

## CONGRATS TO ...

**Peter Rosten** of Darby, founder and president of MAPS: Media Arts in the Public School, who was named a national 2013 Purpose Prize fellow. The Purpose Prize, awarded annually by social think tank Civic Ventures, honors Americans 60 and older and is the nation's only large-scale investment award for senior social entrepreneurs and creative problem solvers. This year's 43 fellows were selected from a pool of more than 1,000 nominees. Rosten, a former Hollywood film and television producer and entrepreneur, is the only fellow chosen from Montana and only the second Montanan so honored in Purpose Prize history. MAPS, an innovative program that he founded in 2004, offers free courses in filmmaking, design, music and computer science to rural middle and high school students, and is credited with promoting creativity and launching careers. The Purpose Prize joins a big stack of awards Rosten has received for his contributions to media arts and public education, including the Award of Excellence from the Society for New Communications Research (2007); Best Buy Teacher Award (2008); Community Asset Award from the Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce (2009); and Award of Excellence from the Montana Office of the Governor (2012).

The **Hamilton High School Choir**, which performed a benefit concert Nov. 16 at Carnegie Hall for the Golden Hat Foundation, whose mission is to improve the lives of individuals living with autism. Forty-six choir students provided back-up vocals and solo performances during the concert. Last spring, the Hamilton High School Choir sang in a PBS special called "Celebrate America"; that performance caught the attention of actress Kate Winslet and earned them an invitation to perform during her charity's benefit New York City. Choir director Peggy Bucheit, who has taught at Hamilton High School for 30 years, told ABC-Fox News it was a shock to learn they'd received the invitation, but she was confident her students were ready. "I'm seeing just this huge passion developing within them as individual singers, which of course is what I long for as a teacher," she said. The choir sang alongside a group called Forte – winners of the show America's Got Talent – and other professional musicians.

Salish actress and educator **Julie Cajune**, whose one-woman show, "Belief" was streamed live Oct. 8 in Salamanca, Spain, as part of WILD 10: The 10th World Wilderness Congress. Vance Martin, president of The WILD Foundation and congress co-chair, called the play "a deep and moving highlight ... The international delegates from 65 nations were emotionally touched by Julie's masterful storytelling and her dramatic art. The stories were poignant and memorable ... the performance, enthralling. It was an evening of great enjoyment and relevance to many people, nationalities, and cultures." "Belief," co-written by Salish writer, poet, and playwright **Jennifer Finley** and directed by **Linda Grinde**, will be performed at The University of Montana Dennison Theatre in Missoula on Jan. 11.

Blackfeet/Salish filmmaker **Brooke Swaney** of Polson, who received an Artist Fellowship from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF). The producer and director was among 16 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists selected by the foundation for this prestigious award. Swaney's film fellowship is the first award given to a Montana resident by the new national foundation. Among her other accomplishments: the filmmaker's 15-minute short, "OK Breathe Auralee," was one of five short Native-made films screened Nov. 3, 2012, at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles; and Swaney was also selected to participate in the Sundance Institute's NativeLab program to develop the story behind the short film into a full-length movie, tentatively titled "Circle."

Big Timber sculptor **Dave Hodges**, whose statue of a panther was unveiled Sept. 3 at the University of Pittsburgh Bradford in Bradford, PA, 50 years to the day after the campus opened in 1963. Hodges submitted several drawings of a panther, the school's mascot, to the student representatives who chose the design they wanted. Actual work began in November 2012, with the artist using about 550 pounds of clay to create a model; bronze casting was completed in June. Site construction began in mid-July with brick walkways, benches, lighting, and pedestal rocks completed at the end of August. The statue was kept under wraps until the unveiling ceremonies, and has been heralded by the campus magazine "as the best possible birthday present one can imagine. A community effort brought to fruition by several years of student – now alumni – contributions, sculpted by a man who knows the land and the animal, to be cherished by decades of proud panther students for years to come."

Netsuke carver and wildlife sculptor **Nick Lamb**, who was elected to the National Sculpture Society at a meeting held in October in New York City. Lamb, who is British but now lives in Billings, has special-



"Winter Wren" by Nick Lamb

ized in the Japanese art form of netsuke since the mid-1970s. His work is in the permanent collections of His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado Collection, Japan; Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado Collection, Japan; the Robert O. and Miriam Kinsey Collection, Chicago; the Kyoto Seishu Netsuke Art Museum, Kyoto, Japan; the Robin Lehman Collection, Rochester, NY; the Tokyo National Museum; and many other private collections in Europe, the United States, and Japan.

Helena artist **Richard Notkin**, whose sculptural teapots and relief tile works were on display Nov. 1-Dec. 21 at Zolla/Lieberman

Gallery in Chicago. In "Where Do We Go From Here?" the artist continues his visual explorations of social and political themes. His exhibit ran concurrently with "Playthings: New Sculptures and Drawings" by Chicago sculptor Josh Garber.

Billings artists **Gordon McConnell** and **Jane Waggoner Deschner**, whose works are on display through March 22 at the Churchill Arts

Council's Oats Park Art Center in Fallon, NV; both artists discuss their work prior to the reception on Jan. 25. "Gordon McConnell: 'West of Everything': New and Selected Paintings," on display in the E.L. Wiegand Gallery, features nearly 60 paintings by the accomplished artist. A fully illustrated online/print-on-demand catalogue will be published early in 2014, featuring an essay by

Montana writer Rick Newby. McConnell, whose film-inspired paintings begin "where the movies have left off," worked as curator at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, before leaving in 1999 to begin work as a full-time painter and independent curator. His work is in the collections of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, the Art Museum of Missoula; and the Yellowstone Art Museum, among others. "It Must Be True: Work with Found Photographs," on display in the Classroom Gallery, is a survey of Deschner's stitched and digital work with vernacular photographs completed in the last 10 years. Deschner writes, "We all snap photographs of people and things we love and times we want to remember ... When I interact with a photograph, I connect us by teasing out a common humanity not confined by time, place or circumstance." Marci Rae McDade, editor of Surface Design Journal, wrote the essay for the accompanying catalog. Deschner, who has shown her work extensively and been awarded numerous artist residencies, is a member of the Montana Arts Council. Active in the field of arts in health, she also works as a graphic designer, exhibit installer, framer and photographer.



"Hepburn, Never" by Jane Waggoner Deschner

Western artist and author **Charles Fritz**, who was awarded the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's Distinguished Service Award during the organization's annual meeting. The Billings artist was presented with the award for his "painstaking research and beautiful and historically accurate paintings of the Lewis and Clark Expedition which furthers the mission of the Foundation and has brought the story of Lewis and Clark to thousands of people." Fritz is the author of *Charles Fritz: 100 Paintings Illustrating the Journals of Lewis and Clark*, which represents more than a decade of meticulous research and on-site painting. The body of paintings is credited with preserving the visual history of Lewis and Clark's journey, and of a landscape altered by time and the encroachments of civilization. His paintings have been shown in many museums across the country, including the Albuquerque Museum, Denver Art Museum, Gilcrease Museum, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the C.M. Russell Museum.

Bigfork artist **Nancy Cawdrey**, who will be one of two featured artists at the Jackson Hole Fall Art Festival, Sept. 4-14 in Jackson Hole, WY. Her piece will be auctioned off Sept. 13 in the town square and her work will be featured in a one-woman show at the West Lives On gallery. Cawdrey was also named an inaugural member of the C.M. Russell "Skull Society," an elite group of accomplished western artists who have a history of support for the Great Falls museum, as demonstrated by awards and exhibits and the strength of sales in the annual auction, "The Russell," a benefit held every March.

Thompson Falls artist **Kenton Pies**, who received a \$60,000 commission to design and build a new dragon statue for Deane's Children Park, in Mercer Island, WA. Pies built the original sculpture in 1965. "When I first did this [it] was something creative to do. I didn't have any idea of how popular it would be, or how universal it would become," Pies, told the *Mercer Island Reporter*. "I don't think I even knew over the years, that this was called the dragon park." The 81-year-old artist, who moved to Montana in 2005, considered himself retired until this project landed on his doorstep. "This is more than just a play structure," said Amber Britton, project manager with Mercer Island Parks and Recreation. "This is a piece of art ... People have been bringing their grandkids here for years, have played on it as children ... There are so many people connected to it." "Kenton's Dragon," was unveiled Nov. 16 at a Dragon Party in the park.

Continued on next page



### Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trail, Charlo, MT 59824; or email: [writeus@livelytimes.com](mailto:writeus@livelytimes.com).

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it's at least 150 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) or file size of over 300kb (no more than 2mb, please).





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### TIIP grants help art, cultural projects

Montana Governor Steve Bullock joined Montana Department of Commerce Director Meg O'Leary in October to announce the award of \$500,000 from Commerce's Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) for eight tourism facility improvement projects.

The four recipients with ties to Montana arts and culture are:

- **Hamilton Players:** \$20,111 for the purchase and installation of updated theater technology and performance equipment in their live theater facility in Hamilton.

- **Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes:** \$113,727 to assist in the restoration of the historic Poplar Agency Indian Boarding School Dining Hall for use as a visitor information and tourism facility.

- **The Prairie County Museum:** \$45,310 for a water mitigation project in the basement of their historic building in downtown Terry.

- **The Judith River Foundation/Great Plains Dinosaur Museum** in Malta: \$20,000 for the purchase and installation of new hands-on learning stations, improved fossil storage and exterior dinosaur displays.

The eight TIIP grant recipients were selected from 24 applications requesting \$1.82 million in grant funds from the program.

## MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Hamilton artist **KJ Kahnle**, whose "U/X Spur" was the first piece selected for the Bitterroot Valley's new Montana ART[ists] Collection. The collaboration between the Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust and the Ravalli County Museum was launched with artwork from the MAP Artist Gathering, held Nov 1-4 in Hamilton. The artist drew on a black and white photo to create "U/X Spur," which flows from realism to abstraction in its depiction of a Montana cowboy's boot and spur. "Intrigued with the idea of combining the media I enjoy, I began mounting my detailed photos on drawing paper, then completing the subject in realistic detail with pencil," says Kahnle. The artist recently completed the classroom portion of the Montana Arts Council's Montana Artrepreneur Program and says MAP has changed her life. "I am now successfully pursuing my artwork and wouldn't be here without MAP." Eight other MAP artists whose work was selected as part of this collection are: **Jean Belange-Nye** of Stevensville, **Flori Engbrecht** of Hamilton, **Kelly Price** of Victor, **Doug Thoeny** of Hamilton, **Tim Carlburg** and **Karen Chesna** of Kalispell, **Jane Lindgren** of Arlee, and **Meagan Thompson** of Butte.

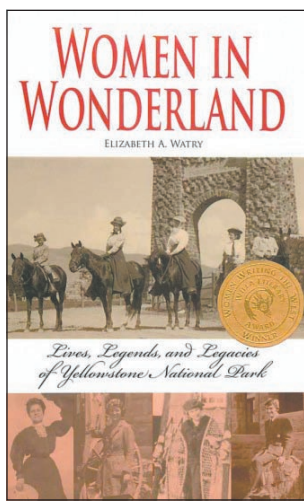


"U/X Spur" by KJ Kahnle

Author **Richard Ford**, who won France's prestigious Femina award for best foreign novel with his book *Canada*. The Femina Prize is awarded in three categories – best French novel, best foreign novel and best essay – by an all-woman jury. "It's a great honor and a great surprise," said Ford, whose book illustrates the loss of innocence through the story of a Montana boy whose parents rob a bank. The book was also a finalist in the Best Fiction category of the 11th annual High Plains BookFest and Book Awards, and Ford read from the book Oct. 30 at the Yellowstone Art Museum. "The international recognition of this award is well-deserved," noted YMCA Writer's Voice Director Corby Skinner, who coordinates the book awards. "Ford's elegant and beautifully-understated novel exemplifies and honors the character and vernacular of people from the High Plains." Although he now lives in Maine, Ford has a strong connection to Montana. He lived for many years in Missoula, Great Falls and near Chinook, and three of his books take place in Montana: *Canada* is partly set in Great Falls; his 1987 story collection, *Rock Springs*, is mostly set in Montana; and his 1990 novel *Wildlife*, tells of a Montana golf pro turned firefighter.

Montana writers who were recipients of High Plains Book Awards, announced in October during the High Plains Bookfest in Billings. Miles City native **Emily Danforth** was named best woman writer of the year for *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, which also won best young adult book; *Notes from the Journey Westward* by **Joe Wilkins** received the top poetry award; and **Alan Kesselheim** and **Thomas Lee** won best art and photography book for their collaboration, *Montana: Real Place, Real People*. The awards honor books by High Plains authors or those that are set in, or written about life in the region, as well as Canadian provinces Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Author **Elizabeth Watry**, whose book, *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legacies and Legends of Yellowstone National Park*, received a WILLA Award for scholarly nonfiction. The book profiles 12 women who played important roles in the park's history and development, from early hoteliers to groundbreaking government biologists. The nationally recognized award, named for author Willa Cather and sponsored by Women Writing the West, represents the best of published literature for women or girls, set in the North American West. Watry, an accomplished researcher, author and historian, is assistant curator of history at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman.



*Women in Wonderland* by Elizabeth Watry

Lewis and Clark Library Bookmobile librarian **Bretagne Byrd**, who was among 56 people selected to participate in the American Library Association's 2014 class of Emerging Leaders. The program kicks off with a day-long session during the 2014 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia and continues for six months with online learning and networking, culminating at the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, where participants will showcase the results of their project-planning efforts. Lewis and Clark Library Director Judy Hart is thrilled with the announcement. "As someone who is at the sunset of my career it is so refreshing to see new, young professional librarians who are passionate, innovative and creative step up to guide libraries into the future." Byrd has been with the Helena library since July 2012 and has been at the helm of the Bookmobile since it went into service last November. She came to Helena from Bloomfield, IN, where she served as an outreach librarian.

The recipients of the 2013 Historic Preservation Excellence Awards from the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA): **The Mike and Eve Art Family**, Outstanding Commercial Preservation Project for 40

years of sensitive development and stewardship at Chico Hot Springs in Pray; the **Fort Assiniboine Preservation Association**, Outstanding Group Achievement for stabilizing, restoring, rehabbing, and promoting the historic buildings at the former Fort Assiniboine near Havre; and **Mike and Chris Nelson**, **Zoot Enterprises** and **Langlas and Associates**, Outstanding Commercial Preservation Project for rehabilitation of the Northern Hotel, which was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. Awards for Outstanding Individual Achievement went to **Diane Sands**, former development director at the Fort Missoula Historic Museum, for her efforts to preserve significant stories of the Garden City's military and transportation history; **Kirby Matthew**, USFS Region One Preservation Team Leader, for preserving dozens of significant Forest Service buildings in Montana, Idaho and North Dakota; and **Nicholas Vrooman**, Metis/LittleShell Tribe historian and author, for his life's work, reflected in the publication of his history of the tribe, *The Whole Country was... 'One Robe': The Little Shell Tribe's America*. The awards were given during the MPA's annual meeting, Oct. 24 at the Northern Hotel in Billings.

**Stumptown Art Studio** in Whitefish, which was the recipient of the "Great Fish Award" for 2013 presented Nov. 7 during the Whitefish Community Foundation grant awards. This annual award is given to a local nonprofit in recognition of their value and service to the community. The bronze fish sculpture will be displayed in the window of Stumptown Art Studio for a year, until it's passed on at the next awards ceremony in 2014. The community arts center also received four separate grants totaling \$9,800. Funds have been allocated for building improvements, classroom art materials, operations, and the Windows On Whitefish (WOW) mural project.



Stumptown Art Studio's "Great Fish Award"

## CONDOLENCES TO ...



Blacksmith and MCAM member Randal Charles Mundt

The friends and family of traditional blacksmith **Randal Charles Mundt**. A member of the Montana Circle of American Masters, he died Oct. 24 at his ranch near Tiger Butte, where he had spent most of his life. Mundt was born in Great Falls July 31, 1948, served in the Air National Guard and graduated from Montana State University. He spent most of his life working as a third-generation cattle rancher on the family ranch outside Belt. Mundt said he "always had a thing for ironwork." He was taught welding by his father, and used his grandfather's anvil and forging tools. In his early 20s, he started making knives, bits and spurs. He always liked ornamental iron, but thought that with practice, he could do better than what he saw in the market. He started studying pictures of the works of master blacksmiths and then began experimenting with the metal. Mundt began supplementing his ranch income by producing ornamental iron railings, fireplace screens, etc., getting more and more detailed with each new project. After a few years, blacksmithing was no longer a supplement but another business – Tiger Butte Blacksmith Shop, which eventually had waiting lists of customers wanting railings, fireplace screens and other ornamental iron pieces. The Montana Arts Council recognized the superb quality of his work and in 2010 he was inducted into the Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM).

The family and friends of longtime newspaperman **Rick Foote**. The former editor of *The Montana Standard* and *The Butte Weekly* died Oct. 6; he was 68. Foote, a Butte native, was a 1968 graduate of The University of Montana School of Journalism in Missoula, where he served as managing editor of *The Montana Kaimin*, the student newspaper. He also wrote for the *Missoulian* and *The People's Voice*. While serving in Vietnam with the First Field Force Vietnam Artillery, he created the *Artillery Review*, a publication for the men of the artillery command. He began his career at the *Standard* in February 1970 as a reporter and covered education and courts before being named special assignments reporter in the mid-1970s. Foote was named managing editor of the paper in November 1984, and was promoted to editor one year later. He resigned from the position on Dec. 31, 1993. He signed on with the Knight International Press Fellowship program in 1999 and went to Albania and Romania as a Knight Fellow. Foote also graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology as a professional cook and worked at the Butte Country Club before joining the staff of *The Butte Weekly* in 1997 as editor; he was still at the paper at the time of his death.

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## CONDOLENCES TO ...

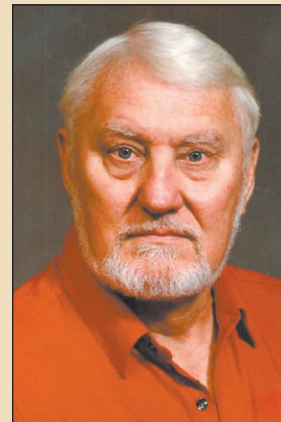
The family and friends of Red Lodge Festival of Nations coordinator and Red Lodge Music Festival founder **Robert Walter Moran**. The town's cultural icon and mentor to many died Nov. 10 at age 88. Moran was born Oct. 5, 1925, and was raised by Dr. Edwin M. Adams and his wife, Marion Edwards Adams, the librarian of the Red Lodge Carnegie Library. Nurtured by these eminent personalities and surrounded by endless shelves of books, he developed an early passion for literature and the arts that later resulted in his many gifts to his community over his lifetime. Following graduation from Red Lodge High School and two years at The University of Montana in Missoula, he served in the U.S. Army from March 1944 to May 1946 in the Rhineland and central Europe as a message center chief, and trained in library science in London. Upon his return to the states, he finished his college education at Missoula and continued his studies as a Fulbright Scholar at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. He taught French and English briefly at Red Lodge High School before becoming the assistant to Mrs. Adams at the Red Lodge library. Upon her death in 1965, he continued as sole librarian, serving the community as its literary champion for 50 years before retiring at age 80. His role as librarian was legendary, knowing readers' interests well enough that he left piles of books on their porches and car seats. There were no "late fees" ever, and he remembered every reader as well as every book that was still out. The library served as the cultural center of the community, where he was able to assume significant roles. One was as coordinator of the Red Lodge Festival of Nations. For over 50 years, he inspired participants who preserved the cultures of the early immigrant Finns, Scandinavians, English, Irish, Welsh, Scots, Italians, Germans and Yugoslavians. He was also a founder of the Red Lodge Music Festival, which celebrated its 50th year in 2013 as a memorable camp for students and faculty from many states. A long-time board member, he saw the "Aspen of Montana" camp grow from nine students to 241. He was a 50-year perfect-attendance member of the Red Lodge Inquiry Club, where he was the unofficial historian and events planner. He was active in the Carbon County Historical Society, where he had hopes for a permanent Festival of Nations exhibit. He was



Robert Walter Moran

also member of many community organizations, and had a strong interest in all things new — residents, movies, books.

The friends and family of community actor and language teacher **Aubrey Koefod Dunkum**. He died Nov. 18 at age 91. Dunkum was born May 21, 1922, in Minneapolis where he attended public schools. In 1940, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to Iceland, New Zealand and Guadalcanal, and made the first wave in Bougainville (where he was wounded) and Guam. After the war, he attended the University of Minnesota, receiving his master's degree in romance languages in 1950. He taught Spanish and French at the university, and later did graduate work at the University of Madrid. His proficiency in Spanish opened the way for a varied career that eventually led him to work and live in a wide variety of interesting places, including Montevideo, Uruguay, Guatemala City, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Miami, Paris and Madrid. He retired in 1975 and the family moved to Missoula, the hometown of his wife, Patricia. For several years, he taught Spanish at The University of Montana. Dunkum was also very active in the Missoula theater scene, took part in summer theater in Polson, and was involved with the Missoula Choral Festival. He and Patricia also traveled extensively. He was a lifelong Episcopalian and sang in the choir at Holy Spirit Church and served as a lay Eucharistic minister. His later years were occupied with various volunteer organizations including Radio Reading Service and Meals on Wheels.



Aubrey Koefod Dunkum

The family and friends of longtime Air Force trumpeter **LeRoy Kirschenmann**. He died Nov. 4 in Billings at age 79. He was born on Oct. 28, 1934, in Burnstad, N.D., and his family moved to the Hardin area in 1935. He came from a very musical family and played trumpet while attending Hardin High School. He graduated in 1952 and shortly afterward joined the U.S. Air Force where, in boot camp, everyone who played a musical instrument was told to "go over there." Thus began a 21-year career in the U.S. Air Force Band playing trumpet until his retirement as master sergeant in 1973. While in the band, he played on the Johnny Carson and Ed Sullivan shows, at Carnegie Hall, for the King of Thailand, and for USO shows around the world. After retiring from the Air Force, the family moved to Billings, where he began a second 21-year career at the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1994.

## Darrell Robes Kipp (from page 1)

His father, who is universally described as incredibly wise and intelligent, shared some secrets with Darren.

"One thing he always told me was stay clear of careless people," Darren Kipp said. "That's why he was successful. He was not complex. There were no problems in my dad's life."

Kipp, whose Pikuni name was Apiniokio Peta, or Morning Eagle, co-founded the Piegan Institute in 1987, dedicated to archiving and preserving the Blackfoot language. The institute's Cuts Wood School is the private elementary school that immerses young people in the Blackfoot language using a teaching method called "total physical response."

The Harvard-trained Kipp became a leader in the preservation of the Blackfoot language and culture and was author of numerous books on topics such as Blackfeet mythology. In 2004, Kipp and composer Robert Kapilow collaborated on a choral and orchestral work called "Summer Sun, Winter Moon," which was commissioned for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

And Darrell Kipp was not just successful with the Piegan Institute.

"That was just one part of him," said Darren, emphasizing that his father was instrumental in the spay-neuter clinic in Browning and many, many other things that piqued his interest.

Darrell Kipp's overriding philosophy was simple and deep: "Whatever benefits the tribe must benefit the individual, and whatever benefits the individual must benefit the tribe, as well," Darren remembered.

LaPier, who had known Darrell Kipp since the early 1990s and worked with him at the Piegan Institute since 1999, said Kipp's legacy will be felt throughout the United States.

"It's one of those things that his legacy will be felt nationwide more than local," LaPier said. "He both encouraged a lot of people and inspired a lot of people to work on Native language revitalization. A lot of programs started all over in different Native communities."

LaPier said in Montana examples of revitalization efforts inspired by Kipp's work include the White Clay Immersion School on the Fort Belknap Reservation and the Nkwusm Salish Language Institute in Arlee. ...

The Grotto Foundation, which aims to increase understanding of American cultural heritage, the cultures of nations, and the individual's responsibility to fellow human beings, has a booklet on its website that stemmed from a transcription of a seminar Kipp put on for a group interested in starting the Nigaane Ojibwe immersion program.

It's titled "Encouragement, Guidance, Insights, and Lessons Learned for Native Language Activists Developing Their Own Tribal Language Programs," and it's used across the United States, LaPier said.

"A lot of people (involved in Native language revitalization) use it," LaPier said. "Even if they haven't met him, they have read his booklet or heard of it. It's seen as this Bible that people use."

On a personal level, LaPier said she will greatly miss Kipp.

"He was always eternally optimistic, and he always saw the good in people ..." she said. "That was a real part of him and wasn't fake." In fact, he was always genuine, LaPier said ...

Tom Cook, with the Montana Historical Society, remembered Kipp as extraordinary.

"Darrell was a great man," Cook wrote in email tribute to his friend. "I talked to him many times over the years, especially during the Lewis and Clark commemoration, which he taught me was not a celebration. He was a great teacher and storyteller — both of serious stuff and stuff that made you laugh. We had many a good time. The things he did for the people and especially the young ones with his language and pride teachings is legacy enough for most. But he was far more than that. He taught us all what it means to be human and to learn, to confront and to forgive. One is tempted to say he lived in two worlds, but for me, I like to think he lived in a world that was

big enough for all of us. He will be honored in the next place. He already earned his honors here. He will be missed."

Born on Oct. 23, 1944, Kipp, whose grandfather was a survivor of the Baker Massacre of 1870, grew up east of Browning on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. He received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Montana College in Billings in 1966.

Kipp served in the U.S. military before earning a teaching certificate at Eastern in 1970. He and his wife, Roberta, returned to Browning, where Kipp first taught in the school system and then took a job with the Community Action Plan.

He later earned a master's degree from Harvard University and a master of fine arts degree from Vermont College.

Kipp became an ardent supporter of the Blackfoot language, urging people to learn the tongue of their ancestors.

"Tribal languages can be revitalized to sooth our children's hearts again if people stop long enough to embrace them," Kipp wrote on the Piegan Institute's website.

He was dogged in his determination to revive tribal tongues and spread that enthusiasm. Kipp is featured on visitmt.com's website, where he introduces the world to the Blackfoot language in a video.

"Everything in Montana that you see, every waterfall, every river, every pass, everywhere you go has been described uniquely in Indian languages for thousands and thousands of years," Kipp says in the video.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Roberta Ray Kipp, son, Darren Kipp, sister, Geraldine Oscar, and brother, Donald Kipp.



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"I like to think he lived in a world that was big enough for all of us. He will be honored in the next place. He already earned his honors here."

— Tom Cook,  
Montana Historical Society