

WESTERN TRADER

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

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ISSUE NO. 22

DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



ZONTA FEST PERFORMANCE — Hannah Honors, left, is one of the performers set to take the stage at this weekend's Zonta Fest, scheduled to take place this Saturday at the Custer Beacon. Honors is pictured with Avery Christensen and Quinn Lewison during the most recent Kids Rock concert, also at the Custer Beacon. [Submitted Photo]

Thanks to our readers!
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Our weekly publications come out every Wednesday. We work hard to bring you the very best local papers! Thank You to our advertisers and our readers! Thanks for your support! The Chronicle, Prevalier & Western Trader Staff

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Our deadlines are Friday by 5 pm for the following weeks' Wednesday paper edition! Thank You.

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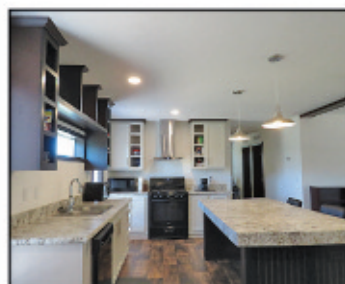


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Black Hills Eats
is featured on page 5 of the Western Trader!
(Local Restaurant Listings)
And be sure to check out our events calendar on page 6!

Arcade Games-Beer Signs-Vehicles-Furniture-Tools

Personal Property Auction

ONLINE BIDDING OPENS - Thursday - June 5th, 2025 -

Closing Monday - June 9th, 2025, 4:00PM MDT

Property located at 12088 Big Pine Rd. Custer, SD

Featuring: '97 Ford F150 extended cab; Haulin 4x8 trailer; John Deere Liquifire snowmobile; Road Blaster arcade game; Mata Hari Bally Pinball machine; Beer signs; Collector bottles; Collectable bar décor; National cash register; Decorative mantel fireplace; vintage sofa and other furniture; Gas grill; Lamps; Oak round table; Goodin coal stove; Grizzly table saw; Grizzly 12" drum sander; Craftsman drill press; Craftsman band saw; Wood working tools; Craftsman 15 HP lawn tractor; air compressor; flower pots; garden décor, patio furniture and much more.

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Property Inspection: Property will be available for inspection on Monday, June 9th, from 11am to 2pm or see the detailed descriptions & photos in the online catalog.

Property Settlement & Pickup: All items must be settled for and picked up at the property on Wednesday, June 11th between 10:00am & 3:00pm. No Exceptions.

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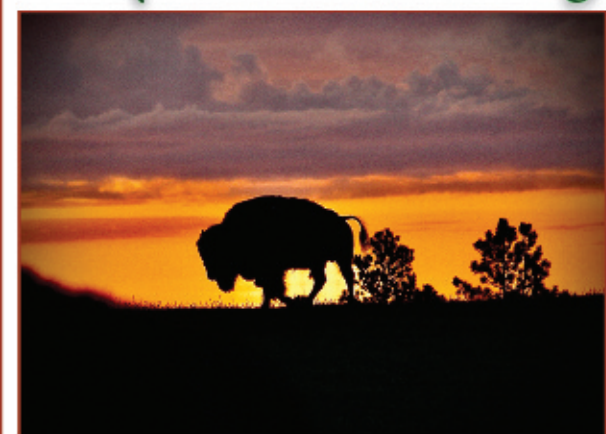
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Proposed satellite cuts raise questions about the fate of EROS

By John Hult
 South Dakota Searchlight

A preliminary budget request from President Donald Trump takes aim at a satellite program with a 50-year history whose data is housed just northeast of Sioux Falls, at a facility employing hundreds of people.

Trump’s discretionary budget request for NASA would cut \$1.1 billion in funding for Earth observation programs, including what the request describes as cuts to the “gold-plated, two billion dollar Landsat Next” mission. The cut amounts to roughly half of the space agency’s budget for Earth observation, which includes money for Landsat design.

Landsat Next is planned as the next generation of Landsat, whose nine iterations have created the longest continuously collected Earth observation record in history. The first satellite launched in 1972.

The USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center near Sioux Falls has housed Landsat data since 1973, in addition to millions of images from other satellites and modern and historical aerial imagery, all of which is accessible at no cost to users. Landsat’s free data is used to calibrate data from commercial satellites, contributing to what the USGS calculated last fall as a \$25.6 billion return on public investment since the agency began freely sharing data in 2008.

The most recent satellite in the series, Landsat 9, entered low-earth orbit in 2021. Between that satellite and its near-identical predecessor, Landsat 8, the system gathers new imagery data of the entire Earth’s surface — as well as imagery from spectral bands like infrared that are invisible to the naked eye and measurements of Earth surface temperatures — every eight days.

Landsat Next was set to launch around 2030, with improvements in resolution and speedier repeat image collection.

Trump’s budget request

would “restructure” the Landsat Next mission “while NASA studies more affordable ways to maintain the continuity of Landsat imagery, which is used by natural resource managers, States, and industry.”

The request also calls for the elimination of \$562 million in USGS funding. The change “eliminates programs that provide grants to universities, duplicate other Federal research programs and focus on social agendas (e.g., climate change) to instead focus on achieving dominance in energy and critical minerals,” Trump’s budget request says.

The cut to USGS amounts to about a third of its \$1.6 billion budget.

The budget request is separate from the federal government’s efforts under Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency to pare down the federal workforce.

Probationary employees across multiple federal agencies were first dismissed in February, but many returned to the federal payroll and placed on paid administrative leave after legal challenges.

It’s unclear how those moves to reduce the federal workforce have impacted the EROS Center.

Around 600 government employees and contractors work at the center, according to the latest figures posted on the USGS website, but the site including that figure hasn’t changed since March 2023.

Emails from South Dakota Searchlight to USGS press contacts at EROS and in regional and national offices on the number of employees who’ve departed since Jan. 25 went unanswered.

Searchlight also asked about the potential impact of the USGS budget cut proposal to EROS science programs, and about how changes to the Landsat program could affect EROS.

A NASA spokesperson told South Dakota Searchlight that the agency would be in a better position to respond “once we receive the President’s full budget request in the coming weeks.”

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, pointed out that presidential budget requests are “aspirational” and “rarely implemented as written.”

“Dusty will continue to be supportive of Landsat’s efforts in Congress,” said a Johnson spokesperson.

The NASA budget has not emerged as a discussion point in budget reconciliation talks underway in Washington, D.C., on Trump’s so-called “big, beautiful bill.”

U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, sounded similar notes in his response to questions about Landsat.

“The president’s discretionary budget is just that — discretionary. It outlines the president’s priorities and wish lists, but it will ultimately be our job in Congress to set the budget and appropriate federal dollars,” Rounds said in an emailed statement.

Representatives for Republican Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South

Dakota did not return emails requesting comment on Landsat and EROS.

Republican South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden told Searchlight during a visit to Sioux Falls recently that he hadn’t heard about requested cuts to the satellite program or to the USGS.

Even so, Rhoden said he trusts that an open relationship with the Trump administration on South Dakota’s priorities will help preserve them through budget negotiations.

NASA builds and launches Landsat satellites. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operates them and curates the data collected by them.

“They give you some wiggle room as far as what your priorities are, and so I’m kind of optimistic that they are tempering some of those decisions with common sense,” Rhoden said.

Trump’s actions have had at least one public impact on EROS, though not an operational one.

EROS is home to a supercomputer whose processing power is shared across multiple arms of the Department of Interior. The system came to EROS with the name Denali, named after the tallest peak in the U.S.

Like the Alaska mountain after which the computer was named, the Denali system at EROS was renamed “McKinley” after the issuance of a Trump executive order.

Denali has long been the mountain’s name among Alaska’s Indigenous Athabascans, but the federal government embraced the name given to it by a prospector for about 100 years. The prospector called it “Mount McKinley,” after then-presidential candidate William McKinley.

President Barack Obama renamed it Denali in 2015, matching the name the surrounding national park had taken nearly 40 years earlier.

The order does not mention the USGS or supercomputers, but rather instructs

the Department of Interior to “update the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) to reflect the renaming and reinstatement of Mount McKinley.”

The EROS supercomputer’s name was changed based on the order, however.

“Pursuant to President Trump’s Executive Order No. 14172, ‘Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness,’ this supercomputer has been renamed to McKinley,” a poster in the EROS visitor area now reads.

John Hult is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, the nation’s largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

MICHAEL JOHN HUNSAKER

Michael John Hunsaker 77, passed away on December 31, 2024. He was born on July 3rd, 1947 in Staples, MN, to Kenneth and LaVerne (Kurpius) Hunsaker.

Mike’s family moved often in his early years, living in MN, MT, UT, and SD. Mike truly was a cowboy at heart and enjoyed time in the saddle. He had many stories of working for the HO Cattle Company, Racehorse Stables, and rodeoing. After high school graduation Mike enlisted in the US Navy from 1966 to 1970. He served as Plane Captain on an A-6 Intruder Plane. Mike was part of the Attack Squadron 176 and was stationed on the USS Franklin D Roosevelt aircraft carrier. He also was stationed on Midway Island.

In 1972 Mike married his loving wife of 52 years, Evelyn Kay Hartle. They had one child, a son, Casey Dean Hunsaker. Living in Keystone, SD, Mike and Evelyn built their company, Keystone Construction. Upon retirement they moved to their Folsom Ranch.

Mike loved to fish, hunt, camp, and ride horses. Some of Mike’s fondest memories were of an annual horse camping and fishing trip with Jack and Melissa and adopted grandkids; Meghan, Sawyer, and Cody Corr. Every fall Mike packed up and headed for Elk camp in the Bighorn Mtns with his brothers and other family and friends. Mike rarely missed the annual draft horse sale with his brother Rob, you never knew what they would bring home. In his retirement, Mike kept busy with day-to-day ranch duties. Branding every May and the cattle drive to summer pasture was a gathering of friends and family.

Mike shared his life with a big family; his wife, Evelyn Hunsaker; his son, Casey Hunsaker; siblings, Kenneth Dean Hunsaker, David (Dixie) Hunsaker, Robert Hunsaker, Gary (Connie) Hunsaker, Kathy (Dave) Dillon, Wally Hunsaker, Sherry Manton, Suzan (Rick) Lock, Monty (Kim) Hunsaker, Francine (Tamara) Hunsaker, Marty Hunsaker, and Linette (Derek) Alexander; Uncle Jerry Kurpius; Aunt Barb (Kurpius) and Jim Rehder; numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Mike is preceded in death by his son, Casey Dean Hunsaker; his sister, Sherry; two brothers, Dave and Kenny; his parents; and grandparents.

A celebration of life for Michael John Hunsaker will be held June 7th at 2 o’clock at the pavilion by the Game Lodge in Custer State Park.

Fine Artists Festival 2025

Featured Artist

Randi Inez Eggum is a graduate of Augustana University as a BFA student with an emphasis in Drawing. She is a plein air artist, painter, and illustrator. She began her art journey on her travels as a child and this led her to always get in the habit of carrying drawing supplies with her and always trying to draw her surroundings. It sparked her love for painting, drawing, and the overall need to create. Randi particularly loves working with watercolor and gouache. She also works in mixed media by blending her favorite paints with inks, colored pencils, and oil pastels. Many of Randi’s influences stem from childhood memories and all of the places that she has visited over the years. Randi is also greatly inspired by folk tales and folk art, as well as her own heritage. She has also begun to make plein air studies wherever she goes in order to keep inspiration fresh in her mind. Overall Randi’s work tries to blend her surroundings and the memories that she carries to find the overlap of personal and universal experience.

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Sunday Closed

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Dinner Mon-Thurs 5-9 p.m.
Fri & Sat 5-9:30 p.m.
Sunday Closed

ALL ABOARD

Monday–Saturday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sunday
11 a.m.–7 p.m.

HILL CITY CAFE

Monday–Saturday
6 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sunday
7 a.m.–7 p.m.

CHUTE ROOSTER

Thursday–Monday
11 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. –6 p.m.

CREAM

Tuesday–Saturday
10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

DOWNTOWN DELI AND BAKERY

Monday –Saturday
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Closed Sundays

GOLD RUN CAFÉ

Sunday–Thursday
8 a.m.–2 p.m,
Friday–Saturday
10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

HEART OF THE HILLS EXXON

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11 a.m.–8 p.m.

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Friday–Sunday Noon–10 p.m.

TIN CITY SALOON

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Friday & Saturday 11 a.m.–11 p.m.

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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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Sunday 7 a.m.–1 p.m.

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Friday & Saturday
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HOWDY BAKERY

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8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

HI-16 CAFE

Thursday–Sunday
7 a.m.–9 p.m.

ISABELLA'S

Sunday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

PERKINS TAVERN

Monday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursday - Sunday
7 am - 9 pm

PIZZA BARN

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

UNCLE VITO'S

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

PRINGLE EATS

THE HITCHRAIL BAR & RESTAURANT

Tuesday–Sunday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

RAPID CITY EATS

SHIPWRECK'S BAR & GRILL

Monday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

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BLACK HILLS

Live

LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

Wednesday 5-28

- Men's Breakfast Bible Study**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
7:30 AM
- Women's Bible Study**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM
- BSF Prayer Meeting**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9 AM
- Seniors Bridge Card Games**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 3 PM
- Gardening With Children**
Super 8 Conference Room
Hill City, SD
1 PM
- Youth Group**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5:30 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



PLAYING AT THE VFW — 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 Friday night at the Chute Rooster in Hill City for a guaranteed fun time—you'll be singing along and on the dance floor all night long! [Submitted Photo]

- Friends of Alyssa & RJ Pena Benefit Barbecue**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
11 AM - 4 PM
- Hill City Planning & Zoning Meeting**
City Hall
Hill City, SD
5:30 PM
- Custer City Council**
Custer City Hall
Custer, SD
5:30 PM
- Buffalo Gap Town Board**
Buffalo Gap Community Center
Buffalo Gap, SD
6 PM
- Magic: The Gathering | Commander Night**
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
4 PM
- Johnny Hastings & Stillhouse Down Feat. Ansley Fain & Woody Earwood *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7 PM

Thursday 5-29

- Seniors Fitness Class**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM
- Women's Bible Study Fellowship**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM
- Seniors Stretch and Flex**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM
- Seniors Mahjong**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 12 PM
- Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-4:30 PM
- Black Hills Parks & Forest Field Note Presentation**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
4 PM
- Friends of Bill W. AA Group**
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Custer, SD
6 PM
- Civil Air Patrol**
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
6:30 PM
- Custer AA Group**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Sunday 6-1

- Custer Community Action Team Food Distribution**
CAT Building, corner of N. 6th and Lincoln Streets
Custer, SD
10 AM - 1 PM
- Women's 12-Step Recovery**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10:15 AM
- AA Meeting**
Keystone Senior Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Tuesday 6-3

- Election Day**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
7 AM - 7 PM
- Summer Rec Program**
Keystone Community Center
Keystone, SD
9 AM - 12 PM
- Vacation Bible School**
Mountainview Baptist Church
Custer, SD
9 AM - Noon
- Women's Bible Study**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM
- Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild**
Custer Lutheran Fellowship
Custer, SD
1:30 PM
- Celebrate Recovery**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5:45 PM
- VBS**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6 PM
- Hermosa Town Board**
Hermosa Town Hall
Hermosa, SD
6 PM
- Friends of Bill W. AA Group**
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Custer, SD
6 PM
- Bingo Night**
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Monday 6-2

- Community Food Pantry**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM
- Vacation Bible School**
Mountainview Baptist Church
Custer, SD
9 AM - Noon
- Seniors Yoga**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM
- Custer Rotary Club**
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon
- Chick Chat and Crafts**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
4-6 PM
- VBS**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Friday 5-30

- 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
- Live Music Featuring Bobby Jo Holman *LIVE***
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
5:30-7:30 PM
- Brent Morris *LIVE***
Chute Rooster
Hill City, SD
6-9 PM
- Will Barnett *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM



COMING TO SPROCKETS — Bobby Joe Holman will perform at Sprockets Fun Foundry in Keystone this Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. Holman is a master on the harmonica and mixes it with great guitar strumming to make for one amazing evening. [Submitted Photo]

- Custer AA Group**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

- Ponder the Albatross *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7 PM

- Custer Rotary Club**
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon

Wednesday 6-4

- Men's Breakfast Bible Study**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
7:30 AM
- HC Merchant Meeting**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8 AM
- 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
- Vacation Bible School**
Mountainview Baptist Church
Custer, SD
9 AM - Noon
- Women's Bible Study**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM
- Seniors Bridge Card Games**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 3 PM
- Seniors Lunch Bunch**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
11:30 AM

Friday 6-6

- Seniors Coffee Club**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM
- Vacation Bible School**
Mountainview Baptist Church
Custer, SD
9 AM - Noon
- Summer Rec Program**
Keystone Community Center
Keystone, SD
9 AM - Noon
- 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
- The Book Report**
Petals & Pages
Custer, SD
5-6:30 PM
- Clayton Ryan *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7 PM

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

- Arts Happy Hours**
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
4:30-7 PM

- The Bookquet Book Club "The Small and the Mighty"**
Petals & Pages
Custer, SD
5-6:30 PM

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

- Custer School District Board of Education**
Hermosa School
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

- Hot Springs Amateur Radio Club**
South Annex Building
709 Jensen Hwy.
Hot Springs, SD
6:30 PM

Tuesday 6-10

- Seniors Fitness Class**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM
- Summer Rec Program**
Keystone Community Center
Keystone, SD
9 AM - 12 PM
- Women's Bible Study**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM
- Feeding South Dakota Truck**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
1 PM
- Name That Tune with Visiting Angels**
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
1 PM
- Zonta**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
1 PM
- Seniors Knitting & Crocheting Group**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-3 PM
- Custer City Planning Commission**
Custer City Hall
Custer, SD
5 PM
- Custer Meet & Eat**
Custer Community Church
Custer, SD
5-7 PM
- Celebrate Recovery**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5:45 PM
- Friends of Bill W. AA Group**
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Custer, SD
6 PM
- Bingo Night**
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM
- Custer AA Group**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM
- Pringle Town Board**
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 6-5

- Vacation Bible School**
Mountainview Baptist Church
Custer, SD
9 AM - Noon
- Seniors Fitness Class**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM
- Seniors Mahjong**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 12 PM

Sunday 6-8

- Great Plains Botanic Garden Open House**
14229 Windbreak Rd.
Hermosa, SD
9 AM - 4 PM
- Women's 12-Step Recovery**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10:15 AM
- AA Meeting**
Keystone Senior Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM
- Community Food Pantry**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM
- Seniors Yoga**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM
- Pre-Release -Magic: The Gathering | Commander Night**
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
4 PM
- Zonta Fest *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
5 PM Sue Hey, Carrie Genovese Black, Marianne Fridell, Margie Neugebauer
6 PM Sultry Shimmy
7:30 PM Hanna Honors
8 PM Gumbo Lillies

- Seniors Knitting & Crocheting Group**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-3 PM

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

- Custer Meet & Eat**
Custer Community Church
Custer, SD
5-7 PM

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

- Friends of Bill W. AA Group**
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Custer, SD
6 PM

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

- Custer AA Group**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

- Pringle Town Board**
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

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