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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 12, 2001

Contact: Lindsey Holst, advertising coordinator, UM Productions, 243-6661.

GLENN PHILLIPS, NICKEL CREEK PLAN OCT. 29 CONCERT AT UM

MISSOULA--

Acoustic music fans will thrill to the sounds of pop-bluegrass sensation Nickel Creek and opening act Glenn Phillips, former lead singer of Toad the Wet Sprocket, when they perform in concert at The University of Montana.

The evening's entertainment begins at 8:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29, in the University Theatre, Montana's only venue on the Nickel Creek tour. Seating is reserved, and tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$16 for students. They are available at all Tic-It-E-Z outlets or by calling (888) MONTANA.

Nickel Creek's young members -- guitarist Sean Watkins; his sister, violinist Sara Watkins; and mandolinist Chris Thile -- have been called "three cheerful prodigies" by Time magazine. Time also said Nickel Creek "is making down-home music relevant for a new generation."

The trio formed more than a decade ago, when they began performing together at bluegrass festivals as children. They released their self-titled debut album last year and promptly earned two Grammy nominations, a top-20 spot on Billboard's Country Album Chart and enthusiastic critical reviews.

"You'd better run right out and get [Nickel Creek's] CD if you haven't got it already," wrote the Washington Post. "Nickel Creek blends bluegrass, classical music and pop with

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irresistible aplomb, and sings like angels to boot."

The band was named 2001's "Instrumental Group of the Year" at the International Bluegrass Music Awards.

Special guest Glenn Phillips will perform a mix of Toad the Wet Sprocket hits and songs from his new solo CD, "Abulum." Before its 1997 disbanding, Toad released six albums, two of which went platinum. The band first hit the big-time with the 1991 album "Fear," whose songs "All I Want" and "Walk on the Ocean" notched the top-20 charts. Two more hit songs, "Something's Always Wrong" and "Fall Down," followed.

"Abulum," released this year, is a bittersweet look at life's little dramas.

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