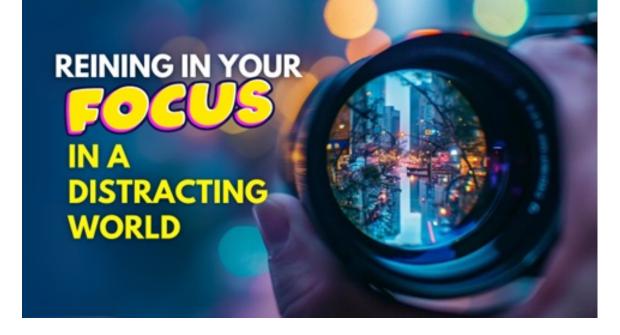






\*\*\* when viewing on a mobile device- please scroll down and click on "view entire message" to view Buffalo Bytes in correct formatting\*\*\*

#### **CUSTER CONNECTIONS**



Small business owners and solopreneurs learn quickly that they must wear many hats. While this ability to work in every area of their business may save money in the short term, it doesn't take long to understand that multitasking can be bad for business. When your focus is diluted across many channels and business goals, you may find that you do a little bit of everything but never solidly complete anything. You spend a good part of your day putting out fires and starting projects and at the end may realize you didn't finish anything to your satisfaction.

That's why keeping your focus is one of the best things you can do for your business. It also models good behavior and sets your employees up for success. Here are a few tips on how you can keep your focus in a world that rewards anything but.

#### Retaining Focus in a Busy World

You are pulled in many directions throughout your day. There are internal and external things battling for your attention. Finding a way to silence these distractors can help you meet your business goals.

#### **Silence Notifications**

This is the most obvious one but also the hardest for most people to do. We're conditioned to respond every time the ding that notifies us of an email or text goes off on our device. Even if you don't attend to it at that moment, it has likely interrupted your thought and you'll have to revisit what you were doing.

You may not have the luxury of silencing the phone at your business, but you can silence e-notifications. No*ṛeally*. You can. You'll survive. Set your devices to go in and out of Do Not Disturb throughout the day or give yourself *designated* 30-60 minute work sprints followed by 10-15 minute times to answer those emails or texts.

There are very few electronic communications that can't wait one hour for a response. If you're worried you'll miss a customer communication and thus a sales opportunity, look into *AI chatbot options* or hire a message service. But do this only if you're in a business where waiting 60 minutes is the difference between life or death (and even so, most doctors will tell callers on their message line that they should call the ER if it's a life-threatening emergency). Most situations *can* wait.

Silencing notifications means you get your to-do list finished in a fraction of the time and with a much better, more focused quality. That focus yields better outcomes. Give yourself the gift of time by silencing those notifications.

#### Decide on Your Most Important Tasks and Keep a List

If you're silencing notifications, you should have 30-60 minutes of limited interruptions. If you work behind a counter, in a brick-and-mortar business you will still have those interruptions but here's how you will make the most of your day. You need two lists. The first list is comprised of 2-3 things that will make the biggest impact on your business TODAY. They are your short-term wins. They'll move the needle quickly.

The second list is comprised of the things you can chip away at. They're important, but they're long-term goals or tasks that are not time sensitive. They could be quick wins or long undertakings but they're things you can work on when you have a spare "minute or two." As a business owner, you will always have unexpected time—waiting for a meeting or on a vendor, a slow moment at the store, you get the idea. Make a list of things you can do during that time that will impact your business. For example, use AI to brainstorm a new name for the newsletter. Look for a new color scheme (if you're

considering a rebrand.) Watch a video on YouTube on something you want to learn more about like digital marketing.

Most of the time when we have these stolen moments, we don't maximize them. We go onto Facebook and remark about how big our friends' kids are getting. While heartwarming, this is not a great use of time. Instead, make this list and keep it handy. (Storing it on your phone means you'll likely have it wherever you are.) That way you can use your stolen moments for the greatest impact.

#### **Fill Your Attentional Load**

If you are working on mundane tasks that don't require a lot of thinking, you may find you're more easily distracted. Using music or other intentional distractors that you control can actually help you stay focused because it "fills" the part of your brain that requires stimulation. This action works in much the same way that a sail may flap in the wind with small gusts but larger gusts that fill it will keep it pulled tight with less flapping around.

#### Keep a Notebook

When something internal distracts you from your task, ask yourself if it is critical that you address that distraction now or can you table it for later. If it is not an emergency, write it down in a notebook (or digital note app) and return to it when you have finished your work. Once it's in your notebook, let it go. Don't let it continue to take up space in your mind.

Finally, retaining focus is not always about discipline. Nurture a curiosity as you go through your day. Look for connections on what you're working on, your goals, and how they tie into the community, interests, and a host of other things. You will start to uncover an interconnectedness that may help you see additional possibilities for efficiencies and partnerships in your business. Sometimes, what initially identifies as a distraction, could be your next big idea.

Christina Metcalf is a writer/ghostwriter who believes in the power of story. She works with small businesses, chambers of commerce, and business professionals who want to make an impression and grow a loyal customer/member base. She loves road trips, hates exclamation points, and is putting these ideas into practice.

Medium: @christinametcalf

Facebook: @tellyourstorygetemtalking Instagram: @christinametcalfauthor

LinkedIn: @christinagsmith



Dawn Murray
Executive Director

#### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CHAMBER STAFF**

Dawn Murray
Executive Director
dmurray@custersd.com

Fred Baumann
Information Associate
fbaumann@custersd.com

Amery Drogoll

#### Black Hills Playhouse Announces General Admission Tickets Now on Sale for 2024 Season

All tickets are now *on sale* for Season 78 at the Black Hills Playhouse!

#### **For Immediate Release**

**Black Hills, S.D.** — General Admission tickets are officially on sale for summer shows held at the Black Hills Playhouse. The Black Hills Playhouse is holding its 78th season of performances this summer, with the 78th Season Kickoff on Sunday, June 9, 2024. Season 78, titled "Be a Part of Our Worlds—Farce. Fins. Fan. Forensics." features four productions, *The Play That Goes* 

Wrong, The Little Mermaid, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, and The

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#### 2024 Board Of Directors

Amy Bailey - President Craig Reindl - Vice President Michelle Fischer - Treasurer

Amanda Allcock
Carrie Moore
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

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. A pre-season warmer, the Tatanka Teaser Cabaret, hits the stage for one performance only on Saturday, June 1 at 2:00 pm.

Along with general admission tickets, attendees can also purchase Buffalo and Baby Buffalo passes which offer discounted tickets. The Playhouse is located in a gorgeous location in Custer State Park. If attending a performance, a Custer State Park pass is required. Custer State Park passes can conveniently be purchased online *here* or at the Snack Bar at the Playhouse.

The Black Hills Playhouse is one of the oldest-running summer stock theatres in the nation and has proudly offered audiences high-quality performances since 1946. Every year, auditions and interviews are held across the country, and an amazing cast and crew of professionals are hired from all over the United States. Each year alumni members return, as well as brand new faces to create a diverse company. Over the summer, the Black Hills Playhouse cast and crew build beautifully designed sets and costumes and rehearse to perform four unique plays, adding up to 58 total shows from June through August.

Pay-As-You-Can performances are available the night before each show opens. These performances are general admission and first come, first served. Reservations are strongly encouraged. To read show descriptions, view dates, and purchase tickets for Season 78 at the Black Hills Playhouse, please visit <a href="https://www.blackhillsplayhouse.com/show-descriptions">https://www.blackhillsplayhouse.com/show-descriptions</a>, or call 605-255-4141 to work with a friendly customer service person.

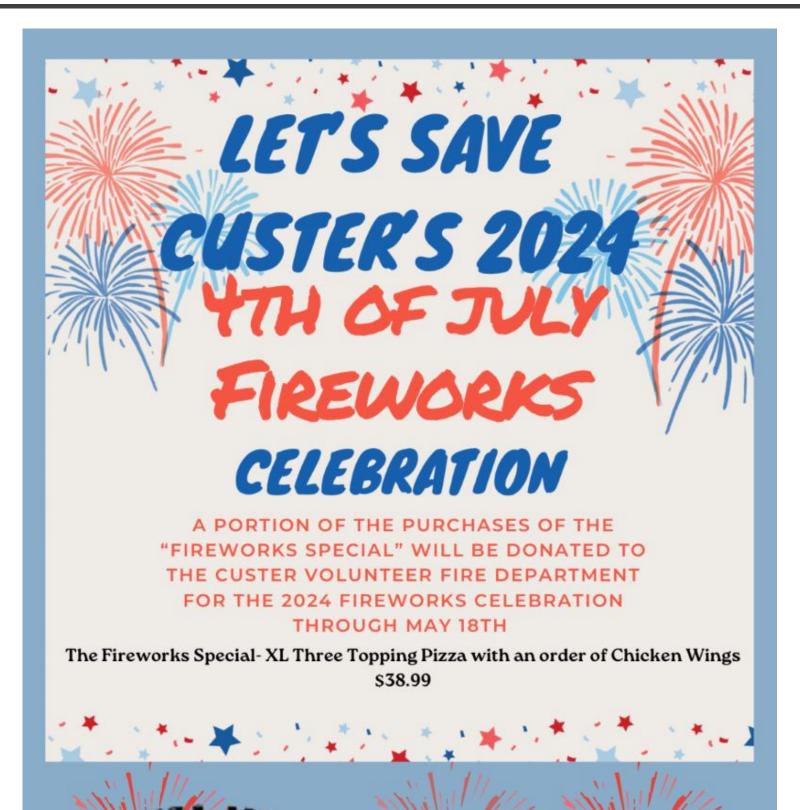


#### **HWY 385 ROUTING INITIATIVE**

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







4/25/24



#### TOUR BUSES ARE HERE!

Arriving Tuesdays, Apr. 30, May 7 and May 14.

Each group will have 50+/- and will be in town from 2:45 to 5:30pm. \*They will each be on their own for an early dinner. \*

4/25/24

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!

#### MAKK YOUK CALENDAK

**May 16** 

Chamber Mixer 5pm-7pm

@ Custer's Last Stop with US Flagpole Guy

May 17-19

Tesla Sound of Silence Rally

June 7-9
Off Road Rally

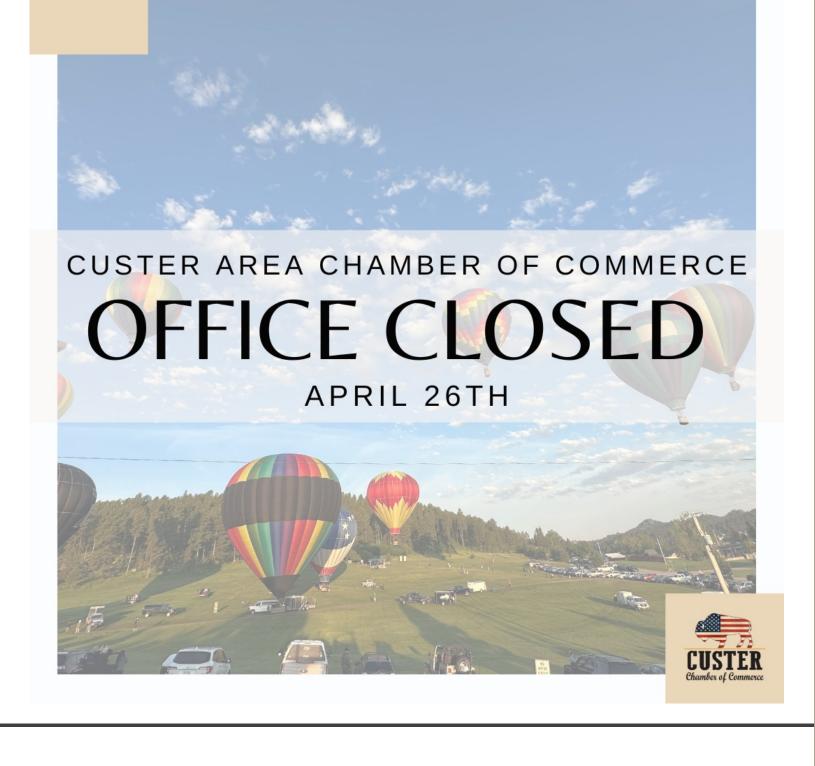
June 21-23

Summer Mickelson Trail Trek

#### WEEKLY HUMOR



#### **CHAMBER HAPPENINGS**





### Membership Referal 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.

3/21/24

(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 & LIT Swap

#### CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

9 MAY 2024

**RSVP BY MAY 2ND** 

RSVP TO: DMURRAY@CUSTERSD.COM OR 605-673-2244

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









4/11/24



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

4/11/24

We are helping with the fundraising for the Annual Custer Fireworks Display.

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

Please consider placing this poster in your business this upcoming season.

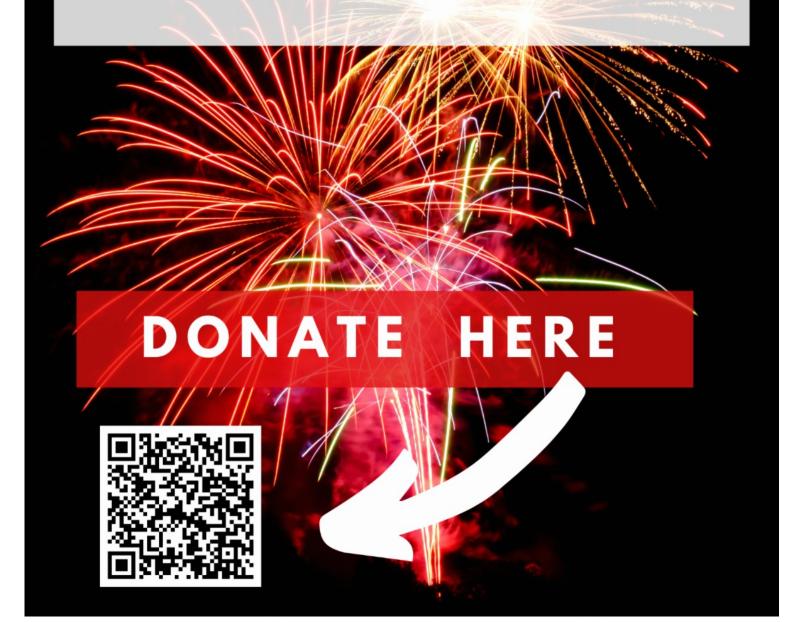
Please contact the Chamber if you have any questions and/or to participate.

# Suppport the Annual Custer Fireworks Dichia



Display





Printable Poster

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 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!** 



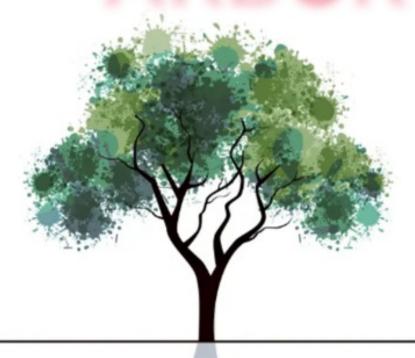


Encore Energy Corp. 605 Property Services JQ Clothing Company J&M Lawn Care LLC T&M Concrete Construction Black Hills Sauce & Dough Co. Plenty Star Ranch Retreat Carr Electric Co, LLC Vibin' Vocals Karaoke Entertainment Aspen Federal Credit Union Sturgis Mustang Rally Early Learner Custer Sow Native/Wild Ones Custer Care and Rehabilitation Center Game On! LLC Red Sands Ridge Black Hills Realty Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild All Net Connections 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**

Join the Custer Mile High Garden Club On

## ARBOR DAY



"Right Tree Right Spot" Presentation bу 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:



**C** 605-228-2284







# 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



4/11/24

#### **CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICANS**

Invite you to join us at our

#### REPUBLICAN AND NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATE FORUM

TUESDAY APRIL 30, 2024, 5:30 PM

CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

645 WILDCAT LANE, CUSTER

#### District 30 Senate

- Julie Frye-Mueller
- Forrest Foster
- Amber Hulse

Michael Busskohl

Mark Hartman

**Custer County Commission** 

- · Dixie Whittaker
- Bruce Miller

#### District 30 house of Representatives

- Trish Ladner
- Pat Baumann
- Tim Goodwin
- Matthew Monfore
- Steve Saint
- Matt Smith

#### Custer School Board (Non-Partisan)

**Custer City Council (Non-Partisan)** 

- Jeff Barnes
- Jeff Prior
- Heath Reindl

2000



### Custer Senior Center's Annual Spring Tea Gathering

When? May 2nd, 2024

What time? 1PM to 2:30PM

Where? Custer Senior Center

538 Mt. Rushmore Rd

Custer, SD 57730

Members = \$20 per tícket Price?

Non-members = \$25 per

ticket

We highly encourage anyone who will be attending to wear your fanciest hat as this is a tradition for the



Please join us for Free Entertainment, open to the public, following the Tea at

Yvonne Hollenbeck will be our speaker



#### DONATE HERE

# \* BRET \* SWANSON

DISTRICT 30 SENATE CANDIDATE



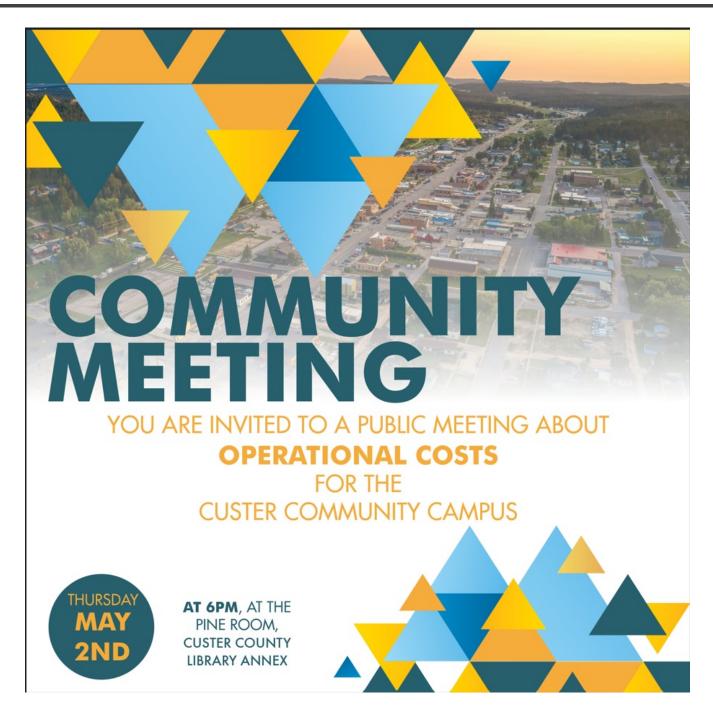
Thursday, May 2, 5:30pm-7:30pm

The Custer Beacon

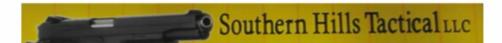
351 Washington St. Custer, SD

#### WE HOPE TO SEE YOU!

4/25/24



4/18/24





#### South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

Saturday May 4th, 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 can e-mail the instructor at **echo.ft.sd@gmail.com**, call the shop at 605-673-3222 or e-mail us southernhillstactical@gwtc.net

4/25/24

## McGovern Day Rally

May 1th 2021



# 4:30 ~ 7:30 pm Laughing Water Restaurant



- Crazy Horse Memorial -

## **Democracy Matters**

An Evening of Entertainment - Politics - Food + Drink

4:30 pm ~ Happy Hour, Cash Bar, & Hor d'oeuvres

5:30 pm ~ Deluxe Buffet Meal

**6:00 pm** ~ State Party Leaders & Candidate Speakers

- Dan Ahlers SDDP Executive Director
- Shane Merril SDDP Chair
- Sheryl Johnson US House of Rep
- Bret Swanson District 30 Senate
- Susan Scheirbeck District 30 House
- · Colton Jones Custer Co. Commission

7:00 pm ~ Live Auction w/ actor & auctioneer, Jeff Kingsbury

#### **Live Music & Entertainment From Local Artists:**

Brought to You by Legends of Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Pegie Douglas & Satirical Writer Don Frankfort

The Custer County Democrats invite everyone who values and supports their vision to promote democracy, universal human rights, economic freedom, environmentalism, and a culture of peace to join their growing community.



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







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



Email: ccsddp21info@gmail.com Facebook: @custercountydemocratsofsouthdakota

4/11/24



17 MORTH STH ST, CUSTER SD 57780 PO BOX 2024 605-673-6437

9TH ANNUAL



THIS YEAR'S "I was born here, in this place that would come to be called the Old West.

THEME: But, to my kind, the land was ageless. It had no beginning and no end, no boundary between earth and sky. Like the wind and the buffalo grass,

we belonged here, we would always belong here." ...From the movie Spirit



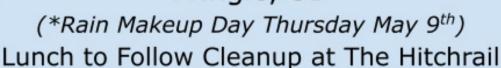




#### Road Ditch Cleanup



Tuesday May 7th, 9 - 11 am Meet at The Hitchrail in Pringle, SD



Join Us to Keep Our Community Clean & Beautiful!

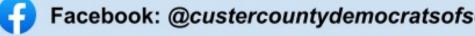
#### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 16th, 6 pm Custer County Library - Pine Room

#### It's An Election Year. Support Democracy.



PO Box 5065 Custer, SD 57730



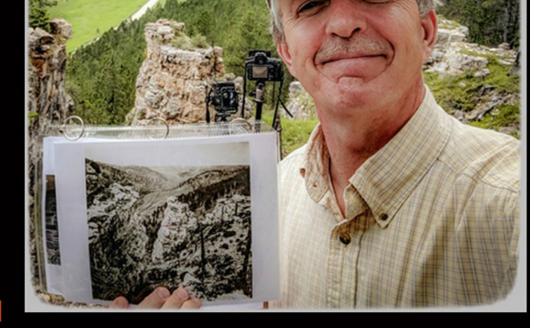


Facebook: @custercountydemocratsofsouthdakota





# 5:00 - 8:00 PM



ART EXPRESSIONS GALLERY PRESENTS

# Artful Dinner featuring: PAUL HORSTED

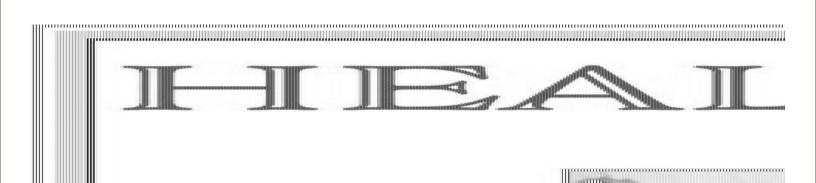
Join us for an evening filled with art, culinary delights and inspired conversation with renowned local artist Paul Horsted. The event begins with appetizers and a review of diverse artists' work at the Art Expressions Gallery. Socializing will be followed by a gentle migration to The Custer Beacon for 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!

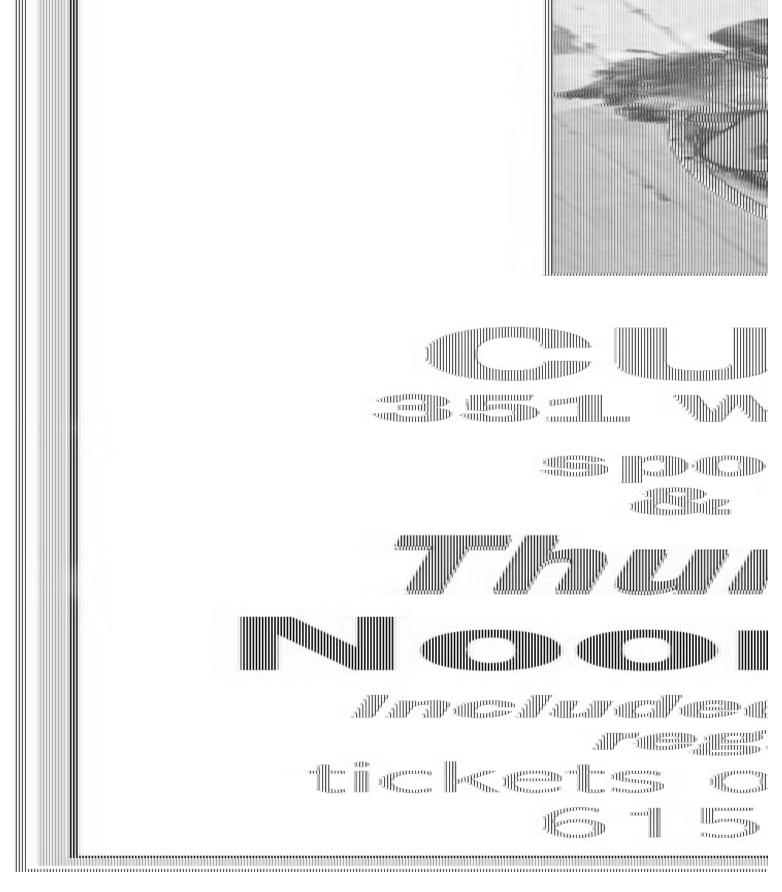
ADVANCE TICKETS: \$50
To purchase, visit:
https://events.custerbeacon.com/public/artfuldinner
More information also at Art Expressions Gallery

& The Custer Beacon









4/18/24



# Custer Senior Center's Mother's Day Raffle



Tickets will be sold from April 4<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup> \$1 for 1 ticket OR \$5 for 6 tickets Drawing will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM

Attendance is not required for the drawing

#### What does the basket include?

- \$60 Gift Card to Moccasin Springs Spa in Hot Springs, SD
- Electric Foot Massager
- Various Body, Hair, & Face Care Products
- Silicon Facial Scrub
- Passion Rower Candle
- Firehouse Prairie Flower Rosé Bottle of Wine
- Instant Cooling Towel
- Wine Cork Keychain
- Egyptian Licorice Tea
- Coffee/Tea Mug







#### **Annual Clean-Up Day & Potluck May 11!**



Friends of Black Hills Playhouse! We invite you to join us for a great day of fun and fellowship on Saturday, May 11, from 9 am - 3 pm for our annual campus clean-up day and potluck.

Learn More and Sign Up

4/11/24



#### OPTICS AMMO ACCESSORIES

#### South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

Saturday May 11th, 2024 9:00am to 4:30pm

Basic Pistol Class.

This class is for new and intermediate shooters. It will cover sight alignment, stance, trigger control and much more.

Class size is limited so register early.

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





# A HEART AND VASCULAR SCREENING EVENT

Get your heart checked for signs of heart disease.

Custer City Hall 622 Crook St, Custer, SD May 22, 2024 8AM-6PM May 23, 2024 7AM-4PM

Please join us for a heart screening event where you can have your heart, veins and arteries checked for signs of heart disease and vascular disease.

Only \$25 ea. Call 605-312-2150 to schedule. Walk-Ins also welcome.

SANF#RD'

4/25/24

4/25/24





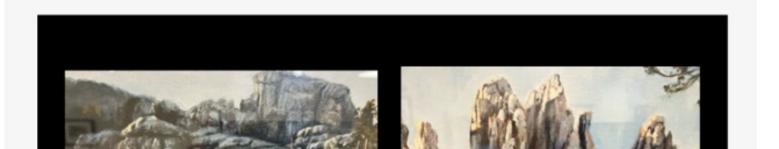








4/18/24





## Custer County Courthouse Art Gallery

420 Mount Rushmore Road, second floor Custer, SD

Exhibition of art by

APRIL REED

Paintings of the Black Hills flora and fauna displayed through June 28, 2024

Endorsed by Custer Area Arts Council.



4/18/24

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# DISCOUNTED



# LABORATORY WELLNESS SCREENINGS

For the month of May

Offerings include:

Wellness Fair Profile, Vitamin D 25-hydroxy, Vitamin B12, Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Screen, A1C and High Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein (CRP)

#### **Custer Hospital and Clinic**

**Call for an appointment:** 605-673-9400 **Lab Hours:** M-F 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Cash and credit only; no insurance will be processed.

4/25/24



**2024 CITY FLOWER PROGRAM** 

Register Today!

This is an exciting time gearing up for the upcoming summer season. Here at Dakota Greens; we have been plugging away on this years' creation of the city combination. We want to get everyone involved who would like to participate but have not in the past or have a new business in Custer. Flowers delivered Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>!



This program is super easy:



Call to request

Easy on-line payment

Enjoy!

605-673-2510

We handle the rest!

Deliver, Set-up, Water downtown members, Collect them up, Clean, Store for winter (Watering & Maintenance service available to members not downtown subject to fees.)

Business & Contact Person/ mobile#:

Email address:

Number of baskets and/or planters:

(special instructions /or design your business layout on back if needed)

We appreciate you and your business keeping Custer Beautiful! Robin Prior

Dakota Greens-Custer Greenhouses & Nursery, Inc.

25086 Shamrock Rd, Custer SD 57730

dakotagreensofcuster@live.com www.dakotagreensofcuster.com

4/18/24







# Mew Season



# **NEW ARRIVALS**

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S STYLES** 



507 MT RUSHMORE RD. CUSTER, SD



**Portraits • Events • Commercial** 



4/11/24





4/11/24



www.kevin.bhsdrealty.com **605-431-5094** kevinkennedy605@gmail.com







Luxury home for sale in the heart of the Black Hills











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

4/11/24





4/11/24





# 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

## **NEWS FROM THE STATE**

TRAVEL



# SOUTH DAKOTA SPRING CUSTOMER SERVICE SEMINARS

In partnership with the South Dakota Retailers Association, Travel South Dakota will again host our annua *Spring Customer Service Seminars* (formerly known as Spring Hospitality Training). For 2024, we are bringing back renowned leadership speaker & corporate culture expert, Betsy Allen-Manning. Betsy will share her message with frontline staff in seven communities, May 6-9. There is no cost to attend any of the 90-minute sessions.

## People Savvy: Improve Communication, Build Better Relationships & Deal with Difficult People Effectively (Extended Version)

Studies show that 85% of your success in life is due to your people skills, yet it's one of the most difficult skills to develop. In this highly interactive and hilarious presentation, Betsy takes you through an engaging experience of how different personalities prefer to communicate, connect, be influenced, make decisions, and resolve conflict. As a human behavior expert, Betsy breaks down personality styles in a humorous and easy way so you can work better with others and get the results you want.

If Betsy will not be visiting your community, you are welcome to join us at any of the seven sessions! Anyone involved with a business related to hospitality and the tourism industry is encouraged to attend the free trainings. Travel South Dakota hopes all business owners and managers will encourage their frontline employees to attend these sessions, which are specifically designed for them.

#### **SCHEDULE:**

- Hill City Monday, May 6, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (MT) Diamond Spur Events Center, 23826 Mill Iron Road
- Belle Fourche Monday, May 6, 3-4:30 p.m. (MT) Venue 519, 519 5th Avenue
- Rapid City Tuesday, May 7, 8:30-10 a.m. (MT) The Monument (LaCroix Hall C), 444 Mt. Rushmore Road N
- Lemmon Tuesday, May 7, 2:30-4 p.m. (MT) Lonesome Dove Hall, 310 Main Avenue
- Sioux Falls Wednesday, May 8, 8:30-10 a.m. (CT) Holiday Inn City Centre (Starlite Room), 100 W 8th Street
- Platte Wednesday, May 8, 2:30-4 p.m. (CT) Rolling Hills Lodge, 27839 366th Avenue
- Milbank Thursday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon (CT) Milbank Visitor Center (Community Room), 1101 E 4th Avenue

If you have any questions about the *Spring Customer Service Seminars*, please feel free to contact Travel South Dakota's Industry Training & Legislative Relations Manager, Bailey Tysdal, at *Bailey.Tysdal@TravelSouthDakota.com*, or go to *SDVisit.com*.

## 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 19, 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 two gravel diversions(a temporary at-grade roadway next to the original road).
  - Diversion 1 is 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.
  - Diversion 2 is immediately south of the Pennington-Lawrence County Line. 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 carry the natural drainage under the roadway.

#### Coming Up:

- Traffic is being kept on existing pavement for as long as possible as construction progresses.
- Temporary fence installation will begin later this spring in the project area.
- Complete road closures within the project area begin next month.

	Road Closures	s Beginning	May 20,	2024	
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- The Pactola North Boat Ramp will not be accessible during weekdays from Monday, May 20, 2024, through Friday, June 7, 2024 (accessible on Memorial Day). Beginning Saturday, June 8, 2024, the Pactola North Boat Ramp will only be accessible from the south.
- Access to the Pactola South Boat Ramp will not be impacted during these closures. Boaters can access the South Boat ramp via Highway 16/Highway 385 or Sheridan Lake Road/Highway 385
- The posted detour will be S.D. Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 16. Locals may find alternative routes, but the SDDOT recommends travelers exercise caution when using non-maintained roadways.
- Emergency services are aware of these closures and are closely collaborating to provide response coverage.
- Non-closed areas within the project limits (Pennington-Lawrence County Line to Highway 44) will be under construction during closures.

# PHASE I CONSTRUCTION

Spring 2024 - Winter 2025

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION:



Rock blasting



#### 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.

#### 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.



# U.S. HIGHWAY 385 CONSTRUCTION

PENNINGTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE TO SHERIDAN LAKE

#### **FREE TEXT ALERTS:**

Text "US385" to 605-566-4041









Educator's Workshop Slated for April 26-28





## Custer Senior Center

**April Activities** 



Click here to Check out the Custer School District Information

# **WEEKLY INSPIRATION**



# **HELP WANTED**





# Custer County Historical Society 1881 Courthouse Museum

Custer County Historical Society is accepting applications for the position of <u>Museum Director</u> to help shape the museum's future & increase the museum's value to the community. The purpose of the 1881 Courthouse Museum is to collect, preserve, exhibit, research and publish material for the study of history in Custer County and the adjacent Black Hills area.

Working closely with the Board of Directors, the Museum Director oversees all aspects of the organization's day to day operation. The museum is open to the public May through September. Year-round position - reduced hours during the off-season.

For the full job description email

1881courthousemuseum@gwtc.net • 605.673.2443



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