

OPINION

Uniquely Americana Great Buffalo Roundup a must see immersive experience

While many travelers enjoy the wonders and cultures of far-away places, there are many destinations within the USA that are just as captivating that shaped our own culture and unique history.

We love finding trips that may not be on the top of the bucket lists of most travelers. One such trip is to venture to southwestern South Dakota where the dramatic natural beauty will have you pointing your camera in every direction as you contemplate the amazing artistry of Mother Nature. The frontier history – think Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane – we all learned as children comes to life and the sad story and legacy of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Sioux tribes stir your soul.

If you think your sense of Americana could use a bit of recharging, there's not a better place to recharge and relearn what continues to make our country great than South Dakota as a herd of 1,300-plus buffalos thunder past you fulfilling a historic old west tradition.

Next Sept. 25, 2026, we are pleased to be able to show you the wonders of this special and spiritual land where you will witness the time-honored tradition of rounding up the bison – or as they are more commonly known, the buffalo.

Happening once annually each September since 1965, the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup has been an exciting event for the past 60 years that will deliver a heart-pounding and immersive experience. We will have a front row seat to view the roundup of the sacred and spiritual beast that has provided sustenance, shelter, and materials for survival to the Lakota and other indigenous people.

Our Mayflower Tour begins on Sept. 22 in charming Rapid City where you will meet 44 former U.S. presidents within a 10-block loop. These life-size bronze statues make for great “selfies” in this “City of Presidents.” Your hotel is within the downtown so on your free time you will have the opportunity to explore, shop, and dine in charming local restaurants.

Your sightseeing will include a visit to the dramatic Crazy Horse Memorial, a stone carving testament to the famous warrior who fought in the Battle of Little Bighorn. Mount Rushmore will have you feeling proud to be an American. Called the Shrine of Democracy, this is a must see for every one of us.

A visit to Deadwood including the burial ground of Old West Legends Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickock will have you chuckling at the legend or perhaps the real story behind these two star-crossed western icons.

Many in our region love to ride vintage trains, and there's a vintage train to ride! The 1880 Train of the Black Hills Central Railroad operates a 20-mile, two-hour vintage steam train between Hill City and Keystone through the scenic Black Hills of South Dakota.

The natural beauty and color of the Badlands National



Ronni Hannaman
Travel



CUSTER STATE PARK RESORT

The majestic Great Buffalo Roundup at Custer State Park in September 2026 is a must-see spectacle for all those who love nature and enjoy western culture.

Park will leave you breathless. A local guide will give insight into the geological area formed over 1 million years ago. That's where the mammoths once roamed and today, the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs is an active paleontological dig site boasting the largest concentration of mammoth remains in the world! All part of the tour.

The star of this tour, however, is the day of the roundup. Your day starts with a pancake breakfast at the viewing site as your guide sets up chairs for comfortable viewing. The almost 1,300 head of bison will be rounded up by intrepid cowboys and cowgirls as inspectors sort the herd. The lucky ones will remain within the park released after inoculation and health inspection, about 400 will be sold to replenish other herds nationwide while others will meet their fate ending up on dining tables.

Following the excitement of the round-up, you can discuss the morning's events at an included lunch at the famous State Game Lodge where Presidents Calvin Coolidge spent his summer in 1927 and Dwight D. Eisenhower visited in 1953.

The Great Buffalo Roundup of the Black Hills operated by Mayflower Tours is a glimpse into America's past during the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence though most of what you will see happened about a century before the American Revolutionary War. (And, we have a tour for that!). I am a big fan of southwestern South Dakota having traveled there twice. After writing about this forthcoming tour, I am ready to go again!

The cost is \$3,324 per person and includes free parking at the Chamber, round-trip transfers in Reno and Rapid City, round-trip air, five nights at the Doubletree Hilton in Rapid City, five breakfasts, one lunch, and three dinners. All transportation, park entrance fees, tour guides, train ride and attraction fees are included. We expect this one-of-a-kind unique Americana tour to sell out so book early. A deposit of \$200 will hold your space. To check out the full itinerary, go to carsoncitychamber.com/spotlight/details/chamber_travel_club or call 775-882-1565. We love South Dakota and know you will as well!

If you have already experienced this great event, consider one of our other great tours as found on the travel club page. We can send you anywhere!

LETTERS

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wonderland of nature. Take the time, jump off your spinning wheels and head outside to explore our area.

Within a short drive both inside and outside our city limits, we can sit amongst the trees, look up and breathe in the smells of the nature.

Within our city limits, we have TreadWay, Mills, and Fuji Parks. Just outside our city limits, we have two parks in Genoa. It is refreshing to stop the hustle and bustle of

city life, and just relax in nature.

Slow down and take in the scenic views amongst the trees all around us. Just enjoy what God has given us.

Ron Feldstein
Carson City

Mark Amodei: His heart is on the right side; his votes are not

Mark Amodei says he supports access to health care for all Nevadans, but his vote to cut Medicaid and reduce the ACA exchange subsidies will cost thousands of hard working Nevadans to lose their

health insurance and will drive some rural hospitals out of business.

Amodei says he supports solar energy. He knows that federal carbon credits were bringing billions of dollars and thousands of jobs to our state and yet he voted to defund them. Amodei says his district depends on public radio.

He's the co-chair of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Caucus, and yet he voted to defund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, putting our public radio station at risk and potentially cutting off

the emergency broadcast system that rural Nevadans depend on in emergencies.

Amodei knows how much Nevadans love their public lands and yet, he introduced legislation to sell off public lands located in Nevada to the highest bidder and give the money to the federal government.

Representative Amodei has power — the house majority is very slim. The question is — when will he cast his vote for what's best for Nevada?

Sandra Koch
Carson City

From being boss to worker bee

There are more of us that will always be worker bees than there will be boss types. I have been lucky enough to be both. So, from life I have the perspective of both sides of the fence. But! Yes, a working woman's “but.”

I must admit as much freedom as the boss hat gave me, I really enjoyed the worker bee spot in life. Let's do some comparing. My generation, for most of us, we have never been ones to shy away from responsibility.

Not that we all don't want to be the boss of someone. This is not the boss of kids or spouses. Oh yes, to be a boss, without having a boss is the bomb. To be a boss without a boss is the best boss possible.

That only happens if you own your own business. Well, with owning your own business, and being the boss, take a guess at where the buck stops! Right in your lap. It didn't take long at all for me to realize it was hard enough to be the boss of ME, let alone taking on the responsibility of being a boss to others.

Others that I would have rather had as friends. However, that friendship afforded me the opportunity to work with rather than have someone work for me. That is a very fine line that is walked everyday by a boss. It is most evident when there is a problem.

Be it a problem with work or a personal problem. Once I had an employee who had partied a bit too much and was found the next morning in jail with a broken leg because he had gotten caught running away from the police and tripped on the pile of snow in the middle of the street, fell and broke his leg.

Strangely enough, I often and laughingly tell my friends as they leave to go on a trip, “Have fun and I have bail money — just in case,” and we laugh. Then you get THAT CALL. Or you have an employee that continually calls off sick, causing a kerfuffle in the whole balance of others needing to be called in on their day off.

That happened to me too. I finally had enough and told the gal she couldn't do that anymore. She got huffy and quit on the spot. Then after that, when I would see her, she would wave at me — but just use one finger!

So, it was turned around to be the boss's fault. As it usually happens. Yes, I agree there are bosses who boss



Trina Machacek
Is This You?

with a terrible iron fist. But after being a boss for a while, I can see where it would be hard not to.

When everything from re-wiring lighting fixtures on the ceiling, to cleaning around the toilet in the bathroom, things can get a bit touchy. I was very lucky and those who worked with me, more often than not, are still friends.

Being the boss was not and is not something I wanted to or want to do again. Ah, but being the worker bee. Now that's my cup of tea. Being a rural girl, I have not been thrown into a huge company where there are hundreds of employees and bosses too.

Mostly in my working world there were just a few of us underlings and fewer owners/bosses. I did find it very easy to walk out of work and forget all about what the boss or owners still had to do after the closed sign went up.

Once I worked for the phone company and my supervisor had to deal with the guy that came in morning after morning smelling like toothpaste and whiskey! Or working as a short order cook and running out of food to cook.

I found it pretty easy to tell the customers we were out of eggs because the lady in charge of that stuff fell down on her job, but could I offer pancakes instead? Because the batter was something that was just mixed with water!

Yes, the buck is easy to pass along as a worker bee. Leaving it all on the other side of the door. Much easier than being the owner of the lap, where every buck lands in a business atmosphere. Both sides though have definite responsibilities.

Even though as a boss/owner your job is your bread and butter and income to pay your power bill at home and groceries to feed the family. It is just as important to remember that a worker bee is working for that paycheck for those same reasons.

Both sides of this coin have to depend on the strength of the edges to hold it all together.

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