

For Immediate Release

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MATT ROLOFF from TLC’s “Little People, Big World” and GOV. BRIAN SCHWEITZER featured at Opening Ceremonies May 11
Local students perform vignettes from “It’s Our School, Too”

[May 3, 2011] State Summer Games in Bozeman May 11-13 feature a high-energy Opening Ceremonies May 11 at 7pm in Brick Breeden fieldhouse on the Montana State University campus. More than 1000 athletes along with coaches and volunteers combine with 5000 family members, friends and spectators to fill the arena in celebration of the Games. Emcees are John Parkes from Murdoch’s Ranch & Home Supply, Games Premier Sponsor; and JJ Petersen, Great Falls Lions athlete. Other highlights include:

- Special guest Matt Roloff from TLC’s “Little People, Big World” anchors the evening. Mr. Roloff views the social stigmas and physical limitations of dwarfism not as obstacles but as opportunities. With humor and inspiration, he brings motivating stories to challenge the audience and demonstrate his own success as a Fortune 500 salesman and entrepreneur.
- Gov. Brian Schweitzer, Honorary Games Head Coach, makes a cameo appearance at Opening Ceremonies in support of the athletes and the Games.
- The cast of “It’s Our School, Too”, composed of local middle and high school students, feature vignettes that highlight true to life experiences as told by Special Olympics athletes. The play, commissioned in 2010 and written for Special Olympics, Inc. as part of a national project, is part of a global effort to educate youth by providing them with strategies for positively affecting school climate.
- Athletes’ and coaches’ oaths are presented by Alison Bowers, Bozeman Outreach Bobcats athlete; and Peter Fields, MS Director of Athletics.
- Bozeman area classrooms and students have adopted more than 25 Special Olympics teams statewide. Nearly 600 students will join their adopted teams during Opening Ceremonies in a show of support, acceptance and respect for people of all abilities.
- The Mighty Flick, a three-piece high-energy dance band are familiar faces in the Montana music scene since the late eighties with regular performances throughout the state. Their enthusiasm for music is contagious, sometimes inspirational, always entertaining.

- Bozeman High School pep band is featured during the pre-show, along with local cheerleaders, athletes, pep rally leaders, and MSU mascot, Champ. The band's drumline also supports the ceremonial arrival of the Flame of Hope by members of local law enforcement: Bozeman Police Honor Guard and the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office. Member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard are also on hand during the ceremony.

Closing Ceremonies Friday, May 13 at 8am Shroyer Gymnasium on MSU's Campus

Closing Ceremonies in Shroyer Gymnasium on the MSU campus are held Friday, May 13 at 8:00am and include a special appearance by Frenchtown student Morissa Trunzo, talented vocalist, song writer and winner of the recent Special Olympics Montana Project UNIFY song contest. She performs her original composition, "Just Believe".

During Closing Ceremonies, the winners of the annual Optimum/Chevy Raffle will be announced. Grand prize is a 2011 fully loaded Chevy Silverado pickup. Tickets for the raffle are available throughout the Games and the Bozeman community until the drawing.

The games, including Opening and Closing Ceremonies, are 100% free to the public!

Recognized by the Chronicle of Philanthropy as the "most credible charity" in the United States, Special Olympics Montana invites you volunteer for the 2011 Special Olympics State Summer Games. If you can give an hour, two or more, you can effect positive change in someone's life! If you wish to volunteer, or help sponsor the games please visit the volunteer website at www.somt.org or call the volunteer hotline (406) 582-4500.

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