

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. 23

DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



SUPPORT HAHA — The Hermosa Arts and History Association will host a branding party this Saturday as a fundraiser for the Hermosa Arts & History Association. Ranchers and producers are encouraged to bring their branding irons to the event to brand boards that will be hung up in the museum in perpetuity. There will also be a freewill offering meal, as well as a chance to meet the new museum curator. [Submitted Photo]

Thanks to our readers!
We appreciate you!

THE RIDGE
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Pet of the Week



Meet PanPan! He is a young Shepherd/Aussie mix. He is a little shy at first but comes around quickly. He knows some commands and is housetrained. PanPan gets along with some other dogs and is good with children.

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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EXPERIENCE MATTERS

 Ron Bradeen 605-381-2629 ron@bradeenauction.com	 Jeff Storm 605-673-1518 jstorm@gwte.net	 Carol Wood 605-440-0466 carolw@gwte.net	 Anne Fuchs 605-673-1177 afuchs@gwte.net
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HUGE PRICE REDUCTION!
1750 Wood Lily. 2022, 28x56, 3-bedroom, 2-bath manufactured home is in like-new condition! The home boasts stainless steel appliances, a spacious laundry room, and a large primary bedroom with an en suite bathroom. Furnishings can be purchased separately. Additional features include a one-car garage with an epoxy floor, new shingles, and insulated skirting with wrapped pipes for added protection. Located in the Woodland Meadows Mobile Home Park, this home is on a rented lot with all city utilities. Lot rent for the first 12 months is at a special rate of \$350 per month, and then going to the current rate of \$550. Enjoy a prime location, just minutes from downtown Custer, Monument Health, schools, and only a few miles from Custer State Park. Below Assessed Value! **MLS# 83121 \$199,500** For more information, call or text Carol at 605-440-0466.



21.58 ACRES BORDERING USFS LAND JUST OFF HWY 385 is a rare find with NO COVENANTS! Beaver Creek seasonally meanders through the property. Living in the Black Hills with boundless opportunities is priceless! **BONUS**—well-maintained 1680 Sq. Ft. home featuring 3 bedrooms and two baths. Newer metal roof, flooring, and windows. The covered deck has an amazing view to enjoy your morning coffee from. Wildlife abounds. Perfect ranchette for horses, chickens, or other pets. Close to Wind Cave National Park, Custer State Park and all the Black Hills Attractions. **\$679,000** Call or Text Carol 605-440-0466.



LUXURY COUNTRY RANCH & HORSE PROPERTY WITH USFS ACCESS - Now Priced at \$1,295,900! 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. Backup Power: Peace of mind with a 20kW automatic backup generator (owned) with its own 250-gallon propane tank. Powers the entire property, including the barn, during outages. Both the generator and house propane tanks are owned. 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# 81559 \$1,295,900** Carol at 605-440-0466 for more information or a private showing. Call or Text Today!



TIME TO MAKE LIFE A LITTLE MORE SIMPLE AND CAREFREE! This ranch-style home sits on 5.50 acres with a backyard view that seems endless — the perfect sanctuary for elk, deer, and other wildlife. Thoughtfully designed, this 1,439 sq. ft. home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a den, offering a spacious and open layout ideal for comfortable living. The 13x9 kitchen serves as a central hub for entertaining, complete with a center island and uniquely styled windows that bring in natural light. The primary bedroom includes a generous 8x7 walk-in closet and an exceptional en-suite bathroom. An oversized one-stall garage has insulation and equipped with a concrete floor, electricity, and space for a small work area. Additional amenities include new Class 4 shingles (which may help reduce insurance premiums) and siding installed in 2023, an 8x8 storage shed with a wood floor, fiber optic internet, underground electric service to the home and garage, Southern Hills Rural Water, and an insulated concrete foundation. Relax on the two-level back deck overlooking approximately 4 acres of pasture. Enjoy a central location with convenient access to Hot Springs, Custer, the Mickelson Trail, and forest service lands. Don't miss this opportunity to own a special home and acreage! For more information and to schedule a showing, call Anne at 605-673-1177. Offered at \$459,000. **MLS# 84570**



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, Prevailer & Western Trader Staff



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 HIO 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.

Thanks for saying you saw it in the Western Trader! We appreciate you!

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

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—Michael Beck

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Build your home ON TOP OF THE WORLD! The build site has nearly a 360 degree view. Electric is in on the property. Septic in place and pipe ran to build site. Nice level camper site at the bottom.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS:
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FITNESS CENTER:
CUSTER FITNESS CENTER: Work out anytime—open 24 hours/7 days per week. Inquire at the Custer County Chronicle (522 Mount Rushmore Road, Custer), 605-673-2217.

GARAGE SALE - HILL CITY
PARETO'S LAW SALE: 80% OF STOCK IS 20% OFF! Hundreds and Hundreds of New Items! (Plus hundreds of 'free' items) if you can't find it here you probably don't need it - LOL! EVERY SATURDAY 10 AM Until 4 PM 101 Pine Ave, Hill City (Directly behind The Super 8 Motel) 47 26c

HELP WANTED:
TEACHERS NEEDED: 7-12 PE, Elem. Reading, and SpEd Teachers with/without coaching, starting Aug. 2025, Custer School District 527 Montgomery St., Custer SD 57730 605-673-3154. 70 24c

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST needed at Custer School District. Contact Stacey.Boutain@k12.sd.us Custer School District 527 Montgomery St., Custer SD 57730 605-673-3154. 71 24c

PART-TIME SEASONAL INFORMATION ASSOCIATE at the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce. Three to four days a week, including Saturdays and events. Call Dawn at 605-673-2244. 69 26c

CUSTER COUNTY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A FULL-TIME DEPUTY AUDITOR —Accounts Payable Clerk. This position offers steady week-day hours (8 AM–5 PM, Mon–Fri), paid leave, full benefits, and on-the-job training. Duties include accounts

payable/receivable, budget reporting, licensing, and election support. Strong organizational and customer service skills required. Starting wage is \$17.00/hr. Apply online at www.custercountysd.com/em Maidens at 605-673-8134. Open until filled. Custer County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 65 25c

CUSTER COUNTY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A FULL-TIME EQUIPMENT OPERATOR with the Highway Department. This position plays a key role in maintaining over 400 miles of county roads and involves operating heavy equipment, performing snow and ice removal, and handling general road maintenance year-round in all weather conditions. The standard schedule is four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday, with week-ends and holidays off—except during emergencies or weather events. The starting wage is \$23.18 per hour and includes a full benefits package. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, and be able to lift up to 100 pounds. A valid South Dakota Class A CDL with tanker endorsement is preferred and must be obtained within six months of hire. Experience with equipment operation is preferred. This position requires relocation or commuting to Custer, SD. Ideal candidates are dependable, safety-conscious, and team-oriented, with the ability to work outdoors in demanding conditions. Full Position description and Application can be found on the Custer County website at: <https://www.custercountysd.com/employment/>. Custer County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 59 23c

CUSTER COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME OFFICE COORDINATOR. This administrative position with the Custer County Highway Department provides essen-

tial clerical and organizational support to the Highway Superintendent and department staff. The role involves managing daily office operations, maintaining accurate records, assisting with financial tracking, and ensuring smooth internal and external communication. This position is ideal for individuals seeking a steady office job with day-time hours, no weekends, and strong county benefits. The hours for this position are Monday - Thursday 8am - 4:30 pm and the starting wage ranges from \$17.77–\$18.58 per hour, depending on education and experience, and includes a full county benefits package. The ideal candidate will be organized, detail-oriented, and able to manage multiple responsibilities in a fast-paced but structured work environment. Strong computer skills and experience in office administration or accounting are highly valued. Full Position description and Application can be found on the Custer County website at: <https://www.custercountysd.com/employment/>. Custer County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 58 23c

APPLIANCES:
FOR SALE: GOOD, CLEAN running two door GE refrigerator. \$200. 605-517-0346. 72 24c

HANDYMAN:
Repair, remodel, free estimates. Quick response plus mowing, trimming and small engine tune-up and repair. Call Jeff at 712 490 4998. 1 11f

FOR RENT:
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. 14 11fn

OFFICE SPACE:
COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT. Downtown Custer 2nd floor location. Contact Phil at 605-391-9358 for more

DEADLINE: Friday at 5 p.m.
PRICE: \$8.00 for 15 words, 10¢/word over that
PAYMENT: 522 Mt. Rushmore Rd. 605-673-2217

ERROR RESPONSIBILITY: Customers are asked to check their ad immediately after publication and report at once any error found. 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.

Southern Hills Classifieds

BRINGING BUYERS & SELLERS TOGETHER

information. 18 1fn
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.



NOTICES:
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75432TAW separately \$240.99
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1.855.978.0892 Ask for 75432TAW

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 75432. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 06/30/25. | 25M8070 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

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	\$8.00	16	\$8.10	17	\$8.20	18	\$8.30	19	\$8.40	20	\$8.50	21	\$8.60
22	\$8.70	23	\$8.80	24	\$8.90	25	\$9.00	26	\$9.10	27	\$9.20	28	\$9.30
29	\$9.40	30	\$9.50	31	\$9.60	32	\$9.70	33	\$9.80	34	\$9.90	35	\$10.00
36	\$10.10	37	\$10.20	38	\$10.30	39	\$10.40	40	\$10.50	41	\$10.60	42	\$10.70
43	\$10.80	44	\$10.90	45	\$11.00	46	\$11.10	47	\$11.20	48	\$11.30	49	\$11.40

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 Vision Source	FLOORING We Do Repairs, Restretches on Flooring Shanklins 12702 Miller Court Rd (Off America Center Rd) Custer • 605-673-2099	HOME BUILDER Ruby Creek Builders Home Builder • Remodels • Expert Carpentry RUBYCREEKBUILDERS.COM (605) 440-1470
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 Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Inc. ("RJS") which is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and is registered with the SEC. RJS is not a bank, broker, or dealer in securities. RJS is not a member of the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA). RJS is not a member of the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA). RJS is not a member of the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA). 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>	CUSTOM CABINS Rent this space! Only \$8.50 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
CONSTRUCTION Russ Johnson Construction 605-574-2881	Rent this space! Only \$8.50 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
BUILDER  ALPHA BUILDERS LLC • Residential Construction • Construction Management • Site Development Paul - 605-440-1201 Haylee - 605-228-0943 alphabuilders.net	GRAVEL BLACK HILLS GRAVEL 26248 Lime Kiln Road Pringle, SD WHITE LIMESTONE GRAVEL CLIFF PAT 605-440-1031 605-863-5170	ELECTRICIAN Iron Mountain Electric, LLC Commercial • Residential • Farm & Ranch Licensed & Insured Electricians, LOCALLY owned & operated in Custer County since 2010 • Specializing in new custom homes, site development & consultation • Skid steer & Mini Excavator services • Serving Custer & Fall River Counties Aaron Hemingway • 379 Main St., Pringle 605-673-5701 • ironmtnelectric@gmail.com 		
CONSTRUCTION Craig Hindle Construction Licensed & Insured New Construction • Garages/Shops Remodeling • Custom Homes craighindleconst@goldenwest.net 605-673-4222 • Cell: 605-673-1526	REAL ESTATE  Amanda Carlin Your Southern Black Hills Realtor 605-440-7587 blackhillsouthernrealty@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 \$17.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217
REAL ESTATE  Block Realty Buy or Sell with me! 605.868.5584 sellingblackhills@gmail.com MLS	REAL ESTATE  WESTERN SKIES REAL ESTATE 523 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 57730 Lori Svoboda Owner/Broker/Notary www.BHrealtor.com 605.517.0785	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  print@vectordpt.com DESIGN PRINT TECH Your LOCAL Design & Print Shop! COMPUTER UPGRADES & REPAIR 1164 Mt Rushmore Rd • Custer • 605-673-2740	
WINDOWS & GLASS Rapid City Window & Glass Store Fronts/Entrances • Exterior Patio Doors Glass Replacement • Residential Windows Automatic Doors • Commercial Windows Mirrors & Shower Doors • Sky-Lites/Sunrooms 605-343-4999 936 E. St. Patrick • Rapid City, SD	REAL ESTATE Integrity Realty "Your local, knowledgeable, Real Estate Agents" Contact us today! 605-574-4444 or 605-391-8373 www.landlotshomes.com 		TAX PREPARER Rent this space! Only \$17.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	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
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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!

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**2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32**

(for retail business only)

**\$100
(normal price)**

**2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32**

(for retail business only)

**\$100
(normal price)**

Medicaid work requirements could be ‘an exercise in futility’

By Makenzie Huber
South Dakota Searchlight

South Dakota’s proposal to implement work requirements for Medicaid expansion could be “an exercise in futility” now that the federal government is also considering it, said state Department of Social Services Secretary Matt Althoff.

The state began drafting its proposal immediately following the end of the state legislative session in March, Althoff said, before debates about work requirements heated up at the congressional level.

Department officials presented their plan at the state Board of Social Services meeting Friday morning via video conference, just before the first of two public hearings on the proposal.

“Respectfully, humbly, we ask for your grace,” Althoff told board members, “because we’re asking for your feedback on something that might be obsolete by the vote of 100 senators and the stroke of a pen from our president.”

Medicaid is government-funded health insurance for people with low incomes. South Dakotans voted in 2022 to expand Medicaid to adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the poverty level, a decision that allowed the state to capitalize on a 90 percent federal funding match — funding that could be in jeopardy, pending the outcome of congressional action. Last year, voters passed another constitutional amendment to let the state seek approval from the federal government to impose work requirements on expansion enrollees.

Difference between SD and federal proposals

At the federal level, proposed Medicaid work requirements would mandate those between ages 19 and 65 who rely on the program to work, participate in community service, or attend an educational program for at least 80 hours each month. The work requirement would be applied at the time of application, and Medicaid renewal would be changed to every six months instead of an annual basis.

South Dakota’s plan would require adult Medicaid recipients work, train, attend school or serve as a caretaker for a child or elderly or disabled person in their home unless they meet an

exception. Compliance with the state-level work rules would be reviewed on an annual basis, at the time of Medicaid renewal, rather than at the time of application. The state would not require a set number of hours of work or education time.

Heather Petermann, Medicaid director at the department, said the requirement would be a “complement” to Medicaid to “encourage” work without “trying to track arbitrary work hours.”

“This approach really recognizes that for many individuals who need assistance with health care, that comes first,” Petermann said. “Then it allows them to maintain their health so that they can work, or obtain the health needed to seek employment.”

The federal government also has more exceptions in its proposal than the state, including tribal community members, people who are in foster care or were in foster care who are younger than 26, and people released from incarceration in the last 90 days.

South Dakota would allow exceptions for people who are:

- Pregnant or postpartum.
- Disabled, as determined by the Social Security Administration.
- Diagnosed with cancer or another serious or terminal medical condition by a physician.
- In an intensive behavioral health treatment program, hospitalized or living in a nursing home.
- In an area with unemployment 20 percent or more above the national average and are exempt from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

As of last month, 30,542 South Dakotans were covered by the Medicaid expansion. The state estimates 80 percent of them already work or qualify for an exception.

The proposed state-level work requirement would reduce enrollment by an estimated 5-10 percent in the first year. That would save

the Medicaid program between \$48.9 million and \$71 million in the first year, the department says.

The federal proposal as it stands now will cost more administratively than South Dakota’s proposed work requirements, Althoff added. States “will be asked to absorb” costs if the federal proposal is adopted. The state’s proposal requires less administrative oversight to reduce anticipated costs, due in part to the state’s tight budget approved by the Legislature this year.

“That’s just sort of naming the tension about how not having new funds is sort of an important wrinkle to our development process,” Althoff said. “It’s really having to be done within an existing budget.”

Board member Colleen Winter said the proposal is “respectful” of the individuals the department serves.

Work requirements are already in place for some federal programs, such as SNAP, and state efforts, such as child care assistance and parental reunification expectations within Child Protection Services.

Department hears from one person during public hearing

While more than 20 people sat in on a virtual public hearing regarding the state’s proposed Medicaid work requirements on Friday, only one member of the public spoke.

Attorney Nathaniel Amdur-Clark spoke on behalf of the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board. He said his client wants to see an exception for Indian Health Service beneficiaries.

Native Americans who are tribal enrolled members are eligible to receive health care services through the federal Indian Health Service. Those individuals are eligible for Medicaid coverage even if they do not meet other Medicaid requirements, such as income limits, “to implement and further trust and treaty obligations the U.S. has to provide health care” for tribal members, Amdur-Clark said.

Though Althoff and Pe-

termann did not respond to Amdur-Clark’s comments about IHS patients, they did address the subject during the earlier board meeting. Petermann said the proposal includes “geographic exemptions,” including areas of the state with “high unemployment.”

“Things like that would also apply to tribal members and American Indians, but we otherwise did not call out or exclude American Indians,” Petermann said. “The approach is that this is a benefit and we want that dignity and pride to be part of the benefit for everybody, so they would be treated the same in this approach.”

Amdur-Clark added that there are technical concerns regarding exemptions in the proposal and that more work is needed to achieve “real tribal consultation.” The department met with some tribal leaders last week to discuss the proposal, Althoff said.

Shelly Ten Napel, CEO of the Community Health-Care Association of the Dakotas, said in an emailed statement that her organization is monitoring state and federal work requirement proposals closely. The group did not give input at the first public meeting, but plans to share its perspective on state work requirements during the public comment period.

Ten Napel opposed last year’s ballot measure authorizing the state’s pursuit of work requirements. Compared to the work requirement proposal being considered in Congress, Ten Napel said, the state proposal is “overall pretty reasonable.”

Gov. Larry Rhoden’s administration “did a careful job of responding to concerns” raised during the debate last year, Ten Napel said, including administrative burdens and exceptions.

“We look forward to working with them to ensure smooth implementation of the new rules if they are approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,” Ten Napel said in the statement. “We also encourage members of Congress to take a careful look at

the common sense approach South Dakota is taking and rethink some of the heavy-handed rules currently under consideration in the Big Beautiful Bill.”

The “big beautiful bill” is the budget reconciliation legislation that the U.S. House sent to the Senate last week, including a Medicaid work requirements provision.

Petermann said during the board meeting that South Dakota could perhaps seek to impose its own work requirements, even if the federal legislation passes.

“For example, some of the draft language does include references to things like ‘the provisions from the federal legislation cannot be waived,’ but we don’t know whether that means states still could or couldn’t have something that is less or more restrictive, as long as it has the same components,” Petermann said. “We really don’t know for sure yet.”

If the state moves forward, it will submit an appli-

cation to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in July or August. After that, the proposal would go through a federal comment period and application review.

The department’s next public hearing on the proposed Medicaid work requirements is set for 11 a.m. Central on June 12 at the Sioux Falls office of the Department of Social Services, and online.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota’s Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

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

Fine Artists Festival 2025

Featured Artist



Karen Cade has been a professional artist for over 35 years having studied under master instructors in college. Karen’s love and ability to convey the emotion of her western and wildlife paintings has earned her artistic awards and regional acclaim. As a distinguished wildlife and western painter whose artistic repertoire includes oils, pastels, inks, and mixed media. Through her art, she strives to capture the essence of nature, creating a reflection of her personal vision—a vision that is deeply inspired by the serene yet raw landscapes and the majestic creatures that inhabit them. Her works explore the symbiotic relationship between the natural world and the rugged spirit of the American West, inviting viewers to share in her appreciation of nature’s beauty.

Recent Accomplishments:

Associate Member of Women Artists of the West (WAOW), 2025 - present
Self-published artist selling original art and limited-edition prints through her website KMCade.com, as well as amazon, etsy and in person at art show events, 1990 – present.
Artist at Art Expression Art Gallery, Custer, 2023 - present.
Quick Draw artist at the Black Hills Stock Show Western Artists, Rapid City, SD 2022 - present.
Participating Artist at Black Hills Stock Show Western Artist, Rapid City, SD 2024, 2025

**June 14-15
6th & Washington St.**

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Sunday Closed

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Closed Sunday

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GOLD PAN SALOON

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8-11 a.m.
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ALPINE INN

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Sunday Closed

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Friday–Sunday Noon–10 p.m.

TIN CITY SALOON

Sunday–Thursday 11 a.m.–9 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!

LET'S EXPLORE!

THREE FORKS BAR, GRILLE & CASINO

Daily 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

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10 a.m.–4 p.m.
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Daily 6 a.m.–8 p.m.

LINTZ BROS. PIZZA

Thursday–Monday
3–9 p.m.

HERMOSA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

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Noon–close

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LAZY R BAR & GRILL

Tuesday–Saturday
4-9 p.m.

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308 1st Street
605-666-GOLD

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Monday–Thursday
11 a.m.–9 p.m.
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TURTLE TOWN

Monday–Saturday
10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.

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Monday–Saturday
10 a.m.–Close

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TACO JOHN'S

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Wed-Sat 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
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EDGEMONT EATS

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Daily
9 a.m.–12 a.m.
Friday & Saturday
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KHANTONG THAI CUISINE

Monday–Wednesday–Friday
11 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

THE HAT CREEK GRILL

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Noon–10 p.m.

VICTORY STEAKHOUSE & LOUNGE

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7 a.m.–2 pm
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Mon–Wed 5:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
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CAMBRIA COFFEE & DECKER'S MARKET

Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–5 p.m.
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HOT STUFF PIZZA

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5 a.m. –6 p.m.

TACO JOHN'S

Daily
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Tues - Fri 7 a.m.–2 p.m.
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Thursday–Sunday
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ISABELLA'S

Sunday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.
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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
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4–10 pm

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Tuesday–Friday
7 a.m.–2 p.m.
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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
- 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

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

- VBS**
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

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

- Speranza Chamber Musicians *LIVE***
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
11 AM

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

- Blood Drive**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1:30 PM

- Abolish Property Taxes SD Group Meeting**
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
5:30 PM

- VBS**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6 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

- Speranza Chamber Musicians *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:45 PM

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

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

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



Name That Tune! Social Hour

Hosted by: Visiting Angels - Black Hills

Join us for Food, Fun, and Great Music!
Prizes for EVERYONE!

Tuesday, June 10, 2025
1:00 PM
Custer Senior Center
538 Mt. Rushmore Rd

America's Choice in Home Care

Visiting Angels

LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

CAN YOU NAME THAT TUNE? — The Custer Senior Center will be the place to be Tuesday, June 10, as it hosts a spirited game of Name That Tune. The event, hosted by Visiting Angels of the Black Hills, is open to anyone and will feature food and prizes for all who attend. [Submitted Photo]

- Summer Rec Program**
Keystone Community Center
Keystone, SD
9 AM - Noon
- Hermosa Arts and History Association Branding Party**
HAHA Museum
Hermosa, SD
3-6 PM

- Community Food Pantry**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9 AM - 11 AM
- Pre-Release -Magic: The Gathering | Commander Night**
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
4 PM

- 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

- Speranza Chamber Musicians *LIVE***
The Trailhouse
Custer, SD
7 PM

- Speranza Chamber Musicians *LIVE***
The Trailhouse
Custer, SD
7 PM

Saturday 6-7

- Great Plains Botanic Garden Open House**
14229 Windbreak Rd.
Hermosa, SD
9 AM - 4 PM

- Custer County Democrats Breakfast Gathering**
Maria's Mexican Restaurant
Custer, SD
9:15 AM

- Friends of Bill W. AA Group**
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Custer, SD
10 AM

- Custer AA Group**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

- Custer Community Action Team Food Distribution**
CAT Building, corner of N. 6th and Lincoln Streets
Custer, SD
2-5 PM

- Custer County Historical Society**
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
2:30 PM

- 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



PONDER THIS — Somewhere in the eternal vastness of space and time, somewhere upon a westward wind, there is a point where Gypsy Punk, Jam Band, and New Grass collide with cosmic force. That point is Ponder the Albatross. The "Ponder Phenomenon" is given its drive and force by Josh Bower's ecstatic mandolin, guitar and vocals, Luke Lindholm's searing fiddle; ably abetted by Eric Vrtis' whisking wave of bass & vocals, and Adam Chiszar's symphonic symmetry on the drums. The band will take to the stage at The Custer Beacon Thursday at 7 p.m. [Submitted Photo]

- 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

- Free Summer Program: Museum at the Black Hills Institute**
Boys & Girls Club
Hill City, SD
10 AM

- Feeding South Dakota Truck**
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
1 PM

- Zonta**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
1 PM

- Name That Tune with Visiting Angels**
Custer Senior Center
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

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

- Elk Mountain School District Board of Education**
Elk Mountain School
Dewey, SD
7 PM

Wednesday 6-11

- 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

- 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

- 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

- Pringle AA Group**
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 6-12

- Blood Drive**
Custer Masonic Lodge
Custer, SD
9:30 AM-5 PM

- Seniors Fitness Class**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM

- Seniors Mahjong**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 12 PM

- Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser**
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
11 AM-1 PM

- Building Sustainable Programs Nonprofit Workshop**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
11 AM - 2 PM

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

- Musical Bingo *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, 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 6-13

- Custer Off-Road Rally Begins**

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

- Summer Rec Program**
Keystone Community Center
Keystone, SD
9 AM - 12 PM

- 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

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

- Teen Book Chat**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
3 PM

- The Stifftones *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7 PM

Saturday 6-14

- Custer Off-Road Rally Continues**

- HC Merchants Father's Day/Art Event**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM - 5 PM

- Donuts & Doodles Summer Kickoff**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
10 AM

- Friends of Bill W. AA Group**
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Custer, SD
10 AM

- Custer AA Group**
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

- Fine Artists Festival**
Washington Street Lawn
Near Veterans Memorial
Custer, SD
10 AM - 5 PM

- Magic The Gathering | Commander Night**
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
4-8 PM

- Kids Rock Custer Showcase *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
4:30-6 PM

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

- Orion & Stacy Potter *LIVE***
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7 PM

Sunday 6-15

- Father's Day**

- Custer Off-Road Rally Concludes**

- AA Meeting**
Keystone Senior Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM

- HC Merchants Father's Day/Art Event**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM - 5 PM

- Fine Artists Festival**
Washington Street Lawn
Near Veterans Memorial
Custer, SD
10 AM - 5 PM

Monday 6-16

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

- Seniors Yoga**
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM

- YMCA at the Garden**
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
10 AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday 6-17

- 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

- Free Summer Program: BH Raptors**
Boys & Girls Club
Hill City, SD
10 AM

- Center Conversations with Brad Tennant, South Dakota Humanities Scholar**
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
11 AM - 1 PM

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

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