THE MSU
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April 15, 2021
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FLASHBULB

Rich Mayo demonstrates his skill on the harmonica at the Kountry Korner Cafe on Tuesday, April 13. The multi-instrumentalist is a regular on Tuesday nights, providing quality live music starting at 6:00 p.m. every week.

PHOTO BY DANIKA WOLF



HEARD ON THE WEB

From @memes_of_msu



INSTAGRAM OF THE WEEK

From @catcaveco:

"Somebody call Vogue..."

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES



COMPILED BY JAXSON BISHOP • DESIGN BY TIM LEE

Kagy Boulevard expansion

BY JESSICA MCMURTRY

Over the course of this year, the city of Bozeman has worked on developing a preliminary design and fiscal plan to expand Kagy Boulevard. The tentative plan includes expanding the road to four lanes and adding separate bike and pedestrian lanes along with roundabouts at major intersections. The expansion would take place beginning at the intersection of South 19th Avenue and Kagy Boulevard to South Willson Avenue and South 3rd Avenue.

The public works director of Bozeman, Mitch Reister, told *7KBZK News*, "The general purpose of the project is to relieve congestion and to improve bike and pedestrian facilities." Kagy Boulevard currently has two to three lanes and is congested with traffic during rush hour, especially when school at MSU is in session.

Talk of expanding Kagy Boulevard has been persisting for decades as both the city and MSU continue to grow. "This has been in the transportation plan really since the late '50s to have this be the dominant east-west arterial in the south part of town," Reister said. Based on the current expansion plan, the total estimated cost is around $17 million, with federal funding for the project summing up to around $13 million, which will leave the city of Bozeman needing to fund around $4 million of the project.

Kagy is a funnel for bus transportation for MSU students getting to and from campus which, according to Reister, reiterates the need for an expansion for multi-lane facilities. "We really need to have multi-lane facilities so that buses can get in and out of traffic. If we don't have those multi-lane facilities it makes it that much more challenging to have transit that's functional," Reister said.

Many residents have raised concerns about the project, claiming it will encourage more car travel than other less-congesting and polluting modes of transportation, and that some neighborhoods will be isolated during the construction.

Commissioner Jennifer Madgic expressed her concerns regarding the project during a December 2020 commission meeting. "The design we have right now has the potential to bifurcate our community, and I'm not sure that's in the best interest of our community right now," Madgic said, according to the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*.

Construction is projected to begin on the expansion in 2025 under the management of the Montana Department of Transportation.



The stop sign on the corner of 7th Avenue and Kagy Boulevard marks the halfway point of the planned lane expansion of Kagy Boulevard, which is slated to begin in 2025.

PHOTO BY DANIKA WOLF

Gallatin County Health Board extends mask mandate

BY BRADEN URION

The Gallatin County Health Board voted on Monday, April 5, to extend the county's mask mandate until Thursday, May 27. Rising COVID-19 case numbers in March guided the board's decision to extend the mask mandate, which would have otherwise expired on this coming Tuesday, April 20. The board also approved revisions for business operations that allow more people to be seated at a table at one time.

In February, Gov. Greg Gianforte (R) repealed the statewide mask mandate, allowing local governments to dictate their own rules and regulations for the pandemic. Gallatin County is one of 13 Montana counties, reservations and cities with mask mandates still in place. The Montana legislature, however, is considering a measure that will lower the funds local governments receive from the American Rescue Plan by 20% if they have stricter health guidelines than the state at whole.

Gallatin County's average number of COVID-19 cases has been slowly rising since Monday, March 8. On the day of the recent health board meeting, the seven-day average was 42.7 new daily cases per 100,000 residents. The Harvard Institute for Global Health designates an average above 25 cases per 100,000 residents as evidence of a high level of spread. The average percentage of positive COVID-19 test results per total number of tests was above 10%, which is an indicator that there are more infected people than the tests show.

"It does make some sense to me that when you have thousands of people who have not yet been able to get access to the vaccine, we have variants circulating and we have higher case numbers than anywhere else in the state, that [the mask requirement] is one of the provisions that really doesn't have a lot of costs to businesses, and in fact some businesses are asking us to do it," Health Officer Matt Kelley said to the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*. Another factor in extending the mandate through the end of May is the nearing end of the college semester. The exodus of college students from Bozeman will hopefully take some pressure off the need for a mask mandate. The board voted 7-2 to extend the mask mandate into May. The two dissenting votes were made by County Commissioner Joe Skinner and board member Chris Budeski.

In addition to extending the mask mandate, the Board decided to change the number of people allowed at a single dining or bar table from six to eight and reduced the minimum distance between bar stools from six feet down to three feet. "We are looking for ways to allow businesses to continue to operate [and ways] to operate a bit more freely," Kelley said.

The board will meet again in May to reconsider further extending the mask mandate and adjusting other COVID-19 regulations based on the state of the county at that time.

Former Irish president speaks at MSU

BY KYLEE RUX

Former President of Ireland and United Nations (UN) High Commissioner Mary Robinson spoke from across the pond during an MSU live event that took place on Thursday, April 9. Robinson's presentation focused on leadership, education and advocacy for the poor and disempowered who are disproportionately threatened by climate change. The virtual event was open to both MSU students and the public.

Robinson served as the first female president of Ireland from 1990 to 1997 and is known for creating the modern image of Ireland. Robinson said during her interview with the *Exponent* that this was the result of "constantly questioning the social environment in Ireland when I was growing up because it was very unequal for women. For example, there were so many laws that discriminated against women." Robinson joined the Irish Senate at the age of 25 and her first policy change legalized family planning. She produced the bill that would allow Irish women to have access to contraceptives and legalized condoms. "Very Catholic Ireland at the time caused me to be a very unpopular figure and that disturbed me as a young woman who was quite successful in what I was doing and suddenly I became a hate figure," Robinson said. "I was so affected by early criticism. Then I realized that I believe in what I'm doing. I'm going to continue to do it. I'm going to just carry on with what I'm doing because I believe it will be better for the future of Ireland."

After her presidency, she established the Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice, served as the UN secretary-general's special envoy on climate justice, was the UN high commissioner for human rights and co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders. Robinson is also the author of "Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future." In addition, she is a founding member of The Elders, a non-governmental organization of public figures who are also peace activists, human rights advocates and statespeople, and was appointed chair in 2018.

In her lecture, Robinson first explored five layers of injustice, including injustices found in communities and nature. Next, Robinson spoke on the ways COVID-19 has influenced society. She shared the idea that COVID-19 has taught us that collective human behavior matters, government matters at all levels and compassion matters. Additionally, she said we must listen to climate scientists in the same way we have listened to scientists during the entirety of the epidemic.

In order for humans to lessen our impact, Robinson said each individual needs to make the climate crisis personal, get angry with those who hold great power and imagine the planet we need.

This idea brought her to her final thoughts. Robinson said that climate change is much more than a politicized issue and everyone must take responsibility as this is the most important decade to bend the warming curve and get onto the right track. According to Robinson and climate scientists, if Earth's average annual temperature rises by two degrees Celsius there will be catastrophic effects to the environment, including the loss of coral reefs and glacial ice melting. She explained that reducing greenhouse gas emissions can also save lives, considering 8.7 million people have already died from air pollution caused by carbon emissions in 2018. In order for humans to lessen our impact, Robinson said each individual needs to make the climate crisis personal, get angry with those who hold great power and imagine the planet we need. Robinson finished her talk by pointing to her half-full glass of water and saying that we must "make it work and build forward."

"I think young people need to interrupt more. It's very different from when I was growing up when we respectfully listened to the elders who gave us the wisdom. That's not the case now," Robinson said. "It's a real conversation because young people are so connected. They understand the world. They're in touch with things. Young people come fresh to ideas, come fresh to possibilities and it's a wonderful conversation."

Robinson has hope for the future and says, "I spend a lot of time thinking about what the world will be like in 2030 and I like what I think about. It will be a much healthier world. We will hear the birds sing and we live in a way that's closer to nature because that is the wisdom we've learned."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU NEWS SERVICE

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Martell hangs up her jersey and looks ahead

BY MEREDITH TEUBER

For the past 15 years, senior Tori Martell has invested her time in basketball. As her graduation nears, the *Exponent* had the opportunity to speak to Martell as she finishes up her time at MSU. At the start of the season, the question lingered — will there even be games? For Martell and her teammates, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the team more than just physically. "Throughout the fall, we were in and out of quarantine as a team," she said. "I spent 42 days in quarantine which meant I couldn't train at all besides at my house." With the team constantly in quarantine heading into the start of the season, it was hard to prepare for what was ahead. "I know there were times when everyone was so beyond frustrated with everything happening that it felt like it was never going to get better," Martell said.

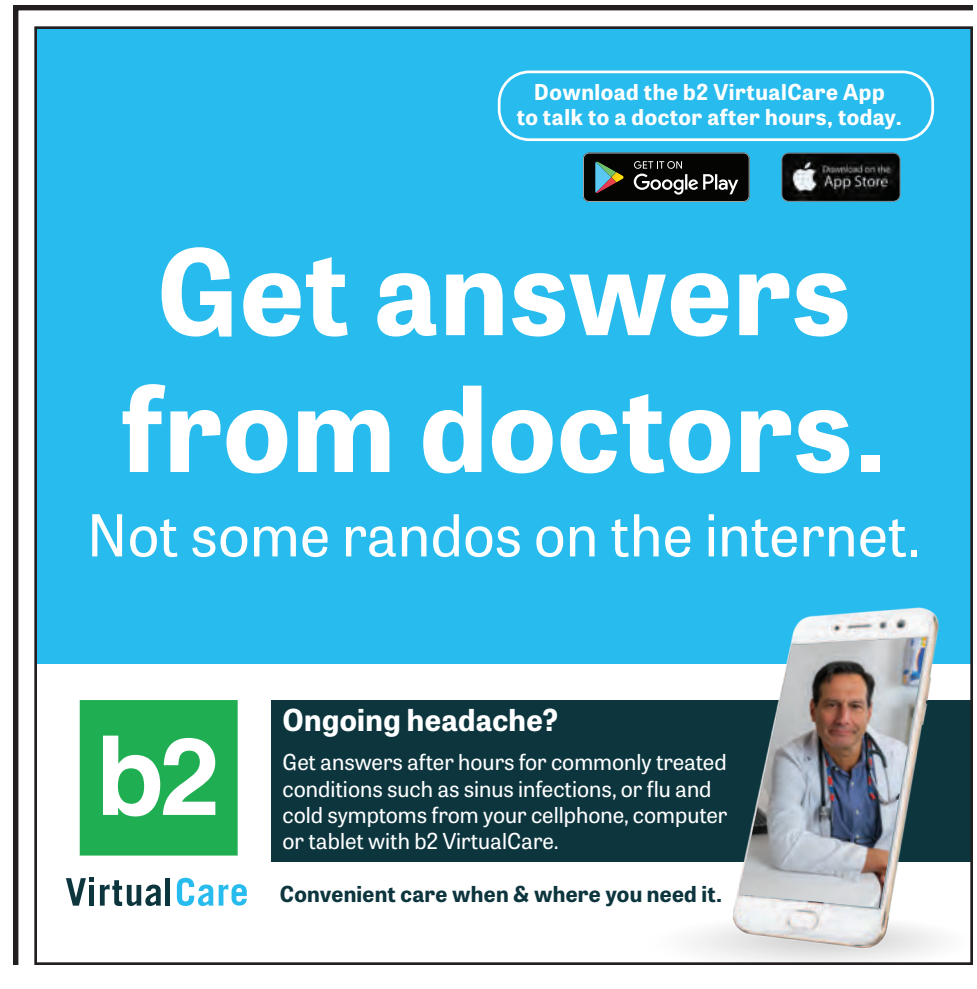
"Being able to wear Blue and Gold has been such a blessing and I will leave this university with so much more than I came with."
— Senior guard Tori Martell

The season went pretty smoothly for the women's basketball team despite the concerns brought on by the pandemic. Beating Montana twice was just one major accomplishment Martell was able to celebrate this year with her team. Martel also had the opportunity to participate in a national collegiate three-point championship, the 2021 State Farm College Slam Dunk & 3-Point Championship, where she competed against the best shooters in the nation. "This last week has been so much fun, just getting invited to the three-point championship was such an honor. Being able to represent Montana State on ESPN and win it was an insane feeling and I still can't believe that it all happened," she mentioned in regard to her sensational win. Even after discussing her accomplishments, Martell's mind was still focusing on her teammates, demonstrating her love and compassion for the sport and her team. "I just hope next year, especially for the six freshmen who didn't get to experience the love of our fans, can have that aspect of being a Bobcat women's basketball player back," she said.

Martell then went on to explain what being a part of MSU has meant to her over the past four years. "Being able to wear Blue and Gold has been such a blessing and I will leave this university with so much more than I came with," she said. She gave special shoutouts to her family, friends, coaches, professors and her teammates, as she thanked them for their never-ending support. "This place has taught me how to be a caring teammate, how to lead and be led, how to adapt and grow through any situation, and how to live for God," Martell said. As much as she is sad to be ending her 15-year basketball career, Martell is excited to start her journey in the nursing field. Her plan after graduation is to head home to Minneapolis and work in a NICU (Newborn Intensive Care Unit). Regardless of where she ends up in the nursing field, Martell hopes she may end up back in school one day to become a midwife or a nurse practitioner.

To close out Martell's interview she was prompted to share a closing statement on her time at MSU. "I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported me and walked through this journey with me these last four years at Montana State. I have grown so much as a person, especially in my faith and walk with God. This place has shaped me into the person I am and I could not be more grateful for the experiences I have had at MSU."

Thank you for everything you have done for the women's basketball team and for MSU, Tori, and good luck in your future endeavors.



Cat Golf's season is in full swing

BY THOMAS AUSTIN

As this spring sports season enters the home stretch, the Bobcat women's golf team, commonly called Cat Golf, is in full swing. Montana State was represented by golfers Kameryn Bayse, Annika Danenhauer, Hailey Oster, Sofia Rodriguez Todd and Hannah Rosanova in last week's Cowgirl Classic tournament in Maricopa, Arizona on April 5 and 6. Additionally, Montana State faced off against Portland State for a three-round head-to-head matchup on Wednesday, April 7.

Cat Golf's season is ramping up just in time for the Big Sky Conference Championship, which will be held in Molalla, Oregon from Monday, April 19 through Wednesday, April 21. To get an inside look at the team's season, the *Exponent* spoke with sophomore Annika Danenhauer and juniors Hailey Oster and Sofia Rodriguez Todd.

According to Montana State's golfers, the most significant challenge at this stage in the season is still the lack of outdoor practice available in Bozeman. Golf courses in town have opened for the season, but unpredictable spring weather continues to affect playing conditions. "The week before we came [to Arizona] we were planning on practicing outside all week but it got really cold again and we had to go indoors," Danenhauer said. Limited access to outdoor courses restricts the number of different shots that golfers can practice, making the transition to tournament play much more difficult. "It's still quite limited," Rodriguez Todd said.

Due to Montana's ever-changing spring weather, Cat Golf strategically front-loads its tournament schedule to secure as much outdoor playing time as possible in the weeks leading up to the conference championship. "That way when it comes down to conference, we've been playing for a while," Rodriguez Todd said. Many of Montana State's opponents in the Big Sky Conference, such as Sacramento State and Portland State, have access to outdoor courses year-round, so maximizing outdoor practice down the stretch is crucial for Cat Golf in order to level their playing field.

As the semester winds down and golf heats up, Montana State's golfers are thrilled to be traveling with their teammates and competing once again. "It's fun to be with the team," Oster said. "I feel like our team is actually really close and everyone gets along well which makes it really easy." Danenhauer agreed with Oster saying that, "The best part is just getting to play, to be here, and to have the support of a school to do it."

For up-to-date results, check *msubobcats.com* for results and follow *@MSUBobcatsGolf* on social media to keep up with team developments and news.

MSU Track & Field returns home

COURTESY OF MSU ATHLETICS

Montana State track and field held its first outdoor home meet in over a 23-month span on Saturday, April 10, with the Bobcats competing against competitors from Montana at the Bobcat Track and Field Complex. While many of the marks or times the athletes were seeking were thwarted due to blustery conditions over the course of the day, the ability to officially go head-to-head versus an opponent was an experience alone that was worthwhile for MSU.

"Competing in front of family and friends, having some spectators, was pretty awesome," said Lyle Weese, the Dale Kennedy Montana State Director of Track and Field. "It was the first home event we could have spectators at, so I think the student-athletes really appreciated that and got a boost from it."

The Bobcats had a total of 17 first-place finishes out of a possible 30 events.

Macy White (100), Leigha Carter (200), Trisha Carlson (800), Morgan Evans (100 hurdles), Carla Nicosia (triple jump), Maisee Brown (pole vault), Jordan Fink (shot put) and Carley VonHeeder (javelin) each completed top showings in their respective events for the Bobcat women's squad.

White's wind-aided time of 11.76 seconds in the 100-meter dash would have placed her second in program history in the event. Evans completed a time 13.63 seconds, faster than the school record, in the 100 hurdles. Fink completed a lifetime best of 43 feet, 5.75 inches in the shot put to lead a 1-2-3 Bobcat finish in the event.

Brown and Kendall Stark each completed personal-best heights in the women's pole vault. Brown cleared 11-10.75 (3.55m) and Stark went over 11-01.75. Elena Carter and Evelyn Adams each completed lifetime bests in the long jump and 100 hurdles. Carter had a wind-aided jump of 18-11.75 (5.78) to lead the Bobcat women in the long jump. That would have been MSU's seventh all-time best mark in the event. Adams's long jump of 18-07.25 (5.67m) would have ranked 10th among Bobcats. The duo recorded times of 13.98 seconds and 14.10 seconds, respectively, in the hurdles event.

The Bobcat men saw Noah Majerus (800), Henry Adams (100 hurdles), Noah Martin (high jump), Colby Wilson (pole vault), Levi Taylor (1,500) Alec Nehring (shot put), Ethan Saberhagen (discus) and Cooper Hoffman claim first-place finishes.

Majerus won the 800 by just one one-thousandth of a second as he crossed the line in 2:00.42. Taylor completed a personal-best time of 3:59.54 in the 1,500 to lead a 1-2-3 MSU finish that included Cooper West and Isaac Schmidt. Martin narrowly topped seven feet in the high jump by clearing 6-11.75.

"It was a difficult day for the oval events," Weese said. "I thought they did a great job of fighting through. We had some pretty good performances, and then when we had events when we could run with the wind, we had some people run faster than they ever have with some wind aided marks. That was exciting and it may give them some belief that they can have that type of performance again."

Montana State goes on the road for its next two meets. The Bobcats head to Pocatello first for the Bengal Invitational which runs from April 16-17.

GETTING ROPED INTO A BUCKING GOOD WEEKEND

By Beau Baxter

After two years in the waiting, the MSU Spring Rodeo made an exciting return last weekend at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds and kicked off the spring half of the rodeo season with four performances and two rounds of scoring. Rodeo fans flooded in for the events, selling out each evening performance and overflowing into the parking lot to catch a glimpse of the action from car rooftops and trailers.

MSU competed against six other colleges from around Montana and Wyoming over the weekend. The Bobcat Rodeo team seemed to pick up right where they left off in the fall, with both the men's and women's teams taking home first overall after Thursday and Friday's first round.

"The team did have a great fall, but I do feel like they used some of that momentum this weekend to keep the ball rolling," MSU Rodeo Head Coach Andy Bolich said. "It's always nice when they can get off to a good start for the spring season and set the tone for the remaining three rodeos."

The Bobcats swept the podiums for barrel racing, steer wrestling and the men's all-around category along with huge first-place finishes like Keenan Kvamme securing first place in Bull Riding and the Faulkner brothers Jake and Cody, snagging the lead in team roping.

"It was great to finally host a rodeo in Bozeman again. It definitely felt different not being in the Brick Breeden though, but still good to have a rodeo and give the team a chance to compete," Bolich said. "The season has been really different with Covid restrictions. Our college rodeos haven't been the same with no fans or very limited at best."

As the weekend stretched on, the competition kicked in with more outstanding performances from other schools such as Montana Western, whose men's team took home first in the second set — beating the Bobcat men's total score by 120 points. The Bulldog's Brody Smith — currently ranked first in the Big Sky Region for bareback riding — dug in for two great bareback rides in the second rodeo, taking

SCORING THE EVENTS:

ROUGHSTOCK

It's not just whether they hold on, but how they hold on for the first eight seconds out of the chute (should they make it that long). Competitors are scored by judges out of 100 points — 50 points come from the rider's performance and 50 points come from the difficulty of the animal's bucking style. Riders can only hold on with one hand — if the free hand touches the animal or themself, the rider receives no points.

BAREBACK BRONC RIDING:
Riders are judged based on how well they spur the horse, keep their toes turned out and move with the animal. Riders must also mark out their horses on the first buck by holding their spurs above the horse's shoulders.

SADDLE BRONC RIDING:
The judging basis is similar to bareback, but riders must keep their feet in stirrups and hold a 6 ft braided rein instead of a small leather handle.

BULL RIDING:
Unlike the bareback and saddle bronc riding, bull riders aren't scored on their spurring — though it can help their score. Instead, they are solely scored on their reflexes and ability to balance and move with the bull.

TIMED EVENTS

Though these events are a little more straightforward, each contains penalties that affect the contestant's time.

BARREL RACING:
Riders run a clover-leaf pattern around three barrels, making either right or left-hand turns around each and returning to the starting line. Riders can clip a barrel, but knocking one over is a 5 second penalty.

TEAM ROPING:
The team must catch a steer by its head and heels. The steer must be allowed a head start or the team receives a 10 second penalty. If the header doesn't catch one horn, both horns or the neck, the team is disqualified. If the heeler only loops one heel, the team receives a 5 second penalty; if the heeler misses, the team is disqualified.

STEER WRESTLING:
Contestants chase down a steer on horseback, jump off, grab the steer's horns and wrestle it to its side with all four legs pointed in the same direction. Riders often reach speeds of 30 miles per hour during the event. If the rider doesn't allow the steer a head start, the rider receives a 10-second penalty.

home yet another first-place finish on Sunday.

Though the second rodeo on Saturday jumped out the gate with several great bareback riders, the evening proved the most challenging with frigid temperatures rolling in alongside heavy snow and gusty winds.

"The weather was definitely tough and made conditions a lot harder with wind and snow," Bolich said. "I was happy with the way our student-athletes overcame the challenges and didn't let it affect their performance."

After the success of the fall half of the season, Bolich and other college rodeo participants expect a smooth — though undoubtedly different — finish this spring, culminating in the national championships in Casper, Wyoming this June. Coach Bolich has big plans to get his team to Casper and back with more than a few buckles.

"The goal for the rest of the spring is to win as much as we possibly can each weekend," Bolich said. "Also to win the Big Sky Region year-end championship men's and women's team titles. And the big goal is to go to the CNFR and win a national championship."

Currently, the MSU men's and women's rodeo teams sit well in the lead in the Big Sky Region, giving them a great shot at yet again winning the regional crown before moving on to the national championships.

The MSU rodeo team has won a combined eight national team titles and 32 individual titles since 1949 (which was the first year with a national rodeo championship where alumnus Bob Sauke won first place in wild cow milking — an event as outrageous as it sounds). The women's team hasn't won a national title since 2011, and the men's team hasn't won one since 1995. With any luck, the Bobcats will come out of this strange season stronger than ever and tack on yet another few wins to the team's storied history.



Design by Katy Sestay



After heading the steer, an MSU athlete dallies left to give her teammate an opportunity to heel the steer's hind legs. **Photo by Michael Kilkuts**



A Northwest College athlete holds tightly to his rig coming out of the chute atop a bucking bull at the Spring Rodeo. **Photo by Dane Williams**



An MSU athlete jumps from his horse and begins his tackle in an attempt to wrestle a steer to the ground. **Photo by Michael Kilkuts**

OUTDOORS

A bear-y nice hike

BY MEREDITH TEUBER

Gorgeous views, a flowing creek and a lightly trafficked hiking trail are a dream come true for many hikers, including myself. Bear Canyon trail has all three of these magnificent things. Bear Canyon is roughly an 8.1-mile out-and-back-hike if you take the turnaround before hiking toward the Bear Lakes and the Chestnut Mountain trail. According to *Alltrails.com*, this is a moderate hike that includes many activities along the way to partake in, including sightseeing and fishing. The best conditions to trek this trail are from March to October. It is always a good idea to hike in a group of at least three and carry bear spray. Bears will have a greater presence on the trails and in the backcountry as they begin to come out of their winter hibernation.

To keep the trail as beautiful as it naturally is, Bear Canyon is open to foot traffic only from April 1 to July 16. Afterward, mountain bikes are allowed on the trail. In the spring months, the trail can also be quite muddy and, as humidity sets in, bugs are also going to be fairly active. So yes, even though you might think you're invincible to bugs and bug bites, bringing bug spray is always a good idea to prevent you from looking like a walking pufferfish. As a popular place for cross-country skiing in the winter, the trail also features some steep switchbacks. To avoid the switchbacks, hikers can opt to follow the creek. The creek path, however, is not all smooth sailing as it is fairly narrow with many rocks lining the path.

This trail is dog friendly, with dogs permitted either on or off-leash. Just remember to clean up after your pup to keep this trail clean and to preserve its natural beauty. Hiking shoes are always recommended especially after rain, and when snow is expected. With snow appearing late into spring and Montana's inability to pick a season and stick with it, wearing waterproof hiking shoes might be something to consider no matter when you go. Remember to try and create as much room as possible when other hikers are passing by considering the rocky and tight trail.

For more information on this hike, and for directions to the trailhead, visit *https://outsidebozeman.com/trails-tours/hiking-trails/bear-canyon-trail* or *Alltrails.com* for the best up to date reviews on trail conditions.

OPINION

Share the Road

BY JAXSON BISHOP



Imagine this: you are driving down West College Street, minding your business when, all of a sudden, a Chaco-wearing, Nalgene-carrying, Kavu-single-strap pack slinging biker comes flying out of nowhere. You slam on the brakes, honk your horn and express your frustration by flipping the bird. Sound familiar? This happens all too often when bicyclists can't seem to make up their mind whether they want to act like a vehicle or a pedestrian, going back and forth between the two at their own convenience.

When you are riding a bike on the street you are classified as a vehicle, meaning you have to obey all vehicle traffic laws. These include stopping at stop signs and traffic lights and signaling your turns. On the other hand, for those cyclists who want to bear the congestion of the sidewalk, pedestrians have the right-of-way. This simple rule seems to evade a whole host of you who decide to race down the Centennial Mall weaving between those who are walking. I cannot count the number of times I have almost been run over by an over-aggressive biker.

According to the Heenan & Cook law office, "Cyclists in driving lanes must adhere to all motor vehicle traffic laws such as turn indications and stops to be considered 'lawful.' If cyclists fail to follow traffic laws and it leads to a collision, they may be at fault."

So, to all you bikers who seem to think you own the road, you don't. Instead, you share the road with those who are driving around you. Those not-so-subtle bright yellow diamond signs that have a bicycle and the words "SHARE THE ROAD" are for both the operators of a motor vehicle and for those who are cruising in the bike lane.

On a side note, wear a dang helmet. You aren't driving around town without a seatbelt so why are you coasting down Willson Avenue helmet-free? You are a college student and you're literally investing in your brain, gathering knowledge that will aid you in your future career. Don't throw it all away by risking a crash and suffering a devastating brain injury. Helmet hair may not be the most attractive look and flirting with your hot TA will become much more difficult, but you're risking your safety and well-being by skipping out on protection.

Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, please be kind to one another and respect one another while on the road. Be safe and wear a helmet.

Vaccinations: Voluntary or Mandatory?

BY LYDIA FRENCH

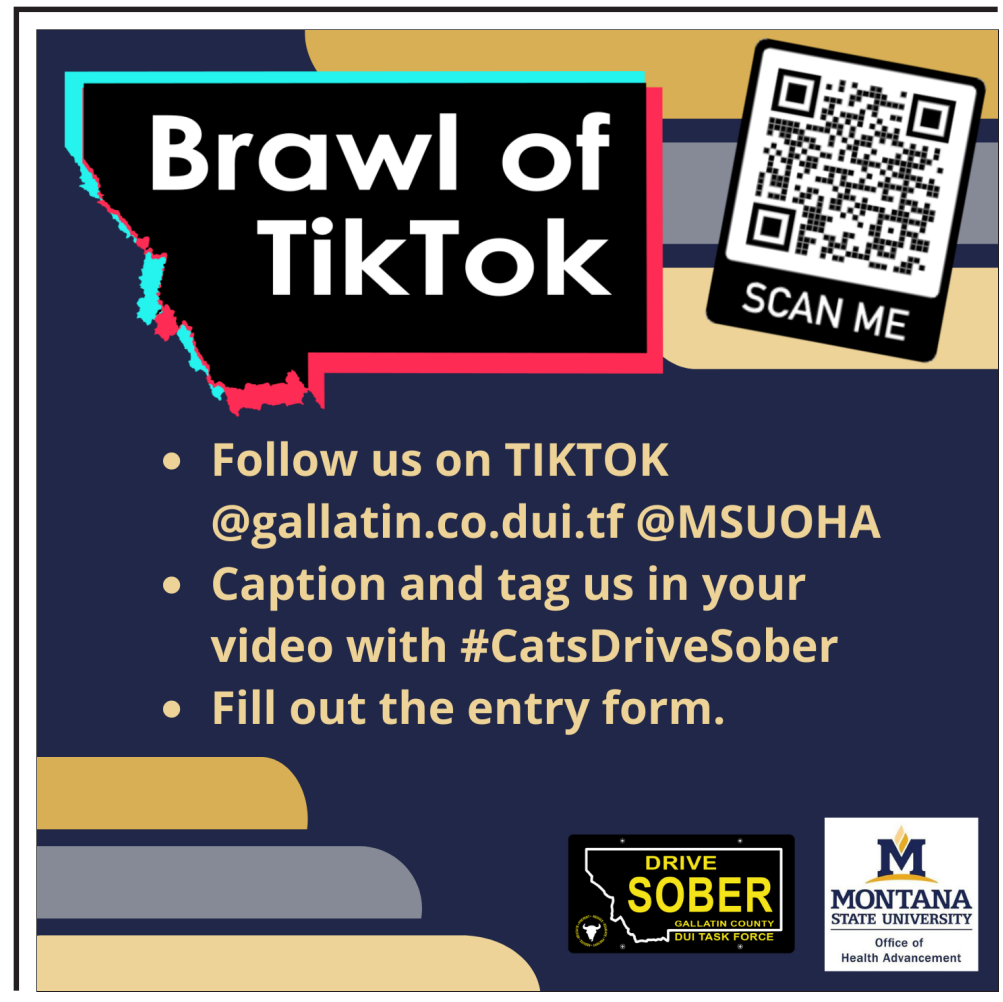
The debate over the requirement of vaccine passports has raged since the early 1960's when the World Health Organization (WHO) created the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) as an official record designed to prove inoculation to certain diseases during international travel. Since its creation, ICVP, also known as the 'Yellow Card,' listed certifications for four vaccinations: Yellow Fever, Cholera, Typhus Fever and Smallpox. In the midst of the newest pandemic, the WHO is being pressured to revise its current Yellow Card certifications by adding the SARS-CoV-2 vaccination as a necessary inoculation in countries that currently require the Yellow Card for entrance, which include the Netherlands, South Africa and China. The possibility of a digital version of this card being required across the U.S. for events and travel has been met with contentious outcry on both sides of the debate. As of Friday, March 26, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) announced the launch of a program called the Excelsior Pass that will serve as a digital vaccine passport that New Yorkers can display to prove vaccination records or the recent receival of a negative SARS-CoV-2 test. This digital passport is currently not mandatory in New York City, but is expected to expand across large scale events and into smaller arts, entertainment and event venues.

Concern surrounding the idea that proof of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccination will be required for travel within the U.S. was met with a press release by White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki who told reporters on Tuesday, April 6, "The U.S. government won't issue so-called vaccine passports. There will be no federal vaccinations database and no federal mandate requiring everyone to obtain a single vaccination credential." Despite the federal government denying such a requirement, numerous states, employers, venues and other private entities have begun working on vaccine passports similar in execution to the Excelsior Pass for visitors and employees. While private companies can legally require vaccinations as a part of their hiring procedures, vaccinations should never be required for public transportation or use of federal land and resources. On Tuesday, April 13, Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte (R) reassured Montanans that no such passport would be required. "I strongly encourage Montanans to get a safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine, which is our best path to protect our family and friends and get back to a more normal life," Gianforte said. "Receiving one is entirely voluntary and will not be mandated by the State of Montana, nor compelled through vaccine passports, vaccine passes, or other compulsory means. We are committed to protecting individual liberty and personal privacy." The right to control one's health and body is centered on a single and most crucial principle —choice. The argument of personal choice is forefront in discussions such as sexual and reproductive rights and experimental medical trials. Medical care must be free from interference; patient autonomy in healthcare is imperative for safe and reliable care.

Significant dissent to the idea of choice regarding vaccinations is centered around the written opinion of Associate Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, "A community has the right to protect itself against an epidemic of disease which threatens the safety of its members," found in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, published in 1905. While the safety of a community is a concern that should be regarded with utmost care, our government was founded on the principle that individual rights should never be sacrificed at the hand of perceived benefit to the masses.

Although the federal government is adamant that a vaccine passport will never be required, there is no law or way to restrict private companies, organizations, buildings and resources from requiring vaccinations. Concerns surrounding the legality of private businesses requiring vaccinations have been argued incessantly but are futile under the bounds of current legislation. Private companies and organizations are already free to refuse employment or business dealings with whomever they desire, with the only exceptions being intolerances that fall under the federal Fair Employment Practices Law and federal and state anti-discrimination laws. However, these exceptions do not include vaccination status. Moving forward this year, states will have the ability to impose additional regulations on top of federal law, meaning that individual states can enact legislation that prevents private operations from distinguishing based on vaccination status.

The regulations regarding college students have been caught up in the discussion for several months, as different colleges are taking extreme steps to prevent the spread of the virus. Universities like Rutgers, Brown and Cornell have already announced that they will require proof of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccination prior to attendance this fall. Should colleges be able to require students to prove they have been injected with a COVID-19 vaccine in the same manner in which they require more rigorously-tested vaccines for measles, mumps and polio? The idea of mandating an injection is more than concerning. The choice of vaccination should remain the patient's choice.



Morning Workouts are Superior

BY RILEY FERRÉ

Staying active is essential to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Whether it is going for a long walk, a jog or hitting the weights at the gym, our bodies and brains feel good after some movement. We often decide when to work out based on our busy schedules and claim that there is no one time that is the "right time" to exercise. However, deciding to wake up a bit earlier and fit in a morning workout comes with a variety of benefits.

By the end of the day, our brains are bombarded with distractions. There are unfinished items on our to-do lists, emails to be read and a constant stream of stimulating rings and pings. All these things make it hard to disconnect and provide ourselves with time to move. It is much easier and more gratifying to perform a morning workout before the busyness of the day gets into full swing. According to Jasmin Theard, an exercise physiologist at Piedmont Atlanta Fitness Center, "Morning workouts help reduce the possibility for obstacles to present themselves... There is also less opportunity to make excuses." Unless fitting in a workout is at the very top of your priority list, events will often come up throughout the day that will end up taking the place of your time to move. By consistently setting an alarm and getting up for that morning run, exercising will feel less like an additional task than it would if you were constantly trying to fit it in at different times of the day.

Working out in the morning also instigates mental and physical health benefits that will last throughout the entire day. It is common for additional healthy choices to follow exercising, such as deciding to eat an apple instead of a bag of potato chips. *The International Journal of Obesity* published a study in 2018 following 2,680 college students who completed a 15-week exercise program. The students were not explicitly asked to make healthier food choices, but it was observed that those who stayed committed to the fitness program chose healthier eating options. Even though this can be experienced no matter what time of day you get active, working out in the morning allows more time for these healthy choices to be made throughout the day.

Is it sometimes difficult for you to focus on one task when there are so many other "to-dos" calling your name? Physical activity is proven to improve focus and concentration, too. Moving your body before you start any other task in the day allows you to maintain better cognition throughout every hour of the day. Exercising in the morning can also result in a better mood and a more positive outlook while navigating the roller coaster of emotions paired with each day of the week. You can feel better about yourself knowing that you were able to start the day with a workout, which comes with a feeling of accomplishment. According to Yvonne Thomas, Ph.D., a Los Angeles–based psychologist, "Exercising in the beginning of the day can help decrease some negative feelings and thoughts that can get in your way as the day goes on, making you feel less depressed, anxious, stressed, overwhelmed, sad or angry." I don't know about you, but I would choose waking up a few hours earlier over being in an emotional slump all day.

The benefits of physical activity in the morning heavily outweigh the temporary pain accompanying waking up early. Along with healthier eating choices, improved mental function and increased fitness motivation, working out just as the sun rises can help improve sleep, boost energy and improve weight loss. So, try a new routine of working out in the morning for a week and see if it improves your day-to-day experiences.

Want a chance to win a $30 Bridger Brewing gift card? Scan the QR code to take a short survey about the *Exponent* and you'll be entered into a drawing for the gift card. We are always looking for ways to improve our work and hope to hear your feedback.

Performers welcome back AIC powwow

BY FINLEY PANNO SHEPARD

During the week of March 22, the MSU American Indian Council held its 45th annual powwow. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, performers from Canada to Arizona submitted videos of their hand drum and dance performances with the hashtag #2021MSUAICPOWWOW on Facebook on specific days. The submissions were categorized by the type of performance, which included youth, teen and adult male and female Hand Drumming, as well as Fancy, Jingle, Grass, Chicken and traditional dances.

"We've missed powwows so much because of COVID[-19], and it is a really important part of our culture, and it's been something missing from my heart," Cheyenne Whiteman explained. Whiteman, a freshman from Hardin, Montana, is a nursing major at MSU with a passion (and talent) for Jingle dress dancing. She started "As soon as [she] could walk, [when her] mom started making [her] dresses."

Whiteman identifies herself as half Crow and half Northern Cheyenne and participated for the first time in an MSU-hosted powwow. Although new to the MSU powwow, Whiteman grew up attending and competing at various powwows across the state, which frequently included the annual powwow at the University of Montana. Nonetheless, Whiteman decided to attend MSU because of "the really good nursing program," and the fact that the "Native American Center was really attractive to [her]." She was drawn to MSU by the academic and personal support she found in the American Indian Center and accessible Honors College tutors. Whiteman was also drawn to the Caring For Our Own Program (CO-OP), which is an institution within the MSU Nursing department that provides academic and career support and resources to American Indian nursing students. Whiteman herself plans to tutor fellow other American Indian students in the future in anatomy, writing and sociology. As a nursing major, Whiteman is looking forward to becoming a family nurse practitioner. "I really want to work in my own town or another tribe's town, just because I think it is nice to go into a hospital and see someone who looks like you," Whiteman said. Her simple remark references a larger issue of a lack of BIPOC representation in the medical field, including hospitals and clinics across Montana.

Whiteman hopes to continue attending powwows during her nursing career, as well as bring her future children to the annual MSU powwow.

This year, Whiteman performed and recorded her Jingle dance alongside her close friend and fellow Jingle dress dancer, Maleeya Knows His Gun, in front of Montana Hall. Dancing to Young Grey Horse, Whiteman was dressed in a silver and black dress created by her mother, along with a new belt of her own that she was especially excited to wear. Whiteman made a nonchalant remark about the complicated process of creating her own outfit. "It is kind of like coming up with an outfit every morning. I have to look nice and organized, I've got to have a good outfit," she said.

In the future, Whiteman plans to attend and compete in subsequent powwows at MSU, including competing in the annual Miss Indian MSU pageant that takes place every March. Whiteman is also continuing her journey toward a summer that will include a powwow each weekend, and improving upon her already talented Jingle dress dance.

It's no longer a "Cruel Summer"

BY MEGHAN AMRHEIN

It was Thursday night. It had been a horribly long week, so I had a cup of chamomile tea, went to bed early and started dreaming about a singing penguin only to be startled awake when I remembered that the Queen herself, Ms. Taylor Swift, was finally releasing "Fearless (Taylor's Version)."

In a dazed stupor, I rushed to grab my phone, desperately trying not to wake my sleeping roommate (which proved much harder than originally thought). After dropping my headphones, almost knocking a book off my bed and smacking my hand really hard on the wall, I finally got the album pulled up on Spotify and pressed shuffle.

For the first few seconds, I thought perhaps I was still dreaming, maybe even ascending to heaven (or Valhalla, if you prefer). It was nostalgic, beautiful and everything that I hoped it would be.

I grew up with Taylor Swift. She was constantly there during car rides to Publix, or when I wanted to impress my friends so I played the "Speak Now" album over and over in my room until I memorized all the lyrics. She's always been a role model for me as a musician, so the re-release of an album that is so personal for me has been something to look forward to.

It was like a breath of fresh air or a glass of iced tea on the porch in summer.

It didn't disappoint. This album, although I've already heard most of the songs thousands of times, felt new, exciting. It was like a breath of fresh air or a glass of iced tea on the porch in summer. Lyrics that I related to when I was an acne-ridden freshman in high school brought back the same feelings of falling in love, falling out of love and finding yourself in a world that seems to always be against you.

It was also super exciting to see how much Taylor Swift has grown vocally. Notes that she used to struggle to reach when she was 16 came extremely naturally in these re-recordings — her voice carries more maturity and it's fun to compare the two albums side by side. Along with that, it's cool knowing that this is an album that she owns completely.

So, if you haven't listened to "Fearless (Taylor's Version)" yet, put down this newspaper right now (but make sure to read the rest of it later), and go listen. It's fun, catchy and will take you back to simpler times.

CALENDAR

APRIL 15-21

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

THU 15

RAINBOWS OVER THE ROCKIES SUMMIT
The free event is an educational and networking summit for LGBTQ+ youth, families, professionals and allies. Professionals from across Montana and the United States will lead webinars in leadership, support and education during the three-day event. Find all information at *https://virtualrainbowsummit.org/.*

FRI 16

BOBCATS TRACK AND FIELD
Pluto TV @ 11 a.m.
The men's and women's track and field teams will be competing in invitationals this weekend in Pocatello, Idaho. Watch on Pluto TV or get live updates at *https://montana_ftp.sidearmsports.com/custompages/TrackResults/index.htm.*

RHAPSODY CONCERT
Outside Jabs Hall @ 4 p.m.
Stop by and watch MSU's acapella group, Rhapsody, perform and celebrate the school year. Learn more at *https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/7062666.*

SWING DANCING LESSONS
Starlite Bozeman @ 6 p.m.
Grab your favorite dance partner and join Starlite for a fun night of country swing dancing. Lessons are $50 per pair. Visit *https://www.eventbrite.com/e/country-swing-dancing-lesson-tickets-149758984153* to learn more or sign up.

SAT 17

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET
Gallatin County Fairgrounds @ 9 a.m.
The Bozeman Winter Farmers' Market provides the community with a connection to local food and farmers. Each market has over 30 vendors selling an array of food and farm-based products.

Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival
Bozeman Public Library @ 10 a.m.
The library and its partners will be hosting free virtual and in-person events for Earth Day. There will be various events happening throughout the city to celebrate and educate. Find more information at *https://www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org/.*

MON 19

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YELLOWSTONE LECTURE ONLINE
Join Cathy Whitlock, PhD., for a discussion about how climate change affects Bozeman, outdoor activities and Yellowstone National Park. Watch at *https://bridgerbowl.com/.*

GET STARTED ON ZERO WASTE
Online @ 7 p.m.
As part of Gallatin Valley's Earth Day celebrations, learn the ins and outs of creating a zero-waste household from local expert Julie Fathy. In this workshop, Fathy will lead you on an inspiring visual journey of her "zero waste" home. Visit *https://www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org/* for links.

TRIVIA NIGHT
Bozeman Taproom @ 7 p.m.
Try to beat the *Exponent* team (we're getting better) at Bozeman Taproom every Monday for trivia. The top three teams win prizes, and first place wins a $50 gift card.

TUES 20

DESTRESS FEST
Renne Library @ 2 p.m.
MSU's Office of Health Advancement will be providing snacks and "destress kits." Kits will include a coloring book & gel pens, squish ball, lavender satchel and more.

BONE DRY COMEDY
American Legion Bar @ 9 p.m.
Bone Dry Comedy Collective will be hosting an open mic comedy night. It's free to sign up or attend, and you can find more information by emailing Bone Dry Comedy at *bonedrycomedy@gmail.com.*

WED 21

RACIAL CONNECTION AND HEALING SPACE
Webex @ 6 p.m.
Find a sense of community and discuss your experiences with others on campus with shared identities. RSVP at *https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6952866.*



The Monsterverse in a brand new light

BY ETHAN CUMBY

It's no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed most aspects of our daily lives, and the movie industry is no different. In a surprising turn of events, however, one film has managed to shake up the norm of recent movie releases and provide hope for the future of the film industry. For the entirety of this month, "Godzilla vs Kong" is available both on HBO Max and in theaters and, after watching it three times this month, I can confidently say that it's a great movie.

My initial thoughts are that the movie does a great job of being the culmination of the Monsterverse series. There are plenty of references to past films, including the return of Mark and Madison Russel (Kyle Chandler and Millie Bobby Brown), a little girl named Jia (Kaylee Hottle) who is a member of the tribe found in "Kong: Skull Island," and more that I won't mention for the sake of spoilers. Speaking of Jia, another major strength of the movie is how it handles the titans. Like the previous films in the Monsterverse, one of the major ideas surrounding the titans is that they're intelligent creatures with more to them than destroying cities or fighting each other. Not only is this exemplified by actively showing expressions as well as communication between the titans, but there is a direct connection between Jia and Kong that is relevant to the entire film.

That being said, "Godzilla vs Kong" isn't without its weaknesses. While the fighting is easily better choreographed than anything in the "Star Wars" sequel trilogy, the camerawork and speed in many of the fights create a loss in the weight behind each strike of the titans. This is especially apparent when compared to "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," where every time two titans clashed you could practically feel the vibrations in the air. I also found the titan calls and the music a bit lacking. In "King of the Monsters," every fight was accompanied by masterful recreations of classic "Godzilla" music and cries that could send physical shivers down your spine. I didn't find much of that in "Godzilla vs Kong," save for one scene where Godzilla and Kong roar at each other, and almost none of the music that was present overly stood out to me.

Overall "Godzilla vs Kong" was fun to watch, and I plan to do so again before its time on HBO Max expires. And, I'm not the only one. Not only is it the highest box office haul since the start of the pandemic (a stark contrast to the financial flop that "King of the Monsters" was), but it also resulted in #ContinueTheMonsterverse to trend on Twitter for a while. If you're a long-time kaiju fan looking for a new film to satisfy that monster battle craving or a newcomer to the "Godzilla" franchise looking for a fun starting point, then "Godzilla vs Kong" might just be for you.

Goldwater scholarships for the Pure Gold

BY THOMAS AUSTIN

If you attend MSU, chances are you've heard of the Goldwater Scholarship. From prospective student recruiting to weekly newsletters, MSU is vocal about the scholarship and the many recipients at our university. If you're like me, however, you may not know exactly what the Goldwater Scholarship is, who it's named for or why it is so important to our university.

Barry Goldwater, born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1909, served in the military for over 25 years and represented Arizona in the United States Senate from 1953 to 1987, taking a short leave in 1964 to lead an unsuccessful campaign for the presidency. Goldwater was also a talented amateur radio operator and photographer and held a great interest in the fields of mathematics and science. Near the end of his political career, the Barry Goldwater Scholarship was created by Congress in 1986 and has since awarded 7,680 scholarships to American undergraduates.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship is awarded to college sophomores and juniors in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. According to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation's website, the scholarship is "The most prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in America." While prestige is relative and non-quantifiable, the Goldwater Scholarship is certainly a highly-regarded and extremely competitive award and hundreds of universities across the country nominate students every year.

This year, four Bobcats, Laina Hall, Pushya Krishna, Elliot Pryor and Matthew Thompson, were awarded Goldwater scholarships.

The competition for the scholarship is intense. Since the first Goldwater Scholarships were awarded in 1989, the lion's share has been claimed by some of America's most selective and distinguished institutions. The three universities with the most total awards are Harvard, Princeton and Stanford respectively. Interestingly enough, MSU, an institution with an acceptance rate nearly 20 times higher than Stanford's, has earned 78 total scholarships, the 10th most in the nation. MSU's 78 Goldwater Scholars are more than Johns Hopkins (77), MIT (76) and Yale (72), proving that it doesn't take a $31 billion endowment to nurture brilliant scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

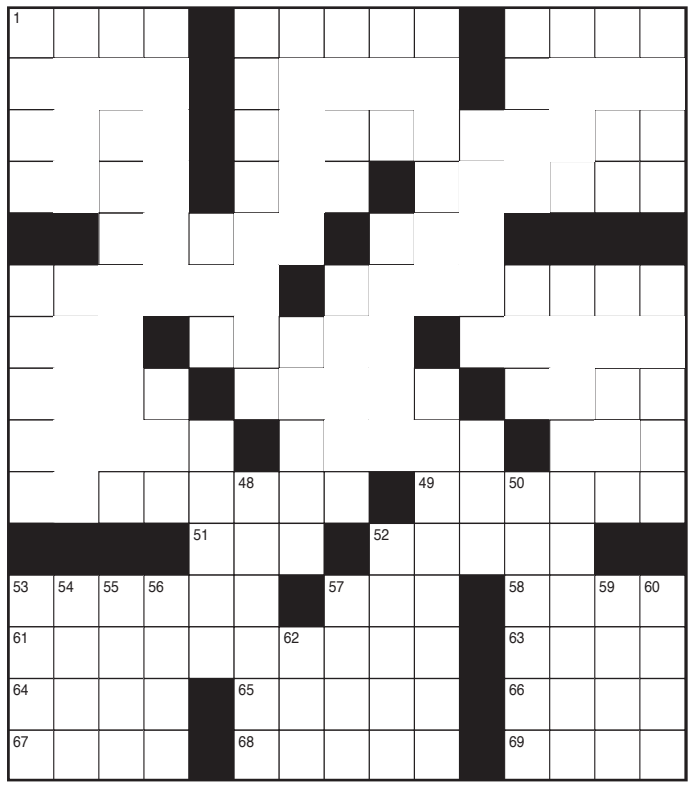
This year, four Bobcats, Laina Hall, Pushya Krishna, Elliot Pryor and Matthew Thompson, were awarded Goldwater Scholarships. No institution can have more than four Goldwater Scholars each year, and MSU has been awarded four scholarships for three years running.

Hall and Krishna's research is focused on the gene-editing tool CRISPR-Cas9, while Pryor studies machine learning and Thompson works on osteoarthritis treatment strategies. Through the scholarship, each student receives up to $7,500 for tuition and other school-related expenses. MSU has cemented its status as a breeding ground for talented young researchers in the STEM fields and we congratulate this year's class of Goldwater Scholars at MSU.

THE MSU
exponent
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PUZZLES

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



CODE: 22FM9A6P

Across

1. "_____ your best behavior"
5. Detox locale
10. Work the field
14. Puerto follower
15. Run away to be married
16. Hockey great Gordie
17. Augment (abbr.)
18. Stalwart
20. Lions or Tigers
21. Metric measurements (abbr.)
22. Some fishermen
23. Investment firm Goldman ____
25. Ozone hazard, for short
26. "____ were big" (1988 movie line)
28. Psychos
33. Comic Margaret
34. Language related to Aleut
36. Islam units of weight
37. Maxine ____ Kingston ("China Men" author)
39. Golfer Palmer, to fans
41. "Fly ___ the Moon"
42. Terrorist ___ bin Laden
44. Rap star West
46. Diplomatic figure (abbr.)
47. Backslides
49. French schools
51. Best effort
52. Exult annoyingly
53. Complaint to a personal trainer, maybe
57. Chinese Muslim ethnic group
58. God with a hammer
61. Homemade hooch
63. Hawaiian city that looks like two antonyms
64. Crammer's concern
65. Book name
66. Big British refs.
67. Wee warblers
68. Float
69. Not tied down

Down

1. Bloke, say
2. Bild article
3. Now and then
4. Actress Shearer et al.
5. Cold War country
6. Sch. designations
7. Red ____ (cinnamon candies)
8. Mighty Joe Young, e.g.
9. Deprived (of)
10. "Dr. ____"
11. Singular
12. One in debt
13. Forms a union
19. Tourist magnet
24. The Cubs, on scoreboards
25. Jump the line
26. Mythological blood
27. "____ Line Is It Anyway?"
28. Columbus ship and namesakes
29. Upper limb
30. More surreptitious
31. Alice's cake instruction
32. Not neatniks
35. "Family Matters" nerd
38. "Today" rival, for short
40. Makeup item
43. Not together
45. System starter
48. Gumshoe
50. ___ Office
52. Deceitfulness
53. Cynic's comment
54. Long skirt
55. Now, in ER talk
56. Electrical resistance units
57. Channel for interior decorators and landscapers
59. Merrie ____ England
60. Valentine bouquet flower
62. Obit segment

C	C	B	N	V	O	Y	A	G	E	S	L	A	F
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Moodiest
Oboes
Octal
Paint
Pathetic
Payoff
Pelvic
Pettier
Pulley
Remade
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CODE: H339SM

the BOX

What I, personally, would do for $350:

Unspeakable things

Sing a ditty

Suck Taryn's pinky toes

Sell worn socks

Consider eating a radish

Stop leaving bad reviews about Yellowstone

Allow Justin Timberlake to sit on my sternum

Lay down on the glass floor of the Space Needle

Stab the domes

Steal the Declaration of Independence

Do the cha cha slide at a social function

Get a neck tattoo of Shania Twain

Shake my ass, a little

Meditate on the idea of a walnut until I float off the ground

French kiss Champ the Bobcat

Ponder the idea of no longer using strictly Pilot G2 pens, 0.38 mm

Inject Diet Coke into my veins

Make Megan come back to the SUB eight more times

Quit my job

Pose in the *Exponent* cowboy hat for my senior photos

Jump off the third floor of the SUB

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

There's a door to Valhalla on the fifth floor of the SUB