



Buffalo Bytes



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

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

To be included in Buffalo Bytes, please email your items to bytes@custersd.com.
Submissions must be received by Wednesday at 5:00 PM to be included in that week's issue.
Thank you!

CUSTER CONNECTIONS

You may have noticed a lot of bicyclists around town recently—and there's a good reason! The 28th Annual Mickelson Trail Trek is underway!

From Friday through Sunday, more than 600 riders will take on all 109 miles of the Mickelson Trail. With riders beginning their trek in Custer on Friday and Saturday mornings, there will be plenty of activity around town throughout the weekend.

Each registered participant receives \$10 in Mickelson Trail Cash to spend at local businesses. You do not need to be a Custer Cash participant to accept Trail Cash.

NEW THIS YEAR: Mickelson Trail Cash is valid only on purchases of \$10 or more. This change is intended to help businesses minimize the amount of change needed while still giving riders flexibility when using their Trail Cash.

Businesses: Please remember to turn all Mickelson Trail Cash in to the Custer Chamber for reimbursement. Trail Cash should no longer be accepted after September 21.

The Custer Burger Battle is still underway! With 9 participating restaurants, there are plenty of delicious contenders to try. Get out, grab a burger, enjoy some Custer flavors, and don't forget to vote for your favorite!

Tonight, Chamber staff will host a welcome reception at Mt. Rushmore Brewing Co. We're grateful for their partnership and for all of the sponsors and local businesses that help make the Mickelson Trail Trek a success. It's always a fun evening welcoming riders and their families to Custer!

We're looking forward to another great weekend in Custer. Thank you to our community and businesses for helping us welcome all of our visitors!

ride on!

the 28th annual mickelson trail trek

The Black Hills of South Dakota

WELCOME

MICKELSON TRAIL TREK RIDERS!

TRAIL TREK RECEPTION

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

MT. RUSHMORE BREWING CO. | CUSTER CHAMBER

COMPLIMENTARY FOR REGISTERED TRAIL TREK PARTICIPANTS

CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

WITH SPECIAL SUPPORT FROM OUR FRIENDS:

BAVARIAN INN
TALLGRASS
Black Hills Energy
CUSTER BREWING CO.
CUSTER HOSPITALITY
Dakota Bank
Deep Creek Gallery
VFW



Dawn Murray
Executive Director

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

[Click to download calendar](#)



September 17

Mickelson Trail Trek Reception

September 18-20

Mickelson Trail Trek

October 15

Chamber Annual Awards Dinner

State Park Events Barn

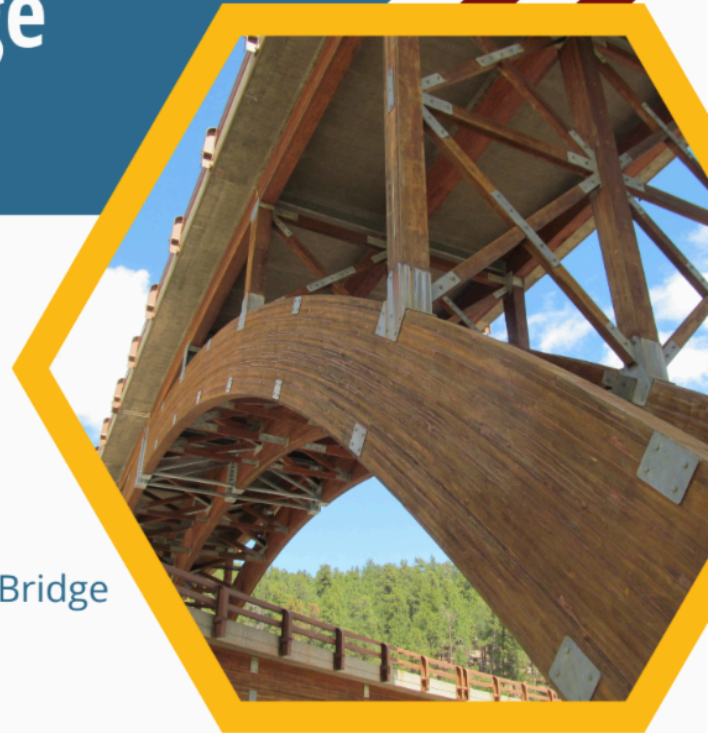
5:30pm



U.S. HIGHWAY 16A

Keystone WYE Bridge

SD  DOT



CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Tentative Schedule:

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

Location:

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

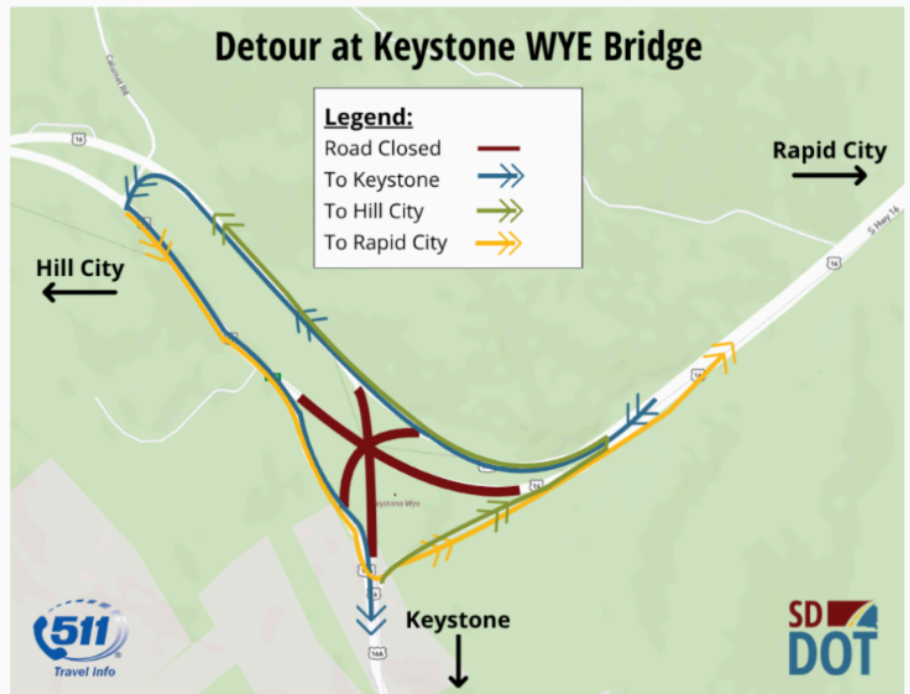
Benefits:

- Bridge Deck Overlay
- Bridge Repair

Alerts:

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

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



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

CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



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	<i>Still Available</i>	2/25/2027
MARCH	Custer Senior Center	3/25/2027
MAY	Lewis Realty	5/27/2027
SEPTEMBER	Black Hills Parks & Forest	9/30/2027
NOVEMBER	Edward Jones	11/18/2027
DECEMBER	Lampert Real Estate	12/9/2027

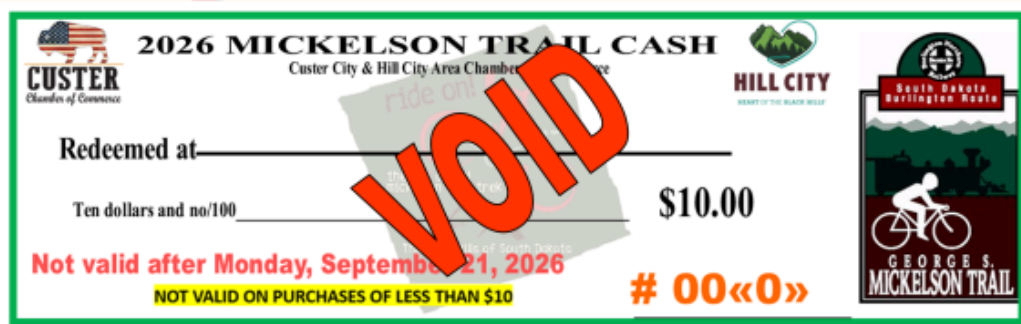
Networking Happens Here!

CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA
MINUTES NOT MILES FROM ADVENTURE

Attention Custer & Hill City Businesses

Mickelson Trail Trek

Sept 18-20 2026



Over 610 riders will arrive to the area on Thursday, Sept 17 to get checked in for the ride. They will ride from Custer to Edgemont on the 18th and return to Custer in the evening. They will then ride from Custer to Rochford on the 19th, with a snack break in Hill City, and on the 20th will be bussed to Rochford to complete their ride to Deadwood.

Each participant will be given \$10.00 in Mickelson Trail Trek Cash to be used at local businesses on purchases over \$10. This guideline was added to help businesses keep the amount of change they need to provide to a minimum while still giving customers flexibility to use their Cash. There is an expiration date of September 21st. Please do not accept after this date. You will turn in all the Mickelson Trail Cash that your business receives to the Custer Chamber for reimbursement.

Trek cash can be mailed to:

Custer Chamber
PO Box 5018
Custer, SD 57730

OR

Trek cash can be dropped off at:

Custer Chamber
615 Washington St
Custer, SD 57730

**Your business does not need
to be a Custer Cash or Hill City Chamber Bucks Participant
to accept Mickelson Trail Trek Cash**



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



2026 ANNUAL CHAMBER
**MEMBERSHIP
AWARDS BANQUET**

Sponsorship



GOLD SPONSOR ~ \$350

includes 3 free meals



SILVER SPONSOR ~ \$250

includes 2 free meals



BRONZE SPONSOR ~ \$150

includes 1 free meal



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

Sponsoring this event is an opportunity
to showcase your business and show your

community support.

Your sponsorship will be announced during the banquet

your sponsorship will be announced during the banquet
and printed on all published materials.

we're now accepting

NOMINATIONS

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

- HEART OF CUSTER
- COMMUNITY TEAM/SERVICE
- INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
- NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- CUSTER'S RISING STAR

NOMINATIONS DUE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



OCTOBER
15
2026



6 PM



CUSTER STATE PARK
EVENT BARN



SCAN
HERE
TO SUBMIT
NOMINATIONS



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

Social Hour 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Award Presentations

Adjourn 8:30 pm

Custom Buffet Dinner featuring:

Pan Seared Chicken with a creamy wild mushroom Sauce

Herb Walleye with a Citrus Beurre Blanc

Slow Roasted Beef Pot Roast with gravy

Served with:

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

Dessert

Triple Layer Chocolate Cake

\$60/person (includes drink ticket)

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

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

GET REGISTERED

Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram



September 16



1. Adventure Rentals
2. Aflac- Matti Schrivvers
3. Bavarian Inn
4. Black Hills Lifestyle Magazine
5. Bradeen Real Estate and Auction Services
6. Busy Ewe Farm & Fibers
7. Christy Chamberlain & Bob Reich
8. City of Custer
9. Crazy Horse Memorial
10. Custer State Farm- Steve Engelbrecht Agent
11. Dakota Photographic
12. Deep Creek Art Gallery
13. EO Bungalows
14. Feel Good Café
15. J & M Lawncare LLC
16. Kieffer Sanitation
17. Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC
18. LFC Veterinary Service
19. LJ's Recovery & Transport
20. Local Black Hills

21. Local Black Hills
22. Mammoth Site
23. New Trails Ministry
24. NXTLAW PC
25. Operation Black Hills Cabin
26. Pain & Movement Solutions
27. Rabbitt Bicycles Rental & Repair
28. Rising Hope Counseling, LLC
29. Starr Insurance
30. Stars & Stripes by Steph
31. Steve and Yolanda Davis
32. Stockade Lake Cabin
33. Valhalla Legal, PLLC
34. Weather Tite Exteriors
35. Western Tire Chain, LLC
36. American Legion Post 36
37. Custer Mile High Garden Club
38. Colleen Hennesy & Jim Frank
39. Big Pine Campground
40. Reptile Gardens
41. Tanglewood Estate
42. Mickelson Trail Affiliates
43. Custer Senior Center
44. All Net Connections
45. Rush Mountain Adventure Park
46. Sprockets Fun Foundry
47. Custer Mt Rushmore KOA
48. The Hills Finest- Bridal by Michelle
49. Star Ridge Advertisements
50. South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
51. Custer County Democrats
52. American Family Insurance- Ronni Calvird Agency, Inc
53. Custer's Gulch RV Park
54. Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc



Built Right Roofing & Construction
Network Troubleshooting & Installation LLC
John's Handyman Service

The Black Hills Bakery- Gluten Free
Black Hills Disc Golf Club
Hobo's Healing Heart
Black Hills Roofing
Wolff's Plumbing & Heating





CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

2026 Custer
Chamber

Member Spotlight



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

Join today and be our next Member Spotlight!

✨ THIS COULD BE YOU! ✨

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

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

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

☀️ Join today. Be our next Member Spotlight! ☀️

We love shining a light on the amazing businesses that make our community great! ❤️
Would you like to see your business in the spotlight? ✨

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





**UNITED
WAY**

FUNDRAISER

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



JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

August 26 – October 14, 2026

AT THE CUSTER BEACON

FOR BINGO, FUN & TO SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

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

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



FREE!!

FREE!!



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

SPARK KIDS

starts on Sept 16th!

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

For children in Jr Kdg-5th grades

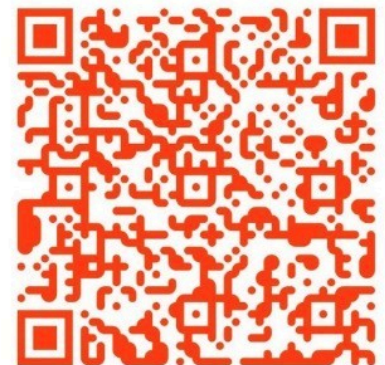
After School the kids ride the "Fun Bus" to church!

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

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



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



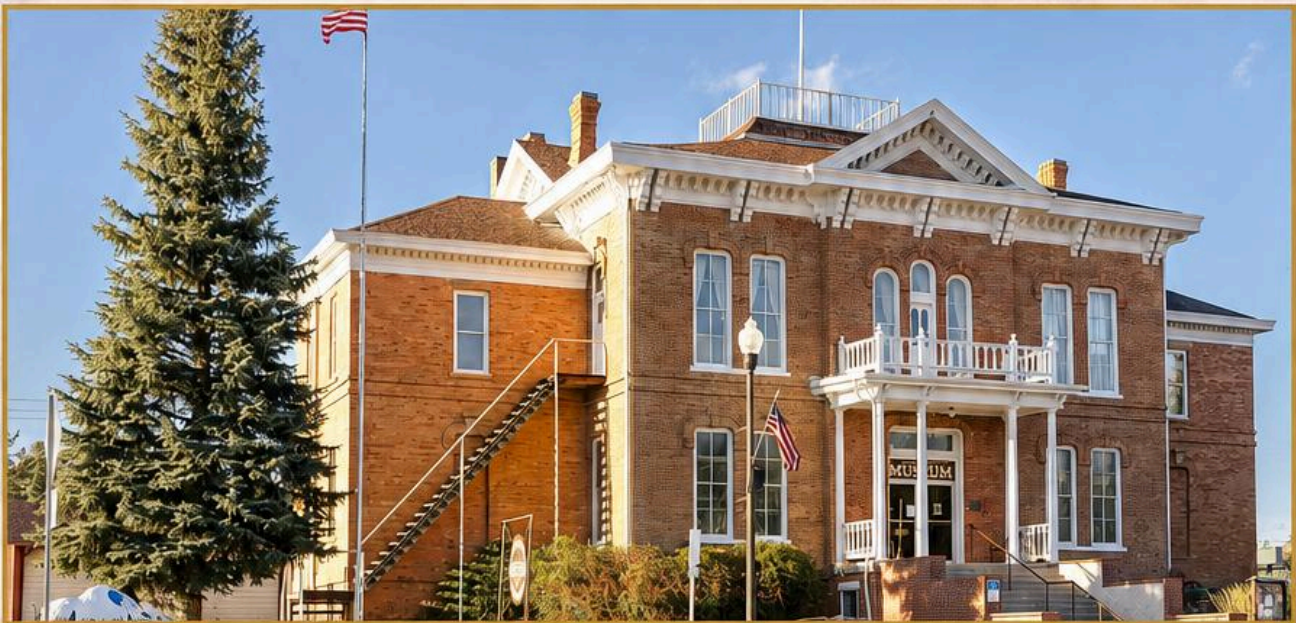
CONSTITUTION BEE

A FUN, FRIENDLY TEST OF CONSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Celebrating America's 250th Year

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM



AGES 8-11

PRIZES!



AGES 12-15+

PRIZES!



Open to youth in Custer County.

Come test your knowledge of the U.S. Constitution
in a fun, friendly competition.

Costumes encouraged!

FREE TO ENTER

Pre-registration encouraged • Name, age & parent contact information

1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net • 605-673-2443

Day-of registration & check-in: 10:30–10:45 AM • Competition begins at 11:00 AM

CLASSIC CAR SHOW & SHINE

FUNDRAISER FOR CUSTER COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

6PM-730PM

S&B MOTOR PARTS

700 MT. RUSHMORE RD, CUSTER



**JOIN US FOR A GOOD OLD FASHIONED
SHOW AND SHINE!
WE WILL BE OFFERING A
MEAL AT FREE WILL
DONATION BENEFITTING:**

THE FRIENDS OF CUSTER
COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE



Magic's

5th

Gotcha
Day
Extravaganza

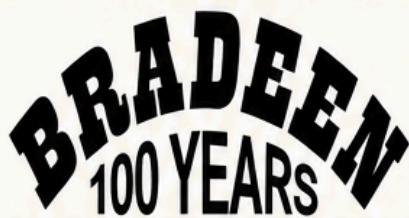
to benefit Battle Mountain Humane Society



Items Needed:

Purina Dog Chow,
Purina Cat Chow
(Complete), cat &
dog toys, nitrile
gloves (medium &
large), sheets, paper
towels, Windex.

Sept. 21-26 | Petals & Pages | 21 N. 4th Street



REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS

Ron Bradeen - Jeff Storm - Travis Mayer, Auctioneers

605-673-2629 • Custer, SD

www.bradeenauction.com

STATE SURPLUS VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT ★ AUCTIONS ★

SD SURPLUS PROPERTY PUBLIC AUCTIONS

★ THREE AUCTIONS • THREE LOCATIONS • GREAT SELECTION! ★

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
10:00AM CDT**



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGION OFFICE
2529 W. HWY 12
ABERDEEN, SD

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
10:00AM CDT**



EXPO COMMUNITY CENTER/
STANLEY COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
320 S. CASEY TIBBS ST.
FORT PIERRE, SD

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
10:00AM CDT**



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
5801 S HWY 79
RAPID CITY, SD

VEHICLES:

'19 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4; 3-'18 Dodge Ram 3500 4x4; '17 & '18 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4; '16 Chevy 3500 4x4; '16 Ford F350 4x4; '16 Chevy 2500 4x4; '15 & '16 Chevy 1500 4x4; '00 Chevy 1500 4x4; '07 Chevy Impala;

TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT: '07 Sterling LT9500 w/plow; skid steer backhoe attachment; '94 16' flatbed trailer; '77 Trailer w/sandblaster; portable fuel tanks; '22 Tiger flail mower; JD D120 mower.

MISC.: Toro snow blowers; Huskee push mower; Truck tires & tires w/rims; Parts washer; Stihl equip.; Dewalt tools; Pickup tool boxes; Used tires; cabinets; chairs; sneeze guards; Exam table & trays; Desks and more misc. items.

VEHICLES:

'15, '16, '19 Chevy Tahoe's; '07 & '19 Dodge Caravan; '19 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4; '20 & '22 Ford Expedition; '17 Ford Taurus; '18, '19 & '20 Dodge Durango; '13, '17, '19, '20 & '21 Chevy Suburban's; '08, '09, '15 & '18 Chevy 1500 4x4; '08, '13, '14 Chevy Impala; '07 & '21 Ford F150 4x4; '17, '18, '20 & '21 Ford Explorer; '20 & '21 Ford Interceptor police; 2-'21 Chevy 2500 4x4; 4-'20 & '21 Chevy Equinox; '19 & '20 Chevy Malibu; '13 Chrysler 200; '02 Chevy Trailblazer; '06 Ford Ranger; '05 Chevy Astro Van; '01 Ford Van; '97 Ford CW3 van;

EQUIPMENT & RECREATIONAL:

'94 Bobcat skidsteer; '90 Ford F800 dump truck; '20 Dodge 1500 (motor bad); '15 Yamaha 700 Grizzly; '00 & '15 Yamaha Big Bear 400 ATV; '04 JD 1435 Mower; '95 Kawasaki 300 ATV; Lexmark mower; Onan 12KW standby generator; Generac 240v 3p Standby generator.

FIREARMS:

2-Ruger American .22 cal. w/Leupold optics; Remington 870 12 ga.; buckets of brass.

MISC.:

Office items; Tables; Chairs; recliners; bookshelves; electronics; display stands and so much more.

VEHICLES:

5-'17 & '18 Dodge 1500 4x4; '09, '10, '13 & '15 Ford F250 4x4; '15 & '16 Chevy 1500 4x4; '11 Dodge Dakota; '16 Chevy 2500 4x4 w/alum. Bed; '13 & '15 Ford F350 4x4; '13 & '14 Ford F150; 4-'12 Chevy Impala; '09 Ford F350 4x4 w/flatbed; '09 Ford F550 w/service body.

TRACTORS, TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT:

'01 Case MX110; H&H 7'x28' Enclosed trailer; '00 Sterling LT9500 truck w/plow; '98 Road King 8'x20' flatbed; '96 JD 310D Backhoe; '95 6'x10' enclosed trailer; JD GX335 mower; Case IH 1300 sickle mower; Miller 3pt stump grinder; Bobcat auger attachment; Honda EB3500X generator; 3 pt sprayer; Champion 1500w generator; Stihl equip.; Olsen MFG band saw; Honda 3500w generator; Solid skidsteer tires; 2000 gal. plastic water tank; (9) Honda trash pumps; Steel for a used 30"x84" lean too taken down and on pallets; Vinyl fencing; Waste pile located SDDOT yard Buffalo SD Approx. 835 yards; 20-15"x30" steel culverts; 7-18"x20" steel culverts; 20-6"to8" 12.5' wood posts; 8"x12"x22.5" wood blocks; 240-6"x8"x22" wood blocks; 8'x6"x6" wood posts (23 stacks of 25 posts each); 12.5' steel used guard rail (28 stacks of 30 each); 20-½' cable rolls; Aviation radio equipment; Carrier electric furnace; Shop items; Office equip.; steel lockers and misc. items.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT **WWW.SDSURPLUSPROPERTY.COM** OR CALL



*Meals on Wheels Golf
Tournament*

ANNUAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

ENTRY FEE

\$300 Per Team

4-Man Scramble-18 holes
Pin Prizes
Door Prizes
Silent Auction

✦ **SEPTEMBER 26TH AT 10:00 AM** ✦

Rocky Knolls Golf Course, Custer, SD

Prizes for best dressed team
Carts are not included



CUSTER STATE FARM

MEDICARE MADE SIMPLE:

Understanding Your Options.

Join Steve from Custer State Farm, for a free, easy-to-understand presentation designed to make you feel confident about your medicare choices.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

6:00PM-7:30PM

PINE ROOM

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY



605-673-4141



www.protectcuster.com



Custer County Pine Room
447 Crook Street
Custer, SD 57730





WITCHES NIGHT OUT

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30 | 4-7 PM

BROOM DECORATING

CLASSES AT 4:30 & 6 PM

TAROT CARD READING

REIKI ENERGY HEALING

WITH DEEPLY WELL

SALDARE PERMANENT

JEWELRY

PLUS SNACKS AND

SHOPPING DEALS!



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

OCTOBER 3 | 11 AM - 9 PM

BUFFALO RIDGE CAMP RESORT

245 CENTENNIAL DRIVE, CUSTER, SD 57730

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





BANNED BOOKS READ-IN

JOIN OUR READ-IN TO PROTEST BOOK BANS.



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

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

Silent
BOOK CLUB




Libro.fm

IMPACT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT 2026

Strengthening Leaders · Connecting Community · Custer, SD

Facilitated by the Custer Area Economic Development Corporation

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



WHAT TO EXPECT:

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

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

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

EVENT DETAILS:

WHEN:

Every Monday
October 5 – November 16, 2026

TIME:

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

WHERE:

The Trailhouse
in Custer, SD

HOW TO REGISTER:

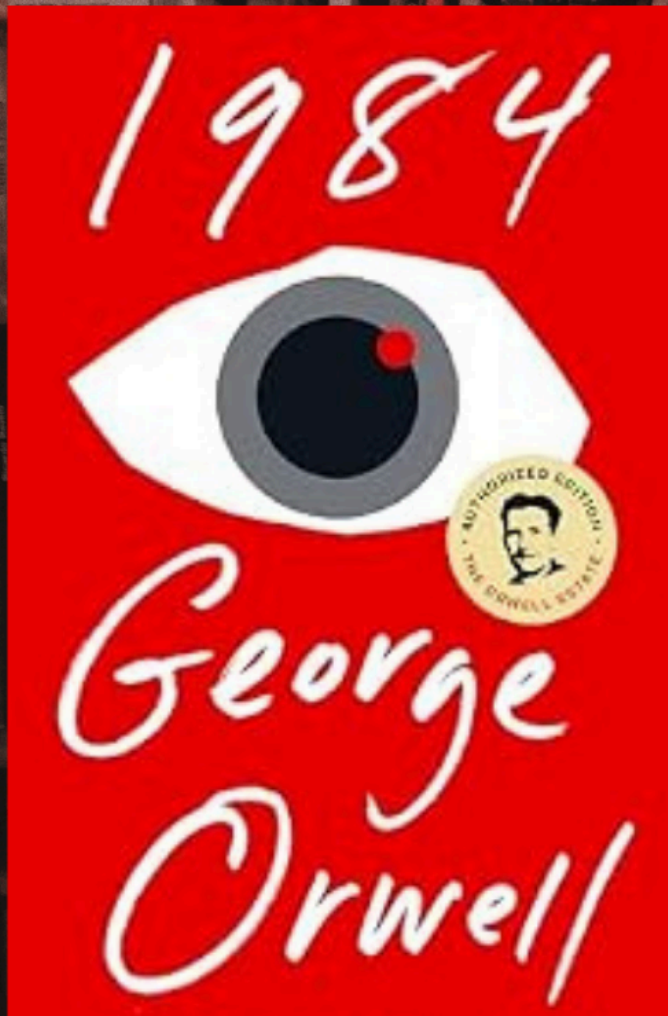
SCAN TO REGISTER



bit.ly/IMPACT2026Custer

Questions? Email: custeredc@gmail.com

The Bookquet



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

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

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 National Forest Off-Season Camping Information

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

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

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

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



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Black Hills National Forest | September 2026

Black Hills National Forest 2026/2027 Off-Season Campground Information

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

Closed for the Off-Season on October 1: Bear Gulch Group Campground, Dalton, Grizzly, Horsethief Lake, Greville, 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.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Black Hills National Forest

STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

The current restrictions are in effect starting 12:01 a.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026, through December 27, 2026, unless rescinded earlier.

Fires, Campfires, and Stove Fires



PROHIBITED: Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, including charcoal and briquettes.

Propane and Liquid Petroleum Devices



PERMITTED: Devices fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.



Vehicles

PROHIBITED: Possessing or using a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails or established parking areas, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the vehicle.



Explosives

ALWAYS PROHIBITED: Using explosives, including fireworks, flares, exploding targets, or other incendiary devices.

Smoking



PROHIBITED: Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, or building.

Welding



PROHIBITED: Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame

Black Hills National Forest

1019 N. 5th Street
Custer, SD 57730

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills>
(605) 673-9200

Mountainview
BAPTIST CHURCH

ANCHOR CLUB

BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 2026

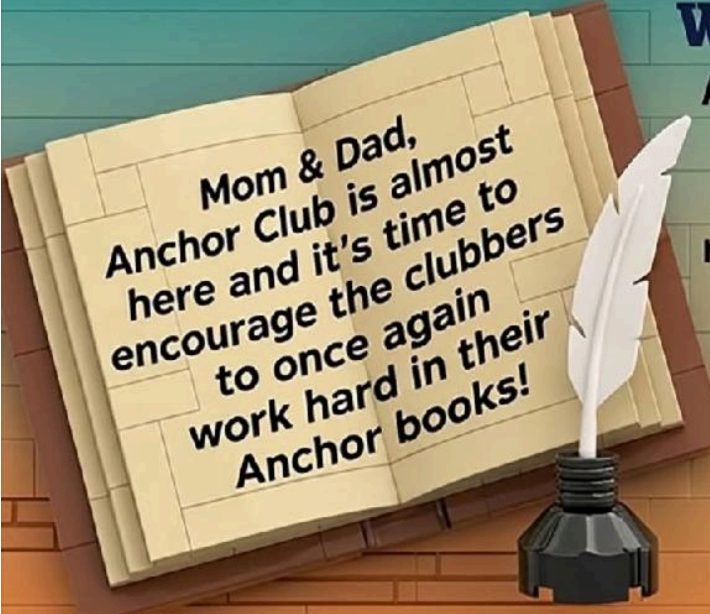
WHAT IS ANCHOR CLUB?

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

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

WHO? K5 thru 6th grades

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



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

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

FREE TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE!

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



Mountainview
BAPTIST CHURCH

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(next to the Custer airport)

605-673-2498

www.mountainviewbaptistcuster.com



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

PAGEANT HILL THURSDAY LEAGUE



Join us every Thursday for competition
and fun!



THURSDAYS



**ROUND STARTS
5:30 PM**

**MEET AT:
THE PAVILION**

**Every Thursday,
April-October**

Contact:

✉ jellis0836@me.com

Sponsored by:



Custer Writers Group

Thursdays at 5:45pm



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

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Free & Open to the Public

Debunking five common Social Security myths

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

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

Myth 1: Social Security is going broke.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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I can help simplify life insurance



Steve Engelbrecht
Agent

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Bus: 605-673-4141
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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.





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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jess McMillin Joins First Interstate as Senior Community Branch Manager

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

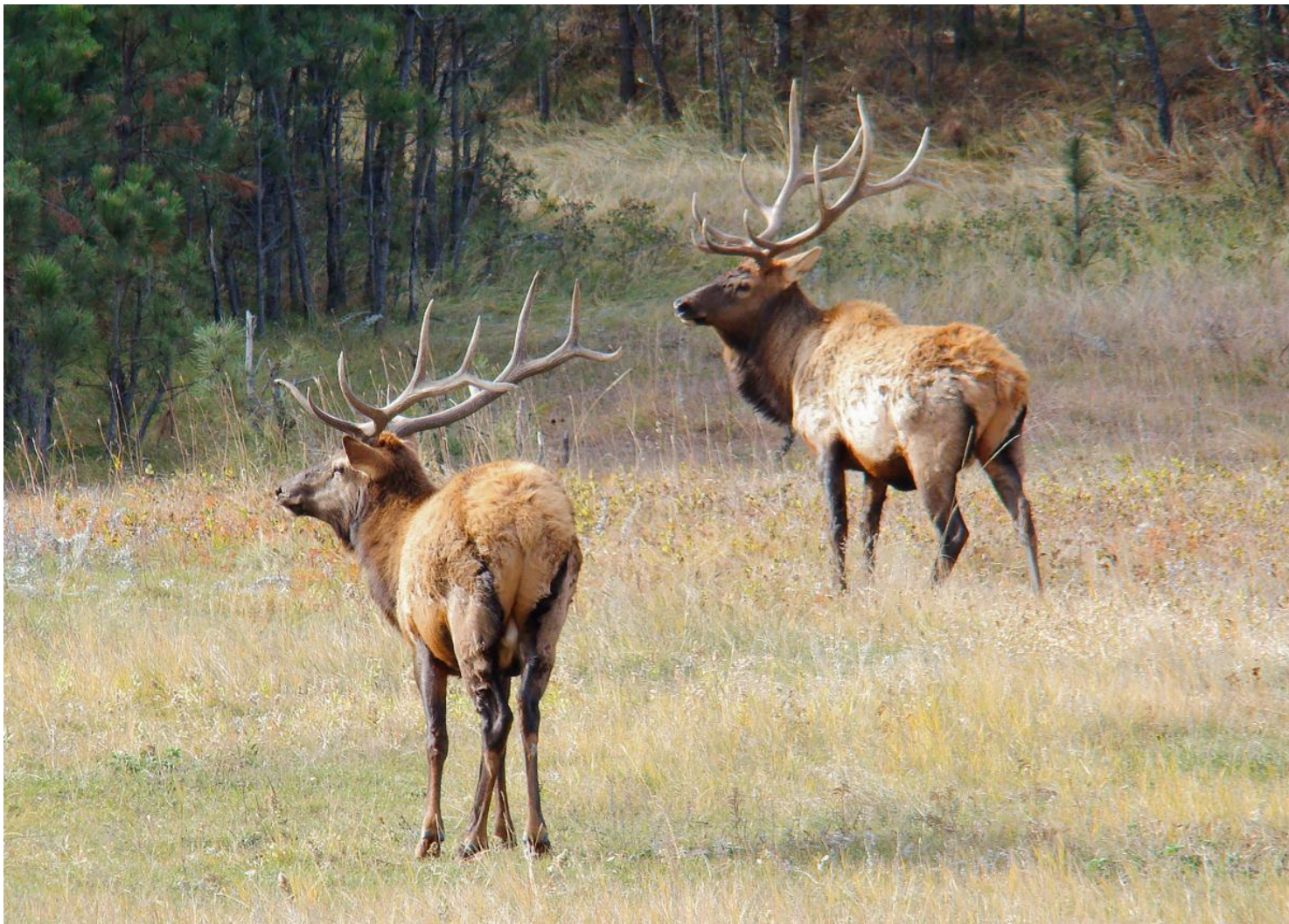
A lifelong Black Hills resident, McMillin grew up in Hermosa, South Dakota, and graduated from Custer High School. He later attended the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, studying Industrial Engineering while building a successful career in management. “I’m excited to join First Interstate because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

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

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

About First Interstate

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



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

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

Fall Cave Tour Schedule

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

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

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

Fall Visitor Center Hours

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



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service News Release

Media Contact: Krista Landreneau, Program Specialist
(605) 673-9201
krista.landreneau@usda.gov
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills>

Safety Alert: Veteran's Point Area and Trail temporarily closed

(Rapid City, SD, August 10, 2026) — Beginning August 16, 2026, through May 20, 2027, the Veteran's Point Area and Veteran's Point Trail will be closed to public for safety due to construction associated with the Veteran's Point Trail Rehabilitation Project. This project includes asphalt and handrail repairs, construction of retaining walls, erosion control and overall trail improvements to enhance public access and safety.

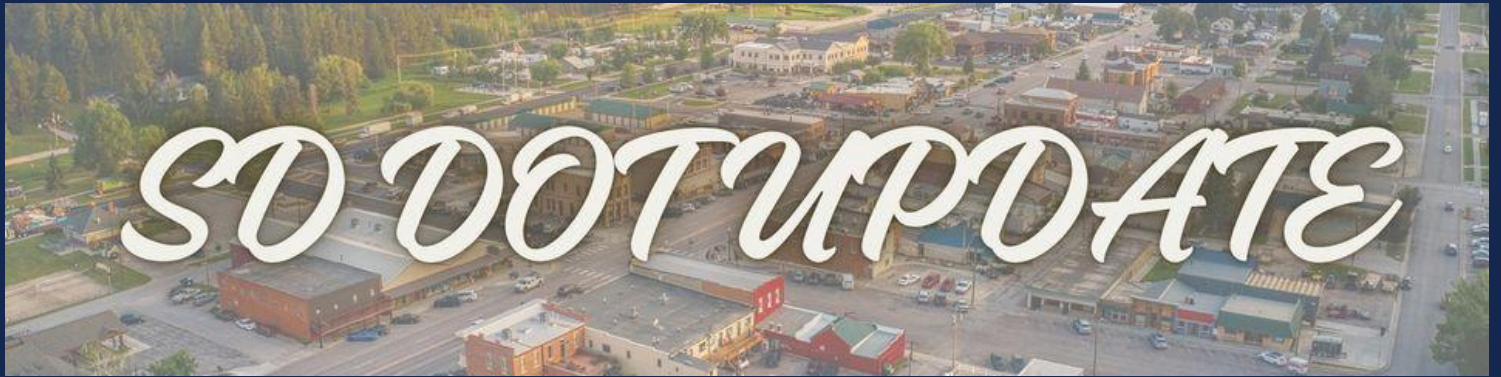
The closure is necessary due to recurring safety concerns, including the public passing barricades, entering active construction areas, damaging construction materials, blocking access with unauthorized vehicles and causing interruptions to project operations. These issues have made it unsafe for the site to remain open during construction.

The contractor began mobilization on June 11, 2026, and project completion is now anticipated by mid-May 2027.-
For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, call the Recreation Program at (605) 673-9200 or visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills>.

About the Forest Service: The Forest Service has brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation for more than 100 years. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and recreation opportunities. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, supports the nation's forest industry and energy needs, and operates the largest and most respected wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. By providing assistance to state and private landowners and working with tribes and other partners, the Forest Service also helps steward an additional 900 million forested acres within the U.S.

###

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Project Update

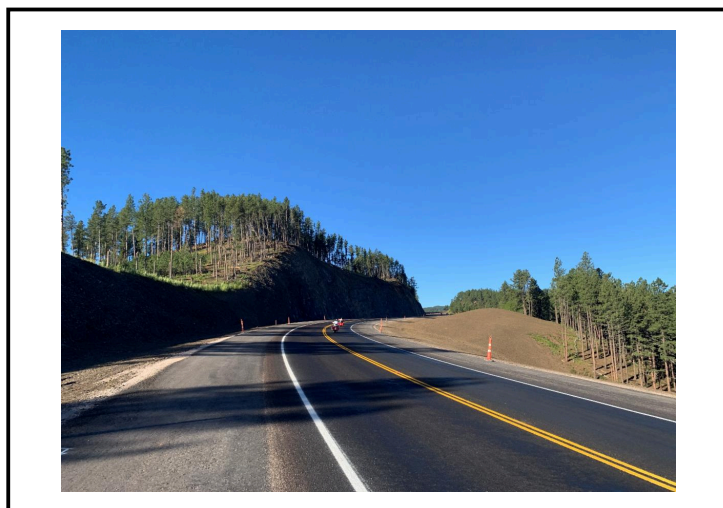
Friday, August 7, 2026

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.



Construction Zone Reminders



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

Stay Connected

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

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

HWY 385 ROUTING INITIATIVE



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

Visit Route Reimagined

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

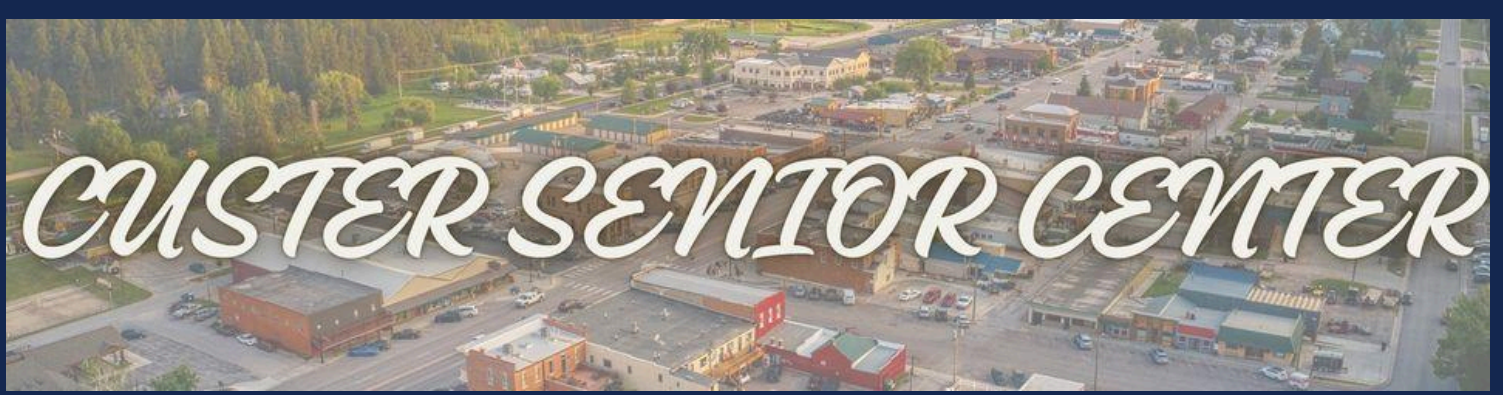
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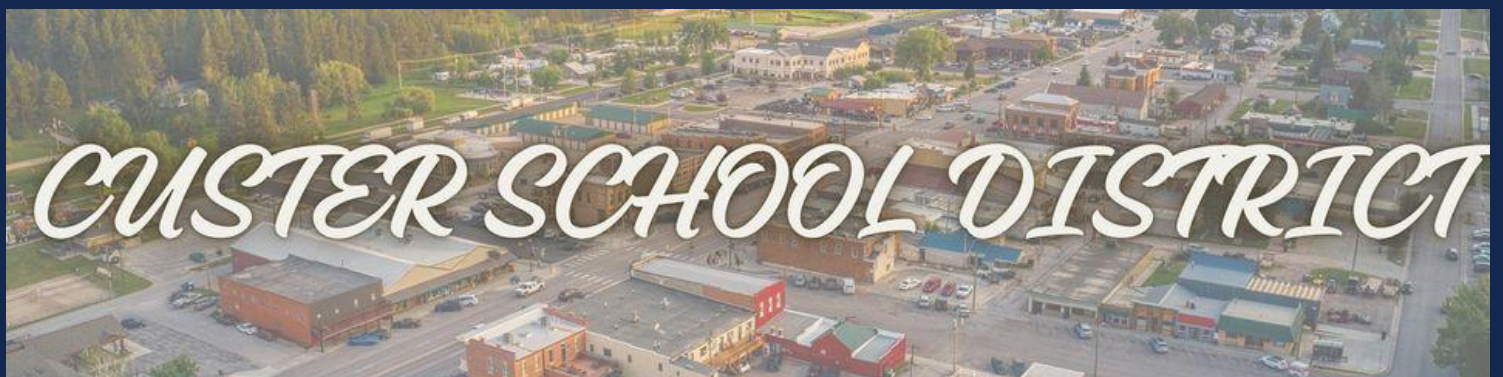
**U.S. HIGHWAY 385
CONSTRUCTION**
PENNINGTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE TO SHERIDAN LAKE

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US 385 **SD**
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION



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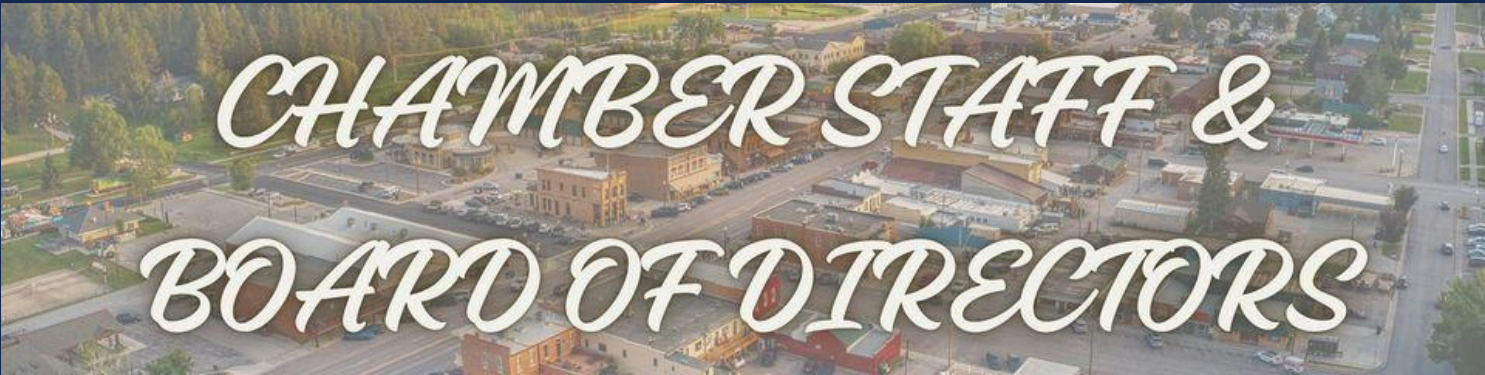
10 AM until 5 PM

Monday through Friday

Please contact Lori

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





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CHAMBER STAFF

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2026

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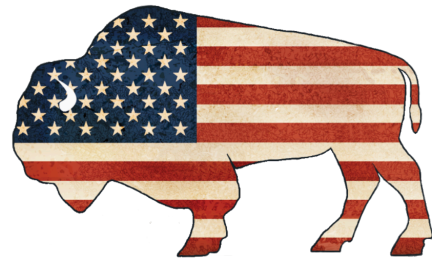
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Custer, SD 57730

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