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NEWS RELEASE

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'BACKROADS OF MONTANA' PREMIERS NEW PROGRAM

MISSOULA —

“Backroads of Montana,” an award-winning television program produced by MontanaPBS, will premier a new episode Wednesday, May 19.

“Anaconda to Comertown,” the 21st program in the Backroads series, will air at 7 p.m. on Montana PBS — KUFM-TV Channel 11 in Missoula, KUSM-TV Channel 9 in **Bozeman**, and Bresnan Communications cable and Dish Network satellite statewide.

“This program has some of the most interesting collection of stories to date,” said program host and Montana native William Marcus. “It’s an example of how Montana is filled with great places and people.”

The episode visits the slopes with a long-time ski instructor near **Anaconda**, introduces the art of glass blowing in **Townsend**, shows a new monument to Native American soldiers at the Little Big Horn Battlefield in **Crow Agency** and crashes a reunion in the nearly forgotten northeastern Montana town of **Comertown**. Marcus hosts the program from the Chief Plenty Coups State Park near **Pryor**.

“Backroads of Montana” highlights interesting people, places and events from around the Treasure State. “Montana has so many great people,” Marcus said. “We’re happy to be able to tell their stories to the rest of the state.”

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The program is produced by Marcus, Gus Chambers, Ray Ekness and John Twiggs of The University of Montana Broadcast Media Center and KUFM-TV MontanaPBS.

“Backroads” has won five E.B. Craney Program of the Year awards from the Montana Broadcasters Association and a national Award of Distinction from the Communicator Awards. The program received nominations for an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Seattle Chapter in 2001 and 2003.

The program is funded by grants from The Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM. Prior “Backroads” segments are available on the American Field Guide Web site, www.pbs.org.

MontanaPBS is a service of UM-Missoula and Montana State University in Bozeman.

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