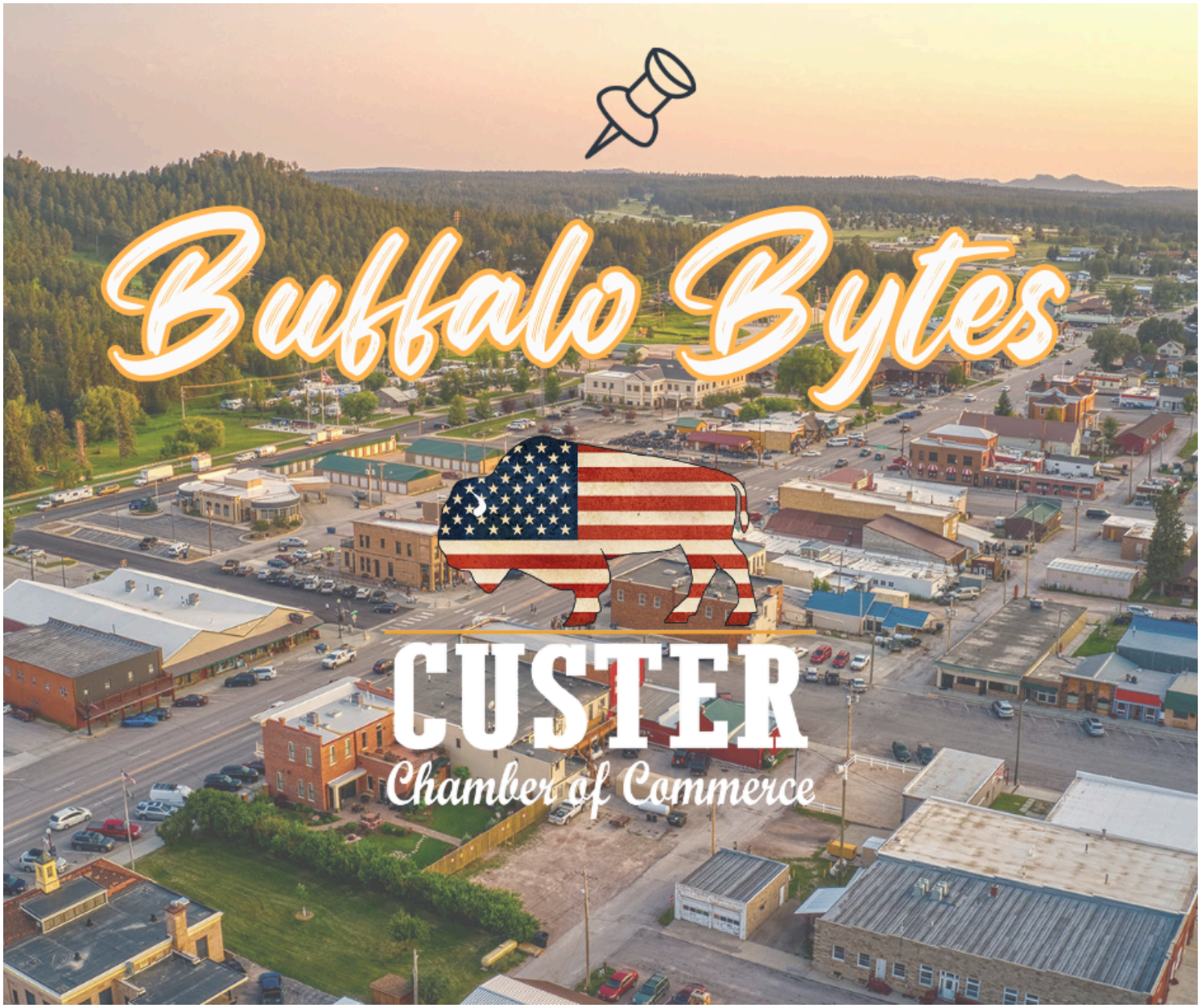


When viewing on a mobile device- please scroll down and click on "view entire message" to view Buffalo Bytes in correct formatting

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!





Celebrating Custer's Best at the 2026 Annual Awards Dinner!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2026 Custer Chamber Annual Awards Dinner! It was a wonderful evening celebrating the individuals, businesses, and organizations that make Custer such a special place to live, work, and do business.

Congratulations to our 2026 Award Winners!

- **Heart of Custer Award: Bill Young**
- **Custer's Rising Star Award: Owen Pollard**
- **Individual of the Year: Andrea Ronning**
- **Community Team/Service Award: Southern Hills Family Medicine – Dr. Brandy Tarap**
- **New Business of the Year: LJ Recovery and Transport**
- **Outstanding Service Award: Ernie Thornell**
- **Business of the Year Recognition: SD Outdoor**
- **President's Choice Award: Corey Virtue**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award: Phil Lampert**
-

Each of these honorees represents the dedication, generosity, hard work, and community spirit that help make Custer an extraordinary place. We are grateful for their contributions and proud to recognize their achievements.

A heartfelt thank-you to our event sponsors and everyone who helped make the evening a success. Your continued support allows us to celebrate the people and businesses that make a lasting difference in our community.

Congratulations again to all our 2026 award winners!

👻 **The Fun Continues: Monster Mash Is October 24!**

The celebrations aren't over yet! Join us for the Third **Annual Monster Mash Pub Crawl, Poker Run & Bash on Saturday, October 24**, for an evening of Halloween fun, local business support, selfies, and cash prizes!

4–8 PM | Pub Crawl & Selfie Poker Run
Visit participating businesses throughout Custer, enjoy a beverage in your glow-in-the-dark event cup, and snap a selfie at each selfie station. Be sure to vote for your favorite selfie stop by making a donation to the 2027 Custer Fireworks display!

8 PM | Custer Beacon Bash
Bring your selfies to Custer Beacon to draw your poker hand and compete for cash prizes.

How the Poker Run Works:

- Visit five stops to earn one poker hand.
- Each additional stop earns one redraw to improve your hand.
- Visit all nine stops for four chances to improve your hand!

9 PM | Costume Contest

· Show off your spooky, creative, or downright outrageous Halloween look! The **costume contest starts at 9 PM at Custer Beacon**. Come dressed to impress and join in the Halloween fun!

Gather your friends, enjoy a fun fall evening, and show some love to our local businesses. We look forward to seeing everyone out for this frightfully fun community event!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 24, and join us for the Monster Mash!





Dawn Murray
Executive Director

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Click to download calendar



October 24

Monster Mash Pub Crawl
Throughout Custer
4pm

October 27

Firecracker Bingo
Gold Pan
6pm

October 30

Merchants Trick-or-Treat
Throughout Custer
4pm

November 19

Mixer at Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services
5pm



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

We are now accepting nominations of positive, enthusiastic and involved individuals for the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

If you would like to nominate an individual, please complete the Nomination Form attached below.

Fillable nomination form

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



🍂 Fall Business Updates

As we head into the fall season, please keep the Chamber informed of any seasonal hours, temporary closures, or changes to your business hours or operations.
We want to make sure we're sharing the most current information with visitors and the community. Please email any updates to *assistant@custersd.com*.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone informed! 🍁

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

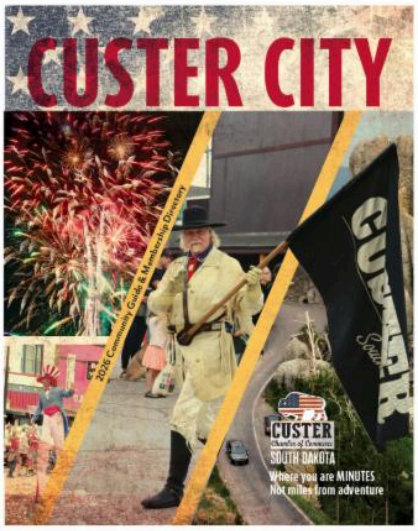
Contact Kate TODAY to be a part of this amazing group!
605-440-1248
chroniclewriter2@gmail.com

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!

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 ANNOUNCMENTS



Sign up to be a selfie stop


BINGO
NIGHT
B 7
I 30
N 44
G 59
O 62
FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
6 PM
EST 1876
THE GOLD PAN SALOON
CUSTER SD
BINGO


MERCHANTS
Trick
OR
Treat
Get your business signed up now!
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 30
4:00PM-6:00PM
SIGN UP
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

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



October 21st



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. Beaver Lake Campground
15. Beecher Rock Storage
16. Begging Burro, LLC
17. Big Pine Campground
18. Black Granite Construction
19. Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc
20. Black Hills Energy
21. Black Hills Federal Credit Union
22. Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine
23. Black Hills Parks and Forest Association
24. Black Hills Pizza Hut
25. Black Hills Souvenirs & Gifts (Rushmore Custom T's)
26. Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services

27. Branch Construction Services, LLC
28. Buffalo Ridge Camp Resort
29. Buglin Bull
30. Busy Ewe Farm & Fibers
31. Calamity Jane Kitchen
32. Calamity Peak Lodge
33. Carr Electric Company, LLC
34. Carson Drug
35. Chalet Motel
36. Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
37. Chief Motel
38. Christy Chamberlain & Bob Reich
39. City of Custer
40. Claw Antler and Hide, Inc
41. Coca-Cola Bottling Co High Country
42. Colleen Hennesy & Jim Frank
43. Common Cents
44. Crazy Horse Memorial
45. Custer Ambulance Service
46. Custer Area Arts Council
47. Custer City Lodge #66
48. Custer County Candy Co.
49. Custer County Chronicle
50. Custer County Conservation District
51. Custer County Democrats
52. Custer County Library Foundation
53. Custer County Republican Central Committee
54. Custer Hospitality (Best Western, Econolodge, Super 8, Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn)
55. Custer Laundry
56. Custer Lutheran Fellowship
57. Custer Mile High Garden Club
58. Custer Mt Rushmore KOA
59. Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild
60. Custer Rotary
61. Custer Senior Center
62. Custer State Farm- Steve Engelbrecht Agent
63. Custer State Park
64. Custer YMCA
65. Custer's Gulch RV Park
66. Dacotah Bank
67. Dakota Greens-Custer Greenhouse and Nursery
68. Dakota Photographic
69. Dave's Rock Shop
70. Day's Inn Custer
71. Deep Creek Art Gallery
72. DGR Engineering
73. Diane Dennis
74. Don & Arlayne Barmore
75. Double Diamond Ranch, LLC
76. Eagles Landing Lodge
77. Elk Haven Vacation Cabins, LLC
78. Encompass Payroll
79. enCore Energy
80. EO Bungalows
81. Feel Good Café
82. First Choice Lock and Key
83. First Interstate Bank
84. Floors and More Cleaning and Restoration

85. Four Mile Old West Town & Campground
86. Freedom Hills Wealth Management
87. French Creek Supply
88. Gold Camp Cabins
89. Gold Pan Saloon
90. Good Karma Jewelry
91. Green Owl Media
92. Harney Peak Chapter of DAR
93. Highmark Credit Union
94. Honest Paint Co
95. J & M Lawncare LLC
96. Jewel Cave National Monument
97. Jim and Patti Lee
98. John & Diana Carson
99. Jorgensen Log Homes
100. K & S Stagecoach Stop
101. K2 Masonry & Concrete
102. Kenneth Kuper VFW Post 3442
103. Kieffer Sanitation
104. Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC
105. Lewis Real Estate
106. LFC Veterinary Service
107. Linda Young
108. LJ's Recovery & Transport
109. Local Black Hills
110. Mammoth Site
111. Maria’s Mexican Restaurant and Maria’s Mexican Concession
112. McCoy PC
113. McGas Propane
114. Mickelson Trail Affiliates
115. Miner's Cup
116. Monument Health- Custer Hospital and Clinic
117. Mountainview Baptist Church
118. Naomi Harldson
119. NARFE
120. Nelson’s Oil and Gas, Inc.
121. New Trails Ministry
122. Nielsen Enterprises, LLC
123. Nomad VanCamp & RV Park
124. NXTLAW PC
125. Operation Black Hills Cabin
126. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
127. Outlaw Ranch
128. Pain & Movement Solutions
129. PDQ Construction, Inc
130. Performance Outdoor Services
131. Petals and Pages
132. Pizza Mill
133. Prairie Hills Transit
134. Premier Family Eyecare
135. Purple Pie Place
136. Rabbit Bicycles Rental & Repair
137. Reed Christensen Chimney & Maintenance
138. Reptile Gardens
139. Rising Hope Counseling, LLC
140. Road Runner, Inc
141. Rock Solid Enterprises, LLC
142. Ronald McDonald House South Dakota

143. Rush Mountain Adventure Park
144. Rushmore Photo and Gifts
145. Rushmore Vacation Rentals
146. Sagacious, Inc (Mt Rushmore Brewing Co & Pounding Fathers)
147. Sage Creek Grille
148. Sentinel Federal Credit Union
149. Servall Uniform & Linen
150. Sew What
151. Shady Rest Motel
152. Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church
153. Simon Contractors of South Dakota, Inc
154. Skogen Kitchen
155. South Dakota Department of Labor
156. South Dakota Outdoor Shop
157. South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
158. Southern Hills Family Medicine
159. Southern Hills Title
160. Spokane Creek Cabins & Campground
161. Sprockets Fun Foundry
162. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
163. Star Ridge Advertisments
164. Starr Insurance
165. Stars & Stripes by Steph
166. Steve and Yolanda Davis
167. Stockade Lake Cabin
168. Sunset RV Park
169. Sylvan Rocks Climbing School and Guide Service
170. Tallgrass Landscape Architecture
171. Tanglewood Estate
172. Tennyson Investments
173. The Cruisin' Canvas
174. The Custer Beacon
175. The Custer Wolf
176. The Hills Finest- Bridal by Michelle
177. The Quilted Buffalo
178. Travel Custer
179. United States Forest Service Supervisor's Office
180. United Way of the Black Hills
181. Valhalla Legal, PLLC
182. Weather Tite Exteriors
183. Western Dakota Tech Foundation
184. Western Tire Chain, LLC
185. Wild Spruce Market
186. Wind Cave National Park
187. Wind Song Valley Gardens
188. World Fossil Finders Museum
189. Xanterra, Mt Rushmore
190. Zonta Club of the Black Hills



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





✨ 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! 📸





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


MONSTER MASH
CUSTER, SD
EST 1876
THE GOLD PAN
SALOON
CUSTER SD
PUB CRAWL
SPECIAL
BUY A DRINK
and get a
FREE
MONSTER
JELLO SHOT
October 24

October 24


CUSTER
CUSTER MEET & GREET
FEATURING
LARRY RHODEN
MARTY JACKLEY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
10:00 AM (MT)
CALAMITY JANE'S KITCHEN - 512 MT RUSHMORE RD #1930

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Matthews Opera House & Art Center

Black Hills Parks & Forests Association

THE INVISIBLE MAMMAL

A film screening celebrating National Bat Week presented by Black Hills National Forest, Black Hills Forests and Parks Association, & The Matthews.

OCT 26th
6:00 PM
at The Matthews

- Connect the Film to Local Conservation
- Learn about local bat monitoring & habitat research
- Discover bat education and community conservation efforts
- Find tips for creating bat-friendly gardens
- Learn about bat houses & responsible caving
- Explore ways to help prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome



To educate every student to his or her potential

SAVE THE DATE

CTE COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECT

COMMUNITY INFORMATION & INVOLVEMENT NIGHT



Wednesday, October 28, 2026

6:30 PM

New Career Technical Education Building
1645 Wildcat Lane | Custer, SD

Learn how the home is being constructed, how the project is funded, and how you can contribute.

Open dialogue | Questions & Answers | Community Partnerships

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Building Skills. Building Homes. Building Community.

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.

Ronald McDonald House South Dakota



1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

411 MT. RUSHMORE RD. CUSTER, SD

★ OPEN ON ★

VETERANS DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9 AM TO 4 PM

ALSO OPEN

Three Saturdays

IN DECEMBER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
NOON TO 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
NOON TO 4 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
NOON TO 4 PM

FEATURING A SPECIAL

Christmas Tree EXHIBIT

DECEMBER 5, 12 & 19

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

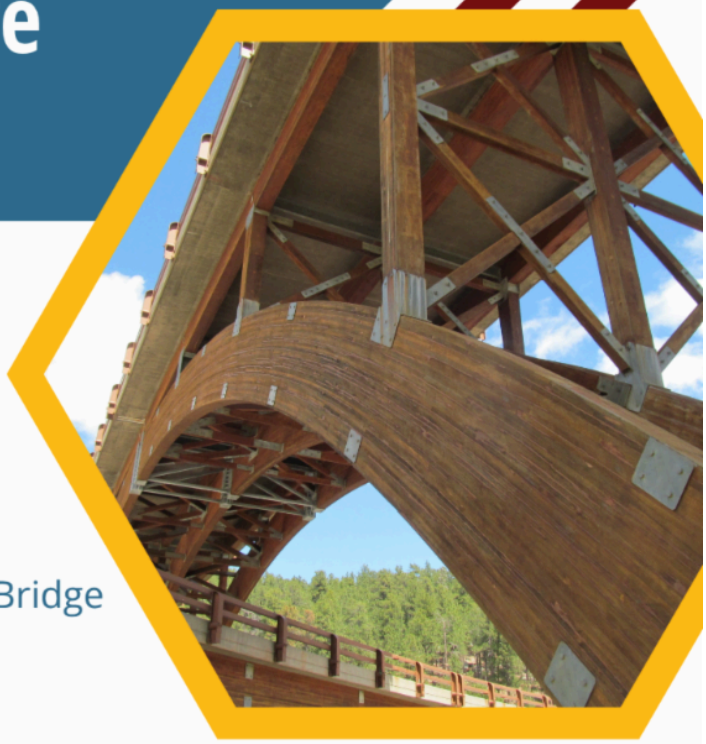



AmaWaterways
Tulip Time
RIVER CRUISE
AROUND THE MAP
TRAVEL
Sail into Spring in Europe
DEPARTURE DATE
March 19, 2027
BEGINNING AT
$3,279
per person
7 nights • all inclusive
aroundthemaptravel1@gmail.com • 307.760.7175
Limited time offer. Additional discounts may apply.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. HIGHWAY 16A
Keystone WYE Bridge

SD DOT



CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

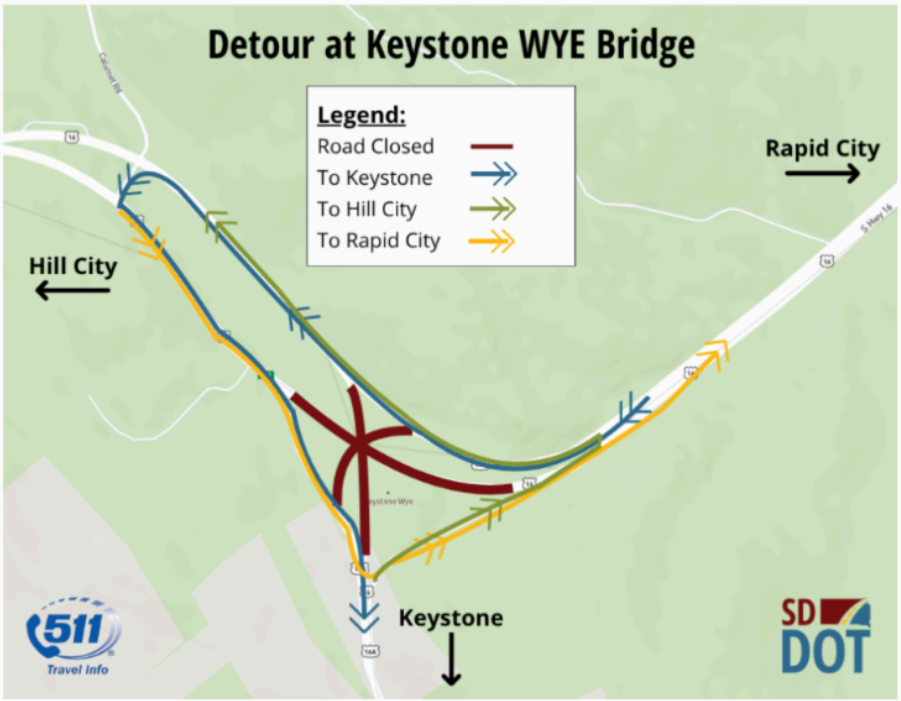
Tentative Schedule:
- Sept. 8, 2026 - Oct. 30, 2026

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.

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

OPERATION
BLACK HILLS CABIN
"A WAY TO SAY THANK YOU"
PO Box 855, Custer, SD 57730
605-517-1830
www.operationblackhillscabin.org **operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com**

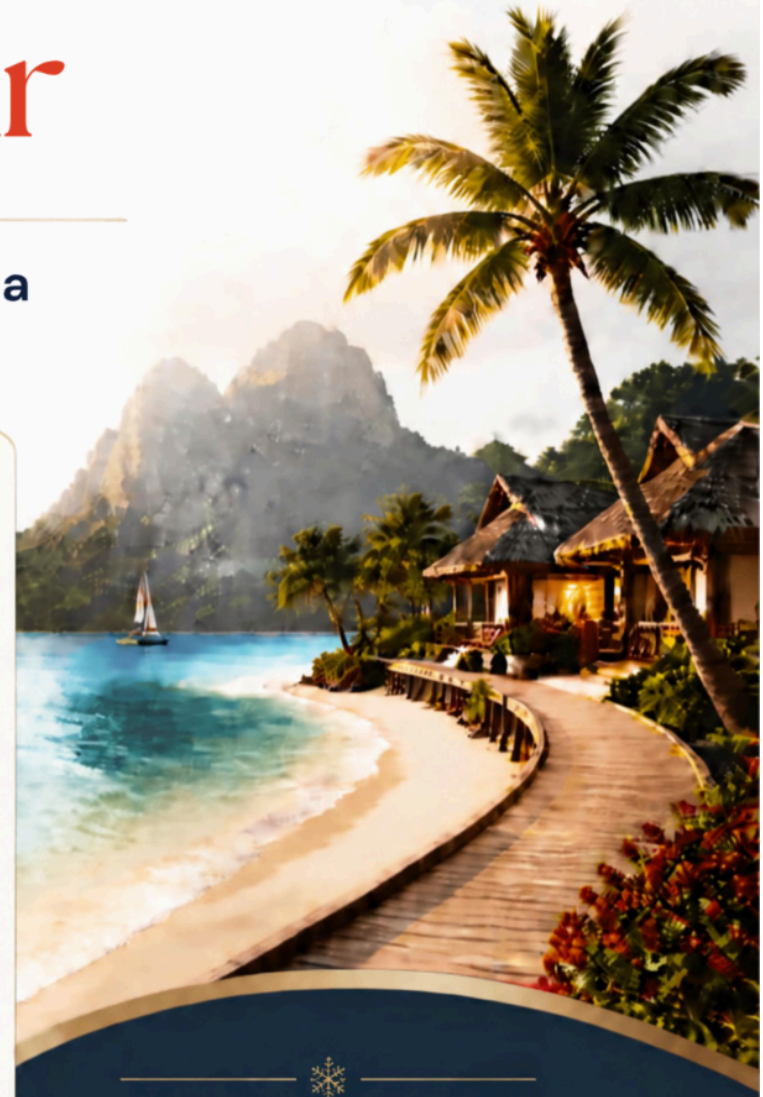
We at Operation Black Hills Cabin would like to say Thank You to these following businesses and individuals for their direct involvement in providing the Combat Wounded Veterans and their immediate families that are hosted by OBHC the most amazing respite possible! It is only because of each and every 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

It's Not Too Late to Book a Holiday Adventure



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SPARK KIDS

starts on Sept 16th!

Wednesdays after school

at Custer Lutheran Fellowship

12622 US HWY 16A

For children in Jr Kdg-5th grades

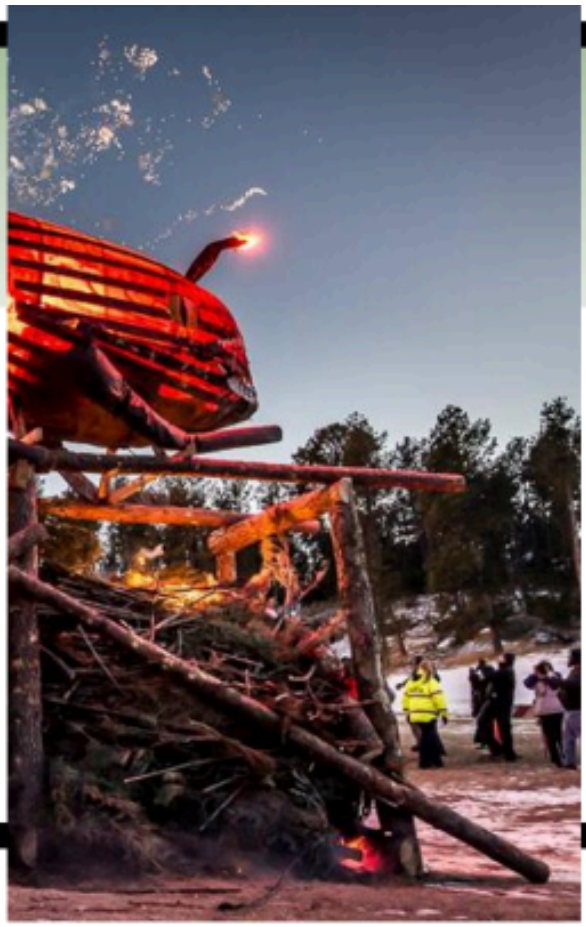
After School the kids ride the “Fun Bus” to church!

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

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

---

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.*

printable copy

Mountainview
BAPTIST CHURCH

ANCHOR CLUB

BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 2026

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

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

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.

JESUS is the ANCHOR of my soul
Hebrews 6:19

Mountainview
BAPTIST CHURCH

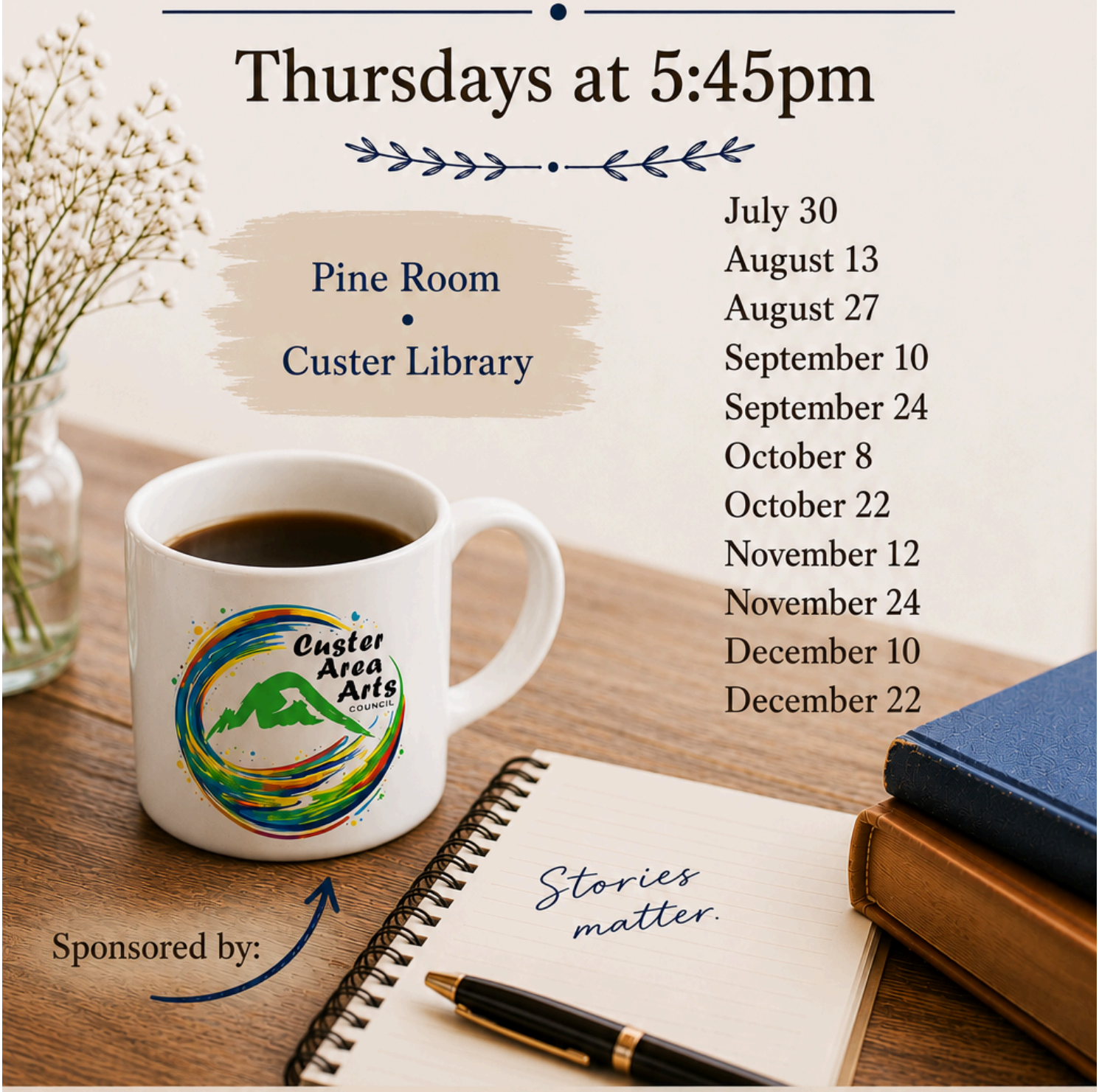
12230 Aviation Way
(next to the Custer airport)
605-673-2498
www.mountainviewbaptistcuster.com

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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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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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.**





Celebrate the 36th Annual Native Americans' Day at Crazy Horse Memorial® - October 12, 2026

CRAZY HORSE, S.D. – Crazy Horse Memorial will host its annual Native Americans’ Day celebration on Monday, October 12th. The event will feature hands-on activities, a Native Americans' Day program (including the announcement of this year's Educator of the Year Award) as well as two special performances from Indigenous Enterprise.

South Dakota was the first state to officially celebrate Native Americans' Day on the second Monday in October annually - since 1990. South Dakota and Vermont (which celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day) are the only states to practice non-observance of the federal holiday of Columbus Day.

The South Dakota Legislature established the Native Americans' Day holiday at the urging of Gov. George S. Mickelson, then governor of South Dakota. The transformed holiday was a direct result of correspondence between Indian Country Today editor Tim Giago, and the governor. Giago, an Oglala Lakota hailing from the Pine Ridge Reservation, had written a column in the Lakota Times expressing the need for change. In addition to the new holiday, Mickelson further declared 1990 as a "Year of Reconciliation" - the 100th anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre - and called for the first Native Americans' Day observance to be held at Crazy Horse Memorial®. More than 1,200 people attended that first Native Americans’ Day celebration on October 8, 1990. This year Chance Rush, actor, motivational speaker and advocate, will be the honored keynote speaker at the morning's program.

“We can’t turn back the clock," Governor Mickelson said. "We can only turn to the future together. What we can do as leaders, both Native American and white, is teach others that we can change attitudes.”

Hands-on activities will take place throughout the complex. The Native Americans' Day program begins at 10 a.m. and free buffalo stew meal will be available following the program – provided by Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation. Indigenous Enterprise will give two special performances at 11:30AM and 2:00PM that day as well.
For more information, please visit *www.crazyhorse.org* and follow The Crazy Horse Memorial® on all social media and/or or contact Amanda Allcock at 605-673-4681 or email *Amanda.Allcock@crazyhorse.org*.

About the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation
The Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation's mission is to honor, protect, and preserve the culture, traditions, and living heritage of the Indians of North America. The Foundation fulfills its mission by continuing the progress on *CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL*®, the world's largest mountain sculpture; acting as a repository for Native American artifacts, arts and crafts through *THE INDIAN MUSEUM OF NORTH AMERICA*® , and the Museum's Native American Educational & Cultural Center®; and by establishing and operating *Crazy Horse Memorial University*®.

Black Hills FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

We Improve Lives™

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Contacts - Black Hills Federal Credit Union:

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.

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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

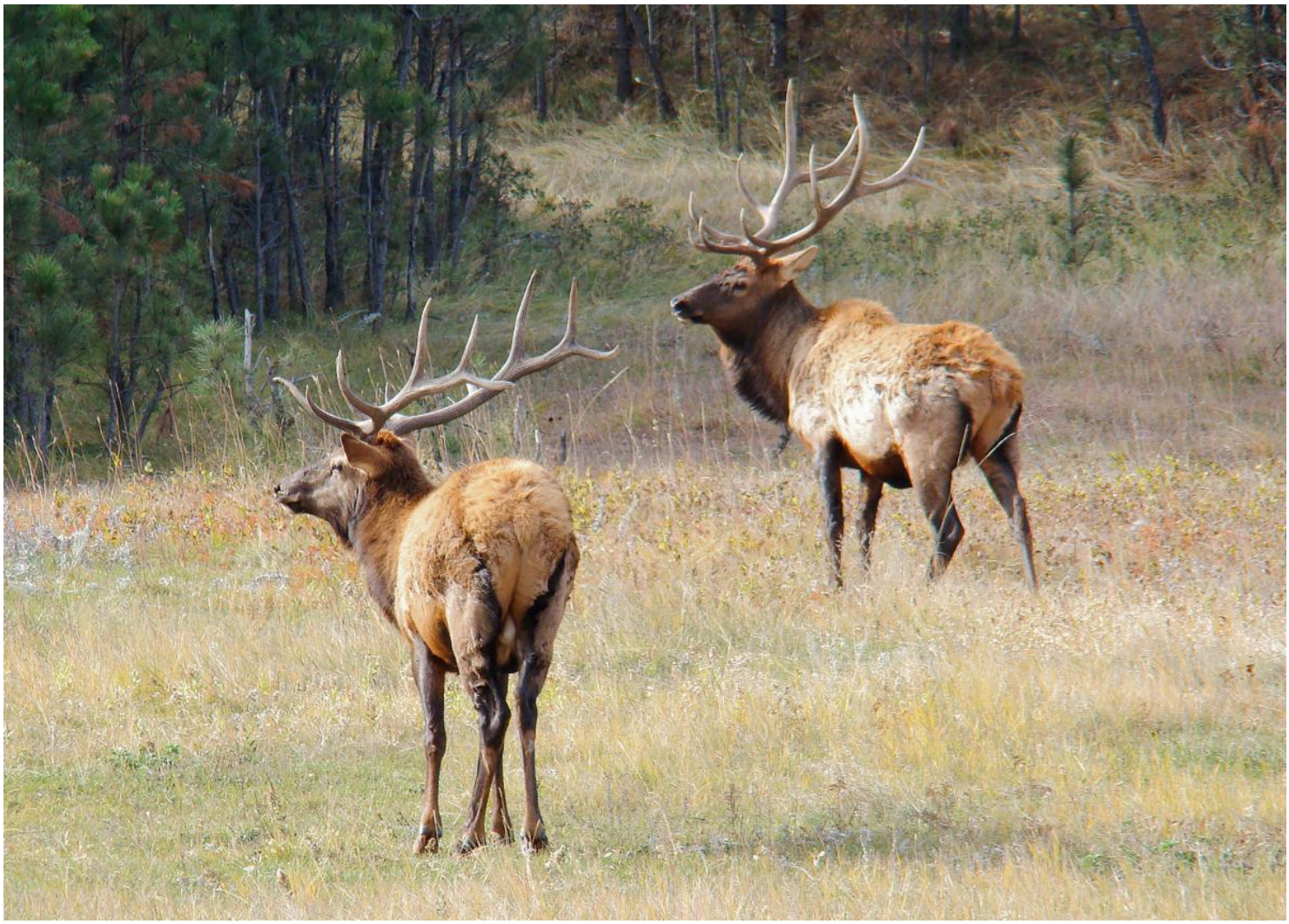
CUSTER, S.D.— First Interstate Bank is pleased to announce the hiring of Jess McMillin as Senior Community Branch Manager. In his new role, McMillin will oversee branch operations, support client relationships, and lead the Custer team in delivering exceptional service to individuals, families, and businesses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

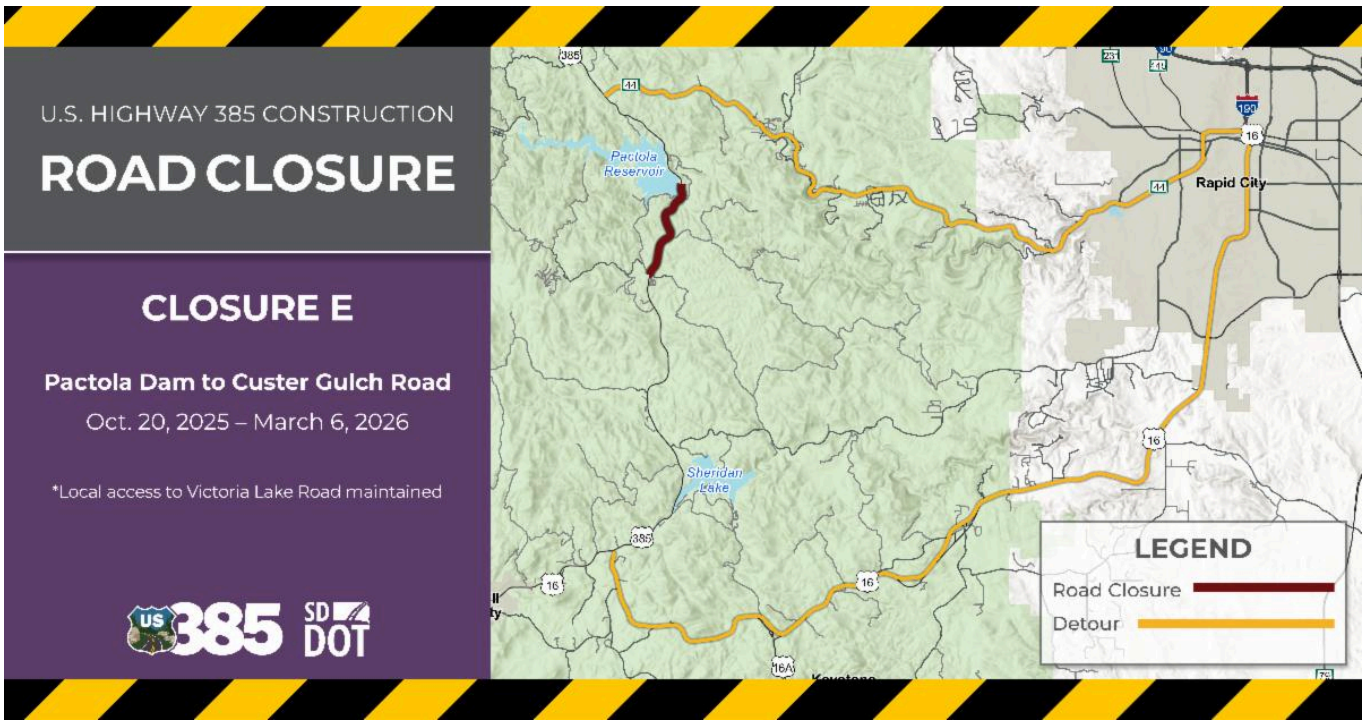
- The Natural Entrance tour lasts approximately 75 minutes and involves 300 stairs and is offered through September.
- The Fairgrounds tour lasts 1.5 hours and involves 450 stairs and will be offered starting October 1.
- The Garden of Eden tour lasts one hour and involves 150 stairs and is offered year-around.

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.





Project Update

Friday, August 7, 2026

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” to605-566-4041. Subscribers can unsubscribe at any time.



HWY 385 ROUTING INITIATIVE

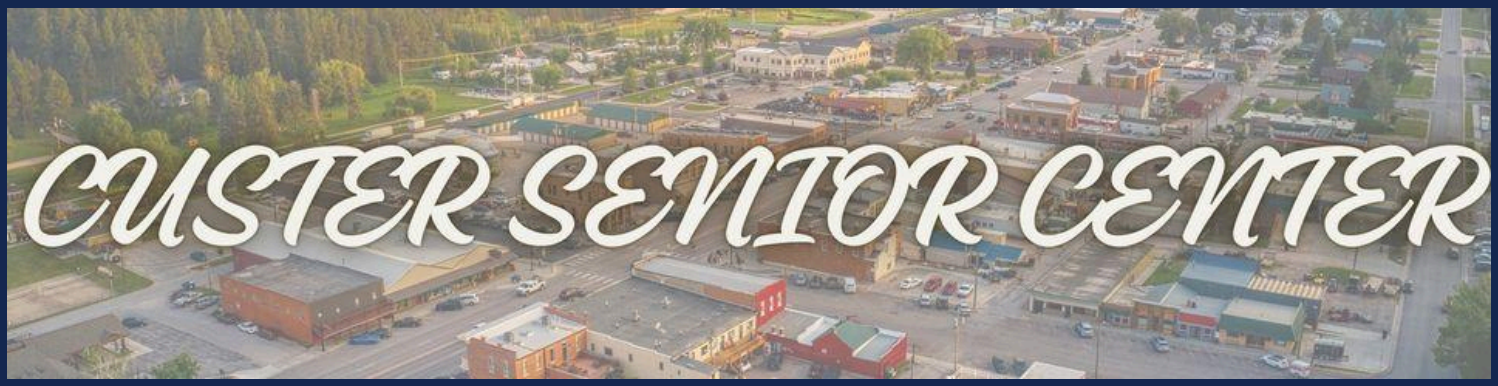
BH&B is sharing information related to the upcoming *Hwy 385 infrastructure improvement project* that will include *routing options* and continuous business promotion. BH&B's goal is to educate and to explain that this simple detour will not prevent, nor should it discourage visitors from enjoying their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

Visit Route Reimagined

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

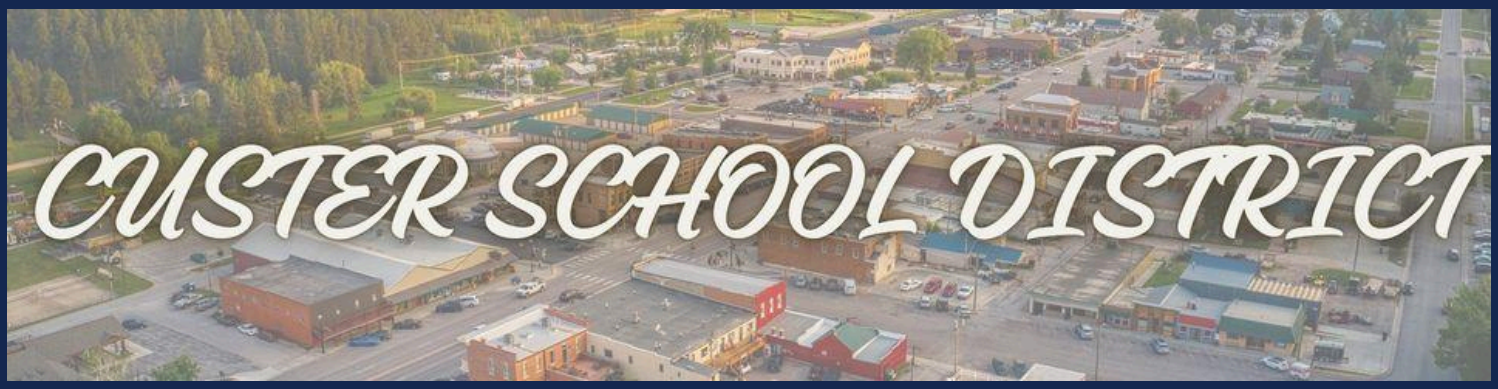
To subscribe, simply text “US385” to 605-566-4041.
Subscribers can unsubscribe at any time.





October Activities





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SEPT 2026 ~CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
TIDBITS & CSD Job Vacancies



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JOIN THE HJEM FAMILY



BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL.

At Hjem A.M., we're more than a restaurant—we're a team that takes pride in great food and warm hospitality.

Now Hiring

- **LINE COOKS** — Part Time
- **HOSTS** — Part Time
- **DISHWASHERS** — Part Time

WEEKEND HELP
Perfect for high school students!

- GREAT TEAM & POSITIVE CULTURE
- DELICIOUS STAFF MEALS
- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES
- GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

LOVE HJEM?
HELP US KEEP THE GOOD GOING.
APPLY IN PERSON OR REACH OUT TO LEARN MORE.

Hjem.am2022@gmail.com
(605) 981-9047

★★★★★
4.9 STARS
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

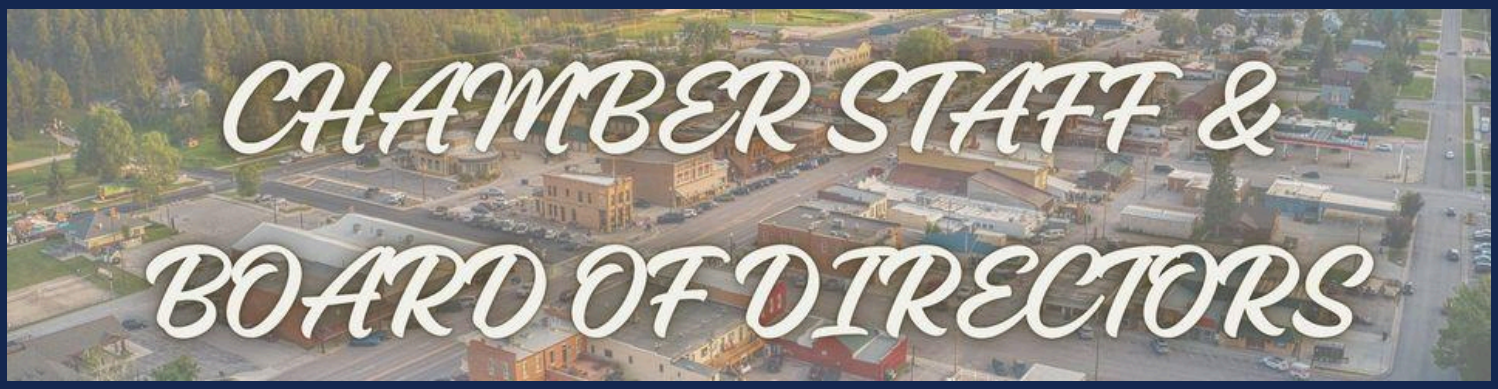
Monday through Friday

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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Chamber of Commerce

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