

Hermosa Newsletter

Connecting Community

Dec. 2025 Volume 15, Issue 12



THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER IS THE LAST

THURSDAY of the month

NEWSLETTER CONTACT Joan at joharris.news@gmail.com (605)484-5307 Or Hermosa Newsletter, PO Box 232, Hermosa SD 57744



Location: 230 Main St.

Hermosa SD.

Community Food Bank -Open on Thursday Dec. 18, 3 - 5 pm

The Hermosa/Fairburn Food Pantry will be open on the third Thursday, of each month, from 3-5 p.m. Anyone in the area who is in need of extra groceries for the month is welcome to stop in during that time. If you are coming for the first time we will need to see identification with a current address. We are located in the basement of the Town Hall next to the Post Office. If you have any questions please call **Debbie at 605-939-1992**.





Hermosa, St. Michael's Catholic Church 14380 SD HWY 40

Tuesday Dec. 15, 10:30am - 11:30am

Red Shirt, 38 Tatanka Numpa Rd Tuesday Dec. 15, 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Buffalo Gap, Food pantry is the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10 AM –noon at the old bank building, no income requirements, must be resident of Custer County



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PG.11	COMMUNITY MENU
12-07	CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND CRAFT FAIR PG 42
12-13	CHRISTMAS PARADE & CHILI CONTEST PG. 34-35 and 37
12-20	LIVESTOCK AUCTION, PG. 31
OCT. — MAY	LIBRARY EVENTS PG. 33
ALL DEC.	FESTIVAL OF TREES PG.27
0.1	_

Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling." — Edna Ferber

Did you know all Birthday wishes, Anniversary wishes, milestones and special events are advertised for **FREE!** But that's not all,

Help Wanted Ads, whether looking for a job or offering one is free up to five lines. **email**—*joharris.news@gmail.com.*

The Christmas Pickle

The tradition of the Christmas Pickle has got to be one of the strangest modern Christmas customs, in that no one is quite sure why it exists at all!

In the 1880's Woolworth Stores started selling glass

ornaments imported from Germany and some were in the shape of various fruits and vegetables. It seems that pickles must have been among the selection!

Around the same time it was claimed that the Christmas Pickle was a very old German tradition and that the pickle was the last ornament hung on the Christmas tree. And then the first child to find the pickle got an extra present.

However, the claim that it's an old German tradition seems to be a total myth!

Some families now have the tradition of hanging the pickle on the tree with the first person/child to find it getting a present. But it probably didn't start in Germany!

1 Christmas Pickle Legend

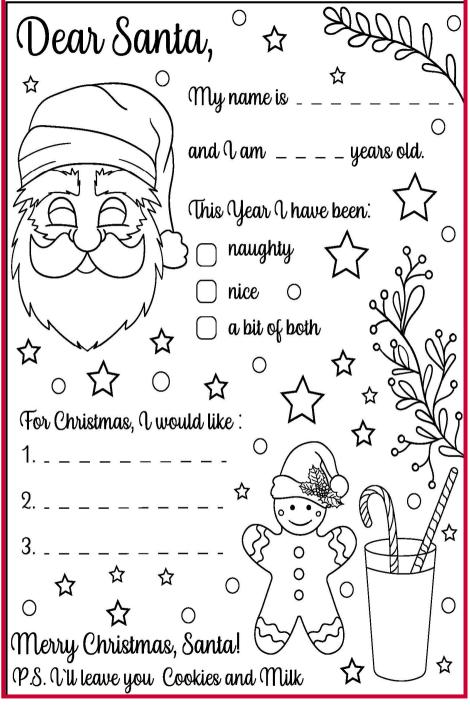
A fighter in the American Civil War who was born in Bhavana (an area of what is now Germany). He was a prisoner and starving he begged a guard for one last pickle before he died. The guard took pity on him and gave a pickle to him. The pickle gave him the mental and physical strength to live on!

I myself have never hung a Christmas Pickle on our family tree, but I found the story of it fascinating! Not to mention that my favorite appetizer is deep fried Pickles dipped in Peanut Butter...Yummy

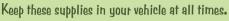
Reminder...Hermosa Arts & History Association Christmas Carnival is Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 10am to 2pm at the Hermosa School.

And...We will also be having a Raffle for a beautiful Quilt. Winner to be drawn on Mother's Day 2026.

From all the volunteers at HAHA, We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Emergency Car Kit





Jumper cables	Flashlight and extra batteries
Spare tire, wheel wrench and jack	Paper towels
Car fire extinguisher	Duct tape
No spill gas can	Ice scraper
Flares or triangle reflectors	Pen and paper
Motor oil	Granola or energy bars
Coolant	Bottled water
Washer fluid	Local road maps
Tire inflator and sealant	Cellphone charger
Tool kit with screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench, pocket knife	
Spare car fuses	
Tire pressure gauge	
First-aid kit	
Space blanket	

Opportunity does not waste time with those who are unprepared.

Idowu Koyenikan

Red Earth School and Bell

Copyright 2019 by Geraldine Evans

No silver bells for us but a six-inch brass one has memories for me. That bell sat on the old mission style desk in the log school and when shaken wildly could be heard across the creek and up the steep creek bank where we recessed among the familiar pines that always smelled so enticing. There was a creek close by the red soil and gypsum rock at



school. On hot spring or fall days we would run down to the creek where we had a plank across, if you hit the plank with a certain cadence, you made it across without getting your feet wet, then up the steep red earth hill and pines to wander about. Gypsum rock in the red earth was easy carving rock too so the guys made us wedding rings at times. We could get a long way in the 15 min. recess and were never late getting back when we heard that brass bell rung outside the door.

What a time to remember walking that mile from home around the scary corner in the shadows of the trees above the slope. Scary just because I couldn't see around that sort of dark corner that seemed so long as I kept walking around the forever curve. One time a bobcat did scoot across the road in front of me. Another time my uncle was bringing a huge Hereford bull up the road smack dab around that corner that I couldn't see around. I survived both those heart in my throat incidents unscathed, however. My home was down the lower shelf of land in the level area below where Dee and Jim Preston's house is now. My family had a house on that land as well as my grandma and Grandpa Hesnard and Uncle Arsene Hesnard lived.

The most traumatic part of that walk was the last half mile between the two pastures of long horn Hereford cows that always raised their heads in interest as I walked, petrified between them. I was sure that fence was nothing to those cows that were any second going to charge through at me. I never told a soul my feelings but did a lot of praying every day to get by them. Do you realize how long a half mile is when there are those treacherous beings watching you the whole time?

Well, I survived three full school years of this and lots of times would get up early to be on the road when the teacher would come along and of course pick me up. I realize now how she must have wished I really wouldn't

do this for she had work to do early in the day before school kids arrived. And I was quite a visiting little girl.

I turned my ankle a lot of times along the rocky "graveled" road. Until my Daddy thought I should wear high top shoes. You know those ankle-high laced up ol' granny shoes for heaven's sake! I did wear one pair out, and the situation seemed to fade away. I still went ahead and turned my ankle for years. My brother and I would cut over the hill on the way home in spring when I would load my whole skirt, held like a sack, full of lavender, Paske flowers (the spring crocus and SD's state flower). Now there is not enough moisture to make those grow there anymore:

The Red Earth school was located on the flat land south of the field where Deb and Mike Smith now live. The years of '32, '33, 34 were fun years at the little log schoolhouse just down the hill south of Deb and Mike Smith's up highway 40 where the turnoff for the Health Center is. They built the house so that they could look down the valley and see our Grandpa Hesnards log cabin, which was made in the 1880s. This too was on our family land and the school had been moved up off the flood area of creek a mile down.

The school room was probably 20 feet long and 15 ft wide with two rows of four or five desks along each edge flanking the aisle where the pot belly stove stood. The part of the year when the teacher did not have to keep that burning was probably a sigh of relief for her but in the cold, it was eagerly hovered around as it roared to heat that totally cold little building each winter morn. The pot belly stove was started each morning by the teacher (my Aunt Tillie), and with no insulation, warm was near the stove and hot was almost on top of it. The rest of the room was cold on real winter days. By the same token, it was hot and buggy on hot spring days when the windows with no screens were open to let the air circulate as it would. I loved looking out the window to the west to see the red earth hill cut and the pines and hear the insects buzzing. The outhouse was carefully inspected each time for rattlesnakes in the spring and fall. I did sit down one time on the school house step where a rattler buzzed behind under the school. The building was set on rocks to make it level so air and skunks, snakes and whatever could have free access.

There was a lean- to into which we came into the building. There we hung our coats on nails and a tin cup for each of us was nailed up on the adjacent wall.

We pasted a piece of paper with our name underneath. In winter, overshoes of various bulky styles were jumbled on the floor beneath our coats and snow suits. After all, most students walked a snowy trek. In winter, overshoes of various bulky styles were jumbled on the floor beneath our coats. Of course, in those days high top buckle overshoes were the norm. Some had zipper ones, but they got snow stuck so easily though they looked a little less 'awful' in my eyes. The creek ran close by so we had a pail for wash water.

Lunches were carried in lard pails if you did not have a real lunch box. I had a red metal one with pint thermos (which had to be replaced often with my walking to school a mile on the sort of gravel road) No way to keep lunches cool so we never put in meat or egg foods unless it was a left-over Easter egg. Since you never saw out of season foods in the stores you had apples, oranges and bananas in the wintertime. My aunt, who brought my two cousins from two miles farther than we came, would bring a gallon thermos of drinking water each day. A gallon for the nine of us for the day! No throwing out any left-over water in your cup, you drink what you take.

The front of the school room held the blackboard across the whole wall. This black board was a piece of cellotex painted with several coats of blackboard paint. Now cellotex is wall board made of tightly pounded and glued together splinters of finely ground wood pulp which leaves a very scratchy surface, so you know a smooth writing surface is an impossibility no matter how many coats of paint you add.

Our black board was comp board, a thick 'stickery 'wall board painted with chalk board paint with several coats which still didn't make it smooth by any means. We took turns each day cleaning the erasers outside for the teacher, mostly clapping them together to pound the chalk dust out. One time one of the big boys (7th or 8th grade boys) brought a snake in and slipped it in the teacher's desk drawer. Well, that didn't go over very well with the teacher but the boys thought she reacted just great.

The teacher's desk and captain's chair (curve arm rests coming around from the curved back)) was in front of that wall. Two windows on either side of the room provided all the light ever needed. Cloudy dark days you just took in stride never thinking about extra lighting. (That mission style desk and the captain's chair are in my ranch home yet).

I should tell you how this school came to be. It was 1932 and the school had not been used for over 50 years when my Daddy attended after it was moved away up out off creek flooding area and still on our family land. A family of many children had moved into the Holmberg place (my uncle had sold some land in 1929 to a doc Holmberg from Florida who wanted summer city relief). It was four miles west of the log school and is now home to the Health Center. So the powers that be (I guess my uncle, aunt, dad and district office) decided to start a school. My aunt, a schoolteacher would teach. We had the Hesnard cousins and the new Rossman family crew of six: Rich, Paul, Virginia, Dale, Terrance and Eddie. So all grades but 4th were represented. We were three girls and seven boys. My cousin, two years vounger than I, and Virginia, two years older. The oldest Rossman, Joe, rode the eight miles to high school in Hermosa on horseback. You realize my pal list was very short with only three girls. The boys were all well-disciplined and fun. I was the only 3rd grader, so when I had finished the 3rd grade work by Christmas, my aunt Tillie put me in 4th grade. So next year, I was a legitimate 5th grader. I don't know if that was good or not since I always felt the kids older in my classes from then on, probably knew more than I did! I was barely 18 yrs old when I finished my first year of college. I remember the unhappy job of having to call my Aunt Tillie, "Miss Hesnard."

The teacher would always read a chapter of a book out loud to us each morning. I would sit and draw vases of flowers or fancy dresses while I listened. Nobody ever was noisy. I remember lots of board work, flash cards, and workbooks following the texts brought from the Custer County school office. Geography and social studies were especially attractive. Aunt Tillie provided art supplies for Friday afternoon. We had art and music appreciation each Fri. afternoon in that little log school. Music "appreciation" was playing 78 rpm records she had-mainly "Anvil Chorus" and some other rousing band renditions. We did lots of different art: reed, raffia baskets which we painted gold and silver and strung beads between reeds on large oval flat baskets. We did perspective drawing, watercolor study, painting pictures, and learned proper techniques of real painters which we learned to mount with correct margins, pictures painted on glass laid over the desired picture and later backed with tinfoil held on with black tape for framing. We then glued pictures in the middle of the gesso (mud-like material) which we sculpt on boards for scrolled picture frames. I made the "End of the Trail," a famous horseback of an Indian you may remember; it was done in black and mounted on tinfoil background and taped around in black tape. There were others I have forgotten. Lots of gold paint carefully brushed on, (no spray cans in those days),

but it made things look more sophisticated. We did a lot of perspective drawing with the proper vanishing point. No projectors, computers or SMART boards. Just lots of paper and pencils and chalk.

One year we did a Japanese festival where we hauled sand and built a curved bridge, all inside the lean-to, and hung our mounted pictures of Japanese style flower paintings. Then we served cherries in flat bowls and tea of course to our parents. I had a Japanese kimono which I very ceremoniously wore for the occasion. We then took magazine pictures glued on the board. Another project which I worked on a long time, was a shoe box peep show, where I made a coalmine show with the cart, the man and his pick ax, all viewed through the little hole in the end of the box. This was for social studies.

The second year Opal Strange taught the school. They lived in Aunt Tillie's house next to our house about 200 feet apart. (Aunt Tillie was away teaching somewhere else.) They had two toddler girls whom Daddy Ed kept while Mom taught. There was no money on reserve to pay teachers, so warrants were issued. They were promissory notes so could not be cashed at a bank. My Uncle Arsene, the banker 'bought' the notes from the teachers so they would have money. I don't know if he was ever reimbursed. I know he gave his own money also to ranchers who didn't have collateral to warrant borrowing from the bank. A hundred-dollar loan was a big deal in those days.

The third and last year Lavina Meiners, a relative of Dickey Meiners taught. She was a young red head whose boyfriend often came after school to visit her. One day the big boys, eighth and seventh graders Rick and Paul stayed to stuff paper down the chimney to smoke them out. Her desk was favored with a small blue racer snake one day also.

We did have plays for each holiday and would present them in an afternoon since lighting at night would have been a lamp- carrying disaster. I remember one Thanksgiving play where I played a turkey and one of my lines was to say in a very deep, philosophical voice "We have no hearts, our hearts are in the gravy." Trivia one remembers after nearly 90 years.

Entertainment included the usual "Pump pump pull away" the taking sides at a post where each team (half the school) stood their post until 'IT 'called 'pump pump pull away' when each side rushed to the opposite side without somebody being touched by 'IT' and you were out. Also 'Anti I Over' where 'sides' were on each side

of the schoolhouse and ball thrown over was tried to be caught, and if caught, that side got to throw it over the next time and if you tagged somebody as you ran around to the other side they were out of the game. End of game was when one side had lost all members. The pride and joy of games was the hitting gophers drowned out of their hole. The 'big boys' would run to the creek with a tin pail and hurry back to pour water down a hole we had seen a gopher dash down. If we could get enough water down fast enough, sure enough a half drown gopher would come tearing out as the rest of us stood in a circle around the hole with sticks to whack him. We all stood around with sticks to beat the little animals as they ran out of their flooded holes. What we thought was fun? With six dead-aim villains surrounding that hole we never, ever dropped a gopher! Nobody ever thought anything about this antic!

The next year the Rossman's moved, so the little log school closed, never to be used again. It washed away in the June 9th, 1972 disastrous Black Hills flood. All those names, our identity, pasted on that old wooden wall, lost to posterity. Thankfully none of those people were casualties of the

flood. And so, another bit of history only in my memory as none of the others are alive. I





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Tuesday and Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT

Thursday 10-4pm Saturday 10-4pm Monday 10-4pm Friday 10-4pm Sunday 11-3 710 Tenaya Street, Hermosa (605) 391-3994

Community Lunch Menu

At Hermosa Senior Citizens' Center

American Legion Post 303 Building, 13486 SD Hwy 40, East end of Hermosa 12:00-noon SHARP. Buffet-style Lunch

Groups or large families, please call 605-255-4679 so we can plan for you

** Holiday Meal - Please note that the cash at door price will be \$10 per person for the Holiday Meal, Wednesdy Dec 10. Anyone using a punch card will be admitted for the standard value punch.

1100 24 - 1100 27		Dec 1 - Dec 4		
Chie	cken Cordon Bleu	Monday	Baked Ziti	
Sou	in & Sandwich Bar	Tuesday	Dot Dio	

Monday	Chicken Cordon Bleu
Tuesday	Soup & Sandwich Bar
Wednesday	Runza Casserole
Thursday	Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!
Friday	Closed

ivioriday	Dakeu Ziti
Tuesday	Pot Pie
Wednesday	Taco Bar
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

Dec 8 - Dec 11

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Monday	Jambalaya	
Tuesday	Chili, Soup & Cornbread	
Wednesday	** Holiday Meal **	
Thursday	Hot Turkey Sandwich	
Friday	Closed	
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Monday	Grinch's Surprise
Tuesday	Kitchen Elves' Choice
Wednesday	Mrs. Claus' Kitchen Delights
Thursday	Santa's X-mas Surprise
Friday	Closed

Dec 19 - Jan 1

Jan 1 - Jan 4

Closed	
Merry Christmas	
and	
Happy New Year!	
Open January 5	

ALL AGES and VISITORS are welcome. Home-cooked buffet-style meals Monday - Thursday. \$8 for adults and age-adjusted price for kids. Please note we are closed on Fridays and holidays.

Menu subject to change; but includes main dish, sides, salads, fruit, drinks, and dessert.

Check on Facebook at @hermosaseniorcitizens for daily menu updates.

or at HermosaConnects.com click Senior Menu tab to view the full monthly menu.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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HERMOSA, SOUTH DAKOTA

BINGO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 & 19, 2025 7:00 TO 9:00 PM

LOCATION: American Legion Post Home

<u>BINGO</u>: 16 games. Last game is blackout for \$505.00 (59 numbers called) Costs of bingo cards for each game are 50 cents per card or 3 cards for \$1.00. Money received from this bingo will go toward the Post Building Fund.

NO AUXILLARY DINNER IN DECEMBER

BEER, SODAS, BOTTLED WATER & CANDY FOR SALE

WE DO HAVE SEPARATE BINGO CARDS FOR THE KIDS TO PLAY & WIN.

NO COST FOR THESE CARDS.

WINNING BINGOS WILL GET A SODA OR CANDY BAR.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Mental Health Minute Susan Lorenzen

Living the Lesson: Good Boundaries Make Good Mental Health

This fall, I have found myself returning frequently to one central truth: I can do hard things. In my October reflection, I shared how a personal issue has invited me to take an honest look at myself to identify what no



longer serves me, keeping me small, preventing me from showing up fully as the person I am meant to be. It has been honest, challenging work. Guided by a mix of divine nudges and supportive relationships, I am gaining trust in the "new Susan" who feels empowered.

Recently, one lesson has come into sharp focus: good mental health depends on good boundaries. And good boundaries require a commitment to caring for myself, honoring my worthiness, and refusing to abandon myself in the name of pleasing others.

As I have reflected on where boundaries show up in my life, I have noticed they exist at two connected levels. There are the boundaries I set with others and the ones I set with myself. They spiral together like a helix: when I set a boundary with some-



one else, I am also setting one with myself. If I tell someone, "I won't continue this conversation if it becomes hurtful," I am also telling myself, "You deserve safety. You deserve respect. You deserve calm." One cannot exist without the other.

Kati Morton, LMFT, who leads <u>Healthy Boundaries Workshops</u> online, says it simply: boundaries are where I end, and you begin. They are not rules for other people; boundaries are commitments to myself about how I will act, protect my well-being, and respond when lines are crossed. This shift was decisive for me. Boundaries are not demands. They are *choices*. *My choices*.

And choices require self-trust, something many of us lose when we consistently, habitually put other people first. Morton identified ten signs of poor boundaries: over-apologizing, absorbing other people's moods, feeling responsible for their comfort, and believing that saying no is selfish. The truth is, saying no makes me healthy,

not selfish. Saying yes to everything is unsustainable and leads to resentment, exhaustion, and a loss of identity. I have lived through that. Many of us have.

Sarri Gilman, author of <u>Transform Your Boundaries</u>, suggests that we have an inner compass, which has two words, *yes and no*, that are always trying to take care of us. Gilman says the inner compass is only dependable when we are practicing authentic self-care, not just the kind that looks good on paper, but the kind that protects wellbeing, our energy, restores our spirit, and honors our limits. "Only I can take care of me." It sounds simple, yet it feels radical.

Here is the truth I am living into:

When I love myself first, my boundaries with others are clearer, firmer, kinder, and grounded. When I come from a place of loving myself first, I have no self-doubt. It has become easier to say no, easier to tolerate someone's disappointment or frustration. I can allow others to feel their own feelings without taking them on as my responsibility. I can discern when an interaction is toxic and needs to be discontinued. I am empowered.



Living the Lesson: Good boundaries make good mental health.

Good mental health and good boundaries are connected and sustain each other.

When I set boundaries, I feel calmer. When I feel more relaxed, I make better decisions. When I make better decisions, my relationships improve. And finally, as my relationships improve, my well-being strengthens.

I agree with Gilman's contention that my *yes* and my *no* matter. They shape my story and create my peace. Bravo to good boundaries. And bravo to good mental health. They travel together. I am grateful to be learning how to honor both.





Happy Holidays!

10 Interesting Facts About The Attack On Pearl Harbor



On the 7th of December 1941, Japan conducted a surprise attack against the US naval base at Pearl Harbor. Hawaii which damaged all their 8 battleships and

killed more than two thousand Americans. The attack on Pearl Harbor had widespread consequences the most important one being that it led to America declaring war against the Axis powers. Know more about the event which changed the course of the Second World War through these 10 interesting facts.

#1 Pearl Harbor was attacked to protect the invasion of "Southern Resource Area"

Japan depended on the United States for supply of natural and industrial resources, especially oil, without which its forces would be significantly hampered. After Japan invaded French Indochina in 1940, America stopped its supply of scrap iron and aviation fuel. Further embargoes followed when Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy. This led to Japan targeting South-east Asia which was rich in minerals and oil. They knew that such an invasion would lead to war against America anyways. So they decided to destroy America's Pacific Fleet to prevent American interference in its plan to access resources of countries in South-east Asia which Japan called "Southern Resource Area". This was the primary reason behind the attack on Pearl Harbor which was the headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Fleet

Signing of the Tripartite Pact – Seated from left to right Saburo Kurusu (Japan), Galeazzo Ciano (Italy) and Adolf Hitler (Germany)

#2 Hull Note was most likely not an ultimatum

The last Japanese proposal before the attack was that they would withdraw all forces from southern Indochina and would not attack Southeast Asia provided US gave them a specified quantity of petroleum and lifted sanctions, stopped aiding China and didn't interfere in talks between China and Japan. America broke a Japanese code which revealed that Japan did plan to occupy northern China. US responded with the famous Hull Note which

demanded complete removal of Japanese forces from French Indochina and China. Some historians believe that the Hull Note was an ultimatum and forced Japan to go into war against America but it is more widely believed that it did leave Japan an alternative to war.



US Secretary of State Cordell Hull after whom the Hull Note was named

#3 The attack was the brainchild of Isoroku Yamamoto

The planning for the attack on Pearl Harbor began in early 1941. It was the brainchild of Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. Strategic and tactical planning of the attack was carried out by Rear Admiral Ryūnosuke Kusaka with assistance from Captain Minoru Genda. Minoru Genda was also responsible for training the forces in new techniques required for the attack.



#4 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor without declaring war



Though the attack took place without formal declaration of war, Japan tried to uphold conventions of war while maintaining surprise by sending a 14-part message. Its first segments indicated that Japan intended to break negotiations and after reading it US President Franklin D. Roosevelt said "This means war" and send a message to Japan's emperor requesting fur-

ther negotiations. His will to meet the Emperor was denied by the Japanese PM Hideki Tojo. The last part of the 14-part message which indicated war might break out, couldn't be delivered before the attack because it was meant to be given just before the attack and it took too long for the Japanese ambassador to transcribe it in time.

#5 American radar detected incoming planes but no action was taken

The first attack wave led by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida consisted of 183 planes. Army radar picked up the incoming planes but when Lieutenant Kermit A. Tyler was warned he presumed it was the scheduled arrival of six B-17 bombers. Although the operators had never seen such a



THURSDAY MORNING MOVERS!



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Happy Holidays!



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large formation on radar, they neglected and never told Tyler of its size while Tyler never informed them that six B-17s were due for security reasons. Fuchida's lead dive bomber reached Pearl Harbor to find the defenses unmanned, no AA fire or fighter patrols. He then sent the famous "Tora, Tora, Tora," message indicating that complete surprise had been achieved. The message was used as title of a well-known war film.

First Wave preparing to take off from Japanese aircraft carrier Shokaku for Pearl Harbor

#6 The attack on Pearl Harbor lasted for about two hours

At 7:53 a.m. on December 7, 1941, the first bomb fell at the foot of the seaplane ramp at Pearl Harbor. In the first wave, torpedo bombers attacked the most important ships present while dive bombers attacked US air bases. Within minutes 5 battleships were sunk and 188 aircrafts were destroyed on ground. The second attack wave led by Lieutenant-Commander Shigekazu Shimazaki consisted of 171 planes. It attacked the Army Air Forces' Bellows Field near Kaneohe, and Ford Island. The Japanese withdrew around 9:45

a m

An Aichi D3A Type 99 kanbaku (dive bomber) launches from the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft carrier Akagi to participate in the second wave

#7 2467 lives were lost in the attack

Americans were completely shocked by the attack. Many of them awoke to the sounds of alarms, bombs exploding, and gunfire. Some thought it was a drill. They were hugely unprepared with lockers locked, guns unmanned etc.

2,403 Americans died and 1,178 others were wounded during the attack. Eighteen ships, including five battleships were sunk and 188 aircrafts were destroyed with 159 others damaged. The Japanese lost 29 aircraft, five midget submarines, and 64 men.



Battleship USS Arizona explodes

#8 There is a Pearl Harbor advance-knowledge conspiracy theory

Conspiracy theorists doubt that America could have been so woefully ill-prepared; suggest that America forced Japan to attack through their severe conditions like getting out of China; Japanese codes were broken and President Roosevelt and high ranking officials knew about the attack in advance; and they maneuvered Japan to attack first. They say all this was done so

that America could enter the World War by the back door, and against the popular mood of the country. Several writers, including journalist Robert Stinnett and retired US Navy Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald have argued

in favor of this Pearl Harbor advance-knowledge conspiracy theory. However, most mainstream historians have rejected it due to several reasons including America's unpreparedness for war at the time and it's 'Europe first' strategy.



#9 The attack on Pearl Harbor led to USA entering the Second World War

The day after the attack, United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered his famous Infamy Speech to a Joint Session of Congress. In the first sentence of the speech Roosevelt described the previous day as "a date which will live in infamy". He called for war on Japan and within an hour of



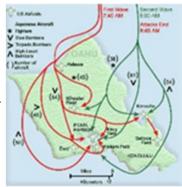
the speech, Congress passed a formal declaration of war against the Empire of Japan. On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on US and US issued a declaration of war against them later that day. Hence America entered World War II which ended with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Roosevelt delivering the Infamy Speech

#10 Japan could have inflicted greater damage if they targeted different areas

Japan concentrated on just destroying battleships of US Navy as it thought that the Pacific battle would be fought by battleships. This proved to be wrong. Had Japan focused beyond the fleet and targeted navy repair yards, oil tank farms, submarine base, and old headquarters building it could have inflicted far greater and more lasting damage.

Also, as luck would have it, American aircraft carriers were untouched by the attack. All this led to giving America a chance to rebuild and ultimately reverse the Japanese advance after the setbacks of early 1942. Admiral Hara Tadaichi summed up the Japanese result by saying, "We won a great tactical victory at Pearl Harbor and thereby lost the war."

Pearl Harbor attack map.



December Horoscope:

Aries (March 21 - April 19): December 2025 brings a surge of ambition, channeling your energy into career advancements. Special day: December 15.

<u>Taurus (April 20 - May 20):</u> Stability is your theme this December. Enhance relationships with long-term commitments. Lucky number: 8.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Your ruling planet Mercury enters Sagittarius on December 11, expanding your social horizons. Special day: December 4.

<u>Cancer (June 21 - July 22):</u> Emotional depths surface with the New Moon on December 19. Take bold steps. Lucky number: 12.

<u>Leo (July 23 - August 22):</u> Creativity shines on December 20, inspiring artistic pursuits. Special day: December 21.

<u>Virgo (August 23 - September 22):</u> The Full Moon in Gemini December 4 highlights career matters. End the year organized. Lucky number: 5.

<u>Libra (September 23 - October 22):</u> Harmony in relationships is key. Seek beauty in simplicity. Special day: December 24.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Dive deep into your passions and embrace your mysterious side. Lucky number: 13.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Set bold intentions for 2026, but avoid over commitment. Special day:

December 19.

<u>Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):</u> Energy surges as the Sun enters your sign on December 21. Lucky number: 22.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Your vision is enhanced. Renew your focus on humanitarian goals. Special day: December 10.

<u>Pisces (February 19 - March 20):</u> Spiritual clarity arrives, dissolving illusions and boosting inspiration. Lucky number: 7.

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Bulletin Board

<u>Hermosa Town Board</u> Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Hermosa Town Hall, 6:00 pm.

<u>Hermosa Connects...</u> Monthly meetings are the last Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the Hermosa Coffee House.

Hermosa Arts and History Association

HAHA will now meet on the **SECOND TUES- DAY** of each month—however people should still check our website or Facebook page in case that date is changed for some reason.



A few years back the Hermosa Museum did a Board Branding and we have this Brand and don't know who it belongs to. We contacted the State Branding Office in Pierre and they said it is not a Active Brand and they don't have a record of it. We don't

know if the F is on top or the C it could be either way. If you know who it belongs to or any information on it Please call me at

605 216 8607. Ask for Dan. Thanks





Custer County Republicans

The Custer County Republicans will meet Tuesday, December 2, 5:30 pm in the Tap Room of the Mt. Rushmore Brewery (on the south side of the Brewery). We will be celebrating the holiday season and a great year over dinner. We will also hear a bit about the generosity of our Custer County community and some of the great projects that happen.

Please RSVP to CCRepubs@goldenwest.net to get a headcount for food.

Check us out on Facebook at CusterCountySDRepublicans

Or online at https://www.custercountyrepublicans.org/custer-sd-republicans





Don't miss the Festival of Trees at the Custer State Park Visitor Center!!!

The Hermosa Arts and History Association will have a Christmas Tree entry in the Festival of Trees at the Custer State Park Visitor Center this year. The theme is the History of Area Schools; all of the decorations are hand-

made. We had a great time making them with lots of help from the community along with visitors from other states. See and read the old fashioned ornaments. We'd be tickled pink if you go to the Visitor Center any day from December 1st to January 1st,

9AM – 4PM (except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day). View all the wonderful entries, then vote for the HAHA tree!

Thank you.

Don't let the detour deter you! It's not so bad.





THE BLUEPRINT Custer County Democratic Party





Holiday Gathering

Saturday, December 6th | 4-7pm

Trailhouse ~ 148 Gordon St, Custer, SD

RSVP by 5pm, Monday Dec. 1st - ccsddp21info@gmail.com
Fun Evening of Good Food, Friendly Conversation, Door Prizes,
and Holiday Cheer!



Throughout the month of December
Visit the Custer County Democratic Party's Tree!
At the Custer State Park Visitor Center

Join us as we participate in the Third Annual Festival of Trees in Custer State Park.



Custer County Democrats of SD PO Box 5065 - Custer, SD 57730 ccsddp21info@gmail.com
@custercountydemocratsofsouthdakota

3

Saturday, January, 3rd, 9:00AM Pancakes & Perspectives



Monthly Breakfast Get-together at Crazy Horse Memorial Laughing Water Restaurant ~ 1215 Avenue of the Chiefs, Custer, SD

RSVP by Friday noon, December 31st to ccsddp21info@gmail.com

The Custer County Democrats invite everyone who values and supports our vision to promote Democracy, Economic Justice, Universal Human Rights, Environmentalism, and a Culture of Peace to join our growing community.



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Check out the Mount Ruffmore Biscuits!"



12th Annual Bull & Female Sale Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025

Cattle available to view at 11 a.m.

Lunch at Noon

Final Bid-off 1:30 p.m.

Selling Yearling & 18-month old Black Gelbvieh & Balancer Bulls

Grow with Gelbvieh—added pounds at weaning, moderate mature cow size, great maternal cows.

Sale held at the Marvin & Mae Maude Ranch on Lower Spring Creek Road, northeast of Hermosa.

Request a Sale Catalog today. Lori Maude, 303-809-3789, <u>Lori.Maude@gmail.com</u> Mae Maude, 605-391-0711

Country Singers

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CONWAY TWITTY

PATSY CLINE

EDDY ARNOLD

RAY CHARLES

ELVIS

RED FOLEY

EMMYLOU HARRIS

RICKY SKAGGS

ERNEST TUBB

ROY ACUFF

FRED ROSE

ROY CLARK

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ROY ROGERS

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KENNY ROGERS

WAYLON

KITTY WELLS

JENNINGS

First
Day
of
Winter.
Dec. 21,

2025





You are number 6 in queue for a song that will get stuck in your head for the rest of the day.



JOIN US FOR

CRAFTER-DAY

QUILTERS, FIBER ARTISTS, SEWISTS, JEWELRY MAKERS, CRAFTERS . . . YOU'RE ALL WELCOME TO BRING YOUR PROJECT, SIT & VISIT WHILE ENJOYING YOUR HOBBY!



First & third Saturdays from October 4, 2025, through May 23, 2026*, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the Hermosa Library/Town Office Building

BRING A SACK LUNCH

For more information call the Hermosa Library at 605–255–5597
*NO CRAFTERDAY ON 11/15/25, 11/29/25 OR 12/27/25.



Exciting things are happening at the Hermosa Branch Library!



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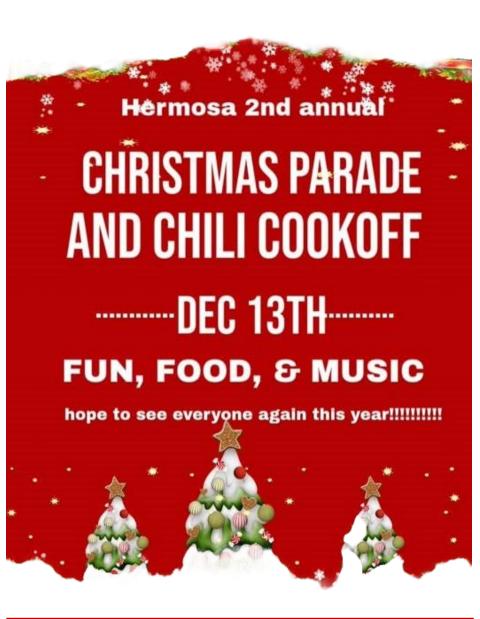
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HERMOSA 2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE DEC 13th 2025

Chili Cook Off /Bake Sale and meet Santa 3pm to 4:45pm at Hermosa Community Center

Lighting of the town tree (donated by Dan and Deb Holsworth)5pm between town office and post office a special thanks to Deb and Dan Holsworth for providing cookies and hot chocolate

PARADE at 6pm lineup starts on whitney st please email me for float entrys at austinrylee1001@yahoo.com

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Around The Neighborhood

Hermosa-Area Public Forum

A public forum on replacing the Hermosa Library and solving the eastern-Custer County ambulance situation was held on October 28th at the Legion Post. A total of 69 people signed in at the door, but our estimate is that at least 110 people were there. So, a great turnout for the two presentations. Importantly, all five Custer County Commissioners and several Hermosa Trustees attended. The forum was organized by Hermosa Connects Inc. (HCI) because of the importance of public library access and ambulance service availability for economic development in the area.

Before reviewing the 1st of HCI's public forums, its 2nd public forum will be December 10th at the Hermosa School cafeteria room from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. The 1st forum was so well attended that we exceeded the capacity of the American Legion Post – a very nice problem to have! The topics for the 2nd forum are to revisit and update the ambulance issue and to have Black Hills Electric Coop describe their plans for their new complex west of Hermosa. This should be another interesting program and we again promise to finish on schedule.

Librarian Bert Phillips made the first presentation. Most people heard a lot of new information about the Hermosa library, which was the purpose of the forum. It's hard to measure the public's reactions to or their enthusiasm for a new library building, but their comments and questions afterward showed fairly strong support.

Relative to the ambulance situation, Leo Van Sambeek's presentation covered how the current ambulance service is ending and why, what alternatives could be available for future service, and, most importantly, how future service can be paid for. Basically, creating an ambulance district is the only viable option; the creation of the district would need the approval of voters in a special

election. An ambulance district's Board of Directors would then decide what type of ambulance service is best for the area, and after setting a budget, request the county to collect tax on real estate to finance the district. Much work still remains in terms defining a potential district's boundaries, real-estate valuations, types of service, estimated costs of service, etc.

A questionnaire measured attendees' opinions and acceptance of forming an ambulance district. Seventy-seven people were represented in person or as part of a household. Results were:

- 1) The classification of those represented (more than one classification might apply) –
- a. Resident voter(s) with owner-occupied home 73
- b. Resident voter(s) renting a home -- 2
- c. Non-resident, but landowners 1
- d. Corporate or Trustee land-owner 6

The vast majority indicated they regularly vote in primary elections.

- 2) The 77 respondents indicated where they live as follows: a. Within Town of Hermosa 16
- b. Within Fairburn and Fairburn Fire District 5
- c. Within Buffalo Gap Fire District 2
- d. Within Battle Creek Fire District but outside of towns 51
- e. In Folsom area 2
- f. In Pennington County (not in BCFD) -1.
- 3) Considering their reactions to the presented information about an ambulance district, their initial opinions were as follows: a. Do not support forming an ambulance district 0
- b. Weakly support forming an ambulance district 2
- c. Moderately support forming an ambulance district 20
- d. Strongly support forming an ambulance district 43

- e. Answered "yes" they support forming an ambulance district 9
- 4) The opinion on where the boundaries of a new ambulance district should be, those providing answers were fairly consistent (but certainly biased by the presentation), but in general:
- a. District to include eastern-Custer County only 4
- b. Include eastern-Custer County plus some of Pennington County (interpreted as Fairburn Fire District, Battle Creek Fire District, and Folsom area) 16
- c. Include whatever is needed for a viable district 16
- d. Could not opine because not familiar enough with area 5
- e. No current opinion 33
- 5) When presented a choice of "what should we do" the breakdown of the 77 responses was as follows: a. _0__ We do not need ambulance service and are unwilling to vote for an ambulance district
- b. _36_ Negotiate service agreements with Keystone, Custer, Buffalo Gap/Hot Springs and/or Rapid City Fire as necessary for the same level of service we have had, but knowing it's at an increased annual cost
- c. _22__ Try to get either Keystone, Custer, or even Rapid City to station and operate an ambulance from a central location, probably along Highway 79 corridor, for shorter response time from Hermosa area
- d. _12__ Organize, fund, and "operate" our own ambulance service with an ambulance stationed and operated from a central location within the new district at whatever it costs
- e. _7_ No answer

As a reminder, the next public forum is December 10th at 6:30 in the Hermosa School cafeteria. No postcard reminders are being sent out this time.



"Vegetables are great, but admit it; you really want beef."



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CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 10 am to 2 pm At the Hermosa School

Soups, bread, and desserts for a free-will donation. Games 10 am to 1 pm / Santa Store Photos with Santa and Mrs. Santa. Large craft fair, many vendors.





www.HermosaHistory.org

Recovery group to meet in Hermosa

A Hermosa 12-step recovery group will begin meeting every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Hermosa United Church of Christ, located at 105 2nd St. This group combines Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon for family members, Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and all other forms of recovery.



Vonna Edoff - Dec. 29, Marvin Maude—Dec.21 Joan Harris - Dec. 29, Kim Clarke Villa— Dec. 1, Sandy Neubauer
Taylor—Dec. 27,
Elena Mathis—dec. 27,
Pamela Whitehead
Willis—Dec. 30.

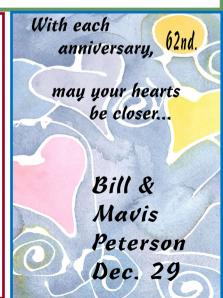
Brenda Northrup-Dec.

13,

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

will have a Christmas Eve service at 4 PM on the 24th.

We will also start new Bible studies on Wednesday, January 7. Both 10 AM and 1:30 PM. All are welcome.



The Gift of Enough

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." — Philippians 4:11

December often stirs up both joy and longing. We're surrounded by lights, gifts, and celebration... yet sometimes our hearts whisper that what we have, or even who we are, isn't enough. The world teaches us to measure our worth by abundance, but God calls us to rest in contentment.

Paul's words remind us that contentment is learned ... shaped through seasons of plenty and seasons of need. It's not found in what we hold, but in Who holds us. When we slow down long enough to notice God's daily provision, we begin to see that we already have enough because He is enough.

Contentment also invites us to slow down and savor the moments God places before us. In a season that often pulls us in every direction, choosing "enough" helps us be fully present ... with God, with our families, and with ourselves. When we stop chasing what we think we need, we make room to receive what God is already offering: peace, rest, and a deeper awareness of His nearness. In that quiet space, we discover that the miracle of Christmas isn't found in having more, but in recognizing the fullness of Christ already at work within us.

This Christmas, may we trade comparison for contentment and hurry for

peace. May we remember that the greatest gift was never wrapped beneath a tree, but laid in a manger ... the Savior who satisfies every longing heart.

Stand Firm, Love Well.



OPERATION BLESSING December 13, 2025 EVENT Giveaway Clothes, Toys. Household I tems FREE LUNCH 17:00am/3:00pm Chili. Cookies. Coffee. Hot cocoa. 1.OCATION Beef Building Custer County Fairgrounds SPONSORED BY Christ's Tabernacle Sharing Love with our Community

Church Services



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. Mass at 9 a.m. each Sunday in the new church on Hwy 40, East Main Hermosa.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

- 1. Worship Service with Holy Communion, Sundays at 9:30 am in the building and online at www.youtube.com/TheOSLHermosa
- 2. Fellowship each Sunday following worship, Potluck following worship last Sunday of each month.
- D.O.G. Night during the school year 5:30 pm Christian Education for Children 4 years THRU 6th Grade, 6:20 pm Family meal for all ages, 7:00 pm - Confirmation for 7th grade and older.
- Check out our Facebook page for announcements and other faith growth and fun opportunities
- 5. Christmas Eve Services at 4pm and 6pm.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

- 1. Sunday service at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Communion on first Sunday of each month. Service is livestreamed every Sunday on Facebook, and can be viewed anytime thereafter--Hermosa United Church of Christ. --

<u>CHRIST'S TABERNACLE</u> (nondenominational) meets at Beef Bldg. at the Fairgrounds.

- 1. Sunday service at 10:00 am
- 2. Wednesday evening Bible Study, 6:30 pm 7:45 pm
- 3. All sermons can be heard online at christstabernacle.org.

Please send all prayer requests to <u>prayr@christstabernacle.org</u> We will pray for you and your needs. God bless you!

HERMOSA SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

1. Saturday 10:00 a.m. for Sabbath School Bible Study and 11:00 a.m. for Divine Services

FAIRBURN CHURCH

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am, Sunday Brunch @ 10:30 am

48