



Montana Arts
Council's Advocacy
Fact Sheet
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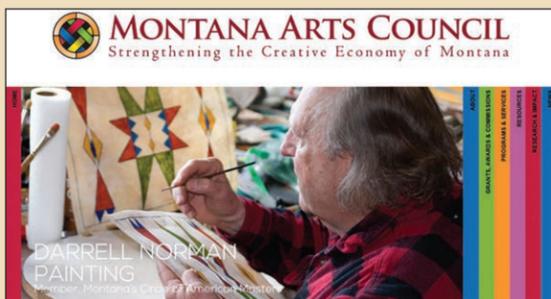
Winter 2017 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

MAC welcomes two new members

The Montana Arts Council is pleased to announce Governor Bullock's appointment of two new council members who hail from Townsend and Bozeman. Replacing outgoing members Rob Quist and Judy Ulrich, G.B. Carson and Renée Westlake began their duties in early December at their first council meeting. "G.B. and Renée will bring valuable experience to the council in the areas of arts/business management and music education," says Interim Co-Director Cinda Holt. "We welcome them to the council as we also fondly bid adieu to Rob and Judy who served MAC so well during their terms."

See MAC Members on page 8



MAC launches classy, accessible website

By Czelsi Kozak
MAC Website Manager

After a few years in the making, the Montana Arts Council has officially launched its new website!

In the beginning of 2013 during a staff retreat, we all tossed around ideas of what we had envisioned for our new website. Our main goal was to emphasize how important the arts are to Montanans and to give credit to the talented artists we have in our state by featuring their artwork on nearly every page.

Kim Hurtle, our now retired executive assistant and Percent-for-Art director, imagined an interactive home page showcasing artists' work. The team immediately fell in love with the idea, which is how the design process started.

I took the lead as the designer, implementing a fresh look to complement our logo. On every page you'll find a series of four buttons that represent the weaving together of our most cherished goals: to improve education, boost economies and revitalize communities – the strands represented in MAC's logo.

Check out our classy, easily navigable and accessible website at art.mt.gov.



Governor's Arts Awards

The Governor's Arts Awards ceremony, Dec. 2 at the Capitol in Helena, brought together Montanans across the state. The 2016 honorees (front row, left to right) are Jack Gladstone, Karen Lewing, Neal Lewing, Rick Newby, M.J. Williams and Patrick Zentz. In the back row are MAC members, nominators and dignitaries, including Sean Falcon Chandler, Jay Pyette, Jean Steele, Cyndy Andrus, Carmine Mowbray, Pat Williams, Ted Waddell, Patti Bartlett, Tracy Linder, Karen Bohlinger, Terry Conrad, Jane Waggoner Deschner and Robyn Peterson.

(Photo by Jerry Kozak)

UM grads bring home Emmy Award

Five graduates from the University of Montana were part of a team of artists that won an Emmy Award for their work on the documentary film "Valley Uprising." The film tells the story of Yosemite National Park's counterculture rock-climbing revolution that spanned three generations and still influences the sport today.

The "Valley Uprising" team received the Emmy for Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction during the News and Documentary Awards held Sept. 21 in New York City.

Lead Motion Designer and Art Director Barry Thompson pulled together the team of digital artists that included assistant motion designer Sari Jones; assistant motion designer Greg Twigg, a media arts professor at UM; motion designer Eric Bucy; and 3-D animator Wesley Meeks. All five are graduates of UM's School of Media Arts.

Rounding out the team were two members from outside Missoula: Mark Palkoski of New York and Marty Blumen of New Zealand.

"We knew that our work was solid and extensive, but we were up against some major players in our field," Twigg said. "The fact that the majority of the team was made up of UM media arts and arts alums is truly as much a major win here on campus as it is for us individually. It feels really, really great."

— from *UM News*, news.umt.edu



UM alumni Greg Twigg, Sari Jones, Barry Thompson, Eric Bucy and Wesley Meeks pose on campus with the Emmy they recently won for Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction.

Montana loses beloved artists Ben Steele and Mary Beth Percival



Ben Steele

Ben Steele: Montana treasure

Ben Steele, defender, artist, educator, and Montana treasure, died Sept. 25. He was 98.

He was born Nov. 17, 1917, in Roundup, to Benjamin Cardwell Steele and Elizabeth Gertrude McCleary Steele. He was raised on the family ranch his father established on Hawk Creek in the Bull Mountains.

Losing the ranch from the Great Depression and drought, the family moved to Billings in 1932. Steele graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1939, after dropping out two years to help support the family. He worked for Snook Art Company while in high school and installed windows in the new school. He was working on the Carroll Clark ranch at Pompey's Pillar when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941.

See Ben Steele on page 8



Mary Beth Percival

Mary Beth Percival: Painting life's simple pleasures

By Kim Briggeman
Reprinted with permission from the *Missoulian*

Mary Beth Percival, a beloved Missoula artist who shared a downtown gallery, travels and parallel career with husband Monte Dolack, died Dec. 7 after a years-long bout with Alzheimer's disease. She was 71.

Dolack said Percival passed away "very peacefully" at 3:30 a.m.

"She'd been in hospice for several months and they did such a wonderful job," he said. "Sometimes I feel so blessed to be in Missoula. She got a lot of love and care."

See Mary Beth Percival on page 4



Montana Arts Council Advocacy Fact Sheet

Mission Statement

The Montana Arts Council is the agency of state government established to develop the creative potential of all Montanans, advance education, spur economic vibrancy and revitalize communities through involvement in the arts.

Vision Statement

Montana is known far and wide as “The Land of Creativity,” where the arts are essential to the creativity, imagination and entrepreneurship that make Big Sky Country the very best place on earth to live, learn, work and play.

The Montana Arts Council is administratively attached to the Board of Education and has a staff of seven FTE.



Major Grant Programs

Arts Education: Artists in the Schools and Communities/Arts Education Partnerships

Arts Organizations: Public Value Partnership Operating Support

Cultural Trust grants: Funded through HB9 (administered by the arts council on behalf of the Legislature)

Strategic Investment Grants: Funds for training, market expansion, public outreach, and emergencies for artists, arts educators and arts organizations



Major Service Programs

• *State of the Arts* quarterly newspaper and bi-weekly eNews bulletins

• Montana Artrepreneur Program: Artist marketing and business-skill development

• Montana’s Circle of American Masters in Traditional and Folk Arts (honorary award)

• Governor’s Arts Award: Honorary awards given every two years

• Percent-for-Art Program: Art in state buildings

• The Art of Leadership: Leadership training for arts organization leaders

Arts mean business

Arts businesses contribute to the local economy through salaries,

taxes (payroll, sales and property), contracted services and facility maintenance. In addition, the arts create vibrant communities that attract new businesses and individuals to the area.

- Montana arts organizations and individual artists have an economic impact of \$1/4 billion annually
- Montana’s nonprofit arts organizations produce \$4 million in state taxes yearly
- Businesses cite the arts as very important to employee recruitment and retention

Arts mean tourism

A thriving arts scene draws cultural tourists who stay longer and spend more money at hotels and restaurants than other tourists (2010 U.S. Travel Industry report):

- Compared to all U.S. travelers, cultural tourists are more likely to:
 - Spend more (\$994 vs. \$611)
 - Stay longer (1.71 nights vs. 1.57 nights)
 - Travel more frequently in prior 12 months (5.01 trips vs. 3.98 trips)

Arts mean educational achievement

Arts education engages students and helps them work collaboratively, think flexibly and solve problems.

- Exposure to, and education in, the arts develops 21st century skills (creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking) necessary to succeed in today’s economy
- There is a distinct relationship between the arts and academic and social outcomes, including:
 - Visual arts instruction and reading readiness
 - Dramatic enactment and conflict-resolution skills
 - Learning piano and mathematics proficiency

Business leaders continue to cite innovation and creativity among the top workplace skills needed. The arts help build these skills.

2017 Legislative Session

Passage of a bill: See page 5 for a handy infographic on how laws are made

Contact your legislators: Learn who your legislators are and how to reach them at www.leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp

Sign up for MAC’s eNews

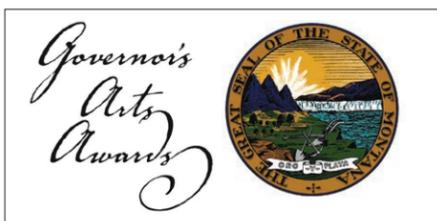
Between the quarterly issues of the *State of the Arts*, our staff publishes four separate e-newsletters with opportunities and information:

- Artists’ eNews
- Arts Educators’ eNews
- Arts Organizations’ eNews
- Public Artists’ eNews

If you’d like to sign-up for one or more of these, please offer us your contact information and what you’d like to receive at: art.mt.gov/eNews or send us an email at: mac@mt.gov.

Governor’s Arts Awards: 108 honorees in 35 years

Since its inception 35 years ago, in 1981, artists, art leaders and educators, and arts organizations all across the state have been recognized for their talent and accomplishments in making our state truly The Land of Creativity. Here are our 108 Governor’s Arts Awards honorees from 1981 through 2016.



- Philip Aaberg, 1995
- Stephen Ambrose, 1999
- Eugene Andrie, 1981
- Archie Bray Foundation, 1981
- Lela Autio, 2015
- Rudy Autio, 1981
- Francis Bardanouve, 1995
- Joanna Barker, 2001
- Uri Barnea, 2003
- Bigfork Summer Playhouse, 1997
- Judith Blegen, 1983
- Dana Boussard, 1987
- John Buck and Deborah Butterfield, 2010
- James Lee Burke, 2001
- Ray Campeau, 1987
- Donald Carey, 2001
- Russell Chatham, 1997
- Corwin Clairmont, 2008
- Terry Conrad, 2008
- Custer County Art and Heritage Center, 2003
- Gennie DeWeese, 1995
- Robert DeWeese, 1995
- Ivan Doig, 1991
- Debra Cecille Magpie Earling, 2015
- Becky Eiker, 2005
- Judy Ericksen, 2003
- LaDonna Fehlberg, 1983
- Robert Fehlberg, 1983
- Donna Forbes, 2010
- Edith Freeman, 1993
- Fort Peck Summer Theater and Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, 1999
- Eric Funk, 2001
- Jack Gladstone, 2016
- A.B. Guthrie, Jr., 1982
- James Haughey, 1981
- Hawthorne School, 2005
- Walter Hook, 1985
- Elmer Jakab, 1999
- Dorothy Johnson, 1983
- Gordon Johnson, 2015
- Isabelle Johnson, 1983
- Oshanee (Agnes) Kenmille, 2001
- William Kittredge, 1985

- Ed Lahey, 2008
- John Lester, 1986
- Neal and Karen Lewing, 2016
- Myrna Loy, 1989
- Stan Lynde, 1983
- Norman Maclean, 1987
- Arnie Malina, 1997
- Thomas McGuane, 1989
- Wally McRae, 1989
- Terry Melton, 1991
- Missoula Art Museum, 2015
- Missoula Children’s Theatre, 1987
- Montana Institute of the Arts, 1993
- Montana Power Company, 1999
- Montana Repertory Theatre, 1983
- Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, 1991
- Mary E. Moore, 1997
- Robert F. Morgan, 2001
- Jo-Anne Mussulman, 1999
- Dr. Joseph Mussulman, 1999
- David Nelson, 1999
- Rick Newby, 2016
- Christopher Parkening, 1987
- Myrna Paulus, 2001
- Ralph Paulus, 2001
- Eewokso – Ernie Pepion, 2005
- Lyndon Fayne Pomeroy, 1991
- James Poor, 1985
- Amy Ragsdale, 2010
- James Kenneth Ralston, 1984
- Bernie Rasmussen, 1981
- Kelly Roberti, 2010
- Mary Agnes Roberts, 1991
- Joseph S. Sample, 1997
- Miriam Sample, 1997
- Robert Scriver, 1990
- Gary Schildt, 1999
- Edmund Sedivy, 1993
- Frances Senska, 1988
- David Shaner, 1989
- Kevin Shannon, 1987
- Michael Smuin, 1981
- Harold Sprague, 1985
- Virginia Sprague, 1985

- Benjamin Steele, 1992
- Shirley Steele, 1992
- William Stockton, 2003
- John Talbot, 1994
- Susan Talbot, 1994
- U.S. WEST Foundation, 1989
- Agnes Vanderburg, 1983
- Allen Vizutti, 2008
- Peter Voulkos, 1985
- Theodore Waddell, 2015
- James Welch, 1981
- Larry D. Williams, 2003
- M.J. Williams, 2016
- Pat Williams, 2010
- Jessie Wilber, 1988
- Yellowstone Art Museum, 1995
- Thomas Yellowtail, 1993
- Paul Zarzyski, 2005
- Patrick Zentz, 2016

STATE OF THE ARTS

State of the Arts is published four times a year by the Montana Arts Council and produced by *Lively Times*.

State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

Next Deadline: The deadline for submissions is March 1 for the Spring issue (April-June). Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email mac@mt.gov.

Subscriptions: *State of the Arts* is available free of charge to Montana residents as a public service of the Montana Arts Council. To subscribe, call 406-444-6430, or update or sign-up online at art.mt.gov. Out-of-state subscriptions are \$15 per year; mail your check to Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620.

CONGRATS TO ...



T.J. Casey

T.J. Casey of the Livingston area, who was selected for the 2016 Living Legend award, given by the National Traditional Country Music Association. Casey, who grew up on a ranch in the Pryor Mountains and began playing guitar when he was 8 years old, says he was “mentored by old cowboys and old horses.” For the past three decades, he has entertained on stages across the nation.

Helena members of the choral group **Musikanten**, who participated in a European concert tour performing an all-American repertoire in churches in Germany and Poland. On Sept. 9, artistic director and Helena resident

Kerry Krebill led the a cappella chamber choir in the final concert of the 39th annual Choral and Organ Festival at the Gdansk Bazylika Mariacka, the largest brick Gothic cathedral in the northern hemisphere. Berlin performances were in the prestigious Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche series, and at one of the oldest churches in Berlin, the early 13th century Marienkirche, on the Alexanderplatz. Musikanten Montana, located in Helena, is an offshoot of Musikanten of Bethesda, MD. Krebill directs both, as well as Helena Choral Week and the Montana Early Music Festival.



Kerry Krebill directs Musikanten in the prestigious Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche series in Berlin.

MAPS Media Institute in Hamilton, which was again recognized by The President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and its cultural partners – the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services – as one of 50 outstanding programs in the field of Creative Youth Development across the country. MAPS, which provides year-around media-based curriculum for Bitterroot Valley students, was acknowledged for its work in providing “excellent arts and humanities learning opportunities to young people.” According to the press release, the 50 finalists “reflect the diversity of disciplines and settings that are taking place from coast to coast.” MAPS was also a finalist in 2014.

Montana State University film professor **Tenzin Phuntsog**, who was recently mentioned in the 100th issue of *Art Asia Pacific Magazine*, the leading English-language publication featuring contemporary art and culture from Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. Phuntsog’s 2010 film, “Four Rivers,” was featured in the “New Currents” section, which highlights emerging artists. Phuntsog is a new member of the faculty in the School of Film and Photography in the College of Arts and Architecture

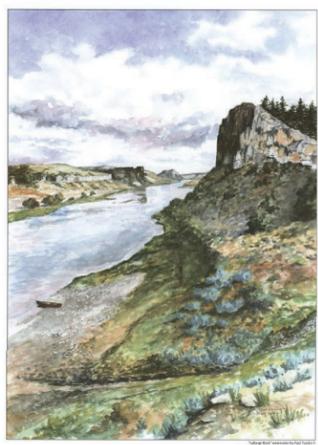
after serving as a visiting professor last year. He came to MSU following a film career in New York, specializing in directing, cinematography and post-production editing. In



Tenzin Phuntsog (Photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez)

2003, Phuntsog received a bachelor’s degree in media arts from the University of California. Three years later he graduated from Columbia University with a master’s degree in visual arts. While in New York, Phuntsog founded the Tibet Film Archive, a restoration project preserving film footage of Tibet pre-Chinese occupation and early exile, dating from 1920 through 1991. In addition to their work at MSU, Phuntsog and partner and fellow film professor Joy Dietrich are also in the process of finishing “Ritual of Resistance,” a feature documentary following the lives of three generations of Tibetans in exile. And interestingly enough, Phuntsog used a great deal of footage filmed in Montana in order to tell the story of resistance in Tibet. “As the narrator of the film I was trying to make a connection to these three stories,” Phuntsog explained. “I found that Montana was a kind of a poetic metaphor for Tibet.” Phuntsog was recently invited by the Prince Claus Fund to attend this year’s award ceremony in Amsterdam in December, his second year on the review panel for film.

– from the Montana State University News Service

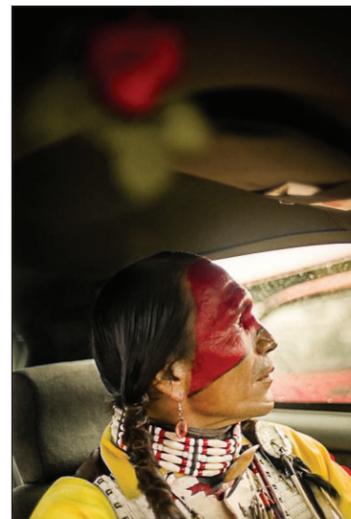


BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Artist-in-Residence Program 2015
Taking Public Lands to Heart
NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

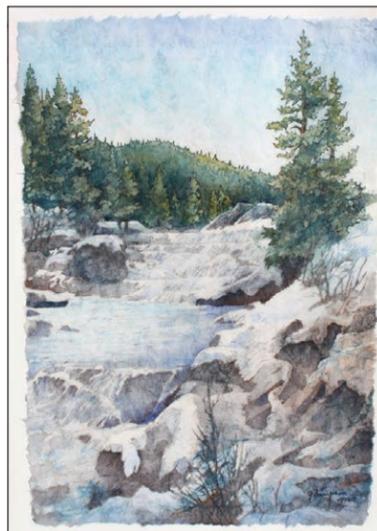
“LaBarge Rock” by Paul Tunkis adorns national BLM poster.

Livingston artist **Paul Tunkis**, whose painting, “LaBarge Rock,” was selected by the Bureau of Land Management to represent the nationwide BLM Artist-in-Residence Program for 2015. Tunkis, an artist-in-residence at the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument in Montana, was one of seven 2015 artists-in-residence who captured BLM landscapes and natural features in various media. The program has expanded to 11 BLM offices with sites in six states hosting artist-in-residence programs and events. For more about the program and to see images of all the 2015 artists’ artwork, visit www.blm.gov.

Bigfork photographer **Lauren Grabelle**, whose work has been included in several juried shows in the past year. The list includes: “The Documentary Photograph” at the SE Center for Photography in Greenville, S.C. and “Masks,” which opened Oct. 7 at the same venue; “Fridge Show 6,” at The Curated Fridge (online) and at The Open Aperture Gallery, Providence, RI; “The Changing Moment” at Radius Gallery in Missoula; “WE:AMERICANS” at Station Independent Projects, New York City; the Emerging Photographers Auction at Daniel Cooney Fine Arts, New York City; “Winter Pictures: Group Show 48,” an online exhibition hosted by the Humble Arts Foundation; “Pacific Northwest Photography Viewing Drawers” at the Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, OR; and “Off The Fridge,” at the Photographic Resource Center in Boston. She also had two images curated into “Your Daily Photograph” at the Duncan Miller Gallery in Los Angeles; and was interviewed by the World Photo Organisation about her life and work. The story, titled “No One Is a Stranger,” appears at www.worldphoto.org.



Tom Christian portrait by Lauren Grabelle



“Little Salmon River” by Joanne Simpson

Polson artist **Joanne Simpson**, who was accepted to exhibit in the 96th annual National Watercolor Society International Exhibition in San Pedro, CA, Oct. 22-Dec. 18. After having one of her landscape batik-on-rice paper paintings, “Little Salmon River,” accepted for the exhibition, she learned that she also received Signature Status, which allows her to include NWS after her name on all watercolor art. Simpson is one of 95 international watercolor artists selected from approximately 1,000 entries, for the 2016 exhibit. Signature Status, she says,

besides being a validation of her work, adds to the prestige of her art. Simpson is one of four Montana artists ever to be selected for the NWS Signature Status. The Montana native has taught Spanish in public and private schools since earning a master’s degree in 1972 from the University of Montana. While working part and full-time she has also taught watercolor classes for 30 years.

– From the *Valley Journal*

Glenn Gilmore of Gilmore Architectural Blacksmith Studios in Corvallis, who won the Best Artist-Metal award at the 24th Western Design Conference held at the Snow King Center in Jackson Hole, WY. A panel of five jurors unanimously chose Gilmore’s piece, a side-table titled “Mighty Oak Under the Full Moon.” The table features hand-forged leaves, acorns, branches, and a three-dimensional tree trunk. All parts were forged in Gilmore’s studio and meticulously brazed together. The design for the moon top was created by fold-forming copper sheet and then applying the patina to give a subtle appearance of stretched leather. The entire table has a hand-rubbed wax finish with brass highlights. The Western Design Conference Exhibit + Sale is a four-day, multimillion-dollar event that brings together craftspeople, collectors, interior designers, architects and fashion designers.



“Mighty Oak Under the Full Moon” by Glenn Gilmore (Photo by Ron Maier)

More Congrats on next page



Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trail, Charlo, MT 59824; or email kristi@livelytimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it’s at least 200 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) and a file size of over 500kb.

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for *State of the Arts*



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Meet up with MAC on Facebook

“Like” us for updates on Montana Arts Council activities and opportunities, as well as information for and about artists, arts events and organizations across the state look for Montana Arts Council on facebook.com.

MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Livingston artist **John Banovich**, whose new original oil, “Simply One Thing On His Mind,” was among the works selected for the 29th annual Western Visions Show and Sale, Sept. 15-16, in Jackson Hole. The sale, presented by the National Museum of Wildlife Art, is one of the signature events of the Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival. Banovich is a past participant in the Western Visions Show and his artwork is in the museum’s permanent collection.

Helena artist **Sandra Dal Poggetto**, whose work is on display through Dec. 30 in “The Snow Show” at Visions West Contemporary in Denver.

Five Montana artists who received merit awards during the Montana Watercolor Society’s Watermedia 2016, a national juried exhibition held Oct. 1-31 at the Bigfork Art and Cultural Center. **Carol McSweeney** of Kalispell took the \$500 MTWS President’s Award for “Veteran”; **Jessica Glenn** of Columbia Falls won the Silver Award (\$750) for “White Sulphur Springs Mint”; Plains artist **Ilene Paulsen** received the Nancy Bellman Award (\$500) for “Eve of the Emu”; Arlee artist **Janet McGahan** claimed the \$100 M. Voermans Award for “Mama Barncat”; and Helena’s **Gordon Zuelke** won the MTWS Excellence Award for “Running on Empty.”

TRANSITIONS

Welcome to **Christopher Freeze**, the new executive director of the Bozeman Symphony. He brings 15 years of business experience and best practices to support the long-standing history of the orchestra, approaching its 50th anniversary in 2017. A native of Boston, Freeze has a wide range of administrative and leadership experience with emphasis on operations, strategic planning, financial management, and team and project leadership. He holds a master’s degree in English from the University of Cambridge, attended Indiana University’s School of Music (graduate of opera studies), and later received a master’s of public affairs from IU’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He holds a certificate of achievement for principles and techniques of fundraising and has participated in seminars hosted by the League of American Orchestras. He has worked with the Indianapolis Early Music Festival and the Apollo Music Festival. “I am thrilled to be invited to help lead the Bozeman Symphony, an organization with an impeccable artistic reputation, supported by a dedicated and enthusiastic community, and in one of the most beautiful settings in the world,” he says.



Christopher Freeze

So long and best wishes to Executive Director **Michael Duchemin**, executive director of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, who joins the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, TX, as president and CEO in February 2017. Duchemin’s last day with the Russell Museum is Dec. 30. Duchemin will maintain a collegial relationship with the museum as he continues his career in the western art field. He looks forward to joining the Great Falls community in March to celebrate Western Art Week during The Russell: Exhibition and Sale to Benefit the C.M. Russell Museum. Duchemin “has so many talents to offer the western art world,” said board president Christina Hoover-Blackwell. “We wish him great success and know that our institutions will work together in the future.” The museum plans to build on his success in improving community relations, the museum’s brand, and exhibitions.

Welcome to two new employees at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings: **Holly Netz** is the new development director, and **Amanda Daniel**, who adds her skills to the curatorial department. Netz is a born-and-raised Montana farm girl who struck out to make her way in the business world. After managing several types and sizes of businesses and traveling the country, she returned to Montana. When the opportunity came to work with art and business at the YAM, there was no hesitation. She calls this her “dream job.” Daniel received her bachelor’s in art history from the University of Texas in Austin and her master’s in museum science from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where she worked as a graduate student in both the art and education departments. She has since produced exhibit-related marketing materials and catalogs at the Ellen Noël Art Museum in Odessa, TX. A lifelong lover of art and art history, she looks forward to exploring the culture of Montana and applying her abilities at the YAM.



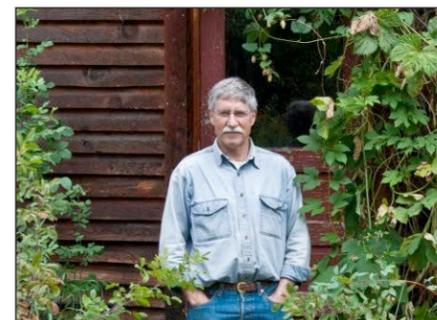
Holly Netz



Amanda Daniel

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family and friends of Arlee artist, writer and beekeeper **Jerry McGahan**. He died Oct. 3 in the house that he loved for almost 50 years. He died the way he slipped out of a party – quietly, and well before anyone wanted him to. He was 73 years old. He was born in Dillon in 1943. When he was 5, his family moved to Livingston, where his mother and stepfather ran a diner called The Coffee Shop. He spent his free time outside, fishing and clambering up the mountains of Paradise Valley. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in zoology at the University of Montana, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He studied golden eagles, and he kept one, too. It lived on top of Mount Sentinel, and he trained it to fly to him when he blew a referee’s whistle. He earned a doctorate in zoology, finishing his degree in South America with a two-year study on Andean condors in Colombia and Peru. He filmed a documentary about the cultural and biological significance of the birds and wrote a story about them for *National Geographic*. He retired from academia, moved back to Montana and took up beekeeping on 60 acres of river-bottom land near Arlee. To support his family, he taught biology and math in St. Ignatius, conducted a biological survey of the Blackfoot River valley for the Nature Conservancy, and was a state bee inspector. All summer he worked his bees with his family. His published work includes two novels, *A Condor Brings the Sun* (Sierra Club, 1996) and *Songs for a River* (Knut House Press, 2016); a collection of short stories, *The Deer Walking Upside Down* (Schaffner Press, 2015); and short fiction in *The Georgia Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Gray’s Sporting Journal*, and others. A lifelong appreciator of beauty in the human and natural world, he photographed it when he saw it and painted it on canvas. The only currency he put much stock in was a good story, and by that measure, he died rich.



Jerry McGahan

– Excerpted from the *Missoulian*, Oct. 4

Mary Beth Percival (from page 1)

Percival was best known for her watercolor paintings, “many of which illustrate her strong bond to the country where she grew up,” according to a biographical sketch on Dolack’s website. “Her paintings also celebrate the simple pleasures of daily life – sun streaming through a window on a bouquet of spring pussy willows or the gathering of fresh laundry from the clothesline.”

Percival received a commission from the city of Missoula to design bronze plaques of Bitterroot flowers on the walkways of the new Orange Street Bridge in 2002.

“She was a prolific artist in the community, an important figure in the art world in Missoula,” said Geoff Sutton, a longtime friend and fellow gallery owner. “It was a little different role than Monte’s. She did book covers and posters for events, along with her beautiful florals and Montana scenes.”

Claire Sherwood said Percival was her first friend when she moved to Missoula.

“She was a force to be reckoned with,” said Sherwood, who helped Dolack care for Percival. “I

just know that we are all so saddened, because she was such a free spirit and a fabulous and generous soul.”

M.B., as her friends knew her, grew up in the Big Hole and Boulder valleys where her father was a U.S. Forest Service ranger, according to her online bio.

A graduate of the University of Montana, Percival supported herself through the 1970s and beyond as an artist and graphic designer while co-managing an art publishing company and gallery with Dolack.

“She did these beautiful watercolors early on, sort of looser than Monte’s tight work,” Sutton said. “Monte was so tight in everything he did, really detailed, and M.B.’s stuff just kind of flowed.”

The two traveled extensively, often overseas.

“Our travels in and beyond the Northern Rockies have provided inspiration and adventure, as well as the opportunity of viewing art in many of the world’s great museums,” Dolack wrote a few years ago.

Dementia forced Percival’s retirement from the active art world in 2010.

“We worked as a team for a long time, until

probably about seven years ago,” Dolack said. “Then she couldn’t participate any more. I had to take over a lot of things.”

He closed the gallery on West Front Street in 2015 so he could spend more time caring for her, said Dolack. Percival went into Edgewood Memory Care in August 2016.

She continued drawing and painting as long as she was able.

“That’s one way we would spend time together,” Dolack said. “I would set up a drawing table in my studio where she could sit and paint while I was working on my paintings.”

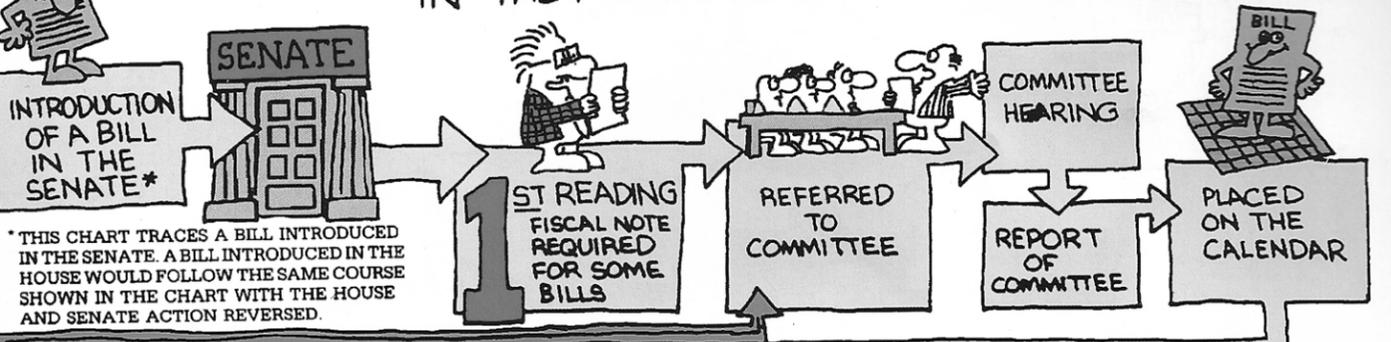
An “amazing draftsman, drawer and painter,” Percival produced art that became “quite abstract, but very interesting,” her husband said.

“As the disease progressed she could barely make a mark, but I kept track of them all, dated them, and when I have the time I’d like to put that together and see the change and how this disease affects the art-making process.”



PASSAGE OF A BILL

IN THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE



* THIS CHART TRACES A BILL INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE. A BILL INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE WOULD FOLLOW THE SAME COURSE SHOWN IN THE CHART WITH THE HOUSE AND SENATE ACTION REVERSED.

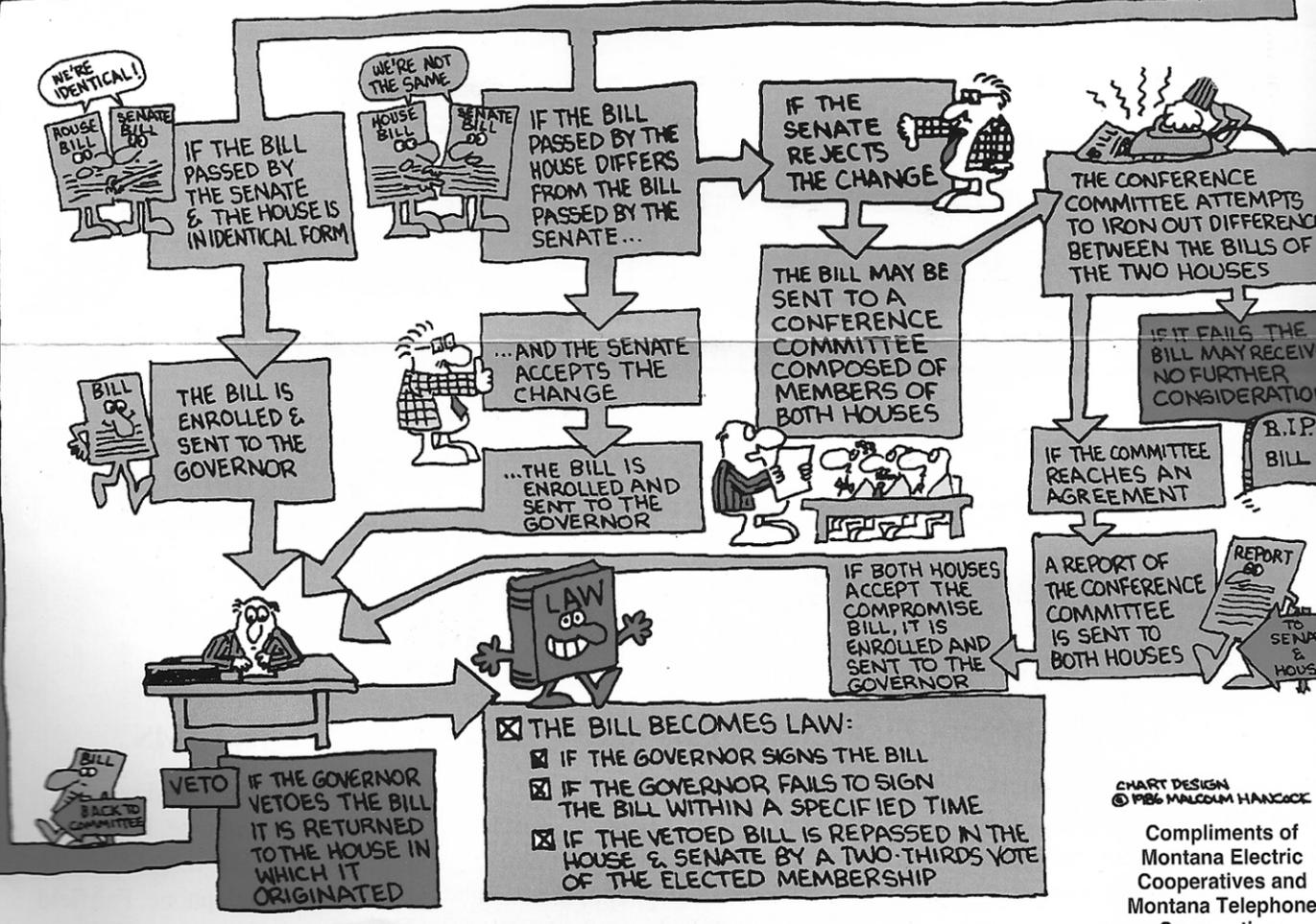
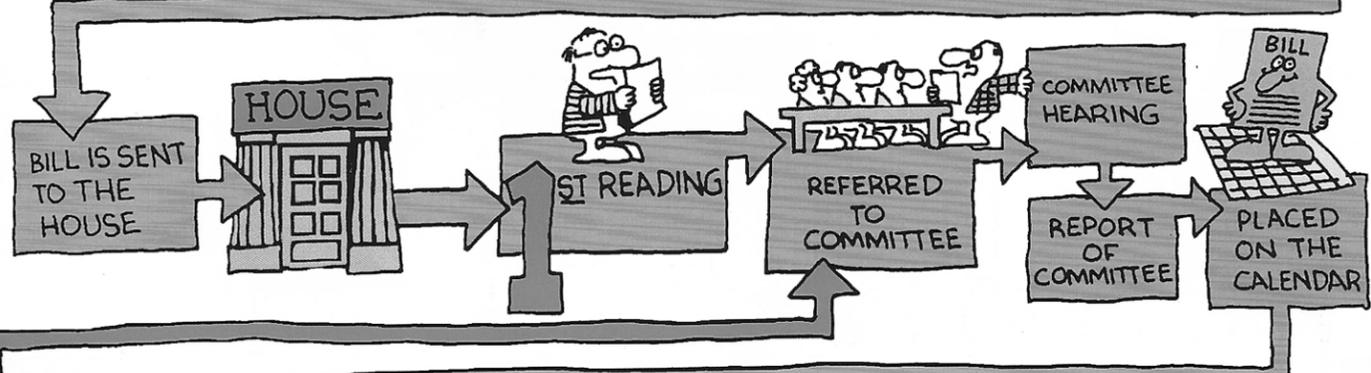
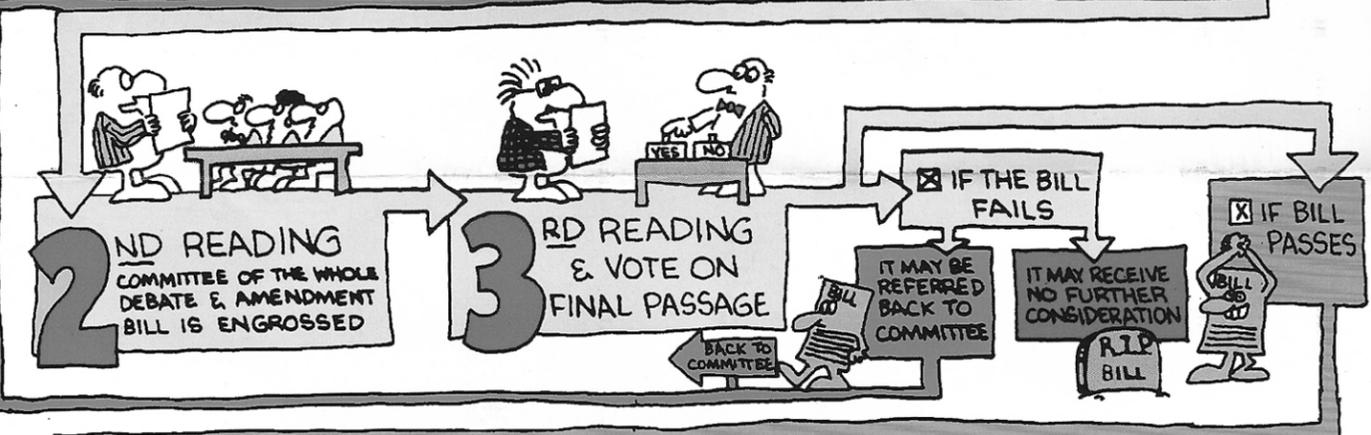


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Don't be afraid to confront challenges
Leaders can be honest about what's at stake, writes Dan Rockwell in "Seven Ways to Look the Beast in the Eye."
Recognize and acknowledge the problems your team faces, then find ways to move forward regardless. "Worry more about the next play and less about winning," Rockwell writes at leadership freak.wordpress.com.

ARTS EDUCATION



ARTS ED BRIEFS

Poetry Out Loud State Finals in Helena March 4

The Montana Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts are



proud to present the Poetry Out Loud State Finals Saturday, March 4, at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena.

Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation competition that encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems. This year, more than 80 Montana urban and rural high schools are participating in the program.

Each high school holds a school competition, with winners moving on to regional competitions around the state. Finalists gather in Helena for the chance to become the state champion.

The champion wins a trip, along with their teacher, to the National Poetry Out Loud finals in Washington, D.C., April 25-26, with the chance to win college scholarships up to \$20,000, as well as a library of poetry books for his or her school.

The state competition begins at 9 a.m. March 4 and is free and open to the public. There will be three rounds of competition with the final round beginning at approximately 12:45 p.m.

For more information about the event, contact Jonna Schwartz, state coordinator, at jschwartz@helenaschools.org.



Artist in Schools and Communities FY18 Grant Cycle Opens in February

Guidelines for the FY18 Artists in Schools and Communities program will be available on the Montana Arts Council website no later than Feb. 10, 2017, for projects occurring between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

The arts council strives to provide access to quality arts learning to develop the creative potential of Montanans of all ages. Towards that end, the Artists in Schools and Communities program provides matching funds that support a wide range of arts learning experiences and artist residencies for participants of all ages with professional working artists, as well as other special projects that support arts learning in schools and community settings.

Grants up to \$10,000 are available and must be matched 1:1 with other funds (MAC will provide a 2:1 match for first-time applicants, Class C schools, or small rural schools supervised by a county superintendent).

Full information on AISC grant categories and spring application deadlines will be available at art.mt.gov no later than Feb. 10.

To discuss an idea for a potential arts learning project for your school or community, contact the Montana Arts Council after the first of February at 406-444-6430.

Big Sky Arts Education

By Emily Kohring
Director of Arts Education
bigskyartsed.wordpress.com



Making the learning visible

This is my final column for *State of the Arts*, as I am soon leaving my position as director of Arts Education. It's been a joy, truly, to get to do this work every day on behalf of promoting arts education across the state.

My husband got a job offer he couldn't refuse in another state. I'm not leaving because I don't love my job, believe me, although at times it can be terribly frustrating to be an arts education advocate. There is never, ever enough money, time or will for something that is so critical to the minds, hearts and souls of young people – access to creative experience.

Despite the "one step forward, two steps back" nature of this work, I love it anyway. It's hard not to love it when you get to work with such incredible educators and artists every day across the state.

Truly my greatest source of inspiration and hope for arts education are the individual teachers and teaching artists I have met in Montana. In September, 130 of them came together in Helena when MAC, the Office of Public Instruction and the Office of Indian Education hosted the first Montana Arts Education Leadership Summit.

I felt like I was in the company of a lot of unsung heroes that weekend, educators accomplishing amazing things for Montana students with small amounts of money and resources. Montana's arts educators are an impossibly optimistic bunch – they see what can be accomplished instead of feeling stymied by the limitations of what seems impossible.

I am especially grateful to my most favorite group of educators, our 29 Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts, who are building a

grassroots network of teachers across the state to serve as coaches, mentors and advocates to help other teachers bring creative learning experiences to their schools. This year our first cohort of MTLAs are out there leading professional learning experiences for other teachers all over the state on the new arts standards and other topics. Teachers teaching teachers – it's one way we are going to keep the arts alive in our public schools.

By the way, OPI will soon start recruiting a third cohort of Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts for our next Summer Institute in Arts Learning at Salish Kootenai College, July 31-Aug. 9. Check their website for an application (opi.mt.gov). MAC and OPI are also planning another Arts Education Leadership Summit for next September. More details will follow.

As I say goodbye (for now), I'd like to offer a challenge, one that is a sort of mantra in our Teacher Leaders in the Arts program: make the learning visible. Make sure people know about the amazing arts learning experiences you are offering your students. Show people what your students are creating. Show administrators. Show parents. Show elected officials. Get it out of your classroom and into the school hallways; heck, get it into your local coffee shop, or the school board meeting!

The more visible we make the learning, the more people will understand the impact arts learning has on the social, emotional and academic growth of students.

As we say in Teacher Leaders in the Arts: arts educators are not specialists, they are essentialists! The work you do is essential, now more than ever. Let it shine.

Missoula Writing Collaborative gives voice to young poets

Writers, teachers, students, and family members gathered together Nov. 14 at the Johnny Arlee/Vic Charlo Theatre at Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo to hear young poets taught by writers from the Missoula Writing Collaborative.

Students from Arlee, Pablo, St. Ignatius, Ronan, and Dixon elementary schools met at 6 p.m. for a potluck dinner. At 6:30, everyone settled in theater seats to hear elder and poet Vic Charlo read from his collection *Put Sey*. Writers Caroline Keys, Alex Alviar, and Rachel Mindell introduced their students, who read poems about subjects including bears, last days, huckleberries, and mountains with "trees of deep happiness."

The reading is a culmination of a second \$30,000 Art Works grant, awarded to the Missoula Writing Collaborative by the National Endowment for the Arts. The collaborative offers 12-week poetry residencies in the elementary schools. Once a week for an hour, the professional writers read poems and use writing exercises to help children learn various poetic forms such as haikus, letter poems, pantoums, and odes. Visit www.missoula.writingcollaborative.org for details.



Two Eagle River School student Lee Atwin interviews elder Stephen Small Salmon at the Veterans Day Powwow with new equipment donated by Lower East Side Girls Club. (Photo by David J. Spear)

Cultural exchange brings \$30,000 donation to Two Eagle River

Last spring photographer David Spear took a group of 14 students from Two Eagle River School (TERS) on an unforgettable trip to New York City through his non-profit organization, A VOICE.

In addition to seeing the sights and sounds of the city, they visited the International Center for Photography and other sites where they could meet and learn from professional photographers. The trip culminated with an exhibition of their work at the Lower East Side Girls Club.

This past November it was the Girls Club's turn to visit the Flathead Reservation, and staff members arrived with a generous dona-

tion of \$30,000 in sound equipment that the students will use to create an audio production studio at TERS to write and record music and podcasts.

The Girls Club staff hopes to return to TERS soon with a group of students from New York City to learn from TERS students and experience the culture of the Flathead Reservation.

Through A VOICE, Spear has taught photography to TERS students for more than a decade. To view a gallery of photos from the trip to New York City, visit tinyurl.com/hs4lkey.

ARTS EDUCATION

The Season of Joy

Students in Alder contribute to National Christmas Tree display

By Sheri Jarvis

Montana Artrepreneur Program Director

In 2016, the National Park Service invited the Montana Arts Council to select an artist, arts group, or school group, from Montana to create 12 ornaments for the 2016 National Christmas Tree display, "America Celebrates: Ornaments from across the USA," which was located on the Ellipse in President's Park, Washington, D.C.

The National Christmas Tree display is one of the highlights of the National Christmas Tree Lighting, a national event presented by the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service and marking its 94th season this year.

The centerpiece of this celebration is the National Christmas Tree, which is accompanied during the holiday season by 56 smaller Christmas trees, each one representing a U.S. state or territory. There is no particular theme for the artists to follow, other than highlighting what Christmas means to them.

The project this year included ornaments by mixed-media artist, Carolyn Baker, and the 23 students of Alder Elementary, a two-room schoolhouse located in the scenic Ruby Valley near Yellowstone National Park.

Because the students come from a diverse background of beliefs, the theme focused on the joy of the season, rural life in Montana and the children's appreciation for attending a small community school, versus what they imagined it might be like to live in a big city.

Each student contributed a piece of artwork illustrating their favorite part of Montana life to the 12 ornaments, which are housed an image painted by Baker.

The artist and teacher received her formal training in fine art from Montana State University. She lives in Alder with her husband, Wayne, and daughter, Magnolia, and owns and operates a small business in addition to her art business.

For more about the America Celebrates project (including information about Montana's role) visit www.thenationaltree.org/america-celebrates.



Students at two-room Alder Elementary School in the Ruby Valley helped create a dozen ornaments for the National Christmas Tree display in Washington, D.C.



Artist Carolyn Baker designed Montana's ornament project and helped 23 Alder students contribute.



Young Alder Elementary student Adreana Bock shows her piece of artwork for the Christmas tree display. (Photos by Sheri Jarvis)



7

Students converge for UM jazz festival

The 2017 Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival, set for March 16-17, brings together more than 50 middle school, high school and college jazz ensembles from across the Northwest. Evening concerts for the festival are held at the UM Dennison Theatre on the Missoula campus.

Around 1,500 music students, directors, jazz lovers and artists converge for the two-day event, which emphasizes education, improvisation and the jazz language. Additionally, there will be clinics, ensemble critiques, workshops, open rehearsals and master classes with the guest artists.

The festival's guest artists are among the rare breed of artists who have educated and performed all over the world. This year's roster includes Dana Landry (piano), Jim Sisko (trumpet), Brad Leali (sax), Ashley Summers (bass), Nate Kimball (trombone) and Chris Smith (drum set). Both evening concerts will feature outstanding high school and middle school performers, along with the UM Jazz Ensemble and other surprises.

For more information, visit www.umt.edu/music or call 406-243-6880.

BELT ON THE FRINGE



The cast of Belt Valley Shakespeare Players' production of "The Tempest" (above), who were invited to produce the play at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Adrianna Irvine (left) is Ariel in the show. (Photos by Jeff Ross)

Youth theatre troupe heading to famed Scottish festival

The Belt Valley Shakespeare Players was selected by the American High School Theatre Festival to perform at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the largest performing arts festival in the world. The troupe from the small town near Great Falls is one of only 50 top U.S. and Canadian high school programs selected to perform in Scotland by the organization.

The Belt Valley Shakespeare Players is a non-profit youth theater that fosters community, intellectual curiosity, creativity, and

confidence with personal and public expression, primarily through the study, practice, and performance of the works of William Shakespeare.

The troupe is led by Jeff Ross, an English teacher at Belt High School. Ross founded the troupe several years ago after attending a summer Shakespeare workshop for teachers at the Globe Theatre in London. He was recently honored by the National Council of Teachers of English as a 2016 High School Teacher of Excellence, one of 10 teachers across the

nation to receive this prestigious honor.

The troupe will perform the show they are taking to the Edinburgh Festival, Shakespeare's "The Tempest," at the Ursuline Centre in Great Falls, Feb. 10-12; show times are 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday). There will also be other performances this spring, preceding their trip to Scotland July 29-Aug. 11, 2017.

For more information, visit www.beltonthefringe.org.

New MAC members (from page 1)



8

First Night: Welcome 2017 with arts celebration

Arts Missoula (formerly the Missoula Cultural Council) is preparing for the 23rd annual New Year's Eve celebration of the arts, noon-midnight Dec. 31 in Missoula.

First Night 2017 showcases 80 arts performances and activities throughout downtown Missoula, at the University of Montana campus and Southgate Mall. Sample music, theatre, dance, children's programs, visual arts, and more.

Visit at www.artsmissoula.org.

G.B. Carson: "As an art historian who has worked closely with significant contemporary artists and modern art museums, I believe I bring both historical context and knowledge of the art world to the council."

Carson was born in Helena and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in the history of art. In 1978 he joined the San Francisco firm of Dr. Joseph Armstrong Baird Jr., Art Consultation and Appraisals.

In 1982, he launched his own independent art-appraisal business that he moved to Berkeley in 1985, and also to Townsend in 2000. He has been associated with several San Francisco art galleries and art-publishing concerns, and has acted as an agent and business manager for several prominent Montana and Bay-Area artists.

His area of specialization is 19th- and 20th-century and contemporary American and European art, including paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints and photographs, with a particular emphasis on the art of California and the West. His appraisals have involved insurance, charitable donations and estate concerns. He has also served as an expert witness in legal proceedings.

In 40 years of practice, Carson's clients have included many notable collectors, major corporations, public institutions and gallery owners. He is regularly referred to clients by the leading museums and other institutions in Montana, the San Francisco Bay Area and the West.

Carson has been an active supporter of the Holter Museum of Art, the Myrna Loy Center, the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, the Missoula Art Museum, the Yellowstone Art Museum, and the Montana Historical Society.

He's witnessed the expansion of three of those museums, each housed in re-purposed historical buildings. "The Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Missoula Art Museum and The Holter Museum of Art in Helena have each expanded, further anchoring their respective downtowns."

He also praises "the vibrant role that the Archie Bray Foundation plays in bringing talent and visitors to our state, and the mar-



G.B. Carson

velous transformation of a former public school into the dynamic Emerson Center in Bozeman."

In 2012-13, he served on the selection committee for the Capitol Complex Advisory Council for the women's mural commission, and is proud of that committee's choice of Missoula painter Hadley Ferguson's "Women Build Montana" mural. That experience, he says, "inspired a desire for deeper involvement in

Montana government and the role of the arts." Over the years, Carson has kept abreast of Montana's vibrant arts community. "As a long-time reader of *State of the Arts*, I have avidly followed the arts scene in Montana.

Since moving back to the state 15 years ago, my participation has deepened through active support of, and involvement with, numerous museums in the state," he says.

He's also tuned in to the state's considerable literary legacy. "For several decades I have followed and chronicled the literary school of Montana while collecting and reading these many authors."

In his new role, he looks forward to "learning from my colleagues and working as a team to foster the best art, in all media, in our state."

Renée Westlake: "I strongly believe in our state government process and felt that this was an area of my expertise that would allow me to give back to the state where my passion and career took place."

A longtime educator in the Bozeman Public Schools music and fine arts department, Westlake has taught beginning band, elementary music, middle school world music, high school jazz band, high school flute choir and AP music theory. She was the fine arts supervisor for the school district for 13 years until her retirement in 2015.



Renée Westlake

During her long tenure as an educator, Westlake has collected data that supports the importance of the arts as part of a well-rounded education. She advocates a "fiscally responsible approach to balanced education" that includes a variety of subject matter that cultivates "the intelligence and leadership in every child."

She teaches private flute lessons and played flute in the Bozeman Symphony for 28 years.

Westlake received her bachelor's in music, master's in curriculum and instruction, and doctorate in educational leadership. In addition to a supervisor endorsement and several specialized certificates, she has also completed multiple master classes.

Westlake has been active in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and served as president of its Northwest Division. She was also state president of the Montana Music Educators Association, and president of the Montana General Music Teachers Association.

Westlake is also active in the Montana Bandmasters Association, Bozeman Friends of Music and the National Federation of Interscholastic Music Association. She sits on the board of directors for the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra, Arts Without Boundaries, and the Montana Chamber Music Society. In addition, Westlake was a staff member at the Yellowstone Summer Music Camp, a camp for underserved rural students in Powell, WY, for many

years. She has co-authored two publications for NAfME, is a collaborator in their All-In program, and is a Lowell Mason Fellow.

Her experience – as a fine arts administrator, music educator, symphony and chamber musician, arts nonprofit board member, and collaborator between public schools and the university – adds up "to a broad vision for the arts in Montana."

Westlake is married to a grain farmer and has two grown daughters who are professional dancers, two sons-in-law, one granddaughter and one grandson.

As a long-time educator, she believes Montanans "can and should be reminded of the importance of a rigorous education that is well-rounded and inclusive of the arts."

Ben Steele (from page 1)

After basic training at March Field, CA, and duty at Kirkland Field, NM, Steele was assigned to the 7th Materiel Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group. He arrived at Clark Field, Philippine Islands in October 1941. The invasion of the Philippines began and Steele fought on Bataan, made the Bataan Death March, and was a prisoner of the Japanese for three and a half years.

Steele earned a Cleveland Institute of Art Diploma in 1950, a bachelor's degree from Kent State University in 1951, and a master's from Denver University in 1955. He also pursued further study at Illinois State University and the University of Oregon. He taught art in New London, OH, where he met Shirley Ann Emerson. They married Aug. 31, 1952.

Steele served as crafts director for Special Services, Department of Army from 1953 to 1959, as post crafts director at Fort Riley, KS, and as staff crafts director of the Military District of Washington, D.C., and Third Army, Fort McPherson, GA.

He returned to Montana in 1959, and joined the faculty at Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University Billings), where he chaired the art department and taught life drawing, watercolor, oil, portraiture, and art history. He retired as professor of art emeritus in 1982, and taught one quarter for four more years.

Throughout his career Steele gave workshops, demonstrations, lectures and gallery talks at museums and schools and for civic groups and judged countless art exhibits. He served as a consultant to the Depart-

ment of Defense in the Marshall Islands for the design of a crafts facility and wrote the manual for the Department of Army Crafts Directors.

Steele exhibited in one-man and group shows throughout the country and his illustrations appear in over 20 books and several documentaries. He illustrated *Tears in the Darkness* by Michael and Elizabeth Norman.

His Montana landscapes grace public and private collections. The Ben Steele World War II POW Collection has been gifted to the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at the University of Montana and his 36 sketchbooks to the General Douglas MacArthur Museum in Norfolk, VA.

Named Outstanding Employee by the Department of the Army in 1958 and Teacher of the Year, Montana Education Association in 1964, he was given a Teaching Award in 1977 and a Distinguished Professor Award in 1980 at Eastern Montana College. In 1992, Ben and his wife, Shirley, were presented with the Governor's Arts Award.

He served as president of the Yellowstone Art Center board and as a member of the YAC Commis-



Ben Steele, World War II

sion; and as director of the Billings Art Association and Montana Institute of the Arts.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church, the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, the Stillwater Society, the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, and the Montana Pro-Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame, as well as several civic groups. The new middle school in Billings was named in his honor.

Art was something he was compelled to do. Through his landscapes he taught people to see, appreciate, and take care of the land. His gifts of talent, caring, and humor are known to all of his students. Their mantra is his, "red, yellow, blue in everything you do."

The only activities that vied with art were hunting and fishing, and in later years fishing prevailed.

– From the *Billings Gazette*, Sept. 27

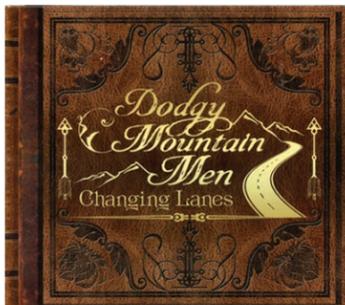
The Montana Museum of Arts and Culture, which received a large bequest of his paintings, "remains committed to keeping the legacy of Ben Steele's achievements as a humanitarian and artist alive by featuring his art and story with an exhibition every four years," says director Barbara Koostra. "We are honored to be stewards of his collection, and our most sympathetic wishes are with the Steele family."

ABOUT MUSIC

– By Mariss McTucker

Dodgy Mountain Men: *Changing Lanes*

This earthy Missoula quartet delivers “home-brewed Montana stomprgrass” on a new 12-song CD that follows 2012’s *Stronger Than Death*. Original members Eric “Boss” Bostrum on vocals, harmonica, and acoustic guitar, and Jed Nussbaum on vocals, mandolin, and electric guitar, are joined by newer members Josh Clinger, vocals and electric bass, and Christian Gutierrez on harmony vocals and drums. Bostrum, Nussbaum, and Clinger wrote material, but everyone contributes ideas to the songs.



The homespun backroads feel to the songwriting is evident from the get-go. Nussbaum’s “Gone Gone Gone” is an uptempo jitterbugger. Clinger sings lead on his own “Division,” which sports a stutter-step riff at the intro, and a quick, countrified sound.

Bostrum’s “Something for My Head” is mid-tempo and moody. The refrain has sophisticated timing that adds to the tension, and a wah-wah guitar break polishes the song.

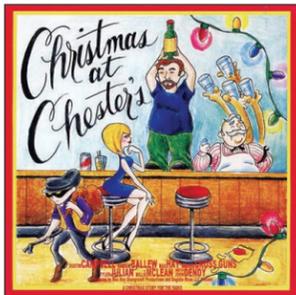
“La Luna” is part old-time, part bayou-inflected. Propelled by a woody unison guitar-mando riff, the fellas sing “La Looo-ooa” in long sustained notes, like they could be howling.

Musicians who add flavor to the CD include former member Clyde Netzley IV on tabla and oodoo drums, Dobro phenom Andy Dunnigan, trumpeter Ben Shuberg, and banjo picker Jared Betz. Get out your dancin’ shoes!

Visit dodgymountainmen.com.

Max Hay: *Christmas at Chester’s: A Christmas Story for the Radio*

Helena troubadour Max Hay’s ninth musical venture was conceived as a radio experience with the sit-down listener in mind. He wrote all dialog and music save for Dustin Campbell’s “On the Bright Side,” and the recording is inventive as well as hilarious.



The Christmas musical in three acts features a terrific cast of characters, and in the time-worn style of radio plays, corny ads between acts plug businesses and thank listeners for their support.

Voicing the parts are Ramsay Ballew as Lana, Dustin Campbell as Andy, Andrea Cross Guns as Debbie the Letter Carrier, Tyler Julian as Mac the Bartender, Millie McLean as Kathleen, and John Dendy as the Police Officer. Hay stars as Pathetic Patrick and the culprit, Thievin’ Steven; he’s also the play’s narrator.

The story takes place in the fictional Chester’s Corner Bar. In his ultra-smooth broadcast voice, Hay sets the scene for our armchair experience; his skewed sense of humor is in fine form.

This effort reminds me of the Firesign Theatre albums of the late 1960s and early ’70s. That American comedy troupe’s work featured real-time vignettes displaying screwy, keen-edged humor and background atmosphere that dropped the listener right into the scene. Hay masterfully replicates that here.

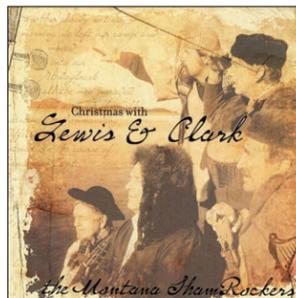
The whole project took a month to complete, not bad for such a complicated endeavor.

Can Chester’s locals solve the crime of a potato-chip heist and make Christmas joyous again? Will it be a wonderful life after all? Check out this inspired radio play and listen for yourself.

Visit maxhay.com.

The Montana ShamRockers: *Christmas with Lewis and Clark*

The ShamRockers postulate that the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with its diverse cultural make-up, would have sung songs from French, Canadian, Celtic and British traditions during the two Christmases spent traveling to the Pacific and back in 1804-5. The Polson’s Irish-music quintet’s Christmas show includes the 12 age-old songs noted here, and spanning the 12th-19th centuries.



Instrumentation consists of guitar, mandolin, banjo, whistle and drum, with a bit of harmonica thrown in. As is their style, the fellas sing solo and unison leads as well as three-part harmony.

A few of the tunes were remastered from the ShamRocker’s last album, 2015’s *A Soalin’: A Joyful Christmas Celebration*, including “Auld Lang Syne,” “Curoo, Curoo” and “Come Buy My Nice Fresh Ivy”/“A-Soalin’.”

The album opens with “Huron Carol,” a French-Canadian hymn heralding the birth of Jesus. “The Wexford Carol,” originating in Ireland, finds the ensemble singing the lead as one, backed by guitar and low whistle.

In “Friendly Beasts,” a hymn from 12th century France, the men each sing the parts of animals – donkey, cow, sheep, camel and dove. It’s a timeless melody that plays well in modern times.

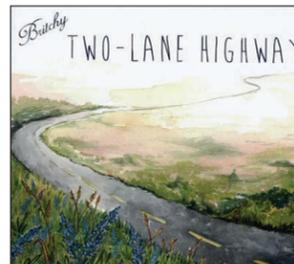
“Don’t Worry” is a playful tune, based on an old Irish saying on how to approach life.

The group constantly researches the history of music, finding rare gems and re-introducing them to modern audiences. It’s a worthy pastime.

Visit www.facebook.com/themontanashamrockers.

Britchy: *Two-Lane Highway*

Britchy, Missoula’s acoustic Americana duo, has released its newest collaboration. It features Richie Reinholdt on oodles of guitars, bass, banjo and mandolin, and Britt Arnesen on acoustic guitar and bass. The songwriters share singing duties on their compositions, spicing them with signature tight-knit harmonies.



The songs span lots of country styles, enhanced by guest musicians on selected cuts. Reinholdt’s other Acousticals bandmate, Chad Fadely, adds mandolin; Larry Chung, fiddle and pedal-steel guitar; Bob Knetzger, steel; Tom Wolverton, Dobro and steel; and Isaac Callender, fiddle. Emily Emmons offers a harmony vocal on Arnesen’s “Got Your Back.”

The album opens with Reinholdt’s ballad, “Skeeter”; Arnesen’s “Cry-baby” has a bluesy feel as she sings to her sulking lover who’s having a tantrum. Reinholdt’s “Poison” is a bluegrass loper with sweet fiddle, tasty mandolin and some rollin’ banjo licks. Next comes Arnesen’s song about first love, “Man on My Moon,” with its slowly rockin’ ’60s chords.

The duo’s creations mesh well in both melody and lyric writing. It’s Americana, all right.

Visit britchy.bandcamp.com.

Parker Brown: *We Were Young*

Billings bassist/guitarist Parker Brown, an accomplished songwriter, instructor, and studio musician, has crafted a basketful of songs on his debut album that complement his honed baritone voice. And in testament to his songcraft, they avoid repetition in style and substance.



Assisting him are some of the area’s best musicians. Erik Olson plays keys and alto sax; John Roberts, trombone; Brent Koch, baritone sax; Tully Olson, trumpet; Keller Paulson, drums; and Trevor Krieger, fiddles. Chris Smith and Becky Sappington sing back-up vocals; Brown plays guitars and percussion instruments, too.

“People Watching” kicks the album off; its gentle country rhythm is overlaid by fiddle and organ accompaniment. An ill-omened horn intro sets the scene on the bluesy “Levee’s,” with drums slowly growing louder behind an intensifying horn riff, building tension and creating atmosphere.

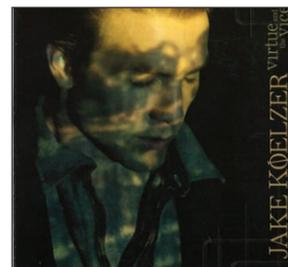
“Plain” finds Brown singing unison lead with his guitar à la George Benson on this jazzy R&B number. The prayer-like “Trouble Deep” has solemn organ tones and a reverb-y sound, as if echoing in the halls of a church. And the gospel-flavored “If You Go” has a sparse and unadorned melody, sung as if in conversation.

Brown’s melodies offer a simple structure, clean and lovely. There’s a lot to consume here, so get those ears ready.

Visit pbrownsound.com.

Jake Koelzer: *Virtue and the Vice*

Bozeman singer/composer Jake Koelzer, owner of a golden baritone, has released his second album, featuring 14 of his own songs, lushly recorded in Bozeman with stellar accompanists.



Besides Koelzer on piano, core musicians include long-time collaborator Jake Fleming on acoustic guitars, bass, and saxophone; Drew Fleming (no relation) on drums; Chris Cundy on organ and piano; Johnny Sanders, bass; and Craig Hall, electric guitar. Several other performers added vocal and instrumental talents on a couple cuts, too.

“Bside” opens with a modern piano riff à la Bruce Hornsby and a hip pop-rock sound. On “Circus,” a snare drum creates a clickety-clack vibe, and train horns and bluesy harmonica set the scene as the caravan hits town. It’s jazzy and suave, but with a dark undercurrent in the lyrics.

“Firefly” has a dreamy feel; Koelzer doubles his voice on the lead, and sings harmony with himself, too. The riveting “Vocalise/Ode to Fire” is just over a minute long with just Koelzer on piano. He could be a lonely jazz wolf, swooping up high into a pure falsetto, and down again.

This fella has just about the finest vocal instrument around, and it shines on this sleek album. Koelzer, who recently transplanted to Portland, OR, so he could explore wider musical horizons, plans a winter and spring tour in 2017. Let’s hope he comes our way.

Visit the artist at jakekoelzer.com.

Shakewell: *Marzoula*

Shakewell’s “tectonic dance grooves” are alive and well on their first full-length album of original music. But on the new effort, the young Missoula band adds more smooth jazz wisps and laid-back soul to their signature funk vibe. The sounds are imaginative and almost improvisational at times. Not a bad thing!



They retain a big-band sound, fleshed out by core members Cove Jasmin, vocals, keys, and percussion; Aaron “Trick-shot” Johnson, drums; Jordan Smith, vocals and guitar; Emmet Ore, guitar and synths; his brother Sam on bass; and the Big Hornz duo of Tanner Fruit, alto sax, and Nathan “Rock Bottom” Crawford, trumpet. Guests include producer Alan Evans on percussion and vocals; Jake Syrenne, tenor sax; Darby Wolf, organ and synth; and Devon Parker on vocals.

The recording is chock-full of terrific arrangements and tight rhythms, and interludes of quirky short pieces that seem like snippets of ideas laid down just so the guys can catch their breath in the studio.

The fellas’ music is, as usual, inventive and danceable. Check these guys out at shakewell.band; you won’t be sorry!



State of the Arts welcomes CDs

State of the Arts welcomes CD submissions by Montana musicians for inclusion in the About Music section. The recordings must be professional, commercially available, full-length CDs, with cover art and liner notes. Brief biographical information on band members would be helpful to the writer.

Please send submissions to either the Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT, 59620; or *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824.

For reprint permission, email kristi@livelytimes.com.

ABOUT BOOKS



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How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts*' "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to writus@livelytimes.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher, and month/year published;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;

- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits. They will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.

The Jealous Kind

By James Lee Burke

Missoula's illustrious mystery writer returns to Texas and the violence-prone Holland clan for a tender look at first love, imperiled (of course).

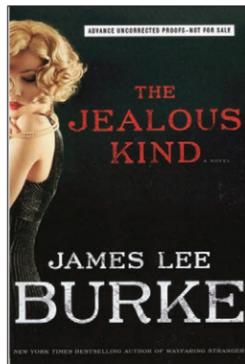
James Lee Burke deftly recreates the 1950s in Houston, a city and a country rising from the chaos of World War II. Teenage Aaron Holland spies Valerie Epstein in a pink Cadillac, eating French fries, and falls "joyously, sick-down-in-your-soul in love."

He simultaneously finds himself crosswise with her soon-to-be ex, Grady Harrelson, son of one of the richest men in Houston. It doesn't help that his best friend, Saber Bledsoe, has a penchant for challenging authority, and for driving them both "into the belly of the beast."

As Valerie and Aaron slip into love, their idyllic trajectory keeps getting interrupted. The city's superficial delights are dimmed by encounters with the Mob and a shadowy Aryan group, trying to recruit kids and send them to "summer camp."

"The difference between Jews and gentiles isn't a religious one," Valerie tells Aaron. "The difference is in our knowledge of what human beings are capable of."

Like the rest of his novels (more than 30!), *The Jealous Kind* continues to plunge into our darkest and brightest hearts, matching up justice and loyalty with greed and violence. The good guys don't always win. But they always put up a good fight.



— Kristi Niemeyer

High Lights, Low Lights, and Red Lights

By L. Allen Strate

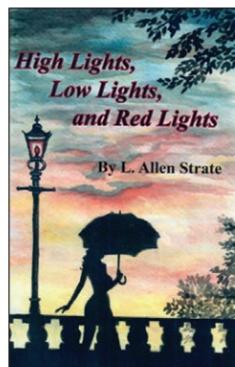
The oft-overlooked story of a lurid and thriving Red Light District in the early years of Hamilton is the topic of a new book by L. Allen Strate.

The fourth-generation Bitterrooter and retired law educator, intrigued with the largely untold story of Hamilton's illicit "red light" trade, spent nearly three years researching the subject.

The resulting book offers a "glimpse of the evening industry in Hamilton's heydays," shortly after copper magnate Marcus Daly founded the city. Strate's exhaustive research on the subject results in more than 200 footnoted references from the newspapers, court records, and other writings of that time, along with a number of interviews.

He also includes stories that reveal a more positive side of the industry, and explores links between Hamilton's red-light districts and those of other Montana towns, including Butte, Missoula and Whitefish.

The 114-page book, published in cooperation with Stoneycdale Press of Stevensville, features more than 20 photographs.



Yellowstone, A Land of Wild and Wonder

By Christopher Cauble

The unique beauty and grandeur of Yellowstone National Park has inspired many photographic essays and books. Chris Cauble's addition to this realm does not disappoint.

In love with the park since childhood, he brings a skilled photographer's eye and personal outlook to his images. The elements that make the park so attractive to visitors are present here, but often with a unique perspective. Look directly into the eyes of shaggy bison, or marvel over a star-studded night sky tinged with the last remnants of sunset – impressive!

Cauble's lens peers intimately into the jewel-toned colors of geysers, and remains to capture the rising steam as evening cools the Earth. There is a deliberate geometry to some of his images – the way a stark stand of trees appears in winter, or a group of elk defines a ridgeline.

Through these images, Cauble has captured the enormity and diversity of Yellowstone, crafting a wonderful armchair look into the breathing heart of a national treasure.

Cauble's work has been featured in magazines and books, including *A Montana Journal*, and a children's book, *What I Saw in Yellowstone*. His nature videos have been published on many national and international news sites and television programs. He currently resides in Livingston.

— Judy Shafter



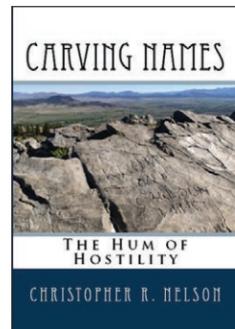
Carving Names, The Hum of Hostility

By Christopher R. Nelson

Passing through the gates of Forest Lake Cemetery, each epitaph added to the story of Helena like walking through a textbook. Yet, no inscription would have as lasting an impact on Sean as Father Houlihan's: "Carve your name on hearts, not stone."

Sean had tried that. Carving his name upon the hearts of those around him wasn't easy. The stone proved to be more giving; more easily etched and moved. The weight and effort of moving a single heart had Sean reeling with exhaustion. He had come to a breaking point.

Christopher Nelson, a Helena teacher who has pursued "a host of unconventional jobs," broaches the topic of bullying in his debut novel, which seeks to "uncover truths within our human stories."



Yankees and Rebels on the Upper Missouri, Steamboats, Gold and Peace

By Ken Robison

Great Falls historian Ken Robison continues to trace the tumultuous times before, during and after the Civil War in Montana Territory with a look at the Missouri River, and the steamboats that plied it with massive cargoes of freight and travelers, en route to the new goldfields.

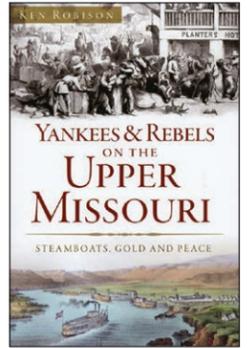
Fort Benton – where Robison is a historian with the Overholser Historical Research Center – is "a small town with a big history." In a scant seven years, from 1860-67, Fort Benton boomed from a quiet, orderly trading post to a town that boasted "the bloodiest block in the West," with brothels, saloons, gambling houses and dance halls open 'round the clock.

Steamboat travel and Montana's gold rush were largely responsible for this boom in business. Robison describes the challenges of navigating the big river during the Civil War; recounts the lives of both Union and Confederate soldiers who had an impact on local history; and chronicles the experiences of newly freed slaves and freedmen, seeking a less repressive life in the West.

He also covers "Memorable Characters and Outlaws" who roamed the frontier after the Civil War, including the infamous brothers, Jesse and Frank James, who appear to have spent several months in Montana Territory.

As he did in his previous two books, Robison gives shape and color to a fascinating period in Montana history through the stories of its people.

— Kristi Niemeyer



Exceptional Mountains

A Cultural History of the Pacific Northwest Volcanoes

By O. Alan Weltzien

As part of a tectonic feature called the Pacific Ring of Fire, the northwestern United States is the setting for numerous mountains of volcanic origin. Dillon author and teacher O. Alan Weltzien focuses on three of the region's most prominent: Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier and Mt. Hood. These peaks have become iconic identifiers for local communities and important components of their economic health.

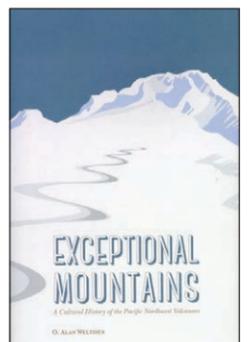
Every year, tens of thousands of people hike, climb and ski on these mountains, jamming parking lots and leaving behind vast quantities of waste.

Weltzien chronicles the origins of hiking and climbing in these areas, inspired by organizations that promoted "social idealism" and "common cause," instead of personal achievement. He contrasts that idealism to today's recreationalists, who arrive in droves with their expensive gear and clothing to hike, climb, and check a destination off their list.

Bottom line, people drawn to the outdoors need to work harder at minimizing their impacts while management agencies need to adopt stricter permitting and access rules. For those of us who are accustomed to unfettered access to wild spaces, it marks a sad, but probably inevitable path to survival for these beloved landscapes.

Weltzien, a professor of English at University of Montana-Western in Dillon, is the author of a memoir and two books of poetry and the editor of the *Norman Maclean Reader*.

— Judy Shafter



Yellowstone Summers, Touring with the Wylie Camping

Company in America's First National Park

By Jane Galloway Demaray

In 1872 Congress established Yellowstone National Park, and its vast wonders soon mesmerized early sightseers. One of them, school superintendent William Wallace Wylie, visited in July 1880 and was immediately smitten, arranging his first tour group a few weeks later. His initial effort evolved into a full-fledged business, and from 1896 to 1905 the Wylie Camping Company fed, sheltered and guided thousands of Victorian vacationers through relaxed week-long tours of geysers, hot pools, waterfalls, and trails.

But operating the Wylie Camping Company was a formidable task. There were bears, runaway horses and cantankerous stagecoach drivers. Wylie also contended with park superintendents, railroad officials and politicians. Still, the Wylie Camping Company and its owner's unwavering efforts helped develop, define and preserve tourism in the West, particularly in America's first national park.

Author Jane Galloway Demaray, a native of Calgary, has fond memories of traveling to Bozeman to visit her grandparents – often with side trips to Yellowstone National Park. She currently lives and works in Helena.

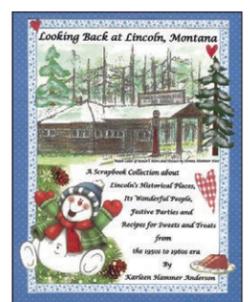
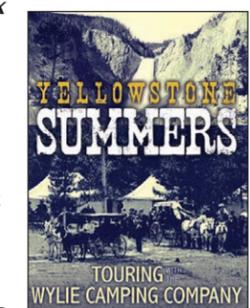
Looking Back at Lincoln, Montana

By Karleen Hammer Anderson

After retiring from a 47-year career in nursing, Karleen Hammer Anderson decided to combine writing and scrapbooking in a tribute to her childhood hometown and loved ones.

The Lincoln native shares personal memories and favorite recipes gleaned from her formative years growing up in the 1950s and '60s. Presented as an old-fashioned handmade scrapbook, *Looking Back* describes the history, people and places that shaped the author's life.

Her collection of stories, handwritten notes, memorabilia, full-color recipes, photos, and illustrations intertwine to preserve a bygone era in a small Montana town. Learn more at farcountrypress.com.



ABOUT BOOKS

A Bloom of Bones

By Allen Morris Jones

A Montana poet/rancher and a New York literary agent make unlikely allies and lovers in this seductive mystery by Allen Jones.

It's a story that opens with a poem and a murder.

Eli Singer ranches near Jordan – or rather 50 miles from town – on a place he inherited from his stepfather, Buddy. His tranquil life is interrupted by two intrusions. The first is Chloe, a literary agent who comes to eastern Montana to visit the writer of verses “tight as bread pressed into bricks.”

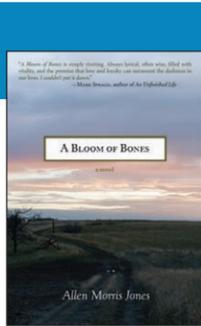
While she's there, road hunters from Glendive discover a body at the edge of Eli's ranch. Singer knows whose corpse eroded from the hillside – Pete Fahler, the neighbor who disappeared three decades ago. But he won't say how the body came to be there, or why the dead man's family kept receiving “wads of cash” in the mail long after Pete disappeared. Or how he knew they'd find Pete's truck in the bottom of a nearby reservoir. “I got nothing to say.”

Chloe is caught up in the mystery and mesmerized and exasperated by Singer. She encourages him to write the story, and he does ... that's how this unpredictable tale unwinds – a story within a novel, punctuated by Singer's poems. For the reader, it's a fine web. Baffling, compelling, austere as the eastern plains, and just as complex.

“Simply riveting,” writes Mark Spragg, author of *An Unfinished Life*.

Jones, the editor of *Big Sky Journal*, is the author of another novel, *Last Year's River*, and *A Quiet Place of Violence*, about hunting and ethics.

– Kristi Niemeyer



Stories from Afield, Adventures with Wild Things in Wild Places

By Bruce L. Smith

Bruce Smith has assembled a collection of some of his most memorable experiences, gathered from four decades of working in wildlife biology, mostly with big-game species.

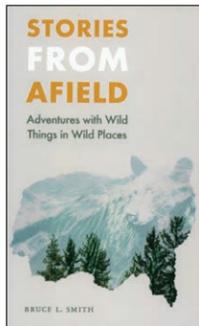
Each chapter is a stand-alone story about an event, from his childhood through his professional career. From grueling days of backpacking in Montana's mountains as a university student studying elk and mountain goats, to his 20-plus years at the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming, this book is chockfull of adventure, complemented by solid science-based commentary.

Life as a field biologist can be rife with hazards, and Smith faced down a few in his time, from helicopter mishaps to surprising wildlife encounters. Some of the stories are humorous; some are poignant and deeply personal. Above all, readers will recognize the author's reverence for the natural world and his conviction that it needs careful preservation.

Smith has been recognized for his conservation efforts with an award from the state of Wyoming in 1997, and as the recipient of the John and Frank Craighead Wildlife Conservation Award in 2005. His previous book, *Life on the Rocks: A Portrait of the American Mountain Goat*, earned two National Outdoor Book Awards.

Smith and his wife, Diana, live in southwest Montana where he continues his conservation work and writing.

– Judy Shafter



Killing Thyme

By Leslie Budewitz

Bigfork author Leslie Budewitz offers her third installment in the *Spice Shop Mysteries*, set in Seattle's bustling Pike Place Market.

Pepper Reece, owner of the Seattle Spice Shop, keeps busy conjuring up new spice blends, entertaining demands from brides-to-be and hoping for a rave review from a cranky food critic.

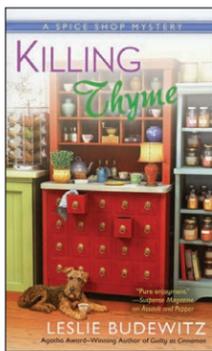
While strolling the marketplace with her visiting mother, the two encounter an old acquaintance selling handmade pottery. The woman, now living under a false name, mysteriously disappeared from the city several years ago.

When the woman is found murdered a few days later, tough questions get asked, and history begins to unfold. Not content to let the Seattle police solve the crime, Pepper sets about uncovering some facts on her own, putting her life in jeopardy and creating an elevated level of suspense.

Budewitz takes readers on a colorful journey as Pepper and her canine companion, Arf, seek out clues to solve the current crime, and one buried in the past. The story, like her others, is fueled by descriptions of food and wine, with a cache of recipes stashed at the back of the book.

Budewitz, a two-time recipient of the Agatha Award, is also the author of the *Food Lovers' Village Mysteries*.

– Judy Shafter

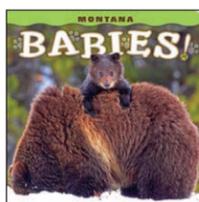


Montana Babies!

The new addition to Farcountry Press's “Babies!” series profiles 13 of Montana's most loveable baby animals, including a mountain-goat kid, two fuzzy cougar kittens, a porcupine with funny hair, a baby black bear that loves to climb trees, and a tiny wolf pup that's fallen asleep.

Charming rhymes (“blue-eyed bobcat peeks from her hole; grizzly cub rides wherever mom goes”) accompany colorful and engaging photographs. Contributors include renowned wildlife photographers Donald M. Jones, Cindy Goeddel, Don Johnston, John Ashley, Jason Hahn, Steve Hinch, Michael Jennings, and Ann and Rob Simpson.

Montana Babies! offers an irresistible way for children to learn about the state's wild youngsters; learn more at farcountrypress.com.



Crocodiles and Ice

By Jon Turk

When Jon Turk was 65, *National Geographic* nominated him and his partner, Erik Boomer, as one of the Top Ten Adventure Teams in the world for an expedition where they skied, walked, crawled, and kayaked 1,500 miles around Ellesmere Island in the Canadian High Arctic.

When Turk started writing a book about this expedition, he quickly realized that the story was about his deeper, more compelling journey into a “consciousness revolution based on ... a deep, reciprocal communication with the Earth.”

Along the way, he invites readers to listen to Stone-Age ancestors, the poets of the '60s, a wolf that lingers, a Siberian shaman, a Chinese bicycle nomad, a marauding polar bear, and the landscapes themselves.

“Beyond the wondrous and seductive opulence of our oil-soaked, internet-crazed, consumer-oriented society, there lies a glorious and sustainable lifestyle,” he believes, one that can provide “a foundation of solace, sanity, compassion, and hope.”

“In an age when adventure is a sales tool, Jon Turk looks into the meaning of wild places,” writes extreme alpinist Conrad Anker. “With first-hand experience ranging from the tropics to the Arctic, he shares the importance of finding the wild in our daily lives.”

Turk is the author of environmental and earth-science textbooks and adventure travel books, including *The Raven's Gift*. He was nominated by *National Geographic* as one of the Top Ten Adventurers of the Year in 2012. He alternates his time between Darby and Fernie, BC.



The Names of the Stars, A Life in the Wilds

By Pete Fromm

Great Falls author Pete Fromm returns to the fertile ground tilled in his first book, *Indian Creek Chronicles* – a memoir about seven months he spent in a tent, tending salmon eggs in Idaho's Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

But he's no longer a 20-year-old college student tired of school and striving to become a contemporary mountain man. It's 25 years later, and Fromm is a middle-aged father – “wild man become mild man” – who reluctantly leaves his two young sons at home to spend a month alone, standing watch over buckets of grayling eggs deep in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

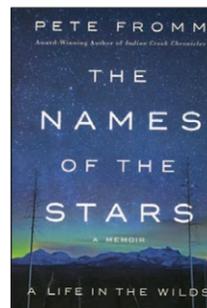
Every day brings another 10-mile hike to check two incubator sites, plunked in the wild tributaries that feed the North Fork of the Flathead River. His trek is teeming with elk, deer and grizzly sightings.

As the month progresses, Fromm reminisces about other experiences that fed his “chafing to be away, to be alone in the wild.” His years with the National Park Service, first as a lifeguard at Lake Mead, then as a river ranger in the Tetons; and his own childhood, with parents “opening the doors, allowing one of their litter to go feral.”

Like his first memoir, *The Names of the Stars* is infused with Fromm's exuberant passion for the natural world, his deep attention to the pulse and mystery that surrounds him. It's also seasoned with the wisdom and yearning of a devoted dad who realizes that his children have become “a whole new river sweeping me away.”

“An adventure worth savoring,” writes Kirkus Reviews.

– Kristi Niemeyer



Fish Line Rhymes (one read and you'll be hooked!)

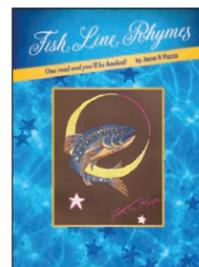
By Jayne R. Piazza

Award-winning Missoula artist Jayne Piazza pairs off-the-hook fish rhymes with glitzy paintings in her tribute to fish and their environs. From “Little Blues Boy Come Tuna Guitar,” to “Three (very cool) Blind Trout,” the author shares her affection for all things piscine.

The paintings were created by “bleaching,” a watercolor technique that employs bleach to pull color from a surface; the artist then added an assortment of pastel, sequins, glitter, or dimensional paint.

As for the rhymes, she reports: “No one was safe ... Late nights I could be found rewriting and calling fishermen, musicians, and ‘literati’ friends regarding inane details, all in the pursuit of the perfect rhyme and eventual art piece to accompany it.”

Piazza has been exhibiting professionally for more than 30 years. For more information on her new endeavor, visit www.jaynepiazza.com.



Montana Madams

By Nann Parrett

Even when viewed through the misty lens of history, the subject of prostitution tends to tickle people's preconceptions and prejudices. But as Montana author Nann Parrett says, “We have to work through our knee-jerk sentiments and get past them, because these women were complex. They had to be, given their circumstances.”

Parrett's book *Montana Madams*, explores those circumstances – and society's judgment of them – in great detail, profiling 23 madams who were “scared, brave, quiet, opinionated, smart as all get out, and often sorely lacking in judgment.”

“In a word,” she concludes, “they were human, and that's reflected in the messy lives they led.”

Parrett's insights were gained through painstaking research, and reveal intimate glimpses of the women's personal lives – their loves and losses – while also documenting their influence (often in surprising ways) on the communities they lived in. She also uncovered a number of previously unpublished historical photographs of madams in more candid moments.

Parrett is on the faculty at the University of Great Falls, and is married to author and professor Aaron Parrett.



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Poets & Writers Online

Poets & Writers Online is an extensive website, sponsored by *Poets & Writers Magazine*, that offers a variety of resources to writers, including a free online newsletter; and links to literary magazines, small presses, and grants and awards.

In addition to excerpts from the magazine, categories include Tools for Writers, Connect with Others, and Funding for Events.

Check it out at www.pw.org.

NATIVE NEWS



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Noted Native plains artists part of Western Art Week

As part of Western Art Week, March 16-19 in Great Falls, a group of noted Native American artists are exhibiting their work at the Great Western Living and Design Show at Montana ExpoPark.

The "Celebration of Native Plains Artists" features Terrance Guardipee, Sammi Jo Bird, Valentina LaPier, Ernest Marceau, Deborah Magee, Darrel Norman, William Sharp and Lyle Omeasoo, to name a few.

The Native American Community Development Corporation (NACDC) is sponsoring the event. "We felt participation in the Great Western Living and Design Show underscores our efforts to promote the dynamic and powerful work of Native American artists," said Angie Main, NACDC executive director. "So much of Charlie Russell's work is about Native American life and culture."

The exhibition, part of Western Art week in Great Falls since 2012, has become known as one of the finest western visual art festivals in the United States.

"The Great Western Show is proud to have NACDC and the 'Celebration of Native Plains Artists' join our community of artisans," said organizer Chuck Fulcher. "The passion and culture reflected in these works is inspiring."

For more information, visit www.thegreatwesternshow.com.

– Valerie Vies, Native News Editor

"Big Medicine Art": Good medicine for all

By Valerie Vies
Native News editor

A "contemporary" western artist living in a "traditional" western art world: How does that work? It works the only way it can, DG House-style.

If you step inside a Montana gallery or many galleries across the country and discover a painting of a blue bear returning a subtle smile, or a proud, purple mama moose with baby in tow, you are experiencing "Big Medicine Art," brought to you by DG House of Bozeman.

As a child, with a 35mm camera from her father in hand, House's passion for photography emerged, much like her love for animals, our universe, and the great earthy, outdoors surrounding her.

While pursuing higher education, House knew she would walk the road less traveled, if not create her own path. She became an artist and committed herself to action; dreams and passions of art became her reality.

"I can't be anything else and be happy," she says. "It is my calling."

Through perseverance, hard work and dedication, House has attracted collectors from all over the country seeking existing pieces while commissioning current works.

She is a storyteller, educator and keeper of Native arts, all of which are embodied by her contemporary style.

House's art is a reflection of who she is.



"On This Journey" by DG House

Her painting "On this Journey" will be

displayed at The Russell live auction this coming March in Great Falls. The prestigious event draws western art buyers and collectors from across the country and around the globe.

House is well known for participating in this premier event. This year, she will carry a heavy heart. The passing of her long-time fellow artist and confidant, Zach Babat, leaves an emptiness and ache for House. It will be

a challenge, but one she will overcome.



Artist DG House

Along with House's many acclaimed artistic and philanthropic accomplishments, there is still the occasional comment she hears: "Your art is too Native for our gallery." Whatever that may mean, it does not detour House's passion to educate, create and share her Native heritage around the world.

When she is not stroking paint on canvas, she is creating art either with a delectable feast or ensuring fairies have a home and a garden to call their very own.

When asked which artist, living or dead, would she most like to share a meal or canvas with, House paused, then said, "Jean-Michel Basquiat" – an American-born artist who lived in Brooklyn. "I want to sit in the

backroom of a Brooklyn deli and just visit about art. I want to understand his process and learn about what inspires him. I want to watch him physically work. I want to see the levels in which he creates his story."

Basquiat has passed. After viewing his works, I understand why House is drawn to his painting. Both artists hold a deep passion for giving voice to those who have no voice.

As 2017 nears, House will continue work at Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks along with the Eiteljorg Museum, to name a few of her pursuits. You can find more information about DG House at: www.dghouse.com or www.facebook.com/dghousestudio.

House is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Tribe of northeast Alabama.

"Emergence": Exhibit highlights Plains Indian art collective

By Kristi D. Scott,
Curator of Art, Paris Gibson Square

"Emergence: A Collective of Plains Indian Warrior Artists" is on display through April 8 at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls. The exhibit brings together an award-winning group of Native American artists from the Northern Plains: Robert Martinez, Lauren Monroe Jr., Louis Still Smoking, Ben Pease and John Pepion.

The objective of this exhibition, co-curated by Pepion (participating artist/Blackfeet tribal member) and Kristi Scott (Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art's curator), is to allow museum visitors to encounter powerful and diverse contemporary Native voices through a variety of mediums.

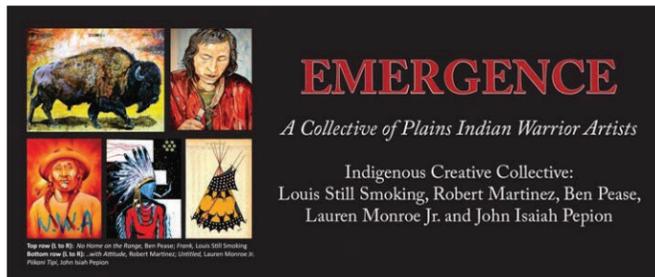
The unique exhibit was created by members of the newly formed Creative Indigenous Collective, featuring several young artists who each explore individual identity, collective culture, and contemporary Native American life through their work.

Robert Martinez lives in Riverton, WY, and grew up on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, experiencing Northern Arapaho, Chicano and Anglo culture, all of which shaped his life and thus his art.

"... Living in the West, I paint people I know – Native Americans, cowboys, trappers. I also paint people I admire – medicine men, priests, martial artists. I admire them for their dedication to their beliefs and their own ideals."

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian recently purchased a drawing by the award-winning artist for their permanent collection, and his work has been shown in the halls of Congress.

Lauren Monroe Jr.'s art embodies his cultural heritage as a member of the Blackfeet Nation and communicates aspects of his personal journey through life. Pikuni motifs and imagery appear in his acrylic paintings, as



well as scenes from Browning and the reservation, where he grew up. His work has been described as possessing "dreamlike qualities" that transcend time and communicate stories told through visual narratives.

Monroe is a working artist as well as a freelance film producer. "My work creates a dialogue and conversation between non-natives and natives to get an understanding and appreciation of cultures," he says.

Louis Still Smoking resides in Pierre, SD, and is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe in northern Montana. "My work is very specific in nature to my culture and my personal views of the world ...," he says. "The use of color and the use of my tribe's cultural imagery are very important in building a good painting."

Still Smoking Designs was created by Louis and his wife, Gina, in 2013 to remedy some of the misrepresentation of Native people in mainstream media. "We look at the fashion world as a blank canvas, and we use the authenticity of design, creation, and application through our own voices as Native people," he says.

Ben Pease, a young artist who is of both Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribal heritage, is currently a student at Montana State University studying studio art. He works in mixed-media, utilizing materials such as antique ledger paper and old photographs in addition to paint and ink. Pease participated in the 2016 Out West Show in Great Falls and the Yellowstone Art Museum's annual sale, and had a solo exhibition at the Emerson

Center Gallery in Bozeman.

"The primary reason I create art is to educate," he said.

John I. Pepion is a member of the Blackfeet Nation who graduated from Two Eagle River High School in Pablo, and was selected to visit the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe during his senior year. He enrolled in the Oscar Howe Art Institute in South Dakota.

Pepion started painting with watercolors in the Plains Indian ledger style in 2005. He begins each piece by illustrating ideas stemming from his personal life and cultural history and incorporates the colorful designs of the Blackfeet into his artwork.

Today, Pepion is a rising contemporary graphic artist whose powerful imagery represents aspects of culture that intrigue the viewer and tell a story.

The Creative Indigenous Collective and this special exhibition honor imagery that celebrates identity, culture, and contemporary indigenous art. As member Pepion states, "I think it's time to tell the world of our stories from our perspective and not by a textbook or movie. I hope we can educate the public and build better relationships with museums, galleries and art centers."

For information, call 406-727-8255 or visit www.the-square.org.

Have ideas for Native News stories?

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ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Karen Leigh, "Journey: A Painter's Life"
Through Jan. 21 at the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell
Artist's website: www.karenleight.com

The Hockaday Museum's retrospective of Karen Leigh's delicate transparent watercolors encompasses more than 40 years of painting. Her sketchbooks and painting memorabilia are also on display.

Although she has exhibited as part of many group exhibitions at the museum, this marks her first, long overdue, individual show.

Most of her works are done in transparent watercolor on paper – a medium she finds seductive because of its mystery, the delicate balance of freedom and control, and its luminous washes and layers of color.

Choosing subjects and materials that are traditional in nature and in application, Leigh says she is always on the lookout for "accidental magnificence," and often discovers beauty in unexpected places.

Leigh has been an adjunct professor at Flathead Valley Community College longer than any other professor to date. She has taught beginners as well as professionals in nearly every nook of the Flathead Valley and beyond.

"As a teacher as well as a painter, I owe much to the many masters of the medium with whom I have studied over the years and am honored to pass on that knowledge to my students," she says. "Becoming visually aware is, I think, the most important lesson of all."

The sketchbooks presented in this exhibit reflect the many places that Leigh has sketched around the world, from cafes and junkyards to Monet's gardens in Giverny, France, and the canals of Venice. She believes art journaling offers a powerful way to learn to see. When artists spend time drawing something, they slow down to observe color, light, pattern and the subtleties of their subject.

"I want to share what watercolor can do," she says. "The viewer should be reminded of their own experiences and what the painting says to them. I hope they find beauty, even in unexpected places!"

Steve Engle, New Paintings
Jan. 30-March 12 at the Myrna Loy Center's Jailhouse Gallery in Helena, with a reception 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 16
Artist's website: local-artists.org/users/steve-engle

Helena artist Steve Engle's new body of paintings reflects "my obsession with combining male and female bodies into androgynous figures." That passion has played a continuing role in the artist's paintings, drawings and sculptures for many years.

Engle was born and grew up in Hawaii. He traveled at a young age with his family throughout the South Pacific islands and to Australia. This early exposure to tribal art of different cultures "left a definite impression upon me and influenced my own art years later."

As an adult, he further explored the art of New Caledonia and Oceania in the South Pacific. The islanders' androgynous figure sculptures "both attracted and repelled me with their power and grotesqueness ... yet I keep returning to these images for inspiration."



"Nuts & Bolts, No. 2" by Karen Leigh

He earned a bachelor's of fine arts in sculpture from the Santa Barbara Art Institute in Santa Barbara, CA, a master of fine arts from Indiana University in Bloomington, and studied figure painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art.

Engle has a lengthy exhibition record, and his works are part of several major collections, including those of West One Bancorp, the Microsoft Corporation, the Washington State Arts Commission and the Seattle Arts Commission.

His career as a sculptor took a hit during the recession of 2008, and he eventually sold his woodworking equipment and moved from Oregon to Helena. Due to lack of tools and space, he began creating drawings and acrylic paintings, and discovered that he loved "the immediacy of the process."

Seven years later, he's developed a strong body of work that fuels his solo show at the Myrna Loy. He also participated in two group exhibitions in 2016: "Twenty Years of Hawai'i Art, Selections from the First Hawaiian Bank Collection" and "This Is Helena," the fourth annual exhibition at the Studio Art Center in Helena.

Paul Reevis, New Works in Oil
Through Feb. 4 at Four Winds Gallery in the Emerson Center, Bozeman

Artist's website: www.americanindianartistartgallery.com

Paul Reevis, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, comes from a lineage of Blackfeet cultural practitioners, and that heritage is reflected in his work. His artistic expressions combine representative western art, and American Indian conceptual art that conveys traditional and contemporary aspects of Native cultural mythology.

Reevis attended Blackfeet Community College in Browning, and continued his higher education at the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, NM, and at the San Francisco Art Institute in California. His book, *American Indian Artist, Firefighter at the turn of the New Millennium: A Memoir*, is illustrated with 24 of his original oil paintings that convey the nature of the modern American Indian experience.

In an interview that appeared in the *Glacier Reporter* when the book was published in 2013, Reevis said he began painting environmentally-themed works in the mid-1990s to address "the encroachment of the oil industry on the reservation, to rebut their attack and to protect the water." Those themes continue to resonate in his work.



Buffalo Dancer Series by Paul Reevis

Leslie Van Stavern Millar II
On view: "Montana Peepshow Stories," through Jan. 21 at the Missoula Art Museum

In print: *The First Queen Elizabeth Time-Travels to Montana*

Artist's website: leslievanstavernmillar.com

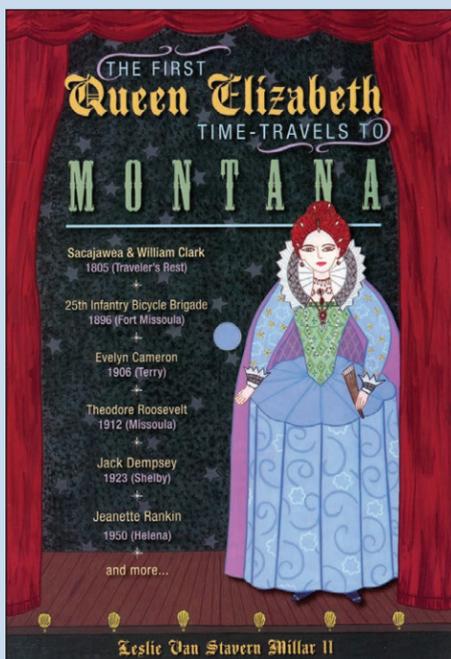
Queen Elizabeth I, the much-loved monarch who presided over England for 70 years (1533-1603), pops up, surprisingly, in Montana.

Sir Walter Raleigh looks on as the Queen first steps into Dr. Dee's time machine, which enables the ever-elegant monarch to serenely gaze at the state's unfolding history.

Who knew Queen Elizabeth could travel through time, or that she would be so fascinated with Montana? Missoula artist Leslie Van Stavern Millar II (aka Science Woman) elucidates the mystery in a series of 10 deceptively simple, blissfully elegant gouache paintings.

The first five were concocted in the mid-1990s for the Caravan Project, an eccentric crew of 14 artists who crisscrossed Montana with a mobile art show. Visitors first experienced the time-traveling monarch by viewing each painting through a peephole, mounted in a freestanding wooden box (the same approach used in the Missoula Art Museum's exhibit).

Look: she's greeting William Clark and Sacajawea at Traveler's Rest near Lolo in 1805, posing on the prairie for photographer Evelyn Cameron in 1906, sitting next to Charlie Russell in Shelby, watching the Jack Dempsey Prizefight of 1923, and dining with Jeannette Rankin at Helena's Broadwater Hotel in 1950.



The scenes, writes fellow Caravan artist René Westbrook, are "rich with detail and sumptuously described with pattern and precision to the specifications of a queen."

Millar's peepshows were a highlight of the 17-town tour, reports Westbrook, "with bottlenecked crowds lining up outside the tent at each venue to get a peek at the lovely paintings within."

Her exhibit at the Missoula Art Museum – and the accompanying book, *The First Queen Elizabeth Time-Travels to Montana* – continues the Queen's odyssey with five new paintings.

Elizabeth I joins the black soldiers in the 25th Infantry Bicycle Brigade as they depart Fort Missoula in 1896, headed for St. Louis, and impassively looks down from a balcony as Theodore Roosevelt makes a stump speech in downtown Missoula in 1912. She's on hand for the traditional Arlee powwow, and even takes time out to watch Missoula's Pet and Toy Parade on Pine Street.

The charming art book includes a brief autobiography of the artist titled "My Love Affair with Gouache," and 10 postcard-size images of the paintings in the exhibit, along with instructions for building a homemade "peepshow theater" out of a shoebox. A cut-out of Queen Elizabeth comes with the artful assemblage, "should you require and benefit from my royal presence ..." It's irresistible, really.

– Kristi Niemeyer



Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the three months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi and 500kb);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the April-June 2017 issue is March 1. Send submissions to Kristi@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.



MPAC Showcase and Conference Providing the state with a rich cultural experience

Seventeen professional performing artists will showcase samples of their work on Saturday, Jan. 28, in the Great Falls Civic Center's Mansfield Theater. Part of the 34th annual Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) regional booking conference, the showcases are free and open to the public.



This year's Showcase roster includes Twin Kennedy. (Photo by Suzanne Sagmeister)

These showcases offer an opportunity to sample a wide variety of media and entertainment from some of the finest performing artists in Montana and the across the continent.

Tom Webster, president of MPAC and a member of the organization since 1995, remains an ardent supporter of the organization. "I love MPAC for what it does for the state," providing audiences in rural communities with "a rich cultural experience."

Each November an MPAC jury selects 17 artists who must meet standards of excellence in their performances and marketing materials in order to participate in this showcase. Webster, director of the University of Montana's Dennison Theatre in Missoula,

typically serves on the committee.

"I run a theater, and I've worked with a lot of artists, from the Rolling Stones on down." That experience comes into play when selecting performing artists for a large rural

state like Montana. "I love the fact that we give people an opportunity to block book, so artists can go to Hobson, Eureka, Gardiner, Sidney ..."

MPAC is a statewide non-profit arts organization that brings professional artists to Montana communities and promotes education through the arts. Representatives from 20 community organizations in Montana and Idaho are expected to attend the conference and begin selecting artists for their performing arts series.

Over the years, Webster says, the showcase has attracted "really high-caliber performers" from across the nation. Montana artists have been well represented too, including Wylie and the Wild West, the Drum Brothers, the Cascade Quartet, Rob Quist, John Dunnigan and David Walburn.

His favorite part? "The showcase, the camaraderie between attendees, the after-hours artist jams, and we have a really great caterer, so the food is always good."

He also appreciates the hard work of MPAC director John Barsness. "He's a great organizer and a great individual – he's one of the reasons I've stayed so long."

The artist showcase and conference are made possible in part through a legislative grant from Montana's Cultural Trust, Montana Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts, and Western States Arts Federation.

Webster says the organization offers "a lot of bang for the buck. We really get the arts out to the communities."

Artists selected to showcase this year include: A Tribute to Segovia, Aerial Arts of Bozeman, Cascade Quartet, East-West International Project, Jack Gladstone, James Lee Stanley, Jason Ringenberg, Jet Black Pearl, John Roberts Y Pan Blanco, Lauren Sheehan, Mud Bay Jugglers, Take 5, Tien Hsieh, Trent Arterberry, Twin Kennedy, Valinor Quartet and West My Friend.

Doors open Jan. 28 at 8:45 a.m. and showcases for the first six artists begin promptly at 9 a.m. Following a lunch break, the next set of six artists performs at 12:30, and the final five artists take the stage beginning at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, go to www.mtperformingarts.org and click Conference and Showcase.

Humanities Montana awards more than \$50,000

Humanities Montana awarded \$51,578.50 to organizations and communities across Montana.

Recipients include:

- **Centennial Films in Bozeman**, \$8,000 to fund "Camp Poplar Canon," a documentary that follows a diverse group of people coming together to preserve the poplar canon.

- **Rocky Mountain College in Billings**, \$1,000 to fund two lectures, "Agricultural History of Hops and Craft Beer."

- **University of Montana Western Foundation in Dillon**, \$2,000 to fund "Voices from Montana's Rural Schools: An Oral History Project."

- **The History Museum in Great Falls**, \$4,000 to fund "Thunder Under the Big Sky – the Legacy of the Military in North Central Montana."

- **Carroll College in Helena**, \$4,408 for "Hope and Fear in the 21st Century," an interdisciplinary humanities conference.

- **The Montana Historical Society in Helena**, \$4,500 for the "Montana Brewery Oral History Project."

- **The Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture**, \$2,000 to digitize and print images from historical negatives.

Three of the grants went to out-of-state organizations to fund three film projects related to Montana.

Six honored with Governor's Humanities Awards

Six Montanans will be recognized during the Governor's Humanities Awards Ceremony, 3 p.m. Jan. 26 in the State Capitol Rotunda, Helena. Honorees are Chere Jiusto, Helena; John Murray, Browning; Hal and Sheila Stearns, Missoula; Karen Aspevig Stevenson, Miles City; and Dorothea (Dottie) Susag, Fairfield. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

"We are lucky to have such wonderful individuals across the state who ensure that Montanans have access to, and engage in, art, literature, and our unique cultural heritage," said Gov. Steve Bullock. "Congratulations to these awardees for devoting decades of their lives to supporting and promoting the humanities."

A banquet follows the ceremony, with no-host cocktails at 6 p.m. and a dinner and program at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Colonial Inn. Michael Punke, author of *The Revenant* and books on Butte and George Bird Grinnell, will serve as keynote speaker.

In 1995, Gov. Marc Racicot established the awards, which Humanities Montana presents, to honor achievement in humanities scholarship and service and enhancement of public appreciation for the humanities.

- **Chere Jiusto** advocates for preserving Montana's cultural and historic landscapes through serving as executive director of the Montana Preservation Alliance and leading programs on historic preservation throughout the state.

- **John Murray** has worked tirelessly to preserve and share traditional Pikuni culture through his role as the Blackfoot Nation's



Chere Jiusto



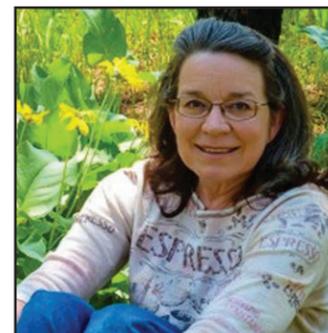
John Murray



Dorothea Susag



Sheila and Hal Stearns



Karen Aspevig Stevenson

tribal historic preservation officer.

- **Hal and Sheila Stearns** have taught, supported, and demonstrated the value of the humanities through their distinguished roles in Montana education. Hal has served as a teacher and public humanities presenter and Sheila served as the Montana Commissioner of Higher Education (and was recently named interim president of the University of Montana).

- **Karen Aspevig Stevenson** shares the

history of her home region, Miles City and surrounding communities, through authorship, advocacy, and bringing Evelyn Cameron to life in living history presentations.

- **Dorothea Susag** is an award-winning high school teacher who has been critical to successful implementation of the Indian Education for All initiative for Montana students.

For more information, visit humanities.montana.org or call 406-243-6022.

MONTANA POET LAUREATE



Night Visit

I'm awakened at 3 a.m. to the sound of an owl.
It takes me a minute to find my glasses.
I press my face to the window.
A silver flash crosses the yard.
It settles into an owl shape on a nearby post.
My nose and eyes are stinging.
A stinging behind my face.
Like some kind of problem behind a billboard.
Why would a man look at an owl and start to cry?
My body is trying to reject something.
I have no idea what that is.
The owl is sitting in the moonlight.
The yard is completely still.

– Michael Earl Craig from *Thin Kimono*

FILM CLIPS NEWS ABOUT MONTANA FILM

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival lights up Missoula

For 10 days each February the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival (BSDFF) lights up Missoula with an inspiring program of non-fiction films, special events, multimedia exhibits and educational programs. Now in its 14th year, the annual documentary film festival takes place Feb. 17-26, presenting more than 150 of the best nonfiction films from every corner of the globe.

The festival hosts hundreds of filmmakers and offers a variety of events at venues including The Wilma, the Roxy Theater, the Silver Theatre and the Elks Lodge.

In addition to screenings, BSDFF hosts the Big Sky DocShop, a five-day filmmakers' forum that includes panels, workshops, and the popular Big Sky Pitch for works in progress. The 2017 DocShop focuses on the many aspects of short film: conceiving, funding, producing and distributing.

With changes in technology and how we consume media, short films have reached an unprecedented number of viewers and are affecting culture and inciting change at viral speed. This year's DocShop will include panels and workshops with Vice, ITVS, The Atlantic, ESPN, Film Collaborative, *New*

York Times Op-Docs, and the Tribeca Film Institute, among other industry experts, as well as master classes with the 2017 BSDFF retrospective artists.

Each year BSDFF presents retrospective programming spotlighting the body of work of celebrated and accomplished filmmakers. This year, the festival has invited Academy Award-winning filmmaker Daniel Junge. His work includes "They Killed Sister Dorothy," a SXSW grand jury and audience award-winner, and "Saving Face," the 2012 winner of the Oscar for Best Documentary Short.

In the most expansive retrospective program ever done at Big Sky, the festival will also welcome Montreal-based EyeSteelFilm



headed by founder Daniel Cross. This film collective originated through making films with the homeless community using engaged cinéma-vérité and interactivity for empowerment and change.

EyeSteelFilm has branched out to make films on diverse, compelling topics around the globe and is home to a community of committed documentary filmmakers, several of whom will attend.

Opening night on Friday, Feb. 17, includes a free screening at The Wilma, in partnership with HBO, of "Bright Lights" starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds. This intimate portrait of Hollywood royalty, in all its eccentricity, sets the stage for a compelling festival and storytelling adventure.

Official selections and the festival schedule will be announced mid-January, and DocShop registration opens in late January. For more information visit www.bigskyfilmfest.org.



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Polson hosts fifth annual FLIC film festival

The Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) is unspooling its fifth annual winter film festival Jan. 20-22 at the Showboat Cinema on Main Street in Polson.

FLIC has been recognized as one of the top 15 Winter Film Festivals in the United States by the Audience Awards.

"We're excited to bring a diverse slate of 61 independent films to Polson and the Mission Valley for the fifth year in a row," said David W. King, FLIC co-chair and producer. "Each year brings with it new cinematic treasures."

FLIC 2017 will screen full-length features, shorts, animated films, and documentaries. True to its name, the festival is once again offering a broad selection of international films from countries that include Australia, Canada, Spain, Taiwan, Croatia, France, and the U.S. In addition, there are 14 films produced in Montana – more than in any previous year.

FLIC kicks off on Friday, Jan. 20, with an informal gathering 4-7 p.m. at the Lake Bar on Highway 93. Film showings on two



Gavin McClurg filmed the breathtaking documentary, "North of Known," in Alaska.

screens begin at 7 p.m. and continue through the weekend.

Saturday morning begins at 8:30 a.m. with a FLIC's popular free family-movie screening. This year's film is "Home," featuring an alien on the run from his own people who makes friends with a girl and tries to help her on her quest. Attendees are encouraged to arrive in their pajamas and enjoy a free breakfast sponsored by Polson's Rotary Club.

Saturday also brings a break in film showings from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. for a gathering at the Vine and Tap on Main Street. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres are served at both evening events.

The festival closes on Sunday with a "Best Of" awards show. As with previous years, many of FLIC's screenings will include Q&A sessions with filmmakers.

This year's standout films include "North of Known," a feature documentary in which professional paragliders and adventurers Gavin McClurg and Dave Turner attempt a full, unsupported traverse of the Alaska Range by foot and paraglider; and "The Walk," produced by Polson's Jim Ereaux, which profiles a coast-to-coast walk across northern England with images and poetry. Narrative stories are also bountiful, including "Life Now, Life Then," another Montana feature. The weekend is packed with a broad array of short films, too.

For more information, visit www.flicpolson.com or find the festival on Facebook.

"The Violin Alone" premieres in Bozeman

The unlikely pairing of two modern visionaries, Vilmos Oláh, a Hungarian violin virtuoso, and Eric Funk, a contemporary classical composer from the heart of Montana, has resulted in a new piece of music unlike anything written before – and a documentary that explores their collaboration.

"The Violin Alone," Scott Sterling's extraordinary documentary film portrait of this revolutionary work, has its world premiere at 7 p.m. Jan. 4 at the Ellen Theatre in Bozeman, followed by its broadcast premiere, 8 p.m. Jan. 9 on MontanaPBS. The film will also be shown during the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest, Jan. 20-22 in Polson.

"Vili: Concerto for Violin Alone" is an extreme concerto that pushes the boundaries of music and our notion of the possible. Oláh must play the solo and orchestra parts simultaneously, emulating flutes, oboes, clarinet, and timpani, and moving his bow towards the bridge in an exact position to capture crisp brass punch of a trumpet fanfare. He must navigate idiomatic techniques that composer Eric Funk considered theoretically possible, but probably impossible.

In the third movement, his right hand is bowing the solo part while his left-hand ring finger is playing pizzicato to form the pulsing

rhythmic accompaniment.

Funk first heard Oláh play in a recital in Bozeman, where he discovered the artist's virtuosity, timbral range and idiomatic technique. "This man is an orchestra all by himself," says Funk.

That recital became the inspiration for the composer to write a concerto for the violin alone, specifically for Oláh.

Creating a whole new vision of what the 21st century classical concerto might become, this new composition forecasts the emergence of a "new music genome." According to Funk, the potential impacts are comparable in spirit to the once-deemed unplayable violin masterworks of late 18th century composer Niccolò Paganini. Today, Paganini's compositions are standard repertoire for professional players worldwide.

This brave, new solo violin concerto is a reflection of the violinist, the composer, and the unquenchable human spirit of Eastern Europe, who continue to reveal a richness of feeling, a wealth of soul, and indelible spirit.

It is this powerful force that Funk captures in a work that requires courage, perseverance, and phenomenal technical skill, creating a vehicle where one man alone can stand as a collective.

Emmy Award-winning MontanaPBS senior producer Sterling produced and directed "The Violin Alone." His work includes directing and producing 12 seasons of MontanaPBS's acclaimed music series, "11th & Grant with Eric Funk," and award-winning documentaries such as "Fort Peck Dam." He has also contributed his skills as colorist and finishing editor to notable MontanaPBS films such as "Indian Relay," "Finding Traction," "Class C: The Only Game in Town," "Wolves in Paradise," and "Bard in the Backcountry."

Sterling led a team of award-winning filmmakers to Budapest to capture the unusual collaboration between the Hungarian virtuoso and Montana composer, and has spent the last four years crafting a unique story that will resonate with music aficionados and anyone that appreciates artistic endeavor.

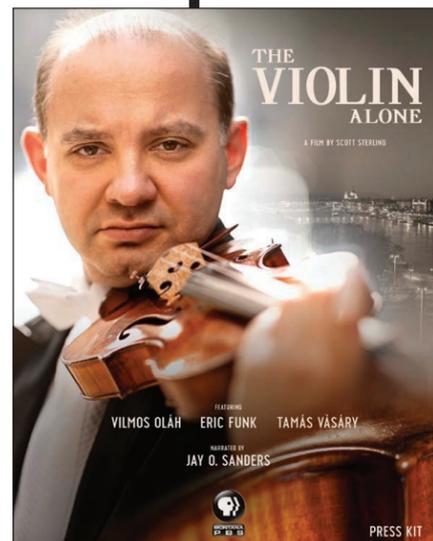
For more information, visit www.montanapbs.org.

Smith brothers' new film debuts at Sundance

Well-known Missoula filmmakers Alex Smith and Andrew Smith are headed for Utah, where their new film, "Walking Out," has been selected for the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

MAC's Cinda Holt recalls, "When I was the managing director at the Sundance Institute in the '80s, I remember bringing Alex and Andrew in on the production crew at the summer filmmakers' laboratory when they were just 16! (Annick, their mom, vouched for them.) They participated as volunteers for years, soaking up all the great filmmaking ideas swirling around them. It is wonderful now to see their own talent come through in the excellent films they have made, including 'The Slaughter Rule,' 'Winter in the Blood' and now 'Walking Out.'"

This year's festival is Jan. 19-29 in Park City.





Vienna International Ballet Experience returns to Missoula

The Vienna International Ballet Experience, USA returns to Missoula Jan. 10-14. "The State of the Heart" is the theme of the five-day international dance challenge, diplomacy conference and film festival. Legendary ballet icons will join a host of rising international stars both as part of the renowned jury and on-stage as competitors.

All events are free to the public with the exception of the final VIBE USA Gala, held Jan. 14 at The Wilma.

"This year's theme highlights the important role of dance and the arts in building cultural connections and tearing down walls that keep humanity from collaborating for the common good," said Charlene Campbell Carey, VIBE USA executive director and artistic director of the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre. "We are proud to be partnering with educators throughout the Missoula Public Schools and at the University of Montana in providing a world-class cultural experience for students, free of charge thanks to our sponsors."

Last year's inaugural event in Missoula attracted more than 500 participants. This year's event promises more jury members, more workshops and categories.

For more details, visit www.rmbt.org/vibe-usa/.

Winter brings flurry of art auctions across state

Winter brings a flurry of art auctions to Montana. Here's our roundup of exhibits and events, guaranteed to warm artists and art lovers across the state:

Emerson Center for Arts and Culture, Bozeman: Celebration of the Arts, Jan. 27 in the Emerson Ballroom. The second annual exhibit, a juried collection of original art donated by local and regional artists in support of the Emerson, is on display through the "Warmth in Tuscany" event, with silent bidding available (406-587-9797 or www.emerson.org).

Missoula Art Museum: 45th Benefit Art Auction, 5 p.m. Feb. 4 at the University Center Ballroom. Get a sneak peek at more than 80 artworks donated to the auction by prominent local and regional artists during the Exhibition Preview, which opens 5-8 p.m. Jan. 6 at the museum (406-728-0447 or missoulaartmuseum.org).

Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings: Chill at the museum for Art Auction 49. Preview auction works and meet artists during the reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 19; the opening event offers the first glimpse of artwork selections from 141 artists from across the nation, including more than 100 Montanans. The reception includes live music, hors d'oeuvres and free admission for members. The exhibit



Yellowstone Art Museum Auction 49: "Butte Bar Blues" by Tom Foolery

continues through the auction on March 4, which consists of silent and live auctions, a Quick Draw, cocktails, and gourmet hors d'oeuvres.

The theme for YAM's most significant fundraising event is "icy," with a chill environment, cold cocktails, and cool artwork (406-256-6804 or artmuseum.org).

Western Art Week, March 15-19 in Great Falls: Experience the art, from oil, watercolor and sculpture in the classic style to modern contemporary interpretations; interact with artists in their showrooms and witness

them create custom works at several quick draw events; or cast your bid during live auctions.

Here's a partial list:

• **The Russell Exhibition and Sale**, March 16-18 (cmrussell.org/the-russell-event or 406-727-8787).

• **The Great Western Living and Design Exposition**, March 16-19, Four Season Arena, Montana ExpoPark (406-761-0288 or www.thegreatwesternshow.com).

• **March in Montana Dealer Show and Auction**, March 16-18, Elks Lodge (307-635-0019 or marchinmontana.com)

• **The Out West Art Show**, March 15-18, Best Western Heritage Plus Inn (outwestartshow.com)

• **Western Heritage Artists (WHA)**, March 17-19, Holiday Inn (westernheritageartshow.com).

• **Wild Bunch Art Show**, March 15-18, Hampton Inn (406-842-5266).

Missouri Falls Fine Arts Show and Sale, March 16-19, History Museum (www.westernartweek.com).

Montana Watercolor Society Members' Art-Rageous Sale, March 17-19, La Quinta Inn and Suites (www.montanawatercolor.society.org).

For an overview, visit www.westernartweek.com.

Hi-Line Arts Trail takes shape with Our Town grant

Deadline for applications is Jan. 15

In 2015, Opportunity Link of Havre, in partnership with Art Spot Education in Malta, received a \$100,000 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for a creative placemaking project to support vibrant rural and tribal communities in north-central Montana with performing and visual arts.

The project, called the Hi-Line Arts Trail, will consist of three to six arts installations across the region. These installations may include performing, visual, episodic, temporary, permanent, and other types of arts and events. The project is intended to promote western and Native American arts, both traditional and contemporary, across 11 rural

counties and three Indian reservations. The art trail will serve an estimated 150,000 regional residents and tourists over 31,000 square miles.

The project brings together artists, government officials, and residents to identify arts assets and public art opportunities; establish a network and business support for artists; create a mobile app to help visitors locate art; and boost art education. Public art will also be commissioned and installed. As part of the program, Opportunity Link and Art Spot Education will promote the arts as a defining characteristic of the region.

Several communities have already formed exploratory groups to assist in asset mapping

and submit installation/event applications. Artists are encouraged to work with their communities to submit applications that meet the needs of the community.

Deadline for applications for the arts installations is Jan. 15. Applications and more information are available at the Opportunity Link and Art Spot Education websites: opportunitylinkmt.org and www.artspoteducation.org.

To learn more about participating, contact Rosie Goldich (rgoldich@opportunitylinkmt.org) or Andi Daniel (adaniel@opportunitylinkmt.org) at Opportunity Link, 406-265-3699; or Kathy Bagley (artspoteducation@gmail.com) at Art Spot, 406-654-1523.

Strategic Investment Grant awards FY2016

The Montana Arts Council Strategic Investment Grants provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds to artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations and preschool-grade 12 teachers in Montana for:

- Professional Development: Grants to help build individual art skills and knowledge, arts careers and/or arts businesses.
- Market Expansion: Grants to help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition,

performance and/or sales to a wider or new audience.

- Public Outreach Arts Activities: Grants for ongoing or one-time arts activities by arts organizations and/or artists that are designed to reach a new or expanded audience.
- Challenges and Emergencies: Grants to provide resources for artists or arts organizations experiencing challenges or emergencies that impede their ability to continue their work.

Organization/Individual	Title	Town	Award
Shelley Freese	"Picture This-Illustrating a Story" with Jim Hoover, Viking Children's Books	Miles City	\$523
Chau Nguyen	2016 Metal Smithing Professional Skill Building	Livingston	\$1,000
Megan Fiore	Ms. Fiore Goes to NCECA	Missoula	\$912
Jessie Sherman	Piloting the Flathead Children and Youth Theatre Summer Intensive	Bozeman	\$1,000
Montana Flute Association	Montana Flute Festival 2016	Great Falls	\$1,000
Kootenai Heritage Council	A Week with Norman Foote	Libby	\$1,000
Stevensville Playhouse	"Treasure Island" Production	Stevensville	\$1,000
Sukha Worob	Rocky Mountain Printmaking Alliance Symposium	Bozeman	\$534
Sherry Oster	Gumbo Lily Computer Purchase	Miles City	\$1,000
George Bumann	Adirondack Interpretive Center Artist in Residence	Gardiner	\$1,000
Russell Rowland	Fifty-Six Counties: A Montana Journey	Billings	\$1,000
Electric Peak Arts Council	Old Time Music and Dance Workshop	Gardiner	\$825
Joan Libsack	Valley Voices Community Choir performing at Carnegie Hall	Kila	\$1,000
Sanders County Arts Council	Guy Mendilow Ensemble Performance	Plains	\$1,000
Robert Schlenker	Art Display Panel Purchase	Bozeman	\$1,000
Sylvan Walden	Mohair Cinch-Making Workshop	Fort Peck	\$1,000
Dana Zier	Heart of the West Bozeman Show	Bridger	\$955
International Choral Festival	Digital Marketing	Missoula	\$920
Laurel Wall-MacLane	Mountain Dance Fest	Missoula	\$1,000
Peter Zalewski	Pete's Prints Market Debut	Missoula	\$1,000
Leslie Millar	Booklet for Montana Peepshow Stories Series	Missoula	\$1,000
Montana Book Festival	Montana Book Festival	Missoula	\$1,000
Denise Pfau	Columbia Basin Basketry Guild 2016 Fall Retreat - "Baskets. Naturally"	Lolo	\$1,000
Shawn Rasch	Barbershop Harmony Society: "Harmony University 2016"	Billings	\$1,000
James Weikert	Market Expansion for James Weikert Original Art	Bozeman	\$712
Corine Richardson	Running Against The Tide	Bozeman	\$1,000
Bob Packwood	Bob Packwood solo CD project	Helena	\$1,000
MontanaState Music Teachers Assoc	2016 MSMTA Conference	Great Falls	\$1,000
Alan McNiel	"Under Western Skies" - travel expense for solo museum exhibition	Troy	\$857
art by christy lynn greene	Silk Painters International Festival and Workshop	Clinton	\$713
Tim Nordstrom	Montana Tunesmith 3	Red Lodge	\$1,000
Patrick Hoff	NCECA Program Presenter	Bozeman	\$656
Light Bloomer Studios/Anne KM Ross	S.L.A.M. Winter Showcase	Bozeman	\$1,000

LAW AND THE ART WORLD

How long does your copyright last?

By Bill Frazier ©2016

Artists often ask how long a copyright lasts. Under the current law, the Copyright Act of 1976 and the Sonny Bono Copyright Extension Act of 1998, an artist's copyright lasts for his lifetime plus 70 years. This part of the answer is easy, but the lifetime of copyrights before 1976 can be complicated and very difficult to research.

There are two dates and rules we can rely on. Generally, under the earlier 1909 copyright law, in effect until the Copyright Act of 1976 went into effect in 1978, copyright protection was lost permanently if the artist omitted his copyright notice from the first authorized publication of the work, or if it was applied incorrectly. "Incorrectly" was subject to court interpretation.

Secondly, the copyright on any work published or copyrighted before Jan. 1, 1923, has expired under the law, and such artwork has fallen into the public domain in the United States. As to everything else, it's complicated.

Research into old copyrights is difficult and results are not always conclusive. For example, the Copyright Office online catalog of registrations begins about 1978. For searches of registrations before 1978, there must be a physical search of records by the individual, a hired research service, or by the Copyright Office for a fee – none of which are absolute. Here's why:

- The Copyright Office does not catalog by subject or genre, only by artist name, and does not specify what may be in the public domain.
- The Copyright Office does not make comparisons or judgments regarding infringement.
- The Copyright Office will not give a legal opinion, nor an opinion about the legal significance of information discovered in a copyright search.

Remember that titles and names of works of art and literature are not protected by copyright, so many different works could be cataloged under the same or similar names from different artists or authors, with the result that any research may be indeterminate. Also complicating matters is the practice of artists registering something with a different title or as part of a portfolio or a larger work with another entirely different name.

Keep in mind that there is no requirement that copyrighted work even be registered. Further, under the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA), copyright protection for certain foreign works for which copyright had expired was restored. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (NAFTA), copyright protection was restored to certain Canadian and Mexican works for which copyright protection had expired, but not to similar American work. These were works that had entered the public domain, but now are once again protected.

With the above in mind, here are some general, but by no means exhaustive conclusions:

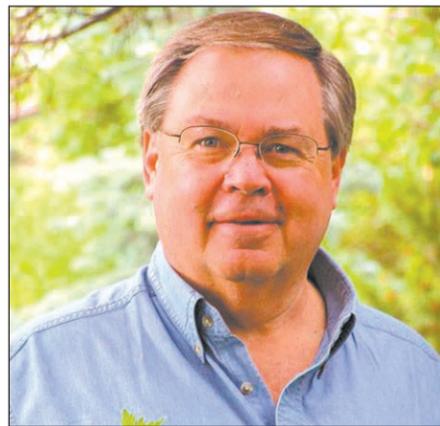
For work first published before 1978, the absence of a copyright notice from published copies generally indicated that the work was not protected by copyright. For work first published before March 1, 1989, the notice was required, but could be added by registering the work with the Copyright Office or by adding the notice to copies published in the United States within the next five years after discovering the omission. After March 1, 1989, notice was optional.

Due to the ratification of the Berne Convention Implementation Act of 1988 (copyright treaty), notice and other formalities were not required on works created or published after March 1, 1989.

Works of art first published before Jan. 1, 1978, and copyrighted after Jan. 1, 1923, may still be protected by copyright in the United States if a valid renewal registration was made during the 28th year of the original term of copyright. **If there was such a renewal**, then under the terms of the Copyright Renewal Act of 1992, the total term of copyright protection would be 95 years. (Example: copyright registration 1930 plus 95 years affords protection until 2025).

If a work was first copyrighted or published between Jan. 1, 1923, and Dec. 31, 1949, it is important to determine, if possible, whether it was renewed in the 28th year. If not, the copyright expired at the end of the 28th year, and the work is thus in the public domain.

If a renewal registration was completed, and it was still in its renewal period on Dec. 31, 1977, the copyright would have been extended for a total of 95 years from the date



Bill Frazier

of the first registration. (Example, copyright registration 1930 plus 95 years, protection continues until 2025).

If a work, first published or copyrighted between Jan. 1, 1950, and Dec. 31, 1963, was in its first 28th-year period of registration on Jan. 1, 1978, it could have been renewed for a total of 95 years protection extending from the date of its first registration. If not renewed, the registration and copyright protection expired at the end of 28 years. (Example, copyright registration 1960 plus 95 years, protection until 2055).

For work first published or copyrighted between Jan. 1, 1964, and Dec. 31, 1977, and still in its first 28th-year period of registration on June 26, 1992, renewal was not necessary, and the law automatically extended the period of protection for a total of 95 years from the date of first registration. (Example, copyright 1970 plus 95 years, protection until 2065).

As noted above, the copyright law dealing with length of copyright protection is complex, research on copyrighted works of art is complicated, and proof can be problematic. For further information I refer you to the Copyright Office website, www.copyright.gov, and specifically Copyright Circulars 15A and 22, which can be read or downloaded. These laws and regulations change from time to time, so be alert to periodic changes.

Bill Frazier served a lengthy and invaluable tenure as chairman of the Montana Arts Council. He can be reached at artlaw@itstriangle.com. MAC thanks Art of the West for permission to reprint this series.



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For tax season: Remember charitable deductions

As tax filing season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers who give money or goods to a charity by Dec. 31, 2016, that they may be able to claim a deduction on their 2016 federal income tax return and reduce their taxes.

Only donations to eligible organizations are tax-deductible. IRS Select Check on IRS.gov is a searchable online tool that lists most eligible charitable organizations.

A few considerations:

- Only taxpayers who itemize using Form 1040 Schedule A can claim deductions for charitable contributions. Charitable deductions are not available to individuals who choose the standard deduction or file Form 1040A or 1040EZ.

- A bank record or a written statement from the charity is needed to prove the amount of any donation of money. For payroll deductions, the taxpayer should retain a pay stub, a Form W-2 wage statement or other document furnished by the employer showing the total amount withheld for charity, along with the pledge card showing the name of the charity.

- For donations of goods the deduction amount is normally limited to the item's fair market value. Donors must get a written acknowledgement from the charity for all gifts worth \$250 or more.

Tech Talk: Too good to be true? It's probably fake

By Mark Ratledge

There's an old saying that goes "never let the truth get in the way of a good story." I used to think that was true during every election season and hunting season. But now, since "post-truth" was the 2016 word of the year at Oxford Dictionaries, we have to be careful about everything we read and believe on the web year around.

Back before the internet (yes, I'm that old), we learned our own methods of critical reading, maybe from laughing at the photographs of aliens on the front pages of the "newspapers" in the checkout line of the grocery store. The Facebook of the time was the local bar or cafe, and all news was hardcopy.

Now, we all Share and Like and may over-share in order to network online, and we can click and send something without thinking.

How do we tell what's fake? If it's too good or too weird to be true, it probably isn't true. That's always been the case. But people mostly need to practice good judgment, which is always a good thing on the internet, because with fake news and scams and phishing and malware, it's still the Wild West.

There is a great website – Snopes.com – that comes to the rescue in this brave new world of fake news. Snopes covers the complicated stories behind hundreds of "urban legends" and rumors from politics, movies, religion, and more. And they reveal the facts with extensive research and a seriously good reputation developed over 20 years.

When I wrote this column, the top story was titled "Justin Trudeau Is Fidel Castro's Love Child,"

but other stories were serious, concerning gerrymandering of congressional districts, Standing Rock and the 25th Amendment.

Snopes has sections called the 25 Hottest Urban Legends, a "Send a Rumor" link, a glossary, a 20-year archive and a forum for breaking stories and discussions.

David and Barbara Mikkelsen – the people behind Snopes.com – have an extensive "About Us" section that describes their work and their backgrounds. They've both been vetted by the major news organizations as well as



Mark Ratledge is a WordPress consultant. Check his website at markratledge.com.

journalists and folklorists.

They even have had to debunk myths about themselves (no surprise) and their funding: they have always been "a completely independent, self-sufficient entity wholly owned by its operators and funded through advertising revenues." And they both have no political affiliations other than voting.

Snopes is particularly busy these days dealing with fake news. And

yes, Snopes is on Facebook. Snopes has even handled stories about fake news on Facebook, and fake news about Facebook itself, too.

One can spend hours on Snopes reading about the elements of the truth that are mixed in with the tall tales and fake news. And if you search for "Montana," you'll find 50 or so rumor results ranging from guns and wildfires, to beef, bars, and Hannah Montana. You'll also find the facts behind those rumors.

MONTANA ARTREPRENEURS

MAP Artists' Gathering: The faces of joy

By Sheri Jarvis

Montana Artrepreneur Program Director

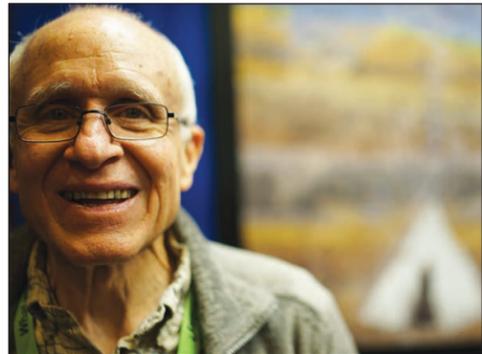
At this year's Celebrate Montana Art/Montana Artists' Gathering, Montana's Artrepreneurs realized, once again, the power of community and the value of the MAP network. The event, held Nov. 10-13, drew 67 artists to the Radisson Colonial Hotel and Conference Center in our state's capital. The Gathering is comprised of a festive exhibition and sale and professional development workshops, featuring four days of welcomed time for MAP artists to bond over topics and ideas that affect and inspire them.

As Peter Block says in his book, *Community, The Structure of Belonging*, "The future is created one room at a time, one gathering at a time. Each gathering needs to become an example of the future we want to create."

MAP artists exhibit the generosity, kindness, and collaborative spirit that can create a fundamental shift in the way we do business. Their stories are stories of bravery and exploration, contemplation and thoughtful review, humor and satire (when the world deserves it). Together, in these places where MAP artists gather, we see the possibilities for a better world.



Anne Ross, Painting, Bozeman



Joel Bowers, Digital Art, Billings



NJ Anders, Painting, Bozeman



Youpa Stein, Mixed Media, Missoula



Amber Blazina, Painting, Bozeman



Kim Erickson, Photography, Ismay



Lori Blaylock, Jewelry, Billings



Vida Landa, Painting, Miles City

Photos by Charles Perry, Neema Films

MONTANA'S CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS

Belgrade luthier Daniel Roberts joins MCAM

By Sheri Jarvis

Montana Artrepreneur Program Director

The Montana Arts Council recently welcomed the newest member of Montana's Circle of American Masters, luthier Daniel E. Roberts of Belgrade.

Artist and musician Michael Blessing nominated Roberts and his work was reviewed and evaluated by Bruce Craig, a Helena musician. The Montana Arts Council confirmed his membership during its June meeting in Havre.

"Dan is a true craftsman and an artist," wrote Craig. "Dan's guitars and octave mandolins are truly the finest instruments that can be had."

Craig notes that each one is made from carefully chosen tone woods from around the world, and is custom built for the buyer.

"They have a superb tonal quality that only comes from Dan's relentless pursuit of perfection in design, materials, and craftsmanship. Each is a one-of-a-kind piece of art, and



Luthier Daniel Roberts tests one of his handcrafted instruments.

destined to be played and enjoyed for perhaps centuries."

In the early '70s, Roberts was among a small group at the leading edge of craftsmanship, mostly distinguished not by their specific genius but by their ability to believe

in the impossible. He worked with leaders and mentors such as Steve Carlson at Flat-iron Banjo and Mandolin Company and Richard Hoover at the Santa Cruz Guitar Company.

Now, as an independent luthier, he utilizes the skills in instrument making that are a family legacy to build his own instruments and to do high-end restoration and repair on venerable vintage instruments as well.

Over the years he has developed a unique direction and aesthetic about building. He uses woods chosen first for tonal excellence and then for their own unique aesthetic, building instruments aurally and dynamically tailored to the musician's needs. He does this by understanding each musician's playing style, tonal range and preferences, and creating an instrument with the combination of sensitivity, responsiveness, power, dynamic range and clarity to offer growth and inspiration for his client.

(Continued on next page)



Montana Arts Council grants, awards & commissions

Visit the Montana Arts Council's website for a complete listing of grants, awards and commissions:

Individuals: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#individuals

Organizations: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#orgs

Schools: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#schools

Programs and Services: art.mt.gov/programs_services_home

PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS

The Three Rs at work in Montana

Public Value Partnership grants between Montana nonprofit arts organizations and the Montana Arts Council champion the fact that the arts are of benefit to all the citizens of Montana and are worthy of state and federal investment.

Public Value Partnerships utilize three tools we call “The Three Rs” to expand the public value of the work being done by Montana’s non-profit arts organizations:

- Building relationships;
- Creating greater relevance and meaning; and
- Establishing return on investment (measured both as economic vitality and impact on people’s lives).

MAC believes that using “The Three Rs” strengthens participation, understanding and support from audiences, donors and funders. We’d like to share some of the best examples of these stories with you from 2016:

Building Relationships

Butte Symphony Association: Executive Director Mark Hayden reports: “Throughout our concert season, I personally made an effort to greet everyone who attended our concerts. For the one hour prior to show time I would stand in the lobby of the Mother Lode Theatre and greet everyone who entered the door.



Butte Symphony Association: Personal efforts pay off.

I wanted to make the effort get to know our concertgoers and to be able to answer any questions they may have about the symphony or the concert.

Butte is a small community and it is important to provide a warm and welcoming reception to new and returning concertgoers. Since we also handle our own box office I have an opportunity to mail out tickets to each individual and insert notes and thank them for their patronage with each letter.

I am also the only one in the office so I am able to answer each phone call personally whether it is for tickets or other questions. These techniques have really helped to build the community aspect of the Butte Symphony.

Creating Relevance

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls: The Square built quality partnerships that deserve highlighting this year, including our home-school art program, Arts on Fire, Sony PlayStation and our artist dinners.

The Square’s education director worked this last year to build an ongoing education curriculum for the local home-school association. Parents and students come to the Square, typically monthly, and are involved in

art classes that are designed to compliment the current exhibits. This opportunity came out of our annual Arts on Fire weekend festival where the community is invited to attend hands-on demonstrations that are free to sample a variety of art and media.

Another successful event that created relevance and connection occurred last August when Sony PlayStation came to Great Falls. For the year prior, the Square had partnered with Josh and Trevor Hughes to offer a game-design class to elementary and middle school students. These kiddos entered a contest online to win a visit from the Sony team who would bring a 24-foot trailer equipped with the latest technology and games. Our students won this competition and Sony came to Great Falls.

The event and the class were featured in all of the local media. Sony additionally produced a YouTube video titled “Our Road to Greatness.” This video was even shown at a national conference on a big screen in Las Vegas. It currently has been viewed

more than 32,000 times, promoting Paris Gibson Square and the students in our education program.

Last, but not least, are the artist dinners that the Square has hosted, pairing dinner with an artist and their exhibit. Tickets are sold and the artist presents a lecture. This is in addition to the free-of-charge receptions that introduce new exhibits.

Return on Investment

Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Inc.: Support and funding from the Montana Arts Council is especially important for rural areas like Fort Peck and crucial to the continued



Paris Gibson Square: Artist dinners pair dinner and art.

existence of the performing and visual arts, the health of the local economy and the availability and accessibility of the arts to all of the citizens of the state.

The arts have a significant economic impact in Montana. The Fort Peck Summer Theatre experienced a successful 46th season in 2015 of bringing visual arts to Northeastern Montana and we look forward to even more growth ahead.

The arts drive tourism and stimulate business development in cities and rural areas. Montana’s strong cultural community attracts good business people and serves as a recruiting draw. Fort Peck Lake was ranked the third most-traveled-to recreation destination in the state and the theatre is a main catalyst for increased tourism within the region.

Government support of the arts stabilizes the arts community and ensures that the arts are accessible for all income levels and segments of the population. Continuing to support the arts in Montana is crucial to cultural and economic gains.

The Montana Arts Council’s Public Value Partnership (PVP) grant is one such important funding source that has continued to impact arts and culture in northeastern Montana as well as the entire state.

The Fort Peck Summer Theatre was able to build an entirely new additional space for a rehearsal and costume shop due to the PVP as we applied the entirety of the funds towards this project as a portion of the match for larger grants including: Murdock Trust, \$124,000; Treacy Foundation, \$50,000; Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), \$5,000; and Valley County Community Foundation (VCCF), \$1,000.

This new structure provides increased opportunities to our company members as well as camp counselors and participants season after season. With adequate facilities we are better able to focus on our mission of providing exceptional and professional theatre to locals and visitors.

We rely on and appreciate the ongoing support of the arts council as this new building was a \$250,000 project that would not have been possible without matching funds being provided. All dollars spent on this project were spent locally ensuring economic prosperity for local contractors and building supply companies as we are committed to supporting local business.



Fort Peck Fine Arts Council: Arts drive tourism in rural area.

Belgrade luthier Daniel Roberts (from previous page)

He tries to introduce more of a violin aesthetic into the building of guitars, leaving the natural beauty of the materials to dictate the direction, and creating a simple yet elegant aesthetic of superior tonal function and playability.

Roberts shares his craft both regionally and internationally. He has taught a mandolin-building class at the Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Festival (Rockygrass) in Lyons, CO, for 20 years. He is one of two “Chief” teachers and has helped make the experience one of the most-appreciated classes of its kind in the U.S.

About MCAM

Induction into Montana’s Circle of the American Masters is complex and includes rigorous review within a tiered system to ensure program credibility. Members must create works in depth and brilliance that deepen our awareness of the rich and diverse cultural and artistic traditions of the people of Montana.

In addition to mastering artistic excellence, they must actively participate in their art form, as a practitioner, a mentor or teacher, in order to promote public awareness of, and about, their craft. They must also act as models for excellence and conduits for process and inspi-

ration, influencing other generations of artists.

MCAM artists can be nominated by anyone in Montana through a multi-step process beginning with a careful review of the criteria and consultation with program staff. Instructions can be found at art.mt.gov/mcam.

Nomination forms are accepted year-round and are submitted for review when they are deemed complete and all supporting information has been gathered. Once the application package is complete, the nomination is reviewed by an expert in the field. If approved, the nomination is then considered by the governor-appointed members of the Montana Arts Council at a biannual meeting.



Strategic Investment Grants

Funding is currently available for grants of up to \$1,000 for nonprofit arts organizations, artists and arts educators. Deadlines are monthly.

For more information see art.mt.gov/orgs/orgs_sig.asp or contact Kristin Han Burgoyne at kburgoyne@mt.gov or 406-444-6449.

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STATE OF THE

Arts



Honoree Karen Lewing's enthusiastic acceptance speech had the 2016 Governor's Arts Awards audience wrapped around her finger! It added to what was a joyous celebration for all.

(Photo by Jerry Kozak)

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New Year: New MAC Members, New Website

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