

Hermosa Newsletter

Connecting Community

May 2026

Volume 16, Issue 5

Happy Mothers Day



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 May 21, 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!"

FEEDING[®]
SOUTH DAKOTA



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

Tuesday May 26, 10:30am - 11:30am

Red Shirt, 38 Tatanka Numpa Rd

Tuesday May 26, 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

facebook.com/HermosaSouthDakota

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COMMUNITY MENU

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SATURDAYS AT HAHA

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Playground pg. 14

May 7 & 15

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MAY 21

**SCHOOL, LAST DAY FUN!
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MAY 25

MEMORIAL DAY PG. 11

MAY 26

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

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.

Editorial Policy Update for the Hermosa Newsletter

To: Hermosa Board members and Hermosa residents

From: Joan Harris, Producer/Editor – Hermosa Newsletter

Date: April 10, 2026

Subject: 501(c)(3) Compliance and Newsletter Editorial Guidelines

Dear Residents,

As we continue to grow the **Hermosa Newsletter** as a vital resource for our residents, I want to ensure the longevity of the newsletter and the 501(c)(3) non-profit status that supports it.

Following some recent community feedback regarding the **"President's Corner,"** I have consulted IRS guidelines regarding **Political Campaign Activity** and **Non-Profit Lobbying** for non-profit organizations. After researching and talking to a non-profit council I discovered that yes, the articles were borderline and should not have been published without some changes. Being a matter of public record does not make it acceptable. For that I apologize to all of you. I published the articles without doing my research first and should have known better. I thank the watchdogs for their impute. To ensure we remain in full compliance with federal law and maintain our tax-exempt status, I am implementing the following editorial guidelines for all future submissions:

1. Focus on "Public Information" vs. "Advocacy"

The IRS strictly prohibits 501(c)(3) organizations from participating in political campaigns or supporting/opposing candidates. Furthermore, while we can provide educational information, we must be extremely cautious regarding active ballot measures (such as the upcoming TIF referendum).

- **Allowed:** Factual updates on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, well drilling progress, grant awards, and explanations of municipal processes (e.g., "What is a TIF?").
- **Restricted:** Content that explicitly directs residents on how to vote or uses persuasive language to influence a ballot outcome.

2. Neutrality and Professional Tone:

To protect the newsletter from accusations of bias, we will move

toward a "Facts-First" reporting style. (*"This applies to all contributors, ensuring that the standard of decorum expected from the public is mirrored in leadership's communications".*)

- Submissions should avoid characterizations of opposing groups (e.g., "misinformed") or personal grievances.
- The focus will remain on the **business of the Town**—budgets, infrastructure, and services—rather than political or personal commentary.

3. The "Election Window" Policy:

During the 60 days leading up to a municipal election or a ballot vote:

- **The newsletter** will refrain from publishing any material that could be construed as "electioneering." This includes any language regarding "leadership," "re-election," or "voting to confirm/reject" specific measures.

4. Shared Goal: Transparency:

My goal as the editor is to ensure the Town's message reaches the residents clearly and legally. By keeping our content strictly educational and informative, we protect the Board's credibility and the newsletter's standing in the community.

I value the "President's Corner" and the updates it provides. I am happy to work with anyone on future drafts to ensure they meet these non-profit standards while still getting the necessary information to our neighbors.





Hermosa Arts and History Association May 2026 Events

2nd and Main Street, Hermosa SD

May 2nd - Museum open 11AM - 2PM

May 9th - BAKE SALE!!!

Starts at 8:30 AM and goes until sold out.



Our last bake sale was so popular we've decided to do it again!

It's the day before Mothers' Day and your Mom deserves a sweet treat she didn't have to bake herself!

And it helps HAHA get a new roof!!!

May 10th - Drawing for Quilt Raffle at NOON at the museum!
Do you have your tickets yet?!!

https://www.hermosahistory.org/store/c4/Raffle_Tickets.html

May 16th - Painting class with Cathy Dahl 11AM - 2PM \$15
Watch the HAHA Facebook Page for details or call Cathy at 507.327.8350 if you have questions.

May 23rd - closed for Memorial Weekend

May 30th - Open Studio from 11AM - 2PM

Join other artists and crafters to work on any project you want to bring! Time to get creative.

**Free-will donations are always welcome at HAHA Events - thank you!*

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month

This year, I want to focus on our social media consumption. Or, the amount of time I use my device to take in information about what is going on in the world outside of my sanctuary on a forested foothill. I am not on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. I use Nextdoor, which I appreciate because it focuses on my neighborhood, but I have notifications turned off.

Counseling colleagues who practice full-time ask clients about their relationship with their phone or other electronic devices when they report symptoms of anxiety and/or depression. Doomscrolling is a novel word to describe an intense relationship with media in mental health assessment. Technological advancements happen at warp speed. Humans are not designed to weather the constant impact on our brains at the same speed.

An asset AND liability.

Like many things in life, whether it is social media or accessing news and information, being on our phones is neither good nor bad. It connects, and it isolates. It informs, and it overwhelms. It can lift us up and quietly pull us down.

I have been exploring research and personal experience, and one thing has become clear: the device, or social media itself, is not the problem. It is when, why, and how much we use it that shapes its impact on our mental health. The device, or social media, is not the problem; it is our **relationship** with it.

On the positive side, social media can be a powerful tool for connection. It helps us stay in touch with friends and family across distances. It can provide a community for people who feel alone in their experiences. It offers access to ideas, education, and perspectives we might never encounter otherwise. For some, it becomes a place to find support, inspiration, or a sense of belonging.

But there is another side. Research points to ways social media can negatively affect mental health. One of the most common is comparison. We often see carefully curated snapshots of other people's lives: their highlights, their achievements, their best moments. When we compare our full, messy reality to someone else's edited version, it can quietly erode our sense of adequacy.

There is also the issue of how we engage. Passive scrolling, simply consuming content without interacting, has been linked to lower mood and increased feelings of loneliness. It creates the illusion of connection without substance.

Time is another factor. The more time we spend on social media, the more it can displace activities that support our well-being, such as sleep, movement, time outdoors, and face-to-face interaction. Even the timing matters. Late-night scrolling can interfere with sleep, which in turn affects mood, focus, and emotional resilience.

Then there is the design itself. Social media platforms are being built to keep our attention. Notifications, likes, and endless scrolling tap into our brain's reward system, giving us small bursts of dopamine that can make it hard to put the phone down. Over time, this can shift our habits in ways we do not always notice.

None of this means we need to reject social media altogether. It means we are invited to become more intentional.

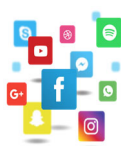
Living the Lesson

It is not just how much time I spend on my phone and social media, but also how I feel while I am there and after I leave. Sometimes, I log off feeling informed, connected, even encouraged. Other days, I feel restless, distracted, or oddly depleted. When that happens, an alarm goes off inside me.

I have learned to first check in with my body and notice how I feel. I ask myself a few simple questions at the beginning of listening, reading, or looking at the screen.

Why am I opening this app right now?
What am I looking for?

Is this what I want to feel?
How do I want to feel when I am done?



Sometimes it is necessary to take a digital detox for a day or more. It is hard, but a soul-cleansing experience. Most of the time in my ordinary existence, I will choose to go for a walk, take a few quiet minutes, find something completely different to do, or listen to a book instead. I still use my device, but with greater awareness and clearer boundaries. I must be honest with myself. That can be the hardest but most important for my well-being. I feel in charge of, rather than controlled by, my phone, iPad, and YouTube.

Crown Sunday: The hat ladies take Mother's Day!

There is a moment on Mother's Day Sunday, just before service begins, when the sanctuary fills with color. Royal purple. Coral. Ivory. Emerald. And above it all, the hats -- wide-brimmed and magnificent, tilted just so, trailing a sweep of netting across a cheekbone, anchored with flowers or feathers or both. If you know, you know.

The church hat tradition is one of the great unsung glamour arts in American life. While mainstream congregations drift toward casual Sundays -- jeans in the pews, coffee cups in hand -- the hat ladies have held the line. On Mother's Day especially, the full glory of the tradition is on display. These are not afterthoughts. A proper hat is planned, coordinated with the suit, the shoes, the bag, the gloves. The ensemble is considered from crown to heel, assembled as a unified statement of care and intention. This is what it looks like to take Sunday seriously.



The hats themselves are a study in confidence. Wide brims that command the space around them. Fresh flowers cascading over the edge. Fine veiling adding a touch of old-Hollywood mystery. And the turban -- sculptural, elegant, rooted in a different but equally beautiful aesthetic -- holding its own alongside the more traditional silhouettes.

On Mother's Day, all of this becomes something more than fashion. The mothers of the congregation are honored, recognized, celebrated. The hat is the crown for the occasion -- a visual exclamation point on a day that is already, in these sanctuaries, treated with reverence.

How Derby hats went from proper to spectacular

How Derby hats went from proper to spectacular

Once upon a time, a woman wore a hat to the Kentucky Derby for the same reason she wore one anywhere in polite society: because that's what dignified women did. Simple, tidy, forgettable. A hat was punctuation, not a sentence.

Somewhere along the way, the punctuation became a paragraph. Then a novel.

By the late 20th century, Derby hats had evolved into full-blown theatrical events — cascading wide brims threatening nearby guests, fresh flowers tumbling over the edges, feathers reaching toward the Churchill Downs sky. Milliners began treating Derby commissions like gallery pieces. Attendees began planning their hats months in advance. The hat stopped saying "I am respectable" and started saying "I am here."

Meanwhile the men increasingly get into the act with a jaunty straw hat, white trilby, or fedora -- set off by feathers and colorful bands.

Every year the Louisville Courier Journal, writes about the fashion explosion, picturing the hats that amazed them, sweeping brims with yards of silk organza set off by flowers. And the hats that made them laugh: You will see a horse on a hat or a hat that's a horse.

Across the Atlantic, the British took a different path. At Royal Ascot, where hats are literally required by dress code, the favored style is the fascinator — small, sculptural, and perched just so. Where the Derby went big and brimmed, the British went architectural and precise. Men must wear a gray or black top hat, a symbol of distinction and class and a morning suit is required.

CONT. FROM PG. 9: I found articles recommending a shift from passive to active scrolling. Instead of lots of scrolling and short spurts of commenting on many platforms, put your social battery into select platforms, being intentional and thoughtful when you engage in a limited number of places. It turns social media back to what it was meant to be, a social experience. Remember that what we see online is not the whole story. Stay grounded in your own life rather than comparing it to someone else's highlights. Comparison is the thief of joy. Social media is here to stay. The question is not whether we use it, but how we relate to it.

This month, in the spirit of Mental Health Awareness Month, I invite you to notice your own patterns. Not with judgment, but with curiosity. What adds to your well-being? What takes away from it? Sometimes the smallest shifts in awareness lead to the most meaningful changes.

©Susan Kay Gitter May, 2026



THE AMERICAN LEGION
BATTLE CREEK POST 303
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HERMOSA, SOUTH DAKOTA

LAST BINGOS
FRIDAY, MAY 1 & 15, 2026
7:00 TO 9:00 PM

LOCATION: American Legion Post Home

**NOTE THESE ARE THE LAST BINGOS
FOR THE SUMMER. SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER**

BINGO: 16 games. **Last game is blackout for \$665** (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.

**THERE IS NO AUX. DINNER
IN MAY**

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.**

See You There!



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES
AMERICAN LEGION
BATTLE CREEK POST 303



MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

FAIRBURN CEMETERY 8:00am

HERMOSA CEMETERY 9:00am

(Refreshments served at Post Home following Hermosa Cemetery Ceremony)

Please join us as we honor those that have given the ultimate price
for our freedoms and those that protect those freedoms today.



Monday, May 25

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

April 27 - April 30

Monday	Chicken Broccoli Casserole
Tuesday	Stuffed Peppers
Wednesday	Country Style Ribs
Thursday	Tuna or Beef & Noodles
Friday	Closed

May 4 - May 7

Monday	Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
Tuesday	Sandwich & Salad Bar
Wednesday	Swedish Meatballs
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

May 11 - May 14

Monday	Sweet & Sour Beef or Chicken
Tuesday	Roast Beef Dinner
Wednesday	Taco Bar
Thursday	Runza Casserole
Friday	Closed

May 18 - May 21

Monday	Spaghetti
Tuesday	Enchilada Casserole
Wednesday	Fish & Chips
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

May 25 - May 28

Monday	MEMORIAL DAY - Closed
Tuesday	Sloppy Joes
Wednesday	Stir Fry ala Bourbon
Thursday	Cheeseburger Mac
Friday	Closed

June 1 - June 4

Monday	Summer Picnic
Tuesday	Oven Fried Chicken
Wednesday	Shepherd's Pie
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

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!

H**H**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

MAY 21st, 2026

H

**10:00 AM -
8th Grade
Graduation**

**H**

**11:00 AM -
School
Family BBQ**



**12:00 PM -
Summer
Dismissal**



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! - HERMOSA SCHOOL

**H**

JOIN US FOR A

SPAGHETTI

Feed & SILENT AUCTION

TO RAISE MONEY FOR
NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT!



Good Food.
Great Cause.
Stronger
Community!

COME EAT, BID,
AND HELP BUILD
A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR OUR KIDS!



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
386 Main Street • Hermosa, SD



DATE:
MAY 9TH



MEAL:
11:00-1:00



AUCTION CLOSING:
2:00



If you would like to donate silent auction items, they can be dropped off at OSL anytime or on May 8th from 7am to 7pm. We are also selling raffle tickets to help this fundraiser. Tickets are \$5 a piece or 5 tickets for \$20. Prizes include a 5000 Watt Generator, 28' Heavy Duty 300 lb capacity ladder and a beautiful Bison picture. We would love to see you on May 9th to help support re-building the playground that benefits the entire community.

RAISE THE ROOF CHALLENGE!

Two years ago when Hermosa Arts and History Association Museum held its grand opening, the HAHA Board turned its focus to renovating the second story. The dream was to update the upstairs into safe, accessible archival storage, a meeting/classroom area, office space and research area. However, last summer those dreams got put on hold indefinitely when a serious roof leak was discovered. Upon further examination, it was determined that the roof was in very bad shape and would to be completely replaced.

The initial estimate was \$69,000 and after long negotiations with our insurance company, they agreed to pay only 12% of the replacement cost. We then talked to the roofing contractor who sharpened his pencil and got the estimate down to \$55,000. By using the funds that we had squirreled away for the second story project along with the insurance company payment, we were able to pay the contractor \$27,000 to begin the process, leaving a balance of \$28,000. Thanks to the generous support of the B&B fund of the Town of Hermosa along with the fundraising efforts from the quilt raffle and bake sale, we have whittled the balance as of this writing down to \$20,300. And now the rest of the story.....

HAHA has an angel. A wonderful person, who wishes to remain anonymous, has agreed to match funds up to \$10,000 to help us collect the balance of the roof payment. The Board will continue its fundraising efforts but we are asking the community to help us meet this final hurdle.

You can send a donation to

**HAHA,
PO Box 175,
Hermosa, SD 57744-0175**

or drop by the museum when it is open on Saturdays with expanded hours coming in June. Anything you can do to support this final push would be deeply appreciated.

BITS & PIECES

A raccoon's excellent adventure



It started innocuously enough. A raccoon in Ashland, Virginia found a gap in the ceiling of a state liquor store, squeezed through, and helped himself to the inventory. By the time store employees arrived the next morning, he had smashed 14 bottles, sampled liberally from the wreckage, and passed out cold on the bathroom floor.

Wildlife officials removed him safely. He sobered up. He was released back into the wild, presumably with a headache.

Then came the twist: investigators determined it wasn't his first offense. The same raccoon is suspected in break-in at a nearby Department of Motor Vehicles office, a caper manifestly less satisfying than the liquor store. He is also implicated in the break-in at a martial arts studio.

Hanover County Animal Protection launched a "Trashed Panda" T-shirt fundraiser that raised \$78,000. The raccoon remains at large and has not issued a statement, according to the Washington Post.

World Otter Day -- May 27

The otter who hijacks surfboards

Something is happening at Steamer Lane, the famous surf break in Santa Cruz, California — and it is not what surfers signed up for.

A sea otter has taken to swimming up to surfers, climbing on their boards, and simply refusing to leave. In October 2025, one surfer had her board held hostage for a full 20 minutes while lifeguards scrambled. The otter nipped her foot for good measure. Other incidents have followed, sometimes daily.

Wildlife authorities suspect the culprit may be the legendary "Otter 841," a local celebrity who rocketed to fame in 2023 for the same behavior before evading every capture attempt — including boats, nets, cages, and scuba divers. She was last spotted at a



surfing contest in May 2024, where she climbed onto a volunteer's board for 15 minutes and then slipped back into the ocean.

The one habit that separates productive people from busy ones

Here is the problem with multitasking:

it doesn't actually exist. What the brain does when we think we're multitasking is switch rapidly between tasks — and every switch costs something. According to research from the American Psychological Association, task-switching can reduce productivity by as much as 40 percent. The person juggling six browser tabs, a face-up phone, and a side text conversation isn't being more productive. They're just being busier.

The single habit that consistently separates highly productive people from merely busy ones is the ability to focus on one thing at a time — deliberately, fully, and for a protected block of time.

It doesn't require special equipment or a personality transplant. It requires a decision: for the next hour, one task gets all of your attention. Phone in another room. Notifications off. One window open.

The results are not subtle. Work that would take three fragmented hours often gets done in one focused hour — and the quality improves too. Deep thinking requires sustained attention in a way that split attention simply cannot replicate.

The challenge is that focus doesn't feel as active as busyness. Checking messages and juggling tasks creates a sensation of motion. But motion and progress are not the same thing.

Pick one thing. Do only that. Finish it

before starting the next. It is an old idea — but in a world engineered to fragment your attention at every turn, it may be the most productive decision you make all day.

Ask the Expert: Rate Locks

I've been shopping for a mortgage and my lender mentioned a rate lock. Can you explain what that is — and whether I need one?

Great question -- and definitely one worth understanding before you get too deep into the homebuying process.

Here's the short version: when a lender quotes you a mortgage rate, that rate isn't guaranteed forever. Rates move around -- sometimes a lot -- based on economic conditions, and what you're quoted on a Tuesday could look very different by the time you actually close.

A rate lock is simply your lender's promise that the rate you've been quoted will still be waiting for you at closing, no matter what happens to the market in between. Think of it like a price hold at your favorite store — you've spotted something you like at a good price, and the store agrees to set it aside for you at today's price even if the price goes up.

How long do locks last?

Most rate locks run for 30, 45, or 60 days — enough to cover the time between your mortgage commitment and closing. Longer locks are some-

times available, though they may come with a modest fee or a slightly higher rate.

What if rates actually drop after I lock?

A classic dilemma. Some lenders offer what's called a "float-down option" -- essentially a lock with a parachute built in. If rates fall by a certain amount before you close, you can capture the lower rate rather than staying stuck at your original one. Not every lender offers this, so it's absolutely worth asking about upfront.

So should you lock?

If you've found the right home and you're comfortable with the rate on the table, most mortgage professionals will tell you: lock it. Rates can move fast — sometimes within a single day -- and the peace of mind alone tends to be worth it.

When in doubt, ask. We watch the markets every single day. That's exactly what we're here for.

More homes, more choices:

The market may be shifting, after years of intense competition for homes — bidding wars, waived inspections, and cash offers that seemed to materialize out of thin air — something is quietly changing in many housing markets across the country.

Inventory is rising. In fact, the number of active homes for sale has been

climbing steadily, and buyers in many areas are finding something they haven't had in a while: options. According to the National Association of Realtors, homes are now spending considerably more time on the market before going under contract — the longest stretch in several years. Nationally, more than one in three active listings has had at least one price reduction, a meaningful shift from the take-it-or-leave-it conditions buyers endured not long ago.

So what does that mean for you?

More breathing room. You may find yourself less likely to be competing against five other offers on the same weekend. You can visit a home twice, think it over, and make a thoughtful decision rather than a panicked one.

Room to negotiate. In many markets, sellers are showing more flexibility — on price, on closing costs, and on concessions like repair credits or contributions toward a mortgage rate buydown that could lower your monthly payment.

Less pressure to skip protections. The scramble to waive home inspections just to stay competitive is fading in many areas. A proper inspection protects your investment and can uncover issues that matter enormously down the road.

Here's the important caveat: real estate is relentlessly local. What's true nationally isn't necessarily true in

your neighborhood, your city, or even your zip code. Some markets — particularly where new construction is limited — remain quite competitive, with sellers still firmly in control. National headlines are a starting point, not a final answer.

The best move you can make right now is a simple conversation with us about what's actually happening where you want to buy. The market may be giving you more leverage than you think. Or it may not. But there's only one way to find out.

Memorial Day:



This year is different

Memorial Day was born from grief.

After the Civil War left 600,000 Americans dead, communities across the country began setting aside days to decorate soldiers' graves. In 1868 it was formalized as Decoration Day, a national observance, then later Memorial Day. Over time it softened into long weekends and the unofficial start of summer. In quiet years it became, for many Americans, more of a great weekend than heartache.

But, the original observance was always meant for years like this one

when, after a near five year hiatus, U.S. soldiers are once again in harm's way in Iran.

This spring, American military families are preparing for the original Memorial Day. At the date of this writing, 13 servicemen and women have been killed in the Iran conflict: six soldiers from Iowa's 103rd Sustainment Command, an Army Reserve unit that was hit in a drone attack, and one death of an Army sergeant from Kentucky who was killed on an air base in Saudi Arabia. Another six service members died when their KC-135 refueling tanker crashed in western Iraq, (not combat related).

The Memorial Day tradition is older than the country itself. But it is not abstract. It is a mother in Iowa setting a place at a table that will stay empty. It is a folded flag on a mantelpiece. It is a name that will be spoken carefully, for a long time.

Memorial Day asks us, once a year, to stop and acknowledge that freedom has a bill, and that some people pay it in full. Most years we manage that acknowledgment between the cookout and the ball game. Some years it is easier than others.



Mother's Day, May 10



INVITATION TO the HERMOSA COMMUNITY: Stop by the Haha museum to meet one of your neighbors. Well, he would have been your neighbor, should you have lived here in the late 1800s.

William J Thornby was his name and it was Hermosa where he first settled. During his years here in the Black Hills his titles were Colonel Thornby, Senator Thornby, and

Judge Thornby. He was born in 1856 so was too young to have served in the Civil War but by the time he arrived in Dakota Territory he was known as Colonel Thornby. The scrapbook clippings don't include if and when he may have served in the military before coming here but the rank of Colonel is attached to his name in many of the news clippings.

An enormous 143 page scrapbook has come into the Haha collection which was lovingly assembled by his wife with the aid of a niece. The scrapbook is a wealth of information about this man with newspaper clippings from the Hermosa Pilot (Hermosa's own paper) and every other Black Hills newspaper from those years. When he became a Judge and then a Senator, news clippings were saved from papers across the state and the Midwest with Thornby's name. He must have been a high-energy promoter of everything Black Hills in those early years of white settlement because this old scrapbook is packed full of all the ways he was involved in Hermosa and the Hills.

He promoted the first Custer County Fair (called an agricultural FAIR of eastern Custer County), the purchase of a hot water springs called Minnepajuta Springs in Fall River County, similar to those at Hot Springs, he helped assemble a display representing the new state of South Dakota for the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 and as senator he wrote a bill to build the sanatorium hospital near Custer. In the last decades of his life he became involved in the mining taking place in Deadwood and Lead. News items usually referred to him as Thornby, of Hermosa but perhaps because of his involvement with many communities, some of the items refer to him as Thornby, of Custer or Hot Springs and later in life, Deadwood. At this time, as we assemble the display, we haven't learned where his Hermosa home was located but he referred to himself as a Hermosa farmer when he began to get into politics.

Our Haha display will treat you to excerpts from the scrapbook of clippings. This antique gives us, not only a view of this man's life, but an insight to some of the attitudes and prejudices of that time. So, to repeat myself, consider this an invitation to stop by Haha this summer to get acquainted with the honorable **W J Thornby**.

Obituary story for Hermosa Newsletter, Linda M. Hasselstrom

Born in 1927, he was a lifelong rancher on the original homestead near Hermosa, and a bartender for 42 years. He loved his family and friends. She loved animals and adopted many dogs and two cats; her last two dogs and the cats are still being cared for by her husband. One of her favorite activities was to drive through the Wildlife Loop in Custer State Park. She enjoyed watching her husband feed deer near their house every afternoon.

She took pleasure in reading, puzzles, maps, word games, and her family; she was a loving wife for over 40 years.

He loved animals and always had some combination of horses, cows, chickens, pigs and lambs as well as dogs, cats, and even a raccoon. He often walked among the cattle, talking to them in his own special way, and some answered back.

She was small, 4'11" and about a hundred pounds, very spry and loved to travel. When she visited me, my girls would comb her hair, put earrings in, and put lipstick on her; she had such patience. She made quilts of silk neckties and tatted, as well as crocheted.

He never met a stranger, and would strike up a conversation with anyone. He learned to play music by ear. Upon his so-called "retirement" at age 65, he bought his first gravel truck and hauled until he no longer could. He could fix anything, teaching his kids these valuable skills, the value of hard work along with unconditional love. He was never afraid to stop what he was doing and help someone in need.

He played baseball, football, scuba-dived, hunted and fished with his dad, siblings and friends. He would spend all weekend greeting little kids as Taz the Clown.

She and he lived in or near Hermosa, among their friends and relatives, and gave generously of themselves to this area. They will be remembered.

This story is made of lines from several obituaries taken from the Custer County Chronicle. Hermosa Arts and History Association (HAHA) maintains obituary files so that future generations of residents and descendants, and visitors, can know what residents of our area were like.

Linda M. Hasselstrom, 4/22/2026

Linda M. Hasselstrom
lindamichele777@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 169, Hermosa, SD 57744

cont. pg. 41

Around The Neighborhood

Hermosa Celebrates Dan & Shelly Martin as Volunteers of the Year, 2025!



Nominee: Dan & Shelley Martin

Organization(s): Hermosa Connects; Hermosa Area Growth & Development; Hermosa Arts & History Association Museum

Phone#: (605) 216-8607

Brief Summary of Volunteerism Activities:

Dan and Shelley were the original founders of Pops Grocery, a business that served as a vital hub within Hermosa. Even after its sale, their continued care for its success reflects their enduring investment in the town's vitality and sustainability. I am going to follow with the stories and activities that I personally know about with the understanding that I know there are more that Dan and Shelley do that I am probably unaware of.

Dan and Shelley Martin have demonstrated extraordinary volunteer leadership and heartfelt service in Hermosa throughout 2025. Although they reside just outside municipal boundaries, their work has taken place within the Town of Hermosa and has directly benefited its residents, families, and businesses in visible and lasting ways.

Dan Martin serves as President of Hermosa Connects, Hermosa Area Growth & Development, and the Hermosa Arts and History Association Museum Board. These responsibilities extend far beyond titles. They require vision, persistence, coordination, and countless hours of quiet effort. In 2025, Dan and Shelley devoted significant personal time to assessing renovation needs at the Hermosa Museum and contributing hands-on labor to preserve a structure that protects our shared history and strengthens our municipal identity.

Shelley played a central role in organizing the 2025 Hermosa Huckster event, coordinating vendors and expanding meaningful opportunities for small businesses within our town.

Together, Dan and Shelley served as organizers of the 2025 Christmas Carnival at the Hermosa school, jointly managing vendors, overseeing logistics, and helping secure donated toys that brought genuine joy to Hermosa children and families.

Shelley has utilized her non-profit to benefit a resident in financial hardship. I cannot recall the name of the Hermosa organization at this time. But I was there for the discussion of the planned use of their funds and its impact for

this person.

Dan Martin initiated a collaboration with the United Way and reached out to those in Hermosa to see community needs met and got ready to roll up his sleeves with those he brought together.

Their service is steady, generous, and rarely self-promoted. Communities like Hermosa depend upon individuals who are willing to step forward, shoulder responsibility, and give their time for the benefit of others. Recognizing Dan and Shelley's contributions affirms the value of volunteerism and honors the spirit of service that keeps our town strong throughout the whole year and continues to this day.

Nominated by: Valena Baker

Signed: Valena Baker

Date: 2/11/2026



TERMESPHERE PRESENTATION

The Hermosa Library and the Hermosa Senior Citizens Meals are pleased to host an afternoon with South Dakota artist Dick Termes, the world's leading spherical artist.

He will bring a sampling of his Termespheres and discuss his career and process on Tuesday, May 12, at 1 p.m. after the Senior Meals at the Hermosa American Legion. He will also bring a virtual reality viewing scope to provide the unique experience of seeing his Termespheres from a different perspective.

Mr. Termes' presentation is open and free to the public, sponsored by the South Dakota Humanities Council.

The meal that day will be roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, salad, dessert & drinks for \$8.00 per person, served at noon sharp. Please RSVP to the Hermosa Library, 605-255-5597, or to Bert Phillip, 605-415-9951, by Friday, May 8, if you are attending the lunch prior to the Termesphere presentation so that Jodi, the Senior Meals cook, can be prepared.



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Bulletin Board

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 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 Hermosa Coffee House.
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>

Ambulance District Update

On April 22 the Custer County Commissioners held a public hearing on and passed the required resolution to initiate the statutory process for forming an ambulance district for eastern Custer County. The resolution defined the name of the district (East Custer County Ambulance District) and the proposed district's area (district boundaries) as basically all the land parcels in the eastern part the county that are not already in an ambulance district (not in the Keystone, Custer, or Buffalo Gap/Hot Springs districts) – about 600 square miles.

1. The next statutory step is a vote by registered voters residing in the proposed area to approve or disapprove formation of the ambulance district on a special ballot at the primary election on June 2, 2026.
2. Approval of the district's formation would trigger several future steps in the process. Firstly, interested persons can then begin circulating petitions (minimum of 25 eligible voters) to be one of the initial (five) Directors for the district Board of Directors.
3. The initial Directors will be elected in a special election within 60 days after approval is given by voters to form the district.
4. The new Board of Directors will then be responsible for writing the District's bylaws and articles, selecting District officers, developing strategy for operating the District, and making a formal tax request to the county (by September 30) for funding the District.

Several information meetings or public forums will be held in May. New questions and requests for information will come from each meeting so updates will be provided as they are developed.

Leo Van Sambeek continues to spearhead the public information effort and he can be contacted at leovansambeek@gmail.com with questions, suggestions, or offers to help.

Horoscope: May 2026

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Momentum carries you into May with a fresh burst of confidence. Pitch that idea. Lucky number: 4.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Birthday season puts a cheerful glow on everything you touch. Let loved ones spoil you for a change. Lucky date: May 14.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): A new connection sparks an unexpected collaboration that could shape the months ahead. One strong message lands better than five good ones. Lucky number: 8.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): A heartfelt conversation with a family member unties a long-standing knot. At work, quiet persistence finally earns a nod from the right person. Lucky date: May 7.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): The spotlight shifts from performance to connection -- your warmth draws people in more powerfully than any grand gesture. Lucky number: 1.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): A mid-month review of your habits reveals one small change that makes a big difference in energy and focus. Lucky date: May 22.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): A shared project brings unexpected closeness. Don't ignore a good idea. Lucky number: 2.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Hidden information surfaces in a way that tilts the board in your favor -- use it wisely. Family bonds deepen. Lucky date: May 17.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): A local adventure proves as fulfilling as a far-flung trip, and easier on the schedule. Lucky number: 6.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Steady effort pays off mid-month with visible progress on a long-haul goal. Lucky date: May 10.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): A collective effort at work gains surprising traction when you hand others the spotlight for a moment. Lucky number: 12.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Intuition sharpens beautifully this month, making creative and emotional decisions feel effortless. Lucky date: May 3.



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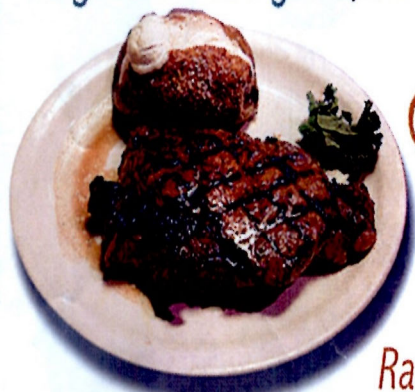
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May Sudoku

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

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

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

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



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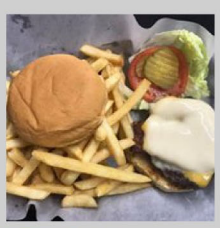
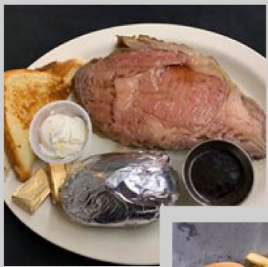
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Tuesday and Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT

Thursday 10-5pm Friday 10-5pm 10 Tenaya Street, Hermosa
 Saturday 10-5pm Sunday 11-3 605-391-3994
 Monday 10-5pm

**N
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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.

HERMOSA 8TH GRADE LEADERSHIP PRESENTS

Hive to Pride 5k Fun Run

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Run, Walk, Eat, & Win! Join us to raise money for a Custer Senior Scholarship. After the race, stick around for food trucks and door prizes. It's a fun day for the whole family!



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1PM START TIME**

**»»» \$20 ADULTS
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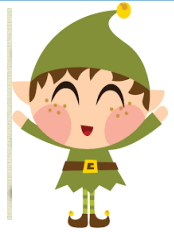
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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

May 11 - 16



Congratulations Linda Hasselstrom on your new book!

Linda M. Hasselstrom, who has called Hermosa home for 73 years, is finishing her eleventh nonfiction book about the area. Titled *Beulah Land: Ready for Anything*, the book includes essays published in various magazines during her career as a writer.

Hasselstrom is the author of 21 other books, and editor of many more. She moved here at age nine, and has lived most of her life on the John Hasselstrom ranch south of town. Her other titles include *The Roadside History of South Dakota*. Her collected poems appear in *Dakota: Bones, Grass, Sky*. She is a member of Hermosa Arts and History Association.

Check out her website to get more details about her other books.

Website: www.WindbreakHouse.com

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/WindbreakHouse

Blog: WindbreakHouse.WordPress.com

South Dakota Living Poet of Merit, 2020

Her other titles include:

Walking: The Changes (poems with photographs by James W. Parker)
Write Now, Here's How - Insights from Six Decades of Writing (August, 2020)
Gathering from the Grassland: A Plains Journal
Dakota: Bones, Grass, Sky, collected and new poems
The Wheel of the Year: A Writer's Workbook
Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet, with Twyla M. Hansen; *No Place Like Home: Notes from a Western Life*, *Between Grass and Sky*, *Feels Like Far*, *Bitter Creek Junction*, *Land Circle*, *Dakota Bones*, *Going Over East*, *Windbreak*, *Bison: Monarch of the Plains*, *When a Poet Dies*, *The Roadside History of South Dakota*, *Roadkill*, *Caught By One Wing*.

Editor of *Leaning into the Wind*, *Woven on the Wind*, *Crazy Woman Creek* with Gaydell Collier and Nancy Curtis; also editor of *Journal of a Mountain Man*, by James Clyman.





A Special Message for our Town's "Mrs. Claus"

Our dear friend Lila Holmberg has had a bit of a tumble recently. After a week at Monument and two weeks of rehab for a broken femur, she is finally back home! She's currently working hard with Home Health to get back on her feet.

Lila has spent so much time bringing joy to others; let's return the favor by showering her with some "get well" mail. Whether it's a "thinking of you" card or a quick note of encouragement, she would love to hear from her neighbors.

**Please send cards to:
Lila Holmberg, 24710 Foothills Drive Hermosa, SD
57744**

*April showers may bring
May flowers, but they
also bring water inside the
Hermosa Arts and History
Association Museum!*



H.A.H.A. is asking for the community's help to repair our leaking roof. Because of the steep slope of the roof and having to remove three layers of previous roofing, the cost is approximately \$55,000, which is a devastating blow to our budget. We hope to continue sharing our area's history by staying open to offer events and programs.

If you can help at all, here are ways to donate:

- Purchase raffle tickets from a H.A.H.A. volunteer to win a handmade quilt
- Drop off a donation at the museum (check facebook or HAHA website for hours)
- Visit www.hermosahistory.org to donate on-line (click on the blue DONATE TO HAHA bar)

- Write a check to H.A.H.A. and mail to:
Hermosa Arts & History Association
PO Box 175
Hermosa, South Dakota 57744
- Donate here: <https://gofund.me/c8faa249e>

Donations of any size are greatly appreciated!

******Beginning with the 2026 tax year, you may deduct up to \$1000 (\$2000 married filing jointly) of qualified donations on your federal tax return even if you use the standard deduction! Great year to donate!***

THANK YOU!
thank you!

What a pleasant surprise!!

Thank You Hermosa B.O.T. for choosing us for the Volunteer of The Year Award!!

Thank You Valena Baker from the Hermosa Coffee House for submitting the application!

We are sure there are many other people who could have received this award.. We ALL really Love Hermosa and care about the people and community that live here. We will keep doing all we can for the people n town in this community. Thank you again for choosing us!! Appreciate it dearly!!

Dan n Shelley



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Edna Shorb 5-19

Bill Shorb 5-30

Audi Holsworth 5-23

Shalyn Holsworth 5-23

Harper Cavallero 5-13

Daisy Gomez 5-29

Scott Karasch 5-5

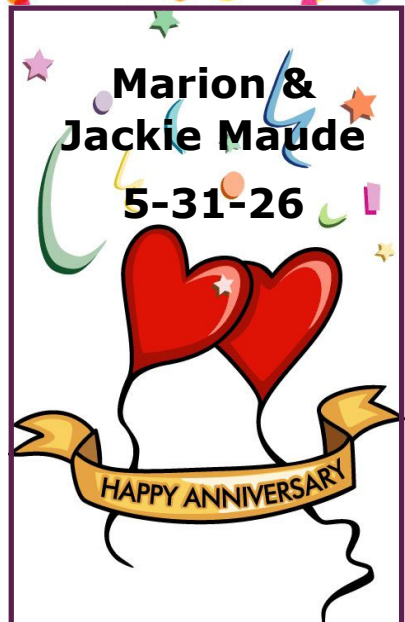
Melba Cook 5-5

Halley Eatherton 5-13

Tiff Robertson 5-5

Lea Devries Bale 6-6

Brian Lintz 5-18



Raising Roots That Last

This time of year is full of milestones.

Caps and gowns. Final games. Concerts, ceremonies, and celebrations. It's a season where we pause to recognize growth and look ahead to what's next. For students, it marks the turning of a page. For parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors, it's a moment to reflect on the investment that has been quietly taking place over time.

Because what we celebrate in a moment has often been built over years. Scripture reminds us in Deuteronomy 6:6–7 that faith and character are not formed in a single conversation, but in the rhythms of everyday life...“when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” It's a picture of consistency. Of small, faithful moments adding up over time.

In a world that often looks for quick results, this kind of investment can feel slow. It's not always obvious. There's no immediate measurement for teaching integrity, modeling kindness, or showing up day after day with patience and care.

But these are the things that take root.

Whether you're raising children, teaching students, coaching athletes, or simply influencing those around you, your daily choices matter more than you may realize. The words you speak, the example you set, the way you handle challenge...all of it is shaping something deeper than what can be seen on the surface.

Strong roots don't form overnight. They develop through consistency, through presence, through faithfulness in the ordinary. And over time, they hold.

They hold when life gets difficult. They hold when values are tested. They hold when independence begins and decisions are made without us nearby. This season is a reminder that while we may not always see immediate results, what is planted with care and nurtured with intention will grow. So keep showing up. Keep investing. Keep choosing patience, truth, and love in the everyday moments.

You are helping grow roots that last.

Stand Firm. Love Well.
Josephine Weekley
Fairburn Church



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EACH DAY



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May Day | May 1
#CelebrateEveryDay

Happy
May Day!

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 pray@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