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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: William Marcus, Broadcast Media Center director, (406) 243-4101.

'BACKROADS OF MONTANA' NIGHT JAN. 27 ON MONTANA PUBLIC TV

MISSOULA--

Montana Public Television will feature two episodes of the award-winning "Backroads of Montana" series and a film about family farming Wednesday, Jan. 27.

The night will kick off at 7 p.m. with the first "Backroads" episode and then continue with the eleventh and latest episode. The film "Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern," part of PBS's American Experience Series, will round out the night. Series host William Marcus and contributing producer John Twiggs will host the special broadcast.

"Backroads of Montana: Victor to Virgelle" features a retired couple who ran the Virgelle ferry, one of three ferries that still operate on the Missouri River; the Bitterroot Barnstormers, who fly model airplanes near **Victor**; a man who runs an antique store and bed-and-breakfast in **Virgelle**; the beauty of the water at Giant Springs near **Great Falls**; and the sights and sounds of Holter Lake near **Helena**.

"Backroads of Montana: Pancakes & Polo" highlights the unique Montana sport of cowboy polo east of Missoula, walks viewers through a field of wildflowers on Big Hole Pass West of **Dillon**, listens in at the annual storytellers conference in **Cut Bank** and stops along the road for a hearty meal at Yesterday's CALF-A in **Dell**. The program originates from the original governor's mansion in **Helena**.

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"Backroads of Montana" highlights interesting people, places and events around the Treasure State." The series is produced by Marcus, Gus Chambers and Ray Ekness of UM's Broadcast Media Center and KUFM-TV Montana Public Television.

"Backroads" has won three Program of the Year awards from the Montana Broadcasters Association and a national Award of Distinction from The Communicator Awards. The program is funded by grants from The Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM.

In "Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern," filmmakers Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher document the plight of the Jordan family farm in Iowa, where a new regional bank has decided to call in an accumulated \$70,000 in debt, forcing the Jordans into some difficult decision making. During days of soul searching and discussion, life on the farm was filmed as it took place, without a script or re-enactments.

The film was nominated for an Academy Award and was awarded both the Grand Jury Award and the Audience Award for best documentary at the Sundance Film Festival.

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CBS
Local, specialized western, Independent Record, Great Falls Tribune
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