

THE MSU
exponent

January 21, 2021

MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

CULTURE 13
**A PALACE OF
PAGES**

NEWS 3
**VACCINE PASSES
VIBE CHECK**

SPORTS & OUTDOORS 7
**DUNKIN' ON THE
COMPETITION**

OPINION 12
HAIR-BE-GONE



**Bobcats Forego
Spring Season**

PG. 8

THE MSU exponent

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FLASHBULB

A student claims victory in the first bingo round of "SINGO", one of the MSU debut events hosted by the university to welcome students back to campus for the spring semester. The musical night had students dancing and singing, and one of the bingo prizes even included a new set of Air Pods.

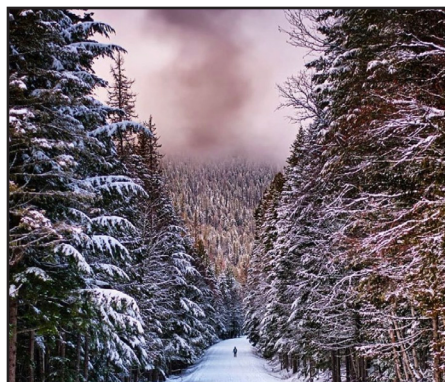
PHOTO BY CHRIS FARRER



HEARD ON THE WEB

From @corgi_haay:

“:p”



INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK

From @dcbouttephotography:

“The road less traveled by.”

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

TOI 700 D

TOI 700 is a small, dwarf star located just over **100** light-years away in the southern constellation, Dorado.

TOI 700 is thought to be tidally locked to its star, which means it rotates **once** per orbit.

It's roughly **40%** of the Sun's mass and size and about **half** its surface temperature.

TOI 700 measures **20%** larger than Earth and orbits every **37** days.

It's the **1st** Earth-size planet in its star's habitable zone.

The planet receives from its star **86%** of the energy that the Sun provides Earth.

COMPILED BY MEGHAN AMRHEIN • DESIGN BY TIM LEE

NEWS

Medical students receive COVID-19 vaccine

BY BRADEN URION

Administration of the COVID-19 vaccine on campus continues this week as MSU finishes vaccinating the last of their frontline healthcare workers. MSU received authorization from the state Department of Public Health and Human Services to vaccinate students enrolled in clinical programs late last year, and distribution of the vaccine on campus began Friday, Jan. 8.

Students currently eligible for the vaccine include those enrolled in the College of Nursing, the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) Regional Medical Education Program and the Regional Initiatives in Dental Education. Also included are those enrolled in Gallatin College's phlebotomy program as well as surgical and medical assistants. This amounts to 215 students who will be the second group to receive vaccines from the university, following MSU healthcare workers. According to the director of MSU News Service, Michael Becker, "Turnout has been exceptional, with nearly 180 [students] getting vaccinated."

Sophia Thompson, a student in her second semester of the nursing program, said, "My experience [getting the vaccine] was totally great and normal. My first vaccine shot I did great, just a super sore arm. My second vaccine I got a mild fever and chills but any symptoms only lasted around 18 hours."

"We saw a great response from the health professions students who have received vaccinations," Becker said "They were eager to get vaccinated so that they can continue

their clinical work with patients and clients."

The first wave of vaccinations was administered in the last week of December to professionals associated with University Health Partners, MSU's student health clinic. According to Jim Mitchell, the Associate Vice President for Student Wellness, the 44 doses initially provided to the university by Pfizer were enough to vaccinate most of MSU's clinical workers.

Becker expressed satisfaction with the campus' vaccination rollout. "We're very pleased with how it's gone so far. MSU, especially the staff at University Health Partners, is working very hard to put the university's vaccine program into place," he said.

MSU received approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be a COVID-19 vaccine provider in December 2020. To receive approval, the university had to prepare freezers that could maintain a temperature of at least -80°F for the Pfizer vaccine, as well as prepare freezers that could store the Moderna vaccine at temperatures between -13°F and 5°F. University Health Partners already had several suitable freezers in place, and another ultra-cold freezer is expected to be installed this month.

Plans for wider vaccine distribution amongst the student body have not yet been made. Timelines for distribution are still being adjusted at the state and federal levels.



TOP A nurse prepares a syringe before administering the new COVID-19 vaccine to a nursing student.

BELOW A nursing student receives a bandage after getting the new COVID-19 vaccine.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KELLY GORHAM / MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

BY KYLEE RUX

MSU campus leaders joined together on Friday, Jan. 15 to host a virtual celebration acknowledging one of the greatest social activists the world has ever known — Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D.

The celebration kicked off with a background on Martin Luther King Jr. organized by leaders of the MSU Black Student Union, Jessica Brito and Anaya Paschal. Brito and Paschal also recognized other influential civil rights leaders including Angela Davis and Malcolm X, and emphasized how the civil rights movement is still relevant today.

“Given the current state of race relations in our country, now is a more important time than ever to teach people about the injustices faced by Black people across America. Rather than focus on the more somber aspects of reality, we’ve decided as Black people that there is still much to celebrate in these unprecedented times,” Brito said.

This year’s celebration took a different approach as compared to last year’s event, which consisted of a series of presentations with the main goal of educating the audience. The aim of this year’s celebration was to instead demonstrate a wider perspective of the Black experience.

“We wanted to ensure that several walks of life from the Black community, as well as the Black student experience here at MSU, were represented, so we reached out to groups of Black people from different segments of the university,” Paschal said. “This way, Black people from across campus would be able to share their perspective and experience.”

After the initial introduction, Kyla Bush, a freshman thrower for the women’s track and field team, led the “Black Student-Athlete Experience Panel.” Following Bush’s presentation, MSU alum Jamelle Phillips, Lyla Brown, the student coordinator for the Diversity and Inclusion Student Commons (DISC) and MSU graduate student Bukola Salu

led the “Black Students and Patients in Health Care Panel.” Next on the agenda were student leaders from the MSU African Students Association, Elijah Adeniyi and David Lartey, who spoke about the significance behind African names. The last event of the day was “Exploring Our Identities and Profession Panel,” where DISC program manager PJ Diamond examined the intersection of work and identity with her sisters Jasmine and Jade.

Diamond closed the celebration with King’s quote, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Thawing the tuition freeze

BY PHOEBE ZEA

As Gov. Greg Gianforte’s administration begins, the 2021-22 state budget is at the top of the agenda. On Thursday, Jan. 7, Gov. Gianforte released his proposed state budget, with a total of \$100 million in cuts compared to former governor Steve Bullock’s budget. Amidst these reductions is a dramatic cut to Montana University System (MUS) funding, from Bullock’s planned \$37 million to Gianforte’s newly proposed \$11 million. A reduction in funding of this degree would force the Montana Board of Regents to reduce funding to universities like MSU, and students would ultimately feel the brunt of these cutbacks.

The reduction in funding is forcing the Board of Regents to consider ending the current two-year tuition freeze that was put in place in 2019. This would allow the board to increase tuition rates at universities to “...ensure that the quality education available at MSU continues,” said Janelle Booth, MSU’s director of governmental affairs.

Although a tuition increase would be detrimental to some students, Booth said retention rates and application

numbers remain steady as tuition increases, largely because the, “MUS as a whole has one of the lowest rates of tuition growth among its peers. So, compared to other options students have, going to school at a public university in Montana remains very attractive,” Booth said.

A reduction in funding of this degree would force the Montana Board of Regents to reduce funding to universities like MSU, and students would ultimately feel the brunt of these cutbacks.

Any money collected as a result of a tuition increase would fund “...student instruction, student support [systems] and [university] operations,” Booth explained. Furthermore, for low-income and other students struggling to grapple with the tuition increase, Booth explained that

the university continuously seeks out donors to further fund need-based scholarships to ensure every student can continue their education at MSU. “[Finding donors] is a high priority, and we award as many dollars as we have available,” she said.

While a tuition increase seems likely amid the cuts to university system funding, Booth emphasized that tuition decisions are made by the Board of Regents in their annual May meeting, which occurs after the state budget is finalized and the Montana legislature adjourns for summer. Booth also said that MSU and the MUS lobby for system funding and “...work as hard as we can to achieve our system priorities with the Legislature...” but said that the MUS remains realistic in their views as, “...there is a limited pot of money to go around, due to the state’s current economic situation.”

The Board of Regents meeting where the ultimate decision on whether or not tuition will increase will take place on Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27, at the Great Falls College-MSU campus. The potential tuition increase would go into effect this fall for the 2021-22 academic year.

MSU start-ups present at John Ruffatto

BY BRADEN URION

At the 31st annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge last fall, four MSU entrepreneur teams competed to secure business funding. Each team earned awards and monetary awards to support their various business ventures.

Thirty-one teams applied for a chance to pitch their ideas and win awards at the statewide challenge. Of those 31, nine were selected to advance to the next round, where the teams presented their businesses to a panel of judges and answered questions. Afterward, four teams were chosen for the final event. The event ran from Monday, Sept. 21 to Friday, Oct. 2, 2020.

Four of the nine competitors who advanced to the second round were from MSU. These teams were Gallatin Visual Media, Zesty Touch, SporeAttic and Legitimizer.

“I really got to know my business better through this process.”
— Kaitlin Lane, owner of Zesty Touch

Gallatin Visual Media is a science communication production company aiming to help researchers, educators and companies effectively communicate with clients through film and photography. Zesty Touch is an app created to help reduce household food waste. SporeAttic is a commercial gourmet mushroom farm that provides mushrooms to Bozeman’s restaurants and farmer’s markets. Legitim�er is a program created to stop illegitimate apps. SporeAttic and Gallatin Visual Media were two of the four to advance to the final round.

Each of the four MSU startups secured funding for their project. SporeAttic took home a total of \$10,750 — \$6,250 for tying for second place, \$3,500 for People’s Choice and \$1,000 for Intent to Launch. Gallatin Visual Media also tied for second place and earned \$6,250. Legitim�er earned \$1,800 for being a finalist and an additional \$1,500 for



Ali Moxley and Ben Deuling, co-founders of a commercial gourmet mushroom farm known as SporeAttic, earned \$10,750 in prize funding at the 31st annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, which was held virtually this fall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU NEWS SERVICE

Most Innovative, and the startup founder, Joaquin Monterrosa, took home the \$500 Brandon Speth Award for Charisma, Passion and Poise. Zesty Touch also received \$1,800 in funding for being a finalist.

The Blackstone LaunchPad offered coaching and membership to each of the MSU teams. Kaitlin Lane, the owner of Zesty Touch, said, “They [the Blackstone LaunchPad] have been such a great help. They’ve connected me with a bunch of people as well as some competitions like the John Ruffatto... they’re awesome.”

The Blackstone LaunchPad is a resource available to all students, regardless of discipline or major. Using campus resources, local business networks and one-on-one mentoring, the Blackstone LaunchPad helps young entrepreneurs see their ventures come to life.

The John Ruffatto competition is another resource available for young entrepreneurs in Montana. Aside from offering various cash awards and funding for the companies, the questions from the judges gave competitors a chance to iron out the details of their business. “They asked me questions, made me think about a ton of different ways I could go with this application, and the process of meeting people and the different ways you can go about getting your startup up and running,” Lane said. “I really got to know my business better through this process.”

For any student with an interest in entrepreneurship, the Blackstone LaunchPad is available to you. By making an appointment, you can receive the coaching, mentoring and education needed to make your business a reality.

SPORTS

Tide rolls over OSU

BY MEREDITH TEUBER

The Alabama Crimson Tide have rolled over another team to claim their 18th National Championship after a historic season. This year, the University of Alabama played against the Ohio State Buckeyes, a team heavily criticized for only playing six games due to COVID-19 restrictions in the Big 10 Conference.

This season will be remembered for many reasons, some good and some bad. Alabama head coach, Nick Saban, has now claimed his seventh National Championship, surpassing record-holder Paul Bryant, also known for his time with the Crimson Tide. Saban now holds the most national championship wins by a head coach in college football history. When asked about the accomplishment, Saban focused on his team's victory rather than his own. "I'm just happy we won tonight," he said. "I just love this team so much and what they've been able to do. I can't put it into words."

As Alabama celebrated, unfortunate news was announced. Making history in another light, the National Championship delivered the lowest ratings in over a decade. "Saturday down South" reported the numbers looked big for ESPN, but then revealed that the rating for this 2021 championship was dramatically lower in comparison to the previous year when Joe Burrow and LSU took on the Clemson Tigers with just over 25.5 million viewers. Yes, 18.7 million viewers are still worthy of a prime time spot on TV, but as viewership declines, so could college football.

Over the years, many have discussed the repetitiveness of the national championship, with the same teams appearing almost yearly. The same can be said about the Bundesliga Soccer League. The top spots in all sports are usually dominated by the same teams. It looks like the College Football Playoffs are in need of a new winning team to draw in the crowds.

Looking ahead to next season, college football needs an electrifying player to light up the field, like star Alabama wide receiver, DeVonta Smith. Back in 2018, Saban turned to quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and a few other college freshmen, including Smith, to defeat Georgia in the National Championship game. Smith brought in the 41-yard winning drive, and the legacy of DeVonta Smith was born.

"I just love this team so much and what they've been able to do. I can't put it into words."

— Nick Saban, head coach, Alabama Crimson Tide

Against the Ohio State Buckeyes, Smith recorded 12 receptions for a total of 215 yards and scored three touchdowns in the first half to lead his team to a 52-24 win. Smith left the game early due to a hand injury but returned to celebrate with his team after the game.

Smith made history as the first receiver to be awarded the Heisman Trophy since

Michigan's Desmond Howard in 1991. DeVonta also won the Walter Camp Award, Maxwell Award, Hornung Award and the Biletnikoff Award, making him the first player to win all five awards in a single season. Perhaps the biggest accolade for Smith was the ongoing recognition he received from many of the football greats on Twitter.

Davante Adams, a wide receiver for the Green Bay Packers, tweeted "From now on if u misspell my name make sure it's DeVonta." Jerry Jeudy, a former Alabama and current Broncos wide receiver shared his thoughts by calling Smith the "greatest wide receiver to play college football."

In the upcoming NFL Draft Smith is expected to be selected in the first round. For now, we will all wait and watch the legacy of DeVonta Smith unfold and imagine what an NFL career may look like for one of the all-time college football greats. As for next year, ESPN's "The 2021 Way-Too-Early college football top 25" has Clemson in the top spot with (2) Alabama, (3) Oklahoma and (4) Georgia rounding out the highest-ranked teams.

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BASKETBALL

Men's basketball sweeps Vikings

BY BEAU BAXTER

Both MSU basketball teams faced off against Portland State (PSU) last week. The women's team played on the road on Thursday and Saturday, and the men's team played both games at home in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. Though students couldn't physically attend the home games due to COVID-19 precautions, the men's team still managed impressive home performances.

On Thursday, the men's team secured an impressive 71-64 victory over PSU, adapting well to the Vikings' aggressive defensive pressure, quickness and rebounding ability. Though the game got off to a slow start, the Bobcats picked up momentum, closing the first half with an eight-point lead. By the end of the second half, the Bobcats out-rebounded one of the best rebounding teams in the conference.

"They're a team that's rebounding almost 14, 15 offensive rebounds a game," said MSU men's basketball head coach Danny Sprinkle. "I told our team 'the game really starts when they shoot,' because once they shoot, they got five guys crashing in on [the ball], and if we win the rebounding, we win the game."

Going into Saturday's game, the Bobcats had a three-game winning streak on the line with the hopes of making it to four. However, PSU had plans of its own, and came out strong with an even more aggressive defense, forcing several turnovers. Coming out of halftime six points behind, the Bobcats played it smart and aggressive, racking up big runs (at one point as high as 10 unanswered points) and 36 free throw opportunities. Starting guard Xavier Bishop scored half of his 22 points in the game from the free-throw line.

"If you wanna score the ball, you gotta be able to get to the line," Bishop said after the game. "It's really helpful for our team...you gotta get to the line to win games."

However, going to the line without fans in attendance isn't the same as it once was. Though players compete with artificial crowd noise during most games to accommodate the lack of fans, the noises

are cut during free throws, leaving the players in a silent arena with both teams anxiously awaiting the shot.

"It gets lonely at that free throw line for sure," Bishop said. "But it is what it is. We're adjusting to it, so we just gotta keep going and keep figuring it out."

The Bobcats are now undefeated in conference play, though this week's games in Flagstaff against Northern Arizona may prove a challenge.

Regardless of the win streak, Sprinkle is keeping his focus on the big picture: "We have a lot of work to do... because going to Flagstaff, it's never easy to win, and we still got 14 games left in the league. It's a long season and we just gotta continue to get better."

TOP RIGHT Senior guard Amin Adamu overcomes Vikings pressure on a dash for the hoop during the Cats' game against the Portland State University on Thursday, Jan. 14.

PHOTO BY GABE BARNARD

BOTTOM RIGHT Redshirt senior guard, Xavier Bishop, battles Vikings' center, Jacob Eyman, for a layup.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KILKUTS



Bobcats pull out of Big Sky Conference spring football season

By Jaxson Bishop

Bobcat Football head coach Jeff Choate, alongside MSU Athletic Director Leon Costello, announced that MSU will not participate in the upcoming spring season on Friday, Jan. 15. This news came alongside a similar announcement from the University of Montana and Portland State. Since the Bobcats have opted out of the spring season, they will be ineligible for the spring Big Sky Conference championship and FCS playoffs, where the Cats reached the semi-finals in 2019 for the first time since 1984.

“... and you start stacking the other reasons for why this will be difficult and challenging on top of that, my tipping point was that these kids had been through enough.”

-Jeff Choate, Bobcats football head coach

In a statement released on the Bobcat Football Twitter page, Choate said, “Here in Montana we’re uniquely challenged in keeping our student-athletes safe and healthy, which is our top priority, while preparing and playing in deep winter conditions. This is nearly impossible to accomplish given the Big Sky Conference schedule timeline.”

Choate and Costello both stressed the desire to protect student-athletes and provide a sense of stability during a tumultuous time. During the fall, the upper-division of college football saw positive COVID-19 cases which forced teams to postpone games or continue without

football’s biggest stars. The most notable example was Clemson’s star quarterback Trevor Lawrence missing two games, including an overtime loss to Notre Dame. The uncertainties that surround present-day sporting events and a desire to prepare for Big Sky play in the fall were deciding forces for the Bobcats to opt-out of the season.

“When you start with player safety and their health and well-being,” Choate said, “and you start stacking the other reasons for why this will be difficult and challenging on top of that, my tipping point was that these kids had been through enough.”

The state of play was always in flux. Choate cited rising case numbers in Arizona as well as increased restrictions in California as reasons he was not confident in a spring football season from the outset.

Choate pointed out that extreme Montana winter conditions also deterred Bobcat preparedness and violated NCAA guidelines, which stated that athletes shouldn’t participate in outdoor activities when the temperature is below 15°F. Since MSU lacks the proper indoor training facilities, practices would be limited at best.

Participating in the spring season would have also shortened the off-season and prevented the Cats from being rested and healthy for the first game of the fall against the University of Wyoming on Saturday, Sept. 4. Spring season participation would have shortened the off-season to a mere two weeks. Football is a grueling sport, one where hard-hitting collisions take a toll on a player’s body. The extremely short break from play wouldn’t have allowed players to heal from those aches and pains sufficiently before starting preparations for a new season.

“They aren’t giving their bodies an appropriate amount of time to heal and go back into that,” Choate said. “And they’re going to be asked to do it, make no mistake ... so that’s what went into our decision was looking at the totality of this concept of players safety, health and well-being.”

Costello echoed that sentiment. “The health and safety of our student-athletes is paramount,” Costello said. “The timeline for our football student-athletes to be physically prepared for the current conference schedule can’t be guaranteed given our climate and related circumstances. By altering our spring season, we will be able to focus on their physical training during the appropriate conditions and proper recovery for the fall season.”

“By altering our spring season, we will be able to focus on their physical training during the appropriate conditions and proper recovery for the fall season.”

-Leon Costello, MSU Athletic Director

The team is trying to line up two potential non-conference games to get the young players on the team experience in a live game. They are open to playing a team out of the Frontier Conference or a close Big Sky foe if a game is canceled unexpectedly. Choate expressed optimism that fans will be able to catch a couple of games during these trying times, saying, “I think we’re still going to have some Montana State football this spring. It’s just not going to be a six or eight-game schedule.”

In August of 2020, the NCAA Board of Governors announced they would extend and grant another year of eligibility to fall sport athletes. “All fall sport student-athletes will receive both an additional year of eligibility and an additional year in which to complete it,” the NCAA said in a press release. “Student-athletes who do not enroll full time during the

2020 fall term have flexibility in the progress-toward-degree requirements that must be met for eligibility in future terms."

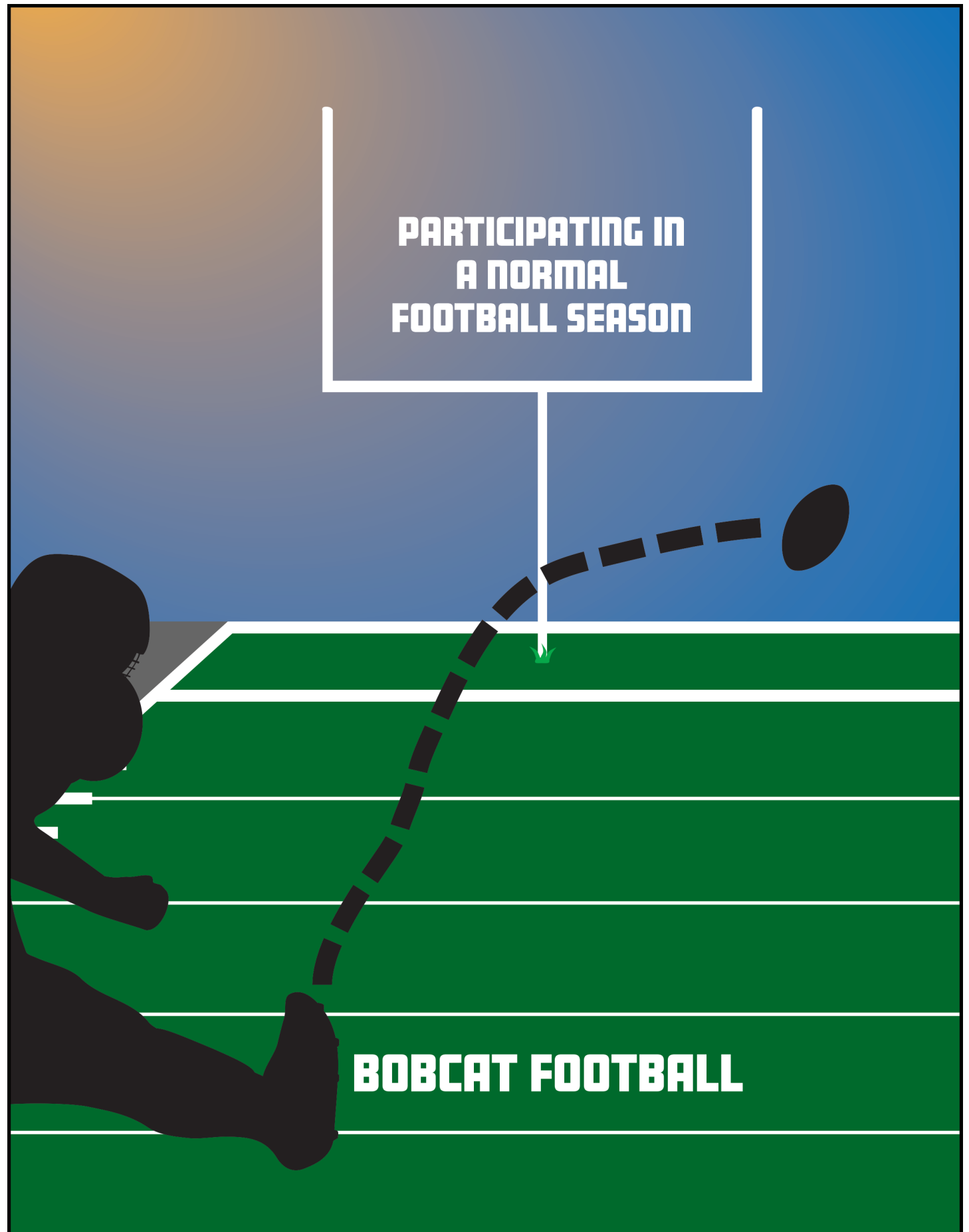
This announcement meant that seniors who take advantage of the extended eligibility will not count toward the team scholarship limits for the 2021-22 season. But with no football occurring in 2020, budget shortfalls will hit athletic departments like MSU, making this an impractical option. The NCAA's August announcement did not require schools to fund the scholarships of seniors who decide to play another year.

All this news came after Boise State announced the hiring of Oregon's defensive coordinator Andy Avalos as their new head coach after Byran Harsin departed the Broncos program and headed for Auburn. Choate was a finalist for the job, and Boise State Athletic Director Jeramiah Dickey traveled to Bozeman on Thursday, Jan. 7, to conduct an in-person interview.

Choate has connections to the Boise State program, serving as an assistant to Boise State coaching great Chris Petterson from 2006-11. After the announcement that Avalos would lead the program, Choate tweeted from his account, "God is good. I'm so thankful for all the love and support I've received over the past several weeks. While I'm appreciative to have had the opportunity to engage with Boise State, I'm thankful to be the head coach at Montana State University. #UnfinishedBusiness #GoCatsGo."

As vaccine distribution ramps up throughout the country, there is hope that we are rounding the corner on this pandemic that has put so many lives on hold. Hopefully, we will be able to pack the Sonny Holland Endzone shoulder-to-shoulder on game days in the near future. I look forward to seeing all you football fanatics soon.

Bobcat football will be back for the fall 2021 Big Sky season, where the Bobcats will look to become Big Sky champions for the first time since 2011 and compete for a National Championship title. With Jeff Choate stewarding the team, he looks to remain undefeated against the Griz. Follow Bobcat Football on social media for updates about their modified spring season.



OUTDOORS

Historic pick for Secretary of the Interior

BY BEAU BAXTER

Then President-elect Joe Biden nominated Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM) for Secretary of the Interior on Thursday, Dec. 17. This decision made headlines across the nation since Haaland will be the first-ever Native American to hold a Cabinet-level position. Her selection also marks a significant change for public land access and management compared to the previous administration.

Under the supervision of former Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke, who served in the Trump administration, the department made numerous controversial decisions regarding land use, including opening two million acres of land in Bears Ears National Monument to energy and ranching development.

In 2019, Haaland, along with other congressional colleagues, proposed a bill to restore the monument and protect the estimated 100,000 archeological sites within its original boundaries. She stated that, "Bears Ears National Monument is a treasure that I've seen with my own eyes. Part of the mission of public lands is to protect sacred sites and preserve them for future generations, but under the current boundaries at Bears Ears National

Monument those sites are at risk of disappearing forever. We can fulfill the mission of public lands and protect the culture and history of our country by ensuring the monument encompasses those areas."

The previous administration also aimed its sights on rolling back ecological protection and legislation for the wild inhabitants of the nation's public lands and parks. Most recently, a decision made in December continued rollbacks of the Endangered Species Act, narrowing protection of the habitats of endangered species—a move that Sec. designate Haaland strongly opposes.

"In his final days in office, Trump is rolling back protections listed in this bill. We must do all we can to protect our public lands & all those who inhabit them," tweeted Haaland in late December.

Though most of Montana's public lands are National Forest, (which lies within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture) Haaland's leadership will help protect much of the land and parks that Montanans call home.

"The Department of the Interior also has incredible power over how we address climate change," said Dep. Director of the Montana Wilderness

Association (MWA) John Todd. "They make lots of land management decisions that include how we develop energy resources... whether it's coal, oil [and] gas or others."

A 2017 study on the impacts of climate change on Montana found that the average temperature in Montana has risen between 2 - 3°F and put the state at an increased risk of drought and wildfire.

"Something that we [the MWA] have been watching pretty closely is her support of a bill to rename racist geographic features," Todd said. "To me, it's an access issue... It means that these places aren't welcoming to certain people."

Between reversing the environmental and ecological protections deregulation of the previous administration and pushing the department towards a progressive agenda, Haaland has her work cut out for her. However, Haaland has also made it clear she's not backing down from a challenge.

On the day of her nomination, Haaland stated, "A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior. Growing up in my mother's Pueblo household made me fierce. I'll be fierce for all of us, our planet and all of our protected land."

Gliding around Bozeman

BY GRACE LARSEN

While many Bozemanites and MSU outdoor-minded bums alike love to indulge in downhill skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, ice climbing and snowmobiling in these long winter months, I am left to wonder why more people aren't interested in ice skating. A wonderful sport and hobby that combines grace, strength, skill and passion, ice skating is accessible at a low cost to any student looking for a less time-consuming way to spend a chilly afternoon after class.

There are a plethora of locations around the greater Bozeman area to skate throughout the winter. Stephanie Shepherd, a freshman studying English writing, told the *Exponent* that she has

been really impressed with the sheer amount of available ice skating locations around Bozeman since moving here. "Bozeman has lots of opportunities for both amateur and experienced ice skaters," Shepherd said. "City parks like Bogert, South Side and Beall contain outdoor rinks, and the Haynes Pavilion at the fairgrounds has plenty of open skate times for casual skaters. For more dedicated skaters, on the other hand, the Bozeman Amateur Hockey Association has learn-to-skate programs, as well as hockey teams for all ages. The Bozeman Figure Skaters Club is another option for those looking to take private lessons or compete."

Through the ASMSU Outdoor Recreation Program (ORP), MSU students can rent skates

for periods of two days at a time — from Monday-Wednesday, Wednesday-Friday or Friday-Monday. There are DBS Blitz Skates available for \$4 for two days of skating, DBS Cougar Skates also available for \$4 for two days of skating or Jackson Ice Skates available for \$5 for two days of skating.

OPINION

DEAR

Expie...

WORDS of ADVICE

Finances and Friendships

Dear Expie,

I'm trying to find a job for the spring semester to earn a little extra money while I'm in school. Obviously, the pandemic makes the job search even harder than usual. Any tips?

— **Broke in Bozeman**

Dear Broke,

It's always tough to find a job while you're in school, especially one that works with your academic schedule. MSU has a website called hirea-bobcat.com, where MSU students can find jobs on and off campus. If you register for an account on this website, you'll be able to find a wide range of employment, and you're sure to find something that fits well with your personal and professional goals and schedule.

If you're looking for something that's a little more suited to your degree, reach out to your department and ask if they have any internships or jobs available to students. Many departments will have research or administrative positions open to students that can help you build your resume and earn a little cash at the same time.

Finally, explore resources like career fairs. The next MSU career fair is virtual and runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Here's the link to register: <http://www.montana.edu/aycss/careers/events/career-fairs-and-events.html>.

Dear Expie,

I've been struggling to keep up good communication with my friends lately. I have friends who live in different cities than me, and I haven't been able to see them in person in ages. I feel like when I reach out, they don't answer often, and I'm not sure how to keep up a friendship virtually. Please assist!

— **Fearful Friend**

Dear Fearful,

Online communication is almost always a little rougher than in-person. You have to worry about awkward pauses in text conversations, your Snaps being left on read and lag over video chat. It's not your fault that you're struggling to keep up!

Reach out to your friends and tell them how you're feeling. Chances are that they feel the same way. Text conversations are great, but sometimes you need a little more than that. Take a shot at setting up a weekly phone

call, video chat or movie night to spend some one-on-one time with them. Stay involved in their lives, even if it feels difficult.

Someday soon, we'll all be able to spend more time in-person with our loved ones again. Until then, stay safe and stay kind.



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Armpit Hair is Everyone's Problem

BY EMMA MORGAN

We need to talk about something really hairy: armpit hair. Everyone is born with it, and everyone needs to shave it.

It's time for armpit hair to go. It only exists to collect foul cauldrons of sweat, grime and odor strong enough to befuddle the minds of everyone within a hundred-foot radius.

Just talk to anyone who had to play basketball in middle school P.E. I'm sure you know how it goes. You're dribbling the ball down the court, so excited that you finally have a chance to prove your mediocre skills. Against all odds, you've made it to the hoop. Just as you're jumping to make a "perfect" three-pointer, Gavin stops you. No, not with his hands, but by blocking your entire face with his armpit. That's when his swamp

of armpit hair squelches along your cheek, leaving a trace of disgrace along its way.

We all have armpit hair, but what we make of it is what defines us.

If you didn't experience this event with a Gavin, it was bound to happen from the likes of a Jason, Esteban or Connor. It may have even occurred with a Chloe, Rachel or Andrea. If you don't remember an encounter like this, chances are that you were one of them. In that case, I implore you to shave your armpit hair for the good of those around you. You might also notice

a beneficial decrease in itchiness and sweat stains as well as an increase in airflow and date offers.

Armpit hair isn't just a lady issue either, though there has been a social stigma against women having armpit hair for hundreds of years. According to Allure's "A Retrospective Look at Women's Body Hair in Pop Culture" Roman poet Ovid urged women to shave by saying, "no rude goat find[s] his way beneath your arms." Well, no "rude goat" should find its way beneath any arm. Armpit hair is unhygienic for everyone.

We all have armpit hair, but what we make of it is what defines us. Be known as a kind and cleanly soul — shave that armpit hair.

A Reason to Act Up, Speak Up, and Show Up

BY RILEY FERRÉ



The first week of classes is complete, and what could be a better way to celebrate than with a three-day weekend? The holiday gives us one more day to ski, go out with friends, have late-night dance parties and study (of course).

Amongst the excitement of an extra "day off," which is like gold to college students, it's also important to take the time to reflect on what Martin Luther King Jr. Day symbolizes and the significance of this holiday amidst the racial inequality present in the U.S. today. Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D., went down in history for his leadership in the civil rights movement, his selfless actions and his passion to create change in the face of hatred, violence and brutality. He did not stop when faced with adversity, and his powerful voice inspired many to speak up.

The holiday dedicated to MLK Jr. is about service, coming together and shining a light on how America continues to uphold institutional racism and white supremacy.

Now that the day has come and gone, I urge you to continue to think about what you can do, no matter the scale, to truly embody the ideals for which King gave his life fighting for. The pandemic may limit the number of marches, speeches and parades that can be attended, but we all know our society would benefit from one more person speaking up, fighting for justice or performing

a seemingly simple, selfless action that could have a significant ripple effect. Racial justice has not yet been attained, and there are still marginalized groups experiencing oppression, injustice and hatred simply because of the color of their skin.

Yes, celebrate the extra day off from classes and work, but also be inspired by the day and its cause. Speak up, use your voice and learn from the actions of a man who paved the way for change, power and love.

Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D, during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, during which he delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech, calling for an end to racism.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROWLAND SCHERMAN

CULTURE

Small business shoutout: Country Bookshelf

BY ROSE VEJVODA

As COVID-19 continues to rear its ugly head, it has become especially important to support our small, local businesses that add so much to the culture and experience of Bozeman. One great shop to support this year is Country Bookshelf, the quaintest book store around.

Country Bookshelf is a local, independent bookstore in the heart of historic downtown. The shop was first founded in 1957 by Polly Renne. Since then, the store has occupied several different locations, including the little white chapel on West Main Street. Today, the bookstore is owned by Ariana Paliobagis.

The atmosphere of the store itself is something out of a dream. As you walk into the door, you're greeted with two floors full of beautiful books. Couches and chairs are scattered throughout the shop, inviting visitors to take a seat and flip their way through a big stack of novels. A calm quietness normally inhabits the store, setting you at ease. According to the Country Bookshelf website, "We are the bookstore everyone dreams of — two floors of hand-selected volumes, knowledgeable, caring staff, and events to expand horizons."

According to the website, the beloved bookstore strives to be "the place where people go to feel part of their community, of something bigger than themselves, a place to experience the power of literature and conversation, a place to feel safe, not judged, and encouraged to explore ideas and identities."

They don't just sell books, either. The Country Bookshelf also hosts events regularly including book clubs, book signings, talks with various authors, different workshops and open mic nights where all are welcome to share their voice. The shop consistently provides people with a comfortable and non-judgemental environment.

In order to help make picking out a book easier, Country Bookshelf includes staff recommendations within the store and on its website. In fact, you can find a staff member that enjoys the same literature as you and peruse their listed recommendations.

Whether you have some Christmas money to spend or a New Years' resolution to read more books, The Country Bookshelf is the perfect place to whisk away a winter afternoon.



TOP Books line the walls of Country Bookshelf while curious Bozemanites wander in search of an interesting new read.

BELOW A reader peruses the books available on the second story of the Country Bookshelf, one of the largest book stores in Bozeman.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS FARRER

JANUARY 21-27

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

CALENDAR

THU 21

WHAT'S KILLING THE BEES?**Zoom Call @ 6 p.m.**

Join Michelle Flenniken, MSU microbiologist and co-director of MSU's Pollinator Health Center, for an exciting conversation about honey bee colony health. It's free to all, and participants will receive an email from Belgrade Library on the day of the event with the Zoom link and instructions to join the program. Email olli@montana.edu to get on the list.

BOBCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL**Pluto TV @ 6 p.m.**

Watch the Bobcats play the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks at <https://pluto.tv/live-tv/montana-state>.

BOBCATS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**Pluto TV @ 7 p.m.**

Catch the women's basketball team going head-to-head against Northern Arizona University at <https://pluto.tv/live-tv/montana-state>.

FRI 22

INTRO TO BOULDERING CLINIC**Marga Hosaeus Fitness Center @ 3:30 p.m.**

This clinic is an introduction to the basics of climbing. Learn the fundamentals such as hold types, movement styles and different techniques. Make sure to RSVP at <https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6655130>

AN EVENING WITH JEANETTE, THE MUSICAL**Warren Miller Performing Arts Center @ 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.**

A continuation of WMPAC's relationship with a Broadway-bound musical about one of Montana's most celebrated historical figures. This production is an epic pop musical based on the true story of America's first Congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin. Get in-person or online tickets at <https://warrenmillerpac.org/event/an-evening-with-jeannette-the-musical/>.

SAT 23

"SAVAGE ANCIENT SEAS" EXHIBIT**Museum of the Rockies**

Museum of the Rockies presents the new changing exhibit "Savage Ancient Seas", which will be on display from January 23 to May 2, 2021. Dive into an ancient underwater world of 70 million years ago, when carnivorous fish and giant sea reptiles swam a vast, shallow sea spanning North America.

SATURDAY SWEAT - FREE COMMUNITY WORKOUT**Mountains Walking Brewery @ 8 a.m.**

Join Mountains Walking Brewery for a morning workout. Each week will be an all-levels partner or team workout, so bring friends. Classes are free to the

community and open to all levels of fitness. For more information, check out movingmountainsmt.com.

BOZEMAN WINTER FARMERS' MARKET**Gallatin Valley Fairgrounds @ 9 a.m. - Noon**

The Bozeman Winter Farmers' Market has started up again. Each market has over thirty vendors selling an array of food and farm-based products. Check out the market on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

SUN 24

BOBCAT WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL**Pluto TV @ 2 p.m.**

Watch the first women's volleyball game of the 2021 season, as the Bobcats face off against Northern Colorado.

TUES 26

KORU MINDFULNESS TRAINING**WebEx Call @ 6 p.m.**

Attend MSU's mindfulness course, taught by two professors at MSU. Materials and instruction for the course are completely free and will be done over WebEx. The class is limited to 12, so RSVP as soon as possible at <https://wwwtest.montana.edu/calendar/events/36626> or contact the Office of Health Advancement at koru@montana.edu to learn more.

MONTANA RACIAL EQUITY PROJECT'S BOOK CLUB**Bozeman Public Library @ 6:30 p.m.**

Join the Montana Racial Equity Project (MTREP) for a discussion about social justice and inequities regarding people of color and minorities. This month, the club will be covering Barack Obama's "A Promised Land." For more information, contact MTREP at (406) 624-6820 or see their website at <https://www.themtrep.org/>.

WED 27

SUSTAINABILITIES IN POLICY**Zoom call @ 2 p.m.**

In this lecture, Julian Agyeman, Ph. D, will outline the concept of just sustainabilities as a response to the 'equity deficit' of much sustainability thinking and practice. He will also explore his contention that who can belong in our cities will ultimately determine what our cities can become. To join... Zoom Meeting ID: 884 8704 6209 Passcode: usMZ2G

TRIVIA NIGHT**Pine Creek Lodge @ 7 p.m.**

Test your trivia knowledge at the Pine Creek Lodge. Teams are limited to 6 people, and it's \$2 to play. Win gift cards and other prizes.

All the small things

BY QUINCY BALIUS

We've all heard the old saying: "Appreciate the little things in life." While it may seem cliché, there's some merit behind it. According to a *Time Magazine* article titled "The Simple Thing That Makes the Happiest People in the World So Happy," happiness is based upon an appreciation for the small things in life. Slowing down to savor the little joys in our lives can improve our lives overall.

Focusing on these little things has not only made me happier but also helped me feel more in control, no matter how bad the world around me gets.

For me, appreciating the small things has been particularly difficult during the pandemic. There are many days that I wake up and feel like there's no reason to be happy. Reading the news or doom-scrolling through social media often strengthens my overwhelming exhaustion and depression. Especially during lockdowns and quarantines, my world seemed to shrink, and I lost so many of the things that made me happy pre-pandemic.

However, taking a moment to find joy in small things has always helped. Whether it's reading a few pages of a good book, enjoying a particularly delicious cup of coffee or laughing for a good five minutes at a joke during a Dungeons and Dragons session, the moments parts of my life are now the things that give me the most happiness. Focusing on these little things has not only made me happier but also helped me feel more in control, no matter how bad the world around me gets.

In addition, there's a good chance that the effects of appreciation could go beyond the span of

the pandemic. According to a study titled "Appreciation uniquely predicts life satisfaction above demographics, the Big 5 personality factors, and gratitude" published in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*, appreciation is linked to higher life satisfaction than personality traits, gratitude and the Big Five personality traits. Appreciating the small things now could set the stage for an entire life filled with joy.

I'm not saying that you always have to look at the world through rose-colored glasses, and I understand the way that mental and physical health issues can affect joy. However, despite the incredibly painful and difficult period of history in which we're all living, there are small moments of happiness that we can all seek out and treasure.

We can all agree that 2020 was a terrible year. Looking forward, let's try to create as much joy as we can in 2021. Take a deep breath and look for the little things.

How COVID-19 has changed our music preferences

BY RILEY FERRÉ

Music is everywhere. It's in the headphones of college students as they study for class, the lift lines at Bridger Bowl and our kitchens during late-night dance parties. Music can be used as an escape, an inspiration or a motivator. It can be used to bring people together and enhance moments that will later be fond memories.

Throughout this pandemic, individuals have been forced to change routines and lifestyles in ways that could never have been predicted at the start of 2020. Songs and listening habits have altered due to stress, less social interaction and an increase in uncertainty regarding the routine of day to day life. Maya Kemp, a freshman at MSU, stated, "My top song of 2020 was 'Peach Fuzz' by Caamp. While I don't think it was extremely influenced by the pandemic, it is a very upbeat and happy song, which is something that I think I needed throughout 2020. I generally am a very positive and social person, which made 2020 a little bit hard, so listening to happy music brought me a lot of joy this year." We have all felt a variety of emotions throughout these unknown times, and those emotions have been found in our playlists and favorite albums.

On Monday, March 30, 2020, Spotify published an article titled "How Social Distancing Has Shifted Spotify Streaming." In this article, they described streaming trends based on listening from March 19-25 (when most of the world population was stuck at home) and noted that, "streaming of The Police's 'Don't Stand So Close to Me' saw more than a 135% spike in streams in recent weeks." Spotify also observed that streaming in kids and family content increased as kids were home from school and that listeners were adding more "chill" songs to their playlists (including more acoustic and instrumental tracks).

Listening behaviors and music preferences accurately reflect the general mood of the global society and provide a different perspective into just how much life has really changed throughout the past year. It would be interesting for us all to look at the data on our Spotify or Apple Music apps and see what we learn about ourselves. Every one of us has songs that are meaningful in some way and remind us of memories, lessons learned or pain endured.

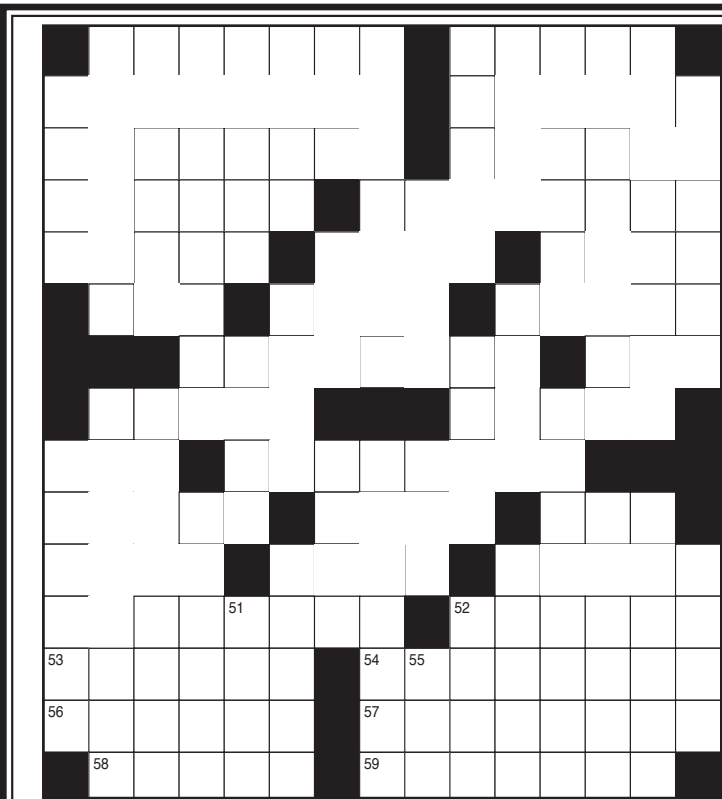
Looking back at my Spotify playlist titled, "Your Top Songs of 2020," I noticed that my number one song this year was "Georgia" by Vance Joy, and I'm not sure whether or not I should be embarrassed by that fact. I played this song on repeat when I had to return home early

from traveling abroad due to risks involving COVID-19. This song allowed me to reminisce on memories from traveling while I was stuck at home, and always made me feel a different way each time I revisited it. Looking back on this playlist made me realize that my feelings of wanderlust and confusion caused by the pandemic were significantly counteracted by the words and rhythm of my top song.

What has your life been like since March of 2020, from the lens of your top songs, artists and albums?



A playlist of the *Exponent* editorial staff's current favorite songs. In order to find it, first open the Spotify app on a mobile phone, go to the search tab, then click the camera icon in the top right corner. From there you can simply scan the code above to open the playlist.



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

- Alike

Carts

Cavity

Debrief

Drawings

Duets

Exalting

Fictions

Framing

Frisks

Genes

Gents
- Genus

Golfed

Green

Heart

Imprints

Learn

Lunging

Maidens

Makeups

Mystic

Ovens

Peels
- Pixie

Plops

Quash

Sheen

Shell

Slept

Stows

Suede

Suffrage

Sworn

Tactless

Tending
- Topic

Torsos

Toying

Tracked

Tread

Twelfths

Twirls

Wrested

Across

1. Dry as a desert

8. Apathetic

13. Sodium ____ (table salt)

14. Collision type

16. Be penitent

17. Take ____ to (like)

18. Cook leftovers

19. Musically gifted sort

21. Legal orders

22. Trevi Fountain site

23. Rent-____

24. Trippy drug

25. Lanai neighbor

26. Japanese cartoon art genre

27. Joined the military

30. CPR practitioner

31. Stairway anchor

33. Adult nit

35. Pole

36. Quality of a ghost town

40. "Let ____ Cake" (1933 Gershwin musical)

42. Biz network

43. Bygone channel

46. Fivers

47. "The Lion King" daughter

48. "____ of One's Own": Woolf wo

50. Made ____

52. ____ skiing

53. Frog, at times

54. Sheets and pillowcases

56. They may be precious

57. Like 50-50 odds

58. Have a feeling

59. Goes back on

Down

1. Jewish village of old

2. Greetings in Oahu

3. Green-fleshed melon

4. Bailiwicks

5. Estrangement

6. Big fuss

7. ____ Nelly

8. Apportion equally

9. Assay

10. Certain Hawaiian islander

11. Senseless acts

12. Clear broth

13. Mercury and Saturn

15. Web-based virtual animal

20. Faux (abbr.)

22. Bollywood star Aishwarya ____

25. Miss, in Marseilles: Abbr.

26. Kerfuffles

28. Old hair removal brand

29. Part of GE

31. Election slate

32. Without teeth

34. Seizing without authority

35. Shoot anew

37. Some DVD players

38. Close to a delivery

39. Hoops grp.

41. Broom closet item

44. "Grosse ____ Blank"

45. Lack of information

47. White uniform wearer

48. Kate's sitcom friend

49. "Send ____ Wine" (1969 song b Moody Blues)

51. Snigglers' quarry

52. Arabian gulf

55. Chemical suffix

Superior Skills of Butters the Corgi:

- Yodeling

Sword swallowing

Not blinking while sneezing

AP style ninja

Parkour

Quantum physics

Disarming the Bulgarian land mine

Straight up cheesin'

Composing symphonies

Exploring the depths of the ocean

Performing open-heart surgery

Turning water into wine

Parting the Red Sea

Spelunking

Underwater basket weaving

Government assassin

Echolocation

Setting the vibe

Cooling molten lava with his stare

Raising the temperature of a room 10° F upon entry

Teaching Nickelback how to play guitar

Seeing the future through black holes

Wielding the powers of magnetism

Defeating every chess grandmaster known to man

Brewing kombucha
Carving David from ice

Eating Cheetos™ without getting orange dust anywhere

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

The daddy-longlegs has the world's most powerful venom, but its fangs are so small that it can't bite you.

CODE: D2W787GH

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	2			5	1		9
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