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# CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

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E-Newsletter June 2010

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Sample the wonders of Custer Country. Plan your dream vacation. Please visit our website at [www.CusterCountry.com](http://www.CusterCountry.com)



## US CAVALRY AT THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

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The U.S. Cavalry School brings history, horsemanship, and the Western adventure to life for military groups that want to be trained in the complete United States cavalry experience. The school has come to the Little Bighorn Battlefield and Garryowen for several years during the week leading up to the anniversary of the battle to conduct an 8-day course titled, "Custer's Last Ride." This year, the U.S. Cavalry School will be visited by the History Channel at the Little Bighorn Reenactment on June 25-27.

The Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen, Montana, was host to twenty officer candidates of the Indiana National Guard, under the command of Colonel Paul Grube of the 138th Regiment from Indiana's National Guard's Camp Atterbury Training Institute. The museum's director Chris Kortlander conducted a private tour, and provided them with the opportunity to view some artifacts from the Battle of the Little Bighorn not on exhibit, such as the rifle of White Man Runs

## THE TYPE RIDER

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](http://www.thetyperider.com)



Bighorn Canyon

## NOTE FROM THE CUSTER COUNTRY CORNER **2**



Many years ago, needing to get away from the big city of Billings, where I lived, I took the road less traveled to do some exploring and a little contemplating, all in a landscape that I was unfamiliar with, having grown up in Kalispell. How was I to know that my trusty 4-cylinder steed's clutch would go out on a Sunday afternoon outside of Melstone? What I learned while sitting in the local café, was to slow down; that eastern Montana's landscape was spectacular; and that small towns are full of life and charm; lessons I had forgotten, but embraced enthusiastically.

This is my own version of the GetLostMT.com story. Perhaps you've seen the TV ads, the bumper stickers or the newspaper ads that have been circulating since April. This state campaign, invites the writer, photographer or videographer *in each of us* to tell "our" story of an unexpected gem, a place or event that you might not have seen before and learn more about Montana, Custer Country or ourselves in the process.

Him, who was one of Custer's Crow scouts to survive.

The visit also focused on some of the similarities between the Battle at the Little Bighorn and current military operations in Afghanistan. For example, the landscape of Montana parallels what officers will face in Afghanistan. "Examining battle strategy on the actual battleground obviously has a tremendous impact on military personnel. It brings home the relationship between terrain and tactics in a way that classroom study can't," said Chris Kortlander.



## MISS MONTANA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM **3**

The 61st annual Miss MT Scholarship Program State Competition is June 17-19 in Glendive. The Outstanding Teen competition is for the first time is being held in conjunction with the Miss Montana Pageant.

Preliminary competition with all 16 Miss MT contestants and 10 outstanding teens begins Thursday June 17 at 7pm at the beautiful DCHS 1000-seat auditorium in Glendive. Friday at 1pm is the parade followed by an ice cream social featuring Montana's own Wilcoxson's ice cream supplied by Cross Roads Conoco. Friday night viewers will see the other half of the contestants perform talent and one of the top 5 teens crowned Miss Montana's Outstanding Teen. The evening of celebration continues at the Yellowstone River Inn for the Gala and coronation reception for the outstanding teen.

Saturday at 1pm the Royal Tea, emceed by Miss Montana 2009 Brittany Wiser, will feature Abryanna Nelson, Montana's Poster Child for the Children's Miracle Network, and presentation of awards. The princesses, age 6-9, sit with their

If you haven't checked out the site, I invite you to, and perhaps add your own story – whether it's in Custer Country or beyond. Enjoy a cup of coffee (or lemonade) and check out the following Custer Country submissions: "Where all the ghosts are friendly," "East Meets West," "Calling Toms, Calling For Tom," "Makoshika Buzzards," "Lost and Found," "Teeny Caddis, Big Trout & Great Times," "A Good Day" or "Biking Highway 12."

Go on...get lost exploring Custer Country and Montana this summer. Not only is traveling Custer Country and Montana good for the economy, it's an investment in our tourism industry too. Here's to a great summer!

Susan Buhr  
Montana Office of Tourism



*Turkey Vultures returning to Makoshika*

"big sister" Miss Montana contestant and enjoy entertainment and refreshments. Cost is \$5 for youth, \$8 for adults at Yellowstone River Inn.

Saturday night at 7pm the top eight contestants are announced and competition starts fresh as they compete in evening gown, fitness, talent and an on-stage question. The top five will be announced and the new Miss Montana 2010 will go on to compete for Miss America and represent Montana throughout the state. Doors open at 6pm nightly with vendors and silent auction items in the lobby. Tickets are \$10 Thursday, \$15 Friday, \$20 Saturday or \$50 for reserved patron seating for all three nights. Single night patron tickets are \$25. Tickets are available at the Glendive Chamber of Commerce, by calling Ardie Adams at 377-5008 or on line at [www.missmontana.com](http://www.missmontana.com).



## WHAT'S REALLY HOT IN CUSTER COUNTRY

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June 12

**Buzzard Day** at Makoshika State Park . . . The Return of the Turkey Vulture – an Alfred Hitchcock movie? Not exactly. Buzzard Day is a celebration honoring this important bird's return to eastern Montana. In flight, this bird is graceful and elegant. Up close, their ugly, red, bare-skinned faces belie their beauty on the wing. Eat, play, and participate in the 5K and 10K Buzzard Runs.



*Little Levi Rodeo*

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## Contact Information

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June 12

***The Strawberry Festival*** in Billings . . . celebrate the start of summer with over 150 arts and crafts vendors, food, non-profit and commercial vendors, live entertainment, music, a pancake breakfast, and a kid's zone with children's activities. Purchase a Strawberry Festival Button for vendor and merchant discounts.

June 18-20

***Matthew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match*** in Forsyth . . . just follow the smoke to the largest rifle shooting event in Eastern Montana since the Custer Massacre —last year, 629 shooters from all over the world rode, shot, competed, and entertained— what a show!

June 19

***Little Levi Rodeo*** in Broadus . . . A can't-resist event with 8 action-packed events that include sheep and calf riding, barrel and flag racing, pole bending, dummy roping, goat tail and goat tying, breakaway roping, the boot race and the wildest chase on two feet, the chicken chase. Grand Entry at 10am.

June 19

***Little Bighorn Days*** in Hardin . . . 4 days of festivities celebrating the sights and sounds of the past, with legends woven throughout the various events. Dancers from around the world, award-winning local quilters, art exhibits in the JailHouse Gallery and Historic Train Depot, and the Living History at the Big Horn County Historical Museum— 4 days of fun & food that concludes with the world famous Custer's Last Stand Reenactment.

*Want to know more about the haps in Custer Country? [Click here:](#)*