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NEWS RELEASE

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MCH BRINGS BOOK FESTIVAL TO MONTANA

MISSOULA--

The written word will take center stage in Missoula Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8-9, when more than 70 of the region's writers come together to celebrate the Montana Festival of the Book.

The festival, organized by the Montana Committee for the Humanities and its Montana Center for the Book, will feature readings and panel discussions with some of the most important voices of Montana and the West.

"Montana has long been recognized for its rich literary life," MCH executive director Mark Sherouse said. "Writers from Montana and its neighboring states have had an important impact on American literature and our understanding of the Western experience. The Montana Festival of the Book will celebrate the northern Rockies literary landscape."

The celebration is open to the public, and most of the more than 40 events are free. A modest admission fee will be charged for readings Friday and Saturday nights and a Friday evening reception and silent auction.

Event locations include Caras Park, the Wilma Theatre, Missoula Public Library, Fact and Fiction Bookstore, and the Boone and Crockett Club, located in the Milwaukee Station.

The festival's full schedule lists exhibits, a literary contest, book signings,

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entertainment and receptions. Workshops for adults and children will run the gamut of book-related topics from papermaking to bookmaking, book groups, book collecting and book preservation.

An award-winning roster of featured authors includes Richard Ford, James Welch, William Kittredge, Pete Fromm, Deirdre McNamer and Rick Bass. Poetry lovers can hear Patricia Goedicke, Sandra Alcosser, John Haines and others read from their works. Children can meet authors Dorothy Patent, Jeanette Ingold and other favorites.

And yes, yes, yes, there will be sessions on Harry Potter and the Potter phenomenon for young and old.

The complete schedule of events is listed at the Montana Festival of the Book Web site, www.bookfest-mt.org.

Planning for the Montana Festival of the Book is supported in part by an ArtsREACH grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Major sponsors include the Montana Arts Council, Travel Montana and Qwest -- formerly U S West.

Among the many festival partners are the Writer's Voice of the Billings Family YMCA, the Missoula Cultural Council, the Montana Arts Council, Chapter One Bookstore in Hamilton and The University of Montana's creative writing program, Mansfield Library and bookstore.

For more information, call Sherouse at (406) 243-6022 or festival coordinator Kim Anderson at (406) 543-8459.

The UM-based Montana Committee for the Humanities, organized in 1972, is Montana's independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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