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6:00pm and 6:00am. Benefits include paid holidays, paid vacation earned at 10 hours per month, sick leave earned at 8 hours per month, employ-ee health insurance with option for a Health Savings Account and SDRS retirement. Dental, Vision and additional Life Insurance Options are available. Deputies are assigned their own patrol vehicles. Duty gear and uniforms are provided by the department. Custer County is one of the most beautiful areas of South Dakota and the nation consisting of over 1500 square miles and bordering the State of Wyoming and the counties of Pennington, Oglala Lakota, and Fall River. Custer County is home to Crazy Horse Memorial and over 480,000 acres of public land to include Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, The Black Hills National Forest and Buffalo Gap National Grass Land. Our Office provides contract law enforcement for the City of Custer and Contract Patrols for the United Stated Forest Service. Deputies will enforce local and state laws, prevent and suppress crime and accidents, serve legal processes of courts, and promote public safety through community policing principles, and other duties assigned. as Requirements: Must be at least 21 years of age. Candidates must have a high school diploma or GED certificate; pass a comprehensive background investigation, No prior felony or simple assault domestic violence convictions, No Brady or Giglio Issues, valid driver's license upon application, an insurable driving history, Law Officers Enforcement Standards and Training Certificate. Commission Applicant must have the availability to work all shifts including weekends and holidays. For more information contact SGT Derrick Reifenrath 605-673-8161 or dreifenrath@custercountysd.com. These positions are open until filled. Applications are available on the Custer County website https://www.custercountysd.c om/employment/ or by con-tacting Todd Fish, Custer County Human Resource Director, 420 Mt. Rushmore Road, Custer, SD 57730. Phone 605-673-8134 or tfish@custercountysd.com. Applicants must complete both a Custer County application and a South Dakota Law Training Enforcement Application. Custer County is an equal opportunity employer. THE CUSTER COUNTY 9-1-1 Communications Center is accepting applications for Full-Time Emergency Dispatcher. Custer County offers an excellent benefit package and is a member of the South Dakota Retirement System. Starting wage is \$21.08 per hour for non-certified, and \$21.99 per hour if currently South Dakota Certified/or at the time of obtaining State Certification. Shift Differential pay of \$1.00 per hour between hours of 1800-0600. Applicant must be willing to work any shift, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Position is open until filled. GENERAL DEFI-NITION OF WORK: * Must perform tasks necessary for the operation of a combined communication center service: Fire Departments (urban and rural), County Sheriff's Department, Police Police Departments, Ambulance services (urban and rural), Life flight and any other agency deemed necessary. * Receives emergency and non-emergency calls, from the public, dispatchers, and law enforcement agencies via established local procedures as governed by Communications Council and the Federal Communications (FCC) Rules and Regulations. Must operate computer terminals for specialized access with various automated data banks in compliance with applicable laws. + Works in a confined area and remains seated for long periods of time entering data into various computer systems. • Must be able to work different shifts with possible mandatory overtime, holidays and weekend as needed. * Assigns appropriate public safety personnel for routine and emergency calls for service. * Performs other duties as assigned, including notifying supervisor of any concerns. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: . Ability to communicate effectively and calmly, courteously and clearly, both verbally and in writing, speaking distinctly, and promptly. Communicates with irate, hysterical, aggressive

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ELK MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT 16-2, a rural coun-try school in western Custer County, has the following opening for a South Dakota certified, full-time K-8 Teacher. Elk Mountain School is on a four-day week schedule with standard holidays. Applicants need a valid driver's license, a reliable vehicle for transporting students, and would be subject to a criminal back-ground check. Pay will be determined based on education and experience. Schoolrelated travel will be reimbursed. Vacancy open until it is filled. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Lisa Richardson, Superintendent.

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Child care shortage drives contractor to create his own solution

By John Hult South Dakota Searchlight

Platte has been good to Tyler Samuelson and his family.

Over the past 15 years, the owner of Summit Contracting has seen his family's business grow into

the collaborative's report suggests that private companies ought to: partner with child care professionals to start a day care center. At first, the idea was a

At first, the idea was a center for Summit employees alone. That plan changed early

That plan changed early on in the information-gath-



the largest employer in the south-central South Dakota town.

Lately, Platte's meager 1,300 population has become a problem for the growing business, which manufactures "anything on the farm for a farmer," as Samuelson describes his company's work.

"People were turning down job opportunities because they couldn't find child care," Samuelson said.

It's the sort of scenario lawmakers and advocates discuss when they talk about a child care crisis in South Dakota, and it's talk that's appeared more frequently in the past few years.

The state received \$100 million for child care from the federal American Rescue Plan Act in 2021, of which \$62 million was awarded as stabilization grants to 600 providers across the state. The other \$38 million is being used for grants to new and expanding child care centers, and for related initiatives to bolster the child care industry.

The Sioux Falls Child Care Collaborative recently released a road map for dealing with the issue that includes a list of steps private companies can take to help solve the problem.

Samuelson didn't know a thing about road maps or child care talking points last fall. He only knew the problem had been a hiring roadblock for at least five years.

What he moved to do at that point, however – and quickly found support for doing across his community – was almost exactly what ering phase of the project. Platte has at least 175 kids of day care age, just one child care center with a capacity of 42, and a handful of in-home day cares.

"We quickly realized that the need was a heck of a lot bigger than just Summit," he said.

Seating a board, hiring a boss

Samuelson didn't know much about child care, but he knew someone who did: Rachel Lampy.

Lampy has a degree in early childhood education and more than a decade of experience in the business, mostly in Pierre, a city up the Missouri River from Platte.

Lampy had long wanted to start her own nonprofit child care center, but it wasn't in the cards for her in the capital city.

"There's a building in Pierre that I always thought should be a day care," Lampy said. "I looked at how I would renovate it, what I would do, but I never had any type of funding to be able to do it. I never had that community support, which you need to be successful."

She'd find that support in Platte. Samuelson had the capital and the team to build, and other businesses and community leaders were on board. He knew it ought to be a nonprofit, and Lampy helped guide Samuelson through the process of founding one.

"I told him, 'If you're going to do a nonprofit, you need a board, and then you need to hire me — like do an interview, do everything you guys need to do, because I might not be your

TAKING A TOUR — Supporters tour Panther Cubs Academy in Platte during a fundraiser weekend. The new daycare was brought about by supporters in the community concerned with the lack of childcare facilities in Platte. [Submitted Photo]

right person," Lampy said. The nonprofit Platte Community Development Corporation, meanwhile, pitched in as a way station for donations as Samuelson built a board of directors and filed organizational paperwork.

"We took their donations until they got their 501(c)3 status," said Colette Mesman, the development corporation's director. "We didn't have the money to back them, but we worked to back them in any way we could."

That support was one reason the center, dubbed Panther Cubs Academy (the local school's mascot is the Black Panther), went from idea to open doors in less than a year.

Local contractors were hired for the plumbing, windows and door frames, and local businesses later donated items to a fundraising raffle.

The other day care center in town, also a nonprofit, was a helpful collaborator and threw its support behind the project, largely as a way to ease its own burden in a town with more young kids than both centers could handle, even combined.

"We didn't pull any kids from the existing nonprofit day care in town, nor did we pull any employees," said Samuelson. By mid-August, Panther Cubs Academy was complete. There are currently six employees, counting Lampy, who care for about 50 children, and the center has space to expand.

"It's been a whirlwind, honestly," she said. "I thought it was never going to happen."

Concert rallies community

The support has been meaningful and helpful, but it hasn't met every financial need.

Samuelson didn't donate the building and the work it took to put it up. Instead, he said, the company did the job at cost and diverted employees from their typical on-farm work to build the center.

"The time we spent doing it, we could have been using those crews and those individuals on projects that would generate profit," Samuelson said. "So we gave up profit in order to do the project. So I mean, that's a number, it's hard to put a value on, but it's a lot."

Samuelson and his wife have also donated to the nonprofit, he said, but there's still a funding gap.

In hopes of covering some of the \$1.2 million cost of the project, the academy hired a Sioux Falls company to plan a fundraiser. Organizers went all-in

on the kind of event rarely associated with child care: a formal dinner and concert.

The proceeds from ticket sales for the recent show with the Nashville band Hudson Valley went to support the center, as did proceeds from a three-course dinner served that evening. Those who didn't want to spend their evening with the country band were encouraged to bid during live and silent auctions, or to simply donate online.

The auction items, the front, Samuelson said, but the donations collected before the event signal the community's intention to pull its share of the weight. The project did get a boost from one of the child care grants offered by the

"That's our goal," Lampy said. "We want to be sustainable."

Just under 300 people attended the show. Mesman, director of the Platte Development Corporation, said her organization helped rally local businesses for support.

Those Main Street businesses "get hit up for everything" when local fundraising needs emerge, Mesman said, but support for the center was an easy sell. Those business owners were as happy to see Samuelson and Lampy pick up the cause of child care as anyone else in town, she said. "Both of them kind of went out on a limb, so we're blessed to have them in our community," Mesman said.

Final fundraising figures are still being tallied, according to the event's organizers, but Samuelson said he's already been impressed by the number of people who've pulled out a checkbook. Summit is doing well enough that it was able to "hold the elephant in its mouth" and absorb the building costs up front, Samuelson said, but the donations collected before the event signal the pull its share of the weight.

The project did get a boost from one of the child care grants offered by the state, but the \$362,000 sent to the center through that program can only be used for health and safety items, appliances and upgrades. The money can't be used for construction.

The donations collected at the event will help cover the cost of the building. Donations beyond that in the coming years will help fund the operations.

"It's our hope that after this weekend's event, we will have covered half the project cost," Samuelson said. "That's exceeded our expectations."

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Horatio's Homemade Ice Cream Thursday - Monday 12pm - 8pm	Prairie Berry Winery Daily 10 am - 6 pm	Turtle Town Monday-Saturday 10 am until 6 pm Sunday 10 am until 5 pm	Winner's Circle Sunday-Thursday 10am-8:45pm Friday & Saturday 10am-9:45pm	Hannah's Heavenly Treats Tusday - Friday 7 am - 2 pm Saturday 7- 10	CHRONICLE HAS BEEN / PRIVATELY OWNED & INDEPENDENT
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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	Carver's Cafe @ Mt. Rushmore 8 am - 4:30 pm	Information Call 605-745-4140 www.hotsprings-sd.com	Hi-16 Cafe Thursday - Sunday 7 am - 9 pm	CHRONICLE OR PREVAILE 605-673-2217
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	
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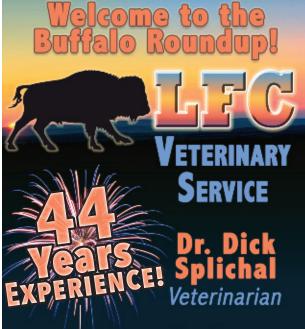
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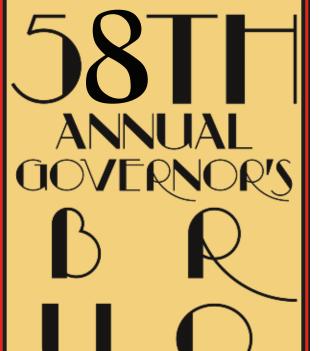
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Before you shuffle off to the buffalo, there's still time to place an ad in the Western Trader!

Call Kate @ 606 440-1248 or email: chroniclewriter2@gmail.com





Enjoy the Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival

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Featuring 26 Artist Members, local & regional, offering a wide variety of exceptional, original works of art & fine crafts. Visit us during the Roundup for unique art gifts and souvenirs!

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The Hill City Prevailer News

wishes you a safe & fun Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival!

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To ensure publication, ads for the 58th Buffalo Roundup in the Western Trader must be received by

5 p.m. Friday Call Kate 605-440-1248 *Disclaimer: No silhoutte people or bison were harmed in the making of this ad.





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To ensure publication, ads for the Chronicle, Prevailer & Western Trader must be received by

5 p.m. Friday 605-673-2217



THANKS FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE WESTERN TRADER

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LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS -

BLACK HIL

Wednesday 9-20 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 Seniors Bridge Card Games

Hill City Center Hill City, SD 10 AM - 3 PM

Ken Hargens Talk on Dr. Charles Hargens and Badger Clark Custer Senior Center Custer, SD 11 AM

Feeding South Dakota 209 3rd St. Buffalo Gap, SD 1-2 PM

Seniors Tai Chi Exercises Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 2 PM

Crafternoon Custer County Library Custer, SD 3 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

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

Hermosa Town Board Hermosa Town Hall Hermosa, SD



PLEIN AIR PANTING - This weekend in Hill City is the Black Hills Plein Air Paint Out, where artists will gather to paint outside, observe other artists painting and attend a reception with other artists as well as the public. [Submitted Photo]

Seniors Games and Puzzles Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 1 PM

Hermosa/Fairburn Community Food Bank 230 Main St Hermosa, SD 3-5 PM

Book Chat Custer County Library Custer, SD 4:15 PM

Men's CR Step Study The Little White Church Hill City, SD 5:30 PM

Legion Meeting Hill City Center Hill City, SD 6 PM

Civil Air Patrol Custer County Airport Custer, SD 7 PM

Friday, 9-22

Black Hills Plein Air Paint **Out: Observe Artists** Painting in the Central Hills Events located at Jon Crane Gallery, Old World Plaza & Main Street Hill City, SD 9 AM - 4 PM

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

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

Celebrate Recovery Crossroads Church Custer, SD 6 PM

Black Hills Plein Air Paint **Out: Artist Reception Open** to the Public Jon Crane Gallery Hill City, SD 6:30-8 PM

Saturday 9-23

Black Hills Plein Air Paint Out: Artist's Plein Air Paintings on Display Jon Crane Gallery Hill City, SD 8 AM - 1:30 PM

Black Hills Plein Air Paint Out: Artists Begin "Quick Draw" Painting Hill City, SD 9-11:30 AM

71st Annual Golden West Meeting Wall Community Center Wall, SD 10 AM

Rails to To Ales Bike Ride Starts at Tracy Park Hill City, SD 10:30 AM

Pop's Grocery Open House Pop's Grocery Shoppe Hermosa, SD 11 AM to 2 PM

Black Hills Plein Air Paint Out: "Quick Draw" Auction Old World Plaza Hill City, SD 12:30 PM

South Dakota One Book Discussion Custer County Library Custer, SD 1 PM

Sunday Dinner The Little White Church Hill City, SD 12 PM

Craft Beer & Bingo Miner Brewing Company Hill City, SD 4-5:30 PM

Fairburn Fire Department Community Picnic Fairburn Volunteer Fire Department Hall Fairburn, SD 4 PM

KISS AA Meeting Keystone Community Center Keystone, SD 6 PM

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

Monday, 9-25

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

Rotary Custer Senior Center Custer, SD Noon

Seniors Crafts Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 2 PM Help with supplies is appre-

AA Meeting Lighthouse Assembly of God Hill City, SD 7 PM

Mile High Garden Club Custer, SD Call 605-673-2344 for More Information

Tuesday, 9-26

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

Zonta Custer County Library Custer, SD 1 PM

Book Club Hill City Public Library Kids' Annex Hill City, SD 5 PM

Custer Meet & Eat Custer Community Church Custer, SD 5-7 PM

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

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

Travel Stories Custer Senior Center Custer, SD 6:30 PM

Wednesday 9-27

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

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

Garden Club Meeting Hill City Center Hill City, SD 12:30 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

Sons of the American Legion Old Pine Social Custer, SD 6 PM

Life Lab The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6-8 PM

Ranger Square, Inc. **Community Meeting** Hill City Center Hill City, SD 6 PM

Prayer The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:15 PM

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

Fairburn Town Board Fairburn Civic Center Fairburn, SD 7 PM

Thursday, 9-28

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

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

Seniors Coffee and Tea Social Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 9:30 AM

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

Seniors Games and Puzzles Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 1 PM

Men's CR Step Study The Little White Church Hill City, SD 5:30 PM

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

6 PM

Life Lab The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6-8 PM

Prayer The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:15 PM

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

Fairburn Town Board Fairburn Civic Center Fairburn, SD 7 PM

Thursday, 9-21

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

Black Hills Plein Air Paint **Out: Artists Arrive and Begin Plein Air Painting** Events located at Jon Crane Gallery, Old World Plaza & Main Street Hill City, SD

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

9 AM - 4:30 PM

Seniors Coffee and Tea Social Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 9:30 AM

Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games Hill City Center

Hill City, SD 12:30 PM

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

Homeschool Hacks Coffee & Create Custer County Library Custer, SD 10 AM

Kids And Family Time United Church of Christ Hermosa, SD 10 AM to Noon

Homecoming Parade Hill City Main Street Hill City, SD 1:30 PM

Seniors Movies

Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 2 PM Popcorn provided with refreshments. Call 605-981-6437 with questions.

Poetry Lovers Meeting Custer Community Church Custer, SD 2 PM

Comedy Night Sick-N-Twisted Brewing Company Hill City, SD Doors open 5:30 PM Showtime: 7 PM Tickets: \$15 Online, \$20 at Door

Sunday, 9-24

Fall Family Festival Addie Camp General Store Hill City, SD 8 AM - 5 PM Free

Sip N Paint Addie Camp General Store Hill City, SD 11 AM - 2 PM Cost \$25



FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL - Praire Berry Winery will be the site of the Fall Family Festival, which will take place on the site of the Addie Camp General Store. There is an admission fee of \$25 for this event, which includes Free mini-pumpkin painting, soda ring toss, a coloring table, cornhole and other indoor and outdoor games. [Submitted Photo]

ciated. Call 605-981-6437 with questions.

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

Young Life Hill City Center Hill City, SD 6 PM

Chick Chat and Crafts The Little White Church Hill City, SD 6:30 PM

Seniors Tai Chi Exercises Keystone Senior Center Keystone, SD 2 PM

Crafternoon Custer County Library Custer, SD 3 PM

BOLT The Little White Church Hill City, SD 3:20 PM

S & B Motor Parts 700 Mt. Rushmore Rd.

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Life Struggles Suicide **Prevention Group** Custer County Airport Custer, SD 7 PM

Civil Air Patrol Custer County Airport Custer, SD 7 PM

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