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

Resolution Alternatives for the New Year



This could be the shortest article in the world if I merely answered the question in the title with the word *no*. And truthfully, that is the answer. However, there's more to it than that. First, the word resolution is used more often for personal growth than professional. That's why so many people have adopted a *word of the year* instead. Still, the beginning of a new year is ripe with potential, and it seems irresponsible not to harness that and apply it to your business.

Resolution Alternatives for the New Year

When J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, "Not all who wander are lost", he wasn't talking about business professionals. If you want to grow your business and succeed you need a goal/destination and a road map of how you'll get there. Some people do this by setting resolutions. But that term is associated with excuse and lackluster performance.

So, we have some alternatives to setting resolutions that you may find more successful and empowering.

- 1. **Word of the Year**. Choose a single guiding word to help you make decisions throughout the year. The concept ensures singular focus and gives you a litmus test for making decisions. For instance, if your word is *growth*, when an opportunity presents itself and you must decide whether it's something you want to pursue or not, you will ask, "is this project aligned with *growth*?" If it is, you'll proceed. If it isn't, you'll move on.
- 2. **Monthly (or quarterly) Goals.** Most people have two problems when it comes to setting goals. The first is that they take on too much and don't accomplish anything. The second is that they have an entire year to reach their goal, so they often don't think about that goal until the fourth quarter. Instead, set small goals for each month in the year. For 30 days (or 120 if you opt to do this quarterly) focus on attaining that one goal. It can be personal or professional. You could do one of each. Time is less likely to get away from you in a month than it will when you set a goal for 365 days. Plus, doing something for 30 days is long enough to establish a habit. Ideally, whatever you've done for that month will just become part of your routine as you begin your next goal.
- 3. **Learning Journeys**. Make a list of skills or areas of development you want to concentrate on this year as part of a learning journey. Then make a list of how you will acquire these new skills by attending workshops, reading books, taking online courses, or attending conferences. Schedule these immediately or create deadlines for attaining them. Make these goals specific. For example, "I will learn French" is not specific enough. Is your goal to be fluent or just order off a menu? Instead, make a learning goal of something more specific like "I will learn French so I can make polite conversation at the registration table when I attend the conference in Paris in October."
- 4. **Mini Networking Resolutions**. Focus on expanding your professional network and building meaningful connections. Commit to attending one event, reaching out to someone new on LinkedIn, spending 15 minutes every day contributing on a Facebook group, or simply committing to commenting on posts of five followers each day. You can easily incorporate these mini networking goals in between your standard daily tasks.
- 5. **Establish Mindfulness Practices**. Incorporate mindfulness practices into your daily routine to enhance focus, reduce stress, think more creatively, and improve overall well-being. Meditation, deep breathing exercises, positive affirmations, or regular walks in nature, can positively impact your personal and professional life. If you seem to have a problem finding the time for mindfulness practices, try habit stacking. Habit stacking is involves performing an activity during another activity that is already a habit. For instance, you might repeat positive affirmations in your mind as you brush your teeth. Brushing your teeth is already a daily habit. Adding affirmations while doing so will ensure you spend at least 4 minutes a day on establishing this new habit.
- 6. **Delegate and Collaborate**. Make a list of your strengths and weaknesses. Make a second list of what you currently do in your job. Then compare your daily job activities to your strengths and weaknesses list. Are there any activities you do that are not in your wheelhouse but might fit others in your organization better? Empower them to contribute their expertise in that area(s).
- 7. **Gratitude Journaling**. Start a gratitude journal to reflect on positive aspects of your personal and professional life. Journaling doesn't take hours. A gratitude journal entry could be just three bullet points of things you are grateful for that day. It could also contain compliments you receive professionally. Review your gratitude journal periodically to remind yourself of the positive things that happened this year. Focusing on gratitude improves your mindset and enhances resilience.

Whether you're into resolutions or not, the end of the year/beginning of a new one is a time ripe with possibility.

Daviowing what has worked in the past and planning on how you will layer age that in the future is always a good

idea.

<u>Christina Metcalf</u> 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 enjoys making resolutions a lot more than keeping them.

Twitter: @christinagsmith

Facebook: @tellyourstorygetemtalking

LinkedIn: @christinagsmith



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



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

Fred Baumann
Information Associate
fbaumann@custersd.com

Amy Brazell
Information Associate
abrazell@custersd.com

Pat Hattervig
Information Associate
phattervig@custersd.com

Holly Voges
Information Associate
hvoges@custersd.com

2023 Board Of Directors

Amy Bailey - President John Stahl - Vice President Michelle Fischer - Treasurer

Amanda Allcock

SOUTH DAKOTA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

HOSPITALITY · RETAIL · TRADES



South Dakota Minimum Wage Increases January 1

Effective January 1, 2024, South Dakota's minimum wage for non-tipped employees will be **\$11.20 per hour,** up from \$10.80 per hour in calendar year 2023.

For tipped employees, the hourly minimum wage for calendar year 2024 will be no less than **\$5.60 per hour**, up from \$5.40 in calendar year 2023.

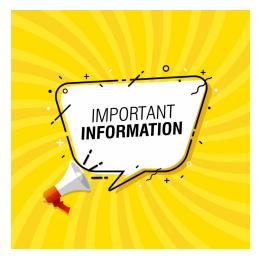
The changes were posted today on the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) website.

The state's minimum wage is adjusted annually as a result of an initiated measure approved by South Dakota voters in 2014. Increases in the state minimum wage rate are based on the national cost of living index. State law requires the rate to be rounded up to the nearest five cents. With limited exceptions, South Dakota's minimum wage applies regardless of the age of the employee, the number of hours worked each week, or length of employment.

For more information, visit the <u>DLR website</u>.

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!

To have things added to Buffalo Bytes, please send to Amy: abrazell@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

January 10

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

January 15

Chamber Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day

Inda 1 1 1 1 1 0

January 10-18

Governor's Conference on Tourism Pierre, SD

January 25

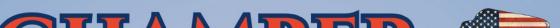
Chamber Mixer
5pm-7pm
Dacotah Bank

WEEKLY HUMOR



CHAMBER HAPPENINGS









5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

Hosted by:

DACOTAH BANK

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

 GOLD
 \$300

 SILVER
 \$200

 BRONZE
 \$100



Email Dawn at dmurray@custersd.com





Get Registered Now

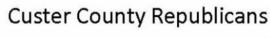
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Red Sands Ridge

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



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 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

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

southernhillstactical@gwtc.net







What's trelude

suites. Each room is thoughtfully designed and stocked with specific 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 Message 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.

skin radiant and glowing

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 message 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 scaring, 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 and 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 3rd Thursday of the month at noon.

January 2024 Monthly Meeting



Thursday, January 18th, 2024 12:00pm







Bring a lunch and join us each month!

Custer County Library - Pine Room
447 Crook St



South Dakota Enhanced Conceal Carry Class

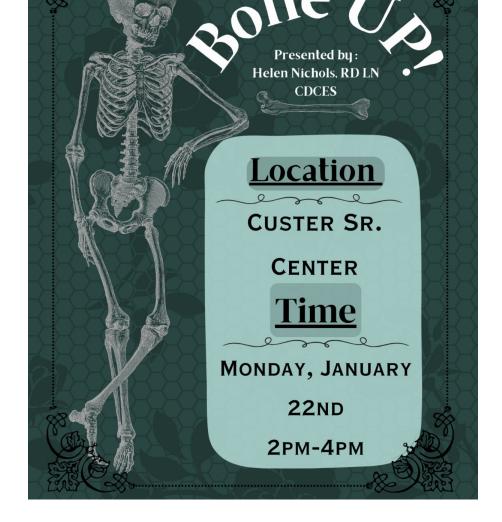
This is a One Day Class
Saturday January 20th 2024
9:00am to 4:30pm

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

Or call the shop at 605-673-3222 or email us southernhillstactical@gwtc.net





ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

Custer County Library Annex 447 Crook Street, Custer, SD

AARP TAX AIDE FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE

APPOINTMENTS: CALL 605-574-1730 AFTER January 7^{th.} 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 12th (11- 2 pm) or January 19th (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







Kevin Kennedy Broker Associate

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- Lots/Acerage
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Buying and selling real estate, simplified!

Call Kevin - 605-431-5094

email - kevinkennedy605@gmail.com website - kevin.bhsdrealty.com









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



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



2023 -2024 CUSTER STATE PARK



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

SNOW REMOVAL

Here's the Scoop



Snow and ice permitted to gather and remain upon the sidewalks of the city is dangerous to the safety of its citizens and others using the sidewalks.

CMC 12.04.040

The central business & highway commercial districts shall have snow and ice removed to the width of the sidewalk by 9:00 a.m.

If you have an awning in front of your building please make sure the snow is removed between the front posts of the awning and the curb.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR CODE RED



Go to custer.govoffice.com

Signing up for Code Red will alert you when sidewalks need to be cleared and other important information.

PARKING IN THE WINTER MONTHS

Any time two inches or more of snow fall in the city, there shall be deemed to be a snow alert, and during such alert it shall be unlawful for any vehicle to park on the public streets and alleys within Custer between the hours of midnight and eight a.m., or until such time as the snow has been removed from the particular street or alley. CMC10.16.140

Private driveways are the property owners responsibility.



*This is provided as an informational document. For more specific and formal information please refer to the Custer Municipal Code (CMC).

HTU AMMUAI DUDMIMO DEE



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



TOOLKITS ARE STILL AVAILABLE





The industry interest in the **Forever 605 Toolkit** is amazing! Your excitement is just what we were hoping for and it fuels our excitement to keep the <u>Forever 605</u>

campaign progressing.

If you haven't already requested a toolkit for your business or organization, follow the link to join in the effort to promote thoughtful exploration of South Dakota. You'll receive a list of <u>ways to engage</u> in the campaign; a pledge card, posters, and decal to display; and Forever 605 stickers.

If you have questions about the toolkit, please contact <u>Jacey Ellsworth</u> or <u>Calvin Bloemendaal</u>. Each entity is limited to one toolkit.

Request Tool Kit

PRESS RELEASES





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



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

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 <u>FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND LINE COOK.</u>

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

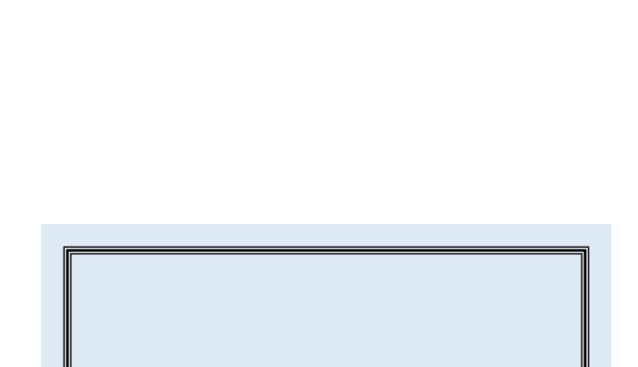
Position is full-time, year-round at 35/40 hours per week w/ Evening, Holiday & Weekends required and some overtime.

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!





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; or call the Center at 605-673-2708. The Senior Center is a non-profit organization, and is an equal employment opportunity employer.





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





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

Send Us An Email

Connect With Us











Visit our website