





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

#### **CUSTER CONNECTIONS**



The business landscape is noisy and crowded for most of us. But keeping your customers happy and engaged is crucial to your success and their return. Artificial intelligence (AI) offers a powerful toolkit to elevate your customer experience in ways you might not have thought of. And it's not about replacing your employees with robots.

As a small business owner, you can leverage AI to make your customers feel valued and keep them coming back for more.

#### Help Your Employees Focus Where They're Needed Most

Some things you can automate, some you can't. Some questions are easily answered (over, and over throughout the day) and some require more thought.

What if you could hand off all the simple questions to "someone" who will never become impatient no matter how many times it's asked the same thing? What if you could trust the answer will always be given in a professional way from the first time to the thirty-first? Imagine your website anticipating your customers' needs before they even ask.

AI-powered chatbots can greet visitors, answer basic questions, and even guide them toward relevant products or services. This not only saves you time answering repetitive inquiries but also provides immediate assistance, enhancing the customer journey from the very first click.

And this assistant never sleeps.

Trust your human employees with the "peopling" and relationship-building tasks and leave the virtual, repetitive work to AI.

After all, how many times can you tell someone your address and hours without feeling a little robotic anyway?

#### **Help Customers Get What They Want Quickly**

AI can also personalize the online shopping experience. By analyzing past purchases and browsing behavior, recommendation engines can suggest products that complement what a customer has already shown interest in.

Recommendations greatly increase the likelihood of a sale. It also creates a sense of feeling understood, like the website is offering exactly what you need.

#### **Eliminate Frustrating Waits**

Beyond sales, AI can revolutionize your customer support. One of the most common phrases you hear when calling any company these days is, "We are experiencing very high call volumes." That's usually followed by an annoying number of minutes that you will have to wait to get a human on the line.

minutes that you will have to wait to get a numan on the line.

It's not that more people are calling. It's that more companies don't have the staff to support the call volume. Some have turned to "wait in line" call backs but there's another solution.

AI-powered chatbots can handle simple inquiries, freeing up your staff for more complex issues. Chatbots can also be trained to answer frequently asked questions 24/7, ensuring your customers receive prompt assistance even outside of business hours.

#### **Gain Important Customer Insight**

The power of AI extends beyond your website. By analyzing customer reviews and social media sentiment, you can gain valuable insights into what customers think of your brand.

Using this data, you can identify areas for improvement and proactively address any customer concerns. AI can monitor social media and alert you if a customer expressed frustration, allowing you to reach out and resolve the issue before it escalates.

#### Give Customers What They Want Without Hours and Hours of Work

Finally, another way AI can improve the customer experience is through repurposing content. Some of your audience enjoys podcasts, others blogs, or short video clips. It's time consuming to do it all but you should to meet your customers' preferences.

In the past, repurposing took a lot of work. Today, there are AI products that can turn blogs into videos, videos into transcripts, and webinars into bite-sized TikToks and Reels with a couple of clicks. That way, you can give your customers access to the medium of their preference without spending hours repurposing it.

Finally, AI is not a magic bullet. And it takes some time to "teach" it. But it is a powerful tool that can help you personalize customer interactions, streamline processes, and ultimately, create a more positive and memorable customer experience. Plus, it's never going to ask you to buy a box of cookies from its kid or quiet quit on you.

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 currently reading three books at once.

Medium: @christinametcalf

Facebook: @tellyourstorygetemtalking Instagram: @christinametcalfauthor

LinkedIn: @christinagsmith



Dawn Murray
Executive Director

#### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### CHAMBER STAFF

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Valerie Warnr
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Krista Knapp
Information Associate
tourism@custersd.com

#### 2024 Board Of Directors

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

> Amanda Allcock Carrie Moore Corey Virtue

#### **Eric Butler**

#### **Summer Sack Lunches**

Beginning June 3

Custer YMCA

Lunches are available **Monday thru Friday after** 11am.

These lunches are for kids.

No sign-in is required.

This program is provided by the Storehouse.

This program is supervised by the YMCA staff.



Summer Sack Lunches are distributed through the YMCA for 11 weeks of the summer starting June 3.

Local teams form to keep the refrigerator full of sandwiches and snacks for one week for each team.

We have three weeks still to be scheduled with a team. This program is provided by the partnership of the YMCA and the Storehouse.

Interested? Contact Kim Canete at kimberlycanete7@gmail.com

## LAST CALL for Summer City Flower program!

John Stahl Miranda Boggs

Julie Jenniges - City Liaison

Mark Naugle - School Liaison

Lydia Austin - CSP Liaison

Jessica Noteboom - BID Board Liaison



#### 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



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

BH&B is sharing information related to the upcoming *Hwy 385 infrastructure improvement project* that will include *routing options* and continuous business promotion. BH&B's goal is to educate and to

explain that this simple detour will not prevent, nor should it discourage

visitors from enjoying their vacation in the Black Hills. *Visit Route Reimagined* 

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

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

To have things added to Buffalo Bytes, please send to 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

May 20-24

Open House at Custer Chamber 9am-4pm

June 7-9

Off Road Rally

June 21-23

Summer Mickelson Trail Trek

#### WEEKLY HUMOR

What do horses say when they fall?

Help, I've fallen and I can't giddy up.

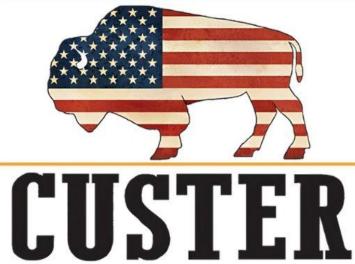
#### **CHAMBER HAPPENINGS**

WELCOME TO

## OPEN HOUSE

CUSTER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**MAY 20TH - MAY 24** 



Chamber of Commerce



615 Washington St, Custer, SD 57730

www.custersd.com



9AM TO 4PM







## Sponsor the CUSTER OFF-ROAD RALLY

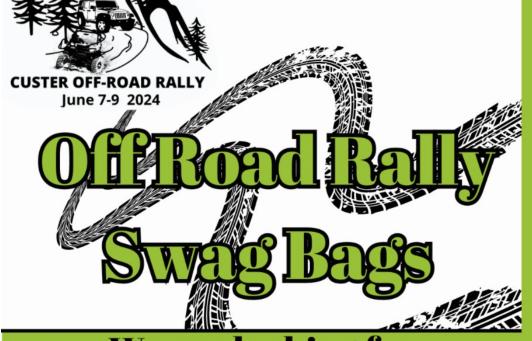
**June 7-9** 

PREMIER- \$500+ RAZOR- \$250 RANGER- \$150 MULE \$75

Email Dawn at dmurray@custersd.com









#### **Ideas for donations**

Water bottles
Snacks
Sunglasses
Bandanas
First aid kits
Discount coupons
Highlighters/pens
other items that have your logo

#### For More Information

Call: (605)-673-2244

Email: dmurray@custersd.com



5/16/24

The Custer Chamber of Commerce is helping with the fundraising for the Annual Custer 4th of July 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.

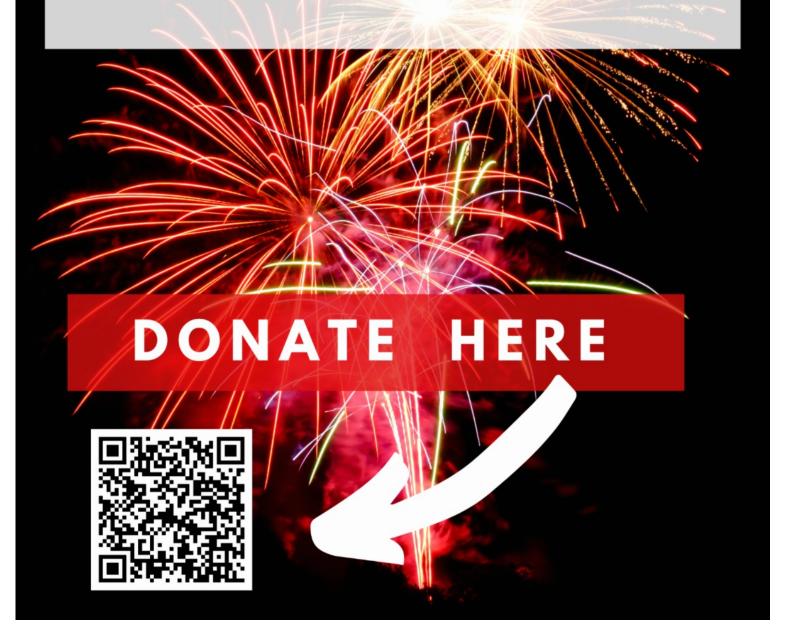
Please contact the Chamber if you have any questions and/or to participate.
605-673-2244
615 Washington St
dmurray@custersd.com

# Suppport the Annual Custer Fireworks



Display







## 2024 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.



## WELCOME

### **NEW MEMBERS!**

Rod & Avis Converse **Black Hills Bungalows Black Granite Construction** The Honest Painting Co 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

#### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## 2024 Custer Chamber Membership Spotlight

## enCore Energy Corp



Phone: 605-646-1171 Email: info@encoreuranium.com
Website: https://www.custersd.com/enCore-Energy-Corp Address: 310 2nd Ave, Edgemont SD 57735

Here are some words for *enCore Energy Corp*.

They are committed to providing clean, reliable, and affordable fuel for nuclear energy as the newest uranium producer in the United States. The enCore team is led by industry experts with extensive knowledge and experience in all aspects of ISR uranium operations and the nuclear fuel cycle. enCore solely utilizes ISR for uranium extraction, a well-known and proven technology co-developed by the leaders at enCore Energy.

Future projects in enCore's production pipeline include the Dewey-Burdock project in South Dakota and the Gas Hills project in Wyoming, along with significant uranium resource endowments in New Mexico providing long term opportunities. enCore is also committed to working with local communities and indigenous governments to create positive impact from corporate developments.

#### AREA EVENTS





#### South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

This is a One day Class

Saturday May 25th, 2024 9:00am to 4:30pm

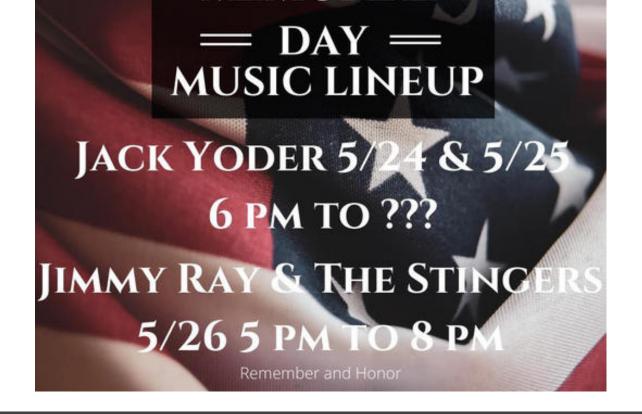
The Enhanced Permit allows you carry in 38 states including MN, NE, WI, NV, NH, WA, and SC.

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 by e-mail at southernhillstactical@gwtc.net

5/16/24





## Memorial Day Ceremonies



Friday, May 24th - 5pm Custer City
Cemetery

Monday, May 27th - 11am at Custer Cemetery

### **Pringle**

Monday, May 27th -10 am at the Pringle Cemetery

### **Cold Springs**

Monday, May 27th - 9am at Cold Springs Cemetery

#### Fairburn

Moday, May 27th - 8am at Fairburn Cemetery

#### Hermosa

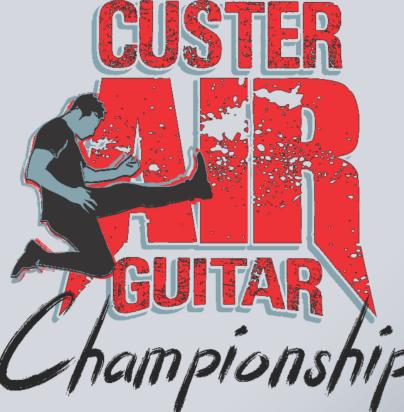
Moday, May 27th - 9am at Hermosa Cemetery



CUSTER AREA ARTS PRESENTS



\$5 Entry At Door



PAID
TRAVEL
TO COMPETE
AT NATIONALS
IN CLEVELAND!









An Official US Air Guitar Qualifier Competition



REGISTER TO COMPETE AT <a href="https://tinyurl.com/competeincuster">https://tinyurl.com/competeincuster</a>

**351 WASHINGTON ST., CUSTER** 

5/16/24





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



4/18/24

#### **ESTATE AUCTION**

1969 Bronco-Vehicles-Tractor-Tools-Antiques-Household & The Roberta Wilburn Callection of 250+ Barbie & Ken Dolls & more

Bob & Jan Linde Estate & Roberta (Bert) Wilburn Estate

Property located at 2 Custer locations:
Location #1: Linde Residence ~ 502 S. 1st St. Custer SD
Location #2: Bradeen Auction Facility ~ 9 W. Mt. Rushmore Rd, Custer SD

#### ONLINE BIDDING OPENS

Friday · May 31st



1969 Ford Bronco 4x4, 302 V8, 3 speed, runs good; 1998 Chevy Extended cab 4x4 pickup, good; IH utility tractor w/Farmhand loader; Speedco 8' 3pt blade; 6' Howse 3pt landscape rake; 2 bottom plow; 250 plus vintage Barbie dolls most in original boxes; antique furniture; dining table & chairs; washer & dryer; Time Life The Old West books & Classics of The Old West; modern furniture; pitcher & bowl; Wall hangings & artwork; Cuckoo Clock; Sawmills of the Black Hills, Our Yesterdays & other History type books; large selection of HC & Paperback books; Bedroom sets; work benches; power tools; Whicker patio furniture; wood planter; push mowers; wheeled trimmer; snow blower; pickup tool box; wrenches & other tools; shop items; tools; modern furniture; appliances; cabinets; household and so much more yet to be discovered.

The Roberta Wilburn Collection of all NEW, IN BOX Mattel Barbie & Ken Dolls, over 250 and accessories, induding several Harley Davidson, many Holiday Barbies Adams Family, Munsters, Happy Days, Fonzie, Wizard of Oz, Elvis, Dolly Parton, Lots of 90's Barbies.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: ONLINE AUCTION ONLY. NO BUYER PREMIUM! Complete detailed photos, descriptions, inspection dates & registration at www.bradeenauction.com.

Property Inspection: Property will be available for inspection at the 2 locations on Tuesday June 4th, from 10am-2pm or see the detailed descriptions & photos in the online catalog.

Settlement & Pickup: <u>Wednesday June 5th</u> Settlement at Bradeen Auctions Facility and then proceed to the two locations for pickup. All items must be settled for and picked up Wednesday June 5th between 9am & 1pm.

See complete details & photos on www.bradeenauction.com

#### Owners:

Bob & Jan Linde Estate & Roberta (Bert) Wilburn Estate



5/9/2024

## JUNE 1, ZOZY

National Trails Day on the first Saturday in June recognizes all the incredible benefits federal, state and local trails provide for recreation and exposure nature. The day encourages people to discover their local trials, become active concerning trail issues, and share their excitement for the outdoors.

Custer State Park is excited to offer the following hikes:

#### 6:00 A.M. - LITTLE DEVIL'S TOWER SUNRISE HIKE

Hike with a Park Naturalist to Custer State Park's highest point to watch the sunrise. Savor the sun's rays as they reveal the rest of the park. Enjoy sweeping views of nearby Black Elk Peak, The Needles, Cathedral Spires, and Mt. Coolidge. Mount Rushmore and the Badlands can be seen on clear days too. Hike is a strenuous 3 miles (round trip) with rock scrambling to get to the top. Meet at the Sylvan Lake Day Use Area Information Kiosk.

#### 9:00 A.M. OR 1:00 P.M. - SUNDAY GULCH TRAIL WORK

Do you love hiking trails? The more popular the trail, the more maintenance is needed. Assist Custer State Park staff with the Sunday Gulch Trail. Participants need to be prepared for a strenuous hike and using hand tools. Parent's must be present for minors to participate. Age 10+. Meet staff at the Sylvan Lake Lodge Parking Lot. Registration Required.



MORNING SESSION



AFFTERNOON SESSION

#### 10:00 A.M. - CREEKSIDE FAMILY ACCESSIBILITY STROLL

Meet at the Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center for stroll along the Creekside Trail. All ages welcome for this stroller and wheelchair friendly walk. Learn a bit about the park's history and enjoy the sights & sounds of Grace Coolidge Creek. Stroll will be approximately 1 mile, out-and-back walk.

#### 1:00 P.M. - BADGER CLARK HIKE

Hike through history with a Park Naturalist around Badger Hole. Hike the moderate 1.2-mile trail to learn more about South Dakota's own cowboy poet. Relish Badger's cooler section of forest as the day reaches its warmest point. Meet at Badger Hole, which is open 10:00am – 5:00pm in the summer.

#### 7:45 P.M. - BISON SUNSET HIKE

Prairie sunsets are unmatched. Experience one with a Park Naturalist along the Bison Trail. Meet at the Bison Center for this moderate 1-mile hike. Bring a flashlight in case it gets dark on the way back. The Bison Center is open 8:00am – 8:00pm.

Learn more at custerstatepark.com or call 605.255.4515









## **MONTHLY BREAKFAST**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> Saturday of Every Month

Saturday, June 1st - 9:00 AM



Feel Good Cafe
907 N. 5th St.
Custer, SD
(next to Bavarian Inn)





@custercountydemocratsofsouthdakota

5/21/2024









EAST OF KEYSTONE IN HWY 40

13622 HWY 40 · KEYSTONE PH: 605.255.4384

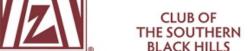
Wristbands are valid for a full 24 hours following their activation.



Join US: June 3-7



5/23/24



#### @Custer Beacon

## ZONTA Fest

Musica Romantica de Mexico @4:15pm Sultry Shimmy Dancers @6pm Gumbo Lilies Band @8pm





Artists/Vendors
Silent Auction
Gift Card Raffle
50/50 Raffle

5/16/24













#### Donate Blood American Legion Post 46 Donate Blood

Be the One – Help Save a Life

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. @

Custer City Masonic Lodge #66 220 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Custer, SD 57730



Scan this QR Code to schedule a donation time





<u>Contact:</u> 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 <a href="mailto:adjutant@custerlegion46.org">adjutant@custerlegion46.org</a>. We are **Veterans Strengthening America**!

5/23/24



HOSTED BY:
YMCA of Rapid City
Liberty Center YMCA



**Custer YMCA** 



## JUNE 13-16 2024

**SOUTH DAKOTA REGIONAL** 

## SENIOR GAMES

Ages 50+

**REGISTER TODAY!** 

Mental AND Physical games include:

Cribbage, Spelling, Chess, Cornhole, Pickleball, Basketball, Strength & Weightlifting, Running/ Power Walking, Swimming & MORE!

REGISTER BY JUNE 6. Questions? Contact (605) 791-0400 or email events@rcymca.org



**GOLD SPONSOR:** 



For More information





4/18/24





5/16/24





SOUTH DAKOTA OUTDOOR SHOP & SYLVAN LAKE, CUSTER, SD

Do something you never imagined you could! This four-hour Discover Climbing Course is a great first experience climbing on real rocks.

During this course, you will learn the basics of rock climbing. Your guide will teach you how to move effectively on the rocks, and the basic skills needed such as tying into the rope and belaying a partner on top rope.

> REGISTRATION REQUIRED: MUST CALL SYLVAN ROCKS TO REGISTER [60S] 484-7585 MENTION YOU ARE A PART OF THE SHEJUMPS & BHPFA DISCOVER CLIMBING COURSE









5/16/24







#### **Custer County Courthouse Art Gallery**

420 Mount Rushmore Road, second floor Custer, SD

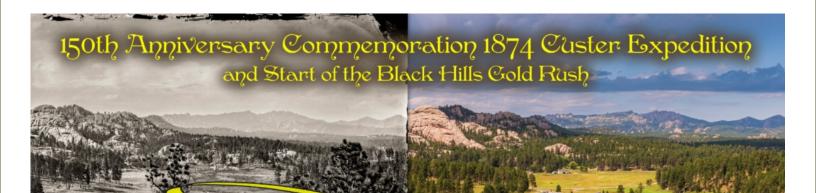
Exhibition of art by
APRIL REED

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

Endorsed by Custer Area Arts Council.



5/9/24





Visit our Website

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

How Exciting!!! JQ Clothing is opening Tomorrow!





NOW OPEN!

224 MAIN STREET | HILL CITY, SD 701-742-5638 | WWW.JQCLOTHINGCO.COM







WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/GOODKARMAJEWELRYSD



### PROPERII

## **FEATURES**

- **Studio** apartment
- **⊘** Large store-front showroom
- ✓ Work bay with overhead door & storage

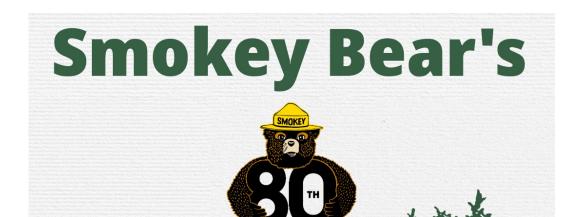
\$410,000

© Contact Jeff @ 605-673-1518



675 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD

5/16/24





Calling kids (age 4-15) in the Black Hills area ~ Smokey Bear is eager to see your artwork!

The Black Hills National Forest is hosting a coloring contest for our local children to celebrate Smokey Bear's upcoming 80th birthday.

Since 1944, Smokey Bear has been showing generations of Americans the importance of preventing unwanted human caused wildfires. Winning artists will receive a special prize from Smokey Bear on his 80th Birthday, August 9, 2024!

The competition is open to children in the general Black Hills area and will be judged by age group.

Learn more, including how to Enter, at: Black Hills National Forest - Just for Kids (usda.gov)

# 605 Property Services

605 Property Services is offering our services to the southern Black Hills and surrounding areas!

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:** 

LANDSCAPING





- •LAWN CARE
- •GUTTER CLEANING
- •DETHATCHING
- •POWER RAKE
- •AERATING
- •STUMP GRINDING
- •SNOW REMOVAL
- •GRAVEL HAULING
- •DIRT HAULING
- **•DUMP RUNS**

Call for a Free Estimate

(605) 846-5442



605PROPERTYSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

5/2/2024



# 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)

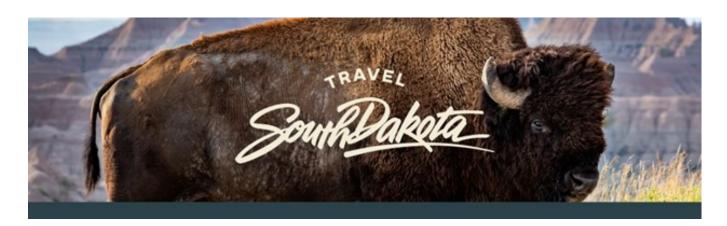
#### **Custer Hospital and Clinic**

**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

## NEWS FROM THE STATE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wed., May 22, 2024

CONTACT: Katlyn Svendsen, Global Media & Public Relations Representative, Travel South Dakota

#### Travel South Dakota's Summer Campaign Off to Hot Start

PIERRE, S.D. – With Memorial Day nearing, summer travel is on the minds of many, including those who have seen Travel South Dakota's newly launched iteration of "So Much South Dakota, So Little Time." The campaign is seeing early success, having already generated an estimated \$21.4 million in revenue through more than 97,200 hotel and flight bookings.

Launched in March, the campaign has generated 82 million impressions, reaching more than 9.7 million individuals. Web traffic to TravelSouthDakota.com is up 53% since the campaign launch.

Travel South Dakota's campaign seeks to remind prospective travelers of the joys that arise from letting go, following intuitions, and being spontaneous. This year's creative direction taps into nostalgia in a place where travel is less complicated and more raw and transformational.

"People are attracted to South Dakota's natural beauty, outdoor adventures, arts and culture, and the opportunity to

experience the wonder and awe of authentic experiences," said James Hagen, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Tourism. "Staying in front of target audiences with our message reminds people of the great places that await them in South Dakota, and that there is so much more to experience and explore in our state than most realize." Launched in March and continuing through October 2024, the "So Much South Dakota, So Little Time" peak campaign will continue to increase brand awareness, change perception, and drive qualified traffic to the Travel South Dakota website. The length of the campaign has been extended through October to prepare for seasonal shifts, take advantage of key travel planning timing, and reduce shoulder season gaps.

As video performance for Travel South Dakota's campaigns has been consistently excelling and this year's plan focuses on video content in a variety of lengths. Creatively, the campaign includes never-before-seen footage from across the state. To relate to the different audiences, there are several storylines. A consumer may follow a friend group's statewide adventure that goes from sailing in Yankton to a concert in Historic Deadwood; a family that goes from watching a rodeo to exploring the Children's Museum of South Dakota in Brookings; or a couple that goes from fine dining in Sioux Falls to rock climbing in the Black Hills.

The compaign aims to garner more than 120 million impressions regionally and 00 million impressions nationally agrees

a mix of paid media channels including TV, video, audio, print magazine, out-of-home, podcasts, display, and paid social. Also in the mix are podcast host reads coming from Atlas Obscura, Bobby Bones, Hannah Brown, Office Ladies, and others. The out-of-home efforts are focused in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Denver, Colorado. Also new this year, Kansas City, Missouri has been added to the list of key markets.

Based on recent research from Longwoods International, the "So Much South Dakota, So Little Time" campaign is resonating with potential visitors as 63% were aware of the advertising and reported it improved their overall perception of the state. After exposure to the campaign, consumers reported increasing their thoughts as the state being "an exciting place," a "fun spot for a vacation," and a "must-see destination."

The "So Much South Dakota, So Little Time" peak campaign promises to restore the mystery in people's lives and offer summer travelers a chance to escape and leave feeling transformed and fulfilled.

For more inspiration and travel planning resources, visit *TravelSouthDakota.com*.

Tourism industry members looking to receive more information about the 2024 campaign can visit this *link*.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Travel South Dakota and the South Dakota Arts Council. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.

-30-

#### Media Notes:

For downloadable examples of the creative for the "So Much South Dakota, So Little Time" campaign, click here



MAY 2024 SDVISIT.COM





Greetings, Tourism Partners!

Travel South Dakota's FREE Online Hospitality Training continues to be a hit! The training was created for our travel and tourism industry partners as assistance in training their staffs, but it is available for any South Dakotan to utilize and it's available year-round.

The training includes 10 lessons ranging from dependability and communication skills to lessons on hygiene and cross-promotion of the state (and more lessons are in the works). Once all 10 lessons have been completed, the participant will receive a certificate.

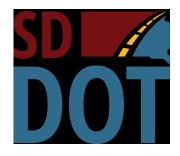
Knowing time and resources vary for everyone, we've aimed to make this training as easy to access as possible. It's free, may be completed on any mobile device or desktop, can be paused and saved to complete at a later time, and may be taken more than once. It also counts towards the criteria for both our *Great Face Program* and *Great Place Program*.

For more information about the *Online Hospitality Training, Great Face Program* or **Great Place Program**, visit *SDVisit.com* or email *Bailey.Tysdal@TravelSouthDakota.com*.
All our best.

Jim and Team

## PRESS RELEASE





## **Project Update**

Friday, May 3, 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 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.

#### Coming Up:

- Temporary fence installation will begin later this spring in the project area.
- Milling (removal of the existing pavement) will begin later in May, and users of the roadway can expect to be driving on loose dirt and gravel between S.D. Highway 44 and Pactola Dam through the summer

• Complete road closures within the project area begin Monday, May 20, 2024 and conclude Saturday, July 12, 2024.

View Construction Updates

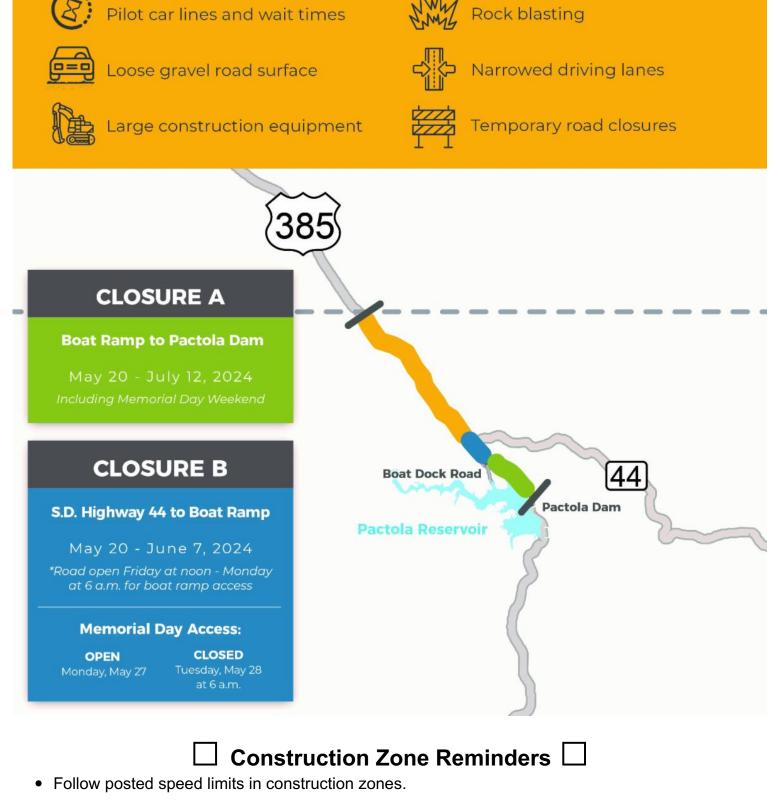
|  | Road | Closures | Beginning | <b>May 20</b> | , <b>2024</b> [ |  |
|--|------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|--|
|--|------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|--|

- The Pactola North Boat Ramp will not be accessible during weekdays from Monday, May 20, 2024 through Friday, June 7, 2024 (accessible on weekends and Memorial Day from the north). After Friday, June 7, 2024, the Pactola North Boat Ramp will only be accessible from the north. Access will be available to the Pactola North Boat Ramp from all directions after Friday, July 12, 2024.
- 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 1 CONSTRUCTION

Spring 2024 - Winter 2025

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION:



- 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 <a href="https://us-385.com">https://us-385.com</a>.

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.



### Mount Rushmore National Memorial News Release

For Immediate Release – May 3, 2024

Contact: Earl Perez-Foust Phone: (605) 574-3115

Email: moru\_information@nps.gov

### Summer 2024 Activities and Hours Begin Memorial Day Weekend

**KEYSTONE, SD** — Beginning May 24, visitors to the Memorial will have a variety of interpretive programming and experiences to choose from to enjoy their visit to this Iconic location. The Visitor Center and Information Center will be open from 8am until 10pm, and the Sculptor Studio will operate from 8am until 8pm through mid-August. The *NPS App* and *Operating Hours* webpage are available for visitors to use when planning their trip.

Activities throughout the summer range from daily ranger talks, sculptor studio presentations, cultural demonstrations, and the evening lighting ceremony. Rangers also walk the grounds to engage in informal conversations about the significance of the site and to assist with orientation. Park programming has been scheduled to give visitors to the Memorial the flexibility to plan their visit efficiently. Programs are occurring throughout the site at a variety of locations throughout the day. Each day is completed by the renowned lighting of the sculpture accompanied by a ranger talk and a short film. Visitors are encouraged to plan their visit to the Memorial by visiting the park website or inquiring at the Information Center upon arrival to the site. All programs are subject to change due to inclement weather and staff availability.

Interpretive programming is one of the fundamental services provided by National Park Service sites nationwide. Ranger programs provide an opportunity for visitors to connect emotionally and intellectually to their shared national heritage. Visitors are encouraged to explore their personal

connections to these sites through their engagement with park staff and other services provided at the Memorial.

For visit planning information, park operations, and to learn more, *visit the park website*. Follow us on *Facebook* and *Instagram*.

**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 <a href="https://www.nps.gov">www.nps.gov</a> and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

**Alt-text**: A uniformed park ranger delivers a program in front of numerous visitors of various ages. The Mount Rushmore sculpture is framed in a window behind him and he is standing next to a smaller replica of it.

Image Credit: A. Rimstidt

Earl Perez-Foust, he/him Program Manager Interpretation and Education Office: 605-574-3115 Mount Rushmore National Memorial



### 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 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

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.



Book by Larry L. King and Peter Masterson, Music and Lyrics by Carol Hall

JULY 21 - AUGUST 4

based on the novel by Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens

**AUGUST 11 - 17** 









BLACKHILLSPLAYHOUSE.COM • (605) 255-4141



Black Hills National Forest

### **Forest Service News Release**

Media Contact: Beth Doten, Public Affairs

(605) 440-0263

bethany.doten@usda.gov

https://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills/



### Black Hills National Forest Campgrounds and Seasonal Gates Scheduled to Open

Custer, S.D., May 13, 2024— Campgrounds on the Black Hills National Forest will open Friday, May 17 for first-come first-serve camping. Campsites that have been reserved will be available for use Wednesday, May 22.

The Forest offers 30 campgrounds with more than 680 individual sites. Many of the campgrounds are operated by a Forest Service recreation concessionaire, Forest Recreation Management, (FRM) Inc. Many campgrounds have on-site hosts who can help provide information about nearby trails and outdoor activities in the area. While electric, sewer, water hook-ups and showers are not available, most campgrounds have potable water and vault toilets.

The fees at campgrounds range from \$16 to \$28.50 per night. Group camping is also available with advanced reservations near Pactola Reservoir and Sheridan Lake.

There are several horse camps available on the Forest designed for stock use. These sites offer extra room for trailers, corals for stock and riding trails nearby. If a horse campsite is not needed, there are many other campgrounds available across the Forest.

To reserve most Black Hills National Forest campsites, visit <a href="http://www.recreation.gov/">http://www.recreation.gov/</a> or call Toll Free 1-877-444-6777. Due to high demand, reservations are recommended and can be made up to 180 days in advance.

Seasonally closed gates on the Black Hills National Forest are scheduled to open on Wednesday, May 15. They are identified on the current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

Riders are encouraged to observe <u>Tread Lightly principles</u>. Driving on soft surfaces or where rutting has been observed should be avoided until drier conditions prevail. Roads and trails in the hills may be unsuitable for driving until they dry out from recent moisture. Additional tips include knowing the basics of trail etiquette, knowing the regulations and laws for operating motor vehicles, practicing good stewardship while sharing trails with others, and respecting private property by keeping speeds and dust low around homes, and nearby ranches.

printable copy





# Custer Senior Center

May Activities



Click here to Check out the Custer School District Information

# **WEEKLY INSPIRATION**





# **HELP WANTED**



# Now Hiring

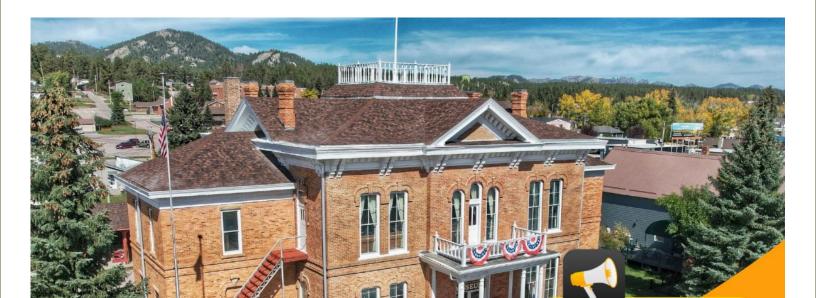
Pool Cleaning-Groundskeeper Misc. Projects!

25-35 hours per week Seasonal May-September

Starts at \$18/hr. starts immediately

Apply to: soakinhotsprings@gmail.com

5/2/2024





# 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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dmurray@custersd.com /custersd.com



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