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(S.D.)-Advocate For Pine Ridge Reservation Dies In Wyoming Crash



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 03/26/2013 06:36 AM

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) - An advocate for the poor in California who made trips to South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to help people there has died in a vehicle crash in Wyoming.

Thomas Streicher, 58, lost control of his van on an icy Interstate 80 Friday while returning from Pine Ridge to his home in Nevada City, Calif. The Highway Patrol says Streicher was thrown from the van when it rolled and died on the way to a hospital.

In Nevada City, Streicher handed out food vouchers to the homeless and served hot meals through his nonprofit, Divine Spark. He also began making several trips a year to Pine Ridge starting in 2002, after meeting someone from the reservation and learning about its struggles with poverty.

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