

# Buffalo Bytes



Minutes, Not Miles, From Adventure

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

## CUSTER CONNECTIONS

### What Year Are You In?

No, this isn't a question meant to see if you're still cognizant after the holidays. It's a valid one derived from all the talk percolating about New Year's resolutions. Resolutions are often these giant pie-in-the-sky ideas that are ways to massively overcorrect bad behavior. The kind of bad behavior most of us enjoy...until we don't.

If you're setting goals for your business and deciding what you're going to focus on and accomplish this year, think about gardening. Growing your business and gardening have a lot in common.

### Everything Has a Season

First, at the risk of sounding like the [Byrds](#), there is a time and a purpose for everything. We tend to shoot big at the beginning of the year. We're filled with excitement and the giddiness of potential. We grab a glass of bubbly and announce to anyone in ear shot that "this is my (or our) year!"

But every year can't be your year. Not in the way that it was Taylor Swift's year in 2023.

There are years to plant, years to sow, years to harvest, and years to lay fallow. And that applies to business too. That doesn't mean you go dormant with nothing to do. There's always growth to be had but the outward signs of that growth look different from year to year (or in the case of gardening, season to season.)

### The Seasons of Business

When it comes to business, years may concentrate on research, growth, thriving, exploration. Repeat. Let's break

that down:

## Research

This is an inner year for your business, one where the focus is understanding and setting the foundation for later growth and thriving. Your focus is inward and building your knowledge. You might spend time cultivating an understanding of your market during this time. Generally, this is where most businesses start but even an established business needs a time of inner focus and planning.

## Growth

This is the heady exciting time where you spend hours “in the field” doing the work, making the connections, building something bigger. This season will begin with unabashed excitement and may end in sheer exhaustion. That’s the nature of growth.

## Thriving

This season is where everything comes together—the planning and the building. You are reaping the benefits of your hard work and enjoying it. This is the harvest and while there’s still work to be done, you’re finally being recognized for your efforts. Conversely, this is also the season where you could fall short of expectations.

## Exploration

In gardening, this season is referred to as the dormant time, when you allow the fields to go fallow to have a successful harvest next year. But since no business can afford to be dormant for a year (or even a season), I’m referring to it as a time of exploration. You’ve planned, grown, and thrived (or not). Now you’re looking out on the horizon for the next big possibility. You’re brainstorming and developing. Some business owners may use this time to seek development, coaching, or clarity. It’s a season for both satisfaction and new possibilities. And when you uncover those possibilities, you’re back in research.

Everything in life has a season or a cycle. If you’re always concentrating on one area—like enormous growth, you’ll be neglecting others that are necessary to sustain that growth. Even in nature, things need to be cut back to thrive the following season.

While we used the terms *year* and *season* here, that does not mean your business needs to dedicate a year to any of these cycles. You may be able to focus on them in a quarter. When setting your business goals, be cognizant of your season or stage. Your growth will reflect it.

*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 always bites off more than she can chew when it comes to goals.*



**Dawn Murray**  
Executive Director

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations to the 2024-2026  
Custer Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors members**

**AMANDA ALLCOCK**

**MICHELLE FISCHER**

**CARRIE MOORE**



**Thank You to our 2023 Outgoing Board Member**

Thank you

TO OUR 2023  
OUTGOING  
BOARD  
MEMBER



**Diane Dennis**

Ketel Thorstenson/ Diane's Vacation Rentals

1998-2023



The Chamber is a 501(c)(6) non-profit and a membership driven organization. We rely on our businesses, associate members and their volunteerism as the foundation of our organization. Our volunteer board members are your representation in the business community and uphold our mission as the leading voice of business in Custer.

The Custer Chamber would like to recognize our outgoing board member this year for their 25 years of service and commitment to our mission.

## Chamber Staff

Dawn Murray  
Executive Director  
[dmurray@custersd.com](mailto:dmurray@custersd.com)

Fred Baumann  
Information Associate  
[fbaumann@custersd.com](mailto:fbaumann@custersd.com)

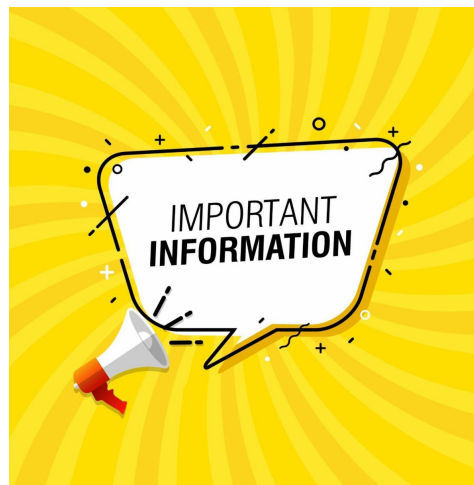
Andrea Spaans  
Information Associate  
[bytes@custersd.com](mailto:bytes@custersd.com)

Adrianna Burgess  
Information Associate  
[assistant@custersd.com](mailto:assistant@custersd.com)

## 2024 Board Of Directors

Amy Bailey - President  
John Stahl - Vice President  
Michelle Fischer - Treasurer  
Amanda Allcock  
Bobbi Schmidt  
Carrie Moore  
Craig Reindl  
Corey Virtue  
Miranda Boggs

Julie Jenniges - City Liaison  
Mark Naugle - School Liaison  
Lydia Austin - CSP Liaison  
Jessica Noteboom - BID Board Liaison



**ATTENTION! Downtown Custer Businesses or any others with old buildings. Many of the lines running through our historical buildings are clay and/or cast iron. There have been a few sewer line collapses (not the city's) of lines that run into the buildings from**

**the city lines. Now would be a great time to have YOUR lines inspected for cracks and leaks.**

Two of our members have discovered issues with their sewer lines. One member had to have lines replaced and another was able to take advantage of new technology, Permaline, and was able to reline their old sewer lines with this technology creating a brand new pipe that can last another 50 years. For a fraction of the cost of digging up collapsed lines, they were able to repair the sewer line all the way through their building!

## WINTER STORM SAFETY TIPS



Never touch a fallen power line – assume any downed line is energized.



Operate portable generators in a well-ventilated area.



Install fresh batteries in your carbon monoxide detector.



Unplug sensitive electronic equipment or use a surge protector.



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



## January 15

Chamber Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day

## January 16

Ribbon Cutting and Open House  
Custer Care and Rehab Center  
1pm

## January 16-18

Governor's Conference on Tourism  
Pierre , SD

## January 25

Chamber Mixer  
5pm-7pm  
Dacotah Bank

## WEEKLY HUMOR

# How do mountains stay warm in winter?

They put on their snowcaps.



## CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

# *Ribbon Cutting* Custer Care and Rehab Center

1065 Montgomery St, Custer

Tuesday, January 16  
at 1pm  
Open house to follow



# GOLD DISCOVERY DAYS COMMITTEE MEETING



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24  
5:30 PM AT  
CUSTER BEACON

CHAMBER





# CHAMBER MIXER



JANUARY 25TH

5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

Hosted by:



Located at 35 South 6th St, Custer

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

# SPONSOR CUSTER RESTAURANT WEEK

**FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2**

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>SILVER</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>\$100</b>



Email Dawn at  
[dmurray@custersd.com](mailto:dmurray@custersd.com)



*Vendors*

**WANTED**

# **Custer Trade Show**

March 2, 2024

9am- 3pm

Custer High School -1645 Wildcat Lane

[Get Registered Now](#)

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



# **Welcome**

## **New Members**

Custer Cares  
Come On! LLC



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

## AREA EVENTS



### T-SHIRTS

S - 3XL

**\$25**

#### T-SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE:

##### IN PERSON

- Monument Health Foundation  
2925 Regional Way, Suite 100  
M - F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Monument Health Booth during  
the Black Hills Stock Show and  
Rodeo Rapid City in the Ice Arena

##### ONLINE

[monument.health/TETWP](https://monument.health/TETWP)

##### PHONE

605-755-9191

##### EMAIL

[pink@monument.health](mailto:pink@monument.health)



Are you **Tough Enough to Wear Pink?**

2024 marks the kick-off of the 18th Annual Tough Enough to Wear Pink project benefiting Monument Health's Cancer Care Institute (CCI). We invite you to join us and give them your support!



Care Institute (CCI). We invite you to join us and give them your support.

You can help by buying 2024 Tough Enough to Wear Pink T-shirts for \$25.00 each for sizes Adult Small through 3XL. Shirts are pink and long-sleeved with the design shown above. One hundred percent of the money raised from Tough Enough sales will benefit CCI.

Are you a business looking to support cancer patients in your local community? Be **Tough Enough** by putting your employees in our 2024 TETWP T-shirt. Take a group photo\* and we will feature it in the Rapid City Journal during the week of the Black Hills Stock Show, and on our Facebook page. Email us your photo or for more information at [pink@monument.health](mailto:pink@monument.health).

\*Deadline for photo submission is Wednesday, January 24.

Purchase Shirts

**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  
January 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th  
538 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer  
9AM UNTIL THEY'RE GONE!  
Advance Orders by Wednesday  
at Noon are Recommended.  
Call 605-673-2708**



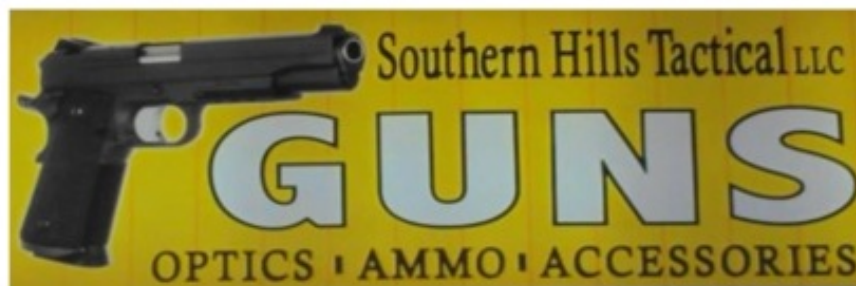
Custer County Republicans



The Custer County Republicans will meet Tuesday, January 9, at 5:30pm, in the Pine Room at the Custer County Library Annex. Our meetings are open to any interested parties, and all Custer County Republicans are encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP to [CCRepubs@goldenwest.net](mailto:CCRepubs@goldenwest.net) to get a headcount for food.

Check us out on Facebook at CusterCountySDRepublicans.



### **South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class**

**This is a One Day Class**

**Saturday January 13th 2024**

**9:00am to 4:30pm**

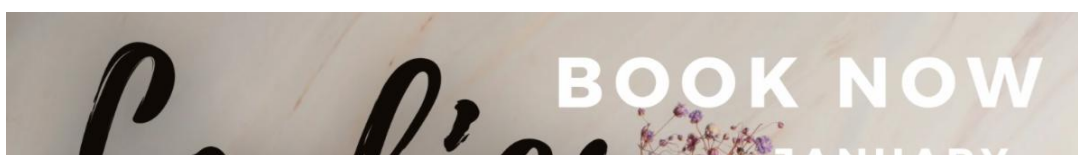
The Enhanced Permit allows you carry in 38 states including MN, NE, WI, NV, NH, WA, and SC

Class size is limited so register early.

For additional information or to register for the class you may contact the instructor at [www.sodakian.com](http://www.sodakian.com)

Or contact us at 605-673-3222 or by email at

[southernhillstactical@gwtc.net](mailto:southernhillstactical@gwtc.net)





# Ladies Spa Night

JANUARY  
13TH TO 14TH

EAGLES LANDING  
LODGE IS NOW  
HOSTING THE  
FIRST EVER  
GIRLS SPA NIGHT  
CATERED TO A  
RELAXING,  
REJUVENATING,  
SELF PAMPERING  
EVENING!

CHECK -IN  
2PM

CHECK- OUT  
12 PM



EAGLE'S  
LANDING  
LODGE

1 PERSON 1 ROOM \$210  
2 PEOPLE 1 ROOM \$310

## KING SUITE AT EAGLES LANDING LODGE

As you walk into the Lodge you are greeted by warmth of its rustic charm and home away from home feel. Then relax in your luxurious suites. Each room is thoughtfully designed and stocked with specific

## ORGANIC MINI FACIAL \$55

Exfoliate and hydrate your skin for a fresh face in minutes.

Enjoy a scrub or glycolic acid exfoliation, custom organic mask and nourishing organic moisturizer. These will keep your skin radiant and glowing

## What's Included

suites. Each room is thoughtfully designed and stocked with special amenities to cater to relaxation and self care. We wanted to ensure comfort is not a after thought but priority.

### 30 MIN DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE

We will be hosting Balanced Bodies Massage and Wellness. The deep tissue massages are a type of massage that focuses on the deeper layers of muscle tissue. This is beneficial for people who have chronic pain or tightness in their muscles. Our deep tissue massages can help to release the tension in the muscles and improve blood circulation.

### 10 MIN IN SOUND LOUNGE

At Balanced Bodies, Massage combines vibroacoustic technology and neuro-frequency synchronization. Tap into your peak potential to conquer life's demands, goals, and pressures with new levels of life-force energy, less anxiety, and more unity. We create a deep meditative state where regeneration, wellness, and happiness, become a wellspring.

### PAMPER ME SPA BASKET

Each guest will receive a basket filled with the necessary essentials to be pampered while enjoying their stay.

## Additional Services

### ORGANIC SIGNATURE FACIAL \$110

Give your skin the ultimate exfoliation with our organic enzyme treatment and hot towel steam infused with organic essential oils. This includes expert extractions, Organic French Peel-off or Organic Jelly Mask, and Eye Treatment to address dark circles and puffy eyes. Relaxing face neck décolletage and foot massage is also included.

### 60 MIN HYDROFACIAL OR MICRODERMABRASION \$95

Non-chemical, non-invasive method of skin resurfacing, to provide effective exfoliation and rejuvenation of the superficial layers of the skin. This treatment encourages production of new skin cells, collagen and elastin.

Its used to treat light scarring, sun damage, improves hyper pigmentation, mature skin, reduce or eliminate enlarged pores and treat acne.

### 30 MIN FOOT DETOX BATH \$30

Elevate your wellbeing with an ionic foot bath. Immerse yourself in the soothing detoxification process. Stimulate your bodies natural detox journey by submerging your feet in a basin of water paired with an advanced array

### 30 MIN SAUNA SESSION \$35

Helps to detox the body, increase metabolism while increasing circulation, speed tissue and wound healing, and relieve deep tissue and joint pain while relaxing muscles





## **New schedule 2024**

Monthly meetings will be the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the month at noon.

### **January 2024 Monthly Meeting**



Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
12:00pm



**Bring a lunch and join us each month!**

Custer County Library - *Pine Room*  
447 Crook St



# LADIES' NIGHT

## HIKE & FILM SCREENING TO KICK OFF BURNING BEETLE WEEKEND AT THE CUSTER BEACON.



REGISTER HERE!

JOIN BHPFA & SHEJUMPS FOR A SUNSET HIKE FOLLOWED BY HAPPY HOUR AT  
THE CUSTER BEACON AND THE LAST FILM IN OUR "JUMP INTO WINTER FILM SERIES"

### SHEJUMPS SUNSET HIKE

4:00 PM- 5:00 PM

Meet at Harbach Centennial Park, 6th St Custer, SD. We will hike up to the overlooks to enjoy the sunset, then head back down to the parking lot. From there you can depart, or join the group at the Custer Beacon for dinner and drinks before the last film in our winter film series. The Skywalk hike is about 1/2 mile hike. The path is hardpacked gravel, with steep sections of stairs.

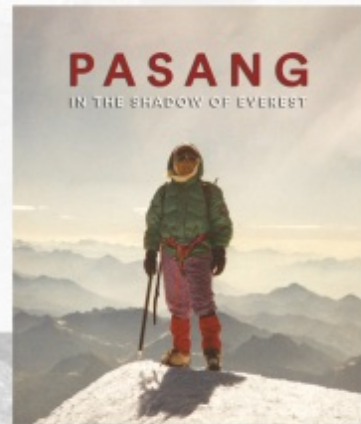
Registration Required

### JUMP INTO WINTER FILM SERIES

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

January's film "Pasang: in the Shadow of Everest" is a story that chronicles Pasang Lhamu Sherpa's relentless quest to become the first Nepali woman to summit Everest in 1993. As an uneducated, indigenous woman and a Buddhist in a Hindu kingdom, her dream to scale the legendary mountain pits her against her family, foreign climbers, her own government, and nature itself. Her life would inspire a new generation of women, and her death would change a nation.

Tickets \$5- Purchase your ticket ahead of time and  
BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING TO WIN A PAIR OF K2 SKIS!



605/745/7020

BlackHillsParks.org

Printable Copy



# YOU'RE INVITED!



**BECOME AN  
INVESTOR AND  
HELP GROW  
CUSTER'S  
ECONOMY AND  
COMMUNITY!**

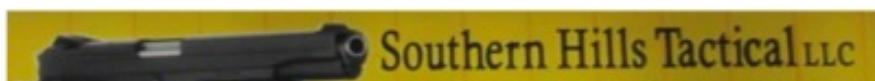
- *SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT*
- *DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS*
- *TACKLING OUR COMMUNITY'S TOUGHEST ISSUES - HOUSING & CHILDCARE*
- *ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESSES*

# **CAEDC MIXER**

## **AND ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING**

**5:00-5:30 MEMBER MEETING**  
**5:30-7:00 MIXER**

**GOLD PAN SALOON**  
**JANUARY 18TH**  
**DRINKS & APPETIZERS!**







## **South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class**

**This is a One Day Class**

**Saturday January 20th 2024**

**9:00am to 4:30pm**

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

Class size is limited so register early.

For additional information or to register for the class you  
can email the instructor at **[echo.ft.sd@gmail.com](mailto:echo.ft.sd@gmail.com)**

Or call the shop at 605-673-3222 or email us  
**[southernhillstactical@gwtc.net](mailto:southernhillstactical@gwtc.net)**





Presented by:  
Helen Nichols, RD LN  
CDCES

## Location

CUSTER SR.

CENTER

## Time

MONDAY, JANUARY

22ND

2PM-4PM

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

**Thursday, February 8<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** >>>>>



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](mailto:adjutant@custerlegion46.org). We are **Veterans Strengthening America!**

## HEALTHY LUNCHEON





at the  
**CUSTER BEACON**  
351 Washington Street, Custer, SD.

sponsored by Rec. & Wellness  
& The Custer Senior Center

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

**Noon to 2 pm \$13**

*Included w/lunch: A Heart Health presentation by  
Registered Dietician, Helen Nichols  
of Monument Health.*

tickets on sale at The Custer Area Chamber

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



[www.kevin.bhsdrealty.com](http://www.kevin.bhsdrealty.com)

605-431-5094

[kevinkennedy605@gmail.com](mailto: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 6.73 beautiful acres in the heart  
of the Black Hills National Forest  
\$403,800



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

**Flower Power**

# Happy Hour

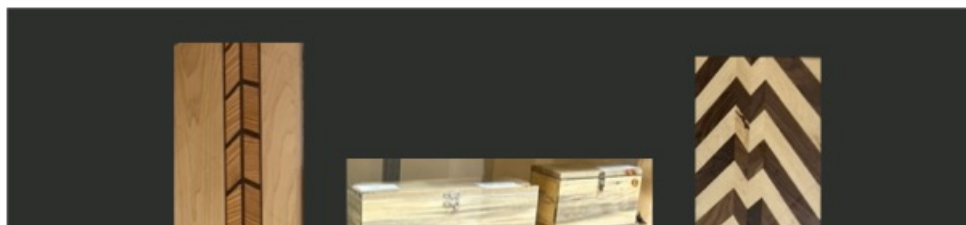
at

*Jenny's  
Floral*



**Fridays in January  
12-5 p.m.**

**Half off fresh cut,  
single stem flowers**





Custer County Courthouse Art Gallery

420 Mount Rushmore Road, second floor

**Through January 19, 2024**

**Showcasing Custer County Courthouse  
employees and family members.**

**Endorsed by Custer Area Arts Council.**



[NEWS RELEASE](#)

1/1/2024

First Interstate Custer Area Fund is Accepting Grant Applications



The First Interstate Custer Area Fund is accepting applications for grants from qualified 501 (C) 3 organizations in the Custer area thru March 31. Recipients will be selected and grants funded during the Month of April, 2024.

Disbursements by the local board of directors are determined according to the needs of the community. Past disbursements from 1999 to date have totaled \$269,534.00 and have benefited a variety of local projects, historical organizations, and the arts and humanities.

If your non-profit organization would like to be considered in the disbursement of funds, please complete the First Interstate Custer Area Fund application form and return it to any board member or mail the form to First Interstate Custer Area Fund, 648 Mt Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD 57730. Attn: Donna Cullum. Completed applications can also be emailed to [donna.cullum@fib.com](mailto:donna.cullum@fib.com).

Grant application forms are available from any local board member, please call Jenny Behlings 673-5436, Curtis Tyler 673-2215, Donna Cullum 673-2215, Nathan Wiederholt 673-2716 or Misty Fish 673-4848. The deadline for completed applications for the annual disbursement of funds will be March 31, 2024.

The funds will be disbursed during the month of April, 2024.

**FREE TAX PREPARATION AND E-FILE**

Custer County Library Annex  
447 Crook Street, Custer, SD

## AARP TAX AIDE FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE

APPOINTMENTS: CALL 605-574-1730 AFTER January 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Leave a message and we will return your call and schedule an appointment. (Note: We are no longer using 211)  
Or

COME to the Library on January 12<sup>th</sup> (11- 2 pm) or January 19<sup>th</sup> (2- 5 pm) and schedule an appointment in person and obtain the Interview Sheet.

Appointments are on Mondays (9-4) at the Custer County Library beginning February 5 and ending April 15.

- NO INCOME LIMITATIONS
- NO AGE RESTRICTIONS
- AARP MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED

You will need to bring the following to the appointment:

- Social Security cards for everyone on the tax return.
- All 2023 Tax Documents
- Government picture ID for all adults.
- A copy of your 2022 Tax Return
- Completed Interview Sheet





## Valentine's Day Silent Auction

*\$250 value!*



### Package includes:

- 1 Night Stay at Black Hills Bungalow, Hermosa, SD (use by Oct. 1, 2024)
- Wooden Wheel Vineyards Red Wine
- Locally Handcrafted, Decadent Chocolates



*Bid in person at upcoming breakfasts  
and meetings, or by emailing bid to*

*[ccsddp21info@gmail.com](mailto:ccsddp21info@gmail.com)*



**Top bidder will be notified on February 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
2024 at the Custer Co. Democrats Breakfast  
Gathering. Need not be present to win.**



# 2023 - 2024

## CUSTER STATE PARK

# WINTER TRAIL CHALLENGE





# WINTER TRAIL CHALLENGE

❄️ **Barnes Canyon Trail** ❄️

❄️ **The Lost Trails** ❄️

*Upper Loop*

❄️ **Needles Highway** ❄️

*North Side and only when road is closed*

❄️ **Grace Coolidge Trail** ❄️

❄️ **Badger Hole Trail** ❄️

❄️ **Bison Trail** ❄️

❄️ **“Snowshoe It”** ❄️

*Check out some snowshoes from the park and  
give it a try on any trail listed above*

*\*You can use your own snowshoes as well\**

- ❄️ *The Winter Trail Challenge runs from Nov 24, 2023 to April 1, 2024.*
- ❄️ *All forms must be turned in by April 5, 2024.*
- ❄️ *At one point along each trail is a Winter Trail Challenge Selfie Sign. To complete the Trail Challenge, participants must hike all the listed trails and take a selfie at each Winter Trial Challenge Sign. Bonus points for fun photos.*
- ❄️ *Stop in the park Visitor Center or Park Office, show off your photos and earn a 2023 Winter Trail Challenge Pin. (Note Pictures can also be mailed to the address below)*
- ❄️ *All completed forms must be submitted by April 4, 2024.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 605.394.2693 OR EMAIL [CUSTERSTATEPARK.COM](mailto:CUSTERSTATEPARK.COM)**

**11TH ANNUAL BURNING BEETLE**

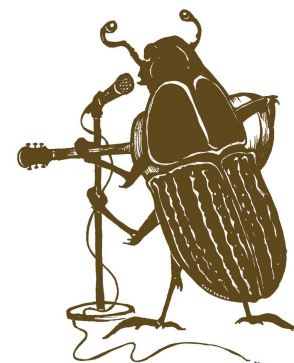


## Call for Burning Beetle Variety Show Performers

We are recruiting Variety Show performers for our **11th Annual Burning Beetle** event, **Saturday, January 20, 2024** in Custer, South Dakota!

The day's events include:

- 3:30-5:00 Burning Beetle Variety Show at the High School Theatre
- 5:15 March with torches to Pageant Hill
- 5:30 Burn the Beetle! Fireworks! At Pageant Hill
- 6:00-- Bug Crawl in Custer with music at several restaurants and bars



For the **Variety Show** we hope to feature beetle and environment themed acts as well as talented performers from our area. Original songs, music, dance, readings, air guitar, magic, gymnastics, skits, trick dogs, juggling.... we welcome your special talent! If you know of someone who needs to showcase their talents—either talk to them about the Variety Show or contact us and we'll make the contact. We want the show to have lots of variety, to move right along and be fun! We will be limiting acts to about 5 minutes each. We hope you'll consider joining us for a great event!

[Sign-up Flier](#)

## NEWS FROM THE STATE



SOUTH DAKOTA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION  
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 9, 2024

Contact: Caleb Nugteren, 605.224.5050 [cnugteren@sdra.org](mailto:cnugteren@sdra.org)

## Skogen Kitchen of Custer Named Restaurant of the Year

PIERRE, SD – Skogen Kitchen in Custer has been selected as the South Dakota Retailers Association’s Restaurant of the Year. Presented annually, the award recognizes a restaurant with a reputation of excellence in food, service, and atmosphere.

Skogen Kitchen is a chef-driven fine dining restaurant concept that offers a unique dining experience with each visit.

Owners Chef Joseph and Eliza Raney met while working in the restaurant industry in southern California. After moving to Custer and working for other restaurants, they decided to open their own restaurant in the summer of 2017. The name Skogen is a nod to Joseph’s Norwegian heritage. In Norwegian, the word Skogen means “forest” – a fitting name given the location.

Their ever-changing menu incorporates a variety of American cultural cuisines featuring fresh foods from across the country, including many locally sourced foods.

“He takes a lot of fun ingredients and puts it together to make this masterpiece,” Eliza says of her husband. “He is so good about his flavors and layers of flavors. It’s really a party in your mouth!”

Nathan Sanderson, Executive Director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, says the Raney’s have more than met their goal of being unique but not pretentious.

“Skogen Kitchen’s menu and the excellent service combine to deliver a dining experience that draws rave reviews,” Sanderson said. “Local customers, visitors from across the country, and restaurant review publications sing their praises.”

Joseph notes that the restaurant and the menu are small by design, to allow them to take really good care of each person and serve the customer best.

“If you have an idea and you have an ability, you can try that anywhere,” Joseph said. “But we want to make sure that we’re advocating to our employees that you can follow your dreams whatever they are, just appreciate where you are. You’re in South Dakota.”

To learn more about the Raney’s and the Retailers Association’s additional award recipients, [visit sdra.org/awards](https://www.sdra.org/awards).

###

[www.SouthDakotaTourismConference.com](https://www.SouthDakotaTourismConference.com)

**2024 SOUTH DAKOTA  
GOVERNOR’S CONFERENCE**







[Click for more information on the 2024 South Dakota Governor's Conference](#)

## PRESS RELEASES



### **Black Hills Energy Prepares for Extreme Cold, Encourages Customers to Do the Same**

*Utility Issues Important Conservation and Safety Reminders*

**Rapid City, SD – Jan. 11, 2024** – Black Hills Energy is closely monitoring the National Weather Service forecast this week for a winter storm and extreme cold temperatures predicted to impact the Black Hills. Our electric operations teams are preparing for ice and below freezing temperatures, which are expected to last through next week.

#### **Energy Conservation Reminders**

With sustained cold and freezing temperatures in the forecast, energy use can increase and lead to higher monthly bills. Black Hills Energy is ready to help customers reduce energy use by sharing these conservation reminders and tips:

1. According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs simply by turning your thermostat down by a few degrees for eight hours a day.
2. Did you know as much as 7-12 percent of a building's heating and cooling loss occurs around windows and doors? Jettison those leaks and weather-strip to seal around movable joints like doors or windows.
3. Lower your water heater setting. Lowering your temperature setting a few degrees can save energy. Lowering your temperature to under 120 degrees can save you up to 10% on your water heater costs.
4. Limit laundry and chores until later in the week when temperatures normalize. If you must do laundry or wash dishes, consider energy efficiency strategies to lessen the impact. For example, run complete loads of laundry, rather than partial loads, to avoid using more hot water than necessary. Changing dishwasher settings to air dry is another way to save energy.
5. Make sure your fireplace damper closes tightly when you're not using it. Closing the damper could save 8% of your home's heat.
6. You could save as much as 30% of your energy costs by better insulating your attic or top floor.
- 7.

#### **Electric Safety Reminders**

Black Hills Energy is also urging our customers to keep their homes safe with the following guidelines

gardennies.

In an event that you experience an unexpected outage in your home or business, please follow these guidelines for staying safe:

If your power goes out, see if your neighbors have power. If they do, check your home for blown fuses or a tripped circuit breaker.

- If your neighbors don't have power or if you can't locate the problem, report the outage at [www.blackhillsenergy.com/outages](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com/outages).
- If you see damaged outdoor electric power equipment, please contact us at 1-800-890-5554.
- Do not try to remove any debris if it is on a powerline or outdoor electrical equipment.
- If you are outdoors, never touch or attempt to pick up a fallen powerline. Assume any downed power line is energized.
- During an outage, unplug sensitive computer and electronic equipment or protect them with a high-quality surge protector.

### Helpful Links

Stay up to date by visiting [www.blackhillsenergy.com/weather](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com/weather). Customers can also find winter energy conservation and billing resources at [www.blackhillsenergy.com/winter-ready](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com/winter-ready). To receive outage notification on your mobile device, please log into your Black Hills Energy account at: <https://www.blackhillsenergy.com/>

### About Black Hills Energy

Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) is a customer focused, growth-oriented utility company with a tradition of improving life with energy and a vision to be the energy partner of choice. Based in Rapid City, South Dakota, the company serves 1.3 million natural gas and electric utility customers in eight states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. More information is available at [www.blackhillscorp.com](http://www.blackhillscorp.com) and [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com).

### Media Contact

Lynn Kendall, Community Affairs Manager (605) 399-5180  
[lynn.kendall@blackhillsenergy.com](mailto:lynn.kendall@blackhillsenergy.com)

### 24-Hour Media Assistance

888-242-3969



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Click the button below for all of the latest information from the National Forest Service.

Forest Service Features





## Custer Senior Center

January Schedule

[Click here to Check out the Custer School District Calendar for upcoming school events!](#)



## WEEKLY INSPIRATION





WITH THE  
DECISION  
TO TRY.

## HELP WANTED

### JOIN OUR INTERVIEWING TEAM!

MMI-2 International Research is seeking dependable, self-motivated people with strong customer service skills, reliable transportation and a love of the outdoors. If you are looking for temporary, intermittent part-time work, and live in or near Hill City, Custer, Merritt, or Rapid City, South Dakota, this might be a great job for you! Please see below for all the details.



Position Overview:

- Conduct one-on-one, in person, exit surveys with visitors leaving the Black Hills National Forest. This is done by asking a series of pre-set questions from a computer tablet, recording responses in the tablet, and submitting the data electronically at the end of your shift.

Work schedule:

- Temporary, intermittent, part-time work through September 2024
- 6-hour shifts including a 30-minute paid lunch
- Variable days (including Saturdays/Sundays and possible holidays)
- Flexible schedule

Qualifications and Other Key Requirements:

- Must live in or near Hill City, Custer, Merritt, or Rapid City, South Dakota
- Must be proficient using technology like tablets, cell phones, GPS, e-mail, and Wi-Fi
- Must have strong in-person customer service, ability to work/think independently, and problem solve
- Must be dependable, self-motivated, and possess a strong work ethic
- Must possess a valid U.S. driver's license & have reliable transportation. 4WD a plus
- Must be willing and able to drive to forest survey sites. Distances vary
- Must be willing to work outdoors in varied weather conditions
- Must be willing to work part-time hours and variable shifts including Saturdays/Sundays, and possible holidays
- Must be willing to commit to position through September 2024

Compensation Information: (All shifts are 6 hours and include a 30-minute paid lunch)

- Starting pay is \$125 per shift plus a \$25 fuel allowance per shift for a total of \$150 per shift
- \$225 bonus paid after every 10 survey shifts/days worked
- Paid training

If you think you would be a good fit for this position, email your resume and/or tell us a little bit about yourself. Please note "Hell Canyon/Mystic RD" in the email subject line and send to: [info@mmi-2.com](mailto:info@mmi-2.com)

We will not respond to applicants who live outside of the target area.

RECENT RETIREES ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

*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.*

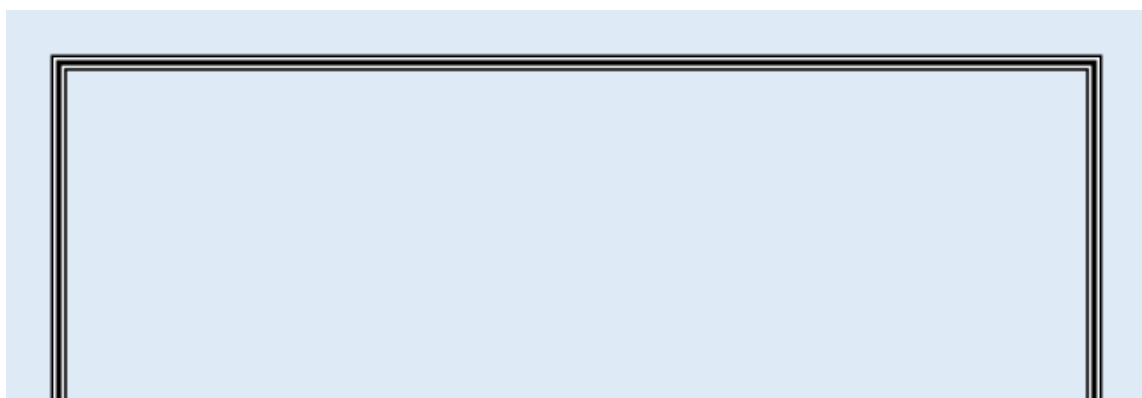
*Position is full-time, year-round at 35/40 hours per week w/ Evening, Holiday & Weekends required and some overtime.*

*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.*

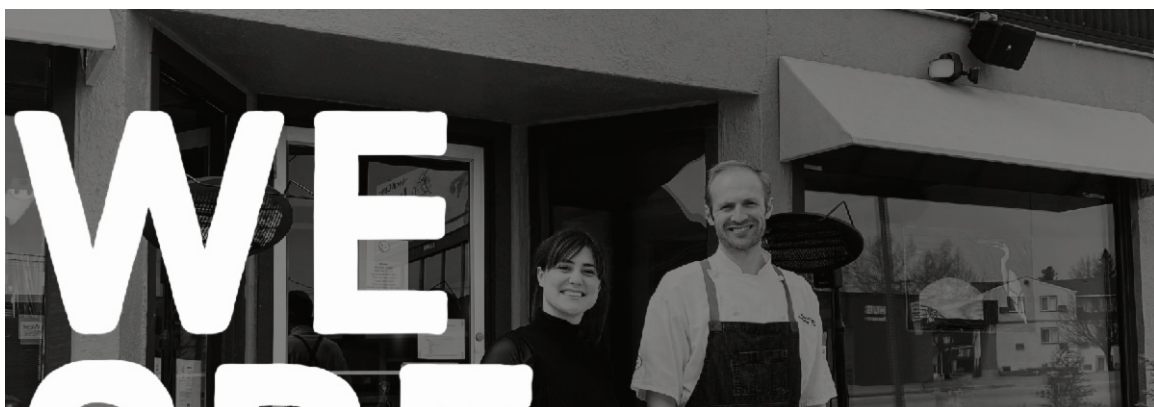
*Please contact [HR@CrazyHorse.org](mailto:HR@CrazyHorse.org) or call (605) 673-4681 for more information!*



*Laughing Water*  
**RESTAURANT®**  
AT CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL®



The Custer Senior Center Board of Directors is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Custer Senior Center Director. The primary administrative duties are grant-request writing, working with the Center's finances, and facility management. QuickBooks or a similar bookkeeping program is advantageous. The position is full-time, 40 hours per week. Insurance and retirement benefits are not available at this time. Year-end bonuses may be earned. For more information and a copy of the position description, please send an email to [cscdirvac@gmail.com](mailto:cscdirvac@gmail.com); or call the Center at 605-673-2708. The Senior Center is a non-profit organization, and is an equal employment opportunity employer.



# ARE HIRING!

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E: [skogen@skogenkitchen.com](mailto:skogen@skogenkitchen.com)  
W: [www.skogenkitchen.com](http://www.skogenkitchen.com)

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Custer, SD



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**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

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