THE MSU
exponent
September 10, 2020
MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

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BRONCS, BOVINES AND BELT BUCKLES

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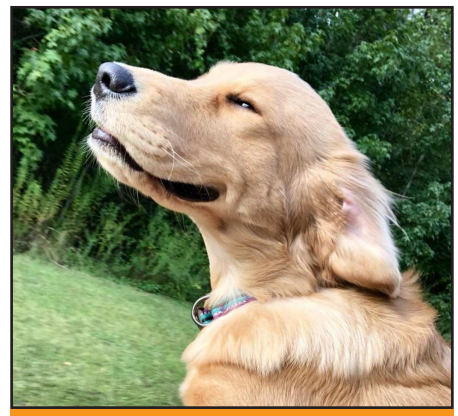
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FLASHBULB

History and Philosophy professor Brad Snow gives a lecture to students of his Early America class on Sept. 4, speaking through a face shield.

PHOTO BY CONNOR BERGIN



HEARD ON THE WEB

From @goldie_girl_rosie:

"Halfway to the weekend." #dogsofinstagram



INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK

From @yellowstonenps:

"Virtual Tour: Mammoth Hot Springs ...Visit the link in our bio to take a virtual tour of these terraces."

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES



COMPILED BY GRACE LARSEN • DESIGN BY CARLEE BAKER

Baldy Peak engulfed in flames

BY GRACE LARSEN



Flames spread from near the starting point of the fire up the hill.

PHOTO BY CONNOR BERGIN

Locals and explorers of Bridger Canyon were equally astounded and horrified last Friday, Sept. 4, when the Bridger Foothills Fire caught spark.Residents of Bridger Canyon Road, Jackson Creek and Kelly Canyon were ordered by the county sheriff's office to vacate their homes. While the cause of this wildfire remains unknown, officials know that it began 2 ½ miles up the Bridger Foothills Trail, near the popular "M" trail and has progressed both north toward Bridger Bowl ski resort and east across the highway.

To date, there are 160 firefighters assigned to the fire including smokejumpers, two hotshot crews and four hand crews. Additionally, air tankers, seven helicopters, 11 engines and four water tenders are also battling the fire.

According to the Forest Service, the fire is not yet contained despite the cool weather. "Monday was a reprieve from the growth of the fire over the weekend, and the Gallatin Valley's first hard frost was also projected for Monday night," said Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan, Public Affairs Specialist for Forest Plan Revision on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. "But it's not expected to last. We expect by the end of the week temperatures to be back to 80 degrees or higher, so we're taking advantage of the [cool] weather to get some good work done."

Gallatin County Sheriff, Brian Gootkin, has confirmed that 28 residences have been lost so far in the Bridger Foothills Fire. By Wednesday, Sept. 9, the fire had burned over 7,138 acres and forced 298 people to evacuate from their homes.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office thanks community members as they reported receiving enough donations of water, Gatorade and snacks to "last the entire projected life of the fire."





TOP RIGHT **Onlookers gather to observe the Bridger Foothills Fire, ignited on Friday, Sept. 4.**

BOTTOM RIGHT **A small plane, one of several dispatched to help with firefighting efforts, flies around the plume of smoke rising from the fire.**

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KULKITS

College COVID-19 crisis Q&A— where do we stand?

BY CARLEE BAKER

After the COVID-19 pandemic began tearing its way through the United States in March, many college students were left to wonder what their fall 2020 semester would look like. For most, returning to campus meant "hybrid" or "blended" instruction, mask-wearing and no social gatherings. For some, it meant a return to fully online instruction or mass quarantines as COVID-19 outbreaks began at the start of the semester on some of the largest college campuses in the country. The massive coverage of these outbreaks at schools such as UNC Chapel Hill and Michigan State has led many students on MSU's campus to wonder how MSU is dealing with outbreaks.

MSU has yet to transparently release any university-affiliated COVID-19 cases. The decision for MSU to abstain from releasing such COVID-19 information has caused disdain in the Bozeman community. Students, faculty and Bozeman citizens cannot easily access MSU affiliated case counts at this time. Michael Becker, Director of MSU News Service, sat down with the Exponent to answer some of the community's most pressing questions.

Q: What is the university's rationale for not releasing the number of COVID-19 cases among students at MSU, even though universities and colleges across the country are doing so?

A: "I think there are a lot of misconceptions about what information MSU has or that there is some cache of information that isn't being publicized. The Gallatin City-County Health Department is the only agency comprehensively tracking the number of COVID-19 cases in the county. All MSU students, faculty and staff who are Gallatin County residents and who are tested would be tracked in the county's numbers, which are reported regularly on the health department's website and through the Department of Public Health and Human Services website at the state level. MSU does not have a separate number of cases that are affiliated with the campus; only the Gallatin City-County Health Department has access to and compiles that information."

Q: Will testing for asymptomatic individuals be available in the future?

A: "MSU is working with the Montana University System and with state and local health agencies to explore targeted [smart] surveillance testing at MSU. Targeted surveillance testing for asymptomatic individuals is happening already on a limited basis in Montana for high-risk groups, such as nursing home staff and health care workers. As the state is able to increase its testing capacities, obtain additional supplies of test kits and expand the infrastructure necessary to manage case results, we might have the capacity to increase surveillance testing in Montana and on the Montana State University campus."

Q: What occurs once a student has tested positive for COVID-19 on the MSU-Bozeman campus?

A: "In general, if a student lives off-campus, that student should return to their home and follow the directions of their health care provider and the Gallatin City-County Health Department. For on-campus residents, there is quarantine and isolation housing available."

During these uncertain times, accurate and timely information is at a premium. While a number of rumors fly around campus, knowing the facts of our situation here at MSU is crucial to staying safe during the fall 2020 semester.

Professor scores spores award

BY BRADEN URION

Dr. Cathy Cripps of MSU's Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology was awarded the prestigious W.H. Weston Award for Excellence in Teaching for her work in mycology at the collegiate level in July. Mycology is the scientific study of fungi, a field that has interested Cripps ever since she was a kid. "Being able to teach what you love makes it so much more fun for me and I think it makes it more fun for the students too," said Cripps. The W.H. Weston award is symbolic of the incredible effort and commitment Cripps has made toward educating the next generation of biologists and mycologists.

Cripps taught biology for roughly 11 years before shifting toward her field of passion: fungi. Cripps said, "I love teaching and I really like teaching at MSU. I think we have a great set of students. Maybe coming from ranches or the real world or being connected to the environment makes for students who are really ready to learn about mushrooms."

The award represents the great amount of respect her students hold for their professor, as it was her students who initially nominated her. Despite her classes being non-mandatory electives in the program, Cripps said they almost always have a waiting list and lecture halls are always full. One of Cripps' former graduate students, Edward Barge, wrote in his nomination letter, "She inspires students to think about things differently and to pursue their passions, and I have seen her again and again do whatever she can to help students succeed." Cripps motivates her students with both her work in the field and her inspirational teaching practices.

Upon moving to the mountains of Colorado near the town of Crested Butte, she was introduced to the fascinating world of mushrooms. "There were old-timers there from Europe," Cripps said, "They were leftover from the coal mining days and they were foragers. They would go out and collect certain mushrooms." Cripps would frequently follow these European foragers out to see what they gathered.

The knowledge brought by European settlers was passed down to younger generations and inspired Cripps to dedicate her life to increasing such knowledge in her students. Today, the work is as rewarding as it has ever been. Cripps said, "I've taught about fungi for so many years, and yet I see a picture of a mushroom on the screen and I'm just as excited as I was before."

Cripps is currently working on helping whitebark pine restoration efforts. The whitebark pine is a high-elevation tree that grows along the tree line and is endangered from mountain pine beetles and blister rust. Cripps' work involves collecting mycorrhizal fungi found in the whitebark pine environment and attaching them to the roots of sapling trees before they are planted in the wild. Mycorrhizal fungi form symbiotic relationships with the root systems of their host plant, with which fungal colonies work to greatly increase the trees' nitrogen intake and gather other nutrients from the soil. In exchange, the tree sends sugars to the roots, which the fungi use to survive. Symbiotic relationships are prevalent in nature and Cripps hopes this one will greatly aid in her restoration efforts.

Dr. Cripps continues to work diligently in the field of fungi and in the classroom, helping to inspire and educate the students she teaches at MSU. "I've gotten to travel and study and work with students from all sorts of degree programs. This work has really grabbed me," said Cripps. Professors like Cathy Cripps inspire vast arrays of MSU undergraduate and graduate students, meanwhile, the student body at MSU continues to inspire and motivate Cripps every day.

On-campus COVID-19 testing

BY KYLEE RUX



In light of students returning to campus, MSU began offering free drive-through and walk-through testing on Thursday, Aug. 27 for students experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. These tests are offered at the MSU Symptomatic Student Testing Center, located on the northeast corner of Bobcat Stadium. The site is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The testing center was financed with CARES Act funds provided by Governor Steve Bullock. The CARES Act is a federal coronavirus relief bill that granted $2.2 trillion for pandemic relief efforts, including COVID-19 funding for universities. Governor Bullock authorized up to $20 million to the campuses of the Montana University System to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, including free testing for students. Once tested, students who live on-campus are required to self-quarantine in designated university housing while awaiting the rapid test results, which typically return within 24 hours. Students who reside off-campus are asked to return to their homes and quarantine there. Additional testing is available by appointment through the Swingle Health Center, located on the east side of the Strand Union Building.

All students, faculty and staff who test positive will be accounted for under the Gallatin City-County Health Department. As a result, MSU does not have a separate count of cases that are affiliated with campus, according to MSU spokesperson Mike Becker. MSU also launched a COVID-19 self-checker to help students make appropriate decisions when seeking out medical care. For the latest updates and to access the self-checker, visit *https://www.montana.edu/health/coronavirus/*.



LEFT Students are guided to the testing site by signs along Kagy Blvd.
RIGHT Signs in front of the symptomatic testing site provide directions for students seeking a COVID-19 test.

PHOTOS BY DANE WILLIAMS

Bozeman mayor resigns

BY JAXSON BISHOP



Bozeman Mayor Chris Mehl resigned from his position on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the wake of a scandal that has consumed his office for the past week. According to media reports, Mehl was accused of bullying staff and interfering in city business. Pressure mounted from officials in Bozeman City Hall after the City Commission called for Mehl to resign on Tuesday, Sept. 8 after holding a special meeting.

"It's been an honor to serve Bozeman for more than 10 years, and I thank the voters for that repeated opportunity," Mehl wrote in a statement. "While I was working to be a proactive and prepared representative under the city charter, other commissioners do not see it that way."

Mehl was elected in January of 2020 after serving as deputy mayor for two years. Previously the deputy mayor, Cyndy Andrus, was sworn in as mayor on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. following Mehl's resignation, and will assume the role of mayor effective immediately.

This story will be updated in the next edition.



LEFT Deputy Mayor Cyndy Andrus takes the oath of office during her swearing in as the Mayor of Bozeman.

RIGHT Deputy Mayor Cyndy Andrus takes the oath of office during her swearing in as the Mayor of Bozeman.

PHOTOS BY GABE BARNARD

SPORTS

MSU football's fall financials

BY CAMERON GRAVES

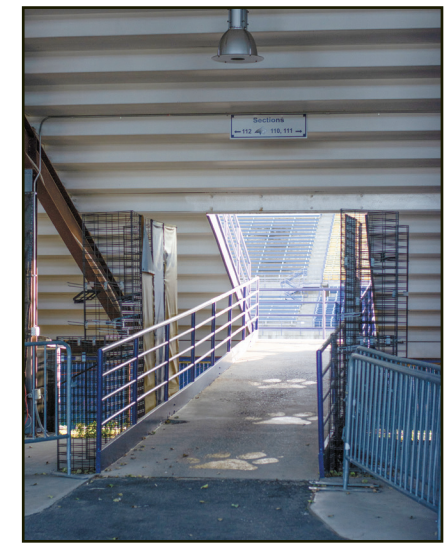
For a mid-major Division I athletic department like Montana State, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a situation never experienced before. Bobcat Athletics is normally a top financial performer compared to colleges with similar athletic departments. In fact, MSU football alone ranked second in overall earnings, both received and via generated revenue, last fiscal year amongst FCS schools, just behind east coast power James Madison University. The Cats' athletic department as a whole pulled in $22.7 million in 2019, while Bobcat football generated $8.7 million in 2019 alone. For comparison, the University of Idaho, Eastern Washington University and plenty of other schools, rather than operating at a loss, fight to just break even during an academic year.

Bobcat football places a lot of attention on Bozeman and plays a large part in MSU's success. Games regularly draw crowds of over 19,000 fans into our beloved corner of the state to spend money on tickets, concessions and merchandise. This year, with the absence of fall sports, MSU is facing a new challenge in how to sustain our highly competitive athletic department. However, as COVID-19 has already shown us, things can change quickly, and our financial health is in a fluid state.

For starters, there has been a sharp decrease in generated revenue ever since the virus hit our country. Already, MSU lost around $300,000 when the NCAA basketball tournaments were cancelled this spring. The football team was expected to reel in $675,000 from their out-of-conference away game at the University of Utah this season, which has now been called off.

MSU athletic director Leon Costello acknowledged this past spring that the Cats are sure to take a hit this year, but it's looking even more dire as we begin the fall semester. Honoring scholarships alone is now becoming a daunting task. The NCAA said this past spring that they would honor any athlete's personal choice to return for another chance at a senior season. Costello said that the handful of scholarships from last spring, which MSU plans on continuing to honor, would have "little to no consequences" on the overall budget. But now, with fall sports postponed by the Big Sky Conference and those student athletes granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA, this is a much different set of issues. If all eligible players return, the football team could have as many as 44 seniors in the fall of 2021, not to mention multiple volleyball and cross country athletes who could also return. Up to this point, the main response has been to limit spending and to ask for more donations in order to support these student athletes. This issue is bigger than the department alone and will be a true test for the Bobcat community.

Figuring out the athletic department's fiscal future is nearly impossible this early in the season. With sports on hold until the winter, uncertainty is at a high in Bozeman. All we can do is be proactive in limiting COVID-19 cases as much as possible by social distancing and wearing masks. It's up to us to continue to support our athletic department through these challenging times. Just like in the past, the toughest challenges will help define the future of our great athletics program.

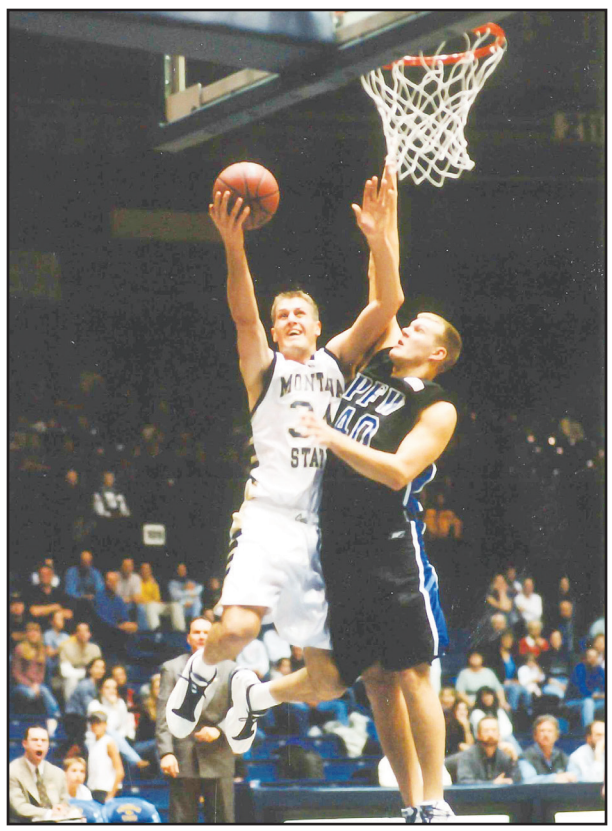


Light shines at the end of the tunnel underneath the stadium.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARRER

In remembrance of Tom Duffy

BY KYLEE RUX



On Monday, Aug. 24, Tom Duffy, a former MSU basketball player and Bozeman helicopter pilot, tragically passed in a helicopter crash while helping fight a wildfire engulfing Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon. Duffy was piloting a Type 1 K-Max helicopter that was dropping water on the White River Fire when the crash occurred. He died at the age of 40.

"He was a different kind of student athlete. He was serious towards school, basketball and his faith. I really admired his strong faith."
-Jeff Riggs

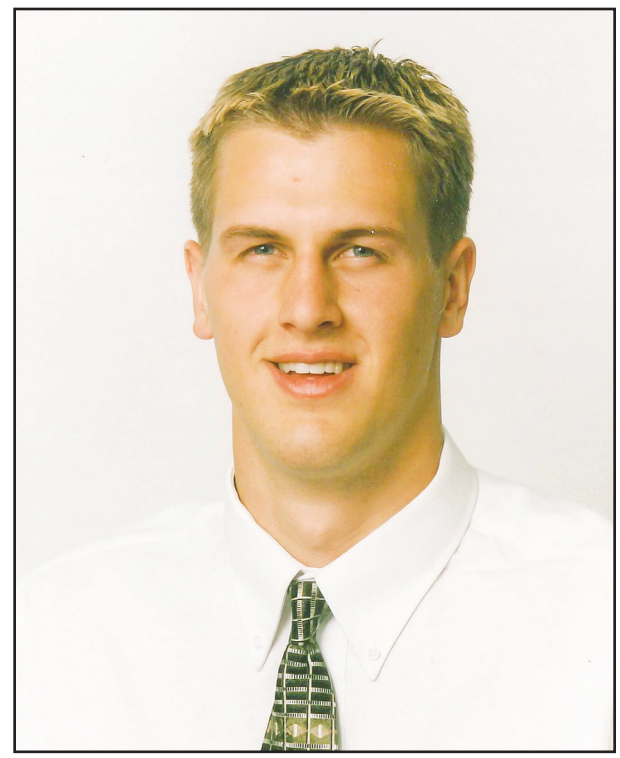
Growing up in Bozeman, Duffy attended MSU summer hoop camps starting in his junior-high years and continuing throughout high school. He dreamed of being a Bobcat. Although he averaged 30 points per game at the tiny Mount Ellis Academy, he did not receive a scholarship offer from MSU. Instead, he played for Columbia Union College, a Christian Division II school in Washington, D.C., averaging 10 points and seven rebounds a game. In 1999, Duffy began to miss home-cooked meals and decided to take a second shot at pursuing his dream of playing on the MSU Fieldhouse floor.

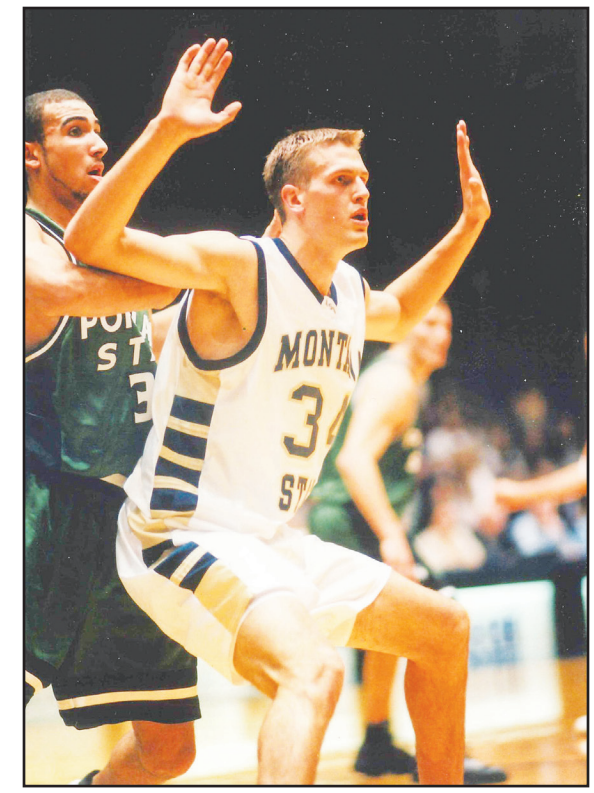
After returning to Bozeman, Duffy redshirted his first year. On Jan. 4 of his sophomore year, he entered the starting lineup when the center at the time injured his leg. Duffy started every game for the rest of the season. He shot 58% from the field and led the team with a 3-point goal percentage. His talent did not stop there. His height of 6'11" allowed him to block 42 shots over the course of the season, the highest total in the Big Sky Conference and fourth-best in a season in Bobcat history.

His performance did not falter off the court, as his family and God kept him busy as well. As a Seventh-Day Adventist, Duffy observed Sabbath from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday, preventing him from practicing or playing during that time.

"Many guys respected his opinions and decisions," said former teammate Jeff Riggs. "He was a different kind of student athlete. He was serious towards school, basketball and his faith. I really admired his strong faith."

In the 2001-02 season, the conference made the switch from a Thursday-Saturday to Friday-Saturday





game schedule, limiting his playing time to only half of the team's conference games. Duffy decided to leave the team that February.

Following his basketball career, Duffy kept busy. He owned several businesses in Bozeman including Bozeman Hot Springs. He became the third in his family to fly for Gallatin County's Search and Rescue crew and remained in this position for 20 years.

"Tom was a very talented individual and basketball player. He always had a love for flying at a young age and developed into a great pilot. He believed in his faith and developed his life around that. He had such a wonderful life ahead of him as a family man and businessman," said Mick Durham, the head Bobcat basketball coach in the years that Tom played. Tom's steadfast spirit for the things he valued and loved will be missed.

TOP LEFT Duffy shoots for the hoop wearing the blue and gold during the Cats' game against Purdue Fort Wayne on Dec. 22, 2001. The Cats defeated the Mastodons, 63-59.
BOTTOM Duffy sits for a portrait photo.
TOP RIGHT Duffy boxes out an opposing Portland State player during an MSU game on Jan. 6, 2001. Portland State was defeated, 82-75.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL LAMBERTY

The Rut goes wild

BY BEAU BAXTER

In the midst of mass cancellations and isolation, the 2020 Big Sky Rut Mountain Run has managed to adapt this past week by way of virtual racing. As opposed to the typical mobs of runners panting up Lone Peak, competitors ran the distance of their event on a selected course on the route and day of their choosing, and recorded their own performances in an isolated and safe setting then uploaded their results, which can be found at *RunSignUp.com*).

Based on the European sport of sky running, The Rut run combines typical distance running with grueling climbs and dangerous descents, usually in the scenic locale of Big Sky Resort. Competitors can choose from five events in the series: 11K, 28K, 50K, the Vertical Kilometer (VK) and the vicious Rut Trifecta—a combined performance in the VK, 28K and 50K that spans three days. However, this year, the competitive aspect has been stripped away, due to the incomparable variety of participant selected courses.

"It's just for the fun of it," said Tucker Hoefler, a 50K-participant and junior studying snow science at MSU. "They had a recommended course that ran through the Bridgers, but the fire stopped anyone from running it this weekend."

Hoefler instead tracked a speedy 12-hour ascent of Granite Peak in the Beartooth range southeast of Bozeman. With only 27 miles and 8,000 feet of vertical climbing, his selected route fell short of the typical 31 mile and 10,000 foot course of Lone Peak. However, his ascent proved far more technical with difficult scrambling and fifth-class climbing—a classification that typically denotes the necessity of a rope. For the sake of time, Hoefler and his partner free-soloed to the summit and back down.

Hoefler has competed in several sky races this year in Utah and Idaho, but he considers The Rut "the ultimate sky race." In fact, the event has become so popular that the entries for the 5K and 28K sold out in only 11 minutes (registration opened nine months ago, in January of this year). The brutal 50K only took an hour to sell out.

"Last year I wanted to compete, but everything sold out before I could sign up," said Evan Telford, a senior studying exercise science. He snagged a spot in the 11K in 2018 and instantly found himself hooked by the atmosphere of the event. Every year, hundreds of racers and spectators gather to support one another and push the limits of their physical capabilities. Telford attempted to run the 50K for the past two years, but never registered in time. After finally securing a spot, nothing, not even a pandemic, could get in his way.

This year Telford had to face a new challenge—no support. Mapping a route through his home range of the Sawtooths (Idaho), he set out with no partners and only some food and a water filter. Covering 34 miles, 7,000 feet of climbing and debris-riddled avalanche paths, Telford finished his route in just under 10 hours.

"I love the challenge. It's an emotional and mental journey. Sometimes you feel really bad, but it's like a moving meditation; it's therapeutic."

Both racers hope to compete in future Rut events, as well as other running challenges. Hoefler hopes to land in the top 20 in the Rut 50K next year, while Telford has set his sights on running an 80K. Not even a virus will stop these boys from running wild.

Nature talks

BY LAUREN CHAVEZ



The other day I was walking to campus along College Street and decided to cut through Wally Byam park. Along the sidewalk, MSU has planted a variety of different flowers, including petunias and pansies. As I walked past the short stretch of garden, the soft, sweet smell of these flowers wafted through the air. Upon first smelling the flowers, I let out a huge sigh, felt my shoulders drop and immediately felt all the tension I didn't know I was carrying leave my body. Studies on trees and other plants shows there is a certain power and comfort that can be found in the midst of nature. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we could all use a little more time spent with Mother Nature.

Just being in nature can lead to improved health and creativity, among many other benefits. According to Jill Suttie, a doctor of psychology, a 15 minute walk in a forest-like setting can reduce symptoms of anxiety, fatigue and even depression. Who knew trees could do so much more than just produce the oxygen we breathe?

In Bozeman, there are plenty of places to experience the benefits of Mother Nature. If you're crunched on time between work and studies, Story Mill Community Park is only a 10 minute car ride or 15 minute bike ride from campus. The park contains 60 acres of land, featuring a section of restored wetlands that provides opportunities for bird- and wildlife-watching made accessible by trails and boardwalks. The nature sanctuary is a great quiet place to take a mindful walk, photograph some birds or read a good book. Listen to the twitterings of the birds and the wind blowing through the trees, match your breathing to it and experience clarity and relaxation.

If you're up for a longer adventure, hiking Hyalite Peak is a great option. The trail takes you through dense evergreen forest with beautiful undergrowth of ferns, mosses and other shrubs. There are also a few waterfalls along the trail which have great spots to take photos, sketch or paint watercolors on the way up to Hyalite Lake. If you're up for a little leg-burnin' scrambling, Hyalite Peak is an extra two miles from the lake. Once at the top, the views are absolutely breathtaking.

For a shorter, closer-to-town option, Triple Tree provides a mountain-like feel without the full-day commitment of Hyalite. The trail provides a bit of everything in terms of scenery, from rolling green meadows to slightly more woody growth with a creek that you'll cross over numerous times. Benches are placed periodically throughout so that you can enjoy the trickling creek and smell the earthiness of the undergrowth. As you begin to ascend into the evergreens, you can take in the sweet sticky smell of tree sap. At the summit, you can capture some beautiful pictures of the valley, all from the comfort of yet another bench placed for your convenience.

These are only a handful of places that you can go to reconnect with Mother Nature and take some time for yourself. It's hard to remember how important it is to create space for moments of quiet and self-care in the midst of school, work and life's unexpected stressors. What are you waiting for? Get yourself outside amongst the rocks and evergreens.



LEFT The sun sets on a summer evening over Revenue Flats, a popular outdoor recreation area near Norris, MT, southwest of Bozeman.
RIGHT The mid-day sun shimmers through tree branches.

PHOTOS BY DANE WILLIAMS

Rodeo 101: Bring your boots and beer

BY CAMERON GRAVES

Fall is usually a time when sports fans in Montana turn their attention to Bobcat football, volleyball and cross country after a long summer full of anticipation. But, in this unique year, local rodeos are one of the few events permitted. In our small community, you can find a great assortment of these weekend-long events throughout the summer. Although it may not give you the same feeling as the Gold Rush football game, our local cowboys and cowgirls do a fine job bringing entertainment to the folks of Gallatin county.

To many of us, rodeos have been a source of summer entertainment and inspiration for a long time, but for a newcomer to the sport, it may be one of the most rousing things you've ever seen.

Rodeo is unlike any other sporting event in our great country because it directly relates to the livelihoods of millions of people across many states. Rodeo goers' love for these events stem from a deeper passion of working stock on our American rangelands, and those cowboys and cowgirls succeed greatly in presenting their stock working skills on a stage that entertains even those who don't work in the industry. Today, rodeo is a big business, with enterprises such as the National Finals Rodeo and the Professional Bull Riders organization bringing in millions of dollars each season. The best way to enjoy rodeo is by attending the smaller, more local shows put on in most cow towns every summer, something Montana has no shortage of. It's a sport with a deep history of inclusion. Although most spectators aren't directly connected to the tradition of rodeo, the entertainment provided is sure to leave an impression they won't be able to shake easily.

With the dust flying and the rough stock bucking, the atmosphere is a welcome relief to the eventless summer we've had as sports fans. The intensity of the saddle bronc and bull riding events draws any spectator to the edge of their seat, while barrel racing and calf roping awe fans with its timing and precision. To many of us, rodeos have been a source of summer entertainment and inspiration



COWBOYS IN THE TEAM ROPING COMPETITION PURSUE A CALF. ONE COWBOY MUST ROPE THE HEAD AND THE OTHER MUST ROPE THE HEELS.

PHOTO BY DANE WILLIAMS

for a long time, but for a newcomer to the sport, it may be one of the most rousing things you've ever seen.

Our local rodeos do a great job at showcasing the many skills our cowpokes have in their holsters. You'll see the same folks who are wrangling broncs in one event keeping riders safe in others, while later getting after it in the team roping event, something only a small intimate rodeo can offer. The riders themselves may not be the best in the game, but they are some of the most well-rounded, bringing their experience from working on cattle ranches into the arena and giving the crowd a true example of what it means to be a cowboy or cowgirl. You won't find any bull riders who have actually ever ridden a horse or done any real work in some of the bigger, national shows. Instead, you'll find folks who work a day job in the saddle and spend their weekends on the rodeo grounds celebrating their craft, traditions and way of life.

This blue collar environment extends beyond the arena and into the stands, as folks from all walks of life

and areas of the country get a taste of what a Western rodeo is all about. For the adults, cold beer can be found in a cooler for a couple bucks each, cash of course. The rodeo clown entertains the kids and invites them down for a calf scramble, where they get to chase and secure a ribbon from a young, energetic calf. All the while, herding dogs mosey around looking for a pat as their owners are off getting ready. For folks who have never experienced anything like this, it's about as welcoming and interactive as any sporting event can be. Many folks were asking how they could get started and were looking to see if their hometown offers anything like this. Nowhere else provides an experience quite like a Montana rodeo in the heat of summer.

In some ways, the atmosphere compares to a Bobcat football game. Just like football, folks gather in the parking lot in the hours prior to the singing of the National Anthem to catch up with each other and enjoy warm food and cold drinks. People from the local ranches around town gather together and take a load off after a hard week of work, ensuring the community stays close and connected. Once the events begin, the rush of success or the agony of failure fills all those familiar voids us sports fans are missing this fall. While there aren't any game-winning touchdowns or series-clinching spikes, it's still something to feel invested in and cheer about, which is what we all need nowadays.

With the summer coming to an end, smaller rodeos are wrapping up as well. While you can still catch some of the bigger shows this fall such as the Montana Pro-Rodeo Circuit Finals this January in Great Falls, the more rural events won't be back until next summer. So make sure to not miss out on any of the action next year. Whether on the MSU campus, in Bozeman, Belgrade, West Yellowstone or beyond, there will almost certainly be stock buckin' next summer. And trust me, you don't want to miss it.

Nowhere else provides an experience quite like a Montana rodeo in the heat of summer.



TOP A COWBOY HOLDS ON TO A BUCKING HORSE WITH ONE HAND WHILE ATTEMPTING NOT TO FALL OFF OR ALLOW HIS OTHER HAND TO TOUCH THE HORSE.

BOTTOM A COWBOY THROWS HIS LASSO AROUND THE HORNS OF A CALF WHILE PARTICIPATING IN A CALF ROPING COMPETITION.

PHOTOS BY DANE WILLIAMS



The Environment Needs Your Advocacy

BY EMMA MORGAN

A post on Instagram on August 11 from the Outdoor Advocacy Project declared that the Bureau of Land Management has cancelled its 2020 plan to auction off 85,000 acres of public lands around Moab, Utah for oil and gas development. According to the post, this miracle was the result of people signing petitions and adding their comments in an online campaign protesting the land auction. Signing petitions and joining campaigns often feels like a small and hopeless act in the face of government and corporate decisions, but it is vital that individuals participate in these small actions in order to protect our environment.

The more people become aware and participate in a movement, the more likely it is that it will be taken seriously.

In 2007, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality prepared a statement that would permanently protect the river. However, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition asked to withhold this protection so the Gallatin River could be open for collaborations with developers. Thirteen years later, permanent protection still hasn't been granted to the Gallatin. Instead, the growing population in Big Sky and tourist attractions keep the river in harm's way.

Despite the imminent danger, hope still gleams. Though the river is often threatened, communities have always risen to protect it. In February of 2020, a lawsuit was filed to require that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality update its environmental analysis to consider Big Sky's wastewater impacts as pharmaceutical pollution, blow-snow pollution and unfiltered wastewater trickle into the Gallatin River. Following this, everyday people took to social media to prevent a glamping resort from securing a 310 permit, which would allow the property owner to drill underneath the river and install cables for wastewater, natural gas and fiber optics. A petition was passed around and reposted on various social media outlets. Big brands such as Simms Fishing made people aware of the threat and the petition, and smaller individuals, like your friendly writer here, continued passing on the message. Although there is a constant fight to maintain the health of the Gallatin, it is because of the people's continual support that the river has remained healthy. We don't have to look farther than the clear waters of the Gallatin River to see the fruits of environmental advocacy.

In Montana, we are very lucky to be surrounded by natural environments like the Gallatin River. They appear numerous here under our big skies, and so plentiful that human life seems to have little impact on it. Montana has 3,443,038 acres of certified wilderness, which is roughly less than 1/3 of the wilderness in the United States. Despite these large numbers, our resources are limited, and the damage we cause to the environment hurts the ecosystems we depend on.

It is incredibly important that people remain aware and active about potential environmental threats by keeping track of the news, passing along information on social media and being active members within their communities. There are also online resources, like the Brookings deregulatory tracker, that help individuals stay informed. The Brookings tracker is an interactive internet resource that records all of the Trump administration's deregulatory actions, including environmental protections. It lists the agencies involved, the current status of the rulings and the dates on which action was last taken.

Once people are informed, it is vital that they take action, from signing petitions to joining campaigns to marching down the street to emailing government officials. Jason Del Gandio, a professor of communications and social movements at Temple University in Philadelphia told The New York Times that, "The biggest benefit from a petition is raised awareness." The more people become aware and participate in a movement, the more likely it is that it will be taken seriously.

So, the next time you swipe on Instagram and see a petition to protect the environment: study it, sign it and pass it on.



Bozemanites advocate for environmental justice by participating in the global climate strike that took place on Sept. 20, 2019.

PHOTO BY GABE BARNARD

Students' Choice: Expanding Participation in Convocation

BY QUINCY BALIUS

Convocation, defined by Merriam-Webster as "a ceremonial assembly of members of a college or university," is an event that formally welcomes the incoming class to MSU each year. Each convocation speaker and corresponding book represents a message from the university to its students, and, of course, the selection of a Convocation speaker is a high honor from the university. Despite the importance attached to the assembly, MSU students have almost no input on Convocation speakers.

MSU cannot claim that Convocation is meant to support and honor its students if it actively restricts their autonomy and participation in selecting Convocation speakers and books.

So how are convocation books and speakers selected? According to Julia Tietz, Administrative Manager and Assistant to the Dean in the College of Education, Health and Human Development, the process begins "early in the year" with a large Convocation Committee. This committee is chaired by the Senior Vice Provost, David Singel, and has representatives from dozens of different organizations on campus, including each of the individual colleges on campus and ASMSU.

This committee gathers together with a variety of suggestions for convocation speakers and books. Tietz said that the books selected by the committee are meant to be "impactful, relevant and thoughtful" with a "current affairs theme." Once a long list of potential speakers is developed, that list is turned over to a second committee, which is made up of Convocation stakeholders such as the MSU Library, Leadership Institute, freshman seminar instructors and the Honors College. These representatives debate the list and whittle it down to three or four authors.

Tietz reported this list, along with arguments for and against each author, is passed along to MSU President Waded Cruzado, who makes the final selection for the convocation speaker and book. Typically, both a first and second choice are made for Convocation speakers. Tietz then contacts the speaker's agency to determine interest and availability, then finalizes a contract and brings them to campus.

An article from this year,"Montana State moves upcoming convocation outside to stadium" by the MSU News Service, explains the intent of convocation as "demonstrat[ing] the support of the university and community to help students reach the goal of becoming the graduating class of 2024." If convocation is an expression of support for students, then students should be part of the speaker selection process.

The top-down way that convocation speakers are currently selected completely excludes student participation. The only chance for students to contribute their perspective to the Convocation selection is through their elected representatives in ASMSU, who are exclusively included in the first committee's suggestions. At all other junctions, choices are made by MSU organizations without the input of students.

MSU should completely alter the way that it picks Convocation speakers to align more with student interests and experiences. An article from University Business magazine titled "Selecting commencement speakers: An art or a science?" illuminates the process by which Dillard University in New York chooses commencement speakers, where graduating students submit a list of ten nominations. At Manhattanville College in New York, the Student Government Association works with the school administration to create a list of potential graduation speakers. That list is then sent to all graduating seniors, who then vote on their preferred speaker. Applying either of these methods, or a combination of the two, to Convocation speaker selection at MSU by allowing the student body to vote would greatly increase student engagement and inclusion.

MSU cannot claim that Convocation is intended to support and honor its students if it actively restricts their autonomy and participation in selecting Convocation speakers and books. It does not represent the interests or needs of the student body but rather those of MSU organizations and administrators. To this end, MSU should allow students to nominate and vote on Convocation speakers and books to truly connect the students with the ceremony meant to honor them.

We want to hear you opinions! Fill out this reader survey to tell us what you think about the Exponent and be entered for a chance to win a $40 Bridger Brewing gift card.



Life of a student worker

BY JAXSON BISHOP

Working on campus has a lot of perks: a flexible schedule, an easy commute and a priority on your education. Benefits include being able to work in-between classes and a shared mindset with your employer that school comes first. There are many opportunities to work on or near campus as a student including, the Museum of the Rockies, the MSU Bookstore and the Office of Admissions.

"My life isn't consumed by work and school. I can go do fun things on the weekend like hike, snowboard or watch Netflix without worrying about having to work."

Senior Amy Lawry and junior Eric Martin are students who have both worked at the MSU Bookstore for three years and love the flexibility that the bookstore offers. Lawry stated, "They know students' lives are hectic. They are very understanding and flexible with our schedules." Martin added, "[Campus employers] know your schoolwork comes first. I can easily work throughout the day in between classes." The proximity of your job to classrooms and the flexibility allowed in scheduling remains the largest benefits of working on campus for many students.

Some campus jobs offer a unique opportunity to get real-world experience that will help boost your resumé. Chloe Wahlsdorf, an accounting major, appreciates the skills she is learning at University Business Services. "[I] get to use the skills I am learning in the classroom immediately when I go to work after class."

Working in the Office of Admissions as a tour guide has been convenient for sophomore Leif Rowland. "[It is great] to be able to put your focus on schoolwork and then be able to make money with an extra bonus if you have free time."

Campus jobs pay at or above the $8.50 minimum wage for Bozeman and may pay as high as $12.00 an hour. Students are also limited to working 20 hours a week. Only working 20 hours a week is valuable for college-aged students who want to enjoy their weekends and maintain a healthy balance of school, work and friends.

"My life isn't consumed by work and school," said Kaela Trang, a Smarty Cats Tutor. "I can go do fun things on the weekend like hike, snowboard or watch Netflix without worrying about having to work."

Campus jobs have been great for me as well. I currently have two jobs on campus, one at the MSU Bookstore and the other at the MSU Exponent. Having the ability to work when I can and not have to compromise my education has been very valuable to me as both a student and an employee.

If you are looking for a job and don't want to compromise your schooling or social life, working on campus is a great opportunity. You can easily find and apply for jobs at *hireabobcat.com*.

Gallatin History Museum

BY ROSE VEJVODA



2020 may be a year we want to forget, but the Gallatin History Museum will help us remember it forever. No one knows how long COVID-19 will continue to alter both the way that we live and how we interact with others around us. To share stories of Bozeman residents during the time of the coronavirus, the Gallatin History Museum has created a project called "Gallatin County- A Community Memoir" to capture individual experiences.

In an interview with Gallatin History Museum Research Coordinator Rachel Philips, she said, "This project started in the end of March when the virus really started coming on strong. We were going to close the museum, we had to for a while, and we were trying to think of ways to involve the community while we were closed, and also recognize the fact that this is a historic event. We tried to think of ways to preserve people's stories and experiences during the pandemic and the closure."

Ultimately, the museum decided to allow residents of Gallatin County to submit letters, essays, photographs, poems, drawings or just about anything that would express their experiences or thoughts about living within Gallatin County during the pandemic.

Philips went on to add that since late March, many local students, elementary through high school, have been writing letters about their experiences. "We thought it would help some people....because people were so isolated, we thought it was a good way to keep a connection during all the closures we were experiencing and contribute to stories about what is going on that can be looked into in the future."

The Gallatin History Museum has been collecting and preserving the stories and memories of the residents and businesses of Gallatin County and Southwest Montana for over 40 years. "The town and the county has been growing and changing so much, pretty much since its existence, and since it changes so fast, it is really important to preserve peoples' memories and their viewpoints about what things were like in different points in history, so we can get a feel for all aspects of the history of Gallatin county," Phillips said when asked about the importance of her work at the museum.

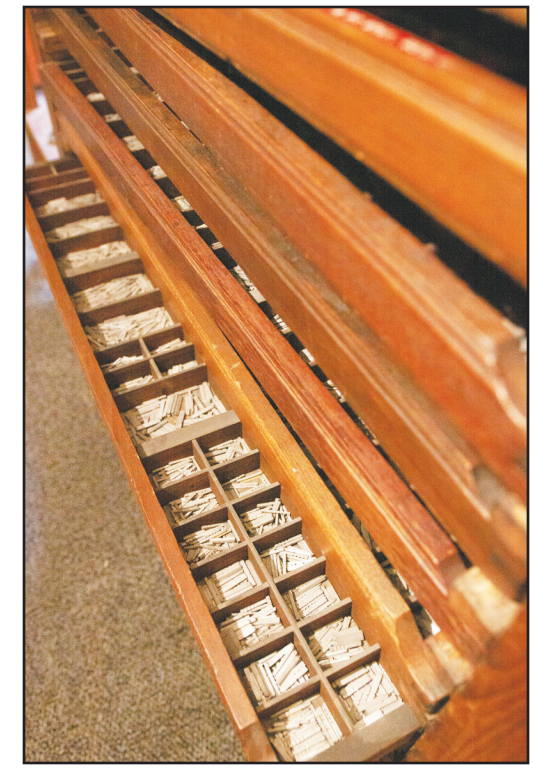




The museum is looking to hear the voice, of college students and their experiences during the pandemic, so be sure to visit their website at gallatinhistorymuseum.org to virtually submit a record or drop a letter in the "memory box" on the museum's front porch. "Because the situation keeps changing, new perspectives are going to keep coming forward. The more we get the better," Philips said. "I think it is important to preserve stories from all sorts of people, from all sorts of time periods. It gives us a more well-rounded picture of the history of the area."

"I think it is important to preserve stories from all sorts of people, from all sorts of time periods. It gives us a more well-rounded picture of the history of the area."

Although the museum is currently closed to the public, appointments can be made to visit the research library.



TOP LEFT Bozemanites share COVID-19 pandemic experiences in a display at the Gallatin History Musuem.
BOTTOM LEFT One-hundred-year-old memorabilia from Bozeman residents rests in a display case.
TOP RIGHT A history of political campaign buttons is displayed on the second floor of the museum.
BOTTOM RIGHT Metal type used in printing is organized into shelves.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KULKITS

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 10 - 16

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

THU 10

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMUNITY MEMOIR
Gallatin County History Museum @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
The Gallatin History Museum is putting together a community memoir for Southwest Montana as they go through COVID-19. Individuals of all ages are invited to write in and share their experiences. Letters can be mailed to 317 West Main Bozeman, MT 59715.

HAUFBRAU'S VIRTUAL OPEN MIC
Location: https://www.facebook.com/groups/304866267157167/
This daily event, hosted on the Haufbrau Facebook page, is geared towards music lovers who are missing concerts. Listen to live music from bands across the Gallatin Valley. Bands can start a live stream or post recordings of their music online.

REPTILES: THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE DEADLY
Museum of the Rockies @ 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
This traveling exhibit is in town until Sunday, Sept. 13. See 19 living reptiles from around the world including snakes, turtles, crocodiles and lizards. A face covering is required for entry into the MOR.

FRI 11

PUBLIC LANDS IN THE NEW WEST PAST AND PRESENT
WebEx Call @ 12 p.m.
Betsy Gaines Quammen, a local environmental historian, writer and conservationist, will present her book "American Zion: Cliven Bundy, God and Public Lands in the West." The book discusses the 27-year-old land use legal battle of Cliven Bundy in Bunkerville, NV, current conspiracy theories and distrust between the American government and the public. *https://eu.courses.montana.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=20FWLFFSEPT&publish=ANYWAY*

HONORS PRESENTS LECTURE: "I CONTAIN MULTITUDES"
Virtual Event @ 4 and 5:30 p.m.
Dr. Sexson will read Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" as a model of a text which gives the highest quality to our moments as they pass. Join the WebEx presentation at *https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6366923*

BEST OF 406 MARKET
Gallatin Valley Mall @ 4 p.m.
A local market that promotes local merchants around the Gallatin Valley. Vendors include those who grow produce, craftsmen and women and local business owners.

SAT 12

PARADE OF SHEDS
Virtual Event @ 2-5 p.m.
The parade is hosted by the Northeast Neighborhood Association of Bozeman. Decorate your bike, take part in a self-guided virtual tour and participate in a scavenger hunt on the NENA Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/BozemanNENA/?fref=tag

GALLATIN VALLEY FARMERS MARKET
Haynes Pavilion at the Fairgrounds @ 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
The Gallatin Valley Farmers Market has been around for over 40 years. This is a great way to support local vendors as they sell produce and homemade crafts at the last market of the season.

MON 14

VIRTUAL INVOLVEMENT & STUDY ABROAD FAIR
Virtual Event on FlipGrid
Available from Sept. 14-28. Learn about different student organizations and study abroad opportunities. https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6193974

TUES 15

CHI ALPHA 755
East Lawn of Montana Hall @ 7:55 p.m.
Join Chi Alpha campus ministry in a time of fellowship and worship at this weekly event.

SUNRISE KARAOKE
Bar IX @ 8 p.m.
Show off your singing voice (no matter how talented you may be) and have a great time.

MSU BICYCLE AND VEHICLE AUCTION
montana.edu/parking/auction.html
Starting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 16 and ending on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., this virtual event offers the opportunity to get a new bike or vehicle at a low price.

TRIVIA NIGHT & WILD WEST WEDNESDAY
Rocking R Bar @ 7:30 p.m.
Test your trivia knowledge for a chance to win first, second or third place prizes. After trivia ends, stick around for a live DJ and Wild West Wednesday from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.



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@msuexponent

Why do I keep hearing band kids outside?

MEGHAN AMRHEIN



The football season may have been put on hold this fall semester, but MSU's "Spirit of the West" marching band is still making music, practicing marching and helping to keep the Bobcat spirit alive, as they have always done. The band has tried to make the best of an already unfortunate situation caused by COVID-19.

Coronavirus has had a negative impact on the band, canceling all performances and creating less than ideal rehearsal situations for the group, but according to band director Dr. Nathan Stark, the students have been nothing but wonderful in overcoming these adversities.

"They're working hard, and they'll be ready when the time comes to get back out there!" - Dr. Nathan Stark

"They've been fantastic," said Stark. "We were worried that there would be pushback... but students seem legitimately happy to be able to do something this year."

The biggest obstacle students are facing in these unusual times is the lack of performances. Performances "feed the whole reason we do things," said Stark. However, it seems that for the foreseeable future, the band will be sticking solely to rehearsals in the Roskie field.

Stark says that they're not too torn up about it though. Instead, they're using this year to update previous plans and goals and to set things in motion that will hopefully last for decades to come. For starters, they're making changes to their pre-game show. Since it was originally written for a much smaller band, they're using this time to expand and adapt the performance for a larger group. Stark explains that they've also started working with a new field metronome to help with tempo problems they face during performances, which is something they most likely wouldn't have time to practice with during a normal season. Along with that, they're adding new drill maneuvers, adopting a new ballad, and taking a moment to improve and refresh the program as a whole. "It's like when you clear all the furniture out of a room and now you get the chance to set it up differently, and I'm really looking forward to that," Stark says.

Although they're not performing at athletic games, students can still support the band by acknowledging the work and effort they've put into rehearsing this year. "If you see someone in a Spirit of the West shirt on campus you can say hi...you can drop by rehearsal...you can share our posts on Facebook or Instagram," said Stark when asked how those not in the band can still show their support.

With strict social distancing guidelines, Stark also mentioned that many of their rehearsals (individually and as a group) will be held outside while the weather is agreeable. He asks students and faculty to "be patient with them and the noise" as they figure out what environment works best for practices.

All in all, the marching band is keeping an optimistic outlook on their situation and making the best of what they have. According to Stark, the most important thing is that "they're working hard, and they'll be ready when the time comes to get back out there!"

Make sure to show your support for the band members this year as they traverse this difficult and unexpected terrain.





TOP LEFT Band members play the Saxophone.

TOP RIGHT A clarinet player looks down at his music.

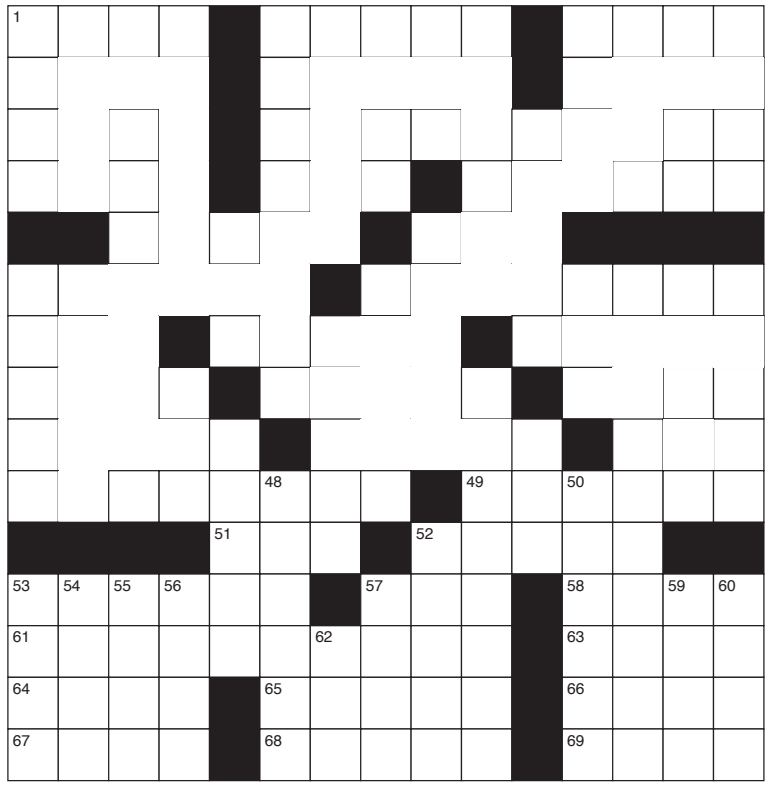
BELOW Nathan Stark, PhD, conducts the Spirit of the West marching band at practice.

PHOTOS BY DANE WILLIAMS

THE MSU
exponent
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PUZZLES

For solutions, visit Printable-Puzzles.com and enter puzzle code.



Across

1. One of Jupiter's moons
5. Sultan's palace area
10. Worker's ____ (insurance)
14. Put on ___ (have an attitude)
15. "You ___ Beautiful": Joe Cocker hit
16. Treater's words
17. Prohibitionists
18. The "it" in "Click It or Ticket"
20. ___-plié (ballet move)
21. Some NFL players
22. Arrogance
23. Troubadours' dawn serenades
25. Story ___
26. Give heed
28. Waste away
33. Home security co.
34. Type of ray
36. "There's ___ chance of that"
37. Robin's Marian, for one
39. Port-au-Prince's country
41. Flag holder
42. "Lou Grant" star Ed
44. Goo
46. "Isn't ___ bit like you and me?" (Beatles lyric)
47. Cry from the crow's-nest
49. Lend
51. Interdiction
52. Snaking curves
53. Star of "Clash of the Titans" (1981)
57. Real estate ad abbr.
58. Province, to the French
61. Like fighting words
63. Queen Anne's ____
64. Kinks song of 1970
65. "____ sexy for my shoes..."
66. Heating device
67. Get ___ the world (succeed)
68. Jawaharlal of India
69. See fit

Down

1. Actor Alan
2. Emerald Isle
3. Gin/vermouth cocktail
4. Smooth ___
5. Rosh ___
6. Burnoose wearers
7. Officials on the court
8. Ending for Taiwan or Japan
9. Movie monster
10. Actor Lee J. ___
11. A real beaut
12. 2,051, to Caesar
13. Dogs and cats
19. Joshua tree, for one
24. Implore
25. Precious violin
26. Radical Mideast group
27. Small amount, in recipes
28. "The Exorcism of ___ Rose" (2005 film)
29. Cable company, often (abbr.)
30. Words on a Hawaiian license plate
31. Mosaic maker
32. "Let ___ Cake" (1933 Gershwin musical)
35. ___-Dixon line
38. Hair styling brand
40. 2004 hit single by Blink-182
43. Peres's predecessor
45. Bad ___ (German spa)
48. Submit to the teacher
50. Skinned, as potatoes
52. Miscalculation
53. Big Island city
54. Soon, to Shakespeare
55. 1,151, to Caesar
56. Emulate a tower in Pisa
57. Soaking site
59. Unwanted spots
60. Squad
62. George Harrison's "___ Mine"

CODE: 7XJCB588

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Adjust
Capabilities
Comprehensive
Curry
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Focal
Fraud
Growling
Kayaks
Ladle
Larceny
Mallets
Metro
Moots
Musty
Occur
Owned
Pales
Plazas
Pursed
Quash
Ransom
Recollections
Secondly
Sheen
Sleet
Snails
Solos
Sorrow
Spats
Sphere
Straws
Taints
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Threshers
Toast
Treble
Tribe
Wield
Wiper
Wreaks
Zebra

CODE: A661DP

EASY

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CODE: W376LF

the BOX

Things to bring to a rodeo

The cowboy boots you bought just for the rodeo

Pink cowboy hat with a tiara

A whip

Not the lulu leggings

Taco Bell Crunchwrap Supreme

Your favorite pair of spurs

A cardboard cutout of Dolly Parton

Not the creased Air Force 1s

The biggest belt buckle you can find

Plenty of yeehaws

A few haw-yees

Genuine ostrich boots that you put on layaway

A pocket ruler

A cold one to crack open with the boys

My rhinestone jeans and a whole lotta fringed leather

A lasso for the haters

Plenty of mascara

A bale of hay

Crop top, daisy dukes and cowboy boots

Axe body spray

Tongs

A chunk of planet Mercury

Dolla dolla bills yo

Batteries (they're not included)

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

5.2% of college students live solely off of ramen noodles.