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DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



COME TO SPROCKETS — Delaney Johnston is a member of the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame, two-time grammy nominee, and has traveled all over the Midwest. She does classic country music from Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton and more. Johnston will perform at Sprockets Fun Foundry in Keystone this Friday evening at 6 p.m. [Submitted Photo]

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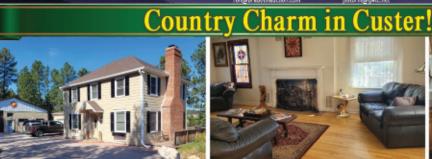
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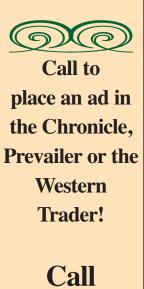
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SHOP THE BLACK HILLS!

State teacher shortage a matter of pay and pipeline

By Jackie Hendry South Dakota News Watch

Education is not immune to South Dakota's ongoing workforce challenges. While much of the Legislature's focus is on

working to grow the pool of

future teachers

Around 300 teaching positions sat vacant around the state as of last month, according to the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. It's a shortage Education Secretary of Joseph Graves has never seen in his decades as a

teacher and administrator. "It's always been difficult to fill certain positions," he said earlier this month in an interview with Dakota Public Broadcasting. "If you had a high school instrumental music position, or you had an upper level math, upper level science - those could be difficult at any time in

In the past decade or so, though, Graves said there were fewer and fewer candidates for commonly easyto-fill positions.

"When I began in my superintendency over 30 years ago, we would have file cabinets full of elementary applicants," he said. "When those (positions) began to be in a shortage, we knew we were in a real definite teacher shortage. And in fact, I think the teacher shortage right now is historically unprecedented.

The blue ribbon promise of higher teacher pay

Graves was superintendent of the Mitchell School District when the half-cent sales tax increase brought forth by a blue ribbon task force took effect in 2017. The increased tax revenue was meant to bolster teacher salaries.

easier to hire teachers," said Graves. "It also moved us from 51st in the nation for our teacher pay to 47th. we've What noticed, though, in the last couple down."

"It definitely made it

years is this drifting back With South Dakota now back to 49th in the nation

for teacher pay, Gov. Kristi

wants to ensure school districts allocate the increased funding to teachers, rather than other needs.

schools have their own challenges," Noem said in teacher salaries, some are her 2024 State of the State address. "But the blue ribwasn't just that teacher pay would go up. The blue ribbon promise was that teachers would be the first priority, that they would be paid

continued to meet demand.

own career.'

To help spread the word about the benefits of a career in education, Lape teachers and administrators that established the first South Dakota chapter of a group called Educators Rising.

tion launched in 2015 and has since amassed more than 30,000 participating students and teachers. Its mission is to encourage high school students to pursue a teaching career through skill development and hands-on experience. It offers competitions related to public speaking and other teaching skills at state and national conferences.

While considering ways programs,

"Yes, I know recommendation

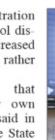
While legislative efforts to keep the promises of the blue ribbon task force are ongoing in Pierre, other efforts to recruit future teachers play out across the state. When schools saw the state's investment in education following the task force, some administrators wondered how to ensure the pool of future educators

We get this bump in pay, everybody's heading in the right direction, but we weren't seeing an increase in kids choosing education as a career path," said Travis Lape, director of innovative programs for the Harrisburg School District. "Teachers are always very good at telling kids other opportunities besides our

Finding future teachers through Educators Rising

was part of a group of The national organiza-

to leverage Harrisburg career and technical educa-Lape remembered his own experience with Future Farmers



more. So let's do it."

TAKING A TEST RUN — High school junior Katelyn Christopherson explains worksheets to second graders at Explorer Elementary in Harrisburg, S.D. Christopherson is a state officer with Educators Rising South Dakota, a group that encourages high schoolers to consider a teaching career. [Submitted Photo/KRYSTAL SCHOENBAUER -SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING of America as a high schooler. "I didn't have cows and pigs - I didn't grow up like that - but I had the leadership side. So parliamentary

in FFA," said Lape. He also traveled to state and national conferences as a student thanks to his involvement with FFA.

procedure, public speaking,

job interviews. Those were

the events that I thrived in,

"I got to see the world through the organization. And I said, 'We don't have that for education.'

Lape is now state director of Educators Rising South Dakota, which over the past six years has grown to more than 350 student members spread across 50 chapters in the state.

Some schools treat it like any other extra curricular club with a teacher advising. Others, like Harrisburg High School, offer it as an extension of existing career and technical education classes, which weave competition material into classroom assignments. 'Our future teachers are

in our schools'

One competition area centers on lesson planning and development. High school students create a lesson plan and deliver it in a real classroom, while

judges review a recording

of the lesson during compe-

Katelyn Christopherson, a junior at Harrisburg High School and a state officer with Educators Rising South Dakota, placed third last year at the national Educators Rising conference for her lesson plan geared toward middle schoolers.

This year, Christopherson created a lesson plan that uses ice cream to explain states of matter, which she recently presented to second graders at Explorer Elementary in Harrisburg.

"The thing I pride myself on when I do these lesson plans is making sure I have multiple different ways to learn it because everybody so different," said Christopherson.

Her lesson plan included a demonstration of an ice cream recipe, a YouTube video, and a coloring worksheet. Christopherson fieldteacher observed.

ed questions from students and managed the classroom as the students' full-time "I feel like thers's no other real way to understand this is what you want to do," said Christopherson. She enjoys the hands-on experience and connections

she's made with students in

other districts through

Educators Rising South

Dakota.



DOING THE WORK — A Harrisburg, S.D., elementary student completes a worksheet as part of a lesson plan created by high schooler. [Submitted Photo/KRYSTAL **SCHOENBAUER** SOUTH DAKOTA BROADCASTING]

potential

years to come.

"I feel like something that pushes people away from education is, you know, the money or just some other factor," said Christopherson. "But if we're putting that spark in and also people are working towards it - because obviously we don't do it for the money - but I feel like by encouraging those people in other ways that want to be teachers, I feel like we can even help the shortage even While pay is an impor-

nonprofit

Watch produces investigatant retention measure for tive and public service jourteachers, Lape said giving nalism that sheds light on students an opportunity to the issues, concerns and explore a teaching career welfare of South Dakotans. early is a critical part of See more stories at

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educators

'There's a national sta-

tistic out there that says

almost 60 percent of teach-

ers live and work within 20

miles of where they grew

up," said Lape. "Our future

teachers are in our schools."

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Golf Course

Daily 7 am - 8 pm

Springs Coffee

Kiosk

Mon-Fri 5:30am-4:30pm

Saturday 5:30am - 2pm

Sunday 5:30am - Noon

Taco John's

Monday - Saturday

7 a.m. to 9 pm

unday 8 am - 8 pm

The Berm

(Food Truck)

Wednesday - Saturday

11:30am - 6pm

Two Cows Creamery

& Bistro

Mon-Thurs 11am-8pm

Fri & Sat 11am-9pm

Sunday 11am-7pm

Heaven Scent

Bakery

Wednesday - Monday

10am - 5pm

Wandering Bison

Coffee

Mon, Tues, Thurs 7am-3pm

Fri & Saturday 3pm-6 pm

Sunday 8am-3pm

Winner's Circle

Sunday-Thursday

10am-8:45pm

Friday & Saturday

10am-9:45pm

To list a



11 am- 2:30pm

Buglin' Bull

Restaurant &

Sports Bar

Sun-Thursday 11am-8 pm

Friday-Saturday 11am-9pm

Calamity Jane's

Tuesday - Sunday

7am to 9pm

Custer Beacon

Wednesday - Saturday

4 pm to close

Custer County

Candy Co.

Sunday-Monday closed

Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Custer Deli

Monday-Wednesday 8:30

am-4pm Thurs & Fri.

8:30am-5pm Sat. 9am-2pm

Custer's Last

Stop

Daily

10 am - 3 pm

Custer Wolf

Monday-Saturday

11:30 am- 8 pm

Dairy Queen

Mon.-Saturday 11am-8 pm

Sunday 11am-7 pm

Dakota Broasted

Tuesday - Saturday

11 am - 6 pm

Feel Good Cafe

(Closed for the Season)

Frontier Bar &

Grill

Daily 11 am to 9 pm

Closed Tuesday

Gold Pan Saloon

Sun-Thursday 2pm - close

Fri - Saturday 2pm - close

Hjem AM

Friday 8am - 11am

Satutrday & Sunday

8 am - Noon

Horatio's

Homemade Ice

Cream

see: horatiosicecream.com

Restaurant

Skogen Kitchen **Black Hills** Tuesday - Saturday 5-8 Burger & Bun p.m. Tuesday -Saturday

> Subway Restaurant

Mon-Sat 8 am - 9 pm

Sunday 8 am -8 pm

Pizza Mill

Monday- Saturday

11 am - 8 pm

HILL City

2:30 pm LUNCH 5 pm - 9:30 pm DINNER Annie Lode

The Alpine Inn

Monday - Saturday 11 am

Coffee Cabin Tuesday-Friday 6:30am - 1:00pm

Monday - Saturday 7 am - 2 pm

Black Hills Bistro

Bumpin' Buffalo Bar & Grill Monday - Sunday 11 am - 9 pm

Caboose Coffee Company Monday - Saturday 7 am -1 pm Sunday - Closed

Thursday - Monday 11 am - 9 pm Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

Chute Rooster

Cream

Tuesday - Saturday

10 am - 3:30 pm

Dairy Twist Monday - Saturday 11a.m. - 7 p.m. & Sunday

Noon -7 p.m Gold Run Café

Sunday - Thursday

8 am - 2 pm Friday - Saturday 10 am - 3:30 pm

Exxon Daily 5 am - Midnight

Heart of the Hills

Miner Brewing Company Daily 11 a.m. -7 p.m

Winery Daily 10 am - 6 pm

Prairie Berry

Saloon

for winter hours Silver Dollar **Laughing Water**

Mon - Fri. 11 am to 4 pm Monday -Thursday 1pm - 10 pm Sat. & Sun. 9am - 4 pm Fri - Sun Noon - 10 pm

Maria's Mexican Taqueria Los **Camelinas** Restaurant Monday-Friday 4pm-7 pm Monday - Saturday Saturday 11 am-2 pm 6:30 - 10 am, 11 am - 3 pm 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tin City Saloon Miner's Cup Friday-Wednesday Monday - Saturday 11am - 8 pm 6:30 am - 1:30 pm

Three Forks Bar, **Grille & Casino** Daily 11 am - 7 pm

Turtle Town Sunday-Thursday

10am 4 pm

Friday-Saturday 9am-5 pm

Twisted PineTasting Room Tues-ThursNoon-5pm

Fri-Saturday Noon-7pm

HEILMUSA

Corner Pantry

Deli

Daily 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hermosa Coffee

House

Monday- Saturday

7 am - 1 pm

Your Restaurant Here Monday- Saturday

4am - 9pm

Lintz Bros. Pizza Thursday - Monday 3 pm - 9 pm

Hermosa Senior

Citizens Center

Monday - Thursday

Noon to close

79 Lounge

Keystone

Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Eno's Pizza & Pub

Friday-Sunday 11am-10 pm Keystone

Mon-Thurs 11am -9pm

Country Store Daily 7 am to 9 pm

Turtle Town

Monday-Saturday 10 am until 6 pm Sunday 10 am until 5 pm

Xanterra@ Mt. Rushmore Daily 8 am - 9 pm

Carver's Cafe @ Mt. Rushmore

8 am - 4:30 pm

business here call Kate 605-440-1248 Just A Click Awa

Edgemant

Igloo Bar

Daily 9 am - 12 am

Friday & Saturday

9am - 2 am **Khantong Thai** Cuisine

The Hat Creek Grill Friday & Saturday

Noon - 10 pm

Victory

Monday-Wednesday-

Friday 11 am - 4:30 pm

Steakhouse & Lounge 11 am - 9 pm Tuesday - Saturday

6 am - 9 pm Sunday 8 am -9am

Yesway #1174

Daily - Open 24 hours

Yesway

Monday-Saturday

Newcastle

7am - 2 pm Saturday 7am - 10 am

Boopa's

Tuesday - Friday

Daily 6 am -2 pm

Kaffee Klatsch

Mon-Wed 5:30 - 12:30pm

Tues, Thurs, Fri. 5:30 - 1pm

Saturday 6:30am-10:30am

Donna's Main St.

Diner

Cambria Coffee & Decker's Market

Monday-Friday 7am-5 pm

Saturday 7am-2pm Sunday

8 am - Noon

Decker's Market - Deli Monday - Saturday 7 am - 8 pm

Sunday 8 am - 7 pm

Hot Stuff Pizza Daily 5 am - 6 pm

Taco John's

Daily 11 am - 10 pm

Hannah's **Heavenly Treats** Tusday - Friday

7 am - 2 pm

Saturday 7- 10

Howdy Bakery

Thursday, Friday,

Saturday 8am-6pm Sat. 9am - 4pm Hi-16 Cafe

Thursday - Sunday

Sunday - Wednesday 11 am - 8 pm

Isabella's

Tursday - Saturday 11 am - 9 pm Perkins Tavern

Monday - Wednesday 11 am - 8 pm Thursday - Sunday 7 am - 9 pm

Pizza Barn Monday - Thursday 4 pm - 9 pm Friday & Saturday 4 pm - 10 pm

Uncle Vito's Tuesday - Friday 7 am - 2 pm Saturday 7 am - 10 am

Pringle

The Hitchrail Bar & Restaurant Tuesday - Sunday

11 am - 8 pm

Rapid City

Monday - Wednesday 11 am - 8 pm BELLE

Shipwreck's Bar

& Grill

gaurche **Black Hills Diner**

Tuesday-Saturday 7 am - 2 pm

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CALL TODAY TO PLACE AN AD Kate Najacht: 605-440-1248 for more information

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custercountychronicle.com

BLACK HILL

LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

Wind Cave

Wednesday 2-21

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 Functional Fitness Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM

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

Women's Bible Study

The Little White Church Hill City, SD 10 AM Seniors Bridge Card Games

Hill City, SD 10 AM - 3 PM Custer County Library Board Custer County Library

Hill City Center

Custer, SD 1 PM Vitalant Blood Drive

Sponsored by Hill City Lions Club Hill City Center Hill City, SD

1-5 PM Crafternoon Custer County Library

Custer, SD 3 PM BOLT

The Little White Church

Hill City, SD 3:20 PM Keystone Town Board

Meeting
Keystone Community
Center
Keystone, SD
4 PM

The Landing The Little White Church Hill City, SD 4:30 PM

Vinyl Record Club Custer County Library Custer, SD 5 PM

Middle School & High School Youth Group The Little White Church Hill City, SD

5:40 PM

Crossroads Church

Xtreme Youth Group

Crossroads Church

Custer, SD

6:30 PM

Fairburn Town Board Fairburn Civic Center Fairburn, SD

Thursday 2-22

Women's Bible Study Fellowship The Little White Church

The Little White Church Hill City, SD 8:30 AM

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

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

1 PM

Imagination Club Hill City Public Library Kids' Annex Hill City, SD

HIII City, SD 3:15 PM Tony DuBlois, Musical Savant LIVE

Musical Savant /// The Hills Finest Custer, SD 5-8 PM

Life Struggles Suicide Prevention Group Custer VFW Custer, SD 6 PM

6 PM

Civil Air Patrol

Custer County Airport

Custer County Airport Custer, SD 7 PM

Friday 2-23

ACT Prep Custer County Library Custer, SD 8 AM

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



COMMUNITY CONCERTS — The Hot Springs Area Concert membership is reminded of two concerts in the next few weeks: Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Newcastle, "Divas 3" will perform songs from the 1960s to the '90s. On Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. in Hot Springs, Camille & Stuie of the French Family Band, above, will perform. Camille and Stuie are a husband and wife duo from Australia who will sing variety of music. They are known for their styling of country music, influenced by American stars such as Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell and Anne Murray. The concert season ends in April. Check your ticket for additional concerts listed for Rapid City. (Submitted Photo)

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

9 AM

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

Cinnamon Rolls Custer Senior Center Custer, SD 9 AM

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

Story Time Custer County Library Custer, SD 10 AM

Live Deejay and Dancing ///E The Custer Beacon Custer, SD 7 PM

Skate Night Custer YMCA Custer, SD 5:30-8:30 PM

Celebrate Recovery Crossroads Church Custer, SD Meal at 6 PM Lesson at 6:30 PM

Brent Morris [[]] Chute Rooster Hill City, SD

6-9 PM

Friday Fun Night Featuring Delaney Johnston LNE Sprockets Fun Foundry Keystone, SD 6-7:30 PM

Saturday 2-24

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

CPR & AED Training Class with Certified Instructor Hill City Center Hill City, SD 10 AM - 12 PM Free and open to public

Instructional only

Keystone Bingo + Benefit and Silent Auction for Butch Koepp Keystone Community Center Keystone, SD Dinner at 5 PM, free will donations Bingo at 6 PM

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

Sunday 2-25

Mason's Sunday Breakfast Hermosa Masonic Lodge Hermosa, SD 7 AM to Noon \$10 Adults \$5 Children

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

KISS AA Meeting Keystone Community Center Keystone, SD 6 PM

Monday 2-26

Custer Restaurant Week Begins Custer, SD

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

Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM Custer Rotary Club

Custer Senior Center

Seniors Functional Fitness

Hill City Common Council Meeting City Hall Hill City, SD

Custer, SD

Young Life Hill City Center Hill City, SD

5:30 PM

6 PM

Custer Mile High Garden

Club - Jenny Behlings Peru Trip Custer County Courthouse Annex Pine Room Custer, SD

6 PM

Biblical Citizenship Class
Mountainview
Baptist Church

Custer, SD 6 PM Chick Chat and Crafts The Little White Churc

The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:30 PM AA Meeting

Hill City, SD 7 PM

Lighthouse Assembly of God

Tuesday 2-27

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

THE TWO TRACKS — Both days of the Winter Fest in Hill

City last weekend featured musical performances at

Miner Brewing Co. Among those that performed were

the Two Tracks. [WT Photo/CARL HANSEN]

Wind Cave National Park Custer County, SD 10 AM to Noon Hill City Seniors Flow &

Adventures in Nature

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

Games Hill City Center Hill City, SD 1-3 PM

Seniors Hand & Foot Card

Crocheting Group Hill City Center Hill City, SD 1-3 PM Zonta

Seniors Knitting &

Custer, SD 1 PM Custer Meet & Est Custer Community Church

Custer County Library

5-7 PM

Celebrate Recovery
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD

Custer, SD

5:45 PM

Love INC Class: Human Trafficking 101 The Little White Church Hill City, SD Dinner 5:45 PM Class 6:16 PM Free & childcare provided Recomended for ages 13+

Hermosa Planning & Zoning Hermosa Town Hall Hermosa, SD 6 PM

Hot Springs Concert Association - Divas 3 Crouch Auditorium Newcastle, Wyo. 7 PM

Wednesday 2-28

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

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

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

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

Hill City Evergreen Garden Club Seminar: The Pollinator Garen at the Black Hills Raptor Center Super 8 Conference Room Hill City, SD 1 PM Free

Crafternoon Custer County Library Custer, SD

3 PM

BOLT
The Little White Church

Hill City, SD 3:20 PM

The Landing
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD

4:30 PM

Middle School & High School Youth Group The Little White Church Hill City, SD 5:40 PM

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

Thursday 2-29 Women's Bible Study

Fellowship
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM
Seniors Stretch & Flex

Hill City Center Hill City, SD 9 AM Seniors Hand &

Foot Card Games Hill City Center Hill City, SD 1 PM Imagination Club

Hill City Public Library Kida' Annex Hill City, SD 3:15 PM Tony DuBlois, Musical Savant LNE The Hills Finest Custer, SD 5-8 PM

Keystone Senior Center Meeting Keystone Senior Center

Keystone, SD 6 PM Civil Air Patrol Custer County Airport

Custer, SD 7 PM

Friday 3-1

ACT Prep Custer County Library Custer, SD 8 AM

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

Seniors Coffee Club

Hill City Center Small Room

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

Story Time Custer County Library Custer, SD 10 AM

Seniors Birthday Party Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 11 AM - 1 PM

Celebrate Recovery Crossroads Church Custer, SD Meal at 6 PM Lesson at 6:30 PM

Saturday 3-2

Custer County Democrats Breakfast Gathering Laughing Water Restaurant at Crazy Horse Memorial Custer, SD 9 AM

Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Trade Show Custer Jr./Sr. High School Custer, SD 9 AM to 3 PM

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

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

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Keystone Community Center Keystone, SD Dinner at 5 PM, free will

Keystone Bingo

donations
Bingo at 6 PM

Live On Stage LNE
High Country Guest Ranch
Hill City, SD

Custer Restaurant Week Ends Custer, SD

Doors open at 5 PM

Dinner at 5:30 PM Show starts at 6 PM

Sunday 3-3

Mason's Sunday Breakfast Hermosa Masonic Lodge Hermosa, SD 7 AM to Noon \$10 Adults \$5 Children

The Little White Church

Hill City, SD 6 PM KISS AA Meeting Keystone Community

Adult Bible Study

Center Keystone, SD 6 PM

Monday 3-4 Community Food Pantry The Little White Church

Hill City, SD 9 AM - 11 AM Seniors Functional Fitness

Hill City Center

Hill City, SD

9 AM

Noon

Love INC Annual Vision Lunch: Rooted in Love The Little White Church Hill City, SD 11:30 AM to 1 PM RSVP text "VISION" to 605-

718-5683 by March 1

Custer Rotary Club

Custer Senior Center

Custer, SD

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

Young Life Hill City Center Hill City, SD 6 PM

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

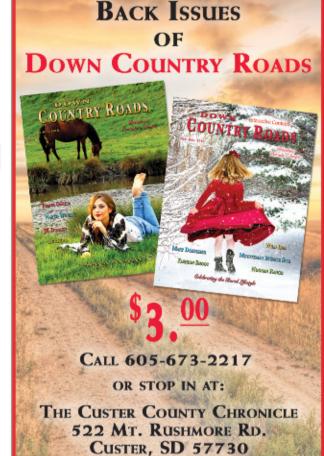
Biblical Citizenship Class Mountainview Baptist Church Custer, SD 6 PM

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