



Steve Peebles plays Falstaff for a laughing and enthused crowd. Photo courtesy Adrian Sanchez Gonzalez

Shakespeare in town

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will give a free performance of "Henry IV, Part I" Friday at the Town Park as part of their 47th summer of bringing the Bard to 61 communities in Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, Washington and Wyoming.

The company will travel more than 7,000 miles during the season, which runs from June 12 through Sept. 3.

Their performance August 23 is sponsored by the Philipsburg Arts Fund in cooperation with the Philipsburg Chamber of Commerce.

"It starts at 6 p.m. and people should bring food and beverage, a lawn chair," Philipsburg Arts Fund Board Member (and former Chamber President) Cathy Smith told the Mail.

Kevin Asselin, executive artistic director, will direct and the 11 professional actors that will tour

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with the company were chosen out of a highly-competitive pool at auditions in Bozeman, Chicago, Houston and Minneapolis.

Asselin said the recent centennial of World War I inspired him to set "Henry IV, Part I" in that era.

"The play has such a deep rela-

tionship with the true meaning of honor," Asselin said.

"Shakespeare gives us multiple viewpoints on what honor means to us as individuals. And it has a great relationship to Montana. If you look at the veteran population through the past 125 years, Montana leads the nation in terms of veterans per capita. I felt the connection would be exciting for us to explore."

One of Shakespeare's most popular characters, Falstaff, is featured prominently in both plays. The drunken knight is a foil to Prince Hal in "Henry IV" and is played by returning actor Steve Peebles.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is an outreach program of Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture. Grants, corporate sponsorships and hundreds of individual donors support the free performance.

Secretary of State visits chamber

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There appeared to be plenty that was on the minds of Chamber members.

Patrick Fox, owner of The Boulder Creek Lodge, mentioned the problem of landowners blocking access on road easements through private lands.

"I have problems with people who stay at my place wanting to go on their four by fours to go places. They come back and say the maps say that we can go there, but we can't. There are gates," Fox said.

The lack of signage off of the interstate to indicate what is available in Philipsburg was also mentioned.

Stapleton said that nobody uses signs these days and that search engine optimization was one good way to drive traffic here without put-

ting up signs.

"The way that you do that is through sophisticated marketing on the internet," he said. Several people responded that the lack of cell phone coverage in the area would tend to limit marketing abilities through the internet and signs are still important for less sophisticated travelers.

Maddy Mason of the Philipsburg Brewery said that she had researched the signage issue and found that the signs that the government puts up have to be within ten miles of the destination.

"We'll look into that and get back to you. Can you have signs at Drummond that would indicate all of those things?" Stapleton replied.

"How is your infrastructure?" Stapleton asked the group.

After the laughter

subsided, Shirley Beck of The Sweet Palace, and Philipsburg Mayor Dan Reddish provided the Secretary with a good summary of the situation.

Stapleton reminded the group of state bond funds for infrastructure that were available at low interest rates.

"Sometimes in state government it's actually easier to ask for 1.5 million dollars than it is one hundred and fifty thousand. Sometimes it's easier to be more holistic, and go big. We will look and see what is available for this area," he said.

Anne Fillmore, who has been a Certified Public Accountant in the area for many years, commended Stapleton on the digital upgrade and improvements that he has made to the efficiency of his agency. But she also reminded him that many of the ranchers and

many businesses that she has dealt with in the area are small, and many don't even have employees.

"These people don't always have the technical expertise that I see the state, the Department of Revenue, and obviously the I.R.S. moving toward," said Fillmore.

At one point during the session Stapleton marveled at the ability of the business community here to maintain a busy economy throughout the year and wondered how that takes place.

"So does this group kind of come together and connect? That's pretty cool. How does that happen?" he asked.

The answer to that question seemed to be summed up best by Shirley Beck. "It's been a consistent message that we have tried to get to everyone. We win when we all win," said Beck.

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Church Directory

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

All are welcome to attend service at
10 a.m. Sundays
406-859-3696 • 1100 Sawmill Rd., Philipsburg

Flint Creek Baptist Church

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Service - 11:00 am
406-859-4067 • 3794 MT Highway 1, Philipsburg

Philipsburg Community Church

Serving God, Loving People
Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:30 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
406-859-3622 • 208 Community Ave., Philipsburg

St. Andrews Episcopal

Welcomes you to service 4 pm Sundays
406-491-2332 • 101 East Kearney St, Philipsburg

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Sunday Service 11 am, all are welcome
406-261-1729 • 103 W Kearney St, Philipsburg

Flint Creek Catholic Communities

St. Michael, Drummond Sunday Mass 9:00 am
406-241-3604 • 12 W Broad St., Drummond, MT 59832
St. Philip Neri, Philipsburg Sunday Mass 11:00 am
406-241-3604 • 308 W. Kearney, Philipsburg, MT 59858