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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 23, 2004

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ANOTHER 'BACKROADS OF MONTANA' EPISODE SET TO AIR

MISSOULA —

“Backroads of Montana,” the popular travelogue series on Montana PBS, continues its exploration of interesting places and profiles of remarkable people in an all-new episode titled “Coming Home.” This new episode premieres at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24. The show will repeat at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2.

For the “Coming Home” episode, the “Backroads” crew accompanied the roving theatrical troupe Montana Shakespeare in the Parks to their smallest venue of the season -- tiny **Birney** in southeastern Montana. A local family there has welcomed the road-weary actors into their home for years.

Generations of Montanans came home last spring to Giant Springs State Park in **Great Falls**, where 70 years ago a group of Girl Scouts planted a spruce tree. “Backroads” was there as many of those scouts returned to help a new generation of Brownie Girl Scouts renew the tradition.

“Backroads” also traveled a new interpretive nature trail near **Hamilton**. The trail was constructed to tell the story of the Salish Indians, whose traditional homeland was the Bitterroot Valley.

The program ends in **Gildford**, a small town on the Hi-Line. As a result of school

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consolidation in the area, the Kremlin/Gildford High School held its last homecoming weekend in October.

Montana native William Marcus hosts the program from the historic Conrad Mansion in **Kalispell**.

The program is produced by William Marcus, Gus Chambers 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. “Backroads” also received Emmy nominations from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Chapter in three of the last four years.

The program is funded by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM. Previous “Backroads” segments are available on the American Field Guide Web site at <http://www.pbs.org>, as well as at city/county libraries across Montana.

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

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