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PERFORMING AT MINER BREWING CO. - Clayton Ryan will perform his "soul music with country twang" Sunday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Miner Brewing Co. outside of Hill City. Raised in Iowa and South Dakota, Ryan's homegrown country soul music reverberates with a nostalgic sound and powerful songwriting. His songs have been featured in "American Songwriter," "GemsOnVHS," "B-Sides & Badlands" and "Americana Road Show," and appeared in TV and film. [Submitted Photo]

FOR MORE MUSIC & ARTS INFO, **BLACK HILLS LIVE IS ON PAGE 8 OF THE WESTERN TRADER!**

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ther's Cut Top Sirloins (5 o

Ho, Ho, hold on there pal...



You've been naughty in the fridge, out at restaurants and at the dinner table. You are not fitting down that chimney without our help. Roll on down and see us.

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December 16, 2023 Custer High School Theatre 7 pm

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Menny Christmas

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Details and Bidding at www.bradeenauction.com

Property located at 4 Custer locations: Location #1: 1067 Homestead Dr.; Location #2: Bradeen Auction Facility 8 W. Mt Rushmore Rd.; Location #3: Sunshine Storage South 25176 US Hwy 385, Unit 255 & 264; Location #4; Candlestick Mobile Home Park 783 Homestead Dr Custer, SD. Watch for signs! Tandem axle car type trailer; Kayak; Alum. Boat; air compressor; 3-wheel bikes; jacuzzi tub; bar stools; HD shop shelving; portable vendor displays; Tools & tool chests; jars; firewood & racks; Modern & Antique furniture; artwork & wall hangings; collectible toys; shelving; lawn tools; patio furniture; misc. household; holiday décor; shop and tool items plus many unique antique and collectibles and so much more! Auctioneers Note: Frank & Vickie are selling their home and selling these great items. There is something for everyone on this auction many very us-able tools and household items. Take time to inspect the online catalog for many great items able tools and household items. Take time to inspect the online catalog for many great items you won't want to miss.

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Property Inspection: Property will be available for inspection at the 4 Locations on Tuesday Dec. 19th, from 10 to 2 pm or see the detailed descriptions & photos in the online catalog.

Property Settlement & Pickup: Thursday Dec. 21st, Settlement at Bradeen Auctions Facility and then proceed with your paid receipt to the location of your items for pickup. All items must be settled for and picked up Thursday Dec. 21st between 9:00am & 3:00pm No Exceptions.

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To ensure publication, ads must be received by 5 p.m. Friday 605-673-2217

Pet of the Week



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All 'Pet of the Week' listings are available for adoption at the Battle Mountain Humane Society, 27254 Wind Cave Rd., Hot Springs, SD. 605-745-SAVE (7283)

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Legislator plans to pursue South Dakota flag redesign

By Makenzie Huber South Dakota Searchlight

South Dakota needs a new flag, says Brandon Valley High School student Ryan Schultz.

Schultz, who is passionate about flag design and vexillology (the study of flags), is leading the charge, pushing for legislation that would establish a redesign committee.

"I think having a good flag can unify us as a peo-Schultz said. ple

of the state.

certainly compared to state flags at the time. Texas," Jones said. "If it that's interesting.'

The state flag has been flags year history.

until Seth Bullock, the first

flags in Pierre than the rest The use of the state seal on highlighted South Dakota brands." the flag followed a Civil "I don't see it as much, War-era trend among other

This was the official doesn't mean much to peo- state flag until 1963, when ple today, my own view is it the two sides of the flag should. It has a history were combined. It was expensive to manufacture different with changed twice in its 114- emblems on each side, and there were few South South Dakota did not Dakota state flags in exishave a state flag for its first tence. The Legislature cre-20 years as a state. It wasn't ated a "Special State Flag Account' in 1966 through the South Dakota treasurer to sell flags "at cost" to the public and directed the state to keep a supply of South Dakota flags on hand to "meet the demand" from the public and organizations. The flag changed again in 1992 to read "The Mount Rushmore State," when legislators changed the state's nickname during Governor George S. Mickelson's administration. Florida had also claimed "The Sunshine State" nickname in 1970, and the move aligned with Mickelson's focus on strengthening South Dakota's tourism industry especially in the Black Hills, Jones said. Yankton lawmaker Bernie Hunhoff broached the topic of modernizing South Dakota's flag in 2012, though the legislation quickly failed. The description of the official state flag of South Dakota is outlined in state law, along with the official pledge to the state flag. It commonly flies over state buildings and schools across South Dakota, as well as the Ellsworth Air Force Base and National Guard installations. "You can broaden your perspective and understanding when you understand why the flag is the way it Jones said. "You can is." see that the sentiments it was meant to express still apply to you."

home. He sees more state around the edge of the flag. ating flags in 2006, and like Nike or Adidas American studies at San

Jose State University and an



his hometown of In Brandon and around the Sioux Falls area it's rare to see the South Dakota flag flown aside from governmental buildings.

U.S. flags and Sioux Falls flags are the most popular in the area. Even University of Nebraska flags are flown more commonly than the South Dakota flag.

That's proof, he said: If South Dakotans don't care enough to fly their state flag in their front yard, wear it on merchandise or learn its history and symbolism, then a revamp is needed.

Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls, was inspired by Schultz's suggestion and is considering introducing legislation in January. The bill is still being drafted, but would likely create a commission made up of legislators, governor-appointed members, tribal leaders and South Dakotans with expertise in history, art and tourism to help pick the new flag.

"Our state flag serves as an important symbol of the state," Nesiba said in an emailed statement. "A new design has the potential to raise awareness and in the process boost tourism, and to attract college and university students, entrepreneurs and workers."

Ultimately, the new state flag would be approved or rejected by the state Legislature and South Dakota governor, Nesiba said.

South Dakota flag's 114-year history

State Historical Society executive director Ben Jones flies the state flag outside his Sioux Falls sheriff of Deadwood and a U.S. marshal at the time, introduced the idea to his state senator in the early 1900s. Bullock was inspired by a Spanish-American War veterans' group to create one, Jones said.

The senator, Earnest May of Deadwood, introduced a bill to establish a flag designed by Ida Anding of the State Historical Society. The flag featured a sun on an azure background with "South Dakota" and "The Sunshine State" in an arc above and below the sun

On the back was printed the state seal featuring hills, the Missouri River, a farmer, a mine and cattle to represent the state's agriculture, diverse industry and natural resources. The state seal also includes the state motto, "Under God the people rule," which Jones said has seen some controversy.

"Sometimes the meaning of those things, some people take that in ways it's not intended," Jones said. "If it was understood in the manner of Thomas Jefferson and then the state founders meant it, as a secular reminder of where our rights come from, even the deist Jefferson thought they were created by 'the creator.' I think that's important politically because if the government didn't give you your rights, the creator did, then the government can't take them away. I think that's a key part that's in our flag that isn't in other state flags.'

The intricate seal was placed in the center of the azure background, all with a fringe of gold trimmed

South Dakota flag: 'an objective failure'

But South Dakota's flag fails the "good flag test,' Schultz argues.

The North American Vexillological Association released guidelines for cre-

CURRENT STATE FLAG — The state flag of South Dakota flies over the South Dakota Mines campus on Dec. 8 in Rapid City. [Submitted Photo/SETH TUPPER - SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT]

as a "Bad Flag." According to these guidelines which can be controversial in the vexillology world flags should:

· Be simple enough for a child to draw it from memory.

· Use meaningful symbolism through imagery, colors and patterns.

 Use a limited color palette.

 Refrain from lettering or scals. · Be distinctive from

other flags.

The main reasons South Dakota fails the test is because it uses an intricate seal that can't be seen clearly from a distance or when the flag is waving several different directions in the wind, and because it uses lettering, which can be unreadable if the words appear backward on the flag while being flown.

Michael Green, an Indiana-based graphic designer, vexillographer and owner of Flags for Good, believes it would benefit South Dakota to redesign its flag. He compares flag design to branding and marketing.

"Branding is all about creating symbols of belonging and identity," Green said. "If you look at a city or state creating a new flag, it's about creating symbols something you want to fly or a brand you want to wear on your chest, assign to your identity and help express yourself, which is

Just like a company, states can rebrand or refine their image too, he said.

Utah recently redesigned its state flag, Minnesota is in the process of redesigning its flag this year and Mississippi redesigned its flag in 2021. Other states considering simplifying their flags include Maine, Michigan and Illinois.

Minnesota's six finalist flag designs, submitted by the public and selected by a committee, have received backlash and strong critiques online. Public input is currently being accepted on the state's website, and the commission will choose the new flag design on Dec.

Examples of impactful state flags include Texas, Alaska and New Mexico. Even though California breaks the "good flag" rule, it's memorable and something its residents take pride in.

"The South Dakota flag is an objective failure in every use: People aren't using it to show how proud they are of South Dakota. Non-South Dakotans couldn't pick it out of a group of other state flags from a distance," Green said. "So redesign it. You have nothing to lose, but you have everything to gain."

Is a flag redesign worth it?

Flags don't have to follow the "good flag, bad flag" rules, said Scot Guenter, a professor of academic vexillologist though he does consider them practical guidelines.

What matters is not just that the flag is "pretty" but that the flag is meaningful and connected to the group identity of the people the flag represents.

"If South Dakotans don't feel connected to the flag then it doesn't really matter and it should be easy to change it," Guenter said. "Flags are very important symbols of identity. Even though we live in the world of the internet, flags are used everywhere on the internet to express your identity. They'll continue to be important symbols."

However, Schultz isn't hopeful that Nesiba's bill will pass in its first year. He expects it'll take years and a larger movement to grow among South Dakotans before the state will see the same benefits as he does.

A new flag design "could be an opportunity for South Dakota," Guenter added.

"If those early changes came for financial reasons or budget saving reasons, that could be a time for South Dakotans to say, 'Let it speak for us," he said.

. See more stories by South Dakota Searchlight southdakotasearchlight.co

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LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

BLACK HILL

Wednesday 12-13

Men's Breakfast Bible Study The Little White Church Hill City, SD 7:30 AM

Driver's License Exams Custer County Courthouse Annex Pine Room Custer, SD 8 AM to 5 PM

Custer Area Economic Development Corp. Black Hills Energy Custer, SD 8:30 AM

Seniors Functional Fitness Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM

Seniors Bridge Card Games Hill City Center Hill City, SD 10 AM - 3 PM

Friends of the Hill City Library Christmas Tea Super 8 Conference Room Hill City, SD 10:15 AM

Wiggles & Giggles Toddlers and Parents Fun Time Custer YMCA Custer, SD 10:30 -11:30 AM

Crafternoon Custer County Library Custer, SD 3 PM

BOLT The Little White Church Hill City, SD 3:20 PM

The Landing The Little White Church Hill City, SD 4:30 PM

Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

Middle School & High School Youth Group The Little White Church Hill City, SD 5:40 PM

Prayer The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:15 PM

Crossroads Church Xtreme Youth Group Crossroads Church Custer, SD 6:30 PM

Bluegrass Jam /// The Custer Beacon Custer, SD 6:30-8:30 PM



THE HILLS FINEST — Tony DeBlois is performing every Tuesday and Saturday at The Hills Finest. DeBlois, know as the "Eighth Wonder of Music," has had a movie written about him and is a well-known musical savant. [Submitted Photo]

Wiggles & Giggles Toddlers

and Parents Fun Time

Trees and Trains Exhibit

South Dakota State Railroad

Custer YMCA

10:30 -11:30 AM

Custer, SD

Museum

Hill City, SD

209 3rd St.

1-2 PM

1-3 PM

11 AM - 4:30 PM

Buffalo Gap, SD

Steele Collision

Lane of Lights

Museum Drive

Hill City Lions Club

Tony DuBlois Musical

Christmas Bingo

Hill City Center

Hill City, SD Food 5 PM

Bingo 6 PM

Savant LM

Custer, SD

Buffalo Gap

Buffalo Gap

Community Dance

Community Center

Lo-Ru West Dance Studio

Presents The Nutcracker

Buffalo Gap, SD

Custer Jr./Sr. High School Theatre

A Very Potter

Christmas LME

Custer, SD

7:30 PM

\$20

The Custer Beacon

Custer, SD

5-8 PM

7 PM

7 PM

The Hills Finest

Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

Custer, SD

Photos With Santa

Feeding South Dakota

Trivia Night HippieRockStar Boutique Wine & Beer Bar Hill City, SD 6 PM

ADD/ADHD Support Group Monument Health Custer Hospital Custer, SD 6:30 PM

SheJumps & BHPFA Winter Film Series Ft. Advice From Girls The Custer Beacon Custer, SD 6:30-8:30 PM

Civil Air Patrol Custer County Airport Custer, SD 7 PM

Friday 12-15

Hill City's Christmas Cookie Crawl 13 Stores in Hill City Hill City, SD

Seniors Coffee Club Hill City Center Small Room Hill City, SD 9 AM

Community Food Pantry The Little White Church Hill City, SD 9 AM - 11 AM

Story Time Hill City Public Library Kids' Annex Hill City, SD 9:30 AM

Snow People Story Time Custer County Library Custer, SD 10 AM

NARFE Holiday Luncheon Crazy Horse Memorial Laughing Water Restaurant Custer, SD 11:30 AM

Bad Moms Christmas Party HippieRockStar Boutique Wine & Beer Bar Hill City, SD 5-8 PM Fundraiser Custer Jr./Sr. High School Custer, SD

Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

3-7 PM

Clayton Ryan /// Miner Brewing Company Hill City, SD 5:30-7 PM

KISS AA Meeting Keystone Community Center Keystone, SD 6 PM

Adult Bible Study The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6 PM

The Light of the World Children's Christmas Program & Musical Mountainview Baptist Church Custer, SD 6 PM

Kid's Christmas Program The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:30 PM

Monday 12-18

Community Food Pantry The Little White Church Hill City, SD 9 AM - 11 AM

Seniors Functional Fitness Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM

Custer Rotary Club Crazy Horse Memorial Custer, SD Noon

Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

Pringle Volunteer Fire Department Pringle Community Center Pringle, SD 5 PM

Hill City Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall Hill City, SD 5:30 PM

Custer City Council Custer City Hall Custer, SD 5:30 PM

Chick Chat and Crafts The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:30 PM Seniors Knitting & Crocheting Group Hill City Center Hill City, SD 1-3 PM

Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

Celebrate Recovery The Little White Church Hill City, SD 5:45 PM

Hermosa Town Board Hermosa Town Hall Hermosa, SD 6 PM

Wednesday 12-20

Men's Breakfast Bible Study The Little White Church Hill City, SD 7:30 AM

Driver's License Exams Custer County Courthouse Annex Pine Room Custer, SD 8 AM to 5 PM

Seniors Functional Fitness Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM

Hill City Seniors Board Meeting Hill City Center Hill City, SD 10 AM

Seniors Bridge Card Games Hill City Center Hill City, SD 10 AM - 3 PM

Wiggles & Giggles Toddlers and Parents Fun Time Custer YMCA Custer, SD 10:30 -11:30 AM

Custer County Library Board Meeting Custer County Library Custer, SD 1 PM

Crafternoon Custer County Library Custer, SD 3 PM

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BOLT Christmas Carollers Hill City Center Hill City, SD 3:15 PM

BOLT The Little White Church Hill City, SD 3:20 PM

The Landing The Little White Church Hill City, SD 4:30 PM

Record Club Custer County Library Custer, SD 5 PM

Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

Hill City Common Council Meeting City Hall Hill City, SD 5:30 PM

Middle School & High School Youth Group The Little White Church Hill City, SD 5:40 PM

Hill City Park Board Meeting Hill City Center Hill City, SD 6 PM

Keystone Town Board Meeting Keystone Community Center Keystone, SD 6 PM

Prayer The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:15 PM

Crossroads Church Xtreme Youth Group Crossroads Church Custer, SD 6:30 PM

Bluegrass Jam /// The Custer Beacon Custer, SD 6:30-8:30 PM

Fairburn Town Board Fairburn Civic Center Fairburn, SD 7 PM

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Thanks for

AA Meeting

Thursday 12-14

Women's Bible Study Fellowship The Little White Church Hill City, SD 8:30 AM

Seniors Stretch & Flex Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM

Blood Drive Custer Masonic Lodge Custer, SD 9 AM to 5 PM

Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games Hill City Center Hill City, SD 12:30 PM

Christmas Tea Custer Community Church Custer, SD 2 PM

Imagination Club Hill City Public Library Kids' Annex Hill City, SD 3:15 PM

Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Mixer Mt. Rushmore Brewing Co. Custer, SD 5 PM

Chamber Holiday Mixer South Dakota State Railroad Museum Hill City, SD 5-7 PM

Tony DuBlois Musical Savant /// The Hills Finest Custer, SD 5-8 PM

Jesse Renteria Family Christmas Music Hill City Center Hill City, SD 5:30 PM Lane of Lights Museum Drive Hill City, SD Dusk - 10 PM

YMCA Skate Night Custer YMCA Custer, SD 7 PM

Celebrate Recovery Crossroads Church Custer, SD 6 PM

Hill City K-5 Winter Concert GIns Gym Hill City, SD 6 PM

Celebrate Recovery Crossroads Church Custer, SD 6 PM

Karaoke Night /// The Custer Beacon Custer, SD 6:30-8:30 PM

Bingo Battle Creek American Legion Post Hermosa, SD 7-9 PM

Saturday 12-16

Hill City's Christmas Cookie Crawl 13 Stores in Hill City Hill City, SD

Holiday Express 1880 Train Hill City, SD Select times

Women's Prayer Gathering The Little White Church Hill City, SD 9 AM

Custer County Democrats Coffee and Breakfast Gathering Crazy Horse Memorial Custer, SD 9 AM

Coffee with the Mayor Hill City Cafe Hill City, SD 10 AM

Sunday 12-17

Holiday Express 1880 Train Hill City, SD Select times

Trees and Trains Exhibit South Dakota State Railroad Museum Hill City, SD 11 AM - 4:30 PM

How the Grinch Found Christ in Christmas Kids Program Crossroads Church Custer, SD 3 PM

Christmas Cantata St. Michael Catholic Church Hermosa, SD 3 PM

Custer Community Christmas Custer Jr./Sr. High Music Department Lighthouse Assembly of God Hill City, SD 7 PM

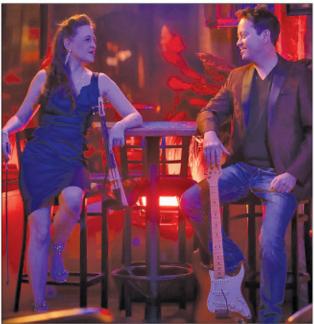
Tuesday 12-19

Seniors Beginning Line Dancing Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM

Prairie Hills Transit Meeting Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9:30 AM

Hill City Seniors Flow & Relax Yoga Hill City Center Hill City, SD 10:30 AM

Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games Hill City Center Hill City, SD 1-4:30 PM



A VERY POTTER CHRISTMAS — A Very Potter Christmas returns to The Custer Beacon for the fifth year in row, and once again, the Potters have spared no expense to delight you with their seasonal offering of songs, dance, holiday silliness. This cheerful Christmas showcase includes the talents of the Potter Ladies, guitarist Joshua Simpson, The Rushmore Music Festival Quartet and of course the fabulous Orion & Stacey. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 on the evening of the show. [Submitted Photo] saying you saw it in Black Hills Live in the Western Trader!

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