
The Bobcat Eye

Fall Edition

Thursday, October 30, 2025

HALLOWEEN & HARVEST ACTIVITIES



Halloween Carnival

By Kenzee Creasy

The annual Halloween Carnival is scheduled for today, Thursday, October 30th, in the school's west gym. The high school's student government organizes the carnival, and the booths are set up by high school classes, school groups (such as SOS), and community organizations like the PTSO.

This is a fun night for the community to support the high school, as well as a night for kids to get some extra candy before trick-or-treating.

The festivities begin in the MPR with a chili competition dinner; all of the chili served is made by community members who signed up to prove their chili is the best. To follow, there will be booths in the west gym where everyone can play games to earn candy and prizes. The junior class also organizes a haunted house; the funds they raise go towards the senior prom in April.

Some of the booths being put on include: Face Painting by the senior class, Pie in the Face by the junior class, Pin the Face on the Pumpkin by the sophomore class, and Witch Hat Ring Toss by the freshman class. Other organizations are also setting up booths, so be on

the lookout for them and come ready to play games!



Fire Auxiliary Hosts Harvest Festival

By Mrs. T

After Trunk-or-Treat on October 31, bring your younger siblings to the Wet Mountain Fire Auxiliary's annual Harvest Festival from 4:30-6:30 PM at the Main Station.

What is there not to love about free kids' meals, carnival booths, and prizes?



Spooktacular Stampede for Sweets

By Sabastian Grayson

The evening has that perfect, crisp autumn chill setting the stage, but by the time the sun completely dips behind the Wet Mountains, Custer County trick-or-treaters from all around town are itching to get some candy. When the time hits about 4:30, that is when most of the kids and teens all hit up houses and street blocks around town, begging for candy in all their own creative and interesting costumes.

Around that time is also the arena of competition, where local restaurants and businesses either line up and hand out candy or do trivia nights, either for adults or for the kids themselves.

This year, the energy will most likely feel different—almost *manic* with the excitement of all the people in town waiting for the holiday to come

around again. The whole thing is a beautiful, yet slightly terrifying, blur. The whole night is a satisfying gathering of all the people coming together to have some Halloween fun.

So, the big question remains: how bad will the sugar crash be, and how is it going to affect school attendance on Monday?

For now, we'll just celebrate the most successful treat rush in Custer County history. And we shall see this upcoming Halloween night if the night will be filled with joy and terror or just despair and sorrow of loss of candy and a frightful gain of nothingness.

So be sure to grab those bags of candy to hand out, and trick-or-treaters grab your sacks and pillow cases and run amok on the town on the hunt for the sweet or sour clarity of candy.

Red Ribbon Week

By Mrs. T

Today wraps up Red Ribbon Week at Custer County School, as everyone says “BOO” to

drugs by wearing their Halloween costumes.

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated annually during the final week of October, recognizing the importance of living a life free of the destructive effects of drug abuse.

On Monday, students and staff members wore red clothing, symbolizing the choice to say no to drugs. On Tuesday, we teamed up against drugs, wearing our favorite jerseys, and on Wednesday, we wore neon colors and sunglasses to embrace a bright, drug-free future!

To learn more about the history of Red Ribbon Week, check out the story of Enrique (Kiki) S. Camarena, a man who dedicated his life to fighting drug trafficking.





Teacher Spotlight- Dr. Jennifer Howerton
By Adeline Banning

In the middle of the 2024-2025 school year, Dr. Jennifer Howerton stepped up and helped the students of Custer County learn more about social studies than they had in years.

Dr. Howerton has been a teacher for 20 years, and she has taught many subjects at many different levels, including college composition, public speaking, math, science, technology/coding, Christian apologetics, English, social studies, and English as a second language.

Dr. Howerton's biggest challenge as a teacher has been working with difficult adults, and her biggest success is observing her students find joy in learning and becoming "self-motivated lifelong learners."

Her teaching philosophy includes fostering a positive, safe,

respectful, and consistent learning environment where she can have meaningful learning conversations with respect. She wants to learn the way to teach her students, so they can learn and understand the material that she's teaching.

As a high school student, it's hard to have good time management. One way Dr. Howerton helps her students with their time management is by making sure to schedule brain breaks. She also leads her students by example because she is an organized person, which is reflected in how she manages her classes.

Dr. Howerton's overall teaching techniques are motherly, strict but fair. She is involved with students outside of the classroom by being a class sponsor, speech/debate coach, after-school program coordinator, Future Business Leaders of America Sponsor, European trip lead, and various other clubs' sponsors.

Outside of school, Dr. Howerton's family is most important to her. She

is married to David Howerton. They were both raised in the same small town in Southeastern Colorado. Their families have also known each other for generations.

Dr. Howerton and her husband are the parents of five adult children. Their oldest son, Kyle, is a professor at the University of Idaho. Their son Joshua and his wife Allie have law degrees and are the parents of Dr. Howerton's first grandchild, Sawyer. Their daughter Sarah Grace has a master's degree in public history and works for the Eisenhower Foundation. Their son Michael has a master's in bioinformatics, and his wife Laura is a 5th-grade teacher. Their youngest, David, is a pilot and the manager of an aviation company.

If you ever have the chance to meet Dr. Jennifer Howerton, I'd highly recommend getting to know her.



Cross Country 2025

By Miranda Benoit

Cross-country training can be tough and a mental battle. They usually practice after school and sometimes have to run five miles or do sprints up hills. There are days when they feel like quitting, but then, they remember how good it feels to finish a tough workout. Additionally, they have become significantly stronger since they started. The stamina has improved, and they don't get as tired as easily as they used to. It is encouraging to see how much progress they've made over time.

Races are the most exciting part of cross country. The atmosphere is wholesome, with lots of teams and parents cheering. Before the race starts, some runners may feel nervous, but once they

start running, they forget about everything except trying to keep up with the person in front of them. Sometimes the course is really muddy, or there are big hills, which makes it even harder. Crossing the finish line is the best feeling ever, especially when they know they gave it their all.

This 2025-2026 cross-country season, we have people competing for the ultimate goal of a state title. The coaches are Heather Ramer and Hal Walter, with the runners being Robert Bachman, Jacob Weeks, Mason Stover, Pierce Rowans, Abigail Handy, Shiloh Holmes, and Emma Stover. Regionals took place on October 24, 2025, and four runners, Mason Stover, Abby Handy, Jacob Weeks, and Robert Bachman will now be competing at state.

Overall, cross country helps athletes get healthier and learn how to push through mentally tough battles. Even though it's tough, it's worth it because athletes get to see what others (and themselves) are capable of.



Last Minute Magic: Bobcat Victories

By Lilyan Mummert

The Custer County Bobcats have definitely pushed through the 2025-2026 football season! This year's football team has worked as a team to win three out of their six games; these wins include Holly, Sargent, and Walsenburg, with an average winning score of 20.

The team has outstanding players like Agi Thomas with the top receiving yards per game, Grant Rusk with the top rushing yards per game, Elijah Flynn with the most touchdowns, and Brayden Baker with the most tackles per game.

The Bobcats have learned how to successfully play as one team. An inspirational quote from #22, Wade Pierce, says, "Football doesn't build character, it reveals character." Let's have some school spirit

and go cheer on our football players at Sangre De Cristo on October 31st.



2025 High School Volleyball

By Makenzee Creasy

The Custer County Volleyball team, coached by Serenity Selden and Jesse Schoenfeld, has started its season with a positive record of 12-6, with a plan to only improve and go on to compete in Regionals and then State.

This year's team is filled with girls who are strong, skilled, and motivated. With the loss of four seniors last year, it is a rebuilding season, but the coaches and team have worked around it very well. The team has a great dynamic that we haven't really seen in years past.

Coach Serenity said, "We get lots of compliments from people around town. That just

goes to show that not only do we as a team see our potential, but also those who come to support us." Our volleyball girls have lots of fans who come to games to support, even if those fans don't have a girl on the team who plays.

Stephanie Lewis, one of the varsity captains, said, "I think we are stronger than this team has been in a long time. We have a good team dynamic, and we're all very close on and off the court." This team has a lot of faith that they can go far this year, but it is going to take a lot of mental toughness.

The Custer County Volleyball team's next game is a tournament in Crowley County. They will play three games in this tournament and are hoping to come out on top to end with a record of 15-8. Good luck this weekend, ladies!



All the Way from Neverland

By Madi Sears

Many young, talented actors have carefully curated the Peter Pan play, directed by Mel Duke and Hannah Bedenbaugh. These young actors include: Sofia Goodfallow, playing Peter Pan; Zion Johnson, playing Wendy; Maddie Ruth Carpenter, playing John; Jeremiah Carpenter, playing Michael; and Alyssa Gaide, playing the villainous Captain Hook.

The remaining members of the Custer County Drama Club, who are all part of the play, include: Kai Dockery, Angel Raven, Wyatt Bayer, Caylin Waldrop, Ben Lewendowski, Riley Rash, Ruby Kenyon, Christal Raven, Mia Zimmerman, Ace Johnson, Jocelyn Zimmerman, Zion Holmes, and Havah Holmes.

Running November 21-23 at 7 p.m. in the west gym, this play will showcase all of the exceptional talent of the Custer County Drama Club and pay homage to the original play.

The actors have worked to accomplish this goal by devoting hours upon hours of practice to perfecting every line and using their natural talents to step into character and play each of their roles well.

The story begins inside the Darling children's orphanage in the depths of London. Peter Pan is introduced to the story when he gets help from Wendy to reattach his shadow. Peter Pan then invites other children from the nursery to fly with him and Tinkerbell to Neverland.

Peter Pan, Tinkerbell, and the children go through many different feats, including battling Captain Hook and handling the complexities of growing up in a broken world, coming from a broken home.

This play was written by J.M. Barrie in

1904. He was inspired by the story of the Llewelyn Davies boys, who were the sons of his friends, Arthur and Sylvia Llewelyn Davies.

"I am so incredibly excited to share and be part of presenting this wonderful story to the audience. We have all put in so much work and are so excited to have something to show for it," states Zion Johnson, who plays Wendy.

All in all, the Custer County Drama Club has worked incredibly hard on putting together an exemplary piece and is very excited to show this play to the Custer County audience.



Homecoming

By: Miranda Benoit

Homecoming weekend in Custer County was honestly one of the most unforgettable weekends ever! It all started with the big parade on Friday morning, where

everyone dressed up, rode on their floats decorated to represent a city, and waved to those lining the streets. The whole town was shouting with excitement. The weekend was packed with activities, and every second of it was something to remember.

The Peachfuzz game with the boys from each class competing against one another in volleyball was very intense, and the junior boys ended up advancing to the championship game. On the bright side, the teachers beat the junior boys in their game, so that was pretty funny.

Rain messed up the Powderpuff game, where the girls played against one another in flag football, so they moved it inside, which was cramped but still fun. The sophomores and seniors teamed up and ended up winning together. Then, the faculty won that game as well. The bonfire was huge as usual, and it was even bigger this year than it was last year. Everyone had fun and spent quality time with each other.

Our football team played hard, but unfortunately, they lost the game after a tough fight on the field. Later on, they were informed that the other team had to forfeit, so Custer County ended up getting the win! Still, everyone cheered them on! The volleyball girls totally crushed it, winning both JV and varsity matches, which was awesome and intense to watch.

The festivities culminated with the homecoming dance. Everyone was doing silly moves, and some people were doing the moves to the song "Fishing in the Dark." We all did the Footloose line dance, which was hilarious. Then, when the song "TV Off" came on, all the boys yelled, "MUUSSTT AARRDD" and jumped as high as they could. There was so much energy, and everyone was throwing Pierce in the air and laughing.

It was honestly one of the best weekends ever, and the students can't wait to see what next year brings!



Don't Forget Your Keys

By Chris Carter

The evening was cold and cruel. Westcliffe, which had always been a quiet town, had this almost deafening silence. I needed to be let in after wrestling practice, as I had left my keys in the building. I texted the coaches, but they had all gone home, and I was alone.

I had been sitting in my unlocked car with nowhere to go when, suddenly, a black truck pulled in. I thought it was the coaches, and I shouted, "My car keys are in there, I need to be let in."

The man was not a coach nor someone I had seen before, but he kindly let me in. I thanked him, but when I looked back, he was gone, almost as if he had never existed.

I shrugged it off as I had seen weirder, but as I looked around the school, something felt wrong. I felt this uncanny strangeness

fill my body, and as I walked up the stairs, I noticed the hall was ever so slightly shrinking. It was a small enough change to drive someone mad, but I shrugged it off as paranoia.

I stepped into the wrestling room— the familiar scent of the mats, the soft cushion they brought; it almost felt safe. I grabbed my keys and ran down the stairs, but the hall had shrunk again, and this time it felt as if I was crawling through an attic.

By the time I made it to the gym, the whole room was off. **Thump** **Thump** Loud footsteps approached. **Thump** **Thump** I could hear the room shake.

I ran out of the room but just ended up right back where I was. The dark figure was approaching. The bell rang a loud, piercing wail that ruptured my ears. The figure kept walking towards me, then I woke up. It was all a dream... or was it?



Halloween Recipes

By Jeri Murphy

Ingredients

- ☐ ½ cup vegetable shortening
- ☐ ½ cup peanut butter
- ☐ ½ packed brown sugar
- ☐ ½ cup white sugar
- ☐ 1 large egg (beaten)
- ☐ 2 tablespoons milk
- ☐ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ☐ 1¾ all-purpose flour
- ☐ 1 teaspoon salt
- ☐ ¼ white sugar(for rolling)
- ☐ 24 chocolate truffles (Lindt Lindor, or you can use Reeses peanut butter cups)
- ☐ 48 decorative candy eyeballs
- ☐ ½ cup of chocolate frosting

Directions

Step one

Gather all ingredients, and preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Step two

Beat shortening, peanut butter, brown sugar, and the ½ cup of sugar into a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Beat an egg into the smooth mixture until it's fully incorporated. Stir milk and vanilla extract into the mixture until smooth.

Step three

Mix flour, baking soda, and salt in a small bowl. Add the peanut butter mixture to the larger bowl and stir until it makes a dough.

Step four

Divide and shape the dough into 48 balls.

Step five

Take your ¼ cup of sugar into a wide shallow bowl and roll the dough balls in the sugar to coat them. Arrange about two

inches apart onto the baking sheet.

Step six

Put the cookies in the oven for 10-12 minutes. Once done, remove cookies from the oven and quickly press a dimple into the center of each cookie. Let cookies rest for 10 minutes.

Step seven

Cut each truffle in half and place the flat side on the top of the cookie. If you are using Reeses, just put the top of the Reeses on the top of the cookie. Take your chocolate frosting and draw a line for the legs; then, put the decorative eyes on the side of the chocolate.



Coming soon...
Thanksgiving break,
November 21-30!

POE'S CORNER



From "The Lake" By Edgar Allan Poe

*This poem draws its
inspiration from the
haunted Lake Drummond*

In youth's spring, it was
my lot
To haunt of the wide earth
a spot
The which I could not love
the less;
So lovely was the
loneliness
Of a wild lake with black
rock bound.
And the tall pines that
tower'd around.
But when the night had
thrown the pall
Upon that spot— as upon
all,
And the wind would pass
me by
In its still melody,
My infant spirit would
awake
To the terror of the lone
lake.

Yet that terror was not
fright—
But a tremulous delight,
And a feeling undefin'd,
Springing from a darken'd
mind.
Death was in that poison'd
wave
And in its gulf a fitting
grave
For him who thence could
solace bring
To his dark imagining;
Whose wild'ring thought
could even make
An Eden of that dim lake.



Looking ahead towards
Thanksgiving, here's a list
of 25 things to be thankful
for:

1. The first sip of
coffee in the
morning
2. Fuzzy socks
3. Warm blankets
4. An uplifting
podcast
5. Sunlight streaming
through a window
6. Music that speaks
to your soul
7. Cooking something
for someone you
love
8. Writing with your
favorite pen
9. Someone who
really gets you
10. Inside jokes with
friends
11. A dog or cat that
gives you
unconditional love
12. People who respect
your boundaries
13. The courage to ask
for help
14. Skills you've
worked hard to
learn
15. Finding something
you thought was
lost
16. A really good
meme that makes
you belly laugh
17. Walks with no
destination
18. Libraries filled with
knowledge
19. Finishing a task
you were dreading
20. The ability to
notice your own
growth
21. A stranger who
holds the door open
22. The smell of rain
23. The quiet after a
massive snowstorm
24. The possibility of
joy- even when it is
hard to reach
25. Today. Just today.