

THE MSU
exponent

March 12, 2020

MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

SPORTS

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**ON A
MISSION**

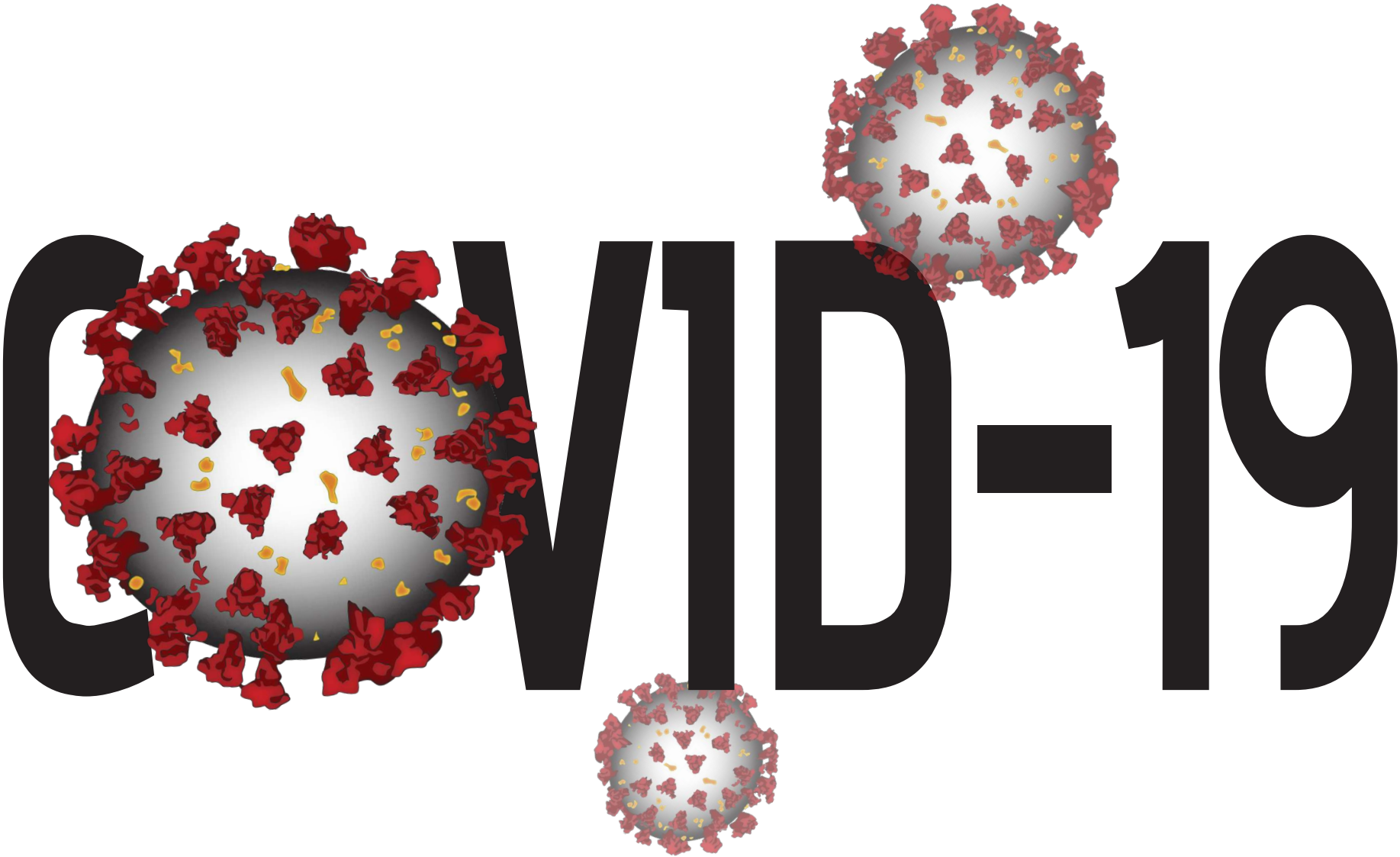
**TO
DANCE**



NEWS **3**
**ROMNEY OVAL:
GREEN INSIDE & OUT**

OPINION **10**
**GRANDE (VENTI)
GIVES IN**

CULTURE **15**
**AN AFTERNOON
WITH ZUCK**



THE MSU exponent

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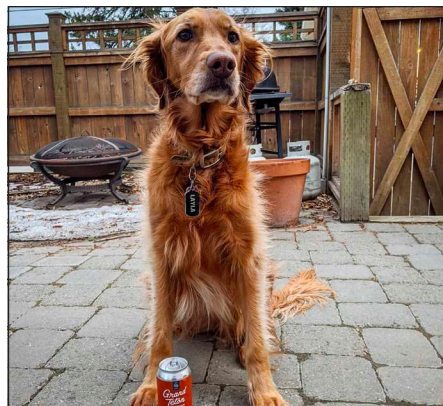
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FLASHBULB

Shakti Kroopkin, right, artist of the "Beings in Time" exhibit in the Exit Gallery, discusses her abstract work with a student during a reception hosted in the gallery on Monday, March 9. Following the reception, Kroopkin gave a lecture about her work in Cheever Hall.

PHOTO BY GABE BARNARD



HEARD ON THE WEB

From @bill_beller:

“Went to the store to get hand sanitizer, but they were out. We decided killing the virus from the inside might be just as effective. #goldenretrieversofinstagram #viralpost”



INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK

From @bceagles:

“@pbiele33 will become the first female BC skier ever to race at the NCAA National Championships tomorrow morning! #GoParker #WeAreBC”

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

all about
aquariums

The largest aquarium in the world is the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom which holds **12.87 million** gallons of water

The Melbourne Aquarium houses a **7 meter** long giant squid frozen in a **3 ton** block of ice

A great white shark has never been kept alive in captivity for more than **6 months**

The German aquadome is an **82-foot** tall aquarium that holds more than **1,500** fish

The first public aquarium at the London Zoo was opened in **1853**

A lungfish named Granddad has been living at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago since **1933**. He is estimated to be over **100** years old

COMPILED BY GRACE LARSEN • DESIGN BY VERONIKA TURNER

Romney Oval goes green

BY KYLEE RUX

Another effort to promote a more sustainable university is underway at MSU. Those who regularly stroll through Romney Oval may have noticed that the area is obstructed by fencing. In the following weeks, a geothermal energy system will be developed that will serve Romney Hall once the building's renovation is completed. This \$2.5 million project, funded from the university's major infrastructure and energy improvement reserves, will use geothermal energy to reduce MSU's energy use and carbon footprint.

As construction commences, crews will drill 78 geothermal wells — 700 feet deep and seven inches in diameter. The heat will be exchanged with the Earth using over 20 miles of closed-loop pipes. Water will be pumped from the ground at around 50 to 60 degrees fahrenheit to the surface to heat the building. The system will work

in reverse when it is hot outside. Dan Stevenson, the associate vice president of University Services, said, "On many days, the geothermal field is used to heat university buildings in that part of campus in the morning and cool them in the afternoon."

MSU proclaimed the project to be "one of the biggest energy conservation projects in university history." At least 1 million pounds of carbon dioxide per year will be eliminated from the current university's carbon emissions. According to Stevenson, this figure is equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by 10,000 trees annually.

This type of geothermal energy system is not rare for MSU, which has existing geothermal wells at Jabs Hall, Leon Johnson Hall, Tietz Hall, Wilson Hall and Norm Asbjornson Hall, with new systems also anticipated for the American Indian Hall. The Jabs Hall system alone

supplies a total of four buildings and has cut energy costs by \$130,000 annually. The Romney system is expected to reduce energy use by 40-60%.

The design to join the Romney and Norm Asbjornson geothermal systems will roughly double their storage capacity. In the future, as other buildings in proximity to Romney Hall are updated, they will also be connected to this network, which allows for energy to be shared

more efficiently. Stevenson expressed that MSU's ultimate goal is to switch its dependability on fossil fuels to strictly geothermal systems to heat and cool all buildings on campus.

Students pass by the debris from pavement and tree removal in Romney Oval as a result of the geothermal energy project being undertaken by MSU.
PHOTO BY MARIE STEIGER



POLITICS FOR PEOPLE

BY LYDIA FRENCH

Montana's 2020 gubernatorial election is already turning heads. Steve Bullock, current governor of Montana, is terming out this year, which leaves the governorship open to new candidates. The Office of the Governor in Montana cycles in four-year terms, each candidate terming out after two terms serving in office. This year, the gubernatorial election will be held on November 3, coinciding with the 2020 presidential election as well as with several local and state elections.

The Democratic primary currently holds two declared gubernatorial candidates: Mike Cooney, Lieutenant Governor of Montana and former Secretary of State of Montana, and Whitney Williams, businesswoman and daughter of former U.S. Representative Pat Williams. Potential future candidates include Ryan Busse, businessman, and John Heenan, attorney and candidate for Montana's at-large congressional district in 2018.

Mike Cooney has been endorsed by Steve Bullock, John Tester and

The race for Governor

Max Baucus. On the other side of the Democratic Primary, Whitney Williams has been endorsed by Denise Juneau, Brian Schweitzer and John Engen.

The Republican primary also holds two declared gubernatorial candidates: Tim Fox, Attorney General of Montana, and Greg Gianforte, incumbent U.S. Representative for Montana's at-large congressional district and nominee for Governor of Montana in 2016. Greg Gianforte was endorsed by Donald Trump Jr., businessman and son of President Donald Trump.

Ron Vandevender, nominee for Lieutenant Governor in 2016 and nominee for Governor of Montana in 2012, and Lyman Bishop, founder and CEO of Hoplite Armor, were declared as candidates for the Libertarian primary.

There are many candidates, all with significantly different beliefs and ideals. Getting younger generations engaged in political processes isn't just beneficial in the short-term, it also lays the foundation for strong political engagement in the future.

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MSU hands down verdict on Roundtree incident

BY BRADEN URION

A seemingly routine traffic stop escalated into a tense confrontation between MSU University Police Department (UPD) officer Angela Roundtree and Bozeman citizen Krystel Saatjian on January 8, 2020. An investigation was opened and, on February 14, 2020, the MSU police department released a full, detailed report of their findings on the incident. The report included claims that Roundtree, “never attempted to de-escalate the situation, instead elected to intentionally engage in conduct that was unprofessional, discourteous, and antagonistic in a manner that escalated

the situation placing all parties involved in increased danger” and “demonstrated poor officer safety by placing herself in a position of increased risk.” The report did not directly claim that Roundtree’s statements demonstrated a racial bias.

The statements in question are: “You must not be from around here, huh?” and “This isn’t where you came from.” Saatjian, who claims to have lived in Bozeman for 10 years, took offense to the comments and believed them to be racially motivated, as Saatjian is black. Roundtree stated that she felt defensive because of the implication that she and her colleague were racist. “Montana officers are not racist,” Roundtree said. Though there was

insufficient evidence to substantiate the claim of racial bias, that does not mean Roundtree has been exonerated.

Roundtree was handed a 40-hour suspension, which will equate to a 25% pay decrease for the month, as well as extra training. Prior to this, Roundtree had been only performing administrative duties since the incident. The UPD hopes that the punishment is a sign that they do not condone the kind of behavior exhibited by Roundtree.

MSU’s chief of police, Frank Parrish, expressed how saddened he was by his officer’s behavior. “I’m disappointed that Roundtree didn’t use this as an opportunity to show compassion to another

human being,” Parrish wants to make it clear that their role as a police organization is to protect and serve the public. He stressed the importance of positive interactions between the department and community. “We are not against them (the community) but instead we’re here for them.”

True to his word, Parrish invited Saatjian into the department to talk about the incident. The meeting went well as they found common ground in their Christian beliefs. Parrish and Saatjian hope that the department can use this incident as an opportunity to improve its training, practices and empathy for other people. As Parrish says, “We need to show compassion, show understanding, show love.”



Lisa Kubiske, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, lectures an audience on issues in economics and security in Central America.
PHOTO BY MARIE STEIGER

Little aid can be found in these countries’ governments. In a report to Congress, the U.S. State Department accused “50 current or former senior officials... engaging or facilitating corruption in the Northern Triangle Countries.” Without a proper government in place, people must go without effective social programs, proper healthcare and economic support. However, the scariest part of a corrupt government is its inability to protect citizens from criminal threats. If anyone needed that protection, it is the people living in the Northern Triangle.

Kubiske highlighted the two criminal elements facing the Northern Triangle: gangs and cartels. While the gangs are a significant threat, the real danger lies in the power, resources and organization of the cartels. High demand for cocaine in the U.S. has funded and cleared a spot at the table for the cartels. When risks to their lucrative “business” arise, the cartels handle the matter with violent, brutal effectiveness. Homicide rates in the Northern Triangle have been among the highest in the world for decades.

The government has, for the most part, been massively unsuccessful in stomping out crime. In fact, the cartels have “more money than the government,” according to Kubiske, which is a gigantic problem. Kubiske highlighted the various efforts made by organizations including the U.S. government to bring aid to the region.

The Distinguished Speakers Program continues as Nicholas Krale, Executive Director to Washington International Diplomatic Academy, gives a talk at the Baxter Hotel on Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m.

Danger in the Northern Triangle

BY BRADEN URION

Rampant poverty, corrupt governance and high threat of violence are the three major factors affecting the Northern Triangle. Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are the top three countries contributing to the U.S.’s migrant flow, with Guatemala sitting at first.

Last Thursday, March 5, the Montana World Affairs Council invited former Ambassador Lisa Kubiske to speak at the Museum of the Rockies as part of their Distinguished Speakers Program. Kubiske served in Honduras for three years during the Obama administration. Drawing from her experience in the region, Kubiske

spoke to the crowd about the many hardships the citizens of the Northern Triangle face every day and why economic relief is vital.

The Northern Triangle is one of the poorest regions of the Western Hemisphere with all three countries ranking in the bottom 25% in GDP among other Latin American states. For many of these people, working in the U.S. is the only way they can feed their families. These remittances make up a little less than 20% of these countries’ economic production. A lot of these people “didn’t think they had a future,” said Kubiske, expressing a dark truth that potential migrants had to face.

" B A S K E T B A L L "

SPORTS

March Madness bracket tips & tricks

BY PARKER ELLIOTT

My favorite annual sporting event is almost here: March Madness. Along with the tournament comes the usual bracket contests. For anyone who's competed before, the thought has crossed their mind, "I might have a perfect bracket." This idea is irrational when one looks at the math. Excluding the four play in games, there are 63 total games played in the 64-team single-elimination winner-take-all tournament. That means there are 2^{63} or 9,223,372,036,854,775,807 possible brackets. One can assume that higher seeded teams are more likely to win, making it easier to make the correct choices, but the odds of a perfect bracket are still insanely low. Just like life, we should still strive for perfection even if it's impossible, so here are some tips to filling out your bracket this year.

First off, with the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced Wednesday, March 11 that the NCAA tournament will be played without crowds, severely limiting the home court advantage generally felt by higher seeds. Despite this point, I still recommend referring to the rankings for a good starting point as a predictor of success. Over the last 20 years, with the exception of the 2014 seventh-seeded UConn Huskies led by Kemba Walker, every National Champion has been a one, two or three seed. Along with the bracket rankings, I think that looking at the rating percentage index (RPI) and basketball power index (BPI) rankings are better than the coaches and media polls. Both indexes use all the results from this season to create a computer calculated rating. I personally like the BPI rankings, which use the current results and creates 10,000 simulations to produce season projections. I examine these rankings as well as referencing the strength of schedule (SOS) rankings and strength of record (SOR) rankings to give an idea of how difficult of a season the teams in question had to withstand.

The rankings are a good gauge, but most years it depends on which teams are hot entering the tournament. Take a look at the record of teams over their last 10 games to get an idea of how they are trending. These trends can usually be seen in the betting odds. The people with money on the line pay close attention to these matchups, so consider the spreads and championship odds when making your decisions. Be sure to take extra note of teams who've recently had marquee wins, leading to extra confidence entering the "Big Dance." This is especially true for hot teams in the major conferences. This season, the Big 10 was by far the

best basketball conference. Currently, 9 or more teams are projected to be making the tournament from that conference, so don't be discouraged to pick one of these teams to make a run even if their record for the season isn't great.

As far as team-specific statistics, a few that indicate a team primed for a run in the tournament include defensive efficiency, margin of victory and turnover margin. Be wary of picking the high scoring three-point barrage teams that can be so exciting to root for. When it comes tournament time, the games are usually slower-paced, and the difficulties adjusting to shooting in larger, unfamiliar arenas cannot be underestimated. Historically, to make the Final Four, a team must be top-25 in defensive efficiency. Teams with high defensive efficiencies paired with a high offensive efficiency fare especially well. High margin of victory indicates a team that has been great all season and a team that takes care of the ball and forces turnovers always will have a good chance at staying in games.

Without a doubt, these tips will lead to a bracket you can feel confident in when finalizing your selections. I recommend taking your choices extremely seriously, but never let your friends know. No one wants to look stupid by claiming they have insights into creating a bracket, only to have their bracket beat by "simpletons" with "no knowledge of college basketball." To combat the inevitable chaos of the "Big Dance," here are some alternative methods for picking your bracket.

- Ask your grandma
- Random number generator
- Use your pets
- Rank mascots
- Poll random strangers on campus or at the bar
- Jersey colors
- Throw darts at a dart board
- Ask Siri
- All upsets

I wish you luck in proving your superiority by filling out a great bracket, but don't get discouraged if your bracket is busted after the first weekend. Remember that these are the only days of the year where there are high-intensity basketball games with crazy endings all day. This is one of the most wide-open seasons of college basketball in recent memory, leaving plenty of opportunity for novice basketball fans to fill out an accurate bracket. I hope my tips can lead to your most successful selections ever. Stay healthy, and don't forget to enjoy the March holiday season.

— INTRAMURAL UPDATE —

The first intramural sports session of the spring semester just wrapped up. These teams earned a lifetime of memories to go along with the iconic Intramural Championship T-shirt.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CHAMPS: THE WHITE CHICKS

Samantha Kerns
Sage Kohr
Hannah Vogel
Elizabeth French
Jacee Currin
Lydia Putsch
Molly Salmond

MEN'S RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL

CHAMPS: ALAMOSAMIGOS

Clint Judisch
Jarod Anderson
Canon Bradley
Will Parker
Ivar Aageson
Rhet Woodhall
Kade Leck
Tanner VandenBos
Tyler Chouinard
Devon Miller

MEN'S COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL

CHAMPS: TEAM CLAYTON R

Logan Riddle
Jayce Philipps
Calvin Geyer
Joe Capponi
Trevor Seesemann
Clayton Reichenbach
Colton Reichenbach

OPEN VOLLEYBALL

CHAMPS: WE BROUGHT THE ROOF DOWN

Alexia Hoople
Shelby Tatarka
Andrew Doughty
Noah Todd
Ciera Pitts
Liz Pacella
Samuel Stortz
Austin Zuehlke

RES HALL VOLLEYBALL

CHAMPS: HANNON QUADS

Logan Hinchcliff
Victoria Shay
Abigail Ross
Julia Grubb
Meghan AmRhein
Sydney Brown
Maura Hodges
Ammann Koch-Ford
Emma O'Connor
Jianna Clinton
Cassidy Catron
Sarah Kincy
Catherine Bauer

FUTSAL

CHAMPS: PIKE

Dylan Leadbetter
Jack Langlois
Logan Stephens
Connor Kellermyer
Jacob Levy
Payton Morris
Clayton Abrams
Nathan Thomas
Ryan Carlson
Stephen Thompson
Nick Minich
Justyn Price
Brady Evans
Jackson Schwab
Kepler Swanson

INDOOR SPIKEBALL

CHAMPS: PLAT 3 DIV 1

Nick Turner
Nick Cornwall



Senior guard Harald Frey drives down the court during the Cats' game against Northern Colorado on Saturday, March 7. The showdown against the Bears was Frey's final game in Worthington Arena.
PHOTO BY GABE BARNARD

Bobcats earn top accolades

BY CAMERON GRAVES

This week the Big Sky Conference released its list of recipients for the league's top individual accolades and to no one's surprise, it was full of Bobcats. The women's and men's basketball teams snagged some of the league's most prestigious titles in preparation for this week's Big Sky Conference tournament, with a trip to the NCAA tournament on the line. While for both teams the focus remains on the tournament, the accolades were a nice acknowledgement of success to conclude the regular season performances of these impressive individuals.

WOMEN

Representing the Big Sky champs, Head Coach Tricia Binford delivered in a big way in her 15th year at the helm of the program. Her effort on the recruiting trail and developing the roster was easy to recognize this season, leading her to being named the Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year. Binford, a former standout player herself

for past Big Sky conference member Boise State, has turned the MSU program into a premier mid-major women's basketball program since taking over in 2005. Based off of her current team's depth and this season's recruiting class, MSU basketball will continue its reign of dominance for years to come.

If you need proof of how appealing Binford has made the program, just look to this year's conference MVP, Bobcat senior forward Fallyn Freije. The preseason Big Sky MVP candidate transferred from the University of North Dakota to spend her last year of eligibility in Bozeman, even though she could have likely found a home nearly anywhere in the country. Her decision has paid off, as the Edmore, North Dakota native has averaged 13.7 points per game along with 7.7 rebounds, making it easy for the conference's coaches to tag her the league's top player.

Fellow senior guard Oliana Squires was listed on the Second-team All-conference team. Her career in Bozeman has been memorable for Bobcat fans, which she

capped off with an impressive senior season. She will be best remembered for her versatility on the floor and ability to enhance the players around her. While she was a main component for the rest of the team's success, she still averaged 11.5 points per game.

The Bobcats were also proud to see guard Darian White be named Big Sky Freshman of the Year after an explosive first year in the Brick. White, only the third Bobcat to be named Freshman of the Year, was deservedly added to the list after putting up 12.9 points per game and finishing second in the conference in steals, averaging 2.8 per contest.

Junior guard Tori Martell was appropriately named the Big Sky Reserve of the Year after the explosive performances she put on all season long. Finishing second in the conference in three-point field goal percentage shows how her presence was felt once she checked into the game.

MEN

Senior guard and local legend Harald Frey was named to the First-team All-conference list for the first time in his unforgettable career. Somewhat unknown as a recruit coming from Oslo, Norway, Frey proved to be one of the most impactful players in program history. Though never producing the numbers Tyler Hall put up for the acrobatic dunks of Keljin Blevins, Frey was an example of what the program is striving to become: a consistent competitor.

"When I was in the recruiting process and looking for my school, I didn't want to find a place where I would only go for four years then never return again," said Frey on his desire to leave an impact at MSU in his Cat close-up interview in the Jan. 30 edition of the *Exponent*. "I wanted

a place that I could look back at and call a second home where I'll be coming back for five, 10, 20 years and still have the same connections. So that's what I want to build for people on the other side of their Bobcat career as well."

Frey was the only player on the athletic directors search committee when MSU was looking for a new coach last year. His choice, Danny Sprinkle, seems to be the right guy for the job and has taken MSU basketball in an exciting new direction.

Jubrile Belo, a junior big man from London, England, was selected as the Big Sky Conference Newcomer of the Year after averaging 13.1 points per contest and leading the team in rebounds. His past three performances all resulted in double-doubles which also gave him this season's final Big Sky Player of the Week award. Though not as well known as Frey, his legend is surely growing as the big man with sports spectacles is sure to be a mismatch for most Big Sky Conference teams next season. With another year of development under his belt, look for Belo to join Frey in the ranks of professional basketball.

Though both the men's and women's teams received a fair amount of accolades, there were some questionable decisions on this year's conference honor rolls. The conference left a big question mark by not promoting Freshman of the Year Darian White to at least Third-team All-conference to replace fellow freshman Beyonce Bea of Idaho, who was somehow included instead. Also notably missing were senior forwards Martha Kuderer and Blaire Braxton, who had arguably better seasons than a few people on the honor roll. Though they were snubbed from All-conference honors, they still should be proud of the incredible seasons they have had during their final year in Bozeman. Good luck to these individuals as they now go forward and compete for the ultimate team goal: a trip to the NCAA tournament.

BASKETBALL

Bobcats eyeing March Madness

BY CAMERON GRAVES

While the women's and men's basketball regular season champions have already been decided, the most important goal is still on the line. As members of the Big Sky Conference, the hardwood Bobcats have only one shot at playing in the NCAA Division I tournament — winning the Big Sky Conference tournament. This year's trip to Boise, Idaho will feature different paths to the “Big Dance” for the men's and women's teams.

WOMEN

For the MSU women's team, winning the conference tournament and qualifying for the NCAA tournament is undoubtedly the expectation. After finishing the regular season with only one loss through conference play, the Bobcats were awarded the number one seed in the Big Sky tournament and a first-round bye before playing the lowest seeded remaining team in the bracket. Fans and experts both have little doubt that this year is Big Sky Head Coach of the Year Tricia Binford and the Bobcats' time to sweep the conference's regular season and tournament crowns before representing the conference on the national stage. Rarely does a team with this much talent and depth come out of a conference the size of the Big Sky.

“We've said all along that this team was going to be special,” said Binford about this year's group.

While the Big Sky Conference MVP, senior forward Fallyn Frieje, is obviously a standout athlete, MSU's entire roster is full of players who would compete for similar accolades on most other squads. This year's team is, for a lack of better words, loaded and ready to dazzle fans in Boise.

On Tuesday, March 11, MSU won its opening game of the women's tournament against Northern Colorado in a close contest, 67-62. Boise native and Big Sky Conference Freshman of the Year guard Darian White led the blue and gold with 19 points and six rebounds including some crucial buckets and free throws late in the game. Though White was the Bobcat who stood out in this particular game, in typical fashion, the support of the team was vital. Frieje finished the game with 15 points and 12 rebounds, Second Team All-conference senior guard Oliana Squires had 13 points and senior forward Blaire Braxton added 9 points off the bench.

The team followed up their quarterfinal win with a semifinal win over Northern Arizona, 76-71. With the Cats holding a 3-point lead with 14 seconds remaining, Braxton, who finished with 11 points and nine rebounds, sealed the game with a steal on the Lumberjacks inbound. White once again led the way by scoring 19 points. The Cats will move on to play Idaho in the championship on Friday, March 13 at 1 p.m. It should be a good test for the Cats, as the Vandals were the only team to take down the women this season in conference play.

All Big Sky Conference games can be streamed for free on PlutoTV, so be sure to tune in and root on the women as they look to return to the Division I tournament for the first time since 2017.

MEN

For the MSU men's team, this season has already provided enough turn around and optimism for it to be deemed a success. The Cats finished fifth in the conference standings during the regular season, earning a first round bye and trip to the quarterfinals, a place they have only been three times in the last 15 seasons. A win on Thursday, March 12 at 2:30 p.m. against fourth-seeded Portland State would give the Cats their first trip to the semifinals since 2009, a year they advanced to the finals. While this season's success is already an impressive accomplishment for first-year Head Coach Danny Sprinkle and his staff, it is undoubtedly a situation the team will not settle with. Sprinkle, a newly inducted member of the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame, offers unique insight on reaching the “Big Dance,” having been a freshman guard on the last Bobcat team to win the conference tournament and qualify back in 1996. A native of Helena, Sprinkle was crowned MVP

of that 1996 Big Sky tournament championship game after scoring 30 points, taking MSU to the Division I tournament. Now is his first opportunity to get MSU back to where he and this fanbase believes it belongs, the NCAA tournament.

“It's been too long. Twenty-some-odd years, that's too long at a program like this...” said Sprinkle in his emotional introductory speech last April. “That standard's not coming down for anybody ... trust me.”

For both teams, the opportunity of a lifetime begins with the annual tournament in Boise. Nearly 500 miles away from the friendly confines of the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, MSU still expects to see familiarity from the blue-and-gold-clad fans who have traveled to support their university, community and state. Regardless of tournament outcome, these two programs have done an absolutely phenomenal job at finding balance between successes on and off the court. As fans of the basketball programs, we are immensely grateful to support athletes, coaches, employees and administrators that do such an incredible job representing our state's flagship university. Good luck to the Bobcats both this week and wherever they end up afterward.

Sophomore forward Jubrile Belo pushes through pressure to take a shot during the Cats' game against the Northern Colorado Bears on Saturday, March 7.

PHOTO BY GABE BARNARD



COVID-19:

Far-reaching Consequences

By Caleb Rux & Brendan Kristiansen

NCUR

On Wednesday, March 11, as President Cruzado announced that the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) will be canceled. In the email she stated, “While at this time there is not a confirmed COVID-19 case in the state of Montana, as a responsible community member, canceling the conference is the right decision.” The Exponent reached out to the NCUR 2020 Conference Director, Colin Shaw, for comment regarding the status of the conference, but did not receive comment back from Shaw before publishing this article. NCUR is an annual conference that would have welcomed over 4,000 undergraduate researchers and faculty mentors from around the country to present their research at MSU. It remains unknown how/if any aspect of the conference will be pushed online.

OVERVIEW:

1,257 cases and 37 deaths. That’s the most recent count for those affected by COVID-19 in the US, according to the New York Times. Originating in Wuhan, China in late 2019, coronavirus has now spread to 102 countries and 42 US states, raising alarm around the world.

The White House is holding regular press conferences regarding COVID-19. In a briefing on Monday, March 9, President Trump announced several steps being taken to address the United States economy, namely efforts to support individuals and businesses that are directly affected by the virus. The most notable step mentioned was the possibility of providing small loans to airlines, cruise lines and hotel chains struggling in the wake of travel restrictions and fear. The president also noted that he is considering payroll tax cuts to bolster the economy in light of the recent stock market decline, and even working with employers to ensure that quarantined hourly workers are not left without paychecks.

In the same briefing, Vice President Pence also spoke on behalf of the White House coronavirus task force. Passengers are slowly being allowed off the Grand Princess cruise ship docked in Oakland, California. Only 21 out of over 2,400 passengers have contracted COVID-19 and are in isolation for treatment. American citizens aboard the ship will be taken to Travis Air Force Base and foreign citizens will be flown to their home countries.

In the wake of the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID-19 a “global pandemic” on Wednesday, March 11, the president addressed the nation from the Oval Office, stating further action by the United States. President Trump announced that in addition to the restrictions on travel from China and Iran, all travel and cargo from Europe, with the exception of the United Kingdom, is being halted for 30 days. He also announced a number of economic steps being taken to support America’s businesses and

citizens, the most notable of which include the confirmation of his previously mentioned plan to work with the Small Business Administration to offer low interest loans to affected small businesses. This action will carry an up-front cost of 50 billion dollars, but is promised by Trump to eventually “provide more than \$200 billion of additional liquidity to the economy.”

The president also announced that insurance companies will be covering all copays for coronavirus treatment and extending patient coverage to all COVID-19 related treatments.

Currently, laboratories are also working on developing vaccines for the virus as well as new treatment options for those already infected. The federal government is also working with laboratories in every state to make testing for the virus available everywhere. Surgeon General Jerome Adams has emphasized that the average age of those who have died from COVID-19 is 80, and those over 60 are most at risk of contracting the virus. Of the 118,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus worldwide, 66,000 patients have completely recovered.

The severity of the virus has caused over 100 universities to cancel in-person classes according to Forbes.com. The most notable universities include the University of Washington (the first to halt classes), University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. All the universities on the list are near areas where outbreaks are the worst, but it begs the question: How will MSU respond?

Fortunately, zero cases have been reported in the state of Montana. But, with over 100 new cases reported daily since Saturday, it seems that thoughts have shifted from if it reaches Montana to when it reaches Montana.

** All figures are as of 11:20 p.m. Wednesday March 11*

WHAT IS MSU DOING?

On March 3, President Waded Cruzado announced through an email to students and faculty that, “Out of an abundance of caution, Montana State University is activating an Incident Management Team to address questions and to plan for potential contingencies on our campus.”

The incident management team is composed of representatives from over 20 MSU units including, Academic Affairs, ASMSU, Dean of Students, Emergency Management, Safety and Risk Management and University Health Partners.

As the situation has evolved, MSU has made changes to its university-affiliated travel policies. On March 9, Cruzado sent out an email stating that the university has elected to cancel all university-sponsored and affiliated international travel by students, faculty and staff through Sunday, March 22 (the last day of spring break). Cruzado also added that, “Montana State University is making this decision based on the evolving situation with international quarantines as a measure to contain COVID-19. The university does not want to put our faculty, students and staff at risk of being stranded abroad or forced into a quarantine upon return.”

The email also advised students choosing to travel to countries with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice to not return to campus in any capacity and perform a 14-day self quarantine upon returning.

Most recently, Robert Mokwa, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, emailed students about a change to the protocols regarding class absences starting Monday, March 23. In the email Mokwa states that:

“Students are encouraged to stay at home if they are sick, and most especially if they think they may have an infectious disease. Students who need to miss a class, or series of classes, due to illness or 14-day quarantine are responsible for emailing their

course instructor, to let them know of the need, as soon as possible. There is NO need for a medical excuse to be provided, at least initially. MSU University Health Partners will continue their policy of NOT providing students with medical excuse documentation as part of their commitment to maintain patient confidentiality.”

The email continues to state the responsibilities that students have to communicate these absences with their instructors and complete all assignments and tests on time. Mokwa cites that these modifications are being made to better align MSU’s guidelines with those provided by the CDC on how to limit the spread of infectious diseases. The email also encourages faculty to provide online course lectures and resources for students who are unable to make it to class.

The Exponent reached out to both the Provost’s office and University Communications with further questions about the university’s preparedness and plans for if the virus reaches Bozeman. Michael Becker, the News Director for University Communications, directed us to MSU’s webpage dedicated to the matter, stating, “As the university makes decisions, please know that they’ll be communicated via email to students, staff and faculty and posted as updated to the MSU informational webpage at www.montana.edu/coronavirus.” Becker provided the Exponent no other information outside of the university’s creation of a task force (mentioned earlier).

SPRING BREAK

In the next few days, many MSU students will be traveling for spring break. While this is a time to enjoy a much-needed break from school, there are a few things to keep in mind while away. The CDC has posted the following guidelines for Watch Level 1 locations

(the US is currently designated as a Watch Level 1 location):

WATCH LEVEL 1:

CDC does not recommend canceling or postponing travel to destinations with level 1 travel notices because the risk of COVID-19 is thought to be low. If you travel, take the following routine precautions:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

OPINION

[YOUR WORDS HERE]

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Starbucks Orders a Venti

BY GRACE LARSEN AND CALEB RUX

Remember when people avoided being sell-outs? We don't. A recent advertising trend has taken hold, and it may be here to stay. A few weeks ago, the iconic group "Bone Thugs-N-Harmony" was bought out. After striking a deal with Buffalo Wild Wings, "Bone Thugs-N-Harmony" changed its name to "Boneless Thugs-N-Harmony" — a move to *drum up* attention. Haha, get it? I digress.

The band, which has been around for nearly three decades and became a household name associated with early '90s hip hop, changed its name on a whim (and for some financial gain). It appears that this move is beginning to set a trend. As of Monday, March 9, pop star Ariana Grande changed her name to Ariana Venti due to a recent Starbucks sponsorship. Although Venti said in a tweet that it is a "strategic deal," it is obvious the star is just doing it for the *bucks*. Get it?

More than just changing her name, Starbucks has also purchased the rights to name her next album. Shortly after the announcement, a small subset of possible titles were leaked by *Rolling Stone*. Potential album names include: "PSL: Pumpkin Spice Lyrics," "Caramel Macchiato and Saucy Undertones," "Cake Pop-star" and "Vanilla Bean(ie SZN) Frappuccino."

A few days after announcing the deal, Venti was reportedly seen slurping down a macadamia milk vanilla latte at a City Brew — location undisclosed. A Starbucks spokesperson commented on the sighting, saying, "Myself and the entirety of the Starbucks community is incredibly disappointed in Ms. Venti's actions. After her feckless decision, I have personally asked our lawyers to look into dissolving

the contract. Apparently names can be purchased, but loyalties cannot."

The *Exponent* reached out to Venti for comment, but she declined the request.

In a world where most everything is for sale, it seems inevitable that personal identities would eventually be added to the list. It will be interesting to see if this trend will become commonplace or merely a fad. As of now, no other artists have hopped on the "sell-out" bandwagon.

It's important to remember in times like these, we as fans have the power to voice our opinions. That's why we as Arianators will not support her music until this fever dream is over. We will *not* become Ventists.

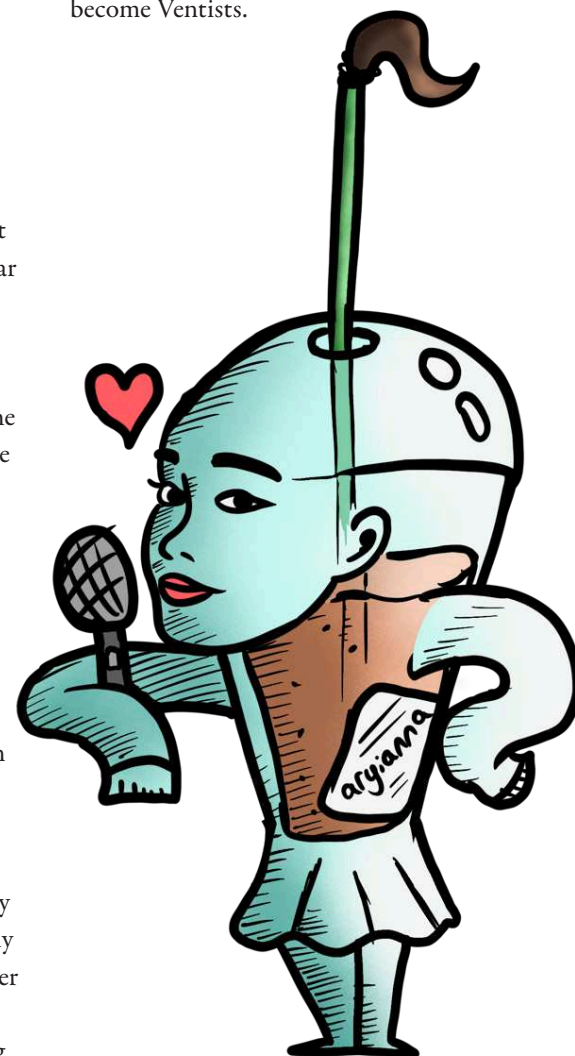
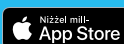


ILLUSTRATION BY TOMAS MUELLING

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Yellowstone Management Plan Benefits Bison

BY QUINCY BALIUS AND PHOEBE ZEA

The thought of a fallen bison, the noble and proud American mammal, lying dead upon the ground may be a troubling image. For Yellowstone National Park (YNP), the death of these animals is sadly a necessary, common occurrence.

YNP must cull, or selectively slaughter, bison herds in the park in order to sustain the park's ecosystem. Bison overpopulation leads to overgrazing, which can injure flora and throw off the delicate balance between plants and animals in the park. In addition, bison have few predators in the park, and those that exist (wolves and bears) are not present in large enough numbers to control the massive herds of bison. Finally, brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that can force miscarriages in cattle, is the main reason for the culling of bison in YNP.

Ranchers located near YNP are hostile toward the idea of free-ranging bison for fear that the bison will infect their domestic cattle. This concern is not without merit. Yellowstone officials from the National Parks website note that 60% of tested female bison in the park carry the disease.

As a result, the park must find ways to limit the growing populations of bison. Bison management began in 1995, when the Interagency Bison Management Plan was put into effect. The National Park Service, Forest Service, Animal & Plant Health Inspection

Service and Fish & Wildlife designed the plan to maintain a wild, free-range bison population in YNP while attempting to reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission and managing bison that leave YNP. This plan set a target of 3,000 bison in the park.

Montana's current ecosystem relies on a carefully managed balance between human and non-human animal populations, and simply allowing bison to roam free in Montana would disrupt this cautious equilibrium.

Currently, YNP officials cull, slaughter or quarantine and domesticate around 400-900 bison a year. Although some animals are slaughtered, they are not just left to rot. Instead, according to the National Parks Service, many of the culled animals are caught and transferred to Native American

reservations to be slaughtered, where the meat is distributed among the tribes. In particular, The Fort Peck Reservation in northeast Montana assists YNP in managing bison populations while supporting Native peoples.

In addition, YNP officials are setting aside over a hundred bison for a quarantine program within the park to be tested for brucellosis. If and when they are found to be disease-free, they will be used to start new bison herds or bolster the numbers of already existing herds.

While YNP officials have found no other alternative to bison management, groups like the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) work to end the culling of bison and advocate for the populations to be able to roam free. According to the BFC, roughly 11,700 bison have been culled from the park population since 1985. The Bozeman Daily Chronicle stated that the BFC also claims that the quarantine programs will result in the domestication of a wild animal.

While the BFC's concerns about the well-being of bison are valid, they

fail to see the severity of the situation. Montana's current ecosystem relies on a carefully managed balance between human and non-human animal populations, and simply allowing bison to roam free in Montana would disrupt this cautious equilibrium.

In addition, the management program has strengthened and improved herds, allowed Native American groups to hunt wild bison and given YNP officials the chance to protect bison. Bison who are kept in the park can be monitored, are protected from human contact and do not harm the health of domestic cattle.

The management practices of YNP have been carefully refined since 1995 to preserve and protect the famous Yellowstone landscape while supporting one of only three genetically pure wild bison herds in the United States. The bison management program must remain in place if Yellowstone is to remain a nature lover's paradise and Montana is to continue raising high-grade beef.

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CULTURE



Dancing for a cause

BY ROSE VEJVODA

If you walked by the SUB last Saturday, you might have seen a silent disco with people dancing with flashing blue, red and green lights. On March 7, the MSU Montanathon student club held Montanathon 2020 to support Shodair Children's Hospital in Helena, a hospital dedicated to helping youth battling mental illness and genetic disorders. Shodair Children's Hospital sees 800 patients per year, and provides psychiatric services to children from 44 different Montana counties.

The fundraiser provided plenty of activities for students, including a face-painting and raffle table, a video game corner, Twister, corn hole and a picture station. Perhaps two of the coolest activities available were letter writing and the silent auction. Montanathon participants had the opportunity to write encouraging letters to the patients of Shodair Children's Hospital at the letter station, and the silent auction displayed a beautiful collection of artwork done by the patients available for purchase.

During the opening ceremonies, after the Montanathon club performed their "morale dance," President Caitlin Holzer took the stage to talk about the reason for hosting the event. The crowd quieted as she said, "... suicide is a really important issue and we are all here to make a difference. I really want to point out the fact that it takes just a small group of thoughtful and committed people to change the world so just really recognize and honor that you are those people."

In the far corner of the SUB Ballroom there was also a large piece of paper on the wall that read "I dance because...." Students that attended the Montanathon were



encouraged to write on the paper, and soon it was filled with each individual's unique reason for showing up and dancing. Some of the answers included, "I dance to show my joy in living life to the fullest" and "I dance because how can anyone not smile while dancing! It's the best way to unite and be happy."

After the opening ceremony, attendees were released to take dance lessons from student clubs such as Country Swingers and Swing Cats. This allowed students to show off their new moves during the silent disco. Participants were provided with something that all college students enjoy: a free taco bar. After fueling up on tacos, students began dancing along to the popular video game "Just Dance." The best students competed in the finals.

Katee Orr, a co-founder of Dance Marathon and a senior at MSU said, "I love Dance Marathon because it helps a great cause and engages student leaders. It is really

cool to see Dance Marathon engage people and bring students together."

Not only was Montanathon an extremely successful fundraiser, it also united student groups from across campus together in order to make a difference for children who deserve and need our help.

TOP LEFT A live DJ monitors the channels for the Montanathon's silent disco, playing crowd favorites of various genres at the Montanathon on Saturday, March 7.

TOP RIGHT Lindsay Lee and other volunteers teach a dance routine. Students participated in many dance-related events throughout the day as part of a fundraiser for Shodair Hospital, a hospital dedicated to providing psychiatric care for children and youth.

BELOW Volunteers leading the Montanathon event pose with Champ to support Shodair Children's Hospital using the hashtag FTK (For The Kids).

PHOTOS BY CHRIS FARRER



MARCH 12 – 26

Want your event featured here? Email event info to us at ExponentEntertainment@montana.edu one week in advance.

CALENDAR

THU 12

GILBERT GOTTFRIED
Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture @ 7 p.m.
Legendary comedian, Gilbert Gottfried, will be stopping in Bozeman for a night of laughter and comedy.

MEN'S LACROSSE VS. ST. JOHNS
Dobbie Lambert Turf Complex @ 7 p.m.
The men's lacrosse team is facing off against St. Johns. The game is free to watch for students and members of the public.

SAT 14

2020 RUN TO THE PUB
Downtown Bozeman @ 9 a.m.
Dress up in your St. Patty's Day outfit and head to the startline to run a 10k or half marathon to Pub 317 in Downtown Bozeman. Register at www.runtothepub.com.

MON 16

SPRING BREAK
Offices closed/ no classes
Offices and classes are closed or canceled from March 16-20. We hope you have a safe and relaxing break. You deserve it!

TUES 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY
All Day
Happy St. Patrick's Day! Have fun and be safe.

THU 19

CYRANO DE BERGERAC
Ellen Theater @ 7:30 p.m.
Montana Shakespeare in the Park presents Edmond Rostland's swashbuckling romance, Cyrano De Bergerac. Tickets range from \$10 to \$40. Available for all ages.

TUES 24

GRADUATION FAIR
MSU Bookstore @ 10-2 p.m.
Everything you need to know about graduation.

STELLAR BRASS CONCERT
Reynolds Recital Hall @ 7:30 p.m.
Stellar Brass is an original and innovative brass quintet performing broad range of eclectic, musical styles.

THU 26

NCUR 2020 CANCELED
Montana State University
Read more about the decision in this week's centerfold on page 8.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY QUINTANO VIA CREATIVE COMMONS



BY CADEN HOWLETT

I had the opportunity a few summers ago to spend an afternoon with Mark Zuckerberg. As the founder and CEO of Facebook, he has ultimate control over what has become a cornerstone of civilization and the modern world as we know it: social media. Whether social media is a good thing or not is a charged topic of controversy and there are respectable points to be made for both sides. I am the first to admit that there is no shortage of problems when it comes to the effects that it is having on young people, and I am commonly called out as a hypocrite when I emphasize the importance of getting off Instagram via Instagram. Today I want to take the side of the anti-Facebook tribe and share something that I learned from my meeting with Zuck and subsequent thought experiments.

The Power of Zuck

Let me start by saying that people like Mr. Zuckerberg are in no way prepared or qualified for the responsibility that comes along with creating a network of over 1 billion people. No one is. The CEOs in these positions get there through a combination of intellect and luck, and they could never forecast the great power and accompanying responsibility that awaits them. Zuck is a smart person, but he went from being a dorm-room programmer to one of the most powerful men on Earth in a matter of years. I felt in my conversations with him that he was just another computer-savvy homie who had a good idea manifest into something greater than the sum of its parts. He certainly wasn't an easy person to talk to, and that brings me to my next point. It is almost always people like Zuckerberg that are creating our dominant social-

media platforms—people who excel on a laptop but have below-par social skills. Isn't it ironic, that the people controlling our social media have worse social abilities than the people using it? I think that is one of the reasons we should be careful with it—we shouldn't let groups of hunched-over programmers tell us what it means to be socially competent. Those are just a few

It is critically important that we learn to use our new tools in a way that is societally constructive and benevolent.



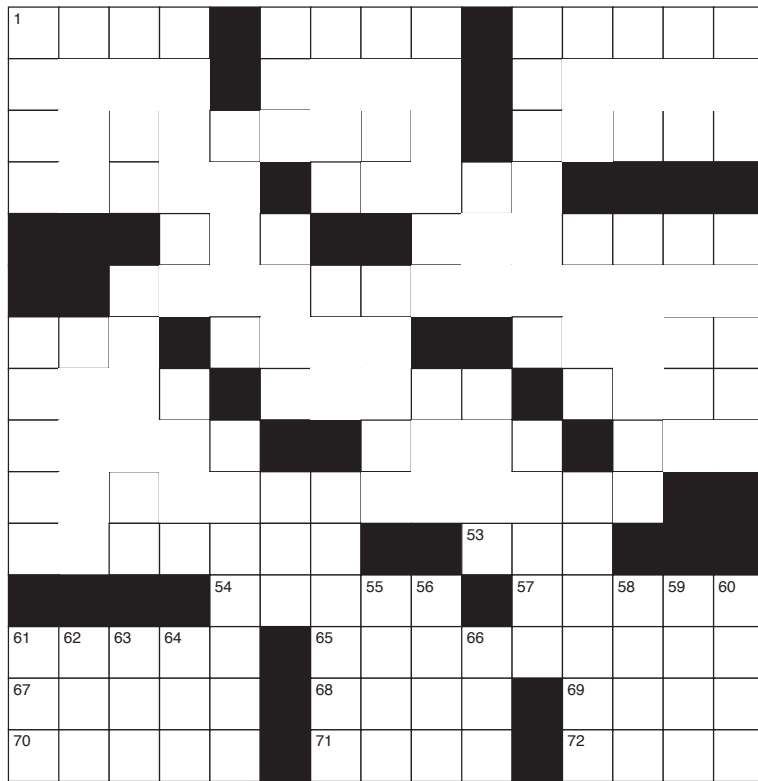
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thoughts, but they are ones I think are worth pondering. It is critically important that we learn to use our new tools in a way that is societally constructive and benevolent.

I should add that my experience with Mr. Zuckerberg was nothing but positive. He is a nice guy who seems genuine in his attempt to bring people together. I told him that I was into astronomy and he said, "Oh, so Elon Musk must be your hero." I responded by saying that I was impressed by the work SpaceX was doing, and he told me he was still salty with Elon after a dozen Facebook satellites exploded during a failed Falcon 9 launch. The problems of a billionaire, I suppose.

Astro-Weekly is primarily an educational Instagram platform. Join the discussion @astrodaily1.



Across

1. Certain eating disorder
5. Places to get some quick bread
9. Whoppers
14. Mosque man
15. ____ Pet
16. Parrot-like
17. "The Little Corporal"
19. Throw from the mound
20. French calendar unit
21. Central position
23. Plead with
25. Least rapid
30. Pre-wedding activity, for some
33. Mimic
35. "____ a nice day!"
36. Keel scraper
37. "Barton ____"
39. Becomes filled to overflowing
42. Coleridge title word
43. Missed, in baseball
45. ____ Nui
47. Course for an EMT
48. Laos location
52. Tossed about
53. Pro ____ (for now)
54. Ohio tire center
57. Low poker hand
61. Computer programmer
65. Military adornment
67. Inhabited
68. Snug bug's place
69. Kewpie or kachina
70. Moolah

4. Protozoan
5. Great serve
6. McAn of footwear
7. Skirt style
8. Told it like it was
9. Wi-fi terminals, often
10. Wire service initials
11. Like a sot
12. John Wayne's alma mater
13. "Be quiet!"
18. Bloodletter's need
22. Camera variety, briefly
24. Steps by the Ganges, in India
26. True in Tyrol
27. Beethoven's Third Symphony
28. Snail mail need
29. Steven of Aerosmith
30. Charlton Heston title role
31. Holiday prelude
32. Eyes thighs, e.g.
33. Make ____ over (dote on)
34. California wine grape
38. Small hawk
40. Small rug
41. Falling-out
44. Ruins the plans of
46. Give ____ of approval
49. "Yikes!"
50. ABBA's "I Have ____"
51. Obstruct
55. Nashville venue, for short
56. Seagoing (abbr.)
58. Molecule part
59. "____ have to do"
60. Bank (on)
61. Federal health org.
62. Nocturnal flyer
63. Justice Dept. branch
64. Stately tree
66. Cry of disgust

Down

1. Yellow Fanta flavor, to Pablo
2. Somali supermodel
3. Looie's superior

CODE: V57JK53G

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

Addiction	Galas	Patch	Subtle
Adores	Gently	Radioactivity	Toast
Airing	Goner	Rattle	Tripe
Atoning	Guard	Reuse	Upbeat
Clovers	Hired	Rioters	Wades
Congests	Knife	Saddle	Yarns
Cushion	Linen	Semicircle	
Dispute	Merges	Siesta	
Dived	Moistens	Soaps	
Eased	Months	Specimens	
Embark	Oasis	Spooky	

CODE: L124KL

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EASY CHALLENGE

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						5
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	6			5		3
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CODE: N228UKGL

Things to do in quarantine

- Read a book...like the whole thing
- Paint along with Bob Ross
- Plot your next move
- Reread old *Exponents*
- Organize your drawers
- Slide into DMs
- Become a TikTok star
- Play Fortnite with the boys
- Dwell on your cancelled travel plans
- Fantasize about NCUR
- Make a pillow fort
- Conference call with the boys
- Cultivate a new generation of pea plants
- Pose nude for a diorama
- Kiss your homie
- Papier-mâché a replica of the Wellness Center
- Steal the internet
- Make a stop motion film
- Drink your favorite cerveza
- Nude lunges
- Tell your mom you love her
- Whittle some soap
- Disassemble Mercury
- Fall in love with your reflection
- Sing "COVID-19" to the tune of "Come On Eileen"
- Challenge President Cruzado to online poker
- Survey every microbe in your room
- Duel a mantis shrimp
- Braid nose hairs
- Develop your alter ego

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

If you or a loved one has suffered from the cancellation of NCUR, you may be entitled to financial compensation.