



Custer County Chronicle



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Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 Custer, South Dakota Volume 139 Issue 45 \$1.50



FINDING 'NORMAL'

October's cold weather was not normal for us, but more normal temps may be on the way

By Ron Burtz

"It's not even Thanksgiving, but it already feels like January!"

If you have found yourself saying something like that in the last couple of weeks, you're not alone and you are also absolutely correct.

According to the National Weather Service office in Rapid City, the average temperature in Custer for the month of October was only 35.1 degrees, which was

7.8 degrees below normal for the 10th month of the year.

In addition, meteorologist Eric Helgeson of the National Weather Service office in Rapid City reported that four of the last five days of October were actually colder than what is normal for January — the first full month of winter.

Helgeson said temperatures on Sunday through Wednesday of last week "were even colder than what we would expect to have on a typical day in January."

EARLY WINTER/2A



POACHED ELK — Two bull elk fell victim to poachers on Boles Canyon Road near the Wyoming state line recently. Authorities seek information as to who shot the elk. [Submitted Photo]

Elk poached

By Jason Ferguson

Two bull elk have been poached on Boles Canyon Road in Custer County five miles north of Hwy. 16 near the Wyoming state line and authorities seek information about who committed the crime.

Jeff Edwards, conservation officer for South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks (GFP), said the elk were

discovered Oct. 29 by a man who was in the area cutting firewood. Edwards said judging by the condition of the bodies and the fact they were covered in snow means the two were likely shot the evening of Oct. 26 or 27.

Edwards said it's not uncommon this time of year for animals to fall victim to wounding loss, where mul-

ELK/2A

Veterans Day events set

Veterans Day is approaching, and with it comes a variety of events around Custer County to honor those who served the United States through military service.

As always, the centerpiece of the day will be the annual Veterans Day program put on by Custer School District next Monday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Armory. This year marks the 25th annual ceremony.

The program is run by the students of Custer High

School under the direction of Sandy Arseneault. It consists of a flag posting by the local Civil Air Patrol, patriotic songs performed by all ages of school children, a performance by the Custer High School band and choir, a POW/MIA ceremony, remembrance of deceased veterans from the past year, individual recognition of each veteran in attendance by Custer Cub Scouts and sixth graders and the retirement of the flag by the Civil Air Patrol.

Guest speaker at this

year's program is Kevin Morello, state American Legion vice commander for areas one and two.

Morello grew up in Cypress, Calif., and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1985 as an administrative specialist. After spending a short tour in Korea and while stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, he was honorably discharged at the rank of sergeant under the Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program to attend Montana State

University to study computer science.

Upon graduation and commissioning as a distinguished graduate, Morello re-entered the Air Force as a second lieutenant with his first assignment at Edwards Air Force Base in California participating in the operational test and evaluation of the new C-17 aircraft. From there he was assigned to Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts as a test and program manager for the

VETS DAY/2A

Walk in the Woods to see changes

Big changes are coming to the 500 block of Mt. Rushmore Road and A Walk in the Woods.

Owner Koko Ward said, "Krystal Hegerfeld will join the management and buying team in November and we look forward to her contributions to the business."

Hegerfeld owned and operated A Walk in the Woods Minnesota prior to 2007 before becoming the director of retail in Custer State Park where she worked for 13 years. She was raised in the retail industry and is an active member of the Custer community.

"Rejoining the team at the Woods has always been my goal and I can't wait to see what the future holds

for us in Custer," said Hegerfeld.

Another new partnership is coming in 2020 when The Custer Wolf Food & Drink relocates to the western portion of the A Walk in the Woods building.

Tommy Hegerfeld, the owner of The Custer Wolf, said, "We are excited for this relocation and expansion to better serve our customers and the community."

Lee Lampert, owner and manager of Custer County Candy Co., said her plans for the store are uncertain. It occupies part of the space planned for the new location of Custer Wolf. It will either move across the street to the space vacated recently by Edward Jones or to Rapid City, she said.



SCANNING ON HALLOWEEN — David Jaksa got into the holiday spirit while scanning vital records Halloween day at the Custer County Courthouse. Jaksa is part of US Imaging, the company that has spent the past two weeks scanning documents around the clock. [CCC Photo/JASON FERGUSON]

County works to preserve history

By Jason Ferguson

Old county documents scanned, stored on computer

Since Monday morning, Oct. 28, US Imaging has been working 24 hours a day in the Custer County Courthouse with a singular goal: preserving the county's history one page at a time.

David Jaksa of US Imaging, along with five other employees, are working 12-hour shifts around

the clock — and will continue to do so for the rest of the week — scanning old land and vital records from the county's auditor, treasurer and register of deeds' books. These will be put onto a computer database that will preserve the coun-

ty's history while helping the county take the next step into the digital age.

The county will spend \$195,995 on the project, which will see records dating back to "the beginning of time" as it's known, i.e., the first time the county

began keeping documents. In this case, that date is 1878. Land and vital records from books and aperture cards from that date until the records were stored on a computer are being scanned and stored on a computer, with nearly 200,000 images and documents to be scanned.

The county's register of deeds will have 245 books

DOCUMENTS/2A



Elk/From Page 1A

multiple animals are mistakenly shot by hunters, but added these elk were shot through the vitals, likely from the road, as they were only 50 feet from Boles Canyon Road.

"They took a few steps and fell over dead," Edwards said. "Whoever shot them knew they killed them."

Edwards said the elk were shot with a high caliber rifle. They were part of a group of elk that loggers and others had reported were feeding in a meadow off the road. He said if the bulls were feeding in that meadow, they likely would have been feeding at night, which leads him to believe they were shot with the help of a spotlight or headlights.

"This isn't the act of a sportsman who made a mis-

take," he said. "This is egregious. I would speculate this is someone who decided to shoot something and kill it."

Edwards said if the person or persons responsible for the elk self-report, it is possible GFP could work with them. The person would face Class I misdemeanors of hunting in closed season and no license, with a likely \$5,000 fine per bull. That would be in addition to any other penalties a court would enforce, such as losing hunting privileges.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call 1-888-OVERBAG or submit an online report at cutt.ly/2evF5at. Anyone with information can also call Edwards directly at 381-9995.

Early winter/From Page 1A

"Normal highs for January are normally in the 30s and normal lows are generally in the teens," he said.

However, Custer wasn't the coldest spot in the area, nor the snowiest by far. Helgeson said a cooperative weather observer in Edgemont reported a low temperature of -13 last Wednesday morning and by the same day Lead had received 38.1 inches of snow in October, which is double the normal amount for the month.

Helgeson observed that both the chilly temps and the amount of snowfall are out of the norm for this early in the season.

"I don't recall having an October where we've had four or five snow events already," said the weatherman. "We've had one or two big storms in October (such as Storm Atlas in 2013), but having a succession of storms where it's cold enough to snow, I don't recall."

By comparison, both the East and West coasts have had unseasonably warm weather in recent weeks, but Helgeson said the central part of the country is stuck in a "progressive pattern" of weather that has held on for nearly a year now. He said last summer's persistent wet weather was no help, either, noting the constant rain would not allow temperatures to warm up.

Of course, when it comes to the weather, "normal" is a little hard to pin down. Essentially, normal temperatures for a certain time period in a specific location are determined by summing up the daily high and low temperatures (based on a midnight-to-midnight day) for every day

of the period and then dividing the total by the number of summed values.

However, Helgeson said, "that doesn't mean it can't be really cold one week and really warm the next week."

"I think a lot of people are just looking for 'normal,'" said Helgeson, adding that many folks in the area are saying, "Let's just have normal weather."

The bright side of the long-range forecast, according to Helgeson, is that we may actually get some of that "normal" weather, at least as far as temperatures are concerned.

He said the chilly temps are expected to hang on until the middle of the month, but then warm up a bit.

Helgeson said there are some signs the second half of November may be warmer — at least warmer than the first half of the month — which is some consolation.

Looking ahead to the actual winter months after the first of the year, Helgeson said, "The most likely outcome is near normal average temperatures for December, January and February."

However, Helgeson said, as far as precipitation goes, "It looks wetter than normal officially, which means we could have more snow than normal."

So after a hopefully "normal" Thanksgiving Day with more moderate temperatures, it appears chances are good for a white Christmas and a white New Year ... and a white Valentine's Day ... and St. Patrick's Day.

You know. The new normal.



HALLOWEEN PARADE — These Custer Elementary School sixth graders coordinated on a group costume as the M&M guys on Thursday. From left are Rosalina Arp, Preslie Gomez and Hailey Woodward marching in the Halloween Parade in the school gym. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

Vets Day/From Page 1A

Combat Air Forces Command and Control Program Office.

After that he was assigned to Patrick Air Force in Florida to help field a major telecommunication upgrade to Cape Canaveral in support of military, commercial and NASA space flight operations. From there, he and his family moved to Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico to the 705th Exercise Control Squadron as director of operations and maintenance for the Distributed Mission Operations Center, responsible for the daily operations of the most advanced command and control simulation facility.

From there, he was assigned to NATO in Brunsum, Netherlands, as a program manager for a major computer modernization effort in support of the

NATO Airborne Warning and Control System. Upon retiring from the Air Force with over 20 years of service at the rank of major, he and his family moved to Black Hawk, where he works as a lifecycle manager with the Office of Information and Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Morello has been married to Debra from Billings, Mont., for over 25 years and they have one son and one daughter.

Custer County Democrats and Republicans will once again host a social with snacks for the veterans, also at the Armory. This event will immediately follow the program at the school. The social provides veterans a time to relax, chat and share stories.

The Hermosa School will honor veterans in con-

junction with Hermosa American Legion Post No. 303 Nov. 11. At 7:45 a.m. a ceremony will take place outside the school in front of the flagpole.

The day will continue with veterans visiting Hermosa School students in their classrooms followed by a moment of silence and a POW/MIA ceremony at 11:11 a.m. A Veterans Day program at the Hermosa School will take place at 2:15 p.m., followed by a Heroes Reception at 3:15 p.m. The day will wind down with a soup and chili feed at 5 p.m. at the Hermosa American Legion's post home.

Custer School District students may invite veterans to join them for lunch on Monday, Nov. 11. Lunch includes roast turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and pumpkin bar. Luncheon

Solutions will provide the meals for the veterans who attend. Other guests may attend for \$3.72. Those who plan to attend are asked to notify the school at 673-4473 by Monday, Nov. 4. Lunch times for each class may be obtained by calling the same number.

New this year, beginning mid-week, are Hometown Heroes Banners flying in downtown Custer. The banners depict local military servicemen and women.

At 11:11 a.m., there will be a special ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Custer, and Cub Scouts will once again visit veterans at Custer Senior Care at 4:30 p.m. A potluck for veterans will take place at noon at Custer VFW.

Elk Mountain School District will also honor veterans with a Veterans Day program at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at Elk Mountain School.

Documents/From Page 1A

and 68,740 aperture cards (microfilm/microfiche) scanned (deeds, mortgages, etc.), while the treasurer's office will have 185 books scanned (tax lists) and the auditor's office will have 19 books scanned (commission meeting minutes).

"We do county court-houses all over America," Jaksa said. "We are in a different state every couple of weeks."

Stage one of the process is the scanning of the documents using state-of-the-art equipment. That is followed by stage two: double inspection, grouping, indexing and verifying. All of the images are inspected for legibility and grouped as documents and indexed by two operators and compared electronically, with any mismatches inspected by a third operator and corrected to ensure 100 percent accuracy.

The final stage of the process is image enhancement. US Imaging can adjust the poor contrast of

an entire roll, splice, book, jacket, aperture card, document, page or any specific area on a page to provide the most legible images possible.

The push to have the documents scanned and put onto a computer came from Mother Nature, as catastrophic weather events around the state — including the Aug. 2 flood — caused county officials to seek a way for the documents to be preserved in case of disaster.

"That really pushed the process along," said register of deeds department head Teri Morgan. "We do not want to be a county that loses all its documents."

Jaksa and his crews scan the pages one at a time, which is a tedious chore when done 12 hours a day.

Enter headphones and music.

"If we didn't have headphones, we'd all be scanning in an insane asylum," Jaksa said with a laugh. "Everyone listens to music. It's hard to get directions

across to anybody."

US Imaging recently scanned documents at Boal Mansion in Boalsburg, Harris Township, Centre County, Penn. The collection on display at the mansion includes the admiral's desk of Columbus, a lock of hair of Napoleon and two pieces said to be from the true cross of Jesus, as well as carriages, tools and weapons of eight generations of Boals. Also on the property is the 16th Century Columbus Chapel, which was imported from Spain.

Jaksa said documents scanned there dated as far back as 1381 and included maps from when the earth was still believed to be flat.

A self-described history buff who says the History Channel is always on at his

home, Jaksa has scanned many documents relating to important places and people.

As far as Custer County's documents, Morgan said some of the old books (which will remain in courthouse vaults) would be unreadable within the next decade. Now, that won't be an issue.

Morgan noted that the documents, most of which are already public, won't be placed immediately on the internet. Rather, they will be available through a subscription-based program from which the public can retrieve the documents for \$1 per page, just as they can now by walking into the county offices and requesting a physical copy of a document. The \$1 per page

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Down Memory Lane

BY JOSHUA NAJACHT

10 YEARS AGO, 2009 — The Custer Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors elected Wade Lampert to another three-year term and added Daryl Stisser and Jim Lyon II to the board ... Frustrated by negotiations that were going nowhere, the Black Hills Playhouse board decided to let the court decide the fate of the theater. The lawsuit by the board against the state asked the court to declare that the Playhouse has a renewed 10-year lease in its current location and that it is the state's — not the board's — responsibility to upgrade a \$300,000 sewer system for the Playhouse ... The unusually wet spring and fall had county highway superintendent John Culberson and the Custer County highway department on the hot seat.

20 YEARS AGO, 1999 — It was decided the Christmas tree usually erected in front of the sheriff's office in Custer would not be used. The trees in front of the 1881 Courthouse Museum were to be used to hang the lights. This was approved by the Historical Society and "will be appreciated by all the truckers who used to have to drive around the other tree." ... Custer High School principal Larry Luitjens enjoyed lunch on the town with two students — Thuria Samara and Steven Kreeger — spirit winners who displayed "Wildcat Pride" during homecoming week.

40 YEARS AGO, 1979 — A heart-thumping win in overtime with a score of 67-59 wrested from the Douglas Patriots placed the Custer High School Wildcats at the top of the Black Hills Conference in girls basketball ... Mrs. Gus Reder, a Custer County native and pioneer daughter, shared her 90th birthday with the state of South Dakota. Both she and the state were born Nov. 2 ... A rash of accidents occurred in the Nov. 6 storm with up to \$30,000 damage estimated in nine accidents.

70 YEARS AGO, 1949 — The second annual meeting of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation Commission was held.

80 YEARS AGO, 1939 — Another old settler who helped develop this part of western South Dakota is gone, with the passing of George Young, a resident of Fairburn since 1883.

90 YEARS AGO, 1929 — The Monty Nystroms gave several teachers a dinner, the principal piece de

resistance being pheasant, which some kind friend of Monty's must have given him. The evening was spent playing cards.

100 YEARS AGO, 1919 — A nice little party slipped through Pringle to Hot Springs and there pulled off a very quiet wedding. Present were the immediate family of the bride, Miss Hallie Nihart, a lovely girl who has the love and esteem of the community. The groom is not so well known. He is a soldier and served in the late war and we hope he is worthy of so rare a jewel. We wish them a long and happy voyage on the great sea of matrimony ... No business man should allow a newspaper published in his town to go without his name and business being mentioned somewhere in the columns.

110 YEARS AGO, 1909 — More than half the male population of Custer are out in the country carrying shotguns and rifles and tramping through the woods and over the mountains and gulches. They call it hunting; but if they enjoy it, it is none of our business ... Forest Ranger Conlon of Pringle and wife were in the city shopping. While here Joe deposited \$2 in the *Chronicle* treasury for the faithful family paper ... The fire on Buckhorn last week started on the Akes ranch, caused by sparks from a Burlington engine. A strong gale forced the flames over the mountain at a rapid rate. The abrupt walls and deep, narrow gulches of the Buckhorn range made it a hard fire to combat. It burned 300 acres or more.

120 YEARS AGO, 1899 — The main shaft of the Holy Terror Mine at Keystone, which is already down 700 feet, is being sunk another 100 feet ... The next attraction at the Custer opera house will be the Della Pringle Company ... Charles Freeland, the Pass Creek stockman, spent Sunday in Custer.

130 YEARS AGO, 1889 — During the 14 years of our history, no town in the Black Hills, or in the U.S., can boast of a higher standard of health or a lower mortality record than Custer ... Saloon men at the B&M town of Newcastle are kicking because there is not a high license law in Wyoming. Under the present system a man with five gallons of forty-rod poison and a dozen glasses is able to open up and do business, thus knocking out those who wish to run first-class houses. — *News*

City revises parade rule

By Jason Ferguson

Who is responsible for spectators — especially children — along a parade route in downtown Custer?

It's not the driver of a float, argued Custer Area Chamber of Commerce director Dolsee Davenport at the Nov. 4 meeting of the Custer City Council, as she lobbied for a change to the recently-adopted city parade rules.

"Is it my responsibility for a kid running out for candy? No, it's not," Davenport said. "I don't think it's the driver's responsibility to watch kids whose parents are not watching them."

Davenport said it is the children and the parents of the children along the parade route who are ultimately responsible for the children and to that end requested a change to the recent parade safety resolution that was passed and, more specifically, a sentence in the resolution that states "each parade participating group must be responsible not only for their own safety and must also take precautions to ensure the safety of their float (and) participants and the public audience around them."

Davenport, speaking on behalf of the chamber board, said the board would like to see the phrase "and the public audience around them" removed.

"It was more about being responsible for a kid who dives under their vehicle," alderwoman Jeannie Fischer said, relaying a story about an alleged incident at a recent parade where a child dove under a flatbed truck that was stopped.

It was wondered aloud

how the driver of the truck could possibly be expected to see such a thing taking place.

City attorney Chris Beesley said he would like to see the wording stay as is, but understood why the chamber board would want it changed. He and Fischer said the guidelines are laid out so parade participants must take precautions — not responsibility — for the safety of those watching the parade. Rather, it just ensures that those participating in the parade aren't doing things to endanger those along the route.

Mayor Corbin Herman said, if, in the unfortunate situation there was an accident, ultimately an investigation would determine who was at fault.

It was questioned whether the phrasing should include "reasonable" precautions and asked if the rules in place are enough of a precaution, saying the biggest dangers — things being thrown or sprayed off a float — have already been addressed in the resolution. The resolution prohibits parade riders from spraying liquid off a float and also prohibits throwing candy from a float. Rather, someone must be walking alongside the float with enough distance from the floats so onlookers do not have to enter the roadway to retrieve the candy.

Eventually, the phrase "and the public audience around them" was axed from the resolution and approved with that modification. The next scheduled parade is Dec. 7, the annual Christmas parade. A new parade request form is in the works, as well, the council said.

The council also heard

from representatives of the Custer Bark Park, who sought approval to put up signs at the park laying out park rules. Among the rules is that the park is open sunrise to sunset, those who bring dogs must be 18 unless accompanied by an adult and must assume full legal responsibility for their dogs and any personal injury damages caused by them, pick up their dog's waste and put it in a provided receptacle, dogs cannot bark on a continuous basis nor be aggressive toward dogs or people. Signs guiding the dogs to a suggested area, depending on the size and energy of the dogs, would also be erected.

Bark Park committee member Lesa McDermott said it is important to get the signs up as quickly as possible, as there has already been an issue with an aggressive dog at the park, even though it's not officially open. She also said children have climbed the scaffolding set up next to a shelter that is being constructed.

City public works director Bob Morrison told the council it might behoove the city to check with its insurance company before putting up the signs, because the insurance company does not want a list of rules put up at the skate park because where there are rules, there must be enforcement, or liability issues could arise.

McDermott took the other stance, saying if rules are not put in place, the city could be opening itself up to liability issues. She said every dog park she has been to has rules in place.

Beesley said he would check with the insurance company and get back with

the Bark Park committee to see whether the rules should be posted at all or whether a "use at your own risk" type of sign should be installed.

In other news from the Nov. 4 meeting, the council:

- Approved spending \$1,500 to sign up for a "Code Red" system that allows government and public safety officials to record, send and track personalized voice, email, text and social media messages to citizens and staff. The system is similar to the one Custer School District uses to inform parents about school closings, etc. It is a free subscription service that has a phone app those who want to receive the alerts can download. The city will use it to inform the public about weather alerts, drinking water alerts, emergencies, etc. It is likely to be launched at the beginning of the new year.

- Approved appointing Phil Abernathy to Custer Cruisin' Committee.

- Learned from Morrison the deer count has been completed and there will be 125 deer tags applied for to cull the herd within city limits. He said it is likely the city won't get that many approved by South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, but rather, would receive around 75 antlerless tags just as it did a year ago.

- Learned from Morrison that Wazi Lane drainage is being worked on, as after Black Hills Energy put in its new facility across the street, more water is coming down the lane and sometimes freezes over the road. City staff is working to alleviate those issues.

- Approved the second reading of the city's new water, waste water and water-off rates.

Sales tax reports from area towns

Sales tax reports have been compiled by the S.D. Department of Revenue for August and September.

For August this year, Custer was up 7.1 percent over August last year with an increase from \$289,400.48 in 2018 to \$309,951.27 this year.

Hill City was up 8.4 percent, from \$204,437.90 last August to \$221,611.38 this August.

Hot Springs was up 5.93 percent, from \$182,027.44 last August to \$192,812.64 this August.

Keystone was down 1.49 percent, from \$293,452.41 in 2018 to

\$289,087.67 this August.

Custer was up 3.68 percent in September this year, going from \$247,220.81 last September to \$256,317.57 this September.

Hill City was down 10.09 percent this September, dropping from \$204,019.27 last September to \$183,429.61 this year.

Hot Springs was up slightly, 0.36 percent from \$163,504.76 last September to \$164,099.41 this year.

Keystone was up 4.36 percent, from \$210,469 last September to \$219,642.18 this September.

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<p>Pringle United Methodist Rev. Peary Wilson • 673-3401 12 miles south of Custer in Pringle Church at 9 a.m. • Coffee to follow service Visitors Welcome!</p>	<p>Custer Community Church United Church of Christ 547 Harney St., Custer • 673-4350 Rev. Dustin Bartlett Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m. www.custercommunitychurch.org</p>	<p>Rent This Space Call 673-2217 for details</p>	<p>Grace Family Fellowship Meeting at the Armory 527 Montgomery Street, Room 204 facebook.com/gracefamilyfellowshipcuster/ Worship 10:30 a.m. • Mike Brennan, Pastor</p>
<p>Abundant Life Fellowship Non-Denominational Fellowship 580-216-4005 • 580-216-4787 • Custer Senior Cntr. Pastor Clark S. Struebing, Sr. Sunday Worship & Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 6 pm.</p>	<p>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 5th & Harney St., Custer • 673-4426 Mass Schedule Saturday Evening • 5:30 p.m. Sunday morning • 8 a.m.</p>	<p>Southern Hills Bible Church 6th & Harney St., Custer • 673-4074 Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Bible Hour for adults, children, youth - 11 a.m. Small Groups available in Custer, Hermosa and Rapid City Nursery provided for worship services</p>	<p>Vineyard Black Hills Christian Fellowship Van Arp & Rose Arp, Pastors For meeting time and location call 673-4090. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Healing Journey Tuesdays 6:30 Our Place 673-4090 • 440-0640</p>
<p>Mountainview Baptist Church 12230 Aviation Way (next to airport) 673-2498 Sunday Services - 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday - Children's Anchor Club, 6 p.m. Adults' Prayer & Bible Study, 7 p.m. Wednesday - Teen's Group, 6:30 p.m. www.mountainviewbaptistcuster.com</p>	<p>Living Outreach Church Non-Denominational • 48 North 8th Street 673-3926 Pastor Joel Ziolkowski Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays - 6 p.m. youth meal & youth group 6:30 Adult Study & Children's Ministry</p>	<p>Southern Hills Church of Christ 201 Church Drive - Hwy. 385 South Sunday Bible Class 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. 673-3715</p>	<p>Crossroads Church Evangelical Free Church of America Two miles east of Custer on Hwy. 16A www.CrossroadsofCuster.com • 673-2120 Come as you are, partner with us, experience Christ Sundays 10:10 a.m. Neil Magnuson, Pastor</p>
<p>Custer Lutheran Fellowship ELCA Pamela Power, Pastor 3.5 miles east of Custer 673-4691 • custerlutheran.com Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Meal 5:15 p.m. Worship 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Custer Church of Christ Sunday Worship 10-11 a.m. Communion every Sunday 21 4th St. • Turn onto 4th St. between the 1881 Courthouse Museum and the Conoco station (605) 673-3970 • (605) 673-3210</p>	<p>Our Redeemer Lutheran LCMS 8th & Harney Street • 673-4361 Robert Gardner, Pastor 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Bible Study year around 11 a.m. Youth Sunday School • Sept.-May orlc-custer.com</p>	<p>Liberty Baptist Church Brother Don Hartley A conservative Baptist Church Sunday Worship 10 a.m. 25127 Harbach Lane • Custer, SD 57730 673-2863</p>
<p>Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran WELS 25024 Hwy 16/385 N. Custer Christian Ed 9:15 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m. (June-August Worship 9:15 a.m.)</p>			



TRICK-OR-TREAT SIBS — Lisa Freidel of NXTLAW in Custer hands out treats to siblings, from left, Marshall, Jack and Margaret Ellman on Halloween. Dozens of kids in costume hit the streets last Thursday for the annual Merchants Trick-or-treat. Some warm weather will grace Custer later this week. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

Date	Hi	Lo	Prc.
Oct. 29	15	-3	.03
Oct. 30	28	-5	00
Oct. 31	41	15	00
Nov. 1	31	18	.01
Nov. 2	42	18	00
Nov. 3	40	27	Tr.
Nov. 4	33	27	.03

Source: Blackhillsweather.com

Thu 11/7	Fri 11/8	Sat 11/9	Sun 11/10	Mon 11/11	Tue 11/12	Wed 11/13
38°/128°F	45°/133°F	51°/117°F	20°/14°F	26°/18°F	35°/29°F	31°/23°F
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Snow Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
0 in	0 in	1.1 in	1.5 in	0 in	0 in	0 in



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL — On Oct. 25, 44 people helped the Custer Lions Club set new records for Bunco. The net amount was nearly \$1,100 with more than \$200 coming from the baked goods raffle. The club's next Bunco will be in mid-February on a Saturday afternoon. [Submitted Photo]

Former Custer resident pens book

Cara E. Koch of Colorado Springs, Colo., a member of Custer High School Class of 1961, has a new book, "FROM HEART-BREAK TO HEALING: Resolving Parental Alienation," being released late this fall.



Cara Koch

support through the divorce process and beyond. Koch has a bachelor of science degree in child development and family relationships from South Dakota State University, a master's degree in childcare administration from Wheelock College in Boston and a doctorate in children's [innate] spirituality from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. "There is no greater heartache than when a parent is erased from a child's life," Koch said.

Koch is the daughter of Jim and Lucille Koch and lives with her husband, Harry, in Colorado Springs and regularly attends her high school class reunions, the next of which is July 2021.

Rounds staff in Hermosa

Staff from the office of U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds will visit Hermosa Nov. 12 to assist residents with any issues they may have dealing with federal agencies. The staff will be at the American Legion Post Home from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Questions or concerns regarding this visit can be directed to Senator Rounds' Rapid City office at 343-5035 or by visiting rounds.senate.gov.

Senior MEALS Menu

Monday, Nov. 11
No Meals
Veterans Day

Tuesday, Nov. 12
Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes w/milk gravy, peas, apricots, bread, cake

Wednesday, Nov. 13
Meal loaf, parslid potatoes, peas & carrots, Jello w/topping, apple slab pie, bread

Thursday, Nov. 14
Tater tot casserole, spinach salad, tropical fruit, tomato juice, bread

Friday, Nov. 15
Barbecue chicken
Baked potato w/sour cream
Glazed carrots, orange, bread
Reservations for Thanksgiving due

Eat at 11:30 a.m. Call 517-0621



IN THE CHUTES — Wind Cave National Park biologist Angela Jarding places a tracking collar on a female bison during the park's recent bison processing operation. [Submitted Photo/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE]

Bison fit with tracking collars

Ten adult female bison were fitted with tracking collars as part of Wind Cave National Park's recent bison capture and processing operation. These collars will allow researchers and the public to follow where the bison roam and how they use the land. "Bison research using these types of collars has never been done here before, and we're excited about the information we'll learn," said park superintendent Vidal Dávila. "We'd like to thank the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association for funding the collars through their Adopt a Bison program."

During the operation, 343 bison were brought into the corral and 127, mostly yearlings and two-year olds, were removed from the herd with The Nature Conservancy receiving 93 excess bison and relocating them to preserves in four states (Broken Kettle, Iowa; Nachusa Prairie, Ill.; Dunn Ranch, Mo.; and Smokey Valley Ranch, Kansas City).

Through the coordination of the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC),

34 animals will go to three tribes (Prairie Island Mdewakanton, Minn.; Flandreau Santee Sioux; Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minn.). Over the years, working with ITBC has helped restore bison to many of their native homelands.

All other captured bison were released back into the park after processing. If not already there, a small microchip was implanted under the skin of each animal, allowing biologists to monitor the animal's sex, age and genetic information during future capture operations. After this operation, Wind Cave's bison population is approximately 400 animals.

Genetic studies conducted by Texas A&M University indicate the Wind Cave herd is very high in genetic diversity and is free of domestic cattle gene introgression making them ideal for reintroduction efforts.

Forest Action Plan comment sought

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Resource Conservation and Forestry Division completed its draft of the Forest Action Plan revision for 2020. The 2008 farm bill tasked the states with assessing the condition of trees and forests within their boundaries along with developing goals and strategies for investing resources where they can be most effective in achieving national conservation goals. The 2020 Forest Action Plan will replace the current South Dakota Forest Action Plan, which was completed in

2010. The SDDA seeks public comment on the draft Forest Action Plan documents, which are available online. To review the Forest Action Plan documents and find instructions on how to submit comments, visit sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry and click on South Dakota 2020 Forest Action Plan for Public Comment under "Timely Topics." Physical copies can be mailed upon request by contacting Marcus Warnke at 394-2395. The review period is 45 days and ends Thursday, Dec. 5.

Card of Thanks

On behalf of the Custer Lions Club and the Custer Wild LEO Club we would like to thank the Custer community for its support and commitment to our fundraising efforts. Our recent Bunco night was well attended and was one of the most profitable. With those proceeds we can support disaster relief as well as provide much needed

assistance to our local citizens. The donations of food, toys, beds, blankets and other animal necessities will be going to Battle Mountain Humane Society Nov. 16. It is not too late to make a donation. If you are able to contribute to this worthy cause please contact any LEO member or call Lion Dusty Dustman at 605-673-4156

Correction

In the Oct. 30 issue of the *Chronicle* a story on the Oct. 23 meeting of the Custer County Commission said a 12-inch culvert was removed from the driveway of Ken Couch, who lives adjacent to 266th Street, which was recently improved to enter into the Sanson Ranch portion of Wind Cave National Park. The sentence should have read it was removed from an area by Couch's driveway. We apologize for this error.

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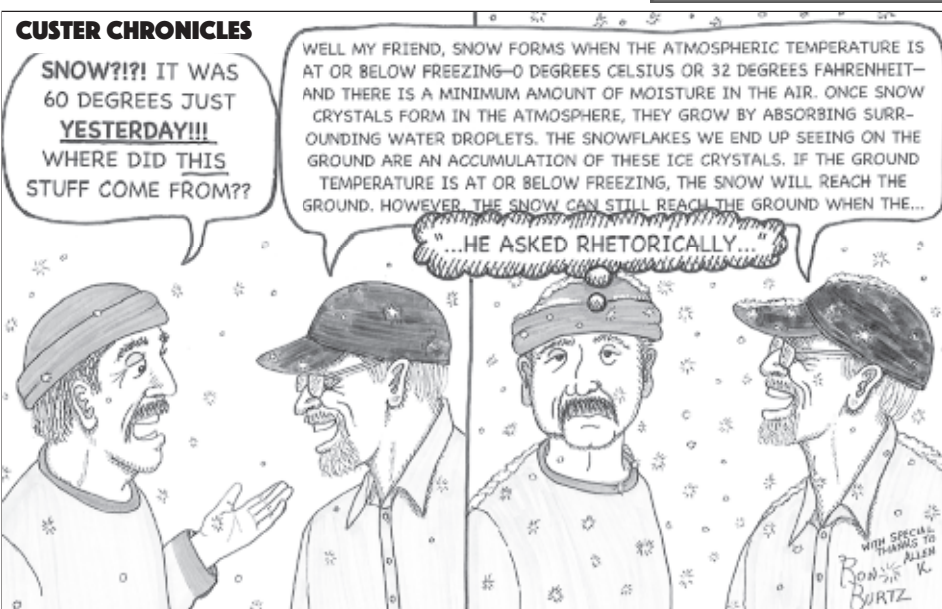
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8 Days
IN CUSTER COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 7
ACT Prep, 6:15 p.m., Custer County Library
Civil Air Patrol, 6:30 p.m., Custer County Airport

Friday, Nov. 8
Story Time, 10 a.m., Custer County Library
Bingo, 6-8 p.m., Custer VFW

Saturday, Nov. 9
Custer Community Action Team Food Distribution, 2-5 p.m., CAT building corner of N. 6th and Lincoln streets

Monday, Nov. 11
Veterans Day Flag Raising, 7:45 a.m., Hermosa School
Veterans in the Classroom, morning, Hermosa School
Veterans Day Meal, 10:47 a.m., Custer High School
Veterans Day Meal, 10:50 a.m., Custer Elementary
Moment of Silence, 11:11 a.m., Hermosa School
POW/MIA Ceremony, 11:11 a.m., Hermosa School
Veterans Day Ceremony, 11:11 a.m., Hermosa School

11:11 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park
Student Veterans' Lunch, lunchtime, Hermosa School
Veterans Day Potluck Lunch, noon, Custer VFW
Veterans Day Program, 2 p.m., Custer Armory
Veterans Day Program, 2:15 p.m., Hermosa School
Veterans Social, 3 p.m., Custer Armory
Heroes Reception, 3:15 p.m., Hermosa School
Soup & Chili Feed, 5 p.m., Hermosa School
Custer School District Board of Education, 6 p.m., Custer School District Administration Building

Tuesday, Nov. 12
Senior Shop Day
Sen. Mike Rounds Staff in Hermosa, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Hermosa American Legion
Post Home
Zonta, noon
6th Street Edward Jones
Custer Meet & Eat, 5-7 p.m., Custer Community Church
Zonta Presents an Evening with Kara Hagen, 5:30 p.m., Pine Hills

Meeting Room, Hot Springs
Hermosa School Building
Expansion Project
Community Meeting, 6 p.m., Custer Jr./Sr. High School Commons
Custer American Legion, 6:30 p.m., Custer School District Administration Building
Dementia Caregiver Support Group, 6:30 p.m., 6th Street Edward Jones
Elk Mountain School District Board of Education, 7 p.m., Elk Mountain School
Pringle Town Board, 7 p.m., Pringle Community Center
Custer County Comprehensive Planning Committee, 7 p.m., Custer County Courthouse

Wednesday, Nov. 13
Driver's License Exams, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Custer County Courthouse Annex
Custer Economic Development Corp., 8:30 a.m., Custer YMCA

Thursday, Nov. 14
Lions Club, noon, Pizza Works
Veterans Day

Program, 2 p.m., Elk Mountain School
Sylvan Lake Area Master Plan Workshop, 5 p.m., Custer County Courthouse Annex Pine Room
ADD/ADHD Support Group, 6:30 p.m., Regional Health Custer Hospital Conference Room
Civil Air Patrol, 6:30 p.m., Custer County Airport

Alcoholics Anonymous - Tuesday, 7 p.m., closed meeting, Thursday, 7 p.m., open meeting, Saturday, 10 a.m., open meeting, Alanon, open meeting, Wednesday, 6 p.m.; **NA open meeting**, Alano Club, Saturday, 8 p.m.; **Custer Womens' 12-Step Recovery Group**, Open Meeting, Sundays, 10:15 a.m., Alano Club; **WEAVE Support Group**, Call 673-HELP (4357) for information.

Every Tuesday - Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Southern Hills Drug & Alcohol, 646 Jennings St., Hot Springs; **Hot Springs Alanon family group**, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 342 N. 19th St.

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Another Viewpoint

Drastic action needed in California

The internet is awash in questions and ruminations about the continuing nightmare of endless California wildfires. People sense that something is fundamentally and profoundly wrong with the picture of massive flaming fronts eating miles of homes and businesses and leaving once pristine oak woodlands in ruin. The hyperbolic news reports last week of the worst fire anybody ever saw is replaced by the new worst fire anybody ever saw this week.

The Kincaide Fire is a fearsome example of the old news of terrible fires being supplanted by the new news of terrible fires, and often in the same place. We were called to California in 2017 and 2018 to assess damages on the Pocket Fire near Geyserville, Calif. The Pocket Fire burned beautiful Pocket ranch when Pacific Gas and Electric equipment failed and ignited dry brush. We surveyed the fire, calculated costs to rehabilitate the land, factored in aesthetic losses and came up with a claim for the landowner. Fast forward to today: The Kincaide Fire is burning into the Pocket Fire footprint over the same ground we walked last year.

The tragedy of California is that the very things that once made the state one of the most desirable places in the world to live and work are now thwarting people who live there in frightening ways. In our vanity we allowed ourselves to build homes in the brush fields and dense chaparral of the coastal and interior ranges. Not content to just visit the wildlands we loved, we decided to build on remote steep ridges, in wild canyon bottoms, along beautiful river corridors, and in golden fields of wild oats three feet deep and as flammable as gasoline. We built tens of thousands of homes along two-lane highway corridors. Mindful of saving money, we erected all of our power infrastructure above ground where wind and falling trees could smash the lines into the vegetation below.

Traveling in rural California is an exercise in fear in the hot summer months and in the fall when the Santa Ana winds blow from the interior mountains toward the ocean. We scraped the ground to mineral soil where we parked our ATVs so as not to inadvertently start a fire with our catalytic converters and hot engines. We stepped carefully so that our boots wouldn't dislodge a rock that would strike another rock and cause a spark. The air was so dry and the vegetation so drought-stricken that any fire start from any source was a disaster from the get-go. Among the best most aggressive firefighters in the world, CalFire's people are only minutes from any fire start. They attack fires immediately with all hands in the most impressive head-long attacks...and often to no effect.

We wandered in a daze through the haunting and terrible Camp Fire ground at Paradise, Calif. The fire killed 80 people and many more died subsequently from suicide and despair. Tens of millions of board feet of heavy timber burned and was thrown to the ground to rot or be hauled away to marshaling yards to rot. In the past, local people insisted on leaving the heavy tree cover and not cutting any trees, ever, in some misguided desire to maintain a more natural environment in town. They packed in their homes, trailers, businesses, and government buildings a few feet from each other in vegetation so thick GPS would not function as there was no clear line of sight to the sky.

California is a disaster and the fire problem, from Malibu to Redding, is beyond redemption. No amount of forest management or fuel reduction will alter the fire history of that storied state, not now and maybe not ever. People are fleeing that place, much as I imagine people fled Hiroshima in the wake of the war and bomb. It is not a stretch to say that the fires burning there the past two decades are much like the atomic bomb attacks on Japan but with a slightly slower energy release. The outcome is the same. The compounding fires are merely making things worse by allowing fine fuels and weeds to grow back with a vengeance, ensuring that the fires next year will be even worse.

There are a few things we can do. Immediately stop insuring homes built in the Red Zone. Stop providing free fire protection in the form of government firefighters who are funded by everyone but only serve those few who build combustible homes in highly flammable areas. Resist and block supposedly "green initiatives" that don't allow for clear-cutting vegetation. Aggressively reduce fuels every year, especially in key highway corridors and around cities. Cut and mow all vegetation and xeriscape 100 yards on either side of highways and arterial roads. Force PG&E to enclose their power lines either underground or in concrete pipes or culverts along roads and highways where wind cannot affect them and where power line failures are contained.

Make it so onerous to live in the wildlands and fringes of cities that we abandon those places for the safety of properly designed and constructed homes and communities that can be defended and maintained. Pass laws with draconian building codes and enforcement up to and including not attempting to protect homes and communities that do not conform. It sounds radical, but it's really what we're doing now by default. There is no help for California. Forcing them to rebuild, if at all, in survivable space would be a good first step for all our sakes.

—By Frank Carroll

My mother's tubeless turkey

It has been said the celebration of Thanksgiving in the 21st Century is defined by the four Gs. On Thanksgiving Day most families in America will Gather, Gab and Gobble, after which they will watch the Game...and then gobble some more...until they wobble.

It wasn't that way in our house when I was a growing up, at least not the "game" part. We weren't football people in the Burtz household—in fact we weren't sports people at all. So, after Santa cruised in at the end of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the TV was generally turned off for the rest of the day.

The other factor in that holiday TV-free zone was the fact that my parents weren't big TV people either. About the only thing they ever watched was "The Big News in KELOLAND" every night at 10 o'clock. But the minute anchorman Steve Hemmingsen said good night, my dad would shut it off "before somebody got killed" in one of those late-night crime dramas they used to show on CBS.

My mother especially had a love/hate relationship with the television. She hated pretty much everything that came on and loved to complain about it.

I don't know if she ever actually used the terms "idiot box" or "boob tube"



but she didn't miss it by much. She was forever referring to something I was watching as "that dumb show" or calling the set itself a "stupid thing." That same disdain could be seen in her nickname for my favorite TV comedienne Carol Burnett who was, to Mom, "Old Horse Face."

I think my mom, who had grown up during the Great Depression, felt the television represented a disruption of the peace and tranquility of our home. (Funny. The older I get, the more I tend to agree with her on that.) Her other gripe with it was that it quashed a sense of community, face-to-face interactions and old-fashioned neighborly socializing.

My sister and I both recall asking her on various occasions why we didn't go visiting our cousins on the next farm more often as we sometimes did when one of our out-of-state relatives would come for a visit.

"The last time we did that the old television was on and they never turned it off so we didn't really visit," she would reply disdainfully.

In the fall of 1972 my folks moved an old one-

room schoolhouse to a spot along the White River about a mile from our home and renovated it into a kind of family lodge. "The Cabin," as we affectionately called it, was characterized mostly by what it lacked. It had no electricity, no running water (unless you count pumping a bucket of water at the well a few yards away and running it back to cabin), no telephone and—especially dear to the heart of my mom—no television.

It was used for many years by our family and lots of others for church picnics, Halloween hayride parties, a hunting lodge and—from that year on—old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinners.

There wasn't even sheet rock on the walls that first Thanksgiving when we took our turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie to the cabin for our celebration. But what a time we had of feasting, gabbing and playing checkers or a pocket knife game Dad called "Mumbley-peg!"

For my mother, I'm sure it was a serene and nostalgic respite—a throwback to the simpler days of her childhood. It was also a day without the jangling interruption of the TV.

Over the next 20-plus years my folks ate Thanksgiving dinner at the cabin more often than not, usually opening it up to extended family members and friends as well.

I remember one of those celebrations vividly, mostly because it highlighted the real reason my mom went to all the trouble of baking the turkey and sweet potatoes at home and then packing it all up to take to the cabin for dinner.

That particular year, some members of our extended family had come to spend the day with us. It was a pleasant fall day and we enjoyed our midday feast in the cabin as usual and then most of us settled back into a food coma before perhaps playing a board game or taking a quiet walk down to the riverside.

However, instead of resting, my cousins began to get busy. Someone opened a window and began to snake an electrical cord out to a nearby car. Somebody else set up a small table. Then, in came a portable TV on which they proceeded to watch one of the Thanksgiving bowl games.

True to her generous and outwardly cordial nature, I'm sure Mom didn't make a fuss at the time, but inwardly I know she was—as they say—"fit to be tied!"

And, come to think of it, I'm not sure those particular relatives ever got invited back to Thanksgiving dinner.

Here's wishing you a blessed, simple, old-fashioned Thanksgiving, with or without the boob tube.

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Question of the Week:

"What does Veterans Day mean to you?"

					
Henrietta Hartley — "Honoring the men and women who served our country whole heartedly. Ready to give their lives so we could be free. Thank you all."	Patricia Trumpower — "It means honoring the men and women who served our country. We are very proud of them. My dad served, and my boyfriend is in the service. God bless to all."	Maria May — "I honor my vets every day because I have the awesome pleasure of working for the VA down in Hot Springs! Every day is Veterans Day here."	Suzann Stoner-Wyngaarden — "Freedom."	Sonya Morrisett — "Heroes."	Heather Rystrom — "A day to be grateful to be living in the USA and grateful for what I have."

Custer County Chronicle®
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Deadline for publication on Wednesdays of all advertisements, letters to the editor and copy is 5 p.m. Friday.
Political candidates policy reminder and notice: Each political candidate is given the opportunity to submit or have reported one announcement of the office for which they are running for free, compliments of the Custer County Chronicle. They are allowed letters to the editor submitted by other people at \$7.25 per column inch.

Chronicle Online Poll
 Should daylight savings time be eliminated?
Vote now at
custercountychronicle.com
Last week's question: Should emotional support animals be allowed on airplanes? Yes 45% • No 55%

Bible Verse of the Week
"They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith."
 — 1Peter 2:12

Quote of the Week
"Why do you have to be a nonconformist like everybody else?"
 —James Thurber

Chuckle of the Week
 Why did the scarecrow win an award?
 Because he was out standing in his field.

Life's Little Instructions
 Cherish your children for what they are, not for what you would like them to be.



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Sacrifices remembered

Thirty-year infantry officer recalls sacrifices of military members and families

By Ron Burtz

Retired U.S. Army colonel Terry DeRouche of Hot Springs spent 30 years of his military career shuttling his wife and children to assignments at various places around the globe. So, when he thinks about Veterans Day, his thoughts go to the sacrifices not only of those who have served, but of their loved ones as well.

"I think of the guys who are all over the world," says DeRouche, "whether it's on Veterans Day or on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day, pulling duty somewhere and hoping that somebody's thinking of them back on the mainland."

"When you're pulling duty, whether it's in a fox-hole somewhere or you're at your base or you're out on deployment, you have a lot of time to think," said DeRouche. "Usually everybody's celebrating those days and you're left there to think, 'What am I doing here? What's it costing me?'"

DeRouche knows well those costs. In his 35 years in uniform, he moved his family about every three years, taking assignments in such diverse locations as Korea, Cold War Germany, Argentina and Venezuela. He even spent a year and a half working at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

"We did 18 moves in 30 years," says DeRouche.

"That's a lot to ask a woman to do."

He also says the moving was hard on his son, Joe, and daughter, Garland, who went to three different high schools and graduated in a foreign country.

Born in Huron and graduating from high school in Phoenix, Ariz., DeRouche got rejected in his first application to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, so he joined the Arizona Army National Guard.

His second application to West Point was accepted after he received a nomination from Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Entering the academy in 1974 and graduating in 1978, DeRouche went to Airborne and Army Ranger School and then began his 30 years of service with the infantry, starting as a second lieutenant and retiring as a full colonel.

Near the end of his service, while DeRouche was working at the Pentagon, he put in for retirement, but one day received a call asking him to go to Argentina to teach a war college course.

DeRouche, who speaks fluent Spanish, said he would first need to check with his wife, Leanne, who he assumed was tired of being bounced around by the military.

To his surprise, she responded, "Yeah, I'd love to go." He says over the years she had become

accustomed to the nomadic life of a military family.

That was not to be their final move, either. After over a year in Argentina, DeRouche accepted an assignment to Caracas, Venezuela, where he spent over three years teaching classes at the infantry school.

DeRouche, who had previously been assigned to the South American country in 1989, says he got to see the nation before and after the rise of communist strongman Hugo Chavez.

"So I got to experience it twice," says DeRouche. "Once when it was kind of sane and the second time when it was kind of going crazy."

DeRouche says the first time he worked in Venezuela, it was a show-place for an emerging democracy in the Southern Hemisphere with a thriving economy because of oil revenues and "making really great progress."

"The second time, Chavez was trying to socialize everything and I got to see the deterioration of a lot of institutions like the military and the parliament," said DeRouche.

His last assignment was teaching at the Army War College in Carlisle, Penn., for a year and a half.

Having purchased property in Hot Springs in 2005 (Partly because it's the warmest place in South Dakota which was important to Tennessee-raised



Terry DeRouche

Leanne), DeRouche retired and moved to the Black Hills to await a life-saving liver transplant made necessary by a genetic liver disease.

After the successful transplant surgery in Omaha in September 2010, DeRouche felt well enough by the next spring to do volunteer work.

Answering a plea for volunteer drivers to transport injured veterans from the VA in Hot Springs to Crazy Horse for a work therapy program, the retired colonel started making daily trips to the memorial.

There he met Ruth Ziolkowski, whom he refers to as "Mrs. Z," who approached him with an offer of employment.

"Why don't you just drive the guys up here to work as part of their work therapy and stay here and work and then you can drive them back all in one round trip," Ziolkowski asked.

The idea appealed to DeRouche who worked several May-to-October seasons until Ziolkowski asked him to stay a couple of months longer, which he did a couple more years.

Then one year in January, Ziolkowski asked him to work full time at Crazy Horse.

"Mrs. Z, I think you've got me working full-time," laughed DeRouche. He has been working there every day since.

But Crazy Horse is not DeRouche's only tie to Custer. He became a lifetime member of the Custer VFW and earlier this year he was chosen to be grand marshal of the Patriots Parade July 4.

DeRouche says one of the things he appreciates about the Black Hills community is the way the schools and towns go "all out" for Veterans Day.

From having assemblies involving everyone in kindergarten through 12th

grade to inviting vets to have a free lunch at school, DeRouche says, "They do a great job of getting the whole school involved. Every school and every little town has something where the community has an event where most of the people attend."

Another service to veterans about which DeRouche is passionate is Custer's Operation Black Hills Cabin which offers a week-long respite to qualifying wounded veterans from the Iraq/Afghanistan campaigns and their families at little or no expense to them.

"To take the worries and anxieties off the veteran and his family for a week and show them a good time," says DeRouche, "I think that's great!"

For his part, DeRouche has spearheaded a program which collects donated tickets so the veterans can take a van ride to the top of the mountain carving.

"For the last couple of years we've been able to gather enough donated van ride tickets to take every [Black Hills Cabin] veteran to the top," he says.

DeRouche is glad to have an opportunity to help other veterans get their lives back on track after an injury or other trauma, which sometimes amounts to just listening to their stories without prying.

"They'll talk when they're ready," he says.



CHIEF PILOT AND NEW DRONE — Dale Obenauer is the chief pilot for the \$30,000 drone purchased this year for Search and Rescue. It is equipped with two cameras, one high definition that can read a license plate from 1,000 feet away and another with dual visual and infrared capabilities that can detect heat on the ground.



SAR OFFICERS — Custer County Search and Rescue held an open house last Monday in its new headquarters on Montgomery Street. Officers for the organization are, from left, Sam Smolnisky, training coordinator; Teresa Obenauer, treasurer and field training officer; Rick March, director; and Dale Obenauer, secretary and chief drone pilot. March said the event was very successful with 12 new member applications and several who took forms with them. [CCC/Photos/CHARLEY NAJACHT]



REMINISCING — Ralph Kelley, right, visits with Search and Rescue member Paul Horsted about the beginning of the organization in 1973 following the American Indian Movement attempts to burn the Custer County Courthouse in February of that year. Kelley was an original member and said it was started with "nothing, no equipment, nothing."



FUTURE SAR GARAGE — An aerial drone shot shows the outline of the new 40'x60' building being constructed on the east side of the present SAR headquarters that will house nearly all of their vehicles and equipment. It will have four bays, two of which will be drive-through.

Bison prices drop at auction

By Jason Ferguson

The Custer State Park Fall Classic Buffalo Auction brought in \$605,250 last weekend, down around \$80,000 from 2018.

Prices were down across the board for the 12 classes of buffalo offered, with drops averaging between 26 percent up to 45 percent for light heifer calves.

"Prices were unfortunately down this year," said Kobee Stalder, visitor services program manager at Custer State Park. "Markets like the bison industry fluctuate; some years are up and some years are down. You aren't always going to have an up year."

The top-performing animals this year were the 2-year-old breeding bulls, which commanded \$2,945.45 per animal for the 11 that were sold. The next highest animal on average were the mature bred cows, which averaged \$2,150 for the 27 that were sold. There were 437 buffalo sold at the auction.

Stalder said the 2-year-old breeding bulls were sold

individually as choice animals and the highest breeding bull sold for \$4,100.

"Most private ranchers are looking for new genetics and when you only need one breeding bull per 10 cows, they are willing to spend a little more money on them, especially when you are getting genetics from a herd such as at Custer State Park," Stalder said. "Last year our bull prices were high as well, so it seems to be a new trend for us, as normally our bred cows are our highest sellers."

Other averages for the auction were \$1,359.68 for mature open cows, \$2,007.50 for 2-year-old bred heifers, \$1,550 for 2-year-old open heifers, \$1,334.05 for yearling heifers, \$812.30 for light heifer calves, \$900 for heavy heifer calves, \$1,109.77 for light bull calves, \$1,125 for heavy bull calves, \$1,591.18 for yearling bulls and \$1,928.13 for 2-year grade bulls.

There were 50 registered bidders, with 24 bidding in person and 26 online. They

ranged from 12 different states, including New Jersey, Tennessee and California.

Stalder said even though prices were down this year, there were new buyers, and years like this allow new private ranchers to get into the industry who otherwise might not.

For the past 54 years, the park has made its surplus bison available for sale to the private sector. A significant amount of park revenue comes from the bison sale and goes toward park

operations.

"The funds help support the park, going back into our operating budget, so of course we are always wishing revenue is high for the auction, but we are also about conservation and preservation of the North American bison and we want to do our part to support the goal of 'Bison One Million,' which is the hope of having one million bison roaming in conservancies, ranches, parks, etc., all across the continent," Stalder said.

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B-21 expected to impact Hermosa

By Ron Burtz

The new B-21 bomb wing coming to Ellsworth Air Force Base east of Rapid City could have a major impact on enrollments at Hermosa School and that's one of the reasons the Custer School District is eager to get started with building a new elementary school in the town along Hwy. 79. That was one of the points being made by district board members and administrators at a public information meeting held at Hermosa Monday night.

Superintendent Mark Naugle told the crowd of about 30 assembled in the Hermosa School gym that Douglas School at Ellsworth is preparing for an increase of 1,500 students adding that "some will come our way."

Another factor in the need for the new facility, according to school officials, is the fact that the population of eastern Custer county is booming, thanks to a number of housing developments being built along the Hwy. 79 corridor. Naugle said that since he came to the district five years ago, enrollments in Hermosa school have increased 25% and projections are for increases to continue, especially in grades K-5.

"I want this to be the last time we build in Hermosa until we're ready to build a high school," said Naugle. "Hermosa is my highest priority. We have to do something here."

After introductory remarks, Naugle had the group break itself up into

three sub-groups and move to other rooms to allow for more opportunity for questions and discussion.

The first group focused on the financing of the project which Naugle said will most likely not involve a bond election. He explained that a traditional bond election asks the taxpayers in the district to raise their own taxes and needs a 60-percent supermajority to pass.

He said the second option—the issuing of capital outlay certificates—will not raise taxes because it allows the project to be paid for through the capital outlay assessment the district is already receiving.

School board member Jared Carson explained the plan uses the assessed valuation of property owned by the district—currently estimated at nearly \$1-billion—as security for the loans.

In a second group, which met in the school's band room, participants were shown preliminary plans for the project. Representatives of the design team, Architects Inc. were on hand to answer questions about the proposed 60,000-square-foot building to be constructed on the west side of the existing school. It was explained that the new facility will be an addition to the current building instead of a completely separate structure. This will be facilitated through the closing of Fifth Street which runs along the west side of the building, which the Hermosa Town Board has already acted to vacate.

Planners showed two options for the building which will house grades K-5. The first option is a single story structure on the same level as the existing school. Option No. 2 would be a two-story building with the ground floor at the same level as the current building and the second story being a walkout to Main Street/Hwy. 40.

Architect Jeremy Altman explained that the second story would house the older students and would have an access to the playground which is proposed to be a gated area on the west side of the school.

Both plans include a new and larger gym with a separate after-hours entrance and larger lobby and concessions area, a new music room with higher ceilings and a larger kitchen area (though not a new kitchen).

The "Why?" group, as it was called, was intended to discuss the reasons behind the expansion plan. School board president Heather Grace assisted by board member Travis Hartshorn of Hermosa explained that the new school would have a capacity of 440 students and is being planned with additional room to accommodate expected growth over at least the next 10 years.

A major point of discussion among participants in this group was the possibility of a high school for Hermosa. School officials have said this is part of their long-range goal, however, the new elementary school is the immediate need.

"Rapid City is growing to the south which will

impact Hermosa," said Grace.

Hermosa businessman and former school board member Brian Lintz pointed out that Rapid City schools are becoming overcrowded as well and have been shutting down open enrollments. He suggested that when and if Hermosa does get a high school marketing should be done to attract students from Rapid City.

One of the participants in the meeting, Dan Holsworth of the Hermosa town board, said in the forum at the end of the nearly 90-minute meeting that the town has been working hand-in-hand with the district on this project and wants to see it progress.

"This is the most exciting project in Hermosa for the last 20 years," said Holsworth.

The turnout for the meeting by members of the public was disappointing for school officials. Between school board members, administrators and representatives of the design and construction companies, there were nearly half as many presenters as the approximately 30 audience members.

Constituents on both sides of the county will get three more opportunities to gain information and give input on the project. Public meetings are set for the Custer High School Commons on Tuesday, Nov. 12 and Monday, Dec. 2. A second meeting will be held in Hermosa on Monday, Nov. 25. All of the meetings will start at 6 p.m.



WITCH CANDY BATGIRL? — Trick-or-treaters peruse the offerings outside Western Skies Real Estate in downtown Custer during Merchants Trick-or-treat last Thursday. From left are Presley Mattson and Penny Whiting. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

Capitol to implement safety measures

Secretary Craig Price and the Department of Public Safety announced that a new safety measure designed to keep South Dakota's state capitol building safe and accessible to the public will begin this fall.

A security screening room will be constructed near the capitol's north entrance and located in office space occupied by the Bureau of Human Resources Classifications Division. Those employees have relocated to another space.

"We have designed the screening process to be the least intrusive as possible

and allow people to go about their capitol business," Price said.

"Our state capitol is the people's house and this project ensures everyone who visits the building has a safe, positive experience while enjoying its historic beauty," said Gov. Kristi Noem.

Once the security screening room is completed, visitors will enter through the north doors and be directed into the screening room. Signage will help direct visitors what to do and inform them of what items are not allowed in the capitol.

Germans from Russia offer membership

The "Germans from Russia" group in Rapid City has offered free membership for 2020 for all new members interested in the history of this group of immigrants who settled in the Midwest in the 1800s.

Recent programs have included that of the Swiss-Germans, fleeing persecution, finding a new home in Ukraine at the invitation of Catherine the Great for 100 years; the land and home of a current farmer in Ukraine; Germans in

Ukraine used to build the collective farms during Stalin's regime in the 1930s.

"I loved the 1930 film that pictured both horses and camels pulling farm wagons in that sandy soil. Logs were used, floated down the river, to build these collective farms that still stand, deserted since 1990," said member Lois Wells.

Call Wells at 673-2591 for more information.

Fire contained in Hermosa

The Battle Creek Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire at 14336 Usera Dr. in Hermosa last Thursday. Upon arrival, firefighters observed a fire in an out-building. The fire was contained to the structure, stopping the spread of the flames to nearby infrastructure and other improve-

ments. The structure received extensive damage. No injuries to firefighters, civilians or domestic animals were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Custer County Sheriff's Office and the South Dakota State Fire Marshall's Office.

Crews to burn slash

Forest managers across the Black Hills National Forest are focusing efforts on burning thousands of

hand and machine slash piles. Piles are created from timber sale slash and tree thinning operations.

Smoke will be visible and may impact local communities across the Black Hills for the next several months. Smoldering material may continue to burn days after burning operations are completed. Crews will continue to burn as conditions permit. Firefighters continually monitor and check the piles for several days after they have been lit.

Burning operations will continue throughout the fall and winter as conditions permit.

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Seventh Judicial Circuit Court News

Court Cases
Aug. 12-16

Gerald E. Mestl, Davey, Neb., illegal passing in no pass zone, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$54, \$68.50 court costs.
 John D. Todd, Custer, seat belt violation, Highway Patrol (HP), guilty by POA, fined \$25.
 William G. Trevillyan, Valley Springs, speeding on a state highway, Police Department (PD), guilty by POA, fined \$59, \$68.50 court costs.
 Kenneth L. Keske, Chicago, Ill., speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.
 Lowell S. Johnson, Worthing, municipal speeding, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$45, \$62.50 court costs.
 Tanner M. Dutton, Del Norte, Colo., speeding on a state highway, PD, guilty by POA, fined \$59, \$68.50 court costs.
 Nathaniel Youngblood, Custer, speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$99, \$68.50 court costs.
 Phillip E. Acton, Custer,

speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$19, \$68.50 court costs.
 Victor R. Jorae, Summerset, speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.
 Jared J. Schmit, Nenzel, Neb., speeding on a state highway, PD, guilty by POA, fined \$99, \$68.50 court costs.
 Donald W. Dutton, Jr., Walsenburg, Colo., speeding on a state highway, PD, guilty by POA, fined \$59, \$68.50 court costs.
 Tony L. Jones, Custer, start open fire in Black Hills without a permit, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$54, \$68.50 court costs.
 Charlotte E. Johnson, Custer, municipal speeding, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$25, \$62.50 court costs.
 Brianna L. Clemetson, Keystone, speeding on a state highway, HP, guilty by POA, fined \$19, \$68.50 court costs.
 Kodesh O. Stendal, Custer, speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$59, \$68.50 court costs.

Terry L. Roedel, Emeryville, Calif., illegal u-turn, HP, guilty by POA, fined \$54, \$68.50 court costs. Seat belt violation, guilty by POA, fined \$25.
 Peggy A. Smith, Custer, speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$19, \$68.50 court costs.
 Rosa J. Velasco-Ruiz, Custer, speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$99, \$68.50 court costs. Renewal registration during assigned month, guilty by POA, fined \$54, \$68.50 court costs.
 Mercedes C. Sim, Chipley, Fla., speed on four-lane in rural areas, HP,

guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.
 Kimberly S. Glynn, Lakeville, Minn., speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.
 Petyon P. Wood, Holly Springs, N.D., speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$19, \$68.50 court costs.
 Blaze C. Harris, Custer, seat belt violation, HP, guilty by POA.
 Tyrel C. White Buffalo, Ethete, seat belt violation,

HP, guilty by POA, fined \$25.
 Anette M. Butler, Casper, Wyo., speeding on other roadways, HP, guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.
 Travis J. Olson, Wright, Wyo., speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$19, \$68.50 court costs.
 Edward D. McCulley, Dunnellon, Fla., speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.

Salim Adatia, Farmers Branch, Texas, speeding on other roadways, SO, fined \$19, \$68.50 court costs.
 Joseph A. Bank, Ellicott City, Mo., speed on four lane in rural areas, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$59, \$68.50 court costs.
 Charles Snyder, Rapid City, seat belt violation, HP, guilty by POA, fined \$25.
 Randy L. Hise, Newcastle, Wyo., speeding on other roadways, SO, guilty by POA, fined \$39, \$68.50 court costs.

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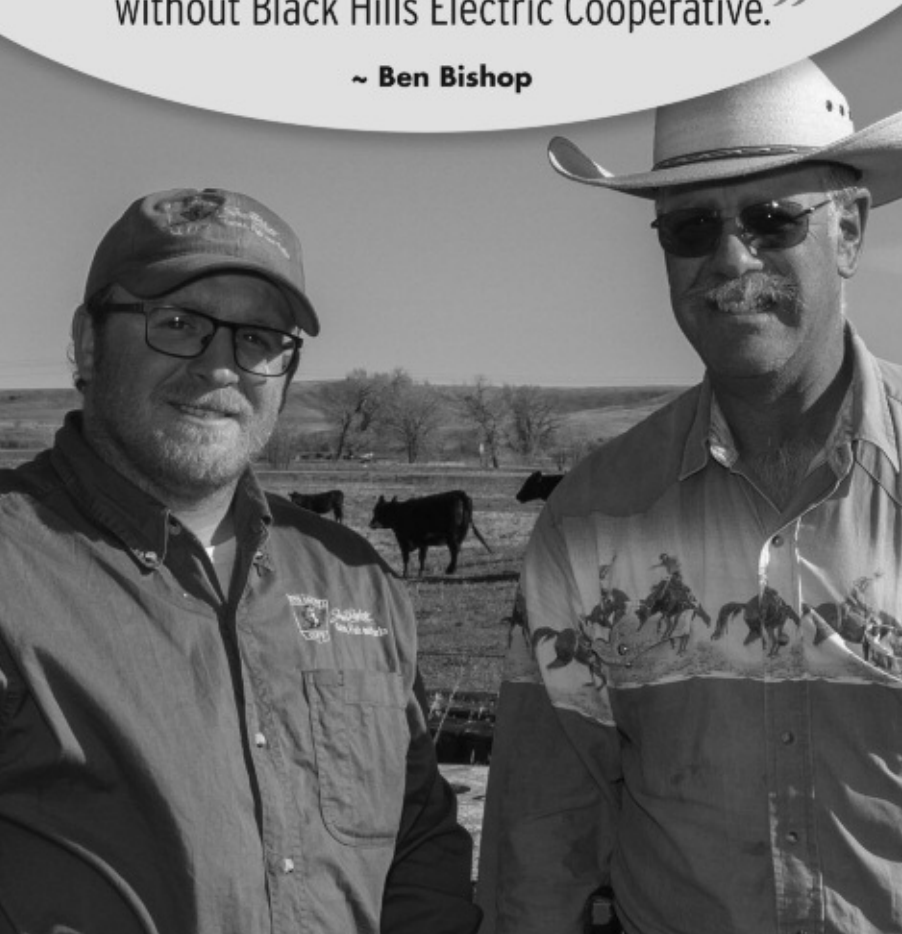
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Sheriff's Log Oct. 26-31

Saturday, Oct. 26

2:22 p.m.: Two cars bumped each other in a non-injurious way at Fifth and Harney Streets in Custer.

6:21 p.m.: Cow problems were reported on Hart Road. This is apparently an ongoing issue in the area.

Snow and wind caused poor road conditions around the Custer County high country. Deputies dealt with various slips and slide-offs throughout the night.

11:01 p.m.: While investigating a non-injury, two-vehicle collision north of Crazy Horse, a deputy discovered the driver had a warrant for their arrest. The 43-year-old Custer male was taken to the Sheriff's Office, where he posted bond and was released.

Sunday, Oct. 27

The 911 Misdeal of the Day: A person mistakenly dialed the emergency number, actually stayed on the line, answered the dispatcher's questions and was pleasant to deal with. Good job!

12:46 a.m.: Deputies responded to a minor vehicle accident in downtown Custer. No one was injured there but they did arrest one of the drivers, a 43-year-old Custer male, on an active warrant.

1:55 p.m.: Possible intentional damage from a misdirected sump pump was investigated in the basement of a residence on Lincoln Street in Custer.

6:43 p.m.: A deputy stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on Gordon Street in Custer. After some investigation, the deputy arrested the driver, a 21-year-old Hill City male, on an active arrest warrant.

Monday, Oct. 28

The 911 Misdeal of the Day: Someone called from a Custer care facility saying they were trying to reach their husband.

1 a.m.: A deputy assisted firefighters with an alarm call on Buck Lane. The alarm was caused by a defective heater in the residence. No damage or injuries resulted.

1:07 p.m.: Here's meth in your eye: Someone turned in an eyeglass case that appeared to contain methamphetamine. If you'd like to claim your "Vitamin M," come see us and we'll give you a "prize."

4:16 p.m.: A deputy assisted with an emergency medical call on America Center Road.

7:15 p.m.: A deputy checked the welfare of a person possibly having mental problems in Custer County. The person was evaluated by a mental health professional.

8:15 p.m.: People with problems were reported on the peak formerly known as Harney. A deputy went to the area only to find the people had apparently made it down the mountain without assistance.

10:45 p.m.: An injured deer was reported on Hwy. 16 west of Custer. Someone dragged it from the roadway before the law got there.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

The 911 Misdeal of the



Sheriff's Log
By
Seth Thompson

Day: The person on the other end of the emergency line reported they were sleeping and rolled over on their phone.

2:09 a.m.: A deputy spent some quality time notifying the owners of cars parked in violation of Custer's snow ordinance to move their vehicles on Mount Rushmore Road.

7:11 a.m.: Some mighty fine school zone patrolling happened in the Custer area.

7:23 a.m.: A poorly parked trailer was perched on the pavement just off Hwy. 385. A deputy contacted the owner to move it.

8:31 a.m.: A deputy checked the welfare of a person on Harbach Lane in Custer. They were apparently fine.

8:52 a.m.: Someone reported a car with its hood up by the side of Hwy. 385 just south of Custer. A deputy went there but the car had dropped its hood and disappeared.

8:56 a.m.: A deputy helped out with teaching a safety program at the Custer Armory.

9:10 a.m.: A deputy hashed out a landlord/tenant thing on Hegg Avenue, in Custer.

1:48 p.m.: A possible case of senior exploitation was reported in Custer County. The report was investigated and deemed unfounded.

2:26 p.m.: Parking problems popped up on Montgomery Street in Custer so a deputy dealt with them.

5:51 p.m.: A brief, low-speed pursuit occurred on Hwy. 89, between deputies and a carload of people who did not "speak a de English" too good, who apparently did not know what red-and-blue lights meant. Once they stopped, some understanding was reached and the people were sent on their way again.

8:14 p.m.: A deputy conducted a spot check of a person on the 24/7 Sobriety Program on Bear Rock Road.

10:27 p.m.: Deputies helped out with an emergency medical call on Hwy. 16A east of Custer.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

4:27 a.m.: 911 calls came from a residence on Hwy. 385 south of Custer. A deputy went there and found everyone at the residence was just fine.

6:10 a.m.: A deputy assisted medical personnel with an emergency ambulance call on Hwy. 16 west of Custer.

7:15 a.m.: A deputy patrolled the Custer school complex.

8:33 a.m.: A deputy helped out with another medical emergency on Wild Rose Lane.

11:05 a.m.: A deputy checked on a stopped motorist just east of Custer only to find them fiddling

with an electronic device.

12:01 p.m.: Two trucks crashed into each other on Medicine Mountain Road. One was loaded with firewood, the other with packages. Thankfully, no one was hurt in the collision. If your package or firewood was late, you now know why.

12:13 p.m.: Phone scammers were at work on Old Sawmill Road. They got nothing from their evil efforts. Nothing!

12:16 p.m.: Loose livestock were gallivanting around the grasslands near Medicine Mountain. The usual folks were found to fetch them.

12:23 p.m.: Theft was reported at a Custer business on north 5th Street. A suspect was identified and charges are pending.

1:59 p.m.: A deputy stopped to check on an abandoned vehicle by the side of Hwy. 79 near Hermosa.

2:02 p.m.: An illicit bonfire was seen on Washington Street in Custer. The fire's operators were dealt with.

3:35 p.m.: A child's playhouse caught on fire next to a trailer on Usera Drive near Hermosa. No one was injured there and the matter is being investigated as an arson.

4:38 p.m.: More fire fun flared up when someone slobbered some kind of combustible compound in the center of Custer's 10th Street and ignited it. Thankfully, no serious damage was done by the non-towering-inferno. Two juvenile suspects were identified and charges may be pending.

7:41 p.m.: Car met deer in a bad way on Carroll Creek Road. No human injuries happened there.

10:08 p.m.: A deputy dealt with a combination suspicious vehicle report and civil matter on Gordon Street in Custer. Everything there was resolved...for now.

Thursday, Oct. 31

9:29 a.m.: Alarms came from a residence on Stagecoach Springs Road. They were false.

10:39 a.m.: A deputy mediated a property easement dispute on VIP Road.

1:33 p.m.: Rogue cattle were roaming the roadway east of Hermosa. The owner was called to corral them.

2:22 p.m.: A "nice, but skittish" German Shepherd turned up in someone's yard on Montgomery Street in Custer. The skittish shepherd was sent to the shelter.

4:22 p.m.: A dead horse was reported on Timber Ridge Road. The cause of its death is under investigation.

4:30 p.m.: Deputies participated in "Merchant Trick-or-Treat" in downtown Custer for Halloween.

A large crowd of ghosts, ghouls, goblins, inflatable tyrannosaurs and a kid dressed like President Trump, complete with orange hair, wandered the downtown area on foot for several hours. Other deputies also conducted traffic enforcement, cross-walk zone patrol and foot patrol to help keep everything running smoothly. A good time was had by all.

5:07 p.m.: Deputies went to Timberline Drive in Pringle for a reported disturbance between a tenant and a landlord. It turned out to be just a big old civil matter.

7:57 p.m.: A vehicle was reportedly driving north in the southbound lanes of Hwy. 79 near Lane Johnny Road. A deputy stopped the vehicle near Hermosa and found the driver was sober but disoriented.

9:22 p.m.: 911 calls came from two different vehicles on Iron Mountain Road that were apparently chasing each other. Deputies stopped both and found that one contained two juveniles who had been "just driving around" and the other contained a suspicious local homeowner "trying to identify" the unknown vehicle driving around the neighborhood.

At one point during the incident the first vehicle's driver lost control and slid off the roadway. No injuries were reported there. Further charges may be pending in this case.

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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



Obituaries

Ronald French

Ronald Howard French was born in Custer, S.D., Feb. 14, 1944, to Beulah and Howard French. He graduated from Edgemont (S.D.) High School in 1963.



Ron French

Football was a big part of Ron's life in high school and college. After graduating from Northern State College in Aberdeen, S.D., he started his teaching career at Lake Andes, S.D.

In 1970 he moved to Faulkton, S.D., where he taught until he retired from teaching in 1994 and moved to Aberdeen, where he was active in Yelduz Shrine and Army Reserve. During his 25 years in the Army Reserve, Ron was

called to active duty for Desert Storm in 1991.

Ron married Jackie Kennedy Groves Feb. 17, 2001. They lived in Aberdeen until 2004 when they moved to Custer. While living in Custer he enjoyed volunteering at Outlaw Ranch.

Ron died Oct. 28, 2019, at Rapid City Regional Hospice House in Rapid City, S.D. He was 75.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Beulah French.

Ron is survived by his brother, Marvin (Joan) French of Hill City, S.D.; and nephews, Christopher and Jason French, both of Severance, Colo.

Funeral services were Nov. 2 at Custer Lutheran Fellowship. Committal services followed at the Custer Cemetery.

Jack Virtue

Jack LeeRoy Virtue was born April 12, 1948, to John and Eva (McCann) Virtue in Custer, S.D. He graduated from



Jack Virtue

Custer High School in 1966. In 1968 he entered the Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam. After his discharge, he spent his work career at various sawmills turning trees into planks.

Upon his return from Vietnam, friends introduced Jack to Carla Middlemas. They were married April 17, 1971, and had two sons, Jason and Corey.

Jack loved his boys and enjoyed watching them participate in football, basketball, track and baseball. He became quite the statistician, a skill he used until his final hospitalization. If one needed any football or baseball stats for any number of teams, Jack was your man.

As the boys grew, got married and had children of their own, Jack proudly cheered on his grandchildren at their many sporting events as well as music concerts until it was too difficult for him to get around.

Jack was an active lifetime member of Custer VFW Post 3442, where he called bingo and served as

Sergeant of Arms. He was a proud Marine and a member of the Custer Honor Guard. He enjoyed traveling, camping, fishing, bike riding and bowling with Carla.

Jack died Nov. 1, 2019, surrounded by family at Regional Health Custer Hospital. He was 71.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Carla; parents; sister, Betty Svanda; and brothers Pat McCann and William McCann.

Jack is survived by his sons, Jason (Connie) and Corey (Jana) Virtue of Custer; grandchildren, Kyle and Brady Virtue of Custer, Treyton (Michelle Harstad) Virtue of Sioux Falls, S.D., Americus Virtue of Little Rock, Iowa, and Torri, Hayden and Rylie Virtue of Custer; sister, Shirley Mann; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. at Custer Lutheran Fellowship with Pastor Deb Grismer officiating. Burial and a luncheon at Custer VFW will follow.

Visitation will be held on Nov. 6 from 5-6 p.m. with a prayer service at 6 p.m. at Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home in Custer.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to purchase a bench in memory of Jack to be placed in the Veterans Park.

Brian Barber

Brian Allen Barber died Oct. 25, 2019, at his residence in Hermosa, S.D. He was 57.

Memorial services are at

2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at Custer (S.D.) Community Church.

A memorial has been established.

Is Homosexuality OK? Yes!

I am writing in response to an article in the Chronicle last week condemning the LGBTQ+ community. I want to assure this community that not all pastors and not all churches feel the way that article portrayed.

As a pastor of Custer Lutheran Fellowship church, I want to share that our congregation in Custer believes that all people are loved, accepted, and welcomed by God. We do not condemn people for who they are, who they were created to be, because God is the one who created them.

One of the statements made in that article was that people in the LGBTQ+ community have a high incidence of being pedophiles, which is not at all true. Also stated was the high rate of suicide among that community, which is true, but not for the reasons stated. The high suicide rate is because of all the hate and condemnation shown to this entire group of people. It is not because they are unhappy with who they are. It's because of how they are treated by society.

I personally have known so many deeply faithful Christian people who identify as LGBTQ+. They have displayed selfless, Christ-like love in their lives, devoting themselves to their savior Christ. I have no doubt that Christ has claimed them as His own, just as Christ claims me. Being LGBTQ+ does not disqualify anyone from being fully Christian. Christ calls all kinds of different people to himself, making His family beautifully diverse.

If you or someone you love is struggling with their sexual identity, or is feeling the condemnation of some in society, know that you are loved by God, and by so many in our community, especially at Custer Lutheran Fellowship. I wish I had space here to publish our full welcome statement. It is hanging in our gathering space at the church, and has recently been shared on our Facebook page. We believe all people are welcome in Christ's church and are loved by God. We celebrate the diversity in our community, and take great joy in sharing God's love and welcome with all. And I am always here to be the voice of Jesus love for you.

Pastor Pam Power
Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Deadline for news and advertising is Friday at 5 p.m.!

27th Annual Christmas For Kids Event
Saturday, Dec. 14th • 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Custer High School
1645 Wildcat Lane
FREE for all Custer County Kids ages 0-10. Games, lunch, meet Santa & Mrs. Claus, and if you were good this year, presents!
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
Register at Lynns, Common Cents, Lost Sock, YMCA Daycare, Grade School, Fresh Start, Family Dollar or call Dani Schade at 517-5147

On a sad note, our Founder, Ann Hamilton, passed away September 9th. Ann & her husband Arvon started Christmas for Kids in 1992. Ann left this charity in great shape and we hope to carry out their work for years to come. Thank you to all who made a donation in Ann's memory. It is greatly appreciated!

Speech contest offers scholarships

Contestants in the 2020 State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech contest are eligible to win a total of \$2,300 in college scholarships.

All South Dakota students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships, which are provided by the East River and Rushmore Electric Power Cooperatives and South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Scholarships are awarded to the top three finalists: first place is \$1,100, second place is \$750 and third place is \$450.

The 2020 contest theme is "What Does a Tree Do for Me?" Contests are coordinated by local conservation districts. Local winners advance to area contests held in seven locations. The top area speakers compete

at the state finals in Pierre April 25.

The contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), in cooperation with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

An entry form and complete list of rules can be found online at sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/educational-programs/resource-conservation-speech-contest/PDF/2020%20Speech-Brochure.pdf

For more information on the Resource Conservation Speech Contest, contact your local conservation district or call Bailey Gullikson, natural resource specialist for the SDDA, at 773-7570.

SILVER RATING — Custer High School student Remington Miklos received a silver rating on his Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) project when he attended the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in July. Miklos and his advisor, Tiffany Newman, were also able to visit Disneyland and Universal Studios and they experienced their first earthquake. Miklos said it was California wishing them a happy Fourth of July. [Submitted Photo]



UNITY DAY — Bo Jacobson had a message for Custer Elementary Students during UNITY Day (kindness/anti-bullying) at Custer Elementary School last week. The message was to smile, be kind, tell the truth and never stop trying to help people do things. [Submitted Photo]

Mettler third at MWC championships

Maria Mettler, a junior at the Air Force Academy, matched the best individual conference finish in Air Force N C A A Division I history Nov. 1 as she placed third at the Mountain West Cross



Maria Mettler

Championships in Logan, Utah. Mettler clocked a 6k time of 20:13.1 to finish third in the 88-runner event and lead the 14th-ranked women to a runner-up finish in the team standings, a placement that equaled the best in program history.

Mettler is the daughter of Custer High School graduate Christy (Young) and Miles Mettler and the granddaughter of Bill and Linda Young of Custer.

School Menus

CUSTER/HERMOSA BREAKFAST
Mon., Nov. 11 - A. French toast sticks w/syrup dipping sauce, B. Smucker's peanut butter & jelly Uncrustable, Cream cheese-stuffed mini-bagels, D. Mini-maple pancake bites, E. Strawberry banana yogurt parfait w/goldfish grahams, fruit choices, cereal choices, toast, juice choices, milk choices.
Tues., Nov. 12 - A. Smucker's peanut butter & jelly Uncrustable, B. Cream-cheese stuffed mini-bagels, C. Mini-maple pancake bites, D. Cini-minis, E. Mini-chocolate chip French toast bites, fruit choices, cereal choices, toast, juice choices, milk choices.
Wed., Nov. 13 - A. Bacon & egg breakfast pizza, B. Smucker's peanut butter & jelly Uncrustable, C. Cream cheese-stuffed mini bagels, D. Mini-maple pancake bites, fruit choices, cereal choices, toast, juice choices, milk choices.
Thurs., Nov. 14 - A. Ultimate chocolate chip breakfast round, B. Smucker's peanut butter & jelly Uncrustable, C. Cream cheese-stuffed mini bagels, D. Mini-maple pancake bites, fruit choices, cereal choices, toast, juice choices, milk choices.
CUSTER/HERMOSA LUNCH
Mon., Nov. 11 - A. Roasted turkey, B. Chicken

nuggets, C. Asian salad w/roasted flatbread, classic green bean casserole, mashed potatoes w/gravy, fruit & veggie bar, frosted pumpkin bar, milk choices.
Tues., Nov. 12 - A. Classic beefy chili w/crackers, B. Corn dog, C. Fresh-baked turkey club sub, candied carrots, fruit & veggie bar, milk choices.
Wed., Nov. 13 - A. Beef stroganoff, B. Pork fritter sandwich, C. Chef salad w/roasted flatbread, peas, Southwestern potato salad, dinner roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk choices.
Thur., Nov. 14 - A. Pizza Hut pizza, B. Taco burger, C. Roasted ham & cheddar deli wrap, golden corn, fruit & veggie bar, gelatin dessert, milk choices.
CRUISIN' CAFE HIGH SCHOOL ONLY
Mon., Nov. 11 - A. Italian meatball sub, B. Crispy chicken nuggets, potato salad, baked Sun Chips, fruit & veggie bar, Sunny Delight, milk choices.
Tues., Nov. 12 - A. Pepperoni pizza burger, B. Chicken Philly cheesesteak, baked Lay's chips, fruit & veggie bar, Sunny Delight, milk choices.
Wed., Nov. 13 - A. Golden crispy chicken sandwich, B. Bacon cheeseburger, baked beans, baked Lay's chips, fruit & veggie bar, Sunny Delight, milk choices.
Thur., Nov. 14 - Cruisin' Cafe Closed.

Sports and Fine Arts Schedule

CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL

Nov. 7: Volleyball, Region 8A Tournament Continues @ High Seed, 6 p.m.

Nov. 8: Football, Class A Semifinals

Nov. 9: Knowledge Bowl, Finals, 9 a.m., Central High School, Rapid City

Nov. 12: Volleyball, Round of 16

Nov. 14: Football, Class A State Championship @ South Dakota State University, Brookings

Nov. 21-23, Class A State Volleyball Tournament, @ Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City

Sponsored by



Black Hills Electric Cooperative
25178 Cooperative Way, Custer • 673-4661

Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE IN CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIV: 19-84 STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

COUNTY OF CUSTER

In the Matter of the Petition of Matthew James Fillo

For a Change of Name to Matthew James Priest

South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the court. Anyone may come and appear at that time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2019, at Custer, South Dakota.

Clerk of Court
 ATTEST:
 Clerk of Court
 By: Deputy
 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS:

Date: October 17, 2019

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 34CFR300.573, school districts must notify parents when the information contained in their child's special education records is

Continued on next page —

I Want You

... veterans, your families, and the community to attend the

25TH Annual Custer School District Veterans Day Program

Mon., Nov. 11 • 2 pm • Custer Armory

What is a Veteran?

A Veteran - whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to our nation the United States of America for an amount "up to and including their life."

Custer American Legion Post 46



BUGLIN' BULL
RESTAURANT AND SPORTS BAR




Prime Rib Friday & Saturday Nights Only

New Winter Menu!

Look for the Return of Local Favorites!

Happy Hour Wed.-Fri. • 3-6pm

BUGLINBULL.COM



OPEN Wednesday - Sunday 11AM - 8PM

Sports Bar is open later

511 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 605-673-4477

BOOK SALE

CUSTER SENIOR CENTER

• 300 books to choose from • Wide assortment of topics

FRIDAY • Nov. 8 10AM TO 4PM

Custer High School Athlete of the Week



Shelby Gramko

The Custer County Chronicle has named senior Shelby Gramko as this week's Athlete of the Week. Girls volleyball coaches Miranda Jaure and Jill Hohn recognized Gramko for her great defense and offense in the final game against Lead/Deadwood and her consistent play throughout the regular season.

Premier FAMILY EYECARE
322 Mt. Rushmore Rd. • Custer
Walk-ins & New Patients Welcome
673-2716
www.visionsource-custer.com
Vision Source

DID YOU KNOW?

All classified ads placed in the Western Trader are also placed on the internet!



custercountychronicle.com

The Best is coming January 2020!

Call now to reserve your businesses' ad in this keepsake edition!

Deadline for news, ads and legals is Friday at 5 p.m.!

Subscribe to the Custer County Chronicle!
673-2217

BECAUSE THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW

Continued from previous page —

no longer needed to provide public educational services to the child. This is public notification to parents or eligible students (students who are of legal age except where guardianship or conservatorship has been established) of the District's intent to destroy all special education records, except for archival information such as name, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grades completed and number of years completed for its own records based upon federal law, for those students ages 24 and older.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request a copy of these records at a reasonable copying fee. Please contact the building principal at your child's school by (insert date) if you wish to arrange for a copy. Custer School District 16-1 Special Education Department 527 Montgomery Street Custer, SD 57730 Telephone 605-673-2171 Request for copies must be received by November 1, 2019. These records will be destroyed after November 1, 2019. Published three times at the total approximate cost of \$38.25. Represents 1/000003rd of the total budget.

10/23,10/30, 11/6

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

AND NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Probate File No: 19-25 STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Jane Mary Rausch, Deceased

Notice is given that on October 3, 2019, Charles F. Rausch, whose address is 602 Dilger Street, Rapid City SD 57701, was appointed as personal representative of the estate of Jane M. Rausch. Creditors of decedent must file their claims by January 31, 2019, or 60 days after the mailing or delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or their claims may be barred. Claims may be filed with the personal representative or may be filed with the clerk, and a copy of the claim mailed to the personal representative. Dated this ____ day of __, 2019.

Charles F. Rausch 602 Dilger Street Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 391-7556

Custer County Clerk of Courts 420 Mount Rushmore Road, Custer, SD 57730-1934 (605) 673-4816

10/30, 11/6, 11/13

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF NO PERSONAL CLAIM

IN CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FILE NO. 16CIV19-000027 STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

JAMES M. BIALOTA, JR., Plaintiff, vs.

HOPE J. KRANZLER; JOY R. NACE; BERTA G. BROWN; DAWN B. LAKE; MATTHEW W. MATTOX; ILONA MCDILL; THE HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, ADMINISTRATORS, OR CREDITORS OF FLORENCE) JEWELL MATTOX, DECEASED; AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN OR UPON THE PREMISES AS IS DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, Defendants.

THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA SENDS GREETINGS TO ALL DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED:

You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Plaintiff's Complaint to quiet title, a copy of which Complaint is attached, which was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court, 420 Mount Rushmore Road, #117, Custer, Custer County, South Dakota, 57730, on the 25th day of April, 2019, which prays for a judgment quieting the title to and the determination of all adverse claims against the premises described in the Complaint, situate in said County, to wit: Tract High View of Tract A.P. Anderson Part of Mineral Survey #1954, Section 27, Township 3 South, Range 4 East of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint on the undersigned attorney at his office in Rapid City, South Dakota, within thirty (30) days after the completed service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer said Complaint within that time, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF NO PERSONAL CLAIM

The general object of this action is to have the Court declare that Plaintiff is the rightful holder of title to the property described above in fee simple, and to quiet title to the Plaintiff. No personal claim is made against any defendant in this action; however, if any Defendant on whom this Notice is served unreasonably defends this action, Defendant may be responsible for all or a portion of the costs and disbursements incurred by the Plaintiff. Dated this 25th day of April, 2019.

SMOOT & UTZMAN, P.C. /s/ Alan L. Smoot

Attorney for Plaintiff 14 St. Joseph Street, Suite 200C / PO Box 899 Rapid City, SD 57709-0899 (605) 341-5080 alsmoot@rushmore.com 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

SUMMONS

IN CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 16 Civ 19-000066 STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

BRENT VEURINK and MATT VANZEE Plaintiffs, vs.

BRENAN ROETZEL, AAA COLLECTIONS, INC., LPS, INC., And heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives, or creditors, and all persons who have or claim to have, any interest or estate in, claim to, or lien or encumbrance upon the premises described in the Summons and Complaint, or any part thereof, and all persons unknown who may have or claim to have any estate or interest in or lien or encumbrance upon such real property or any part thereof, Defendants.

The State of South Dakota, to the Above-Named Defendants: Brendan Roetzel, 25114 Little Italy RD, Custer, South Dakota 57730 AAA Collections Inc., PO Box 881, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105 LPS, Inc., 675 West Mt. Rushmore RD, Custer, South Dakota 57730

Heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives, creditors, all interested person(s), addresses unknown

You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff, which was filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court, in the town of Custer in Pennington County, South Dakota, on the 21st day of August, 2019, and which prays for a judgment quieting the title to and the determination of all adverse claims against the premises described in the complaint, situated in said county, to wit:

Lot 2 of Tompkins Subdivision, located in the NE1/4NW1/4 of Section 27, Township 3 South, Range 4 east of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota. (Book 7 of Plats, Page 13) (DOE# 4748).

You are required to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint on the undersigned at his office at 550 N. Main St., Rapid City, SD 57701 within thirty days after the completed service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer said complaint within that time, the Plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated this 21st day of August 2019. PASQUALUCCI LAW OFFICE

/s/ Robert D. Pasqualucci Robert D. Pasqualucci Attorney at Law 550 N. 5th St Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 721-8821 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

OF CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Community Meetings on the Proposed Hermosa School Building Expansion Project Tuesday, November 12th, 6:00 PM at Custer High School Commons

Monday, November 25th, 6:00 PM at Hermosa School Gymnasium

Monday, December 2nd, 6:00 PM at Custer High School Commons

Published once at an approximate cost of \$.

11/6

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

UPON APPLICATIONS FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

UPON APPLICATION for the sale of alcoholic beverage, notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Custer City, Custer County, South Dakota will hear and consider all applications for the sale of liquor and wine, at a meeting of the City Council to be held on the 18th day of November, 2019, in the Council Chambers of City Hall in said City at 5:30 p.m. of said day. Application to be considered for renewal pursuant to SDCL 35-4 is as follows:

AJ's Ore Car Saloon - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider Bavarian Inn - Convention Center (On Sale) Liquor

Begging Burro - Retail (On Sale) Liquor - Restaurant Black Hill Burgers & Bun - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Best Western - Buffalo Ridge Inn - Convention Center (On Sale) Liquor

Buffalo Ridge Adventures - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Buglin' Bull Restaurant/ WR Hospitality - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Buglin' Bull Restaurant/ WR Hospitality - Retail (On Sale) Liquor - Restaurant

Captain's Table - Retail (On Sale) Liquor

Custer Beacon - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Custer Wolf - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Dakota Cowboy - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider Denial South Dakota/Swan Song LLC - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider Dollar General - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider Family Dollar - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine & Cider Frontier Bar & Grill - Retail (On Sale) Liquor

Gold Pan Saloon - Retail (On Sale) Liquor

Lynn's Dakotamart - Package (Off Sale) Liquor

Mt. Rushmore Brewing Company - Retail (On Sale) Liquor

Mt. Rushmore Brewing Company - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Bradstreet Enterprises - Pizza Work - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine & Cider

Rocky Knolls Golf Course - Retail (On Sale) Liquor

Sage Creek Grille - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Skogen Kitchen LLC - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

The Rock Room & Garden - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Kenneth Kuper VFW Post 3442 - Retail (On Sale) Liquor

Yesway #1173 - Package (Off-Sale) Liquor

Yesway #1173 - Retail (On-Off Sale) Wine and Cider

Any person or persons interested either for or against the granting of any such application may appear at the time and place above stated. Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the City Finance Officer no less than 24 hours prior to this meeting to make necessary arrangements.

Dated this 1st day of Nov 2019. /s/Sydney Gramkow Deputy Finance Officer

Published once at an approximate cost of \$31.83. Represents 1/000004th of the total budget.

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING, BOARD RETREAT - OCTOBER 14, 2019

(Please note: Unless stated otherwise, motions were carried by seven.)

The Custer School District #16-1 Board of Education met on Monday, October 14, 2019, in the Custer Board Room, for the purpose of the annual retreat. Board members present were Jeff Barnes, Jared Carson, Heather Grace, Travis Hartshorn, Michelle Lehman, Bob Morgan and Jeff Prior. Administrators present were Superintendent Mark Naugle and Business Manager Lisa Fluck.

CALL TO ORDER Grace called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Motion Lehman, second Carson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

DISC PERSONALITY ASSESSMENTS Naugle outlined DISC personality assessments of board members.

BOARD GOALS The board reviewed and updated its 2017-2019 goals.

Motion Hartshorn, second Prior to declare the special meeting in recess until after the regular business meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 5:56 p.m. at which time Carson left the meeting. The board conducted its regular business meeting. (See minutes of the October 14, 2019 regular meeting.)

DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED The board was declared back in session for the purpose of the annual retreat at 7:26 p.m. and continued the review of goals. (Carson absent for the remainder of the retreat.) No formal action was taken during the retreat.

ADJOURNMENT Motion Lehman, second Morgan to declare the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried, 6/0.

Heather Grace, Board President

Lisa J. Fluck, Business Manager

Published once at an approximate cost of \$18.39. Represents 1/000002nd of the total budget. 11/6

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - OCTOBER 14, 2019

(Please note: Unless stated otherwise, motions were carried by six.)

The Custer School District #16-1 Board of Education met on Monday, October 14, 2019, in the Custer Board Room. Board members present were Jeff Barnes, Heather Grace, Travis Hartshorn, Michelle Lehman, Bob Morgan and Jeff Prior. Administrators present were Superintendent Mark Naugle, Business Manager Lisa Fluck, Principals Lori Enright, Barb Paulson and Orion Thompson, Special Ed Director Eve Trandem and Director of Buildings and Grounds Joe Uhrich.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Grace called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Motion Lehman, second Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS The Custer Boys Golf Team placed 7th at the State A Golf Tournament in Vermillion on Oct. 7-8.

OPEN FORUM No speakers.

CONSENT AGENDA Motion Morgan, second Barnes to approve minutes of the 09/05/2019 special meeting and the 09/09/2019 regular meeting; October claims; personnel report; open enrollment applications; substitute and volunteer list; and to acknowledge receipt of the public school exemption report and enrollment report. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL REPORT APPOINTMENTS: Tammy Webster, Hermosa SpEd Para - 7.5 hrs/day IV IV+, \$12/hr - 5 hrs/day, \$12.72 - 7 hrs/day, 9/10/19; Katie Hunzeker, CHS Assistant Volleyball Coach, \$2,640, 9/12/19; Chasen Cole, Jr High Wrestling

Coach, \$1650, 9/12/19; Steve Eggers, Golf - Boys Assistant Coach, \$990, 9/12/19; Catherine Halliday, 1-Yr Temp Yearbook Co-Advisor, \$1320, 9/24/19; Verona Klimek, CHS SpEd Paraprofessional (IV) - 7.75 hrs/day, \$12/hr, 9/13/19; Patricia Evans, CHS 1-Yr Temp Paraprofessional - 7.75/hr - (III), \$12.50/hr, 10/14/19; Elizabeth Gangel, CES Temporary Gr 2 Teacher (MA/9) - (approx.. 105.5 days remaining/\$273.16/day), \$42,340/yr, 11/11/19.

RESIGNATIONS: Jodi Somers, CES Gr 2 Teacher, 10/31/19; Tammy Webster, Hermosa SpEd Paraprofessional, 10/10/19

CHANGE OF STATUS: Nora Smolnisky, CHS Yearbook Advisor - \$2801, 1-yr Temp Yearbook Co-Advisor, \$1400.50, 9/24/19; Sarah Brashear, Same + .25 hrs/day + .50 hrs/day for Bus duties = 8.25 hrs/day, SpEd Para up to (IV+) 4 hrs/day, \$13.10/hr (IV) - 4.25 hrs/day, \$13.82/hr (IV+) - 4 hrs/day, 9/11/19; Jordan Cullum, up to 4 hrs of 7.75 hrs (IV+) IV - \$12.50/hr, IV+ - \$13.22/hr, SpEd Para (IV) 7.75 hrs/day, \$12.50/hr, 9/11/19; Laura Marchand, SpEd Para IV - 3 hrs/day, SpEd Para IV+ - 2 hrs/day, SpEd Para up to 3.5 hrs/day IV+, \$16.02/hr (IV+), \$15.30/hr (IV).

Lane Changes 2019-2020: Sandy Arsenault, District Integrationist / Librarian, BA+15, \$40,211, BA+24, \$41,015, 2%

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WAIVER AUTHORIZATION There were no requests for waivers pursuant to SDCL 3-23-3.

FACILITIES Naugle recommended holding four public meetings on the Hermosa building project in addition to building and finance committee meetings over the next six weeks. The goal would be for the board to make a decision at the December regular meeting on moving forward with the project, potentially beginning the bid letting process in the spring of 2020.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE Following are the financial status reports of accounts with September 1, 2019 beginning balances and ending balances as of September 30, 2019. GENERAL FUND: Cash and investments of \$1,625,586.45, plus receipts of \$116,728.13 less disbursements of \$626,037.73 leaves balance of \$1,116,276.85. CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND: Cash and investments of \$1,360,633.03, plus receipts of \$25,183.68 less disbursements of \$85,370.53 leaves balance of \$1,300,446.18. SPECIAL EDUCATION: Cash and investments of \$470,362.54 plus receipts of \$18,081.11 less disbursements of \$113,134.75 leaves balance of \$375,308.90. IMPACT AID FUND: Cash and investments of \$4,112,652.67. FOOD SERVICE FUND: Cash of \$77,543.64, plus receipts of \$22,349.81 less disbursements of \$56.33, leaves balance of \$99,837.12. OTHER ENTERPRISE FUND: Cash of \$6,546.67 plus receipts of \$280 leaves balance of \$6,826.67. TRUST & AGENCY FUND: Balance of \$102,431.46, plus receipts of \$25,109.93, less disbursements of \$29,548.74 leaves balance of \$97,992.65.

CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION / OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS The board reviewed a request for approval from High School Teacher Tiffany Newman for student travel. Motion Morgan, second Lehman to approve the Application for Student Overnight Travel, as presented, for the FCCLA trip to Dallas, TX, November 13-17. Motion carried.

Principal Enright requested approval of adding a half-time office support/half-time paraprofessional to assist with math, due to increasing needs at the Hermosa school. Motion Morgan, second Prior to approve a one-year temporary paraprofessional position at the Hermosa school. Motion carried.

Naugle informed the board the current wrestling co-op with Edgemont and Elk Mountain was formed based on inaccurate numbers from South Dakota Activities Association. Continuing the co-op would cause Custer's wrestling team to compete as Class A, rather than Class B. He recommended dissolving the co-op, which will allow the students to continue practicing together but they would compete under their individual schools. Motion Morgan, second Barnes to dissolve the wrestling cooperative with Edgemont and Elk Mountain schools. Motion carried.

The board reviewed a proposal from the Partnership Council creating a paraprofessional pay lane for people who are trained in the Barton reading intervention system. Motion Lehman, second Hartshorn to approve the recommended pay rates for paraprofessionals trained in Barton, as presented. Motion carried. (The higher rate is to be paid only for hours spent on Barton activities).

Custer County, through the health nurse, recently gave flu shots in Custer but not Hermosa. The pod system they follow allows only the largest city in the county to distribute the shots and the school was chosen as the location. It was questioned whether the district should consider paying for and providing flu shots in Hermosa. There was a general consensus the school should not get involved in providing shots.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES The board had its second reading of a policy written by ASBSD Attorney Gary Kaufman in response to the new state law allowing the use of opioid antagonists in schools. Motion Morgan, second Prior to approve the second and final reading of Policy JHCDD 'Administration of Opioid Antagonists'. Motion carried.

REPORTS Superintendent Report: Naugle announced there will be an assembly at the Hermosa school on October 15 to celebrate the donated beef program. He also informed the board the RFP for football field drainage had been advertised and bids are to be opened October 21 at 3:00 p.m.

Administrators' Reports: Reports from Administrators were included on Board Docs.

Board Report: Naugle requested

ed the December regular meeting be moved to December 5, as he will be out of town the following week. Motion Prior, second Lehman to set the December regular meeting date and time for December 5 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried. (The meeting is scheduled to be held in Hermosa).

A report from the BHSSC September meeting was included on Board Docs.

A & B WELDING SUPPLY COMPANY, 847.97; A&M PRODUCTS COMPANY, 103.00; AL CORNELLA REFRIGERATION, 332.05; AMICK SOUND, INC., 436.68; ARCHITECTURAL SPECIALTIES LLC, 601.92; ATCO INTERNATIONAL, 407.00; BALM, JERI, 88.80; BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL, 111.00; BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC., 4,088.57; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, 14,154.24; BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS, LLC, 2 1 . 5 0 ; CERTIFIED LABORATORIES, 2,877.76; CHRIS SUPPLY CO., INC., 300.97; CITY OF CUSTER, 1,751.18; COMDATA CORPORATION, 4,489.65; CONVERGENT TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, 147.96; CULLIGAN, 208.00; CULLIGAN, 167.00; CUSTER ACE HARDWARE, 71.30; CUSTER DO IT BEST, 5,364.00; D & R SERVICE, INC., 177.54; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP, 607.88; DECKER EQUIPMENT, 387.89; DIAMOND VOGEL PAINT CENTER, 334.49; EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION, 100.00; FLUCK, LISA, 260.66; GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL, 275.60; GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES, INC., 3,816.40; GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., 1,200.95; GROOMS, SHANNON, 79.00; HAGGERTY'S MUSICWORKS, 153.06; Halliday, Catherine, 122.00; HARLOW'S SCHOOL BUS SERVICE, INC., 29,119.18; HARVEY'S LOCK SHOP, 191.71; HAUFF MID-AMERICA SPORTS, INC., 162.87; HERMOSA TOWN TREASURER, 199.00; HILL-YARD/SIOUX FALLS, 980.56; HOHN, JILL, 684.95; HOVE, BECKY, 55.05; J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC., 415.44; K&D APPLIANCE SERVICES, INC., 55.00; KELLEY , TRACY L., 650.00; KNECHT HOME CENTER, INC., 134.61; KRITENBRINK, MARY ALICE, 1,652.28; LIFEWAYS, INC., 1,666.67; LINTZ BROTHERS PIZZA, 114.95; LYNN'S DAKOTAMART, 185.93; MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES, 815.56; MCLEOD'S PRINTING & OFFICE, 108.10; MOYLE PETROLEUM COMPANY, 37.45; MT. RUSHMORE TELEPHONE, 240.38; MUSICIAN'S FRIEND, 138.09; NAUGLE, MARK, 3,492.16; NELSON'S OIL & GAS, INC., 2,972.01; ORIENTAL TRADING CO., 468.16; PACIFIC STEEL & RECYCLING, 786.23; PATZLAFF, MICKEY, 60.00; PIONEER DRAMA SERVICE, INC., 120.00; PITNEY BOWES, 120.50; PIZZA HUT, 126.92; POP'S GROCERY SHOPPE, 63.00; PURCHASE POWER-PITNEY BOWES, 84.99; QUILL CORPORATION, 484.47; RANCHER'S FEED & SUPPLY, 1,852.60; RAPID CITY JOURNAL, THE, (2.99); RAPID FIRE PROTECTION, 714.29; RASMUSSEN MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC., 4,798.06; REALLY GOOD STUFF, 179.99; RICOH USA, INC., 997.38; RUSHMORE REGION/STUDENT COUNCIL, 90.00; SANDER SANITATION, 1,389.35; SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINES, 2,845.08; SCHOOL NURSE SUPPLY, INC., 298.20; SCHOOL SPECIALTY SUPPLY, INC., 446.77; SHERATON SIOUX FALLS, 2,430.00; SMITH, DAVID, 1,207.02; SOUTHERN HILLS PUBLISHING, INC., 238.19; SOUTHERN HILLS ROCK & GRAVEL, 480.00; SPEARFISH SCHOOL DISTRICT 40-2, 75.00; STEELE COLLISION, 30.00; STETSON-FRISCH, ELIZABETH, 300.00; STM HIGH SCHOOL, 68.21; SYNCB/AMAZON, 1,019.21; TEACHER SYNERGY, LLC, 23.98; TEMPERATURE TECHNOLOGY, INC., 555.10; TENNYSON, JODY, 122.00; UHRICH, JOSEPH, 133.50; US POSTAL SERVICE, 1,680.67; USD CENTER FOR DISABILITIES, 30.00; VERIZON BUSINESS, 1,468.88; VERIZON WIRELESS, 349.51; WEBSTER, JARED, 250.00; WEST RIVER SOLID WASTE SOLUTIONS, LLC DBA HILLS TOILET SERVICE, 1,188.00; ZUMPANO, SOPHIA, 80.00.

Fund Total: 115,810.74

Checking 1 Fund: 21 CAPITAL OUTLAY AVI SYSTEMS, 1,874.50; CENGAGE LEARNING, 721.05; COMDATA CORPORATION, 179.99; CUSTER DO IT BEST, 686.70; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP, 910.77; DILIGENT CORPORATION, 2,700.00; FISHER TRACKS INC., 19,418.00; GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES, INC., 6,039.60; GOVERLAN, INC., 440.00; HAUFF MID-AMERICA SPORTS, INC., 2,888.76; MAYER PLUMBING, INC., 1,967.20; MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES, 713.06; MYSTERY SCIENCE, 998.00; PACIFIC STEEL & RECYCLING, 546.90; PEARSON EDUCATION, 1,381.32; RASMUSSEN MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC., 9,388.00; RICOH USA, INC., 1,592.33; RIDDELL/ALL AMERICAN SPORTS CORP, 267.62; ROCKY KNOLLS GOLF COURSE, 1,298.70; SCHOOL SPECIALTY SUPPLY, INC., 78.62; STARFALL EDUCATION, 270.00; SYNCB/AMAZON, 2,209.57; TOPHAT TINTING, 2,500.00; UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC SERVICE, 1,414.44; US BANK, 612.50; WIESER EDUCATIONAL, 126.54; WORTHINGTON DIRECT, 741.24.

Fund Total: 61,965.41

Checking 1 Fund: 22 SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND BERRY SPEECH THERAPY, LLC, 3,495.54; COMDATA CORPORATION, 419.83; CPI, 150.00; CREATIVE KIDS THERAPY, 6,964.11; DAVALOS, KASSIE, 9,937.95; GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., 79.76; LEININGER, MARSHA, 5,667.73; LYNN'S DAKOTAMART, 21.91; MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES, 528.74; PITNEY BOWES, 60.25; PIZZA

HUT, 102.93; PRAIRIE HILLS TRANSIT, 4,356.00; QUILL CORPORATION, 22.96; REGIONAL HEALTH, 779.75; RICOH USA, INC., 42.04; SCHOOL SPECIALTY SUPPLY, INC., 214.62; SHERATON SIOUX FALLS, 254.50; SOUTHERN HILLS PUBLISHING, INC., 45.07; STUDICA, INC., 320.00; SYNCB/AMAZON, 49.87; THALACKER, KATIE, 82.00; TRANDEM, EVE, 68.00; US POSTAL SERVICE, 338.18; USD CENTER FOR DISABILITIES, 120.00; VERIZON BUSINESS, 65.50; VERIZON WIRELESS, 54.92; WICKS, TAMMY, 15.57.

Fund Total: 34,257.73

Checking 1 Fund: 51 FOOD SERVICE BESMER, MELISSA, 21.05; GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., 44.04.

Fund Total: 65.09

Checking Account Total: 212,098.97

ADJOURNMENT Motion Prior, second Hartshorn to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried. Note: The board continued its retreat agenda after the regular meeting. (See minutes of the 10/14/19 special meeting.)

Heather Grace, Board President

Lisa J. Fluck, Business Manager

Published once at an approximate cost of \$125.05. Represents 1/00001st of the total budget. 11/6

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING - OCTOBER 22, 2019

The Custer School District #16-1 Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at the School Administration Office for a special meeting. Board members present were Jeff Barnes, Jared Carson, Heather Grace and Michelle Lehman. Travis Hartshorn participated via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Mark Naugle.

CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF AGENDA Grace called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m. Motion Carson, second Barnes to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Voting yes: Lehman, Carson, Barnes, Grace, Hart

Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 11 2019



EVENTS

November 1st-11th

Home Town Hero Banners - the City of Custer will display banners along its Avenue of Flags honoring local veterans. Banners will individually recognize veterans with photos in uniform and brief descriptions of their service. A new program, it already boasts 30 banners and will expand in the years to come!

Saturday, Nov. 9th:

American Legion Poppies - From 9 am to 5 pm Custer Post #46, American Legion, will distribute "poppies" for donation at Lynn's Dakotamart. All proceeds are dedicated to relief of local veterans and their families.

Monday, Nov. 11th:

Hermosa School Veterans Day Program - Extensive activities will be conducted on Monday, 11 November by Battle Creek Post #303, American Legion, at the Hermosa School. Elements include:

- 7:45 am - Flag Raising Ceremony
- Morning - Veterans in the Classroom
- 11:11 am - Moment of Silence, POW/MIA Ceremony, Post #303 Color Guard
- Lunch - With Students for all Veterans
- 2:30 pm - Veterans Day Program with Military Child's Table program
- 3:15 pm - Heroes Reception

Custer Elementary School Veterans Dinner - Veterans are individually invited by students to dine with them. This third annual Veterans Dinner will be conducted Monday. It will be served from 10:55am to 12:25 pm. Custer Elementary School students and staff regularly display photos in the cafeteria of their loved ones who served in the armed forces. They set tables with themed decorations made by students during their art classes. And most importantly, they visit with "their" veterans.

VFW Veterans Day Ceremony - At 11:00 a.m. at Custer Veterans Memorial Park Custer VFW Post #3442 will conduct ceremonies with speaker and the Custer Veterans Honor Guard.

Custer Jr/Sr High School Veterans Dinner - Beginning at 11:25 a.m. at Custer Jr/Sr High School veterans are individually invited by students to dine with them. The menu will be holiday themed, featuring roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and a pumpkin bar alongside the school's unlimited fruit and vegetable bar. Dinner will be served during three lunch periods from 11:25 a.m. to 12:55 p.m.

Veterans Day Potluck Lunch - From 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. a potluck lunch will be held at the Custer VFW building. The lunch is open to all with the request that attendees bring a favorite dish to share.

Custer School District Veterans Day Program - The 25th Annual Custer School District Veterans Day Program begins at 2 p.m. in the Custer Armory.

Each year the Custer School District presents an hour-long program to honor its veterans. The program is sponsored by Custer Post #46, American Legion, and completely run by the students. It consists of Civil Air Patrol flag posting, patriotic music performed by all classes, the band and the choir, POW/MIA ceremony, remembrance of deceased veterans from the past year, individual recognition of each veteran in attendance by Custer Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the 6th Grade Class, and Civil Air Patrol flag retirement.

Veterans Snacks & Social - Conducted jointly by the Custer County Democratic and Republican Central Committees for the last 6 years, this event immediately follows the CSD Veterans Day Program in the Custer Armory. It provides light snacks and beverages to our veterans and an opportunity for them to relax and chat.

Nursing Home Visit - At approximately 4:30 p.m. at the Custer Regional Senior Care Center, Custer Cub Scout Pack 25 will honor resident veterans.

This annual Veterans Day event is conducted by Custer's Cub Scouts. Working with the Custer Regional Senior Care staff, Pack 25 will visit the nursing home to honor each resident veteran with a rose and a hand-drawn card. The Cub Scouts visit with the veterans bringing back fond memories of their youth and in many cases, their own days of scouting.

Soup & Chili Feed - Begins 5:00 p.m. on 11 November at Hermosa's Battle Creek Post #303, American Legion Post Home.

Thursday, Nov. 14th:

Elk Mountain School - Commencing at 2:30 pm on Thursday, 14 November, students of the Elk Mountain School will present a program to honor "their" veterans.

Students from kindergarten to 11th grade will perform patriotic music, conduct readings, and present each veteran with a carnation. A coffee and pie social will accompany the program. Flag retirement and raising ceremonies are conducted by the students. This wonderful program is a delightful example of what was until recently common across the nation but is now rapidly vanishing with the loss of our country schools. Those attending truly get to see "America the Beautiful".

Honoring All Who Serve and Sacrifice



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