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Montana Committee for the Humanities

An Affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

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Contact: Yvonne Gastineau Gritzner, program officer, Montana Committee for the Humanities, (406) 243-6022.

HUMANITIES COMMITTEE REVIVES 'MONTANA THIS MORNING' SERIES

MISSOULA --

Fans of the original award-winning television program "Montana This Morning" will be pleased to learn that the daily interview series seen on the CBS affiliates from 1993 to 1995 has been repackaged and will be back on the airwaves this spring.

The Montana Committee for the Humanities created the series in 1993 and has repackaged 16 hours of interviews with noted writers and scholars from across Montana and elsewhere. These shows have been released to the state's community access and public television stations for rebroadcast.

Originally a statewide three-minute daily cut-in to "CBS This Morning," the repackaged "Montana This Morning" programs are an hour in length and feature four guests speaking on a related theme. For example, Montana musicians Rob Quist of **Kalispell** and Stuart Weber and Greg Keeler of **Bozeman** have been combined with the administrator of the San Francisco Opera to create "The Sound of Music." Other programs feature writers Bill Kittredge, Annick Smith, Bill Bevis and Mary Clearman Blew in "Editors of 'The Last Best Place'"; Montana Gov. Marc Racicot and former Lodge Grass legislator Angela Russell in "We the People"; and journalist/commentator Daniel Schorr in "A Global Community."

- more -

The programs will be broadcast over the following stations: Bitterroot Valley Public Television in **Hamilton**, **Boulder** Public TV, **Browning** School District Public Television, Cable Seven Public Television in **Great Falls**, **Colstrip** Public Television, Community Seven Public Television in **Billings**, **Missoula** Community Access Television, Salish-Kootenai College Public Television in **Pablo**, Meagher County Public Television in **White Sulphur Springs**, **Plains/Paradise** Public Television and **Plevna** Public Television. Watch your local newspaper for the air dates and times.

Former executive director of the Montana Committee for the Humanities and executive producer of "Montana This Morning," Margaret Kingsland said she was pleased that this project has another life, particularly in rural areas. She cited President Clinton's goal that access to the arts and humanities be increased across America "to people who might otherwise be isolated from them -- people who are homebound, people who live in very isolated areas, people who don't even know how to speak the language that would be necessary to ask for something that might change their lives forever."

The original "Montana This Morning" series was the first daily commercial television program ever broadcast across the state. In fact, connecting the state in this way, including all Montanans in the humanities dialogue, was an important goal, Kingsland noted during the debut program on June 7, 1993. In October of 1994, the program won the national Helen and Martin Schwartz Award as the best humanities council project in the nation.

For more information about the "Montana This Morning" circulating library, contact the Montana Committee for the Humanities at (800) 624-6001.

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