THE MSU
exponent
MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

MARCH 23, 2023

Bridger avalanche dogs save lives, one biscuit at a time



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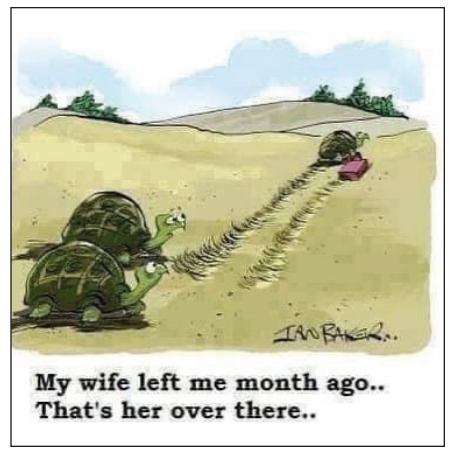
FLASHBULB

The MSU Spanish Club meets at the Union Market in the SUB for a game night on Tuesday, March 21.
Photo by Cady Allen

MEME OF THE WEEK

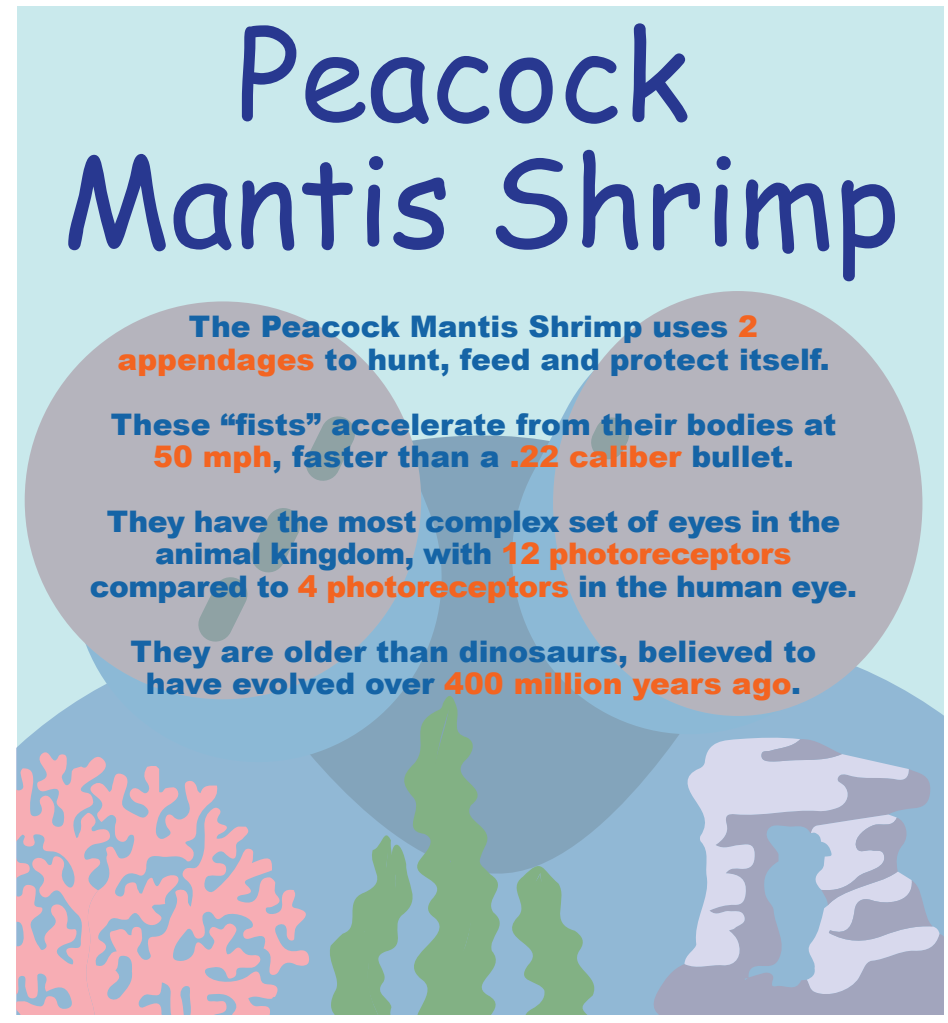
Credit to u/PergamLovesYou



CORRECTION

The Exponent published a story in its edition on Thursday, March 9, covering a death threat sent to MSU's Queer-Straight Alliance. A segment of the original version of that story with comments from MSU Vice President of Communications Tracy Ellig has been corrected to clarify that MSU does not believe threats of violence, such as the one sent to the QSA, are protected under the first amendment. The corrected version of the story can be found online at *msuexponent.com*

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES



COMPILED BY EMMA FRY | DESIGNED BY BRIANA VIRELLA

First-Gen Students Association plans mental health, nutrition and professional development workshops

BY AMANDA FULTON

Since its activities as a recognized student organization were officially launched at the beginning of the spring semester, the First-Generation Students Association (FGSA) has been ramping up its presence on campus. To this end, the FGSA is holding its first official event, a student-centered series of workshops, open to the public on March 31.

Besides weekly meetings, "We have been really active with tables, fairs here and there, in the library and in many other student organizations and offices' events. It's been just baby steps, but we want to portray the enthusiasm and willingness to connect more and more with our peers," said the FGSA President and graduate student Flor Vega. "This is our official first event to the public — free for first-gens, allies and the overall MSU community."

There will be three free sessions occurring during this event, featuring speakers from Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS), the Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success (AYCSS) and the Office of Health Advancement (OHA).

The first session, which will be delivered by counselor Levenae Buggs from CPS, will be addressing issues surrounding confidence building, mental health and self-esteem. The second will be held by the AYCSS and will feature various professional tips such as resume development and salary negotiation. Finally, the third will discuss nutrition and other health resources, and will be headed by OHA's health educator Cristina Chiotti and dietitian Kaitlyn Schlange.

"I know that Nutrition 101 doesn't sound very friendly, or it's kind of like, 'Oh, no, this is a class. I don't want to go to a lecture.' But in the end, it's going to be more about how to plan your weekly meals in a healthy manner," Vega explained. "Most [first-gens] work and study at the same time. Some of us are away from home, so it's most likely that we will choose a fast and easy meal that might not be very helpful."

"We're going to talk about how to organize our meals so that it's healthy, but also budget-friendly, considering the time [and financial] constraints that some students have," she said.

The inspiration for the three main sessions and topics for this event came from meetings with FGSA members and leadership, Vega said. "We were together in one of our previous meetings and we were just discussing, 'Hey, we want to do this [event]. What topics would you like to learn about?'"

"Some of the members were saying 'I want to learn how to recognize my value.' Other people said, 'Yeah, but I also want to know what resources I can find on campus.' So many comments were about salary negotiation because some of them are about to graduate. It was just a brainstorm," she said.

> *"This is our official first event to the public — free for first-gens, allies and the overall MSU community."*
>
> **-Flor Vega, president of the FGSA**

The FGSA's discussions led to the three main topics that will be addressed in this event: mental health support, strategic professional development and exposure to campus resources — like OHA's nutrition services.

Additionally, these topics that may at first seem separate are inescapably correlated, Vega said. "We like to present on mental health topics [because] people know that these are important — and academic performance is also important — so everything is incredibly connected. These are not mutually exclusive," Vega explained. "For instance, self-confidence is key for professional development. You need these kinds of things to fully succeed. Then, you will be at your full capacity, mentally, nutritionally, and in other ways, to accomplish your goals."

Attending this event — or even one individual session — would be very helpful in a busy student's life, Vega said. "It's going to be easier if a person attends, because there's so much information on websites. And sometimes it's tough to navigate all of the details if you have schoolwork or other things going on in your day. But if you attend one of these [sessions] or all three of them, you will hear everything you need in a nutshell. It's going to be fantastic."

"We would like to have a large number of attendees so that they can have these resources handy. This is a free event for all MSU students and allies. Even if you're not a student anymore, you can come so that you get to know more about us, and also because there might be a Q&A section in every session. So, you can just be there as a second resource, or maybe just to connect [with students] later," Vega said. "We'll also have prizes, and some of them are MSU Bookstore gift cards."

The funding for this event is coming from sponsors in MSU's Graduate School, the Dean of Students Office and CPS, according to Vega.

However, the vision for this event belongs exclusively to the FGSA. "This idea came from us, it's something that we were discussing in our meetings. And actually, we were even discussing this last semester when we were not an official association. So, it's exciting," she said. "I just hope that [attendees] can get enough input to cover some of the needs that we are trying to address here, because boosting your self-confidence is a big deal."

The workshops will happen on Friday, March 31, in SUB room 235 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To attend this workshop or individual sessions, you can RSVP by scanning the QR code below.

To check out updates and see upcoming events, visit *@msu_firstgenerationstudents* on Instagram.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Unknown vandals blast holes Saturday in traditional letter monument; Law, administration is baffled

NOV. 3, 1949

It's Throwback Thursday, as the kids say, which is the perfect excuse to indulge ourselves and rummage through the Exponent archives. On one such perusal of this immense tome, we discovered an astonishing bit of news about an attack on a favorite local landmark — the M. Without further ado, we bring to you this fascinating recap of the day an explosion shook Mt. Baldy's giant letter. This story and the accompanying editorial were originally published in the Exponent on November 3, 1949.

***Clarifying note:** The University of Montana was named Montana State University from 1935 to 1965, before its name was changed to the University of Montana in 1965. This story was published in 1949, so it refers to UM as MSU. —G.B.*

Montana State College's "whodunit" was still unresolved at press time.

No official or unofficial source has discovered the person or persons who early Saturday morning set three charges of explosive on the block-letter M on Mt. Baldy and blasted three holes in the traditional MSC symbol.

Early rumors that the deed was the work of students at Montana State University had not been in the least substantiated by press time. Officials of the Montana Kaimin said yesterday the occurrence was barely known in Missoula and that the rumors usual in a college rivalry event of the type were absent.

"Nobody's talking about it. Few people even know about it," one MSU student told an Exponent editor by telephone.

The possibility the blasting was done by local people was also the subject of an Exponent probe. An early rumor that it was the work of drunks or high school students was all but eliminated.

Still another possibility, even more remote, was that it might have been done by students of Northern Montana College of Education at Havre. This was not investigated.

MSC President R.R. Renne called a meeting Monday of Dean of Students Val Glynn, Vice President P.C. Gaines and Commissioner of Demonstrations Bill Sanders to consider the matter.

Local law officers said this week they had no clues about the identity of the culprits. As no complaint has been filed, the sheriff's office has made no investigation of the matter.

The Exponent investigation has revealed the following about the case:

1. The land upon which the M is laid is either federal land (public domain) or forest service land, or both.

2. Criminal charges will be entertained against the person or persons responsible for the explosion.

County Attorney Don Nash told the Exponent this week "criminal charges will be prefered against those persons responsible for the dynamiting of the M." He pointed out the act could be classed as either a felony or misdemeanor, depending on the amount of damage to the realty.

If the amount of damage were set over $50, the crime would be a felony and carry a penitentiary sentence. A misdemeanor would call for a county jail sentence.

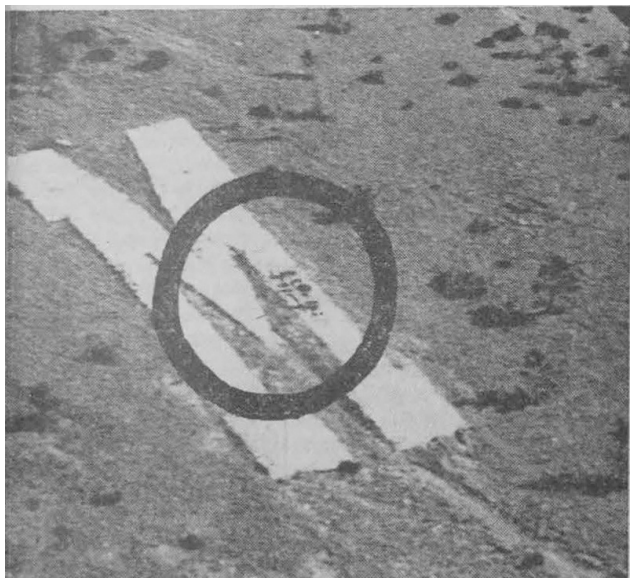
He said the act was certainly more serious than a college stunt and could conceivably have caused damage to the house at the foot of the mountain.

Because the land is within Gallatin County, the complaint does not have to originate from the forest service, Nash said.

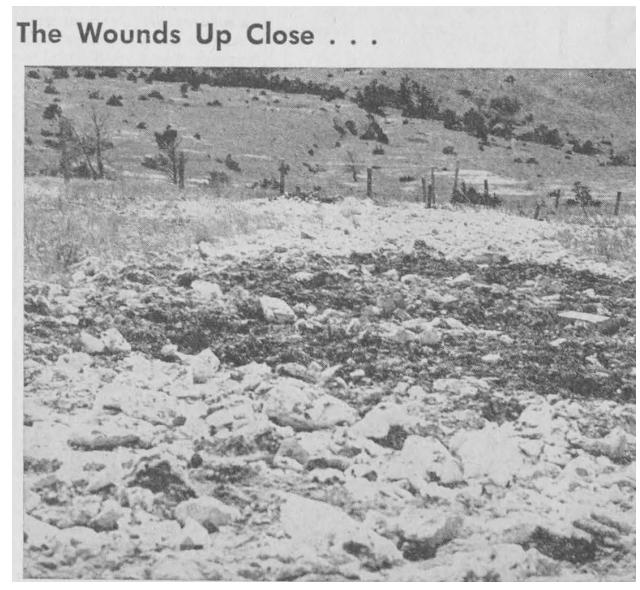
3. The meeting in the president's office revealed much the same things. Dr. Renne said it was decided an improvement program would be undertaken as well as the repair of the monogram. He had no leads as to the culprits.

4. There is a strong possibility a repair program will be undertaken before snow. It will probably be an all-school affair, similar to M-day.

It has been pointed out erosion in the spring would probably cause much damage to the M because of the gaping holes left by the blast.



In the circle can be seen an aerial view of the damage caused by the blasting of the M Saturday. Careful observation will show the three holes left by the blasts. The explosion took place before sunrise and those near the M who heard the blast could not ascertain what had been blown up. No sound was audible in Bozeman. **Photo by Jack Parker, published in the Exponent on November 3, 1949.**



With his Speed Graphic slung over his shoulder, Exponent photographer Jack Parker climbed the steep road to the M Monday to take the above picture. It shows more clearly the damage caused by the Saturday morning blasts. Parker found a section of dynamite fuse near the craters. It has been pointed out that unless the holes are repaired this fall. the resulting spring erosion would cause much greater damage to the 31 year-old mono-gram. The shot was taken near the bottom of the damaged right leg of the M. **Photo by Jack Parker, published in the Exponent on November 3, 1949**

Editorial (published alongside news story)

With the blasting of the M, most student minds immediately jump to the conclusion that the direct cause lies in the backyard of Montana State university. True it is that the most logical contenders for the nomination of perpetrators of the dastardly deed do reside in Missoula. There does seem to be no reasonable basis for anyone else to go to that much work and trouble.

The whole business smacks of a planned assault on the traditional symbol of State but no concrete evidence can be used to point the accusing finger across the Divide.

However, no matter who the culprits may be, the stunt was indeed a foolhardy business that might have, had the blasters done a little more proficient job in laying their charges deeper, resulting in a dangerous landslide with serious damage to human and inanimate property. Broad practical jokes can be tolerated with only a certain degree of irritation and a desire for revenge. But this little joke was just a shade too broad!

Any retaliatory measures conceived in the minds of students should be discouraged at this time. This is far more than a squabble raised in the spirit of rivalry that exists between State and University. Criminal prosecution, if the chief offenders can be traced out and caught, is the answer to last Saturday morning's escapade on Mt. Baldy. —B.H.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70% of her sales.
Learn how a TikTok ban would impact
MT small businesses.
TikTok.com/MTbill

Community involvement hurls men's rugby toward national bid

BY AUSTIN SWARTZENBERGER

A group of MSU students has been regularly braving Montana's winter weather four times a week on a quest to better themselves and their community. This is the men's rugby club, which is juggling major ambitions of securing a bid to nationals while also serving the Bozeman area.

The team competes in the Division II competition of the Collegiate Rugby Championship. They compete in qualifying matches throughout the season with the ultimate goal of securing an automatic bid by winning their conference, the Rocky Mountain Rugby Union. This automatic bid would send the team to Washington, D.C., in April for a second consecutive appearance in the national tournament and a chance to improve on its ninth place national finish from last season.

The club has 34 members this spring, which is fairly typical, according to Jackson Ellbogen-Pettersen, the president and captain of the team. Among these members, rugby experience is in short supply.

"We get a lot of wrestlers, a lot of football players that come in thinking they are done with sports, and then come to school and see that there is a rugby team," Ellbogen-Pettersen said. "They come out and give it a try. Then they're hooked."

The lack of experience hasn't slowed down the team, which won three out of four games in the first tournament of the season in Ogden, Utah. This tournament counted towards their bid to nationals as qualifying matches. The team bounced back from a 21-22 loss to Utah State University with a three game winning streak, including a 26-0 victory over Colorado Mesa University, a 24-0 win over Weber State University and a 21-5 win over the University of Wyoming. This strong showing at the first qualifying tournament places the team in a position to continue competing for the automatic bid to nationals.

Off the rugby pitch, working with the community is a main goal of the club, both to give back and to help the team financially support itself. Members of the club can frequently be found fundraising by working the concession stand for MSU athletics.

"We get almost all of our money from fundraising and sponsorships that we work with the community to get set up," Ellbogen-Pettersen said. He added that the club is fully student run as well.

The club sees community outreach as a way to give back to those who support them. "Our biggest thing is giving back to the community who supports us. Just yesterday we were over at Chief Joseph Middle School doing their Dr. Suess Read Across America Day," Ellbogen-Pettersen said. Additionally, the club works with the Cancer Support Community (CSC) by volunteering in fundraising efforts for them and sending players to help staff CSC events.

The club hopes its work in the community is also reflective of the camaraderie within rugby. "I think the coolest thing about rugby is the community. You can go anywhere in the world and if you sit down and you're next to someone who plays rugby, you're gonna hit it off," Ellbogen-Pettersen said.

If you want to learn more about the team, they can be reached at *mensrugby.montanastate@gmail.com* or can be found on Instagram, @*montanastaterugby*.

"They come out and give it a try. Then they're hooked."
- Jackson Ellbogen-Pettersen, president and team captain





Bozeman enters spring fly-fishing season with a few insights from a local fly shop

BY GUS YEAGER

The winter cold has finally begun to break. With the promise of a new spring looming just over the horizon, Montana anglers are set to begin the fly-fishing season.

Recently, some late winter storms may have delayed eager anglers by a couple weeks, but make no mistake; it will not be long until they are out in force on the rivers.

Bozeman has long been established as a world-class destination for fly-fishing. With three major waterways – the Gallatin, Yellowstone and Madison – all practically within shouting distance, and the area offers a spectacular array of options for fisherfolk.

Both seasoned anglers and curious beginners will flock to one of the many outfitters in the Bozeman area, looking to load up on flies for upcoming hatches or perhaps picking up their first, third or even seventh fly rod.

The River's Edge Fly Shop on Main Street is one retail option for both the fly-fishing veterans and those curious beginners in Bozeman.

Henry Pletcher has worked at River's Edge for the past year, but has over four years of experience fly-fishing in Montana. "Being able to fish for trout all the time here, and just the number of trout, you can't really beat it," he said.

"With the snowpack, if we don't go through the same thing we did last year, where all the snow decided to melt at the same time, things are looking good," Pletcher said regarding the outlook of the upcoming season.

Colder water is key for trout fishing. Relative to other common species of fish, trout prefer colder water, and can often become stressed when temperatures rise due to the lack of .

Angling during such periods can be potentially dangerous for the population, meaning that fishermen in the area tend to hope for colder water running through the river throughout the season. It would follow, then, that a steady supply of snowmelt that gradually and continuously enters the river would be quite positive due to its effect on water temperature.

According to flyfisherman.com the water temperature affects the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. Warmer water contains less dissolved oxygen than colder ones. The lack of oxygen makes it more difficult for fish to breathe and adds heightened stress to the fish.

"Last year was ok, but the year before was pretty brutal," Pletcher said, "There was a restriction on the lower Gallatin, lower Madison, the entire Jeffreson river drainage was completely shut down. The water was hitting 80 degrees, and trout can die off when rivers hit that temp."

"Being able to fish for trout all the time here, and just the number of trout, you can't really beat it."

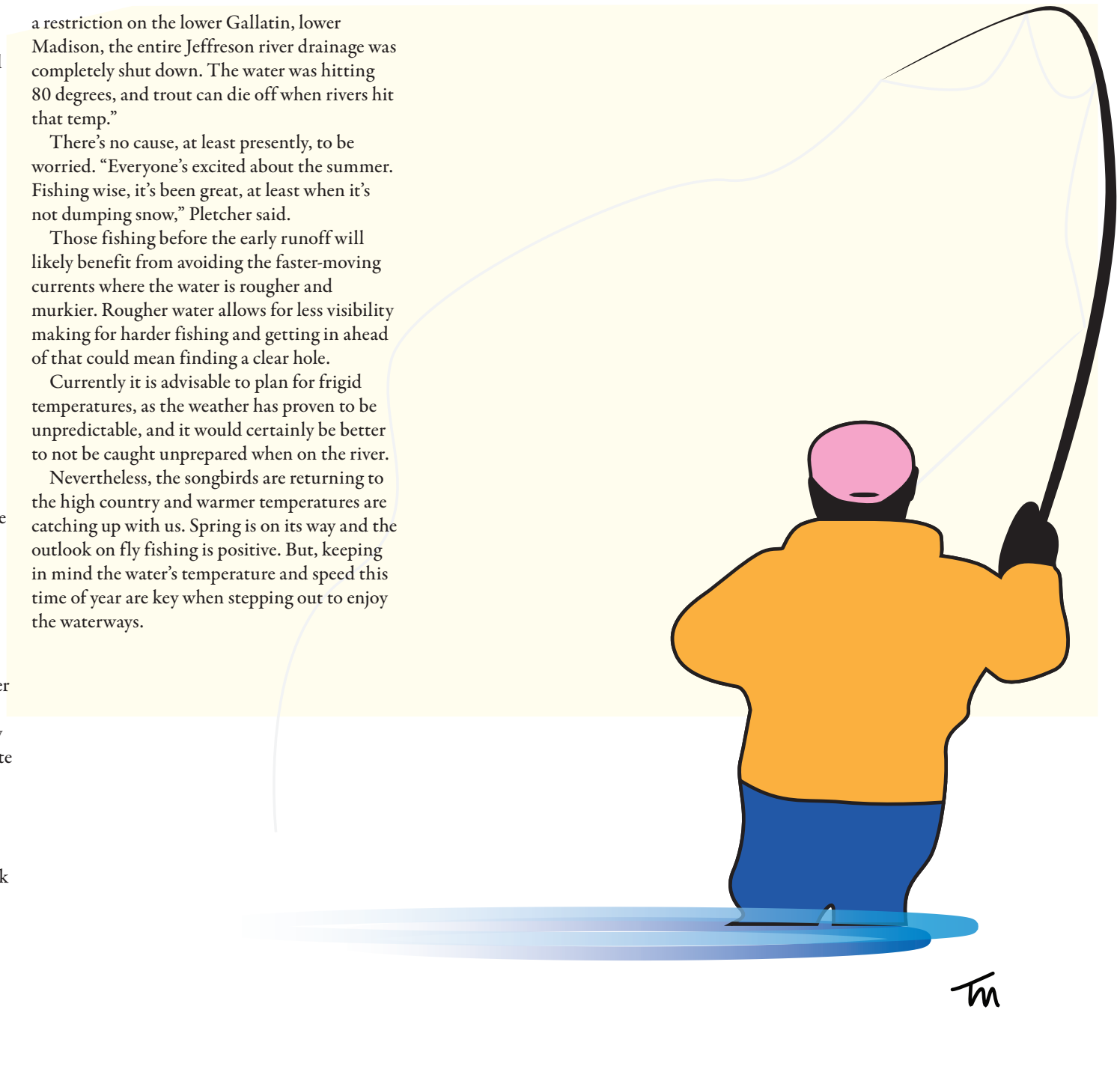
- Henry Pletcher, River's Edge Employee

There's no cause, at least presently, to be worried. "Everyone's excited about the summer. Fishing wise, it's been great, at least when it's not dumping snow," Pletcher said.

Those fishing before the early runoff will likely benefit from avoiding the faster-moving currents where the water is rougher and murkier. Rougher water allows for less visibility making for harder fishing and getting in ahead of that could mean finding a clear hole.

Currently it is advisable to plan for frigid temperatures, as the weather has proven to be unpredictable, and it would certainly be better to not be caught unprepared when on the river.

Nevertheless, the songbirds are returning to the high country and warmer temperatures are catching up with us. Spring is on its way and the outlook on fly fishing is positive. But, keeping in mind the water's temperature and speed this time of year are key when stepping out to enjoy the waterways.



Bridger Bowl's cutest employees sniff out safety

By William Malizia

Bozeman's local ski mountain, Bridger Bowl, is renowned for its daunting ridge terrain. However, this comes with a higher risk of avalanche fatality and an even higher demand for patrol supervision.

But our ski community shouldn't fret, because a band of local heroes — avalanche dogs — have our backs. According to Eric Mullen, the mountain's Avalanche Dog program coordinator and a ski patroller, these furry employees have been saving lives on the slopes since the earliest days of Bridger Bowl.

Mullen, has worked as a patroller for fifteen years, and just began leading the Avalanche Dog program in the 2022-2023 winter season.

Mullen and one other program coordinator, Dewey Neighbor, oversee and enforce the program's policies and procedures. They supervise dog training, support for dog handlers, and coordinate where dogs are positioned on the hill on a daily basis. Mullen discovered his interest in the program through years of patrolling as well as consistent activity with the Gallatin County Search and Rescue team.

Mullen is a dog owner and handler, meaning he owns and provides for his personal avalanche dog, which is employed in the field at the ski hill. His dog Bodhi is a rescue from Wolf Point Reservation. She's been training with and working for the avalanche program for five years, Mullen said.

These dogs typically spend two to three years training, learning obedience, how to board a ski lift and most importantly, how to detect human scent.

"The training process for a dog is essentially an elaborate game of hide and go seek," Mullen said.

The dogs begin by learning to chase and find an exciting object, such as a rubber ball. The training progresses until a human subject, known as a query, hides in a pile of snow or a hole, and the dog is conditioned to seek them out and unbury them. The dog's efforts are rewarded with an exciting game of tug of war between them and the query.

Once the dog's skills are honed, they can be employed out in the field by exploiting the same training.

At Bridger Bowl's training park, ironically titled the Kitty Litter due to the dogs' liking for scratching and sniffing around on its premises, the Avalanche Dog program performs training drills to condition both new and veteran dogs.

During one of those training sessions Sophie Hewitt, a Bridger Bowl ski patroller, acted the role of the query. She was buried in a large igloo-like pile of snow, known as a quinzhee, awaiting rescue from Mullen's dog Bodhi.

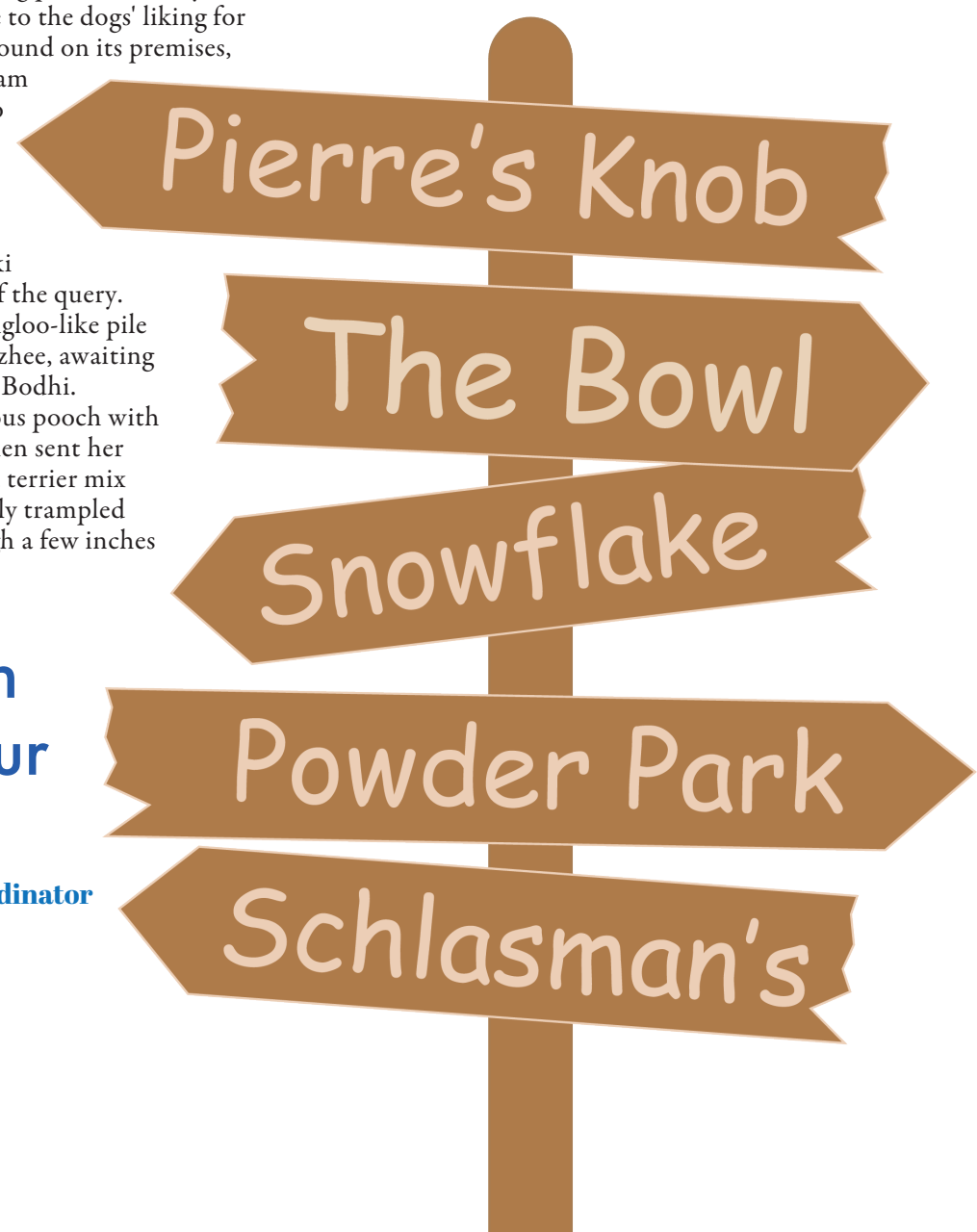
Mullen braced his zealous pooch with a few tugs at her collar, then sent her off. The border collie and terrier mix didn't hesitate. She quickly trampled towards her target through a few inches of fresh snow and effortlessly unburied Hewitt in a matter of seconds.

Bodhi was promptly rewarded with a fun and intense game of tug of war. Hewitt made a point of sounding loud and excited.

"You should be super loud and high pitched, like a drunk girl at a party," Mullen explained to Hewitt before the drill began, "If you're not embarrassed, you've done it wrong."

She did not disappoint. The query's aim is to excite the dog by, morbidly enough, simulating the high pitched noises of prey being killed. However, the display was quite wholesome.

"It was super fun and exciting to see the dog come out successful and to be rescued so quickly," Hewitt said, covered in snow.



"These dogs are just as much of team members as any of our other rescuers."

- Eric Mullen, Avalanche Dog Program Coordinator

Scan this QR code to see Bodhi in action!

Hewitt went on to describe her aspirations with the program. “I’m always happy to help with the dogs and be an assistant. Someday I hope to have my own dog. I think it's a super awesome program and there is always room for involvement,” she said.

Avalanche dog support is crucial for safety on the mountain. According to Mullen, before Bridger Bowl started mandating transceivers for all access to ridge terrain, avalanche dogs were the best option for timely rescues — and they pull more than their weight on the mountain every day.

“One dog is the search equivalent of 20 rescuers in one-eighth the amount of time,” Mullen said.

While Bridger ridge enthusiasts can boost their safety by carrying beacons, avalanche debris can still spill over into lower-mountain terrain, where most skiers lack these safety devices. It’s in this scenario where the avalanche dogs are an especially invaluable asset because, without avalanche transceivers, dogs are the only feasible way of quickly detecting avalanche victims buried under the snow and saving their lives, Neighbor said.

According to him, it is for this exact reason that there is no avalanche dog stationed over near the Schlasman’s lift.

“You need a beacon to ride the lift so it's safe to assume anyone buried would be findable with a beacon search," Neighbor said. "We would definitely send dogs that way if an incident occurred, but it isn't top priority for the dogs like it is on the lower mountain.”

Without these savvy canines, our ski community would be at far greater risk. “These dogs are just as much of team members as any of our other rescuers,” Mullen said.

Neighbor said the dogs also help with keeping terrain on the mountain open and safe for those in-bounds with no transceiver.

“Here at Bridger Bowl, we don’t like to sit on terrain,” Neighbor said. “The other day we were getting like three inches of snow an hour and we were able to keep the ridge open, which is great for us, and it would have implied far greater risk if it weren’t for the avalanche dogs being stationed where they were in the event that any avalanche debris slid down into in-bounds terrain. The dogs are an essential piece of the puzzle”

Neighbor said the dogs are more popular with the public than the patrollers. “People get a lot more excited when they see a dog on the slope than when they see some patrol guy with a beard,” he said.

The Avalanche Dog program is funded primarily through the proceeds of avalanche dog t-shirts, which can be purchased at The Jim Bridger Lodge, Chalet Sports, Round House and 360 Pet Medical.



Rescue dog Bodhi prepares to leap and grab hold of a ski glove on Monday, March 6.
Photo by Cady Allen

Designed by Briana Virella

Stop Stereotyping the Fangirls

BY TAY STRADIOTTO



The overt obsession with sports teams and their success is normalized and the fanbase is made up of mostly men. Collective rituals, cussing, screaming, face painting and betting money are all aspects of a sports fan's practices that are validated throughout our society. But when you swap out men with women and a sports team with a boy band or music artist, the perception of the fanbase changes completely. The ridicule and invalidation fangirls receive is a classic example of sexism; the double standard of a typically male fan base versus a female fanbase has to stop.

Fangirls are stereotyped as being dramatic and crazy when they are acting just as emotional or passionate as male sports fans. The joy that your favorite band or artist brings you is an intimate and personal experience that everyone deserves to be celebrated for, not judged. Fangirls are told that they are wasting money and time by obsessing over a celebrity, but in reality sports fans do the exact same thing. It's internalized misogyny at its finest.

In her TedTalk published on Feb. 18, 2020, "For the Love of Fangirls," Yve Blake said, "If girls grow up in a world that tells them that they are designed just a bit crazier than the boys, then isn't that a little bit like telling them that they are born less capable of rationality than men, less capable of reason and unworthy of the same intellectual respect as their brothers?"

Irrationality and hysteria are qualities associated with women, and both shed a negative light on what it really means to be a fangirl. Being a fangirl is one of the most fulfilling parts of the human experience that we can collectively share together. Being a fan of someone or something is so pure, it enriches your life. For me, being a Taylor Swift fan has been one of the best parts of my life. Taylor Swift has always been, and will remain, my fiercest motivator, life coach and role model. Being a fangirl gives you something that not only makes you happy but provides a constant support system.

FANGIRLS ARE VALID AND THEIR INTERESTS SHOW THAT THEY ARE MULTIFACETED HUMAN BEINGS WHO DESERVE THE SAME ADMIRATION AND VALIDITY THAT SOCIETY GIVES TO MALE FANS.

The people that make up a fanbase oftentimes act as one big family, and with that common love they all share for a specific interest, they are able to forge friendships that last a lifetime.

The camaraderie created through being a fangirl is only one of the positive impacts it has on their life. Being a fangirl is beneficial to mental health, it helps to build a sense of identity, empowering self-determination and the feeling of belongingness to a collective community. Fandoms help people to find solace in strong emotions and hard times.

When it comes to fangirls of something such as Marvel or Star Wars, that same belittling and deprecation against women still exists. Franchises such as those two are typically male dominated, which causes the men that are a part of those fandoms to discount the female fans.

Gatekeeping due to gender happens all too often, and I have had it happen to me in the Marvel fandom. The women are forced to prove their knowledge and are constantly told they are "posers" just for loving something that society has labeled as a masculine interest. I read Marvel comics, watch character and analysis videos and cosplay all while I am trying to validate my love for Marvel when interacting with the male side of the fanbase. Society can't just let women enjoy something on the same level they let men.

The double standard between fans and fan girls continues to promote misogyny and the demotion of women as a whole. It causes the media to often mis-represent women and their interests, while downplaying the love of women enjoying something. Fangirls are valid and their interests show that they are multifaceted human beings who deserve the same admiration and validity that society gives to male fans.

Montana State music student Jacob Kittleson advances to national competition

EMME DEMMENDAAL, MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — Montana State University music student Jacob Kittleson won the young artist brass category at the Music Teachers National Association Northwest Divisional Young Artist Performance Competition and will advance to the national competition March 25–29 in Reno, Nevada.

"It's very exciting to get the chance to perform," said Kittleson, who is from Great Falls. "It's just an incredible opportunity because they bring in these amazing judges, and the feedback we're able to get from an educational standpoint is so helpful."

Kittleson, a tuba player, beat state winners from Washington, Wyoming and Idaho in the regional competition and will now play against students from across the U.S.

"It's incredible to see Jake perform at such a high level, competing against undergraduate and graduate students at a national level," said Jason Bolte, director of the MSU School of Music in the College of Arts and Architecture. "Competing at the MTNA National Competition is a testament to his work ethic, musicianship and the high-quality instruction he has received from our music faculty."

Kittleson, a senior majoring in music, said he first got interested in playing tuba in elementary school.

"It was the largest and shiniest object in the (band) room," Kittleson said, explaining that he was too small to play the tuba at first, so he played the euphonium until sixth grade. "(The tuba) has such a dark, warm sound that just envelops the room. I've pretty much stuck with it ever since."



Kittleson, who plays the tuba, has won a spot to compete in the National MTNA Competition in Reno, Nevada. **MSU photo by Colter Peterson.**

Kittleson is no stranger to this national competition. In 2021, he competed virtually in the young artist brass category, along with MSU student violinist Cade Fiddaman, who competed in the young artist strings division.

"I'm excited to finally do (the competition) in person, especially now that I've had a couple more years to develop my skills," Kittleson said. The competition is being held in conjunction with the MTNA conference, and he hopes to attend performances and seminars as well.

"There are going to be some great players to listen to, so I'm looking forward to that too," he said.

MSU associate professor Jeannie Little said Kittleson's passion for the tuba has deepened through the years and makes him a wonderful musician.

"Jake is immensely gifted," she said. "During this upcoming competition, he's the only tuba in a field of trumpets, horns and euphoniums. The tuba is a big and sometimes very unwieldy instrument. Jake makes it sing."

She said Kittleson has been heavily involved with many musical groups on MSU's campus, including the Spirit of the West marching band and the Montanans choir.

"He will play in every and any ensemble if you let him," Little said, noting that Kittleson not only persevered but excelled during remote and socially distanced lessons for his first two years at MSU. "He's so excited and so curious about all things music, and that translates to learning new and difficult pieces."

At the competition, Kittleson will play a capriccio by Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki. The piece is designed for an unaccompanied tuba and is "very contemporary," he said, adding that the piece's tone is interesting because it has no time signature, a musical element that keeps a song on the proper beat.

"It offers a lot of freedom to the performer," he said. "One of the things I like most about it is how it hides in dance figures. There's one part where it's a waltz, but then it leaves off a beat and a dancer will be stumbling – it's always very sneaky with it."

Kittleson will graduate this spring and pursue a master's degree of musical arts in tuba performance from Arizona State University. He credits his success to his teachers and opportunities at MSU.

"MSU has just provided me so many opportunities for places to perform, and the faculty has just been amazing and supportive," he said. "They've taught me so much, especially Dr. Little."

Contact: Jeannie Little, *jeannie.little@montana.edu* or 406-994-5759.

Season two of "Shadow and Bone" was worth the wait

BY CÉLIA KOH

"The Darkling slumped back in his chair. 'Fine,' he said with a weary shrug. 'Make me your villain,'" this iconic line is featured in Leigh Bardugo's "Shadow and Bone" and has become a symbol of the series.

Whether you have read the books, watched season one in 2021, discovered it last week for the release of season two, or are part of the cult of Ben Barnes fans, there is a good chance you have heard this line.

Thursday, March 16 marked the return of the Netflix series for a second season. Season two adapted and combined two of Israeli-American author Leigh Bardugo's book series, the "Shadow and Bone" trilogy and the "Six of Crows" duology in season one of this Netflix Top 10 series.

The directors of the show for season two continued the concept of combining two of the beloved Barguago books. Series creator Eric Heisserer and writer Daegan Fryklind told Entertainment Weekly on Dec. 22, 2022; that they would use "multiple books for sure. [They] touch on a few others in Leigh's catalog."

Season two has cast new characters and actors who will have major roles in the series. While watching you will meet Prince Nikolai Lantsov, played by Patrick Gibson, previously seen in Netflix show, "The OA" (2019); explosive expert Wylan Hendricks (Jack Wolfe), previously seen in Netflix "The Witcher"; and sibling heartrenders Tamar (Anna Leong Brophy) and Tolya (Lewis Tan).

Shot in Budapest, Hungary, season two digs deep into the roots of Russia and other Central European countries to reflect the cultures Bardugo illustrates and explores extensively in the books. Bardugo created a whole new world with its own maps, political strategies, betrayals and love triangles.

Shot in Budapest, Hungary, season two digs deep into the roots of Russia and other Central European countries to reflect the cultures Bardugo illustrates and explores extensively in the books.

Join Alina Starkov (Jessi Mei Li), our Saint and Sun Summoner, and tracker Malyen Oretsev (Archie Renaux), who are now fugitives, trying to find ways to destroy the Fold.

The Crows, back in Ketterdam, discover that they have lost their club and concoct a plan to get their lives back by making new alliances along the way. Nina Zenik (Danielle Galligan) is ready to form an alliance to get her beloved Matthias (Calahan Skogman) out of trouble.

As a fan, waiting for season two and watching it last weekend was exciting. The combination of "Siege and Storm" and the "Six of Crows" duology worked in harmony to build a show that makes perfect sense. Season two can be watched independently from the books, or as a whole new entity.

If you enjoyed watching "Shadow and Bone" on Netflix and want to know more about the Grishaverse, dive into Bardugo's kingdom by reading the Grishaverse series, starting with the "Shadow and Bone" trilogy, followed by the "Six of Crows" and the "King of Scars" duologies.

You can find everything you need to know on Leigh Bardugo's website *https://www.leighbardugo.com/*. Or if you prefer to dive straight into the television series, you can stream seasons one and two on Netflix now.

New Bitterroot Magazine edition dropping in May

BY ALYSSA STARR

As you enter the door, the ring of a landline vibrates through your ears. You see ten people lined up at their desks typing away and others shouting and cackling on the phone. The roar of their voices and the smell of coffee fills the room.

People run across the office, whisking away papers from their colleagues' desks to make the deadline. This is a common scene in a publication room, as writers and reporters can be chaotic. Most young writers would be ecstatic to join a publication team, but few have the opportunity. However, the English department at MSU has given students an opportunity to experience the editing and production of a magazine firsthand.

WRIT 374 Magazine Editing and Production is a multi-media production class for all majors. The course is available during the spring; currently, there are about 20 students. The entire class revolves around the final product, the newest edition of Bitterroot Magazine.

To accomplish this, students have taken on various responsibilities. Some students are working on long-form investigative stories, others work on the design or marketing teams. Similar to other magazines and publications, there are all sorts of editors, including the editor-in-chief, section editor, copy editor, you name it.

The students are working as a team to print a 90-page publication by the end of the semester. According to the Bitterroot website, the class will dig deep into the different cultural identities and diverse landscapes within Montana and cover global issues, from a local angle. For example, one student is investigating the effects of the war in Ukraine on Montana farmers.

"I told everyone at the beginning of the semester; this class is basically a one semester-long group project. Which sounds terrible, but it's really awesome," said Beth Shirley, assistant professor in the English department and professor of WRIT 374.

The group faces the same challenges many students encounter during group projects. Students wait on others to finish their work before they can contribute. For example, the copy editor can't mill over a story for grammar and style mistakes before the writer has completed it.

"People aren't always able to meet deadlines because of life things that come up and inject a little chaos into the whole process." Shirley said.

With that being said, the crew at Bitterroot Magazine gracefully handles the constant pressure. The proof is in the planning for this year's edition. Readers can expect more investigative reporting and a dramatic increase in the number of pages.

"Last year's issue was around 50 to 60 pages. This one is going to be more like 90." Dr. Shirley said.

The page increase is because of advertisements and investigative stories inspired by this edition's new theme.

"This year, the class chose the theme of convergence, and it's the idea of the Three Forks Rivers coming together. And thinking about Montana's different cultural identities and diverse landscapes and how those come together to make a really unique place," Shirley said. "So many different investigations into unique stories could only happen in Montana."

According to Shirley, in anticipation of the print date, the group will be releasing some stories online before the entire magazine is available.

To stay updated with the Bitterroot crew, follow them on Instagram *@bitterrootmagmsu*. Additionally, their website *bitterrootmagmsu.org* houses the e-edition of the 2022 publication. This is where promo stories and the e-edition of this spring's magazine will be found after it's printed.

All majors are encouraged to join the class, so if you are interested in learning more about the course, Shirley would gladly speak with you. You can email her at *bethshirley@montana.edu*.

MSU Alumnus appears on HBO rock climbing competition

BY REAGAN COLYER, MSU NEWS SERVICE

Editor's Note: *This story contains mild spoilers for Season 1 of HBO's "The Climb."*



Brad Burns, red jacket, on the set of HBO's "The Climb." Burns filmed the reality rock climbing competition while a senior at Montana State University. **Image courtesy of HBO.**

BOZEMAN – Brad Burns assumed the email that showed up in his inbox from television service HBO in August 2021 was spam, but it wasn't.

Representatives at HBO had seen videos of Burns rock climbing on his social media channels and thought he might be a good fit for a new reality competition show hosted by champion rock climber Chris Sharma and actor Jason Momoa. Burns, who was a senior in the Montana State University Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology and the MSU Honors College at the time, figured nothing would come of it when he submitted his application for the program, called "The Climb."

"I thought nothing of it, thought, 'There's no way I'm going to get this,'" Burns recalled. "And the very next day I had a two-hour interview with them, which became weekly interviews until we started filming."

Burns is originally from Story, Wyoming, which is where he first discovered rock climbing at age 17. Like many students, he was drawn to Bozeman by its combination of natural beauty, opportunities for outdoor recreation and the chance to pursue a degree that would help him toward his goal of attending medical school.

In October 2021, Burns traveled to Mallorca, Spain, to begin filming alongside nine other competitors. In each of the show's eight episodes, climbers face a unique challenge. The two who perform at the bottom of the group then compete head-to-head in an elimination challenge to determine which climbers advance to the next episode. Burns, who was the youngest competitor at 21 years old, successfully navigated through three episodes before being eliminated in the fourth.

Burns said he was struck in the moments before his first climb in Mallorca by the enormity of the endeavor.

"The first time I really understood what was happening was when we were climbing the first route," he said. "I'm standing on the rock, and I turn around to see like 15 boats in the harbor. There are divers, there's a safety team and the producers on boats, there's drones and cameramen on ropes. And you think, 'Man, I'm supposed to climb this route right now with like 200 people watching me?"

In addition to the new challenges posed by hours of daily filming and the nerves that came with the competition, Burns was also set apart from his fellow climbers by the fact that he continued with his studies full time while abroad. He finished the fall 2021 semester in Europe, wrapping up filming each day in the late evening before studying, usually into the early morning. While it added another layer of challenge, he said he wouldn't have had it any other way.

"Everyone at MSU was so amazing. It was awesome," he said. "From day one of that semester, I let all my professors know that this might happen. I got really lucky. My professors were so accommodating, and I'm so grateful for that."

His academic pursuits didn't end at simply completing his classes while abroad; he continued an independent undergraduate research project as well that combined his medical aspirations with his love for climbing. After connecting with Bernadette McCrory, an assistant professor in MSU's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, through the Honors College, Burns initiated a project that used biomechanics to examine injury risk in rock climbers.

"Brad was highly motivated," said McCrory, who is also a faculty member of MSU's Biomedical Engineering Program. "He crafted his project, he wrote the proposal and got funded. He did everything."

Burns' project, funded by MSU's Undergraduate Scholars Program, used advanced biometric technology to measure data from both beginner and advanced rock climbers such as range of motion, limb movement, heart rate and stress during climbs. While filming with HBO, Burns was also dedicating time to data analysis to continue the project and work on the final manuscript he would submit for publication in academic journals.

"Brad had to learn elements of the data acquisition and data analysis process. It was a lot to do as an undergrad, and it was a completely independent project," said McCrory. "He really hustled to finish data collection before he left, then took it with him. He's highly driven. The sky is the limit for him."

In addition to the support he received from faculty, advisers and fellow students, Burns said the community he joined while filming "The Climb" was just as valuable, keeping him encouraged through the more than two months he was away from home.

"It's easy to have impostor syndrome when you're on something like that. I was the youngest person on the show and had the least amount of climbing experience, and I was also going to school at the same time," said Burns. "But everyone was so great. We were all so supportive of each other, which I think really sets this show apart. I went there and left with nine best friends."

Burns returned home in December 2021, and "The Climb" premiered on streaming platform HBO Max on Jan. 13 of this year. In the interim, a lot has changed for Burns: He graduated with a degree in cell biology and neuroscience in May 2022 and is currently finishing an internship in Sun Valley, Idaho, with a nonprofit called Higher Ground. The organization provides outdoor experiences such as skiing and snowboarding to veterans and adaptive athletes, and Burns serves as a ski instructor, working primarily with individuals with cognitive and learning disabilities.

Once his internship wraps up, he will travel to Alaska to climb Denali, the highest mountain peak in North America at 20,310 feet. Then he will pursue one of the dreams that brought him to Montana State in the first place: medical school. In July, he will enter the Wyoming branch of the WWAMI program, a medical school cooperative between universities in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho that also includes MSU.

While filming "The Climb" was a spectacular experience, Burns said the element he values most is the chance to build relationships with other climbers on the show. He also noted that the experience reinforced the importance of outdoor adventures to his greater well-being, including his mental health and the motivation to continue his advanced studies.

"There's so much truth behind how we connect with the outdoors and how it affects us," he said. "I think that's one of the reasons I went to MSU. Mountains and minds: there's something to be said for that. To be able to pursue a high-level education while also being able to explore a beautiful place, that will enable you to enjoy your education more. It's something I'll keep trying to balance for the rest of my life, and I think everybody should try and find that."

All episodes of "The Climb" are available to stream on HBO Max with a subscription.

Michael Becker, MSU News Service director, michael.becker@montana.edu or 406-994-4565

DAILY CALENDAR

MARCH 23 - 29

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

THU 23

HONORS PRESENTS: PETER KOLB ON THE ROLE OF HUMANS, FIRE AND CLIMATE ACROSS THE NORTHERN ROCKIES
BYKER AUDITORIUM @ 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
This presentation will focus on the different perspectives on modern day forest conservation and management while keeping in mind Montana's diverse history.

SEAN CHANDLER LECTURE AND MEET AND GREET
HAYNES HALL, HELEN E. COPELAND GALLERY @ 4:30 - 9:00 P.M.
Sean Chandler will be speaking on his artistic journey and work featured in the new MSU art exhibit at 6:00 p.m. He will also be available to answer questions prior to his lecture in Haynes Hall gallery from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

FRI 24

AN EVENING WITH BRUCE ADOLPHE THE PIANO PUZZLER HOWARD HALL, REYNOLDS RECITAL HALL @ 7:30 P.M.
Experience an incredibly unique evening by listening to a part lecture, part comic fantasy. Adolphe dubs this "The Mozart Murder Trial" by investigating the dramatic narrative of Mozart's Piano Quartet in G Minor.

PROCRASTINATOR MOVIE: I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY
PROCRASTINATOR THEATER @ 9:00 P.M.
Want an inexpensive move experience this Friday night? For only $2 you can watch the musical/ drama featuring Whitney Houston on her journey to musical superstardom.

SAT 25

SERVICE SATURDAY
SUB 221 @ 9:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Volunteer some time to the community by participating in this month's service Saturday. This month participants will be working with The HRDC, Valley of the Flowers Project, Gallatin Valley Habitat for Humanity, and the Cancer Support Network. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. outside of SUB 221.

BOZEMAN WINTER FARMERS MARKET
GALLATIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS @ 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Support local farmers and artists by purchasing your fresh vegetables and pastries directly from the hands that gave them life.

SUN 26

CHRIS CUNNINGHAM
BOZEMAN HOT SPRINGS @ 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.
Listen to one of the main men of Bozeman folk duo "Storyhill" while soaking in the natural hot springs.

BOZEMAN DOC SERIES PRESENTS: WILD LIFE
EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE @ 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
The Emerson is presenting the premiere of the new wilderness documentary following conservationist Kris Tompkins on an epic journey of falling in love with the wild.

MON 27

PAWS TO DE-STRESS
MSU LIBRARY @ 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
School can be "ruff." Take some time to yourself and visit with the group of certified therapy dogs on the first floor of the library.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE NIGHT
GAINES HALL @ 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
The Modern Language Department is providing a venue for students learning or speaking a foreign language to practice their chosen language.

TUE 28

HONORS PRESENTS: FINDING TRUTH IN THE ERA OF 'FAKE NEWS'
ONLINE @ 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Award-winning journalist Gwen Florio will be lecturing on the importance of becoming informed consumers of news.

BONE DRY COMEDY HOUR OPEN MIC
LAST BEST COMEDY @ 8:00 - 10:00 P.M.
Here is your opportunity to kickstart your stand up comedy. Bone Dry is a safe space in which to try new material or witness some of Bozeman's amateur comedians.

WED 29

LECTURE ON EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF FEMINISM AND HOLLYWOOD
SUB 168 @ 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.
Join Dr. Sarah Johnson-Palomaki in exploring The Golden Age, the male gaze and the superhero wave through the lens of Hollywood films throughout history.

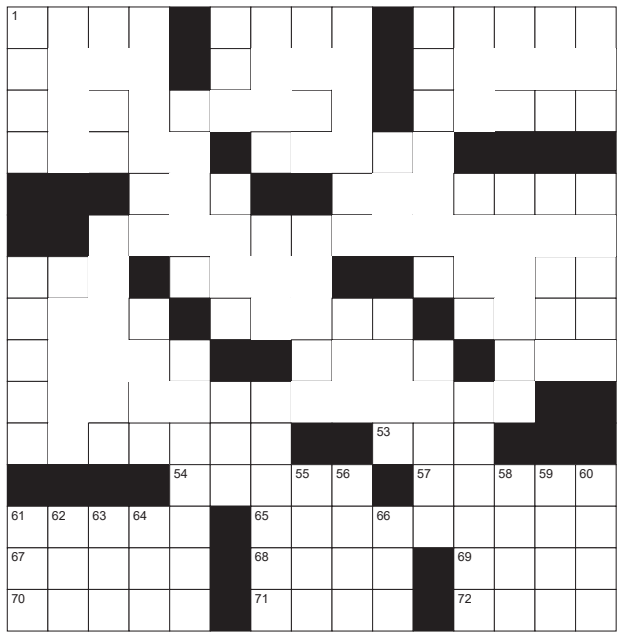
THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF LIZZIE WILLIAMS
BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY @ 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
As part of women's history month, the Extreme History Project will present the life of Lizzie Williams. Williams was a Black businesswoman who migrated West after the Civil War. Her Last Will and Testament provides a rare glimpse into the lives of African American women during this time.

THE MSU exponent PUZZLES

Love the Exponent? Follow us @MSUExponent!

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

CODE: EE565LX3



Across

1. 10th-grader, for short
5. Like a half-dozen and 6, on the Seine
9. "Pagliacci" soprano role
14. Siamese, today
15. Duke Ellington's "I ____ Song Go Out of My Heart"
16. Established principle
17. Soon
19. "Ghostbusters" actress Annie
20. Snub-___ (type of gun)
21. Kind of node or gland
23. Topeka's st.
25. Erik who played Ponch on TV
30. Stop something early
33. Blood-typing letters
35. Fight stoppers
36. Southwestern building material
37. Get along
39. It's often taken to go
42. Go for ____ (swim)
43. Small and sprightly
45. Egress
47. Differ ending
48. Ornate quality
52. Reveal unintentionally
53. Play a good joke on
54. Mental picture
57. Madness
61. Shout from the sidelines on TV
65. Breaks a bottle on, maybe
67. Arthur C. Clarke's genre
68. Third Reich salutation
69. Veteran
70. Bedevil
71. Evenings, to poets
72. ASAP

Down

1. Lee of Marvel Comics
2. Cry of despair
3. Settles, as a debt
4. Baseball's Matsui
5. "Tarzan" star Ron
6. Abbr. before Grant or Lee
7. "The Dog Is Not ____" ("Get Fuzzy" book title)
8. Good guys in westerns, usually
9. Highly volatile hydrocarbon
10. Outer (prefix)
11. Said in French
12. Period
13. Morning times
18. Conform
22. Nev. clock setting
24. Sportswear giant
26. Prynne's emblem
27. Dwellings
28. Add new sound to a film
29. Thoroughly proficient
30. Calorie-reduced, perhaps
31. Poisonous prefix
32. Tiny land mass
33. Get ____ for (become used to)
34. Social charmer
38. Claims, informally
40. Terminate
41. Ped ____
44. Without borders
46. Crawls (with)
49. Wheel part
50. Attack helicopter
51. Hawaii and Alaska
55. Liquid butter of India
56. Ireland, poetically
58. Following
59. She played Gretchen on "Benson"
60. "Same ____ ever was"
61. TV shopping channel
62. Peruvian region
63. Cold war flier
64. Son___gun
66. They, in Marseille

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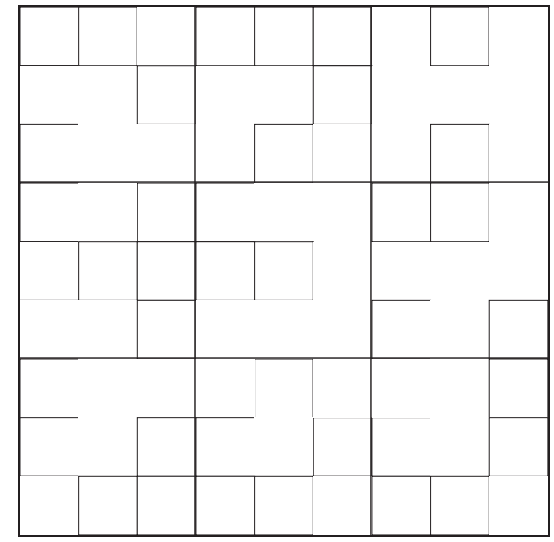

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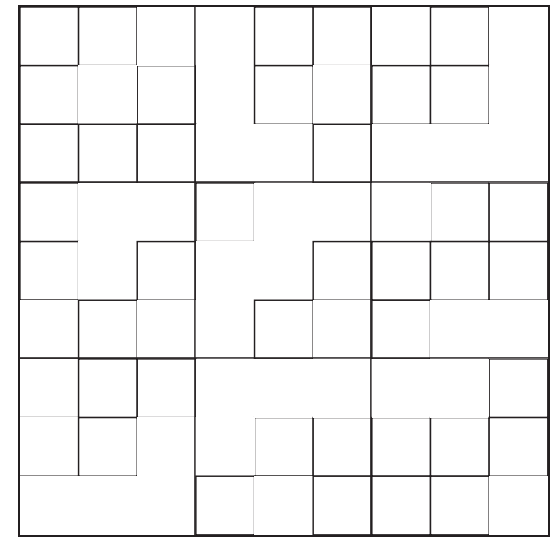

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C I O A E C I U J N D L S R			
R C N W A R B G N I D R O F			

CODE: M524QO

Aptly	Detains	Intellectually	Toast
Backstage	Elope	Juice	Toured
Bewilders	Epitome	Leeks	Urine
Blast	Exasperation	Mauls	Warrens
Brawn	Fording	Noses	
Characteristic	Freaks	Plans	
Chili	Fresh	Salon	
Chute	Frostbitten	Skulk	
Claps	Harry	Slower	
Class	Helium	Snare	
Close	Heretical	Spice	

the BOX

My coping mechanism for the rest of the semester:

Hiding from my problems in the SUB basement

Vending machine sour cream and cheddar Ruffles

Maladaptive daydreaming

Duck pond water to keep me fresh

No showers. We die like men

Taylor Swift on repeat and Union Market burritos

Giving up

Making a lot of "your mom" jokes

Laughing through the chaos

Balls (of the golf variety)

Pretending to be somewhere else

Chocolate and Prozac

Screaming at professors so we can both be crying

We're coping?

Screaming in general

Crack

15 mg Lexapro daily

Bowling for Soup's song '1985'

Salty emails

Developing SAD but the spring/summer version

Multiple calls a day to mummy dearest

Stealing

I will no longer be coping

Newports

I'm actually dropping out bye y'all

Chasing after people in the dark

Buying more shoes because that obviously fixes my problems

Game nights!

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

To the person who left a $20 bill and a rubber band in front of Montana Hall, we found your rubber band.

Come to terms with midterms.

Get a free month of Course Hero.

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prime student

Course Hero