

WESTERN TRADER

Published by Southern Hills Publishing, P.O. Box 551, Custer, SD 57730 • Phone 605-673-2217 • Email: custerads@gwtc.net

Custer • Hill City • Hot Springs • Edgemont • Keystone • Newcastle, Wyoming and Everything in Between

www.myblackhillscountry.com

ISSUE NO. 46

DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



ON TAP AT THE TAPROOM — Black Hills Native, solo, acoustic and fan favorite artist Brent Morris sings classic country music inspired by all of the late great country music stars, including Chris LeDoux. Morris will perform Sunday afternoon at the Prairie Dog Taproom outside Hill City for a guaranteed fun time—you'll be singing along all afternoon! [Submitted Photo]

THE RIDGE
LONG TERM RV SITES
605-673-2720

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you saw
it in the Western
Trader!

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449 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
High visibility, located
above Custer County
Candy Co. 1,500
Square-feet, high
ceiling. Exceptionally
clean, new carpet.
Steps, no elevator.

Call 605-440-0123

Retail or Office Space Available!

17 N. 5th Street,
Custer. 1,500
square-feet, open floor
plan, street level.
Great for retail or
office space. Desirable
location in a high
foot-traffic area.



Call 605-440-0123

ESTATE AUCTION EILEEN MCDONALD ESTATE - BUFFALO GAP

Selling at Online Auction -
Bidding closes DECEMBER
3rd, 2025
Property located at 410 N. 3rd
Street, Buffalo Gap SD

REAL ESTATE consists of a large corner lot on the north edge of Buffalo Gap at the corner of N 3rd. Street and Dudley Street, featuring a wood frame shop with electric heat & air conditioning, air compressor, and more. Also features a five stall storage building with 5 individual roll up doors and a finished office. Also includes an existing septic system and City water hookup to add a residence if desired. Also includes a well for garden/lawn water, garden area, shade trees garden shed and more.



BID ONLINE AT
WWW.BRADEENAUCION.COM

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SCAN QR CODE TO
SEE THIS WEEK'S
FEATURED
PROPERTY



NEW PRICE!

HALL DRIVE

• 3.57 ACRES • \$1,199,000 • CUSTER • 3400 SQ FT
Custom built 4 bed, 3.5 bath home, perfectly
set on a wonderful spacious lot with no
covenants and two RV sites to boot! Exquisite
home that's mesmerizing from top to
bottom. Come home, put your feet up!



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Ron Bradeen
605-381-2629
ron@bradeenauction.com



Jeff Storm
605-673-1518
jstorm@gwtc.net



Carol Wood
605-440-0466
carolw@gwtc.net



Anne Fuchs
605-673-1177
afuchs@gwtc.net

MOVE IN JUST IN TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON in this gorgeous, newly built 2-bedroom, 2-bath home set on 3.16 scenic acres just minutes from downtown Custer. Featuring 1,478 sq. ft. of living space and an incredible 1,902 sq. ft. 4+ car garage, 20x54 finished RV Bay and plenty of room for your ATVs, and all your outdoor toys. The garage includes a cozy sitting area—perfect for relaxing or entertaining. Inside, you'll love the open floor plan and the panoramic views from every window. High-end finishes include clear vertical grain fir cabinetry, doors, and trim, granite countertops, and a premium Sub-Zero Wolf range in the kitchen. Step outside to a covered patio, ideal for watching the local wildlife and soaking in the peaceful surroundings. The property features a scenic mix of Ponderosa Pine and open meadow, creating a true Black Hills retreat. Located close to all the top attractions, restaurants, and outdoor adventures, the area has to offer—this is mountain living at its best! **MLS# 86227 \$849,000** Call or text Carol 605-440-0466 for more information.



COZY UP BY THE WOOD STOVE and take in the snowy winter wonderland at 12073 Fox Ridge Road. Luxury Country Ranch & Horse Property with USFS Access. Discover your dream equestrian estate! This exceptional 18.51-acre property offers the perfect blend of comfort, convenience, and outdoor adventure. Enjoy the serenity of country living with direct gated access to miles of USFS land, perfect for horseback riding and exploring. Spacious Home: 2,410 sq. ft. custom-built, single-level ranch home featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Recently updated and meticulously maintained. Gourmet Kitchen: A chef's delight! Features a bright and airy kitchen with stunning granite countertops, beautiful hickory cabinets, and a generous walk-in pantry. Horse-Ready Barn: A 36' x 60' barn designed for your equine companions, offering ample space for horses. Includes a finished bunk room and a dedicated reloading/office space. Outdoor Amenities: Includes a fenced garden area and a chicken coop. The property is fully perimeter and cross-fenced. Enjoy privacy while being conveniently close to the city of Custer, hospital, schools, and all local attractions. Don't miss this opportunity! **MLS# 85970 \$1,149,500** Carol at 605-440-0466 for more information or a private showing. Call or Text Today!



"EXEMPLARY" BEST DESCRIBES THIS PURE CRAFTSMAN styled home! 4760 sq. ft. home, 1.29 private treed acres, 4+ bedrooms, 3 baths, gourmet kitchen with blue pearl granite countertops, cherry cabinetry, large bar/island, two uniquely designed double sided fireplaces, open vaulted living room with a wall of windows to encompass the outdoors, professionally crafted "hand hewn" oak flooring in the living, dining, office, foyer and staircase areas. The tranquil primary bedroom has new carpet, private access to the deck, fireplace, a grand primary bath with tile from Spain, new counter and backslash jetted tub, walk in shower and extensive closet. The lower level complements the home with all new laminate wood flooring, fireplace, 2 bedrooms, bath, unfinished 3rd bedroom and large storage mechanical room. No home is complete unless it has an oversized heated/insulated garage/man domain! Space for the RV with oversized door, separate garage door for other vehicles and a loft that can be removed in sections—perfect place for storage, hobbies or party! All NEW TREX flooring on the wrap around deck for no future maintenance! **MLS# 86015 \$1,299,000. the adjoining Lot 27 is available see MLS#86016 \$140,000. CALL OR TEXT ANNE 605-673-1177 FOR YOUR PRIVATE SHOWING AND ANY QUESTIONS.**



13639 HWY 40 - 11.42 ACRES ON BATTLE CREEK. Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity! Offered for the first time in over 30 years, this stunning 11.42-acre estate borders Hwy 40 and features the tranquil flow of Battle Creek running the full length of the property. The showpiece is an exquisite 3-level, 2,540± sq. ft. all-log home, meticulously crafted to impress even the most discerning buyer. Complementing the residence is a brand-new, deluxe 2,080 sq. ft. shop—complete with living quarters, a ¾ bath, kitchenette, and fully finished interior with heated silicone-over-concrete floors and three overhead doors. It's the ultimate man cave for collectible vehicles, motorcycles, and more. Adding to the charm and history of this extraordinary retreat are several beautifully preserved original structures, including an old-time livery stable, garage, barn, and a historic stone fireplace gazebo. Immediate possession available. High-end furnishings and art are negotiable. A truly rare find—this property has long been admired. **MLS# 81475 Offered at \$1,950,000.** For more information, call or text: Anne Fuchs - 605-673-1177, Carol Wood - 605-440-0466, or Ron Bradeen @ 605-381-2629 **MLS# 85664**



Vehicle-Trailer-Toy Trains- Collectibles-Firearms-Coins-Tools

ESTATE AUCTION

The Roger Behlings Estate & Guests,
Custer, SD

Closing Tuesday • December 2nd,
2025, 4:00PM



Highlights include: 2017 Ford F150 4x4, 4 dr pickup, 14645 miles A-1; snow mobile trailer; Luigi Franchi Semi-auto 12 ga.; Mossberg Model 500 12 ga.; Henry Golden Boy 22 Cal.; Henry Big Boy 44 Rem Mag/44 SPL; Henry Big Boy 30/30 Win.; Ruger New Model Black Hawk, 24 Kt Gold Plated; Romarm/Cugir/Wasr-10; Minnesota Arms Co. double barrel 12 Ga.; PW Arms Model M91/30 caliber 7.62 X 54R; Cabela's 50 Cal. BP Hawken w/set trigger; Thompson Center 50 Cal. New Englander Muzzelloader; BPI New Frontier 50 Cal.; Thompson Center 45 Cal. Hawken Muzzelloader; large selection of coins & proof sets; 100+ locomotives and train sets, model cars; wood working tools; lawn/patio furniture; Riding lawn mower; tools & shop items; modern & antique furniture; antique & collectible; pocket watches; art work and MUCH MORE!



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\$10.00 for 15 words,
15¢/word over that

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605-673-2217

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Customers are asked to check their ad
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Claims for adjustment should be made
at that time. The newspaper is responsible
for an incorrect ad only the first time it runs,
so check your ad carefully.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:
HAVING A GARAGE SALE OR MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE? ADVERTISE IT IN THE TRADER CLASSIFIEDS & GET THE WORD OUT!!! CALL 605-673-2217

GARAGE SALE - HILL CITY
WINTER BARGAINS ARE FOUND At 101 Pine Ave In Hill City on Saturdays 10 AM - 4 PM - Free Coffee and Cookies 145 45th

HELP WANTED:
THE TOWN OF HERMOSA is seeking a Full-Time Administrative Assistant. The pay rate will depend on experience. Job Description/Role and Responsibilities: This position provides administrative support to the Finance Office, Board of Trustees, Public Works Department, and Planning & Zoning. Essential duties and responsibilities include the following: Enter meter readings, calculate bills, prepare and mail billing cards, process all utility payments and prepare utility deposits. Receive and process applications for new services and customer applications, process deposits, arrange for turn on/off services. Monitor garbage collection, prepare monthly monitoring reports, perform collection action for delinquent bills, maintain permanent customer account files, field complaints, and other duties as assigned. This person will be responsible for answering phones, incoming mail, and front desk customer assistance. **QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:** High school diploma or GED equivalent, and three years' verifiable experience in the administrative field and customer service. Must have knowledge of Microsoft Office products. **APPLICATIONS AND RESUMES ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 21, 2025** Email: town@hermosasd.com Fax: (605) 255-4094 Mail: Town of Hermosa P.O. Box 298 Hermosa, SD 57744 144 46c

THE TOWN OF HERMOSA IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for a part-time Water Meter Reader. This position averages about 10-15 hours per month and supports the Town's Public Works Department. Responsibilities include reading residential and commercial water meters, recording data accurately, and reporting any irregularities. Meters may be read using a digital scanner or by visually checking analog displays. According to the Town of Hermosa Ordinance, meters are read on or about the twentieth of the month, regardless of the weather. Applicants must have attention to detail, the ability to work independently, and a valid driver's license with reliable transportation. Walking and driving within town limits is required. Compensation is currently \$16.50 per hour, subject to Board approval. To apply, please submit an application to the Town of Hermosa Office. Applications will be reviewed as received until the position is filled. 143 46c

CUSTER COUNTY IS HIRING FOR A FULL-TIME Emergency Dispatcher in our 9-1-1 Communications Center. This position is responsible for receiving and dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for law enforcement, fire, EMS, and other agencies, while maintaining professional composure in high-pressure situations. The role requires operating radio and computer systems, documenting all activity in the CAD system, and coordinating with multiple public safety agencies. Applicants must be 18+, a U.S. citizen, hold or be able to obtain a valid South Dakota driver's license, have a high school diploma or GED, no felony convictions, and be able to pass a background check. Applicants must complete the South Dakota 911 Basic Course within one year of hire and be willing to work all shifts, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Starting pay is \$21.71/hour (non-certified) or \$22.65/hour if currently or upon becoming South Dakota certified, with a \$1.00/hour shift differential for hours worked 6 PM-6 AM. Custer County offers paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, health insurance, optional dental, vision, life insurance, and SDRS retirement with 6% county match. If you wish to apply, visit www.custercountysd.com/employment or contact Amber Maidens, HR Director, at 605-673-8134 or amaidens@custercountysd.com. Applications accepted until position is filled. Custer County is an Equal Opportunity

Employer. 137 46c
FIREWOOD
FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Split pine. 8' pickup box load heaped up a little. \$155. Will deliver. Call for details. 307-941-0732

FOR RENT:
THREE BEDROOM 1 BATH MOBILE HOME on large lot 4 miles west of Custer on Hwy 16, \$1,250 per month includes, lot rent, 10'x20' storage shed, water, sewer, & garbage; call Richard 605 673-2587 146 46th
FOR MONTH TO MONTH-RENT IN HILL CITY. Completely furnished, 3 BDRM, 2 bath seasonal vacation home. Available into April/May 2026. Includes washer/dryer & all utilities, high speed Wi-Fi and cable. Call Vic at 605-209-3963. 123 37th

TWO BED, ONE BATH clean modern trailer, Keystone. No pets. \$900/month plus utilities. Text 605-391-8413. 73 thc
THREE BEDROOM, ONE BATH, clean, modern trailer. Keystone. No pets. \$1,000/month plus utilities. Text 605-391-8413. 74 thc

ATTRACTIVE, MODERN one and two bedroom apartments, central Custer. Laundry, cable TV, competitive rates. 605-591-9397 2 11f

LONG TERM RV SITES AVAILABLE! Close to Custer. Borders Forest Service land. Tiny homes may be considered. 605-673-4701. 4 11th

BUSINESS SPACE:
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. Spacious. Pleasant atmosphere. Great location. Off-road parking. 605-673-1531. 140 44th

SHOP SPACE AVAILABLE at the Old World Plaza on Main Street, Hill City. Call 605-574-4635. 136 42th

HUGE OPPORTUNITY IN A SMALL SPACE FOR RENT on Main Street in Hill City. Approximately 750-square feet. Food service qualified (former ice cream/antique shops). Available immediately. NOW IS THE TIME. Contact Vic 605-209-3963. 45 36th

STORAGE UNITS TO RENT

COVERED STORAGE - RV, ATV, Boats. At Plenty Star Ranch. 25991 Hwy. 385, Custer. Monthly/annual rates. Twelve-foot tall entrance. Call Isa Kirk at 605-440-2233. 11 11f

AVAILABLE NOW! 10x20 storage units. New Construction. Close to Custer. 605-673-4701. 10 11f

AFFORDABLE STORAGE: 9x9 and 10x21 units. Cement floors and solid walls. RV Parking Available \$25 per month. 605-673-4646. 5 11f

SUNSHINE STORAGE: Annual or monthly rentals, 4 convenient locations. Call Teresa at 673-1025. 6 11f

BUCKHORN STORAGE: 5x10, 10x10, 10x20. 673-5050. 7 11f

ADS WANTED: CLASSIFIED ADS WORK! Fill

out the form on this page if you are having a garage sale, if you are selling an automobile or if your business is hiring. If you are renting a lot, office space or house, a classified ad with us goes in print and online! Stop by or call 605-673-2217.



MISCELLANEOUS:

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-605-601-9373

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable

prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-754-0067

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Chronicle

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522 Mt. Rushmore Rd • Custer, SD

Classified Ad Form • Deadline • 5 p.m. Friday

Classified Ad Category List
Circle One

Announcements

Horses, Livestock

Antiques

Lawn and Garden

Appliances

Lost and Found

Arts and Crafts

Misc. for Sale

Autos for Sale

Mobile Homes

Auto Parts, Repair

Motorcycles

Boats

Personal

Business Opportunity

Pets and Supplies

Child Care

Photography

Computers

Real Estate

Farm and Ranch

Rec. Vehicles

Firewood

Rentals

Flea Markets

Services

Furniture

Sporting Goods

Garage Sales - _____

Wanted _____

Help Wanted

Other _____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Insertion Dates:

DIRECTIONS: Write your ad below, one word per line. Remember, make sure your ad includes a phone number. Garage Sale ads need to include date, time, location and directions (if your location is difficult to find).

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 \$10.00

16 \$10.15

17 \$10.30

18 \$10.45

19 \$10.60

20 \$10.75

21 \$10.90

22 \$11.05

23 \$11.20

24 \$11.35

25 \$11.50

26 \$11.65

27 \$11.80

28 \$11.95

29 \$12.10

30 \$12.25

31 \$12.40

32 \$12.55

33 \$12.70

34 \$12.85

35 \$13.00

36 \$13.15

37 \$13.30

38 \$13.45

39 \$13.60

40 \$13.75

41 \$13.90

42 \$14.05

43 \$14.20

44 \$14.35

45 \$14.50

46 \$14.65

47 \$14.80

48 \$14.95

49 \$15.10

Run my ad _____ Weeks x \$ _____ = \$ _____
Credit Card/Billing Charge + _____
Total _____
Paid \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____
Credit Card/Exp. Date _____

Bold Type
\$1.00 Extra

No. _____



Business and Professional Directory

YOUR GUIDE TO SOUTHERN HILLS BUSINESSES

ELECTRICAL SERVICE Freeman's Electric Service Inc. Serving the Custer Area FREE Estimates 24 Hour Answering Service Your Call — Our Command Custer — 673-3701	CONSTRUCTION Talley Construction Dirt Work • Septic Tanks Waterlines • Road Grading Dump Truck Service FREE Estimates • 574-2155 Reasonable Rates	EYE DOCTOR  Premier —FAMILY EYECARE— 322 Mt. Rushmore Rd. • Custer Walk-ins & New Patients Welcome 673-2716 www.visionsource-custer.com <i>Vision Source!</i>	FLOORING  We Do Repairs, Restretches on Flooring Shanklin's 12702 Miller Court Rd (Off America Center Rd) Custer • 605-673-2099	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217
FINANCIAL  Jim Meyer, AAMS® Financial Planner 39 N. 4th Street Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2367	FREEDOM HILLS WEALTH MANAGEMENT associated with Raymond James Financial Services Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC Treatment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Network, Inc. Raymond Hills Wealth Management is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. www.freedomhillswm.com	WATER WELL DRILLING ALEXANDER DRILLING INC. 605-574-2331 info@alexanderdrillinginc.com • Water Well Drilling • Pumping Systems and Service • Well Hydrofracturing RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL www.alexanderdrillinginc.com	GRAVEL  Southern Hills • Grading • Dirtwork • Septic Installs ROCK & GRAVEL • Retaining Walls Commercial • Residential Delivery Available Lonny Schramm 605-745-5066 Argyle, SD Cell 545-1160 <i>Here to Rock the Southern Hills!</i>	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217
CONSTRUCTION Russ Johnson Construction 605-574-2881	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP W.E.A.V.E. WOMEN ESCAPING A VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT P.O. Box 729 Custer, SD 57730 Custer County Sheriff 673-8176 24-Hour Crisis Line 673-HELP (4357) Toll Free: 1-800-424-3574	VETERINARIAN Fall River Veterinary Clinic HOT SPRINGS Mon.—Sat. 8am–5pm Wed. 8am–8pm • 605-745-3786 Emergency • 605-745-3786 Dustin Brown, DVM • Kayla Brown, DVM	ELECTRICIAN Carr Electric Co. LLC 25 Years of experience  Free Estimates Licensed • Insured • Bonded 605-670-0996
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AUTO DETAILING  SCHAFER EXPRESS AUTO DETAILING MOBILE CAR DETAILING UNIT SERVING CUSTER, SD PACKAGES BETWEEN \$60-\$200! VISIT US @ SCHAFEREXPRESSAUTODETAILING.COM AND BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION OR PACKAGE TODAY! CALL: (605)377-7803 EMAIL:SCHAFERAUTODETAILING@GMAIL.COM	REAL ESTATE  Amanda Carlin Your Southern Black Hills Realtor 605-440-7587 blackhillssouthernrealty@gmail.com Thinking of selling? Curious to know what your land and home value are? Give me a call!	HANDYMAN EVANS REPAIR Appliances • Furnaces Water Heaters & Service Handyman Services John Evans, Jr Cell: 605-673-1600 Home: 605-673-3048	Rent this space! Only \$22.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
REAL ESTATE  Block Realty Buy or Sell with me! Julie Block Broker/Owner 605.868.5584 sellingblackhills@gmail.com	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	BLASTING & CONTRACTOR A-1 Drilling & Blasting Development Blasting Residential Ditch Lines Quarries "Serving The Entire Black Hills Area" Fully Insured Shawn Stiles 605-578-1991	PRINT/COMPUTER  Vector DESIGN PRINT TECH Your LOCAL Design & Print Shop! COMPUTER UPGRADES & REPAIR 1164 Mt Rushmore Rd • Custer • 605-673-2740	
WINDOWS & GLASS Riddle's Glass, Rapid City Store Fronts/Entrances • Exterior Patio Doors Glass Replacement • Residential Windows Automatic Doors • Commercial Windows Mirrors & Shower Doors 936 E. St. Patrick • Rapid City, SD 605-343-4999 • riddleglass.com	REAL ESTATE Integrity Realty "Your local, knowledgeable, Real Estate Agents" Contact us today! 605-574-4444 or 605-391-8373 www.landlotshomes.com	HANDYMAN KEYSTONE HANDYMEN "Your To-Do List Just Got Shorter" Home Repairs • Remodeling Painting • Carpentry • Assembly Plumbing • Electrical • Drywall Weather Proofing • Trash Hauling Miscellaneous Odd Jobs Call for your free quote (605) 415-6172	HEATING & COOLING  Witt's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. 104 South 9th • Custer 673-3212 Heating and Cooling Service and Installation Heat Pumps Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers	
EXCAVATING • BASEMENTS • DIRT • GRAVEL • SEPTIC  Expect Honest Work and Fair Prices Nielsen Enterprises, LLC • Excavating • Basements • Dirt Work • Gravel • Septic Systems Mark Nielsen • 24890 Sylvan Lake Rd, Custer 605-673-4701 • Cell: 673-1519	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	FINANCIAL ADVISOR Edward Jones Invest in a way that shares your values. Let's map out your future together. Mark A Koch Financial Advisor 27 North 6th Street Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2644 edwardjones.com	ACCOUNTING NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS! Outsourced Accounting, Payroll and Tax Preparation Contact Kati Rombough for more information 651-472-4087 kati@corsairaccounting.com	
HEATING & AC • CONSTRUCTION Custer Heating & A/C Office: 605-673-2957 www.custerheating.com Owner: Bob Brown	STONE & LANDSCAPING DAKOTA STONE COMPANY Landscaping • Black Dirt • Boulders • Crushed Stone - 5 Colors • Stonedust for Walkways • Stepping Stone • Retaining Walls • Patio Stone Building Stone • Fireplace • Outside Veneer Masonry Supplies • Cement • Mortar Color • Other Supplies Gravel Hauling Sand for Power Line Construction www.dakotastone.net Visit our website for more pictures! 605-574-2760	FIREARMS • BUY • SALE • TRADE RENT THIS SPACE! Only \$34 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217		
HVAC Kitchens by Karla Custer, SD 57730 605.580.0183 • Custom Design • Competitive Pricing • By Appointment Only www.kitchensbykarla.com kitchensbykarla@gmail.com • www.bertch.com Karla Haagenson • Owner				

Business & Professional Ads are a great way for your business to not only get noticed, but to stay in people's minds when they need to utilize a local business service. "Out of sight out of mind." Let's face it, if you aren't reading the Custer County Chronicle or the Hill City Prevailer at lunch on Wednesdays or Thursdays, you are not really going to know what's going on. People depend on us for all local news. Advertising is also a great way to reach potential new customers/clients and to boost your business. Come in or call 605-673-2217 and we can help. We will even build you an ad at no extra charge!

SHOP BLACK HILLS

HEY RETAIL BUSINESS OWNERS!!! THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVERTISE!!!

Custer

Deep Creek Gallery



A Gallery of Gifts Awaits!
Seven local artists, one gallery.
757 Mt. Rushmore Rd. • Custer, SD
312.505.4592

SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

**2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32**
(for retail business only)

**\$100
(normal price)**

SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

**2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32**
(for retail business only)

**\$100
(normal price)**

Poll: What South Dakotans think about their political leaders

*By Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch*

South Dakota's most prominent political leaders generally maintain high approval ratings among registered voters, according to a scientific poll co-sponsored by South Dakota News Watch.

However, Kristi Noem, former governor and current secretary of Homeland Security, has seen declines from a poll six months ago and Sen. John Thune's ratings appear somewhat low for a senator of a deeply red state. These numbers may reflect the challenges of balancing state interests and national priorities, analysts said.

This latest statewide survey, co-sponsored by the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota queried people about:

Favorability and name recognition of U.S. House and governor candidates among Republican voters

All voters' position on Thune's job performance as Senate majority leader and his commitment to South Dakota as senator

All voters' view of the job performance of Gov. Larry Rhoden, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds and Noem

Mason-Dixon Polling and Strategy conducted the poll of 500 registered voters from all parties Oct. 16-19 and 502 Republican voters Oct. 16-20 using random selections from a telephone-matched state voter registration list that included both landline and cellphone numbers from across the state.

Quotas were assigned to reflect voter registration by county. The margin for error is no more than plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Here are the results of that survey.

House and governor GOP candidates

There are currently four candidates in the race for governor: Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden, state Rep. Jon Hansen, U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson and Rhoden.

There are currently three candidates for U.S. House: Piedmont businessman James Bialota, state Sen.

Casey Crabtree and Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Johnson saw a drop of 5 percentage points in his favorable rating among Republican voters from the poll last spring while Rhoden's remained unchanged. In that time, Doeden saw his favorable ratings increase 10 percentage points. Hansen struggles with name recognition in the race for governor.

In the U.S. House race, Jackley's favorable rating fell 6 percentage points, but he remains well above his challengers, Crabtree and Bialota, who weren't polled in April as they hadn't entered the race at that point.

Takeaway: Johnson name recognition

Julia Hellwege, director of the Chiesman Center and USD associate professor in political science, said that Johnson's lead in favorability over Rhoden may stem from Rhoden having a higher number of Republicans who don't recognize his name. Rhoden's name wasn't recognized by 14 percent of Republicans, and Johnson wasn't recognized by 2 percent.

That's compared to Doeden who wasn't recognized by 30 percent of Republicans and Bialota who wasn't recognized by 81 percent of Republicans. In April, 58 percent of Republicans didn't recognize Doeden's name.

There was a much higher level of neutral feelings toward Rhoden than Johnson, which may be due to the difference in their offices, Hellwege said.

"Congress tends to be more visible and polarizing than the governor. Dusty's favorability is higher than Rhoden, but compared to April, his favorability rating is somewhat lower. In part, it may stem from a higher name recognition at this time," she said.

Hansen, Crabtree and Bialota have low name recognition, making it difficult to consider their favorability ratings among Republican voters, she said.

Sen. Thune's approval rating

Registered voters were also asked about their position on Thune's job performance as Senate majority leader as well as his level of commitment to South Dakota. The senator maintains a high approval rating, and a majority believe he's committed to South Dakota.

Takeaway: No change since April

Thune's ratings haven't changed since the April poll. He officially became majority leader in January when the new Congress convened.

Brad Coker, founder of Mason-Dixon Strategy and Polling, said that, while 54% of voters approve of Thune's performance as majority leader, South Dakota is a deeply red state, where you'd expect the number to be higher.

"If I saw these approval numbers for a congressional leader in a swing state, such as Arizona, they would be considered average in the current polarized environment," Coker said.

Takeaway: Daschle parallels

Thune's approval ratings may be lower than they might otherwise be for the same reasons his predecessor's approval declined, said Michael Card, emeritus professor of political science at the University of South Dakota.

Tom Daschle served in the U.S. Senate from 1987 until 2005.

Mason-Dixon polling from the 2004 Senate race showed Daschle with a 54 percent favorable rating among voters, but that declined to 49 percent in October 2004, just before the election. Daschle had tried to balance the national Democratic agenda with the interests of Republicans in South Dakota, but voters ultimately saw Republican Thune as the better choice in 2004.

Card said Thune may run into the same trouble. In the midst of the federal government shutdown and trying to hold the Democratic party responsible for it, Senate Republicans have to keep holding votes.

"Sen. Thune has spent much of the month of October in Washington," Card said.

Daschle had made a big deal of going to all 66 counties in the state, but when he became majority leader in 2001, he couldn't pull off that kind of schedule, Card said.

Thune may not be seeing declining approval ratings as Daschle did in the months leading up to the 2004 election due to the current political climate of South Dakota, he said.

Republicans are particularly popular, and the Democratic Party is more unpopular than it was in Daschle's time. Were Thune in the same political climate today as Daschle was in 2004, his approval rating might be lower. So any impacts to his favorability stemming from his association with D.C. may be masked by the fact South Dakota is redder than it was in Daschle's time, Card said.

Coker said that Thune isn't politically vulnerable right now. Republicans were on the rise when Daschle's ratings fell, and the current Democratic Party doesn't appear to be organizationally capable of defeating Thune.

Rhoden, Rounds and Noem job performance

Voters of all parties also weighed in on the job performance of Rhoden, Rounds and Noem.

Rhoden maintains a high approval rating among voters with 58 percent, as does Rounds (52 percent), according to the poll. Noem saw a slight decline in her approval rating among registered voters from a poll News Watch and its partners conducted last April but was still 47 percent.

Takeaway: Noem's decline

In April, 51 percent of registered voters approved of Noem's job performance as head of the Department of Homeland Security, and the latest poll shows it's fallen 4 percentage points.

Hellwege said it's not a substantial drop, but the decline is there.

"It's difficult to disentangle, though, whether this stems from policy or her individual behavior, especially given the sheer amount of media attention. She has certainly carved out an individual persona, which is historically somewhat unusual for cabinet members, but more true of Trump's cabinet overall," Hellwege said.

Noem, who's from Castlewood, has become the face of immigration enforcement as the Trump administration carries out its policy of mass deportations. Her high-visibility methods have drawn as much attention as her mission, which involves running a federal network of more than 20 agencies and over 200,000 employees.

Takeaway: Partisan divide

The poll results show an expected partisan divide, with Noem having the most polarized results.

Only 2 percent of Democrats approved of Noem's job performance and 98 percent disapproved. None of those polled were neutral.

Among Republicans, 71 percent approved of her job performance and 26 percent disapproved.

For Rhoden, 20 percent of registered Democrats approved of his job performance, and 52 percent had an unfavorable position. Among Republicans, Rhoden's approval was 77 percent, with 11 percent having a negative view.

Rounds' approval among Democrats was 20 percent, with 75 percent saying they disapprove of his performance as senator. Republican voter approval for Rounds was at 68 percent and 27 percent disapproved.

Takeaway: Growing gap with Independents

In South Dakota and the nation as a whole over the past year, Independents' positions have been similar, if not indistinguishable, from Republicans, Hellwege said. However, this latest poll shows a gap between both parties and Independents.

For Noem, 41 percent of registered Independents approved of her job performance and 57 percent disapproved. Only 2 percent were unsure.

The same gap is seen with Rhoden's results, with 5 percent of Independents saying they approve of his job performance and 25 percent saying they disapprove. Another 19 percent were unsure.

"Independents are significantly different from either of the two parties holding a solid moderate middle ground on approval," Hellwege said.

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, non-profit organization. Read more stories and donate at sdnewswatch.org and sign up for an email to get stories when they're published. Contact Bart Pfankuch at bart.pfankuch@sd-newsatch.org.

Pet of the Week



Look at these adorable puppies! They were born Sept. 14, and are possibly shepherd mix. The puppies have their first shot and are dewormed. They love to play.

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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HILL CITY EATS

ALPINE INN

Lunch 11-2:30 p.m.
Dinner Mon-Thurs 5-9 p.m.
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Sunday Closed

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Dive into the vibrant local food scene with Black Hills Eats! Whether you're hunting for the best burger in town, a cozy café for your morning fix, or a hidden gem for date night, we've got your next meal covered. And for our local eateries — this is your space to shine and bring your flavors to the community!

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Mon, Tues, Thurs 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Sunday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

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8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

CALAMITY JANE'S

Tuesday–Sunday
7 a.m.–2 p.m.

ALL ABOARD

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4 p.m.–Close

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Daily 6 a.m.–8 p.m.

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11 a.m.–8 p.m.
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CUSTER COUNTY CANDY CO.

Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
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LINTZ BROS. PIZZA

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3–9 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION

Monday–Saturday
10 a.m.–Close

IGLOO BAR

Daily
9 a.m.–12 a.m.
Friday & Saturday
9 a.m. – 2 a.m.

PIZZA BARN

Monday–Thursday
4–9 pm
Friday & Saturday
4–10 pm

CUSTER DELI

Monday–Thursday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sunday Closed

CHUTE ROOSTER

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11 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. –6 p.m.

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Monday–Thursday
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DAIRY QUEEN

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KHANTONG THAI CUISINE

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11 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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Tuesday–Friday
7 a.m.–2 p.m.
Saturday
7 a.m.–10 a.m.

CUSTER WOLF

Monday–Saturday
11:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
Closed Sunday

DOWNTOWN DELI AND BAKERY

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Food 11-2 a.m.

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Thursday–Monday
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CRUIZZERS PIZZA

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LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

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Custer Area Economic Development Corp.
Black Hills Energy
Custer, SD
7 AM

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 Fitness Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30-9:30 AM

Wednesday Life Group
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 12 PM

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

Friends of the Library Host Local Writers Group
Super 8 Conference Room
Hill City, SD
10 AM

NARFE Meeting
Jalapeños Restaurant
Hot Springs, SD
11:30 AM

Kidzlife
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
3:15-5:15 PM

Custer City Planning Commission
Custer City Hall
Custer, SD
5 PM

Youth Group
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5:30 PM

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

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

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

Bingo
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Women's Bible Study Fellowship
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
8:30 - 10 AM

Seniors Mahjongg
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM

Estate Planning & Finance Seminar
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
Noon

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

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

Friends of Bill W. AA Group
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Civil Air Patrol
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

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

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 11-14

Harry Potter Year Seven Escape Room
Custer County Library
Custer, SD



TWO SHOWS COMING — The Carson Brown Band, with members hailing from Custer and Hill City, will be playing at the Custer Beacon Nov. 14 and at the Chute Rooster in Hill City Nov. 21. They play country, blues and rock & roll hits. They were awarded the Steve Thorpe Music Award in 2024. [Submitted Photo]

Seniors Fitness Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

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

Seniors Birthday Coffee Club
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 - 11 AM

Storytime
Hill City Public Library
Kids Annex
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM

Story Time
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
10 AM

Turkey Painting
The Cruisin' Canvas
Custer, SD
1-3 PM

Wellness Support Group
Monument Health
Custer Hospital
Custer, SD
2 PM

Live music w/Marnie Cook
LIVE
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Carson Brown Band
LIVE
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7-9 PM

Saturday 11-15

Harry Potter Year Seven Escape Room
Custer County Library
Custer, SD

How To Light Up Downtown Overview
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:45 - 9:30 AM

Friends of Bill W. AA Group
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
10 AM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

Ham Radios in the Park
Butler Park
Hot Springs, SD
Noon

Trivia Night - 1970s
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Barn Dance
Custer YMCA
Custer, SD
7-9 PM

Pocket Junkies
LIVE
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7-10 PM

Sunday 11-16

Women's 12-Step Recovery
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10:15 AM

CLC Harvest Dinner
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
3-6 PM

Brent Morris
LIVE
Prairie Dog Taproom
Hill City, SD
4-6 PM

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

Nate Hance, Piano Potpourri
LIVE
Crouch Auditorium
Newcastle, Wyo.
7 PM

Monday 11-17

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

Seniors Yoga
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9:15 AM

Seniors Share-a-Lunch
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
Noon

Custer Rotary Club
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon

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

Young Life Meeting
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5-7 PM

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

Tuesday 11-18

Seniors Beginning Line Dancing
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 - 10 AM

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

Knitting Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-3 PM

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

Hermosa 12-Step Recovery Program
Hermosa United Church of Christ
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Friends of Bill W. AA Group
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Hermosa Town Board
Hermosa Town Hall
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Ladies Night at the Cruisin' Canvas
Cruisin' Canvas
Custer, SD
6-8 PM

Bingo Night
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Wednesday 11-19

Custer County Commission
Custer County Courthouse
Custer, SD
8 AM

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

Seniors Fitness Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

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

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

Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting
Armory
Custer, SD
1 PM

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

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

Bingo
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Fairburn Town Board
Fairburn Civic Center
Fairburn, SD
7 PM

Thursday 11-20

Women's Bible Study Fellowship
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
8:30 - 10 AM

Seniors Foot Clinic
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

Seniors Mahjongg
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM

Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1 PM

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

Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Mixer
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
5-7 PM

Friends of Bill W. AA Group
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Civil Air Patrol
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
6:30 PM



COMING TO SPROCKETS — Bring the family to hear singer-songwriter Marnie Cook play some soft rock, country, alt and her originals too friday evening at Sprockets Fun Foundry in Keystone. Grab a drink, some food and enjoy live tunes by this amazing Black Hills musician! [Submitted Photo]

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 11-21

Seniors Fitness Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

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

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

Storytime
Hill City Public Library
Kids Annex
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM

Music with James Van Nuys
LIVE
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Carson Brown Band
LIVE
Chute Rooster
Hill City, SD
7-9 PM

Efficiency in Action - Tools for Optimizing Workflows & Maximizing Productivity
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
TBA

Saturday 11-22

Friends of Bill W. AA Group
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
10 AM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

Ornament Decorating
Prairie Dog Taproom
Hill City, SD
3-9 PM

Chess Club
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
5-7 PM

Trivia Night - Thanksgiving Theme
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Art Council Bingo
Prairie Dog Taproom
Hill City, SD
6-8 PM

Paul Larson - Cowboy Christmas
LIVE
Prairie Dog Taproom
Hill City, SD
6:30-8:30 PM

The Wild Brothers Band
LIVE
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7-10 PM

Sunday 11-23

Women's 12-Step Recovery
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10:15 AM

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

Monday 11-24

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

Seniors Yoga
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9:15 AM

Women's Bible Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
Noon

Custer Rotary Club
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon

Chick Chat and Crafts
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
4-6 PM

Young Life Meeting
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
5 PM

Hermosa Connects
Hermosa Coffee House
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Mile High Garden Club
Custer County Courthouse
Pine Room
Custer, SD
6 PM

Women's Bible Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6-8 PM

Tuesday 11-25

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

Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1 PM

Knitting Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1 PM

Zonta
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
1 PM

Book Club
Hill City Public Library
Kids Annex
Hill City, SD
5 PM

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

Hermosa 12-Step Recovery Program
Hermosa United Church of Christ
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Friends of Bill W. AA Group
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Bingo Night
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Wednesday 11-26

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

Seniors Fitness Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

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

Trees and Trains
SDSRM
Hill City, SD
2 - 5 PM

Bingo
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Thursday 11-27

THANKSGIVING DAY

Buffalo Gap Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Buffalo Gap Community Center
Buffalo Gap, SD
1 PM

Friday 11-28

Seniors Fitness Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

Seniors Coffee Club
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 - 11 AM

Hill City Old Thyme Christmas

Kris Kringle Craft and Vendor Fair
Hill City Gyms.
Hill City, SD
9 AM - 4 PM

Snacks with Santa
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
2-4 PM

Trees and Trains
SDSRM
Hill City, SD
2 - 5 PM
Photos w/Santa
11 AM - 4 PM

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