

THE MSU

exponent

October 15, 2020

MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

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RIDE OR DIE FOR ROSES



*Poetry:
A Place for
Words to
Live*

pg.8

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THE MSU exponent

Volume 115, Issue 8

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FLASHBULB

QSA Co-President Bailey Kouwenhoven and DISC Graduate Assistant Mitchell Meyer lead an informational Sack Lunch Seminar that discussed LGBTQ+ clubs and resources on campus. Anyone looking for more information about these kind of resources can visit MSU's LGBTQ Resource Directory on the official MSU website.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARRER



HEARD ON THE WEB

From @carlthehedgehogclick:

“It's sweater weather and I'm not mad about it. Hello fall!”



INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK

From @montanastateuniversity:

“On all days, but particularly on Indigenous Peoples Day, we recognize the ancestral holdings upon which Montana State University is located.”

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

Heyyy Batter Batter SA-WING!

Giancarlo Stanton has the highest exit velocity clocking in at **121.7** m.p.h.

Barry Bonds, while on PED's hit a record **73** home runs and **1.4217** OPS in the **2001** season.

Between **8** and **12 dozen** baseballs are used in an MLB game.

The **2001** Seattle Mariners won **116** out of their **162** games.

Bryce Harper has the current highest contract of active MLB players of **\$330 million** over **13** years.

A professional baseball player will use on average **120** bats in a single season.

New York Yankees' pitcher Mariano Rivera is the only ballplayer to be inducted in the Hall of Fame with **100%** of the vote

The Chicago Cubs employ **75** grounds crew to maintain the infield and iconic ivy on the outfield wall.

The Seattle Mariners traveled **40,783** miles in the **2016** season.

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NEWS

Addressing COVID-19 rumors RE: housing

BY CARLEE BAKER

As we approach the halfway mark of the fall semester, many students are surprised that we have been able to remain on campus and attend in-person classes at MSU. Amid the third surge of coronavirus cases in Gallatin County, rumors are buzzing across campus. *The Exponent* reached out to Director of MSU News Service, Michael Becker, to address a few of these questions.

Several students residing in Mullan Hall, a wing of the Johnstone Center residence hall, reported that they were asked to relocate to other residence halls on campus. Mullan Hall was rumored to have been converted into quarantine housing for students who reside on-campus and have tested positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting test results after potential exposure. News of this relocation quickly spread across campus and raised several red flags, as the university did not make a statement or release any information about the Mullan resident relocations.

When asked about this particular rumor, Becker responded that, "Yes, Mullan Hall has been converted into quarantine and isolation housing for on-campus students. It's important to note that this was a precautionary measure and that there isn't an immediate need for that Q/I [Quarantine and Isolation] space. However, given the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the county, it was prudent to prepare ahead of those spaces being needed. To be clear, we have not yet used any of the Mullan spaces but wanted to have them available out of an abundance of caution. The students who were living in Mullan were asked to relocate to other rooms on campus. Roommates were preserved and in almost every case, the student moving were settled into rooms in halls that were higher on their priority list for living arrangements."

On a similar topic, rumors emerged that students and employees had been asked to vacate their residences in Family and Graduate Housing (FGH) in the coming months. Speculation that these rooms and rentals will be vacated in order to make space for quarantine housing also arose. However, Becker refuted these rumors: "No. MSU has no plans to relocate residents from Family/Graduate Housing

for Q/I housing. The university notified non-student residents in FGH that their housing contracts will end on June 30, 2021. The housing units are for students. They were not intended to be long-term housing for employees and non-students, although some employees have lived there more than five years. The decision was made to ensure that FGH is available to meet the high demand we're seeing from students for on-campus housing, in line with MSU's land-grant mission and its strategic goals of increasing graduate student enrollment. FGH was always meant for students, and the below-market rental rates for those units are subsidized by student housing fees. Redirecting them for student use was the No. 1 reason for the change."

Finally, several students have wondered where exactly quarantine housing is on campus. That information is not available to the public, said Becker. "MSU's quarantine and isolation protocols and practices for on-campus students are designed to protect their medical privacy while providing them regular care and support until they can return to their residence hall rooms," Becker said. "Because of privacy and case management requirements, we do not publicize the locations of Q/I housing. MSU wants to make every effort to preserve the privacy of students who are temporarily staying there."

Ensuring the accuracy of the information that spreads

across the MSU campus regarding COVID-19 is crucial to preserving the wellbeing and sanity of all students, staff and faculty who call MSU and the Bozeman community home.

BELOW The sunset casts an orange hue on the Johnstone Center, where Mullan Hall has been cleared out to make space for COVID-19 student housing.

PHOTO BY DANE WILLIAM



Let's make some peace.
Looking for students and faculty interested in joining
a multi-campus virtual rosary prayer group.
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Call Fr. Chris 415-854-9900

POLITICS



Waiter, there's a fly in my debate

BY BRADEN URJON

The first and only vice-presidential debate of 2020 was held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Democratic vice-presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-CA, faced off against Republican Vice President Mike Pence to answer questions posed by the moderator, USA TODAY's Susan Page. The questions touched on topics ranging from the coronavirus pandemic to race relations, climate change and plans for economic growth. The shadow of President Trump's recent COVID-19 diagnosis loomed over the debate and placed importance on the positions of the vice-presidential candidates.

Compared to the first presidential debate on Sept. 29, the vice-presidential debate was relatively civil with fewer interruptions, insults and personal attacks. Still, it was not without its issues. Page was unable to keep both candidates from speaking over their limits, and both candidates frequently avoided giving direct answers to questions. Harris avoided answering whether Biden would add seats

to the U.S. Supreme Court and Pence would not say whether he wanted his home state of Indiana to ban all abortions if *Roe v. Wade* was to be overturned.

Although both candidates were respectful, they were combative. Harris had to repeatedly defend herself against Pence's attempts to interrupt her. When Pence interrupted Harris within the first ten minutes of the debate, Harris said, "Mr. Vice President, I'm speaking" before she could finish

her point. There were also repeated attacks on the validity of the claims both candidates made. One of Pence's more notable lines was when he said to Harris, "You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts."

Vice President Pence also rode on the strength of the Trump Administration's pre-pandemic economy while casting his opponent as a vote for radical-leftist politics and economic ruin. Pence tied Harris to the Green New Deal, a pro-environment fiscal plan authored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY. Regarding Biden's green economic plan, Pence said that it is, "...a \$2 trillion version of the Green New Deal... More taxes, more regulation, banning fracking, abolishing fossil fuel, crushing American energy and economic surrender to China is a prescription for economic decline." Harris was quick to distance Biden and herself from any ban on fracking in response. "Alright, so first of all, I will repeat, and the American people know, that Joe Biden will not ban fracking. That is a fact," said Harris.

Harris also used Trump's handling of the pandemic to spearhead an attack against his record while simultaneously working to build up Biden's character. Page started the debate by asking Pence, "Why is the U.S. death toll, as a percentage of our population, higher than that of almost every other wealthy country?" After Pence fielded the question, Harris responded, "The American people have witnessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history of our country...

210,000 dead people in our country in just the last several months... One in five businesses closed." Pence's defense was to say that President Trump has done the best he could and promised that a coronavirus vaccine would be available within the year.

Though the debate was civil, most political analysts agreed the impact on the presidential election was minimal. Maggie Haberman, White House Correspondent for the *New York Times* said, "At (the) end of the day I can't see this changing much."

As far as the public's response and social media were concerned, the most captivating part of the night was a fly that landed on Pence's head and remained there for two minutes. According to a study conducted by NYU, the fly received more mentions on Twitter than any of the candidates, both presidential and vice-presidential. The Biden campaign even started the fundraiser "Truth over flies" inspired by the fly. Blue fly swatters featuring the Biden-Harris campaign logo sold out overnight, and the campaign also created a link called *flywillvote.com* which linked to a voter registration website. Amid the chaotic nature of this election, the vice-presidential debate felt like a return to classic politics.

MSU receives NASA grant to study black holes

BY CARLEE BAKER

MSU astrophysicist Amy Reines has been awarded a grant from NASA to search for the origin of supermassive black holes. The three-year, \$750,000 NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Grant (EPSCoR), will provide Reines with funding and support to continue her research into black holes, a subject to which she has dedicated her entire career.

Earlier this year, Reines led an investigation into the existence of supermassive black holes in dwarf galaxies, which were previously considered too small to host massive black holes. In this investigation, Reines searched 111 known dwarf galaxies within a billion light-years of Earth and found that 13 of the observed galaxies almost certainly had

massive black holes within them. Speaking to MSU News Service, Reines said, "All of the black holes I had found before were in the centers of galaxies. These were roaming around the outskirts. I was blown away when I saw this." Reines' research has been contributing to a larger conversation about the existence of black holes in small galaxies, and her findings in this investigation will greatly change the way in which scientists look for black holes.

Reines' interest in black holes of dwarf galaxies began in graduate school. During her research surrounding star formations in dwarf galaxies, she came across black holes, which were a novel discovery. Since then, her research has centered almost exclusively on the topic of black holes.

Reines is the first woman in Montana to be the primary investigator on a multi-year NASA EPSCoR grant.

Several co-investigators are also included in this project from the physics and mathematics departments at MSU. Anne Lohfink, Ph.D. and David Nidever, Ph.D. are joining Reines from the physics department, and Dominique Zoosa, Ph.D. and Stacey Hancock, Ph.D. will be joining the investigation from the mathematical sciences department. In addition, Reines has expressed hope that several graduate students and postdoctoral researchers will be able to join this project. "As a mentor, I want to try to lift up the next generation of scientists," Reines said in a statement to MSU News Service. "My hope is that this grant sets my group up for success and [that] we learn many interesting things along the way."

Three MSU faculty members recognized as 2020 MUS Teaching Scholars

BY KYLEE RUX

Three of 14 faculty members recently selected for the Montana University System's (MUS) 2020 Teaching Scholars come from MSU. The program, now in its second year, recognizes faculty members from across the state who have made exemplary contributions to teaching and learning. The professors chosen from MSU by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are Paul Gannon, professor of chemical and biological engineering, Wan-Yuan Kuo, assistant professor of health and human development and Meta Newhouse, professor of graphic design.

"MSU is honored to have three members of our faculty chosen for this important program," MSU Provost Robert Mokwa said to MSU News Service. "Their innovation and dedication to instructional excellence will inspire others and enhance the educational opportunities for our students and for students across Montana."

Each year, the program designates a theme that conveys innovative approaches to teaching and also

aligns with MUS learning priorities. This year's theme is "Equity-Minded Pedagogies." To address injustices present in classrooms, scholars will strive to narrow gaps in equity by making Montana's public education more accessible and valuable for all students. "For me, that means working on how to decolonize our curriculum at MSU," Newhouse said. "For the student that would mean they are challenged to see history, society and their own disciplines of study through a much broader lens."

Throughout the coming year, these scholars will be challenged to design and facilitate a faculty learning community (FLC) by developing and sharing strategies to improve student learning and success. Scholars will participate in system-wide activities such as speaker series. During the spring semester, each scholar will lead faculty on their home campus to develop these effective teaching practices.

Scholars will receive a \$1,500 award as well as a \$500 stipend to organize the faculty learning community on their campus. Scholars will be funded through support from the National Association of System Heads

(NASH) and the Lumina Foundation.

Scholar Paul Gannon, Ph.D. shares what strategies he has incorporated in past classes and his current ideas on how to improve student learning and success. "I aim to incorporate research-driven pedagogies into all of my classes and strive to foster student success – however they define it," Gannon said to the Exponent. "Decades of disciplinary-based education research have identified efficacious approaches to teaching and learning; the effective application of this research into educational practices is one of my interests."

The scholars will hold the annual MUS Teaching and Learning Symposium starting in fall 2021. To view the other 11 scholars selected for this program from the MUS, visit https://mus.edu/che/arsa/mus-teaching-scholars/teaching-scholars-announced_2020.html.

SPORTS

Bobcat Rodeo Team finishes fall half in first

BY BEAU BAXTER

Among the mass cancellations, shutdowns and postponements of the fall collegiate season, the MSU Bobcat Rodeo Team managed to complete the first five events of the year. The team performed outstandingly this fall and is currently first in the Big Sky Conference for both men's and women's rodeo teams.

The team holds the first four individual positions for both the tie down roping and steer wrestling categories. Ann Kerns sits in first place for the women's individual all-around with teammate Michael Faulkner in first for all-around men's. Full results of the entire season for all Big Sky Conference teams can be found at collegerodeo.com.

"Overall the kids had a really good fall; injuries were pretty minimum and they won a lot every weekend, so it was a good start to the season," said Andy Bolich, head coach for the Bobcat Rodeo Team. The

final rodeo for the fall took place in Havre, Montana over the weekend of Oct. 2-3.

The rest of the season is slated to resume in the spring as usual, though there is no guarantee given the circumstances. As of Saturday, Oct. 10, neither Bobcat Athletics or the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association have released a definitive schedule for the rest of the spring season.

In a typical season, the rodeo team competes in five events in the fall and five in the spring. All of the fall events took place in Montana and Wyoming successfully—though MSU did cancel the annual Fall Finale Jackpot Rodeo (an event with no effect on season standings). The rodeos looked quite different, with social distancing, temperature checks and mask mandates in some counties.

"We're hopeful and optimistic that we'll be able to host the rodeo in the [Brick Breeden] Fieldhouse," said Bolich in regards to the spring season. "It all depends on how we're doing as a county and what

restrictions and regulations other sports will have to follow, 'cause we'll have to do something similar."

The MSU Spring Rodeo is the biggest event of the entire season—fall or spring. The crowds, production and performances give the rodeo its unique quality. If the progression and reintroduction of other collegiate sporting events like basketball or football are any indication, then the rodeo team stands a good chance at competing on their own turf—though conditions are always subject to change.

For now, the Bobcat Rodeo Team is taking a much-needed break from an astonishing fall half and preparing for the prospect of a spring rodeo season that can hopefully keep pace.

Lakers crowned world champions

BY JAXSON BISHOP

On Sunday, Oct. 11, the Los Angeles Lakers won their 17th NBA Championship. In a year stricken by grief after the loss of basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna, the 2019-20 team was crowned victorious in a year unlike any other.

The COVID-19 pandemic upended the season back in March, making the completion of the season unclear. The league and commissioner Adam Silver, alongside the NBA Players Association (NBPA), decided to resume the season on July 30. All the games were played in Orlando on the Disney World campus. The players from the NBA's 22 teams were secluded from outside contact, including family members. The Lakers and the Miami Heat spent over 90 days inside the bubble away from friends and family.

After the game, LeBron James was awarded NBA Finals MVP for the fourth time. In his post-game speech, he said, "I just want my damn respect." This was James' fourth finals win in his 17-year career. During his 17 years in the NBA James has played for three teams: the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Heat, and the Lakers. This was also James' second time turning a team around from a losing team to championship contenders. In the final game, James scored 28 points and notched his 10th triple-double in a finals game. James also became the all-time leader in playoff games with 260 court appearances.

This 355-day NBA season was one unlike any other. Protests over racial inequality consumed much of the summer and captured the attention of the NBPA. The league worked with the players to bring the struggles of minorities to light in a productive way. James was a very outspoken critic of police violence, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. "We want justice no matter how long it takes," James said after the Breonna Taylor ruling.

President Barack Obama, in a tweet, congratulated James, "Proud of my friend @KingJames for his fourth title, fourth Finals MVP, and for not only living up to the hype after seventeen seasons, but surpassing it as an extraordinary leader both on the court and in the public arena fighting for education, social justice, and our democracy."

The league worked with the players association to open up arenas for polling places in the 2020 election. Throughout the playoffs, shooting shirts for all teams were adorned with the word "VOTE." On the court in Orlando, "Black Lives Matter" was painted above the NBA logo at mid-court. The league also allowed players to include social justice messages on the back of their jerseys. Some of these messages included the names of those who were victims of police violence, "Equality" and "Black Lives Matter."

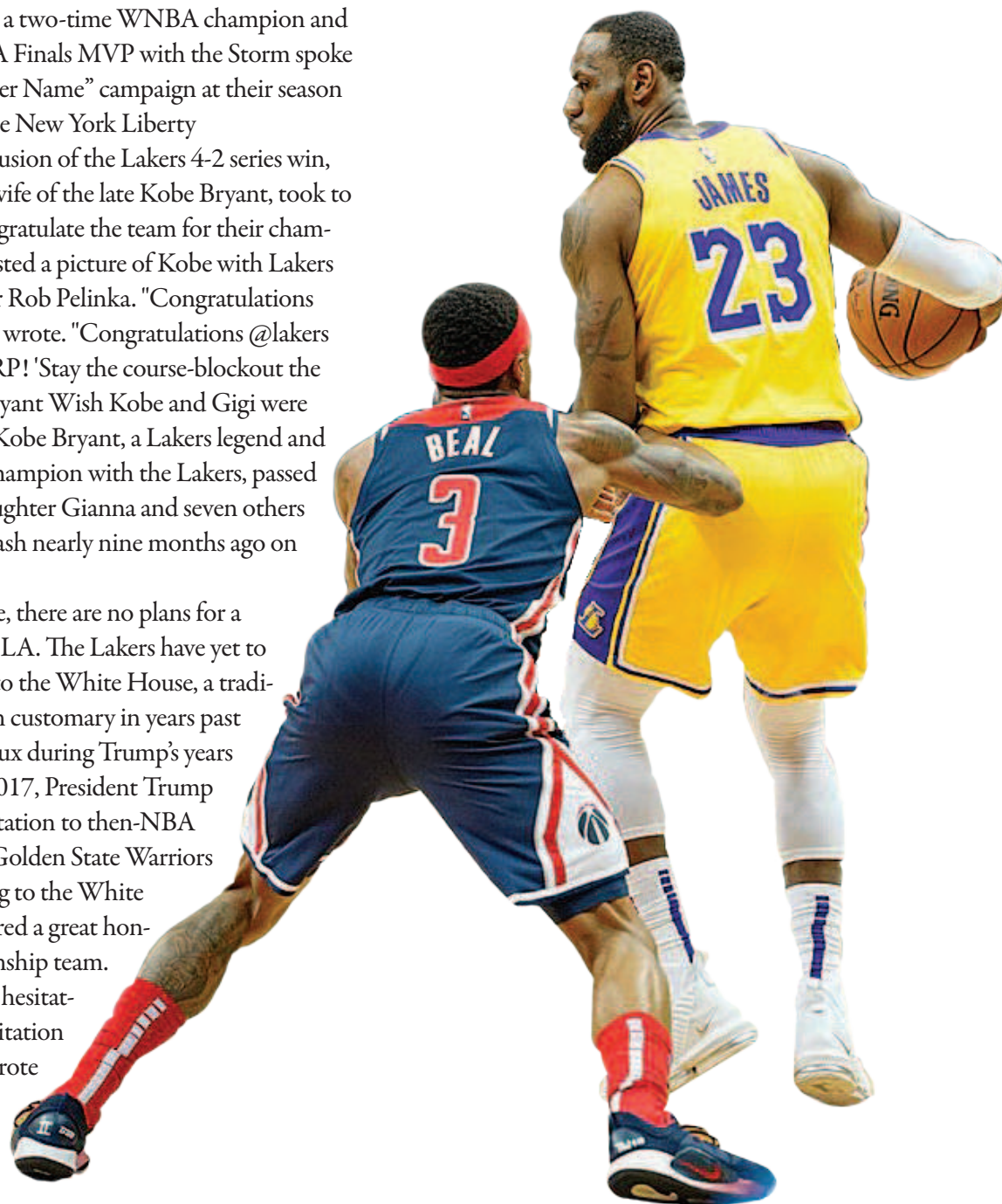
This activism was not exclusive to the NBA, as players on the WNBA championship-winning Seattle Storm dedicated their season to Breonna Taylor. Breanna Stewart, a two-time WNBA champion and two-time WNBA Finals MVP with the Storm spoke about the "Say Her Name" campaign at their season opener against the New York Liberty.

After the conclusion of the Lakers 4-2 series win, Vanessa Bryant, wife of the late Kobe Bryant, took to Instagram to congratulate the team for their championship. She posted a picture of Kobe with Lakers General Manager Rob Pelinka. "Congratulations Uncle P!" Bryant wrote. "Congratulations @lakers Kobe was right, RP! 'Stay the course-blockout the noise. @Kobe Bryant Wish Kobe and Gigi were here to see this.' Kobe Bryant, a Lakers legend and five-time NBA champion with the Lakers, passed away with his daughter Gianna and seven others in a helicopter crash nearly nine months ago on January 26.

As of press time, there are no plans for a victory parade in LA. The Lakers have yet to receive an invite to the White House, a tradition that has been customary in years past but has been in flux during Trump's years as president. In 2017, President Trump rescinded an invitation to then-NBA Champions the Golden State Warriors in a tweet. "Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team. Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!" wrote Trump.

The 2019-20 sports season was a strange one for all professional sports in the U.S. Hockey, baseball, basketball, soccer and football all had to adapt to play including using a bubble or stadiums with limited to no fans. The 2020-21 NBA season is slated to begin on Dec. 1, 2020, during which the Lakers will look to defend their championship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALL-PRO REELS



OUTDOORS

A walk in the Park

BY GABE BARNARD

Wilderness, at its core, is a mystery. The full scope of living systems on Earth escapes human perception, and the complexity of its global ecosystems is still our greatest enigma. Yet, throughout history, we have learned to wield the services of the natural world to our advantage, helping to found the intricate society we live in today. Though our relationship with the wilderness is continually altered, one thread has remained through human history: our constant wonder of its inner workings. Wonder that drives us to study it, experience it and, despite our exploitative tendencies, protect it. Perhaps the clearest evidence of our reverence of the natural world is the creation of Yellowstone, the world's first national park and the perfect place to wonder at the many elements of an ecosystem. My own wonder of a particular animal in the Yellowstone ecosystem, the wolf, was recent motivation for me to wake up before the crack of dawn to travel to the park, eager at the prospect of catching a glimpse of the elusive creatures.

I travelled with a group of students from the MSU Honors College, fellow members of the seminar "Wolves in Yellowstone: A Social, Scientific, and Photographic Journey." For weeks we had discussed every aspect of the wolf, from historical to ecological standpoints, examining the mystery behind a hatred for wolves that ultimately led to their extermination from Yellowstone in 1926. We were in the midst of reading "Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone," by Douglas Smith, Senior Wildlife Biologist at Yellowstone and project leader of the wolf reintroduction. At the forefront of the reintroduction project, Smith witnessed the first packs of wolves released into the park in January of 1995. Almost 26 years later, the dynamic foundation built by those three packs (the Crystal Creek, Rose Creek and Soda Butte Packs) has evolved into its current state, with 11 wolf packs and approximately 100 wolves roaming Yellowstone. Of the three original packs, the Crystal Creek Pack, now renamed Mollie's pack, has remained together.

And so it was at sunrise on Saturday, Oct. 3 that I found myself gazing through binoculars at one of those 11 packs—the Junction Butte Pack. We were standing on top of a hill in Lamar Valley, socially distanced with a growing congregation of wolf-watchers fixated on the animals. We observed pups and adults alike travelling in groups of one or two through the valley, gradually moving towards the pack rendezvous point. One wolf pup attempted to chase a pair of antelope, which was a race quickly lost, as an antelope can run far faster than a wolf. As the sun pierced through the fog rising from the Lamar River, the wolves howled in unison, one of the most incredible sounds to

ever meet my ears. Though the wolves escaped the range of my camera lens, they did not escape my fascination and that of my classmates for the two hours we spent gawking at their antics.

Narrating this entire experience was Rick McIntyre, a wolf educator for the park and author of multiple books about the species and its restoration in Yellowstone. Through years of work with the wolf project, McIntyre rarely misses a day of observing the Yellowstone packs. As we looked on at the Junction Butte pack in awe, many of us seeing wolves with our own eyes for the first time in our lives, McIntyre was able to draw on countless observations to identify each of the individual wolves from across the valley.

Observing actual wolves is not the only way to glimpse their presence in the park. The species is responsible for a massive trophic cascade, a transformation of the food web and ecosystem structure within Yellowstone that was initiated with their reintroduction. According to Smith, the thinning of the elk population within the park as a result of wolf predation reduces the spread of brucellosis, a bacterial disease often transmitted to livestock. Infection is more prevalent among large, dense herds of elk than the small, dispersed groups formed in response to the predator. In turn, this may reduce the transmission of the disease to livestock in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, preventing the potential for cattle to abort their fetuses as a symptom of the disorder, which causes significant financial losses for ranchers annually.

Additionally, that same change in the herding behavior of elk has lessened pressure on vegetation vital to organisms at all levels of the food chain, facilitating the return of plant and animal species not seen in Yellowstone since wolves were initially exterminated from the area. Carcasses left be-



TOP A raven lifts its wing to preen its feathers. Ravens are one of the many species that benefits from the presence of wolves in the park, feeding on carcasses left behind from a hunt.

BELOW A bison wanders through a patch of sagebrush in Lamar Valley.

PHOTOS BY GABE BARNARD

hind by wolf kills feed numerous other species, from ravens to bears.

As we spent the rest of the day wandering the park, it was not difficult to imagine the elusive footprint of the wolf in the flourishing environment, nor was it hard to wonder at the complexity of its mechanisms. Understanding where humans will ultimately fit in the vast timeline of these ecosystems, however, is another mystery altogether.

U.S. Poet Laureate speaks for MSU's celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day

BY MEGHAN AMRHEIN

Language has power. Words impel movements and cease conflict. Books create communities and define cultures; villages are built within pages. For poet Joy Harjo, the power of language is a very important one. As the incumbent United States Poet Laureate, Harjo's life is based on the influence that stories have on people and how words can "shift the quality of the world." She believes it's her job as a poet "to make a place for [words] to live."

Being the United States Poet Laureate is a prestigious honor given to the best poets in the country. Harjo, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, was first appointed in 2019 and became the first Native American to hold the title. According to Harjo, The position of the Poet Laureate "represents poetry and its traditions," but it's even more personal for her, in that it has allowed her to create "a doorway [for others] to be able to see Native people... and to see that [they] too are a part of this country."

Typically, Poet Laureates travel the world to read poetry and speak on behalf of the United States. Harjo's work has taken her to many

countries and homes across the globe, where she has the opportunity to share her stories and listen to the stories of many others. However, this year Harjo said she's been stuck in her home due to COVID-19. With her extra time, she's been working on a "story map that will showcase contemporary Native poets," which she's hoping will be available in November in the Library of Congress databases.

Harjo has also been active on Zoom calls, reading poems from her desk. On Monday, Oct. 12, MSU had the pleasure of hosting her for Indigenous Peoples' Day. Previously observed as Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day for the celebration of Native cultures and histories. Traditionally, the holiday is celebratory with pow wows and festivals but, with the pandemic, MSU turned to a virtual event with Harjo to keep the spirit alive.

The event was free and open to the public, and Harjo spent time discussing her current adventures and reading from various poems, including many of her own, including "For Calling the Spirit Back," "Rabbit is up to Tricks," and "How to Write a Poem in the Time of War." Though there were some small technical difficulties, her message still rang true — the words we speak and the things we do mean something. "Poets are truth-tellers," she said. "And poetry is the language beyond words. [We] speak the things that cannot be spoken, and hold the things that are too heavy to hold."

After the event, the Exponent had the wonderful pleasure of interviewing Mrs. Harjo, and we spoke about her career and goals as she continues to share her poetry with the world. Here she shared another message with me — the importance of listening. "We have all of these listening devices, and yet they're not teaching us how to listen," Harjo said. She told readers that many of her poems are inspired by stories that she hears along her journey, and she had to learn how to truly listen. "There are many levels to listening, that's what poetry has taught me," Harjo mentioned. "The best skill [we can] develop is the skill of listening."

"...poetry is the language beyond words. [We] speak the things that cannot be spoken, and hold the things that are too heavy to hold."

— Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate

Learning to listen hasn't been her only obstacle, however. Harjo has faced much adversity in her career. From being a single mother of two children to struggling to get published, she worked incredibly hard to find her place in poetry. Her strongest piece of advice is to "[stay] with it, and believe in yourself." She that "there's been setbacks, there's been years where I wasn't published, or I was turned down," but she never gave up because poetry was "a calling" for her.

This calling began when she was in college at the University of New Mexico. Harjo started writing originally as a way to get involved in Native rights movements and has now been writing for over 45 years. Her culture and heritage continue to play a large role in her work so many years later. "It's just there... I became very aware of the responsibility that what I create isn't about me or for me, it's a tool to be used for the people." And Harjo's writing does exactly that. She connects people in amazing ways through her use of language. Her poems are about transformation, love, pain and connections. She believes poets are meant to "speak precisely about what's going on around the world," so she uses her platform to create change and make a lasting impression.

Harjo's last piece of advice to the students of MSU was that "we are the head of our own destinies," we are the leaders of our own lives and "how a leader speaks and the quality of the words which they speak make a huge difference in the experience of the one's they're leading." According to Harjo, we have to always be paying attention to the words we say and must choose to use our words for empowerment rather than degradation.

Harjo's poems are an inspiration to everyone. Readers can each take something different from the message behind the words, which is what makes them so powerful. She has become a voice for Native and Indigenous Peoples and has given Natives a place to share their poems and writing. "I do it to remind people of who we are, that we're all people of this Earth," Harjo said.

U.S. POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO POSES
FOR A PORTRAIT ON JUNE 6, 2019.
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DESIGN BY TIM LEE

OPINION

A Nation of the People

BY EMMA MORGAN

A daunting time looms ahead for the American people as voting commences to determine the next leader of the free world. From the highest-ranking government officials to the youngest of voters, everyone has a different perspective on what it means to live in the United States of America and what the future of our country should look like. This election season is a time where those perspectives clash, both in the voting booth and in our everyday lives. Some people shy away from any discussion of politics for the fear of creating animosity. Other people actively support candidates through social media, rallies, donations and an array of cleverly-worded bumper stickers. People are separated, judged, and celebrated for who and what they support; however, Americans are missing the bigger picture. Policy is important, but who we have as president does not define us as a country. Soon, that president's term will be over, and we get to choose our next leader. Each president is the face of the nation for the time they are in office, but throughout every president's term, the citizens are the true drivers of the country. It is us, the people of the United States, who change our nation with our everyday actions.

The presidential position might seem like an all-powerful role, but it is not. Each president is limited by checks and balances by Congress and the judicial branch. The president, and other members of the executive branch, primarily put plans into action for the country. Even though the president might have the power to take a given action, the judiciary and legislature are responsible for confirming the legality and appropriateness of it. This balance is one of the true powers of our democracy, because it spreads the power of our leaders. It allows the people a stronger representation because we can vote for the president, vice president and members of Congress and the Senate.

There is a rising argument that the checks and balances within the three branches of government are deteriorating. *The Atlantic* claims in

an article titled "Congress Has Lost Its Power Over Trump" that President Trump is ignoring the powers Congress has over him. In one instance, Congress refused to fund the president's wall along the southern border. This is perfectly within their power, since they have the power of the purse. However, President Trump bypassed their decision and, under the premise of a national emergency, illegally used other funds set aside by Congress with no objection from the Senate.

With actions like this happening within our government, it seems sensible that the American people should be concerned about who will hold office next. The president has power and if any president illegally amplifies their power, the American people seem hopeless to do anything about it.

This is not entirely true. Even if our elected officials do not do what we want for our country, we have power as citizens to shout against the government and live our lives by the virtues we want the rest of America to uphold. We have the freedom of expression. With this freedom comes the power to peacefully oppose the government. This makes us, the citizens of this country, immensely powerful, particularly in large groups. We can raise awareness of ideas and issues with petitions, marches, and strikes to prompt not only policy change but also societal change. This might seem hopeless and small without the backbone of policy, but policy changes happen after the people create change at the local level.

We don't interact with the government directly every day, but we constantly interact with our fellow citizens. We create and break communities, ideas, and progress depending on what we do as individuals. Each one of us has the potential to change another person's perspective on the world. It's this formation of communities and prosperity of ideas that embodies the backbone of the United States.

Take a look at the MSU campus. People come together to live, learn, and communicate their ideas freely. We create communities based on educational interests, professions, and hobbies.

What the president does in his oval office might impact our nation, but it is our day-to-day interactions that drive our society.

It is us, the people, who make movements happen, lend help to our neighbors, and build foundations of what it means to live in the United States. I hope, when a president is inaugurated this upcoming January, no one in this country will lose hope in America. Believe in yourself. Believe in your fellow citizens. We, the people, make the United States.



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Elementary Elitism

BY ALYSSA TOMPKINS

When someone gets more attention, they are encouraged to do more work. Elementary school children are no different. But when this attention is negative, the resulting behavior in the student is negative as well. Students who are self-motivated to be attentive in the classroom are often praised for their actions, while a student who is not receptive gets criticized or punished. From the surface, this system seems to make sense: those who work hard will be rewarded and those who don't put forth the same effort are not. Yet, digging a little deeper shows negative results in this practice. Rather than focusing on errors, teachers (and those who are studying elementary education) must focus on what children are doing well and encourage them to do better.

According to a study titled "Effects of teachers' praise-to-reprimand ratios on elementary students' on-task behaviour," students should be praised for their good actions and not reprimanded for bad ones. This study was led by Paul Caldarella, Ph.D., of Brigham Young University and followed 2,536 students across the United States for three years. According to the study, "the children observed were shown to focus on tasks up to 20% to 30% more when teachers were required to consider the number of praise statements given, compared to the number of reprimands." Caldarella

further states, "Praise is a form of teacher feedback, and children need that feedback to understand what behavior is expected of them, and what behavior is valued by the teacher."

Elementary-aged students are especially susceptible to forming problematic relationships with school. If a student is constantly called out in front of their peers for having an issue in the classroom, they are likely to unknowingly associate the same embarrassment or negative feelings towards learning. Classical conditioning, a theory developed by Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov in 1905, is "a learning process that occurs when two stimuli are repeatedly paired: a response which is at first excited by the second stimulus is eventually elicited by the first stimulus alone." This means that once a student has repeatedly associated negative feelings with the classroom, simply being in the classroom can elicit negative feelings. Furthermore, reprimanding students in front of their peers has lasting negative effects. According to the American Federation of Teachers, humiliation should be avoided in the classroom. The only thing that reprimanding students in front of others achieves is showing all of the students in the classroom that if they try and fail, their failure will be broadcasted to all of their peers.

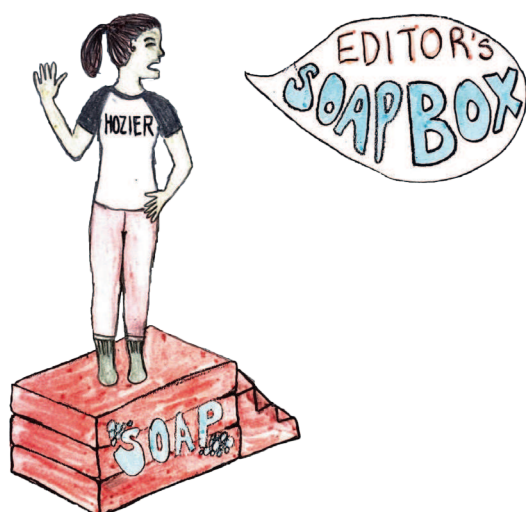
Students who are acting out in the classroom usually have an underlying reason for their behavior. Attention

Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) have been proven to result in actions that sometimes cause a student to be deemed disruptive by an educator. According to *ADDitudemag.com*, a magazine dedicated to bringing awareness to ADD and ADHD, "a child who's unable to express his opinion may throw his pencil across the room." This means that instead of punishing the student for their outburst, teachers need to instead help the student verbalize their frustrations, then take the necessary correctional steps.

The most important thing for teachers and parents to do when a child acts up in a classroom is to let the child know that their feelings are valid. Often, both teachers and parents just tell the child to calm down or to relax. *DevelopingMinds.net.au*, a website with tips for teachers, says that before attempting to fight the problem through discipline, the authority figure should first empathize with the student and let them know that their problems are a part of life. A more thoughtful and positive approach to children in the classroom helps the student to feel more secure in their emotions and learning ability.

Will You Accept this Unfinished Homework?

BY GRACE LARSEN



Today is Wednesday, which means tonight is Production Night. For those of you readers who don't know, Production Night in the *Exponent* office officially begins at 7 p.m., but realistically starts anywhere between 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We typically wrap up around 1 a.m., and myself and two other members of the editorial staff wait an additional 20 minutes to make sure all the files are sent to our printer.

All of this means that on Thursday mornings, I am typically dragging my sorry butt home from the SUB to my apartment at 1:30 in the morning and sleeping until about 10 a.m. Then, I roll out of bed and onto my first Zoom call of my three back-to-back classes that day. So, needless to say, I need to have completed all of my assignments due in my three Thursday classes by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, or else I am screwed. What am I doing on this fine Wednesday at 5:51 p.m. you ask? Certainly not my homework. No, I am watching the season premier of "The Bachelorette."

I'm hopping on here to ask all of you Bachelor Nation haters to let me have my peace this fall. 2020 has been a rough year for all of us, and Peter's season of the Bachelor took place at the start of this whole storm in early spring. I am completely relying on the upcoming episodes of "The Bachelorette" to bring me out of my depression created by COVID-19, and I would invite you all to give the show a shot if you are a current naysayer. It's really quite entertaining, and most people who used to bash it tell me that as soon as they were convinced to watch one episode, they were hooked.

So yes, I may have multiple assignments due in the upcoming days. Yes I may be sleep deprived. But if you're looking for me, I'll be in the *Exponent* office on the third floor of the SUB, watching "The Bachelorette" until my eyes bleed.

CULTURE

Fall into fall festivities

BY ROSE VEJVODA



By this week last year, we were bundled up in puffy winter coats, hats and gloves, preparing for the early onset of winter. Campus had a light dusting of snow, and the Bridger mountain range was covered in a blanket of white. The colorful leaves scattered throughout town and the foothills of Bozeman had fallen and been swept away by the chilling wind.

Although the weather has begun to turn cold, as of publication, campus remains without snow and the mountains are faintly enveloped in white and

day. Luckily, there are many choices for fall activities in and around Bozeman.

One great place to spend an autumn afternoon is Rocky Creek Farm. Going to Rocky Creek Farm is a classic autumn Bozeman tradition where you can go on hayrides, to a pumpkin patch, pick apples, and press cider as part of their Fall Festival. Rocky Creek Farm is a great place to grab a perfect pumpkin for jack-o-lanterns and support local community members. Reservations are free and required. They can be made on the Gallatin Valley

the beautiful orange and yellow leaves cling to the trees, for the most part. Bozeman is being blessed with an exceptionally beautiful fall this year, and every Bobcat should make the most of it.

There are many fun things to do in Bozeman during the short Montana autumn season. Here are some of the best ways to spend this special time of year.

The first thing necessary to get into the cozy fall spirit is a cup of whatever warm beverage you like best. If you prefer tea, Townshend's Tea House is the best place to grab a comforting cup of delicious hot tea. But if you prefer a special fall latte, check out one of the many amazing coffee shops downtown including Wild Joe's, Rockford Coffee, Treeline Coffee Roasters and Zocalo.

Now that you've grabbed your warm cup of goodness, it is time to pick a fun activity for the

Botanical website at <https://www.gallatinvalleybotanical.com/>.

While the Bozeman Hay Maze has sadly been canceled this year, the Montana Corn Maze remains open. The Montana Corn Maze is located in Manhattan and offers safe, COVID-19-friendly experiences for everyone involved. Their five acre maze is available to all who are looking to satisfy their craving for fall festivities. Be sure to register for the maze online at the Montana Corn Maze website for only \$7 at <https://montanacornmaze.mazeplay.com/Products/general-maze-admission-age-4up>.

If you would rather get out and enjoy the fall foliage by escaping into the mountains, these next few weeks are a great time to do so. As the leaves continue to change, many trails around Bozeman are absolutely beautiful this time of year. You could take your bike for a loop around the Bozeman's Mainstreet to the Mountains trail system or hike into beautiful Sypes Canyon.

Additionally, a pumpkin carving contest between friends is always a good way to spend a fall afternoon, as well as a good way to minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19 out in public. Battle it out between friends and see who can carve the best MSU inspired pumpkin.

It is hard to go wrong during such a beautiful time of year in our valley. Let's get out and enjoy this beautiful weather while we can, Bobcats!

TOP LEFT A couple enjoys the sunny fall weather as they sit on a makeshift bench behind a tractor at the Montana Corn Maze in Manhattan.

BOTTOM LEFT A murder of crows flies over the Montana Corn Maze, creating an ominous feeling for this Halloween season.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KILKUTS

Worship in a fraternity house

BY GABRIEL FOUAD

When people think of the Greek letters “Chi Alpha” (XA), they group the on-campus ministry in with the fraternities and sororities at MSU, unknowingly calling the group “the Christian frat.” However, Chi Alpha isn’t even close to a typical college fraternity. It’s a ‘fraternity’ or fellowship of students that seek and follow Jesus. Their name is Greek because the New Testament of the Bible is written in that language. The letters “XA” symbolize a reminder that they are Christ Ambassadors, as the letter “Chi” in Greek translates to “Christ.”

The Chi Alpha house at 1212 S. 6 Ave. doubles as a place of worship and residency, in which students gather for meals, Bible study groups, games and other activities. The students that live in the house are separated by gender, with men on the first floor and women on the second. Tim “Timbo” Anderson, the Campus Director and pastor of XA, gives sermons in the house every Tuesday night about everything from parables told by Jesus to dating from a biblical perspective. Anderson takes a real, relatable approach to the word of God at his sermons, and he makes going to a Tuesday night service feel like hanging out with friends.

Jack Lord has been attending Chi Alpha sermons for almost four years and is now beginning his internship year with the ministry. “Before COVID[-19], we would always be here at the Chi House, and people would always trickle in,” Lord said. “We’d start with a worship song and a greeting, and then about 15-20 minutes of worship music. Then we would transition into a bit of time for fellowship.” The house has adapted to the times to accommodate the challenges presented by COVID-19. Lord continued, “This year, we’ve shortened [sermons] to 15-minute[s]...” Lord said. “Afterward, people still like to go to Buffalo Wild Wings to maintain the sense of community, and sometimes we’ll hop in the backyard and play volleyball.”

Socially distanced sermons led by various Chi Alpha staff members are being held at the Chi Alpha house, SUB Ballrooms B and C and Gaines 43 at 7:55 p.m. every Tuesday.



TOP Live music kicks off the Chi Alpha Campus Ministry group meeting on Tuesday, Oct 6.

BOTTOM Members of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministry share upcoming events in which everyone is welcome to attend.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KILKUTS

OCTOBER 15-20

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

CALENDAR

THU 15

**PANEL DISCUSSION ON PEACE IN THE WEST BANK
Virtual Event @ 11 a.m.**

This panel will feature Noor A'wad, who is Palestinian, and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, who is Israeli, and will be hosted by Franke Wilmer, a professor in the MSU's political science department. Register at tinyurl.com/EnemiestoAlliesatMSU.

LIVE POKER**Cat's Paw @ 3 p.m.**

This event occurs daily at 3 p.m. Bring friends, enjoy food and drinks and win some money. Free \$20 to the first 12 buy-ins every day, and there are two tables set up for 6-handed play.

FRI 16

MUSIC AND MARGARITAS**Santa Fe Reds @ 6 - 8 p.m.**

Live music occurs every Tuesday and Friday. Stop by for a relaxing evening and good drinks.

ICE DOGS VS. YELLOWSTONE QUAKES**Haynes Pavilion @ 7:30 p.m.**

In the first series of the season, the Bozeman Ice Dogs battle the Yellowstone Quakes on Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17. Student tickets are \$5 at the gate.

SAT 17

CHILLING CAMPFIRE TOURS**MOR @ 6 p.m.**

Join the MOR for an outdoor live show that incorporates storytelling and sculpting that brings Montana's darker history and folklore to life.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at <https://sales.museumoftherockies.org/PerformanceList.aspx?month=10/1/2020>.

HEART OF THE VALLEY DOG BALL**Virtual Event @ 7 p.m.**

Dress up in your 80s inspired outfit, grab your two and four-legged best friends and have a "watch party." Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H0fLlvmeQJKEwciH_wmAxQ.

SUN 18

WORSHIP ALIVE**Norm Asbjornson Hall 153 @ 9 a.m.**

Worship Alive is a non-denominational church service held weekly at 9 a.m. Join Heirs of Love for a time of worship and fellowship. This event is also held concurrently on Zoom (Zoom ID: 686486891).

MON 19

**THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL ON MONDAY: CHIEFS
VS BILLS****FOX @ 3 p.m.**

Originally slated for Thursday, Oct. 15, 2018 MVP and reigning Super Bowl champion Patrick Mahomes leads the Chiefs against the undefeated Buffalo Bills in this delayed matchup.

PINTS WITH PURPOSE**Bridger Brewery @ 5 p.m.**

\$1 from every pint sold will go to benefit KGLT, MSU's radio station.

MONDAY RUN**SUB Bus Loop @ 6 p.m.**

Join Trail Junkies: A Running Club at MSU on their weekly run. Their runs range from 3-5 miles and will take about an hour.

TUES 20

CHI ALPHA 755**1212 S. 6th Ave. @ 7:55 p.m.**

Join students in a time of worship and fellowship at this weekly gathering.

TRIVIA TUESDAY**Virtual Event @ 7 p.m.**

Test your knowledge as you go toe-to-toe with people from around the community. Register at <https://gamenightlive.com/covid-19/> and write "Growler Guys" in the notes field so your donations go to support them during this time. Log in and play at <https://www.facebook.com/GameNightLive/>.

SUNRISE KARAOKE**Bar IX @ 8 p.m.**

Show off your singing voice (no matter how talented you may be) and have a great time.

2020 ELECTION

We are less than three weeks away from the 2020 election. Make sure to check your voter registration at <https://www.voteamerica.com>. Fill out your mail-in ballot now or make a plan to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Virtual concert: a temporary musical outlet

BY JAXSON BISHOP

Cold War Kids, an indie-rock band from Long Beach, California, held their first show out of a four-part virtual tour on Saturday, Oct. 10. The live concert started at 7 p.m. MDT and celebrated the 14th anniversary of the group's debut album, "Robbers and Cowards." The band's Saturday performance was the first time they played "Robbers and Cowards" in full, playing every song off of the 2006 album. In a post on Twitter, the band said, "first night of our virtual tour. we can't wait. grab some wine and join us."

This year has obviously been a difficult one for live music. All the summer festivals were canceled or moved to an online format, which is not the same experience as live concerts. Summer is my favorite season because I get to experience a plethora of live music. I am from Seattle, one of the music capitals of the world, which has given the world bands like "Pearl Jam," "Soundgarden," "Alice in Chains" and "Foo Fighters." These bands play a huge role in the greater Seattle community and help create opportunities for up-and-coming musicians and bands. Although this was a virtual event, seeing and hearing any band perform live is still exhilarating. Hoping they play your favorite song so you can stand up and scream takes you to a place where you can forget your current troubles. The Cold War Kids provided this temporary escape from reality that many fans, including myself, needed.

The band's virtual tour created a sense of normalcy for music lovers all over the world, providing an outlet for those who planned to buy or already bought tickets for concerts and festivals that have been canceled or postponed indefinitely. While this was a low-budget show with lower production value, that didn't take away from the emotions that exuded from every member of the band. If you are like me and are missing concerts, the Cold War Kids offer a good live music fix. If indie-rock is not your jam, Google to see if your favorite artists are doing anything to virtually connect with their fans.

Tickets for the remaining three shows each cost \$15 and can be purchased at <https://www.coldwarkids.com/>. The group's next show will feature songs from New Age Norms 1 & 2 to celebrate the release of their most recent studio album NAN2.

TOP RIGHT The Cold War Kids jam out at Byron Bay Bluesfest, a Blues and Roots music festival that hosts over 100,000 fans yearly just north of Byron Bay, Australia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE BAKER



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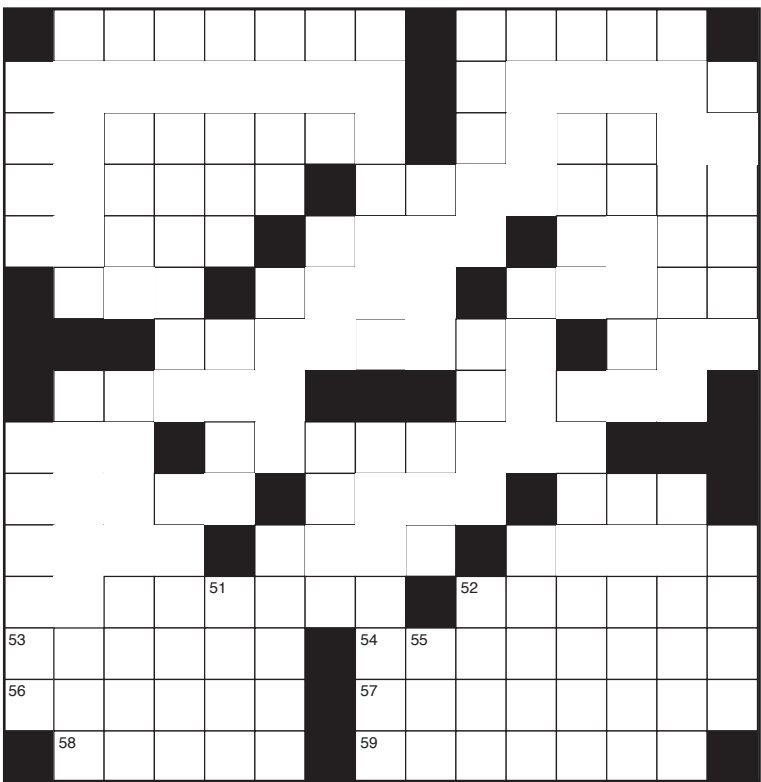
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- Across
1. More sylvan

8. Helping

13. Early photographer and inventor

14. Germany's continent, to Germans

16. Applause (plural)

17. Has dinner at home

18. Cell with an axon

19. Worker's due

21. Heart or kidney

22. Certain monster

23. ____ Iti (French Polynesian island)

24. Small portion

25. Worldwide: Abbr.

26. Grant provider

27. Supplication

30. Org. for profs

31. Underpinnings

33. Yearlong hideout for Don Juan DeMarco

35. Posed

36. Distance from the equator

40. Clear the chalkboard

42. Cross to bear

43. "How ____ love thee? Let me..."

46. Govt. branch

47. Lebowitz or Drescher

48. Walkers' woes

50. Natives of Nigeria or Libya

52. Ohio town

53. Privy

54. Broke the rules in basketball

56. Epoch in the Cenozoic Era

57. Ticks off

58. Tries out

59. Settled down

- Down
1. Shows uncertainty

2. Track choice for Lionel trains

3. Atrocities

4. Sanders of football and baseball

5. Press

6. Marine flier

7. Brief relief

8. "I'm outta here!"

9. '50s Red Scare gp.

10. Joint: Prefix

11. Darlene Conner's mom

12. "The Odyssey," for one

13. ____ evil (be good)

15. Anatolian metropolis

20. "...and to ____ good night!"

22. "Chinese Democracy" band, to fans

25. "____ small world after all..."

26. Twosome

28. Mediterranean feeder

29. Hence

31. Like some waterskiers

32. How fame comes, sometimes

34. Aromatic

35. Unperturbed

37. Unable to choose

38. Worked up

39. Winery cask

41. Steps over fences

44. Vague threat

45. Like a friend in need?

47. Mythological trio, with "the"

48. Sheltered inlets

49. Does some landscaping

51. 50 ____ (rapper)

52. Tamale alternative

55. With "A", a river in Florence

- Things not to shave with:
- A stick of butter

Your left foot

The sliver you just pulled from your big toe

Tape measure

Bandsaw

Satyr thighs

Foot corn

Bacon grease

The toenail of a billy goat

The sock fuzz between your toes

Dry heel dust

A machete

Edward ScissorHands' hands

An old copy of the *Exponent*

A cheese grater

Tongs

Mercury

A stapler

Exacto knife

A lightsaber

An icicle

Magnets

Stale Travis Scott meal

A spork

Bulgarian land mine

- The Hash Slinging Slasher's spatula
- Taco Johns' guacamole
- A tooth
- The Q.T.3 disinfectant included in the Clean 'Cat Kit™

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

Twinkies last forever; stock up for the apocalypse.

E J K M S B S F I X I N G J
C U C K O O E D U L L A L S
N G T A B M O C I T E D O M
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- Abridge

Algae

Alibi

Allude

Bards

Barring

Bullets

Caulk

Cited

Combat

Cuckoo

Cutter
- Diaries

Diner

Dozing

Fastest

Fixing

Glove

Grass

Gyrating

Impotent

Invades

Jugular

Leans
- Lodgers

Manly

Moment

Nears

Operator

Outsets

Papal

Pence

Postures

Raids

Rinds

Saffron
- Service

Shirk

Sooty

Sorrier

Sours

Stifle

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Synapses

Tomboy

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