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# CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

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## US MILITARY STILL LEARNING FROM THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

Brig. Gen. Dan York is in charge of two brigades, with seven battalions—about 2,400 army reservists. “Once or twice a year we pull our leaders together to talk about what we are going to do in the coming year,” said York. This year, Chris Kortlander, director of the Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen, was host to York and the 104th Division of the Army Reserves. According to Kortlander, “We have had military groups come before, but this is the highest ranking group we’ve ever had.”

Sgt. Major Juan loera described the exercise, “Basically if this was a business instead of the armed service it would be viewed as a corporate retreat.” loera is second in command. “We get briefings that are snapshots of our strengths and weaknesses, and the General can adjust policy to fix the issues,” said loera.

Coming to the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn had multiple purposes according to York. By learning what happened in the past, they hope to use the information to help planning for battles in the present. They were especially interested in Kortlander’s depth of historic knowledge and his passion for the battle that is considered to be the greatest cultural conflict in US history.

# 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





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

Fall is here – according to both the calendar and the golden leaves (and snowflakes) that have fallen on the grass at home. Besides these obvious signs, there’s also the smell of apple pie, crisp mornings and elk bugling that are sure signs of the season.

This fall, how about taking a weekend trip to find some unexpected colors in Custer Country or a change of scenery? A scenic drive along the Yellowstone River and I-94 affords views of golden cottonwoods, vibrant willows and the reds and oranges of the underbrush. For a slower pace drive, take the Big Sky Back Country Byway. Starting at Terry, take Hwy 253 north and connect with MT 13 North at Brockway, then continue through Circle to Macon (near Wolf Point). Along the way, watch for landscapes of rock scoria and badlands; you’ll likely come across the mule and whitetail deer and antelope that call these prairies home, as your drive connects Montana’s two main rivers: the Yellowstone and the Missouri.

What’s a drive without a destination or a break – for either food or sleep? In Broadus, the Copper Moon, from Monday through Saturday, serves ice cream treats from an old-fashioned soda fountain, or sip an espresso and shop for vintage table linens at this sweet shop, coffee house and antique emporium hybrid. If you’d like a historic bed and breakfast stay, bunk down for the night at either the Lasting Impressions B&B in

Kortlander talked about Custer and showed several of the artifacts from the battle, including a Springfield Carbine rifle used by one of the Indian scouts. He showed them where the battle is believed to have begun, and where Custer was last seen. “Custer did not believe his scouts,” said Kortlander. “He fired them and they survived because they took off their Union Blue shirts.”

When talking about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Kortlander said it was the only such named tomb outside of Arlington Cemetery. The soldier buried there was confirmed to have fought in the Battle of the Little Bighorn by the buttons found with his remains.

Both York and Ioera have served in the Army for 29 years and have served in active duty. York said the majority of the division served actively before joining the reserves. The Battle of the Little Bighorn continues to educate and fascinate, and a visit to the Little Bighorn Battlefield is not complete without a visit to the Custer Battlefield Museum and the “other” Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The museum is located in Garryowen, Montana, off of Interstate 90 on exit 514. It is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.



## RAILROADING: SWEAT & STEEL

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Forsyth, the Charley Montana B&B in Glendive, the Kendrick House B&B in Hardin or the Josephine B&B in Billings. Billings has no shortage of great dining, including Enzo's for Mediterranean fare, the Rex for steaks, Stella's for platter-sized cinnamon rolls or the Log Cabin Bakery for breakfast.

So, take a drive and find those unexpected displays of fall color, on the open roads ripe for exploring, and dotted with friendly communities, and experience the changes that occur in Custer Country.



## A CHEYENNE VOICE

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In her words, Clara Caufield had been hacking around in various areas of government for some time—writing grants and dry technical pieces—very successfully, but not personally fulfilling. A resident member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Clara (or Clem as her friends call her) looked around. What she saw around her was a need for good news. She saw a reservation that was a media desert. It was either no news, or bad news—both unacceptable. So, what did she do? She wrote a grant.

Clem's first step was successful. She got enough money from the *Indian Equity Fund*, a state grant to promote individual small businesses on Montana Indian Reservations to buy a computer, a printer, and some paper. She quit her job and made a commitment. As Clem defines it, "I deal in information and inspiration."

Art, artifacts, and samples from the culture of railroading include paintings by Livingston artist David Swanson. This powerful exhibit opens on Sunday, October 6, at the Custer County Art & Heritage Center west of downtown Miles City on Waterplant Road.

Inspired by the human effort essential to railroading, David Swanson's *Sweat & Steel* depicts the men and women in their steely environments who make railroads run. Railroad workers are often overshadowed by our awe of the mechanical beauty of the engines that pull and push immense serpentine tonnages over vast expanses of country, but it is really these workers who bring life to the machines. ***Sweat & Steel*** puts flesh and bone to railroading while examining the past and present, connecting a rich railroading history to the small railroad communities that still exist throughout Montana including the Montana Rail Link and Burlington Northern Sante Fe lines.

With this exhibition, Swanson further explores the human form in the architectural/mechanical context. "Men and women working on machines such as these mighty steel locomotives—holdovers from the steel and jet ages—are to me a compelling metaphor for the larger issue between mankind and technology," says Swanson.

Swanson is a contemporary realist painter whose skillful depictions of the American West have earned him notable recognition. He captures representational images of the changing West and its people - whether it be abandoned grain elevators, railroad hotels or old ranch buildings and towns, with an evocative strength. He has done numerous paintings of subjects in and around Park County and Livingston, notably townscapes and grain elevators, and a major series on Route 66 titled ***Highway Loneliness***.

Organized by the Livingston Depot Foundation, ***SWEAT & STEEL*** is touring Montana galleries through the Montana Art Gallery Director's Association (MAGDA). For more information call 234-0635.



Now, in just its 9th week, **A Cheyenne Voice** is well received. It is a free weekly newspaper distributed mostly on and around the reservation and supported totally by advertising. It is a paper for good news. A recent edition's front page included a piece on the tribe's national recognition for 100% participation in the 2010 census—an important achievement and a good example on many levels.

Regular columns include **Traditional Talk** that features topics on tribal history and culture, and **Cheyenne Word of the Week** with the actual spelling, phonetic pronunciation, definition and usage that is a gentle step toward retaining a language that is in danger of being lost. **A Cheyenne Spotlight** is a column that highlights a selected tribal member—one time a respected elder, another time a special 9-year old boy—that is both personal and uplifting, "that reminds us all that we are doing more good than bad," says Clem. Another column is the **Guest Voice**, an editorial option that has inspired contributors that include the Governor, the Tribal President, a Chief Judge, and a coal miner who was so impressed by the paper that he sent a check for \$100 with a note to "keep it up."

Clem seeks out the positive, it's her number one rule, and with the invaluable assistance of Monte Parker (who does the "really tough stuff, like putting it all together") the paper is produced with pride and a sense of purpose. Clem expresses it best, "Northern Cheyenne people are wonderful people, unique in the world, and through the written word, we can empower our people through information and inspiration."

To subscribe, advertise, or share, contact Clem at [acheyennevoice@gmail.com](mailto:acheyennevoice@gmail.com).

"THE #1 MUSICAL OF THE YEAR!"

-Time Magazine, 2007



**GREASE**  
*is the word!*

WHAT'S REALLY HOT IN  
CUSTER COUNTRY

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**October 11-16**

**NILE, in Billings** – this year marks the 36th consecutive time that the NILE has held a ProRodeo during the fall show, and it has grown into one of the region's most prestigious rodeos. Don't miss the bulls, the riders, the clowns, and the fireworks!

**October 30**

**Halloween Spook House at The Reef, in Billings** – Be scared! Be spooky! Be safe! It's Halloween at the biggest indoor water park in Montana! Open to the public, swimming closes at 5pm and the Spook House begins at 6pm! Only \$5 per person.

**November 18**

**Alberta Bair Theater, in Billings** – GREASE – It still rocks! This treasured musical set in the 50's is a timeless tale of the complexities of young love and teenage challenges.

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

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