

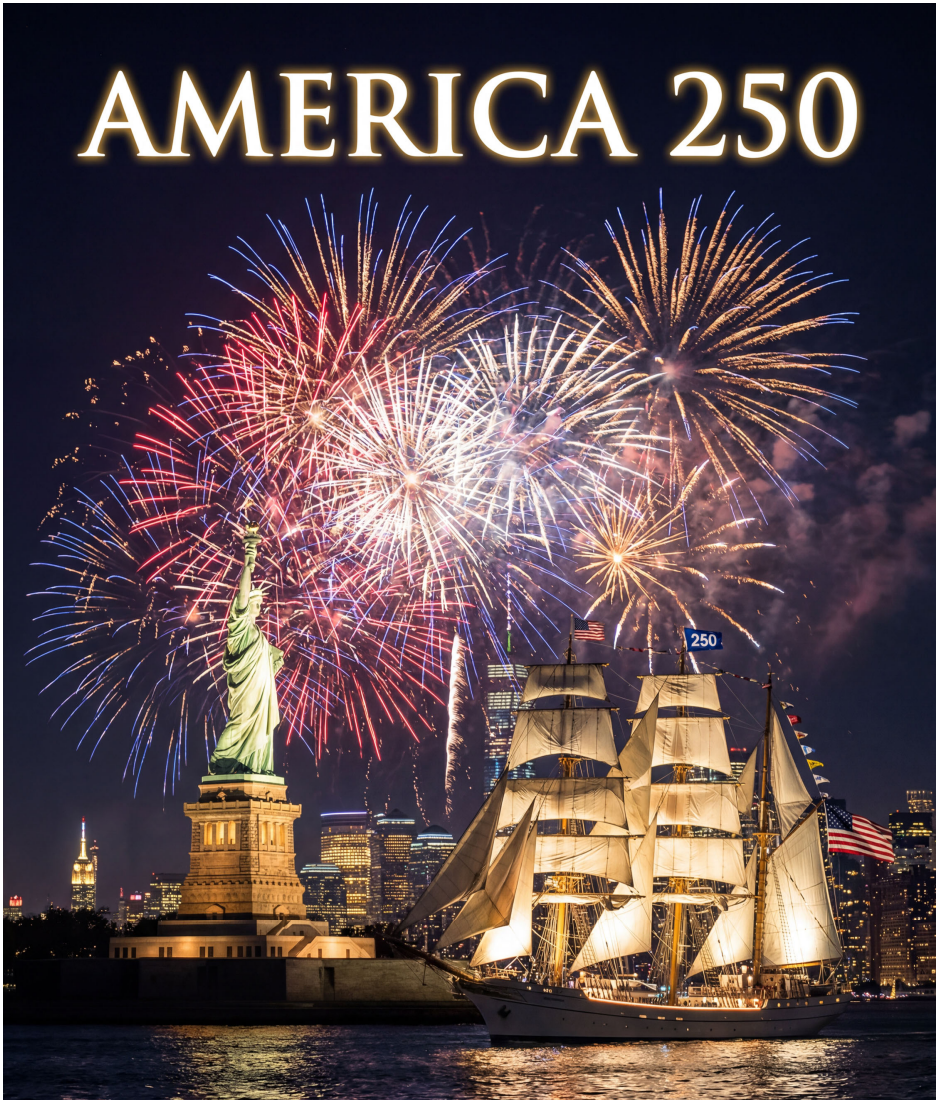
Hermosa Newsletter

Connecting Community

July 2026

Volume 16, Issue 7

AMERICA 250



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 July 16,2026 3:00-5:00 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.**

We look forward to seeing you there!"



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

Tuesday July 28, 10:30am - 11:30am

Red Shirt, 38 Tatanka Numpa Rd

Tuesday July 28, 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



FOLLOW US ON facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HermosaSouthDakota>

PG.12

COMMUNITY MENU

JULY

HAHA EVENTS PGS 13, 25, &43

JULY 25

METAL DETECTING PG. 14

AUG. 8

BEERS & EARS PG. 15

AUG. 23

DUCK RACE PG.47

2026
CUSTER COUNTY FAIR
SAVE *the* DATE
HERMOSA, SD  **AUGUST 6-9**



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*.**

We always welcome paid Advt. From for-profit businesses.

Tall ships return to New York Harbor

For one week in July, New York Harbor will look the way it did 250 years ago.

According to America250.org, the official 250th anniversary commission has partnered with Sail4th 250 to stage the largest peacetime maritime gathering in American history. From July 3 to 8, more than 50 tall ships from 30 nations will sail into the Port of New York and New Jersey, joined by roughly 50 allied and U.S. naval vessels, the Queen Mary 2, and thousands of pleasure boats.



The centerpiece is the International Parade of Sail on July 4. According to Sail4th 250, the procession will begin near the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, move north up the Hudson River past the Statue of Liberty, and end at the George Washington Bridge.

Participating ships will come from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and Uruguay, among others. Most are training vessels used by foreign navies as goodwill ambassadors.

After the parade, the ships will dock at South Street Seaport, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Staten Island's Home Port and open to public visitors from July 5 through 8. According to NYC Tourism .

SHIPS: In colonial Virginia, you did not need to live near a port. The port came to you.

According to Virginia Places, the deep tidal channels of the James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac rivers ran 19 to 20 feet deep and plenty for ocean-going ships of the era. Plantations were built on "necks," the peninsulas between tidal creeks, and the larger estates had their own wharves. Trans-Atlantic vessels sailed straight up the rivers and tied up at private docks.

The system was efficient for the planter and miserable for the ship. According to Virginia Places, gathering a full load of 300 hogsheads of tobacco and 1,000-pound barrels and sometimes required a ship to spend up to seven unprofitable months in Virginia waters. Captains launched small boats called shallops to collect cargo from smaller wharves nearby.

BITS & PIECES OF OUR HISTORY

How a king became 42,000 bullets

For six years, a gilded equestrian statue of King George III had stood in Bowling Green at the southern tip of Manhattan. By the evening of July 9, 1776, it was scrap.

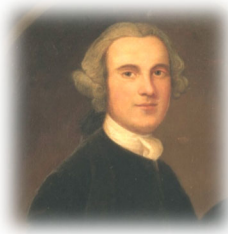
According to the National Park Service, the Declaration of Independence had been read that afternoon to George Washington's troops near the site of today's City Hall. Soldiers, sailors, and members of the Sons of Liberty then marched south down Broadway and pulled the king's statue from its pedestal.

The statue weighed about two tons. According to the Journal of the American Revolution, most of the lead was hauled by oxcart to Litchfield, Connecticut, where General Oliver Wolcott's family and neighbors melted it down and recast it as musket balls and 42,088 of them, by Wolcott's own count.

Some pieces went missing along the way. The horse's tail is now on display at the New-York Historical Society.

The signer who paid the price

When the 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, they pledged "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." For Richard Stockton of New Jersey, that pledge was more than rhetoric.



According to the American Battlefield Trust, Stockton arrived in Philadelphia on July 1, 1776, soaking wet from a

thunderstorm, and asked John Adams to repeat the pro-independence speech he had missed. Three days later, he signed his name as the first New Jersey delegate to do so.

Five months later, the war came to his doorstep. British troops were advancing through New Jersey, and Stockton rushed home to Morven, his estate near Princeton, to evacuate his family. According to the Princeton Alumni Weekly, he had taken refuge at a friend's home in Monmouth County when, on the night of November 30, local Loyalists dragged him from his bed in the cold. He was turned over to the British, marched to a jail in Perth Amboy, and then transferred to the notorious Provost Prison in New York.

What happened next has been debated for two and a half centuries. According to Princeton Alumni Weekly, conditions at Provost were brutal with starvation, broken windows, freezing cold. The Continental Congress eventually passed a resolution directing Washington to protest his treatment, and Stockton was released on parole in January 1777. According to a British document on file with the National Archives, he had agreed not to "meddle in the least in American affairs during the war."

For generations, that pardon was read as a recantation. Modern historians are less certain. According to the American Battlefield Trust, Stockton later signed a New Jersey allegiance oath in 1777 and insisted that act had canceled out the parole. Either way, his life was effectively over. His Princeton estate had been used as headquarters by Lord Cornwallis and stripped bare;

his library, one of the finest in the colonies, had been burned. He developed cancer of the lip that spread to his throat and died in February 1781, two and a half years before the war he had signed for ended in victory.

In 1888, New Jersey placed a marble statue of Stockton in the U.S. Capitol and one of only six signers so honored.

The founder who actually freed all his slaves

As part of its preparations for America's 250th anniversary, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has elevated the story of a for-

gotten Virginia planter who took the Declaration of Independence further than any of his peers—including the men who wrote it.

His name was Robert Carter III, and on September 5, 1791, he filed a legal document in Northumberland County, Virginia, beginning what is still the largest manumission of enslaved people by a single person in American history before the Civil War.

According to Colonial Williamsburg, Carter inherited 16 plantations and more than 450 enslaved people from one of the wealthiest families in Virginia. His grandfather, "King" Carter, had been one of the largest slave-



holders in the colony. By any measure of his time, Robert Carter III could have lived comfortably as a Virginia gentleman, served in the Council of State, and never thought twice about the people who worked his land.

Instead, after a religious conversion in the late 1770s, he reached a different conclusion. According to the Bill of Rights Institute, Carter wrote in his Deed of Gift that to retain enslaved people was "contrary to the true principles of Religion & justice." He then spent the next several years methodically freeing more than 500 people. He paid their court fees, settled many of them on land he gave them, and wrote letters in support of those whose freedom papers were stolen.

The cost was enormous. According to Colonial Williamsburg, Carter's family opposed him bitterly. His son-in-law fought the manumissions in court. Neighboring planters resisted his efforts. Eventually he sent his own sons away to keep them from being shaped by plantation society and moved himself to Baltimore, where he lived out his final years quietly attending church alongside the Black neighbors who had once been his property.

Carter died in 1804 and asked to be buried in an unmarked grave at Nomini Hall.

His Virginia neighbors at the time included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

None of them did what Carter did during their lifetimes.

According to Colonial Williamsburg, Carter "took the stated values of the American Revolution to their logical end: if all men were created equal, then no man could enslave another." Two hundred and thirty-five years after his Deed of Gift, the foundation that operates America's most-visited Revolutionary-era historic site has decided his story belongs in the 250th conversation.

What Frederick Douglass asked of America

In the summer of 1852, the Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society invited the country's most famous former slave to deliver what has come to be called the most important Fourth of July speech in American history.

Douglass told the 600-strong audience of white abolitionists that the nation had begun walking an anti-slavery path that they failed to finish. He began by praising the founders. He called the signers of the Declaration "brave men" and "great men too and great enough to give fame to a great age."

Then he turned to a peculiar moment in the country's evolving conscience. By 1852, according to the Smithsonian, no one in America defended the international slave trade publicly. It was universally agreed to be monstrous.

But the domestic slave trade was thriving. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, roughly one million enslaved people were forcibly moved from the Upper South to the Lower South between 1810 and 1860. The men who ran this trade were respected. They sat in legislatures.

Douglass pointed to the contradiction directly. Americans had already conceded the principle when they outlawed the slave trade from Africa in 1808. They were now drawing a geographic line around the part of the trade they wanted to keep.

Then came the argument that genuinely surprised his audience. Many abolitionists at the time, led by William Lloyd Garrison, called the Constitution a pro-slavery document and burned copies in protest. Douglass disagreed. He pointed out that the words "slave" and "slavery" appear nowhere in the Constitution.

To accuse the framers of writing a slavery document, he said, "is a slander upon their memory." Douglass argued that the Constitution should be read as a "glorious liberty document" and that argument eventually became the legal foundation for the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments.

Douglass was asking his country to take the next step and not to repudiate its founding, but to live up to it.

Four Famous Dogs:

A National Hot Dog Day Tour



Ask for a hot dog in Chicago, Detroit, Seattle, or Tucson, and you may not recognize what arrives. Each region has spent decades perfecting its own version, and locals defend their preferences like sports rivalries. National Hot Dog Day on July 18 is a fine excuse to survey four of the country's most beloved variations.

The Chicago Dog. According to Smithsonian Magazine, this all-beef frankfurter dates to the Great Depression, when street vendors sold a hearty, vegetable-loaded version for a nickel. Today's version sits on a steamed poppy seed bun and is "dragged through the garden," as Chicagoans say: yellow mustard, neon-green relish, chopped onion, tomato wedges, a dill pickle spear, sport peppers, and a dash of celery salt. One rule, according to AOL Food, is non-negotiable. No ketchup. Ever.

The Detroit Coney Island. Despite the name, this one is pure Motor City. According to NPR, Greek immigrants began serving these beanless, chili-topped dogs to autoworkers in the early 1900s, and Detroit now has over 500 Coney Island diners. The formula: a natural-casing beef frank in a steamed bun, smothered with meaty chili sauce, yellow mustard, and chopped white onions.

The Seattle Dog. According to KING 5 News, vendor Hadley Long invented this one in 1989, smearing cream cheese on hot dogs sold from his Pioneer Square bagel cart. The combination spread to stadium crowds and late-night club-goers, and today the Seattle Dog means cream cheese plus grilled onions on a toasted bun.

The Sonoran Hot Dog. According to Gastro Obscura, this Mexican-American fusion crossed the border from Hermosillo in the 1980s and put down roots in Tucson. It features a bacon-wrapped frank tucked into a fluffy bolillo roll, then topped with pinto beans, grilled onions, fresh onions, tomatoes, mayonnaise, mustard, and jalapeño salsa.

The slab pie: An apple pie that's actually built for a picnic

Apple pie is the all-American Fourth of July dessert. The problem is a round apple pie was never really good at traveling.

Here's a way to have your apple pie that survives the trip to the picnic: the apple slab pie.

A slab pie is exactly what it sounds like – an apple pie baked in a sheet pan (also called a jelly roll pan) instead of a round pan. The dimensions are usually 10 by 15 inches with a one-inch lip. The result is a flatter, sturdier pie that feeds 15 to 20 people, gets cut into squares like brownies, and can be eaten with a fork or with your hands. The crust-to-filling ratio is higher, which crust lovers will appreciate. And because it sits low in the pan, it travels far better than its round cousin.



Martha Stewart helped popularize the slab pie a few decades ago, but the form is older than that and it traces back to old-fashioned bake-sale and church-potluck cooking, where one pan had to feed a crowd. For the Fourth, it is hard to beat. You can even cut star shapes from leftover crust scraps and arrange them on top before baking, then brush with egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sugar for sparkle.

A few tips for getting it right:

Use the right pan. A 10 by 15 jelly roll pan is the standard. A standard half sheet pan (13 by 18) also works for a larger recipe.

Mix your apples. Use both a tart apple (Granny Smith) and a sweet one (Honeycrisp, Gala, or Golden Delicious). The combination gives you better flavor than either alone, and the firmer apples hold their shape instead of turning to mush.

Drain the apples first. Toss sliced apples with the sugar and a pinch of salt, set them in a colander over a bowl, and let them sit for 30 to 45 minutes. They will release a lot of juice. This step alone is the difference between a pie that holds up and one that turns soupy in the pan.

Don't skip the slits. Cut several vents in the top crust so steam can escape. Otherwise the top puffs up and pulls away from the filling.

Cool completely before cutting.

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The Good-Neighbor Guide to July 4th

A little courtesy makes a neighborhood feel like home, but few holidays test neighborhood goodwill quite like Independence Day.

Here is how to celebrate without becoming the talk of the cul-de-sac.

Know the rules. According to local government websites across the country, most cities and counties set specific hours for legal home fireworks Ñ typically between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. on July 4. Some HOAs ban fireworks entirely. A quick check of city ordinances and HOA bylaws before the holiday can save a \$200 citation and a strained relationship with the homeowners' association.

Give neighbors a heads up. According to etiquette expert Patricia Rossi, author of "Everyday Etiquette," a brief text or note before the holiday goes a long way. Mention the date, the approximate hours, and the type of fireworks you plan to use. Neighbors with babies, elderly parents, veterans with PTSD, or anxious dogs will appreciate the warning Ñ and you may avoid a noise complaint.

Remember the four-legged neighbors. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, more pets go missing on July 4 than on any other day of the year. The American Kennel Club estimates that fireworks cause anxiety in nearly half of dogs. Setting off fireworks across the street from a kennel or a home with dogs is a quick way to make enemies. If you must light fireworks, finish early and avoid the loudest ones late at night.

Keep it on the day. According to a guide published by My Northwest, the most common complaint from neighbors is not the Fourth itself, but the days before and after. Save the show for July 4. Skip the late-night reprise on July 5.

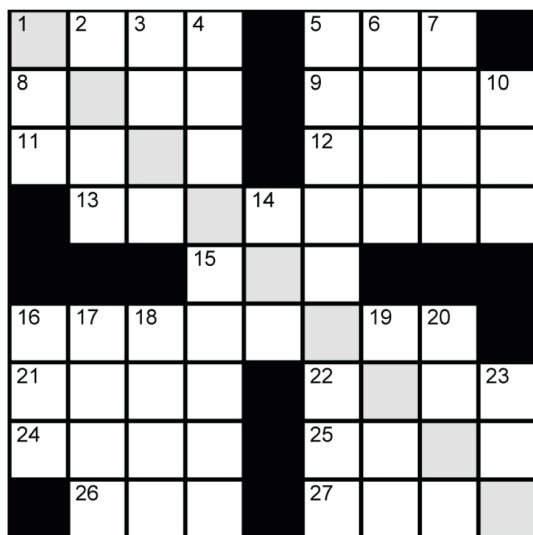
Mind the fire risk. According to the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, dry grass, wood-shake roofs, and patio furniture cushions are the most common ignition points for July 4 house fires. Keep a hose or bucket of water within reach.

The safest option of all. According to fire marshals nationwide, the lowest-risk way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional public display. Same spectacle, none of the liability.

How-to-swim crossword

Across

1. Let go of
5. Everyone
8. Days of ____
9. Stare
11. Barely beat
12. Creche trio
13. Took gas out of a tank
15. ____ Solo of "Star Wars"
16. Opened, in a way
21. Window feature
22. Aroma
24. Chill
25. Lazily
26. "For ____ a jolly ..."
27. After curfew

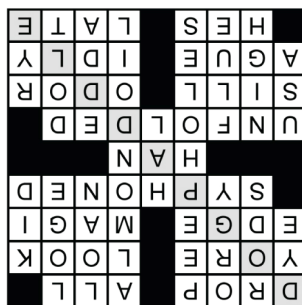


Down

1. Blonde's secret, maybe
2. Fishing equipment
3. Bacchanalia
4. Found in doors
5. Used by massage therapists
6. Student aid
7. Balcony section
10. Youngster
14. "2001" computer
16. ____ Today

17. Approaching
18. Chimney channel
19. Icelandic epic
20. Airhead
23. "The Catcher in the ____"

The title is a clue to the shaded word in the diagonal.



Cont. from page 9

At least an hour, preferably two. Warm pie cuts messy. Cool pie cuts clean. If you are taking it to a picnic, this is exactly what you want.

Cover with foil and travel.

Serve it plain at the picnic, or with a drizzle of caramel sauce or maple glaze if you want to dress it up. Either way, you brought apple pie to the Fourth of July and just in a smarter shape.

Community Lunch Menu

Everyone Welcome!

American Legion Post 303 Building, 13486 SD Hwy 40, East end of Hermosa

12:00-noon SHARP, Buffet-style Lunch

Hosted by Hermosa Senior Citizens' Center

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

June 29 - July 2

Monday	BLT & Mac and Cheese
Tuesday	Beef or Chicken Pot Pie
Wednesday	Chicken Fried Steak
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

July 6 - July 9

Monday	Swedish Meatballs
Tuesday	Egg Bake w/ Toast
Wednesday	Taco / Nacho Bar
Thursday	Bubbles & Squeak Hash
Friday	Closed

July 13 - July 16

Monday	Lasagna
Tuesday	Breaded Chicken Sandwich
Wednesday	(Smoked) Roast Beef Dinner
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

July 20 - July 23

Monday	Sloppy Joes
Tuesday	Stirfry
Wednesday	Cattle Drive Casserole
Thursday	Sandwich & Salad Bar
Friday	Closed

July 27 - July 30

Monday	Beef Stroganoff
Tuesday	Runza Casserole
Wednesday	Hot Beef Sandwich
Thursday	Chef's Choice / Liver & Onions
Friday	Closed

Aug 3 - Aug 6

Monday	Goulash
Tuesday	Sweet & Sour Beef/Chicken
Wednesday	Salisbury Steak
Thursday	Enchilada Casserole
Friday	Closed

ALL AGES and VISITORS are welcome. Home-cooked buffet-style meals Monday - Thursday.

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 @hermosaseniorencitizens for daily menu updates.

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

This time around I am excited to see the "Bubbles and Squeak Hash." Expect potatoes, meat, cabbage, and some other goodies; from what I can tell, it's an English inspired dish.

The roast beef should be delicious, home smoked, and the Cattle Drive Casserole looks to be a nice addition to look forward to. As always, tops mine;
Don Parry

July Events at the Hermosa Arts and History Association

Summer Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, Noon – 4PM

July 1-15 – We're getting our new roof! HAHA WILL BE CLOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION. Thank you to all who helped us make this happen!

July 23rd Thursday at 1:00PM – Handmade card-making class by Nicole Fischer. \$15 to create 4 cards. All supplies included. Watch HAHA Facebook page for more details. Sign up by checking “going” on the H.A.H.A. Card Making Class Facebook event.

July 31st Friday at Noon – Painting class by Cathy Dahl
This time we will be painting a 5” x 7” floral scene. \$15, all supplies included. Sign up by calling Cathy at 507.327.8350 or by checking “going” on the H.A.H.A. Painting Class Facebook event.

STARTING IN JULY, H.A.H.A. WILL BE HOSTING A FARMERS MARKET THURSDAYS FROM 4 – 7 PM. WATCH ONLINE FOR MORE DETAILS! www.facebook.com/hermosahistory

***** Freewill donations are always welcome at HAHA events. Thank you!*****

Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed, else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die.

Dwight D. Eisenhower



2nd ANNUAL METAL DETECTING COIN HUNT

SATURDAY JULY 25, 2026

10am TO 2pm

HART RANCH CAMPING RESORT - MACKSTEEL ARENA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CONCESSIONS

PRIZES

GOLD
NUGGETS

ROCK & GEM
SWAP

RAIN OR SHINE...or snow



Registration Fee (all ages) \$20 each person

10am to 10:30am Registration at East Ticket Entrance

10:30am Hunt Instruction Meeting

11am to 12pm Coin Hunt

Visit Northern Hills Prospectors

I DIG IT! Facebook page for Rules and Prize List





THE AMERICAN LEGION
BATTLE CREEK POST 303
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
HERMOSA, SOUTH DAKOTA



BEERS & EARS

2026 BEERS AND EARS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

4:00pm TO 7:00pm

LOCATION:

American Legion Post Home

14386 Hwy 40. East of Fairgrounds

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT DINNER

GRILLED HOT DOGS, CORN ON THE COB, CUCUMBER/ONION SALAD

COST

ADULTS \$10.00/plate. AGES 5 - 12 \$5.00/plate. 4 & UNDER FREE.

Beer, Soda, and Water available to drink
EVERYONE IS WELCOME



BEERS & EARS

"Honoring our past, celebrating our
freedom, welcoming our community."

My Journey to the Hermosa Foothills

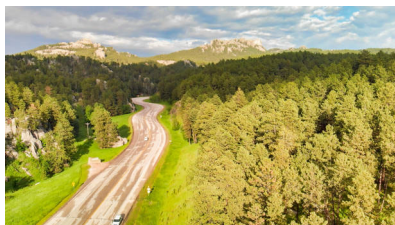
James Hubbell

June 28, 2026

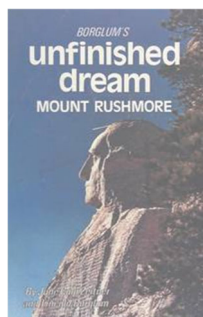
My journey to the Hermosa foothills began as a family ritual starting in the 1960s. As far back as I can remember, every July our family would jump into our Chevy Impala and head to South Dakota from our home in north-east Ohio. My mom and her four sisters were raised in Aberdeen and luckily dad's job allowed him to take three weeks of vacation per year. Those three weeks were spent in South Dakota.

As a child, the three-day journey to South Dakota was an experience in itself. Heading west, heavily-populated northern Ohio slowly yielded to open fields and a wide variety of crops that I had never seen before. Even the commercials on TV were different. The Cleveland TV stations I grew up with rarely aired commercials for ag-related products. The farther west we traveled, the more I saw ads for feed, seed, and farm implements. Also, activities like rodeos and harvest-related festivals were featured.

As the 60s passed, we would always visit Aberdeen and then take a side trip to the Badlands and Black Hills. Those side trips would gradually lead to at least half of our vacation time spent in the Black Hills. When arriving in the Hills we always visited uncle Albert and aunt June Culp Zeitner, who spent their summers in a trailer located in a lot behind the metal Quonset hut in Old Keystone.



Al and June were friends of Lincoln Borglum, who after his father Gutzon passed, supervised the completion of Mount Rushmore. In fact, at this time



June was working on the book *Borglum's Unfinished Dream: Mount Rushmore*, which is based in part on interviews with Lincoln at his Hermosa ranch. One afternoon my folks said that they, along with June and Al, were going to the Borglum Ranch for dinner and asked if I'd like to come. Being an adolescent, I foolishly declined in favor of hiking in the hills to avoid listening to adults talking on and on. If I could attend that dinner now, oh the questions I would ask...

Aunt June was also friends at the time with Kay Riordan, who ran the Mountain Company. Before the Xanterra Company became

the concessionaire for most national parks, the Mountain Company provided those services at Mt Rushmore. By the late 70s, I was working for the Mountain Company, primarily in the Buffalo Dining Room. One of the perks of

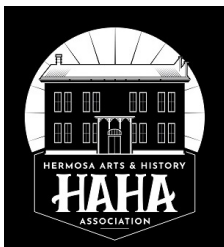


working there was that once during the summer the park rangers would escort the employees to the top of the monument. Sitting on top of George Washington's head at the age of 19, little did I know that the Hermosa foothills I was gazing upon would eventually be my retirement home at age 67. But

that's another story.



HALLELUJAH! THE ROOF IS RAISED!



The new roof construction is scheduled to begin on July 6, 2026. Hermosa Arts and History Association is so very, very grateful to this community and the support we have received. When we discovered last summer that our building needed a new roof and realized the cost involved, it was a sick feeling and raising that much money seemed like an impossible task. But, through the kindness and generosity of so many in and around our community, our faith and enthusiasm has been restored!

We apologize if we inadvertently leave anyone out, but the Board of HAHA would like to thank the following people and organizations:

The Fairburn Church

Trails West Bar

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

(WELCA) Women Living out Faith Through Service Town of Hermosa B&B Fund

Leo and Deb Van Sambeek

Gail Boddicker

Custer County Historical Society

Diane Deyo

Black Hills Recovery dba Hermosa Newsletter

Dennis and Arlene Wilkerson

Ghost Canyon Quilters

The Mary Chilton DAR Foundation

Our Anonymous Angel

Also, a huge thank you to all who supported our fundraisers: the Bake Sales, Rummage Sale and Hot Dog Lunch and the Quilt Raffle (Winner-Betty Ott)!

We feel so blessed to live in such a remarkable and caring community!

HAHA has been delighted recently to have been given the typewriter which belonged to BUD PRESTON. Bud used this valuable old machine for many purposes but his putting together items for the HERMOSA BOOSTER during those years stands out as one of his and his typewriter's most memorable contributions.



HAHA would like to put together memories of Bud and his life in our community. In addition to displaying this memorable old typewriter, we will collect memories of Bud's many years as Hermosa's postmaster, his one-of-a-kind pasture "golf course", his sense of humor, his just being an unforgettable kind of guy and constant supporter of the Hermosa community. Please, please take a few moments to either jot down something you remember about Bud. This doesn't have to be any sort of fancy article – it could just be a note or two. Put it into an email or hand it to anyone on the HAHA board. In case you'd like to call, I'm available to talk and will write something that comes to your mind. See the phone # below.

Just contact us at hermosaartsandhistory@gmail.com or call this number: 605-390-1348. When this "blessed" old roof gets repaired (and it will be this summer!) stop by the museum to see the typewriter and by then we'll have some Bud Preston memories as part of our display.

THANK YOU, Hermosa, for your help in HAHA's ongoing work by keeping our history alive.

-Beverly Brophy Groth and the HAHA board



One of my best friends lives in a faraway state. We nurture our relationship by sending voice recordings to each other. It is like having half a conversation: I record everything that is on my mind, and the other half comes when I get her recorded response. For years, one recurring theme in our conversations has been what it means to slow down, live with presence, awareness, and do things at a slower pace, with shorter lists, less pressure, fewer deadlines, and fewer responsibilities. Establish balance. Our maturing bodies, with their own special needs, influence our need to slow down and the meaning of that need.

Typical of people our age, at least some of our half-conversations are about the latest updates on our specific ailments. Recently, she boasted about having a full day to do nothing. After a long pause, she said, "Well, maybe I will wash the inside of the windows on the lanai." And then, "maybe not." What I noticed was the freedom of choice she was offering herself. She is much better at claiming this freedom for herself than I am. I have always admired that about her. I was especially curious about the freedom I heard in her voice. The wisdom my friend's choices demonstrate is that intentional pauses are not wasted time. They are necessary for mental well-being.



I will be honest; I have a tough time doing nothing. For example, in my previous life, I used to tell my late husband that I did not want to spend an evening on the couch watching TV because it was painful to sit still and produce nothing for that long. I felt justified because I did not like what he was watching, and I had so many other life and professional interests that I found much more satisfying. I was more of a human doing than a human being. Thankfully, I became more conscious and made some changes. These days, I am more willing just to be and feel good about it. I am better at making time for nothing than I used to be. These days, I intentionally make room for nothing, and I no longer apologize for it.

I read that practicing nothing is when the best ideas show up. When the brain is freed from the details of the tasks at hand, it has a chance to reset, which reduces stress and blood pressure and increases a sense of well-being. Research shows that building in times to pause during the day, taking a break, even five minutes of offloading what is in the mind, preserves our brain's efficiency overall. Our bodies do not care about productivity; they

want balance. Stimulation overload leads to cognitive, emotional, and eventually physical breakdown. Avoiding on-purpose pauses leads to overtiredness, a lack of patience, and midday crashes. Efficiency is not about being in constant motion; it is the pause that keeps the system running at its best.

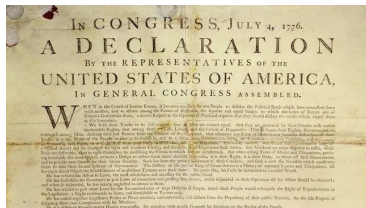
Living the Lesson:

When I am creating something, an article, flyer, response to an important email, a financial spreadsheet, and get stuck, I know the best way to get to the end is to stop, leave the room, disengage, and move, get fresh air. And go back to it later or the next day. Sometimes it means taking a hike. Sometimes it means lying down. Sometimes it means working on the puppet theater I am making for videos for my grandson. I apply this same principle to housework, bigger cleaning and organizing projects. You get the point, stop, and reset. In my earlier years, I resisted this because I was stuck in the doing. Now I build pauses into every timeline I create. It turns out that doing nothing isn't the opposite of living well. It's exactly what makes living well possible.

©Susan Gitter July 2026



The Fourth of July, or Independence Day, commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress in 1776. This historic document severed the 13 American colonies' political ties to Great Britain, declaring them a new, independent nation.



The history of how this monumental day came to be, unfolds in a few key stages:

The Road to Revolution

By 1775, the American colonies were already locked in conflict with Great Britain over taxation without representation and restrictive British policies. In response, representatives from the 13 colonies gathered in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress.

Approving the Declaration

On July 2, 1776, Congress officially voted in favor of Richard Henry Lee's resolution to declare independence from King George III. Just two days later, on July 4, 1776, Congress formally adopted the **Declaration of Independence**, which was primarily drafted by Thomas Jefferson and edited by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.

Note: While July 4th is celebrated as the nation's birthday, most delegates did not actually sign the parchment document until nearly a month later, on August 2, 1776.

Early Celebrations

Americans began holding celebrations to mark their independence as early as July 1777 in Philadelphia, featuring bonfires, bell ringing, and fireworks. Early traditions grew more widespread following the War of 1812, which reinforced America's sovereignty.

Becoming a National Holiday

For decades, the Fourth of July was a popular regional or independent event rather than an official federal holiday. Congress finally made it an unpaid federal holiday for federal employees in 1870, and it was upgraded to a paid federal holiday in 1938.

Modern Traditions

Today, the day is synonymous with summer festivities. Americans celebrate across the country with massive firework displays, patriotic parades, outdoor barbecues, concerts, and baseball games.

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Around The Neighborhood

Congratulations Chuck Ferguson! On your retirement PARTY from Hermosa Public Works.



Game of Shrooms - Written by Ruth Wilford

A few months ago, I brought up the Game of Shrooms at a monthly HAHA meeting, hoping it might be of interest to the artists in the group. They were all in and preparations for the game began!

Game of Shrooms is a global scavenger hunt for mushroom-themed art that started in 2019 and has grown every year, with participants on every continent except Antarctica. Artists create any kind of mushroom-themed art, place it in a public location, and send out clues on social media so people can find it. The mushrooms are gifts to those who find them.



The artists of HAHA bought wooden mushrooms and opened up the museum on certain days for anyone to come and paint or decorate them. On June 13th, four HAHA volunteers placed these all around the Hermosa area and posted clues about their locations. One person found a patriotic mushroom at the American Legion, a camper found two at Custer State Park, and one very diligent 11-year old found over a dozen! Thank you to everyone who hunted for mushrooms, posted photos, and liked or shared the Facebook clues.



This is the map of participating artists in the USA. HAHA was the first organization in South Dakota to get on the map and helped put us ahead of North Dakota and Wyoming for participation. We plan to make this an annual HAHA event and hope for even more participation in 2027.



The Hermosa Town Board

Public meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. These meetings start at 6pm MST and are held at the Hermosa Town Hall, located at 230 Main St. in Hermosa, SD. Times and Special meeting dates keep changing so check www.hermosasd.com

Hermosa Arts and History Association

Board meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM at the museum.
www.hermosahistory.org

Hermosa Connects

Mondays, monthly, at 6:00pm at the HAHA..

Email hermosaconnects@gmail.com and request to be put on the list for upcoming agendas, etc! www.hermosaconnects.com

Custer County Commissioners Board

Meets routinely the 1st & 3rd Wednesday but there are some variations so refer to the PDF calendar for other specifics.

<https://www.custercountysd.com/commissioners/>

Custer County School District

www.csd.k12.sd.us/our-district/board-of-education

Monthly board meetings, typically on Mondays and alternating between Custer and Hermosa.

Custer County Library Board

<https://custercountylibrary.org/library-board/>

Proposed Library Meeting Dates THIRD WEDNESDAY, 1:00 P.M., at the Custer Co Library. Historically, one board meeting has been hosted in Hermosa.

Custer County Fair Board

Meets at 7 PM, The second (2nd) Tuesday of each month, at the Custer County Fairgrounds. <https://custercountyfair.com>



THE BLUEPRINT

Custer County Democratic Party



No Regularly Scheduled Monthly Breakfast in July

Enjoy celebrating July 4th with family and friends



Custer Summer Sack Lunch Activity

Covering the Week Of: July 6th - July 10th

This will be our 10th year preparing sack lunches in the summer for local kids.

July CCDP Member Meeting

Custer County Library - Pine room - 447 Crook St, Custer, SD 57730

Thursday, July 16th : 5:30PM Root Beer Floats 6:00PM Meeting

Join us for July's Business Meeting - Candidate info, Summer Raffle details, Gold Discovery Day plans & more!



Gold Discovery Days in Custer, SD

Stop by the Custer County Democrat Booth

anytime during the July 17-19 Festival!



Black Hills Gold Jewelry Raffle - Merch - Candidate Details - Voter Registration

Everyone is welcome. We support Liberty and Justice for all!

Custer County Democrats of SD
PO Box 5065 - Custer, SD 57730
ccsddp21info@gmail.com
[@custercountydemocratsofsouthdakota](https://www.facebook.com/custercountydemocratsofsouthdakota)

"The greatest symbol of our freedom is the right to participate in our democracy." ~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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.

LIFEGUARD Wordoku

How to solve wordoku puzzles

You only need logic and patience to solve a wordoku.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one letter from the word LIFEGUARD. Similarly, each letter can only appear once in a column or row in

E	F	I	G	L	A	R	D	U
U	L	D	I	R	E	G	A	F
A	R	G	D	U	F	E	L	I
R	E	A	L	I	D	U	F	G
L	I	F	E	G	U	A	R	D
D	G	U	F	A	R	I	E	L
F	A	L	U	E	G	D	I	R
I	U	E	R	D	L	F	G	A
G	D	R	A	F	I	L	U	E

			G		A		D	
								F
	R			U	F	E		I
R			L			U	F	G
	I						R	
D	G	U			R			L
F		L	U	E			I	
I								
	D		A		I			

the larger grid. The difficulty on this puzzle is easy.



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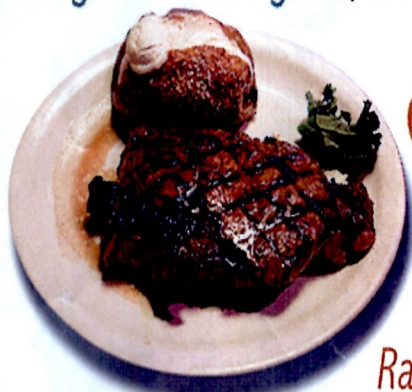
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June Sudoku

How to solve sudoku puzzles

No math is required to solve a sudoku. You only need logic and patience.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one instance of the numbers 1-9. Similarly, each number can only

9	5	6	1	3	4	7	8	2
1	3	2	6	8	7	9	5	4
7	4	8	9	2	5	3	1	6
3	9	4	2	1	8	6	7	5
2	1	5	7	4	6	8	9	3
8	6	7	3	5	9	4	2	1
6	2	1	8	7	3	5	4	9
4	8	9	5	6	2	1	3	7
5	7	3	4	9	1	2	6	8

	5	6	1			7	8	
		2	6				5	4
						7	5	
2			7		6			3
8	6							
4	8				2	1		
	7	3			1	2	6	

appear once in a column or row in the larger grid. The difficulty on this puzzle is easy.

From Lost Grenades to Your Welfare, County Deputies Keep Busy

by Linda M. Hasselstrom,

The Custer County Sheriff deputies dealt with the usual variety of problems recently. Most of us picture deputies as stern-looking folks with brown uniforms and gun belts, but they don't just sit in their cars watching for law-breakers.

Here are some of the situations the deputies dealt with during the past week:

an open-meeting law violation

I had to look this one up: An open meeting law violation occurs when a government entity, public board, or commission conducts public business in secret, fails to provide proper public notice, or improperly excludes the public from discussions and decision-making processes.

Also known as "Sunshine Laws," these regulations guarantee the public's right to observe government operations.

Common Ways Violations Occur

Violations typically happen when a "quorum" (the minimum number of members needed to make an official decision) engages in public business:

- **Improper "Secret" Meetings:** Gathering a quorum informally (such as over breakfast, on the golf course, or in private group chats) to discuss or deliberate on pending public matters.
- **Serial Communications:** A chain of private conversations or email threads (a "walking quorum") passed among members to bypass a public forum and reach a consensus.
- **Illegal Closed Sessions (Executive Sessions):** Going behind closed doors for reasons not legally permitted. While most laws allow private discussions for a few specific topics (like personnel, pending litigation, or security), they strictly prohibit voting in private.
- **Lack of Notice or Agenda:** Holding an official meeting without giving the public advance notice or posting the meeting agenda in a designated, accessible location.

Unrecorded Votes or Minutes: Failing to keep, record, or promptly publish the minutes and voting records for public inspection.

Consequences of a Violation

When an open meeting law violation is proven, the consequences can be

significant and vary by jurisdiction:

- **Voided Actions:** Any votes taken or decisions finalized during an illegal meeting can be declared null and void.
- **Legal and Financial Penalties:** Public bodies or individual officials may be ordered to pay civil fines, plaintiff attorney fees, or court costs.
- **Criminal Charges:** In many states, intentional or knowing violations can result in misdemeanor charges, which may carry the risk of jail time or forfeiture of public office.
- **Other:**

Loose stock

Found property including
grenades!!

Credit card fraud

Dog bite

Harassment

Welfare

Lost child

Wounded deer and elk

Medical calls

Awards assembly

Lost keys

Kids on bikes In dangerous
traffic

Moving a jail inmate

Motorcycle wreck

Next time you see a deputy, thank him or her for the work they do for all us citizens!

“**Down Memory Lane**” was also full of fascinating history of our county. For example, ten years ago, in 2016, Anna Powell received her diploma on May 26. This event made news because Anna was awarded the diploma 82 years after she left school after eighth grade to help her family make ends meet. She was given an honorary diploma, including a cap and gown, by Superintendent Mark Naugle, at Custer Senior Care. Anna celebrated her 100th birthday on March 30.

Thirty years ago, in 1996, Rapid Creek was out of its banks and French Creek was up to the bridge in Harback Park after a foot of snow fell, damaging trees and weak structures.

One hundred years ago, in 1926, Stanley Smith met with a fractious bronc and was hobbling around on crutches. “The bronc bore down heavily on one of Stan’s feet and, to show no partiality, then kicked his other leg severely. Stanley addressed the bronc in language understood clearly by broncs and mules and left the bronc in a dazed condition while he consulted Dr. Long. One hundred twenty years ago, M. J. Bailey advertised that they had a number of buggies and road wagons, single and double

Cont. pg. 42



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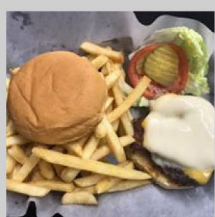
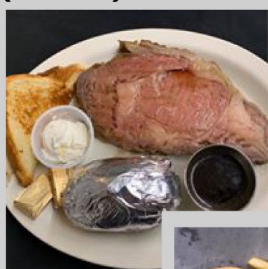
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READ ACROSS AMERICA CHALLENGE

In honor of America's 250th birthday, the Hermosa Library is offering a Read Across America Challenge from now through the end of 2026! The goal is to read a book for every U.S.

state or territory, a total of 55 books. Read any book or audiobook, fiction or non-fiction, and whatever American state or territory is the primary setting for the book, you'll get to mark off that state on your list. Prizes will be awarded for completing the challenge and for the top three runners up. Stop in to the Hermosa Library and sign up!



CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM

It's that time again! The 2026 Reading Program theme is "Unearth a Story," focusing on archaeology, paleontology, dinosaurs, and exploration. Scheduled to run from Monday, June 1, through Sunday, July 12, the program will feature prizes for time spent reading and some fun weekly take & make kits to keep the kids engaged. Sign up will begin Monday, May 18.

State of the Assistants

The second great voice-assistant war

Siri turned 15 this year. Alexa is 12. Google Assistant is 10. For a decade, they sold us a vision: an always-on digital helper that would run your home. What we actually got was a kitchen timer, a clock, and a way to play music. Then ChatGPT showed up in 2022 and quietly humiliated all three.

The big tech companies have finally noticed. All three voice assistants are being rebuilt this year, each one bolted onto a real AI model. Apple licensed Google's Gemini after its own efforts stalled. Amazon retrofitted Alexa with a generative AI layer. Google is replacing Google Assistant entirely.

What this means is that the assistants war is really an AI war. The more integrated the AI, pods and cameras, the more useful for alerts, a skill still not fully developed. An assistant today might be able to say what it sees:

Sergei walking the dog. But what would make it useful are smart alerts: The dog jumped the fence. The rice is boiling over. Leave now or you will miss your plane.

Right now a connected assistant can't reliably identify what it sees, so it could just as easily announce, "A rhino at the fence." Nor does an assistant today have any sense of what is important: "A leaf blowing" versus "A masked man at the door." But this could happen in future iterations of the products.



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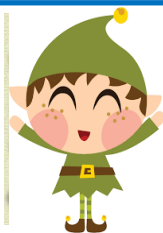
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<https://www.https://hermosasd.com/>



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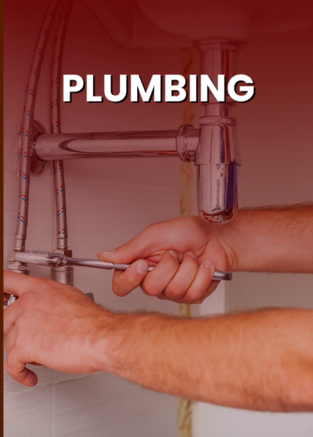
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carriages that they would close out at a bargain.

And in 1886, one hundred forty years ago, the editor of the Chronicle wrote that, "our sunset scenes would make an Italian crazy with ecstatic rapture. That our tin mines are not equaled on earth, and that they will eventually make Custer the chief tin center of the world. That the cattle roundup is now in full blast all over the country but Custer's chicken roundup was completed last week."

I find more enjoyment and educational material reading the Custer County Chronicle than I ever did the Wretched City Journal; cancelled my subscription to that YEARS ago!

by Linda M. Hasselstrom, using material from

"Down Memory Lane" and "Sheriff's Log," from June 3,
2026 *Custer County Chronicle*.

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HAHA Announcements

Art Out Plein Air

HAHA will be having its third annual Art Out Plein Air event the first weekend of October. We are looking for people who are willing to allow artists on their property to do paintings on site of scenic and historical views. If you are interested in this, please contact Cathy Dahl at 507.327.8350 or email HermosaArtsAndHistory@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Farmer's Market

Starting in July, once the roof construction is complete, HAHA will host a farmer's market every Thursday afternoon with fresh, local produce from Magpie Farm. If you are a vendor and are interested in setting up a stand, let us know by emailing HermosaArtsAndHistory@gmail.com.

Magpie Farm is a small, 1-acre farm in Hermosa that grows high-quality food and herbs without chemicals and with care for the land. They specialize in heirloom beans, garlic, herbs for teas, and flowers.

Find them on Instagram @magpiefarmsd



Obituary Library

Scanning work continues on the Obituary Library and we are halfway through the M binders. This is by far the most common letter for the last names of Custer County. Check out the library yourself by following this link: <https://www.hermosahistory.org/a-z.html>

If you would like to help us digitize the rest of this collection, please send an email to HermosaArtsAndHistory@gmail.com and let us know.



**Happy 72nd
Wedding
Anniversary to**

**Cliff and Mary
Shorb
July 11**



**Rick and
Debra
MacDonald
Happy 20th
Anniversary
July 22**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



**Charles &
Heather
Maude
July 6
Happy
Anniversary**



**Jeff & Julie
Turning Heart**

July 20

**Happy
Anniversary**



Happy Birthday!

**7/01 Maggie VanDermay
(13yrs. Old)**

7/08 Mindy Holsworth

7/09 Liz Plautz

7/09 Maxine Knapp

7/14 Kristins Clarke

7/14 Linda Hasselstrom

7/15 Desa Lintz

7/15 Elizabeth Maude

7/19 Deana Fulton

**7/25 Lorne Rausch (12
yrs. Old)**

7/28 Chandler Bell

7/30 Farah VanDermay

7/30 Shanna Harris

Freedom That Serves

July is often filled with celebrations of freedom. We gather for parades, picnics, fireworks, and time with family and friends. We pause to remember those who sacrificed so that we could enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted.

Freedom is a precious gift.

But Scripture reminds us that freedom is not simply the absence of restraint...it is the opportunity to live with purpose.

In Galatians 5:13, Paul writes, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Those words challenge us to think differently about freedom. Our culture often defines freedom as the ability to do whatever we want. God's Word paints a different picture. True freedom is found in choosing what is good, honorable, and life-giving. It is the freedom to forgive instead of holding a grudge. The freedom to speak kindness instead of criticism. The freedom to put someone else's needs ahead of our own.

Living in a small community gives us countless opportunities to practice that kind of freedom. We see neighbors helping neighbors after a storm. Volunteers giving their time without recognition. Teachers preparing classrooms long before students arrive. First responders answering calls in the middle of the night. Ranchers lending equipment. Friends bringing meals during difficult seasons.

These quiet acts of service rarely make headlines, but they reflect something beautiful. They remind us that the strongest communities are built not by people demanding their rights, but by people willingly serving one another.

Jesus Himself showed us what true freedom looks like. Though He had every right to power and position, He chose humility. He chose compassion. He chose the cross so that we could experience the greatest freedom of all... freedom from sin and the hope of new life in Him.

As we celebrate this month, may we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as a nation. But may we also remember the greater freedom we have in Christ... a freedom that calls us to love generously, serve humbly, and live with integrity. Freedom is a gift. How we use it is our witness. Stand Firm. Love Well. Josephine Weekley Fairburn Church



ANNUAL UCC DUCK RACE

AUG.
23, 2026



**Please join UCC, for our church service
from 10 to 11, on location at the
Lintz Ranch.**

Live music starts at 11:30.

Potluck lunch starts at 12.

More live music around 12:30.

Duck races around one

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.
3. Sunday School, Youth Group and Confirmation classes on Sunday mornings at 10:30am
4. Check out our Facebook page for announcements and other faith growth and fun opportunities

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. --
3. Wednesday Bible Study at 1:30pm, on the Epistles of Paul. All are welcome.

CHRIST'S TABERNACLE (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 prayr@christstabernacle.org 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