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FEBRUARY 29, 2024

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Bailey Turner and Michaela Gately, both third-year architecture students, study in the stairwell of Reid on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

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

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Emma Field
ExponentEditor@montana.edu

MANAGING EDITOR
Amanda Fulton
ExponentProduction@montana.edu

NEWS EDITOR
Evan Hansen
ExponentNews@montana.edu

SPORTS & OUTDOORS EDITOR
Gus Yeager
ExponentSports@montana.edu

OPINION EDITOR
Marquart Doty
ExponentOpinion@montana.edu

CULTURE EDITOR
Emma Fry
ExponentEntertainment@montana.edu

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Cady Allen
ExponentPhoto@montana.edu

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING DIRECTOR
Brendan Henshaw
ExponentAds@gmail.com

LEAD LAYOUT DESIGNER
Ellie Ayers

MULTIMEDIA MANAGER
Ellie Ayers

PROFESSIONAL ADVISER
Bill Lamberty

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MEME OF THE WEEK

u/memezar

The spider on my ceiling watching me throw a shoe at it and miss



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SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

COMPILED BY EVAN HANSEN
DESIGNED BY SAWYER WHITE



Workshop introduces laughter's role in overcoming stress

BY DOM LUCERO

To introduce an alternative approach to stress relief and leadership, the Montana Leadership Institute (MLI) at MSU recently held “The Humor Habit,” a workshop led by MLI's Daniel Lanske and Jadon Belitz and hosted by author, guest speaker and advocate for laughter, Paul Osincup. Aimed at integrating humor into leadership skills and daily life, the event targeted the academic community during the demanding midterm season.

Kass Thompson, a representative from MLI, underscored the strategic timing of the session. "Introducing humor as a stress management technique aligns perfectly with the heightened stress levels among our students and faculty at this time," Thompson said. The decision to invite Osincup was influenced by his compelling TEDx MSU talk last November.

"His presentation had a profound impact, and we immediately saw the value in bringing him to our campus," Thompson said.

Osincup's workshop served as a meticulously planned initiative that highlighted the significance of humor in alleviating stress, boosting resilience and enhancing overall well-being. "Our mission is to inspire students at MSU to emerge as leaders who act as catalysts for positive change. An event that focuses on leadership through the lens of happiness fits our objectives perfectly," Thompson said.

The session featured interactive exercises through which Osincup offered attendees practical tools to incorporate humor into both their leadership styles and personal lives. Emphasizing the need for actionable strategies alongside inspiration, Osincup said, "Most people, whether in academia or not, want more than just inspiration. I talk about the power of humor, happiness and positivity, so of course there will be a lot of laughs and inspiration, but it must be combined with thoroughly researched, evidence-based, practical tools people can use or it will all feel like empty calories."

A notable technique introduced by Osincup involved reframing difficult situations with humor in order to encourage a lighter perspective on challenges. "Don't live your life as an actor in a drama just to reach the end to find out you were the director and it could have been a comedy,” he explained.

Osincup enriched the workshop with personal stories, strategic insights and data that underscores humor's essential role in everyday life. He pointed to the economic impact of workplace unhappiness, noting that: "last year, unhappy workers cost the U.S. economy over $1.9 trillion in lost productivity."

After noting the inefficiency found in happiness's absence Osincup said, “I don't believe work or life needs to be that way and I want to show people how they can control much of their own wellbeing and happiness.”

The event's success was evident in the packed venue and the positive feedback it received. "It's a good sign that after ninety minutes, nobody had left. My favorite reactions were from attendees who told me they were excited to start putting some of the humor habit exercises I shared into practice in their lives," Osincup reflected.

After the session, Osincup introduced his latest book, "The Humor Habit," which shares the workshop's name and theme. He also invited attendees to an after-party held in the same room for further discussion and networking.

Looking forward, the MLI is planning additional events focused on leadership and personal development, including a "Communicating with Confidence Workshop and the Winter Leadership Summit — Mind Over Matter."

"Leadership can be making a positive difference in your friends' day, or starting a community organization. It can be whatever position you're in, you can lead from any seat,” Thompson said.



Osincup puts on a performance during the keynote with MSU students and Montana locals. Photo by Logan Ross.

Montana's LGBTQIA+ advocates navigate legislative challenges: a conversation with Shawn Reagor

BY SHELBY SVEIVEN

"I think having those relationships [with marginalized and queer people] is a really strong motivating factor to continue to do the work that I do and to support the work that other folks are doing," Shawn Reagor, the LGBTQIA+ allies coordinator at BridgerCare, said.

At BridgerCare, Reagor works with educators and healthcare workers across Montana to provide them tools to "[positively] interact in professional and personal situations" with queer people in their lives, he said.

Reagor is a transgender man from Great Falls who is passionate about LGBTQIA+ activism and work in the American political landscape. Before working at BridgerCare, Reagor was the lead for the Montana Free and Fair Coalition (MFFC) at the Montana Human Rights Network (MHRN), a network of progressive groups across the state that advocate for LGBTQIA+ issues in the legislature.



Reagor also spoke about his time at the MHRN. "All of the bills [conservative Montana legislators] were passing that were targeted at the trans and [LGBTQIA+] community really had far-reaching and harmful impacts for everyone," he said of his observations while working in the state legislature.

He specified one such bill, Montana Senate Bill 458, signed into law by Governor Gianforte last May. The bill defines two sexes, male and female, based on reproductive systems — producing sperm or eggs, having an endocrine system "oriented around the production of those gametes."

The exact language of the bill after the definitions for male and female reads: "An individual who would otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is [female/male]." This exception does not explicitly recognize transgender or intersex individuals.

"That doesn't even take into consideration all of the folks who aren't able to do that [produce those gametes], for any number of reasons," Reagor said.

Another piece of legislation, Montana House Bill 359, aims to prevent minors from attending sexually explicit performances and drag story hours in publicly funded libraries and schools. Bill 359 defines a drag queen as "a male or female performer who adopts a flamboyant or parodic feminine persona with glamorous or exaggerated costumes and makeup" and a drag king as someone who adopts a masculine persona in the same way.

On Oct. 13, 2023, Brian Morris, the chief district judge of the Montana District Court, granted a preliminary injunction of the bill as "no evidence before the Court indicates that minors face any harm from drag-related events or other speech and expression critical of gender norms."

Amanda Frost, a law professor at American University, writes in a paper she wrote on injunctions from 2017 that a preliminary injunction may be sought by the plaintiff, "in cases challenging the legality of a federal statute, regulation or executive order," to "preserve the status quo while the case is under consideration." The case of an injunction and Morris's acts means that the bill is temporarily suspended from being law before it can be considered by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which has jurisdiction over Western U.S. states, Alaska, Hawaii and some overseas U.S. territories.

On Feb. 15, 2024, the national American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and ACLU of Montana filed an amici curiae urging the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to leave in place the injunction granted by Judge Morris, according to the ACLU website. An amici curiae is a brief offered by a person or organization who is not a party in a legal case that provides information to the Court. The ACLU wrote that "live theatrical and musical performances" are free speech, and thus anyone who wishes to see them is protected by the First Amendment.

Given this proposed legislation and Reagor's experience advocating for marginalized groups, he asserts that conservative lawmakers are using LGBTQIA+ issues to gain support from voters. "It really is just based in fear-mongering and turning the LGBTQIA+ community into a political football that everyone wants to kick."

"[By going after drag shows] they're trying to remove a piece of our culture," he said. "Drag shows have been going for decades, and haven't been an issue. Transgender athletes have been participating in sports for decades, and haven't been an issue. But you take something that people have little familiarity with, and then you make that a controversial subject, make it sound like something terrible is happening, when the reality is we're just living our lives."

Based on his experience working with legislators in the MFFC, Reagor also discusses the political pressure that conservative lawmakers have received, according to him, from those higher up in the political food chain. "We heard from folks who had been with us the previous legislative session, who had gotten pressure from the Republican National Committee to vote a particular way on [LGBTQIA+] rights, and they were told that if they did not, they would have no future in anything larger than state politics."

As a human rights advocate and lifelong Montanan, Reagor has faith in the community of marginalized Montanans and their persistence. "No matter what laws and regulations you pass, we're going to continue to be us, and you can't take that away," he said.

Nobel-winning scientist Bruce Beutler to speak at Montana State March 19

FROM MSU NEWS SERVICE

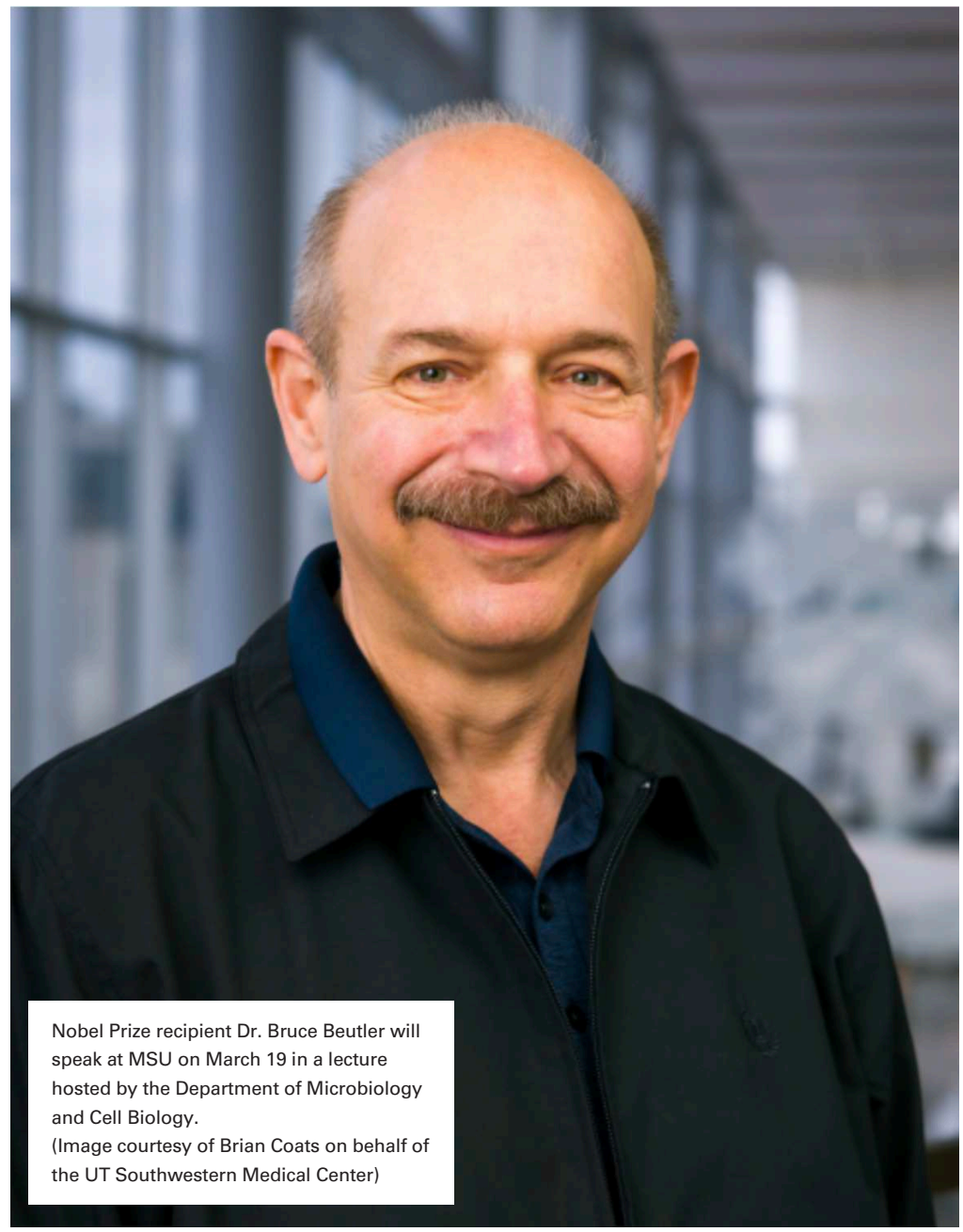
BOZEMAN – Nobel Prize-winning geneticist and immunologist Dr. Bruce Beutler will speak at Montana State University next month as part of the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology's Hilleman Research Lecture Series.

Beutler currently serves as the director for the Center of Genetics and Host Defense at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He received the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work examining how human bodies detect microorganisms and activate their innate immune systems.

The lecture, "Automated Meiotic Mapping to Discover Induced Germline Mutations that Suppress Disease," will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, in the Procrastinator Theater in the Strand Union Building. It is free and open to the public.

"Dr. Beutler is a remarkable scientist who has a gentle and thoughtful way of connecting with a broad audience," said Blake Wiedenheft, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, which is housed in the MSU College of Agriculture. "His research truly honors the legacy of Maurice Hilleman by understanding the mechanism of immune system activation."

Beutler's Nobel-winning research centered on his discovery of a type of receptor on human cells that recognizes infection and triggers an immune response. This "innate immunity" is the body's first line of defense against infection. Dr. Beutler grew up in California and studied to become a medical doctor at the University of Chicago. At UT Southwestern, he holds the Raymond and Ellen Willie Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research. His lecture will touch upon past, current and future research inquiries.



Nobel Prize recipient Dr. Bruce Beutler will speak at MSU on March 19 in a lecture hosted by the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology.
(Image courtesy of Brian Coats on behalf of the UT Southwestern Medical Center)

One of MSU's best-known alumni, Maurice Hilleman, is credited with saving millions of lives through his long career as a vaccinologist. Born near Miles City, Hilleman was encouraged to attend college at MSU and graduated at the top of his class. He continued his studies at the University of Chicago before working as a scientist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Merck Pharmaceutical, where he was responsible for creating and producing more than 40 vaccines, including those for measles, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia.

During his visit to MSU, Beutler will meet with undergraduate and graduate students. In particular he will visit students in the Honors College and MSU's Hilleman Scholars Program, which supports students from Montana high schools who display exceptional leadership and academic potential.

A full schedule of MCB seminars can be found at *montana.edu/mbi/MCBseminar.html.*

Blake Wiedenheft, Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology: *bwiedenheft@gmail.com*

High temperatures to impact local anglers

BY ALEXIS JACOBSON

With this winter feeling more and more like spring every day, it's worth reflecting on how this season's high temperatures have affected one of Bozeman's largest communities: anglers. Every year, local anglers and tourists from all over come to fish Gallatin County's hearty stock of rivers and hidden lakes. However, this year's warming and cooling patterns may call for a rethink on how to tackle water.

Senior conservation biology and ecology student Finn Addison is an avid and knowledgeable angler with years of experience on the water. Much like the 21.5 million Montana angler license holders who take to the rivers every year according to *www.statista.com*, Addison said he loves the skill involved in tying different flies and the thrill of finding an undiscovered fishing spot. He has always preferred fishing in Montana over his home state of California for its consistency and versatility.

Although the rising temperatures have allowed Addison to get out on the water more this winter, the warm weather has its downfalls. For starters, adverse weather, such as fluctuating temperatures, can have a significant impact on the ecosystem in multiple ways.

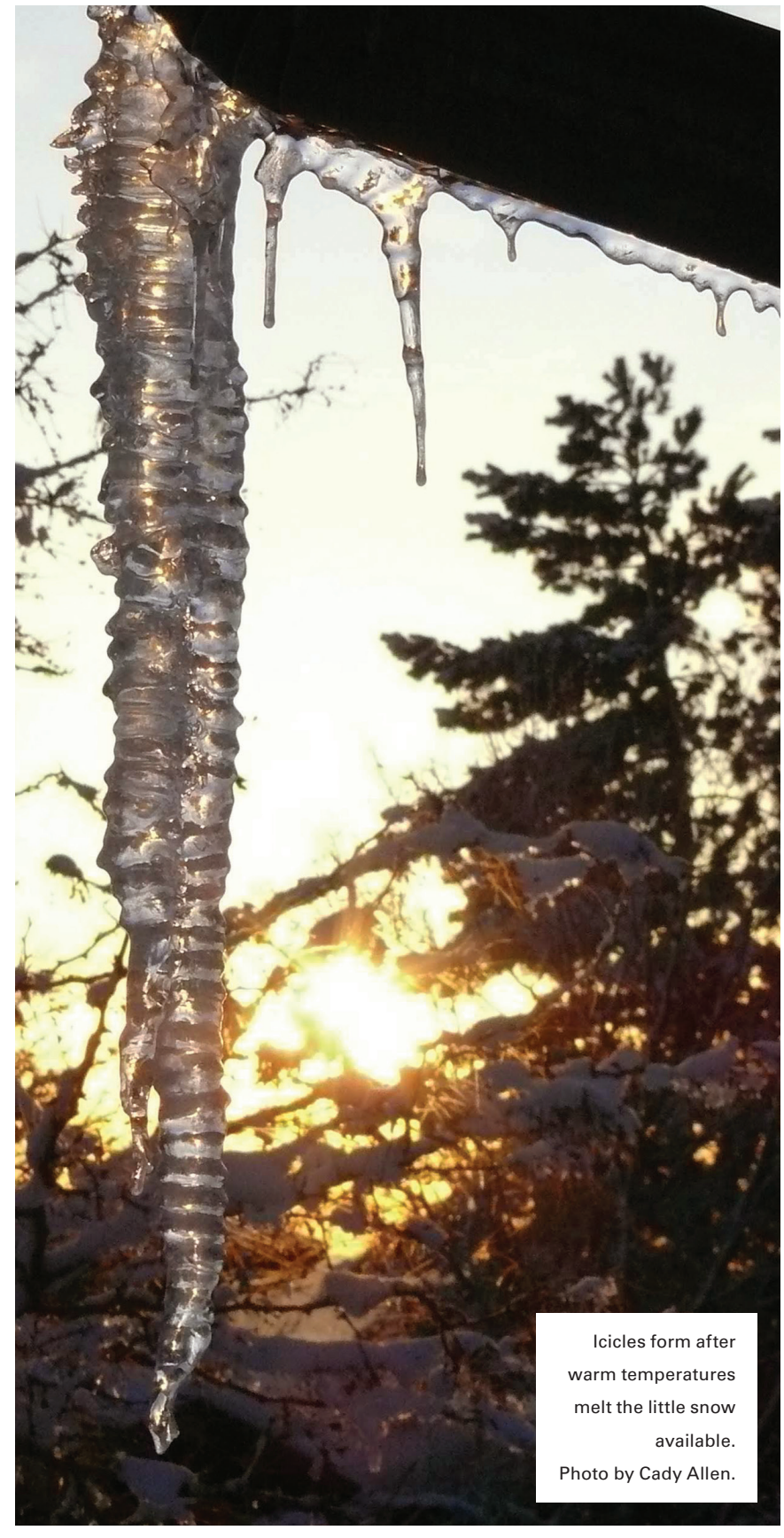
One way anglers are directly affected is by inconsistent freezing and thawing patterns, which cause lakes and rivers to be too icy for regular fishing activities, yet not frozen enough for ice fishing, according to a WSAW news article about how warm winters could impact fishing for years to come.

Addison laid out a potential timeline in which these changes could be seen. "The effects of warming and cooling probably won't be seen until the spring or summer when there's reduced snowpack and less consistent water flows. The rivers will be shallower, warming up the river faster, which puts a huge stress on the fish when they are hooked in fluctuating temps. A lot more die off when you catch and bring a fish from the bottom, with cold temperatures, to the warmer temperatures on top," Addison said.

In the article "Climate Change: Global temperature," authors Rebecca Lindsey and Luann Dahlamn state that the Earth's temperatures have risen by an average of 0.11 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1850. Zach Feiner, a scientist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, began researching some of the long-term effects. "The issue is that with these warmer winters, you actually kind of can cause these fish to be unable to reproduce effectively in the spring indirectly over time. We can see potential declines in the number of cold-water species," he said in the article.

Not only are fish affected by the fluctuating temperatures, but bug hatches are as well. This deficit adversely affects several of the fish's primary food sources. "Bug hatches happen at very specific air and water temperatures. If the hatch is interrupted, fish are going to go down to cooler water to feed and not on the surface," Addison said. This can make it harder for anglers to hook fish in deeper river beds or lakes.

Although the temperature is out of our control, Addison shared that patience is our biggest asset at this point. So grab your rod, collect your patience and recognize that a warmer winter has its pros and cons.



Icicles form after warm temperatures melt the little snow available. Photo by Cady Allen.

Madison Hall enters fifth season with Bobcat basketball

BY AUSTIN SWARTZENBERGER

Madison Hall (nee Jackson) thought her basketball career ended last year at the Big Sky Conference tournament with a second-round defeat. Hall is part of a trio that won more games than any other Bobcat class with 84 wins in four seasons, including two shortened by the COVID-19 pandemic. She could have stepped away from basketball knowing her legacy of relentless play and positive attitude wouldn't be forgotten by anyone involved with the team.

The Idaho native knew from a young age she wanted to play basketball. "I would say probably fifth grade, my dad sat me down and he told me that financially we cannot afford college. Then I was like, what if I play basketball in college? I was young and wasn't even thinking about college but I really liked basketball and my dad was telling me about college sports," Hall said. "We didn't have that kind of TV. He sat me down in our little church gym and was like, okay, well if you want to go to college for basketball I'm going to push you really hard. This is not going to be easy. It kind of just went from there."

The first four years of her college playing career were littered with injuries, illnesses and struggles with her mental health. That combination led to her bouncing around from a starting position to bench roles numerous times during her initial time at MSU, all of which she took in stride. "It's nice knowing that I have people here who understand me, that get it. I can voice it. I don't have to be ashamed of it. Mental health is incredibly important for me to stand up and speak up if I'm feeling down. That was hard in high school and it got a lot easier here," Hall said. She credited school resources, her coaches, teammates and her husband for helping her throughout her playing career.

For a time, Hall was happy with her decision to step off the court. "Last year our season ended not the way I wanted it to," she said. "I was just so worn down and I was tired and it was just a mentally tough year. At that moment I thought I was fine, let's hang up the jersey." She went on to marry her longtime boyfriend Brayden Hall over the summer, a former equipment manager for the men's basketball team. As she began the next phase of her life, it was impossible to put her former team completely in the rearview mirror. Sticking with the team in a student assistant role while completing her bachelor's degree in art education kept her close to her former teammates and coaches.

As the summer gave way to fall, people close to her began asking if she was sure she was ready for retirement. One of the assistant coaches, Devin Perez, first suggested the idea of returning for a fifth season. "I brushed it off. I thought it was funny," Hall said.

In late September, the idea turned from a light-hearted joke to a real chance. Coach Tricia Binford pulled Hall into her office and told her she would love to have Hall use her fifth year of eligibility. "Bin told me to take the weekend to decide if I wanted to come back or not, and I was like okay, let me talk to the husband, let me call my parents. I came back in the next day," Hall said. "I didn't even take the weekend."

Now in her fifth season with the team, Hall serves as a guiding presence for the younger players as she seeks to rewrite the ending to her career. She credits the group of seniors she had as a freshman for showing her what it meant to be a leader. "I think my leadership, you don't necessarily have to get on somebody if they do something wrong," Hall said. "It's more of building them up, positive affirmations and leading by example." Part of the leading by example is Hall averaging career highs in points per game and minutes played while frequently being the tone setter for the team with her energetic play.

Big Sky postseason basketball begins March 9 in Boise, Idaho. No matter what happens there, Hall knows her time with basketball isn't done. In April, she is attending a coaching clinic from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association to help pursue a career in coaching collegiate basketball. "I'm hoping to meet some people and just get informed on how to be a good assistant coach or how to address certain athletes because you have so many different personalities," Hall said. "I feel like I could really coach the higher level because I am such a competitive person."



Photo courtesy of MSU Athletics.

BOBCAT FOOT
BRINGS IN NEW BLOOD

By Gus Yeager

March is about as far away from football season as you can get. As of Feb. 29, MSU hasn't played a game in 89 days and won't start the 2024 regular season for another 179. But don't get lulled into thinking that the 'Cats are sitting idly by. A flurry of recent roster activity has been unfolding in the past few weeks, activity that will ultimately shape the look of the next Bobcat football team.

Recruiting high school prospects and transfer students may be the most important piece of a college football team's offseason. The moves made during this period can not only determine the team's immediate outlook, but also how the team will be structured and managed years down the road.

The NCAA transfer portal is the official avenue through which student-athletes can transfer between institutions. The use and compliance with the transfer portal and its rules is meant to ensure fairness and continuity of eligibility. Players typically have four seasons of eligibility. There are two periods, one in winter and one in spring, during which players can enter the portal. Coaches can only contact and recruit players at other institutions when they have officially entered the portal.

Arguably, the most interesting bits of restructuring for MSU came on the lines — both on the offensive and defensive sides. Interestingly enough, all but one of the transfer players snagged by MSU was a lineman.

The Bobcat running game was spectacular in 2023, in fact, it was perhaps the key to their offensive identity. The offensive line's ability to create holes for ball carriers was instrumental to a MSU offense that was top three in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in rushing touchdowns, yards per attempt and yards per game.

Rush Reimer, an Associated Press FCS second-team All-American, has departed and will play his final year at the University of California. Reimer was an important part of the offensive line. A candidate to fill his spot comes in the form of Dylan Rollins.

Rollins comes to MSU after a season at Brigham Young University. As a high schooler, he was 247 Sports' top-ranked prospect in Montana for the 2021 recruiting class. His father, Josh, and older brother, Byron, both played at MSU.

The defensive line was also fantastic in 2023. MSU led the FCS with 3.42 sacks a game as a result of a lineman unit that found ways to control the game from the defensive side of play. Sebastian Valdez is a defensive tackle who made significant contributions in the form of five sacks and eight tackles for a loss, both marks good enough to be top three for the 'Cats. He announced his commitment to the University of Washington — the runner-up in the most recent College Football Playoff. Finding ways to replace Valdez's production will be a challenge.

RECRUITING PROSPECTS STUDENTS MOST IMPO OF A COLL TEAM'S

Depth at the quarterback position poses a question mark for the 'Cats heading into the next campaign. All-Conference second-team selection "Touchdown" Tommy Mellott is returning for his fourth season, but the absence of Sean Chambers is sure to be felt. More than a back-up, Chambers served as a sort of co-quarterback with Mellott, but his time playing college football has drawn to a close.

Mellott has battled injuries in the past — he missed three games last year and two the year before. When healthy, he is a top-tier FCS signal-caller, but should he go down, expecting the second-string to produce at the same level as Chambers is unrealistic.

Quarterback Jordan Reed is returning, and he seems to be in line to back up Mellott this year. In a limited sample size of the on-field action he saw last year, Reed was perfectly serviceable, putting up around seven yards per passing attempt and a 53.33% completion rate. Other than Reed, the players rounding out the quarterback room — Chance Wilson and Patrick Duchein — haven't seen enough playing time to merit much analysis, although they are sure to provide value to the team wherever they might place on the depth chart.

It certainly seems as though competition on the



Sean Chambers in the pocket against Stetson 2023.
Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

TBALL

depth chart at the quarterback will be intense once Mellott moves on, a competition sure to be made even more intense by the addition of high-school signee Daveon Superales. Superales will join the team this fall and is ranked as a three-star prospect by 247 Sports. Superales is an impressive prospect, whose tape displays a great deep ball and quick-decision making abilities.

However, his rushing statistics are notably weaker than the prototypical type of dual-threat quarterback MSU has been known to trot out thus far into the 2020s. For example, the 497 rushing yards he accumulated in his senior season is only roughly 40% of the number that Mellott put up during his senior season of high school. Watching how Superales develops and fits in with the Bobcat offense will be interesting.

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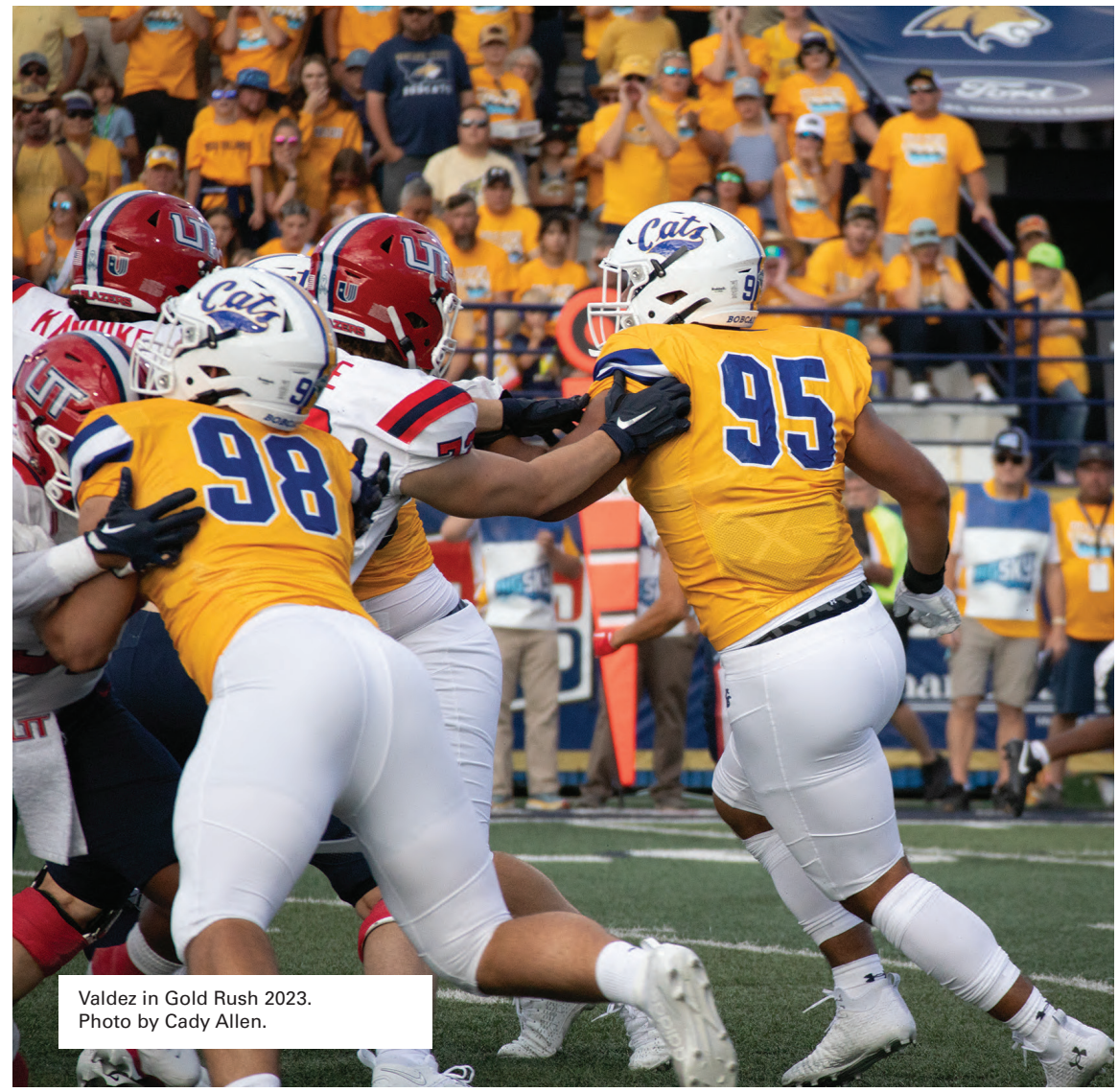
The wide receiver position is well-represented in the 2024 recruiting class with the 'Cats adding four this cycle. Defensive backs were the most-targeted position, with the 'Cats signing six high-school players at that position.

MSU featured a strong running back core in 2023, and many key contributors will be returning. Out of the five-backs with the most yards, four of them will be returning. Only Garrett Coon has entered the transfer portal, presumably with the intention to move on from MSU.

It's certainly been a busy winter for Bobcat football. The team that takes the field against the University of New Mexico for this year's season opener will ultimately have a different look from last year's squad.



Coon runs off the field after a Bobcat touchdown at Gold Rush 2023.
Photo by Cady Allen.



Valdez in Gold Rush 2023.
Photo by Cady Allen.

Men's basketball looks past recent poor performances

BY JACKSON DESCOMBAZ

The MSU men's basketball team is 12-16 heading into their final three games of the regular season. Playing Idaho, Eastern Washington and Weber State over the last stretch of the season, these games are crucial in order to build momentum heading into the Big Sky Conference Championships.

"As we enter the end of conference play and look ahead to the postseason, I don't think there is that one game for us that is a must-win. Our goal is to keep getting better every game because we are a team that can be dangerous in the postseason. If we can string some momentum together going into the Big Sky tournament, I think we will be a matchup that not a lot of teams in our conference want to face," guard Jed Miller said.

The 'Cats are coming out of a rough stretch, having gone 2-6 over their last eight games, including a run of four losses in a row. Looking past the recent poor performances, Miller is confident the team can figure things out.

"I think we are very capable of making a deep run in the playoffs. Despite our record and some of our losses, we have also had some amazing games that have shown our team's full potential," Miller said. "For a successful end to the season, our team needs to have an attitude that we are one of the best teams in the conference. Everyone needs to be ready to go every single game. For me, I need to be ready at any moment in the game and be able to step up when my name gets called."

When going through ups and downs during a season, it's crucial to look up to more experienced players to help the team get out of a slump. Miller said senior Robert Ford III has been that guy.

"A good leader for our team this season has been our point guard Rob Ford. He's a very mature and smart player, and celebrates others' success just as much as his own," Miller said.

The team got a new head coach, lost guard Darius Brown II, forward RaeQuan Battle, defensive powerhouse Jubrile Belo and only had six returners ahead of the 2023-24 season. It called for a bit of extra work to get the team back into the form they were in last season which led them to an NCAA tournament berth.

"This year has been a rollercoaster for me personally and my team. We are a roster full of new guys as well as a new coaching staff, so nobody knew what to expect this year but it's been an exciting season full of ups and downs," Miller said. "Getting a new coach and basically a whole new team except for six guys, it has been challenging for us to create chemistry amongst each other. It was really difficult over [the] summer for our team to learn how to play with each other and learn how to play through our new coach's concepts because it was all brand new to everyone."

Regardless of the season so far, the 'Cats are positive they can be a team to look out for ahead of the 2024 Big Sky Conference Championships.

To follow along with the men's basketball team, check out their Instagram at @*msubobcatsmbb*. For more information about the team, check out: *https://msubobcats.com/sports/mens-basketball.*



Guard Robert Ford III (Sr.) reaches to score against the Idaho Vandals on Saturday, Feb. 3. Photo by Logan Ross.

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FUN AND EXCITING WORK ENVIRONMENT

Debra Magpie Earling challenges historical narratives in Stegner lecture

BY MOLLY HOUSER

On Thursday, Feb. 22, MSU welcomed Missoula based author and Emeritus professor, Debra Magpie Earling, for the annual Stegner lecture in Norm Asbjornson Hall. The lecture was organized by staff and faculty of the Department of History and Philosophy and Dr. Mark Fiege, the Wallace Stegner Chair in Western American Studies at MSU.

"Wallace Stegner was a writer, historian and essayist," Fiege said. "He had a very special relationship with [MSU]. Part of the mission – the warrant of the chair, is to organize the lecture every year. I arrived in the position in 2016, and overwhelmingly, [previous] lecturers had been white and male. One of the first things that struck me was, with all these talented Native American writers from Montana, not one has been a Stegner lecturer. So, that is what produced the effort to bring other brilliant voices in."

In her lecture, titled "Sacajawea, 31 Men, a Baby and a Dog: A Young Woman's Harrowing Journey Traveling in Bad Company," Earling read from her historical fiction novel "The Lost Journals of Sacajawea" and challenged considered canonical narratives about the Lewis and Clark Expedition that excluded certain realities about why and how Sacajewa came to serve as a guide to the colonizers.

"Her story is a powerful story," Earling said. "What I love most about Sacajawea, which [historians] don't say, is that when she was turned down by the man — who was Lemhi Shoshone — she was supposed to marry at Three Forks because she had a child with a white man, she decided that she wanted to go see the whales. She went and saw the ocean, and she became sovereign at that point. The Hidatsa claimed her, the Lemhi Shoshone claimed her, but she claimed herself."

"The Lost Journals of Sacajawea" is a fictionalized account aimed at reclaiming Sacajewa from non-Native historians. Earling published the novel in 2010 and recounts experiencing pushback from the public as she attempted to dismantle modern-day narratives that disrespected the pain endured by Native communities.

"We live in a gigantic mythology of Lewis and Clark," Earling said during her lecture. "When The Lost Journals of Sacajawea was introduced to independent booksellers at a conference in Seattle, one woman waited in line to tell me she supported the idea of the book. She really did, but she couldn't sell it in her store. [The woman said she] lived in a town of Lewis and Clark aficionados, a town that barely held onto library funding. A man had already shouted at her, banged on her window, when she displayed a Love is Love poster. People in her town didn't want woke politics of any sort, they fought any story that challenged their mythology."

Unfortunately, this is not Earling's only instance of facing resistance to her work. Her first novel "Perma Red" — which follows a young Native American woman who is pursued by three dangerous men on the Flathead Indian Reservation in the 1940s — is banned in many school districts across Montana.

"I question history and the way we have read these mythologies of the West," Earling said. "I think it is really important to begin to critically think about history. [The Lost Journals of Sacajawea] is a gateway to investigating more of our history and our place here."

During her lecture, Earling explained that Sacajewa was a child kidnapped by white men and forced into submission. From Sacajewa's perspective, Earling writes on page 120 of her novel, "I am only safe beside Charbonneau. I am not safe at all."

The moving narrative resonated deeply with the audience gathered in Inspiration Hall, which brimmed with students and historians, all focused on examining prior historical paradigms.

"We're living on stolen land, and we profit off that every day," sophomore Annika Coleman said. "I am so grateful to live in Montana, but [I came to this event] because I can't appreciate the people before unless I know about them. Education is the best way to open our eyes."

Reflecting on the event, chairman Fiege emphasized: "All historians and [MSU] itself have a responsibility to study and understand the full history of North America and the American West," he said. "We have an obligation to question the ways we have narrated that history. We have a responsibility and obligation to see the past through the eyes and experiences of all kinds of different people who were here, first and foremost being Native Americans."

If you are interested in learning more from Native voices, both of Earling's novels are available for purchase at the MSU bookstore and online.

"I am [currently] writing a book called Witch," Earling said. "It's about Native women who are very powerful and use their medicine for their purposes at their boarding school. So many of these stories are so difficult to tell, so I chose a whimsical and precocious eleven-year-old who is in boarding school with her older sister."



FEATURED PHOTOS



Photo by Cady Allen.



Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

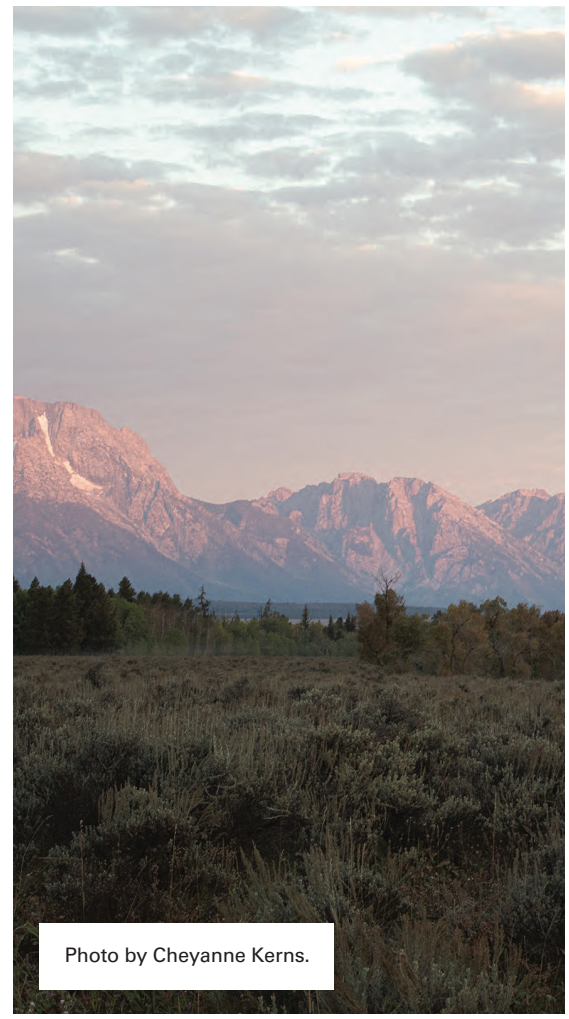


Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.



Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

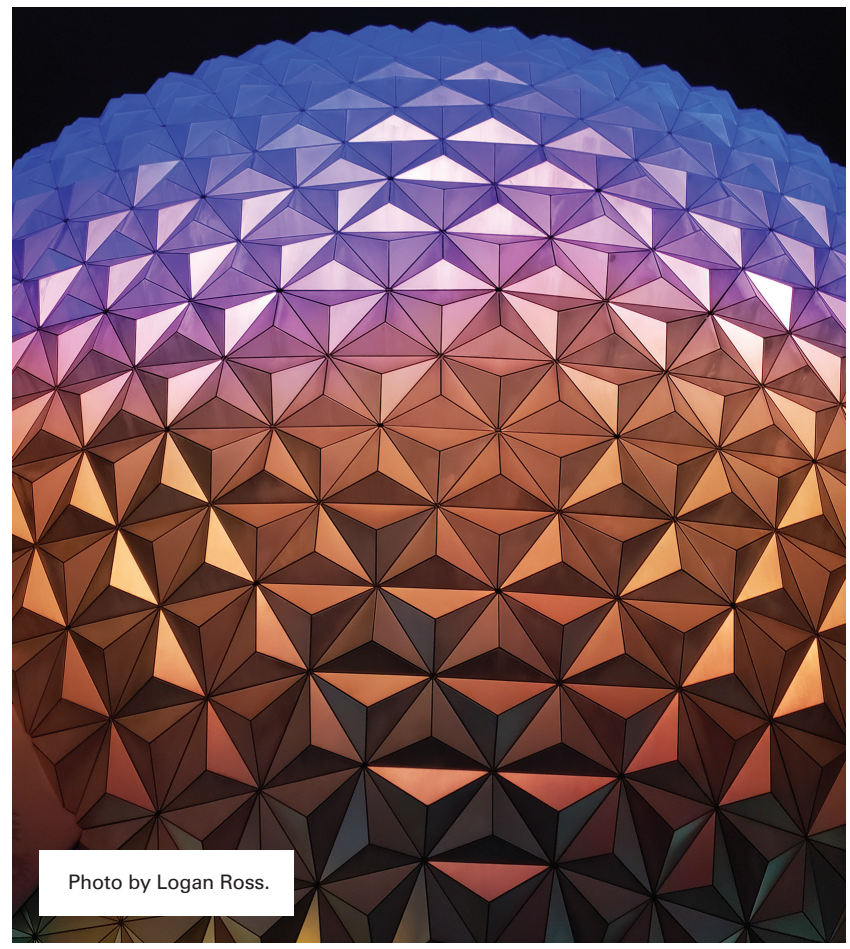


Photo by Logan Ross.

What's the True Value of an Honors Degree?

BY CIAN CONNOR

While the Honors College here at MSU offers the opportunity to earn an honors degree, it also requires more time, dedication and an increased workload. Earning a college degree is an incredible accomplishment and is by no means easy. So why would students want to challenge themselves even more by joining the Honors College? After speaking to students at MSU, I've come to understand that our Honors College can provide far more than just a degree to justify the increased effort for the right person.

The Honors College's mission statement is "to prepare academically motivated students to think critically and independently within a challenging and supportive community."

To understand the value of an honors degree, I spoke to program manager Natalie McKay.

"Some graduate schools will care about that honors degree, but the major benefit is actually in your time here with the community building opportunities," McKay said. Essentially, an honors degree indicates that you completed enough honors classes and held a high enough GPA to satisfy the requirements.

Still, it seems the real worth comes from the enhanced opportunities while you're in college, not the honors degree you could walk away with.

McKay added that the honors seminars are capped at 15 students, which allows for in-depth discourse and increased engagement that would otherwise be impossible.

"Smaller class sizes are a great way to get to know your peers, and then also have more access to your instructor," McKay said. Students in these classes gain a more involved experience and avoid large and impersonal lecture halls. Smaller classes can seriously benefit students. But it seems with an increased workload, the trade-off may not always be worth it.

Sophomore dietetics major Ashley Eggers says the extra work is absolutely worth it. "I specifically took those classes because of the smaller size, and everyone wanted to be there, talk about it and really be engaged," she said. Honors classes can be a great fit for a student who thrives in that environment. The program also appeals to students looking for opportunities to get engaged outside the classroom.

Eggers told me that the opportunities available in the Honors College were a big part of why she chose to attend this university. "At Montana State, there's a lot of extra cool stuff, so you're not just in it to say you're in the Honors College," Eggers said. For instance, incoming freshman honors students go on a two-day excursion to Hyalite at the beginning of every year. The excursion involves hikes, discussions and presentations. It's a great way for students to get to know one another and build connections — but with more school work, not every student will feel these opportunities are worth the time.

For example, sophomore finance major Sean Swingley said the small classes and extra opportunities didn't justify his increased workload. "I just thought it was more of a burden and I didn't think it was gonna help me any more than it was gonna hurt me," he said.

Additionally, some students may find that their interests and areas of study don't fit as well into what the honors college provides.

"I'm not really into the small group discussion stuff, but I think if you are really into that it would be beneficial," Swingley said. "I didn't feel like it offered that much, especially in my field of accounting." Every student looks for something different from their college experience, and the Honors College may not suit everyone.

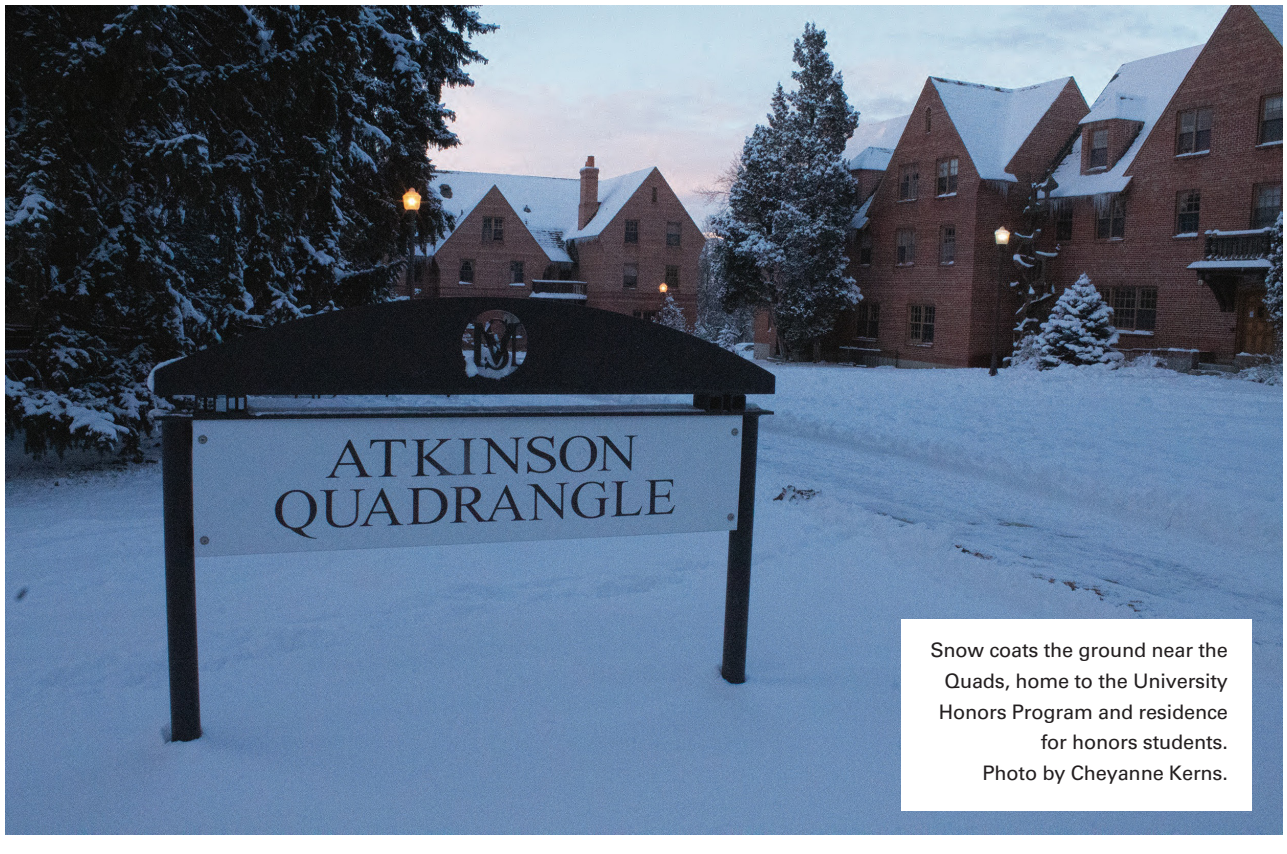
Although senior applied math major Hayes Linney will graduate with an honors degree this May, he shared a similar perspective to Swingley. "It just depends on what your intentions are. I'm not a huge fan of all the essays and readings, but I definitely found talking to other people and hearing different opinions valuable," he said. Linney is an example of a student who didn't love every aspect of being in the honors program, but stuck with it and enhanced his college experience because of it.

Linney had an especially unique experience when he took a class that allowed him to mentor gifted young students in the area. "I was paired with a fifth-grade student, and he was supposed to explore something of his own interest, and I was there to help him make it happen," Linney told me.

Incredible opportunities like Linney's speak to what the Honors College can provide, but they're not necessarily for every student and that's okay. Linney echoed this sentiment: "I don't know if I can recommend it to everyone, and it's a lot of extra work, but if you're interested go for it."

We all come to college to seek out different kinds of experiences. It's undeniable that MSU's Honors College can help individuals learn, grow and build connections during their time here. Although, after learning about it and speaking with students, it's clear to me that the program is not for everyone.

If you're willing to increase your workload for the benefit of smaller classes, in-depth discussions and unique opportunities, then the Honors College could be a great fit. Otherwise, choose the path that feels right for you and work to get as much out of it as you can.



Snow coats the ground near the Quads, home to the University Honors Program and residence for honors students. Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

NOW HIRING

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

The Exponent is seeking applications for Editor-in-Chief for next school year. To apply, email a résumé and cover letter to emmafield155@gmail.com by Friday, March 1, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS?
Send an email or call (406) 565-7836

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RIGHT CARE, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE.

FEB. 29 - MAR. 06

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

DAR CALEN

THU 29

ASMSU STATE OF THE UNION
GIANFORTE AUDITORIUM @ 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.
The 2nd Annual ASMSU State of the Union is for ASMSU representatives to speak and present on behalf of progress and projects.

THE SECRET LIFE OF WOLVES
PROCRASTINATOR THEATRE @ 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.
National Geographic Explorer Ronan Donovan is a field biologist turned wildlife filmmaker. Ronan is currently working on a long-term project that explores the relationship between humans and wolves worldwide, focusing on coexistence.

FRI 01

THYME BISTRO
HANNON HALL @ 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Enjoy a full bistro experience on campus hosted by the Gallatin College MSU culinary students every Friday during the spring semester.

MUSIC POP-UP PERFORMANCE
NORM HALL @ 12:50 - 1:10 P.M.
A brief, free, and informal musical performance featuring music performed by clarinet students of MSU School of Music and professor Gregory Young.

SAT 02

WINTER SUMMIT: MIND OVER MATTER
COTTONWOOD CANYON
Join the Leadership Institute in an overnight retreat featuring a keynote speaker, workshops and skill-building activities centered on leadership and mindfulness.

SERVICE SATURDAY
SUB 222 @ 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Volunteer some time to the community by participating in this month's Service Saturday at the Valley of Flowers and Adopt-A-Sox. Check in starts at 9:30 a.m.

SUN 03

GUEST RECITAL - SARAH PARADIS
HOWARD HALL, REYNOLDS RECITAL HALL @ 7:30 P.M.
Trombone and euphonium professor Sara Paradis from Boise State University will be coming to MSU to perform to the public. Tickets can be purchased online $5 for students, $10 general admission.

EVENING BACKCOUNTRY SKI
OUTDOOR RECREATION @ 1:00 - 7:00 P.M.
The Outdoor Recreation Center hosts trips to help participants build skills and confidence in backcountry skiing and snowboarding utilizing the area surrounding Bozeman. Participants should have solid intermediate skiing/riding skills.

MON 04

PREVIEW PERFORMANCE OF "WHEELS OF HARMONY"
AMERICAN INDIAN HALL @ 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.
Intermountain Opera Bozeman presents "Wheels Of Harmony," its 2nd annual school tour featuring Indigenous music and culture.

NEXT STEPS IN YOUR CAREER FOR GRAD STUDENTS
SUB 233 @ 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.
The GradCat 360 Professional Development program and AYCSS team up to offer a "Next Steps in Your Career" presentation for graduate students. Learn what you can do now to prepare for a career transition after grad school.

TUE 05

DR. JAMES MARTIN SABBATICAL TALK
WILSON HALL 1-132 @ 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Dr. Martin is writing a history of fishing in the Inland Northwest. He will discuss his fieldwork experience and how it shapes his work as a historian.

COURAGE AND CANCER
SUB BALLROOM A @ 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Cancer is a topic that can be difficult to talk about. Help your friends and family who may be experiencing cancer by attending to gain insights on breaking the stigma and starting impactful conversations.

WED 06

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, SACK LUNCH SEMINAR
SUB ALUMNI LOUNGE @ 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.
The Office of International Programs and the UNA-USA student club will celebrate International Women's Day (March 8th) by hosting a panel discussion with several international students.

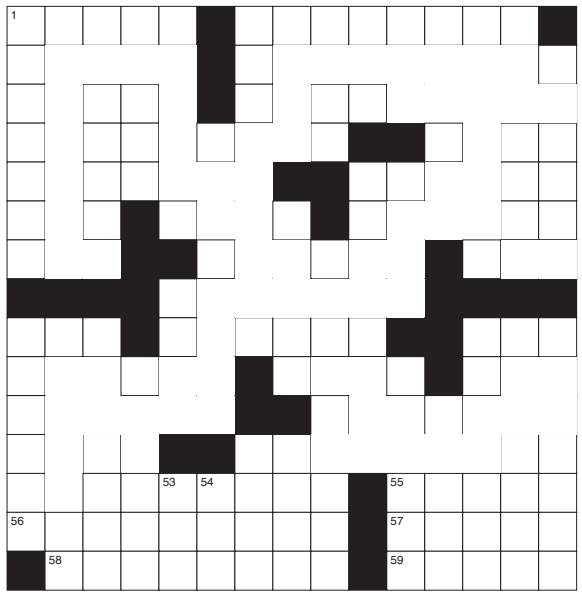
COMMUNITY REC NIGHT
SUB RECREATION ROOM @ 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Join the TRIO SSS, GEAR UP, ASMSU and OSE for a night of bowling, pool, shuffle board, foosball and board games! Friends and family are encouraged to attend. We will provide shoe rentals, food, drinks and popcorn.

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: #YXA4A638



Across

1. Small car
6. Scarecrows, for example
14. Shout to a TV camera
15. Pregnancy division
17. Stan's partner
18. Grave marker
19. Anticipator's cry
21. Million-selling songs
22. Admonishment
23. Italy's ____ Coast
25. "Lord of the Rings" creature
26. Chanel, familiarly
28. Adore
29. Web feed standard
30. Square-dance move
32. Upper class (abbr.)
33. Turtleneck, e.g.
34. With "A", a moon of Saturn
37. Rock's ___ Park
38. Rumsfeld's org., once
41. Singer Sheena
43. "Shave ____ haircut..."
45. Poetic palindrome
46. Emulated a rooster
47. Orwellian superstate
49. "____ honored!"
50. Plagued
52. Wonders
55. German dissents
56. Bay Stater or Garden Stater
57. "The Divine Comedy" writer
58. Disney/Pixar film of 1995
59. Surreptitious meeting

Down

1. Better, as cuts of meat
2. Nozzled vessels found in garages
3. German dots
4. North, south, east or west
5. Vomit-inducing agent
6. One of a pair of film-making brothers
7. Liberated in Germany
8. Edict
9. Sent an online msg.
10. Some appliances
11. Peggy Lee hit "___ All There Is"
12. Stars, in Bordeaux
13. Requested to attend
16. Polymer products
20. Piccolo, for one
23. Postscript, e.g.
24. Othello, for one
27. Important port of Japan
31. Travel plan
33. ____ gin fizz
34. Cook's instructions
35. Construction site wear
36. Anka song with the phrase "kiss me mucho"
38. Manifest ___
39. Aligns
40. Absolutely
42. Bill with Jackson on it
44. "Crises of the Republic" author Hannah
48. Lend ___ (listen)
50. "A diller, a dollar, a ____'clock scholar"
51. Lulu
53. Plural ending for hob or red
54. He said "I pity the fool..."

Acing	Frisk	Opera	Swooning
Acquit	Genie	Optima	Untangle
Bound	Goods	Overused	Vending
Bring	Hoofing	Piece	Victim
Buttered	Increase	Racially	Vocal
Capsizes	Indeed	Refusing	Wages
Cigar	Leech	Roman	Wards
Commas	Milky	Rusts	Wowing
Cruel	Mimes	Seedling	
Dears	Mugged	Sidle	
Debonair	Neurotic	Siege	
Flank	Nicking	Spiced	

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the BOX

What's your favorite spring activity?

Ripping out my neighbor's flowerbeds

Watching Charles Leclerc lose to Max Verstappen

Breaking out the lawn aerator

Training up my sharpshooting skills so I can hunt down Rudolph next Christmas

Frolicking

Slipping and falling onto the frozen popsicle you meant to pick up three months ago

Watching all the piles of dog poop fall out of the melting snow banks

Cheese

Tracking mud in and out of the house all day long

Hitting pedestrians with my car

Cattle insemination

Defrosting the single bikini I own

Eating all the dandelion bulbs before they flower

Letting the dogs loose (wearing sandals)

Dropkicking the groundhog because he was wrong

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

Donald Trump sued Spongebob Squarepants for not accepting his offer for a crossover episode.