

Seeley Swan

# PATHFINDER

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## Two Week Pull-Out Schedule: Tamarack/Brew Fest, Tour of the Arts & Homecoming

### Sculpture in the Wild

## Where Art, Education and History Walk the Same Path

LINCOLN, MONT - The three-week Sculpture in the Wild International Sculpture Symposium near Lincoln, Mont. is nearing completion. The symposium was created to celebrate the rich cultural, environmental and industrial heritage of the Blackfoot Valley.

See **SCULPTURES** page 16



Photo by Roger Dey, BVD  
Artistic Director and sculptor Kevin O'Dwyer in front of the Delaney Mill teepee burner being moved to the sculpture park.



Photo provided by the Swan Lake Ranger District, US Forest Service

Smoke rising from the slopes above Piper Lake in the Mission Mountains Wilderness Sept. 23. This was a part of the 1,036 acre Mission Upland Burn project on the Swan Lake Ranger District.

## Mission Upland Burn Completed

Story & photos by Andi Bourne  
*Pathfinder*

Anyone travelling through the Swan Valley Wednesday, Sept. 24 could not miss the large plume of smoke coming from the Piper Creek drainage north of Condon. This was the culmination of a four-year Mission Upland Burn project to help create a fuels buffer that provides the Swan Lake Ranger District (SLRD) more options when managing natural lightning-caused fires within the Mission Mountains Wilderness.

SLRD Planning Team Leader Joleen Dunham worked on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment for the project starting four years ago. That was the start of the project followed by developing a prescription for the

unit and burn plan, holding several public meetings and open houses, submitting for a smoke permit from the Montana Department of Air Quality and securing the resources needed for the burn.

"It's so exciting to finally see this implemented," said Dunham. She said the SLRD outreach and willingness to listen to the community, incorporate comments and through their work with collaborators helped keep the project out of litigation.

SLRD Fire Management Officer Brad Gillespie said there was a lot more outreach for this burn because this was the first time the SLRD has burned on the west side of the Swan Valley.

"It is a concern of the public to have fire on this side of the valley," said Gillespie. "Especially a fire of

this size and in this location."

The Mission Upland Burning Project was 1,036 acres with two-

See **MISSION UPLAND BURN** page 22



Symphony of the Rockies and internationally renowned cellist Amit Peled play for high school students.

## Famed Musician Plays \$3 Million Cello in High School Gym

Story & photos by Betty Vanderwielen  
*Pathfinder*

Guest cellist Amit Peled performed in concert with Symphony of the Rockies (SOR) at the Seeley-Swan High School (SSHS) "little gym" Monday, Sept. 22.

The cello Peled played was on temporary loan to him. Made in 1733 by legendary stringed instrument maker Goffriller, the cello belongs to the estate of Pablo Casals, considered the most famous cellist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Peled said he felt the weight of responsibility in playing such a storied instrument. "I have to buy it a separate plane ticket," he said. Then added, "But I get the mileage points."

See **PELED** page 10

# ★ ★ ★ DAVE STROHMAIER ★ ★ ★

for State House

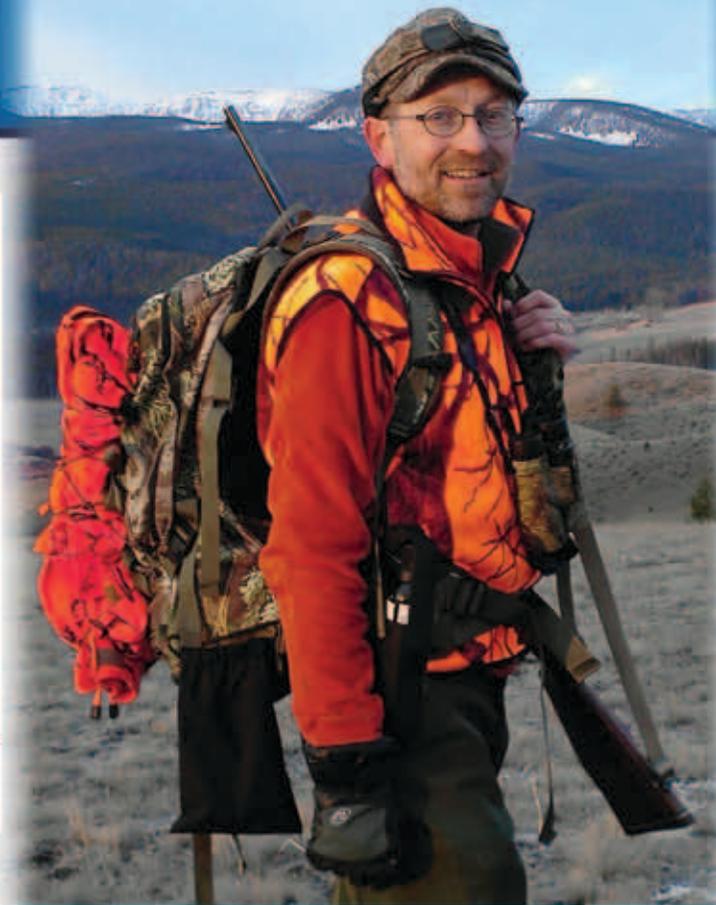


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## Peled (continued from pg. 1)

In accordance with their contract with 2 Valleys Stage, SOR and Peled gave two “informances” (informational performances) to the local school children prior to the concert.

The 6 foot 5 inch Peled told the SSHS students his childhood dream was to become a basketball player. He relayed the history behind his instrument and said, “This is the Michael Jordan of cellos.”

Peled later shot hoops with some of the high school kids during the break before the second informance.

Swan Valley Elementary students joined the Seeley Lake Elementary students in the little

gym. SOR presented the same tutorial to the younger students, though the approach was different.

SOR introduced the various instruments by demonstrating the

range of each, from throbbing low bass to the shrillest violin high note. Different SOR members discussed what the bows and instruments were made of. They played one tune entirely by finger plucking.

Before the orchestra performed “Song of the Bird,” Peled told the students there was an animal hidden in the piece and challenged them to hear it. One boy said afterwards he thought it was a panda bear because the music was sort of sad and he thought the panda was probably sad because it was becoming extinct.

Peled responded, “That’s beautiful.” He told him the song was about a bird but added, “That’s okay. You can feel anything you want to [with music].”

He told the students

the cello is sometimes considered sad and mellow, but it can also be “happy and cool.” Then he demonstrated by playing a lively wedding dance.

In the question and answer period that followed one student asked the members of SOR, “Is this your job or your hobby?” The answer was “a little of both.”

SOR is composed of musicians from all over Montana. They come together to practice four times a year. Most of them have jobs as music teachers, some at high school or elementary schools, some at universities and some give private lessons.

Another student asked why their bows didn’t all move together when they played. The SOR members answered that they don’t all play the same notes all of the time. They went on to explain the music term “chasing” in which one instrument plays the notes first, then another repeats those notes but a few beats later. “Like when you sing ‘Row, Row Your Boat’ in rounds,” one member clarified.

At the evening concert, SOR members took turns introducing the

music pieces, adding information about the composer or telling anecdotes about their own teaching.

They also commented about the earlier informances, calling the students “great kids” and adding, “They asked great questions.”

During the concert, prolonged audience applause after each musical piece testified to the virtuosity of the players and appreciation for Peled and his cello.

Concert attendee Petie Luckman said, “I didn’t know you could get so much out of an instrument.”

Another attendee, Jeanne Koester, said, “I found it [the concert] to be one of the most magical musical events I had ever attended. It was mesmerizing. I was so proud of Seeley Lake and Alpine Artisans for the coup of having that grand an event in our high school.”

Someone asked Peled how long he would be allowed to use the three million dollar cello. He explained that in Casal’s will the instrument was left to his wife, but the will specified that upon her death, the cello, as Peled expressed it, “has to go to a museum where it will sit in a glass box.”



Cellist Amit Peled playing a little basketball with high school students.