

WESTERN TRADER

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

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

www.myblackhillscountry.com

ISSUE NO. 51

DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



ALL ABOARD WITH SANTA — The 1880 Train is once again conducting its Holiday Express, and guests can experience the magic as you take a one-hour, round trip journey from Hill City to the North Pole where Santa will board the train and ride back to Hill City, taking time to visit with each child on the way. Passengers enjoy hot cocoa, a sugar cookie and a special story on the way to the North Pole. All kids will receive a bell to ring for Santa and be able to talk with Mrs. Claus and Santa. The rides run through next Thursday. [Submitted Photo]

BLACK HILLS LIVE
FEATURED ON
PAGE 6 OF THE
WESTERN TRADER!

Subscribe to
the
Chronicle or
Prevailer!
Call
673-2217



*Merry
Christmas*

*From your Friends at The Farmer's Daughter
Historic Main Street, Hill City, SD*

Merry Christmas to all our readers!

Find us on the web:
custercountychronicle.com
hillcityprevailernews.com
myblackhillscountry.com

**PERFECTION
IS EFFORTLESS**

80
— MAKES A —
GREAT GIFT

Butcher's Deluxe Package

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Steaks (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tarts (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)

74222DGJ separately \$221.94
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$99.99

Limited Time: Get 8 FREE Burgers

Order Now! > OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe8440 | 1.844.974.1516
Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 74222DGJ

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. Limit 2, 8 free 6 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 74222. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last, items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. All products, prices, and sales are subject to Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use: OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use09. Expires 12/31/23. © 2023 Omaha Steaks, Inc.

**Our weekly
publications
come out every
Wednesday.**
We work hard to
bring you the very
best local papers!

Thank You to our
advertisers and
our readers!
Thanks for your
support!
The Chronicle,
Prevailer &
Western Trader
Staff



Hale Honeybells
The once a year citrus sensation!

Buy 12 get 12 more **FREE!**

Call 1-833-991-1839

to Order Item 2692X

or Visit HaleGroves.com/H4YT44

Only \$32.99 plus \$7.99 shipping & processing. Satisfaction completely guaranteed.

**Hale
GROVES**

Since 1847,
Hale Groves, Inc.
has been a family
business.

IC: H4YT44

**35% SAVINGS!
INCLUDING SHIPPING!**

*Plus \$7.99 handling per pack to the 48 contiguous states. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

Subscribe to the Chronicle or Prevailer! Call 605-673-2217
20% of your subscription fee goes to local non-profit/charities

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

Pet of the Week



This is Scarlet! Scarlet is a Pyrenees, Shepherd mix. She is a very sweet girl, but she doesn't like to walk with a leash. She just needs a little patience and she will turn out to be a good dog. She loves attention and loves to play. A big yard would be nice so she will have room to run.

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

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

**SOUTHERN
HILLS
ANIMAL
CLINIC**

Mon-Sat: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Sun: Closed

12478 US Hwy 16A, Custer, SD 57730 • (605) 673-4996

BRADEEN
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS

605-673-2629

Serving the Black Hills Area

for 100 years

EXPERIENCE MATTERS



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



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



Carol Wood
605-440-0466
carow@jstc.net



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

Merry Christmas to All!



From Ron and the Staff At Bradeen RE & Auctions

“We are still and always have been your privately owned insurance agents.”

– Amy Bailey of Starr Insurance

For personalized service, please call Starr Insurance.





P.O. Box 726, Custer, SD 57730 • 605-673-3799

GYM:

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

HANDYMAN:

HANDYMAN: Call Jeff for any job. Plus mowing and trimming. Serving Hill City, Custer and surrounding area. 712-490-4998

HELP WANTED:

THE YMCA IS HIRING A DIRECTOR OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT to oversee preschool and school age childcare. This is a FT position with benefits including health and dental insurance, short term disability, PTO and Retirement. Must have a 4-year degree in Elementary Ed, Early Childhood or a CDA with experience. Position is open until filled. Resumes may be forwarded to Rex Jorgensen at the YMCA of Custer.

HELP WANTED: Jorgensen Log Homes is now hiring lead carpenters. For more info call 605-673-2720

LINE COOK WANTED full or part time hours available. Resume & references to Custer Beacon 606-673-3800

**** HELP WANTED IMMEDIATELY HILL CITY**

Now accepting employment applications for DESK CLERKS for permanent or seasonal, full or part time positions. We offer room for advancement, top pay, summer bonuses, winter bonuses and other benefits. Hill City Super 8 Motel. Apply at location or call Vic at 605-209-3963.

FULL-TIME & PART-TIME PHYSICAL THERAPISTS NEEDED State Home Care Services, Inc. is hiring full-time and part-time Physical Therapists to provide Home Health PT in Custer and the surrounding area. Starting wage is \$45/hr depending on experience. No night shifts, or on-call weekends. Come Work in a Positive Environment at State Home Care Services. Please Call Alicia Beedle for more details at 605-673-4454

PART-TIME HOMEMAKERS NEEDED State Home Care Services, Inc. is hiring part-time homemakers to provide light house keeping and respite in Custer. Hours are flexible, and wages are \$23-\$25/hr. No night shifts, or on-call weekends. Come Work in a Positive Environment at State Home Care! Please Call Alicia Beedle for more details at 605-673-4454.

PART-TIME REGISTERED NURSES NEEDED State Home Care Services, Inc. is hiring part-time RNs. for our Hot Springs office and Rapid City office locations. Hours are flexible depending on your availability, and wages start at \$37/hr. No night shifts. Come Work in a Positive Environment at State Home Care Services Please Call Alicia Beedle for more details at 605-673-4454.

MISCELLANEOUS:

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-816-0249 www.dental50plus.com/custer#6258

DIRECTV - Watch your favorite live sports, news and entertainment anywhere. More top premium channels than DISH. Restrictions apply. Call IVS - 1-877-378-4581

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-886-6591

FOR SALE:

FOR SALE: DODGE PICK-UP BOX TRAILER. Good condition, steel floor, lights. Best Offer. Call 605-673-3611. Please leave a message.

FOR RENT:

FOR LEASE: OLD WORLD PLAZA, HILL CITY, has a 1,350 sq ft professional space with four individual rooms. Also a 380 sq ft office space. Call 605-574-4635.

ATTRACTIVE, MODERN one and two bedroom apartments, central Custer. Laundry,

cable TV, competitive rates. 605-591-9397

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE - Call 605-673-1280.

STORAGE UNITS TO RENT

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

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

STORAGE UNITS 10x20 - \$65, 8x10 - \$30 per month. Little Italy Road, Ness's Storage. 673-2949.

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



EMPLOYMENT:

CITY OF CHAMBERLAIN Water/Wastewater Position: Full-time Water/Wastewater position opened until filled. Job responsibilities include treatment, distribution, and pipeline construction. Position has a full benefit package along with SD State Retirement. Wage is DOE. For more information contact the Finance Officer at (605)234-4401. EOE

LAND:

FARMLAND rents are strong. Do you need representation or a Farmland Manager? Contact Tim Peters at 605.270.9410 or tpeters@pifers.com. Pifer's Land Management, www.pifers.com

NOTICES:

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call this newspaper or 800-658-3697 for details.

TRAVEL:

SEE MLB GAMES AT Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, etc. Quality game tickets, hotels and motor-coach. Call/text for free brochure: 507.217.1326 (leave name/address) bobs-baseballtours.com

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call this newspaper or 800-658-3697 for details.

TRAVEL:

SEE MLB GAMES AT Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, etc. Quality game tickets, hotels and motor-coach. Call/text for free brochure: 507.217.1326 (leave name/address) bobs-baseballtours.com

-



Call us about placing an ad in the Chronicle, Prevailor (now in color) or the Western Trader! or if you'd like to place an ad for Down Country Roads Magazine or the Black Hills Adventure Guide

Call Kate at 605-440-1248





Thanks for saying you saw it in the Western Trader!

When you subscribe to the hard-copy edition or the on-line E-edition of the Custer County Chronicle newspaper you support local journalism which is critical to our constitutional republic, and all for less than \$5 a month.



Subscribe today: (605) 673-2217 or email us at custerchronicle@gwic.net. You may also subscribe through our website https://www.custercountychronicle.com or by stopping by our office at 522 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our weekly publications come out every Wednesday.

We work hard to bring you the best local papers we can. Thanks for your support!

Chronicle, Prevailor & Western Trader Staff

Thank You to all our advertisers and readers for this weeks' Trader! Merry Christmas!!!

DEADLINE: Friday at 5 p.m.

PRICE: \$7.00 for 15 words, 10¢/word over that

PAYMENT: 522 Mt. Rushmore Rd. 605-673-2217

Southern Hills Classifieds

BRINGING BUYERS & SELLERS TOGETHER

DID YOU KNOW?

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



SEE TOBACCO TO EXTINCTION.

Smoking, chewing, vaping... it's dangerous stuff. Make these cancer-causing monsters a thing of the past.



Make Smoking History

thelastsmoke.org

Paid for by the South Dakota Department of Health.

Make your Classified Ad Stand Out from the Rest!

Add a photo to your classified ad for only \$10

You must provide the photo • Prepayment required

To ensure publication, your ad and photo must be received by Fridays at 5 p.m.

CUSTER COUNTY Chronicle

Bringing you the news for 127 years

605-673-2217

522 Mt. Rushmore Rd • Custer, SD



Call us about placing an ad in the Chronicle, Prevailor (now in color) or the Western Trader! or if you'd like to place an ad for Down Country Roads Magazine or the Black Hills Adventure Guide

Call Kate at 605-440-1248



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

Classified Ad Category List

Circle One

Announcements	Horses, Livestock
Antiques	Lawn and Garden
Appliances	Lost and Found
Arts and Crafts	Misc. for Sale
Autos for Sale	Mobile Homes
Auto Parts, Repair	Motorcycles
Boats	Personal
Business Opportunity	Pets and Supplies
Child Care	Photography
Computers	Real Estate
Farm and Ranch	Rec. Vehicles
Firewood	Rentals
Flea Markets	Services
Furniture	Sporting Goods
Garage Sales - _____	Wanted
Help Wanted	Other _____

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 \$7.00	16 \$7.10	17 \$7.20	18 \$7.30	19 \$7.40	20 \$7.50	21 \$7.60
22 \$7.70	23 \$7.80	24 \$7.90	25 \$8.00	26 \$8.10	27 \$8.20	28 \$8.30
29 \$8.40	30 \$8.50	31 \$8.60	32 \$8.70	33 \$8.80	34 \$8.90	35 \$9.00
36 \$9.10	37 \$9.20	38 \$9.30	39 \$9.40	40 \$9.50	41 \$9.60	42 \$9.70
43 \$9.80	44 \$9.90	45 \$10.00	46 \$10.10	47 \$10.20	48 \$10.30	49 \$10.40

Run my ad _____ Weeks x \$ _____ = \$ _____

Credit Card/Billing Charge + _____

Total _____

Paid \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Credit Card/Exp. Date _____

Bold Type \$1.00 Extra

No. _____



Business and Professional Directory

YOUR GUIDE TO SOUTHERN HILLS BUSINESSES

ELECTRICAL SERVICE	CONSTRUCTION	EYE DOCTOR	FLOORING	HOME BUILDER
Freeman's Electric Service Inc. Serving the Custer Area FREE Estimates 24 Hour Answering Service Your Call — Our Command Custer — 673-3701	Talley Construction Dirt Work • Septic Tanks Waterlines • Road Grading Dump Truck Service FREE Estimates • 574-2155 Reasonable Rates	Premier —FAMILY EYECARE— 322 Mt. Rushmore Rd. • Custer Walk-ins & New Patients Welcome 673-2716 www.visionsource-custer.com Vision Source!	Carpet • Vinyl Laminate Ceramic • Wood Shanklins 12702 Miller Court Rd (Off America Center Rd) Custer • 605-673-2099	Ruby Creek Builders Home Builder • Remodels • Expert Carpentry RUBYCREEKBUILDERS.COM (605) 440-1470
FINANCIAL	WATER WELL DRILLING	GRAVEL	Rent this space!	
 Jim Meyer, AAMS® Financial Planner 39 N. 4th Street Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2367 FREEDOM HILLS WEALTH MANAGEMENT associated with Raymond James Financial Services Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC www.freedomhillswm.com	ALEXANDER DRILLING INC. 605-574-2331 info@alexanderdrillinginc.com • Water Well Drilling • Pumping Systems and Service • Well Hydrofracturing RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL www.alexanderdrillinginc.com	Southern Hills • Grading • Dirtwork • Septic Installs • Retaining Walls ROCK & GRAVEL • Commercial • Residential Delivery Available Lonny Schramm 605-745-5066 Argyle, SD Cell 545-1160 <i>Here to Rock the Southern Hills!</i>	Only \$8.50 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
CONSTRUCTION	STUMP GRINDING	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP	VETERINARIAN	Rent this space!
Russ Johnson Construction 605-574-2881	Ness's Stump Grinding Also Remove Trees • Shrubs • Bushes Reasonable Rates Call 673-2949 • 673-5683	W.E.A.V.E. WOMEN ESCAPING A VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT P.O. Box 729 Custer, SD 57730 Custer County Sheriff 673-8176 24-Hour Crisis Line 673-HELP (4357) Toll Free: 1-800-424-3574	Fall River Veterinary Clinic HOT SPRINGS Mon.—Sat. 8am–5pm Wed. 8am–8pm • 605-745-3786 Emergency • 605-745-3786 Dustin Brown, DVM • Kayla Brown, DVM	Only \$8.50 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217
BUILDER	GRAVEL	CONSTRUCTION	Rent this space!	
 ALPHA BUILDERS LLC • Residential Construction • Construction Management • Site Development Paul - 605-440-1201 Haylee - 605-228-0943 alphabuilders.net	BLACK HILLS GRAVEL 26248 Lime Kiln Road Pringle, SD WHITE LIMESTONE GRAVEL CLIFF PAT 605-440-1031 605-863-5170	SWEDEN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION ALL TYPES OF CONCRETE WORK RESIDENTIAL, FOUNDATION & FLAT WORK FREE ESTIMATES CALL DAVE 605-673-5235 • CUSTER	Only \$8.50 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
CONSTRUCTION	HANDYMAN	HEATING & COOLING	Rent this space!	
Craig Hindle Construction Licensed & Insured New Construction • Garages/Shops Remodeling • Custom Homes craighindleconst@goldenwest.net 605-673-4222 • Cell: 605-673-1526	EVANS REPAIR Appliances • Furnaces Water Heaters & Service Handyman Services John Evans, Jr Cell: 605-673-1600 Home: 605-673-3048	Witt's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. 104 South 9th • Custer 673-3212 Heating and Cooling Service and Installation Heat Pumps Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers	Only \$17.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
REAL ESTATE	REAL ESTATE	BLASTING & CONTRACTOR	PRINT/COMPUTER	HEATING & COOLING
 Block Realty Buy or Sell with me! 605.868.5584 www.sellingblackhills.com MLS	 WESTERN SKIES REAL ESTATE 523 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 57730 Lori Svoboda Owner/Broker/Notary www.BHrealtor.com 605.517.0785	A-1 Drilling & Blasting Development Blasting Residential Ditch Lines Quarries "Serving The Entire Black Hills Area" Fully Insured Shawn Stiles 605-578-1991	 print@vectordpt.com Vector DESIGN PRINT TECH Your LOCAL Design & Print Shop! COMPUTER UPGRADES & REPAIR 1164 Mt Rushmore Rd • Custer • 605-673-2740	
WINDOWS & GLASS	REAL ESTATE	TAX PREPARER	HEATING & COOLING	
Rapid City Window & Glass Store Fronts/Entrances • Exterior Patio Doors Glass Replacement • Residential Windows Automatic Doors • Commercial Windows Mirrors & Shower Doors • Sky-Lites/Sunrooms 605-343-4999 936 E. St. Patrick • Rapid City, SD	 Integrity Realty 605-574-4444 www.landlotshomes.com June Peterson	 LENNY MERRIAM CPA, CFE, PLLC TAX PREPARATION Individual • Business • Estate • Trust • Non-Profit ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING • Non-Profit • Forensic Accounting • Payroll Services • Sales Tax Services • Bookkeeping Services Office (605) 673-2125 lennymerriamcpa@gmail.com Seasonal Custer professional who prioritizes year-round responsiveness & services for the Black Hills region.	 Witt's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. 104 South 9th • Custer 673-3212 Heating and Cooling Service and Installation Heat Pumps Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers	
EXCAVATING • BASEMENTS • DIRT • GRAVEL • SEPTIC	HEATING & AC • CONSTRUCTION	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Rent this space!	
 Nielsen Enterprises, LLC Expect Honest Work and Fair Prices • Excavating • Basements • Dirt Work • Gravel • Septic Systems Mark Nielsen • 24890 Sylvan Lake Rd, Custer 605-673-4701 • Cell: 673-1519	Custer Heating & A/C Office: 605-673-2957 www.custerheating.com Owner: Bob Brown Serving the Southern Black Hills Sylvan Lake Road Custer, SD Kitchens by Karla Custer, SD 57730 605.580.0183 • From custom design to installation • Local licensed and insured contractors • By appointment www.kitchensbykarla.com karla Haagenson@gmail.com • www.bertch.com Karla Haagenson • Owner	Edward Jones Member SIPC Mark A. Koch Financial Advisor 27 North 6th Street Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2644 edwardjones.com	Only \$8.50 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
STONE & LANDSCAPING	FABRICS & SUPPLIES	Rent this space!		
DAKOTA STONE COMPANY Landscaping • Black Dirt • Boulders • Crushed Stone - 5 Colors • Stonedust for Walkways • Stepping Stone • Retaining Walls • Patio Stone Building Stone • Fireplace • Outside Veneer Masonry Supplies • Cement • Mortar Color • Other Supplies Gravel Hauling Sand for Power Line Construction www.dakotastone.net Visit our website for more pictures! 605-574-2760	RENT THIS SPACE! Only \$34 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217			

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

SHOP BLACK HILLS

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

Custer

Deep Creek Gallery

Check out our works of art!

26 S. 6th Street,
Custer
312.505.4592

Seven local artists, one gallery.

**A GALLERY
OF
GIFTS AWAITS!**
Open All Year!

SHOP BLACK HILLS
discounted rates will be
around for few more weeks
and then back to regular
prices!

**2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32**
(for retail businesses only)
\$100
(normal price)

**Thanks for saying you saw
it in the Western Trader!**

**2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32**
(for retail businesses only)
\$100
(normal price)

SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

Legislator plans to pursue South Dakota flag redesign

By John Hult
South Dakota Searchlight

Gov. Kristi Noem wants the state Supreme Court to make the call on nine conflict-of-interest questions before she fills two vacant West River legislative seats.

That was among the major takeaways from court documents filed on her behalf by general counsel Katie Hruska recently, the deadline for briefs in a request for an advisory opinion that could clarify if, when and how lawmakers can benefit from state contracts.

Among the questions: Can a citizen be a lawmaker and also an employee of a state, county, city or school district? Can a lawmaker be a foster parent and get state reimbursement for the costs? Can a business owned by a lawmaker collect Medicaid payments?

Attorney General Marty Jackley also submitted a brief on Friday in the advisory opinion case, sought by Noem, Jackley and state lawmakers. The Legislature submitted its briefs earlier in the week.

COVID funds spark inquiry

The issue bubbled over earlier this year when Noem called out now-resigned Sen. Jessica Castleberry, R-Rapid City, for her receipt of more than \$500,000 in COVID-related financial assistance for her preschool. Castleberry has since entered into an agreement with the state to repay the money.

Noem used a 2020 advisory opinion from the state Supreme Court on lawmakers' eligibility for program funds to cry foul over the Castleberry situation. The incident spurred a host of questions on what constitutes conflicts of interest in a state whose small population often sees its part-time legislators or their family members working on government funded projects or, in some cases, serving as elected officials or employees in counties that receive state assistance.

Conflict of interest questions have bubbled since Castleberry's resignation,

and "inquiries hit a fervor of uncertainty," Noem's brief says, which is why she requested an advisory opinion from the state's high court.

Noem has yet to fill the seats relinquished by Castleberry and another West River lawmaker, Sen. Jess Olson, R-Rapid City, who resigned for medical reasons earlier this fall. The brief says that's because of a "lack of clear guidance" on what constitutes a conflict of interest — guidance that will be instructive in her choices for replacement lawmakers.

The questions are not hypothetical, the brief says.

"Each of the nine questions posed in the Request involves an inquiry either made by Legislators or state employees to the Governor's Office," it reads.

The Noem brief did not take a position on the questions, but rather encouraged the justices to address each to clarify the meaning of the state constitution's conflict clause.

Lawmakers: Appropriations votes alone don't create conflicts

Lawmakers weighed in on the issue earlier this week through a brief filed by Ron Parsons, a former U.S. attorney from Sioux Falls.

Parsons argued in his brief that merely voting on appropriations ought not disbar lawmakers from eventually collecting state dollars as private citizens might.

There's considerable legal distance between the specific conflict-of-interest verbiage in the state constitution and general appropriations votes taken by lawmakers, Parsons asserts.

The constitution says that lawmakers cannot "be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract with the state or any county thereof, authorized by any law passed during the term for which he shall have been elected."

The general appropriations bill, Parsons argued, is not a law that authorizes



CONSIDERING HER OPTIONS — Gov. Kristi Noem speaks Sept. 8 during a rally at The Monument in Rapid City featuring former President Donald Trump. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight). [Submitted Photo/SETH TUPPER - SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT]

contracts. Instead, it sets aside funds that may be awarded in contracts at a later date.

"The Contracts Clause clearly does not flatly prohibit a legislator from being interested in any contract with the state," wrote Parsons.

That clause would clearly apply in special appropriations votes, the legislature's brief says, which target money to specific programs for specific purposes.

Parsons encouraged the court to engage in a "textual analysis" of the constitutional language to draw clear lines around what does and does not constitute a vote in violation of the contracts clause.

Jackley: broad prohibitions for lawmakers unrealistic

Like Parsons, Attorney General Jackley's brief homed in on the practical implications of a strict interpretation of the contracts clause, though it

doesn't always reach the same conclusions.

Much of the brief serves as an attempt to help the court answer Noem's questions.

Solicitor General Paul Swedlund, who wrote the brief, argued that the meaning of the word "interest" in "conflict of interest" could be interpreted quite broadly.

"A legislator certainly benefits from an appropriation to fund a contract to reconstruct a roadway near her home by providing her with an improved road on which she can drive, which arguably constitutes an 'interest' in the project in a literal sense," wrote Swedlund.

The court has already determined that a company owned by a lawmaker cannot ink a direct contract with the state, in a case referenced by all three briefs submitted this week.

The standards for what constitutes indirect benefits to a lawmaker are less clear,

but Swedlund's brief points out that court decisions in other conflict cases have turned on benefits far removed from business ownership.

One state Supreme Court case from 2005 saw a local city council's decision to deny a liquor license overturned because a councilwoman worked as a server and collected tips in a competing restaurant with its own liquor license. Another from 2001 saw the court strike a lawmaker and South Dakota State University employee's contract because her pay was an "indirect" benefit of the appropriations on which she voted. That case came down 3-2.

As to the issue of whether an appropriations vote alone can create a conflict, Swedlund's brief says that South Dakota would likely say "yes."

Courts in states with similar constitutional clauses, including Texas and

Oklahoma, have interpreted the verbiage to mean that "an appropriation serves to 'authorize' a contract," Swedlund wrote.

The brief suggests a test to determine conflict: If the state could have entered into a contract without an appropriations vote by a hypothetically offending lawmaker, such as in contracts paid for with federal dollars, no conflict exists.

If the state can't award funds without a vote from lawmakers, he wrote, there's a conflict.

The timeline for the release of an advisory opinion is unclear. Unified Judicial System spokesperson Alisa Bousa said Friday there was no information to share on when a ruling may be expected.

See more stories at southdakotasearchlight.com

Black Hills



A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR EATERS • A SPACE TO ADVERTISE FOR EATERIES

Custer EATS	Pizza Mill Monday- Saturday 11 am - 8 pm	Three Forks Bar, Grille & Casino Daily 11 am - 7 pm	Hot Springs EATS	Edgemont EATS	Isabella's Sunday - Wednesday 11 am - 8 pm Thursday - Saturday 11 am - 9 pm
Black Hills Burger & Bun Tuesday -Saturday 11 am- 2:30pm	Skogen Kitchen Tuesday - Saturday 5-8 p.m.	Turtle Town Sunday-Thursday 10am 4 pm Friday-Saturday 9am-5 pm	American Legion Monday - Saturday 10am - close	Igloo Bar Daily 9 am - 12 am Friday & Saturday 9am - 2 am	Perkins Tavern Monday - Wednesday 11 am - 8 pm Thursday - Sunday 7 am - 9 pm
Buglin' Bull Restaurant & Sports Bar Sun-Thursday 11am-8 pm Friday-Saturday 11am-9pm	Subway Restaurant Mon-Sat 8 am - 9 pm Sunday 8 am -8 pm	Twisted PineTasting Room Tues-ThursNoon-5pm Fri-Saturday Noon-7pm	Dairy Queen Daily 10:30 am - 9 pm	Khantong Thai Cuisine Monday-Wednesday- Friday 11 am - 4:30 pm	Pizza Barn Monday - Thursday 4 pm - 9 pm Friday & Saturday 4 pm - 10 pm
Calamity Jane's Tuesday - Sunday 7am to 9pm	Hill City EATS	Hermosa EATS	Mornin' Sunshine Monday-Saturday 7am-2 pm Sunday 7am -1pm	The Hat Creek Grill Friday & Saturday Noon - 10 pm	Uncle Vito's Tuesday - Friday 7 am - 2 pm Saturday 7 am - 10 am
Custer Beacon Wednesday - Saturday 4 pm to close	The Alpine Inn Monday - Saturday 11 am - 2:30 pm LUNCH 5 pm - 9:30 pm DINNER	Corner Pantry Deli Daily 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Pizza Hut Monday - Saturday 11 am - 9 pm	Victory Steakhouse & Lounge 11 am - 9 pm Tuesday - Saturday	Pringle EATS
Custer County Candy Co. Monday-Saturday 11am - 5pm Sunday Noon - 5pm	Annie Lode Coffee Cabin Tuesday-Friday 6:30am - 1:00pm	Hermosa Coffee House Monday- Saturday 7 am - 1 pm	Silk Road Experience Thursday-Saturday 3pm-7pm	Yesway Monday-Saturday 6 am - 9 pm Sunday 8 am -9am	The Hitchrail Bar & Restaurant Tuesday - Sunday 11 am - 8 pm
Custer Deli Monday-Wednesday 8:30 am-4pm Thurs & Fri. 8:30am-5pm Sat. 9am-2pm	Black Hills Bistro Monday - Saturday 7 am - 2 pm	Your Restaurant Here Monday- Saturday 4am - 9pm	Sick-N-Twisted Thursday - Monday 11 am - 8 pm	Yesway #1174 Daily - Open 24 hours	Rapid City EATS
Custer's Last Stop Wednesday - Saturday 11am - 7 pm Sunday 11 am -3 pm	Bumpin' Buffalo Bar & Grill Monday - Sunday 11 am - 9 pm	Lintz Bros. Pizza Thursday - Monday 3 pm - 9 pm	Southern Hills Diner & Bakery Thursday-Monday 8am-2pm closed Tuesday & Wednesday	Newcastle EATS	Shipwreck's Bar & Grill Monday - Wednesday 11 am - 8 pm
Custer Wolf Monday-Saturday 11:30 am- 8 pm	Caboose Coffee Company Monday - Saturday 7 am -1 pm Sunday - Closed	Hermosa Senior Citizens Center Monday - Thursday Noon to close	Southern Hills Golf Course Daily 7 am - 8 pm	Boopa's Tuesday - Friday 7am - 2 pm Saturday 7am - 10 am	Belle Fourche EATS
Dairy Queen Mon.-Saturday 11am-8 pm Sunday 11am-7 pm	Chute Rooster Thursday - Monday 11 am - 9 pm Sunday 10 am - 6 pm	79 Lounge Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Springs Coffee Kiosk Mon-Fri 5:30am-4:30pm Saturday 5:30am - 2pm Sunday 5:30am - Noon	Donna's Main St. Diner Daily 6 am -2 pm	Black Hills Diner Tuesday-Saturday 7 am - 2 pm
Dakota Broasted Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 6 pm	Cream Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 3:30 pm	Keystone EATS	Taco John's Monday - Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 pm Sunday 8 am - 8 pm	Kaffee Klatsch Mon-Wed 5:30 - 12:30pm Tues,Thurs, Fri. 5:30 - 1pm Saturday 6:30am-10:30am	YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. WITHOUT OUR READERS , SUBSCRIBERS & ADVERTISERS WE WOULD NOT EXIST. WE STRIVE TO GIVE THE BEST LOCAL COVERAGE YOU WILL NOT GET ANYWHERE ELSE EXCEPT IN OUR NEWSPAPERS. WE BELIEVE IN FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. WE ARE NOT CORPORATELY OWNED. THE CUSTER COUNTY CHRONICLE HAS BEEN A PRIVATELY OWNED & INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION IN WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA FOR 143 YEARS EST. IN 1880 SUBSCRIBE TO THE CHRONICLE OR PREVAILER 605-673-2217
Feel Good Cafe (Closed for the Season)	Dairy Twist Monday - Saturday 11a.m. - 7 p.m. & Sunday Noon -7 p.m	Eno's Pizza & Pub Mon-Thurs 11am -9pm Friday-Sunday 11am-10 pm	The Berm (Food Truck) Wednesday - Saturday 11:30am - 6pm	Cambria Coffee & Decker's Market Monday-Friday 7am-5 pm Saturday 7am-2pm Sunday 8 am - Noon	
Frontier Bar & Grill Daily 11 am to 9 pm Closed Tuesday	Gold Run Café Sunday - Thursday 8 am - 2 pm Friday - Saturday 10 am - 3:30 pm	Keystone Country Store Daily 7 am to 9 pm	Two Cows Creamery & Bistro Mon-Thurs 11am-8pm Fri & Sat 11am-9pm Sunday 11am-7pm	Decker's Market - Deli Monday - Saturday 7 am - 8 pm Sunday 8 am - 7 pm	
Gold Pan Saloon Sun-Thursday 2pm - close Fri - Saturday 2pm - close	Heart of the Hills Exxon Daily 5 am - Midnight	Turtle Town Monday-Saturday 10 am until 6 pm Sunday 10 am until 5 pm	Heaven Scent Bakery Wednesday - Monday 10am - 5pm	Hot Stuff Pizza Daily 5 am - 6 pm	
Hjem AM Wednesday - Sunday 8am - Noon	Miner Brewing Company Daily 11 a.m. -7 p.m	Xanterra@ Mt. Rushmore Daily 8 am - 9 pm	Wandering Bison Coffee Mon,Tues, Thurs 7am-3pm Fri & Saturday 3pm-6 pm Sunday 8am-3pm	Taco John's Daily 11 am - 10 pm	
Horatio's Homemade Ice Cream see: horatiosicecream.com for winter hours	Prairie Berry Winery Daily 10 am - 6 pm	Carver's Cafe @ Mt. Rushmore 8 am - 4:30 pm	Winner's Circle Sunday-Thursday 10am-8:45pm Friday & Saturday 10am-9:45pm	Hannah's Heavenly Treats Tuesday - Friday 7 am - 2 pm Saturday 7- 10	
Laughing Water Restaurant Mon - Fri. 11 am to 4 pm Sat. & Sun. 9am - 4 pm	Silver Dollar Saloon Monday -Thursday 1pm - 10 pm Fri - Sun Noon - 10 pm		For Hot Springs 	Howdy Bakery Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8am-6pm Sat. 9am - 4pm	
Maria's Mexican Restaurant Monday - Saturday 6:30 - 10 am, 11 am - 3 pm 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Taqueria Los Camelinas Monday-Friday 4pm-7 pm Saturday 11 am-2 pm		Information Call 605-745-4140 www.hotsprings-sd.com	Hi-16 Cafe Thursday - Sunday 7 am - 9 pm	
Miner's Cup Monday - Saturday 6:30 am - 1:00 pm	Tin City Saloon Friday-Wednesday 11am - 8 pm		Just A Click Away custercountychronicle.com		

CALL TODAY TO PLACE AN AD

Kate Najacht:

605-440-1248

for more information

BLACK HILLS

Live

LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

Wednesday 12-20

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

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

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

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

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



UGLY SWEATER TIME — Break out those ugly sweaters, as Sprockets Fun Foundry in Keystone will host an ugly sweater contest this Saturday. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. [Submitted Photo]

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

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

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

Legion Meeting
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Civil Air Patrol
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 12-22

Holiday Express
1880 Train
Hill City, SD
Select times

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

Hill City Seniors Flow & Relax Yoga
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

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

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

Holiday Creation Station
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
10 AM

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

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

Celebrate Recovery
Crossroads Church
Custer, SD
6 PM

JJ Kent *LIVE*
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6-9 PM

Saturday 12-23

Holiday Express
1880 Train
Hill City, SD
Select times

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

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

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

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
11 AM - 7 PM

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

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

Wednesday 12-27

Winter Express
1880 Train
Hill City, SD
Select times

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

Custer County Commission
Custer County Courthouse
Custer, SD
8 AM

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

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

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

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

Craftersnoon
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
3 PM

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

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

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

Thursday 12-28

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

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

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

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

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

Keystone Senior Center Meeting
Keystone Senior Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM

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

Civil Air Patrol
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 12-29

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

Hill City Seniors Flow & Relax Yoga
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

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

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

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

Celebrate Recovery
Crossroads Church
Custer, SD
6 PM

Saturday 12-30

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

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

New Year's at Noon
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
11 AM

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

Sunday 12-31

New Year's Eve

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

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

KISS AA Meeting
Keystone Community Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Monday 1-1

New Year's Day

Tuesday 1-2

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

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

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

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

Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild
Custer Lutheran Fellowship
Custer, SD
1:30 PM

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

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

Hill City Lions Club
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Hermosa Town Board
Hermosa Town Hall
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Buffalo Gap Town Board
Buffalo Gap Town Hall
Buffalo Gap, SD
7 PM

Advertise Your Business Here!
Call 605-673-2217

Southern Hills Law
40 N. 5th Suite B
605-673-2503
Wills • Real Estate • Family Law

Thanks for saying you saw it in Black Hills Live in the Western Trader!

BACK ISSUES OF DOWN COUNTRY ROADS



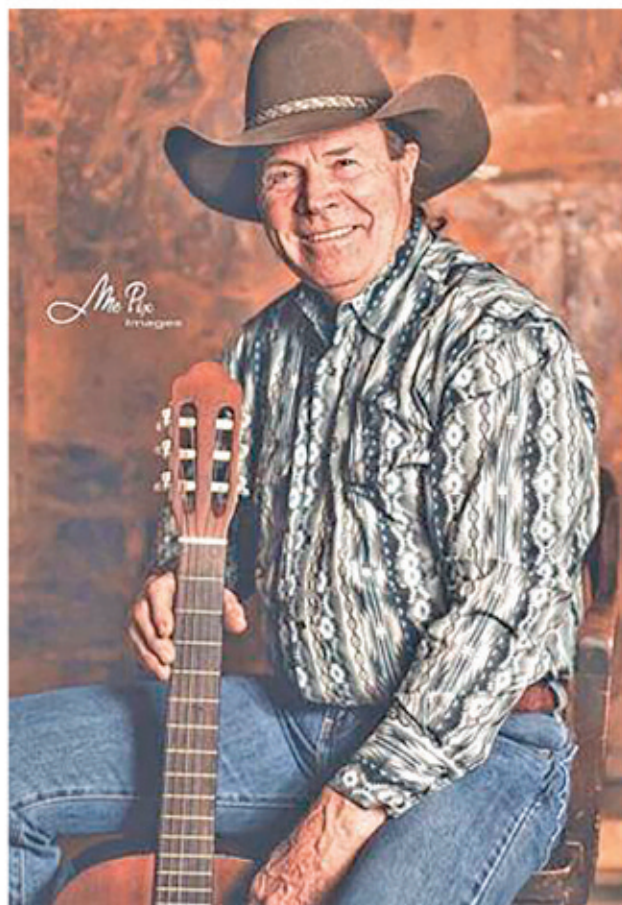
\$3.00

CALL 605-673-2217

OR STOP IN AT:

THE CUSTER COUNTY CHRONICLE
522 MT. RUSHMORE RD.
CUSTER, SD 57730

VIEW THE CURRENT ISSUE AT MYBLACKHILLSCOUNTRY.COM



JJ KENT — Local artist JJ Kent will perform this Friday, Dec. 22 at The Gold Pan Saloon. Kent was the winner of the Coveted Native American Music Awards "Flutist of the Year" in 2009 and is a three-time nominee for "Artist of the Year." He is also the recipient of the "Male Vocalist of the Year" in 1988 from the Wyoming Rocky Mountain Country Music Foundation. [Submitted Photo]