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Kailey Forrey, a junior in the political sciences program, and Mikayla Pitts, a community health and human development professor, at the Forward Montana booth in front of Montana Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

PHOTO BY ARIANA CROCKETT O'HARRA
COVER DESIGN BY SAWYER WHITE

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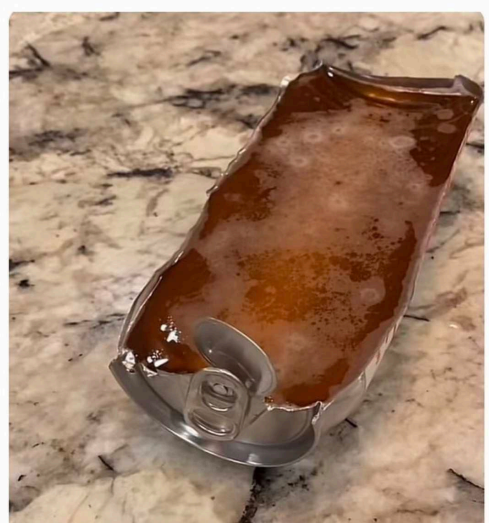
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MEME OF THE WEEK

u/scoobydoofruitsnacks

saving the other half of my drink for later



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COMPILED BY AMANDA FULTON
DESIGNED BY SAWYER WHITE



Student communities gather to showcase interests

BY SHELBY SVEIVEN



On Wednesday, Jan. 31, clubs and organizations from across the country gathered in the SUB for the Student Information Fair. The leadership staff of student organizations and clubs had decorated tables and information about the communities and the opportunities they provide. This included connections with students of similar backgrounds, extracurriculars such as debate and robotics and even some study abroad options through the university. Featured events included a raffle, stickers on many of the tables and students eager to speak about their student organizations and clubs.

One of the organizations present was the Disabled Students Association (DSA). Miller Rijfkogel, president and co-founder of the DSA, spoke about the goals of the association. "First off is [creating a] community for disabled students. Disability is very isolating, regardless of what it is, so just being able to provide a community where people can come and meet others [who] experience things similar to them. The second goal is to advocate for disability and to address any accessibility issues that there might be," Rijfkogel said.

Rijfkogel said the DSA works with the Office of Disability to bring attention to things that are happening on campus concerning accessibility. The association was created last February by Rijfkogel and Barla Beaudoin after they had both sustained temporary injuries. Rijfkogel went on to explain that they'd "had enough" after "experiencing some access issues and some hardships in relation to our disabilities for quite a few years at that point."

A few tables down was the Debate Club, where Vice President Hannah O'Connell explained the club's use of the British parliamentary debate structure. "It's four teams of two and you get the topic 15 minutes before your round. You have no access to technology or anything else so it's very impromptu-style thinking, and then you debate about the topic," she said.

O'Connell said that in the 15 minutes, students start to prepare their arguments, and work on how they will "embolden the arguments with impacts." The round begins immediately after the time is up.

The topics discussed can range from international relations and current news to science-related topics, and two teams are randomly assigned the "government" position, while the other two are the "opposition."

Debate meets Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Wilson 1-119. O'Connell added that the British parliamentary style of debate is more widely used in collegiate debate due to the "more emotional and rhetoric-based" arguments.

Another group at the event was the African Student Association (ASA). Manny Akpoto, the vice president of the ASA and a second-year biochemistry Ph.D. student, spoke about the purposes of the ASA. "I think the whole idea behind this association is to create a sense of belonging among African students who have come from different parts of Africa, knowing very well that we are far away from the southern parts of the States and this place is very white-dominated."

The ASA meets every other Tuesday at the Alumni Legacy Lounge in the SUB. "In a typical meeting, we use that as an opportunity to link up with one another, to catch up on one or two things, to be each other's keeper," Akpoto said.

Akpoto added that the club invites guest speakers to speak to international students about using credit cards, navigating cultural differences and getting around campus. "Additionally, we also use it as an opportunity to encourage our members on how to be successful in grad school, and tap into the wisdom from those who have been here previously and then transferring that knowledge to those that have now come into the system," he said.

Another group promoting their clubs was the Chinese Culture Club. Club treasurer Jay Malone spoke on the importance of the club. "It has kind of evolved to shed light on Chinese history and traditions. Especially with [the rise of] Asian hate recently, it's important to make people understand other people's points of views," she said.

Club President Zane Cleghorn added that the club also arranges language nights, where the Department of Languages comes together, each with "separate tables where you can practice each specific language [in the department]."

Malone was quick to add that these language nights are not high-pressure, and students can learn short phrases and connect with other students.

No matter what students are interested in or how they identify, there is a community on campus waiting to welcome them and help them have the best experience they can. To find student clubs and organizations, check out *https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/.*

Leadership fostered within Fraternity and Sorority Life

BY DOM LUCERO

MSU's Dean of Students Office spearheaded the inaugural Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) workshop, hosted at Chico Hot Springs from Jan. 9 to Jan. 12, which was attended by 47 students from the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL).

By focusing on value-based leadership and fostering meaningful dialogues on critical issues, the institute aims to set new benchmarks for fraternity and sorority engagement and leadership development, according to UIFI's mission statement.

This UIFI event marks a departure from its past venue in Bloomington, Indiana. The Dean of Students office at MSU employed the UIFI to host a more local leadership workshop, intending to make the workshop more accessible to a broader range of MSU FSL members. According to Jack Stephens, a junior and the president of the Interfraternity Council, the initiative aimed to "bridge the gap between chapters and equip the up-and-coming leaders with tools to foster positive growth in their chapter and beyond."

Stephens reported that traditionally, the UIFI offered a four-day, three-night workshop that challenged students to rethink conventional wisdom, discover new solutions to critical issues and expedite progress within their communities. By hosting the event in Montana, MSU was able to include wider participation from its FSL community, allowing every chapter the opportunity to send at least three members.

Sigma Chi president and junior William Hyatt shared his experience at the workshop, emphasizing its focus on leadership. "A large portion of our time was focused on values-based leadership, discovering our personal values and testing them in multiple scenarios," he said.



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Dean of Students.

This eventually led to a mock debate that tackled pressing issues that members of the FSL have dealt with before.

"It made us think deeper about issues like hazing, member accountability, alcohol abuse, mental health and how we can progress forward together to create a strong, supportive community," Stephens said.

Abby Foster, a freshman and event director for Alpha Omicron Pi, highlighted the potential long-term impact of the UIFI experience. "I think the UIFI experience is going to impact and empower the MSU FSL community to bring to light the good we do in the community and show that we are a group of students that stand for bettering Bozeman, the MSU campus and the FSL community."

"The relationships you make at UIFI alone are also a big part of why it works so well. It is an experience that I will be talking about for years to come," Foster said. She ended with rating the event with a full five stars.

Education and support for students with the Pre-Vet club

BY EVAN HANSEN

"Vet school admissions are more competitive than getting into med school," Landry Scoles said. Scoles is a junior studying microbiology on the pre-veterinarian track and a member of the MSU Pre-Vet club.

The Pre-Vet club is MSU's extracurricular opportunity for prospective vet students to learn more about the program, get help with their applications and learn from those with similar interests, according to club president McKenna Quirk.

According to Scoles, the average meeting involves members chatting, catching up on classes and making connections with each other. Each meeting, the club tries to have special guests speak on different topics or representatives from vet schools discuss applications with the club, according to her.

"One of our coolest guest speakers last semester, we had a certified acupuncturist who's a vet at Bridger Veterinary Specialists. She came in and gave an acupuncture demo on one of our members' dogs," Quirk said. The presenter taught the club about the uses of acupuncture related to pain relief, anxiety and nausea for animals that may be experiencing, for example, recurring injuries or chemotherapy, club member Caitlyn Franke said.

The club works to host admissions representatives from different schools at their meetings. According to Scoles, they will be hosting an admissions representative from Colorado State University over WebEx at their next meeting. "We like to host representatives at meetings, so our members can learn about multiple vet schools without traveling," Scoles said. The club does this by appointing representatives to communicate with schools and admissions programs to aid their members in their applications.

In order to host these representatives, Franke and Scoles share the WIMU representative position within the club. WIMU stands for Washington, Idaho, Montana and Utah and represents the program and coalition of states that work to prepare vet students for vet school and provide resources for experience and education, according to the MSU website. Franke said they schedule virtual meetings with those accredited vet schools to teach their members more about where they will be applying to vet school.

To aid their members in the application process, the club also visits different veterinarian programs during the year. According to Franke, they visited Oregon State last year and plan to visit Washington State later this semester.

"It gives our younger members a chance to see some different vet schools and hopefully they go each year so they get to see a lot of different ones," Franke said.

Traveling as a club requires a lot of work from its members to build funds, Scoles said. In order to fund the trips the club does dog washes each semester, Quirk stated. According to Scoles, the club will post advertisements on the radio, TV and newspaper, and will call previous clients to spread the word.

"It's an absolute blast to see all those dogs each semester. There's one dog named Blue, who's been coming to the dog wash every semester for about five or six years now, which is really incredible," Quirk said. The club loves to see the Gallatin Valley community come together at those events to support their cause, she said.

Scoles, Quirk and Franke all commented on the supportive nature of the club, explaining that their education experience wouldn't have been the same without it. Older members teach younger ones, according to Scoles, and their advisors even help to read their applications, Quirk stated.



The Pre-Vet Club meets in a Linfield classroom on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

Keep your eye out for the Pre-Vet club's spring dog wash on March 3 by checking out their Instagram *@msuprevetclub*.

Montana State and partners receive $5 million grant for ongoing buffalo trail project at Fort Peck

BY ANNE CANTRELL, MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — An ongoing project that aims to help Indigenous people prosper alongside buffalo at the Fort Peck Indian Reservation has received a four-year, $5 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes. The grant was awarded by the America the Beautiful Challenge program, with funding support from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Robert Magnan, director of the Fish and Game Department of the Fort Peck Tribes and grant leader, said he is thrilled with what this award will generate in improved herd and grasslands health, as well as expanded acreage and workforce for the Fort Peck Turtle Mound Buffalo Ranch.

The award also supports an ongoing, comprehensive, grassroots effort to engage members of the tribes in community-building initiatives intended to rejuvenate connections with buffalo. With Magnan's support and leadership, part of those efforts has led to the establishment of a trail on the southern end of the ranch that is home to transferred Yellowstone National Park buffalo; the new grant will expand the existing .6-mile trail to nearly 11 miles.

Montana State University is one of a number of a collaborators on the project. MSU's portion of the grant, which will go toward trail design and buffalo and native plants science education, is approximately $1 million. Other core partners include Fort Peck Community College and Defenders of Wildlife.

The project originated through discussions by and with the Pté Group, a grassroots organizing initiative at Fort Peck that includes Magnan and a dozen other community leaders, said Elizabeth Bird, principal investigator at MSU and project development and grants specialist in the College of Education, Health and Human Development.

"When the Pté Group formed, one of the themes that came out fairly early in discussions was that they and other tribal members needed ways to connect with buffalo physically," Bird said. "(They needed to) be in their presence, see them, smell them, hear them, pick up sloughed fur."

A couple of years later, MSU architecture professor Michael Everts was looking for a project for his students to work on designs integrating environmental, public health and socioeconomic issues, Bird recalled. MSU colleagues soon connected him with the Pté Group, and in the spring of 2016, Everts and the first group of MSU architecture students to work on the project were able to speak with members of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, tour the area and discuss potential projects.

"Fairly early in those conversations, the idea of a trail emerged as something that would be a really good way to connect people to the land and the buffalo up there," Bird said. With broader community input, the Pté Group named the trail Pté Bahá Ocągu. (In Nakoda, Pté Bahá Ocągu means "buffalo hills," and in Dakota, Wamákhaškaŋškaŋ means "all that moves on the land.")

In addition to the trail itself, the group also discussed plans to place interactive story poles – or structures that visitors can engage with in culturally meaningful ways – along the trail, and the School of Architecture organized several independent design courses for students to collaborate with community members to design the story poles. Bird said one story pole is currently in place, and four or five more will be added. The first pole is designed to catch fur that comes off buffalo when they rub against the pole, so that people can gather the fur. A second story pole will channel the wind to make tones, and people will be invited to place their hands over apertures to generate different sounds. A third story pole will feature an internal stairway that children can climb to gain a different perspective on the surrounding area. A fourth story pole may be related to stargazing, Bird said.

The group has received several smaller grants since 2018 that enabled the work to begin, resulting in trail design and environmental and cultural review, development of roughly a half-mile of completed ADA-accessible trail, along with a parking lot, toilet, picnic and bench facilities and the first two story poles. The new grant will not only lengthen the trail but also help restore the buffalo ranch grasslands, expand the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes' capacity to manage buffalo herds through increased wildlife-friendly fencing and workforce development and expansion; fund educational programs to foster a deeper connection between tribal youth, buffalo and their culture; increase eco-tourism capacity, including dark-sky programming, led by Jonny Lee Bearcub Stiffarm; and enhance Fort Peck Community College science faculty Steven Coon's and Joanne Stewart Kloker's and their students' collaborations with the ranch. The education and eco-tourism initiatives are also key Pté Group aspirations, Bird said. Stiffarm has advocated for the Pté Group aim of buffalo-related educational programming for all ages. Another partner, Kai Teague, will help lead access to augmented native plants along the trail.

An overarching goal is to strengthen ecosystem and community resilience and support tribally led conservation and restoration.

Bird, who has collaborated with partners at Fort Peck for more than a decade, is leading MSU's involvement with the project. She will engage citizen science experts with Fort Peck partners in developing lessons for K-12 students, and she will help Everts and students in MSU's School of Architecture deliver planning and constructability services for the trail, as well as design and fabrication of story poles.

Other MSU collaborators include Suzi Taylor, director of the Science Math Resource Center, and Jill Falcon Ramaker, assistant professor in the Department of Food Systems, Nutrition and Kinesiology and director of the Buffalo Nations Food System Initiative.

Bird hopes that by the time the grant concludes in 2027, more people – especially youth – will be involved and that infrastructure will be in place to enable the work and connections to continue.

"My hope is that by the time this grant ends it will be multi-generational and robust and those people will be able to carry the work forward," she said. "To me the goal of this grant is to firmly establish the infrastructure for achieving the intentions of the Pté Group. If we can establish strong infrastructure and a set of lessons for and connections to (Fort Peck Community College) and (local) schools, that will go a long way."

Turnbull, co-chair of the Pté Group and key partner for the grant, said that all the proposed work "helps ensure that our wonderful, restored Yellowstone buffalo herd also advances the cultural, physical and economic health of our Fort Peck communities."

Nordic Bobcats seize success over break

BY ARIANA CROCKETT O'HARRA

The Bobcat Nordic team had a successful series of races over winter break at the WinterStart Supertour in Anchorage, Alaska, as well as at the U.S. National Championships in Soldier's Hollow, Utah. The Supertour is recognized by the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) as the highest level of competition in North America. The Supertour and U.S. Nationals also functioned this year as the qualifier for the North American World Cup circuit, held in Canmore, Alberta, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Minnesota Loppet Cup is the first World Cup event scheduled for the U.S. since 2020 when it was canceled due to COVID-19. Before that, the last Nordic World Cup hosted on U.S. soil was in 2001.

Kincaid Park, located on a peninsula surrounded by icebergs in Anchorage, is a former nuclear missile defense storage ground turned Nordic ski venue. It is also one of the home race venues for about a quarter of the Bobcat Nordic Team, where they pulled off some fairly impressive results during Period One of the North American Supertour WinterStart in mid-Dec. of 2023. Period One of the Supertour is a week-long series of four races.

Both the Supertour and U.S. Nationals are not NCAA-sanctioned races, but the Bobcat team still travels to the races and provides support for athletes.

Nordic skiing consists of three main race types: sprints, interval starts and mass starts. In sprint races, the top 30 finishers in the qualifier move onto a series of bracket-style heats, where the top two in each heat advance to the next bracket. Mass and interval start races are typically distance races. In a mass start, the entire field starts at the same time, and in an interval start, skiers start at 15 to 30-second intervals.

Biomedical engineering junior Joel Power of Anchorage said about racing on his home turf, "It feels amazing. Reconnecting with this community who's done so much for me as a ski racer is pretty sweet. Having so many people call your name and seeing all your friends from home, it's pretty awesome."

It seems like the home crowds were an advantage for the 'Cats. The Bobcat Women started the week out strong with three racers —Emma Albrecht, Katey Houser and Rosie Whittington Evans— all finishing in the top 30 for the freestyle sprint on Dec. 12. Florian Winker, Kai Meyers, Joel Power and Emma Albrecht all earned top 30 places in the Dec. 13 classic interval start. Albrecht and Houser placed 22nd and 29th, respectively, in the classic sprint on Saturday, Dec. 16. Winker earned a top 30 finish in the men's 10K mass start freestyle on Sunday, and Albrecht, Houser and Whittington Evans all earned top thirties in the Women's 10k race.

The 13 top 30 finishes prepared the Bobcats for their fantastic showing at U.S. Nationals in Soldier's Hollow, UT the week of Jan. 1. Tilde Bångman took first in the Jan. 2 10K classic and fifth in the freestyle sprint on Jan. 4. Various other Bobcat skiers earned spots in various top 30s over the week of racing.

As a result of her finishes in the Anchorage WinterStart Supertour, Albrecht was named to the U.S. team start list for the Canmore World Cup, held Feb. 9-13, 2024. Albrecht is a graduate student in the biological sciences program from Stillwater, MN.

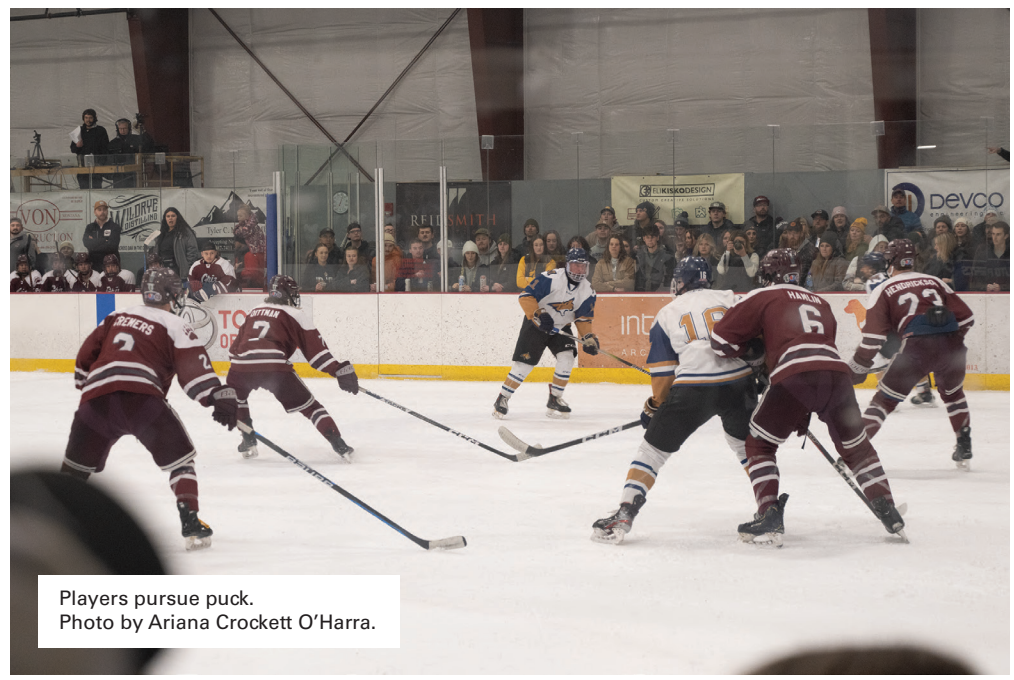
You can catch the Bobcat Nordic skiers at the Crosscut Ski Area near Bozeman for the RMISA championships and NCAA qualifiers Feb. 23-25.



Katey Houser heads up the Gong Hill during the 10K freestyle mass start on Dec. 17, 2023. Houser, a sophomore from Palmer, Alaska, placed 25 overall. Photo by Ariana Crockett O'Harra.



Spectating players from behind.
Photo by Ariana Crockett O'Harra.



Players pursue puck.
Photo by Ariana Crockett O'Harra.

BOBCAT HOCKEY

By Austin Swartzenberger

Bobcat hockey is a powerhouse showing no signs of slowing down. That dominance was on full display on Feb. 3, when the team notched their club-record 32nd win of the season with a 6-4 victory over the Griz in front of a sell-out home crowd.

The reigning back-to-back Mountain West Collegiate Hockey League (MWCHL) champions have had a wildly successful past three years, but a national championship continues to elude the 'Cats. If there was ever a year to rectify that, it is with this iteration of Bobcat hockey. The team sits atop the MWCHL standings and has already clinched a bid to the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Division II National Championships that will take place in St. Louis, Missouri starting on Mar. 11.

"We have four goals as an organization. One is to win the season, which we have. The second one is to win leagues, which is the playoffs and that's next weekend and we need to take care of that," defenseman Rhys Phelps said. "The third one is to win over the Griz. Nationals is the fourth goal. We want to come home with a ring."

Founded in 1998, the hockey club started as a casual organization, a space for people to experience affordable, low-stakes collegiate hockey. That changed in 2016 when Dave Weaver led a rejuvenation of the club, a process that included his taking over as head coach.

"It starts with the top-level leadership. Dave [Weaver] has done a great job of building this program, even from before Rhys [Phelps] and I got here and the MSU Bobcat hockey team wasn't nearly the team that it is now," forward Lucas Solanik said.

In addition to Weaver, the team now features a staff of hockey enthusiasts dedicated to helping grow the club and improving the quality of the sport in Bozeman.

"We have physical trainers, workout trainers, we have people who help coordinate the food, the travel, the hotels, just a bunch of people who work behind the scenes doing the scorekeeping or the boxes or make sure the rink is clean or work security. We have a staff of almost 30 that puts on these games," Phelps said. "There's a lot of love for this organization and this sport and we just want that to grow."

> "IT IS A BIT OF A PINNACLE OF HOCKEY HERE IN MONTANA AND IT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T TAKE FOR GRANTED."
>
> -GOALIE JORGEN JOHNSON

If the crowds of spectators are any indication, the team has certainly succeeded in that area just as well as they have with any of their goals on the ice. Home games for the team are played at Haynes Pavilion at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds and have become characterized by the passion of the fans. For example, the Cat-Griz game on Feb. 3 sold out in less than two days and drew a crowd estimated to be 500 people, according to the team.

"You know the difference when you come into a game and there [are] fifty people in the stands when we go play a different team and then we come here and have four or five hundred fans," Solanik said. He punched in three goals for a hat trick during the win over the Griz, securing an undefeated home season for the year.

Goalie Jorgen Johnson has also noted the community support as the program's accolades continue to pile up. "It's kind of surreal, really. Even just walking into the rink and hearing my name coming from some little kids and just getting to stop and talk with these youth hockey players and their parents. These kids do look up to you, it is a bit of a pinnacle of hockey here in Montana and it's something you don't take for granted," Johnson said.

For a team this successful, it would be easy to let the focus drift towards more distant goals like a national championship. People around the team recognized early on that this tight-knit group had the potential to go



Spectators pound on the glass at the Cat-Griz hockey game on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024. The Bobcats won the game 6 to 4 against the University of Montana.
Photo by Ariana Crockett O'Harra.



PUTS GRIZ ON ICE

all the way and win the first national championship in program history.

"Coming into this year we had a sit down with coach Dave and all the upperclassmen kind of sat down and we all said, we did good last year, but we're going back to nationals with all the same experience we had last year. This is our year," Solanik said. "There's no question this is a year that we can and should win nationals and that's our goal."

Phelps agreed with the sentiment that this team has the potential to bring a championship back to Bozeman. "This year, the one thing we noticed about a third of the way through the season when we were undefeated was that we can do this and this could be our year. Then the buy-in from the team increased dramatically which just made our success better," Phelps said.

En route to amassing a record of 32 regular season wins and only two losses, the team has a mantra that they are carrying with them into the postseason.

"Our focus this year with our record as good as it's been is that no game is more important than the last and every game goes into the overall record, our final goals of the season," Johnson said. "Play our game and get the win, no matter who we're playing, whether it's the Griz or flying to St. Louis, we're playing our game. We know what works, and we're going to stick to that game no matter what."

Part of the preparations for St. Louis will involve the team mastering their emotions and surrendering fewer penalties, something that teams competing at the national championship will seek to take advantage of. "The big one is to control our emotions, because we have some of the most penalties in the nation. We want to calm that down so that doesn't become a hindrance in our game in nationals," Phelps said. "That could be a bit of a problem for us."

A five-week gap between the conference playoffs and the national tournament will give the team a chance to maintain their conditioning and connect more closely with the community while conducting fundraising. According to a GoFundMe created for the team last season, the club sport designation means only 3% of the funding from the team comes from MSU. The rest of the funds for the team comes from the players themselves, sponsors and donations from various fundraisers.

"We'll have a Skate with the Bobcats [fundraiser], that's one we've done the past few years. We'll do another fundraiser at the Center Ice Cafe. We are also doing a pint night with the boys, where it's an older crowd, kind of hanging out and drinking with the boys. The last thing we're going to do is do an intrasquad scrimmage in Big Sky for an outdoor game. We're gonna turn that into another Skate with the Bobcats so we've got four big ones coming up," Phelps said.

If you want to learn more about the team, stay up to date on fundraisers, or follow along during the final push for a national championship, they can be found on Instagram, at *@msubobcathockey*.

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RIGHT CARE, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE.

The trials and tribulations of Bobcat women's basketball

BY JACKSON DESCOMBAZ

Working their way through a season riddled with injuries and setbacks, the MSU's women's basketball team is picking up steam while heading into the most crucial point of the campaign.

"We have had a lot of ups and downs with injuries, I feel that our team has done a great job of rallying around each other in times where we have needed it most," sophomore Marah Dykstra said.

Having won five out of the last six games, the squad is finding a way to get the job done regardless of the circumstances.

"We have had a lot of trouble getting wins on the road, this past weekend showed our growth in that area by getting a road sweep," Dykstra said.

Facing hardships on the court has led to the team becoming a much more cohesive unit. This includes younger players seeing more playing time than previously expected and making the most of their opportunity.

"People have had to step up for us and fill in for players regardless of their age or experience. We have gone through a lot of growth to now be playing like a cohesive unit," Dykstra said.

"Individually I have had to step into a bigger role. This team is young so it's been fun seeing our development over these past months," Dykstra said.

The team isn't letting their youth and lack of in-game experience slow them down. They have their sights set on finishing the season strong and making a statement at the Big Sky Tournament, which takes place from Mar. 9-13 in Boise, ID.

"I feel like regardless of the adversity we have faced over this our team is rallying together and overcoming everything we face. Our goal is to win a Big Sky Championship and we have been making serious strides towards that," Dykstra said.

With the tournament on their minds, Dykstra says the team still has a focus on the games that lay directly ahead.

"I think right now every game is circled, we all take our opponents seriously and every win and game matters for us," Dykstra said.

Having played since a young age, Dykstra is using that lifelong experience along with motivation from her father who played professionally as guidance for her time on the court at MSU.

"I have been playing since I was five years old, my father played professionally and that's always been a dream and motivator for me to chase," Dykstra said.

Regardless of the trials and tribulations the MSU women's basketball team is going through during the 2023-24 season, they're keeping the sights set on a good end to the conference schedule and a Big Sky Championship win.

Press Release: Spartan Race to come to Bozeman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bozeman, MT – Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce an exciting new partnership that will bring the exhilarating Spartan Race into our community. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to promote health, wellness and community engagement. Beyond the physical challenges and feats of endurance, this event promises to deliver a powerful economic impact that will resonate across our city. The Bozeman Chamber is proud to share the anticipated economic benefits that come with hosting the Spartan Race in Bozeman. The Spartan Race, known for its challenging obstacle courses and commitment to pushing physical and mental limits, will be making its way to Bozeman for an unforgettable experience. Participants can look forward to testing their endurance, strength and resilience against a series of thrilling obstacles set against the backdrop of our vibrant community.

Here are some highlights of the Spartan Race in Bozeman:

1. Local Business Boost:

Prepare for a surge in economic activity as participants, spectators and volunteers flock to Bozeman for the Spartan Race. Local businesses, from restaurants and hotels to retail stores, are poised to witness increased patronage, leading to significant boosts in sales and revenue.

This influx of visitors presents a golden opportunity for businesses to showcase their offerings to a diverse audience.

2. Tourism Flourishes:

The Spartan Race transforms our city into a hub for adventure and fitness enthusiasts.

Anticipate an uptick in tourism as participants travel from neighboring areas and beyond to experience the excitement of the event. The influx of approximately 10,000 visitors will drive demand for accommodations, dining and entertainment, providing a welcome economic boost to our local tourism and hospitality sectors.

3. Job Creation and Economic Momentum:

Hosting the Spartan Race requires collaboration with local vendors, event staff, security personnel and more. This collaboration translates into job creation and additional income for our community members. The economic momentum generated by the event extends far beyond the race day, leaving a lasting and positive impact on our city's workforce and economy.

4. Strategic Business Partnerships:

Local businesses have the opportunity to engage in strategic partnerships and sponsorships associated with the Spartan Race. This collaboration not only supports the success of the event but also promotes local businesses on a broader scale. Sponsors become integral contributors to the economic prosperity of our community and gain exposure to a diverse and engaged audience.

5. Enhanced Community Visibility:

As Bozeman takes center stage as the host of the Spartan Race, our community gains enhanced visibility on a global platform. This exposure has the potential to attract future opportunities, investments and partnerships, positioning our city as a dynamic and attractive destination for residents, businesses and investors alike.

6. Community Engagement:

The Spartan Race isn't just a physical challenge; it's a community-building event. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with fellow racers, spectators and local businesses, fostering a sense of camaraderie that extends beyond the race day.

7. Health and Wellness:

This event aligns with commitment to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The Spartan Race encourages individuals of all fitness levels to participate, challenging themselves in a fun and supportive environment.

8. Local Impact:

Hosting the Spartan Race in our community brings a boost to the local economy. From increased foot traffic for local businesses to the promotion of tourism, this event will have a positive impact on our city.

9. Volunteer Opportunities:

We invite community members to get involved not only as participants but also as volunteers.

This is a chance for individuals to contribute to the success of the event and be an integral part of the Spartan Race experience.

This event aligns perfectly with our mission to promote community well-being and provides a unique platform for individuals to challenge themselves. We believe that the Spartan Race will be a catalyst for building a stronger, healthier and more connected community. The Bozeman Chamber is delighted to bring the Spartan Race to Bozeman, not only for the physical challenges it presents but also for the substantial economic impact it will have on our community. We are confident that this event will leave a legacy of economic growth, community engagement and vitality.

EVENT DETAILS:

- Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 – Sunday, June 2, 2024

- Location: Crosscut Mountain Sports Center, 16621 Bridger Canyon Rd., Bozeman, MT

MSU basketball joins forces with Indigenous advocates for a night of solidarity

BY MAGGIE TOWNSEND -MEHLER

This past Saturday, the MSU men's basketball team played a heated game against the Idaho Vandals — but there was much more going on than just basketball. MSU basketball partnered with the MSU American Indian Council (AIC) and the MSU Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Student Association (MMIPSA). The goal of the evening was to raise awareness for the unrelenting number of Indigenous people who are missing and murdered every year — specifically women and young girls — often with minimal assistance from law enforcement in searching for lost loved ones.

"This cause definitely has personal significance to me. I think that's true for anyone who's Native American, especially Native American women. Growing up on the reservation, I saw so many people go missing or be murdered just miles from my house, and nothing was done about it," MSU senior Maleeya Knows His Gun, a current co-president of the MMIPSA said. "There wasn't a lot of help from law enforcement; it was mostly just a community effort of finding our loved ones," Knows His Gun said.

The National Crime Information Center reported that in 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian women and girls, though the U.S. Department of Justice's federal missing person database only logged 116 cases.

"We've had two native students on the basketball teams, and we [the MMIPSA] wanted to incorporate something from their culture to the game. We would like to branch out into other sports for sure, but I think it started with basketball because we have great advocates," Knows His Gun said.

The men's team sported red warm-ups in support of the cause and several spectators also wore red to demonstrate their solidarity. The red refers to the symbol of the No More Stolen Sisters movement, advocating for the end of violence against Native women, symbolized by a red hand over the mouth. "I've also heard that red is the color that spirits can see, so there's a lot of symbolism there for sure," Knows His Gun said. Additionally, she commented that "Hanna Harris was the first one I'd heard of on my reservation and [red] was her favorite color."

Harris was one of many disappearances that spurred the No More Stolen Sisters movement.

During half-time, an inter-tribal style dance was performed. "For us, dancing is very healing so we wanted to bring the healing aspect to a hard topic," Knows His Gun said.

By making their presence heard on campus, the MMIPSA seeks to provide awareness for the movement and educate students about how they can contribute. "We're super open to anyone coming to our events, asking questions is a big thing—really just coming to learn," Knows His Gun said. The MMIPSA will partner with the women's basketball team this weekend against Northern Arizona University.



Members of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Organization perform a powwow during halftime at Brick Breeden Fieldhouse.
Photo by Logan Ross.

Exploring the untamed beauty: Ted Turner's conservation legacy comes to life at MOR

BY MOLLY HOUSER

When you first enter the "Conserving America's Wildlands: The Vision of Ted Turner" exhibit at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, you are quickly immersed in the sounds of nature. Birds squawk as the sound of rushing water flows through the speakers. With a careful ear, you can hear crickets chirp and wolf pups howling. The exhibit was first opened Jan. 26, and features images from Rhett Turner's photography book, "Conserving America's Wildlands: The Vision of Ted Turner" as a celebration of his father, Ted Turner, and his legacy.

Turner is among the country's top ten landowners, with property ranging across Western and Southeast America. For the exhibit, Rhett photographed various elements of his family's land. The Turner family is largely known for conservation efforts and work with endangered species. "The Turner Endangered Species Fund focuses on species that are at critical risk of extinction or extirpation within home bioregions," said the exhibit's signage, crafted by author Todd Wilkinson.

Observer Meredith Moran returned to view the photographs for a second time. "I was here for his opening, and I am back to look at everything more carefully," Moran said. "I was so appreciative of this coming out of Ted Turner. I had always known about the Montana Ranch, but I did not know about his work in Georgia and The Sandhills."

Looking towards the center of the exhibit, the image "Bison Bull" features a striking bison looking at the camera in the Sandhills, Nebraska in 2020. The display card reads, "Ted Turner has done much to advance bison conservation. His herd [of bison] is the largest in existence and has helped re-awaken America to the vital role bison play in shaping ecosystems."

In fact, in 2007, Turner was recognized by the National Buffalo Foundation for his dedication to restoring wild bison populations. His advocacy for these animals continues to play a role in the research of a vaccine to treat "bison-specific Mycoplasma Bovis" according to the Turner Bison Exchange.

The disease first appeared in 2001 and quickly became an epidemic among bison populations. According to Turner Bison Exchange, the Turner Enterprise has found that "living with M. Bovis appears to require an integrated approach, incorporating big picture structural and detailed management practices, providing for animal welfare by mitigating a broad suite of stress factors and supporting animal immunity with vaccinations." As of 2019, researchers and veterinarians from the organization have seen a decrease in deaths among bison populations as a result of the integrated approach.

"I knew he owned a lot of property, but I didn't realize how much of a conservationist he is. That is inspiring," Moran said. "One of the [informational signage claimed] that these properties are totally preserved with minimal human involvement so these animals are able to thrive."

Moran recalled a once-in-a-lifetime experience at one of the Turner ranches. "I've spent a lot of time in Yellowstone, like the Flying D Ranch, I've been out there before [and] saw a baby bison being born," Moran said. "It was sort of late, babies are usually born in the spring, but this was a summer birth. It was really interesting. That calf was on its feet within a minute or two. We took a lot of photos."

While Flying D itself is not open to the public, the Spanish Creek Road leading to a trailhead is a public access road, allowing for the public to get a potential look at the bison.

Moran found reverence in the front of the room as well. The "Red-cockaded Woodpecker," taken in 2021 in Avalon, Florida, centers on a bonded pair of red-cockaded woodpeckers. In the image, the two have returned to feed their young nestled in a loblolly pine.

"I'm going to South Carolina in November, and I was already familiar with this pine that is so important for this woodpecker," Moran said. "It was another connection."

Similarly, Carol Hennessy often finds herself on Turner property. "We do a lot of hiking here in the Bozeman area and around Spanish Creek," Hennessy said. "You have to drive through Flying D [Ranch] to get to the hiking grounds."

Hennessy is from Chicago but spends Sept. and Feb. in Bozeman. "I'm a fly fisherman, and [I am aware of] his work to bring back various species, like the Westslope Cutthroat [Trout]," Hennessy said. "There's a little controversy with how he does stuff, but it's cool that his kids seem to carry on his conservation efforts."

"I knew he owned a lot of property, but I didn't realize how much of a conservationist he is. That is inspiring."

- Meredith Moran

As demonstrated through this exhibit and his photography book, Rhett seems to hold a shared interest in advocating for sustainability by utilizing his skills in photography and videography.

Another museum-goer, Kathi Strawn from Alaska, was on her way to Minnesota. "We love to stop and see what's local. My husband loves dinosaurs and I love photography," Strawn said.

Her favorite image was "Grey Wolf Pups on Flying" taken at the Flying D Ranch in 2020. The photograph features two Grey Wolf pups on lookout atop a mossy boulder. The display card explains that Flying D is home to one of the largest wild wolf packs in North America.

"I love this photo of the [Mexican Grey] Wolf pups because that's one of the endangered species and I'm a wolf nut," Strawn said. "We look for them all the time. There's a pack right up Eagle River Canyon."

As habitat loss continues to threaten animals and plants across the country, Rhett Turner's exhibit encourages the public to learn more about biodiversity and current conservation initiatives in The United States. The exhibit will be available for viewing until April 26.

BoZone's Best-of Bozeman Are (Mostly) Campus Hits

BY CIAN CONNOR

Every year, "BoZone" — an online hub for various Bozeman events — releases a list celebrating places around town as the best for that year as voted on by the public in an online poll. From restaurants and coffee shops to tattoo parlors and breweries, there's a best-of award for any category you could think of. This week, I set out to explore the award-winning places most relevant to college students to see if the best of Bozeman would be the best for college students.

The first award winner I checked out was the one I felt was most relevant to a college community — the best coffeehouse. Wild Joe's Coffee Spot was the winner of BoZone's Best-of 2023 Coffeehouse; from the minute you walk in, you can tell why. Located right on Main Street, Wild Joe's space is filled with long tables, comfy chairs and loveseats. Artwork for sale by local artists hung on the walls, and quiet music played from speakers on the high ceilings overhead.

From a college student's perspective, I could immediately see the appeal. There were plenty of open seats and power outlets available, which can be hard to find in a lot of places. There was no loud music making it hard to concentrate and the productive energy was fed by the tables of scattered people reading and getting work done. I was curious, however, if other students would feel the same way.

Isabella Patterson, a senior psychology major, spoke to me about her take on Wild Joe's being voted the best coffeehouse in Bozeman. "It has more tables than most places downtown which is nice, and it's a good environment to study," she said.

However, she didn't feel like it was the absolute best for MSU students. "I think [Beacon Coffee Roasters] is the best location-wise, but it's always busy," she said. It's true — Beacon is located right across the street from Langford Hall. In contrast, Wild Joe's is about a mile from campus, which makes it a bit harder to access for students walking from campus. It may have been voted the best coffeehouse in Bozeman, but maybe it's not the best for MSU students who prioritize time and distance when looking for somewhere to study.

Next up, I explored a place of equal or perhaps greater importance to a college community. The award for Best Sports Bar of 2023 went to Spectators Bar and Grill, and MSU students certainly agreed.



Wild Joe's Coffee Spot offers a pastry case at the entrance of the shop. Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

According to senior photography major Max McDonough, "In town, it's got the best energy, especially on game days being so close lends to it being such a good spot for campus students to go."

Located just off campus, Spectators is perfect for students of drinking age looking for a place to go on any kind of game day. Decked out with old football jerseys and pictures of MSU sports over the decades, it's clear that this bar is a home for Bobcat fans.

"It might not be a party bar, but it's the best for relaxing with friends and watching a game," McDonough commented.

When I went to Spectators for myself, I experienced the same thing. Watch a big game at Spectators and you'll see why it came away as 2023's Best Bozeman Sports Bar and why MSU students agree.

The last stop on my tour was the double winner of BoZone's 2023 Best Sandwich and Best Lunch. Tucked away inside a bakery on the northwest side of town is Fink's Delicatessen, and after only one trip — and the best pastrami sandwich I've ever had — I was convinced that there could be no better in Bozeman. However, it's not exactly close to campus and I wondered if this would affect what MSU students thought of it.

Senior business major Henrik Ernst was unfazed by the distance, and completely agreed with Fink's ranking. "If you said bring me to the best sandwich shop in town, I would bring you to Fink's Deli," Ernst said. "I think the only drawback is that you have to drive there, but every time I go it's amazing and it's worth every part of the journey."

Ernst echoed my feelings exactly. It's a small shop, and nearly invisible from the road, but for all the great sandwiches I've had in Bozeman, nothing has topped what Fink's has to offer. For any student willing to make the trek, they can be assured it is well worth the effort.

It seems, for the most part, MSU students agree with the rankings of Bozeman's Best. Some spots may not be the most accessible for students, but for me, each place I visited was hands down deserving of its best-of title. I urge all students of MSU to go check out the best and see for themselves.

CALENDAR

FEB. 08 - FEB. 14

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

THU 08

OPEN HOUSE AT THE WRITING CENTER
ROMNEY HALL, 207 @ 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.
The Writing Center is having an Open House to celebrate International Writing Centers Week. They will have cake and refreshments.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD BAZAAR
THE DINING HALLS @ 4:30 - 7:30 P.M.
MSU's Culinary Services, in collaboration with the Office of International Programs, is thrilled to announce this year's International Food Bazaar with dishes from around the world.

FRI 09

2024 FOUNDER'S DAY AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE
SUB BALLROOMS @ 11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Celebrate 40 extraordinary students and their mentors. $30 per person for general admission tickets as there will be a luncheon and drinks provided.

LETTERPRESS PRINTING
HAYNES HALL @ 1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
A 2-hour public workshop that explores and prints from MSU's historic metal type collection. Learn how to set a line of type and use the cylinder presses. Each participant takes home a printed sheet

SAT 10

RAPTOR MEET AND GREET
MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES @ 10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Join Montana Raptor Conservation Center educators at MOR to meet their modern-day dinosaurs - birds.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS NORTHERN ARIZONA
THE BRICK @ 2:00 P.M.
Cheer on the women's basketball team as they play Northern Arizona University.

SUN 11

SUPER BOWL LVIII
ALLEGIANT STADIUM @ 4:30 P.M.
Are you Ready For It? Because the players gonna play, play play and the time has come to cheer on Taylor Swift's boyfriend as he and the Kansas Chiefs take on the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII.

OPERA: CAROUSEL
THE ELLEN THEATRE @ 3:00 P.M.
Set in a picturesque New England seaside town, this timeless story follows the passionate romance between carousel barker Billy Bigelow and millworker Julie Jordan.

MON 12

TRIVIA NIGHT AT BACCHUS PUB
THE BACCHUS PUB @ 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 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.

MAGIC CITY HIPPIES
THE ELM @ 7:00 - 11:00 P.M.
Experience the weekend grooves of the Magic City Hippies live in concert.

TUE 13

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.

CORY WONG FT. MONICA MARTIN
THE ELM @ 7:00 - 11:00 P.M.
Help welcome Grammy-nominated guitarist, Cory Wong, with his Winter 2024 Tour at The ELM.

WED 14

VALENTINES DAY
DA GLOBE
What's more romantic than celebrating the beheading of Saint Valentine? Absolutely nothing and that is why you should hold your loved one close and keep your ridiculously cute couples photos to yourself. We don't want to see them. -Your favorite, very single, culture editor.

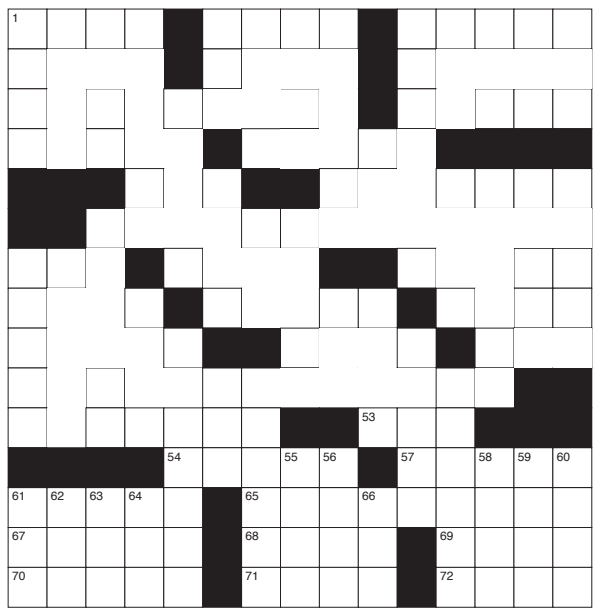
WESTERN SWING DANCE
THE JUMP @ 7:00 - 11:00 P.M.
Forgot to make a reservation for Valentines Day? Don't worry, dust off your dancing boots and head out to The Jump for a night of swing dancing.

PUZZLES

Brought to you by the MSU exponent

Love the Exponent? Follow us @MSUExponent!
For solutions, visit Printable-Puzzles.com and enter puzzle code.

CODE: #5KUP39C2



Across

1. "Not ____ many words"
5. "___ to differ"
9. Decree
14. Former host of "Last Comic Standing"
15. Part of a Latin trio
16. Capital of Egypt
17. In weeks past
19. Reason
20. Search engine name
21. Excessive
23. Honorary legal deg.
25. Has an excited feeling
30. Part that a cell doesn't have
33. Old map letters
35. Strike defier
36. "Ho ho ho" crier
37. "Take ____!" (track coach's order)
39. Make dough
42. Have a goat
43. Annual telethon host Jerry
45. 1994 Madonna #1 "Take ____"
47. Japanese telecom giant (abbr.)
48. Ones who work in pajamas, perhaps
52. "We gotta go"
53. Sales ad abbr.
54. Oath of old
57. Jazz pianist Blake
61. Initiated
65. Heterogeneousness
67. Elixir
68. Frankfurt's river
69. Celebrity hairstylist Jose
70. Cousin's dad
71. Chablis or Chianti
72. Serious

Down

1. Noncommittal phrase
2. "Just Go Ahead ____ Retrospective" (Spin Doctors album)
3. "Be quiet!"
4. Baltimore athlete
5. "___ been had!"
6. Frequent male companion
7. Sch. subj.
8. Pre-Renaissance Florentine painter
9. Numbers at the pump
10. Bleachers cry
11. Half of MIV
12. Directional suffix
13. Soldier of Seoul
18. Lazes
22. ____ Tin Tin (old TV dog)
24. "Titanic" level
26. Sydney salutation
27. Sheets, e.g
28. "___ Joe's"
29. What italic letters do
30. Bottom-fishes
31. Pipe player of myth
32. Steel girder
33. Missile pact of 1972
34. Winter forecast
38. Painter Mondrian
40. ___ Dhabi
41. "What did I ever ____ you?"
44. Knowledge
46. Bowler Pete
49. Chatter's "Holy cow!"
50. Field
51. Provoked
55. Urkel catchphrase "____ do that?"
56. Nordic name
58. Benjamin Netanyahu's nickname
59. Anatomical passage
60. Gothic governess
61. A/C unit
62. Many, many years
63. Health supplement store
64. Feel awful
66. Bard's before

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Beaks	Equine	Mixer	Tarred
Brawled	Evade	Opted	Ultra
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Capsized	Gyrating	Picks	Venom
Citric	Heater	Prawn	Widens
Clones	Hovers	Prunes	Wringing
Cried	Hummed	Psych	Zaniest
Curious	Ideas	Reactors	
Deputy	Ideology	Seeing	
Disrupts	Immune	Spark	
Dopier	Items	Sprinkle	

the BOX

What could you have done with the money you spent on a Bridger pass this season?

Subscribed to my favorite senator's Patreon

Gotten a wombat and named it Gerald

Bribed ASMSU to lobby for another wage increase

Invested in self-help books I obviously need

Getting a Joe Biden Cameo appearance at my kid's birthday party

Buy a lawn aerator

Pooled it with future Bridger pass funds to get a Big Sky pass in the next five years or so

Go to a Charles Leclerc meet and greet

Pay Katt Williams that $50 million that Diddy offered him

Got Young Thug out of jail

Distribute a stimulus check

Bought 6.3038 shares of Amazon

Paid rent

Tried to see Taylor Swift at her boyfriend's sports game

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

The moon is listening.