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SAMA TO EXHIBIT ALTOONA NATIVE'S CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHS

Altoona – Tim Boyles has photographed hundreds of celebrities, yet has never chased a single one. Instead, the Altoona native's reputation as a photographer, artist and professional has brought them to him. This summer, more than 80 of Boyles' celebrity photographs will be on view at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona in *Tim Boyles: Celebrity Status*. The exhibition opens June 23 and will remain on view through October 14.

A graduate of Altoona High School, Boyles chose to follow in his father's footsteps, opting to work for Ward Trucking and Altoona Hospital in lieu of college. In 1984, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he would gain his first experiences in the field of photojournalism. After his service, he returned to Altoona to work for WTAJ-TV. After another stint in the TV news industry in Florida, Boyles decided to leave the field and pursue his passion for photography.

Shooting beach weddings and pick-up gigs soon turned into a job with Getty Images, the world's largest distributor of photographic news, sports and celebrity images. His coverage of the Terri Schiavo and Hurricane Charley stories brought national recognition in publications including *Time* magazine and *The New York Times*.

Soon Boyles would begin photographing celebrities for Getty, with Leonardo DiCaprio being his first. He began to market his services directly to celebrities, and one of his earliest clients was aerialist and daredevil Nik Wallenda, who hired Boyles for four days to compose heirloom, legacy and photojournalism images for his record-breaking walk across the Grand Canyon in 2003. Boyles did the same when Wallenda walked across the Chicago Skyline in 2014. He will work with the Wallendas again this month when he shoots Nik's wife, Erendira, as she performs aerial acrobatics while hanging by her teeth from a helicopter while flying over Niagara Falls. The stunt is planned for June 15 – five years to the day after Nik's famous tight-rope walk at the same location.

"I only work with people that I literally trust with my life," said Wallenda. "I always know when I work with Tim, I'll get the pictures I need to document my history-making walks. Tim never gives up and neither do I."

Today, Boyles boasts a client list that includes Jack Hanna, Shaquille O'Neal, Burt Reynolds, "Macho Man" Randy Savage, Taylor Swift and Keith Urban. More than 80 photographs will be featured in the exhibition, including those of well-known celebrities such as

Justin Bieber, Mick Jagger, Kim Kardashian, Paul McCartney, Bill Murray, Ed Sheeran, and many others.

“Lots of Tim’s pictures decorate our offices and home,” said Hanna, a client and long-time friend. “We are honored to know him as a friend and an incredible photographer.”

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition with a Wicked Wednesday program on June 28. The evening will include light dinner and libations, as well as live music by The Amigos. Cost is \$25 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

Boyles will speak at the Museum during a Lunch a l’Art on July 12. Cost is \$15 per person or \$14 for SAMA members. For information or reservations, please call the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.