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# CUSTER COUNTRY

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Quarterly E-Newsletter January 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 VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

The Vienna Boys Choir was formed in 1498, and until 1918, could only be heard by royalty and their guests. Today, however, the group has thrilled audiences around the world with their beautiful voices.

Instead of traveling to Austria to experience this internationally-famous group, you need only travel to Miles City on February 19, 2009. The concert will start at 7:00 pm at MCC Centra on the Miles Community College campus. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$30, which include discounts for students and school choirs. This is sure to be a tremendously popular event, so be sure and get your tickets early by calling the Miles City Chamber of Commerce and ordering by credit card.

Don't miss this world-renowned group; just another example of the cultural amenities available in Custer Country.

COMING SOON

**TYPE RIDER**  
Review & Trip Planner



## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New Year is here, and changes are a-brewing! While we all face economic and social changes, we need to view them as opportunities. Our country will be presided over by the first black President in history and he'll need to steer us through some tough economic waters. No matter your political philosophy, I hope you'll wish our new President good luck and support his efforts to get us back on track.

The tourism industry suffered some downturns due to historically high energy prices. The good news is that those prices are now lower than we've seen in over 10 years. Wow! What a ride! I remain hopeful that gasoline prices will remain at least reasonable and that folks who hesitated to go on extended vacations will begin to start looking at their travel plans again.

One of the bright spots for Custer Country last year was the increase in foreign visitors to the region. While there are no official statistics available that show exactly what the increase was, my conversations with tour operators and hoteliers in the region lead me to believe that they are seeing more customers from Europe, Japan and Canada. This trend is predicted to continue in the next several years, despite current economic conditions.

As I write this, we are doing the final edits on the 2009 Custer Country Vacation Guide. It



## CUSTER COUNTRY IN FOCUS SCRAPARTSMUSIC AT ALBERTA BAIR THEATER

I'm not sure what happened, but I think somebody has been messing with my calendar. It was July just last week, and now it appears as though 2009 is here! How can that be? I guess there's nothing to do but enjoy it.

There is plenty of excitement throughout our region this time of year. Whether it's the simple pleasures of driving around any of Custer Country's towns and cities to view the innovative light displays or watching any of the parades in towns big and small, it's always a great time of year in Custer Country. [>>>Click for more details](#)

will be ready for distribution by mid-February and we're all excited about the new edition. We try to improve the guide each year and I think we've succeeded again. Gloria and Milt Wester and their staff at the Laurel Outlook do a great job with the production of ads and page layouts for the guide and I appreciate the pride they put into the effort. I want to thank the advertisers who continue to support the guide. I truly believe it's a great way to promote your tourism business.

If you were to ask my advice as to how to face the coming year, I would urge you to take on a positive attitude. It's easy to be negative when you hear about bail-outs, layoffs and the weakening dollar, but we have to keep in mind that we live in the greatest country in the world and we'll get through it. Some predictions say that things could start turning around as soon as mid-year and others say we'll see a bright light at the end of the tunnel (no, it won't be a train coming at us) within 18 months. I think if we dwell on the positive, we'll come out of this stronger than we went in.

To those of you who are getting this email and haven't visited Custer Country yet, I offer my personal invitation to plan a visit soon. To everyone everywhere, I say thanks for making this e-newsletter a bigger success than we hoped for. I appreciate the comments you've sent with suggestions, criticisms and positive comments. If you know someone who isn't getting the newsletter but might like to, send them the link and they'll be able to sign up. I wish you all a prosperous New Year. Keep smiling. It's infectious and we could use a smile epidemic.



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## READER'S PICK

This is your chance! We want to hear about *your* unique experience in Custer Country's Southeastern Montana. Have you eaten the greatest meal, discovered the best hidden treasure, found the most unusual gift, encountered the most remarkable person, had the most memorable day, or heard the voices of history—have you had a genuinely unique experience in Southeastern Montana? Please share it with us. If your story (keep it around 300 words) is selected (some minor editing may occur), it will be published in the Custer Country E-Newsletter and on our website, shared with our readers, and you will receive a prize! Not a huge prize. Kind of a small prize. But, a very nice prize.

Please send your story to [kung@cynroc.com](mailto:kung@cynroc.com)

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