



# Hermosa Newsletter

*Connecting Community*

July 2025

Volume 15, Issue 7



THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER IS THE LAST

**THURSDAY** of the month

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



Location: 230  
Main St.  
Hermosa SD.

**Community Food Bank -  
Open on Thursday  
July 17, 3 - 5 pm**

The Hermosa/Fairburn Food Pantry will be open on Thursday, July 17h 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<sup>®</sup>**  
SOUTH DAKOTA



**Hermosa, St. Michael's Catholic Church**

14380 SD HWY 40

Tuesday June 29, 10:30am - 11:30am

**Red Shirt, 38 Tatanka Numpa Rd**

Tuesday June 29, 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](https://facebook.com/HermosaSouthDakota)

**JULY**

**COMMUNITY**

**MENU PG 13**

**HERMOSA FIREWORKS  
 ORDINANCE PG.6**

**JULY 12**

**MUD BOG PG. 18**

**JULY 12**

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY PG. 19**

**Aug 20**

**Open house pg. 20**

**AUG. 25**

**Back to school pg. 9**

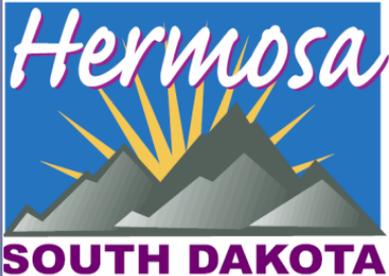
**SAVE THE  
 DATE**

**AUG. 7-10 CUSTER COUNTY FAIR  
 AUG. 24 UCC DUCK RACE**

**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. **Just email**

***joharris.news@gmail.com.***



## HERMOSA TOWN BOARD TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

At the Hermosa Town Board meeting on June 24, 2025, oaths of office were taken by Linda Kramer (3 year term), Aaron Serviss (3 year term) and Donna Ferguson (1 year term).

Oaths of office were also given to Kent Hagg as appointed Town Attorney, Elmer Claycomb as Town Floodplain Administrator and Terri Cornelison as Town Finance Officer.

Election of officers were also done and Kelburn Koontz was elected board president and Linda Kramer was elected board vice-president.

**The 4th of July**, officially known as Independence Day, is a pivotal federal holiday in the United States, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This historic document formally declared the thirteen American colonies' separation from British rule, marking the birth of the United States as an independent nation. Its importance lies in several key aspects:

- **Symbol of Freedom and Self-Governance:** The 4th of July embodies the fundamental American ideals of liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness. It signifies the moment a fledgling nation asserted its right to self-determination and rejected the authority of a monarchy.
- **Birth of a Nation:** It's widely considered the "birthday" of the United States, r
- **National Unity and Identity:** The holiday serves as a powerful reminder of the shared history and values that unite Americans.
- **Reflection on Ideals:** Beyond the festivities, it's a day for reflection on the sacrifices made for freedom and the ongoing commitment to upholding the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. In essence, the 4th of July is a vibrant celebration of American independence and a profound reminder of the nation's founding ideals and enduring journey.

# The fateful decision of the Founders

In July we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, marvel at its soaring language, and honor our freedom. But in 1776, the Declaration was treason and its signers were targets.

Here is a summary of the fate of the 56 signers:

Arrested/Imprisoned: 5

Property Destroyed or Confiscated: At least 17

Died During the War: 9 (from wounds, disease, or hardships, not execution)

Sons Killed: 1 confirmed.

Sons Captured: 2.

Financial Ruin: About 17 faced significant financial losses or poverty

Of note was the fate of "Honest John" Hart. Born in 1711, Hart was a farmer, miller, and public servant from Hopewell, New Jersey. By 1776, he was elected to the Continental Congress, where he voted for independence and signed the Declaration.

In late 1776, British forces invaded New Jersey. Hart's home in Hopewell became a target due to his status as a signer. Fearing capture, Hart, 65, was forced to flee, leaving behind his wife, Deborah, who was seriously ill, and their 13 children. Hart hid in the nearby Sourland Mountains, living in caves, forests, and abandoned barns.

British and Hessian troops ransacked Hart's 600-acre farm. His home was looted, his mills were damaged or destroyed, and his livestock was confiscated or killed. The devastation of his property left Hart, once a prosperous landowner, financially ruined.

By October 1776, Hart's wife had died and his children were forced to scatter.

In early 1777, after George Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton pushed British forces out of much of New Jersey, Hart was able to return home. He was never able to recover physically, emotionally, or financially from his ordeal and he died in May 1779.

# HERMOSA ORDINANCE

## 131.05 FIREWORK REGULATIONS.

(A) *Reasonable hours.* It shall be unlawful for a person to discharge fireworks within the town limits, except during the period beginning July 2 and extending through July 5, and during the period beginning December 28, and extending through January 1, as permitted within SDCL § 34-37-16.1.

(B) It shall be further unlawful for a person to discharge fireworks within the town limits during the times outside of July 2, 3, and 5 between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight), July 4 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m., on New Year's Eve between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., and New Year's Day between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

(C) The Board of Trustees may declare non-use of fireworks if fire conditions are unfavorable.

(D) All liability from the discharge of fireworks remains with the person and/or property owner involved, including but not limited to injuries, death, or property damage that may occur from discharging fireworks inside the town limits.

(Ord. passed 4-18-2023)

### § 131.99 PENALTY.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter is subject to the penalty set forth in § 10.99.

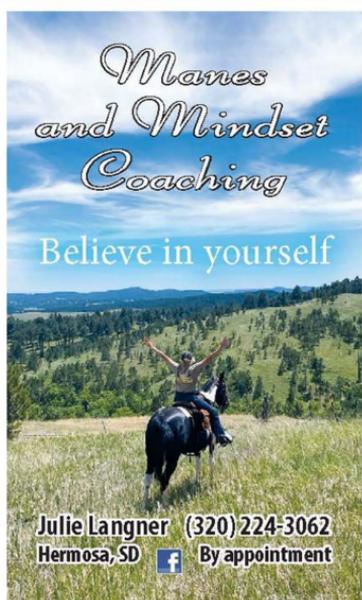
(Ord. passed 4-18-2023)

## Worth repeating: 4th of July safety rules

The 4th of July is one of the biggest family days of the year. People like to kick back, enjoy barbecues and fireworks displays. Unfortunately, many people end up in emergency rooms. Whether it's from drinking, home fireworks gone wrong, or potato salad gone bad, people find themselves sick or injured.

## Follow a few simple tips:

- \* Be careful with fireworks. They aren't toys. Supervise children.
- \* Take care of your pets. Secure pets who may be afraid of the noise. Provide water.
- \* Serve foods at the proper temperature. Wash your hands before making dishes like potato salad, and always remember the advice, "keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold."
- \* Drink responsibly and be sure your guests do the same. Don't let people who have been drinking light fireworks.
- \* Never light fireworks near dry grass or other flammables.
- \* Light one at a time and keep a safe distance from it.
- \* Never point or throw fireworks at anyone.
- \* Have a bucket of water and a hose handy.
- \* Never attempt to re-light or fix fireworks.
- \* Don't wear loose fitting clothing when you're dealing with matches and fireworks.



- **Certified NLP Coach**  
(In person and virtual)
- **Life & Success Coaching**
- **AWAKEN Method**
- **EFT**
- **Clinical Hypnotherapy**
- **T.I.M.E. Techniques**
- **Trauma Recovery Facilitator**
- **Equine Assisted Learning**  
(In person)

**(320)-224-3062**

## CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR: 2025-26

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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31						

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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JUNE						
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JULY						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

<b>S</b>	=Student Attendance Day
<b>T</b>	=Addit. Teacher Duty Day

### Scheduled Fridays: Sept. 19

 School Board Meetings

 Inservices Days: 8/13-14, 8/18-20; Jan. 16, Feb. 20

 Para Inservices Staff Days: Aug. 13-14; 18, 19, 20; Oct. 10, Jan. 16,

 Aug. 20 - District Open Houses - 3-5pm @ CES/HES; 4-6 pm @ Custer Jr/Sr HS

**P/T Conferences:** ALL Schools: 10/24: 8-11:30am; 3/17: 4-7:30pm

CES/HES - 10/20/25 - 4-7:30pm Jr/Sr HS - 10/27/25 - 4-7:30pm

 End of Quarter: 10/16; 12/18; 3/12; 5/21

 Scheduled snow make-up days - if needed: 12/5, 1/9, 2/13, 3/6, 3/20, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8

**No School: 4/2-6 (Spring Break)**

 Graduation Day - May 16 - 2:00 p.m.

 - Early Release at Noon - May 21 (students only)

**Q1=32 Days; Q2=34 Days; S1= 66 Days; Q3= 40 Days; Q4= 38 Days; S2= 78 Days**

# **BACK TO SCHOOL**



**HERMOSA  
SCHOOL**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, August 20th**

**3-5 PM**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**Monday, August 25th**

**“A habit cannot be tossed out the window; it must be coaxed down the stairs a step at a time.” Mark Twain**

In the last months, I have been researching and studying the topic of habits. I have many. We all do. I have learned that habits account for approximately 40% of our daily behaviors. That is almost half of our actions every day, most of which are without conscious thought. I was surprised, honestly. Forty percent of my movement throughout the day, which is often done without much thought, is both an asset and a liability. An asset because, to survive, we need to know how to do many things without thinking; otherwise, we would not have time to learn the new things necessary for our survival and well-being. So, thank goodness that we can do a lot without taxing our brains!



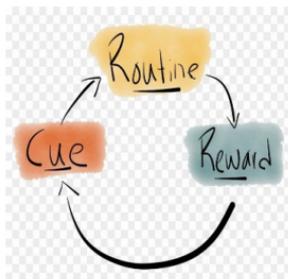
The liability here is that we can easily get stuck on autopilot with actions that feel good in the moment but are not beneficial for us. It is like picking up a piece of candy every time you pass the candy jar, or scrolling through your device to check messages in every quiet moment, and using social media when you need to concentrate on work. These are the behaviors or habits we engage in, telling ourselves and others that we should not be doing, wish we were not doing, but cannot seem to unhook ourselves from the impulse to do them.



When the negative consequences of the habit outweigh the short-term reward value, we face the situation and move to stop one habit and replace it with a healthier one. Discontinuing an action that has a high short-term reward value is challenging and often unsuccessful because undesired behavior has become a natural default, making it safe, comfortable, and familiar. Our survival brain and nervous system craves this soothing. Because the

orbitofrontal cortex craves emotional rewards, it seeks to feel good in the present moment. It can be overbearing. The prefrontal cortex, on the other hand, aims to accomplish long-term goals, like working at a job every day. The winner of this neural tug-of-war craves emotional rewards. The orbitofrontal cortex is simply doing its job. Now that we know this, we can collaborate with ourselves and our brains to let go of unhelpful habits.

Dr. Judson Brewer, a research psychiatrist with specialties in addictions and eating disorders, explains that our unwanted but default behavior has a remarkably high reward value in our psyche. That is because our survival brain has learned that the behavior we no longer want to do is what we need to feel better in the moment, and it has learned what actions will make that happen. The key is to adjust the reward value associated with that behavior or action. In other words, train your brain to make a better choice behavior that has a higher reward value than unwanted habitual behavior.



A new habit, behavior, or response to circumstances requires repetition. Practice. Why?

Changing a habit or building a replacement behavior is not an event; it is a decision that is made and reaffirmed repeatedly. Retraining the brain requires time, commitment, self-compassion, and letting setbacks teach us something about ourselves.

**When we are attentive to our actions, we are not prisoners to our habits. T.K.V Desikachar**

The first step is to refrain from resisting the temptation in advance. Let unwanted behavior happen. While you are there, pause, pay attention, look around, and take a moment to look inside. Talk to yourself about what you are doing, what parts of your body are moving, and any smells you notice. How does this behavior *feel*? Are you comfortable? What is not good, uncomfortable? Pay attention to that. Ask yourself:

Did it bring value or satisfaction? Likely, negative emotions follow. Repeated reflection helps the emotional brain start to see the downsides of the habit.

Over time, repeating this in-the-moment introspection teaches your emotional brain to associate non-indulgence with feeling better, and indulgence with regret. Gradually, the prefrontal and orbitofrontal cortices begin to align, meaning your intentions and habits start to support each other.

Identify a habit you want to change (e.g., scrolling social media instead of working).

When you do indulge, do not fight it.

Immediately ask: "How do I feel right now?"

Notice the (likely) negative cost versus fleeting pleasure.

Repeat across instances to build awareness.

Eventually, your emotional brain will prefer the better choice.

According to Brewer and many others, this method works because it does not rely on willpower or suppression. Instead, through awareness and repetition, the reward associations in the brain are rewritten. This makes lasting change more sustainable. Bottom line: The key change is not in avoiding temptation, but in evaluating your feelings while doing the habit. This simple in-the-moment reflection gradually changes how your brain prioritizes rewards, aligning habit with intention.

**"Good habits are hard to develop but easy to live with; bad habits are easy to develop but hard to live with. The habits you have and the habits that have you will determine almost everything you achieve or fail to achieve." ~ Brian Tracy**

© Susan Lorenzen July 2025

THE  
**2025**

**CUSTER COUNTY FAIR  
IS DEDICATED TO**

**TRAVIS BIES**

Travis Bies, owner of H&T Bies Cattle Company in Fairburn, runs a large cow-calf operation. He is passionate about keeping younger generations involved in ranching and teaching them the values of land management, herd health, and running a successful ranch operation.



During his 14 years as a Custer County Commissioner, Travis helped preserve county ownership and local management of the fairgrounds and raised over \$300,000 for improvements. He is currently working to obtain funds for a 4-H shooting sports area.

Travis's dedication to agriculture, youth development, and community involvement is evident in every aspect of his work. From mentoring the next generation of ranchers, to preserving, and improving the Custer County Fairgrounds, his impact reaches far beyond his own operation.

***Congratulations  
Travis, this fair  
is for you!***





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



## BEERS & EARS

# 2025 BEERS AND EARS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

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

# EVERYONE WELCOME!

# Summer birdie game

Across

1. Actor Pitt
5. Make over
9. Place to hibernate
10. Face shape
11. Pakistani language
12. Darn, as socks
13. Goes on board again
15. Kind of tax
16. Philosophical doctrine
22. Centers of activity
23. Germany's \_\_ von Bismarck
24. Crude group?
25. Snaillike
26. Work station
27. Joie de vivre

Down

1. Smudge
2. Hard to find
3. Adjutant
4. Chicken order
5. Aquiline facial part
6. "... happily \_\_ after"
7. Clammy
8. Cutlass, e.g.
14. Life story, in brief
16. Walk heavily
17. Easy gait
18. Top guns
19. "... do you good"
20. Ancient gathering place
21. Cut

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D	O	R	E		D	A	R	A

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

# Community Lunch Menu

## At Hermosa Senior Citizens' Center

12:00-noon SHARP, Buffet-style Lunch

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

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

### Jun 30 - Jul 3

Monday	Lasagna
Tuesday	Sandwich & Salad Bar
Wednesday	Fajitas
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

### Jul 07 - Jul 10

Monday	Swedish Meatballs
Tuesday	Enchilada Casserole
Wednesday	Pork Loin
Thursday	Sweet & Sour Chicken
Friday	Closed

### Jul 14 - Jul 17

Monday	Goulash
Tuesday	Stirfry
Wednesday	Salisbury Steak
Thursday	Chef's Choice / Liver & Onions
Friday	Closed

### Jul 21 - Jul 24

Monday	Chicken Cordon Bleu
Tuesday	Ground Beef Stroganoff
Wednesday	Country Style Ribs
Thursday	Taco / Nacho Bar
Friday	Closed

### Jul 28 - Jul 31

Monday	Tater Tot Casserole
Tuesday	Sandwich & Salad Bar
Wednesday	Pot Roast
Thursday	Chef's Choice
Friday	Closed

### Aug 04 - Aug 07

Monday	Sloppy Joes
Tuesday	Cheeseburger Mac
Wednesday	Cranberry Chicken
Thursday	Cowboy Casserole
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](http://HermosaConnects.com) click Senior Menu tab to view the full monthly menu.

# EVERYONE WELCOME!

(605)255-4111



# LAZY R BAR & GRILL

Open Mon.—Sat. 4:00—9:00

Enjoy Steaks, Burgers &  
Broasted Chicken  
Beer & Spirits

Hermosa SD  
HWY 79  
1 Mile No. of  
Hermosa

John & Crystal Wiles

#SHOPLOCAL#SHOPSMALLBUSINES#SHOPHERMOSA



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CHANDLER BELL **605-381-9460**

# *HERMOSA* **MUDBOG**

**JULY 12, 2025**

JUNE-7th  
JULY-12th  
AUG-9th  
SEPT-13th

FOOT-RACES  
CHILDREN'S EVENTS  
50/50 RAFFLE  
CONCESSIONS ON-SITE

RANCHER  
SUPERSTOCK  
MODIFIED  
MEGATRUCK  
POWDERPUFF

14278 SHORB RD HERMOSA SD



Gates Open: 9am  
Registration: 10-11am  
Drivers' Meeting: 11:30am  
Race Start: Noon!

Adults: \$10  
Children 6-12: \$5  
5 & Under: Free  
Race Entry: \$40

# *WELCOME*



Christmas in July at the  
Hermosa Arts & History Museum!  
Saturday, July 12th from Noon to 4PM

HAAA is entering the Christmas Tree competition  
this year in Custer State Park and we're inviting  
the community to help us make ornaments.

Everyone welcome!

We'll provide the supplies & directions -  
you bring the talent.  
Hope to see you there!

**2025**  
CUSTER  
COUNTY FAIR

**SAVE**  
*the* **DATE**

**HERMOSA, SD**  
**AUGUST 7 - 10**



**ROOT & BLOOM**  
GARDENS  
RANDBGARDENS.COM

**PAULA FONTAINE**

**360-489-4505**

PAULA@RANDBGARDENS.COM

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GARDEN DESIGN • GARDEN SET-UP, PLANTING, SUPPLIES

**SERVING RAPID CITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS**



**Custer County Fair**

**Hermosa SD**

**Save the  
Date: August  
7-10, 2025**



## Heartland RV Park Event Center

24743 Hwy 79, Hermosa, (Located at Hwy 79 & Hwy 36)  
Dine-In or Carry-Out & In-Park Delivery, call 605-430-3976

### **Breakfast Food Service - Mon thru Sat 7:00 am to 10:30 am & Sunday 7:00 am to 11:30 am**

<b>The Heartland</b> - Scrambled Eggs, biscuit & gravy w/choice of 2 strips of bacon or 1 patty. -----	\$10.99
<b>Rushmore</b> - Scrambled Eggs with 2 Pancakes w/choice of 2 strips of bacon or sausage patty -----	\$10.99
<b>Calamity Jane</b> - Scrambled Eggs w/ English Muffin w/c of 2 strips of bacon or sausage patty ----	\$10.99
<b>Prairie Pancakes</b> - Two pancakes hot off the grill with choice of bacon or sausage patty -----	\$8.99
<b>Crazy Horse</b> - 2 fresh & hot biscuits split and smothered with sausage gravy -----	\$8.99
<b>Breakfast Burrito</b> - Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, cheese and sauce in hot fresh tortilla -----	\$10.99
<b>Burrito Bowl</b> - Scrambled eggs, sausage, cheese, salsa, and sour cream service hot and fresh -----	\$9.99
<b>Breakfast Pizza</b> - Butter sauce Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon and Cheese (Serves 4)-----	\$15.99
<b>Breakfast Sandwiches</b> - Sausage or Bacon Eng. Muffin w/Egg & Am. Cheese -----	\$7.99
<b>Cinnamon Roll</b> - Fresh & Hot served with a Cream Cheese Frosting -----	\$4.99
<b>Beverages</b> - Coffee-Hot Tea-Hot Chocolate-Milk- \$2.00 Juices -\$3.00 Mimosa & Bloody Mary--\$5.99	

### **Dinner Food Service - Monday - Sunday 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

#### **Appetizers Baskets**

**French Fries** - \$4.99 **Sweet Potato Fries** - \$5.99 **Cheese Curds** - \$7.99 **Fried Pickles** - \$7.99  
**Mini Tacos** - \$7.99 **Breaded Mushrooms** - \$8.99 **Jalapeno Poppers** - \$8.99 **Sampler Basket** - \$17.99

#### **Hunt Brothers Pizzas**

**Large - Choice of Unlimited Toppings \$15.99** (2<sup>nd</sup> Unlimited Topping \$14.99)

**Toppings:** Pepperoni, Sausage, Bacon, Beef, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Bell Peppers, Banana Peppers, Onions, Jalapenos  
Regular or Thin Crust      Extra Cheese - \$2.00

#### **Hunt Brothers Wings**

**Southern style or Hot and Spicy** - Small - \$6.99 **Large** - \$12.99 *Sauces: BBQ, Buffalo, Ranch, Bleu Cheese*

#### **Hunt Brothers Wing Bites**

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#### **Sandwiches & Salads**

**Ham & Cheese Sandwich** - \$5.99 **Italian Sandwich** - \$7.99 **Chicken Sandwich** - \$7.99  
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**Saturdays** - Greg Johnson & Friends - Western & Patriotic Music  
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For full Schedule of Live Entertainment please visit <http://www.heartlandrvpark.com/events>

**\*\*Special Free Live Music Event\*\***  
**Orion & Stacey Potter Music Show**  
**Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

## **BITS & PIECES**

### **What to expect from drug prices:**

President Donald Trump's May 12 executive order was designed to reduce drug prices to align with what other countries pay. Will it really get the prices lowered?

According to KFF Health News, a health policy news organization, the executive order really could lower the cost of prescription drugs by the 30 to 80 percent. But, KFF reports, it may not be fast and the process may not be easy.

The executive order directs administration officials to provide "most-favored-nation price targets" to manufacturers. If drug makers fail to make sufficient progress toward those targets in 30 days, the order directs the secretary of Health and Human Services to propose a rule making plan to align pricing with administration goals.

As one health policy expert pointed out to KFF Health News, the president's legal authority to lower drug prices is unclear, and so the executive order functions as a means to encourage manufacturers to lower prices. And if the rule-making plan is triggered, it will likely take months to years to see any resulting changes. Reducing prescription drug pricing has long been a bipartisan concern, and lawmakers on both sides generally agree that the current model is unfair and unsustainable. According to the Rand Corp., average drug

prices in the U.S. are 2.78 times higher than the average in other industrialized countries. For brand-name drugs, prices averaged 4.22 times higher.

Drug price comparison

Advair HFA inhaler (asthma)

US: \$319

UK: \$26

Ozempic (weight loss/diabetes)

US: \$936

UK: \$93

France: \$83

Eliquis (blood thinner)

US: \$591

Japan: \$78

France: \$54

Stelara (autoimmune conditions)

US: \$6,583

Japan: \$1,166

France: \$1,000

### **FTC drops case against Microsoft's big video game deal :**

It's official: Microsoft's \$69 billion acquisition of the video game giant Activision Blizzard is settled after the U.S. Federal Trade Commission dropped their lawsuit that sought to block the deal. According to Reuters, the FTC stated that continued opposition to the deal was not in the public interest, and FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson intends to divert the agency's resources toward other cases.

The Activision Blizzard purchase is the largest acquisition in the history of the video game industry. Microsoft's formidable video game port

olio already includes the Xbox console, along with subscription and cloud-based gaming services. With the addition of Activision Blizzard, Microsoft's game catalog will also include extremely valuable franchises like Call of Duty, Diablo, and World of Warcraft.

According to IGN.com, regulators and industry watchers were concerned that Activision Blizzard's popular titles would become Xbox exclusives, but Microsoft confirmed that it would not lock those franchises into long-term exclusivity periods. In order to quell objections from U.K. regulators, Microsoft sold Activision Blizzard's cloud gaming rights Ubisoft.

What does this mean for gamers? Now that Xbox is available on multiple platforms, maybe not very much. But then again, as one snarky Reddit user speculated, "Given that Microsoft has bought Activision, do you think we will finally get a new game from the Prototype series?"

### **Gadget guide: High-tech hiking**

High-tech outdoor gear has never been better and the market is flush with great new gadgets to suit everyone from casual weekend campers to experienced backcountry hikers. Regardless of your experience or goals, some of the latest cutting-edge gadgets will help make your next adventure the best one yet.

\* Anker SOLIX Portable Solar Panel. This 100-watt solar panel boasts

a durable waterproof build, folding design, and an adjustable stand that lets you adjust the angle to capture more sunlight. \$209 on Amazon.

\* SUUNTO Vertical adventure watch. Serious hikers will appreciate that this Finnish-made smartwatch connects with multiple satellite systems to continuously provide location data and record paths, plus extensive navigation options and downloadable maps. The Vertical can be charged with solar power, maintains battery life for up to 60 days, and includes downloadable maps that can be used even in offline mode. \$499 at Suunto.com.

\* GoPro Hero. A more budget-friendly version of the GoPro Hero 13 Black, the scaled-back Hero is still a rugged option for a tiny and lightweight camera that can document all your adventures. \$200 at GoPro.com.

\* LuminAID PackLite Tital 2-in-1 Power Lantern. Waterproof and collapsible, this packable solar charger does double duty as a lantern on dark nights. \$105 at REI.com.






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# **Please Join us for Hermosa's Annual Duck Races!**

## **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Fun, food, and entertainment  
for the whole family!**

**Potluck at noon.  
Duck Races at 1pm.**

**100% of the proceeds of this FUNDRAISER**  
go toward healthy food which is  
sent home with children in need,  
every weekend throughout the school year.

**Tickets for Ducks are \$5 each,**

Tickets will be available through  
Hermosa United Church of Christ,  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
St. Michael's Catholic Church, &  
Pop's Grocery Shoppe.

Donations are also appreciated.  
Checks may be made out to  
Hermosa UCC (memo: Backpack program).  
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More info in next month's Newsletter!  
Location TBA



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**Saturday 10-4pm      Sunday 11-3**

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**Monday 10-4pm**

**TSA's strange rules:** Traveling by air this summer? Remember there are things you can bring on the plane and things you can't.

If flying domestic, you can bring in live lobsters and fish. Spill-proof containers are a must. You can check the lobsters, but the fish have to ride with you.

Your light sabers and bowling balls are good. But foam swords will be confiscated. Pack your snow globes because, like jars of peanut butter, they aren't going to make it through security.

Worst of all, are British Christmas crackers. We are not talking Saltines here. These are cardboard tubes, wrapped in brightly colored paper, twisted at both ends. One person is supposed to hold each side of the tube and pull. At that point, there is a loud crack and a prize like a paper hat falls out. That crack comes from a tiny dose of gunpowder in the cracker, hence the ban on Christmas crackers.

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# Bulletin Board

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

**Hermosa Connects...** Monthly meetings are the last Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the Hermosa Coffee House.

**Hermosa Arts and History Association** will meet the second Monday of the month, at 6:30 in the HaHa building, next to the post office. Check our Facebook page for exact date & location. ([www.facebook.com/Hermosa history](http://www.facebook.com/Hermosa%20history))

## THE BLUEPRINT Custer County Democratic Party

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**

Saturday, July 5th - *No Breakfast*

**Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> - Meeting 6:00 pm**

*Custer County Courthouse Annex — Pine Room*

**Gold Discovery Days July 18th - 20th**

Summer Raffle- \$5 for 1 ticket or 5 tickets for \$20

\*\$100 merchandise from Wild Idea Buffalo

\*\$100 Cash      \*\$50 Cash

**Community Garden - Green and Growing**

**Unite. Act. Change the Future.**



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.

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



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# Horoscope July 2025

**Aries (March 21 - April 19):** July 2025 brings a burst of energy. Mid-month, a surprise conversation could shift your perspective—stay open!

Lucky Day: July 7

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20):** Comfort is your superpower. You'll find joy in nurturing your home or deepening bonds with loved ones. Lucky Number:

4

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20):** Early in the month, a new idea sparks—run with it, but avoid scattering your focus. Lucky Day: July 14

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22):** Embrace self-discovery and set intentions for the year ahead. Your intuition is razor-sharp—trust it. Lucky Number: 8

**Leo (July 23 - August 22):** It's your season, Leo, and the spotlight is yours! July 2025 is ideal for launching passion projects. Around the 15th, a mentor or friend offers valuable advice. Lucky Day: July 22

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** A health or wellness goal takes root—small changes yield big results. Trust your gut. Lucky Number: 6

**Libra (September 23 - October 22):** Your social calendar buzzes, and networking opens unexpected doors. Stay true to your values when making decisions. Lucky Day: July 11

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21):** Your intensity and focus draw attention—seize opportunities to showcase your skills. A personal goal gains clarity around the 18th. Lucky Number: 9

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** A new perspective shifts your outlook early in the month. Stay mindful of commitments. Lucky Day: July 25

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):** A tough decision mid-month leads to clarity—trust your pragmatism. Self-care is crucial; prioritize rest. Lucky Number: 3

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18):** Partnerships, both romantic and professional, take center stage—collaboration is your strength. Lucky Day: July 19

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20):** You're juggling work and wellness, with chances to streamline routines. A kind gesture strengthens a bond. Lucky Number: 7

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# Around The Neighborhood

## HERMOSA ANNUAL ROCK SHOW

The Fairburn Agate Swap in Hermosa was held at the Custer County Fairgrounds on June 6th, 7th and 8th.

The picture below is Dr. Roger Clark (left) who has authored many books on agates. Roger Clark taught literature and film in UK Universities for over

thirty years and has published on contemporary fiction and film.

Fairburn Agate: Gem of South Dakota by Roger Clark. He was Senior Lecturer in Literature Studies at York St John University, UK, where he is currently Honorary Research Fellow in the Faculty of Arts. To his right is a Hermosa local, Ryan Lauzon, who is the owner of Beyond Agate Adventures rock





Michael Bruce helping Ryan Lauzon and Shanelle Guy put up signs.



RT. Another Hermosa local, Eric Eckman and to his left is Jacob Haefs of Rapid City who owns "Agates for Sale" Facebook group and has a ton of agates inventory. Please support our locals.



**The Fairburn community welcomes its newest Board member Bradley Mikkelson pictured on the left along with Dean Weekley and Deb Patterson.**

**The 2025 Hermosa Huckster soap-box races**, are in the books.

When the seven race cars were lined up at the top of the track (Hwy 40 from the school to the Hermosa Coffee Shop), track conditions were declared “hot and fast” because of the baking sun and 95-degree temperature, but smooth and sticky. Tom Marsden’s Hermosa Senior Citizen’s Center winning car (Twisted Tee Plumbing) from last year burned up the track again this year, despite having a rookie driver, Don Perry. The “tub and shower” turned in the two fastest runs of the day (0:59.97 and 0:53.00, 56.5 second average). Wooden Shoe’s new challenger (the Big Green Trike) gave him a run with times of 1:01.67 and 0:54.77 for a 58.22 second average -- just 2.3 seconds behind.

Willow Holsworth in a new car had some bad luck on her first run with its wobbly steering and under-pressure tires; however, after some adjusting her second run was a spectacular 1:03.78 -- the fifth fastest time of the day. Willow definitely wins both “Best come back” after cutting 42 seconds from her first run and “Rookie of the Year” honors, but she hopes that next year her Dad starts building her car more than 5 hours before race time.

The “Tough Love” winner was the unidentified racer from the Connecticut Youth Group. His car was simple and modest but he definitely had the crowd cheering him on. Because his car lacked steering and had no brakes, he could not “push” his car too hard – hence 2:49.49. We won’t mention that his first start ended in a crash just 10 feet off the starting ramp – no, we won’t mention that.

The “I must have tried too hard” winner was Tom Marsden (yes, the builder of the car winning both last and this years’ races). His new car was engineered to maxed with a slick and daring chassis, sexy running gear, solid hydraulic brakes, and finely-tuned steering. But he must have forgotten to include speed; he drove his new car to 1:24.15 and 1:08.48 times, a 1:16.3 average.

The other two cars experienced various calamities. Wooden Shoe Ranch’s Flying Dutchman car, despite having oil in its bearings this year, is still hampered by a lack of gravity in Hermosa (or not enough hill!). The Battle Creek Fire District brought a newly styled, slicker

looking car but unfortunately, in the words of the race timer, the car “failed to launch”. Perhaps they could also use a little more gravity – or some of Tom Marsden’s engineering.

The Hermosa Connects event organizers (Larry Baker and Leo Van Sambeek) thank the car builders, car drivers, timer (Richard Stinson), traffic directors, and BCFD firefighters for blocking off Highway 40 for our 50 minutes of racing. The firefighters assisted in many ways and also showed great courage by driving some of the cars when called upon. Moreover, we appreciate the patience and good humor of the inconvenienced Highway 40 users who had to detour around our race track. The soap-box racing kinks are still being worked out, so just wait until next year – maybe we will be bigger and better and have more gravity.

## **Call for Entries: Showcase Your Talent at the Custer County Fair!**

The Custer County Fair is seeking artists and creators of all ages to exhibit their work! Share your passion and talent with the community by entering your artistic creations, handcrafted goods, and unique projects.

For generations, the Fair’s exhibits have been a beloved tradition, offering a vibrant platform to celebrate the diverse talents within our community. From paintings and sculptures to photography, crafts, and more, all forms of artistic expression are welcome.

### **Why Exhibit?**

**Share your creativity:** Connect with fellow artists and engage with a supportive community.

● **Inspire others:** Your unique vision can spark imagination and encourage budding artists.

**Celebrate local talent:** Help us build a robust and diverse showcase of Custer County’s artistic spirit.

Let’s work together to make this year’s Custer County Fair exhibits a testament to the incredible creativity flourishing in our area.

**Submission details and entry forms will be available on the Custer County Fair website.** We encourage you to start preparing your entries now!

## From Teacups to Turf: A Mad Hatter's Game



The scent of Earl Grey and absurdity hung thick in the air as the eight guests gathered around the impossibly long, mismatched table. This wasn't just any tea party; it was *the* Mad Hatter's Hermosa Neighborhood tea party, and these were no ordinary attendees.

They were aficionados, connoisseurs of chaos, each ready to prove their mettle in the realm of Wonderland trivia.

At the head, naturally, sat Hatter Jo her hat askew and eyes gleaming with a delightful lunacy. To her left, the Larkey Lisa, twitched her nose, already anticipating the next nonsensical pronouncement. Across from them sat Shan, the Queen of Quizzical Quibbles, and the perpetually sleepy Teri Twirling Teapot, nestled in a giant teacup, already on the verge of a nap.

The other four guests were equally colorful. There was Topsy Turvey Tori, whose grin seemed to precede her by a full minute; Queen of Hearts Amber, who, despite the name, was surprisingly amiable today; Dee the Rules Maker, perpetually checking her pocket watch; and finally, Scribbling Sus, already taking notes for the next grand tea party!

"A riddle, a riddle!" Hatter Jo declared, banging a spoon against a teapot. "Why is a raven like a writing desk?"

Scribbling Sus, ever the pragmatist, immediately pulled out her tiny notebook. "Is this a trick question, Jo? Because if so, I've logged twenty-seven variations of this particular conundrum, and none of them make logical sense."

Dee the Rules Makers grin widened. "Perhaps," she muttered, "the answer lies not in logic, but in the delightful absence of it."

Lunch was a symphony of culinary curiosities: un-birthday cake, cucumber sandwiches that tasted faintly of sunshine and paradox, and teacups filled with beverages that shifted flavor with every sip. Amidst



the clinking of porcelain and the joyous chatter, the trivia continued.

"In what direction does the March Hare's clock run?" Hatter Jo asked, pouring another cup of what smelled suspiciously like raspberry wine.

"Backwards, of course!" Topsy Turvy Tori chirped, kicking her leg under the table. "And sometimes sideways, just for variety said Queen of Hearts Amber!"

Teri Twirling Teapot stirred in her teacup. "What did the Gryphon and the Mock Turtle study at school?" she mumbled, half-asleep.

Larkey Lisa preened. "Reeling and writhing, of course! Scribbling Sus added and the different branches of arithmetic: ambition, distraction, uglification, and derision!"



After what felt like an eternity, or perhaps just a moment, of delightful disorientation and intellectual sparring, Hatter Jo announced, "Enough of mental gymnastics! It is time for... **Krazy Kroquet**

The kroquet lawn was a riot of color, bumps, and impossible angles. The wickets were made of live vines and flowers, constantly stretching their necks to look around. The balls were sleeping dormice rolling reluctantly and occasionally attempting to scurry away. And the mallets? They were whistling kettles, a high-pitched

shriek with every successful thwack!

Dee the rules maker, surprisingly adept despite her name, took the first swing. Her mallet connected with a dormouse, sending it wobbling through the legs of a particularly grumpy Viney wicket.

Larkey Lisa, ever precise, aimed her shot with meticulous care, but her dormice, sensing an opportunity for freedom, decided to curl into a ball and stubbornly refused to budge.

The game quickly devolved into magnificent chaos. Amiable Amber chased her dormouse around a rose bush, convinced it was cheating, calling insistently for Dee rules maker. Twirling Teri Teapot having finally succumbed to sleep, was gently rolled through a wicket by a mischievous gust of wind.

Hatter Jo, in a move that defied all known physics, managed to hit three dormice at once, sending them scattering in different directions, each somehow landing perfectly through a wicket. She then declared herself the winner, regardless of the actual score, and announced that it was time for another round of tea.

As the sun began to dip below the horizon, casting long, whimsical shadows across the lawn, the eight guests, exhausted but utterly content, gathered once more. The air was still thick with the scent of Earl Grey and absurdity, a perfect ending to a perfectly mad day.

Would you care for another cup?

**History of the Tea Bag**; While there's some debate on how and when the first teabags came around, this was an invention that still sees incredible use today. While loose leaf tea has been regaining popularity, teabags are still the most popular way to enjoy a cup of tea in the United States. Thomas Sullivan is typically credited with the popularity of the teabag, as he shipped out samples of his product in silk pouches in 1908. However, in 1901, Roberta Lawson and Mary Molaren [filed for a patent](#) for a tea leaf holder. The images look much like the teabags we use today; whereas Sullivan's teabags used silk, this patent showed a design using stitched mesh fabric. (Though, Sullivan probably didn't intend for his customers to dunk the silk tea bags in a cup of hot water. Once things caught on, he later switched to gauze for optimal infusing.)



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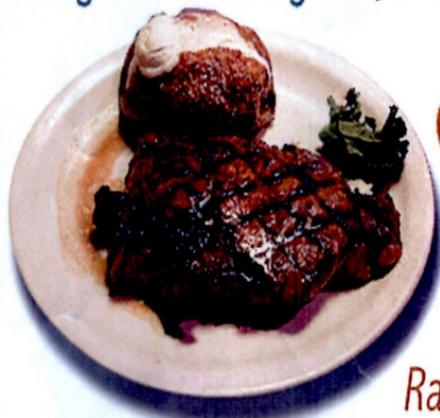
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## A NEW FACE AND A NEW STORE AT HAHA

Hermosa Arts and History Association is excited to welcome its first Museum Coordinator, Kim Muir. Kim and her husband, Rory, recently moved to Hermosa from Rapid City. Rory's parents lived in Hermosa when he was a young man.

Kim brings a solid background in accounting and public relations to our organization along with a love of history...a necessity for this job. Kim worked for 15 years at Landstrom's Jewelry/Riddle's Jewelry. Kim enjoys walking to keep fit as well as vegetable and flower gardening. Her green thumb is working its magic on the flowers in front of the museum.

Kim has also used her retailer's eye to set up a gift shop in the museum. HAHA is now offering tee shirts, sweatshirts, caps and post-cards, all with Hermosa themes, making them great souvenirs of our fair town. We also offer local history books for sale as well as earrings, both products of the talented hand of Lilah Pengra.

The museum is open this summer, every Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00 pm. Stop by, meet Kim and browse our gift shop!

For a fun afternoon, come to the "Christmas in July" on July 12 from noon to 4:00 pm. Keep an eye out for more events like our second annual ArtOut, a plein air event coming up the first week of October. There is a lot of fun at the museum! HAHA!!



**Kadoka SD Area Hit by Tornado,** A tornado struck south of Kadoka on Friday, June 27th, resulting in the destruction of several buildings, including multiple homes. The tornado carved a path extending roughly 3 to 4 miles southeast from the Whiteriver bridge. Fortunately, no severe injuries or deaths have been reported so far, though some minor injuries did occur. The community's thoughts are with those impacted by the severe property damage.



**Gut Murphy, July 7**

**Liz Plautz, July 9,**

**Mindy Holsworth, July 8**

**Kristina Clarke, July 14**

**Linda Hasselstrom, July 14**

**Desa Lintz, July 15**

**Chandler Bell, July 28**

**Shanna Harris, July**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY.**

**Happy**  
**Wedding**   
**Anniversary**



**Charles & Heather  
Maude  
July 6**

**Jim & Kay  
Murphy  
July 10**



**Julie & Jeff  
Turning  
Heart  
July 20**

**Sarah & Jake  
Vander-  
may  
July 26**

## Speak Life

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” – Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

In a world filled with noise, negativity, and quick opinions, Ephesians 4:29 calls us to something higher—to speak words that heal, uplift, and breathe life into those around us. The words we choose have a profound impact—not only on others, but also on ourselves.

Think back to a time when you accomplished something and received praise from many, yet one person made a negative comment. Which one stuck with you the most? Which one did you replay in your mind? Words have weight, and often, it's the hurtful ones we carry the longest.

But the opposite is also true. A kind word at just the right time can change the course of someone's day—or even their life. Encouragement can be the fuel someone needs to keep going. A sincere compliment can help someone see themselves in a new light. Words of truth and love can be a healing balm to a weary soul.

We hold the power to build others up or tear them down. Our words reveal our character. So choose life. Speak life. Let your words be a source of encouragement and strength in a world that desperately needs it.

Stand Firm. Love Well.

Josephine

Fairburn Church





***Thank you to all who sent sympathy cards and emails to me after the death of my husband. Special thanks to Valena Baker, Hermosa Coffee House, for contributing a memorial in Roy's name to the HAHA museum.  
Lilah Morton Pengra***

### **A Heartfelt Thank You to the Hermosa Community!**

The Hermosa Area Historical Association (HAHA) extends a huge thank you to the Hermosa community for its incredible support of our 3rd annual **Branding of the Boards** fundraiser!

We'd like to give a special shout-out to:

- Joy and Stan Neugebauer
- Alan Bishop
- Jeff Svoda
- Hermosa Coffeehouse
- Badlands Sand & Gravel
- American Legion Post 303
- Pops Grocery

### **Last Chance for Ranchers: Brand Your Board!**

There's still time for all you ranchers to participate! Get your boards, brand them, and drop them off at HAHA by July 31st.

You can pick up your board at the HAHA museum Wednesday through Saturday, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We'd love to display your unique brand on the museum walls, showcasing our rich ranching heritage!

For any questions, please call Shelly Martin at;  
**(605) 290-9409.**

## 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](http://www.youtube.com/TheOSLHermosa)
2. Fellowship each Sunday following worship, Potluck following worship last Sunday of each month.
3. D.O.G. Night during the school year - 5:30 pm Christian Education for Children 4 years THRU 6th Grade, 6:20 pm Family meal for all ages, 7:00 pm - Confirmation for 7th grade and older.
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. --Bible Study on the Gospel of John Wednesdays at 1:30pm.

**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](http://christstabernacle.org).

**Please send all prayer requests to [prayr@christstabernacle.org](mailto: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