



Rob O'Neill to speak in Helena

Butte native says his shots killed Osama

ERIC KILLELA
Independent Record

Robert J. O'Neill, a Butte native and former member of the elite SEAL Team 6 raid that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, is scheduled to speak March 20 as



O'Neill

part of Leadership Montana's first Lessons in Leadership Event at the Helena Civic Center. O'Neill was identified in a March 2013 article in Esquire magazine only as "The Shooter." He told reporters he shot and killed the terrorist leader in Abbottabad, Pakistan. He identified himself in an article published by The

Washington Post in November.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service has since received an allegation that O'Neill revealed classified information during the interviews. The NCIS has initiated an investigation. Some Navy SEALs, who have confirmed his being at the raid in Pakistan, have questioned the accuracy of his story.

"O'Neill was one of the professionals performing the most difficult tasks in the most difficult circumstances,

servicing his remarkable career in the shadows and keeping America safe in the process," according to materials from Leadership Montana, a non-profit organization located on the Montana State University-Billings campus.

"O'Neill will be delivering his unparalleled expertise and translating his elite SEAL training into high-impact actionable insights for our state's leaders during our Lessons in Leadership Event," the materials said.

Pipeline passes in US Senate

Daines, Tester both vote to approve Keystone XL

ROB CHANEY
Missoulian

MISSOULA — Both Montana's senior Democratic Sen. Jon Tester and junior Republican

Sen. Steve Daines voted to approve the Keystone XL pipeline Thursday, but the delegation split on the locally important Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Senate Bill 1 authorizing permits for the 1,179-mile-long project passed 62-36 shortly after 2 p.m. MDT. TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline would move petroleum

from the tar-sand deposits of northern Alberta south through northeast Montana and the Bakken Formation oil fields to Steele City, Nebraska. Existing pipelines would move the crude oil from there to refineries on

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'And Seeing the Multitudes'

Helena Symphony premieres new Kile Smith work for cello & orchestra

MARGA LINCOLN
Independent Record

Police shootings and civil unrest this summer sparked a new cello work that will make its world premiere at the Helena Symphony Orchestra concert Saturday night.

Composed by Kile Smith, the symphony's composer-in-residence, it will be performed by internationally acclaimed Romanian cellist Ovidiu Marinescu.

The concert is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Helena Civic Center. "And Seeing the Multitudes" is a meditative work inspired by the eight beatitudes, or blessings, from the Sermon on the Mount, said composer Smith in an Independent Record phone interview from his home in Philadelphia.

"When I was beginning to write on it in earnest," Smith said, "it was the time of these police shootings ... and a lot of unrest around the country. I kept thinking of peace and being at peace, so the beatitudes came to mind," he said. "Blessed are the peacemakers ... and blessed are the meek."

The work is not to take a political stance on an issue, he said, but rather raises the question: "How should I respond when things like this happen?"

The beatitudes became the skeleton of the work, he said, and were written into the score. "I make them as eight sections."

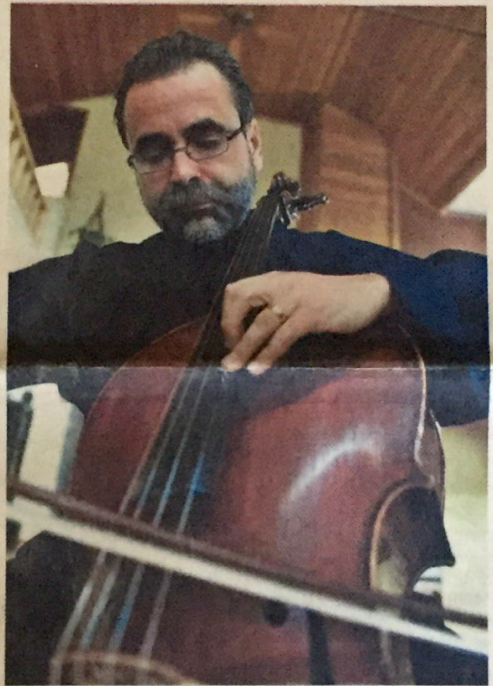
He used a chorale that he loves, "Lord Thoe I Love With All My Heart," as the "fantasia fanfare." Each of the beatitudes is a variation on the chorale tune that comes at the end and wraps things up.

"It's not a piece for church," he said. "It is a cello concerto. I hope it captures the emotion of each of the beatitudes," which he considers universal rather than religious.

He (Marinescu) is so immensely talented, you want to show him at the top of his game.

"I think it's going to be wonderful," he said. "I'm in love with the sound of the cello and I'm in love with the sound of the Helena Symphony. ... They are all great musicians and great music makers. I want to inspire them to make music. I want it to be a springboard that makes them sing."

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Dylan Brown, Independent Record

In this file photo Ovidiu Marinescu, guest soloist for the Helena Symphony, plays a song at Allan Scott's home. On Saturday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Helena Civic Center, internationally celebrated cellist Marinescu will perform with the Helena Symphony Orchestra.

If you go ...

WHAT: Helena Symphony Orchestra's world premiere of Kile Smith's "And Seeing the Multitudes" with guest cellist Ovidiu Marinescu

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31

WHERE: Helena Civic Center, 340 Neill Ave.

COST: \$12 to \$52

CONTACT: 442-1860 or helenasymphony.org

Cellist

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"My first goal is to write a piece that doesn't fall apart, that works, that touches the emotions and that it leaps off the stage," said Smith. "I don't want audiences to wonder what it's about. I want the music to leap off the stage and ravish them."

"I find the piece to be very intriguing," said cellist Marinescu in a phone interview from his home in West Chester, Pennsylvania — very different than any piece for cello and orchestra that I've played before.

"It is trying to capture less of a traditional concerto mood where the soloist ... represents the hero and is leading the orchestra or fighting the orchestra in this drama.

It's much more meditative."

Smith is superb, he said, at creating colors and introspective or meditative moods.

"It ends with a more joyous fanfare — a bright ending. The ending is very virtuosic."

"My journey was of discovery," Marinescu said, "and also how am I going to project the ideas that are in the music. So the journey is the joy. The real moment is on the stage with the audience there."

This is the fourth time Marinescu will play as a soloist with the Helena Symphony.

"I'm excited to be back in Helena because of the audience that is committed, dedicated, curious and supportive of the arts in general in Helena," he said.

"In Helena people are still connecting, and that's special," he added.

"In other places, people isolate themselves in their living rooms, eating popcorn and watching TV and feeling lonely?"

Saturday's concert will open with Samuel Barber's "Dance of Venetian" from the ballet "Medea."

And it will conclude with Serge Prokofiev's celebrated Fifth Symphony, composed at the close of World War II.

"The entire concert explores the emotions of us as a community that hopes, triumphs and faces despair at times with failure and other times with grace," wrote music director and conductor Allan R. Scott.

Tickets range from \$12 to \$52 and are available by calling 442-1860 or visiting helenasymphony.org or visiting the box office at 2 N. Last Chance Gulch on the Downtown Walking Mall.

House GOP splits gov's infrastructure bill into seven

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
IR State Bureau

House Republicans said Thursday they are splitting Gov. Steve Bullock's single infrastructure bill into at least seven separate bills and would eliminate most of the governor's proposed use of bonding to finance projects.

As a result, Republicans, who have criticized Bullock's proposal that relies heavily on bonding, will rely heavily on cash in their plan.

A preliminary comparison

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More news from the Capitol

Net-metering solar power measures killed in committee. **6A**

Case made for license fee hikes. **6A**

Increased funding for hunter access programs. **6A**

Simplifying, cutting income tax. **6A**

Higher education officials says they're meeting accountability goals. **7A**

Keeping sex offenders away from kids' schools. **8A**