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# CUSTER COUNTRY

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Quarterly E-Newsletter April 2009

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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)



### DIRECTOR'S PICK

THE WORLD FAMOUS MILES CITY BUCKING HORSE SALE

As usual, there are lots of things to do in Custer Country in April and May. For instance, ZooMontana is having their "Party for the Planet" on Saturday, April 25. The weather should be good, so join them as they demonstrate how they are contributing to a "greener" planet through their efforts to educate people about zoology, xeriscape landscaping techniques and conservation.

The month of May means high school and college graduations, but it also means summer events are starting. The Artwalk in downtown Billings gives art lovers a chance to view and purchase one-of-a-kind works of art in many different media. Montana Avenue is site of this evening event on May 1.

Of course, one of Custer Country's most famous events is the World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale. It's three days of rodeo, a parade, quick-draw art and lots of fun. It's close to just about everywhere in Custer Country, so it would make a great day trip whether you're in Baker, Glendive or Billings.

## THE TYPERIDER

Review & Trip Planner

The TypeRider website is up and running! 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)



## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It seems a little surreal now, but I remember talking to John Laney, Executive Director of the Miles City Chamber, at a meeting in Helena the day that a huge explosion and fire devastated downtown Bozeman, MT. Everyone assembled tried to imagine what the city of Bozeman would go through in the days, weeks and months following that tragedy.

“I’d hate to think what something like that would do to Miles City,” John told me. “All the history that was lost there makes me shudder.”

I agreed that the history of downtown Miles City was an important part of the draw of Custer Country and shared his hope that it would never happen there. Ironically, a few weeks later, and just a couple of weeks after a similar fire in Whitehall, MT fire spread through one block of downtown Miles City, eventually destroying twelve businesses.

The fire was especially hard to control due to sub-freezing temperatures and wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour that made conditions miserable for the firefighters from Miles City and other volunteer fire departments in a 50-mile radius. Water froze almost before it reached the flames and footing was treacherous as the mist from the fire hoses covered a two block area and froze to whatever it hit. If there is any good news to



## CUSTER COUNTRY IN FOCUS THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE BATTLIN’ BEARS HAVE WON THE NAIA DIVISION I MEN’S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Custer Country wants to join the chorus of congratulations directed toward the Rocky Mountain College Battlin’ Bears Men’s basketball team for winning the 2009 NAIA Division I National Championship. It took a lot of determination and teamwork to attain their goal, and everyone in Custer Country is proud of their efforts and accomplishments. To read the story of their climb to the top, visit [www.rocky.edu/athletics/mensbball/MensVBBasketball.shtml](http://www.rocky.edu/athletics/mensbball/MensVBBasketball.shtml) and click on “News.”

Teamwork is something we appreciate in Custer Country and it’s something we encourage in our efforts to promote the region.

The Bears’ championship is a reminder of the opportunities that are available to sports fans all year in Custer Country. Whether it’s high school sports, college or professional sports, there’s always something to get your athletic juices flowing. Take in a Billings Bulls hockey game, root for the Billings Outlaws indoor football team, or take yourself out to a Billings Mustangs baseball game at the brand new Dehler Stadium in downtown Billings starting June 23 . If watching others participate isn’t enough, don’t forget the Big Sky Games the weekend of July 17-19.

Of course, these are just a few of the ways to spend your time in Custer Country. Golf, swim, watch birds and wildlife, go boating or fishing, or visit one of Custer Country’s great museums before enjoying a tasty meal in one of our great cafes or restaurants.

Whatever you like to do, get out and do it. Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. It’s all out there to enjoy in

come out of the catastrophe, it's that no one was hurt.

Businesses two blocks in every direction were shut down due to smoke and the firefighting efforts. Community members and businesses pitched in to provide room to get away and food and beverages for the firefighters who needed warm places and good food to enable them to keep on going.

John Laney now says that plans are underway to rebuild some of the businesses in an architectural style that will maintain the historic character of the area, which he believes will encourage others to follow suit and bring the businesses that temporarily moved, back to downtown.

The resilience and spirit of the people of Miles City is something to be commended. Everyone at Custer Country extends our best wishes not only to Miles City, but also to Bozeman and Whitehall as they get on with the task of restoring their communities.

Custer Country.

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## Contact Information

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