



## Contest Winners Flown to Helena for Awards Ceremony

“She flew me in an airplane before she gave me my first ride in a car,” said Allen Bunce, father of one of the 2010 Montana Aviation Awareness Art contest winners, Dixon Elementary student, Shayna Bunce.

Shayna Bunce of Arlee, received a round trip flight from her hometown to Helena in the MDT Aeronautics Division’s Cessna 206 and then a short drive to the Capitol on Friday, June 18. Nolan Coldwell winner of the Category 2 aviation art contest from Jordan joined Shayna at the Capitol for the annual aviation art contest awards ceremony. Mercedes Martin of Broadus, winner of the High School Division was not able to attend the awards ceremony.

MDT Aeronautics Division Art contest is designed to promote career opportunities and aviation awareness to the aviation industries in Montana.

Students from the ages six to 18, with an interest in aviation along with a penchant for art are encouraged to enter the annual contest through the public school system throughout Montana.

Jim Lynch, Director of Montana Department of Transportation was the Master of ceremonies and the master tour guide of the Capitol. Shayna and Nolan sat in the governor’s chair where they both declared their desire to be the Governor of Montana at some future date. The students and their families also met with Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger. After the personal guided tour of the Capitol, the winners and their families enjoyed lunch at the Windbag on Helena’s historic Last Chance Gulch.

The winning experience definitely sparked an interest in aviation for Shayna and Nolan, both are now making plans to become pilots.



*Pictured (l-r) Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics Administrator; Shayna Bunce, Arlee, MT; Jim Lynch, MDT Director; Nolan Coldwell, Jordan, MT. Congratulations to all the students that participated in the contest! See all of the winning artwork on page 4 of the newsletter.*



*Shayna Bunce shows off her artwork during the awards ceremony. Shayna has been drawing all her life and draws whenever she has a chance. Also pictured is Jeanne MacPherson, MDT Aeronautics Bureau Chief.*

# Administrator's Column

**Thank you:** to all of the wonderful people that assisted in the recent air search; particularly the Aeronautics Division volunteer search pilots and observers; Civil Air Patrol; Malmstrom Air Force Base; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Vince Jennison and the Polson Airport. The 2½ day air search was for a Piper Arrow that departed Missoula, arrived at Kalispell City to pick up passengers and continue on a sight-seeing flight. The foursome were on a scenic flight that ranged north to Glacier National Park before going along the Swan Mountain Range, across Flathead Lake and over the National Bison Range at Moiese where it disappeared from radar. A US Department of Homeland Security helicopter spotted the plane on a rugged remote hillside not far from the plane's last known location. The crash took the lives of pilot Sonny Kless, Brian Williams, Melissa Weaver and Erika Hoefler. Condolences and prayers are with the families and friends of these four young people. Thanks also to the Flathead, Sanders and Lake County Sheriffs, undersheriffs, deputies and search and rescue teams for their cooperation and dedication.

**TSA Administrator:** John Pistole was sworn into office as administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano after receiving Senate confirmation to become head of the agency. Pistole is the former deputy FBI director, having a 27-year career with the FBI, rising through the ranks of its counterterrorism division.

## **FCC rule would outlaw 121.5 MHz**

**ELTs:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its notice of a rule prohibiting the "certification, manufacture, importation, sale, or continued use of 121.5 MHz ELTs." The rule would make aircraft that are in full compliance with FAA regulations in violation of FCC communications law. The rule has not been published in the Federal Register so no effective date can be determined. Industry groups are

pushing the FAA and FCC to delay and re-evaluate the rule. There is currently no FAA mandate to replace the 121.5 MHz units with the 406 MHz technology making both units currently compliant with FAA regulation. Stay tuned.

## **Aircraft re-registration requirement**

**on horizon:** A rule requiring aircraft re-registration is awaiting FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt's signature and could go into effect this fall. Currently, there is a one-time aircraft registration with a \$5 fee; the new rule would require that aircraft be re-registered every three years, for a fee that is yet unknown. Exact details won't be known until the rule is published in the Federal Register. AOPA expressed concern to the FAA that any new requirements and fees not impose an unnecessary burden on pilots.

## **Rep. Denny Rehberg seeks support for**

**backcountry airstrips:** Representative Denny Rehberg along with House GA Caucus co-chairs Allen Boyd (D-Fla.) and Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), and Rep. Walt Minnick (D-Idaho), have introduced a resolution that "recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on the Nation's public lands and commends aviators and the various private organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use." In a letter sent to fellow members of Congress, the sponsors stated that these airstrips are often targeted for closure by the federal government or well-funded special interest groups. "With 147,000 square miles, there are plenty of places in Montana that you just can't get to by road," said Rehberg. "... During a time when our lands are under threat from drought, insect infestation and wildfire, and when our economy continues to struggle, backcountry airstrips serve a valuable role for land managers and visitors alike." Search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief, and wildlife management efforts are often based from backcountry strips. The rural airstrips also provide access to beautiful, remote federal lands.

*continued page 3*



*Montana and the Sky*  
Department of Transportation

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Jim Lynch, Director

Official monthly publication of the  
Aeronautics Division  
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*Montana and the Sky*  
Is published monthly  
In the interest of aviation in the  
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at  
Helena, Montana 59604

**Editor:** Patty Kautz

# Calendar of Events

**July 16-17** – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

**July 17** – Jim Bridger Days Bridger Airport Fly In. For further information contact Merrill Pfeifer (406) 662-3319 or (406) 662-5134.

**July 24-25** – Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show, Idaho Falls Regional Airport. Featuring Blue Angels, Idaho Falls is the only city in the Intermountain West to feature a Blue Angels show in 2010. In addition to Blue Angels, the air show will feature several well-known local and national acts. Visit [www.idahofallsairshow.com](http://www.idahofallsairshow.com) to purchase tickets and find more details on the show.

**July 25** – St. Ignatius Airport Fly In. 8:00 a.m. to noon. Huckleberry pancakes, Young Eagle rides.

**July 29- 31** – Montana Antique Airplane Association's Annual Fly In at Three Forks, Pogreba Field Airport. Flour Bombing and Spot Landing. Free Camping on the airport. For further information contact Tim Linn at [tim.linn@hotmail.com](mailto:tim.linn@hotmail.com).

**August 8** – Hysham Airport/Lions Club Fly In/Drive In Breakfast. 7:00 a.m. to noon. Model RC airplane show. For further information contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252.

**August 15** – Columbus Airport Woltermann Memorial Dedication Fly In breakfast, car show, class reunion. For further information phone Gary Woltermann at (406) 321-4111.

**August 21** – Cut Bank Airport Fly In, car show, 1/8 mile drag racing and various flying events. For further information contact Dave Ries (406) 873-8683.

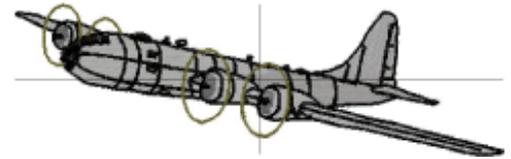
**September 10 - 12** - MDT Aeronautics Division's Annual Mountain Search Pilot Clinic to be held in Helena. For further information please contact: Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-9568, [jemacpherson@mt.gov](mailto:jemacpherson@mt.gov).

**September 11** – Polson Fly In. For further information, contact Mauri Morin at [maurv8@gmail.com](mailto:maurv8@gmail.com).



## Administrator's Column, continued

**FAA Authorization:** Another short-term extension was granted extending authorization for the FAA through August 1. Each house has passed a version of a long-term reauthorization and although conferees have yet to be named, informal negotiations have begun.



## World's Only Airworthy B-29 Cleared to Fly

The Commemorative Air Force has received FAA clearance to resume flying the world's only airworthy B-29 Superfortress bomber, CAF officials said.

The historical four-engine aircraft known as "FIFI" is expected to fly on July 9 after a multi-year restoration in which the airplane received four new engines. If initial test flights and post-flight inspections go as planned, the CAF will begin crew training flights at Midland International Airport <http://www.aopa.org/airports/KMAF> in western Texas on July 12 that will be open to the public.

The CAF Airpower Museum at Midland will open at 7 a.m. Monday for visitors who want to see the pre-flight preparations at the B-29 hangar.

Admission is \$10 for adults with discounts for seniors, teens, and children.

FIFI was originally fitted with Wright R-3350-57AM engines which had always suffered reliability problems. The new engines are Wright R-3350-95W and -26WD engines that required extensive airframe modifications.

The B-29 was the most technologically advanced aircraft when produced during World War II; it was the world's first pressurized bomber, the first with a computer-controlled firing system, and set numerous altitude and distance records. B-29s are best known for dropping two atomic bombs over Japan in August 1945 that ended the war.

The CAF found FIFI at a California aerial gunnery range in 1971 where it had been left outside for many years and used for target practice. CAF volunteers brought the abused airframe to Texas and began returning it to flying condition. The CAF has 9,000 members and operates 156 historical airplanes around the United States.

# 2010 Aviation Art Contest Winning Entries



**Category I - 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Shayne Bunce,  
Dixon Elementary, Arlee, MT**



**Category I - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Alana Brown,  
Conrad, MT**



**Category I - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Joseph Sannella,  
Missoula MT**



**Category II - 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Nolan Coldwell,  
Jordan, MT**



**Category II - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Rebecca Brown,  
Conrad, MT**



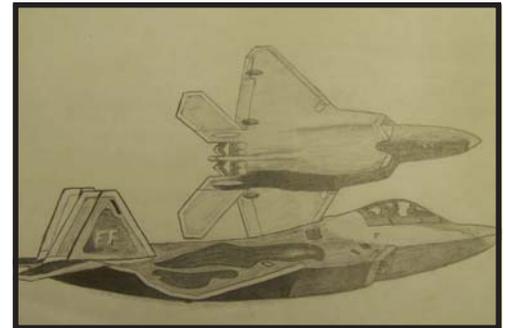
**Category II - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Carlee Brown,  
Columbia Falls, MT**



**Category III - 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mercedes K  
Martin, Broadus, MT**



**Category III - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Kelsey Beagley,  
Plains, MT**



**Category III - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Clinton Phillips,  
Plains, MT**

# Happenings at Yellowstone Airport

As the summer 2010 season kicked off there was much activity surrounding the Yellowstone airport including the opening of the Smoke Jumper Café and the installment of enhanced taxiway markings.

The Smoke Jumper Café opened early June with a full breakfast menu incorporating the freshest ingredients served all day. The menu has grown to include a lunch menu of sandwiches, hand-pattied burgers, and salads. The café also offers fresh baked pies, homemade milkshakes, and adult beverages. A perspective dinner menu is being considered as well. There are live appearances from cellist Libor Kocian every Friday and Saturday from 9-12. The café is open 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. daily. You can check out the buzz about them out on either [www.airnav.com](http://www.airnav.com), befriend the café on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) or check out the full menu on the airport's new webpage [www.yellowstoneairport.org](http://www.yellowstoneairport.org).

Enhanced taxiway markings are part of the FAA's safety objectives to reduce the risks of aircraft incursions on movement areas. The enhancements at Yellowstone airport include enhanced taxiway centerline markings and hold position markings at every entrance to runway 1-19. The markings are to help guide pilots and increase pilot awareness especially in non-optimal weather conditions.

June 22 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of air service to the community of West Yellowstone, MT. In commemoration, the Yellowstone Historic Center's Wings Into the West exhibit was opened in downtown West Yellowstone at the museum located in the Historic Union Pacific Depot on June 11. The following day, the airport in collaboration with Yellowstone Aviation put on a successful fly-in and open house in spite of the weather. Aviation enthusiasts enjoyed grilled food, a selection of interesting planes to look at, and a three-man air show. A special thanks is in order to Everett Wierda from Manhattan, Bob and Linda Marshall from Belgrade and Sean Bagley from the Legacy Flight Museum Rexburg, ID for bringing their vintage aircraft and putting on the great air show which consisted of two World War II T-6 Texans and a BT-13 flying formation over the airport. If you are in the area the museum's exhibit on aviation is extensive and well worth the trip.



*Restaurant owner James Killinger offers a wide variety of food at affordable prices.*



*Pictured is a World War II T-6 Texan flown by Sean Bagley of the Legacy Flight Museum in Idaho and a BT-13 flown by Bob Marshall of Belgrade who put on an awesome air show for the spectators. Photos courtesy of Yellowstone Aviation.*



*Pictured (l-r) are Tracey Bean; Leah Biewer, Yellowstone Airport Intern; Tony Bean, Yellowstone Airport Manager and Tom Cherhoniak, Yellowstone Airport Firefighter/ Maintenance in front of the new aviation exhibit at the Museum in West Yellowstone.*

# *Volunteers Hard at Work!*

The Spotted Bear and Meadow Creek Work Sessions were recently held with plenty of volunteers taking time out of their busy schedules to help complete the annual maintenance on these airstrips.

Volunteers moved cones; replaced windsocks; mowed and rolled runways; stained picnic tables; repaired outhouses; cleared brush and the list goes on.

Following a hard day's work volunteers got together to partake in a good meal and conversation while some were able to stay and camp and enjoy the beauty of these areas for one more day.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that participated!



*Lunch at Meadow Creek, it doesn't get any better than this!*



*Mike Ferguson is volunteer extraordinaire as he is a regular at these work sessions doing what he loves most – keeping aviation going strong in Montana.*



*Ry Keller, Montana Pilots Association member and helps install a windsock at Spotted Bear Airstrip.*



*Montana Pilots Association members (l-r) Ed Ethridge and Perry Brown visit with Andy Nelson, US Forest Service during the Spotted Bear work session.*



*Chuck Manning, Montana Pilots Association and MDT Aeronautics Board Member sweeps out the shed at Spotted Bear.*

# *EAA Members Provide Flight Experience to more than 1.5 Million Young Eagles*

Since 1992, EAA members have provided more than 1.5 million Young Eagles with an introductory flight experience in a general aviation aircraft. During the past 18 months, EAA, with generous support from individuals and the aviation industry, has begun building a “Flight Plan” to assist interested Young Eagles in earning a pilot certificate. Today, EAA announced the next element of the Flight Plan, which can provide a Young Eagle with their first flight lesson.

“Last year, we were proud to offer all Young Eagles their own pilot logbook and free access to Sporty’s Complete on line Pilot Training Course,” said Young Eagles co-chairman Jeff Skiles. “More than 3,000 Young Eagles have already enrolled in the course and several have taken or soon will be ready to take their flight test and earn a pilot certificate. With the addition of the First Flight Lesson, we continue to build on the enthusiasm shown by these Young Eagles and help them continue their journey toward a certificate.”

To be eligible for the First Flight Lesson, a Young Eagle must enroll in the Sporty’s Complete on line Pilot Training Course, finish Part I of the course and be over the age of 14. Once this goal is met, EAA will notify participants, via email, that they are eligible for a flight lesson. After a parental consent form is returned, EAA will issue a voucher that can be redeemed at a local flight school of the participant’s choice.

“This program will be instrumental in helping thousands of young people acquire the skills they need to become pilots. I had the privilege of meeting some Young Eagles this past Saturday on International Young Eagles Day and was inspired by their determination to make their dreams a reality,” Said Capt. Sully Sullenberger, Young Eagles co-chairman. “I am proud to be a part of an organization that gives prospective aviators the opportunity to pursue their passion.”

“Through the EAA Flight Plan, we are working to eliminate barriers that may stand between a Young Eagle and the cockpit,” Skiles added. “The First Flight Lesson provides a Young Eagle with actual flight training experience and makes real the lessons they have been learning through the online training course.”

EAA continues to explore other opportunities for additions to the Flight Plan so more Young Eagles can pursue aviation. Young Eagles and their parents can visit [www.youneagles.org/lesson](http://www.youneagles.org/lesson) for more information and answers to frequently asked questions about the program. Flight school operators can visit [www.youneagles.org/school](http://www.youneagles.org/school) for information on the redemption process.

Sully Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles, the flight crew from US Airways flight 1549 (“The Miracle on the Hudson” flight) serve as co-chairs of the Young Eagles program. The mission of the program is to give young people an opportunity to fly in a general aviation aircraft and to be inspired to consider aviation as a career or recreational pursuit. Flights are provided to interested young people ages 8 - 17 and are made possible through the generosity of EAA members who volunteer their time and aircraft. ConocoPhillips is the presenting sponsor of Young Eagles.

With corporate activities in every segment of general aviation, Sporty’s has evolved from the World’s Largest Pilot Shop(tm) to More Than A Pilot Shop. Sporty’s conducts flight training, performs aircraft maintenance, operates an avionics shop and sells new Cessna aircraft. Sporty’s is known as The Home of the Sweepstakes Aircraft(r), having given away at least one new aircraft every year since 1986. Sporty’s also has 170 active students, 30 CFIs, 15 rental aircraft and hangar space for more than 100 aircraft.

## *FAA Considering Boost to GA Airport Funding*

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A shakeup in the methods by which federal funds are allocated to GA airports through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) could soon be in the works. At last week’s American Association of Airport Executives General Aviation and Safety Conference, FAA director of airport safety and standards Michael O’Donnell said his agency will be assembling a committee to examine the means by which it doles out the approximately \$4.5 billion a year in airport funding.

“General aviation doesn’t fit well in the AIP structure the way it’s set up right now,” he said. “We are going to go into a new initiative with GA, to better define its roles, what its functions are, the infrastructure needs and then review and update their criteria for adding and removing those airports in the National Plan of Integrated Airports and Systems [NPIAS].

Some 2,600 airports—or 75 percent of those listed in the NPIAS—are in the non-reliever GA category. According to O’Donnell, once the review process gets under way it could take several years before stakeholders see benefits.

“It’s going to be better than where it is now,” he concluded.

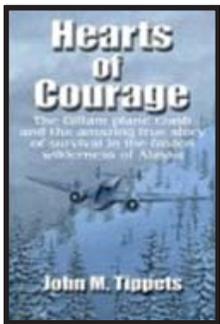
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Helena, Montana 59620-0507

July, 2010

Pre-Sort Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Helena, MT 59620  
Permit No. 141



## Book review: 'Hearts of Courage'



In January 1943, an Electra piloted by Alaskan bush Pilot Harold Gillam crashed in foul weather on its way from Seattle to Anchorage. Gillam died trying to find help for the survivors. One other passenger also died after a couple days. Miraculously, four others survived nearly a month in the wilderness with little to eat, only the clothes on their backs and minimal survival gear.

John M. Tippetts' father, Joe Tippetts, was one of those on the aircraft. Much of the survival story in Tippetts' new book, "Hearts of Courage," is related as father told it to his son. In addition to the survival aspect and courage shown, the author has done considerable research into the crash and the harrowing survival and rescue experiences with the end result a fascinating, larger than life experience.

Tippetts was a member of the Mormon Church and he credits his faith for surviving the crash and the ensuing days and weeks in sub-freezing weather, hiking down the side of a mountain and making his way, with one of the three other survivors, to the beach and ultimately having sailors on a ship spot them.

Hearts of Courage also includes numerous photos of the crash scene and additional information about Gillam, as well as flying operations in Alaska during the war years.

Copies of Hearts of Courage are available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and most aviation bookstores. Retail price is \$19.95. You can also contact Tippetts by email: [johntippetts@yahoo.com](mailto:johntippetts@yahoo.com).

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