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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAMA-ALTOONA TO KICK OFF FIRST *BLUE MONDAY* OF 2014 IN
JANUARY**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona will kick off its 2014 *Blue Monday* season on January 27. The program, which begins at 6 p.m., will feature music by Stormy and a tour of the Museum’s latest exhibitions, *Dan Helsel: Creating Joy* and *Robert E. Wedge: A Moment of Emotion*. Cost is \$20 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

Over the years, *Blue Monday* has developed a strong following throughout the Blair County region. The event combines the best of the region’s musical, culinary and fine arts in one setting. Each program includes a light supper and libations while guests listen to some of the area’s best musical talent. Additionally, each program highlights the Museum’s exhibitions.

Stormy plays classic melodic rock and pop music from the ‘60s and ‘70s, including music by The Beatles, America, and Traffic. The band consists of Charlie Leiden on keyboard; Luke Leiden on percussion and vocals; Mark Montrella on lead vocals and harmonica; and Peter Wolf on guitar, vocals and percussion.

During the event, guests will have the opportunity to view the exhibitions, *Dan Helsel: Creating Joy* and *Robert E. Wedge: A Moment of Emotion*. *Creating Joy* features fifty of Helsel’s landscape and still life paintings. Helsel is regarded for possessing a deft artistic touch and style that harkens back to the Old Masters. The exhibition will remain on view through April 26. Wedge is an accomplished photographer whose portfolio includes portraits, landscapes, architecture and sporting events. The exhibition, on view through April 12, features forty-four of the Altoona artist’s photographs.

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