

Monday is Deadline to Register for FREE Professional Development for New CTE Teachers

The Office of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting a **New CTE Professionals Workshop** on Wednesday, October 19, in Bozeman at the GranTree Inn, prior to the start of the 2016 Montana ACTE Institute. The deadline to register is Monday, October 3.

The New CTE Professionals Workshop is a **FREE** professional development opportunity designed specifically for Career & Technical Education professionals in their first, second, or third year in the classroom or for those teachers new to Career & Technical Education in Montana.

This professional development opportunity will provide teachers who are new to the classroom, as well as those with less than four years of experience, with information on a variety of topics essential for success in the career and technical education classroom including

- Perkins funding,
- State CTE funding,
- Advisory boards,
- Professional development,
- Professional organizations,
- Montana's Big Sky Pathways Initiative and the Development of Programs of Study,
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines, and
- Career & Technical Student Organizations.

The workshop will be held at the GranTree Inn (1325 North 7th Avenue) from 8 am to 4 pm. The training is free of charge and lunch will be provided for attendees. Up to six (6) OPI Renewal Units will be offered. Attendees are responsible for their own travel and substitutes.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Workshop, including a schedule of events, can be downloaded via the following link at http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/CTE/ProfDevelopment/16Oct19_NewCTEprofessionals.pdf. Please let me know if you have problems downloading the file.

Registration for the 2016 New CTE Professionals Workshop can be completed and submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KR868PJ>. Workshop attendees are responsible for their own travel and substitutes.

Please note, registration for the 2016 New CTE Professionals Workshop does not also include the Montana ACTE Fall Institute. Registration for the Montana ACTE Fall Institute must be submitted separately. Montana ACTE Fall Institute registration details can be found at <http://montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml>.

Early-Bird Registration for 2016 Montana ACTE Fall Institute Ends Saturday, October 1

Early-bird registration ends October 1 for the 2016 Montana ACTE Fall Institute. Be sure to register and join Montana CTE professionals from across the state in Bozeman, October 20-21, for the most exciting CTE event of the year in Montana.

Complete Montana ACTE Fall Institute details can be viewed at <http://www.montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml> with registration details at <http://montanaacte.org/documents/registration.pdf>.

The Keynote Speaker this year will be Joe Walkuski, founder and CTO of TEXbase, a Bozeman based business that provides compliance, quality and materials management software solutions in the apparel, footwear, home textiles and consumer product industries.

By attending the fall institute, you will discover new teaching approaches, find solutions to your shared challenges, share your best practices with colleagues and leave with constructive new ideas to take back to your school. You will gain valuable insights and proven strategies that will improve your program and increase student achievement in your district as well as assist you in implementing pathways in your district.

Be sure to register today to get the Early-Bird. After Saturday, October 1, the member registration will increase to \$170.00.

October 1 is Deadline to Submit Call for Presentations for WBEA 2017 in Bozeman

The 2017 [Western Business Education Association](#) Conference will be hosted by the Montana Business Education Association in Bozeman at the Best Western GranTree Inn next year, February 16-20, 2017.

The Call for Presentations is available for any business educator or other professional interested in sharing information and resources with business educators. The Call for Presentations can be completed online at <http://goo.gl/forms/SgsDnExKgy>. The deadline to submit proposals is October 1, 2016; presentation proposals will not be accepted after this date. Please note, all Business Educators who present at the conference are required to formally register for the 2017 WBEA Conference.

If you have problems accessing the link, please contact Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

The 2017 WBEA Conference will bring together business education professionals at all levels—middle school, high school, college/university—from across the western United States and Canada as well as national- and international-level leaders in business education instruction and research.

If you have any questions regarding proposals, please contact Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

Nominations for MBEA Awards and Leadership Roles Due October 1

The [Montana Business Education Association](#) (MBEA) is accepting nominations for the 2016 awards program. Awards will be presented during the MBEA Business Meeting held during the 2016 Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

Nomination letter are currently being sought for the following MBEA awards:

1. Outstanding Montana Business Education Teacher
2. Outstanding Young Business Teacher of the Year
3. Corporate Sponsor

Letters of nomination can be submitted to MBEA Past President Doug Andersen at andersendw@billingssschools.org The deadline to submit nominations is October 1.

Also, MBEA has people who have stepped-up to express interest in leadership positions for next year, but if anyone else is interested, their names can be added to the list. Please send letters of nominations to Doug Andersen at andersendw@billingssschools.org. Deadline to submit is also October 1.

2015-2016 Perkins Final Expenditure Reports Final Deadline is September 30

Districts who received Carl Perkins Grant funding during the 2015-2016 school year are required to complete and submit a Final Expenditure Report.

All Final Expenditure Reports were due August 10, 2016; however, there are still districts without a report on file. Any district without a submitted Final Expenditure Report by September 30, 2016 will have their 2016-2017 Perkins funds withheld.

Final Expenditure Reports are located within the Payments section of E-Grants, on the same page where users would create a cash request.

Step to complete the Final Expenditure Reports include

1. Fill out the Accumulated Expenditures to Date column with final totals listing how funds were expended.
--Remember that E-Grants does not like special characters (dollar signs, commas, periods, or change) and the system may display an error if you attempt to use these in this column
--Payments can no longer be requested on the final expenditure report, the funds on hand section should reflect \$0 or the amount of a refund due to the OPI.
2. Select the End Period Expense Date. There is only one choice: 6/30/2016.
3. Check the Final Expenditure check box on the bottom left of the page.
4. Select Calculate Totals.
5. Select Save.
6. Select Submit.

Questions regarding Perkins Final Expenditure Reports can be directed to Leisa Blanton, State and Federal Grant Accountant, at lblanton@mt.gov or 406.444.4403.

Fall 2016 CTE Data Collection for Perkins Funding Begins – Where are Your 2016 Grads?

The Fall 2016 CTE Data Collection begins on October 1 and ends December 31, 2016. The Fall CTE Data Collection is a follow up to last year's Spring CTE Data Collection.

Students identified as CTE Concentrators last year (2015-2016) and graduated in the spring of 2016 should be contacted between October 1 and December 31 and asked their current post-graduation status. After contact, the

appropriate post-graduation status code must be entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system for each CTE Concentrator.

All high schools that received funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program in 2015-2016 are required to complete this fall follow up collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

Instructions for completing the Fall CTE Data Collection—called the '*Quick Reference Guide for the Fall CTE Data Collection*'—are located in two places on the OPI website on the AIM web page listed in Reports and Data and also on the Secondary CTE web page (<http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html>) under the '*Data Collections*' tab.

Please Note: Be sure to verify the list of CTE Concentrators from what your district submitted last spring. Any additions, corrections, or changes to the list of CTE Concentrators must be made no later than November 15, 2016, to be accurately reflected in federal reporting and used to compute Perkins Performance Indicators for your school.

Technical AIM questions regarding the Fall CTE Data Collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1.877.424.6681 (toll-free) or email opiainhelp@mt.gov.

Questions regarding the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program data requirements should be directed to Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist at 406.444.9019 or email chendricks@mt.gov.

1st-Time Participant Trainings for Montana High School Business Challenge begins October 3

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council for Economic Education, lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs.

The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, October 12 and concluding Wednesday, December 14. College scholarships are awarded yearly to the top three teams, as determined by a year-end playoff. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

REGISTERING TEAMS FOR FALL SEMESTER? QUESTIONS?: To register teams for the fall Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, October 5.

FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge by webinar training sessions which introduces the teacher to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday, October 3 and 4, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

If you are a first-time participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/382516074394259202>.

REFRESHER WEBINAR FOR PAST PARTICIPANTS: A webinar is scheduled on Wednesday, October 5, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3963959697595595009>.

Invitation to Participate in the Stock Market Game – Trading Begins October 11

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students? Those teachers that have participated know about the benefits of involving their classes in The Stock Market Game™ sponsored by the [Montana Council on Economic Education](http://www.econedmontana.org) (www.econedmontana.org).

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing.

Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams.

Participation fees are \$15 per team (5 students maximum per team) and scholarships are available if funds are limited.

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on October 11, and runs for 10 weeks, with December 16 being the final trading day.

To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the registration link in the center of the screen.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience — and even more important, an education for life.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, (406) 994-2263.

CTE 2016-2017 Perkins Grant Submission & Approval Reminder for High School Districts

The CTE Division of the OPI is sending this brief, but friendly, reminder to all districts intending to submit a 2016-2017 Perkins grant application to please obtain final OPI approval of your initial Perkins application through the E-Grants system no later than **Monday, October 31, 2016**.

Only the initial/original application is subject to this deadline. Amendments to your approved Perkins application can occur after the October date. If you have questions regarding the status of your Perkins grant application, please contact one of the following CTE Division staff:

Renee Harris: phone: 406.994.6986; email: rharris3@mt.gov

Christy Hendricks: phone: 406.444.9019; email: chendricks@mt.gov

Invitation to the MSU JJCBE Entrepreneurship Day, October 17, 2016

The Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship has a very exciting 13th annual Entrepreneur Day planned for Monday, October 17 at the MSU campus in Bozeman.

This event is geared towards students interested in entrepreneurship and business but it is also a great opportunity to visit a land grant university and learn more about higher education. The Jake Jobs business school with option areas in Accounting, Finance, Management and Marketing, is accredited by AACSB; only 5% of all business schools hold this distinction.

This year Josh and Holly Allen the founders and owners of Dee-O-Gee, an “all-natural” dog and cat store, will share their story during the event’s keynote lecture, “Dee-O-Gee: From retail boutique start-up in Montana to national expansion.

Each session is designed to be motivating and educational. Please inform your students of this great event and encourage them to attend. Entrepreneurship Day is free and does include lunch for students. The event is sponsored in part with funding from Boeing.

The tentative schedule for the day is as follows:

9:30 a.m. - Check-In

10:00 a.m. - Welcome/Overview

10:20 a.m. - Interactive Workshop with JJCBE faculty and students

**Like last year, we will split the participants into two groups. One group will participate in the workshop will the other tours campus. They will switch half way through.*

**We will also have two meeting times scheduled for Advisors/Teachers to meet with the Director of the Entrepreneurship Center*

12:15 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Keynote, Q&A

2:00 p.m. - Business Student-led interactive workshop/activity

3:00 p.m. – Adjournment

While the Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship encourages your students to stay for the entire event, they understand that some may have conflicting schedules, so they are invited to come as they are able. It is asked that an advisor or teacher accompany the students if possible. Due to space limitations, it is recommended you reserve your school’s seats as soon as possible.

To accommodate proper set up, handouts and food preparation, please click on this [link](http://goo.gl/forms/FcugCd6I9s8d6Kn92) (goo.gl/forms/FcugCd6I9s8d6Kn92) to reserve a spot for your school immediately and send the student list

on/before October 3. (Format = Student Last Name, Student First Name, School Name) to Lward@montana.edu.

Please contact Linda Ward, lward@montana.edu or 406.994.1995, if you have any questions or concerns.

Computer Science Small Grant Program for Montana Schools

The Gianforte School of Computing (GSOC) is pleased to announce a new program, the *Computer Science Small Grant Program for Montana High Schools*.

The GSOC's Small Grant Program aims to be responsive to the needs of Montana High Schools. The awards will provide support to educators to enable students to learn computing skills and to expose students to careers in computer science.

Awards are for the 2016-2017 school year and will be in three categories:

1. Program Development - Grants up to \$3000
2. Training - Grants up to \$1000
3. Equipment - Grants up to \$1000

The GSOC is very excited to be able to help Montana schools offer new opportunities or enhance existing programs, e.g. clubs, classes, etc., to help students with the skills to continue to a higher education institution to pursue careers in computing.

The application deadline is October 15, 2016.

Please feel free to forward the information to anyone in your district that you think may be interested.

For more details, information and link to the application, please go <http://ou.montana.edu/csoutreach/MT-Small-Grant-Program.html>, You may also contact Sharlyn Izurieta if you have questions at 406.994.4794 or sgizuri@gmail.com.

Be Swift & Check out Apple's New Everyone Can Code Curriculum

Apple is excited to announce learning and teaching materials for their new coding curriculum, [Everyone Can Code](#) are updated and now available at www.apple.com/education/everyone-can-code.

Check out Swift Playgrounds, Apple's new app for teaching coding on iPad. And don't miss the new iTunes U course which includes video lessons for Swift Playgrounds. App Development with Swift is Apple's curriculum that teaches those new to programming how to build their first app with Xcode.

All of these materials and Teachers Guides are now available to download in one location in iTunes. Visit [Everyone Can Code](#) to explore the story behind teaching and learning code with Swift.

"Green" Your School with the Smart Schools Challenge

Join this year's [SMART Schools Challenge](#) and compete against other Montana schools to save money by conserving resources.

Last year's participating SMART Schools saved more than \$173,000, recycled over 68,000 pounds of waste, and offset 1026 metric tons of CO² equivalent.

Enter one of all three of the SMART Schools Challenges - SMART Energy Challenge, SMART Recycling Challenge, and/or SMART Green Schools Challenge - to receive technical assistance, the chance to receive \$1,000 cash as a top performing school, and a shout out from Governor Steve Bullock and Lt. Governor Mike Cooney.

Deadline for applying is October 31, and the competition will run from November 1 through April 1 - [Smart Schools Application](#).

Contact the SMART Schools Coordinator, [Callye Foster](#), cfoster2@mt.gov or 406-444-2811, with any questions.

Montana Teenpreneur Challenge Kicks off October 1

The [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#), hosted by One Montana (onemontana.org), kicks off on Saturday, October 1. [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#) is a statewide contest open to all high school students and designed to celebrate their skills as business developers, real-world problem solvers, and persuasive communicators.

With a purse of \$2,500 in prizes for students with compelling ideas for new products and services and for those who already operate small businesses, One Montana seeks to shine a spotlight on our state's next generation of entrepreneurs. Teachers and adult sponsors of winning entries will also receive prizes.

A panel of Montana entrepreneurs will select 1st Prize and Honorable Mention in each business category, and all Montanans will have the opportunity to vote for a People's Choice Award.

The [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#) will run beginning October 1, when the online contest platform opens, and concludes December 1. Winners will be announced on December 15.

Additional contest information can be found by click on the [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#) link at www.onemontana.org/what-we-do/montana-teenpreneur-challenge or email via at Challenge@OneMontana.org.

One Montana, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Bozeman with a mission to create a vibrant Montana by connecting rural and urban communities.

Jump\$tart Coalition Registration Now Open for 2016 National Educator Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the Jump\$tart Coalition's November 5-7 [National Educator Conference](#) at the InterContinental Hotel outside of Dallas. Teachers can attend the personal finance national conference for \$425, which includes your hotel, meals and conference materials. Other educators are welcome to register after October 5 at a cost of \$575.

If you are looking for financial support to attend, check out the numerous scholarships available at <http://www.jumpstart.org/2016-national-educator-conference-scholarship-opportunities.html>. Scholarships are

available to cover registration and travel expenses. Be sure to check them out today as some have application deadlines as early as next week.

Highlights of the 2016 National Educator Conference include

- Tools, resources, information and support for teaching personal finance in the classroom
- Curricula/Content, ask the experts and personal development workshops
- Opening Starlight Gala
- 15 professional development hours for teachers
- Optional Activities: free financial planning clinics, financial educator certification testing and various teacher networking opportunities
- Plenary sessions featuring nationally recognized speakers:
 - Behavioral economist Sarah Newcomb, PhD from *Morningstar*
 - Author Dan Kadlec whose work appears in TIME and Money magazines
 - TEDx Speaker Adam Carroll

The complete 2016 Jump\$Start Coalition National Educator Conference brochure can be downloaded at <https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1012002>.

The [Jump\\$Start Coalition](#) is presenting its 8th annual [National Educator Conference](#) (#JSNEC16), which gives attendees the opportunity to see, learn about, and try educational resources that can be immediately integrated into current lesson plans.

This year's event, which also provides networking with colleagues from across the country, will take place November 5-7 at the InterContinental Dallas Hotel. Conference registration opens September 6. [Download the Summer 2016 newsletter for the full story](#). Registration for classroom teachers is \$425 and includes two nights at the InterContinental Dallas Hotel and all meals during the conference.

The [Jump\\$Start Coalition National Educator Conference](#) is the only national conference for classroom teachers dedicated to personal finance education in the classroom. Each year, the conference provides PreK-12 educators with financial education resources, personal and professional development, access to a nation-wide network of colleagues, and general support for financial education.

Scholarships Available To Attend 2016 Jump\$Tart National Educator Conference

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) is offering two (2) scholarships for Montana teachers (PreK-12) to attend the [Jump\\$Start National Educator Conference](#), November 5-7, 2016, in Dallas, Texas.

This conference offers classroom educators an opportunity to see, learn about, and try financial educational resources to integrate immediately into current lesson plans; to attend informative financial education workshops under three different strands—advocacy, curriculum/content, and personal growth; to meet with leaders from finance and education; and to network with colleagues from across the country. View the conference details at <http://www.jumpstart.org/teacher-conference.html>.

How to Apply for the Scholarship

To apply for one of two MFEC scholarships that will cover the registration fee (\$425) and transportation (up to \$575) applicants must submit the following in letter format: (limit of 3 single spaced pages).

1. Applicant's name, position, school (with a brief description of responsibilities).
2. Number of years of teaching.
3. Titles of courses taught during the past three years. Please specify which courses include personal finance.
4. Statement describing how the applicant *anticipates* using the information from the conference in their classroom.
5. Attach a letter from administrator with approval to attend the conference.
6. **Submit application to Megan Vincent, mvincent2@mt.gov, by Friday, September 30, 2016.**

How does the applicant share what was learned with the MFEC and other educators?

The application can choose what method of sharing works best in their situation for 1 and 2.

1. Prepare a poster or power point presentation to share what you learned at the conference during one of the quarterly MFEC Board meetings (to be determined between the board and successful applicant). May be done in person or via technology.
2. Share the poster or PowerPoint presentation during the MAFCS meeting April 20-21, 2017; MATCE in October 2017; or something in your district/region as agreed to by the MFEC Executive Board.
3. Write a short article for the FCS e-newsletter highlighting one concept you learned and will be implementing directly into your classroom.

Sit with Me - Montana State University

The Gianforte School of Computing and the Electrical, Computer Engineering Department, and the Association for Women in Computing Chapter at Montana State University (MSU) are happy to announce an outreach project through our **Sit With Me - Montana State University** program.

Sit With Me, SitWithMe.org, is a national advocacy campaign designed to encourage women in computing careers. The campaign uses an iconic "Red Chair" to symbolize that women in technology need more seats at the table that men and women can sit in solidarity for technical women and that one highly visible action can instigate others.

Please watch the video, Sit With Me - Montana State University, https://www.cs.montana.edu/videos/Sit_With_Me_MSU.webm, to hear MSU President Waded Cruzado, community members, MSU faculty, students and others inspire young women.

We would like to invite schools across Montana to participate in the campaign by joining us in a project titled, *Sit With Me - Across Montana*. The idea for the project grew out of the "Flat Stanley" activity used by schools world-wide. We will send participating schools a "flat Red Chair" to use in the project.

The project is meant to be a fun way to introduce all students to the importance of having diverse perspectives in the computing and engineering and, we hope, spark an interest in young women to pursue careers in technology at a higher education institution.

We will provide a "kit" with the theme that "we sit for all young women in Montana," the "flat red chair," and background information. The best part about the project is the ability for students to be creative, show off their community, and have some fun. We ask that schools send us photographs that we will post to social media and

highlight at MSU's Women in Engineering Banquet. In addition, we will also upload the project to the national campaign website where it, along with other MSU projects and photographs will be featured.

This project is inclusive and anyone can sit in the chair - young women, young men, community members, parents, teachers or anyone who want to support diverse perspectives in technology is encouraged to participate. The project is possible through a grant from the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT).

If you would like to participate or would like to know more about the project, please contact Sharlyn Izurieta, Demand Generation Coordinator, Gianforte School of Computing, Montana State University-Bozeman at 406.994.4794 or Sharlyn.Izurieta@montana.edu.

Dig-in on Pathways and Dual Enrollment – Build a Big Sky Pathway, Change a Student’s Future

Maximize your time at Montana ACTE and minimize your time out of your classroom! This year Big Sky Pathways and Montana ACTE are partnering on a hands-on approach on Pathways and Dual Enrollment. Friday’s schedule will feature “Pathway Sessions.” These allow conference attendees to sign up to work with Pathway coordinators at Montana ACTE.

What is a Pathway Session?

It is a 30-minute session with a Pathway Coordinator that allows you to get to work on Pathways. You can choose to work on a new pathway, renew an old pathway, explore dual enrollment within a new or existing pathway, or schedule a focus session with attending faculty (see below).

How do I sign up?

Sign up now using this link, <https://goo.gl/forms/mA8d0Dr2IeFqfkU63>, or use the link provided when registering for Montana ACTE’s 2016 Fall Institute. The sign up link allows you to choose the college, career cluster, and/or Pathway you want to work on. You may also choose to schedule a Faculty Focus Session. Once we receive your request we’ll connect you with a Pathways Coordinator to schedule a Pathway or Faculty Session between 9 am and 2 pm on Friday, October 21 at Montana ACTE.

Sign up today. Pathway and Faculty Focus Sessions are filled on a first come, first served basis and registration will close October 1..

Fun Facts and Trivia

Estonia, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland, is named after the “Ests” who inhabited the region in the first Century AD.

While the official capital of Estonia is Tallinn, the country is unique because it has more than one recognized capital. In fact, it has several capitals that change throughout the year. Tartu is established as the “cultural capital of Estonia”, while Parnu is known as the “summer capital”.

Estonia has two Independence Days—it first achieved independence from the Soviet Union on February 24, 1918 and again on August 20, 1991 after 51 years of occupation. The second date is known as the “Restoration of Independence Day.”

Estonia has the highest number of meteorite craters per land area in the world.

Estonia is the homeland of Skype, Hotmail and KaZaA.

All Estonian schools are connected to the Internet.

In 1994, Estonia became the first country to institute the flat income tax.

There are 1,500 islands, 1,000 lakes and 7,000 rivers in Estonia.

Estonia was the first country in the world to use online political voting.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh