

WESTERN TRADER

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

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

www.myblackhillscountry.com

ISSUE NO. 39

DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



RETURNING TO CUSTER BEACON — Jalan Crossland will return to perform at The Custer Beacon this Saturday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. Crossland is nationally acclaimed by audiences, critics, and his musical peers as being a premier acoustic guitarist, banjo player, singer-songwriter, and engaging showman. [Submitted Photo]

Getting you back to WHAT MOVES YOU.



Sturgis • Belle Fourche • East & West Rapid City • Custer

PAIN & MOVEMENT SOLUTIONS

Call 605.219.8888
No referral needed

Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy

Pet of the Week



Say hello to Thor II! Thor II was born in 2021 and is a mix of German Shepherd, Malinois and Dutch Shepherd. He is house trained, crate trained current on shots, neutered good with dogs, cats and good with older kids. He's loyal and expressive. He loves to run free and will thrive in a yard or open space. Thor enjoys cuddles and being close once he bonds with you.

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
Saturday 9:30 am - Noon - Sun: Closed

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

OPEN HOUSE!
\$649,000

MLS#: 85095



FRIDAY 9/26 2-5 PM AND
SATURDAY 9/27 9AM-12PM
321 ROSE QUARTZ PLACE,
CUSTER, SD 57730



Craig Reindl
605.440.0642
reindlcraig@gmail.com
www.westernskiesre.com



Property Features:
• 3 Bedroom
• 2 Bathroom
• .87 Acres
• Two car garage

9/26 and 9/27 are your opportunities to tour this exquisite spec home in the Stone Hill Subdivision!



BRADEEN
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS
605-673-2629
Serving the Black Hills Area
for 100 years

EXPERIENCE MATTERS



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



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



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



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

The Black Hills' Finest!



12073 FOX RIDGE ROAD. LUXURY COUNTRY RANCH & HORSE PROPERTY with USFS Access. Discover your dream equestrian estate! This exceptional 18.51-acre property offers the perfect blend of comfort, convenience, and outdoor adventure. Enjoy the serenity of country living with direct gated access to miles of USFS land, perfect for horseback riding and exploring. Spacious Home: 2,410 sq. ft. custom-built, single-level ranch home featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Recently updated and meticulously maintained. Gourmet Kitchen: A chef's delight! Features a bright and airy kitchen with stunning granite countertops, beautiful hickory cabinets, and a generous walk-in pantry. Horse-Ready Barn: A 36' x 60' barn designed for your equine companions, offering ample space for horses. Includes a finished bunk room and a dedicated reloading/office space. Outdoor Amenities: Includes a fenced garden area and a chicken coop. The property is fully perimeter and cross-fenced. Enjoy privacy while being conveniently close to the city of Custer, hospital, schools, and all local attractions. Don't miss this opportunity! **MLS# 85970 \$1,199,500** Carol at 605-440-0466 for more information or a private showing. Call or Text Today!



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

THE RIDGE
LONG TERM RV SITES
605-673-2720

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

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

BOYD'S ANTIQUES - CUSTER SD FIRST ANNUAL FALL ONLINE AUCTION

ONLINE BIDDING CLOSES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Located at Boyd's World Famous Antiques & Uniques, 24671 US Hwy. 16/385 North of Custer, SD.

Mark, Cheryl and Vendors are "cleaning house" after a great '25 season and will offer a wide variety of items including a 2013 IH durastar 4300 box truck with lift gate, 250000 miles ready to work, 1931 oldsmobile f31, convertible roadster, very rare full restoration everything works as it should. Mini loader f145, Several guns including: 1940 high standard model b, Colt Huntsman, Uberti Colt 1861, winchester model 94 pre 1964, Winchester model 94, Remington model 760 30-06, Iver johnson M1 Carbine, Ruger blackhawk .357, Uberti Rolling Block 22 homet, Best Of The West Cody Wyoming 7mm mag. new scopes, NEW hunting and fishing accessories, Sun Dolphin boat, reloading supplies and ammunition, Automotive tools, Dewalt Power tools, locksmith tools, Case and Gerber Knife display cases, vending machines, RV accessories, 2 new propane gas fire-place inserts 18 and 24 inch, pickup tool boxes, 3 pallets of barn tin, skid loader attachments, Ariens 824 Snowblower, ATV snow blade, Model Trains and accessories, Doll Collection, Clocks, Rim and tire sets, small pickup box trailer, ATV accessories including many helmets, European mounts, Washer and Dryer, Like new Stihl weed trimmer, like new Remington Chain Saw, Paintball guns and accessories, ALSO a consignment from Black Hills Aerial Adventures (Just north of Boyd's) and MUCH MORE!



Watch www.bradeenauction.com for details.

Contact Mark @ 605-660-3339 for more info.

Boyd's World-Famous Antiques and Uniques certainly will remain open for business, serving their huge following. Stop in and look around you will not believe what's available!

WATCH www.bradeenauction.com for listed items and details!

Auction Professionally Managed By:

BRADEEN
100 YEARS
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS
Ron Bradeen • Jeff Storm Auctioneers
605-673-2629 • Custer, SD
www.bradeenauction.com
"Like us" on Facebook!

"Specialists in Real Estate Auctions"



SCAN QR CODE TO SEE THIS WEEK'S FEATURED PROPERTY



HOMESTEAD DR LOT 4

• MANUFACTURED HOME • \$85,900 • CUSTER, SD
Main-floor living in this upgraded home with fabulously open living area! Cozy wood burning stove with brick backdrop & vaulted living room ceiling accents. Lots of cabinets & countertop space. Updated flooring throughout!

LEWIS REALTY
14 W Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer, SD
DestinationBlackHills.com 605-673-5885



Business and Professional Directory

YOUR GUIDE TO SOUTHERN HILLS BUSINESSES

ELECTRICAL SERVICE Freeman's Electric Service Inc. Serving the Custer Area FREE Estimates 24 Hour Answering Service Your Call — Our Command Custer — 673-3701	CONSTRUCTION Talley Construction Dirt Work • Septic Tanks Waterlines • Road Grading Dump Truck Service FREE Estimates • 574-2155 Reasonable Rates	EYE DOCTOR  Premier —FAMILY EYECARE— 322 Mt. Rushmore Rd. • Custer Walk-ins & New Patients Welcome 673-2716 www.visionsource-custer.com Vision Source	FLOORING  We Do Repairs, Restretches on Flooring Shanklin's 12702 Miller Court Rd (Off America Center Rd) Custer • 605-673-2099	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217
FINANCIAL  Jim Meyer, AAMS® Financial Planner 39 N. 4th Street Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2367	 FREEDOM HILLS WEALTH MANAGEMENT associated with Raymond James Financial Services Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC Investment advisory services are offered only to clients of Raymond James Financial Services Inc. who are eligible to receive advisory services. Raymond James Financial Services Inc. is not a broker-dealer and is not a member of FINRA or SIPC. www.freedomhillswm.com	WATER WELL DRILLING ALEXANDER DRILLING INC. 605-574-2331 info@alexanderdrillinginc.com • Water Well Drilling • Pumping Systems and Service • Well Hydrofracturing RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL www.alexanderdrillinginc.com	GRAVEL  Southern Hills • Grading • Dirtwork • Septic Installs ROCK & GRAVEL • Retaining Walls Commercial • Residential Delivery Available Lonny Schramm 605-745-5066 Argyle, SD Cell 545-1160 <i>Here to Rock the Southern Hills!</i>	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217
CONSTRUCTION Russ Johnson Construction 605-574-2881	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP W.E.A.V.E. WOMEN ESCAPING A VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT P.O. Box 729 Custer, SD 57730 Custer County Sheriff 673-8176 24-Hour Crisis Line 673-HELP (4357) Toll Free: 1-800-424-3574	VETERINARIAN Fall River Veterinary Clinic HOT SPRINGS Mon.—Sat. 8am–5pm Wed. 8am–8pm • 605-745-3786 Emergency • 605-745-3786 Dustin Brown, DVM • Kayla Brown, DVM	ELECTRICIAN Carr Electric Co. LLC 25 Years of experience  Free Estimates Licensed • Insured • Bonded 605-670-0996
 ALPHA BUILDERS LLC • Residential Construction • Construction Management • Site Development Paul - 605-440-1201 Haylee - 605-228-0943 alphabuilders.net	GRAVEL BLACK HILLS GRAVEL 26248 Lime Kiln Road Pringle, SD WHITE LIMESTONE GRAVEL CLIFF PAT 605-440-1031 605-863-5170	ELECTRICIAN Iron Mountain Electric, LLC Commercial • Residential • Farm & Ranch Licensed & Insured Electricians, LOCALLY owned & operated in Custer County since 2010 • Specializing in new custom homes, site development & consultation • Skid steer & Mini Excavator services • Serving Custer & Fall River Counties Aaron Hemingway • 379 Main St., Pringle 605-673-5701 • ironmtnelectric@gmail.com		
Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	REAL ESTATE  Amanda Carlin Your Southern Black Hills Realtor 605-440-7587 blackhillsouthernrealty@gmail.com Thinking of selling? Curious to know what your land and home value are? Give me a call!	HANDYMAN EVANS REPAIR Appliances • Furnaces Water Heaters & Service Handyman Services John Evans, Jr Cell: 605-673-1600 Home: 605-673-3048	Rent this space! Only \$22.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	
REAL ESTATE  Block Realty Buy or Sell with me! Julie Block Broker/Owner 605.868.5584 sellingblackhills@gmail.com MLS	REAL ESTATE  WESTERN SKIES REAL ESTATE 523 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 57730 Lori Svoboda Owner/Broker/Notary www.BHrealtor.com 605.517.0785	BLASTING & CONTRACTOR A-1 Drilling & Blasting Development Blasting Residential Ditch Lines Quarries "Serving The Entire Black Hills Area" Fully Insured Shawn Stiles 605-578-1991	PRINT/COMPUTER  Vector print@vectordpt.com DESIGN PRINT TECH Your LOCAL Design & Print Shop! COMPUTER UPGRADES & REPAIR 1164 Mt Rushmore Rd • Custer • 605-673-2740	
WINDOWS & GLASS Rapid City Window & Glass Store Fronts/Entrances • Exterior Patio Doors Glass Replacement • Residential Windows Automatic Doors • Commercial Windows Mirrors & Shower Doors • Sky-Lites/Sunrooms 605-343-4999 936 E. St. Patrick • Rapid City, SD	REAL ESTATE Integrity Realty "Your local, knowledgeable, Real Estate Agents" Contact us today! 605-574-4444 or 605-391-8373 www.landlotshomes.com	TAX PREPARER Rent this space! Only \$22.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	HEATING & COOLING  Witt's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. 104 South 9th • Custer 673-3212 Heating and Cooling Service and Installation Heat Pumps Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers	
EXCAVATING • BASEMENTS • DIRT • GRAVEL • SEPTIC  Expect Honest Work and Fair Prices Nielsen Enterprises, LLC • Excavating • Basements • Dirt Work • Gravel • Septic Systems Mark Nielsen • 24890 Sylvan Lake Rd, Custer 605-673-4701 • Cell: 673-1519	Rent this space! Only \$11.00 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217	FINANCIAL ADVISOR Edward Jones Invest in a way that shares your values. Let's map out your future together. Mark A Koch Financial Advisor 27 North 6th Street Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2644 edwardjones.com	ACCOUNTING NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS! Outsourced Accounting, Payroll and Tax Preparation Contact Kati Rombough for more information 651-472-4087 kati@corsairaccounting.com	
HEATING & AC • CONSTRUCTION Custer Heating & A/C Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2957 www.custerheating.com Owner: Bob Brown	STONE & LANDSCAPING DAKOTA STONE COMPANY Landscaping • Black Dirt • Boulders • Crushed Stone - 5 Colors • Stonedust for Walkways • Stepping Stone • Retaining Walls • Patio Stone Building Stone • Fireplace • Outside Veneer Masonry Supplies • Cement • Mortar Color • Other Supplies Gravel Hauling Sand for Power Line Construction www.dakotastone.net Visit our website for more pictures! 605-574-2760	FIREARMS • BUY • SALE • TRADE RENT THIS SPACE! Only \$34 a week (minimum three month commitment) 673-2217		
HVAC  Kitchens by Karla Custer, SD 57730 605.580.0183 www.kitchensbykarla.com kitchensbykarla@gmail.com • www.bertch.com Karla Haagenson • Owner • Custom Design • Competitive Pricing • By Appointment Only				

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

SHOP

BLACK HILLS

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

Custer

Deep Creek Gallery



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

SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32

(for retail business only)

\$100
(normal price)

SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

2 column X 4 inch
color ad
for \$32

(for retail business only)

\$100
(normal price)

Special session could resolve or inflame years of debate about state’s penitentiary

By John Hult
South Dakota News Watch

When the South Dakota Legislature convened for a special session Tuesday at the Capitol in Pierre, lawmakers were again asked to answer a question that’s swirled for decades: Is it time to close the oldest parts of the state penitentiary?

A “yes” would mean a green light for the most expensive capital project ever funded by the state’s taxpayers.

A “no” would drag debate on the future of the 144-year-old building known as “the Hill” into another legislative session this winter.

Either answer will ripple through a state correctional apparatus that’s been subject to increasing scrutiny for the past four years.

The stakes, the stage

Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden needs two-thirds of lawmakers in each legislative chamber to approve his plan for a 1,500-bed, \$650 million men’s prison in an industrial area in Sioux Falls. The state Constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote for spending bills.

Rhoden expects to have enough funding to build the prison without taking on any debt, due to money lawmakers have put into an incarceration construction fund the past several years and interest earned on that money.

On Labor Day, Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko told Rhoden she’d resign on Oct. 20. Rhoden said he supported her, but also said he understood that her decision could help the prison win the support of the lawmakers who wanted her gone.

Since then, the governor has released the prison’s layout, added answers to a prison-focused Frequently Asked Questions page and held phone calls with lawmakers to make his case. Last week, he pledged to create a rehabilitation task force if lawmakers say yes to the prison legislation, released a plan that says the prison will cost \$154 million less than the one he couldn’t convince lawmakers to vote for in February, and released a letter from contractors guaranteeing a \$650 million maximum price.

Ryan Brunner, an adviser

to Rhoden, wrote a column addressing what he called “myths” about the project that delved into some of the same areas.

A Democratic lawmaker, Rep. Kadyne Wittman of Sioux Falls, wrote a column urging lawmakers to consider rehabilitation and new models for corrections.

Meanwhile, a cadre of state lawmakers called The Freedom Caucus pledged to oppose the prison, and at least one 2026 gubernatorial candidate — Republican Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden — has done the same.

On Friday, the Freedom Caucus said Rhoden’s rehabilitation task force should do its work before lawmakers vote on a new prison.

Another lawmaker, former corrections secretary and Republican Rep. Tim Reisch of Howard, wrote a column backing Rhoden’s plan. Three weeks ago, he was one of 19 House members who said they no longer trusted Wasko to lead the charge for a new prison.

Path to prison began with Noem, but discussion predates her

Rhoden’s Frequently Asked Questions page points to 2021 as the starting line for the current discussions.

That’s the year former Gov. Kristi Noem terminated penitentiary leadership at the Department of Corrections for alleged nepotism and accusations of harassment. No one was charged criminally, but the move quickened discussions about staff shortages and operational inefficiencies at the penitentiary, which was built prior to South Dakota statehood in 1881.

Questions about the building’s age, design deficiencies and capacity predate the Noem administration, however.

During his first stint in the governor’s office in the 1980s, Bill Janklow successfully pushed to turn the former University of South Dakota campus in Springfield into the medium security facility now known as Mike Duffee State Prison. That decision was driven in part by an order from a federal judge to deal with overcrowding at the penitentiary, but also by the lack of suit-

able space for lower-risk inmates.

The state added maximum and minimum security units to the Sioux Falls penitentiary’s footprint during Gov. George S. Mickelson’s time in office. Those buildings would remain in service if lawmakers opt to build a new facility.

In 2013, then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard championed a criminal justice reform package designed, at least in part, to keep enough people out of prison and under community supervision to forestall a penitentiary replacement.

The state’s prison population never hit the 4,500-inmate figure Daugaard warned it might without his reforms, but growth didn’t cease. By the time Noem took office, the average daily population had hit highs of 3,900 — about 200 more than the 2013 average.

After the 2021 staff shakeup, the state commissioned a facilities assessment from a firm called the DLR Group. It concluded that the penitentiary was outdated, overcrowded and needed replacing. It also called for an additional women’s prison and listed more than a dozen other facility-related needs.

Lawmakers voted to begin putting money into an incarceration construction

fund in 2022, and the year after that agreed to build a medium-security women’s prison in Rapid City.

Men’s prison location sparks controversy

The new women’s prison saw little pushback. That project, with a price of \$87 million, broke ground in Rapid City on Oct. 16, 2023, and is still under construction.

One of the first whiffs of trouble for the men’s prison came 10 days earlier. That’s the day the Department of Corrections announced it would transfer \$8 million to the state’s Office of School and Public Lands to secure title to 320 acres of agricultural land in southern Lincoln County for what it hoped would be a 1,500-bed facility.

The land’s neighbors said they weren’t notified and had no input before the announcement. They’d soon form a nonprofit organization called Neighbors Opposed to Prison Expansion and sue the state in an attempt to force it to comply with local zoning rules. Its members held public meetings and testified against the project in Pierre, where lawmakers in 2024 continued putting money into the incarceration construction fund and approved spending for water and sewer infrastruc-

ture for a men’s prison.

The group of neighbors earned the backing of the lawmakers in their legislative district, including Sen. Kevin Jensen and Rep. Karla Lems, both Republicans from Canton. Lems voted against the 1,500-bed, \$825 million prison on the Lincoln County site in February, contributing to a 35-35 tie that sunk the bill in the state House before it could reach the Senate.

Jensen has said publicly that he plans to vote against the \$650 million version on Tuesday.

Task force, consensus, remaining issues

Jensen’s the co-lead of a legislative summer study on recidivism, which aims to find ways to reduce the state’s inmate population by reworking prison operations and rehabilitation programs.

Lems has said that building a new prison without knowing if the state can reduce its need for beds might be “putting the cart before the horse.”

Lems, but not Jensen, served on Rhoden’s Project Prison Reset task force. That group, convened by Rhoden in the wake of the February prison vote failure, set the wheels in motion for the \$650 million prison on the table this week.

The two Canton voices

echo concerns raised by several other lawmakers. Among them are Wittman, the Democrat who penned an editorial about the need for a new approach to corrections.

When Rhoden announced his rehabilitation task force last Wednesday, Jensen called it overdue and poorly timed.

Others question the need to vote this week on a prison they could revisit in three months, during the regular legislative session. Rep. Marty Overweg, R-New Holland, put himself in that camp. Last week, while saying he hadn’t made up his mind yet, he said most lawmakers are “pretty dug in” to their own positions in the run-up to the special session.

Those positions will be revealed Tuesday.

The special session begins when the Senate and House gaveled in at 9 a.m. Central time. Rhoden was scheduled to deliver a speech to a joint session of both chambers at 9:30 a.m., after which debate was expected to begin.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight.

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



WHERE IT WOULD BE LOCATED — The “Benson Road Site” is the proposed location of a new men’s prison in Sioux Falls. [Submitted Photo/GOVERNOR’S OFFICE]

able space for lower-risk inmates.

The state added maximum and minimum security units to the Sioux Falls penitentiary’s footprint during Gov. George S. Mickelson’s time in office. Those buildings would remain in service if lawmakers opt to build a new facility.

In 2013, then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard championed a criminal justice reform package designed, at least in part, to keep enough people out of prison and under community supervision to forestall a penitentiary replacement.

The state’s prison population never hit the 4,500-inmate figure Daugaard warned it might without his reforms, but growth didn’t cease. By the time Noem took office, the average daily population had hit highs of 3,900 — about 200 more than the 2013 average.

After the 2021 staff shakeup, the state commissioned a facilities assessment from a firm called the DLR Group. It concluded that the penitentiary was outdated, overcrowded and needed replacing. It also called for an additional women’s prison and listed more than a dozen other facility-related needs.

Lawmakers voted to begin putting money into an incarceration construction

fund in 2022, and the year after that agreed to build a medium-security women’s prison in Rapid City.

Men’s prison location sparks controversy

The new women’s prison saw little pushback. That project, with a price of \$87 million, broke ground in Rapid City on Oct. 16, 2023, and is still under construction.

One of the first whiffs of trouble for the men’s prison came 10 days earlier. That’s the day the Department of Corrections announced it would transfer \$8 million to the state’s Office of School and Public Lands to secure title to 320 acres of agricultural land in southern Lincoln County for what it hoped would be a 1,500-bed facility.

The land’s neighbors said they weren’t notified and had no input before the announcement. They’d soon form a nonprofit organization called Neighbors Opposed to Prison Expansion and sue the state in an attempt to force it to comply with local zoning rules. Its members held public meetings and testified against the project in Pierre, where lawmakers in 2024 continued putting money into the incarceration construction fund and approved spending for water and sewer infrastruc-

ture for a men’s prison.

The group of neighbors earned the backing of the lawmakers in their legislative district, including Sen. Kevin Jensen and Rep. Karla Lems, both Republicans from Canton. Lems voted against the 1,500-bed, \$825 million prison on the Lincoln County site in February, contributing to a 35-35 tie that sunk the bill in the state House before it could reach the Senate.

Jensen has said publicly that he plans to vote against the \$650 million version on Tuesday.

Task force, consensus, remaining issues

Jensen’s the co-lead of a legislative summer study on recidivism, which aims to find ways to reduce the state’s inmate population by reworking prison operations and rehabilitation programs.

Lems has said that building a new prison without knowing if the state can reduce its need for beds might be “putting the cart before the horse.”

Lems, but not Jensen, served on Rhoden’s Project Prison Reset task force. That group, convened by Rhoden in the wake of the February prison vote failure, set the wheels in motion for the \$650 million prison on the table this week.

The two Canton voices

echo concerns raised by several other lawmakers. Among them are Wittman, the Democrat who penned an editorial about the need for a new approach to corrections.

When Rhoden announced his rehabilitation task force last Wednesday, Jensen called it overdue and poorly timed.

Others question the need to vote this week on a prison they could revisit in three months, during the regular legislative session. Rep. Marty Overweg, R-New Holland, put himself in that camp. Last week, while saying he hadn’t made up his mind yet, he said most lawmakers are “pretty dug in” to their own positions in the run-up to the special session.

Those positions will be revealed Tuesday.

The special session begins when the Senate and House gaveled in at 9 a.m. Central time. Rhoden was scheduled to deliver a speech to a joint session of both chambers at 9:30 a.m., after which debate was expected to begin.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight.

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

WELCOME TO THE BUFFALO ROUNDUP!

CUSTER STATE PARK ★ BUFFALO ★ ★ ROUNDUP ★ & ARTS FESTIVAL

The rumble starts underfoot as the first of the 1,400 buffalo crest the hill. Before long, the mighty animals are stampeding alongside park personnel, cowboys and cowgirls, all attempting to herd the animals toward the Buffalo Corrals. You watch in awe from one of two designated viewing areas as the thundering beasts pass within a few hundred feet of you.

THAT'S THE BUFFALO ROUNDUP



General Info 605-394-2693 • www.CusterStatePark.com

**HAVE FUN AT THE
BUFFALO ROUNDUP**

LEWIS REALTY 605-673-5885
14 W Mt. Rushmore Rd, Custer

www.DestinationBlackHills.com

R.P. LUMBER BEST SERVICE. BEST VALUE.

SERVING PROS & HOMEOWNERS SINCE 1977

[f](https://www.facebook.com/rplumber) RPLUMBER.COM [i](https://www.instagram.com/rplumber)

Call or Visit:
603 Crook St.
Custer, SD
(605) 673-3777

- Hardware
- Lumber
- Decks
- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Roofing
- Siding
- Gutters
- Tools
- Doors
- Windows
- Paint
- Pole Barns
- Drywall
- Lawn & Garden
- Grills
- Plumbing
- Electrical

**Take your own
buffalo (painting)
home!**

Deep Creek Gallery
757 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Custer, SD • 312-505-4592
A Gallery of Gifts Awaits!

**PROTECT
the BEAUTIFUL BLACK HILLS**

Here in the Black Hills, stunning scenery, diverse wildlife, and pure waters are some of the things we offer visitors and residents alike. Mining is part of our history ~ but plentiful, **CLEAN WATER** is crucial for our FUTURE.

CURRENTLY, 271,000 ACRES OF THE BLACK HILLS ARE UNDER ACTIVE MINING CLAIMS. WE ARE WORKING TO PROTECT WATER AND STOP DESTRUCTIVE INDUSTRIAL MINING.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BLACK HILLS CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE, SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO:

www.bhcleanwateralliance.org

FOLLOW US @ [f](https://www.facebook.com/bhcleanwateralliance) [i](https://www.instagram.com/bhcleanwateralliance) [y](https://www.youtube.com/bhcleanwateralliance)

SOMEONE'S IN THE
KITCHEN

Welcome to the Black Hills! Enjoy the Roundup!

Enjoy \$5 off your \$25 purchase!
Not valid on gift cards or sale items. No cash value. Expires 11/1/25

SDPB presents
**The 60th Annual
Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup**

Watch live on SDPB2 World Channel and online at SDPB.org
Friday, Sept. 26 9:30am Mountain

SDPB

Photo courtesy of Byron Baraslow, Travel South Dakota

**Welcome to the
Buffalo Roundup!**

• Hiking Gear • Outdoor Apparel
• Footwear • Black Hills Apparel

DAKOTA OUTDOOR SHOP
429 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Custer • 605-673-2240

BLACK HILLS

Live

LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

Wednesday 9-24

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

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

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

Edward Jones Medicare and Finance, Supplemental Insurance Seminar
Mueller Center
Hot Springs, SD
10 AM

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

Bingo
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

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

Heartland Dancing Lessons
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
5-9 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 9-25

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival
Custer State Park

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

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

Mahjongg
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM

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

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

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

Trivia Night
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Young Original, Pop & Folk Quartet *LIVE*
Belle Fourche Area Rec Center Theatre
Belle Fourche, SD
7 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 9-26

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival
Custer State Park

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

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

Strength, Step & Stretch
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
11 AM

Friday Nighters *LIVE*
Heartland RV Park
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Josh Cleveland Band *LIVE*
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7-10 PM

Saturday 9-27

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival
Custer State Park

Farmer's Market
Way Park
Custer, SD
8 AM - 12:30 PM

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



IT'S ROUNDUP TIME — The annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival is this weekend in Custer State Park. The roundup will take place at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the corrals on Wildlife Loop Road. Parking lots open for the event at 6:15 a.m. The arts festival begins Thursday and runs through Saturday on the festival grounds across from the Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center. [Submitted Photo]

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

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

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

Greg Johnson & Friends *LIVE*
Heartland RV Park
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Young Original, Pop & Folk Quartet *LIVE*
Crouch Auditorium
Newcastle, Wyo.
7 PM

Jalan Crossland *LIVE*
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7-10 PM

Sunday 9-28

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

4th Sunday Dinner
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
11:30 AM - 1 PM

Adult Bible Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
7-8 PM

Monday 9-29

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

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

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

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
Noon

Custer Rotary Club
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon

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

Hermosa Connects
Hermosa Coffee House
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

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

Bluegrass *LIVE*
The Gaslight Restaurant
Rockerville, SD
6:30-8:30 PM

Tuesday 9-30

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

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

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

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

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

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

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Wednesday 10-1

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

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

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

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

Lunch Bunch
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
11:30 AM

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

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



SATURDAY AT THE BEACON — The Josh Cleveland Band will take the stage at the Custer Beacon this Friday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Whether he is playing solo with just a couple guitars or with the full band, Josh will engage you with his stories, his smooth vocals, and his heart that sings through every note. He is a thoughtful and playful songwriter that takes what he does seriously, while at the same time, not taking himself too seriously. "Music is meant to be fun," Cleveland said. "It just so happens fun sometimes comes in the form of a heartfelt lyric and melody, or a ridiculous anecdote in between songs." [Submitted Photo]

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

Bingo
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 10-2

Hermosa Art Out! Plain Air Painting Registration
Hermosa Arts and History Area Museum
Hermosa, SD
8-10 AM

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

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

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

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

BW Buzz Band *LIVE*
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 10-3

Soil Health Workshop
Oelrichs Community Center
Oelrichs, SD
8:30 AM - 3 PM

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

The Book Report
Petals & Pages
Custer, SD
5-6:30 PM

Friday Nighters *LIVE*
Heartland RV Park
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Jimmy Ray & The Stingers *LIVE*
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7 PM

Saturday 10-4

Farmer's Market
Way Park
Custer, SD
8 AM - 12:30 PM

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

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

Custer Pack Dog Walk
Pageant Hill
Custer, SD
11 AM

Harvest Moon Festival
Buffalo Ridge Camp Resort
Custer, SD
11 AM - 9 PM

Hermosa Art Out! Plain Air Painting Happy Hour, Registration and Awards
Hermosa Arts and History Area Museum
Hermosa, SD
4-6 PM

Folsom Bazaar
Folsom Community Building
15942 Lower Spring Creek Rd.
Custer County, SD
5 PM

Greg Johnson & Friends *LIVE*
Heartland RV Park
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

Sunday 10-5

Custer Community Action Team Food Distribution
CAT Building, corner of N. 6th and Lincoln Streets
Custer, SD
10 AM-1 PM

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

Newcomers Lunch
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
12-2 PM

Monday 10-6

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

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

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

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
Noon

Custer Rotary Club
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon

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

Hill City Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall
Hill City, SD
5:30 PM

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

Buffalo Gap Town Board
Buffalo Gap Community Center
Buffalo Gap, SD
7 PM

Womens Bible Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6 -8 PM

Tuesday 10-7

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

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

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

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

Dementia Dialogues
Custer Ambulance Service
Custer, SD
5:30 PM

Banned Book Read In
Petals & Pages
Custer, SD
5:30-7 PM
Earbuds, Smart Phone Required

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

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

Hermosa Town Board
Hermosa Town Hall
Hermosa, SD
6 PM

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

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

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Wednesday 10-8

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

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

Custer County Commission
Custer County Courthouse
Custer, SD
8 AM

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

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

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

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

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

Dementia Dialogues
Custer Ambulance Service
Custer, SD
5:30 PM

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

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

Bingo
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 10-9

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

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

Mahjongg
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM

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

2025 South Dakota Day of Giving Training
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
4 PM

Ribbon Cutting/Open House
Custer State Farm
Custer, SD
4:30 PM

Cribbage Tournament
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
4:30-9 PM

Dementia Dialogues
Custer Ambulance Service
Custer, SD
5:30 PM

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

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

Advertise Your Business Here!

Call 605-673-2217

Southern Hills Law

8 W. Mt. Rushmore Rd.

605-673-2503

Wills • Real Estate • Family Law