




Buffalo Bytes



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

CUSTER CONNECTIONS



2024 Chamber's Annual Spring Fling

**Thursday, April 11
at Custer Beacon**

**5:00pm Social Hour
6:00pm Heavy Hors D'oevres**

Exciting news! The 2024 Spring Fling event is taking place tonight at the beautiful Custer Beacon. This event is particularly significant as we will be announcing the Gold Discovery Days Parade Marshals and Royalty for this year. The social hour begins at 5:00 pm, and the program is expected to start around 6:30 pm.

We want to thank all of our valued guests who will be attending this year's Spring Fling. Your support and participation are essential in making this event a success. We look forward to your presence and hope you enjoy the evening's festivities.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the sponsors of this year's Spring Fling event. It is due to their generous contributions that occasions like this are possible. Please refer to the list below for the names of the businesses that have graciously sponsored this event.



Thank You Spring Fling Sponsors!

GOLD



Black Hills
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION™



CUSTER COUNTY
Chronicle



FREEDOM HILLS
WEALTH MANAGEMENT



SILVER

BRONZE



2024 CHAMBER SPRING FLING



Dawn Murray
Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAMBER STAFF

Dawn Murray

Executive Director

dmurray@custersd.com

Fred Baumann

Information Associate

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Amy Brazell

Information Associate

abrazell@custersd.com

Pat Hattervig

Information Associate

phattervig@custersd.com

Andrea Spaans

Information Associate

bytes@custersd.com

Adrianna Burgess

Information Associate

assistant@custersd.com

2024

Board Of Directors

Amy Bailey - President

Craig Reindl - Vice President

Michelle Fischer - Treasurer

Amanda Allcock

Carrie Moore



2024

Membership Referral Program

The Custer Chamber of Commerce has announced a new referral rewards program aimed at continuing to strengthen the organization.

The Referral Rewards program aims to reward members who play an active role in helping the Chamber grow its membership, understanding the importance in contributing to the greater Custer area and enhancing member businesses.

For every new Chamber member that a member organization refers, they will receive \$20 in Custer Cash. Upon referring 5 new Members, the Referring Member will receive \$250 in Custer cash or their membership FREE for one (1) year.

The new member must put the referring organization on their application, and must complete their membership obligations, including paying their membership dues in full.

Corey Virtue
Eric Butler
John Stahl
Miranda Boggs

Julie Jenniges - City Liaison

Mark Naugle - School Liaison

Lydia Austin - CSP Liaison

Jessica Noteboom - BID Board Liaison



ATTENTION!

SEASONAL HOURS NEEDED

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SEND US YOUR HOURS AND DAYS OPEN FOR THE SEASON SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR INFORMATION.

**SEND INFORMATION TO:
BYTES@CUSTERSD.COM**

A calendar form with a grid for days and a line for the month. The word "MONTH" is written above the grid, and there is a blank line for the month name. The grid has 7 columns and 4 rows.

3/21/24



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

To have things added to Buffalo Bytes, please send to Andrea: bytes@custersd.com. Items need to be received by Wednesdays at noon in order to be added to weekly Buffalo Bytes. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 11

Spring Fling

5pm-8pm

The Custer Beacon

April 18

Chamber Mixer

5pm-7pm

Lewis Realty

May 16

Chamber Mixer

5pm-7pm

Custer's Last Stop

May 17-19

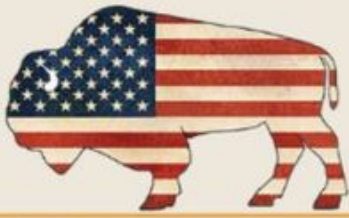
Tesla Sound of Silence Rally

WEEKLY HUMOR





CHAMBER HAPPENINGS



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Mixer

Hosted By:



kw BLACK HILLS
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY

April 18th from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Held at 14 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD

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

This year's Joint Southern Hills Attractions Meeting and Lit Swap will be held on May 9th at the Crazy Horse Memorial from 1pm-4pm.
(cookies and coffee provided)

All Chamber members, please join us to learn about all of the exciting things going on with our local business this year!

Come pick up your magazines and maps for the season and be sure to bring your brochures to share!

**Joint Southern Hills
Attractions Meeting
& QTS Swap**

**CRAZY HORSE
MEMORIAL**

9 MAY 2024

RSVP BY MAY 2ND

RSVP TO: DMURRAY@CUSTERSD.COM

OR 605-673-2244

1-4 PM

Each attraction will have 2-3 minutes to present.
Coffee and cookies will be provided.



4/11/24

Black Hills Sound Of

Black Hills Sound of Silence Rally 2024!



Promote your business, add something to the swag bags!

Contact info@custer.com for more details

or drop off anything from your business to the Custer Chamber Office.

4/11/24

The Custer Volunteer Fire Department has been providing excellent fireworks to our community for over 70 years!!!

This approximately 30-minute fireworks display, provided by the Custer Volunteer Fire Department, at no charge to spectators, costs around \$25,000 each year and is funded strictly by donations.

Many visitors to the Black Hills attend our fireworks display every year. We hear that our fireworks rival many much larger city's displays. We are so grateful that our little volunteer fire department continues to provide this service for us and hope that you, like us, see the value in supporting them.

Please consider placing this poster and a donation bucket in your business this upcoming season.

Please contact the Chamber if you have any questions and/or to participate

Support the Custer Volunteer Fire Department



**DONATE TO THE
FIREWORKS HERE**



Printable Poster

Exciting news folks!!! This year, we are revamping the Gold Discovery Days logo and want your help!

We will be accepting designs thru email, bytes@custersd.com, or by dropping it off to the



bytes@custerchamber.com, or by dropping it off to the Custer Chamber of Commerce by May 1st. When you start your design, keep in mind it should include a 3 -4 color scheme and it can be hand drawn or done digitally. We look forward to all the wonderful ideas that will be flooding in!

This new logo will be used on all marketing material including the 2024 Gold Discovery Days event shirt.

All submitted logos become the property of the Gold Discovery Days committee and the Custer Chamber.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

605 Property Services
JQ Clothing Company
J&M Lawn Care LLC
T&M Concrete Construction
Black Hills Sauce & Dough Co.
Plenty Star Ranch Retreat
Carr Electric Co, LLC
Vibin' Vocals Karaoke Entertainment
Aspen Federal Credit Union
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Early Learner Custer
Sow Native/Wild Ones
Custer Care and Rehabilitation Center
Game On! LLC

Red Sands Ridge
Black Hills Realty
Custer Bicentennial Quilt Guild

Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild
All Net Connections
Grooming by Brenna
Gold Valley Camp
Black Hills Candles
Black Hills Family Vacations
Hillcrest HVAC and Appliance Pros
Reed's Chimney Sweeping, Handyman & Caretaking
Jubilee J Photography
Willow Creek Child Care
Broken Boot Dispensary
Growing Roots, Inc
Homestead Carpet Care
Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC

AREA EVENTS

Donate Blood American Legion Post 46 **Donate Blood**
Be the One – Help Save a Life

Thursday, April 11th, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
@
Custer City Masonic Lodge #66
220 N. 6th St., Custer, SD 57730



Scan this QR Code to schedule a donation time >>>>>



Contact Legionnaire, Jeff Cathcart, at 919-200-1809 if you have any questions. Jeff will also be happy to schedule your donation time for you.

About The American Legion:

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with about 1.7 million members in roughly 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans.

If you would like to be a part of our **Custer American Legion Post #46**, please contact us at: 605-673-3930 or adjutant@custerlegion46.org. We are **Veterans Strengthening America!**

~ Republican Candidates ~



Patrick Baumann



Tim Goodwin



Patricia Ladner



Matthew Monfore



Stephen Saint



Matt Smith

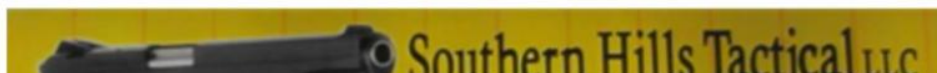
St. James Parish Center, Edgemont

Friday, April 12, 2024, 6pm

**\$10 donation
per attendee**

Heavy Appetizers Served

*Sponsored by Fall River County Republican Party
facebook: frcrepublicans or email frcrepublicans@yahoo.com*





South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

Saturday April 13th 2024 9:00am to 4:30pm

The Enhanced Permit allows you carry in 38 states including
MN, NE, WI, NV, NH, WA, and SC

Class size is limited so register early.

For additional information or to register for the class you may

contact the instructor at www.sodakian.com, contact us at

605-673-3222 or e-mail at

southernhillstactical@gwtc.net

3/28/24

A banner at the bottom of the page features a stylized American flag background with stars and stripes. The text "2024 Dist 30 Senate" is written in a large, bold, blue font across the center of the banner.

2024 Dist 30 Senate

2024 Dist 30 School Candidate Forum

~ Republican Candidates ~

**Photo Not
Available**



Julie Frye-Mueller



Amber Hulse

Forrest Foster

Mueller Center-Hot Springs

Saturday, April 13, 2024—2 p.m.

**\$10 donation
per attendee**

Heavy Appetizers Served

Sponsored by Fall River County Republican Party
facebook: [frcrepublicans](#) or email frcrepublicans@yahoo.com

4/11/24



ONLY \$10.00



**THURSDAY
APRIL 18TH**

SOUP & PIE

11AM – 1PM

**Custer Senior Center
538 Mt. Rushmore Rd.**



Refreshments

**Homemade
Bread**

Featuring:

- **Chili**
- **Taco Soup**
- **Potato Soup**

**Everyone
Welcome!**





MONTHLY MEETING

3rd Thursday of the Month

Thursday, April 18th - 6:00 PM

Custer County Library - Pine Room

***Support Democracy
It's An Election Year!***



Scan To Support!

Email: ccsddp21info@gmail.com

PO Box 5065 Custer, SD 57730



Facebook:

@custercountymocratsofsouthdakota



Welcome to Spring!
National Active and Retired Employees Luncheon (NARFE)

Friday, April 19, 2024 at 11:30
Rocky Knolls Golf Course
12181 US-16
Custer, SD

Guest Speaker Danica Allmer
Congressional Staffer for
Congressman Dusty Johnson

All active and retired feds, spouses and spouse annuitants are invited. For more info and
RSVP - Hank Whitney at 605-673-3671
Or email narfechapter2200@gmail.com.

4/11/24





CLUB OF
THE SOUTHERN
BLACK HILLS

Join us on April 19, 2024

6-8pm at the Trailhouse 148 Gordon St. Custer, SD

For an evening of refreshments, music, and shared purpose.

If you are interested in our motto:

Building a Better World for Women and Girls

Come join us!



Enjoy Storytelling & Music from The Frog Pond

Created & Performed by Cory Tomovick

**Zonta Area One Meeting, hosted by the Zonta Club of the Southern Black Hills,
includes Zonta clubs in Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming.**

Directions to the Trailhouse

South on Hwy 385, turn left at Gordon St., immediate right to Trailhouse parking lot.

(Shoes are removed in the entry at the Trailhouse. Bring socks or slippers!)

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

4/4/24

LEWIS REALTY'S ANNUAL

FREE GUIDED DAY

FREE SHRED DAY

Limit of 2 Bankers Boxes per Household or Business

Paper with paperclips or staples OK - NO hard drives nor computer equipment.

**STOP IN AND ENJOY
SOME SNACKS!**

***FREEWILL DONATION
Proceeds to The VFW***



The BAM Shredding truck
will be on-site.



KW BLACK HILLS KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

605-673-5885

Thursday, April 25th - 11am - 1pm

14 W Mt. Rushmore Road in Custer

4/4/24

Join the Custer Mile High Garden Club On

ARBOR DAY



*"Right Tree
Right Spot"
Presentation
by
Joshua Larson*



*Friday, April 26th, 1:00 p.m.
Pine Room, Court House Annex
447 Crook Street, Custer, SD*

**Open to the Public
Refreshments**



For more info contact:  605-228-2284

Made with PosterMyWall.com

4/11/24

DON'T JUST DECLUTTER DONATE!



2024 Annual Y's Men Rummage Sale
CUSTER YMCA GRACE COOLIDGE MEMORIAL LOG BUILDING

April 28–May 2, 2024

Drop off Your clean, gently used Rummage items at the Custer YMCA Grace Coolidge Memorial Log Building. If you have large items that need picked up or if you would like to drop off items early, please contact the Custer YMCA to make arrangements. This sale benefits the Custer YMCA Child Development Center!

Friday, May 3rd : No Donations Accepted!

Saturday, May 4th, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM: First Come, First Served.
Early Bird \$3 Entrance Fee – Children Under 5 are FREE!

Saturday, May 4th, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM: FREE Entry

May 5– May 11: Free Admittance

Sunday May 5th: 12–5pm

M–F May 6th – 10th: 8am –7pm

Saturday May 11th: 8am –12pm

LOCATION:

CUSTER YMCA 644 CROOK STREET CUSTER SD 57730

INFORMATION:

605.673.2222

sarahb@rcymca.org



111237 04/12

4/11/24

McGovern Day Rally

McGovern
President
'72

Saturday, May 4th

4:30 - 7:30 pm

Laughing Water Restaurant

- Crazy Horse Memorial -

McGOVERN



DEMOCRACY MATTERS

An Evening of Entertainment - Politics - Food+Drink

- District 30 + Custer County Candidates
- Social Hour w/ Hors d'oeuvres (cash bar)
- Deluxe Dinner - (included w/ ticket)
- Actor and auctioneer Jeff Kingsbury
- Sheryl Johnson - US House
- Bret Swanson - District 30 Senate
- Susan Scheirbeck - District 30 House
- Colton Jones - Custer County Commission

Live Music & Entertainment From Local Artists:

Pegie Douglas — country singer & songwriter

Don Frankfort — satirical writer & singer

LIMITED PRESALE TICKETS
AVAILABLE NOW
(605)-673-5783



SCAN FOR TICKETS!

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mcgovern2024>



Email: ccsddp21info@gmail.com

Facebook: [@custercountymcgo](https://www.facebook.com/custercountymcgo)

4/11/24



08TH MAY

5:00 - 8:00 PM



ART EXPRESSIONS GALLERY PRESENTS

Artful Dinner

featuring: PAUL HORSTED

Join us for an evening filled with art, culinary delights and inspired conversation with renowned local artist Paul Horsted. The event begins with appetizers and a review of diverse artists' work at the Art Expressions Gallery. Socializing will be followed by a gentle migration to The Custer Beacon for a family-style gourmet dinner. After dinner, Mr. Horsted will share an update on his photography adventures and latest book endeavors. Don't miss this unforgettable night of local art, artists, friends and fine dining!

ADVANCE TICKETS : \$50

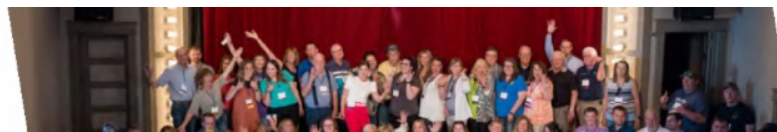
To purchase, visit:

<https://events.custerbeacon.com/public/artfuldinner>

More information also at Art Expressions Gallery
& The Custer Beacon



4/11/24





ENERGIZE!

Exploring Innovative Rural Communities Conference

May 22-23, 2024
Hot Springs, SD

Early registration \$95
before April 1

Register early for a chance to win a soak pass from
Moccasin Springs Natural Mineral Springs/Spa

After April 1 price increases to \$115

Registration Deadline:
Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Register at:
extension.sdstate.edu/event/energize-2024



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michael Perry



Courtesy: Lee Butterworth Photography

Michael Perry, an accidental *New York Times* bestselling author, humorist, singer/songwriter, amateur snow plow driver, and playwright from New Auburn, Wisconsin. He also produces the popular audio newsletter "Michael Perry's Voice Mail."

BREAK OUT SESSION TRACKS

- » Arts & Culture in Your Community
- » Funding for Community Projects
- » Meeting Community Needs
- » Attracting & Retaining Residents
- » Voices of the Next Generation: Young Entrepreneurs in South Dakota

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Learn more at extension.sdstate.edu

MC-03238-04

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We're seeking volunteers!
Trail Sweeps • Drivers • Aid Station Helpers

Trail Sweeps Drivers and Station Helpers
if your organization is interested, contact us:
MickelsonTrailAffiliates@gmail.com

JUNE 15, 2024



Bike it like you mean it!

George S. Mickelson Trail

109 Miles • 1 Day

1/2 Century Ride: 49 miles

MickelsonTrailAffiliates.com

4/4/24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Green Owl
Media & Photography



Portraits • Events • Commercial



**Now booking
spring and
summer
sessions!**



**Photography
Digital Marketing
Social Media Management**

**GreenOwlMedia.com
Green.Owl@goldenwest.net
605.440.2400**



Need help creating content and managing your business accounts on Facebook and Instagram? We've got you covered! Green Owl Media is accepting social media clients within the hospitality, recreation, and tourism industries.



CONCRETE

T&M offers a wide range of services, if you do not see a service you'd like a quote in listed, give us a call to inquire



- CONCRETE**
- PATIOS**
- FOUNDATIONS**
- CUSTOM**
- STONE**
- NEW CONSTRUCTION**
- REMODELING**
- HOME REPAIRS**
- SMALL**
- EXCAVATION**
- LANDSCAPING**
- SNOW REMOVAL**
- AND MORE...**

Give us a call for a free quote today!



Concrete & Snow Removal



T&M PROUDLY SERVING THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE BLACK HILLS



605-517-5754



tmconcretllc@gmail.com



25606 Carroll Creek Rd
Custer, SD 57730



tmconcretllc.wixsite.com/
tmconcretecomstructi



www.kevin.bhsdrealty.com **605-431-5094**
 kevinkennedy605@gmail.com
Kevin Kennedy, BrokerAssociate



Luxury home for sale in the heart of the Black Hills

\$1,499,000



Magnificent, custom built home offers the best of all worlds! The paved highway leads you to this incredible property on 3 acres that borders 100s of acres of Forest Service land, with a 3200+ sq ft main house and massive detached garage with guest cottage. Every detail was meticulously planned and includes these extraordinary features: Italian porcelain tile flooring, custom Hickory cabinetry, quartz countertops, zero entry, gas fireplace with stone hearth, 8ft French doors, solid-core pine interior doors, 9ft ceilings, 19ft peak, enormous tiled walk-in shower, claw foot tub, walk-in closet, huge bonus loft area, Black Hills beetle kill pine trim and ceilings, surround sound inside& outside, covered patios plumbed/wired for gas grill and hot tub. Detached shop/garage (40x50ft) with guest cottage! Charming guest cottage boasts a full kitchen, living room, bedroom, full bathroom and laundry room. The shop area provides ample room for all of your recreational vehicles and outdoor toys.

Call Kevin for your personal tour or to hear about all of our listings! 605-431-5094



All properties are listed with Black Hills Realty



CLOTHING CO.

EST.

2013

224 Main St
Hill City, SD
701.742.5638
jqclothingco.com

Coming Soon to Hill City!

4/11/24



MOCCASIN SPRINGS NATURAL MINERAL SPA

HOT SPRINGS, SD





**SIX
POOLS**

TEMPS RANGING
80°-105°

**SPA & MASSAGE THERAPY
YOGA • 3-IN-1 SAUNA • SALT ROOM**

OPEN YEAR ROUND

605-745-7625

WWW.MOCCASINSPRINGS.COM



**The Merc Taproom offers Delicious
Food, Scobi Kombucha, Local Craft
Beers, SoDak made products,
Grab N Go Food Options,
and Merchandise**

605-745-2739

SOUTHERNHILLSMERC.COM

605

Property Services

605 property services offers comprehensive landscaping and lawn care solutions to residential and commercial clients in custer, hill city, keystone, hot springs, and the surrounding areas. with focus on delivering exceptional customer service satisfaction, 605 property services provides professional gravel hauling, stump grinding, and other property enhancement services in the region. for all your outdoor space needs trust us to provide top-notch landscaping, lawn mowing, and ground maintenance.



Call Today To Schedule A
Free Estimate

(605) 846-5442

4/4/24



ZONTA

CLUB OF
THE SOUTHERN
BLACK HILLS

We Want You!!!

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

It seems we have been so busy carrying out activities to build a better world for women and girls that we have forgotten to increase our numbers.

We are now looking for you to join our club in whatever way is best for YOU

MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month; 1:00 p.m.

*Custer County Library in Custer

*Zoom access

*can't attend meetings? not a problem-your talents can be used for projects

*prefer to support with finances only? we can do that, too!

Our Southern Hills Club is a member of Zonta International. This 100+ year old organization is devoted to local and international projects to build a better world for women and girls.

Our local activities have included:

*Celebrating the talents of women during Zonta Fest

* Providing a Business Directory/Planner for Southern Black Hills

* Scholarships to high school seniors and to non-traditional students

* Raising Service Dollars to support groups such as YMCA Day Care, WEAVE, Library, & School Activities that demonstrate ways women and girls will be promoted.

* Activities to recognize the contributions of female professions in the area.

* Being an advocacy group for legislation that protects women

* Getting together to support one another

Ways to Join Us: (Yearly membership)

Amelia Earhart Level:	\$200.00
Standard Membership Level:	\$150.00
<31 year old, Std. Membership:	\$75.00
Friends of Zonta:	\$50.00

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

You can contact the Zontian that gave you this form or send the completed form to:
Zonta of the Southern Black Hills, P.O. Box 28, Custer, SD 57730





**CINNAMON ROLLS SALE
CUSTER SENIOR CENTER**

**EACH FRIDAY THROUGH APRIL
APRIL 5TH, APRIL 12TH, APRIL 19TH &
APRIL 26TH**

**CARAMEL NUT - \$4
CARAMEL WITHOUT NUTS - \$3.50
FROSTED - \$2.50
PLAIN - \$2.50**

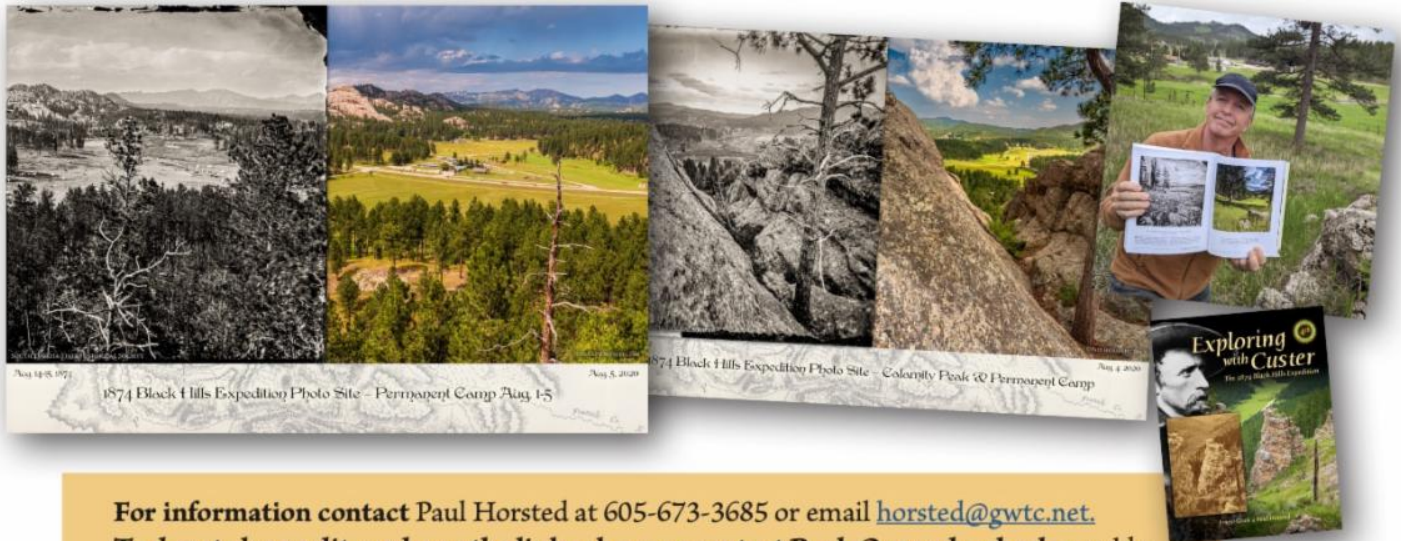
**ADVANCED ORDERS ARE ENCOURAGE - CALL THE SR. CENTER BY
THURSDAY NOON TO ORDER - 605-673-2708
OR STOP BY ON FRIDAY
538 MT. RUSHMORE ROAD, CUSTER**

**150th Anniversary Commemoration
1874 Custer Expedition
and Start of the Black Hills Gold Rush
Sponsorship Opportunity**

Sponsorship Opportunity

In 1874 the Custer Expedition explored the Black Hills and found gold along French Creek, igniting the Black Hills Gold Rush. Recognizing the importance of these events and changes they brought, the Custer County Historical Society and the Case Library for Western Historical Studies are sponsoring a 150th Anniversary Commemoration on **Sunday, July 21, 2024** (during Gold Discovery Days) at the historic 1874 camp site three miles east of Custer, SD. This **free event** will feature presentations, demonstrations and self-guided tours. Sponsorship proceeds will cover planned visitor opportunities such as reenactors, Native American displays, 7th Cavalry-style musicians, a historic photography demonstration, gold panning, kids' activities and other costs. **Donations benefit the Custer County Historical Society's 1881 Courthouse Museum and the Case Library for Western Historical Studies scholarship fund at BHSU.**

Top sponsors qualify for a personally-guided tour donated by author Paul Horsted plus books, artwork and more. Details are at this link bit.ly/4c0XdQc or use QR code. Your donation of any size is appreciated!



For information contact Paul Horsted at 605-673-3685 or email horsted@gwtc.net. To donate by credit card, use the links above or contact Paul. Or send a check payable to Custer County Historical Society, P.O. Box 826, Custer, SD 57730. Please mark your check "1874-2024 Commemoration" and include your mailing address and contact info.

Send Paul an email.

3/28/24

NEWS FROM THE STATE

TRAVEL

South Dakota



YOU'RE INVITED: DARKSKY SOUTH DAKOTA WEBINAR

Hear from **Diane Knutson**, founder of DarkSky South Dakota and former president of DarkSky International, and **Teresa Hofer**, co-owner of Badlands Observatory, about [*DarkSky South Dakota*](#), including the importance of dark skies to astrotourism in South Dakota. [*International Dark Sky Week*](#) is held annually during the week of the new moon in April and celebrated by turning off lights and observing the beauty of the night sky without light pollution.

Here's what Diane & Teresa cover:

- What light pollution is and why it is detrimental
- What you can do to preserve our dark night skies
- How others are working to solve the problems of light pollution
- The importance of dark skies to astrotourism

[**VIEW RECORDING >>**](#)

The presentation deck will be posted to SDVisit.com when available.

PRESS RELEASE





American Center Road in Custer State Park Temporarily Closed

PIERRE S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) announced beginning Friday, April 5, American Center Road will be completely closed from the junction of Hwy 87 (Needles Highway) to the eastern border of the park.

"Due to current adverse road conditions, which would be characterized by significant sloppiness and numerous frost heaves, we want to ensure public safety by closing the road," said Lydia Austin, Visitor Services Supervisor. "The extended forecast predicts additional moisture, which would lead to further exacerbating the road's condition."

GFP expects to reopen American Center Road to traffic by May 1, 2024, following necessary repairs and improvements.

During this closure, Center Lake and the Black Hills Playhouse will remain operational and accessible to the public via Highway 87 (Needles Highway).

For additional information, please contact Custer State Park at custerstatepark@state.sd.us



Project Update

Friday, April 5, 2024

Current Conditions:

- Users of the roadway can expect delays of 15 minutes and the use of pilot cars and flaggers.
- Traffic is being diverted on a gravel diversion (a temporary at-grade roadway next to the original road) approximately 3/4-mile north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 385 and S.D. Highway 44. A width restriction of 12 feet is in place.
- The contractor is installing a box culvert approximately 3/4-mile north of the intersection of Highway 385 and Highway 44. This box culvert will direct water under the roadway to reduce erosion during storm events.
- Construction on a second diversion is underway. This diversion is located immediately south of the Pennington-Lawrence County Line.

Coming Up:

- Traffic is being kept on existing pavement or as long as possible as construction progresses.
- Traffic is expected to be diverted on to a second diversion, located immediately south of the Pennington-Lawrence County Line, in mid-April. A press release and text message alert will be distributed to share further details.

distributed to share further details.

- The contractor is preparing to pour the floor of the box culvert near Highway 44.
- Temporary fence installation will begin later this spring in the project area.
- Rock blasting may occur within the project area in the next month. If rock blasting occurs, the roadway will have signage and text alerts will be sent. Rock blasting could result in 1-2 hours of delay for roadway users and is expected to take place in early afternoons on weekdays.

Visit the project website for the most updated information, including pictures and videos of construction progress.

[View Construction Updates](#)



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Educator's Workshop Slated for April 26-28](#)



Custer Senior Center

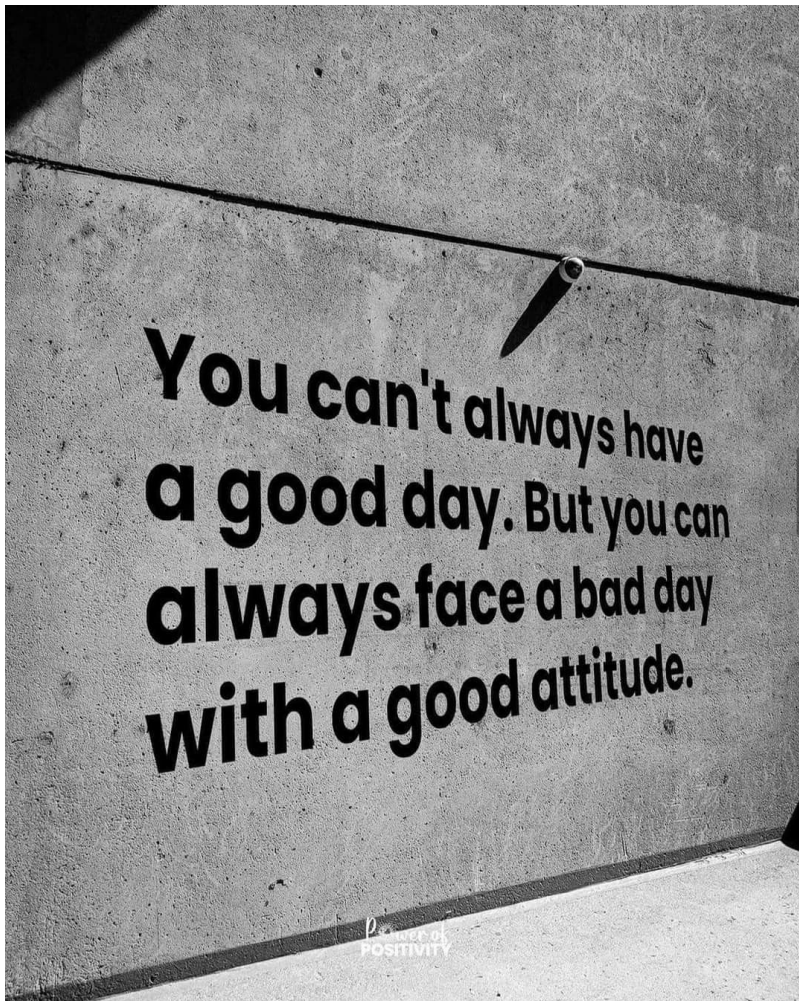
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[Click here to Check out the Custer School District Information](#)

WEEKLY INSPIRATION



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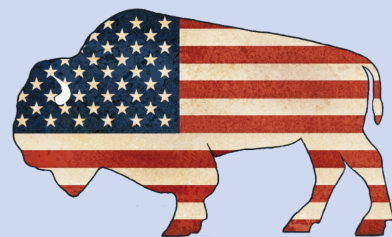
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