



Fall 2025
Third Quarter

Fire in the Hole Scroll

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Black Hills Chapter Hosted Fall Picnic at Crazy Horse Memorial

The picnic was held on one of those fantastic Fall days at the Crazy Horse Memorial: 70 degrees, no wind, some Fall colors, and lots of blue sky.



▲ *Perfect weather for the BHC Fall Picnic!*
Photo credit: Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

demonstrations by Native American demonstrated in the Cultural Center.

At the picnic luncheon, Darcey Baker, BHC President, held a short business meeting reminding the attendees of the scholarship and education goal of our organization. The audience included scholarship recipients from SDSM&T.

On behalf of the Black Hills Chapter ISEE, Darcey presented Crazy Horse CEO Whitney Rencountre with two donation checks from the Chapter. One check was for the Pine Ridge Children's Christmas Fund, and one was for the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation Education Scholarship Fund.

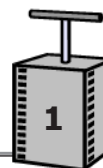
Thanks to all who attended the fun Fall Picnic, and to Crazy Horse Memorial for hosting this annual event!

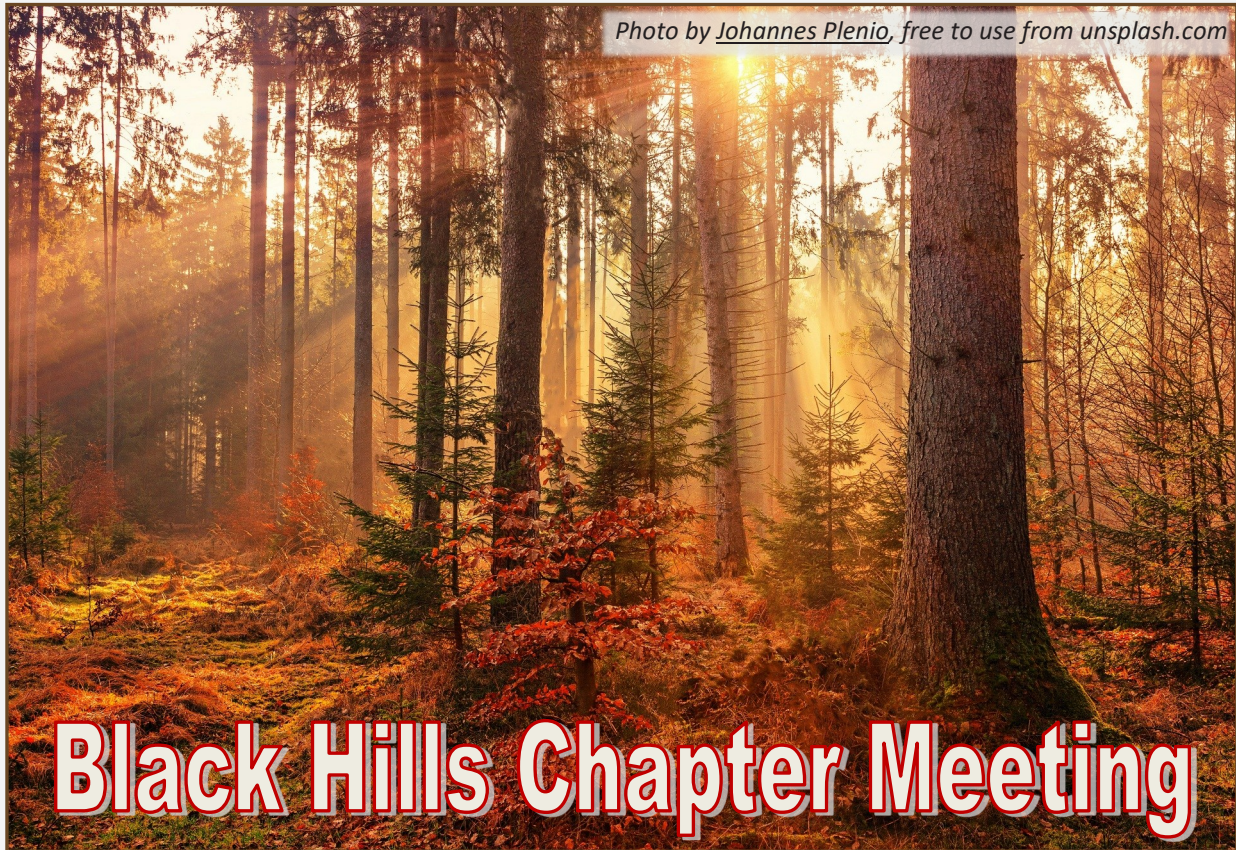
On the mountain, Jim McNulty and George Bennett answered questions on the Carving Progress, and the new equipment, and shop added over the last year. New equipment included the Liebherr-Crane installed this past spring, and the recently acquired finishing saw robot.

At the visitor complex, attendees wandered around the Memorial complex enjoying the many artifacts in the museum, the dancers, and the crafts being



▲ *BHC President Darcey Baker (right) presents a donation to Crazy Horse CEO Whitney Rencountre (left). The Chapter has provided financial support for several decades. Photo credit: Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation*





Black Hills Chapter Meeting



Friday, December 5, 2025

at

SD Mines Pearson Alumni Ballroom
330 E Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

6:00 p.m. — Social Hour, *which is looking for a sponsor!*

7:00 p.m. — Chapter Meeting

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Registration Now Open for ISEE's 52nd Annual Conference in January

Registration is officially **open** for ISEE's 52nd Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique, taking place January 20 - 25, 2026, at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno, Nevada.

This premier industry event will bring together professionals from around the globe to:

- * Explore the latest advancements in explosives engineering
- * Participate in hands on learning opportunities
- * Earn state approved training hours recognized across multiple states
- * Network with peers, industry leaders, and innovators

Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the field, this conference is your gateway to education, growth, and connection.



LINKS

Details: <https://isee.org/conference>

[Conference Registration](#)

[Exhibitor Booths](#)

[Hotel Reservations](#)

Check out “The Blast Report” Podcast

The podcast for those who say “Fire in the Hole”

Overview

“The Blast Report” - the podcast that’s blowing up the blasting, mining, and civil explosives industries! Each episode is packed with topics, from the latest and greatest blasting techniques to in-depth discussions on safety and regulations, to real-life “Fire in the Hole” stories in the field and from the past. Whether you’re a seasoned veteran or new to the industry, this podcast provides a community with valuable insights and information. So tune in while you're on the way to the job site or waiting on the all clear!

Website

www.theblastreport.com

Tune In

[Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#)

Specialties Covered

Mining, blasting, explosives, and engineering



Latest Episodes

Ep. 39 & 40—Tom Thurman

Ep. 37 & 38—Walt Partridge

Ep. 34, 35 & 36—Bill Youngs

Ep. 32 & 33—Jerry Wallace



What's Happening

Reports & News From Around the Industry

SD Mines Hosts Inaugural Community Event Focused on the Future of Sustainable Mining

From SD Mines News on September 25, 2025. Found online at www.sdsmt.edu/news/releases

South Dakota Mines has been shaping the future of mining since its founding in 1885. What began as a mining school has grown into a leader driving innovation in the critical minerals supply chain – resources essential to everyday life and national security.

Today, Mines is one of only five universities in the nation to house all three mineral industry disciplines: geology and geological engineering, mining engineering and management, and materials and metallurgical engineering.

Now, the university is celebrating its legacy while looking to the future of sustainable mining. On Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mines will host the inaugural 4M Expo – Mining, Minerals, Munitions, and Manufacturing in the Nucor Mineral Industries Building.

Open to all ages, this community event offers something for everyone: from gold panning, sandbox mining, and blacksmithing, to keynote talks and interactive discussions with Mines students and faculty.

The day also includes free admission to the Museum of Geology in the O’Harra Building on campus.

“We really want the community to come to campus and see some of the really cool things our students are doing for national security, agriculture and the environment,” said Andrea Brickey, Ph.D., Mines professor of mining engineering and management.

The event is also a way to inform the

community about the importance of domestic mining and the increased demand for critical minerals.

From cell phones and electric vehicles to surgery equipment and weapons, these key elements, buried in the Earth’s crust, make up nearly everything in our modern lives.



“Over the past several years, the mining supply chain has been brought to the forefront of national security,” Brickey said. “We depend on many of these critical minerals for daily life and national defense, but at the

moment, the majority are sourced through countries that are not necessarily our allies. Additionally, the United States is a leader in mine safety and environmental protection.”

Mining has come a long way since its early days. Today’s mining is high-tech and much safer and more sustainable, using autonomous equipment and artificial intelligence.

“We really want to highlight how mining is done today – the industry is using technology that isn’t even in the public realm yet,” Brickey said.

Mines blends more than a century of expertise with cutting-edge research to meet the growing demand for critical minerals. The 4M Expo will highlight how modern mining is smarter, more sustainable and more essential than ever.

Find full event details and the complete schedule [here](#).

What's Happening

Reports & News From Around the Industry

Explosives Engineering Certificate at SD Mines

As the new school year kicks off, South Dakota School of Mines has introduced a new Explosives Engineering certificate for undergraduate students.

Prof. Lori Groven (Chemical Engineering) and Prof. Andrea Brickey (Mining Engineering) have developed a certificate for undergraduate students interested in the field.

To earn the certificate, students will take 10 credits of dedicated coursework focused on explosives, energetics, and their associated applications along with a discipline focused elective, which opens the program to many

students across campus.

Students interested in this certificate should reach out to Profs. Groven or Brickey to learn more.



Wyoming DEQ Classes

Wyoming Blaster Certification Class

- November 18-20, 2025
- Gillette College Tech Center, 3251 S 4-J Rd Gillette, WY
- To register, please contact Reo Barney at (307) 675-5612 or reo.barney@wyo.gov



Wyoming Blaster Certification Class

- January 13-15, 2026
- Hampton Inn, 10690 S. Holiday Park Drive, Sandy, Utah
- To register, please contact Reo Barney at (307) 675-5612 or reo.barney@wyo.gov
- This class and exam fulfills the [State of Utah](#) requirements for new certification and renewal. Please contact Levy Woodruff (lkwoodruff@utah.gov or 801-538-5352) for additional requirements and for the [Utah Blaster Application](#)



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Blasting Activities and Explosives Handling

Reminders from the MSHA website, with a few additional thoughts

Precautions under the below MSHA regulations include secondary breakage. Reminds us of precautions to be considered when blasting oversized material from a blast event. About 0.25 lbs per cubic yard is all we really need to break a boulder into manageable pieces. Ensuring that people and equipment are not in danger. Examination of the ground conditions and results of the secondary blasting is another precaution to ensure material is stable for handling, for loadout and for working in the area. Not allowing people to work between the highwall or the wall and a piece of equipment where the person could become trapped or pinched. Highwall, equipment, people is the way to reduce risks and provide the best opportunity for people to not be placed in harm's way when having to work close to a highwall or wall.

Regulatory References: MSHA 30 CFR

§56.3400 Secondary breakage

Prior to secondary breakage operations, material to be broken, other than hanging material, shall be positioned or blocked to prevent movement which would endanger persons in the work area. Secondary breakage shall be performed from a location which would not expose persons to danger.

§56.3401 Examination of ground conditions

Persons experienced in examining and testing for loose ground shall be designated by the mine operator. Appropriate supervisors or other designated persons shall examine and, where applicable, test ground conditions in areas where work is to be performed prior to work commencing, after blasting, and as ground conditions warrant during the work shift. Highwalls and banks adjoining travelways shall be examined weekly or more often if changing ground conditions warrant.

§56.3430 Activity between machinery or equipment and the highwall or bank

Persons shall not work or travel between machinery or equipment and the highwall or bank where the machinery or equipment may hinder escape from falls or slides of the highwall or bank. Travel is permitted when necessary for persons to dismount.



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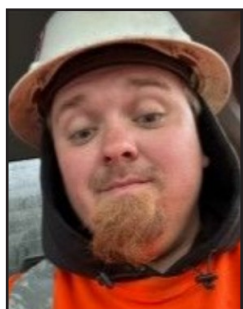
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"Don't let temporary emotions make permanent decisions."





In Memoriam: Devyn Hendricks

Obituary & photo from West River Funeral Directors, www.westriverfd.com

Gillette, WY - Devyn Paul Hendricks, aged 32, passed away on July 12, 2025, in Rapid City, South Dakota. Born on August 28, 1992, in Gillette, Wyoming, Devyn grew up surrounded by the love of his family.

Devyn was a graduate of Westwood High School in Gillette, which laid the groundwork for his future. After graduation, he dedicated eight years to Nelson Brothers Mining Services, where he earned his blaster license, contributing significantly to the industry with his expertise and work ethic.

Family was the cornerstone of Devyn's life. He is survived by his beloved children, Daxton, Kamden, and Kambria Hendricks, who were his pride and joy. His mother, Kris Adams (Jack), maternal grandparents, Paul and Evelyn Hendricks, an aunt, Jennifer Cooper (Jamie), and cousin, Makenzee Ingersoll, along with numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins, will forever cherish the memory of his kind and selfless spirit. Devyn was preceded in death by his father Charlie Snorteland, his maternal great-grandparents, Fred and Eva Dabney, his paternal great-grandparents, Paul and Deloris Hendricks, and uncles John Dabney, Terry Hendricks, Butch Wade, and Chris Joubert and aunts Bonnie Straughn, Lonna Lemere, and Sherry Hendricks.

An avid lover of the outdoors, Devyn found solace and excitement in camping and boating with his kids. His adventurous spirit often led him to motocross races, where he cheered with passion and enthusiasm. Yet, it was the simple act of spending quality time with his family and friends that truly filled his heart with happiness.

Those who knew Devyn can attest to his loving nature. He was a man who always put others before himself, touching lives with his generosity and genuine care. His presence was a source of comfort and strength, making every moment with him a cherished memory. Honoring Devyn's generous wish, the gift of life was shared with many people in need through organ and tissue donation.

Devyn Paul Hendricks will be profoundly missed but never forgotten. His legacy of love, kindness, and selflessness will be carried forward by those who were fortunate enough to have known him. As we bid farewell to this remarkable man, we take solace in the memories and the love he left behind.

Upon his request cremation has taken place and private family service will be held at a later date.

A memorial for his three children has been established at Campco Federal Credit Union, 1110 East Box Elder Road, Gillette, WY 82718 in the name of Kris Adams.



Photo by [JESHoots.com](https://www.jeshoots.com), free to use from Unsplash.com

BH Chapter Calendar

December 5, 2025 — Black Hills Chapter Meeting in Rapid City, SD (*see page 2*)

January, 2026 — Black Hills Chapter Meeting with elections in Rapid City, SD

January 20-25, 2026 — ISEE's 52nd Annual Conference in Reno, NV (*see page 3*)

April 22-24, 2026 — Best in the West Drill and Blast Conference in Spearfish, SD (*registrations start in November 2025*)





"If cauliflower can somehow become pizza...you can do anything."

James Carter

President

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Black Hills Chapter Contacts

Here are the 2025-2026 Black Hills Chapter Officers and Board of Directors. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact one of these members. Your suggestions are greatly appreciated.

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