THE MSU
exponent
MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

JANUARY 26, 2023

A guide to backcountry skiing near Bozeman



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FLASHBULB

Professor Christina Anderson teachers her Alternative Photography class how to create cyanotype prints in the Visual Communications Building on Wednesday, Jan. 25th. Photo by Sam Negen

MEME OF THE WEEK

Credit to u/damniel37

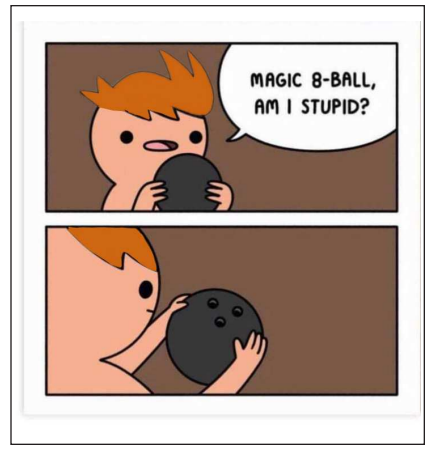


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Photo by u/Diaboiliad



Big bite

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES



COMPILED BY GABE BARNARD | DESIGNED BY BRIANA VIRELLA

How TikTok security concerns swept the country and landed in Montana

BY JACKSON OLLIFF

Suspicion about data collection by TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, has swept the country and landed in the Montana University System (MUS) in the form of a ban of the app.

On Wednesday, Jan. 11, MSU students received an email from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) directing that, effective Jan. 20, "TikTok may not be installed or used on any MUS or university-owned devices, including but not limited to desktop computers, laptops, iPads, or cellular telephones."

Additionally, the notice added that "if TikTok is currently installed on any MUS or university-owned device, the application must be immediately removed from the device."

This charge comes after Montana Governor Greg Gianforte issued a directive to executive branch agencies statewide, banning TikTok on state devices or any state-issued cell phones, computers and the state network managed by the Department of Administration.

The ban follows a larger wave of security concerns about TikTok at the federal and state levels. On Dec. 31, 2022, the U.S. government approved a ban on TikTok usage through federal government devices and networks. States and universities across the country have since implemented bans on the app. Legislation introduced by Florida Senator Marco Rubio even seeks to completely ban the app in the U.S.

In Gianforte's original memo banning TikTok from state-owned devices and networks issued on Dec. 16, 2022, he said that the app's Chinese parent company "harvests expansive amounts of data from its users' devices, much of which is unrelated to the app's purported objective of video sharing, and offers this information to the Chinese Communist Party."

This data harvesting, Gianforte continued, poses "grave security concerns" to both the state and the individuals within it.

Gianforte also sent a letter to the MUS Board of Regents on Jan. 3 requesting the board take similar action on behalf of the university system. In his letter to the Board of Regents, he wrote, "the ability of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to spy on Americans using TikTok is well documented."

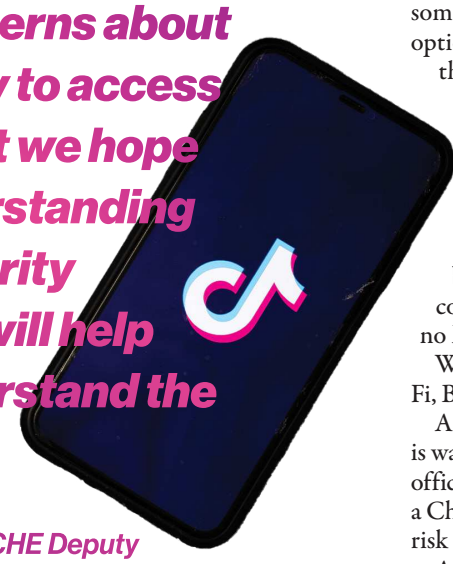
"Given the risk use of TikTok poses to our public universities and our students, I request the Board of Regents support efforts by the Commissioner of Higher Education to prevent the use of TikTok by the Montana University System (MUS) and its campuses and while connected to the MUS network," he wrote.

Helen Thigpen, the OCHE deputy commissioner of government affairs and communications, said, "The MUS is concerned about the potential misuse of data stored on university networks that house sensitive and protected information, and we have a responsibility to ensure that all MUS data is secure."

Thigpen said that after receiving the Governor's request, OCHE worked with campus Chief Information Officers (CIOs) to see how the ban might work for Montana campuses.

"We know that students will have some concerns about their ability to access TikTok, but we hope their understanding of the security concerns will help them understand the decision."

-Helen Thigpen, OCHE Deputy Commissioner of Government Affairs and Communications



"It was important to the Commissioner to make sure there was some flexibility in the directive if there was a need for educational purposes," Thigpen said. "We tried to recognize that college campuses are for academic instruction and are different than other state agencies."

Thigpen said OCHE is anticipating a faculty member who wants some course instruction that might involve the app. In that case, there would be some flexibility and exceptions for necessary education or research-related purposes upon approval of the campus CIO.

According to MSU spokesperson Michael Becker, "The university has either discontinued or is in the process of discontinuing its TikTok accounts. There were only a handful of accounts associated with MSU, and TikTok has never been a significant platform that MSU has used, at least compared to other social media sites."

Becker said that "in line with the directive, the site is [no longer] accessible through its app or web browsers over MSU wired or wireless internet."

"We know that students will have some concerns about their ability to access TikTok," Thigpen said. "But we hope their understanding of the security concerns will help them understand the decision."

Thigpen also offered a reminder that the ban "only applies to the university-owned devices and network, and if someone has other means to access it, there is certainly that option." In other words, private users can still access and use their accounts when not using university Wi-Fi or devices.

Students interviewed on Centennial Mall had mixed feelings about the ban, ranging from indifferent or upset, to agreeable and understanding.

Dominic Bidegaray, a junior at MSU studying business, said, "I don't tend to use TikTok on school computers, so the ban shouldn't be an issue unless I can no longer access it on the school Wi-Fi."

When informed of the block through the university's Wi-Fi, Bidegaray said he was disappointed and walked away.

A senior anthropology major, Luke Stapleton, said the ban is warranted and serves a purpose, primarily for government officials. After being asked to elaborate, Stapleton said: "Since a Chinese company bought TikTok, it could pose a security risk if installed on government devices."

Annika Odt, a microbiology sophomore, had a neutral stance, as did five other students interviewed. After being asked about the ban, Odt simply replied, "I don't care."

Several students asked about the ban were unaware that it existed.

In a poll about the ban on the Exponent's social media account, 35% of students supported the ban and 65% were against it.

To access the Commissioner's directive banning TikTok or read more about MSU's new policy, go to: *https://www.montana.edu/uit/tiktok.html.*

Bozeman seeks public input for new community center

BY CHRISTINA GIBBS

Bozeman is a city on the rise — population-wise, that is. With the explosion of residents moving here, the city is hoping to open a new community center. On Thursday, Jan. 19, an open house at the Bozeman Public Safety Center showcased what the proposed center may include: a branch library, an aquatics center and resources for year-round indoor recreation.

"We've been very intentional about signaling that this is something that we'd like to see come sooner than later," said Jon Henderson, the strategic services director for the city of Bozeman.

Henderson said the idea for a new community center dates back to 2012. Within the last 2-3 years the project has been highlighted as part of the Bozeman 2020 Community Plan, which guides further growth and development in Bozeman.

"That's the way that we help put our budget together, the way that we help inform our priorities and our long-range strategy as a community," he said.

"[The new community center] is going to fill an immediate need that we have for learning to swim, safe places to recreate, and access to library materials in an area of town that is rapidly growing."

-Jon Henderson, Bozeman strategic services director

As Bozeman's population has increased, the city found it crucial to make access to community services equitable for all. "[The new community center] is going to fill an immediate need that we have for learning to swim, safe places to recreate, and access to library materials in an area of town that is rapidly growing," Henderson said.

The city is mostly considering locations for the center-west of 19th Avenue, he said, where Bozeman's growth is concentrated.

The project is still in its early stages, so cost, design and location are yet to be determined. The city will use public input from residents and community organizations, such as school districts, to develop the budget and concept for the project.

The cost estimates are primarily based on what the public wants the facility to include. "Once we put things together and try to prioritize and live within our means, we can have a better picture of what those true costs might be," Henderson said.

The measure to approve the budget and the community center building would be added to the November ballot. "We [will] work with the public to put together a design that we can be proud of and we feel meets the needs of the community and then we go before the city commission in June or July and present them with bond language that we would like to put on that November ballot," Henderson said.

The next step will be to come up with two to four alternatives, which will be presented to the community. Public input will help prioritize what the community needs, and a preferred alternative will be presented to the city commission.

The new community center would not replace services already available in Bozeman, such as the public library.

"This would be a branch library, this is not at all intended to be a replacement, it's really a compliment," said Henderson.

The new facilities would work together with existing facilities, he said. For example, the current swim center could be used more for competition, while the new facility could be used more for recreational swimming.

"We're meeting with a wide range of constituents: local swim groups, book clubs, as many people as we can reach, in this stage of the process so that we can come back and collectively put as much information as we can together," Henderson said. "We are incredibly deficient in having points in the city that folks can access."

MSU students and faculty are also encouraged to include their input. "We very much believe that the university and its students and faculty are woven into the fabric of our community," he said.

The project also strives to adhere to Bozeman's climate plan, as sustainability is a key focus. That includes using responsible building materials and prioritizing energy efficiency, Henderson said.

"If we are successful with the vote, and we're lucky enough to build a facility like this, we can strengthen our community relationships and neighborhoods, resiliency in that regard, and have a lot of potential in helping grow our community from a connections standpoint."

To learn more about the Bozeman Community Center or provide input through a survey, visit *engage.bozeman.net/community*.

MSU joins Western alliance to build quantum technology

BY JACKSON SLEDGE

MSU took action this month intended to spur a regional boom surrounding the emergence of quantum computing technologies.

MSU will join 13 regional universities to form the Mountains and Plains Research Alliance according to a Jan. 9 university news service press release. The newly formed research consortium includes fellow Montana institutions, the University of Montana and Montana Technological University as well as a variety of schools across the mountain west including Boise State University, the University of Wyoming and the South Dakota School of Mines.

The consortium hopes to join forces in order to compete with large urban centers for federal grant funding, according to MSU Vice President of Research and Economic Development Alison Harmon. Of particular interest to the Mountains and Plains Alliance are grants related to developing quantum computing technology.

"MSU could stimulate a quantum technology ecosystem," Harmon said. "There are federal funding opportunities that we want to be ready to take advantage of, but won't be able to by ourselves."

MSU first emerged on the quantum scene in 2018, when it was awarded $20 million by the National Science Foundation to create a lab dedicated to the study of quantum technologies. The aptly named MonArk Foundry is a joint venture between MSU and the University of Arkansas.

"High-impact science requires collaboration. Expertise in many areas is required to make a lot of advances," said Nicholas Borys, an MSU physics professor and associate director of the MonArk Quantum Foundry. "It is rare that a university has all of the expertise within its own walls."

Borys' research is concerned with the development of "two-dimensional materials." These materials are only a single atom thick and could be used for creating a device similar to circuit boards for quantum computers.

"If you can imagine a board of circuitry that routes and manipulates states of light, that's one of the long-range technological applications that motivate our research," Borys said.

Although the MonArk lab has considerable expertise in characterizing these materials, it does not have the capability to create them in-house. That is where the benefit of the Mountains and Plains Alliance comes into play. According to Borys, the University of Wyoming, Boise State and the South Dakota School of Mines all have the capability to produce these materials.

In addition to pushing the envelope of scientific understanding, the National Science Foundation's Quantum Foundry program was explicitly intended to produce economic benefits in underdeveloped rural areas.

"Federal funders are realizing that the way they distribute funds is maybe discriminatory and favors more urban [areas]," Harmon said. "Where are these rural communities left? If we're concerned about rural America and economic decline in rural America, we have to do things differently."

Borys said it's hard to say when exactly quantum technology research will bear financial fruit. "The discoveries, the innovations — those are hard to predict," he said.

If quantum technologies produced marketable innovations, they would already be positioned within the arm's reach of investors. According to professor Borys, Qubit Ventures, a venture capital firm whose portfolio consists entirely of quantum startups, has already established a presence on the MSU campus.

Vice President Harmon also expressed excitement about the possibility of a quantum testbed facility. A testbed facility is a laboratory with specialized equipment for researchers in the quantum and photonics industries.

"[Industries] wouldn't have to build their own testing centers in order to try their ideas," she said. "We're trying to absorb some of the obstacles to new industry beginnings."

Bobcat basketball reaches season midway point: an Exponent analysis

BY GUS YEAGER



Women's basketball team 2022 - 23.
Photo courtesy of MSU Athletics

At the beginning of the basketball season, I predicted that the men's team would finish 27-7 with a .794 winning percentage, and that the women's team would end with a 21-13 and .618 mark. Looking back on those expectations, MSU Basketball as a whole has left me with a mixed bag of feelings.

Currently the women's team is 13-7 after their first twenty games, a couple wins above where I many thought they might be at this point. It's also relevant to point out that the team is solidly into the conference play portion of the schedule where they have thrived in the past. Through its first eight Big Sky contents, the team is 6-2, a record good second place in the current conference standings only half a game behind Sacramento State.

For comparison, the team was 12-8 through twenty last season, meaning the year-to-year consistency seems to be there. The Cats have established themselves, once again, as serious contenders within the conference. A top three finish in the standings would be the fourth straight year earning that title. All signs currently point toward this streak continuing. The team is doing slightly better than might have been expected, and Cats fans ought to be quite content.

It's been no secret that star guard Darian White was going to be a key part in determining the team's level of success. White, not unlike in past years, has been the team's driving force on the court. White currently leads the Cats in scoring, rebounds, minutes and assists by a healthy margin in all four categories. However, it should be noted that White's scoring has dropped roughly 20% from last year's mark of 15.6 points per game to her current season average of 12.4. In the 2021-2022 campaign, she was third in the Big Sky conference in points per game. This year, she's dropped out of the top ten.

The Cats as a team have seen a slight increase in total offensive production relative to last year. The load on White to produce points at the insane rate that she does has lightened as more contributors have stepped up on the offensive side of things. One of the more impressive showings is that of Lexi Deden, a junior forward. Deden has seen a significant increase in playing time this year, and has emerged as a top five scorer for the team, as well as the number two rebounder behind White.

Moving forward, it's not entirely unrealistic to look for the Cats to make another deep run into the postseason. This looks to be a fundamentally more sound and markedly deeper team than last year.

A few keys moving forward: These past few years will undoubtedly go down in Bobcat history as those of Darian White, but as far as immediate success goes, the team around her needs to keep up with the strong showing it's had to this point. An important game to watch will be on February 18 when the University of Montana comes to play in Bozeman. When the Griz and Cats go at it, no matter the sport, the atmosphere is electric.

Updated Prediction: I'm shamelessly hedging my bets and re-upping with the crystal ball. I'm optimistic as the Bobcats head into the rest of their conference schedule.

Final Record: 23-11

In contrast to the steadiness of their counterpart, the men's season at first glance hasn't been as stellar. I picked the Cats to finish the year at 27-7. In twenty games, the team has already amassed seven losses, and something tells me that a 14-game win streak is not in the cards. However, to quickly dismiss this season as a failure is a gross oversimplification.

At this same point last season, the Bobcats were 15-5, or only two games better. Furthermore, the Cats strength of schedule this year has been of a much higher caliber. A 6-2 showing in early conference play means they are good enough for second in the Big Sky and provides another reason for fans to hold off on waving the white flag this early.

Eastern Washington leads the conference at 8-0, a record that includes a New Years' Eve win over the Bobcats in Bozeman. In spite of this, MSU is still ranked a full thirty spots above EWU in the NCAA NET rankings (111 and 141, respectively).

Superb defensive play seems to be the calling card for this year's squad. The Cats lead the conference in scoring defense, having only allowed an average of 66.4. Jubrile Belo, reigning conference MVP and defensive player of the year, is leading the charge on that side of things, pacing the Cats in rebounds (both offensive and defensive) as well as blocks. While his stats may not be quite as impressive as last year, Belo is still a core part of this team.

On the offensive side of things, RaeQuan Battle has emerged as a standout performer. After not starting in a single contest last year, Battle has started in every game this season and leads the team in minutes. The junior from Tulalip, Washington, has essentially doubled his offensive output and is currently a top 10 scorer in the Big Sky Conference. When it comes down to it, there is only one way to describe his ascension: spectacular.

Overall, the Cats look solid. There's no one area that poses a glaring issue, and the roster has players who look to be on the verge of a breakout (Great Osobor, Tyler Patterson, and Sam Lecholat, to name a few). If the Cats manage to get hot, it's hard to see anyone in the conference being able to stop them.

Some keys moving forward: Improve the shooting consistency. Not to say that the Bobcats are showing signs of a great deficit in this area, but the key word here is consistency. The big losses the Cats have taken seem to have a common thread. Shoring up their shot-making abilities might help them finish strong.

One game to watch will be the regular season finale for the Cats, an away-game rematch against Eastern Washington. A chance to upend the current pack leader heading into the Big Sky tournament is a can't miss opportunity.

Updated Prediction: I don't see any reason to assume the Cats can't repeat last year's postseason triumphs. It just might be a slightly harder road getting to that same point.

Final Record: 22-12.

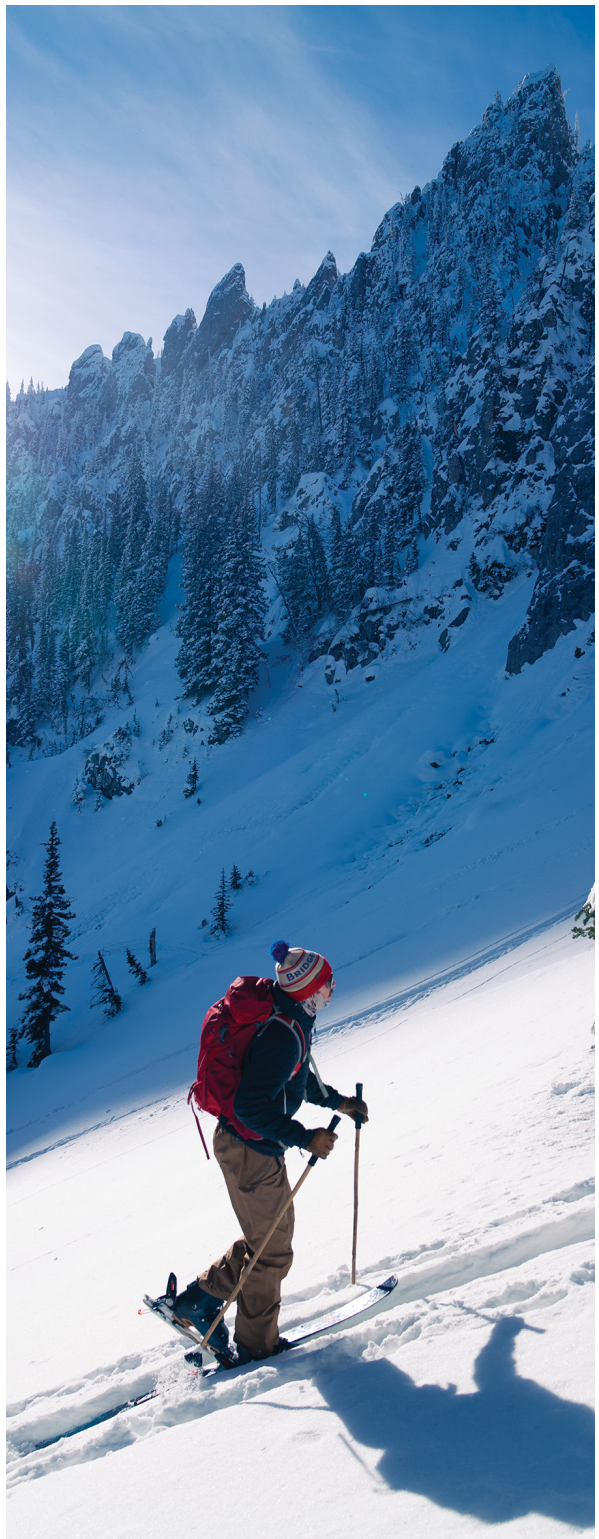
The men's team recently defeated the University of Montana in Missoula.

"Our players showed toughness and character in a hard-fought victory over the Griz," Head Coach Danny Sprinkle said in a statement to the Exponent. "As a competitor, there is nothing better than winning on the road — Our guys showed championship DNA by responding to adversity all night long."

"The season has been a good one so far as we are 6-2 and in second place in Big Sky play," Sprinkle said. "Overall, we're 13-8 on the season, which is tremendous considering we only played two Division 1 non-conference home games. And we played probably the most challenging non-conference schedule in program history against the likes of Arizona, Oregon, and at Grand Canyon."

HOW TO PREP FOR SAFE BACKCOUNTRY SKIING

By Jackson DesCombaz



Addison Holtzhafer skins up Texas Meadows in the Bridger Range to enjoy some backcountry turns on a bluebird day. Photo by Sam Negen

Winter's frosty chill has taken hold of our valley, and many Bozemanites find themselves cruising the backcountry or learning to backcountry ski. From Bridger Bowl to Big Sky, and everywhere in between, there's a massive amount of terrain to get outside, learn the backcountry, take in the scenery and grab a few fresh powder turns — with the right education and equipment, of course. In a place where there are mountains as far as the eye can see, choosing a location can sometimes be a little overwhelming for backcountry skiers. Where should I go? What's safe? Where's the best snow? These questions, which can appear to have complex answers at first, are really quite easy to answer as long as the proper research is done, and we've started it for you.

Education:

There are a few organizations right in our backyard that provide courses about interpreting avalanche forecasts, navigating terraint and using rescue equipment. The first is the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center (GNFAC), which publishes forecasts and weather conditions for the county on its website.

"On our website we have an education calendar that has classes that we offer as well as other local course providers," said Alex Marienthal, an avalanche forecaster for GNFAC. "People should look there if they're looking into taking classes."

Next is MSU's Outdoor Recreation Program (ORP), which also provides education for backcountry travelers, including avalanche rescue courses and free clinics that students can attend to learn how to use avalanche beacons.

"We also have short and long term rentals for avalanche equipment as well as backcountry skis and splitboards. Anyone can come in and rent those out," said Zoe Peterson, an ORP staff member.

The ORP offers these resources because, before doing your research, getting the gear together is crucial. The basic essentials for avalanche gear include an avalanche beacon or transponder, a shovel and a probe.

There are many steps to approaching backcountry skiing both in the correct way, and the safest way possible. With resources like the ORP and GNFAC, it's easy to get the gear and necessary knowledge in a timely manner.

After looking online, another crucial step is getting a strong group. All the research and equipment in the world won't do you any good if you're headed up alone, or with folks who aren't properly educated to trek safely through backcountry terrain. Once a solid group of educated people is constructed, all the proper gear is packed and research is completed, you arrive at the best part: getting outside for some turns.

Location:

The local experts had a few recommendations, including History Rock and Bear Canyon, near Bozeman, and Beehive Basin, near Big Sky.

"For a beginner, the greatest one would probably be Bear Canyon. There's very little avalanche danger. Lick Creek has low avy danger as well and that is up at Hyalite," Peterson said. "Beehive is intermediate or advanced depending on where you go. It's great for getting really good turns in for not much of an approach. History Rock has two nice runs that you can do as well."

For those looking at a longer approach and more challenging terrain, the possibilities around town are almost endless.

"Mount Ellis is a good one," said Alex Marienthal, an avalanche forecaster for GNFAC. "It's close to town, but is a little bit of a deceiving tour because it is fairly long. It looks like a little mountain compared to the Hyalite it's sitting in front of, but it ends up being a 3,000 foot climb to the top and a five mile ski. Even if you go halfway there's a little bit of meadows and stuff. It's not the most extreme

"I recommend reading the forecast almost daily even if you're not going out. Start checking in a few days before. If you have a tour planned for the weekend, start researching the snowpack before the morning of."

- Alex Marienthal, avalanche forecaster at GFNAC



Sophia Fondl transitions her skis for an uphill trek in Texas Meadows, right next to Bridger Bowl. Photo by Sam Negen

looking terrain, but it's definitely still steep enough to slide."

Other Hyalite options, like Blackmore and Hyalite Peak, have longer approaches and are slightly more complex, Marienthal said.

Forecast:

The first place to look for anyone planning to head out into the wilderness for some turns is online. In the Bozeman area alone, we have many great online resources such as social media accounts and websites.

A great resource to get insight on current conditions is the GNFAC avalanche report, a daily publication on both its social media and website with condition updates for many surrounding areas. The report can even be seen posted at the top of Schlasman's Lift at Bridger Bowl.

"The main thing we do as forecasters is we issue the daily avalanche advisory, which includes the danger rating for the day and a description of what avalanche conditions are," Marienthal said. "We also do a lot of general awareness education which provides a lot of free or low cost education through Southwest Montana."

Research should start days before the trip — not just the morning of. Once your route is locked in, begin looking at the daily report even a week in advance, although it doesn't hurt to check everyday regardless of whether you're going out of bounds or not.

"It's definitely key to tune into the avalanche forecast for pretty much anywhere. My number one recommendation would be going to our forecast on *mtavalanche.com/forecast* and it will go right to the current forecast. That's gonna give the best idea of what the snowpack is doing out there and I recommend reading the forecast almost daily even if you're not going out. Start checking in a few days before. If you have a tour planned for the weekend, start researching the snowpack before the morning of," Marienthal said.

Regardless of your ability or experience in the mountains, there's an option for almost everyone to backcountry ski within an hour of Bozeman. It's important to get a good group, the proper gear and knowledge. Just maybe, touring the powdery backcountry will suit you more than ripping groomers.

Designed by Briana Virella

Ditch Streaming Services. Get Inspired by the Golden Globes

BY TAY STRADIOTTO

In the age of streaming services, it is evident that live television is no longer sought out or viewed as desirable. We have decided what to watch based on what society deems as "trending" rather than what is being broadcasted on cable TV in current time. With streaming services such as Netflix, HBO and Hulu, we have discarded award shows such as the Golden Globes and by doing so have missed out on outstanding pieces of media.

Watching the Golden Globes will entice you to watch a new TV series — and movies that you otherwise would not have discovered — while simultaneously educating you in a fun, immersive experience that only happens once a year. The value of learning the stories, and finding inspiration in new pieces of media, is a luxury you could only enjoy by watching these live award shows first hand.

The 2023 Golden Globes was broadcasted on NBC network on January 10, and I tuned in to see what films have made history — and to broaden my film horizons. Watching the award show live for the first time in eight years was an interactive experience. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves movies and, like me, is interested in expanding their film palate. It was thrilling to watch everything unfold in real time, and be a part of film history.

Watching the Golden Globes was an educational journey as well. I learned about the costume and set designs, as well as the inspiration behind the stories told on our screens from the mouths of the writers and directors who brought them to life.

I gained a deeper understanding of the significance of each film that won big that night, and an up close and personal look at the actors who made these films a reality. The intimacy of seeing everyone involved in a film ignited a passion in me that I could have never gotten from just mindlessly picking the trending films or shows on a streaming service.



Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock
by Holmessu

The biggest takeaway I got from this experience was a short list of films that I would recommend to any college student. No matter what genre you prefer, there is something new for everyone to watch from the Golden Globe awards. These are my recommendations and insight on the top three films and TV series you should watch to start your spring 2023 semester off fresh:

Everything, Everywhere, All at Once

If you are looking for an offbeat comedy with action, adventure, LGBTQA+ representation and fantasy, check out "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once." This film is a great go-to if you're looking to escape reality and take your mind off homework for a few hours. There is a level of seriousness that is perfectly balanced with comedy. It is a stress free and charming story that will keep you guessing with its chaotic, fun and fantastical plot.

The White Lotus

If you have a day off of school or work and are looking for a binge worthy TV series, "The White Lotus" is the perfect two season show for you to start. A dark comedy with a star studded cast and beautiful cinematography, this series will inspire you to take a trip to Italy or Hawaii. Filled with unexpected plot twists and fleshed out characters, this award winning series will leave you shocked, speechless and wanting more.

Abbott Elementary

If you are a fan of mockumentaries such as "The Office" or "Parks and Rec," the new comedy series "Abbott Elementary" is perfect for you. Despite this being a comedy at its core, the series takes place in a very real setting: A fictional poorly funded school in Philadelphia with the teachers being the main characters as they try to cultivate a fun and positive learning environment. The series does a phenomenal job at depicting the struggles of teachers and students in a low income elementary school. The witty banter and a familiar setting of a school makes the show a family friendly favorite. This sitcom is a light hearted and enduring choice for anyone looking for a laugh.

Whether you unearthed an obscure film or want to start watching an academy-acclaimed series, tuning into the Golden Globes will not disappoint. Challenge yourself this new semester to step out of the realm of streaming services, and view a live awards show on cable! Watch the next Golden Globe awards, and dive into a new genre of film that you have been skeptical about. You will be pleasantly surprised at the impact it has on your future viewing choices going forward. Awards shows present an opportunity to broaden a series fanbase and you, the viewer, could be a part of that fanbase by discovering something new and falling in love with it.

Desaturation is Key to Reducing Consumption

BY ELLIE AYERS

When traveling around Bozeman, how many cafes and coffee shops do you pass? If you're like me, you can see one nearly every time that you look outside your car window. After noticing this, a question was raised in my mind and I began to wonder: What is America's obsession with overconsumption based in. The answer? Oversaturation.

The sheer number of products available and advertised at any given moment – from coffee shops to class supplies – makes it difficult to step back and consider what we actually need in the first place. Faced with overwhelming pressure to purchase products, I often find myself buying more than I later realize I need. For example, if you were to search on Google "lined notebook" simply because you need to purchase one, you would be immediately overwhelmed by the hundreds of different links that would pop up on your screen. Not only are each of these links promoting essentially the exact same product, but they are all advertising as if their product has something that the others do not have. When you think about it, a notebook is a notebook. You really do not need anything special in order to write down notes that you need to remember on a sheet of paper.

Overconsumption is a problem that has plagued this country since the 1950s when the government encouraged everyone to spend what they had for what they did not have. In this world of constant bombardment of products, our minds can get confused and misled and we eventually figure out we cannot make a decision as to which specific product we want. This idea of trying to get everyone to buy anything and everything they see does not have the power that it was originally supposed to have. Nowadays, people are noticing the oversaturation of everything in this world and this is leading to a new rise in popularity for minimalism. When thinking about it this way, it can be deduced that economic trends seem to help dictate nearly everything in our world. The overconsumption era that we seem to be leaving is leading us more into a minimalism-based world.

This is not necessarily the best way to be either. It could lead to even higher inflation than we are seeing now since companies have grown accustomed to a certain amount of revenue and now that the trend is no longer maximalism, they are not reaching that number as quickly as they used to. Thinking like this only shows that this balance between consumption and the economy is very delicate and is not something that is easily achieved.

In this world of constant influencing and de-influencing each other into buying or not buying products, it can seem difficult to make up your own mind. The question to ask yourself is: how can we as a society work together to desaturate the market to make only the most reliable and worthwhile products available to us? This is not something that is easily solved, which is probably the reason why it hasn't been yet.

The next time you find yourself shopping for something and you are traveling through multiple different links to try to find the best one, think about which product you would rather have as the only choice available. In my eyes, this is the only plausible way we can possibly desaturate the ever-growing market that we live in.

CULTURE

Get a 'pizza' this new restaurant

BY KELLY COYNE

Located on the sixth floor of the AC Hotel by Marriott lies Benchmark, a rooftop restaurant and bar that is just under a year old. Not only does this restaurant offer handcrafted pizzas and cocktails, it also has a spectacular view of the breathtaking Gallatin Range.

Growing up, whenever I thought of hotel restaurants, my mind would conjure images of powdered eggs, Costco muffins and flimsy bacon. I tend to forget that some of the most underrated restaurants lie in hotels.

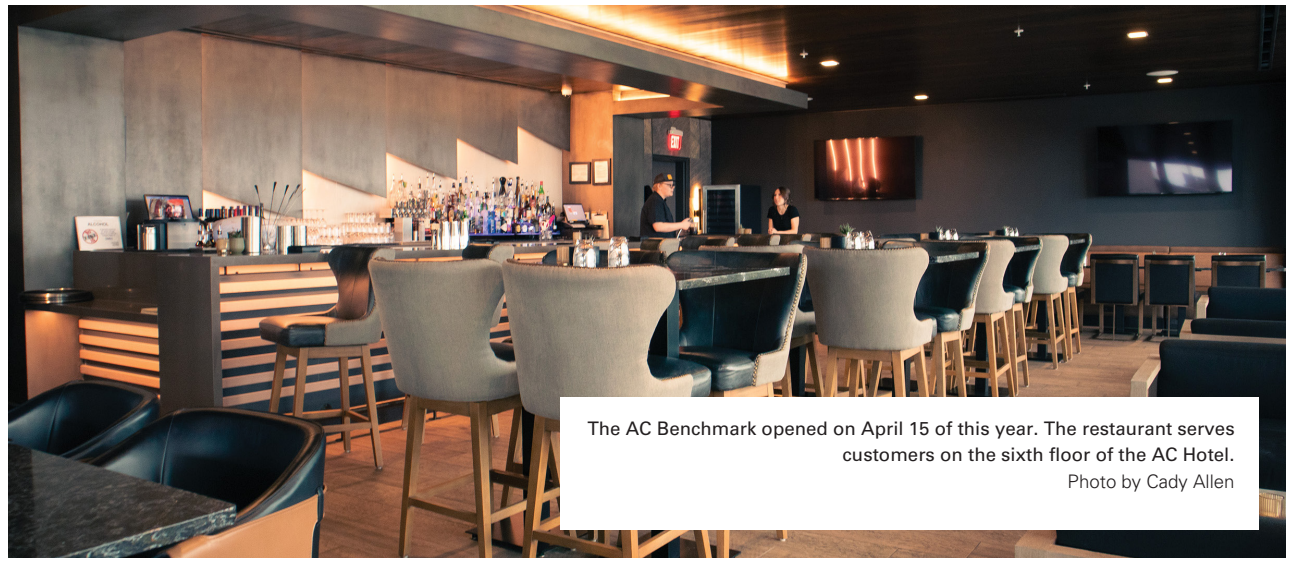
Right off the bat, I was impressed with the service and ambiance of Benchmark. The restaurant is more on the quaint side as far as seating goes, but they also offer more seating outdoors on their lovely heated deck. I was quickly seated and never had to wait for more than a few minutes for any services. However, I recommend arriving at an earlier hour, as they got pretty busy with a larger business group around 6 p.m.

I overheard multiple people claim Benchmark currently makes the best pizza in Bozeman - so I had high expectations for the food. I ordered a wedge salad, sausage and broccolini pizza and bacon pizza.

The wedge salad was as good as a wedge salad can get. It was topped with pickled onions, gorgonzola, fresh veggies, and crispy bacon.

As far as the pizza goes, I was nowhere near disappointed, but I would not be quick to claim it as the best in Bozeman. The sausage broccolini pizza was a combination I would never have imagined being as good as it was. The bacon pizza was very light and fresh, but possibly not the best choice for those looking for a meat lover's pizza. The arugula pesto overpowered the bacon flavor, but it was still delicious. Even though the toppings were unique and added incredible flavor, the best part about the pizza was the crust. Fluffy and topped with a parmesan dusting that made it irresistible, the crust was memorable, to say the least, even for the pickiest of non-crust eaters.

If you're looking for the perfect spot to grab food downtown while also having the opportunity to gaze upon the reason we all love Montana, Benchmark is worth the try. A great experience is inevitable here during an evening out in town.



The AC Benchmark opened on April 15 of this year. The restaurant serves customers on the sixth floor of the AC Hotel.
Photo by Cady Allen

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks serves up a Hamlet Sandwich

BY ANGELA CATEORA

What could ham sandwiches and William Shakespeare possibly have to do with each other? Theatermaker Matt Foss is here to make the connection – and bring it to a venue near you.

His play "Hamlet Sandwich" is the latest in the temple of original children's Shakespeare adapted by Foss for Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (MSIP). The annual Montana Shakes! tour, which kicked off its fourteenth season on Jan. 23, brings educational and digestible Shakespeare to sixty elementary schools around the region. Following the performance, the acting company presents students with engaging workshops designed by Shakes! Education Director Katherine Norman.

Originating as an offshoot of MSIP's Shakespeare in the Schools program, Shakes! began in 2008 with a tour reaching 15 K-6 schools. The tour now reaches over sixty schools and runs for about 12 weeks every spring, performing and teaching at a new elementary school every weekday. An outreach program of MSU's College of Arts and Architecture, MSIP strives to bring free professional theater to underserved communities across the state and beyond.

Kevin Asselin, MSIP's executive artistic director, described the mission of the organization as "making these stories, these characters and the idea of live performance accessible to all generations and all communities, regardless of geographical location or population density."

MSIP offers Shakes! programming for free to particularly rural and underserved communities, including reservation schools, through the help of grants. Montana is one of, if not the most, Shakespeare-literate states in the country, owed in no small part to MSIP's 50 years of summer tours, 30 years of Shakespeare in the Schools, and 15 years of Shakes! tours.

Matt Foss, Associate Professor of Film and Theater at the University of Toledo, and Shakespeare in the Parks alumnus has spearheaded new and original material for Shakes! for the past three seasons.

"I'm a pretty democratic theatermaker in that I try to be as specific as possible in the making, while hoping folks feel enfranchised to take what they want or need," he said. "I [try to] erase all the dots I connect in the process of making in a belief the audience will in turn connect them in the way most impactful or meaningful to them. They'll connect those dots in the way they most need in that moment."

In 2020, Foss and the acting company presented "Faithful Friends," an adaptation of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." The following year, 2021, was dark for Shakes! because of COVID-19, but the program returned in full force in 2022 with "Bottom's Dream." In this adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Helena whispers to The Lobster of Truth through the chink in the wall instead of the traditional Pyramus and Thisbe. Foss' adaptations spin iconic scenes from Shakespeare's works into programming that engages young people and impresses upon them that creativity is king and to never be afraid to be weird or different: being unapologetically yourself is the best thing you can do.

"It's not as cut and dry as 'love and friendship,'" said actress Emily Hawkins. "We ask students questions like 'How do we deal with the voices in our own heads that make us doubt ourselves?' or 'How can we support our friends when they do something really brave?'"

"Hamlet Sandwich" focuses on a group of creativity scientists, Dr. Sam, Dr. Emily, and Dr. Josh, played by Sam Cheeseman, Emily Hawkins and Josh Pennington, respectively. They use their proprietary invention, The Imaginatron 3000, to feed them prompts for their experiments studying natural creative aptitude. The latest prompt directs them to perform Shakespeare's "Hamlet," but "change it up" and "use it to talk about their feelings."

Along the way we meet sentient ham sandwiches and dinosaurs, sing Taylor Swift songs and finally make it to Infinite Space. When creating the themes of his shows, Foss said he considers "what is the company interested in, what are the learning goals, and what feels like the most urgent need facing the young people from these schools?"

If presenting "Hamlet Sandwich" to a new school each weekday for 12 weeks wasn't enough, the acting company also puts on its imaginary teacher hats to bring engaging workshops to the kids in their classrooms.

"This year we offer three educational workshop options to each school: one on imagination building through performance exercises, another on language and self expression, and a third on how creativity can be found in both art and science," Hawkins said.

Through performing the show and giving workshops almost every weekday for three months, the show tends to grow and evolve far beyond the pages Foss and the acting company started with.

"When we build games and exercises for a workshop, it is always building in theory," Cheeseman said. "Because we don't have actual students to test out the workshop with."

"I love this company and it's great to come back and contribute to an innovative and truly unique piece of programming unlike anything really happening around the country, " Foss said. In partnership with Thrive, Shakes! will be giving a special presentation of "Hamlet Sandwich" at the Black Box Theatre Monday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. Visit *shakespeareintheparks.org* for more information.



Actors Emily Hawkins (left), Josh Pennington (middle), and Sam Cheeseman perform a dress rehearsal of "Hamlet Sandwich". Each spring Montana Shakes! brings its own unique plays, featuring scenes from Shakespeare, to 60 elementary schools.
Photo by Shawn Raecke.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1

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

THU 26

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME VS. PORTLAND STATE
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse @ 7 p.m.
Come cheer for your MSU women's basketball team as they play Portland State University.

FRI 27

HAPPY HOUR OPEN MIC
Last Best Comedy @ 5 p.m.
Try your hand at some stand-up comedy with host Jon Jacobs. Sign-ups start at 4:30 p.m.

SAT 28

BOZEMAN WINTER FARMERS MARKET
Gallatin County Fairgrounds @ 9 a.m. - 12. p.m.
Support local farmers and artists by purchasing your fresh vegetables and pastries directly from the hands that gave them life.

SUN 29

SKIN TO WIN RANDONEE RALLY
Bridger Bowl @ 7:30 a.m.
Ready to dominate the slopes? Put your ski mountaineering talents to the ultimate test this weekend. The Pro Division climbs/skis approximately 5,000 vertical feet, and the Rec Division approximately 2,000 vertical feet. For more information regarding rules and fees, visit *http://www.bridgerbowl.com.*

MON 30

TRIVIA NIGHT AT BACCHUS PUB
The Bacchus Pub @ 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Test your random knowledge at Bacchus Pub's weekly trivia night. There is no cost to play, and you may even win some prizes.

TUE 31

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ENGAGEMENT FAIR
Inspiration Hall, Norm Asbjornson Hall @ 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Have you ever been interested in joining an engineering or computer science club? The engagement fair is a great way to meet club representatives and learn more about the student organizations with zero commitment required.

WED 01

SPRING INVOLVEMENT FAIR
SUB Ballroom A @ 10 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Experience a unique opportunity to connect with MSU students, faculty and staff to engage their local and global community.

PURE GOLD
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
2022 FALL PURE GOLD RECIPIENTS

Katie Burke
Jeanne Conner
Kris Fedro
Jeannie Gracey
Kathy Haggart
Heather Hanna
Joe Hicks
Danielle Linehan
Jennifer Luebeck
Kristy Merdinger
Rion Sanders
Sheryl Shockley
Kellie Anderson-Taves
Scott Thompson
Sophia Thompson
Jennifer Wells

Your commitment and contributions to our university are an inspiration.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

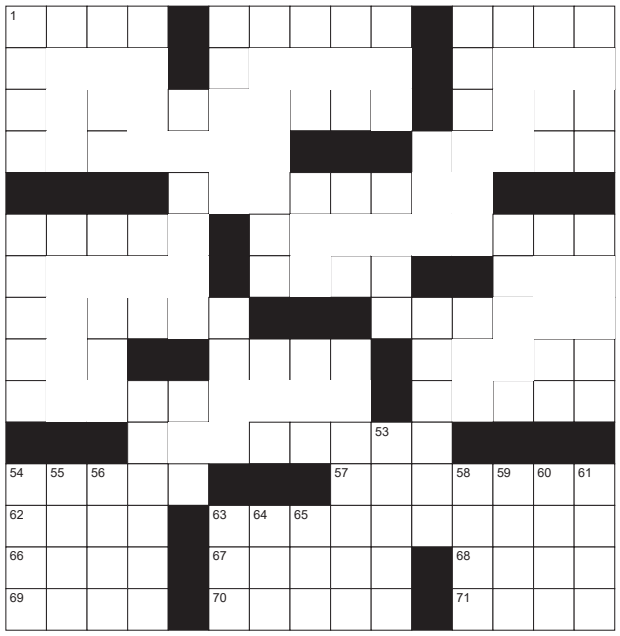
montana.edu/puregold

THE MSU exponent PUZZLES

Love the Exponent? Follow us @MSUExponent!

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

CODE: 53T6PVR5



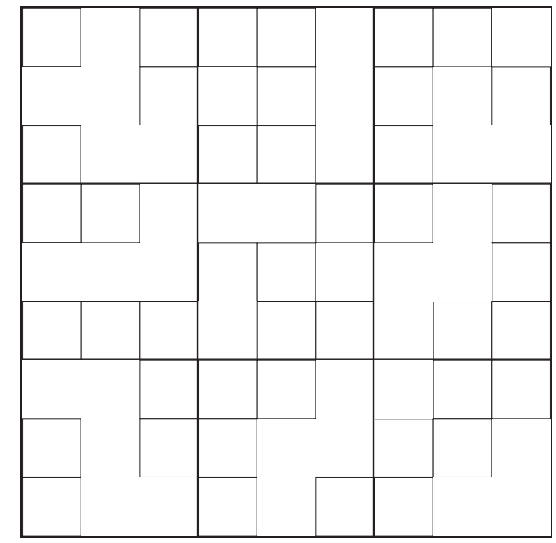
Across

1. Paper bag
5. Labor leader Chavez
10. Kind of carriage
14. Kind of hoop
15. Construe
16. ____ Gigio (famous mouse)
17. "Behind ____" (Hackman film)
19. Had bills due
20. Blameworthy
21. Jiffy
22. Salon offering
26. Shenanigan
30. Stem (from)
34. Mother of William and Harry
35. Carol
36. Doo-wop group ____ Na Na
37. In the center of
39. Positive responses
42. Hair ___
43. Military vet
47. Not in the dark
48. Indispensible
51. Made manageable
52. Lives together
54. Roman social sites
57. Hare ___
62. "____ Have Nothing" (Tom Jones hit)
63. With feet pointing in
66. Genealogist's diagram
67. Anticipate, as an arrival
68. Close observer
69. Watched
70. Throws a dinner party
71. Guarded

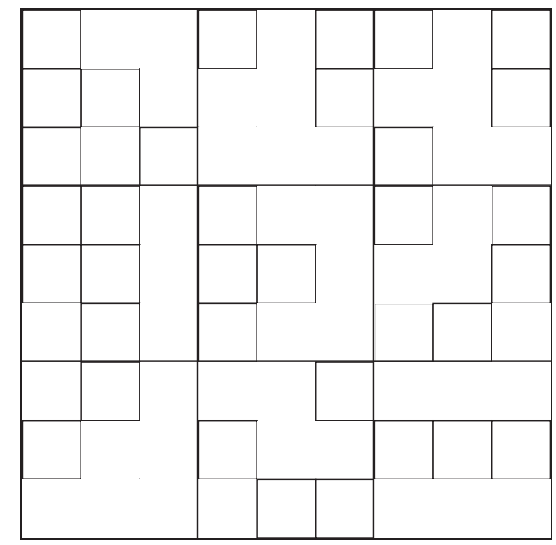
Down

1. ____ butter (skin moisturizer)
2. Patty or Selma, to Bart
3. Staff symbol
4. Hindu god of desire
5. You might take a bow for this
6. Book's first printing, say
7. Energy source
8. Super serve
9. Musical notes
10. Lifted
11. "That's ____ Heartache Begins" (Patsy Cline title)
12. King Kong's kin
13. Hebrew letter
18. State flowers of New Mexico
21. Sat. preceder
23. Big hairdo, for short
24. Old cry of annoyance
25. Beyond homely
26. Wise saying
27. 1629 treaty city
28. Heads' opposite
29. Ill. neighbor
31. Tea-exporting Indian state
32. "Done!"
33. Cut some slack
38. Hebrew consonant
40. Dines at home
41. Bantu language (abbr.)
44. Early Chinese dynasty
45. Chitchat
46. "Looks good to me"
49. Repeated
50. Disagreements
53. Easy runs
54. Light snack
55. Wonky
56. You, a long time ago
58. Fret and fuss
59. Evergreen vines
60. Do-well preceder
61. Hit ____ spell
63. Oom-___
64. WWII battle site, for short
65. Fuel (up)

CODE: O812PU



CODE: Q674LE



the BOX

Favorite back-to-school moment:

Having something to channel my crippling anxiety into

Crying

Eating beans for five days straight in Rendezvous

The Olympic swimming competitions in the duck pond

Wondering how long I will have to work before I retire (I am a Liberal Studies major)

Slipping and falling all the time

Being cold af

Getting pulled over because my headlight is out but I am too poor to fix it

Pretending I'm a real adult

Trying not to make eye contact with people as I walk to the dining hall

Playing Papa's Pizzeria in my rhetoric class

Sitting on my dorm floor and staring at the wall

Maladaptive daydreaming

Hitting people in crosswalks

Not being able to afford food

Playing mediocre bowling on a date with a boy I will never speak to again

Having to go to the Bookstore to buy food

The Bookstore not being open on Sundays (I procrastinated buying a lab coat)

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

CODE: Z306HB

Aerosol
Allay
Allude
Annul
Autumnal
Avows
Awful
Balds
Buddy
Buying
Creep
Easel
Enact
Homonym
Hoods
Humorist
Inputted
Keyword
Leakage
Mailed
Might
Misspell
Noble
Parted
Pickled
Royal
Saddle
Shake
Sherry
Soils
Solar
Store
Stump
Tenet
Things
Tiptoe
Trawlers
Unduly
Until
Watts

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

James Cameron died eight years ago and his hologram made "Avatar: The Way of Water"