

THE MSU

exponent

February 25, 2021

MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

NEWS
GALLATIN FIRE
DEPTS: ON AIR

4

SPORTS & OUTDOORS
TREKKING THROUGH
THE SNOW

7

CULTURE
FOOD FOR
THOUGHT

12

OPINION
DOUBLE DOWN
AND DOUBLE
MASK



Deadly Backcountry Conditions



PG. 8

THE MSU exponent

Volume 115, Issue 19

Since 1895 the MSU Exponent has been publishing original content for students, faculty and the university community. Funding comes from an annual student fee and revenue from our advertisers. Every Thursday during the academic year you can pick up a copy, or visit us online at www.msuexponent.com.

For corrections, letters to the editor or any other inquiry you have, contact the Editor-in-Chief or stop by the office.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Grace Larsen
ExponentEditor@montana.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Gabe Barnard
ExponentProduction@montana.edu

NEWS EDITOR

Phoebe Zea
ExponentNews@montana.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Jaxson Bishop
ExponentSports@montana.edu

OPINION EDITOR

Phoebe Zea
ExponentOpinion@montana.edu

CULTURE EDITOR

Meghan Amrhein
ExponentEntertainment@montana.edu

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Chris Farrer
ExponentPhoto@montana.edu

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

Abby Elliott
exponentads@gmail.com

LEAD LAYOUT DESIGNER

Veronika Turner

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR

William Lamberty



To the best of the Exponent's knowledge, all advertisers are compliant with state and federal laws. Advertisements do not necessarily represent the mission or views of the Exponent.

COVER DESIGN BY TIM LEE
COVER PHOTO BY DANE WILLIAMS
COVER CUTOUT BY GABE BARNARD

TALK BACK!

Like us? Hate us? Tell us! Slide into our DMs or tag us on all your favorite social media platforms and let us know what you think. We want to hear all your gripes, rants and glowing reviews!



#msuexponent



@MSUExponent



@MSUExponent



@MSUExpo



FLASHBULB

Students glide across the snow at a cross country ski race hosted by the MSU Cross Country Ski Club on Friday, Feb. 19. The race invited all skill levels to participate and the Outdoor Recreation Center rented free skis to those who needed them.

PHOTO BY DANE WILLIAMS



HEARD ON THE WEB

From @yellowstonenps:

“A male Great Horned Owl will roost during the day and hunt at night to feed his mate when she is incubating eggs.”



INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK

From @proceedtoamerica:

“Send this to someone you would go here with.”

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

FACTS ABOUT QUOKKAS

- Quokkas have round, compact bodies that are 16-21 inches in length.
- Male quokkas usually weigh about 5 – 10 pounds, but females are slightly smaller at 3 – 8 pounds.
- Quokkas love to climb trees! They can ascend as high as 4 – 6 feet, which is pretty good for their size.
- The average lifespan of a quokka is 10 – 15 years. They live longer in captivity than in the wild.
- Rottnest Island is the only place quokkas still come together in large numbers: There are as many as 12,000 of them there.
- Due to deforestation, there are less than 14,000 total in the wild and they're considered vulnerable to extinction.



COMPILED BY MEGHAN AMRHEIN • DESIGN BY KATY SESTAY

NEWS

Understanding LGBTQ+ undergrads in STEM

BY KYLEE RUX

For years it has been known that attracting women to the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) is difficult; however, a new study conducted by MSU higher education professor Bryce Hughes, Ph.D., reveals this is also the case for LGBTQ+ undergrads. Hughes' research, published in 2018, was the first to provide quantitative evidence showing that students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or queer were 7% less likely than their heterosexual peers to complete a STEM degree. With the help of his recent five-year, \$695,000 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) grant from the National Science Foundation, Hughes will be able to further study the experiences of LGBTQ+ undergraduates in STEM fields.

Hughes analyzed data from a national survey given to 4,000 students at 78 institutions across the nation in 2011 and 2015 to see whether first-year students who identify as LGBTQ+ were still pursuing a STEM degree by their fourth year. In this research, Hughes was unable to specifically examine the experiences of transgender and gender non-conforming students due to statistical limitations with the data collected, but will do so in future studies.

In order to have a better understanding of the barriers LGBTQ+ undergraduates face, Hughes will explore their

different experiences as well as identify policies, practices and interventions to address these concerns. His project will scrutinize three different areas of study.

First, Hughes will delve into the social networks of LGBTQ+ STEM students from various campuses and will compare these networks to those of their heterosexual, cisgender counterparts to see whether they have stronger STEM networks. Students participating in the study will also rate the degree to which they disclose information about their gender identity and sexual orientation within their networks.

Secondly, Hughes will compare the rates for completing STEM degrees in four, five and six years between LGBTQ+ students and their peers, along with the differences in overall college degree completion rates. This data will be collected from the National Student Clearinghouse, the Higher Education Research Institute and the National Center for Education Statistics.

During the last part of his study, Hughes will focus on the discipline-based identities and future career goals of LGBTQ+ STEM students. By exploring these topics, Hughes will be able to understand how students view themselves compared to their discipline as well as their hopes for the future.

Overt discrimination, peers questioning your competence and a feeling of not being welcome can limit an LGBTQ+ students' participation in the field. There are

also more subversive factors. "[In STEM fields there are] demands to keep the personal out of the professional," Hughes said. Because of this, LGBTQ+ students and other minorities may feel pressured to fit into the white, heterosexual male standard of these fields. "If you're in the majority you don't realize the parts of your identity that are validated," Hughes said.

John Paxton, professor and director of the Gianforte School of Computing and an advisor to MSU's chapter of Out in STEM, has also seen a need for work for LGBTQ+ students in STEM.

"Because the LGBTQ+ identity is one that is historically marginalized, Dr. Hughes' NSF CAREER award is an important step for learning how universities can better support and retain LGBTQ+ students in STEM fields," Paxton said to MSU News Service. "I anticipate that Dr. Hughes' findings will have great benefit to LGBTQ+ students, their universities and society at large."

To view Hughes' published paper from 2018, "Coming Out in STEM: factors affecting retention of sexual minority STEM students," visit <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/3/eaao6373>.

New MSU center facilitates ethical research and outreach

BY BRADEN URION

The MSU Center for Science, Technology, Ethics and Society (STES) is a new addition to MSU that offers tools to help students evaluate scientific claims and consider the ethical, social, and policy implications of science and technology. The center is based out of the Office of Research, Economic Development and Graduate Education and was approved by the Montana Board of Regents this past fall.

The center has three major objectives. The first is to facilitate interdisciplinary research and collaboration among faculty and students. The next is to help cultivate ethical thinking and behavior in research. Lastly, the center helps communicate the results of scientific research to the public.

Kristen Intemann, Ph.D. is the director of the center as well as a professor of philosophy in the department of philosophy and history. Her responsibilities include leading the advisory board in making decisions, organizing two speaker series, representing the center, working with student research assistants and interns on research

projects and collaborating with researchers from different disciplines at MSU. She wants the STES center to be a place where students can learn to engage with the scientific community and understand how to make their scientific findings available to the public. "From questions about artificial intelligence to climate change action and from ethical issues in genetic editing to public health advocacy, there are ways for students to get involved," Intemann said.

The STES center also strives to address the trust issues people might have with the scientific community. "C-STES hopes to facilitate trust by creating opportunities for engagement between researchers and members of the public," Intemann said. "C-STES is working to produce interdisciplinary research that has a significant community component... C-STES is involved in research and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences to study how trust is undermined and facilitated so as to identify best practices and promote research integrity."

The STES center has already hosted several events including forums on the origin of COVID-19 featuring

Raina Plowright, Ph.D., an MSU professor of microbiology and immunology, and David Quammen, who wrote the book "Spillover." The center also hosted a talk on the impact of climate change on the health of Montanans and published an article on the relationship between public health, economic well-being and mining in Montana. "All of our events are free and open to MSU students and there are often research opportunities, including opportunities to contribute articles for our blog," Intemann said. Most recently, the center hosted an online community event titled, "The Search for Life on Mars and Beyond" featuring Sarah Johnson, Ph.D. from Georgetown University, and Carol Cleland, Ph.D. from the University of Colorado on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

For more information on STES' programs, courses and events visit, <http://www.montana.edu/stes/> or contact Kristen Intemann directly at kristen.intemann@montana.edu.

MSU PD helps out rural fire departments

BY JESSICA MCMURTRY

The MSU Police Department (UPD) worked in conjunction with the Bozeman Police (BPD) and Fire Departments (BFD) last fall to support rural fire departments in Gallatin County. A few years ago, the county updated its radio infrastructure and left the smaller, rural departments worried that they might be without proper communication platforms. The MSU and Bozeman departments were able to donate used radio equipment to the rural departments across the county to help with the costliness of the new technology.

Bozeman interim chief of police, Jim Veltkamp, emphasized the importance of communication

between departments and the relief it would provide to the teams. This past fall, UPD, BPD and BFD were able to donate over 90 portable radios and over 57 mobile radios with the help of the 911 Center in Gallatin County. These radios were donated to several departments across the county including the Three Forks Fire Department, Fort Ellis Fire Department, Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire Department, Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department, Amsterdam Rural Fire Department, Willow Creek Fire Department and Gallatin Search and Rescue.

"In emergency services, all first responders work together and we never know when we could be dealing with a very small rural department on a

big incident," Veltkamp told MSU News Service.

MSU Police Department, Bozeman Police Department and Bozeman Fire Department all have one thing in common, which is to put the safety of the Bozeman community above all else. "It's great to see the community mindset and have a collaboration between the departments so we can come to the common goal of keeping Gallatin County safe," said Tim Martindale, director of the Gallatin County 911 Center, to MSU News Service. The collaboration of the university and the city has strengthened the security and safety of the community as a whole.

SPORTS

Women's basketball bounces back

BY MEREDITH TEUBER

The women's basketball team had two games this past week, one on Thursday, Feb. 18, on the road and a game at home on Saturday, Feb. 20. On Thursday, the team came up short with a 69-59 loss against Idaho State in Pocatello, Idaho, ending the eight-game win streak the women had previously held. Montana State was down by seven points early in the game but managed to bounce back to 19-17 heading into the second quarter. However, Idaho State pulled ahead by one point in the second quarter and entered the intermission with a 32-29 advantage over the Bobcats. MSU tied the game at 32 coming out of halftime as freshman forward Katelynn Limardo sank a three-pointer. A technical foul on the Bobcat bench resulted in two free throws and a Bengal basket, which pushed ISU's lead to nine points. The Bobcats responded with a 12-5 run and layup by Ava Ranson and lowered the gap to 46-44, yet ISU scored with only 17 seconds left, leaving the score 48-44 as the team prepared to head into the

fourth quarter. Idaho State junior guard Montana Oltrogge hit a triple 30 seconds in, widening the gap once again. MSU managed to cut the margin by five points on multiple occasions, yet still came up short as the game concluded. Leading in scoring for MSU was sophomore guard Darian White with 16 points, Limardo and junior forward Gabby Mocchi with eight points each. Freshman forward Lexi Deden came off the Bobcat bench to post six points and get a team high of seven rebounds.

"Idaho State was more physical, tougher and executed much better than we did," MSU head coach Tricia Binford said. "They picked us apart on our defensive mistakes and we lost the possession battle. Offensively, we stalled. We lacked movement and tempo as well as patience. We rushed too many shots." MSU shot 35% from the field but connected five of 24 shots from beyond the arc. ISU shot 50% from the field and nine of 21 from beyond the perimeter. With the Saturday game tipping-off in less than 48 hours, Binford commented that the team needed to find a way to

turn around their playing. "We have to find a way to respond. We need to show some resolve," she said.

Saturday's game proved to be a success. In the regulation, Tori Martell scored 15 points. With five seconds left in the game and the Bobcats trailing 72-69, Martell scored a deep three, sending the game into overtime. Martell scored nine points in overtime and the Bobcats captured an 88-80 victory over ISU. "I could not have asked them to execute that play any better," Binford said.

"There was still point-six seconds left and all I could think of in my head was that they could still win," Martell said. "I just wanted to get those point-six seconds over so we could go to overtime. But all my teammates were very excited and that's a fun atmosphere to play in."

The Idaho-Montana State game scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25 will not be played. New dates for the series are being considered but have not been finalized at the time of publication.

Bobcats volleyball sweeps ISU

BY JAXSON BISHOP

The Bobcat volleyball team defeated Idaho State in two matches played on Saturday, Feb. 20, and Sunday, Feb. 21. This series sweep marks the second sweep of the season and a 4-0 win streak for the Cats.

Both matches went five sets with the Cats ending on the winning side, taking both matches 3-2. In the Saturday match, senior outside hitter Hannah Scott led the team with an impressive 25 kills. Scott also led the Bobcats in kills in the Sunday matchup with 19 in total.

"We know that Hannah and Kira [Thompson] are going to go out there and perform. But I

thought Hailey [Merkes] came up with some big swings and her serving was very timely," MSU head coach Daniel Jones said after the Sunday win.

Next up, the Cats will play Portland State on Saturday, Feb. 27, and Sunday, Feb. 28, in Shroyer gym. Last year the Cats lost their only match of the season against the Vikings, 1-3.

Sophomore outside hitter Kira Thomsen reaches out to bump the ball back to safety.

PHOTO BY DANIKA WOLF



Vigen announces key hires

BY JAXSON BISHOP

Newly hired Bobcat football head coach Brent Vigen announced some key hires to the program on Friday, Feb. 19. Vigen has talked about his plans to implement a new offensive and defensive philosophy and he showcased these new schemes in his hires for offensive and defensive coordinator as well as the defensive line.

"We're going to make some subtle tweaks certainly on both sides," Vigen said. "...but the general theme of what we're going after is to play physical, to run the football, to stop the run, to be explosive on the offensive side of things and stop explosive plays defensively. That general philosophy is the same." Vigen's new coaching hires will help to implement the new program on both sides of the ball.

Taylor Housewright: Offensive Coordinator & Quarterbacks Coach

Prior to being hired as the Bobcats' next offensive coordinator, Housewright served as Oregon's offensive analyst under the Ducks' current offensive coordinator, Joe Moorhead. Before working at Oregon, Housewright spent one season working under

Moorhead as offensive quality control at Mississippi State. Housewright and Vigen worked together in 2018 when Housewright was a graduate assistant at Wyoming working with the running backs and tight ends. He played for Ashland where he was a three-year starting quarterback.

Freddie Banks: Defensive Coordinator

Before Banks was announced as MSU's defensive coordinator, he served as the cornerbacks coach at Nevada for the 2020 season. Banks has experience both in the FCS and the FBS. In the FCS, Banks was Stephen F. Austin's recruiting coordinator from 2018-19. Prior to Stephen F. Austin, Banks worked at NCAA Division II Midwestern State as defensive backs coach and recruiting coordinator. Banks is another product of North Dakota State, he played cornerback with the Bison from 2008-10, while Vigen was NDSU's offensive coordinator.

Shawn Howe: Defensive Line Coach

Howe has served as the defensive quality control analyst at Southern California (USC) since 2019. He also worked at USC from 2011-12 as a defensive

assistant coach. Howe's playing career included two seasons at NAIA Rocky Mountain College before he was hired on as the Battlin' Bears outside linebackers coach for the 2014-15 seasons. After leaving Billings, Howe coached at North Carolina State (2006), Memphis (2007-09) and Tennessee (2010). After leaving USC for the first time in 2012, Howe served as Humboldt State's defensive line coach (2013-14), an assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Dixie State (2015-17), and coached the defensive line at Coastal Carolina in 2018.

Vigen is keeping on multiple assistants from previous head coach Jeff Choate's staff. Brian Armstrong will continue to coach the offensive line, Jimmy Beal will continue coaching running backs, Nate Potter will remain as tight ends coach and Justin Udy will become the receivers coach after serving as the quarterbacks coach. BJ Robertson will return as the special teams coordinator and Director of High School Relations.

Bobcats close out indoor track & field season

COURTESY OF MSU ATHLETICS

The Montana State track and field program completed its indoor season on Friday, Feb. 19, in Worthington Arena as the Bobcats hosted Idaho in the Bobcat Bonus. The added meet to MSU's schedule provided an extra opportunity to one of the Bobcats' distance runners that led to a historic feat.

The men's mile stood out in Friday's competition as sophomore Duncan Hamilton completed a sub-four-minute race. Hamilton crossed the finish line in 4 minutes, 5.62 seconds, but with the adjustment provided by running at altitude and on a 200-meter flat track, Hamilton's time converted to 3:57.30. Hamilton became just the fourth Bobcat runner to eclipse the four-minute barrier. The Bozeman native ran the third fastest mark in program history – trailing Patrick Casey and Cristian Soratos – and finished ahead of Diego Leon's time of 3:57.37 set in 2018.

Hamilton had previously finished less than a second away from the four-minute mark twice before in his college career, including in a meet appearance two weeks ago.

"This was his third mile here on the home track this season," said Montana State's director of track and field Lyle Weese. "We are mostly training for cross country and in preparation for the steeplechase in the outdoor season. The first two races (of the indoor season) were really just prep to get ready for this one. We didn't want to do a bunch of workouts to prepare for the mile, but we thought running three mile (races) would be good."

"We thought he'd have a good shot at getting under four (minutes) and hopefully get into the NCAA Championships."

Hamilton is currently ninth on the Division I men's track performance list in the mile. The top 16 times advance to the NCAA Championships that are scheduled to take place from March 11-13 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Hamilton wasn't the lone Bobcat to make their way into MSU's all-time indoor top 10 list on Friday.

Henry Adams ran a photo-finish 60 hurdles

race that ultimately was won by his Idaho counterpart by three one-thousandths of a second. However, his final time of 8.10 seconds moved him to the sixth spot on the men's top 10 chart.

Trisha Carlson improved on her personal-best time by sixth-hundredths of a second in the 800. She placed first in a converted mark of 2:10.84 which improved her all-time seventh place position in the Bobcat record book.

The women's 200 was won by Macy White as she crossed the line in a personal-best time of 24.81 seconds. Her lifetime best put her in a tie for 10th ever by a Bobcat in the event.

A variety of other Bobcats completed lifetime bests over the course of the Bobcat Bonus.

Damien Nelson finished second in the 200 with a personal-best mark of 22.18 seconds while he tied his fastest mark of 6.89 in the 60 to take third overall. In the remaining men's races, Tyler Schmautz took second in his college-best time of 1:53.11 in the 800. Levi Taylor finished second in the mile with his best mark as a Bobcat of 4:06.87, while Ben Perrin clocked a converted 8:15.24 to take first in the 3,000. Alex Hershey had a personal-best time of 50.48 in the 400.

The women's races featured personal-best efforts in races by Mya Dube (3,000), Elena Vandersloot (3,000), Morgan Evans (200), Zoe Delaney (200) and Leigha Carter (60). Dube finished first in a time of 10:04.69.

MSU's men claimed a first-place showing in the 4x400 relay. Drake Schneiderr finished first in the 400 while Jared Schwend had a season-best time of 50.16 in the event to place third. Isaac Schmidt, Matthew Richtman and Cooper West all ran season bests in the 3,000.

White led a 1-2-3 finish in the women's 200 and was followed by Evans and Delaney. Lexi Kyro and Megan Good each ran season bests in the 800.

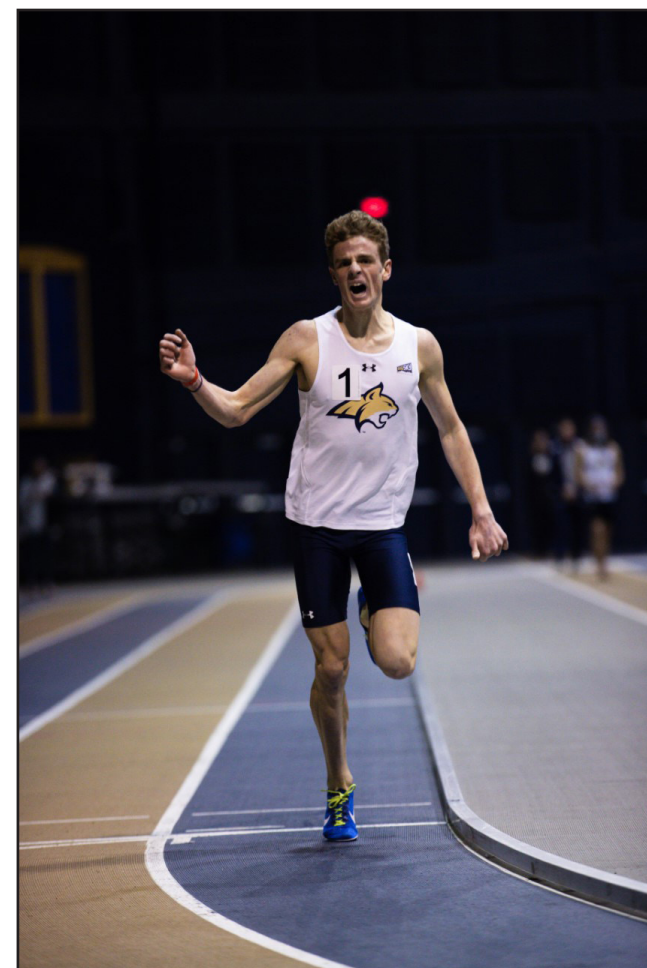
Adams and Emily Sullivan took first in the men's and women's pole vault, respectively. Lucy Corbett and A'lena Chaney recorded personal-best leaps in the women's long jump to take the second and third places in the event. Zoe Waddell placed first in the women's weight throw for the Bobcats while Alec Nehring, competing unattached, finished first in the men's shot put. Also earning top-

three showings for the Bobcats were Ian Fosdick (men's triple jump), Carter Slade (men's shot put) and Jordan Fink (women's shot put).

"This will really catapult us into the outdoor season," Weese said following MSU's final indoor event. "Just having the chance to compete, especially in three indoor meets, we're really fortunate we were able to have them for our whole team to compete in."

"The first outdoor meet is only a month away, so it's going to come quickly. But these three meets I think will really set us up for success."

Montana State's next scheduled event features its cross country program as the Bobcat men's and women's teams travel to Riverdale, Utah, to participate in the Big Sky Conference Championships on Saturday, Feb. 27.



Sophomore Duncan Hamilton breaks a four-minute mile in his race on Friday, Feb. 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU ATHLETICS

OUTDOORS

Snowshoeing in style

BY MEREDITH TEUBER

Montana winters bring many joyful activities to the table. Skiing and snowboarding are perhaps the most popular activities many Bozemanites take part in, but snowshoeing is typically underrated. According to a study conducted by Tubbs Snowshoes, roughly 5.5 million people participated in a snowshoeing activity in the previous year with over 500 middle and high schools requiring snowshoeing as a part of the physical education curriculum nationwide. Snowshoeing is considered a high-energy activity with a study from the University of Vermont adding that snowshoers can burn 420-1000 calories per hour, twice the amount of calories one would burn when walking at the same speed. This is perhaps in part due to the added weight. Snowshoeing has also been proven to help with balance, endurance and coordination.

In the Bozeman area, there are many trails available for snowshoeing, ranging from beginner to experienced paths. The Highland Glen Loop is a great trail for those who are interested in trying snowshoeing or would like to take a shorter trek. The 1.8 mile loop starts from the Painted Hills parking area and is moderately trafficked, and dogs are allowed as long as they are kept on a leash. This is a separate trail from the Highland Glen Nature Preserve Loop, which is a four mile out and back loop also considered “easy” by *Alltrails.com*. For a more moderate snowshoe adventure, folks can check out Blackmore Lake Trail and Lick Creek Loop. The Blackmore Lake trail is roughly 4.3 miles. It is very heavily trafficked and dog friendly as long as the dog remains on a leash. Lick Creek is a 4.7 mile loop that is moderately trafficked and also used as a cross-country ski trail. Sypes Canyon is also ranked moderate according to *Alltrails.com* and is

roughly 6.2 miles. The longer trails are for the more experienced snowshoers, such as Baldy Peak Summit coming in at 9.6 miles long. Due to its difficulty, Baldy Peak is typically lightly trafficked with dogs allowed.

For those who are interested in purchasing or renting snowshoes, there are many shops in Bozeman with easy accessibility. Both Round House Ski and Sports Center and Chalet Sports on W. Main street offer snowshoe rentals. You can also rent snow shoes from the Outdoor Recreation Program for only \$7 for two days. Other places like REI, Play It Again Sports and East Slope Outdoors offer snowshoes as well. Snowshoeing offers great health benefits and those looking for some joyous winter activities another opportunity to experience Bozeman’s outdoors.

OPINION

Keep Maskin’ Up, Montana

BY LYDIA FRENCH



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new COVID-19 guidelines on Saturday, Feb. 13, in which it introduced the recommendation of “double masking”—a strategy where an individual layers a reusable cloth mask on top of a disposable surgical mask. The idea of more masks, less contact and constantly having the pandemic in the back of your mind is continually reiterated across national media, organizations like the CDC and the current presidential platform.

Now is not the time to lower our guard and pull

back protections. Instead, we should double down, double mask and slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2. “We still have 100,000 cases a day. We still have somewhere between 1,500 and 3,500 deaths per day,” Director of the CDC, Dr. Rochelle Walensky said during an interview on CBS “Face the Nation.” “And yet we see some communities relaxing some of their mitigation strategies. We are nowhere out of the woods.” One day prior to the CDC’s announcement of its revised guidelines, Gov. Greg Gianforte rescinded the state-wide mask mandate put in place by former Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock.

Gianforte’s recall of the mask mandate is imprudent and harmful to the health and wellbeing of Montanans. In a US News article titled, “Montana Governor Lifts Statewide Mask Mandate,” Iris Samuels, Associated Press/Report for America reporter wrote, “Montana’s statewide mask mandate that had been in place since July was lifted Friday [Feb. 12] by Gov. Greg Gianforte, but some cities and counties are keeping local mask requirements because they think the governor’s move was premature.”

As of last Wednesday, Feb. 17, Montana, Iowa, North Dakota and Mississippi are the only states that have repealed their previous general-public

mask mandates. Mississippi’s mandate expired on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020 and on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves (R) announced an update to the legislation. Reeves immediately instituted a partial mask order for counties with high rates of COVID-19 transmission. Following the removal of the mask requirement, the infection rate increased rapidly across the state. Currently, only seven of the 82 counties in Mississippi fall outside of the governor’s “partial mask order.”

The crisis in Mississippi is exactly what we should avoid in our great state of Montana. “If we relax these mitigation strategies with increasing transmissible variants out there, we could be in a much more difficult spot,” Walensky said. According to the World Population Meter, in the last week, Sunday, Feb. 14 through Saturday, Feb. 20, Montana averaged 192 new COVID-19 cases per day. As a state, we are nowhere near healthy enough to unmask.

A folding sign at Cactus Records on Main Street reminds passersby to mask up.

PHOTO BY GABE BARNARD

2020-21 Avalanche Season may Prove the Most Deadly in Decades

By Beau Baxter

The week of Jan. 31-Feb. 6 marked the deadliest week for avalanches in over one hundred years. In total, 14 backcountry riders in the United States died indirectly from avalanches. The previous record was set in 1910 when an avalanche in Washington state swept away two trains in Wellington, killing 96 people.

Fourteen deaths occurred around the country in New Hampshire, Alaska, Montana, California, Colorado and Utah. The incidents were also spread across disciplines other than skiing with a snowmobile fatality in western Montana and three climbers in Alaska. Several states—including Montana—have reported a particularly weak snowpack and increased use of backcountry terrain (most likely caused by the pandemic) as significant contributing factors to the increase in frequency and severity of avalanche fatalities.

“You can still trigger big avalanches, even though you’re seeing all these tracks, and skiing things where it seems—SEEMS—safe. But the recipe is still there.”
-Doug Chabot, Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center

“The recipe we have—or the snowpack we have—is a situation that doesn’t happen often; the last time we had a similar snowpack was almost ten years ago,” said Doug Chabot of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche

Center (GNFAC). “We have this really weak snow at the ground, and when we have these situations we’re on pins and needles a lot of the year because we’re trying to figure out how much weight—how much snow—is it gonna take to break this layer at the ground.”

Avalanche forecasters call this situation a “persistent slab problem,” and while it is the least likely of most avalanche situations to slide, it has the greatest potential to create a deadly avalanche if it does. Forecasters attributed the two deadliest incidents in the record-breaking first week of February to persistent weak layers. On Monday, Feb. 1, four skiers were buried (three of whom died) in southwest Colorado after an avalanche broke on a persistent weak layer, burying one of the skiers twenty feet below the surface.

“The four riders worked for hours and only got through the top half of avalanche debris above the victims,” according to a report from the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. “Anyone who has dealt with avalanche debris over a few feet deep will tell you the digging gets more difficult and more complicated the deeper you go. Eventually, it took an organized search and rescue group, with many people and power tools, two days to recover all three riders.”

An analysis of the snowpack anywhere in the Bozeman area would show a similar instability to that experienced by the Colorado skiers. However, the unlikely nature of triggering a large slab avalanche often complicates decision-making for backcountry travelers. While avalanche conditions may decrease as snow piles up and the weak layer strengthens, the possibility of persistent slab avalanches will not disappear, and the resulting slides will only get bigger.

“It’s like walking around a minefield, and you’re like ‘oh there’s only one or two mines in this football field!’” says Chabot. “You can still trigger big avalanches, even though you’re seeing all these tracks, and skiing things where it seems—SEEMS—safe. But the recipe is still there.”

No matter the danger rating, snow on slopes steeper than 30 degrees can slide. A skier in New Hampshire triggered a slide on Monday, Feb. 1 that buried and killed him, despite the avalanche forecast declaring the danger “low.”

“Accidents like this serve as a stark reminder to us all of the role that luck can play in successful outcomes in our backcountry endeavors,” said the Mount Washington Avalanche Center. “Ian Forgays [the skier who died] had many years of experience in this terrain and, according to texts sent on Sunday, planned to move slowly and intentionally knowing that some lines there are ‘rowdier than others.’”

So far, 32 backcountry users have died this winter—well over the seasonal average of 27—and the ski season still has a couple of months left (the last reported avalanche in the Bozeman area for the 2019-20 season occurred on June 11 at Fairy Lake where a skier triggered a wet-loose slide). And with more people getting out in the backcountry due to the pandemic, this season has plenty of potential danger left.

“We know there’s more people out there, and we encourage that—I’m excited that more people are getting out in the backcountry and enjoying being outside—but with that comes some crowds,” Chabot said. “With avalanches, a bad snowpack and more

“With avalanches, a bad snowpack and more people in the backcountry means that there’s more triggers out there... the odds just go up that someone can get caught.”

-Doug Chabo, Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center

people in the backcountry means that there’s more triggers out there... the odds just go up that someone can get caught.”

According to the Friends of Hyalite (a local outdoor advocacy group that tracks usage of Hyalite canyon), a recent count totaled 17,297 vehicles traveling through Hyalite during the month of January—a 67% increase from January 2020.

So far this season only two recreationists have died in Montana as a result of an avalanche. Two snowboarders triggered an avalanche while traveling uphill at Beehive Basin, north of Big Sky. Early season snow followed by dry weather formed a persistent weak layer at the bottom of the snowpack that the two travelers triggered near the top of the ridge. The slide critically injured one of the riders, who died later on from the trauma.

“People tend to think that skinning uphill is pretty safe,” Chabot said. “And for that accident and others around the country, people are getting into avalanche terrain without knowing it. And once they’re in avalanche terrain without knowing it, chances are their partners are in it too... and when an avalanche happens and you have multiple burials, you almost always have multiple fatalities.”

On Saturday, Feb. 6, a group of skiers skinning uphill in Mill Creek Canyon, Utah triggered a major slide, burying six skiers and killing four. The leading party of four remote-triggered an avalanche above them while traversing a steep section of the hill one at a time, burying three of the members plus a party of three following below. One of the four was able to grab a tree and sustain the immense force of the avalanche sweeping over him—an action that usually proves too feeble for an avalanche. He called up to the fifth member of the group

who was waiting for them above, and the two skiers located and dug out all six skiers. Only two of the six survived.

“Because they were all skinning uphill, the toe pieces were all likely in the walk or lock position, which would have made it very difficult for the skis to release from their feet,” said the Utah Avalanche Center in a report. “All people [except one] had both skis still attached to their feet when they were buried, which may have contributed to deeper burials.”

While avalanche education does not make backcountry users immune to avalanches, knowing how to recognize and travel through avalanche terrain significantly increases the odds of living to ski another day. For information on registering for avalanche classes visit mtavalanche.org/education, or visit the GNFAC home page for up-to-date avalanche advisories and local conditions. The MSU Outdoor Recreation Program also offers avalanche rescue clinics to teach recreationists how to use an avalanche beacon and probe. The last class of the year is on Tuesday, March 8 from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Outdoor Recreation Program and is for all experience levels. For more information and to register visit montanastate.campuslabs.com.



SKIERS TEMPORARILY SET DOWN THEIR EQUIPMENT WHILE THEY CHECK FOR AVALANCHE DANGER.

PHOTO BY DANE WILLIAMS

DESIGN BY TIM LEE

Boys to Men

BY EMMA MORGAN

Boys are not normally the topic that consumes my mind when I go on runs. However, last week, boys and how we raise them was all I could think about after a mid-run conversation.

I had stumbled into a cute dog and his kind owner on the trail. We had a long conversation in which I mentioned a story about my dad. After this, the kind old man I was talking to said something that took me for a spin: “I’m so glad I didn’t have a girl because it’s so much easier to raise boys than girls.” His kindness toward me made me think he wasn’t making this statement as a barb against females. Rather, his comments highlighted the societal presumptions surrounding boys and girls and the differences in how we prepare them for the world.

Although girls have to grow into a world that has a gender wage gap, medical disparities and other forms of sexism, raising girls should not be, and is not, harder than raising boys. Raising boys is only seen as easier because we deny boys emotional and social complexity in the name of being “manly.”

Western society has a long held liking of “manly men.” This idea is portrayed most prominently in western movies. Pull up your Netflix account to see any movie featuring John Wayne and guns, and you can watch the box of masculinity at work. First, you might notice that the “good guy” is always somewhat of a lone wolf, but always admired and respected —particularly by women. Second, his stone-cut face does not show emotion. Anytime the main character lets his emotion get in the way of a decision or action, something goes badly. It is only when the character has put away his emotion, or “mastered himself,” that he beats the “bad guy” and wins the girl.

Even if you’ve never watched a classic western, maybe some of the themes sound familiar. This is because westerns aren’t exclusive to untamed deserts. Untamed galaxies such as “Star Wars” also play host to western ideals. All you need is a formulaic plot and a good, stoic, emotionless man and BAM! you have a western.

The idea of a “true man” portrayed in westerns might not have been what created this emotionless idea of males, but it has certainly continued the illusion. Out of this, we have spawned a culture of toxic masculinity. “Toxic masculinity” is a very precise term that specifically refers to norms put on men to exaggerate masculine traits to the point of detriment for males and society. It is not a term that shames men for being men or denies the fact that many men are wonderful people who contribute positively to society.

Instead, toxic masculinity is the phrase to use in a scenario where “boys will be boys” is used to excuse males for inappropriate behavior. It is the phrase to use when boys are told not to cry because it will show they’re girly and weak. It is the term that needs to be said when boys separate themselves from close friendships in junior high by saying “no homo” in any moment of affection they give to other males. It is the term

to use when men shame women for being emotionally complex because they can’t see it as strength.

Toxic masculinity might seem like a harsh phrase to use for things that seem so common in our culture. However, it has bleak repercussions and needs to be talked about with all of its implications.

Many scientists have dedicated years of research following the lives of boys as they grow into men. Psychologist Niobe Way is described by TEDMED as an “internationally recognized leader in the study of social and emotional development among adolescents.” Her research and publications, “highlight the fact that boys, like all humans, are empathic and yearn for close friendships more than anything else,” but that they also isolate themselves from other boys and people in an attempt to become more “manly.” Her research shows that this isolation channels boys into acting more misogynistically toward women, even to the point of physical harm. It also greatly affects their happiness in adulthood. Another study called the Harvard Study of Adult Development has observed individuals for nearly 80 years. Although this study isn’t specific to males, they have observed that people who lack close friendships (mostly men) are more likely to be in pain or fall ill.

Based on how alive and powerful the traditional idea of men is today, I do not foresee these statistics changing in the near future unless we start from the beginning: the way we raise children. We need to start tearing down emotional barriers with boys from a young age and reassure them that it is okay to show emotion. Parents need to start this journey, but it also needs to happen in schools. School is where students compete for peer admiration and boys put down other boys for being “girly” or “gay” because these concepts differ from the traditional male ones. It is important for everyone, but particularly adult men, to tell boys that laughing at sexist jokes, shaming others and distancing themselves is unacceptable. Boys need male mentors who can teach them how to be people, not emotionless stones.

In the end, this means we need to raise boys the same way we raise girls. There are going to be differences in how we teach them about their bodies, but we need to make sure we raise both genders to be emotionally complex in order for them to draw happiness from life. Our society still has a lot of work to do to overcome toxic masculinity, but raising boys to accept every part of themselves is the first step.



Need A Rental?

Bozeman
4780 W Babcock St
406-586-8010



©2020 Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Abuse of Presidential Powers

BY ETHAN CUMBY

If you immerse yourself in current politics, you have likely noticed the strife between the Republican and Democratic parties. From the open belittling of one another to riots and even the GOP's recent attempt at storming the capitol, it is hard to deny the polarization in American politics. This discord has allowed the continuation of a deeply concerning abuse of our system: the abuse and misuse of executive orders and the subsequent overexertion of presidential power.

An executive order is a directive issued by the president to guide the operations of the federal government. Generally, an executive order holds the same weight as a law passed by the legislative branch. Since his inauguration just a month ago, President Joe Biden has issued 32 executive orders. This amount surpasses the former record for most executive orders issued in the first month of a presidency, previously held by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The amount and purpose of Biden's orders, as well as those of other recent presidents, go against the entire purpose of executive orders.

Biden's actions are not excusable simply because they are for the betterment of the country. It doesn't matter what the executive orders were geared toward. Even if the orders are declared with good intention, the reckless usage of this presidential power is a double-edged sword that allows for any president to enforce their ideas into the country without checks and balances. Of course, some might be inclined to say that the Supreme Court can declare an executive order unconstitutional and, to a point, they would be correct. Currently, there is a 6-3 majority of conservative-leaning justices. We will likely see some pushback if Biden overreaches his power; however, this will not always be the case. James Madison famously stated in his Federalist No. 51 that "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place." He couldn't be more right. If there is an opposing ambition to keep one branch of government from overextending, then you can expect to see those powers exercised. If there is no opposition, you can assume there will be no action taken to keep powers in check.

When writing about his thoughts on a new government in 1776, John Adams wrote, "That, as a republic is the best of governments, so that particular arrangements of the powers of society, or, in other words, that form of government which is best contrived to secure an impartial and exact execution of the laws, is the best of republics." To a degree, he is exactly right. When a republic is made to secure impartial execution of laws is when it shines the brightest. However, that is not what has been happening lately. While the Founding Fathers used executive orders very rarely, most presidents today use hundreds. If you were to add up all the executive orders of the first five presidents you would get 15, compared to the 17 Biden issued within his first day.

The question then arises of what the president should be allowed to use executive orders for. I wouldn't say that the executive branch should be stripped of all power. Alexander Hamilton states in his Federalist Paper No. 70, "A feeble

executive implies a feeble execution of the government. A feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad execution; and a government ill executed, whatever may be its theory, must be, in practice, a bad government." A president is the face of the American government and its power. I believe executive orders should have an explicit and precise definition added as an amendment to the constitution. Congress could still overturn an executive order, but that is typically dependent on which party currently holds the majority in Congress. Having a definition that limits executive orders and helps guide the law as intended by the Founding Fathers would keep the president from abusing their power.



LOVE US?

LIKE US!

The Exponent is on
Facebook + Instagram

@msuexponent

CULTURE

The facts behind our food

BY RILEY FERRÉ



Miller Dining Commons posts its courtesy protocol poster guiding students to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 while dining.

PHOTO BY DANE WILLIAMS

Food, glorious food. Most people who live and eat on campus are probably missing the home-cooked meals and kitchens full of the warm, yummy smells that home brings. For many, dining at Rendezvous or Miller doesn't quite provide the same "warm" environment compared to eating at home.

It's easy to take the dining options on campus for granted, but the *Exponent* reached out to Richard Huffman, director of culinary services at MSU, to understand a little bit more about the work that goes into running the dining halls.

Catering to thousands of students is no easy task and comes with several challenges. According to Huffman, "One of the greatest challenges for Culinary Services is

to meet the needs of such a diverse student population and stay current with food trends... We are always offering new foods based on student feedback, as well as our Chefs' expertise, and balance those requests with food cost, labor and quality." To have an input on the food served at Rendezvous and Miller, students can visit the link, <http://www.montana.edu/culinaryservices/feedback.html>.

Huffman also explained that "a 4-week menu cycle" is used "to keep items from getting old but to be able to provide favorites and consistency at the same time." These menus also have to take funding and staffing into consideration and work to incorporate seasonal items such as locally grown vegetables as frequently as possible. Culinary services will create special meals for those individuals unable to find

options on the menu, and the registered dietician on staff "helps students identify items that are on the regular menu that meet a majority of their special dietary needs." Put simply, there is always something for everyone.

Rendezvous and Miller boast MSU's farm-to-table logo, indicating that the food being served is produced in Montana and supports local individuals and organizations. "MSU has been strategically integrating Montana sourced ingredients for more than 10 years, increasing the quantity of products on an annual basis. Currently, 25% of our food is defined as local, meaning it comes from a Montana based food company," Huffman said, including that the farm to table logo represents "over 100 local partners, including MSU's own College of Agriculture, that we use throughout our operations." Huffman emphasized that "buying local is part of our Culinary Service's ethos" and encourages readers to visit <http://www.montana.edu/culinaryservices/sustainability.html> to learn more about the local options we can indulge in.

Huffman highlighted the evolution of dining on campus: "Culinary Services has gone through quite an amazing transformation over the last 6 years. Before Miller's remodel in 2015, students came in to eat and get out as quick as possible. The seating, design, limited food choices, quality and overall experience were disappointing to our students. When Miller reopened, there were now

nine different concepts that offered multiple entrée choices versus the two to three choices that the old design offered. The seating, fireplace, open design and most importantly, the much higher food quality, now make the experience much more satisfying and students want to come in and hang out [pre-COVID-19]."

An emphasis on composting has also been a "semi-recent" addition to MSU's dining facilities "where [pre-COVID-19] 50% of our waste was diverted from our local landfills."

Health and food quality are prioritized by MSU staff, and when asked if the concern for student health is placed over the cheapest options while menu planning Huffman responded, "Yes. We provide a wide variety of options to meet needs and preferences of our customers. When students select a meal plan before moving on to campus, they are asked if they have any food allergies or dietary preferences."

Home cooking may be preferred and the options provided at the food consoles may not always seem to be appetizing in the moment, but the food is prepared with the health of students and the environment in mind.

Thank you, Richard Huffman, and all of MSU's culinary staff for keeping students happy, healthy and energized.

Fresh food for a fresh cause

BY THOMAS AUSTIN

In just a few weeks, Gallatin Valley Farm to School (GVF2S) will be hosting its 5th annual Winter's Bounty Farm to Table feast. The Winter's Bounty event is an important fundraiser for Gallatin Valley Farm to School and the organization has partnered with several local restaurants to provide great meals featuring fresh, local ingredients.

Gallatin Valley Farm to School is a local nonprofit organization that focuses its work on introducing children and families in Gallatin Valley to local produce. GVF2S partners with numerous schools in the valley to help integrate fresh fruits and vegetables into students' meals. The *Exponent* had the opportunity to interview Executive Director Phil Sarnoff who explained, "It's just an opportunity for us to create a more equitable food system, especially where some of those children are really reliant on the school system for their nutrition."

The Winter's Bounty event is a wonderful opportunity for Bozeman residents to take home an incredible meal from some of the best restaurants in town. As Sarnoff puts it, "It was started primarily as a fundraiser for the organization so we can do the work that we do, but also as an opportunity for us to highlight all of the local producers in the community and to have a meal that really focuses on the local food that's grown and produced in the Gallatin Valley".

In response to COVID-19, participating restaurants will be serving four-course takeaway meals for those who buy tickets to this year's festival.

The star-studded restaurant lineup for the Winter's Bounty includes Fork and Spoon, the only pay-what-you-can restaurant in Montana. Fork and Spoon's business model makes fresh, high-quality meals accessible to folks who can't afford the full price. Leah Smutko, Head Chef at Fork and Spoon, uses locally sourced ingredients to create a menu that changes every week. "Having these meals essentially ends up being a supplement for people to get back on their feet, and then hopefully it will be a cyclical journey at that point," she said. This year's Winter's Bounty will be the first for Fork and Spoon, and Smutko is excited to showcase the capabilities of her culinary team. "It's fun to just say 'Make whatever you want, make it as extravagant as you want, just feature local food and have fun with it,'" she said.

The partnership between GVF2S and local restaurants highlights the very best of what both parties have to offer, all while supporting a great cause. The Winter's Bounty festival will be held on Friday, March 5, and tickets are still available on the GVF2S website at www.gvfarmtoschool.org/winters-bounty.



COME CREATE WITH US!

LANDSCAPE/IRRIGATION SITE SUPERINTENDENT

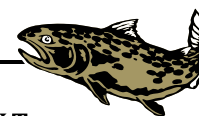
LANDSCAPE FOREMAN

IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN

LANDSCAPE/IRRIGATION TEAM MEMBERS

WAGES STARTING AT \$16-\$35 PER HOUR

TO APPLY VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.GREATERGALLATIN.COM/EMPLOYMENT



FEB 25 - MAR 3

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

CALENDAR

THU 25

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLINIC
Outdoor Recreation Center @ 3:30 p.m.
Join the Outdoor Rec. Center for free cross-country ski lessons. All ski gear (skis, boots, poles) is provided to participants at no cost. No experience is necessary. RSVP at <https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6656559>.

HONORS PRESENTS
Online @ 6 p.m.
Join engineer Mandy Rutherford as she discusses the current state of nuclear power in the US, as well as an overview of some promising, emerging nuclear technologies. RSVP at <https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6937899>.

FRI 26

TDC TRAVELING ART SHOW
Helen E Copeland Gallery
The MSU School of Art is hosting the 66th annual Type Directors Club (TDC) traveling show in the Helen E. Copeland Gallery for two weeks. This colorful and dynamic exhibition showcases hundreds of award-winning posters, books and fonts.

SOPHOMORE SURGE ART NIGHT
Webex @ 5 p.m.
Join Sophomore Surge Mentor Colleen May for a virtual art night to relax and recharge. Students will be provided with materials. A Webex link and password will be provided for those who RSVP at <https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6936538>.

BOBCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL
Pluto 1060 @ 5 p.m.
Watch the Bobcats play the Idaho State Bengals at <https://pluto.tv/live-tv/montana-state>.

SAT 27

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Online @ 1:15
Tune in to the Big Sky cross country championships to watch the Bobcats race to the finish. Find more information at <https://bigskyconf.com/tournaments/?id=612>.

BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL
Pluto TV, Channel 1057 @ 5 p.m.
Catch the Bobcats volleyball team facing off against the Portland State Vikings.

METAMORPHOSIS
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center @ 5:30 p.m. or 8 p.m.
Join Grammy-winning "Third Coast Percussion" and "Movement Art Is" for an evening-length program that explores the duality of human nature with live musical performances accompanying ground-breaking short films.

SUN 28

SOMETHING FUNNY IMPROV
SUB 168 @ 4 p.m.
Join Something Funny Improv for their weekly practice. Anyone, from total beginner to improv veteran, is welcome. Masks are required, and social distancing will be maintained. RSVP at <https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6750173>.

MON 01

HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE YEAR BEGINS
The new license year opens March 1, so don't forget to renew hunting and fishing licenses and begin applying for permits and special licenses. The deadline to apply for deer and elk permits is April 1.

TRIVIA NIGHT
Bozeman Taproom @ 7 p.m.
Join Bozeman Taproom every Monday for trivia. The top three teams win prizes, and first place wins a \$50 gift card.

TUES 02

NATIONAL DAY OF EMPATHY EVENT
Online @ Noon
The Day of Empathy is an annual, national day of action to build empathy on a massive scale for the millions of Americans impacted by the criminal justice system. To register at no cost, visit thedreamcorps.org/MT-DOE.

INTERVARSITY WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP
Danforth Chapel @ 7:30 p.m.
Join InterVarsity and dive into the Bible, fellowship with good people, and make connections!

WED 03

LIVE MUSIC
Bozeman Taproom @ 7 p.m.
Stop by the Taproom for a live performance from Bozeman local, Matt Miller.

“Terra Firma” ends my musical rut

BY ROSE VEJVODA

Everybody knows the dreadful feeling of being in a music rut — when you can’t find anything good to listen to and you spend way too much time skipping through Spotify playlists. Well, if you’re like me, stuck in a musical rut of misery, then look no further, I have got a great album for you to listen to.

Last Thursday, Feb. 17, at 10 p.m. MT, Tash Sultana released their second full album titled “Terra Firma.” For those that are unfamiliar with Tash Sultana, they are just about the coolest Australian music artist around. Sultana started gaining recognition after posting homemade videos on YouTube. According to their website, Sultana was gifted a guitar by their grandfather at age three, and they have been playing ever since. It also says that “Tash plays over 12 instruments (guitar, bass, drums/percussion, piano/keyboard/synth/oud, trumpet, saxophone, flutes, pan pipes, sitar, harmonica, beat production) with guitar as their main love. If that’s not impressive enough, Sultana also has a vocal range spanning six octaves, from C2-A7 on the piano.

“I hope you can hear everything I have to say. Every cell, vessel, heartbeat and heart string I poured into this. Now it belongs to you.”
— Tash Sultana

Now, I have been a Tash Sultana fan since they came out with their first full album, “Flow State”, in 2018. Each song on the first album brings something different, and their talent is more than evident.

Their second album, Terra Firma, is also an absolute masterpiece. Since June 2020, Sultana has been giving fans a taste of the new album and had released five songs from the Terra Firma album before the recent release of the whole album.

According to an article written on Grateful Web, a popular music site, “Terra Firma sees Tash bare their soul on two levels. Spiritually, it arrived in a time of global detachment and acted as a conduit to reconnect to their core selves — something Tash had been dismissing during strenuous global tours. And musically, where its 14 tracks take root into far-reaching sonic territory.”

Their first album, “Flow State”, presented mesmerizing loops and layered jams, while the new album builds on that foundation and adds a medley of soul, funk, R&B, rock and hip-hop.

Right before their new album was released, Tash took to Instagram to share this important message with fans: “And so, it is almost time. I’ve been

holding onto this for the last few months getting myself ready to let this belong to the world. The birth of a new era. I hope you can hear everything I have to say. Every cell, vessel, heartbeat and heart string I poured into this. Now it belongs to you. But before you begin, I have one request, for the very first time you hear this record I would like you to take yourself to a quiet space, turn off the lights, light a candle and light some incense - this was the intended listening experience of TERRA FIRMA. Sit back and enjoy the ride. I hope you can see who I am.”

So, next time you find yourself searching for something beautiful to listen to, look no further. Grab some candles, turn the lights down low, put on Terra Firma and prepare to be swept away with this wonderfully hypnotizing, soul-baring album.

Download the b2 VirtualCare App
to talk to a doctor after hours, today.



Get answers from doctors.

Not some randos on the internet.



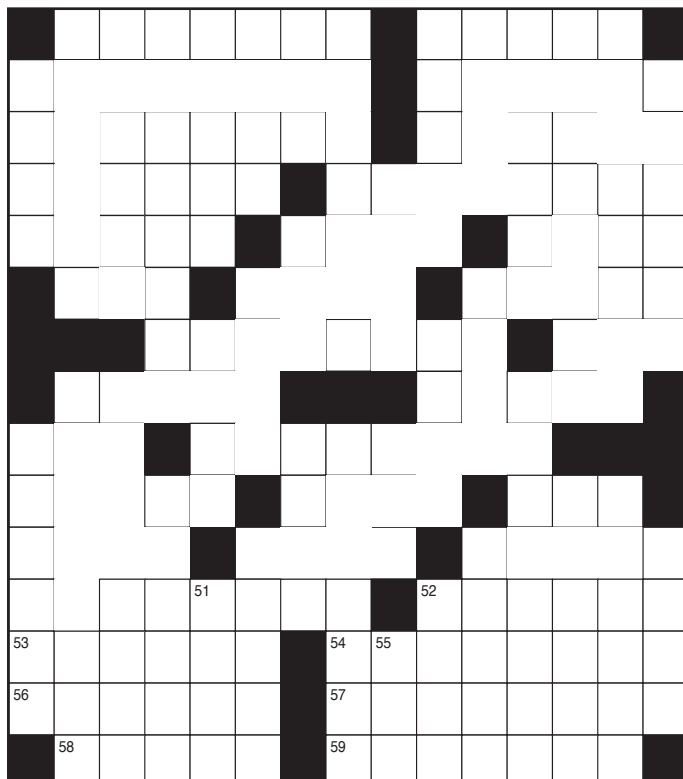
VirtualCare

Ongoing headache?

Get answers after hours for commonly treated conditions such as sinus infections, or flu and cold symptoms from your cellphone, computer or tablet with b2 VirtualCare.

Convenient care when & where you need it.





Across

1. Novelist Alger
8. Type of wrench
13. In reprisal
14. Warning sign
16. Brought up
17. Noted creed
18. Superiors
19. Limerick lads
21. Actress of the silent pictures
22. Fraternal org. letters
23. "House" actor
24. Cotillion V.I.P. (abbr.)
25. Critical hosp. areas
26. Shaw of the big band era
27. Caught up
30. Word with deep or game
31. Lowest point
33. Creatures said to cause warts
35. Judge's adj.
36. Avidity
40. Tedium
42. Luau loops
43. "Play it again, ____"
46. God of Thebes
47. Mended, maybe
48. Kept for a rainy day
50. Posses
52. "I held your hand ____" (Beatles)
53. Averred
54. Work (against)
56. Idaho produce, informally
57. 1996 movie role for Madonna
58. "The Syncopated Clock" composer Anderson
59. Rejects

Down

1. Prepared fruit for salad, e.g.
2. Very sensitive
3. Wet bottom?
4. Video game pioneer
5. Wee warblers
6. "____ been had!"
7. "____ Rex"
8. "____ Hall"
9. Lane of "Superman"
10. Pervert
11. Freed, as from paying a tax
12. Game called "Skittles" in the U.K.
13. Part of a hammer head
15. Prepared for a blow
20. ____ Hashanah
22. Ancient times, to some
25. Nagy of Hungary
26. Rumpuses
28. Supermodel Taylor
29. French summers
31. Gaseous element, e.g.
32. Provide critical comments
34. Indian export
35. California's ____ Castle
37. Virginia's Robert ____
38. Some anchors
39. Palindromic diarist
41. Binding agent
44. Home for birds
45. Ingredient in an "explosive" Youtube fad
47. Like a bubble bath
48. Cuts with scissors
49. TV chef Paula
51. Rome's fifth emperor
52. Faulkner's "As ____ Dying"
55. ____ Ikuko Toguri ("Tokyo Rose")

**After texting "here",
and before my friend
came outside, I...**

Memorized the first
5,000 digits of pi

Trained Butters the
corgi to beat the dog
agility world record

Became a black-belt
fruit ninja

Synthesized a COVID-19
vaccine

Had an existential crisis
thinking about the
Mandela effect

Defeated Batman in
footsies

Performed openheart
surgery on a grasshopper

Cracked the Krabby-
Patty secret recipe

Inoculated myself
against all poisons by
ingesting microdoses
of every snake venom
on the planet

Went and got milk

Stole the Constitution

Won a thumb war
against the longest-
thumbed man in the
world

Flew to Mars, found life
and came back

Achieved Buddhist
enlightenment

Stole the chandelier at
Tiffany's

Watched every Twilight
movie backward and
forwards

Entered and exited a rut

**Tall Tales
& TIDBITS**

In a parallel universe,
the Berenstain Bears
were actually the
Berenstein Bears.

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

Another	Evoked	Mason	Subset
Beehives	Flesh	Monarchies	Timing
Canes	Flirted	Muggy	Tonnes
Channel	Flues	Needy	Tutor
Cheat	Funding	Patterns	Unpredictable
Chink	Granule	Peeking	Wrest
Conditionally	Grossed	Print	
Dampens	Hatreds	Pucker	
Disappointment	Hoorays	Punishes	
Drivels	Isles	Sects	
Elective	Lemon	Shins	
Elusive	Longhand	Skims	

CODE: 46FUVH74

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

CODE: E423JU

EASY
CHALLENGING

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

CODE: E423JU

CODE: E895PH