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NRMEDD

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Newsletter

Mark your calendar!

NRMEDD Board meetings for the remainder of 2014 will be conducted on August 5th and November 20th. Location and times will be determined at a future time.

This Month's Top Stories

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- * Art Event in Livingston
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NRMEDD Economic Impact Assessment Success Story

Are you a growing nonprofit company looking to tell your story about what you give back to the community and haven't found a vehicle to get the word out? Susan Denson-Guy, executive director for the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture has found a way. "Telling the economic impact of ANY business is an important part of the story, especially for a nonprofit," says Denson-Guy.

The Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District has a tool for small businesses in Park and Gallatin counties to tell their story. It is the Economic Impact Assessment, or EIA. For a small fee, the NRMEDD can conduct a written, confidential Economic Impact Assessment that will give any business a good starting framework for relaying the substantial economic importance of their organization to the local community. Denson-Guy knew that the Emerson was "looking for solid information that we could provide to our community and donors to accurately express the impact that the Emerson Center for the Arts and

Culture has on our community".

When asked how difficult the EIA was to complete, Denson-Guy said. "The process was very easy," she explained. "We met with the NRMEDD Executive Director, Rob Gilmore, a few times and went over our expectations for the project, collected the required information and handed it over to him".

What can your business do with the results of the EIA? "We have shared the findings with our staff, board of directors, and select business partners," Denson-Guy explained. "In the very near future we will be utilizing the data in our new donor/sponsor information packets".

For more information on the NRMEDD helping your business with conducting an EIA, contact Rob Gilmore at Rob.Gilmore@nrmedd.org or at www.NRMEDD.ORG.



Nonprofit Resource in the District

Bridget Wilkinson, manager of the Bozeman Area Community Foundation, is the program leader who connects people who care to causes that matter in the Bozeman area.

BACF was formed in 2003 to serve both donors and nonprofits in the Bozeman area. They strive to nurture a culture of philanthropy by building and stewarding permanent community assets and educating area donors about creative ways to give of themselves and their resources. They also support the area's nonprofits through grant-making and capacity building. "Through all of our efforts, we seek to support a vibrant and thriving community in which every resident has the opportunity to learn, work,

create, and prosper." Wilkinson said.

In 2013, BACF deepened its commitment to the Bozeman area by hiring Bridget Wilkinson as its first Foundation Manager. In the past six months, BACF has transformed its monthly networking and capacity-building program for nonprofits. It has also been selected as the sole recipient of proceeds from the annual 317 Run to the Pub and the Bozeman Marathon events, created an online social media presence, and met with more than 40 non-profit and community leaders to learn more about what BACF can do to support donors of the community and the nonprofit sector.

Since 1999, the foundation

has grown its assets to nearly \$1 million and distributed more than \$173,000 in grants to more than 75 nonprofit organizations. In 2014, the foundation nearly doubled its giving from 2013 by distributing \$20,000 through their competitive grants cycle to 25 local nonprofit organizations.

Wilkinson said she believes that the BACF seeks to strengthen communities and inspire greater giving by investing charitable assets for today and tomorrow, connecting donors with effective organizations, ideas, and causes that matter and leading and collaborating on important public issues. To learn more about the BACF, you can visit

www.bozemanfoundation.org.

Manhattan Floods

When David Rowell was elected as the mayor of Manhattan in 2013, he never expected that just over a year later, he would see his town nearly destroyed by a flood and high water that comes around only once every 100 years. As the building inspector and public works director, Rowell, having lived in Manhattan for more than 16 years, somehow finds time to also dabble in the construction contractor arena.

"One of the highlights brought out by the devastating floods was the amazing people who volunteered their time and efforts to rebuild and restore their damaged town." Rowell said. "The wonderful people of Manhattan showed up to help their neighbors without being asked." He explained.

"Businesses donated goods, services and food to other in need and to the volunteers who were helping in the community." Rowell highlighted three businesses in particular; Blackhawk, Sir Scotts and the Manhattan branch of Stockman's Bank. "There was a pump company out of Helena that brought four giant water pumps to the efforts, and hauled them to Manhattan within two hours of being notified of the crisis." Although there was very little financial assistance the national, state and county governments could offer, all three sent representatives to survey the area, make recommendations and offer some hope.

Although the floods of this spring were devastating to some businesses and homes in Manhat-

tan, the town is seeing a steady growth of around 2.5 to 3 percent annually. Six new homes were built in 2013, the first six since the town encountered a four-year lull in any building. A new subdivision will see future growth as early as May of this year, and there is a planned 22-unit apartment complex to begin development soon.

The 1,600 population of Manhattan has held steady for many years, and with the plan to add a new high-capacity elevated water tower to Manhattan, services are flexing for the future growth. Rowell is optimistic for the future of Manhattan and its citizens, and added, "I am proud to live in Manhattan with the noble and gracious people that we have."

NRMEDD Executive Board Member Highlight - Sean Becker - President

At only 40 years old, NRMEDD executive board president Sean Becker has accomplished more than most people can in an entire lifetime. The married father of two has kept himself extremely busy for the past 22 years since he first entered Denison University. While attending college, Becker also served as a volunteer fireman and EMS for the Village of Granville, Ohio. Serving as the local college radio station and business manager, as well as Disk Jockey, he was ensuring a well-rounded education.

As though being a college student, DJ and fireman wasn't enough, Becker carved out time to travel to Nepal, where he taught English, math and science at the Bikash Kosh Boarding School while working as a health post worker in the village community clinic. In addition, Becker traveled up to five days by foot to administer basic health care in remote facilities and assisted in transporting young students back to their high-alpine villages in the Lang Tang

Himalayas. Wanting to stay busy, he also worked with a rescue dog squad and high angle search & rescue team based in Sundarikal.

Following his college graduation, Becker moved to Bozeman to pursue an advanced degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology from Montana State University. He transitioned from student to business, working for nearly 10 years as the Research Director of ArtMarket Inc. in Bozeman. Not one to cherish idle time, Becker ran for city commissioner of Bozeman.

After his 8 years in office, winning a seat in 2006 as a commissioner, deputy-mayor, and eventually mayor of Bozeman, Becker seems to be slowing down, enjoying the opportunity to spend time with his wife and two young children. He currently works in Bozeman as a Business Advisor for the Small Business Development Center at the Montana Community Development Corporation. He also finds time to serve on Governor Bullock's Economic Development Advisory Council, the City of Bozeman

Economic Development Advisory Board, and the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



Sean Becker - President,
NRMEDD Executive Board



Montana Photonics Industry Alliance

When asked why the new Montana Photonics Industry Alliance started, board president Dr. Larry Johnson, replied: “The MPIA was the result of widespread interest among Bozeman’s optics and photonics entrepreneurs, companies and Montana State University.

Collaboration between these companies and the university had been fostered for years by Professor Joe Shaw and other faculty members. Formation of the MPIA was the logical next step in promoting the growth and success of Montana’s optics and photonics industry.”

The MPIA is important because it has the potential to accelerate the growth and success of Montana’s optics and photonics companies, thereby creating an increasing number of clean, high-paying jobs in the state.

The critical leadership factor was provided when Larry Johnson volunteered to work part time as the president of the organization. Johnson was the former president and CEO of ILX Lightwave Corporation, a photonics company he founded in Bozeman in 1986 and sold to Newport Corporation in 2012. The MPIA was formed in

October 2013 and is a network of Montana optics and photonics companies, entrepreneurs, laboratories and universities.

The mission of the MPIA is to serve as a hub for Montana’s optics and photonics companies, entrepreneurs, laboratories, and universities to commercialize, grow and sustain globally leading organizations that create high quality jobs and economic opportunity in Montana. Johnson said he believes that the successful end state of the MPIA will be to double the number of optics/photonics related jobs in Montana within ten years. The MPIA website can be found at www.MontanaPhotonics.org.

New Art Event Proposed for Livingston

By Rose Brown - The Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

A new local business is asking for the city’s support in bringing Chinese art and tourism dollars to Livingston. Yellowstone Asia Initiative, or YAI, founded by Livingston native Troy Selland, aims to ship 100 paintings and sculptures from some of China’s best artists to be on display at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts and one other venue this July.

The company predicts the exhibit will attract about 2,000 visitors to Livingston who wouldn’t normally visit, according a presentation from YAI Project Coordinator Mark Bond at the Livingston City Commission meeting last Tuesday.

In order to bring the Chinese art to town, YAI has partnered with 188Art Investment, a Shanghai-based company focused on pro-

moting Asian art in the west. Most of the art scheduled to come to Livingston this summer is currently on display in Shanghai’s prestigious Museum of Contemporary Art, Bond told commissioners last week.

Organizers of 188Art’s American exhibit originally planned to find a venue in either New York or Los Angeles, Selland said in a phone interview last week. But he was able to convince them to choose Livingston instead, he said. Commissioners Tuesday agreed to sign a letter of support for YAI’s 188Art project. They also said they would support the project in other ways, if possible.

While YAI has secured wall space for part of the exhibit at the Shane Center, they still need another viewing space, preferably downtown, Bond said at the meet-

Bond also asked commissioners for “a delinquent wall,” where visiting and local artists associated with the event could paint a large mural that depicts an image of local significance.

Commissioner Jon Reddington, who said he is excited about the project, accompanied Bond on a walk downtown Wednesday to consider possible locations for displaying the visiting Chinese art, as well as for painting a mural.

Yellowstone Asia Initiative, whose mission is to promote Asian tourism and business investment in the Yellowstone area, is now based out of Selland’s mother’s living room on West Callender Street. “Livingston is such a great place, such a wonderful town, and I want to show it off and share it with everyone,” Selland said. More information on YAI is available at www.YellowstoneAsia.com.

Quick Notes:

- Over a coffee last Fall, Greg Gianforte and Rob Gilmore laid plans to establish the Montana High Tech Alliance. The Alliance held its first meeting in January and by the end of March had established an alliance of 15 companies and hired an Executive Director, Christina Henderson of Missoula, and
- NRMEDD is off and running with our Nonprofit assistance program. On March 25th, Rob Gilmore and Brit Fontenot of the Bozeman Economic Development Office presented to the Nonprofit Café. In attendance were 25 representatives of nonprofit organizations from throughout the Gallatin Valley. Bridget Wilkinson, manager of the Bozeman Area Community Foundation (see story on page #2) hosted the event. A survey of nonprofit organizations has generated over 20 requests for business assistance.
- The NRMEDD along with the City of Bozeman is working with the newly-formed Bozeman Outdoor Network in the establishment of an outdoor alliance designed to bring together all of the manufacturers of outdoor equipment in the Gallatin Valley. The next meeting is a Beer30 event at the Story Mansion on Thursday night, May 8th beginning at 5:30.
- The District is exploring development of business modules to assist young and start-up companies in Park County.

TOPs Team Highlight - Karen Cates

Karen Cates is an executive coach and management consultant. In addition to her client work, she is a lecturer of management and organizations at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

While working with individual leaders, she distinguishes herself from her executive coach colleagues because she focuses on the leader in his or her actual role and in their work environment. That means she often works with leaders on important issues, projects, challenges or changes facing them in their organization. While helping her clients to build their leadership skills, she is not a coach who does a lot of assessments and tests. She works on real issues in the organization that are happening right now.

As a member of the TOPs team, she started working with local businesses in 2013. As her client base is spread geographically, Karen Cates said she “works from any location, traveling frequently because she loves living in Mon-

tana, and I wouldn't have it any other way.” She believes that local clients provide rewarding professional challenges, and they keep her at home more. That's a plus as she sinks deeper and deeper Montana roots.

In her experience, local businesses face the same kinds of situations and challenges that her national and global clients do. Scope and size may be different, but leaders need to consider the same forces on their businesses whether their company is large or small, for-profit or not-for-profit, providing products or services. She works with a range of clients ranging from global law firm partners to elementary school principals. Every new client is an adventure. She learns their business, and brings nearly 20 years of experience to provide customized services to her clients.

Cates said she enjoys working as part of the NRMEDD TOPs team. “It provides an outstanding service of matching area business

leaders with local professionals who can help them improve their effectiveness,” she explained. “This sort of agency isn't well developed in any of the metropolitan areas I've worked in. I appreciate having NRMEDD out there helping us all to drive growth and improvement. South-central Montana has a lot to offer locally, regionally, and in some cases nationally. I'm delighted to be a part of that.”



Karen Cates

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NRMEDD Board of Directors

Government Representation

- **Sean Becker, City of Bozeman – President**
- **Steve Caldwell, City of Livingston**
- Joe Skinner, Gallatin County**
- **Marty Malone, Park County**
- David Rowell, City of Manhattan**
- Brit Fontenot, City of Bozeman**
- **Pierre Martineau, Gallatin County**
- Russ Nelson, City of Belgrade**
- Brian Sprenger, Gallatin Field-Airport**
- Steven Hamilton, City of Three Forks**
- Bill Berg, Community Council, Gardiner**
- James Bennet, City of Livingston**
- Mark Shyne, MT Mfg. Extension Service, MSU**

Non-Government Representation

- Tony Martel, Martel Construction**
- Bill Simkins, Simkins-Hallin Lumber**
- **Scott Pogh, NW Farm Credit**
- **Don Seifert, TerraSentia Mineral LLC**
- Lew Wilks, Three Peaks Ranch**
- **Peter Fox, ArcaSearch Corporation**

Stakeholder Organization Representation

- Dr. Paul Lachapelle, MSU Faculty**
- Debra Youngberg, Belgrade Ch.of Commerce**
- Don Gimbel, Vision Livingston**
- Debbie Berg, Montana Job Service**

Members at Large

- Stuart Leidner, Prospera Business Network**
- Cheryl Ridgely, Bozeman Deaconess**
- ** Denotes Executive Board Member**

TOPs Team 2014

- Jake Anderson – President: *The Pulse Marketing Group***
- Rebecca Baker – President: *Digital Velocity***
- Dave Bayless – Principal: *Evergreen Innovation Partners***
- Benjamin Bennett – Principal: *Massive Studios***
- Shannon Benser – President: *Promo West***
- Jessica Burch – Founder: *Betula Creative***
- Steve Caldwell – Finance & Economics Consultant**
- Karen Cates – Leadership and HR Strategy Consultant**
- Jon Cousin – Patent Attorney PLLC: *MSU***
- Brit Fontenot – Dir. Economic Devel: *City of Bozeman***
- Rob Gilmore – Executive Director, NRMEDD**
- Mike Hedegaard – Program Director, NRMEDD**
- Rick Keller – Certified Public Accountant**
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- Surale Phillips – Business & Marketing Research Consult**
- Jerry Pape – Principal & CTO: *Excalibur***
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- Jeff Riggs – Owner: *Clark's Fork Restaurant***
- Drew Schug – Website & SEO Consultant**
- Jon Shafer – Exec. Director: *Northern Rocky Mtn. RC&D***
- Dr. Andreas Scherer – CEO: *Golden Helix***
- Tom Starner – Investment Advisor: *Gene Cook Real Estate***
- Warren Vaughan – Planner, Community Dev - *Gallatin Co.***
- Kathy Wojcik – CPC, SPHR: *Bluheron Coaching***
- Lew Wilks – Director: *ARC9***

