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CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

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E-Newsletter August 2010

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IN THIS ISSUE

1. Custer Country at Center of 2010 Paleo Season
2. Note from the Custer Country Corner
3. What's **Really** Hot in Custer Country

Sample the wonders of Custer Country. Plan your dream vacation. Please visit our website at www.CusterCountry.com



Makoshika Dinosaur Museum, Glendive

CUSTER COUNTRY AT CENTER OF 2010 PALEO SEASON

1

The 2010 summer paleontological season is proving to be a productive one for dinosaur hunters, according to BLM Archaeologist Doug Melton of the Miles City Field Office.

The Burpee Museum of Rockford, Ill., —excavators of the famous “Jane” T-rex—are operating out of Carter County again this year, while Yale University’s Peabody Museum of Natural History from New Haven, Conn., is collecting in Fallon County.

St. Louis Community College staff has also been collecting data for an extensive paleo-geography project on the Hell Creek formation, an endeavor which will take several years and additional funding to complete. “Our goal out here is to really do some serious three-dimensional mapping so we can figure out diversity,” said Carl Campbell. Campbell is a Field Supervisor and Physical Science-Geology faculty member from St. Louis Community College-Meramec, Missouri. “When you look at this, we only have maybe 10 or 15 percent of the Hell

THE TYPERIDER

Review & Trip Planner

Check out the TypeRider website! We hope you make TypeRider your go-to site for planning the perfect trip to Montana and Wyoming. This website is about real people – couples, families, and friends – who’ve had unique experiences on the roads and in the cities, on the water and in the saddle as they spent 2-5 days in this amazing area of the country. Bookmark this website, watch for what’s new, and let us hear from you. Please visit our website at www.thetyperider.com



Range Riders Museum, Miles City

NOTE FROM THE CUSTER COUNTRY CORNER **2**

The school bells are (still) on hiatus, but stores are filling up with gear, reminding us that a new school year is just around the corner. But before you say “Farewell to summer,” take the opportunity to explore some of the 1, 2, 3s that are found in the unique area of Custer Country.

1 – One is defined as a “single unit,” and in the case of one monument located on the banks of the Yellowstone River, it truly is one of a kind. Pompeys Pillar National Monument bears the only remaining physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition which appears on the trail today as it did 200 years ago. Hike the sandstone bluff, wander the visitor center or stroll along the banks of the river and celebrate this unique landscape and piece of history.

“One” is often used to identify “the biggest,” and Custer Country can also claim two such attractions. Makoshika State Park in Glendive at 11,538 acres is the state’s largest. Further south, at the O’Fallon

Creek formation left; it’s all been eroded away. Just think of all the dinosaurs that have been found in that 10 or 15 percent. If you multiply that up by nine times, then if you can layer it in 25 foot layers, you can get an idea of abundance and diversity over time. It’s been done in other areas, but it’s never really been done in this area—in any detail.”

“Understanding the environment that existed during the dinosaur heyday—as well as the subsequent effects of natural processes—adds vital information to the fossil record. Beating the odds of time, geology and erosion make it a statistically rare event when a semi-complete fossil specimen in recoverable condition is found,” Campbell said. However, the fact that so many specimens continue to be uncovered and retrieved is a testament to the innumerable life forms which inhabited ancient Montana.

For more paleontology and fossil collecting information call the BLM Miles City Field Office at (406)233-2800 or visit the web at: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/CRM.html>. You can also contact the Makoshika Dinosaur Museum at 1-406-377-1637 or email hellcreek@midrivers.com for programs that include trips into the Hell Creek Badlands where you can participate in primary field research!



Crow Fair and Rodeo, Crow Agency

WHAT'S REALLY HOT IN CUSTER COUNTRY **3**

Museum in Baker, view "Steer Montana" who at 3,980 pounds, 5'11" tall and 10' 4" in length, became the world's largest steer—a record that still stands today.

2 – Two is defined as "being more than one in number" or "being second." Custer Country provides several instances for both. Two Interstates – I-94 and I-90 bisect the region. Discover the Beaver Creek Brewery in Wibaux off I-94 or the Big Horn County Historical Museum in Hardin or ZooMontana in Billings, both off I-90. There are also two Indian Reservations – the Crow and the Northern Cheyenne. For a perspective on each respective tribe, attend the Crow Fair in August or the Ashland Labor Day Powwow in September where Indian artwork, dancing and drumming celebrate their way of life.

Meanwhile, the Huntley Irrigation Project was the second US Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project in the United States. Today, at the Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture, over 5,000 items are displayed (many restored to original condition) and include horse drawn machinery, sugar beet equipment and mowers.

3 & 4 – Three and four (and maybe more) can be found at the Range Riders Museum in Miles City. Explore the three ethnic groups represented in its exhibits, the three shops for women or the three (or more) "ordinary folks" represented at the museum. Four "elephant guns" are known to be in existence, (out of eight made), of which one is found at this museum. Take in the other 400 + guns displayed, the patchwork quilts or the wall of chaps and saddles exhibited at this impressive museum honoring the pioneers of Montana.

So go ahead. Continue the count! Take a road trip across Custer Country and Montana, completing your own 1,2,3 list.

Susan Buhr
Montana Office of Tourism

It is summer in southeast Montana. This is just a sampling of what's really hot in our area, from MontanaFair at MetraPark—to the incredible Threshing Bee in Huntley. You need to experience the High Plains of eastern Montana--a great place to get away.

August 6-8

["Days of 85" Fair, Parade and Rodeo in Ekalaka](#) . . . Last call to get away for the 125th anniversary party in Ekalaka. Remember the old buffalo hunter who lost his logs in Russell Creek and built a saloon? Get some of that Wild West attitude at the Days of '85 Celebration.

August 13-14

Magic City Blues Festival on Montana Avenue in Billings . . . The word is out about a music festival in a state that's known more for hunting, fishing and wide-open spaces than two days of world-class music. Fans from all over the country have discovered Magic City Blues. Our natural Montana hospitality, unique setting and fabulous lineups have created an atmosphere that most festivals can only dream about. Come eat, drink and dance in the street on August 13 and 14 and celebrate Montana's Urban Music Festival!

August 13-21

MontanaFair in Billings . . . Yes, It's a Go! In addition to the amazing ***tornado display***, check out the Top-notch concerts: Jason Aldean - August 13th, *Scorpions* - August 14th, and *Hinder with Finger Eleven* - August 15th! Plus Supercross and 3 nights of PRCA ProRodeo! Over 10,000 exhibits, great fair food, and big thrills from the Mighty Thomas Carnival! For just the price of gate admission, you can see check out live music, *The Extreme Canines*, *Splash Dogs*, extreme motorcycle stunts and beach volleyball! It's a Really Big Deal! For special deals and more information: www.montanafair.com.



Montana Fair, Billings



Custer County Art & Heritage Center, Miles City

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August 18-23

Crow Fair in Crow Agency . . . As the many visitors come from all over the United States, Canada, and other parts of the world, the Apsáalooke Nation cordially invites all of you to the largest modern-day American Indian encampment in the Nation, and one of the largest gatherings of the year for the Apsáalooke Nation. The evening pow-wow grand-entries present the beauty of all Tribes in attendance, and the celebration displays traditional bead work, buckskin and leather work, music and dance competitions, and an INFR sanctioned All-Indian rodeo—a stunning experience of beauty and culture.

August 21-22

Threshing Bee in Huntley . . . Chonk . . . Chonk . . . Chonk . . . the air is filled with the unmistakable sound of an antique single-cylinder, internal combustion gas engine—some call it a one-lunger. They are everywhere—running everything from the ice-cream maker, to the lemonade squeezer, to the saw mill. Think you're good on a tractor? How slow can you go? It's a different kind of race at the Threshing Bee, where the truly skilled and the mechanically gifted gather to measure their talents against the very best. With nerves of steel and a pulse that vibrates with the engine of a John Deere, these drivers are an extension of their machines and make this event an experience you simply must not miss.

Aug 22 –
Sep 25

35th Annual Art Auction Exhibit, Custer County Art & Heritage Center in Miles City. . . Oil, watercolor, and acrylic paintings as well as pottery, bronze and ceramic sculpture are featured. Images range from traditional western and landscape to still life and contemporary themes. This elegant event is the primary fundraiser for the Custer County Art & Heritage Center. A cultural leader in southeastern Montana, the Center is gracefully housed in the concrete basins of the 1910 WaterWorks that produced Miles City's drinking water for over sixty years. Two large, elegant galleries feature regional and national changing exhibitions as well as those drawn from the permanent collection. Enrich your soul in one luxurious afternoon.

*Want to know more about the haps in Custer Country? _
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