

MICHAEL GEHL
Trustee
Missoula County Public Schools
1555 Cresthaven Dr
Missoula, MT 59808

JIM RILEY
Trustee
District # 89 Smith Valley
POB 10704
Kalispell, MT 59901

December 14, 2021

Via internet email

The Honorable Elsie Arntzen
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

RE: *Vote of Confidence!*

Dear Superintendent Arntzen,

We write to refute the unauthorized “no-confidence” letter recently sent to you by certain school superintendents gone rogue. These superintendents spoke with no authority from their local school boards or the parents and students they purport to serve. We remind you and the news media that the superintendents are nothing more than unelected bureaucrats who do NOT represent the people of the state of Montana. The people elected you twice, and we are delighted they did so. We thank you sincerely for the compassionate, professional, and steadfast support you offer to local school boards and, most of all, parents and students. We are so proud of you and the work you do.

The people elected you for a second time as a testament to our approval of your superb performance during your first term. As parents and trustees, we wish to affirm your overwhelmingly positive response to parent and student interests. You have shown courage and endurance in receiving an avalanche of public comments this past year. You have responded with laudable vigor to parents seeking your assistance in pushing back against unelected school officials and their wildly unpopular agenda. You aided parents in resisting superintendent agendas of forced masking and Equity Policies. You helped parents expose and ban pedophilic grooming materials like Gender Queer and Lawn Boy. You brought parent concerns over racist Critical Race Theory curricula to the attention of the Montana Attorney General, who declared the hateful material and messaging to violate the Montana Human Rights Act. Despite hate from the Left, you shouldered these burdens on behalf of the vast majority of parents from around Montana who oppose the school bureaucrats’ radical agenda. Montana has rarely seen a more effective advocate for parents and students.

Not satisfied with these accomplishments, you have also spent enormous resources and time responding to parents with committed outreach, tirelessly traveling the state, in all weather, to talk face to face with parent groups about what is most important to them. You have been stalwart in promoting the rights of parents over the superintendents and their radical agenda. You are a true pioneer and champion of parental rights and parental choice.

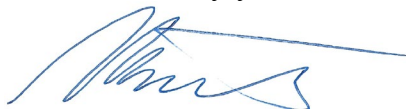
Thank you for the heavy lifting of eradicating waste, fraud, and abuse from the tired and entrenched OPI bureaucracy. Yes, reform in the name of the people who elected you has indeed caused turnover. The reform, however, was not only long overdue but absolutely necessary. You have shown "true grit" in refusing to be bullied by defenders of the failed status quo. Montana educational institutions have been saddled for at least 20 years with entrenched unions and bureaucrats from the minority party. The clear majority of Montanans—who elected you—now expect and demand change, not only in failed policies, but in failed staff. It's called "accountability." And you delivered.

Whenever a school board or a particular trustee needs advice, assistance, or instruction, whether in the fine points of boardsmanship or legal compliance or how to best approach a local problem, you have faithfully assisted all who called upon you for counsel. You have worked tenaciously to help parents and trustees with the array of tools at your disposal. You successfully secured and assured funding for local schools from a variety of state and federal resources. You have consistently focused on parents and students—and put power in their hands, not the hands of the unelected school bureaucrats. Your success in putting parents and students first, and administrators and teacher unions second, explains why these bureaucrats have now attacked you with such raw venom.

Ultimately, the superintendents targeted you because of the idea that got you elected. The superintendents hate the idea that parents have the fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their children. Shame on them.

Keep up the good fight, Elsie. You shine as an example for us all.

Enthusiastically yours,



Mike Gehl
Trustee, MCPS



Trustee, Dist. # 90

We, the undersigned, concur in the foregoing and express our full support for Superintendent Arntzen:

MONTANA ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senate

Mike Cuffe, Eureka, SD1
Carl Glimm, Helena, SD2
Bob Keenan, Big Fork, SD5
Mike L. Lang, Malta, SD17
Kenneth Bogner, Miles City, SD19
Tom McGillvray, Billings, SD23
Cary Smith, Billings, SD27
Brad Molnar, Laurel, SD28
John Esp, Big Timber, SD30
Barry Usher, Billings, SD40

House of Representatives

Steve Gunderson, Libby, HD1
Neil Duram, Eureka, HD2
Braxton Mitchel, Columbia Falls, HD3
Matt Regier, Kalispell, HD4
Jeremy Trebas, Great Falls, HD26
Ed Hill, Havre, HD28
Bob Phalen, Lindsay, HD36
Frank Fleming, Billings, HD51
Jennifer Carlson, HD69
Michele Binkley, Hamilton, HD85
Brad Tschida, Missoula, HD97

Local Officials

Justin Buls, School Board Trustee – West Valley
Heidi Burkhalter, School Board Trustee – Smith Valley
Amy Casazza, School Board Trustee – Eureka
Cody Houtchens, School Board Trustee – Stevensville
Ben Woods, School Board Trustee – Big Fork
Rod Kuntz, Kalispell, City-County Board of Health
Brad Abel, Kalispell, Flathead County Commissioner

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Stand Up Montana

Montana Parents Rights in Education

MONTANA CITIZENS

1. Diana Wilsey, Missoula
2. Natalie Sue Robbins, Billings
3. Morgan Potter, Livingston
4. Duane Winslow, Billings
5. Amy Bruce, Billings
6. Bret Smith, West Yellowstone
7. Marcia A. Lennick, Great Falls
8. Mary Reed, Trout Creek
9. Joseph Flaherty, Big Sky
10. Nicole Sargent, Billings
11. Margaret Robertson, East Helena
12. Jacqueline Rouse, Huntley
13. Kari Zeier, Billings
14. Rachel Minert, Sheridan
15. Sandy Graham, Billings
16. Frank Kucera, Darby
17. Jackie Kucera, Darby
18. Heather Higgs, Bozeman
19. Erick Fetterhoff, Livingston
20. Brian Cayko, Great Falls

21. Karen Beach, Bozeman
22. Bonnie Mitchell, Great Falls
23. Jacqueline Vannoy, Missoula
24. Leslie Ellington-Staal, Missoula
25. Jocelyn Juelfs, Great Falls
26. Stacy Kandel, Trout Creek
27. Francis Weigand, Missoula
28. Tonia Dyas, Bozeman
29. Angela Muse, Plains
30. Christina Green, Belgrade
31. Lisa Orback, Livingston
32. Bruce Leibold, Drummond
33. Bart Crabtree, Great Falls
34. Brent Hoffman, Helena
35. Melissa Morgner, Bozeman
36. Dawn R. Taylor, Three Forks
37. Margaret Ryder,
Gallatin Gateway
38. Ben Wagner, Whitehall
39. Casandra Welsh, Butte
40. Michael Takeuchi, Columbus
41. Vanessa Pritchard, Missoula
42. Robert Tarver, Hamilton
43. Greg Gerdes, Helena
44. Allan Baker, Kalispell
45. Bethanie Green, Bozeman
46. Courtney McAdams, Helena
47. Tillman McAdams, Helena
48. Cathy Carlson, East Helena
49. Heather Huston, Billings
50. Elizabeth Newsom, Missoula
51. Anne Stefani, Bozeman
52. Judy Harris, Lakeside
53. Marla Davis, Belgrade
54. Daniel Fey, Whitefish
55. Rick Thomas, Kalispell
56. Julie Perche, Whitefish
57. Samantha Riley, Kalispell
58. Ed Byrnes, Creston, Col. USA(R)
59. Cheryl Tusken, Bozeman
60. Doug Wrey, Kalispell
61. Kristy Wrey, Kalispell
62. Cher Mclean, Kalispell
63. Tim McClean, Kalispell
64. Preston Hamilton, Kalispell
65. Jennifer Hamilton, Kalispell
66. Erine Jessop, Kalispell
67. Melody Jessop, Kalispell
68. Joe Jessop, Kalispell
69. Mary Jessop, Kalispell
70. Makayla Jessop, Kalispell
71. Jaycie Jessop, Kalispell
72. Chris Ablott, Kila
73. Diane Jessop, Corvallis
74. Hayden Jessop, Corvallis
75. Winston Jessop, Corvallis
76. Savannah Jessop, Corvallis
77. Max Jessop, Corvallis
78. Anson Jessop, Corvallis
79. Andelyn Jessop, Corvallis
80. Merrin Jessop, Corvallis
81. Caydence Jessop, Corvallis
82. Gina Klempal, Kalispell
83. Joe Klempal, Kalispell
84. Richard Jackson, Whitefish
85. Zach Murray, Columbia Falls
86. Presley Pritchard, Whitefish
87. Bill Miles, Kalispell
88. Daniel Williams, Kila
89. Carrie Williams, Kila
90. Josh Olschewski, Whitefish
91. Brian Todd, Kalispell
92. Justin Farrington, Kalispell
93. Jessica Farrington, Kalispell
94. Jason Preble, Kalispell
95. Ted Valentiner, Kalispell
96. Sandy Smith, Kalispell
97. Ken Ferrion, Creston
98. Olen Hamilton, Kalispell
99. Lee Yandl, Kalispell

100. Lynsi Deward, Evergreen
101. Mike Rozell, Whitefish
102. Kyle Nace, Kalispell
103. Willie Davis, Kalispell
104. Hanna Davis, Kalispell
105. Derek DeWard, Kalispell
106. Linsley DeWard, Kalispell
107. Chris Cambell, Kalispell
108. Jim Morris, Kalispell
109. Denise Morris, Kalispell
110. Randy Flicker, Kalispell
111. Marilyn Nelson, Kalispell
112. Allie Sturgess, Kalispell
113. Ron Wenzel, Big Fork
114. Diane Martin, Kalispell
115. Ben King, Columbia Falls
116. Palen Hagestuen, Kalispell
117. Kevin Colicino, Big Fork
118. Brittany Colicino, Big Fork
119. Kelly Hibbs, Kalispell
120. Jesse Hibbs, Kalispell
121. Lisa Vanzant, Kalispell
122. Mark Vanzant, Kalispell
123. Larry Ashcraft, Polson
124. Dorthy Ashcraft, Polson
125. Harley Brotherton, Kalispell
126. Erin Brotherton, Kalispell
127. Erin Fitz, Kalispell
128. Arron Fitz, Kalispell
129. Brett Kelly, Kalispell
130. Amy Kelly, Kalispell
131. Jessica Todd, Kalispell
132. Scotia Brosnan, Kalispell
133. Ming Lovejoy, Kalispell
134. Thomas Millett, Marion
135. Michelle Millett, Marion
136. Michelle Daniels, Whitefish
137. Trish Pandina, Kalispell
138. Shaun Pandina, Kalispell
139. Allison Bedore, Whitefish
140. Jayna Hernandez,
Columbia Falls
141. Jessica Vergin, Kalispell
142. Rod Weber, Kila
143. Carla Weber, Kila
144. Doug Wray, Marion
145. Gabrial Sten, Marion
146. William Denton, Kalispell
147. Gaylane Newhurst, Kalispell
148. Chad Danielson, Kalispell
149. Siri Danielson, Kalispell
150. Justin Danielson, Kalispell
151. Caitlin Danielson, Kalispell
152. Dave Pittsley, Kila
153. Jean Pittsley, Kila
154. Berda Stern, Marion
155. Kristey Wray, Marion
156. Sophia Danielson, Marion
157. Gary Treatman, Kalispell
158. George Danielson, Kalispell
159. Heather Tudor, Columbia Falls
160. Reuben Tudor, Columbia Falls
161. Randy Marshall, Kalispell
162. Dr. Albert D. Olszweski, M.D.,
Kalispell
163. Lacey Hill, Bozeman
164. Sanford Langager, Roberts
165. Nancy Langager, Roberts
166. Terrence Phillips, Corvallis
167. Sonia Shearer, Missoula
168. Sean Calahan
169. Barbara Calahan
170. Kenneth Bogner
171. Leah Frederick, Billings
172. Ed Hill, Havre
173. Maria K. Nash, Bozeman
174. Christy Sims
175. Ward Wenzholz, Missoula
176. Jan Henderson
177. Cody Haslam

178. Michele Haslam
179. Hannah Hartzell, Billings
180. Lane Perrine
181. Michael Wilson
182. Regis McIntyre, Frenchtown
183. Mrs. Regis McIntyre, Frenchtown
184. Dale Doney, Arlee
185. Melisa Schelvan
186. Donald Kenck
187. Cydney Henderson, Victor
188. Alicia Hamilton
189. Eric Hamilton
190. Leni Gaston, Bozeman
191. Glenda Edgeworth, Stevensville
192. Helen Sabin, Corvallis
193. Marc L. Sabin, Corvallis
194. Jana Bornhoft, Billings
195. Jan Kubasko, Florence
196. Dan Foster, Eureka
197. Sherry Rossiter, Missoula
198. Laura Fricke, Florence
199. Lacey Hill, Bozeman
200. Katie Gilbert, Bozeman
201. Brandi Phillips, Billings
202. Russ Kinzer, Columbia Falls
203. Clarice Kinzer, Columbia Falls
204. Michael Priske, Missoula
205. Linda Priske, Missoula
206. Jonathan Allen, Eureka
207. Elena Brooks, Bozeman
208. Chris Brooks, Bozeman
209. Hans Zech, Bozeman
210. Darylee Zech, Bozeman
211. Kathy Wilcox, Toston
212. Lisa Stonehocker, Bozeman
213. Jason Wildman, Bozeman
214. Amy Klaschik, Noxon
215. Chris Klaschik, Noxon
216. Sydney Phillips, Bozeman
217. Heather Hicks, M.D., Hamilton
218. Beth McDonough, Great Falls
219. Matt Schuyler, Bozeman
220. Melissa Melton,
Gallatin Gateway
221. Robin Schauers, Bozeman
222. Chad Schauers, Bozeman
223. Michael Whaley, Bozeman
224. Erika Whaley, Bozeman
225. Jaysen Anderson, Bozeman
226. Jessica Anderson, Bozeman
227. Josh Oberly, Bozeman
228. Rebecca Oberly, Bozeman
229. Kimberly Hattery, Billings
230. Molly Lovas, Bozeman
231. Katie Naeher, Belgrade
232. Arlie Naeher, Belgrade
233. Caitlyn Jelley, Bozeman
234. Craig Putschat, East Helena
235. Jane Putschat, East Helena
236. Nancy Bates, Manhattan
237. Charlene Beebe, Townsend
238. Bruce Beebe, Townsend
239. Lisa Bayless, Bozeman
240. Bradford Colyer, Bozeman
241. Maria Johnson, Bozeman
242. David Rowell, Seeley Lake
243. Melissa Ross, Bozeman
244. Tammie Auras, Missoula
245. Robert Auras, Missoula
246. Don Hook, Sand Coulee
247. Kevin Johnson, Bozeman
248. Melissa Bradford, Bozeman
249. James I. Lyon, Missoula
250. Erick Prather, Missoula
251. David R. Scott, Missoula
252. Sandra Shumaker, Bozeman
253. Audrey Winfrey, Livingston
254. Shelley Loyson, Missoula
255. Keziah Lawicki, Billings
256. Deborah Rickey, Billings

257. Richard Paul Wilkins, Missoula
258. John Lee, Billings
259. Adam Martin, Billings
260. Kelsey Rothing, Three Forks
261. Tim Murphy, Bozeman
262. Jack Kenyon, Billings
263. Ramona Keller, Bozeman
264. Chris Culpon, Helena
265. Chelsea Culpon, Helena
266. Julie Wray, Shelby
267. Jeff Wray, Shelby
268. Marcia A. Lennick, Great Falls
269. Mary Reed, Trout Creek
270. Joseph Flaherty, Big Sky
271. Nicole Sargent, Billings
272. Margaret Robertson, East Helena
273. Jacqueline Rouse, Huntley
274. Kari Zeier, Billings
275. Rachel Minert, Sheridan
276. Sandy Graham, Billings
277. Frank Kucera, Darby
278. Jackie Kucera, Darby
279. Heather Higgs, Bozeman
280. Erick Fetterhoff, Livingston
281. Brian Cayko, Great Falls
282. Karen Beach, Bozeman
283. Bonnie Mitchell, Great Falls
284. Jacqueline Vannoy, Missoula
285. Jocelyn Juelfs, Great Falls
286. Rachel Martinez, Fairfield
287. Stacy Kandel, Trout
288. Francis Weigand, Missoula
289. Tonia Dyas, Bozeman
290. Angela Muse, Plains
291. Eric Olsen, Billings
292. Deborah Kim Mostad, Billings
293. Arthur C. Hassan, Trout Creek
294. Kathleen S. Hassan, Trout Creek
295. Klee Subik, Livingston
296. Elizabeth Scott, Belgrade
297. John DiPrizio, Martinsdale
298. Barbara DiPrizio, Martinsdale
299. Jennifer Martin, Clyde Park
300. Shantell Martin, Charlo
301. Crystal Reese, Billings
302. Sean P. Ashby, Hamilton
303. Dianne Hansen, Eureka
304. David B. Hansen, Eureka
305. Annika Fraley, Columbia Falls
306. Jane Rectenwald, Missoula
307. Neil J. Friedel, Billings
308. Mykel Friedel, Billings
309. Patrick C. Moore, Billings
310. Jolene Moore, Billings
311. Kiersten Glover
312. Matt Stivers
313. Sarah Stivers
314. David Dickey, Bozeman
315. Meagan Campbell, Missoula
316. Brad Campbell, Missoula
317. Erin Darling, Missoula
318. Jim Verellen, Bozeman
319. Julie Verellen, Bozeman
320. Theresa Manzella, Hamilton
321. Mike Starmer, Missoula
322. Lee Bruner, Whitehall
323. Rebecca Dawson, Missoula
324. Chellese Stamson, Bozeman
325. Brett Lee Bartling, Bozeman
326. Kathy Eike, Melstone
327. Bonnie L. Roberts, Clinton
328. Jimmy L. Roberts, Clinton
329. Matt Wolfe, Livingston
330. Shannon Wolfe, Livingston
331. Chris Schneider, Billings
332. Jenn Schneider, Billings
333. Robin M. Williams, Belgrade
334. Laura Furniss, Belgrade
335. David Furniss, Belgrade
336. Eva Bossell, Helena

337. Cathy Brown, Great Falls
338. Michelle Nuss, Belgrade
339. Andrew Gruber, Great Falls
340. Daniel Jessen, Bozeman
341. Krista Lorenz, Bozeman
342. David R. Carter, Livingston
343. Patsy N. Carter, Livingston
344. Cindy Ashley, Bozeman
345. Eva Duffin, Missoula
346. Jessica Hein, Billings
347. Mari Robbins, Bozeman
348. Linda McFarland, Clinton
349. Kimberly King, Livingston
350. Robert Wallis, Anaconda
351. Nici Wallis, Anaconda
352. Susan Ellingson, Kalispell
353. Jeffrey Ellingson, Kalispell
354. Mariah Sprunger, Bozeman
355. Briana Della Bitta, Belgrade
356. Jenna Dodge, Bozeman
357. Brooke Bent, Three Forks
358. Eileen Guthrie, Bozeman
359. Bonnie Minnick, Livingston
360. Alison FitzSimmons,
Canyon Creek
361. Desiree Milesnick, Belgrade
362. Robert Kubiak, Hamilton
363. Elizabeth Kubiak, Hamilton
364. Stephen Reinertson, Belgrade
365. Peter Heyden, Darby
366. Sherry Heyden, Darby
367. Deborah C. Shields, Belgrade
368. Sonia Alcantar, Billings
369. Joseph Suchanic, Missoula
370. Rick Gillis, Bozeman
371. Kasey Lowe, Billings
372. Isaac Lowe, Billings
373. Jared Cox, Bozeman
374. Tanya Cox, Bozeman
375. Holly Brown, Butte
376. Keith Brown, Butte
377. Julie Harris, Trout Creek
378. Gabriel Earle, Missoula
379. Vicky L. Couch, Lewistown
380. Noelle Johnson, Great Falls
381. Brittany Mendenhall, Great Falls
382. Zach Mendenhall, Great Falls
383. Bob Sandoval, Anaconda
384. Doug Sprague, Bozeman
385. Dee Sprague, Bozeman
386. Holly Jones, Bozeman
387. Erin Burley, Billings
388. Jim Doyle, Belgrade
389. Judy Doyle, Belgrade
390. Margo Kelly, Noxon
391. Ryan A. Bartling, Bozeman
392. Holly Dee Hart, Bozeman
393. Hudson J. Hart, Bozeman
394. Hudson Taylor Hart, Bozeman
395. Tiffianny Steffes, Billings
396. Elise Lininger, Bozeman
397. Rob Lininger, Bozeman
398. Anna Shchemelinin, Bozeman
399. Anatoly Shchemelinin, Bozeman
400. Jenna McCormick, Hamilton
401. Maarten Verweij, Hamilton
402. Jolene Crum, Belgrade
403. Jennifer Emineth, Billings
404. Robyn Mohs, East Helena
405. Kathleen Johnson, Billings
406. Luke Hudson, Billings
407. Cinda Seys, Butte
408. Kelly Klostermeyer, Bozeman
409. Sean Calahan, Helena
410. Barbara Calahan, Helena
411. Jessica Royal, Helena
412. Tiffany Fairbanks, Great Falls
413. Nate Fairbanks, Great Falls
414. Robin Kockler, Helena
415. Nathan Richert, Billings

416. Kristin Richert, Billings
417. Chelynn Glenn, Butte
418. Heidi Keaster, Helena
419. Wes Keaster, Helena
420. Tara Goodwin, Billings
421. Laura Lee Baxter, Missoula
422. Dana Millhouse, Missoula
423. Keith Simmons, Milltown
424. Nancy Simmons, Milltown
425. Doris Sydow, Milltown
426. Stephen Hopkins, Milltown
427. Jennifer Hopkins, Milltown
428. Mike Berry, Billings
429. Lynda Bartling, Bozeman
430. Katelyn Coon, Manhattan
431. Tamera Collier, Bozeman
432. Rex Collier, Bozeman
433. Kate Hardman, Thompson Falls
434. Doug Sprague, Bozeman
435. Dee Sprague, Bozeman
436. Gabrielle Earle, Missoula
437. Scott Myers, Billings
438. Jennifer Nichols, Billings
439. Steven J. Rossiter, Missoula
440. Starr Emery, Billings
441. Gerald Cook, Eureka
442. Marilyn McIntyre, Frenchtown
443. Regis McIntyre, Frenchtown
444. Ike Pollard, Eureka
445. Lynn Cuch, Eureka
446. Jonathan Allen, Eureka
447. Anita Krivitz, Billings
448. Paige Pfahler, Helena
449. Schott Pfahler, Helena
450. Ian Northcutt, Hamilton
451. Carol Northcutt, Hamilton
452. Russ Kinzer, Columbia Falls
453. Clarice Kinzer, Columbia Falls
454. Kim Schell, Baker
455. Cody Haslam, Billings
456. Michelle Halam, Billings
457. Sally Gabrian Beall, Helena
458. Carolyn Truscott, Helena
459. Jennifer Marie McEneny Paatalo, Whitefish
460. Mark Agather, Kalispell
461. Lane Perrine, Billings
462. Jim Blom, Drummond
463. Heather Blom, Drummond
464. Annika Fraley, Columbia Falls
465. Sean Calahan, Helena
466. Barbara Calahan, Helena
467. Ward Wehholz, Missoula
468. Melissa Bradford, Bozeman
469. Wayne Jacobsmeyer, Columbia Falls
470. Dan Foster, Eureka
471. Kathy Wilcox, Toston
472. Crystal Reese, Billings
473. Elena Brooks, Missoula
474. Stacey Hauck, Missoula
475. Bobby Hauck, Missoula
476. Phillip Lynn, Three Forks
477. Becky Lynn, Three Forks
478. Aubrey Carden, Bozeman
479. David Wooten, Bozeman
480. Alicia Stebbins, Bozeman
481. Barry Schlecht, Hamilton
482. Cynde Henderson, Victor
483. Kayla Powell, Billings
484. Ann Larsen, Billings
485. Dr. Douglas McBride, Billings
486. Lil McBride, Billings
487. Janice Fortney, Hamilton
488. Richard Volpi, Billings
489. Teri Osborne, Billings
490. Amber DeTienne
491. Ming Munzing, Kalispell
492. Addie Bedford, Billings
493. Laura Fricke, Florence

- 494. Douglas Bohn, Victor
- 495. Carlene Bohn, Victor
- 496. Glenda Edgeworth, Stevensville
- 497. Nicole Otto, Missoula
- 498. Leah Frederick, Billings
- 499. Tom Sherman, Lolo
- 500. Karen Sherman, Lolo
- 501. Sharon Kubasko, Florence
- 502. John Waverek, Lolo
- 503. Emily Smith, Missoula
- 504. Iris Driscoll, Bozeman
- 505. Theresa Lunn, Missoula
- 506. Diane Watson, Trego