalo Ridge Camp Resort. Call each property direct or visit **CusterHospitality.com** to book your stay!





Custer County Republicans
**Lincoln Day Dinner
& Fundraiser**



Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026

Mt. Rushmore Brewing Company, Barrel Room

Social Hours 5:30-6:30, Dinner to follow

Speakers

Senator Amber Hulse

The Honorable Luke J. Lindberg

**Tickets: \$50 each. To purchase tickets please contact Lea Anne
at 605-673-4639 or email CCRepubs@goldenwest.net.**

Please purchase tickets in advance

**Pete Burkett Memorial Gun Raffle - Must be present to win
"Trump 47-Keep America Great"
1873 Single Action Revolver, .357 Mag/.38 Spl.
Suggested donation \$20 per ticket**



BANNED BOOKS READ-IN

JOIN OUR READ-IN TO PROTEST BOOK BANS.



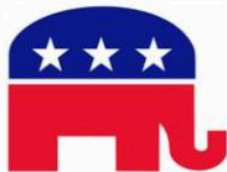
Monday, Oct. 5, 4-6p.m.

**Attendees will receive a free
audiobook copy of Banned Together
or How to Defend Books and Why.**

Silent
BOOK CLUB




Libro.fm



Custer County Republicans

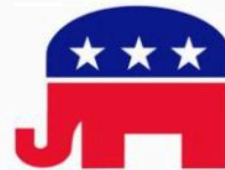
The Custer County Republicans will meet next on Tuesday, October 6, at 5:30 pm at the Hermosa Elementary School in Hermosa. This month we will host Mike Bielmaier, who will talk about the East County Ambulance District. Should be good information for everyone in east Custer County! Please note, we will be meeting in Hermosa!

Hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to CCRepubs@goldenwest.net to get a headcount for food.

Check us out on Facebook at CusterCountySDRepublicans

Online at <https://www.custercountyrepublicans.org/custer-sd-republicans>



South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

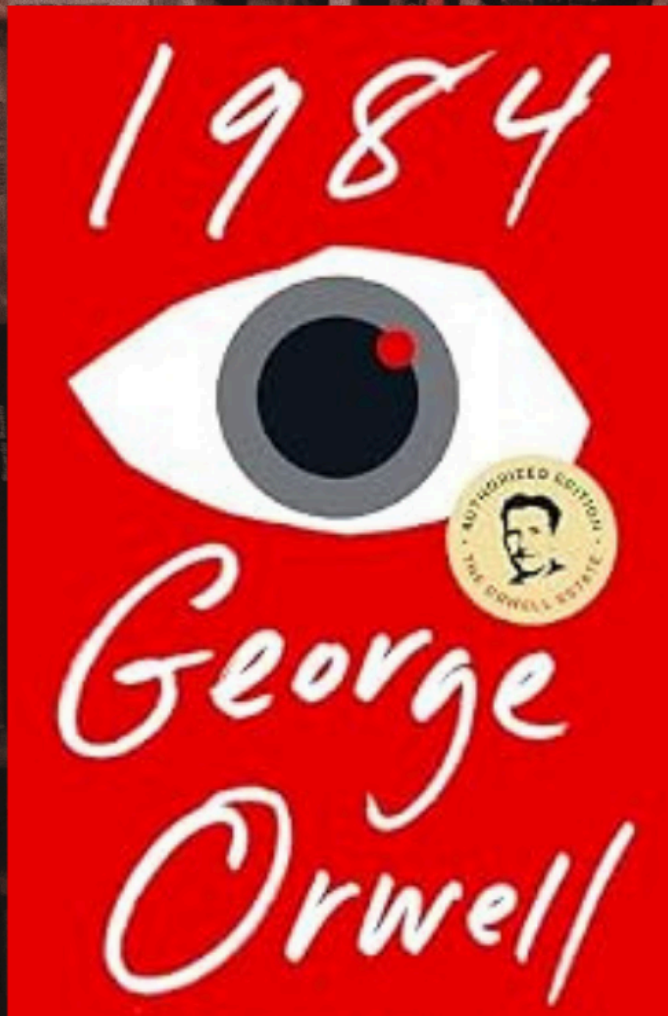
Saturday Oct 10th 2026 9:00am to 4:30pm

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

Class size is limited so register early.

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

The Bookquet



Written 75 years ago, George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while "1984" has come and gone, his dystopian vision of a government that will do anything to control the narrative is timelier than ever. Remember, Big Brother is watching...

**Meets Monday, Oct. 12, 5-6:30 p.m.
at Petals & Pages, 21 N. 4th St.**

VEHICLES-TRAILER-STORAGE CONTAINERS-TOOLS-SHOP-HOUSEHOLD

LIVE PUBLIC ESTATE AUCTION

Tuesday Oct. 13th, 2026, 10:00 am MDT

Richard Kleppe Estate-Hot Springs, SD

LIVE PUBLIC AUCTION, AT THE RESIDENCE: 12884 Cold Brook RD.,

Hot Springs, SD Watch for Signs!

Metal Storage Containers

40' Metal storage container opens on both ends; 2-20' Metal Containers;
to be removed at buyer's expense.

Kenworth Dump Truck-Bus-Vehicles-Trailer

'81 Kenworth W900 dump truck, 20' metal box, twin screw; '04 Load Max tandem axle gooseneck trailer; '92 Blue Bird Bus; '95 C3500 Chevy Pickup; '99 Freightliner FL80 truck; '00 Chevy C35 w/flatbed; '01 Military trailer; '02 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup; '07 Nissan Sentra sedan; '08 Kawasaki Mule 3010 UTV; '73 Chevy C10 short box pickup. **(Running condition of the vehicles is unknown buying AS-IS)**

Tools-Shop Items-Misc.

500 gal. propane tank (45% full); Wood planer; ammo boxes; storage cabinets; Alum. Brite tread & 3/8" thick sheets; trailer frames; sickle mower; chisel plow; pet kennel panels; Fire suppression valves & black pipe; pressure washer; large Snap On tool chest; Creepers; Lights; wood power poles; truck & vehicle rims; trailer axles; large selection of scrap iron & alum.; Scythe; rakes, hoes, shovels, forks; Antique insulators; wood walk plow; RR ties; 3 pt chisel parts; grain elevator parts; electrical power boxes; Polaris Xpedition ATV for parts; truck flatbed; tire safety cages; utility box; wood posts & poles; metal catwalk ladder; Tires; deer antlers; load locks; roof metal; truck frames; truck seats; wood lathe & cabinet; sq. metal tubing; channel iron; axles; house wrap; table saw; cage fan; Hames; garden tiller parts; truck chains; misc. lumber; Colman lanterns; air tank; wood clamps; Lubricants; file cabinets; tool boxes; organizers; stock roller; Metal hardware organizers (full); tow straps; work benches; Large selection of wrenches & tools; misc. household; and so much more yet to be discovered.

See additional photos, descriptions & details at www.bradeenauction.com

Auctioneers Note: This auction has a wide variety of vehicles, tools, storage containers, scrape iron, shop and household items. Plan to spend the day with us in Hot Springs, Lunch Available, Cash, Check or Credit Card all items sold as-is with no warranty. www.bradeenauction.hibid.com.

OWNER:

Richard Kleppe Estate
PR: Shirleine Neiderworder
Hot Springs, SD

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Join photographer Ann Cunningham of Green Owl Media & Photography for a fun, practical workshop covering both digital cameras and smartphones.

Learn how to use camera settings, composition, light, perspective and location to take better photos of wildlife, landscapes, people, products, and everyday subjects.

Class size limited to 25 people!

No complicated jargon. Just practical techniques you can use right away.

Saturday: October 17, 2026

11am–1pm

The Trailhouse

148 Gordon St. Custer, SD

Get your tickets at:

BlackHillsCreativeExchange.com



BOO Bingo

Oct 18th

2:00-5:00

VFW
Post 3442

Custer, SD



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South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

Saturday Oct 24th 2026 9:00am to 4:30pm

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

Class size is limited so register early.

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

Save the Date

Red GALA

November 5, 2026

The Box - 6:00-9:30 PM

631 Watiki Way, Box Elder, SD 57719

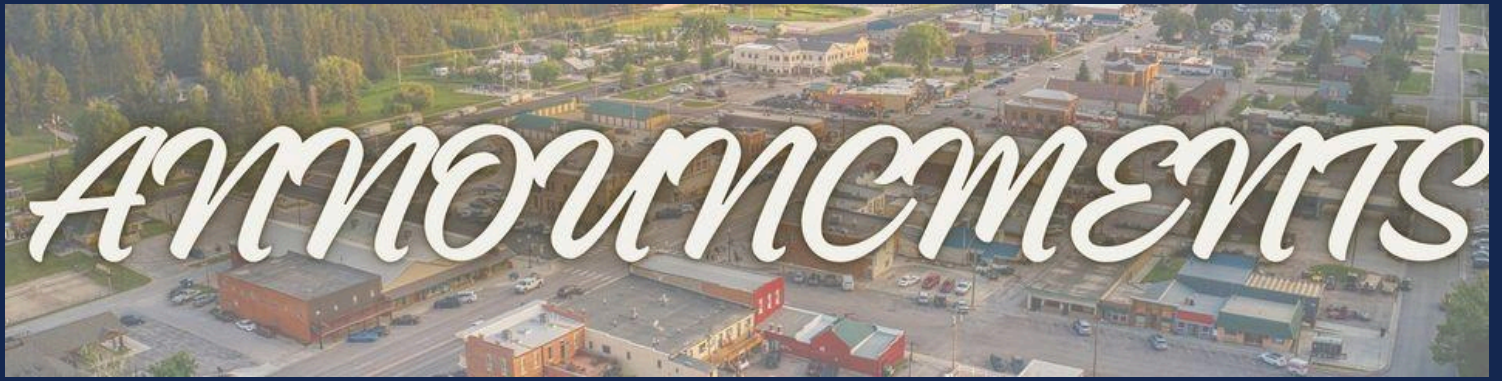
An evening benefiting the Ronald McDonald House - House in the Hills. Join us as we celebrate and “fill the house” with critical items that make the House a home for families who need it most.

Sponsorships Opportunities, Tables + Event Tickets
are available now!

Contact Sheila Klosterman at 605.336.6398 Opt 2, Ext 3 or
Sheila@ronaldmcdonaldhouseSD.org for more info.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



"A WAY TO SAY THANK YOU"

PO Box 855, Custer, SD 57730

605-517-1830

www.operationblackhillscabin.org

operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com

We at Operation Black Hills Cabin would like to say Thank You to these following businesses and individuals for their direct involvement in providing the Combat Wounded Veterans and their immediate families that are hosted by OBHC the most amazing respite possible! It is only because of each and every one of YOU that these families are able to have a care-free week to reconnect with each other, and be shown by our gratitude that what they fought for, and the permanent life-changing injuries they have sustained, were not in vain.

Adventure Rentals
Alpine Inn
Bear Country USA
Big Thunder Goldmine
Christy Chamberlin & Bob Reich
Crazy Horse Memorial
Custer Chamber of Commerce
1881 Courthouse Museum
Custer Piecemaker's Quilt Guild
Custer State Park State Game Lodge
Evans Plunge
Grizzly Gulch Mini Golf
Mammoth Site
National Presidential Wax Museum, Holy Terror
Mini Golf, Grapes & Grinds Coffee Shop
Petals and Pages
Reptile Gardens
Rushmore Candy Company
South Dakota Outdoor Shop
Sylvan Rocks Climbing School & Guide Service
Xanterra @ Mt. Rushmore
World Fossil Finder Museum, Good Karma,
Stone Décor & Supply

Baker's Bakery
Beggin' Burro
Calamity Jane's
Claw, Antler, Hide
Custer County Candy Company
Custer County Chronicle
Custer Dairy Queen
Custer Laundry
Custer State Park Buffalo Safari Jeep Ride
1880 Train
Four Mile Old West Town
Highmark Federal Credit Union
Mary Swanson/Master Gardener
Pizza Mill
Our Place
Purple Pie Place
Rush Mountain Adventure Park
Scotty & Phyllis Terral
Sprockets Fun Foundry
VFW Post #3442
YMCA of Custer

**A huge Thank You to all the faithful volunteers –
the Board of Directors and their spouses,
the "Cabin Cleaning Committee", the "Treat Committee",
the "Outdoor Maintenance Committee", the "Selection Committee",
the Business Involvement Committee,
the gift bag donators, and to ALL of you who donate financially!**

Also a special Thank You this year to:

Dakota Greens, Nielsen Enterprises LLC, & Witts Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.

Christmas is in the Air



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adventures



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FREE!!

FREE!!



Bible Stories, Crafts, Games, Songs, Snacks & FUN!

SPARK KIDS

starts on Sept 16th!

**Wednesdays after school
at Custer Lutheran Fellowship
12622 US HWY 16A**

For children in Jr Kdg-5th grades

After School the kids ride the "Fun Bus" to church!

Pick-up is 5:00- 5:15pm or stay for a free Supper!

Join us for Worship from 6:00-6:30pm!



Register
#605-673-4691,
clf@gwtc.net,
or here!



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



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

EVENT SPONSOR LEVELS

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

INDIVIDUAL/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





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

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>



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:

Closed for the Off-Season on October 31:

Fees:

Roads:

Garbage:

Plan Ahead:

* All information is subject to change, due to inclement weather, decreased staffing, and sporadic conditions beyond control.

printable copy

Mountainview
BAPTIST CHURCH

ANCHOR CLUB

BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 2026

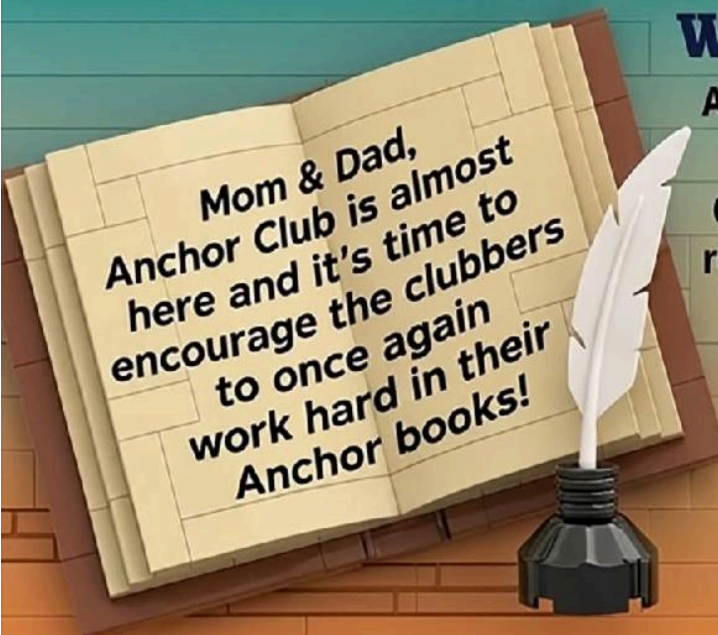
WHAT IS ANCHOR CLUB?

At Anchor Club, we learn from God's Word, while having fun...all at the same time!

Clubbers will be challenged to memorize, read, sing, and participate in the activities every week! Your children are invited to be a part of the Club!

WHO? K5 thru 6th grades

WHEN? Wednesday afternoons
4:00 to 6:00pm



Mom & Dad,
Anchor Club is almost
here and it's time to
encourage the clubbers
to once again
work hard in their
Anchor books!

We will provide a meal each night
for the Anchor Clubbers.

FREE TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE!

*We can pick up children right at the
school, if desired.*



Mountainview
BAPTIST CHURCH

12230 Aviation Way

(next to the Custer airport)

605-673-2498

www.mountainviewbaptistcuster.com



JESUS is the ANCHOR of my soul!
Hebrews 6:19

PAGEANT HILL THURSDAY LEAGUE



Join us every Thursday for competition
and fun!



THURSDAYS



**ROUND STARTS
5:30 PM**

**MEET AT:
THE PAVILION**

**Every Thursday,
April-October**

Contact:

✉ jellis0836@me.com

Sponsored by:



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

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Free & Open to the Public

Debunking five common Social Security myths

*Reported by Jared Slagle MBA,
Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here's the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

Myth 1: Social Security is going broke.

You've probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that's just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs. Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you'll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working. Not true. Social Security does have an "earnings test" that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social

Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

Myth 4: An ex-spouse's benefits come out of your own. If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person's full retirement benefit. But those payments don't affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed. Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you'll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.



Jared Slagle is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones in Custer, SD. He can be reached at (605) 673-2198 or www.edwardjones.com/jared-slagle

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I can help simplify life insurance



Steve Engelbrecht
Agent

750 West Mt. Rushmore Rd, Unit 6
Custer, SD 57730

Bus: 605-673-4141
www.protectcuster.com
steve@protectcuster.com

Talking about life insurance can be intimidating. That's where I come in. I can help you determine how life insurance will best fit your individual needs, and there's no guesswork with policy type, amount or budget. Contact me today.

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Bloomington, IL



Media Release



FREEDOM 250 AT MOUNT RUSHMORE DELIVERS MILLIONS IN ECONOMIC IMPACT AND GLOBAL EXPOSURE FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mon., Aug. 10, 2026

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

PIERRE, S.D. – The Freedom 250 at Mount Rushmore celebration generated millions of dollars in economic activity while showcasing the state to audiences around the world.

A post-event analysis done by research firm Tourism Economics found the event generated an estimated **\$2.35 million in total economic impact**, including **nearly \$1.5 million in direct visitor spending**, while supporting area businesses, hotels, and local tax revenue.

More than **4,000 attendees** attended the event, with **87.7% traveling from overnight destinations** and representing **more than 40 states**.

The event's significance extended well beyond those attending in person and those that left their tax dollars in local communities. It also was viewed by millions across the world.

Broadcast and digital media coverage reached an estimated **53.7 billion audience impressions**, generating an estimated **\$50.7 million in publicity value**. Online interest also surged, with Travel South Dakota's website recording **146,535 sessions** during the event period—a

66% increase over the previous week—and the livestream being viewed more than 107,000 times.

“The Freedom 250 at Mount Rushmore event demonstrated what happens when South Dakota has the opportunity to showcase one of America's most iconic landmarks on an international stage,” said James Hagen, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Tourism. “The economic benefits to our communities, combined with the extraordinary global exposure for South Dakota, will continue to pay dividends well into the future.”

The Tourism Economics analysis also found the event immediately generated:

- **\$2.35 million** in total economic impact.
- **\$1.49 million** in direct visitor spending.
- More than **4,100 hotel room nights**.
- More than **\$1 million in lodging revenue**.
- Approximately **\$162,000** in combined state and local tax revenue.

The celebration also produced one of the strongest tourism weekends in recent Rapid City history. During the event, **hotel occupancy increased 5.5% year-over-year**, and Friday, July 3 recorded the highest single-day hotel revenue year-to-date as well as the top single day revenue-per-available room in the last two years.

The event was made possible through a partnership between the State of South Dakota, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Park Service and numerous federal, state and local partners. Following a five-year absence, the return of fireworks to Mount Rushmore National Memorial served as a centerpiece of the nation's 250th anniversary celebration.

The State of South Dakota invested \$2.8 million in planning and producing the Freedom 250 at Mount Rushmore celebration. This generated a return on investment that has already paid tremendous dividends and will continue to do so for years to come, thanks to the billions of earned media impressions. The costs include the pyrotechnics and lighting, media production, shuttle bus contracts, and cost recovery payments to the National Park Service.

“This event generated an estimated **\$2.35 million in direct economic impact** while delivering more than **53 billion media impressions** globally, introducing South Dakota to new and familiar audiences,” Hagen said. “It's an investment that strengthened our tourism economy while reinforcing South Dakota's place as one of America's most iconic destinations.”

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

-30-

- **Media Notes:** Economic impact numbers are reported from Tourism Economic, an Oxford Economics Company.



We Improve Lives™

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Leslie Millard
Senior Marketing Communications Specialist
(605) 858-6098

BHFCU Helps Fight Hunger in Q3

Rapid City, S.D., September 25, 2026 – Black Hills Federal Credit Union's (BHFCU) Community Action Team brings employees and the community together to give back to local non-profit organizations in meaningful ways. A combination of monetary paycheck donations from employees, matching funds from the credit union, and physical donations made from the BHFCU team and community members makes for a big impact. This quarter, the credit union focused on getting food in the hands of those who need it.

To avoid burying the lead, here's a glimpse of the incredible impact BHFCU employees and community partners made in Q3.

- 15 non-profits supported
- 418 jars of PB&J gathered
- 470 non-perishable staples collected
- \$18,000 donated (employee donations matched by BHFCU!)

BHFCU saw so much success with its two-pronged food drive approach last year that the credit union decided to run it back. Don't fix something if it isn't broken, right? The credit union asked employees to each contribute a set of peanut butter and jelly, and its communities to pitch in with shelf-stable staples.

From statewide and regional organizations to small local pantries, BHFCU wanted to make sure the drive helped at as many levels as possible. These hunger-fighting non-profits include: The Banquet and Kids Against Hunger in Sioux Falls; Billings Family Services and the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools in Billings; Pierre Area Referral Services and Governor's Grocery in Pierre; Meals on Wheels, The Storehouse, Hill City Community Food Pantry, Hot Springs Ministerial Association Food Pantry, Piedmont Valley Food Pantry, Sturgis Food Pantry, Spearfish Community Food Pantry, and the Wall Country Cupboard in the Black Hills area; and Feeding South Dakota.

The drive's success would not have been possible without the generous support of several businesses, which helped broaden its reach and collected non-perishables meant to stay in their communities. Special thanks to Krull's Market, Timmon's Market, Wall Food Center, Sonny Superfoods, 4E Foods, Sioux Falls Food Coop, Grocery Mart, and Lynn's Dakotamart locations in Box Elder, Custer, Hot Springs, Sturgis, and Summerset.

BHFCU is dedicated to supporting its communities in a variety of ways, including sponsorships, employee fundraisers, and donations from members and community supporters to the Black Hills FCU Charitable Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

About Black Hills Federal Credit Union

Established in Rapid City in 1941, Black Hills Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative serving more than 115,000 members. The community-chartered credit union has 18 locations in South Dakota and two in Montana. For more information, visit bhfcu.com.

###



Sara J. Becker
 SVP, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS
 She/Her
 O: 406-255-5314
firstinterstate.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jess McMillin Joins First Interstate as Senior Community Branch Manager

CUSTER, S.D.— First Interstate Bank is pleased to announce the hiring of Jess McMillin as Senior Community Branch Manager. In his new role, McMillin will oversee branch operations, support client relationships, and lead the Custer team in delivering exceptional service

to individuals, families, and businesses throughout the community.

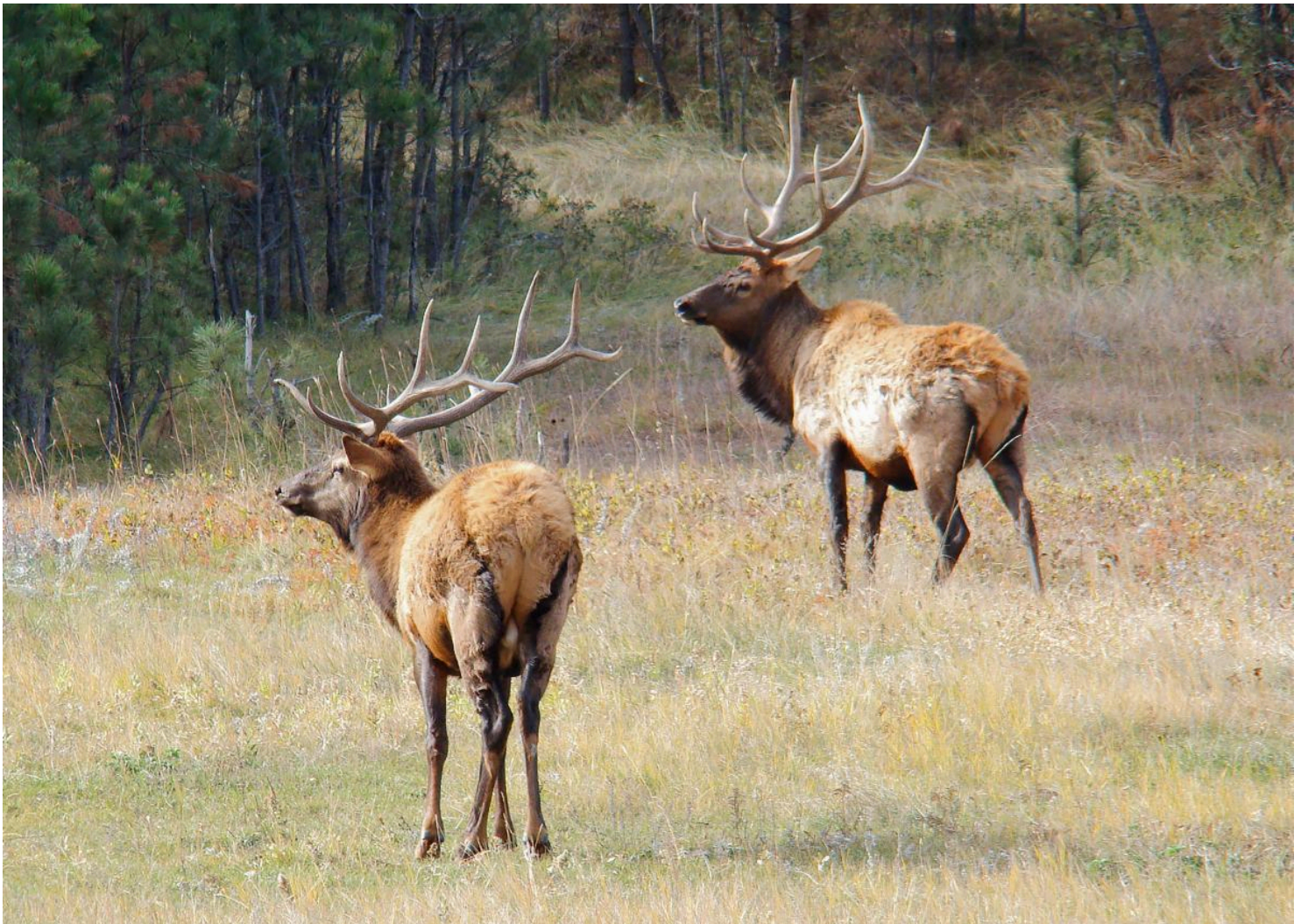
A lifelong Black Hills resident, McMillin grew up in Hermosa, South Dakota, and graduated from Custer High School. He later attended the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, studying Industrial Engineering while building a successful career in management. “I’m excited to join First Interstate because it gives me the opportunity to expand my management and sales skills while continuing to learn and take on new challenges,” said McMillin. “I enjoy growing professionally, and I believe this role is a great fit for me.”

McMillin brings more than 25 years of leadership, sales, and customer service experience to First Interstate. He spent 15 years with Nash Finch, where he advanced into management roles before the company closed in 2016. He then joined Four Seasons Sports Center as Finance Manager and worked his way up to Sales Manager during his 10-year tenure with the organization.

Outside of work, McMillin is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, participating in sports, and pursuing a variety of hobbies. A talented guitarist, he also has a passion for music. Additionally, he volunteers with Special Olympics and is committed to giving back to the community.

About First Interstate

First Interstate is a community bank headquartered in Billings, Montana, delivering best-in-class banking and Wealth Management services across Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming. With nearly 300 offices, First Interstate enhances the communities it serves through an innovative corporate philanthropy program, which includes donating a portion of Company profits, matching employees’ personal financial contributions, and donating \$10 per hour for volunteer efforts made at qualifying organizations. To learn more, please visit www.firstinterstate.com.



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 bugling. Participants should bring a flashlight, a camp chair or blanket to sit on, and dress warmly.

Fall Cave Tour Schedule

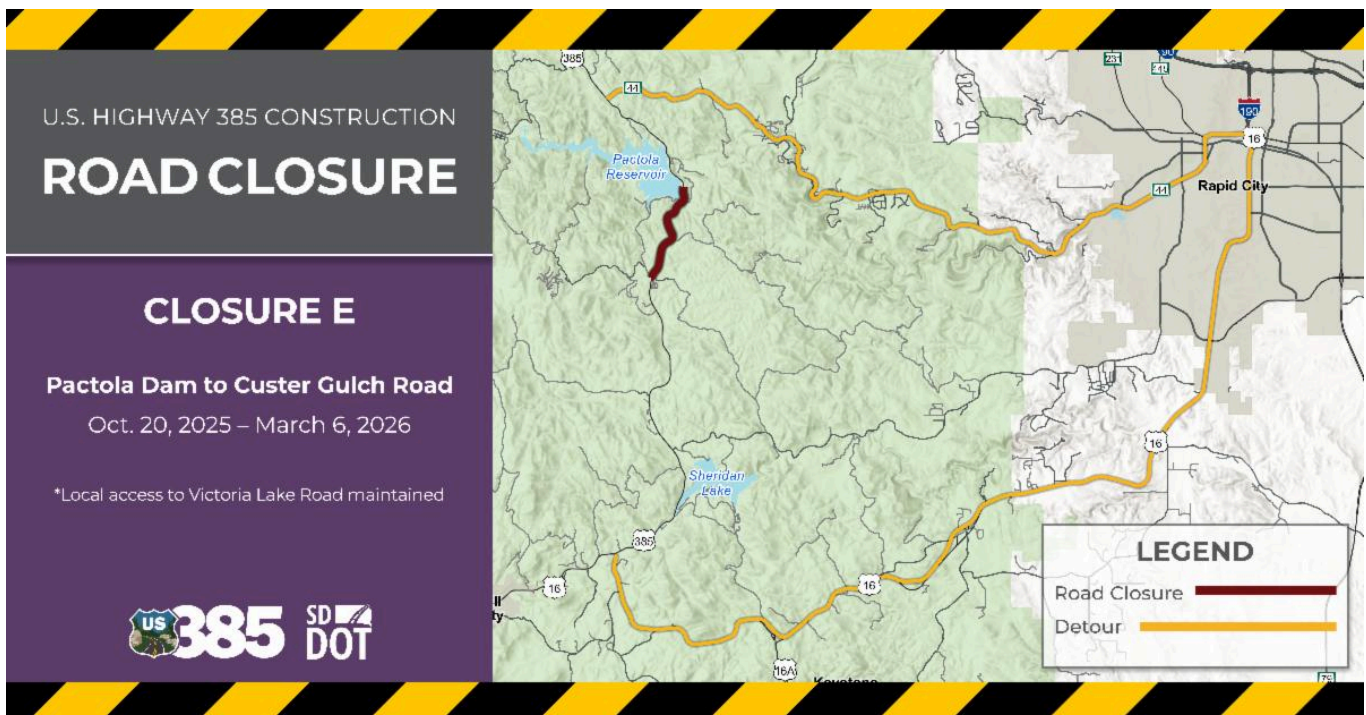
Cave tours along different tour routes are offered daily throughout the fall. Fall routes include the Natural Entrance, Fairgrounds, and Garden of Eden. For all tours, participants are encouraged to bring a light coat or sweater and good walking shoes.

- 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.



Project Update

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Construction Impacts:

- **Construction Activity Paused During Sturgis Motorcycle Rally:** Construction activities will be paused in the U.S. Highway 385 construction area (Pactola Dam to Calumet Road) starting on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, and will resume on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026.
- **Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Traveler Information:** Find additional information, including frequently asked questions, on the *SDDOT Rally Traveler Information page*.

Current Construction Area Road Conditions:

- Currently, the driving surface within the construction area is oiled blotter (a hard, packed surface that resembles asphalt) with pavement markings. The surface may feel slick, so drivers are encouraged to be cautious and allow additional stopping time, especially in wet conditions.



Upcoming Construction Updates:

- **Final Surfacing:** Final surfacing from Pactola Dam to Calumet Road is expected to be completed in the summer of 2027.

[View Construction Updates](#)



Construction Zone Reminders



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

Stay Connected

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

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

HWY 385 ROUTING INITIATIVE

BH&B is sharing information related to the upcoming *Hwy 385 infrastructure improvement project* that will include *routing options* and continuous business promotion. BH&B's goal is to



educate and to explain that this simple detour will not prevent, nor should it discourage visitors from enjoying their vacation in the Black Hills.

Visit Route Reimagined

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

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

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**U.S. HIGHWAY 385
CONSTRUCTION**
PENNINGTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE TO SHERIDAN LAKE

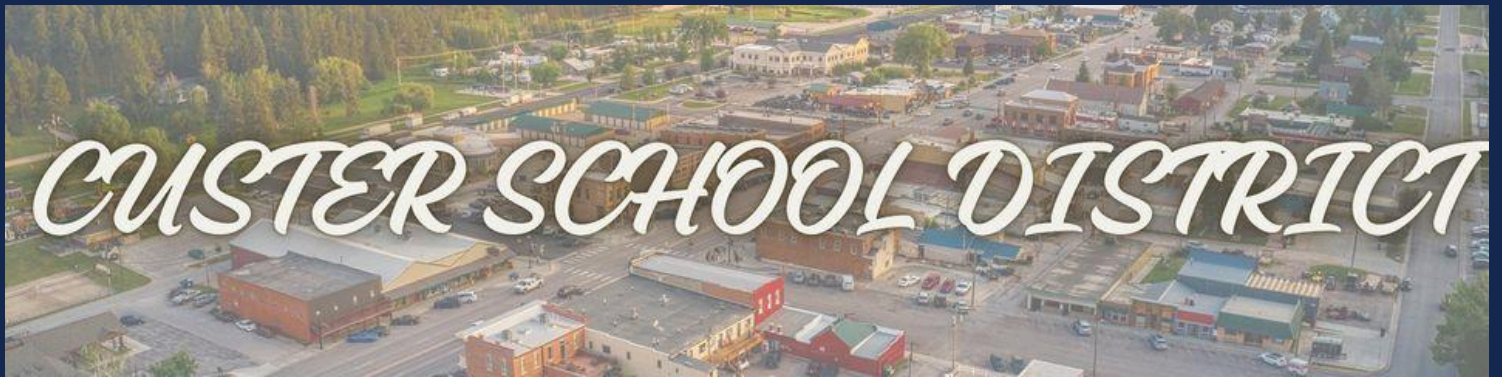
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Text “US385” to 605-566-4041

Thank you for joining the SDDOT U.S. Highway 385 Text Update List! You will now receive the latest updates on this project via your mobile device. Thank you!

US 385 **SD** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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35- 40 hours a week

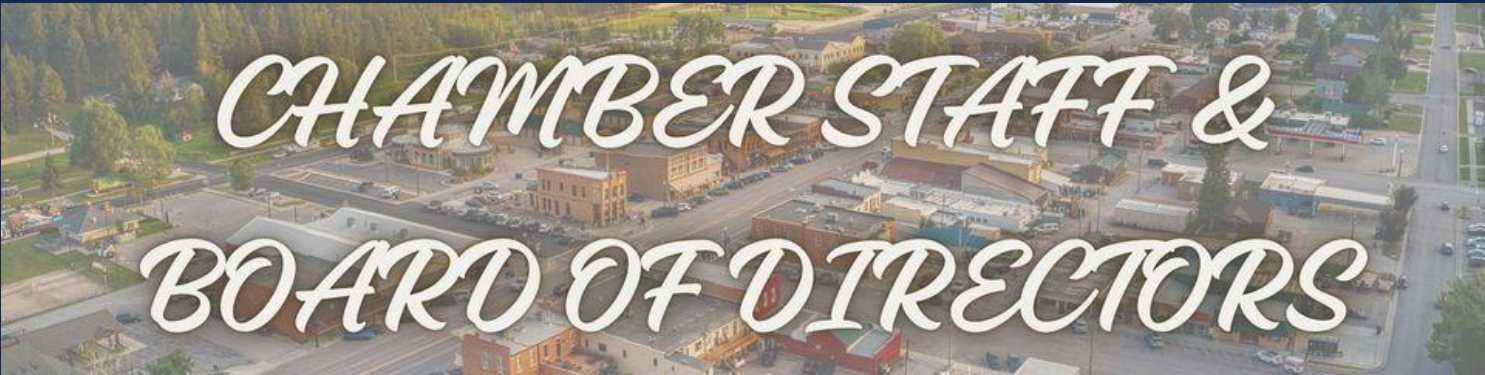
10 AM until 5 PM

Monday through Friday

Please contact Lori

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





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CHAMBER STAFF

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2026

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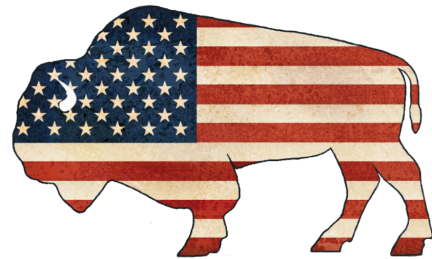
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