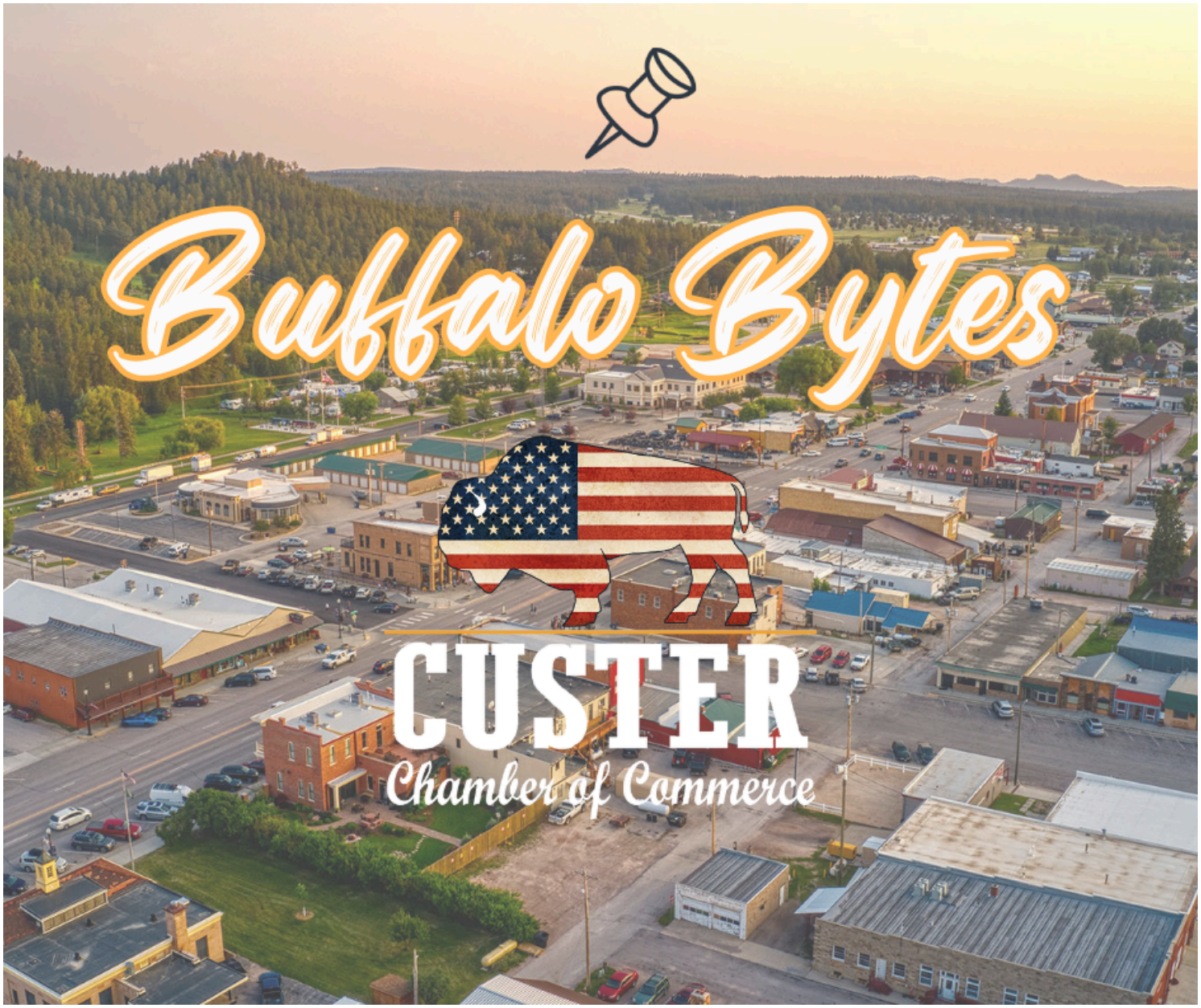


When viewing on a mobile device- please scroll down and click on "view entire message" to view Buffalo Bytes in correct formatting

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!



🎃 Happy Halloween from the Custer Chamber! 👻

As we head into one of the most festive weekends of the season, the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce wishes everyone a safe and spooktacular Halloween!

Don’t forget to join us tomorrow, Friday, October 30, from 4–6 PM for our annual Merchants Trick-or-Treat event! Local businesses throughout downtown Custer will be ready to welcome little ghosts, goblins, superheroes, and princesses with Halloween treats and plenty of community fun.

It’s a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday, make memories with the family, and support our local merchants. Bring the kids, dress up in your favorite costumes, and enjoy a frightfully fun afternoon in downtown Custer!

👉 **Chamber Members:** If your business would still like to participate, there’s time to join the fun! Give the Chamber a call, and we’ll get you added to the list.

As you enjoy the Halloween festivities, remember that Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend! Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

From all of us at the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce, have a safe, fun, and spooktacular Halloween! 🎃👻



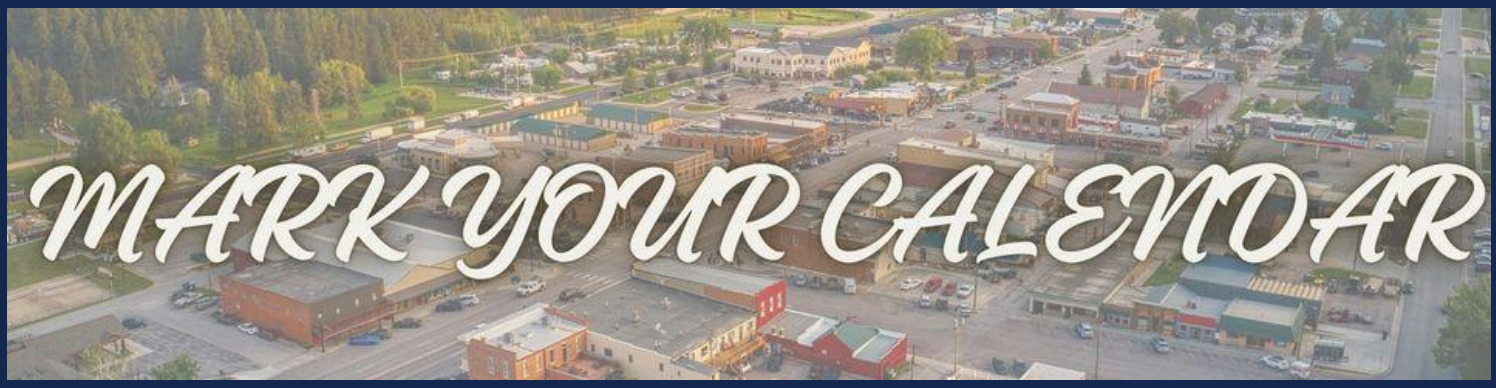
Dawn Murray
Executive Director



2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Click to download calendar



October 30

Merchants Trick-or-Treat
Throughout Custer
4pm

November 6

Ribbon Cutting at Cross Roads Church
12480 Us Hwy 16A
4-7pm

November 10

Whistlestop Tour- Capitol Christmas Tree comes to Custer
Way Park
4-6pm

November 19

Annual Stuff-A-Truck Food Drive Delivery Day
Drop donations off to Chamber by 5pm on November 18

November 19

Mixer at Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services
5pm

December 4

Christmas Cash Drawing
2pm

December 5

Christmas Parade
5pm





Fillable nomination form

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

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

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

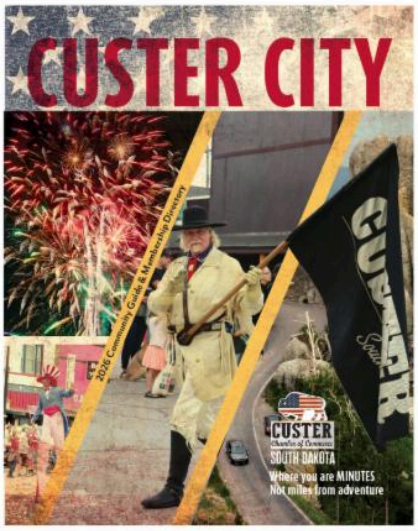
Contact Kate TODAY to be a part of this amazing group!
605-440-1248
chroniclewriter2@gmail.com

Your Custer-area magazine!

Everything you need to know about Custer and Custer County!

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

2027 Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Business and Membership Directory



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

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

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

Craig Reindl
Chamber President

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

15,000 Copies

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

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

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

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

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

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL RATES!

Advertising Rates
Full-Color Ad

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

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

DEADLINE: Oct. 23, 2026

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


CHAMBER ANNOUNCMENTS


THANK YOU
MONSTER MASH
SPONSORS
Aspen
Federal Credit Union
GRIM REAPER
Southern Hills
Publishing
GRIM REAPER
Petals & Pages
BARE BONES
Kenneth Kuper
VFW Post 3442
BARE BONES
Black Hills
Federal Credit Union
BARE BONES
Starr Insurance
PHANTOM
NXTLAW
PHANTOM
Bavarian Inn
Black Hills
PHANTOM
Pizza Mill
PHANTOM
American Family
Insurance
PHANTOM
Black Hills
Energy
PHANTOM
Custer Dental
Studio
PHANTOM
Dacotah Bank
PHANTOM
The Hills Finest
Bridal by Michelle
PHANTOM


Ribbon Cutting
Crossroads Church
Bringing all roads of life to the cross
WHEN: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH
WHERE: 12480 U.S. 16A
CUSTER, SD
TIME:4:00 PM
CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce



Register for Pink Friday



19th Annual

STUFF A TRUCK PROJECT

Help us fill the truck with food for our community!

ITEMS NEEDED:



- Canned cranberry sauce



- Boxes of stuffing



- Cake mix



- Large boxes of instant potatoes



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



- Frosting tubs

Together,

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

Bring items to Custer Chamber Office by

NOVEMBER 18

Thank you!

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Sign up TODAY

to participate in the
Christmas Cash Drawings.

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

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



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

SCAN HERE

Sign up by Friday, November 13, 2026

Sign up to participate today!

2026 MIXER DATES

JANUARY 29-GOLD PAN

FEBRUARY 19-PREMIER EYE CARE

MARCH 19- CUSTER'S RENDEZVOUS

MAY 21- LEWIS REALTY

SEPTEMBER 10-CAMP BOB MARSHALL

NOVEMBER 19- BRADEEN REAL ESTATE

DECEMBER 10- STARR INSURANCE

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Connect · Collaborate · Grow

STRONG BUSINESSES • A VIBRANT COMMUNITY • A BRIGHTER CUSTER

2027 Chamber Mixers

GOOD PEOPLE • GREAT CONNECTIONS • A STRONGER CUSTER

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



Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram



November 18th



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

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

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

143. Pizza Mill
144. Prairie Hills Transit
145. Premier Family Eyecare
146. Purple Pie Place
147. Rabbit Bicycles Rental & Repair
148. Reed Christensen Chimney & Maintenance
149. Reptile Gardens
150. Rising Hope Counseling, LLC
151. Road Runner, Inc
152. Rock Solid Enterprises, LLC
153. Ronald McDonald House South Dakota
154. Rush Mountain Adventure Park
155. Rushmore Photo and Gifts
156. Rushmore Vacation Rentals
157. Sagacious, Inc (Mt Rushmore Brewing Co & Pounding Fathers)
158. Sage Creek Grille
159. Sentinel Federal Credit Union
160. Servall Uniform & Linen
161. Sew What
162. Shady Rest Motel
163. Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church
164. Simon Contractors of South Dakota, Inc
165. Skogen Kitchen
166. Sousley's HillBilly Barbeque Catering
167. South Dakota Department of Labor
168. South Dakota Outdoor Shop
169. South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
170. Southern Hills Family Medicine
171. Southern Hills Title
172. Spokane Creek Cabins & Campground
173. Sprockets Fun Foundry
174. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
175. Star Ridge Advertisments
176. Starr Insurance
177. Stars & Stripes by Steph
178. Steve and Yolanda Davis
179. Stockade Lake Cabin
180. Sunset RV Park
181. Sylvan Rocks Climbing School and Guide Service
182. Tallgrass Landscape Architecture
183. Tanglewood Estate
184. TC Horsecamp
185. Tennyson Investments
186. The Cruisin' Canvas
187. The Custer Beacon
188. The Custer Wolf
189. The Hills Finest- Bridal by Michelle
190. The Quilted Buffalo
191. Travel Custer
192. United States Forest Service Supervisor's Office
193. United Way of the Black Hills
194. Valhalla Legal, PLLC
195. Weather Tite Exteriors
196. Western Dakota Tech Foundation
197. Western Tire Chain, LLC
198. Wild Spruce Market
199. Wind Cave National Park
200. Wind Song Valley Gardens

201. Workplace Diversity Network of the Black Hills
202. World Fossil Finders Museum
203. Xanterra, Mt Rushmore
204. Xtreme Sports Simulators
205. 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? ✨

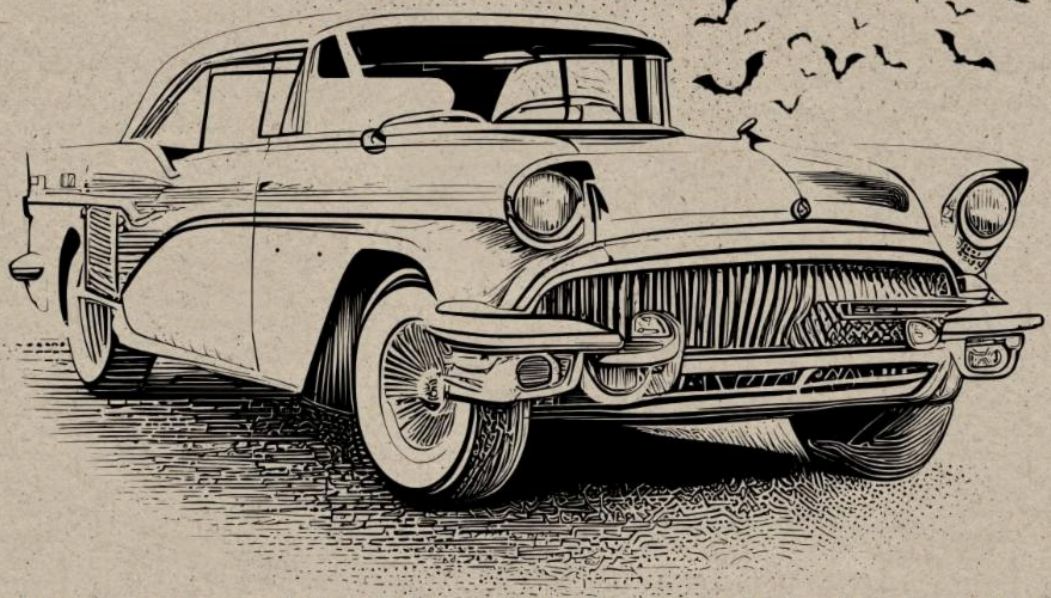
Send a short write-up and a few photos to *assistant@custersd.com* — we can't wait to feature YOU! 📸




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

Classic Car

TRUNK OR TREAT



A twist on our normal Show & Shine event. The event will take place during the Merchant's Trick or Treat. Bring your classic car down to S&B Motor Parts and candy for the Trick or Treaters! Bonus for costumes...you or your car!

**There is no registration fee for this event. All are welcome!

S&B MOTOR PARTS, 700 MT. RUSHMORE RD, CUSTER

30

OCTOBER

4PM-6PM

PRESENTED BY:

Custer StateFarm™

S&B MOTOR PARTS
Custer, SD

Save the Date

Red GALA

November 5, 2026

The Box - 6:00-9:30 PM
631 Watiki Way, Box Elder, SD 57719

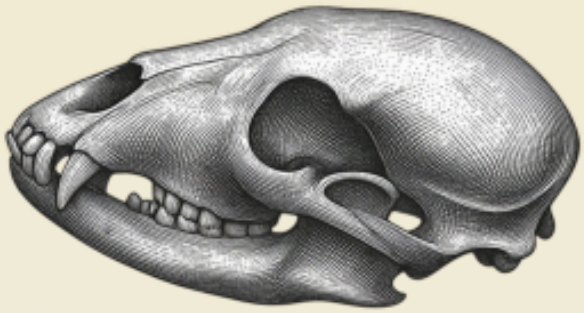
An evening benefiting the Ronald McDonald House - House in the Hills. Join us as we celebrate and "fill the house" with critical items that make the House a home for families who need it most.

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

BLACK HILLS PARKS & FORESTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS







Field Notes

An Introduction to the Art of Nature Observation



Animal Tracking · *Black Hills Flora & Fauna* · *Wildlife Signs & Calls*



With Tom Tonkin, Education Specialist

1.5 hours	$10 per person	Group rate option	Interactive

Through photos, videos, and stories, you'll discover how naturalist skills can deepen your understanding of the natural world around us.

WHAT WE'LL EXPLORE

Animal tracking and survival techniques explained through real-world examples

The plants and wildlife of the Black Hills and surrounding ecosystems

Hidden meanings behind animal calls and signs

Interactive Q&A where you can test your knowledge and curiosity

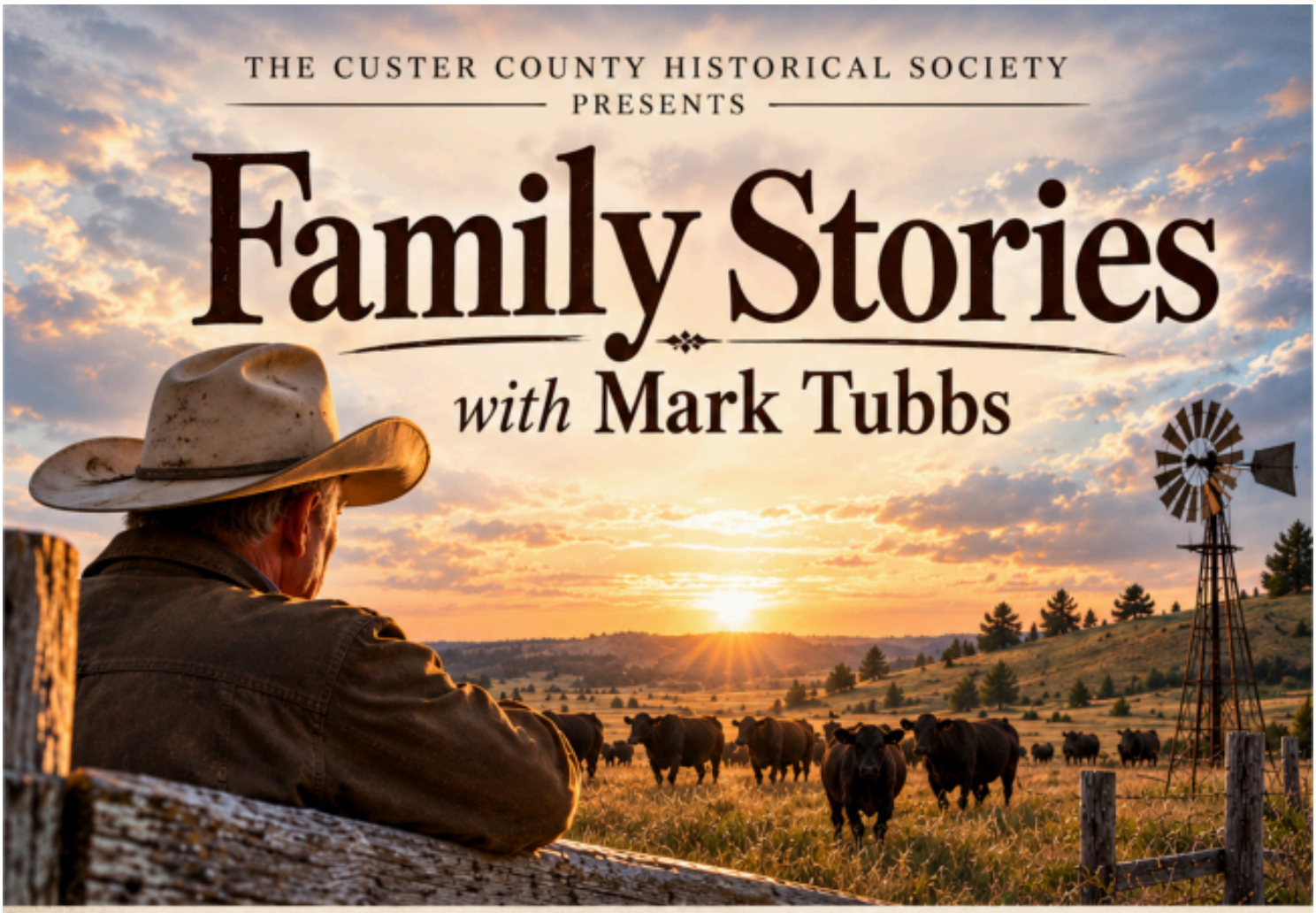


Find event information and purchase tickets here:

November 6th • 6:30PM-8PM • 833 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer SD

BLACK HILLS PARKS & FORESTS ASSOCIATION

BHPFA.ORG · BLACK HILLS, SOUTH DAKOTA



THE CUSTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

Family Stories

with Mark Tubbs

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

PINE ROOM
CUSTER COUNTY LIBRARY

2:30 P.M.
FOLLOWING A BRIEF UPDATE
FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT
AT 2:15 P.M.

THIS FREE PROGRAM IS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Join us as Mark Tubbs shares stories from a lifetime of ranching in northwestern Fall River County — stories of family, hard work, perseverance through challenging times, and a deep commitment to the land, ranching, and western South Dakota's agricultural heritage.



1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

411 MT. RUSHMORE RD. CUSTER, SD

★ OPEN ON ★

VETERANS DAY

WEDNESDAY, 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

Live Music &
Holiday Treasure Hunt

Create. Learn. Connect.

BLACKHILLSCREATIVEEXCHANGE.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORKSHOPS | CREATIVITY | COMMUNITY

Social Media for Creatives

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

3–5 PM | THE TRAILHOUSE

You love creating. Promoting your work? Not so much. Learn practical ways to use Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to share your work, create content, and connect with your audience—without the overwhelm or pressure to become an influencer.

$17.50 PER TICKET

REGISTER ONLINE:
blackhillscreativeexchange.com/event-details/social-media-for-creatives

Wool Ornaments (felting) Workshop

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

11 AM – 12:30 PM | THE TRAILHOUSE

Get into the holiday spirit with a hands-on workshop led by Tessah Behlings of Kaybee Handwovens. Learn to create charming, nature-inspired wool ornaments perfect for your tree or as handmade gifts.
All supplies are included. No experience is necessary!

$22.50 PER TICKET

REGISTER ONLINE:
blackhillscreativeexchange.com/event-details/wool-ornaments-workshop

Have ideas for future workshops?

Know a creative that would make a great workshop leader?
Drop us a note: BlackHillsCreativeExchange@gmail.com



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

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

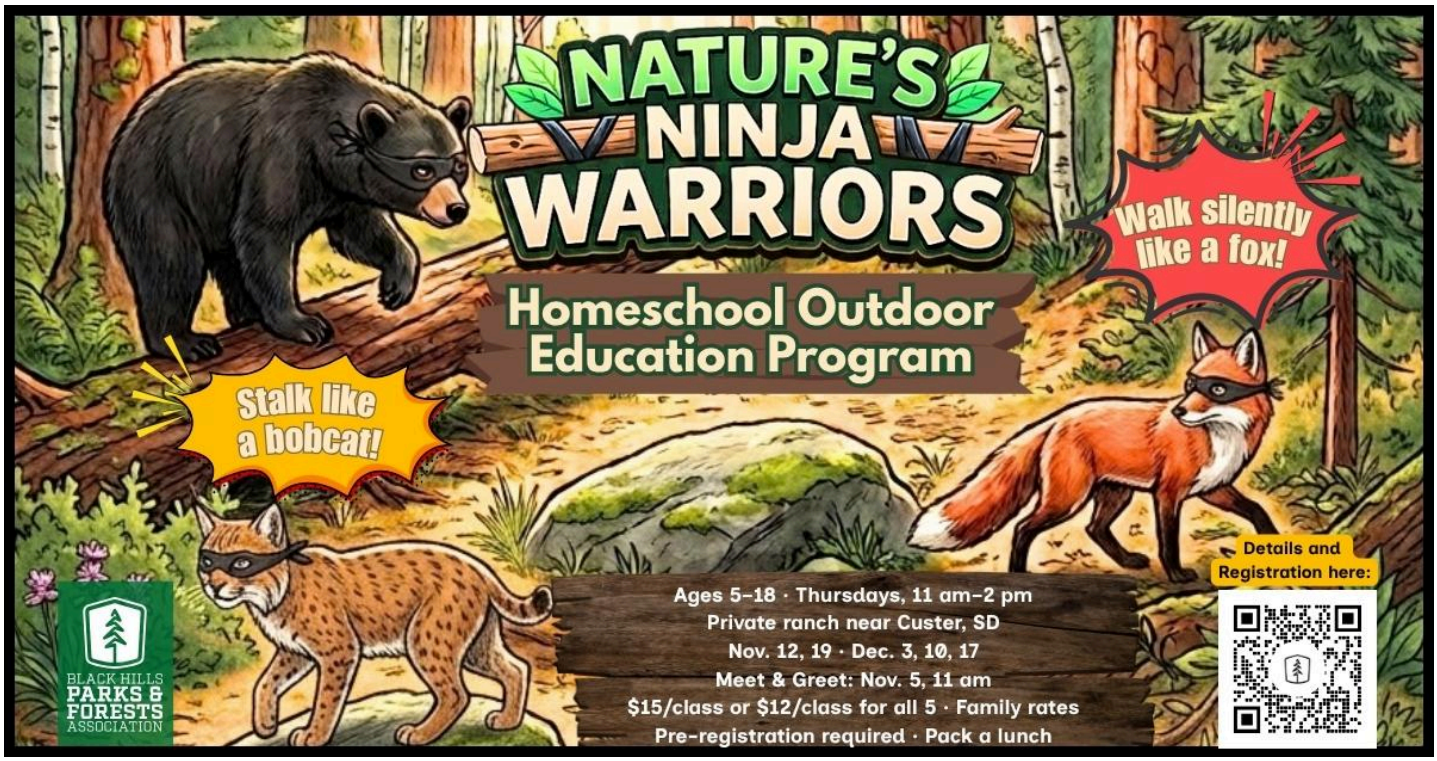
With a perfect balance of structured learning time for real world biology, naturalist skills, and unstructured safe forest exploration, your child will gain confidence, self-discipline, and a deep, active relationship with the natural world.

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

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

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

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



SANTA'S VILLAGE CRAFT FAIR



Shop for Christmas gifts
Support local vendors/businesses
Concessions available
Pictures with Santa from 10 AM-12 PM
Hourly door prizes
And lots more!

Date and time:
December 5th, 9 AM-3 PM
1645 Wildcat Lane, Custer SD

For More Information:
605-673-2222
erin.wilkins@ymcabh.org

Click for registration form

From Vine to Boutique

Fashion showcase

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

Done

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

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

WITH THE WIND
VINEYARD & WINERY

JQ CLOTHING CO.
EST. 2013




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


ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're Here All Year!

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

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

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





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



CUSTER COUNTY Candy COMPANY •EST. 2001



TEAMMATES
MENTORING

TeamMates.org



About TeamMates

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

OUR MISSION

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





Be Inspired: Become a mentor.

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

A TeamMates Mentor is:

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

83%

Mentors Feeling More Engaged at Home or Work

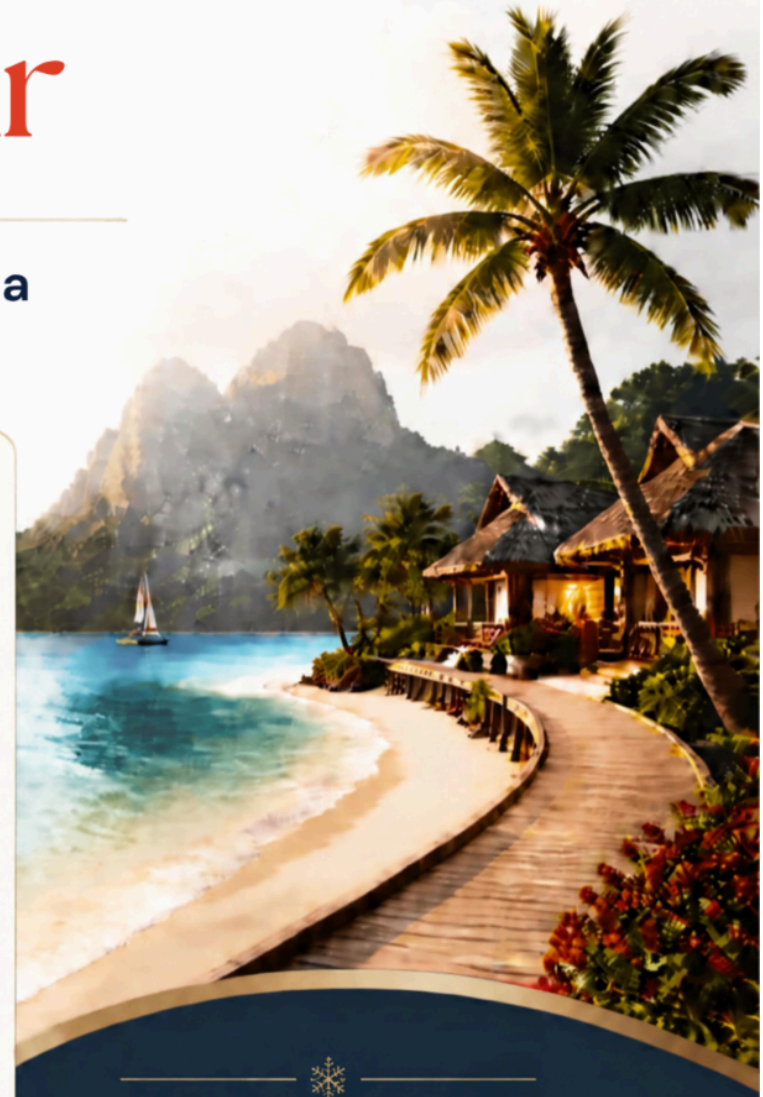
LITTLE WAVES LIFELONG RIPPLES

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

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

Christmas is in the Air

It's Not Too Late to Book a Holiday Adventure



Around The Map Travel

Your Local Travel Advisors

Our travel advising services are complimentary.

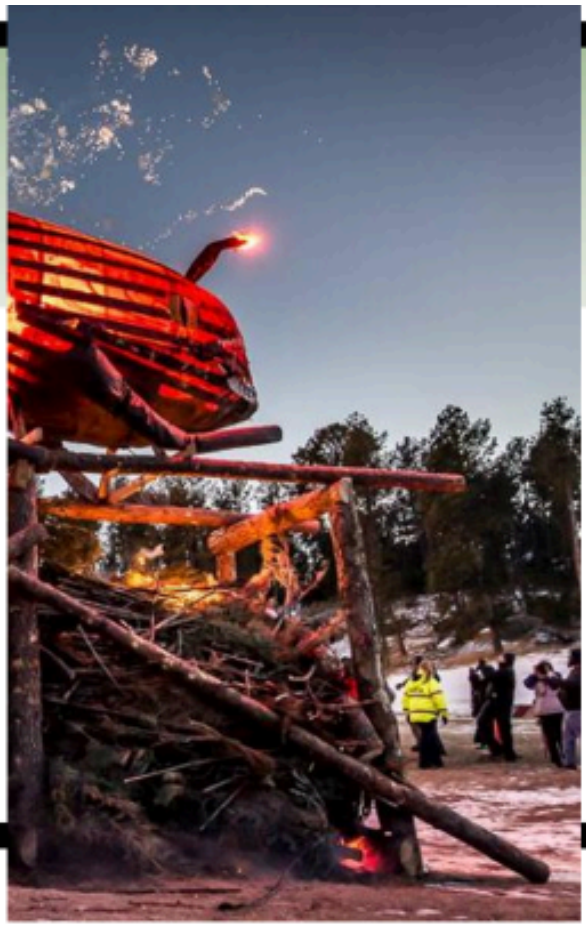
- all-inclusive getaways
- river cruises
- family vacations
- memorable holiday adventures

AROUND THE MAP TRAVEL

Scan to learn more and start planning

aroundthemaptravel1@gmail.com

307.760.7175



THE BURNING BEETLE

2027 SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

January 16, 2027

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

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

EVENT SPONSOR LEVELS

IN-KIND SPONSOR
Determined case-by-case

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

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

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

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

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

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

Custer Area Arts

NARFE FALL GATHERINGS

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

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

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Luncheon Begins at 11:30
Adjourn By 1:00

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

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

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

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

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Black Hills National Forest | September 2026

Black Hills National Forest

2026/2027 Off-Season Campground Information

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

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

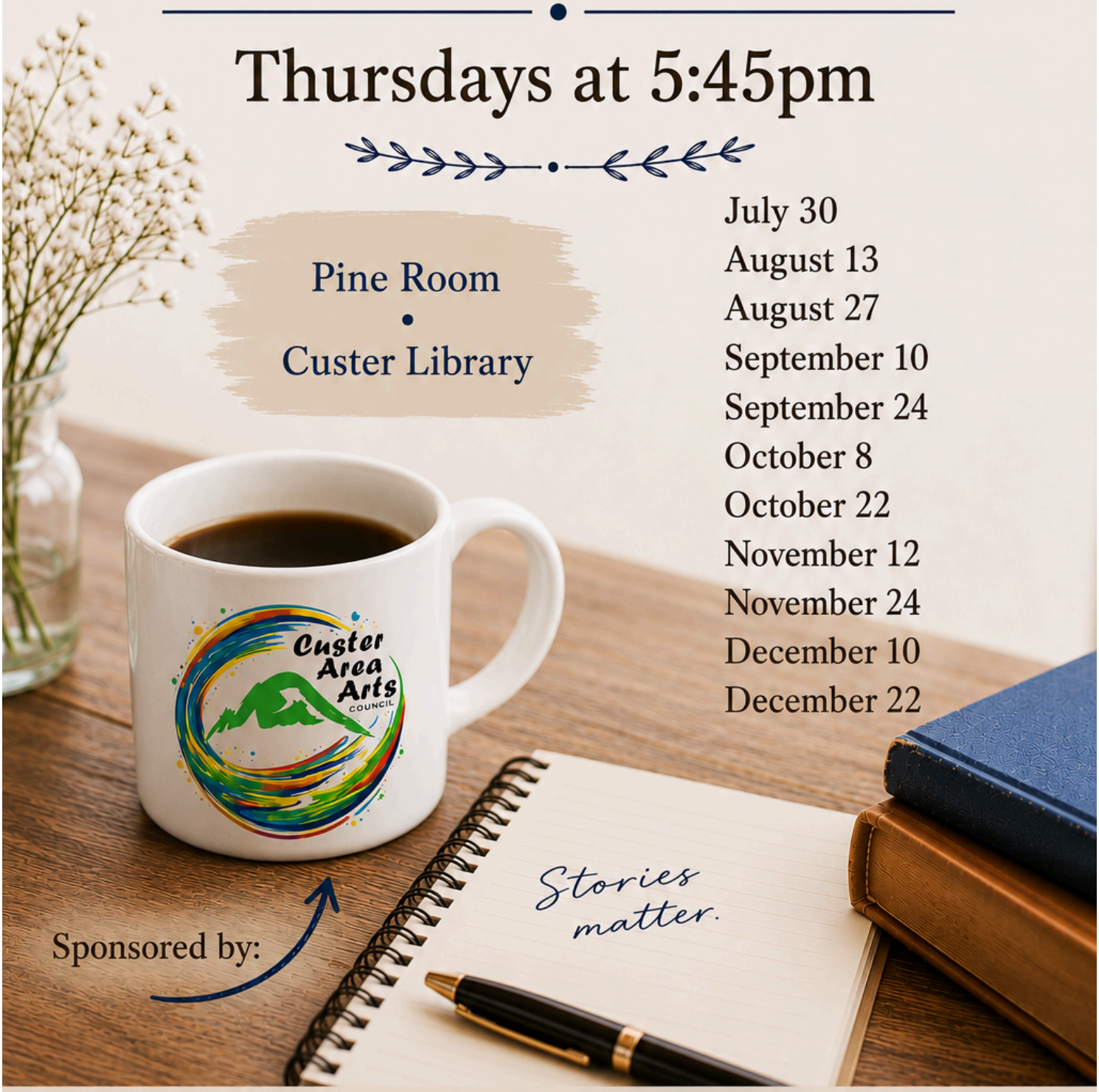
printable copy

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

Free & Open to the Public



TRAVEL SouthDakota

OCTOBER 2026
SDVISIT.COM





Greetings, Tourism Friends!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All our best,
Jim and Team



THEATRE 605
BLACK HILLS PLAYHOUSE

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

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

For Immediate Release

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

Deb Kuehn, 2026 Philanthropist of the Year

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

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

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

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

BankWest, 2026 Corporate Philanthropist of the Year

BankWest's ties to the theatre began in the 1940s, when Charles Burke II, father of the bank's current COO, was working in Custer State Park as a University of South Dakota intern. He came across Camp Lodge, an abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and it was proposed as a home for the new Black Hills Playhouse. Gov. Sharpe gave his approval.

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

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

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

###

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

About Theatre 605

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





U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

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

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

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

Low-interest disaster loans now available

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

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

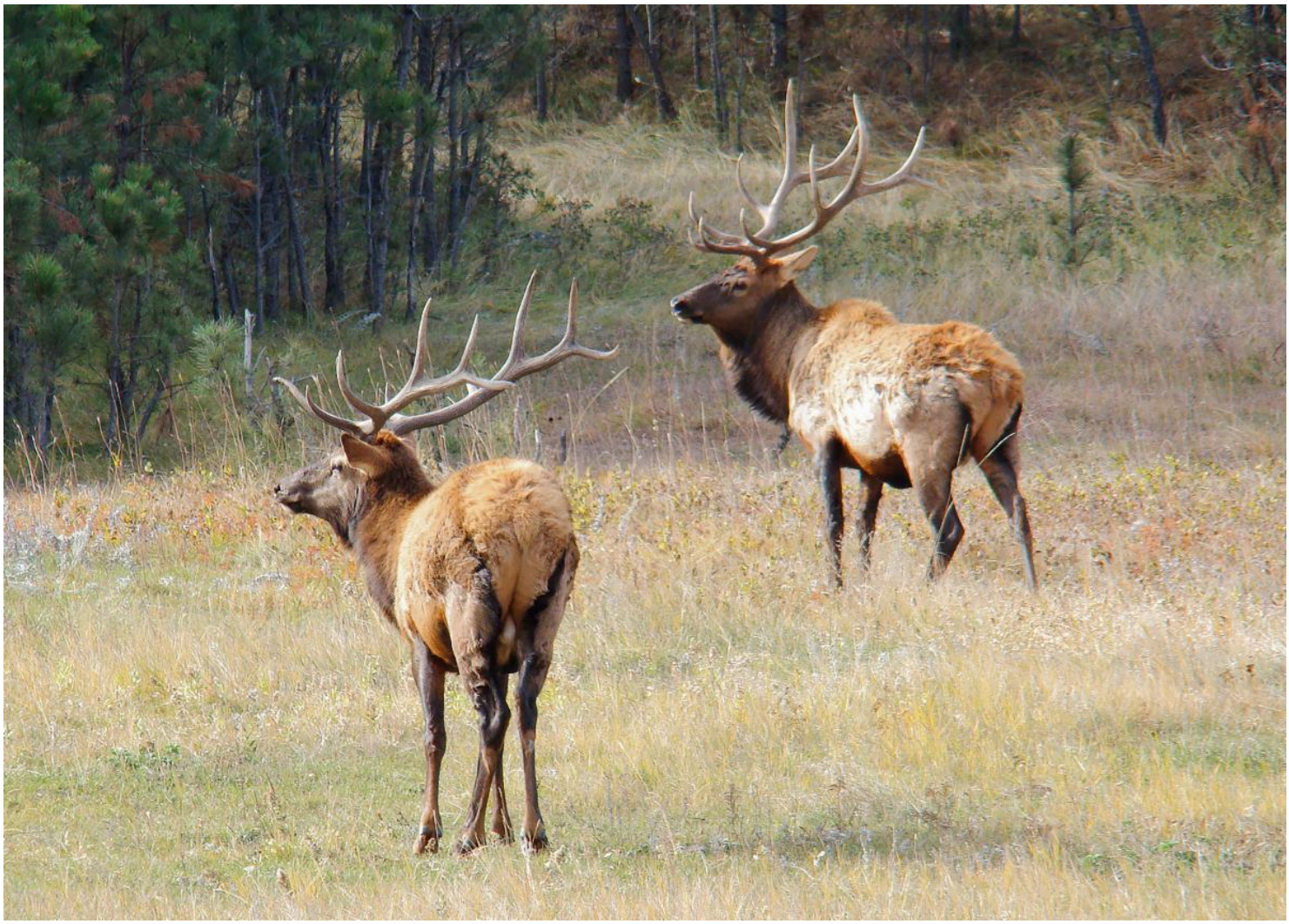
Businesses and nonprofits are eligible to apply for physical damage loans and may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery, and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Fall Cave Tour Schedule

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

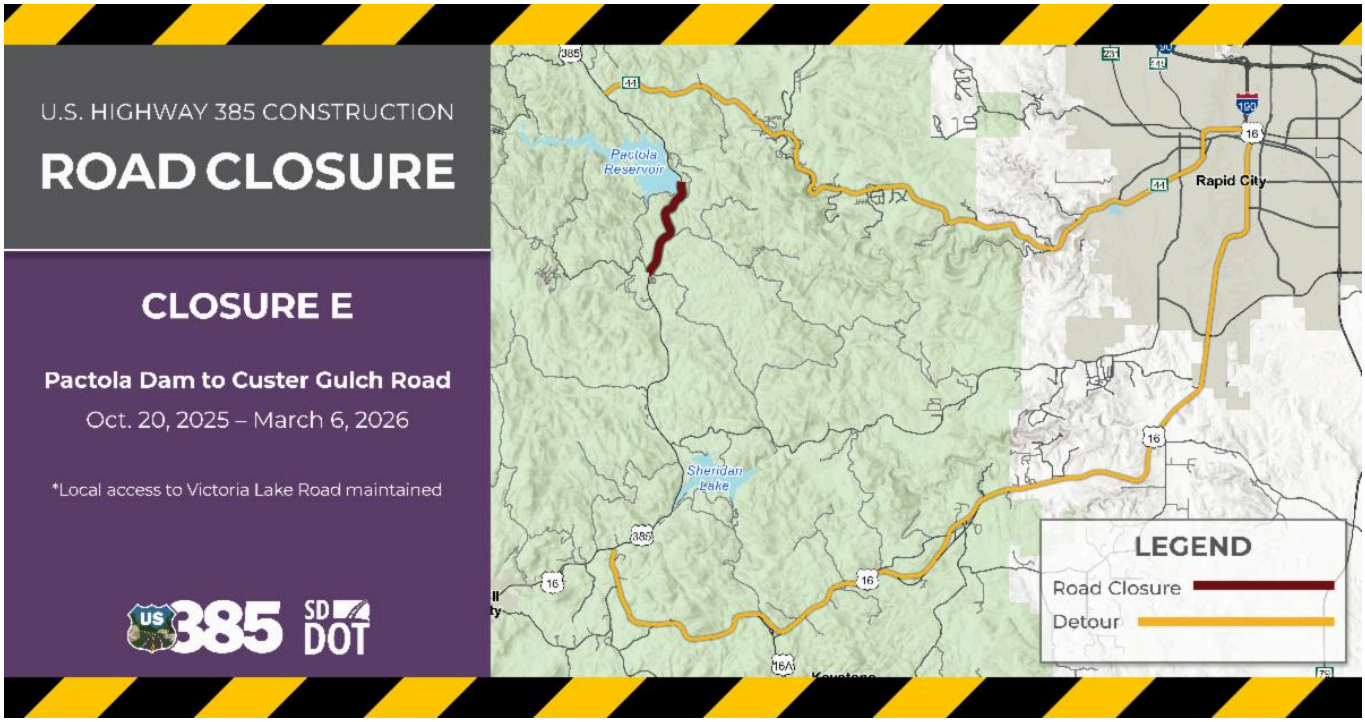
- The Natural Entrance tour lasts approximately 75 minutes and involves 300 stairs and is offered through September.
- The Fairgrounds tour lasts 1.5 hours and involves 450 stairs and will be offered starting October 1.
- The Garden of Eden tour lasts one hour and involves 150 stairs and is offered year-around.

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

Fall Visitor Center Hours

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





View Construction Updates

Construction Zone Reminders

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

Stay Connected

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

A free text-in service is being used to communicate any major traffic changes. To subscribe, simply text “US385” to605-566-4041. Subscribers can unsubscribe at any time.

HWY 385 ROUTING INITIATIVE



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

Visit Route Reimagined

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

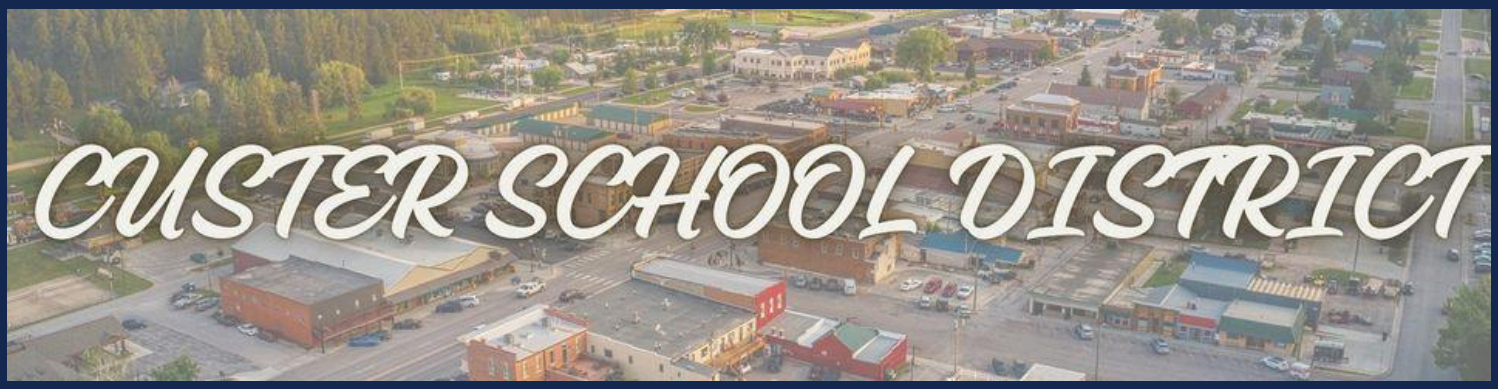
To subscribe, simply text “US385” to 605-566-4041.
Subscribers can unsubscribe at any time.





November Activities





To educate every student
to his or her potential

SEPT 2026 ~CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
TIDBITS & CSD Job Vacancies



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Now Hiring

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WEEKEND HELP
Perfect for high school students!

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★★★★★
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

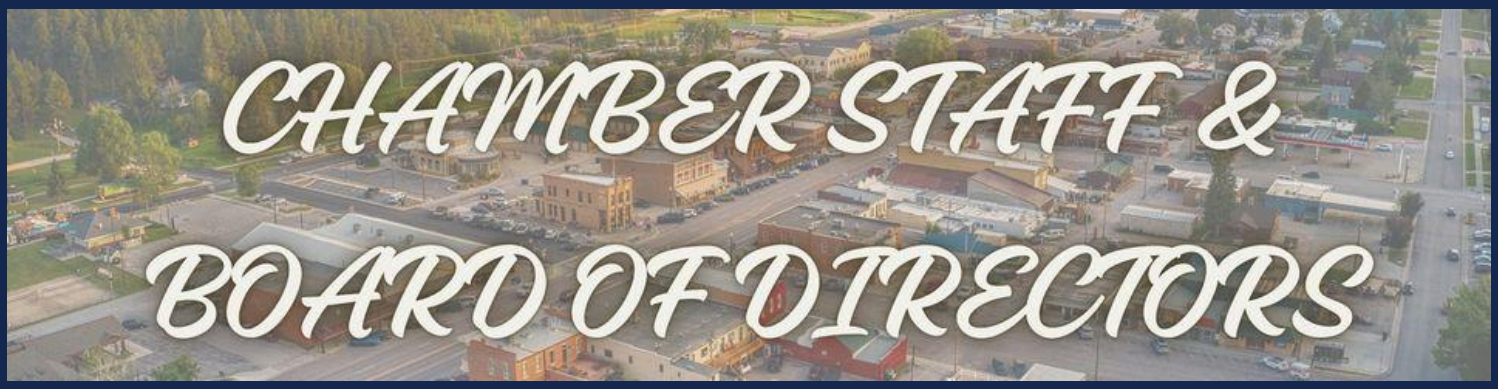
Monday through Friday

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
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Office Assistant
bytes@custersd.com

Joel Behlings
Information Associate
info@custersd.com

2026

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Corey Virtue - Vice President

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Carrie Moore- Secretary

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Lydia Austin - CSP Liaison

Jessica Noteboom - BID Board Liaison



Our Address:
615 Washington Street
Custer, SD 57730

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

dmurray@custersd.com /*custersd.com*

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Chamber of Commerce

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