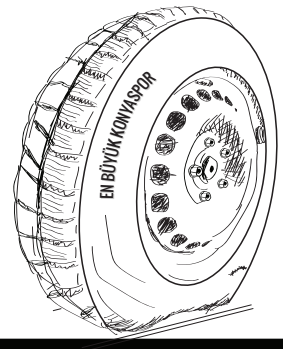
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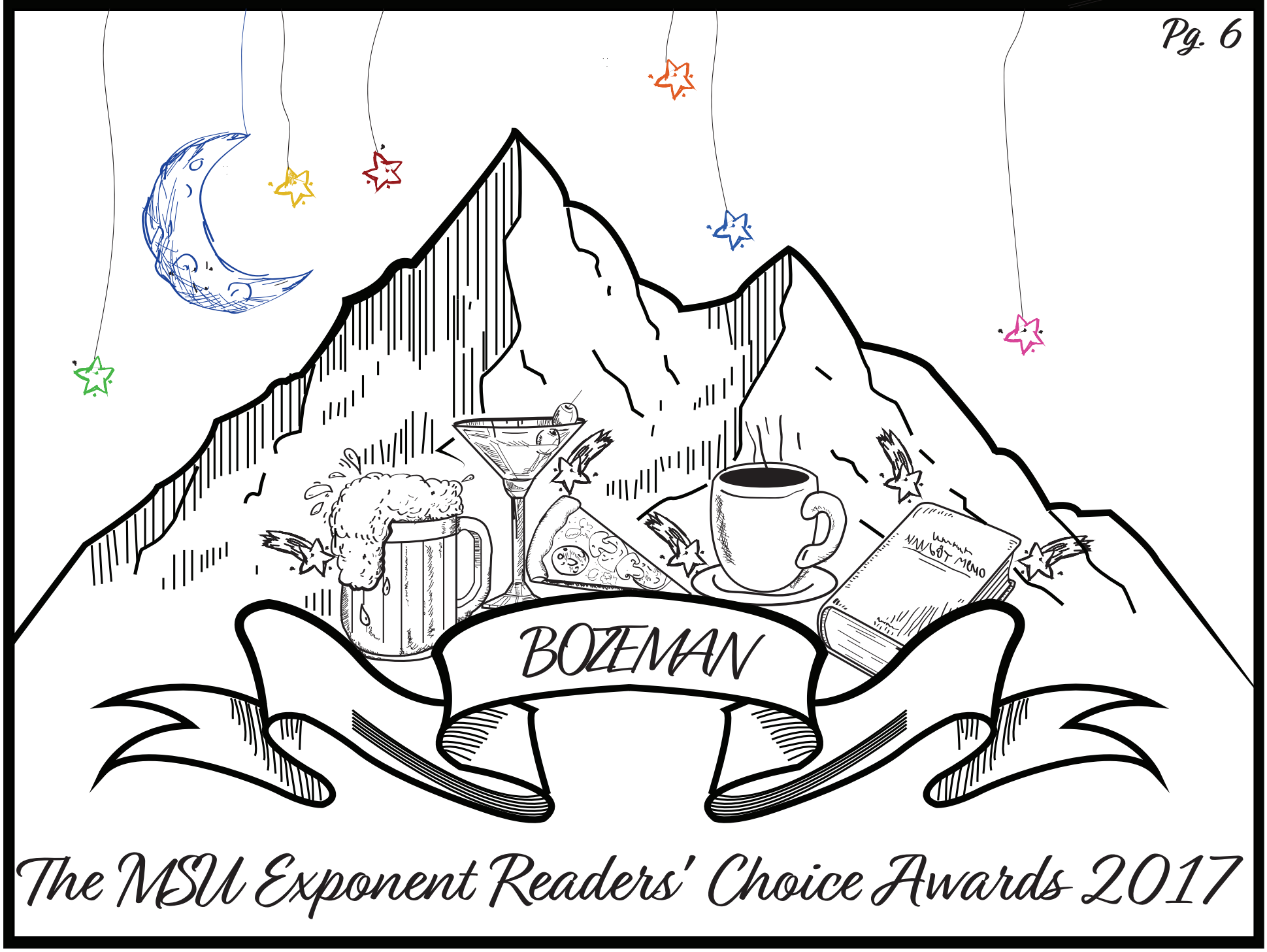
SPORTS 8
MEET THE MSU BASKETBALL COACHES

OPINION 9
RESURRECT DEAD WEEK

CULTURE 11
NEW BLACK FRIDAY DEALS



Pg. 6



PAGE TWO

FLASHBULB



Montana State University lights up Montana Hall in celebration of the holiday season Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017.

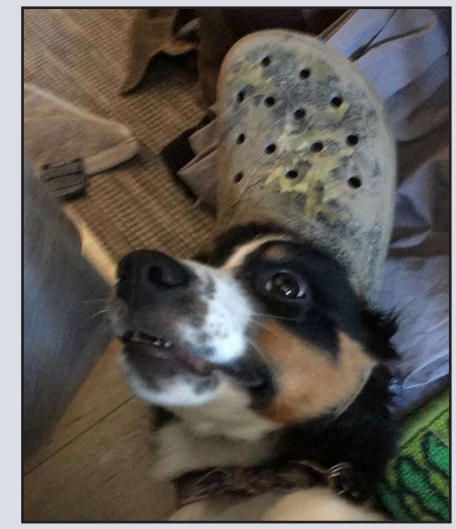
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SIGNIFICANT FIGURES



COMPILED BY ROLF TENGDIN • DESIGNED BY ALEJANDRA FLORES

HEARD ON THE WEB



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INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK



From @msulibrary:

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THE MSU **exponent**

Volume 112, Issue 14

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Extraordinary students: Extraordinary ideas

BY MEGAN OAKLIEF

MSU is filled with people who have incredible ideas and are willing to work to accomplish and promote them to the public. One such opportunity was the eighth annual McNair Scholars Program Research Symposium which took place on Dec. 4 in the SUB. This annual event is a showcase of undergraduate research projects funded primarily by the McNair Research Program.

The research program provides opportunities to MSU students who are first-generations or in a minority group who show great academic potential. McNair works closely with TRiO, a group which also provides academic, financial and social aid to students who are first generation or considered to be in a minority group. Each year, 25 students at MSU are chosen to study at Princeton University over a nine-week period during the summer with an assigned professor.

These MSU students presented on everything from "Targeted Joint Therapy using TAT Peptides in osteoarthritic Cartilage" to "Storytelling: Connecting the experience as a Way of Learning." Each McNair Scholar showed a poster which contained the purpose of their research, the steps taken to achieve it, results if available and what the results of their research mean both to themselves and potentially to a greater audience.

Brianna Bull Shows, a McNair Scholar and junior majoring in microbiology explained how her research stemmed from a personal connection. Bull Shows researched the importance of healthy patient provider interactions, specifically those between patients with chronic illness and their various doctors. In her research, she studied a new way of communication by interviewing many doctors, physicians, researchers and most importantly, patients.

Bull Shows finalized her project by creating a packet for patients to bring with them to their doctor appointments so they are able to more easily collect the appropriate information about their chronic illness in a clear and concise way. She also created a space where people with chronic illness are able to talk about what they are going through to help them understand it. Bull Shows explained how she wanted to create a place where "people understand what they are going through by working together and improving communication for everyone."

Betheney "Birdie" Kushner, a McNair Scholar and philosophy major presented "Empty War: Alleviating the Suffering Incurred by Causal Determinism and Other Disorders." Kushner's project focused on using Madhyamaka Buddhist epistemology to help find both the cures and the sources of mental disorders.

"I chose this topic because I am a philosopher. I believe that we should not take the science part of problems so seriously. Buddhism is more philosophical and encompasses many more possible sources of each problem as well as the solutions which go along with them. Why wouldn't we step outside our own culture to help understand our problems from another point of view?" Kushner said.

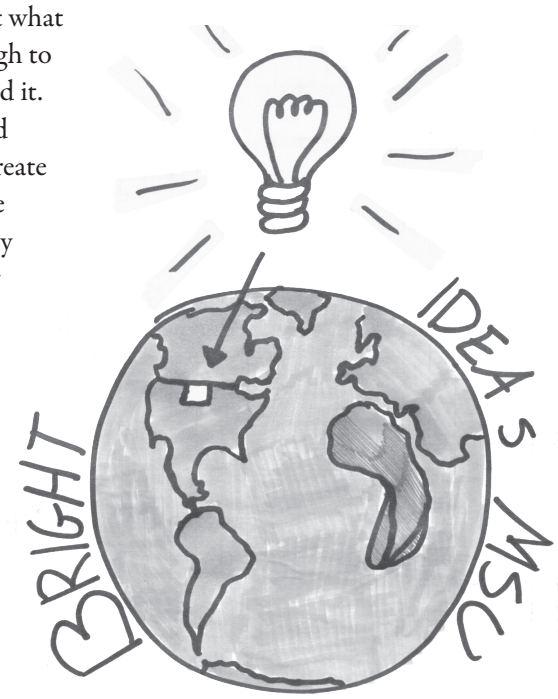


ILLUSTRATION BY MEGAN OAKLIEF

CAT QUIPS

What's your favorite animal?



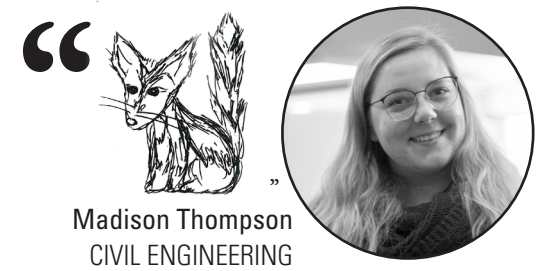
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Leila Mecklenburg
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION



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Mitchell Black
MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE



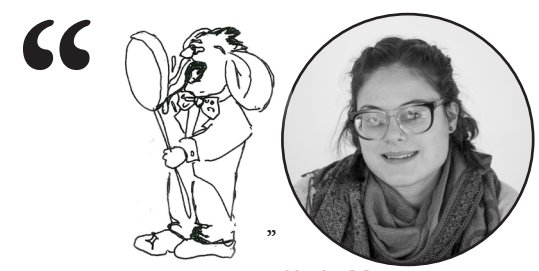
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Jeremiah Coon
INDUSTRIAL & MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ENGINEERING



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Katie Meyer
STUDIO ARTS

PHOTOS BY ANNIKA SERNIOTTI

Painting for the future: Thrive on Plants MT

BY SAM KLUSMEYER

Thrive on Plants MT, a student organization founded on exploring the possibilities of plant-based cooking, recently held what they referred to as a "paint and sip" fundraiser; this event was the organization's first event of its kind. The fundraiser, which took place on Wednesday, Nov. 29, focused on educating the participating audience through interaction.

The fundraiser centered around the plight of Pygmy Sloths living in Brazil. "We chose to make Pygmy Sloths the star of the evening in the first paint and sip because they are currently one of the most endangered species of mammals on Earth," Uma Graham, the president of Thrive on Plants MT, stated. The event was held next to Roberts Hall within the Office of Health Advancement's cozy interior, donated by MSU's Nutrition Office through Julie Goyette. It also featured art instruction by Elise Perpignano, the president of MSU's Painting and Drawing Guild. Snacks were purchased exclusively for their use of plant-based ingredients and for their deliciousness. The foods featured alongside the artwork included "Wayfare Jalapeno Cheddar Dip" and "So Delicious Holiday Nog."

The art lesson consisted of a short how-to lesson led by Perpignano, and then guided painting session during which participants were instructed through painting their own sloths on disks of local birch and cedar harvested by Graham from her family's ranch. The participants were also aided by the efforts of Skyler Martinell, another member of the Painting and Drawing Guild. Graham stated that Thrive on Plants MT's "portion of the funds raised at this event are going into a fund to bring the author and senior editor of Vegnews, Jasmin Singer, to campus for a Keynote Speech on self-love and animal activism."

The idea for an artwork themed fundraiser had formed initially during Thrive on Plants MTs' creation during the beginning of this semester. "I wanted to create an event that would build comradery in our community as we connect over our joy of artistic expression and fascination with wild animals "Graham stated. The roots of a paint and sip lie within Graham's own experiences of painting with her family. Graham described how she had taken a painting class with her aunts in order to spend time together and how it had impacted her relationship with them afterwards stating, "It was a truly fantastic experience." Grahams desire was to bring this experience into a teaching setting in the hopes that the audience would grow closer to one another and to the cause they were helping to advocate for.

Holding a "paint and sip" event held other benefits as well. Graham was very interested in attracting a wider audience to Thrive on Plants MT. The creative nature of this event allowed the preexisting members of Thrive on Plants MT to interact with people that they might not meet during their day-to-day activities.

Thrive on Plants MT meets weekly to share vegan food, watch documentaries and work on campaigns to improve living conditions for animals in the U.S. food supply chain. Currently they are collaborating with MSU's Culinary Services to offer more vegan choices on campus.

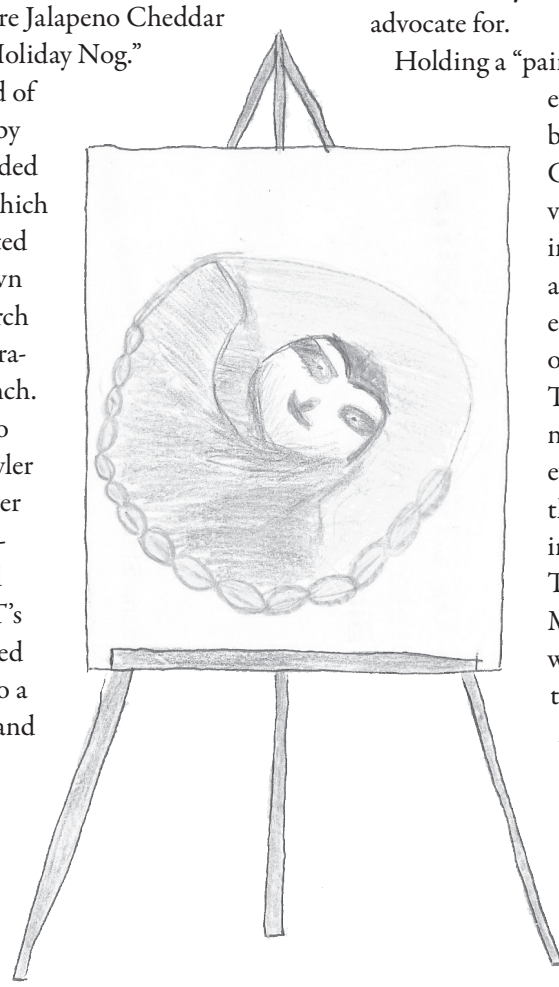


ILLUSTRATION BY SAM KLUSMEYER

School of Music composers concert

BY ANN RUPERT

Student composers presented their original works to a full auditorium on Dec. 3. Despite the snowfall, a large crowd of students, faculty and Bozeman community members gathered in Reynolds Recital Hall for the event. Compositions ranged in instruments and style; a guitar duo, a vocal ensemble, a saxophone duet and pieces consisting of horns, strings and wind instruments were all heard. The pieces drew from a variety of musical styles, showcasing classical to Celtic sounds.

The MSU School of Music offers a "musical home" to students who wish to take part in music. Three majors are offered: Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Arts in Music and Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology. A minor in music is also an option. For those who wish to make music part of their MSU experience without seeking a degree, anyone can audition for the school's 18 ensembles or take private lessons for credit. Furthermore, students can receive partial tuition waivers for participating in the Spirit of the West Marching Band. If looking for a place to simply listen, the School of Music is dependable in offering regular, affordable concerts that draw a wide range of musical styles and backgrounds.

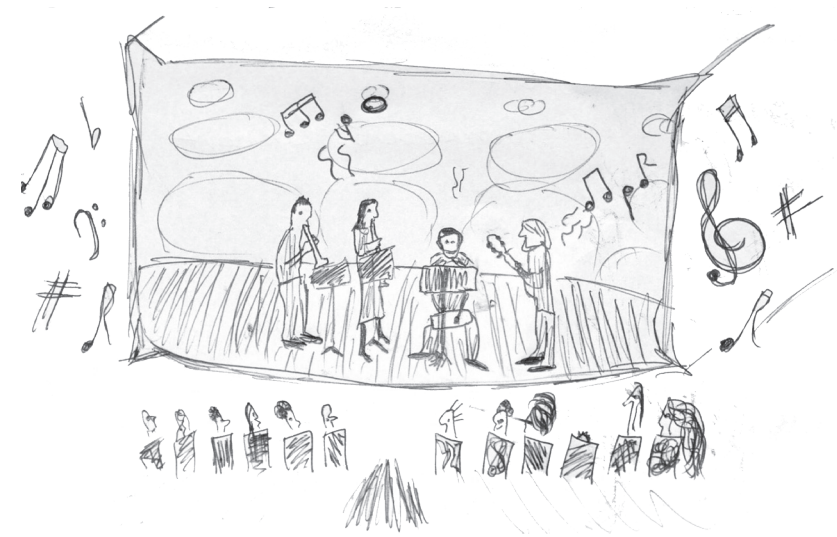


ILLUSTRATION BY ANN RUPERT

COACH PROFILE

Get to know the Bobcat basketball head coaches

BY CALEB RUX

MEN'S HEAD BASKETBALL COACH BRIAN FISH

HOW DO YOU STACK UP IN THE BIG SKY CONFERENCE THIS YEAR?
"This is the first time since I've been here (four years) that there has been expectations. Sometimes it's easier to sneak up and get wins when you aren't expected to be as good, like previous years. Everyone here has expectations: coaches, players and fans."

WHAT'S THIS TEAM'S POTENTIAL?
"It evolves. We can't predict injuries, and how players will develop over the year. We have the experience, talent and eight returners this year."

WHAT'S THE TEAM'S GREATEST STRENGTHS?
"Our shooting and backcourt with Harold [Frey], Tyler [Hall], Devonte [Klines] and Zach [Green]."

WHAT'S THE TEAM'S GREATEST WEAKNESSES?
"Defense. It wasn't great last year, but with experience it should get better."

WHAT'S THE FOCUS THIS YEAR?
"Rebound, defend and get more easy baskets. We were forced to take a lot of jumpers last year out of a set offense."

ARE THERE ANY GAMES YOU HAVE YOUR EYE ON THIS YEAR?
"Every one. I'm also looking towards conference play this year. It's different than when I was at Oregon – you had more games and time to prepare for conference. Here, sometimes your first 13 games are really important."

HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE PROGRAM TO EVOLVE?
"I think there used to be a defeatist attitude before I got here. I think as an administration we want to make this a big-time sports university."

IS THERE A COACH YOU STRIVE TO BE LIKE OR ONE WHO PARTICULARLY INFLUENCED YOU?
"I coached 16 years with Dana Altman (Oregon Basketball's current head coach) and you can't coach that long with somebody and be good friends without them influencing you. I think he's one of the top 10 coaches in the country. If I am ever half as good as him, we will have a good team."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR COACHING STYLE?
"I hope it's fair and intense. I hope the players know that they are the most important thing to me and my staff. I hope they know that if they give everything they've got, they will be rewarded."

HOW CAN ATTENDANCE BE INCREASED?
"There are three things: one is win. We also need players that fans connect [and] attach to like Tyler [Hall] or Harold [Frey], and third being the staff wanting to play an exciting brand of basketball."

WOMEN'S HEAD BASKETBALL COACH TRICIA BINFORD

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU STACK UP IN THE BIG SKY CONFERENCE THIS YEAR?
Tricia Binford: "Right now we are just trying to get as sharp as possible by Dec. 28 (first conference game)."

WHAT'S THIS TEAM'S POTENTIAL?
"Just trying to get better right now. This is a young team. We want to keep the turnovers down and compete with physicality."

WHAT'S THE TEAM'S GREATEST STRENGTHS?
"We have a lot of scorers and a talented defense. Our team plays off of the defense."

WHAT'S THE TEAM'S GREATEST WEAKNESSES?
"We just make mistakes."

HOW WILL YOU TAKE LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS (BIG SKY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS) AND CARRY IT INTO THE SEASON?
"We try to build a culture around the team, and remind them what it takes to be a champion, as well as continuing to get better during practice."

WHAT IS THE FOCUS THIS YEAR?
"Selflessness on and off the court, toughness and getting defensive rebounds."

HOW HAS THE PROGRAM CHANGED SINCE YOU BECAME HEAD COACH IN 2005?
"We have a strong foundation of our culture, being reliable, tough and selfless. We focus on how we represent ourselves in the community, classroom and on the court."

IS THERE A COACH YOU LOOK UP TO OR STRIVE TO BE LIKE?
"My mentors have been Dan Hughes, who was my coach in the WNBA (Hughes coached the Cleveland Rockers), and June Daugherty, who coached me when I played for Washington State. I also try to be like John Wooden."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT COACHING?
"Working with the ladies and the staff in Bozeman which is an amazing community, and university. As well as helping players develop."

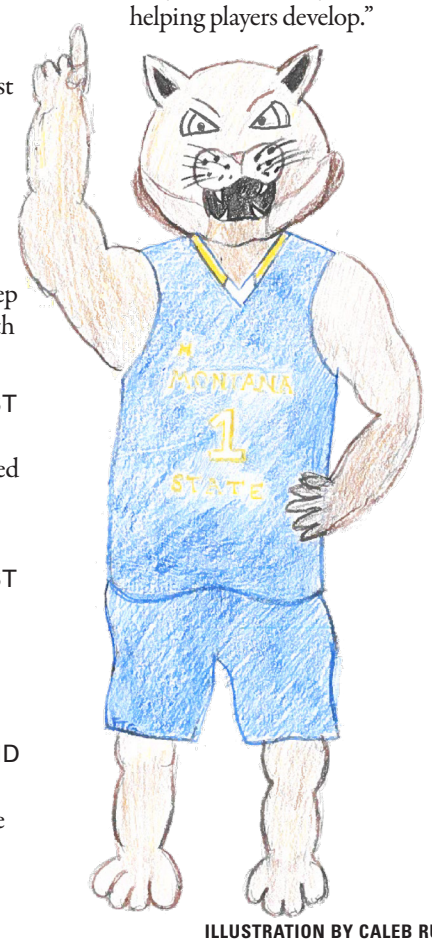


ILLUSTRATION BY CALEB RUX

MSU track shines at Bobcat Preview

BY SHELBY MORRIS

Saturday, Dec. 2 was a big day for Bobcat track and field. MSU hosted the Bobcat Preview inside the Worthington Arena marking an early start for the Cats, and proved to be a success. MSU ended with 13 impressive first place wins and multiple other victories. MSU competed against Carroll College and MSU-Billings in this pre-season meet.

In the 5,000-meter run, the MSU women's record was beat not once, but twice. Alumni, Ariana Lee, set the record at 16:42.38 in 2004, but junior Caroline Hardin now has the honors at a striking 7.43 seconds faster. Lee was also beat by junior Bobcat, Kelsi Lasota, who followed Hardin for second place; beating Lee by 1.72 seconds. In other events, the winning streak continued as junior Elisabeth Krieger took first in the 400 with a time of 58.65, and junior Layne Oliver led the pace with a 5:04.26 mile. Some of the newest members on the team didn't hesitate to make an impression as well. Freshman Morgan Evans won both the 60-meter and the 200. It was a great day for MSU runners.

On the other side of the arena it was all blue and gold for women's pole vault. Sophomore Alex Hellenberg led the Bobcats to first place clearing an impressive 12-00. Following her lead and placing next were all Cats: freshman Amber Prevedello, junior Isabella Calabrese, sophomore Carter Theade and sophomore Aubrey Kessel. In the triple jump, junior Truanne Roginski dazzled as she managed to jump 36-10.25, taking first.

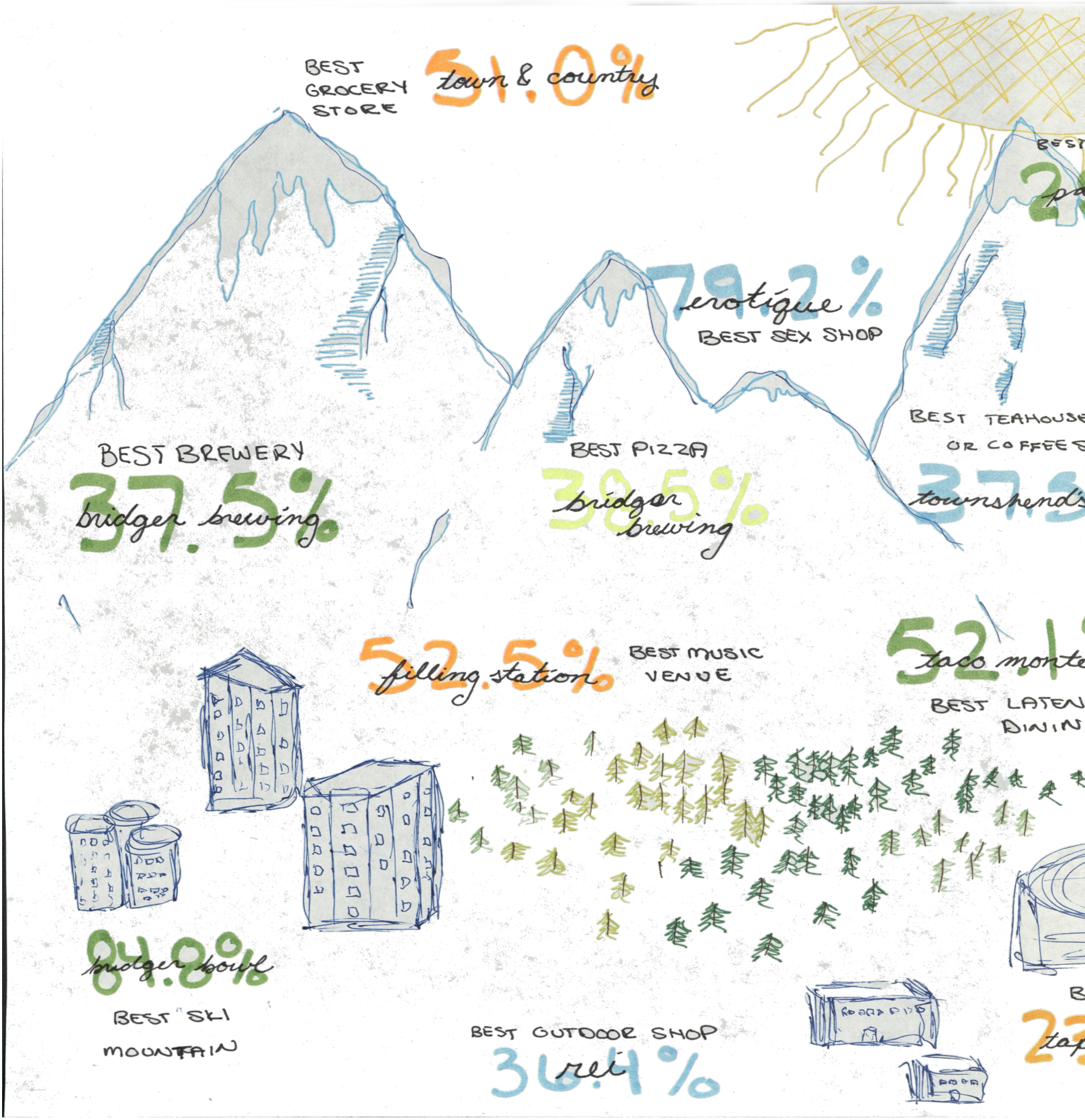
The versatility of the team displayed true athleticism. Hellenberg also took second place in the long jump (18-03.25) and Roginski was runner up in the 60m (7.79).

The men's team had an equally magnificent turnout. In the 200, senior Mitch Horning led the way at 22.3 seconds, followed by MSU's junior Jadin Casey and freshman Parker Walton. Casey was also first to finish in the 400. As for the 5,000-meter, it was yet again reigning blue and gold as second, third and fourth place were taken by sophomore Ty Mogan, junior Anthony Schmalz and freshman Collin Buck.

Returning seniors, Calvin Root and Kyle Douglass made a name for MSU throwing. In the weight throw, Root accomplished a personal best of 62-07.75, taking first overall. Douglass also had a first-place victory in shot put, marking 59-05.50 and in the same event, sophomore Alec Nehring took third place earning a life-time best of 55-06.50. These Bobcats showed up with experience and it paid off.

The Cats couldn't help but leap for joy as sophomore Caleb Neth took a win at 21-06.25 inches in the long jump and it was nothing but first place for both sophomore Noah Martin in the high jump and senior Trevor Simanski in the triple jump.

The Bobcat Preview was exciting for both players and coaches. Head Coach Dale Kennedy said, "we've got a chance to look at our freshmen and see how they could handle the collegiate moment." Seeing how great the Cats did last weekend, Kennedy says he is "hoping this is a motivator for our kids to see if they need to step up or if they're in a good spot." Starting Jan. 8 and going to Jan. 9, the Bobcats will host a multis dual and combined events in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse.


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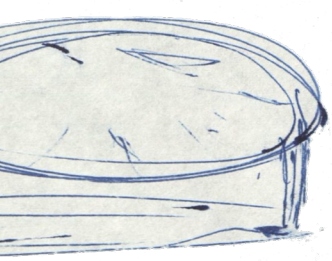
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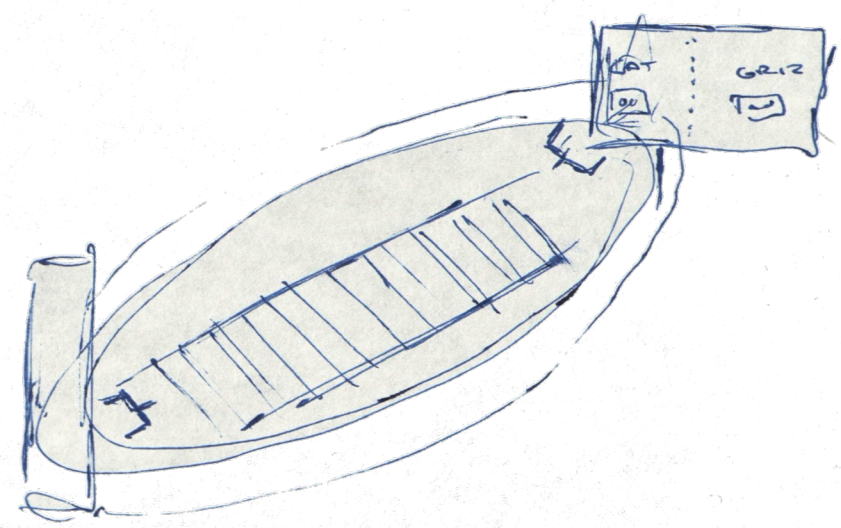
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Cats continue success on the hardwood

BY TRACY ZUHOSKI

The MSU Women's Basketball team is continuing to find success on the hardwood early in the season, earning wins against tough opponents. This included defending their 27-game home winning streak against the University of Wyoming on Wednesday, Nov. 29, to earn their 28th straight victory. The Cats have improved to 5-4, winning one of three in Hawaii over the weekend.

The Bobcats welcomed the Cowgirls to the Brick for non-conference tilt. The game was also the Bobcat School Day at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, bringing in approximately 5,000 elementary students to the game. In front of this large crowd, the game was decided in the waning moments of the fourth quarter, as it was back and forth for most of the bout. The Cats pulled out the 50-46 victory in the end with senior guard Hannah Caudill leading the way with 17 points for the home team. The win also marked Coach Tricia Binford's 200th win of her career.

The Cats weren't home for long as they quickly hit the road, or skies, to Hawaii for the Maui Jim Classic Tournament. The Cats faced Utah State University to begin tournament play on Friday, Dec 1. With another back and forth match unfolding, the Cats found a spark from a young Bobcat's career-game- sophomore guard Oliana Squires led the Cats to a 64-52 victory by collecting 18 points, including five 3-pointers. Caudill also chipped in 16 points for the Cats.

The Cats continued the tournament against the University of Nevada Wolfpack on Saturday, Dec. 2. Riding a three-game win streak, the Cats were looking to continue their defensive success and perseverance. The Cats started off slow, only collecting 14 points in the first half to Nevada's 32. With an uphill climb in the second half, the Cats knew they had their work cut out for them. The Cats fought hard but came up short as the Wolfpack took the game 67-53. Three Bobcats tied for the point total in the game; senior guard Rebekah Hatchard, senior guard Delany Junkermier and Squires.

Staying in Hawaii, the Cats would battle with the Warriors of the University of Hawaii on Monday, Dec. 4. In a tightly contested four-quarters, the Cats held many leads in the game, but Hawaii would eventually win the game 81-75.

The Cats welcome Stephen F. Austin University for their final non-conference home game at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Brick. They will then travel to Utah to take on BYU on Dec. 22 for their final non-conference road-game before opening up conference play at home against Southern Utah on Dec. 28.

See The Beauty In All Things



ANDERSON FAMILY VISION
JOHN ANDERSON, O.D.

Mourning the Death of Dead Week

Students scrambling and stressing over last-minute assignments and exams during the final week of school has me wondering: Where's my dead week?

Dead Week is a typical event for many universities across the nation, ranging from a few days to the entire week before final exams. Characterized by a cancellation of classes, Dead Week is a time for students and professors alike to complete their semester assignments and prepare for finals.



ABBY KLONSINSKI
Staff Writer

Often, expanded library times and required 24-hour quiet hours in residence halls accompany the termination of all assignments, allowing students to focus solely on their upcoming exams. The extra time allows students to (hopefully) avoid all-nighters, overdoses of caffeine and nervous breakdowns.

Professors also relish in this extra downtime before exam week chaos, as this allows them to finally catch up on the grading they've been meaning to get done. The break from teaching allows professors to enter grades and meet with anyone concerned about information about the course.

Unfortunately, not every school enacts this policy. Unluckily for us, Montana State University falls under that category.

Instead of giving students and staff even a couple days off to prepare for final exams, MSU requires a full week of pure academia. Exams, papers, assignments and classes continue to be required the final week of school, giving students only two days — also known as 'the weekend' — to review a semester's worth of information before they are brutally tested on it.

Students are unable to focus on the upcoming final exams because they still have quizzes and tests just days before. Too many professors assign tests the Friday before finals and expect students to have mastered that information — on top of all the other info they are expected to know — well enough to take a cumulative exam only days later. These professors disregard the fact that students will have no idea what topics they missed on Friday's test, meaning they're likely to make the same mistakes on their final exam.

Not only do students suffer both mentally and academically, but professors struggle to engage their classes too. "It's the night of the living dead around here," said an unnamed professor, who then mimicked with stiff arms the movements of how zombie-students shuffle around campus.

But, students aren't zombies. Or, at least they aren't supposed to be. Final exams are stressful enough without last-minute assignments and tests being piled on a nearly unbearable load.

Giving students just two extra days before the weekend of finals would decrease the anxiety and strain they experience, allowing them to truly focus on learning their material and going into the last week of the semester feeling confident. So, let's resurrect Dead Week and save the zombie-like attitudes for the movies.

An Unexpected Second Coming



After centuries of anticipation, Jesus Christ has finally decided to make contact with humanity once again. A CNN Breaking News report stated that Christ touched down at the North Pole last night around 9 p.m. MST. Fed-up with not receiving a present from Santa for the 1,747th consecutive year, the Messiah stated that He "couldn't handle being left out any longer."



BRADY CORRIGAN
Staff Writer

Christ told Claus that centuries ago, He was able to reconcile not receiving any presents because His gift season used to be year-round. "People used to sacrifice valuables and animals to me as a gift for my eternal love, but for some reason, those presents have began to disappear in recent years." Christ also added that this was not an impulse decision, and He didn't take it lightly. "I've been praying for a gift the past 42 years, and nothing has come. I was beginning to lose faith in this 'Santa Claus' guy, so I decided to go see him for myself."

Many church leaders have critiqued the move, saying that Christ is missing the point of the holiday season. Ray Boone, a local pastor, said he was in shock when he heard the news. He said that Christ shouldn't need gifts if He is already in Heaven. "This is very uncharacteristic," Boone told reporters earlier today. "But one thing is for sure. My faith has never been stronger."

But one obvious question still looms: does this return qualify as a second coming? Many Christians aren't willing to take the chance, and have been in a frenzy to purify their souls in preparation for a possible abrupt ascent into Heaven. Local woman Heather Smith told reporters she had to wait in line eight hours to go to church last evening because the line was so long. She stated this event has really shed light on all of the "fairweather faithful" out there. "These people think they can just pick and choose which tenants of the faith to obey," Smith said.

The world may be coming to an end, but at least we can all marvel in the fact that Christ's timing is spot on. Our world is a mess. Trump is president, Apple products just haven't been the same since Steve Jobs died and Vine doesn't exist anymore. Who would want to live in a world like that anyways?

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The
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CALENDAR

December 6 - December 26

Want your event featured here? Email information to *ExponentEntertainment@montana.edu*, preferably two weeks in advance.

ON CAMPUS

SOCIAL MEDIA LUNCH 'N' LEARN
Friday, Dec. 8, 12:00 p.m.
Jabs Hall 405
The final Lunch and Learn of the semester will be centered around social media. Bring a lunch and have an open discussion on social media.

BOBCATS GOT TALENT!
Friday, Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m.
Howard Hall, Reynolds Recital Hall
Join the South Hedges Hall Council for their free student talent show. Refreshments will be provided and there will be prizes for contestants and audience members.

MULTIMEDIA SERIES: STUDENT WORKS
Sunday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Howard Hall, Reynolds Recital Hall
Music Technology majors will showcase their semester's work. The concert is part of a free continuing series combining electroacoustic music and sonic art.

ART

WINTER ART WALK
Friday, Dec. 8, 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Bozeman
The annual Winter Art Walk will take place this Friday. Galleries and businesses will be displaying local art. There will be live music and free refreshments.

COMMUNITY

FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET
Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:00 p.m.
Anderson School
Local artisans will gather and sell their handmade products just in time for the holiday season.

AUTHOR EVENT
Saturday, Dec. 9, 3:00 p.m.
Country Bookshelf
Francis Davis will be at Country Bookshelf to talk about his book "West of Love."

X-MAS
Monday, Dec. 25, All Day
Your Home
Join your loved ones in a day of yelling about the true meaning of Christmas. Look forward to watching horrible Christmas specials for eight hours straight before you eat your ham.

MUSIC

BRICE ASH
Saturday, Dec. 9, 6:00 p.m.
Wild Joe*s Coffee Shop
Nashville native Brice Ash will be playing a free show in support of his debut album.

FILM, THEATER

VEGAN 2017
Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Jabs Hall 315
Thrive on Plants MT is hosting a viewing of VEGAN 2017 with discussion afterwards. The event will be free with chili and cheesecake provided.

ONE ACTS
Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre
The MSU School of Film & Photography will present seven plays by student directors. Tickets are $8 for students and seniors and $10 for the general public.

SPORTS

MSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UC SANTA BARBARA
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2:00 p.m.
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse
Come cheer on your men's basketball team against UC Santa Barbara. Admission is free for students with a Cat Card.

MSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Saturday, Dec. 9, 4:30 p.m.
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse
After the men's basketball game, the women will face off against Stephen F. Austin. Admission is free for students with a Cat Card.

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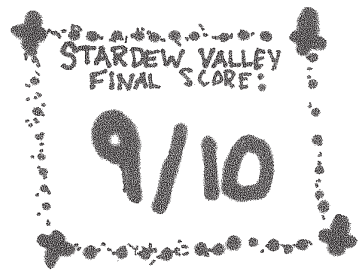
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Relax post-finals with 'Stardew Valley'



BY KAYLA OLSON

Attention, stressed college students: don't waste your time trying to learn how to meditate or spend money on expensive adult coloring books. The best way to relax (besides the library therapy dogs) is "Stardew Valley." It even comes complete with adorable retro graphics and calming spa music.



"Stardew Valley" starts as you quit a soul-crushing job at the Jojo corporation and move to your old family farm. It's been overgrown and is falling apart, so you have to start entirely from scratch to make a real home. But "Stardew Valley" isn't simply a farming game — it's a complex mixture of farming, mining, fishing, fighting, exploring, cooking and building relationships with the other characters, so no day in Pelican Town is ever the same.

The game starts off a little slowly, as you have to figure out the daily routine and how the world works. It really gets started about a few hours in after you have the farm set up and have explored more of the world. There's an entire town, forest, and mine to explore — plus all of the hidden secrets like a bus to the desert to unlock.

It's hard to pick the best parts of "Stardew Valley," but it is definitely a very rewarding game. It gives you small and big incentives to keep going, whether it's unlocking a new secret area or just the excitement of one of the townspeople when you find their perfect gift. Town events, like birthdays or festivals, break up what could be monotonous daily patterns.

The other characters in Pelican Town are complicated, interesting people, who are worth getting to know. There's family drama, personal backstories and even the chance to marry your favorite character and start a family. It's not easy, and it takes time and effort to make friends. I was actually heartbroken at my first town dance where no one would dance with me because I hadn't spent enough time trying to get to know them yet.

But my favorite thing about "Stardew Valley" is that there's no wrong way to play. Unlike a lot of games, I never felt stuck, or that someone else would be much better at playing the game. I got to make the game really mine, so I never felt like I was doing it wrong.



In fact, I really only have one complaint about "Stardew Valley:" the combat. Fighting the creatures in the mines gets somewhat aggravating — it's not difficult, as it takes only one button to attack and there are no special moves necessary, but it is still more than possible to lose. After "passing out" and losing all of my good loot in the mines four times in a row, I got pretty fed up with the mines.

"Stardew Valley" is by far the most time I've spent on a game this semester. I've played it for over 24 hours, and I still can't wait for Christmas break to keep playing. I would highly, highly recommend it to anyone, even as a detox from another semester of school. You get to pick what you do, how you do it and every day is entirely yours in "Stardew Valley."

ILLUSTRATION BY KAYLA OLSON & RAY PORTER



Black and Blue Friday

BY SPENCER CRANE

The hottest stores for Black Friday have been facing a crisis in the years leading up to 2017. Their store spaces were filling up as customers came in greater and greater numbers. By 2015 it wasn't uncommon for a popular store to breach its maximum capacity of peoples in store by more than 100 percent on this holiday. This was a serious hazard. How could these paragons of virtue, the stores we hallow on Black Friday, prevent the problems this year? They couldn't just stop offering Black Friday deals. How would we be able to partake in the festivities of Black Friday that way? Luckily, WalMart came up with a way to curb the problem into a solution.

WalMart unveiled their Slash for Slash deal on Nov. 13 to continue through the holiday season, with an ingenious new way to keep people coming to their stores while cutting down the overcrowding problem. The deal is simple: for every slashed tire customers haul into the store, they get two percent off of their Black Friday purchases. Making the offer even sweeter is that the deal stacked. WalMart wants them to slash as many of their neighbor's tires as possible. It was a bold move. The world waited with bated breath to see how this deal would affect foot traffic to WalMart. And so, the night after the day dedicated to celebrating thankfulness and family, thousands of queues began to form outside of WalMarts across the nation. Thousands of people were lined up with an average of 4.5 scalped tires each.

But if the deal was so good, how did it fix the overcrowding problem? WalMart's genius behind this plan was actually quite simple: you can't overcrowd the store if you can't drive to the store. Only the most dedicated Black Friday shoppers got in on the deal as they had to go out of their way to slash the tires and haul them away, making the crowd at WalMart this year the perfect size and the perfect quality.

This deal was more than just a financial win for Bozeman resident, Paul Shopndrop, who told the Exponent "Slashing tires for slashed prices is beautiful. It brought the whole family together. The kids loved it. The were saying 'Daddy, daddy can I slash the next one?' They were so excited. Can't wait to do it next year."

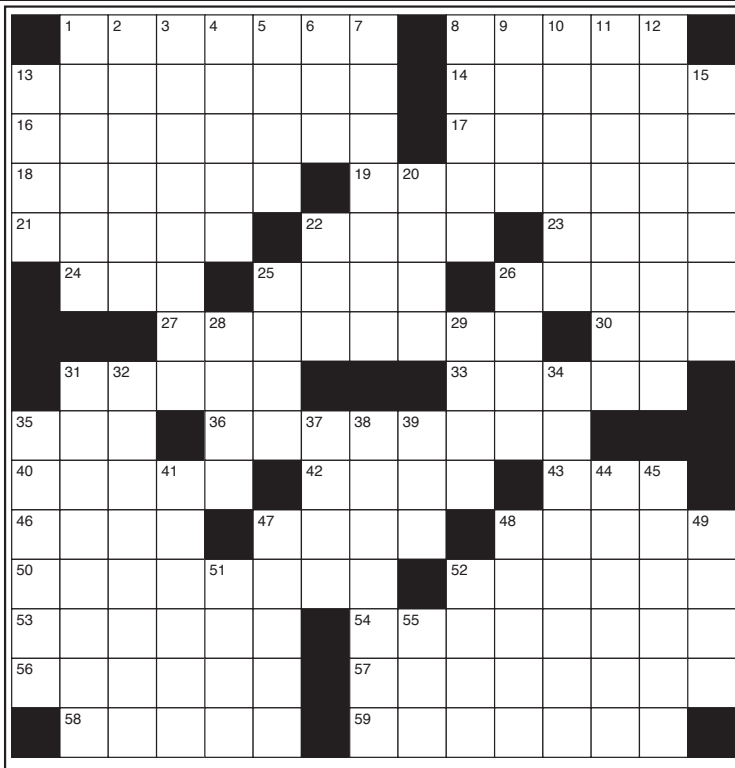
It would seem WalMart has started the next great American tradition, but They're not the only ones who rolled out crowd control incentive programs. Target's "Black Eye Friday" encouraged people to literally knock out the crowd they were competing with by giving buyer's ten percent off storewide for one black eye and 20 percent off for two black eyes in addition to regularly marked discounts. Amazon employed "Steals and Deals," where Amazon purchases made with stolen credit card information came with free shipping, five percent off storewide and an extended free trial of Amazon prime.

For more hot scoops about how to make a killing next Black Friday, keep your eyes on the Exponent.

THE MSU
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Across

1. ___ end (on the shore)
8. Indian state
13. Most precipitous
14. Set free
16. Sorrowful
17. "Let ___!" (go for broke)
18. Fifty minutes to two
19. Spot that looks like a Rorschach test
21. Parisian heads
22. Patella location
23. "Love ____ Elevator" (Aerosmith single)
24. Old atlas letters
25. Show disdain
26. Robust
27. Match competitor?
30. Plural Spanish article
31. This date
33. Scent, in England
35. Babi ___ (infamous site near Kiev)
36. Samoan, e.g.
40. Whodunit writers' award
42. Mil. addresses
43. Opposite of "yeah"
46. Wrangle
47. Indian Ocean vessel
48. Carvey and Andrews
50. Keeps track of
52. Small sermon
53. Grammy winner Krauss
54. Electronic instrument
56. Big name in chocolate
57. Split into layers
58. Passe
59. Letter from Jude

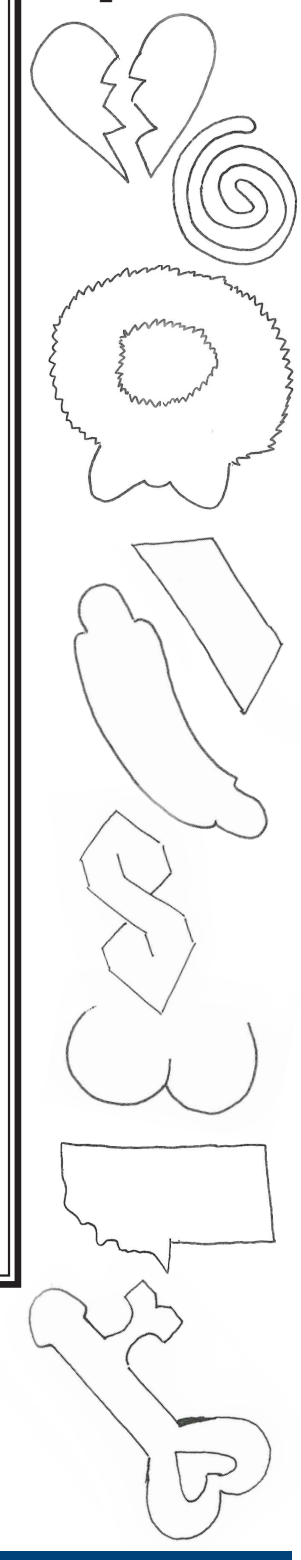
Down

1. Expiates
2. Axioms
3. Scholarly
4. After, to the French
5. German negative
6. Apr. clock setting, for many
7. Gloria ____ (feminist author)
8. Look-___ (twin)
9. Bar denizens
10. Foray
11. H2N2 pandemic of 1956-58, familiarly
12. Labor dispute figure
13. Caledonian
15. Home of the "Grand Slam Breakfast"
20. Fiddler while Rome burned
22. ____-plunk
25. Toronto Blue ____
26. Jekyll's dark side
28. Hit musical of the late '60s
29. Gestures of approval
31. Baby frogs
32. Hymn player
34. Christmas buy
35. Suck-up
37. Cowardly Lion actor
38. Paul, for one
39. "___ what?"
41. Record label owned by Sony
44. Zoo creature
45. Rock salt
47. Charity recipient
48. Actress Day
49. Year-end ending
51. Crossing cost
52. Engine type
55. Accidental occurrence

S	S	M	E	E	D	E	L	L	I	T	R	W	X	J
E	E	R	E	R	S	A	R	E	L	P	A	T	S	A
K	M	T	A	N	G	L	A	R	O	P	M	E	T	M
I	P	B	A	G	A	M	Y	R	E	H	C	T	U	B
M	S	R	E	L	K	C	U	H	C	O	M	E	T	S
J	L	D	S	R	I	A	E	R	N	N	H	P	S	S
U	U	D	P	R	I	D	E	D	A	E	C	L	D	H
M	S	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	G	S	N	A	R	T
P	G	O	K	M	T	Y	I	R	A	T	E	N	O	R
I	N	M	E	S	A	Z	Q	E	V	R	U	T	W	I
E	U	L	S	W	X	Z	W	T	A	A	Q	E	S	G
R	L	A	L	H	S	I	D	U	R	P	A	R	T	S
N	O	I	T	C	A	F	S	I	T	A	S	S	I	D
Q	A	L	L	A	Y	I	N	G	X	H	C	N	U	B
R	E	L	D	I	S	O	R	D	E	R	S	T	G	O

Allaying
Almond
Apart
Bunch
Butchery
Chuckle
Comets
Crests
Deems
Dilates
Disorders
Dissatisfaction
Drabs
Ember
Extravagance
Fizzy
Girths
Irate
Jambs
Jumpier
Junks
Lagged
Lungs
Menaced
Mikes
Phones
Planters
Prided
Prudish
Quench
Railway
Sidle
Smell
Snarl
Spokes
Stapler
Strap
Swords
Temporal
Tilled
Tract
Transgressions

Irregular Shapes



EASY

6				4	1	5		7
		7	3					4
				2				
1					7	3		9
5								8
		8		1	4	6		
	8				6		1	
		4						
	2			7		9	5	6

CHALLENGING

3		8		6	4			
		6					5	
	9						8	
	1		9	4		5	3	
8	5							
		3			7			2
7		9				1	2	3
		1	7					
		4			1			9

FUN FACT:

Early settlers disliked John Bozeman so much that they nearly changed the town's name to Montana City.