



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

Are You Forgetting The Most Important Part of Hiring?



Are You Forgetting The Most Important Part of Hiring?

Hiring is one of the costliest things you do as a business as it can leave you exposed and vulnerable. While a good hire can be a turning point in your business, a bad hire can leave you (and your employees) reeling. That's why the interview and selection process are important. However, it's what you do after that that will shape the employee and your team the most. No matter the size of your business, if you are bringing someone new on, you must consider the onboarding process.

What Is Onboarding and Why Does It Matter?

Onboarding is the first exposure your new employee has to you and your business. A bad—or nonexistent—onboarding process will override an enjoyable recruitment. Recruiting is the courtship. Employment is the marriage. If you did something in recruitment/hiring that isn't reflected in the first few days on the job, the new employee will feel a disconnect and may begin pulling away.

Onboarding sets the tone for your fledgling relationship. It shapes how they'll feel about leadership and their peers. And it can increase employee productivity by 72% and employee retention by 80%. So, it's worth the effort.

Onboarding goes beyond gifting and training. And should be a consideration for every size business. If you are hiring, you're never too small to consider onboarding.

Components of a Successful Onboarding Program

The onboarding process should consist of a:

- **Solid introduction to what your business is (mission) and what you do (training).** Most employers know how critical training is, but they forget to introduce the new employee to their position in the universe. A good onboarding shows the employee “you are here” and gives them a mission of how they fit into the larger plan, thus giving them purpose early on.
- **Welcome.** Onboarding is making them feel part of a team. This should begin with a welcome email (or text) and a “what to expect” on your first day before they arrive. If you run a small operation, this may seem like overkill, but firsts can be unnerving. Employees should know where they can park, what they should wear, and what lunch will look like (will you take them out? Is there a special hour they must take lunch?) Sharing this info will help them feel at ease and excited about joining the team.
- **Buddy.** If you're more than a team of one, consider assigning them a peer buddy to answer their questions early on and check in on them. A buddy can likely give them more attention than you can and will feel more approachable.
- **List of resources.** Make sure they know where to go for what. It's important for the new employee to feel like they have what they need to succeed. Explain how you will work with them to remove roadblocks and what they can do to make that happen. Detail the process.
- **Introductions.** Help them get to know others in all departments or verticals. Again, this makes them feel like they're part of something bigger

they're part of something bigger.

- **Understanding of company culture.** If there's something you require of employees or something you don't want them to say, like using the excuse "I'm new" to a customer, train them early on it and ensure they understand the "why" behind it. They'll be more apt to remember the training if they know why it's critical or what it does for the customer.
- **Establish work/life balance early on.** Bring up vacation schedules and how they're decided. Inform your new employee about breaks and ensure they take them. Model good behavior in establishing a work/life balance for them as well if you want them to have staying power.
- **Explain what they can expect from training now and in the future** Tell the new employee how you prioritize learning and growth.
- **Give them some swag.** This is the honeymoon phase for your employee. When you give them some swag, they not only feel welcomed, but they're also more likely to become a branded advertisement for you because they're proud of their new role.
- **Be ready.** One of the most critical things behind an onboarding process is that it gets you ready for your new employee. If you take the time to recruit, woo, and hire a new employee and then they show up on day one and don't have a physical space and the tools needed to perform the job, they can feel like an afterthought. Have everything ready for them the day they start.

Do Small Businesses Need Onboarding?

The short answer is yes. The goal behind onboarding is to exhibit company culture early on and create an effective training program and introduction to your business. Even if you're a company of one, it's likely you want to continue to grow. This new employee can help you build a foundation for success. So, it's essential to create a strong one with staying power (aka retention). If you don't take the time to onboard your employee(s), you're trying to create a foundation that keeps getting swapped out and lacks consistency. A strong onboarding program is as essential with your first employee as with your 101st employee since you are only as strong as your weakest team member. Never is that more apparent than with employee #1.

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 wants to move to Alaska before she is too old to enjoy it.

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

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
Corey Virtue
Eric Butler
John Stahl
Miranda Boggs

Julie Jenniges - City Liaison

Mark Naugle - School Liaison



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.



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



MONTH _____						

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

Chamber Members:

We have been approached via BH&B by Dan Bilka, coordinator for the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition, to write a letter of support for an investment in rail

transportation infrastructure. As this is something that could impact all of us, I am passing along the information to you as well. He has asked that interested parties send letters of support to Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson, encouraging them to get on-board with passenger rail and help ensure that it is a national priority moving forward.

Comments to the Federal Railroad Administration regarding the Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study can be submitted at

<https://fralongdistancerailstudy.org/comments/> and are requested by March 8.

Attached are examples and below is additional information which was provided, including a link to Letters and Resolutions of support/interest" page: <https://allaboardnw.org/our-work/resolutions-and-letters-of-support/>

If you have questions you would like to address with Mr. Bilka, you can reach him at dan@allaboardnw.org.

Sample Letter

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

March 21

Chamber Mixer

5pm-7pm

Garland Goff Law Office

April 11

Spring Fling

5pm-8pm

The Custer Beacon

April 18
Chamber Mixer
5pm-7pm
Lewis Realty

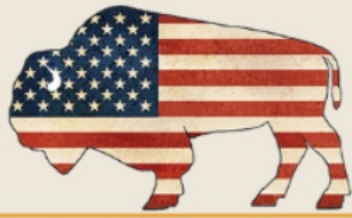
WEEKLY HUMOR



*I'm a small business owner, if
you see me talking to myself
please do not stop me. I'm
having a staff meeting.*

CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

Join us TONIGHT!!



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Mixer

Hosted By:



March 21st from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Held At the Garland Lee Goff Attorney at Law
220 N 5th St, Custer, SD 57730

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

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



Spring Fling

Sponsors Needed

Sponsoring this event is an opportunity to showcase your business and show your community support. Your sponsorship will be announced during the banquet and printed on all published materials.

Gold Sponsor ~ \$300

includes 3 free meals

Silver Sponsor ~ \$200


includes 2 free meals

Brnze Sponsor ~ \$100

includes 1 free meal

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





2024 Chamber's Annual Spring Fling

**Thursday, April 11
at Custer Beacon**

5:00pm Social Hour

6:00pm Heavy Hors D'oevres

\$35 per person

**Please RSVP to Dawn by April 2nd
dmurray@custersd.com or 673-2244**

3/7/24

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 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.



**NEW LOGO
NEW CENTURY**

**WE ARE
ACCEPTING NEW
LOGO IDEAS FOR THE
2024 GOLD
DISCOVERY DAYS.**

Submit your designs by
May 1, 2024

3/21/24

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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
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

WEEKLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



2024 Custer Chamber

Willow Creek Child Care



Address: 25263 US Hwy 385, Custer, SD 57730 **Phone:** 605-517-1222

Email: tcooper@willowcreekchildcare.org

Tenna Cooper is the proud owner of *Willow Creek Child Care*. Tenna is married to Chuck Cooper and has three amazing kids; Ender Gosser, Silas Gosser, and Emory Gosser. Tenna moved to Custer in 2020 to be closer to family. She is a co-leader for the Custer Girl Scout Troop 72244 and is the Custer Wildcat Competitive Cheer Coach. Tenna is a bachelor prepared wound certified nurse with a background in infection prevention. She also holds a child development associates credential. As a mother working in healthcare Tenna is familiar with the many obstacles parents face when looking for child care and wanted to provide a resource for parents working non-traditional hours in the community.

AREA EVENTS



Firecracker **Tuesday**

Come play bingo to raise money for
Custer Volunteer Fire Department's
4th of July fireworks show!

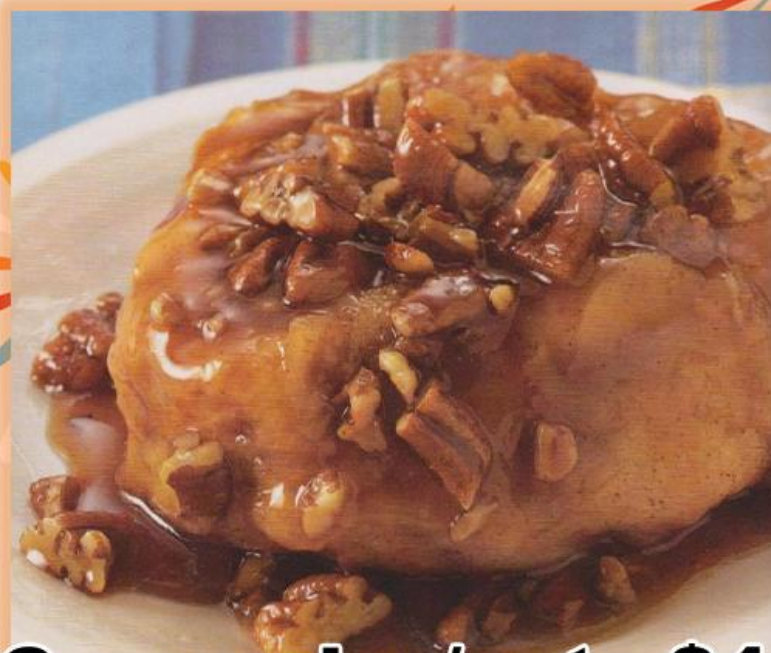
6 pm - 10 pm Every Tuesday

Drink specials
Asian Food
Prizes

Gold Pan Saloon

Sponsored by Custer Chamber of Commerce

 **Cinnamon Rolls are
back at the Custer
Senior Center!!!!!!** 



**Caramel w/nuts \$4
or w/o nuts \$3.50
Frosted & Plain \$2.50**

Every Friday

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

538 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer

9AM UNTIL THEY'RE GONE!

**Advance Orders by Wednesday
at Noon are Recommended.**

Call 605-673-2708



MONTHLY MEETING

3rd Thursday of the Month

Thursday, March 21st - 6:00 PM

*Custer County Library - Pine Room
447 Crook St*

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

Email: ccsddp21info@gmail.com

PO Box 5065 Custer, SD 57730



Facebook:

@custercountymocratsofsouthdakota

The Great Custer Easter Egg Hunt



Organized by:  **Custer
State Farm®**

**Friday, March 22nd
4PM-6PM**

Join Custer State Farm starting at 4PM at their office at 302 Mt. Rushmore Road. Children will receive an Easter Basket (Compliments of Custer State Farm) and a map to local businesses participating in the Great Easter Egg Hunt.

Then follow the map around town and visit local businesses to get your child's basket filled with Easter goodies!

Jordan's Senior Project

Chili Feed

Live Benefit Auction

All Proceeds Go to Christmas for Kids

Saturday March 23rd at 6 PM

VFW Post 3442 in Custer



Contact:

Corey Virtue 605-517-0193

Jordan Steed 605-440-0994

3/14/24



BUNNY

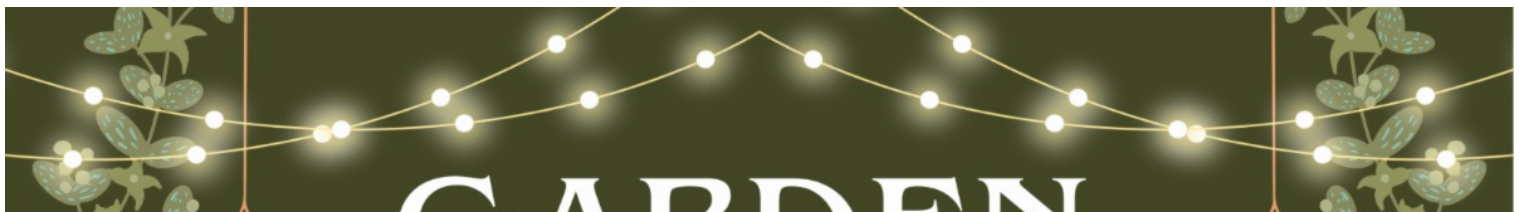
BINGO

**Sunday
March 24
2:00-5:00**

**VFW Post 3442
Custer, SD**

VFW Auxiliary Benefit

ANYONE CAN PLAY - ALL AGES WELCOME



GARDEN CLUB

Seed Library Kick-off

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Custer County Library

Seeds, plant cuttings, plants,
information on Winter Sowing,
Hydroponics and Propagation

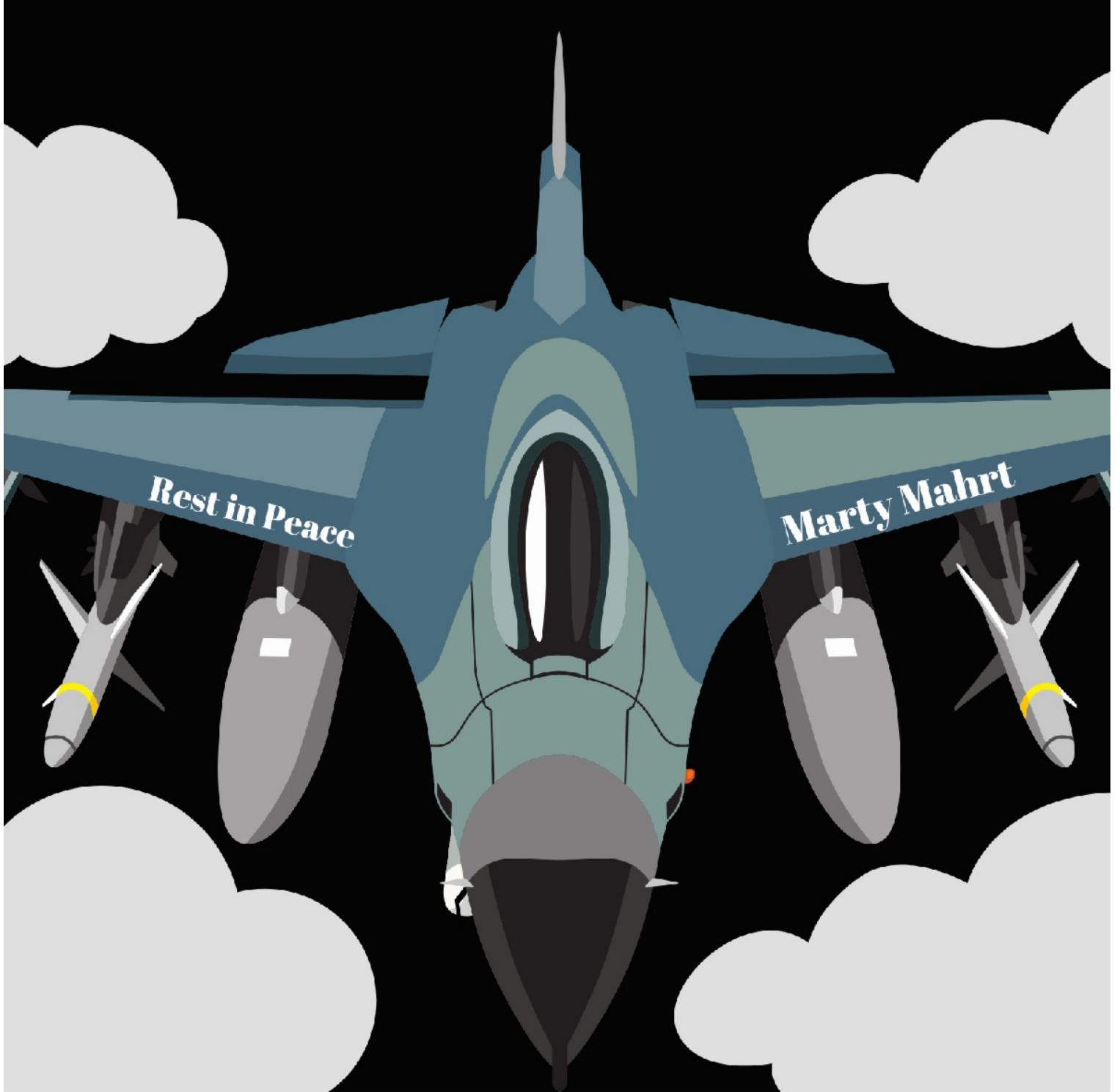
All seeds are FREE to ANYONE
(Custer Co. Resident or not) ---
all they have to do is promise
to PLANT THEM!

3/21/24

Marty Mahrt

Tune In.....

Colonel Marty Mahrt, a Custer hometown hero who passed away in January, was profiled in February, 2021 on PBS TV. The program, which aired nationwide in 2021, will be rebroadcasted on SDPB Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 P.M. MT and again on Sunday, March 31 at 12:30 P.M. MT. Marty's 88th combat mission was in his F-105 over Vietnam.



3/7/24

AN EGG-CITING EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

CUSTER YMCA
THE CUSTER VFW AUXILIARY
BEGGING BURRO MEXICAN BISTRO
SOUTHERN HILLS TITLE COMPANY
MT. RUSHMORE BREWING COMPANY

Hop on over to Harbach Park across from the Custer Chamber of Commerce. Bring your baskets and be ready to collect eggs stuffed with special treats courtesy of the Custer VFW Auxiliary, Begging Burro Mexican Bistro, Southern Hills Title Company & Mt. Rushmore Brewing Company. Have your camera ready & snap a photo with the Easter Bunny! This event is free for all children ages 0 to 8 years old. No registration is required.

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024
TIME: 9:00 AM
FEE: FREE
AGES: INFANT – 3RD GRADE
LOCATION: HARBACH PARK
 (Across from The Custer Chamber of Commerce)
 Washington Street
 Mickelson Trail
 Custer, SD 57730
 605.673.5134
<http://www.rcymca.org>



111237 04/12

**Saturday, March 30th @ 10 a.m.
Hermosa Baseball Fields**

AGE DIVISIONS:

3 AND UNDER

4 - 7 YEARS OLD

8 - 10 YEARS OLD



**Black Hills
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET!

3/21/24

SDDEMS



MONTHLY BREAKFAST

1ST Saturday of Every Month

Saturday, April 6th - 9:00 AM

Laughing Water Restaurant

Crazy Horse Memorial



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



Email: ccsddp21info@gmail.com

PO Box 5065 Custer, SD 57730

 Facebook:

@custercountymocratsofsouthdakota

3/21/24

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!**

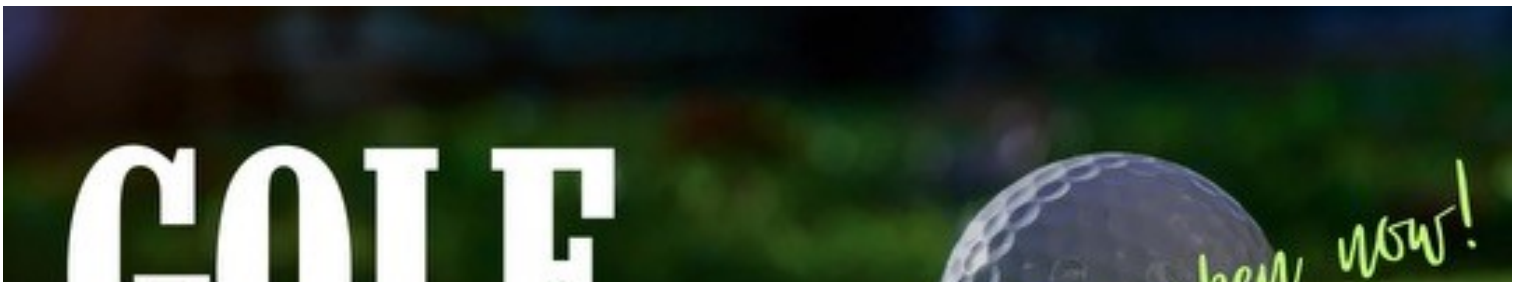
3/21/24

ANNOUNCEMENTS





CALLING ALL GOLFERS



GOLF Tournament

Registration Open



Get ready to tee off at our first annual Golf Tournament!

Join us for a day of fun and friendly competition on the greens as we raise funds for our newly re-opened facility.



SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024



**ROCKY KNOLLS GOLF COURSE
CUSTER, SD 57730**

JOIN US!



308-529-2514



mbarta@custercareandrehab.com

Custer Care and Rehab Center is excited to announce their first annual golf tournament!

Registration is now O P E N.

The Details

When: Saturday June 1, 2024

Where: Rocky Knolls Golf Course

Time: 9:00 a.m. start

What: 18-hole 4 man scramble.

Cost: \$500 team entry fee, covers course + cart fees and meal.

Teams: 18 team limit, separated into two flights.

Interested in becoming a sponsor or volunteer? Reach out to Madison for more opportunities.

Round up your team and reach out to Madison to get registered before spots fill up!

Stay Tuned for more exciting “day of” details to come!



SUPPORT YOUR FURRY FRIENDS!

*During the month of March, Lewis Realty is collecting **DONATIONS** for Battle Mountain Humane Society!*

Join us in making a paw-sitive impact on the lives of our furry friends at Battle Mountain Humane Society. Your generous donations can make a world of difference for animals in need.



WHY DONATE?

- 🏠 Your contributions help provide a safe haven for animals awaiting their forever homes.
- 📦 Help BMHS ensure that every pet receives nutritious meals and proper care.
- 🏥 Assist in covering medical expenses for injured or sick animals in care of BMHS.
- 🛏️ Contribute to the well-being of pets by providing cozy beds, blankets, and toys.

Deadline for Donations: March 31st, 2024

Check out the website!

battlemountainhumanesociety.org/donations
to see what other ways you can help.



Scan to visit the website!



BIGGEST NEEDS:

1. Purina Dog Chow
2. Friskies Canned Food- Pate

Other Items Needed:

- Purina Dog or Cat Chow
- Purina Canned Cat or Dog Food
- All sizes of animal beds
- Cedar shavings, blankets, rugs
- Metal Chop Saw, Gas Chainsaw
- Cat & Dog Treats
- Dog Houses
- Lumber, tin, gravel

Ready to donate? Stop by one of our TWO convenient drop-off locations in March!



Lewis Realty
14 Mt Rushmore Road
Custer, SD 57730

Massa Dental Offices
602 Jennings Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

We are also accepting monetary donations. Thank you for supporting Battle Mountain Humane Society. Your compassion makes a lasting difference in the lives of our four-legged friends! 🐾💙



CUSTER MILE HIGH GARDEN CLUB

To Whom it may concern;

January 2024

The Custer Mile High Garden Club annual scholarship program has two scholarships available for 2024 in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. Our Mission is to promote community and home beautification while improving the environment and conserving native plants.

Applicant must be a current Custer County or Fall River County resident pursuing post-secondary studies. Scholarship applicants must be currently enrolled in a recognized horticulture, agriculture, botany, or ecology program in such as college, technical school, or trade school. The recipient must provide all documentation requested in the application. The scholarship is to be used within one calendar year of the scholarship selection.

Direct any questions or request electronic forms from:

Brenda Anderson
25743 Carroll Creek Road
Custer, SD 57730
Cell #: (605) 440-0316
busyewefarm@gmail.com

2024 Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Monday, April 22, 2024. Application postmarked after April 22, 2024 will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 8, 2024.

Respectfully,
Custer Mile High Garden Club, Scholarship Committee
Jenny Behlings
Brenda Anderson
Jill Schanzenbach
Peggy Williams

3/7/24

MARCH 25TH - APRIL 13TH | 2024





SHOP WITH US!



Fabric Junction, Sturgis, SD

Heartfelt Quilt Shop, Spearfish, SD

Nuts & Bolts, Edgemont, SD

Outwest Quilts, Wall, SD

Quilt Connection 2, Buffalo, SD

Quilt Connection, Rapid City, SD

Quilted Buffalo, Custer, SD

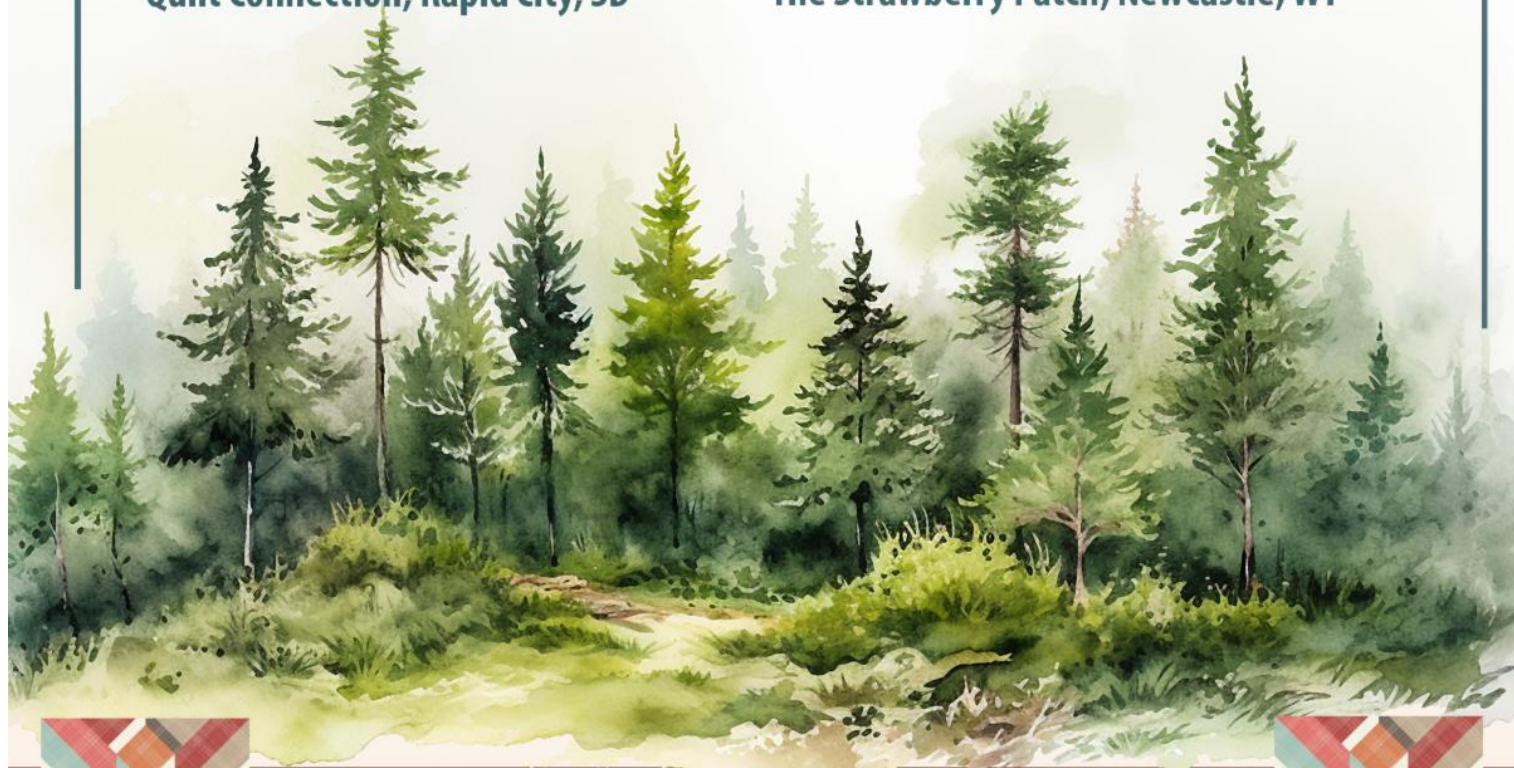
The Bakery Fabrics, Belle Fourche, SD

The Farmer's Daughter, Hill City, SD

The Knothole, Spearfish, SD

The Sewing Center, Rapid City, SD

The Strawberry Patch, Newcastle, WY



**Collect Patterns and Sign Up for Door Prizes!
Visit All Participating Shops for a Chance to Win the Grand Prize!**

 Like Black Hills Shop Hop for updates and more info.





Custer County Courthouse Art Gallery

420 Mount Rushmore Road, second floor

Through March 29, 2024

Showcasing the artwork of

Tracy Harrison.

Endorsed by Custer Area Arts Council.



HAIR PIPE BONE JEWELRY

"Jewelry is great for me to create. There is a wide variety. I like using buffalo nickels or the Indian head nickel to represent the Plains natives. It's a unique touch and everyone loves the nickel. I enjoy using different stones for healing. Hair Pipe Bone beads were usually used for chokers and chest plates. They represent protection.."

3/21/24

CUSTER'S LAST STOP LOVES LOCALS

We appreciate your support and want to offer some of our

fresh handmade meals at great deals! Every day we will have
a special discounted price on select menu items!

Monday – Hot Dog Day

50 % off any of our delicious gourmet grilled Hot Dogs,
including our quarter pound Bison Dogs

Ten Dollar Tuesday

Founding Fathers Pepperoni Pizza for only \$9.99

Wagyu Wednesday

Wonderfully Tasty Wagyu Beef Burger \$10.99

Gold Nugget Thursday

Custer's Gold Nuggets for only \$6.99

Fluffy Cow Friday

Try our new Fluffy Cow Pizza \$11.99

Slider Days

Saturday - Bison Sliders for only \$9.99

Sunday - Gold Chicken Sliders for only \$7.99

Offers expire April 30th stop in today before they are gone!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

429 MT RUSHMORE RD

(605)673-2621





**GOOD KARMA
JEWELRY**

Custer, SD

NEW SEASONAL HOURS

**MONDAY - SUNDAY
10AM - 5PM**

507 MT RUSHMORE RD. CUSTER, SD - PHONE : 605-673-3047

3/14/24



www.kevin.bhsdrealty.com

605-431-5094

kevinkennedy605@gmail.com

Kevin Kennedy, BrokerAssociate





Perfect spot overlooking Angostura
2.3 Acres, building site
\$285,000



2 mile Rd., Custer
40 Outstanding Acres
\$289,000



TBD Silver Creek 7.17 beautiful acres in the heart
of the Black Hills National Forest
\$430,200



TBD Rochford Rd. 6.06 Acres surrounded
by creeks, trees and valleys.
Plans for electric and water to be brought
to the building site. \$363,600

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

3/14/24

NEWS FROM SD DOT



Project Update

Friday, March 1, 2024

Phase 1 Traffic Impacts Begin March 12, 2024

Phase 1 construction will begin on March 12, 2024 and will continue through winter of 2025. Phase 1 include a number of traffic impacts, including shoofly detours (detours on gravel roads built parallel to the existing roadway), diversions (smaller-scale shoofly detours) complete closures from S.D. Highway 44 to the northern end of Pactola Dam, rock blasting with temporary closures, and pilot cars with wait times.

Users of the roadway can expect delays of 20 minutes during construction in areas that remain open to traffic and up to 1-2 hours during rock blasting. To avoid unknown wait times, consider using the posted detour of S.D. Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 16.

PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION

Spring 2024 - Winter 2025

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION:



Pilot car lines and wait times



Rock blasting



Loose gravel road surface



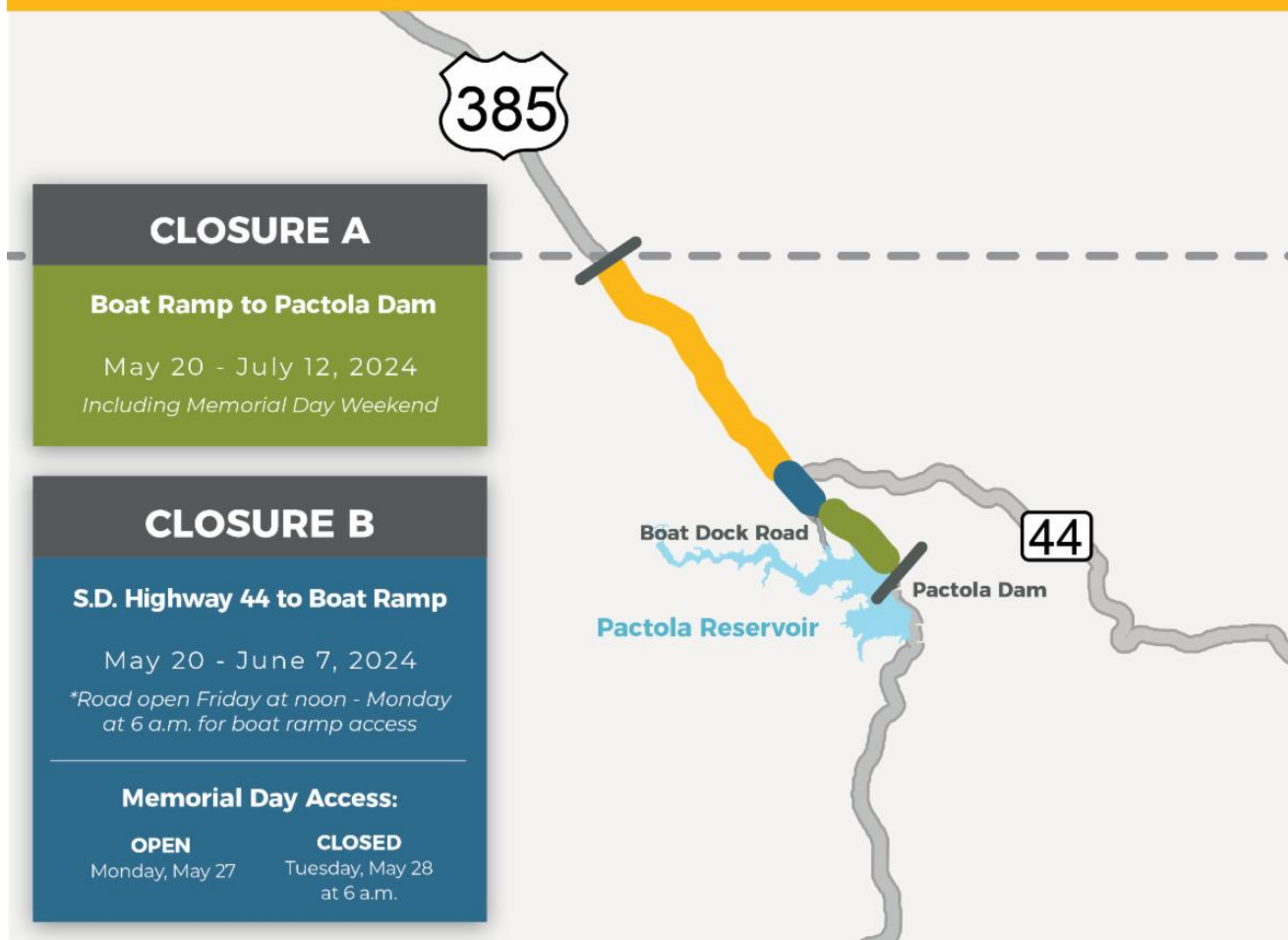
Narrowed driving lanes



Large construction equipment



Temporary road closures



CLOSURE A

Boat Ramp to Pactola Dam

May 20 - July 12, 2024

Including Memorial Day Weekend

CLOSURE B

S.D. Highway 44 to Boat Ramp

May 20 - June 7, 2024

**Road open Friday at noon - Monday at 6 a.m. for boat ramp access*

Memorial Day Access:

OPEN
Monday, May 27

CLOSED
Tuesday, May 28
at 6 a.m.

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

[View Construction Updates](#)

Stay Connected

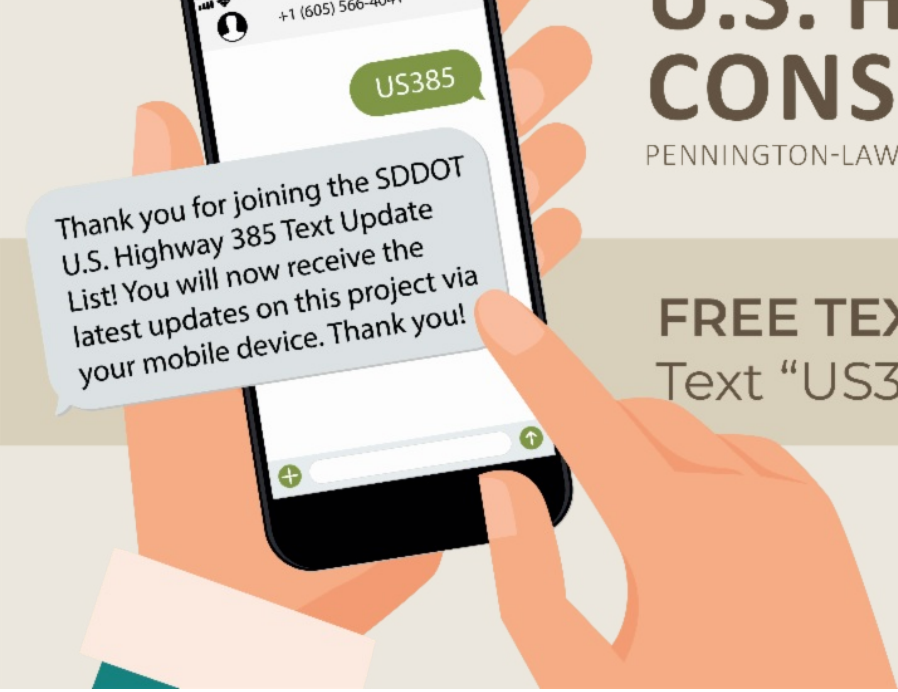
Take a moment now to share this email with neighbors, friends, coworkers, and anyone else who might be interested in the U.S. Highway 385 Construction Project. Then encourage them to sign up for these project email updates at <https://us-385.com>.

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



U.S. HIGHWAY 385 CONSTRUCTION

PENNINGTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE TO SHERIDAN LAKE



Thank you for joining the SDDOT
U.S. Highway 385 Text Update
List! You will now receive the
latest updates on this project via
your mobile device. Thank you!

FREE TEXT ALERTS:
Text "US385" to 605-566-4041



3/7/24

NEWS FROM THE STATE

TRAVEL
South Dakota



SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA

SPRING CUSTOMER SERVICE SEMINARS

MAY 6-9, 2024

In partnership with the South Dakota Retailers Association, Travel South Dakota will again host our annual *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.

3/21/24

PRESS RELEASE

Wind Cave National Park News Release

Release Date: March 8, 2024

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tom Farrell, tom_farrell@nps.gov, 605-745-1130

Wind Cave Rangers focus on surface programs during elevator modernization this summer

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. – Wind Cave will be closed to tours beginning May 1 while the elevator system is replaced and modernized. The elevator system provides access to the cave for approximately 130,000 visitors annually. Many repairs to the elevators have taken place over the years and the existing system includes parts dating back to the 1930s. This is the first time a complete rebuild has happened and the work is expected to continue into the fall.

“We’re excited to finally be able to completely rebuild the old elevators, including replacement of the cabs, motors, cables, and electrical equipment,” said Park Superintendent Leigh Welling. “We appreciate everyone’s patience while we improve access to the cave and remind you that there are still many things to do at the park. In addition to ranger led talks and hikes, we have new exhibits being installed in the visitor center this spring that include several interactive stations, a walk-through cave, and a prairie diorama. These exhibits are truly beautiful and tell a more current and accurate story of this land.”

Rangers will also be offering virtual tours of the cave in the visitor center auditorium. The program uses LIDAR technology to give a tour of the Natural Entrance Tour route.

Surface activities include talks about nature, culture, and history at the Natural Entrance and at the visitor center and hikes across the prairie.

For more information, contact the park at 605-745-4600.

www.nps.gov/wica

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 429 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.





Photo Caption: Rangers at Wind Cave will be offering virtual tours of the cave this summer while the cave is closed for elevator modernization. (NPS Photo)



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

South Dakota Hall of Fame Receives \$10,000 Grant from Mary Chilton DAR Foundation

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. – The South Dakota Hall of Fame is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation. This generous grant will support the South Dakota Hall of Fame's upcoming project, which aims to create a cultural exhibit celebrating the heritage of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people - The Nine Native Nations of South Dakota.

The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) was founded by women in 1890 for historical, educational, and patriotic purposes. The Mary Chilton Chapter, located in Sioux Falls, SD, was chartered in 1915 and incorporated in 1957. DAR efforts are directed towards perpetuating the memory and spirit of those who achieved American independence, cherishing, and maintaining American freedom, fostering patriotism, and aiding in securing the blessings of liberty for all.

The South Dakota Hall of Fame's project aligns closely with DAR's mission by cherishing and preserving the cultural heritage of Native Americans. Through engaging displays and collaborative partnerships with tribal communities, the exhibit will showcase the diverse histories, traditions, and contemporary significance of the Nine Native Nations of South Dakota. By promoting inclusivity, education, and the preservation of the Lakota language, the project aims to foster cultural understanding and appreciation among visitors.

"This grant from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation is a testament to their commitment to supporting projects that honor and preserve our cultural heritage," said Laurie Becvar, South Dakota Hall of Fame's CEO. "We are deeply grateful for their generosity and excited to bring this important exhibit to life."

The South Dakota Hall of Fame expresses its sincere appreciation to the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation for their contribution to this meaningful project.

For more information about the South Dakota Hall of Fame and its upcoming projects, visit sdhalloffame.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Laurie Becvar, Ed.D., M.A.
CEO, South Dakota Hall of Fame
605-234-4216
lbecvar@sdhalloffame.org

ABOUT THE SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME

The South Dakota Hall of Fame is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring, preserving, and promoting the rich history and heritage of South Dakota. Through exhibits, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives, the SD Hall of Fame celebrates the achievements and contributions of individuals who have made a significant impact on the state. For further information, please visit sdhalloffame.org.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial News Release

For Immediate Release – March 11, 2024

Contact: Earl Perez-Foust

Phone: (605) 574-3115

Email: moru_information@nps.gov

Avenue of Flags to Feature New Utah and Minnesota State Flags in 2024

KEYSTONE, SD -- The park will make two changes to the iconic Avenue of Flags in 2024. Utah and Minnesota legislatures have both passed legislation changing their respective state flag designs. The new Utah flag was installed on March 9, while Minnesota's will be installed May 11. Utah's new flag will centrally feature a beehive. Minnesota's will have colors representing the shape of the state and the numerous lakes which comprise that state.

The *Avenue of Flags* was first established at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in 1976. This was to commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States of America. The Avenue features fifty-six flags representing fifty states, one district, three territories, and two commonwealths of the United States of America. The design of the Avenue of Flags has changed over the decades, with the current version having been completed in June 2021.

The flags are arranged in alphabetical order with the A's on the walkway near the café and gift shop buildings and the W's on the opposite side near the Grand View Terrace. The names of each state, district, commonwealth or territory are listed on the pillars directly below each flag. If you have trouble locating your flag during a visit to the park, please ask a park ranger for assistance.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 429 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov and on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.

Earl Perez-Foust, *he/him*

Program Manager

Interpretation and Education

Office: 605-574-3115

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

3/14/24



Black Hills
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION™

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Contacts - Black Hills Federal Credit Union:

Heidi Bulman
Community Development Officer
(605) 858-6155

Leslie Millard
Marketing Communications Specialist
(605) 858-6098

BHFCU Awards \$20,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors

RAPID CITY, S.D., March 20, 2024 – Each year, Black Hills Federal Credit Union (BHFCU) celebrates the accomplishments of high school seniors with \$20,000 worth of scholarships. Over the past two decades, BHFCU has awarded aid to more than 130 local students through the VIBZ Scholarship Program. This year's application call drew an impressive pool of applicants, but these ten students rose to the top. Each student will receive \$2,000 for their first year of higher education. Demonstrating outstanding commitment, leadership, community service, and academic achievement, please join BHFCU in celebrating these outstanding students.

Owen P. Roman S.

Rapid City Stevens High School Rapid City Stevens High School
University of South Dakota: University of Washington:
Medical Biology Computer Science

Tate C. Robin T.

Rapid City Stevens High School Rapid City Stevens High School
Northern State University: Black Hills State University:
Business Art & Music

Karina N. Maria E.

Hot Springs High School Spearfish High School
Chadron State College: South Dakota State University:
Legal Studies Animal Science/Pre-Vet

Abigail K. Alana G.

T.F. Riggs High School Douglas High School
University of Nebraska Kearney: University of South Dakota:
Pre-Chiropractic Pre-Medicine

Daniel J. Bailey C.

Homeschool Custer High School
Dakota Wesleyan University: Grand Canyon University:
Athletic Training Nutrition & Dietetics

BHFCU supports community needs through corporate donations, employee fundraisers, and contributions from community supporters to the Black Hills FCU Charitable Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
About Black Hills Federal Credit Union

Established in Rapid City in 1941, Black Hills Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative serving more than 105,000 members. The community-chartered credit union has locations in Rapid City, Custer, Eagle Butte, Hot Springs, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, and Wall, South Dakota, and Billings, Montana. For more information, visit bhfcu.com.





South Dakota Hall of Fame Seeks Acts of Excellence Recommendations for 2024

For Immediate Release

Every day, South Dakotans do extraordinary things. The South Dakota Hall of Fame's Acts of Excellence (AOE) program, sponsored by Sanford Health, recognizes the individuals and organizations who are building a culture of excellence in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Hall of Fame is proud to announce that the Acts of Excellence Program is now accepting recommendations for this year's Acts of Excellence awards through March 31st, 2024. The public's input is valuable to the organization in identifying excellence across the state. We encourage South Dakotans to look for the excellence taking place in their communities and submit a recommendation today.

Awardees will be announced later this spring, with a special ceremony to honor the awardees taking place on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at the Visitor and Education Center in Chamberlain, South Dakota. This event will be a celebration of their achievements and contributions. Furthermore, the Visitor and Education Center will feature a year-long display showcasing the awardees, offering a tribute to their excellence and impact on their communities.

To learn more about The Acts of Excellence program, as well as the recommendation process, individuals can visit the South Dakota Hall of Fame's website at: <https://www.sdhalloffame.org/acts-of-excellence>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurie Becvar, Ed.D., M.A.
CEO, South Dakota Hall of Fame
lbecvar@sdhalloffame.org
605-234-4216

ABOUT THE SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME

The South Dakota of Fame is a 501c3 nonprofit organization designed to Honor, Inspire, and Educate. The Hall's mission is to **Champion a Culture of Excellence** and the public charity is built upon the recognition, celebration, and preservation of the stories of South Dakotans instrumental in establishing that culture. **More on the South Dakota Hall of Fame [here](#).**

3/21/24



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Early March Features - 2024

Public Comments Sought for GAOA Mitchell Dam Project on the Mystic Ranger District

Dam Project on the Mystic Ranger District

Rapid City, SD, February 29, 2024 — The Black Hills National Forest is proposing a project to address the deferred maintenance of the dam at Mitchell Lake, located on Spring Creek just east of Hill City along Highway 16. The project is called the Great American Outdoors Act Mitchell Dam Project.

The proposal is to either decommission (remove) the dam or repair the dam and remove the built-up silt. The current state of the dam does not meet requirements to protect life and property downstream for a probable maximum flood event where over 56,000 cubic feet of water per second flows at the dam. Significant damage and potential loss of life could result in the event of a dam failure.

If the dam is decommissioned, riparian habitat would be restored, and the stream would be designed to enhance the recreational fishing experience. Through decommissioning, the dam would be removed completely, and thus would no longer pose a threat to downstream populations and infrastructure. The natural Spring Creek river channel is proposed to be restored through the existing reservoir pool area to match the natural channel materials and features prior to creation of the reservoir.

The entire sediment pool would also be revegetated with a native seed mix. The existing floodplain of the channel would be restored with native shrubs, trees, and grasses. Graveled parking areas and walking trails would be considered to provide better access to the restored floodplain and channel for the public.

If the dam is repaired, the overall height would be reduced slightly. Rehabilitation would include removal and reconstruction of the existing auxiliary spillway and outlet works, as both are significantly deteriorated and not capable of routing the design storm events. Sediment removal to restore the original storage capacity of the dam is also proposed. The primary spillway outlet intake, control, and conduit would also be reconstructed. The overall lake size would remain relatively the same.

Nearly two-thirds of the reservoir's capacity has been filled with sediment since construction. The original 1937 drawings for the dam show storage of 53.35 acre-feet at the auxiliary spillway crest, and the most recent bathymetric survey shows only 17.8 acre-feet of storage. To restore the reservoir to its previous capacity, approximately 35 acre-feet of sediment would need to be removed. Onsite disposal is likely not feasible as the reservoir is constricted by steep canyon walls and Highway 16.

The third option is a No-action Alternative: Categorized as a high hazard dam, if left alone, the estimated damages and loss of life are high. The costs of no action range up to \$14.9 million with an additional \$2 million or more in deferred maintenance and sediment removal costs.

The Mystic Ranger District has a public involvement plan identifying specific public involvement objectives, including collaborative efforts, methods to achieve the objectives, estimated times and dates for any activities and the people organizations to involve. A public meeting is planned for this project on March 13 from 6-8 p.m. at the Community Center in Hill City.

The scoping document is now available for the proposed Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Mitchell Dam Project. The preliminary assessment is to evaluate this proposal as a categorical exclusion (CE), 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(18), categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Statement. The scoping document is currently available for a 30-day agency and public review period. Documents relating to this project can be found on the Black Hills National Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/blackhills/?project=65637>.

Forest Service specialists will analyze potential effects on resources such as water, wildlife, cultural resources, recreation, and timber. Required consultation with other federal, state, and tribal entities, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, will also occur prior to the decision.

Electronic comments are preferred and must be submitted to the Comment Reviewing Officer online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=65637>. An automated response should confirm your electronic comment has been received. Comments can also be sent via U.S. mail to Mystic Ranger District Office, Attn: GAOA Mitchell Dam Project, 8221 S. Mount Rushmore Rd., Rapid City, SD, 57702 or by fax at 605-343-7134. While the Forest welcomes comments on this proposal at any time, it would be most helpful if the comments are received by March 29, 2024. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Comments submitted, including names and addresses of commenters, are public information.

For additional information, or if there are questions on this proposed project, please contact Brittany Coupe, Civil Engineer, at (605) 642-4622 or Jim Gubbels at the Mystic Ranger District office in Rapid City, SD, at (605) 343-1567, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

For more information on the Black Hills National Forest,

visit: www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills

or follow Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blackhillsnf>

and/or Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlackHillsNF>

3/7/24

Beretta and Johnson Gulch Roads to be Temporarily Closed for Safety

Rapid City, S.D., March 1, 2024

Black Hills National Forest officials will temporarily close Beretta Road (Forest System Road 366.3) and Johnson Gulch Road (Forest System Road 674), west of Rapid City from March 4-7, March 18-21, and April 1-4, 2024, from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

These two roads are located approximately 4 miles west of Rockerville, SD or about 4 miles north of Keystone, SD. They are very popular roads used by the public for recreational target shooting on the Forest. The road closures are being put into effect to protect Forest Service employees from shooting activities while they conduct field work, including engineering surveys and timber work in the area.

“We are asking for the public’s cooperation and assistance to avoid this area during these times to ensure the safety of our employees that will be working on critical forest road and timber projects in the area,” said Jim Gubbels, Mystic District Ranger.

The closure order prohibits motor vehicle use on the roads except for:

- a. Persons with a special use authorization from the Forest Service specifically exempting them from the order,
- b. Any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer or any member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

A map of the area and the closure order are posted online at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/blackhills/notices/?cid=STELPRDB5117120>. For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills>.

3/7/24





Custer Senior Center


March Activities

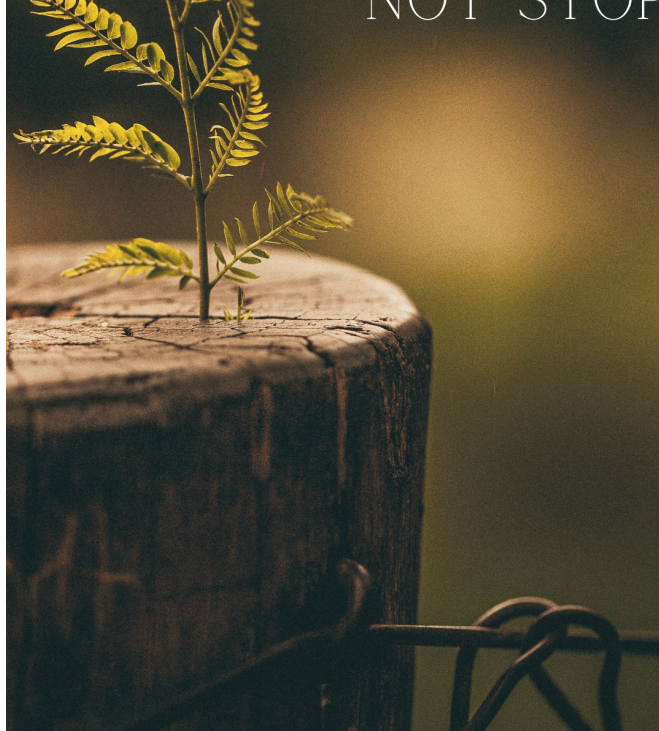


[Click here to Check out the Custer School District Information](#)

WEEKLY INSPIRATION

IT DOES NOT MATTER
HOW SLOWLY YOU
GO, AS LONG
AS YOU DO
NOT STOP

A decorative image of a fern frond, showing the intricate, feathery structure of the leaves. The frond is dark green and is positioned in the bottom left corner of the text area.



HELP WANTED

BRADEEN
100 YEARS

REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS

www.bradeenauction.com

A BUSY SEASON IS UPON US!!

Would you consider joining our Team? Bradeen Real Estate & Auctions seeks to fill full time and part time positions in our fast-paced business. Part-time positions are available for Auction Specialists capable of auction set-up, photography, data entry, checkout, and settlement.

A full-time position is available in our front office providing customer service for auction and real estate clients, advertisement placement, accepting rent payments and much more. Solid computer skills, knowledge of Microsoft Word and Quickbooks, and the ability to learn new programs and share existing knowledge are key. Potential exists for advancement to Office Management position.

Bradeen Auctions recently celebrated 100 years of service to the region, so consider becoming part of this history filled century-plus business!

Stop by our office at 9 W. Mt. Rushmore Road or send your resume' to office@bradeenauction.com. Call us at 605-673-2629 if you have questions. We look forward to working with you!!

Laughing Water Restaurant at Crazy Horse Memorial® is currently searching for a FULL -TIME YEAR-ROUND LINE COOK.

Prior experience in working kitchen line in a fast paced - small restaurant or food service environment is a must.

Position is full-time, year-round at 35/40 hours per week w/ Evening, Holiday & Weekends required and some overtime.

This is an hourly position with the benefits associated with full-time, year-round employment, which include medical, dental, optical, and AFLAC insurances, Paid Personal Leave, and a retirement plan.

Please contact HR@CrazyHorse.org or call (605) 673-4681 for more information!



Laughing Water
RESTAURANT®
AT CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL®



HIRE HIRING!

PLEASE EMAIL
SKOGEN@SKOGENKITCHEN.COM

Job Positions

- Line cooks
- Dishwashers
- Full time
- Part time

Ph: 605.673.2241
E: skogen@skogenkitchen.com
W: www.skogenkitchen.com

GOOD KARMA
JEWELRY

Custer, SD

WOW

NOW HIRING

SEASONAL PART TIME

- **SALES ASSOCIATE**
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE**
- **SALES EXPERIENCE**
- **GREAT PEOPLE SKILLS**
- **21 OR OLDER**
- **WILLING TO WORK WEEKENDS & EVENINGS**



CONTACT US:

(605) 673-3047

507 Mt Rushmore Rd Custer, SD

Be sure to check out the Help Wanted section on our [Website](#):

Our Address:

615 Washington Street

Custer, SD 57730

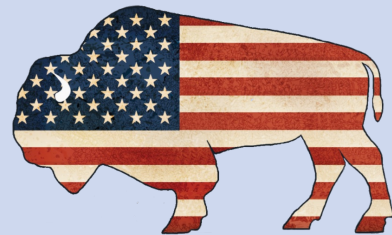
Phone Numbers:

605-673-2244

800-992-9818

dmurray@custersd.com / custersd.com

Send Us An Email



CUSTER
Chamber of Commerce

Visit our Website

Follow Us



Custer Area Chamber of Commerce | 615 Washington St., PO Box 5018, Custer, SD 57730

[Unsubscribe dmurray@custersd.com](mailto:dmurray@custersd.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by dmurray@custersd.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!