



Polson High Swim Team Raises Funds with Local Spuds

Locally grown potatoes donated by family owned Lake Seed, Inc. help Polson High School add swimming, a much needed winter sport, to its schedule from mid-November to mid-February. Sale of 10-pound bags of potatoes for \$10 will help cover team travel to meets across the state and gear for the team.

For the past six years interest and encouragement has grown among community leaders, parents, students, and the Montana swimming community to start a PHS swim team. The Polson School District has made a five-year commitment to hire a coach, provide transportation to meets, and pay Montana High School Sports Association fees if a parent/student group raises \$7,100 annually. Parents and swimmers have contributed \$3,150, and a grant from the Greater Polson

Community Foundation and a gift from the Donna Rolfson Trust have helped reach the goal.

Polson will join 20 other Montana towns with high school swim teams who compete in six meets plus the annual state meet. It is anticipated that more than 30 high school age swimmers will participate this first year. The Lake Monsters Swim Team composed of approximately 35 younger kids will be a great feeder program for the high school team, guaranteeing longevity of the program.



Members of the future PHS swim team bagging potatoes donated by Lake Seed, Inc. of Ronan.

Proponents add that swimming is a needed life skill and schools are the ideal and accessible venue to reach all children. Since swimming is an individual sport, it

accepts and encourages varied abilities and could be a good fit for a student who hasn't participated in a sport or who has special needs.

Flathead Lake International Cinemafest Set for Jan. 29-31

—David King, Festival Director

Despite the current uncertainty in many areas of life, FLIC is moving ahead with the 2021 Festival. Official Selections for FLIC 2021 are being finalized. Based on preliminary scoring, some films that are likely to be included in the festival are:

Pulse (narrative feature, Ukraine) the true life story of Oksana Boturchuk, a Ukrainian track and field athlete and Paralympic competitor who loses her sight in her pursuit of her dreams.

RenaiDance (animation, USA) a young girl dances with and is inspired by her grandfather. Where does that inspiration go when he is no longer alive? It is a beautiful showcase of strong family love and elder

culture in a never-ending chain.

The Soul of a Cyclist (documentary feature, Portugal) the love of the classical bicycle and shared values—friendship, ecology, valuing the old, minimalism—bring people from all corners of the world together.

Navajo Math Circles (documentary feature, USA) depicts Navajo students in a lively collaboration with mathematicians. The math circles approach puts children in charge of exploring mathematics to their own joy and satisfaction.

The FLIC committee is working diligently to create a strong festival to celebrate nine years of independent

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New Mural Reflects Lake's Beauty, Biological Diversity

As a gift to the Flathead Lake community, the Flathead Lakers arranged for an artist to paint a mural on the west side of the Salish Building. The colorful mural covers two exterior walls, visible when you approach Polson from the bridge. It is a reminder of the beauty and biological diversity of the lake and the importance of protecting it for future generations.

Donors to the project include the owners of the Salish Building, Flathead Lakers members, the Greater Polson

Community Foundation and the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

A future plaque will acknowledge donors, and describe the themes and cultural symbolism depicted in the mural.



Salish Kootenai College art teacher Cameron Decker collaborated with a professional artist known for his street art and murals in Rochester, NY who painted the mural in August.

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cinema in the Mission Valley AND the opening of the new Showboat Cinemas on Main Street in Polson. We recognize, however, that the COVID pandemic has affected many in our community. We are researching different programming options to bring the festival to people in their homes if they are unable to come to the theater.

FLIC would not be possible without our generous and dedicated sponsors. The GPCF has been one of FLIC's most generous supporters. We are thankful for their—and all of our sponsors'—continued support of our vision.

Please join us for FLIC 2021: January 29-31, 2021. Encore week is January 31-February 4, 2021.

Follow us on Facebook or, in early January, visit our website at FLICPolson.com for more information about the in-person festival and virtual options.

GPCF Officers, Directors

Toni Young Whealon, President

Jake Baumann, Vice President

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Paul Bunyan Repairs Funded



Stabilizing jacks have been placed beneath the Paul Bunyan's deck - Miracle of America Museum photo.

The Miracle of America Museum reports the recent grant from the Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) has made it possible to rescue and restore portions of the Paul Bunyan, Flathead Lake's historic logging towboat.

The GPCF grant plus emergency matching funds enabled the Museum to purchase materials and hire a carpenter to stabilize weaknesses from dry rot, and repair the deck and railing. The result: Next summer's visitors will once again be allowed on board for a closer look at this historic boat.



GPCF Vision Statement

We facilitate and invest in the development of a robust and welcoming community where all have the opportunity to be healthy, educated, creative, productive, and prosperous.

Halie Smith Awarded June Syvrud Music Scholarship

Halie Smith, gifted vocalist and 2020 Polson High School graduate, is the first recipient of the June Syvrud Music Scholarship.

Halie is attending Montana State University where she is majoring in music and microbiology.

She is pictured here with Bob Syvrud who established the annual scholarship to honor the memory of his wife, June, who taught music in Polson's elementary and Middle School for 18 years. June produced countless student recitals, shows and programs for all occasions well as

playing memorable lead roles in a dozen musicals staged at Polson's Community Theater.

The scholarship is for those who intend to pursue a career in music in any musical discipline, vocal or instrumental, going for teaching or performing degrees, to any accredited music school of their choice.

Funds for the scholarship are invested through a donor advised fund overseen by the Greater Polson Community Foundation.



GPCF Makes a Difference One Grant at a Time



The Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) recently distributed \$53,900 among eighteen local non-profit organizations as a part of its 2020 grant cycle. The amount distributed represents the annual earnings from the GPCF's permanent endowment fund.

They are:

Flathead Lake Biological Station
 Flathead Lakers
 Flathead Lake International Cinemafest,
 Helping Hands
 LCCDC Leadership Course
 Lake County Youth Scholarship Program
 Miracle of America Museum,
 Mission Valley Animal Shelter
 Mission Valley Aquatics and Fitness

Mission Valley Live
 North Lake County Public Library
 Polson Boys and Girls Club
 Polson Flathead Lake Museum
 Polson Loaves & Fish Food Pantry
 Polson School District Special Needs Playground
 SKC STEM Academy,
 Welcome Home, Inc.
 Women 4 Wellness

Roger Smith, Grant Chairman for the GPCF reports that the 2020 grants will support a wide variety of youth and community-oriented projects including special needs playground equipment, college opportunities for high school juniors and seniors, swim lesson scholarships, leadership development programs, spay and neutering for pets, citizen science programs on the lake, youth sports, preservation and showcasing of historical data and artifacts, a beautiful film festival as well as a series of musical showcases.

Because of the generosity of local donors a total of \$750,625 has been awarded to worthy needs and projects in our community from 2009 through mid- 2020.

Please Consider This

Naming the Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) in your will establishes your permanent legacy. Every gift to the GPCF permanent endowment fund benefits the community you love forever.

Hooping It Up For Health – GPCF Teams Up with 3-on-3 Tourney

Plenty of physical activity is important since our community is challenged by heart disease and diabetes.

GPCF has recently teamed up with the Lake County Youth Scholarship Program (LCYSP) with a grant to purchase equipment that will keep the 2021 Three-On-Three basketball tournaments on schedule throughout our communities.

Basketball tournaments are a regular summer event in Polson, Ronan, and Bigfork and each event draws between 500 to 1,000 participants. These family setting basketball tournaments provide an opportunity from first graders to adults to combine fun with healthy exercise. Healthcare providers Providence St. Joseph’s Medical Center and St. Luke’s Hospital also support LCYSP at these events.



First graders through adults participate in our annual basketball tournaments. Here some pose with banners and signage they have created to show appreciation for GPCF support.

Last Look at Summer’s Colorful Volunteer Flowerbeds

Now that an unusually early snow storm has covered our town with a white blanket, this photo is a reminder of how colorful Polson is in summer.

Think about the hot pink petunias in the traffic island at the intersection of highways 93 and 35 and the gorgeous hanging flower baskets that make downtown so cheery! GPCF wants to give a pat on the back to the city workers and the many volunteers who pitch in to make this happen.

GPCF receives and administers the much-appreciated donations to fund the hanging baskets, Delaney’s Landscaping plants and maintains the flowers in the traffic island. A team of volunteers help the city crew keep the bump outs at the intersections on Main Street looking ship shape by dead-heading spent blooms and weeding.

Other volunteers plant colorful annuals and maintain the landscaping around our unique Clubhouse Theater on the Lake, and others plant and keep up the flower beds in Ducharme Park.

The GPCF Beautification Committee organizes the annual spring Clean Up! Green

Up! project as well as the annual Polson in Bloom Contest which inspires homeowners to put special effort into their landscapes.

And we salute the many business owners who brighten up their entrances with colorful hanging baskets and planters.

Thumbs up and a big thank you to all those who worked to make Polson look its best this past summer. Your efforts make all of us look forward to spring.



Your Legacy

Please remember the Greater Polson Community Foundation in your will or estate plan to continue your legacy of supporting our community.

Charitable Giving 101

- Information from Montana Community Foundation

Thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law in March 2020, as an individual or business donor, you have access to potentially impactful tax benefits from charitable giving in 2020. Below you will find examples of a few notable opportunities created by the CARES Act. ***The window for taking advantage of these changes closes December 31.***

Things You Should KNOW

A One-Time Universal Charitable Deduction

Even if you take the standard deduction on your 2020 federal tax return, the CARES Act allows you to claim a one-time "universal" deduction for gifts to charity. Individuals can claim a deduction up to a total of \$300; married couples filing jointly can claim up to \$600.

Charitable Deductions Increased to 100% of AGI

If, instead, you plan to itemize your federal tax return in 2020, the CARES Act raises the 60% adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for cash donations, enabling individual and joint filers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI. That means it's possible to have zero taxable income in 2020 if people really give big!

Note: The 100% AGI limit for 2020 does not apply to gifts of securities or to cash donations made to establish planned gifts such as those qualifying for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.

Traditional IRA to Roth IRA Conversion: An Attractive Option for 2020

If you have been considering converting all or part of your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, certain CARES Act provisions might make 2020 the year to do so. First, this year's required minimum distribution (RMD) waiver removes the need to take an RMD before converting to a Roth. Second, the 100% AGI limit mentioned above could help off-set increases to taxable income as a result of converting pre-tax money from a traditional IRA to a Roth. While this type of IRA conversion is not right for everyone, for those seriously considering it this may be the right time.

Things You Should DO

1 – Make a Gift

The \$300 universal deduction offers you a great incentive to consider making a gift to support a cause whose work is close to your heart.

2 – Consider "Bunching" Your Charitable Gifts in 2020

If you are able, you may choose to make 2-3 years' worth of your expected future charitable giving all in 2020. This would allow you to take advantage of the 100% AGI exception on charitable deductions and itemize your return in this year, taking the standard deduction in subsequent years.

***GPCF would love to have you consider us for your charitable donations.
Please check with your tax advisor and your financial advisor
to maximize your tax benefits and charitable giving impact.***

Here are the people who help us realize our vision:

Donors – May 1 to October 27, 2020

David & Lois Abell	Monte Garnett-Gateway to Vitality	Edgar & Cheryl Maldonado	Dave & Suz Rittenhouse
Rob & Nancy Alfiero	Robert & Patrice Gerrie	Dan & Carolyn McCarthy	Kitte Robins
Dorothy & Larry Ashcraft	John & Diane Gibson	Helen McClellan	Edward Rodden
Tom Bansak	Glacier Bank	Greg & Sue McCormick	Donna Rolfson (Trust)
Philip & Sandy Barney	Richard & Katherine Godfrey	John Mercer	Shauna & Kraig Rubel
Jacob & Jami Baumann	William & Jeannette Gregg	Brian & Laura Miskimins	Robert & Donna Sauers
Hu & Patsy Beaver	Roger & Joan Grimes	Robert & Nancy Mitchell	Wayne & Maureen Schile
Ray & Connie Beck	Marc & Marla Gullickson	Marcia Richwine Moen	Matt & Tana Seeley
Sarah Beck	Bob & Cindy Guy	Graydon Moll	Kathy Senkler
Tim & Cindy Beebe	John & Nancy Hackethorn	Bob & Betty Moore	Gayle & Helen Siemers
James & Pat Binger	Don Hanley	Barbara Mordock	Ron & Myrna Simon
Marshall & Betty Bjork	Robert & Johanna Hanson	Carmine Mowbray	Jim & Joanne Simpson
Jamie Boettcher	Scott & Lisa Harmon	Fred & Sherry Nelson	Roger & Libby Smith
Bill Boettcher	Richard & Donna Hartman	Dodger & Sally Newhall	Norman & Monica Laflin Smith
Joe & Gerry Browning	Gretchen & Edward Heffernan	Alan & Nancy Nicholson	Eric & Blair Sprunk
Laura & Jim Burrowes	Amy Hetzler	Sharon Northridge	Terri & Bill Srch - Fagliano
Brian & Tricia Campbell	Karen Huff-Pawlik	Eileen & David Oatley	Judy & Anais Starr-Preston
Century 21 - Ric Smith	Kristin & Terry Hughmanik	David & Nona Overcast	Francis & Lulu Stock
Richard Christopher	Jane Irwin	Terry & Patt Payne	Dale & Linda Stoverud
Dave & Bea Cottington	Daniel & Kari Koskinen	Larry & Becky Peltz	Rosemarie Strope
John & Diane Cummings	Charles & Henrietta Jarecki	Gary & Mary Williams Perkins	Phyllis & Jim Strosahl
Wes & Twila Delaney	Dennis & Joan Black Johnson	Jeanette Phillips	Ron Tjaden
Janice Donovan	Marvin Kaschke	Garry & Christine Pitts	Unity Bank
Dean & Tarri Duncan	John & Janice Smith-Kasson	Connie & Diane Plaissy	Mary Janet Vail
Craig & Sharla Ekegren	Doug & Cindy Kelly	BK Pomajevich	David & Patricia Van Acker
W.K. & Joyce Erickson	Joe & Danni Kennedy	Port Polson Players	Robert & Marsha Vick
David & Catherine Fansher	David & Jessica King	Steve & Kim Powell	Steve & Karen Vinal
Emily Farra	Karen & Phil Korell	Elizabeth C Preston	Douglas & Mary Wadman
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Clint Fischer	Jack & Susan Lake	Providence Health Services	Lois Williams
Boyd Foster	Jane/David Laraby/Swayne	Robert & Donna Radtke	Bill & Maria Williams
Ryan & Krista Gage	Rich & Jane Larson	Tom & Carolyn Ratterman	Ray & Ann Wooldridge
Greg & Lynn Gardner	Valerie Lindstrom	Dr. Dan & Katrina Rausch	Jerry & Toni Whealon
Samuel & Nancy Gary		Agnes & Ken Rinehart	

Designated GPCF Memorials

Memorial gifts honor those who loved our community, and are invested in the GPCF permanent endowment fund.

- Bill Amass
 - Ken Avison
 - Joyce Cadieux
 - Jules Clavadetscher
 - Elaine Cowan
 - John Cowan
 - Thomas Doherty
 - Joan Hanley
 - Mildred Weber Hanson
- Vickie Perry Hanson
 - Sonia Jarrett
 - Dr. Erling K. Karlsgodt
 - Kurt Karlsgodt
 - Molly Karlsgodt
 - Vernette Karlsgodt
 - Janet A. Kaschke
 - Dan Morrison
 - Enoch Richwine
- Lucille Richwine
 - Shane Richwine
 - Dr. Patrick Robins
 - Donna Jean Rolfson
 - Tom Ryan
 - Nancy Irwin Stewart
 - June Syvrud
 - Gordon Wilson
 - Donald "Buck" Young

Planned Gifts, Bequests

John S. & Elaine Cowan Trust
 Arn & Lois Hart
 Charles M. & Henrietta M. Jarecki
 Matt & Evonne O'Neill
 Donna Jean Rolfson
 Bob & Marsha Vick

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