THE MSU
exponent
MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895
JANUARY 29, 2026

05 NEWS
STUDENTS PROTEST MSU'S RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

10 SPORTS
TRACK & FIELD EARNS BIG SKY CONFERENCE AWARDS

11 CULTURE
PROFESSOR PERSEVERES AMID DECADE-LONG CANCER BATTLE

14 OPINION
STUDENTS' FRUSTRATIONS WITH CANVAS ARE MISPLACED



41 YEARS LATER, MONTANA STATE IS BACK ON TOP

PG 08

THE MSU exponent
Volume 120, Issue 13



MSU student Sarah Nell Harp donates blood at the Bridger Bowl Blood Drive in the Strand Union Building on Jan. 21.

PHOTO BY MARINA ADELAMAN
COVER DESIGN BY LELA HASLUP
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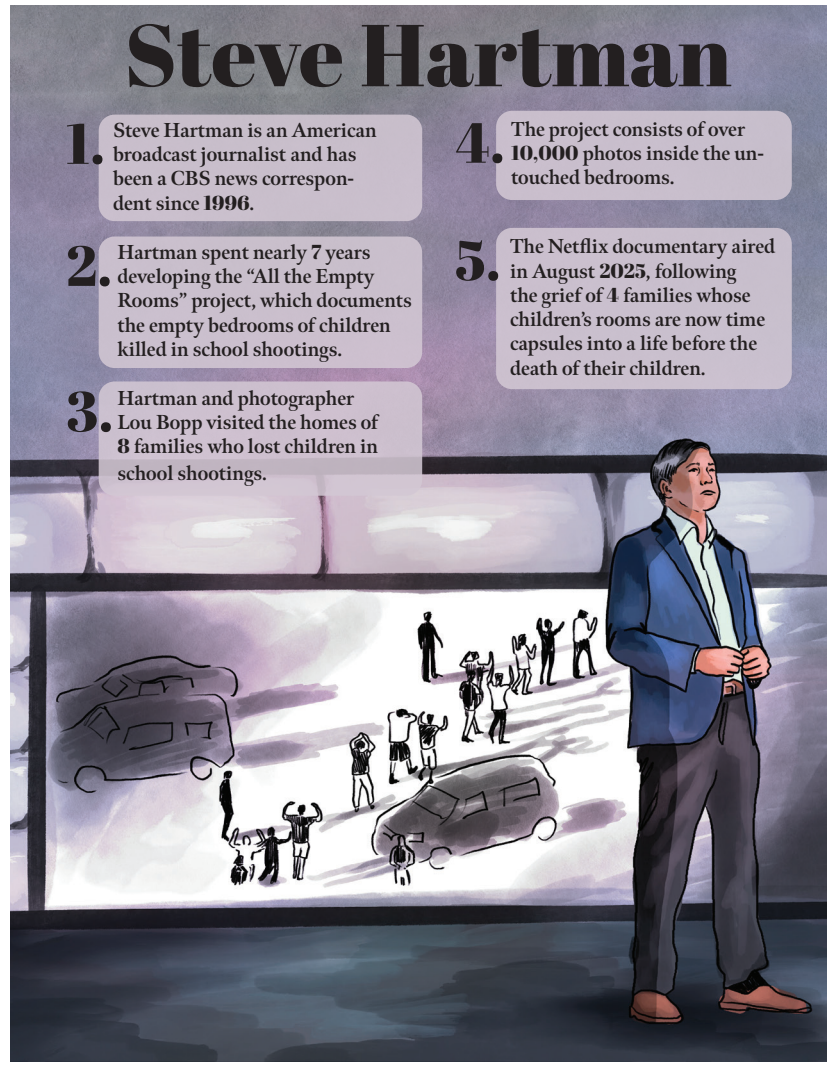
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SIGNIFICANT FIGURES | COMPILED BY MOLLY HOUSER DESIGNED BY LELA HASLUP



Student organization holds emergency ICE protest

BY WILL MALIZIA

Hundreds of community members gathered in downtown Bozeman last Sunday afternoon to protest recent actions carried out by ICE in Minneapolis.

The event was organized by MSU's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a nationwide progressive student organization, according to the national SDS website.

Shortly after the Jan. 24 killing of Alex Pretti by federal immigration officers in Minneapolis, SDS at MSU created an Instagram post calling for an emergency protest outside the Gallatin County Courthouse the following day.

Pretti's death marked the second fatal shooting carried out by ICE in Minneapolis this month, following the killing of Renee Nicole Good on Jan. 7, according to the BBC.

SDS at MSU began planning the protest as soon as members heard news of Pretti's death, said Julian Staggs, the organization's president.

According to him, the student group partnered with several organizations to promote the event. These included Freedom Road Socialist Organization Bozeman, Democratic Socialists of America Bozeman, Montana 4 Palestine and Students Against Genocide.

"We're here to stand against ICE deployment in Minneapolis and in solidarity with the people in Minneapolis in their resistance to ICE," Staggs said in an interview with the Exponent during the event.

"I'm here because I care about future generations."

- Joe Newman

He said that the opposition to ICE in Minneapolis demonstrates the power of local action.

"When ICE came to Minneapolis, the people there were organized. They were able to put up resistance to ICE," he said. "They were able to protect their neighbors, and so by following that example here in Bozeman, we can fight against whatever issues come up here."

Community members of all ages and backgrounds showed up on Sunday to voice their concerns.

"In 20 years, I don't want to be part of the group of people that just kind of stood by," said Rocco Valentine, a 16-year-old student at Gallatin High School. "I don't want to be one of those people. I don't want to be remembered as that. And also, ICE has killed two people by now, and I think that's completely unjust for a government agency to be doing."

45-year Bozeman resident Kim Hoberecht echoed this statement. "I think that the ICE activity in Minneapolis is not something that should be continuing. I think it's already shown itself to be out of control. Two people have been killed," he said

One protester urged Americans to remember this country's founding principles. "Let's read our constitution again and remember that it's 'We, the People.' The government's supposed to work for us, not the other way around," said MSU freshman Julia Lovato.

Community member Joe Newman said that recent federal activity, such as the killings, is indicative of a more serious political trend toward fascism.

"I'm here because I care about future generations, and I know that fascism comes in small steps at a time and I'm afraid that it's a lot worse than it appears," he said.

During the event, some protesters gathered around the steps of the Gallatin County Courthouse while Staggs delivered a speech.

"You guys are all angry enough," he said. "But what we're not is organized enough." Staggs urged listeners to follow the lead of communities in Minneapolis, Portland, OR and Los Angeles by increasing local organization.

"When ICE comes in force, we can fight them back. We can stand with our community members and make Bozeman ungovernable by the Trump administration," Staggs said.

To learn more about SDS at MSU, visit its Instagram account *@sdsmontanastate*.



Menstrual product dispensers to be reinstalled after unexplained removal from SUB

BY MAYA HOLMES

Students recently discovered that the menstrual product dispensers in the Strand Union Building (SUB)'s bathrooms were missing.

The issue came to light in December when a student visited the Women's Center seeking menstrual products after noticing that the dispenser in the third-floor restroom was missing.

Betsy Danforth, director of the Women's Center, later confirmed that the dispenser in the third-floor restroom had been intentionally removed. According to her, there were spackled holes where it had been mounted previously. Further investigation showed that dispensers were missing from all other SUB bathrooms.

The dispensers started as an Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU)-funded project in 2018, according to Interim Vice President of University Communications Michael Becker. Danforth said she contacted multiple campus offices, including ASMSU, to better understand how and why the dispensers were removed.

She also contacted SUB Manager Brice O'Keefe about the dispensers. "[He] did not seem aware of the fact that dispensers had been removed and was very willing to reinstate them," Danforth said.

Becker echoed this claim. "[O'Keefe] said he's willing to talk with ASMSU about restarting the program if that's something the student government wants to pursue," he said.

On Jan. 27, ASMSU President Lenny Triem explained that he also discussed the matter with O'Keefe. "[He] has confirmed with me that the dispensers will be reinstalled, maintained and stocked by the SUB team going forward."

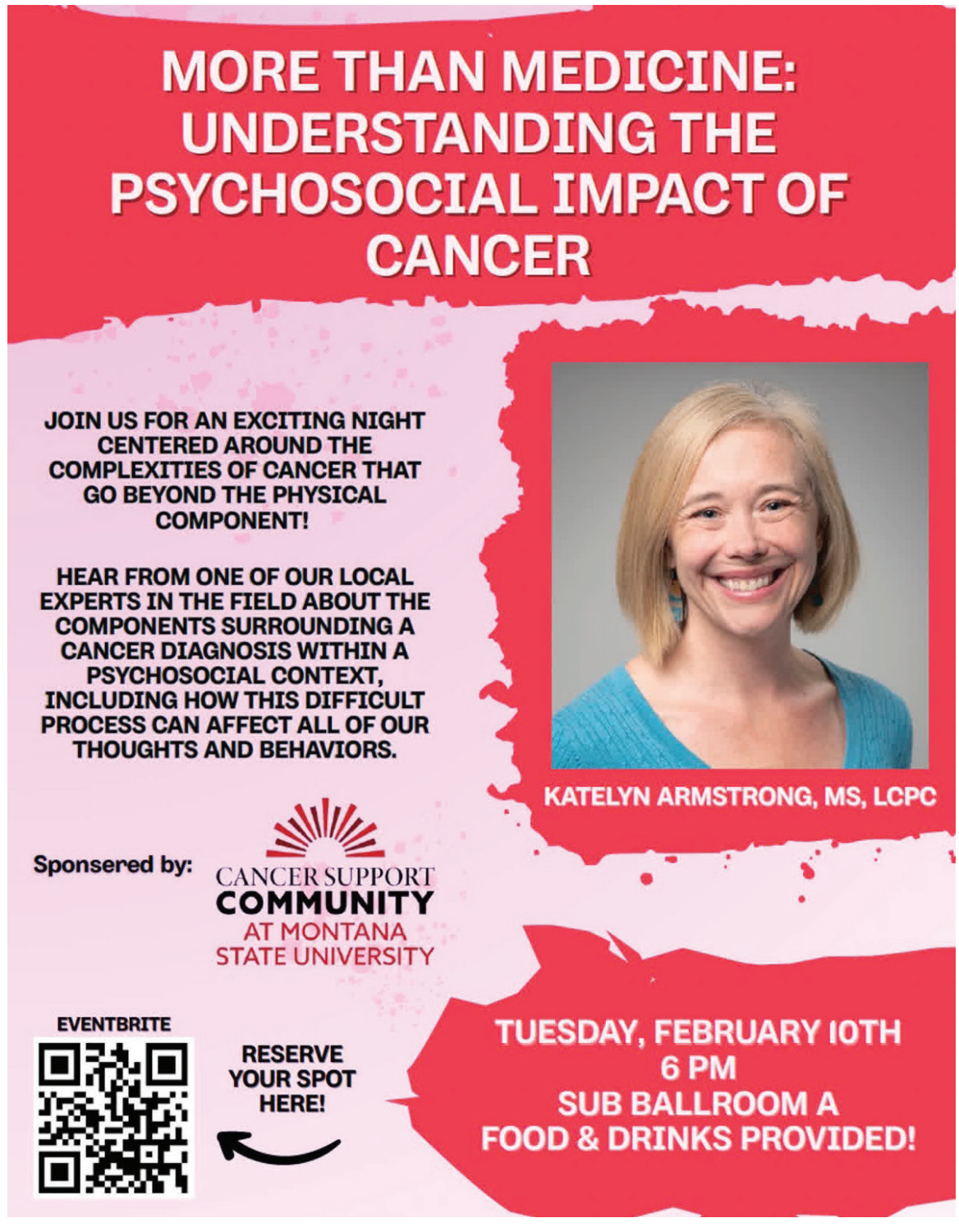
Triem added that he was not aware of their removal until Danforth reached out on behalf of the Women's Center noting that a student was in search of products.

"My understanding is that the dispensers hadn't been consistently stocked for several years and some weren't working, which led to the decision to remove them," he said.

Senior political science student Isabelle Lewis said she was not aware of the dispensers' disappearance, but that nobody should have to miss class because they got their period.

"That's why menstrual products on campus aren't a luxury, they're a necessity," she said.

Campus administrators have not provided a public explanation for the initial removal, but the dispensers are expected to be reinstalled and stocked within approximately a month, according to Triem.



Students Against Genocide calls on MSU to cut ties with Metrea, Reveal Technology

BY AVERY EDWARDS

Students Against Genocide (SAG) is calling on MSU to cut ties with companies on its Innovation Campus that conduct military and mass surveillance technology research and development, including Metrea Spectrum Operations and Reveal Technology.

The campaign, which has included protests, tabling and petition circulation, officially launched two weeks ago. According to its Jan. 13 press release, SAG opposes the University's involvement in research and technology development connected to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

SAG's campaign is currently focused on MSU's ties with Reveal Technology and Metrea through the Innovation Campus, a space for collaboration between MSU and industry researchers, according to its website.

It is located west of MSU's main campus and is managed by Charter Realty in partnership with the MSU Alumni Foundation, according to MSU's Interim Vice President of University Communications Michael Becker.

SAG has laid out three demands in its petition: that MSU adopt an ethics policy regarding military and surveillance research, cut ties with any Innovation Campus tenants connected to genocide or war crimes and increase its research transparency.

"We believe that, [at MSU,] ethics should be a top priority. There's absolutely no reason why we need to be collaborating with these companies," SAG member Elizabeth Barott said. "We want the University to sever ties with all companies that are involved in this genocide and that are involved in weapons manufacturing in general."

According to Becker, the University does not determine what kind of research is conducted on campus, but requires that it follow the University's Ethical and Professional Standards Policy.

"Our faculty and research centers have the full academic freedom to pursue research that aligns with their interests and pursue funding in that work," Becker said in an email to the Exponent on Jan. 25.

The Innovation Campus seeks tenants with direct connection to MSU research and high potential for student employment, according to Becker.

"That is, in fact, one of the reasons for the Innovation Campus at heart: helping create opportunities for students to find good-paying careers and stay in Montana after graduation," he said.

Reveal Technology leases space at MSU's Innovation Campus in the EngineWorks building, according to Becker. According to its website, Reveal Technology builds military technology used by the U.S. and its allies. The company advertises two principal technologies — IDENTIFI and FARSIGHT.

IDENTIFI is a biometric identification technology for mobile devices that was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Special Operations Command, according to the company's website.



"IF WE WANT TO FOCUS ON BUILDING A BETTER WORLD, WE DON'T WANT TO PUT OUR ENERGY INTO WEAPONS THAT KILL."

- ELIZABETH BAROTT

FARSIGHT is used to develop 2D and 3D models of landscapes based on surveillance footage for use by tactical teams, according to Reveal Technology's website. In a 2025 post on LinkedIn, the company stated that FARSIGHT was deployed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

According to SAG member Homa Masood, SAG relies entirely on publicly available information to research these companies. It has attempted to contact the companies directly, but has been unsuccessful, she said.

"[Reveal Technology] is very clear that they want to enhance lethality. They're making the surveillance technology not just to watch people, but they know it's being used to kill," said SAG member Taylor Pajunen.

According to Becker, Metrea does not lease space at the Innovation Campus, though they have been receiving mail at the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) there. On its website, Metrea currently lists the ARL as the address for its Bozeman location.

Metrea's Bozeman operations are part of its electromagnetic and cyber department, which develops and maintains equipment for electronic warfare and other cyber technologies, including multiple U.S. Department of Defense customers, according to its website.

While opposed to military development and research, SAG positions itself as pro-science. "Research is important, but we believe that ethics should also be a top priority," Barott said. "If we want to focus on building a better world, we don't want to put our energy into weapons that kill."

MSU student Andrew Crane said he was attracted to the SAG rally on Friday, Jan. 23 because he was concerned about the University's support of corporations supplying weapons to the IDF.

"That's just not something that I ideologically support," Crane said. "I don't want to be seen as complicit in allowing a genocide like this to happen in Gaza or in the West Bank."

According to SAG, their petition has already gathered over five hundred signatures. Members plan to bring it to the upcoming University Council Meeting on Feb. 4, Pajunen said.

"Our petition is focused on getting not just students, but anybody in the MSU community — students, faculty, staff, concerned community members," Masood said. "We want to show that this is something that the MSU community is standing against, and we can then take that to the administration."

To learn more about SAG, visit *https://www.studentsagainstgenocide.com.*

Career fair allows former student to bridge art and quantum research

BY BERT BALA

Career fairs can provide students with opportunities to connect with experts or potential employers in their field. For former MSU art major Jack Schnepf, one of these fairs allowed him to branch out and start working for a quantum research lab.

Each semester, the Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success (AYCSS) hosts a career fair where students can meet with employers from around the state about internships, entry-level positions, potential career paths and more.

Unlike past semesters, this spring's two-day fair will be structured by career focus. The first day will cater to students of all majors, while the second day will be centered on engineering and technology industries.

"We recognize that students perceive our fair as engineering-heavy," said AYCSS Assistant Director Halley Perry. "Having two days and separating by focuses will help students and employers connect about career opportunities."

Past career fairs have connected more than just the engineering students with jobs. Schnepf found success with QCORE, a quantum science and technology research organization at MSU, after attending a previous fair.

"As an artist, I like to find different ways to connect myself with opportunity," Schnepf said. "I decided to go to the career fair with a bunch of business cards to try to reach out to different companies and ask them if they needed art for their space."

At the 2025 Spring Career Fair, Schnepf spoke with QCORE's CEO and learned they needed an artist who could explain the concept of quantum physics visually. Schnepf was hired by the company, which now displays his artwork.

His pieces attempt to articulate various quantum concepts with a sense of place in Montana, according to Schnepf. His first piece, "The Shape of Uncertainty," deals with the quantum concepts of superposition and entanglement.

"Through the context of the piece, classical physics is like a horse in a parade marching in formation," Schnepf said. "Comparatively, quantum physics, as shown in the piece, is like a pack of wild horses kicking up dust; you can't tell exactly where each horse is unless you observe it directly."

Schnepf has not only created artwork for QCORE but also involved himself in other aspects of the organization. "I also wanted to learn the business side of things, so they gave me the chance," he said.

Schnepf now works as the executive administrator of QCORE while continuing his work as an artist.

He encouraged all students to attend MSU's career fairs. "Go no matter what," he said. "The experience of talking to people is really powerful. Even if you're not going for a job right now, planting seeds that could develop into something down the line could be really helpful."

Elizabeth Feary, director of career services at AYCSS, said that this spring's fair is set to be one of the largest yet. "Registration for employers is still open, but we are on track to max out the space and [have] exceeded spring 2024 numbers."

"Set yourself up for success," Feary said. "Take advantage of these on-campus opportunities and open the door to your future."

This spring semester, the career fair will be held from Feb. 24-25 in the Strand Union Building (SUB).

To learn more about the upcoming event, visit *https://www.montana.edu/aycss/careers/events/career-fair/career-fair-students.html.*

To learn more about the AYCSS, visit *https://www.montana.edu/aycss/* or visit the office in SUB 177.

To see more of Jack Schnepf's artwork, visit *https://www.jackschnepf.com/*.



MSU alum Jack Schnepf stands with his artwork on Jan. 26. Photo by Sarah Cornish.

Bobcats control the court during Brawl of the Wild basketball

BY AVA AHLEMEYER

MSU basketball triumphed over the University of Montana (UM) Grizzlies during Saturday night's Brawl of the Wild games.

The double header took place on Jan. 17 in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. Both men's and women's basketball took the court, with the men's team winning 76-67 and the women's team 82-44.

The men's team is now 10-8 overall and 4-1 in the Big Sky Conference (BSC), leaving them ranked second just behind Portland State.

During the men's game, the Grizzlies took off in the first half with an 8-0 run to take a 12-4 lead. MSU clawed back at UM, ending the half on a 9-2 run.

Point guard Seth Amunrud hit a buzzer beater to secure the Bobcats' first lead since the beginning of the half, bringing the score to 32-31.

MSU shot 41.7 percent overall and 45 percent on three-pointers. The Griz shot better in the first half but couldn't keep their momentum in the second. The Bobcats won the rebounding battle 36-30, secured 15 turnovers and grabbed 10 steals from UM.

In the second half, MSU came out strong with a 15-2 lead at the beginning of the third quarter. The 'Cats stretched their lead at the end of the third to 38-31. They maintained steady momentum throughout the half, extending their lead to 13 points (49-36).

With three minutes left in the half, point guard Jeremiah Davis scored five straight points to maintain MSU's lead. The 'Cats secured the half, making 10 out of 11 free throws and taking the win against the Grizzlies.



MSU's Patrick McMahon shoots in the game against UM on Jan. 17. Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

"What a day to be a Bobcat."

- Matt Logie

"These games come down to performances," said UM Head Coach Travis DeCuire. "You can't beat a team when you turn the ball over 15 times. We gave them way too many offensive opportunities. We were playing well enough early in the first half to build a really good lead, we just gave the ball away too many times."

"I thought our guys really stepped up to the challenge of what this game means to everybody involved, so really proud of our effort," said MSU Head Coach Matt Logie.

MSU finished the game with several season highlights. Point guard Davian Brown led the 'Cats with 24 points and Davis followed in second with 13.

"What a day to be a Bobcat," Logie said. "The environment today was just off the charts. The energy that our fans brought to this building today and that they have all year when we've had the privilege of playing at home really carried us today."

The women's team had a dominant night, forcing 32 turnovers from the Griz and out-rebounding them 37-31.

The first quarter featured a striking lead for the Bobcats, ending in a 21-7 score. The 'Cats outscored the Griz in all four quarters. MSU held a 34 shooting percentage over UM overall and 25 percent at the three-point range.

"We couldn't have asked for a better start," said MSU Head Coach Tricia Binford. "We set the tone with our defense."

Bobcat guard Jamison Philip led the scoreboard with a career-high 21 points. Guard Taylee Chirrick scored 19 and guard Isobel Bunyan 11. None of the Griz players scored points within the double digits.

"At halftime, it was just Coach Bin saying, 'Hey, we've got to step it up,'" Chirrick said. "The result was a 17-2 run to open the third quarter and a lead that doubled from 15 points at the period's onset to 30 at its close."

The women's team is now 12-4 overall and 5-0 in the BSC.

The men's and women's team return to the court on Jan. 29 against Portland State at the Viking Arena. To learn more, visit *https://msubobcats.com/sports/mens-basketball* or *https://msubobcats.com/sports/womens-basketball.*

BOBCATS BRING CHAMPIONSHIP B

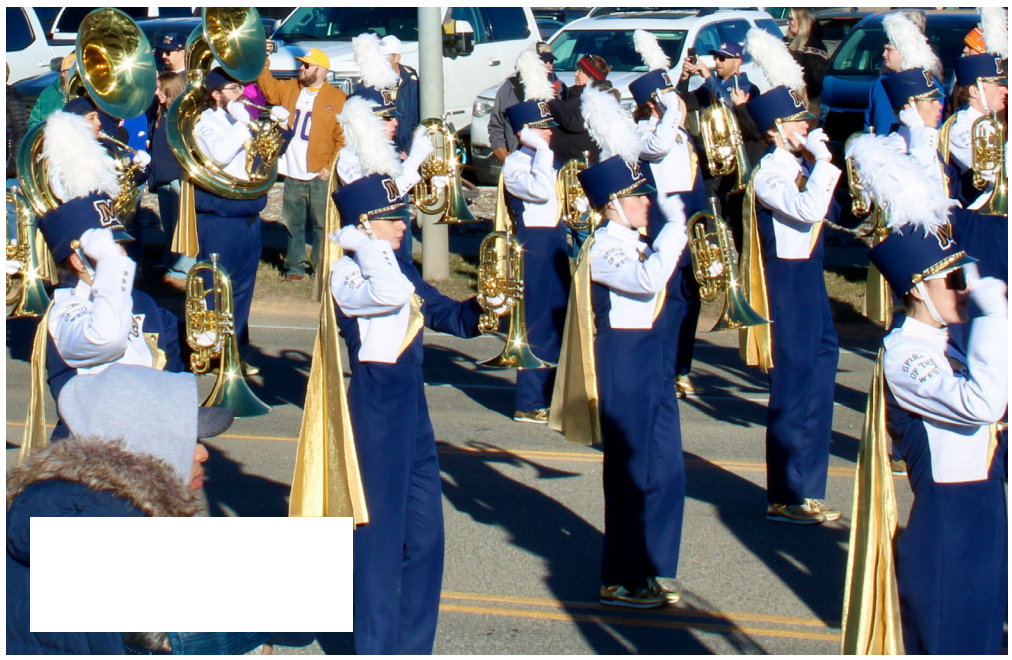
By Adam Trudell

Earlier this month, MSU won the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) National Championship, bringing a title back to Bozeman for the first time in 41 years.

2025 began on a down note for the 'Cats. The historic 15-0 season was capped off with a gut-wrenching loss to the North Dakota State (NDSU) Bison in early January, leaving fans heartbroken.

That game also ended the electric career of MSU's legendary 2025 senior class, anchored by Tommy Mellott, Brody Grebe and nearly two dozen others. Despite the dominant season falling just short, many Bobcat fans were left worried as to what the future had in store.

Before this season began, things seemed uncertain. A starting quarterback wasn't named until a couple of weeks before the Bobcats' opening game, and fans were unsure if the team would really have a shot at the national title. Those concerns appeared justified in the first two weeks when the 'Cats lost to Oregon and South Dakota State.



According to Head Coach Brent Vigen, however, the team remained focused on the process of building towards a championship rather than short-term outcomes.

"We didn't let those first two games ultimately define us, nor did we let any of those wins define us along the way, either," he said.

A subsequent 41-7 win over the San Diego Toreros gave fans hope for a season that felt doomed from the start. Quarterback (QB) Justin Lamson had his breakout game, throwing for 293 yards and four total touchdowns on only three incompletions. Among a sea of impressive individual performances, a young star was clearly emerging.

"So many people ha on us getting here it's certainly a wi

- Brent

Wide receiver Taco Dowler, who had already made a name for himself in the return game, also put on a show as a pass catcher. Against the Toreros, Dowler caught eight passes for 111 yards and two touchdowns.

From this point on, every game came up 'Cats. MSU won nine straight matchups by at least 17 points, the amount typically considered a blowout. This earned them a number three ranking late in the season, but trouble was brewing in Missoula.

The University of Montana (UM) was feasting on an impressive season of its own. Entering the Brawl of the Wild, the 11-0 Griz were ranked second just behind NDSU.

However, at the height of an already impressive season, the Bobcats waltzed into Missoula and beat the Griz 31-28 to win the Big Sky Conference, finishing the regular season 10-2.

Safety Caden Dowler, who in the weeks before the matchup had three interceptions in two games, continued his streak against the Griz. Dowler picked off UM QB Keali'i Ah Yat, flipping the game's momentum for the 'Cats.

But this victory was only the beginning. The Bobcats had earned a first-round bye and home-field advantage in the upcoming playoffs.

In the second round of the playoffs, MSU faced Yale. In a shockingly low-scoring game, the Bobcats beat the Bulldogs 21-13 to move on to the next round.

The Bobcats proceeded to blow past Stephen F. Austin, setting up a game dubbed the Super Brawl, where the Grizzlies awaited a high-stakes rematch. A

G THE NATIONAL ACK TO BOZEMAN



win would mean revenge, bragging rights and — most importantly — a trip to Nashville, the home of the 2025 FCS National Championship.

The first three quarters of the game were competitive, but an 87-yard touchdown pass from Lamson to Taco Dowler triggered an avalanche. The Bobcats outscored the Grizzlies 21-0 in the fourth to win 48-23.

With that, the championship matchup was set — the powerhouse second-ranked Bobcats versus a Cinderella team, the unranked Illinois State (ISU) Redbirds.

ave had an impact e. And you know, n for everybody."

Vigen

MSU erupted to a 21-7 first-half lead and appeared in good shape coming out of halftime, but the Redbirds outscored the Bobcats 21-7 in the second half.

Of course, a game of this nature had to go into overtime. A blocked field goal by the 'Cats with 50 seconds left in the fourth resulted in a tied game after regulation.

The Redbirds got the ball first and scored a touchdown on the second play. For the second straight ISU possession, the MSU defense blocked a kick, and the score remained 34-28.

The game ended with the type of nail-biting finish pulled straight from the movies. On fourth and 10 — with the national championship on the line — Lamson dropped back to pass. The Redbirds sent an all-out blitz, immediately pressuring Lamson and forcing a throw after two seconds.

A miracle ball turned into a perfect dime to a wide-open Taco Dowler. The play set kicker Myles Sanstead up to hit the game-winning point after touchdown, and the Bobcats won their first national championship since 1984.

Even through the season's twists and turns and the championship game's dramatic moments, Vigen never doubted his team's ability to win.

According to him, the season was successful because the 'Cats focused on the opportunity to improve, and didn't dwell on last season's loss. "This team was about conquering new things, and I think more about that than being motivated by what happened down in Frisco.

"I think it was just our opportunity to continue to get better that drove us more than how the last season ended," he said.

Vigen said that in many ways, the credit should go to the players. "I think it's just a forward-thinking group that trusted one another and ultimately really loved one another," he said.

After the Bobcats' historic win, Bozeman held a parade on Jan. 17 to commemorate the storybook season. Bozeman has always been an active city, but if you don't think it's been more alive since the 'Cats won FCS gold, you're living under a rock.

"It was historical and broke the slump we were in," said redshirt freshman Charlie Berkley. "It showed MSU's potential."

The parade featured players, coaches, the Spirit of the West and even the horses that lead the team onto the field at every home game. The route started and ended at Bobcat Stadium, where a ceremony was held to continue the celebrations.

According to Vigen, community support allowed the team to set a new standard and continue building the program. "So many people have had an impact on us getting here, and it's certainly a win for everybody," he said. "There's been a real hunger from our fan base, from our supporters, from our donors alike, to get to this point."

As for the current state of the team, the Bobcats only had nine seniors this year, so expect a similar roster next season.

According to Vigen, this season's formula can be replicated next year to try and win another championship. He warned that nothing is guaranteed, even for premier teams.

"Being motivated by success and wanting it again, going in the weight room right now and just working hard every day starting tomorrow is what [we need] to do," he said. "We aren't guaranteed anything."

This team has the ability to repeat as champions. Players such as Lamson, the Dowler twins and Adam Jones have all announced they will be returning next year.

For now though, we're going to celebrate this victory. 41 years is a long time to wait, which makes this national championship that much sweeter. My advice for Bobcat fans: get used to hearing "Mony Mony" for the next nine months. Until next season, Bobcat football.

To learn more about MSU football, visit *https://msubobcats.com/sports/football*.



Bobcat track and field breaks records at first home meet

BY CAITLIN RODGERS

The Bobcats saw a record-crushing weekend at their first home track and field meet of the season. Not only did the women's team break four school records, the entire group walked out with three Big Sky Conference (BSC) weekly awards.

Senior Hailey Coey broke two school records she had previously set in the long and triple jump. For this, she was awarded Women's Field Athlete of the Week by the BSC, her second consecutive conference award after setting the conference record for long jump in December.

Coey's mark of 21-2.75 in the long jump this past weekend not only won the meet and smashed her previous conference record, but also moved her to No. 5 in the NCAA for the event.

She also marked 41-10 in the triple jump, securing another win and beating her own school record.

"I think both teams have goals to win the conference," Coey said. "There's a lot of work to be put in until then, but I think if we can do it, this would be the year to do it."

Overall, the Bobcats saw consistent wins throughout the meet. To open the weekend, junior Sydney Brewster beat her own school record in the shot put and moved up to sixteenth in the NCAA rankings. To close out the meet on day two, the women's 4x400 team also shattered the school record by nearly 1.5 seconds.

The team — composed of sophomore Tilde Bjerager and seniors Caroline Hawkes, Peyton Garrison and Giulia Gandolfi — won the event by over seven seconds and secured their spot as sixteenth overall this season in the NCAA rankings. The performance earned them Women's Track Athletes of the Week.

"We're leaving the weekend feeling really motivated, really confident about the relay, and really excited for other meets that we can run in," Hawkes said. "We have a lot of goals for the season, so we're excited to train really hard the next few weeks."

Senior Sam Ells finished first in the men's mile with a sub-four-minute time. Ells earned Men's Track Athlete of the Week in his first race of the indoor season after a successful All-Big Sky cross country season. Two other Bobcats finished in the top five slots, securing a mile sweep for MSU.

Ells reflected on the team's outlook for the rest of the season after the successful opener. "We're definitely hungry for more," he said. "We know where we are right now and what the end goal is."

Director of MSU Track and Field and Cross Country Lyle Weese hopes that the Bobcats will continue to improve.

"We do have a ways to go, but the good thing is this was just our first meet," Weese said. "We're looking to see improvement from meet to meet, and then head into the [BSC] Championships ready to perform at our absolute best and do everything we can to compete well as a team."

The Bobcats will continue their season this weekend at the Stacy Dragila Invite at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. The BSC Indoor Championships will also be held at Idaho State University from Feb. 26-28.

"[This weekend] will be a great opportunity to preview the facility and for everyone to get comfortable down there," Weese said. "So that when we get to the conference meet, they're just worried about performing and they're not worried about external factors."

MSU will return home to host another home meet, the Carignan Classic, on Feb. 6.

To learn more, visit *https://msubobcats.com/sports/track-field*.

CULTURE

Campus Recreation debuts new group fitness class schedule

BY JOSIE HINES

Campus Recreation is offering a new schedule of group fitness classes for the spring semester, completely free to students. On the roster are old favorites like cycle, yoga and dance cardio, along with new classes like pilates and circuit training.

So far, one of the most popular classes this semester is pilates, according to its instuctor Bekah Storlie. She is a senior studying exercise science and has been personal training and teaching classes for three years. Previously, she taught strength and HIIT classes.

"There was a big demand for pilates," she said. "So, I got pilates certified, and we started teaching this semester."

According to her, the pilates classes have been at full capacity. All classes are first come first serve, and if a session is full, people can wait to see if anyone doesn't show up. It's encouraged for students to sign up ahead of time to secure a spot and help the instructor estimate head count, according to Campus Recreation's Senior Fitness Coordinator, Cat Sammak.

Sammak, a former MSU student, oversees all of the classes and mentors their instructors.

Sophomores Bethany Armstrong and Hope Cassellia said they like the dance cardio classes the best. "We've been going since freshman year. We went to yoga for the first semester, and we loved the yoga, but then we were always looking at the dance cardio," Armstrong said. "Second semester, we started going twice a week, and we've been going ever since."

Cassellia has tried almost all of the Campus Recreation group fitness classes, but maintains that dance cardio is her favorite. "You can be yourself and everyone is in the same boat because you're all learning the dances pretty much for the first time," she said. "And it's fun to dance. You don't realize how much fun it is until you dance."

Yoga instructor Andrew Benov starts each class encouraging his students to set an intention and ends with shavasana, a yoga pose for deep relaxation. "I fell in love with [yoga] from a peace and well-being standpoint," he said.

Benov used to be an avid climber and said he originally started teaching yoga to improve his flexibility. After suffering a back injury, he turned his focus towards yoga.

"I really think [yoga] was instrumental in keeping me active and avoiding surgery for as long as I did," he said.

According to Sammak, the classes are open to students of all ability levels, but you should let your instructor know if it is your first time. "Our goal is to be accommodating to everyone, so having more information for instructors so they know who needs what is always helpful," she said.

All of the instructors are certified in group fitness or personal training, according to Sammak. MSU works with the National Academy of Sports Medicine and offers a series of activity classes for credit to complete group fitness and personal training certifications.

"We're always on the lookout for new instructors, so even if you have a slight interest and want more information on what it's like, I'm happy to talk to whoever," Sammak said.

As of now, there are 27 group classes offered during the week at various times. Campus Recreation also offers personal training for $35 per session.

For more information about group fitness classes, visit *https://www.montana.edu/wellness/campus-recreation/fitness/group-fitness/*.

For more information on employment as a class instructor, email *catherine.sammak@montana.edu*.

‘I just wanted to give back’: Business professor doesn’t let cancer define his commitment

BY CLARE GENOVESE

For business professor Bill Tudor, teaching is at the center of his universe — and he doesn’t let his decade-long battle against cancer slow him down.

Between classes and making time for his students, every six weeks Tudor goes to the hospital to receive infusions to treat his cancer. He was diagnosed in 2016, which, in his own words, was quite the shock.

“The doctor said, ‘You know, a person your age, you’ve got probably five to seven years left,’” Tudor said. “My paradigm at the time was: it’s a death sentence.

“I’d only known about eight people that had cancer, and all of them died within a year’s time,” he said. “I got with my family, and we talked about it, and it was a paradigm shift. I had to change my mindset from ‘[I’m] dying of cancer’ to working with it and living with it.”

Ten years after his diagnosis — well beyond what doctors expected — he has not stopped showing up. Since 2016, he’s served on the board of trustees at Cancer Support Community Montana (CSCMT) and became the faculty advisor for a growing student club, American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL).

“I had to change my mindset from ‘[I’m] dying of cancer’ to working with it and living with it.”

-Bill Tudor

Tudor was born in 1952 and raised in Fort Smith on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. In 1974, he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Arkansas.

After graduating, he worked for Allied Domecq, a multinational beverage manufacturer, and pursued a master’s degree in international management from the University of Texas at Dallas.

“I was dealing with a lot of offshore suppliers in various countries, so they were wanting an executive that had an advanced degree in international business,” Tudor said. According to him, his employer at the time paid for the master’s degree.

A year before his diagnosis, Tudor moved to Bozeman to be closer to his family. He then moved away for a few years before returning in 2019 to be closer to his grandkids. He said that he is not an outdoor person, especially during the winter.

“I love floating the Madison [River] in the summertime — but the wintertime? It’s brutal,” he said. “My idea of winter sports is not busting my butt on the pavement outside, but family is here.”

Tudor said his experience with his cancer care team motivated him to get involved in the CSCMT.

“They did everything for me, and I just wanted to give back,” he said.

He was asked to serve on the board of trustees in 2022, a role he held until late 2025. “I did it and loved it,” he said. “It was my way of giving back somehow.”

During his first year in Bozeman, Tudor saw that the Jake Jabs College of Business was looking for an adjunct professor. “I applied, and lo and behold, they hired me,” he said.

Tudor started by teaching part-time and accepted a full-time position around 2023.



Despite his diagnosis, he has no desire to stop teaching anytime soon. “I really, truly care for my students and their learning, and that’s why I want to help,” Tudor said. “I think I do have the experience [where] I can work with them and really make theory come to life.”

Two years ago, Tudor was approached to be the faculty advisor for AIBL. He had prior experience working with different tribes on entrepreneurial ventures, including the Paiute and Seminole.

“Indigenous people are really underrepresented in business,” he said. “It’s to mentor — to work with — primarily Native American and Alaskan Native students. It’s a really good chance to mentor and work with these students, to introduce them to thoughts and ideas and entrepreneurship.”

Tudor said that AIBL had a rough start this school year because all former members graduated. According to him, the club has since caught on and had enough members at their first meeting of 2026 to hold an election for leadership positions.

“I’m thrilled to death, you know? To see that happen, to finally gain some traction,” he said.

During his interview, Tudor did not shy away from showing his love for the college of business and said that the community is a big reason he has continued teaching.

“You know, I’m 73, and I just want to continue as long as my health will let me and the school will keep me,” he said.

Semester-long storytelling program takes root in the Student Commons

BY ELLERY WAKEFIELD

A new storytelling showcase is in the works at the Student Commons. Participants are invited to write, refine, practice and eventually perform monologues, with no previous experience required.

The Common Voices Student Storytelling Program was started by Sophia Bielsky, the director of the Student Commons, and Lindsey Appell, the assistant director of the Writing Center. Bielsky said the Common Voices program allows students to share their lives and experiences in a supportive space.

"The goal of our program is really an entry point for students who are interested in this sort of craft," Bielsky said.

Bielsky and Appell said that one of the program's main goals is to create a sense of community through the writing process.

"Storytelling like this functions not just as like a writing class or a performance class, but as forging some kind of community or connections, or a space where you can develop your voice in a way that makes you feel like your experience is valid," Appell said.

Bielsky said those who had their high school experience cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic missed out on many community engagement opportunities.

"We want to bring [in-person experiences] back to our students and provide them with the opportunity to develop a writing group and create group accountability," they said.

Students who participate in the program will craft five-to-seven-minute-long monologues that will be staged and performed on April 17. They will spend the semester workshopping their monologues with faculty mentors and student tutors in the Writing Center.

"The idea is to meet weekly, and these [will] be more structured workshops. We [will] have faculty come in and talk about things like performance," Appell said.

These meetings will be held on Tuesday with an optional Sunday meeting.

"[Sunday meetings] would look like students coming together and working on the writing of their own monologue," Appell said. "That will overlap with when we have Writing Center tutors at our library location."

Students will be able to write their monologues on any major life event, no matter how vulnerable it may be to share, Bielsky said.

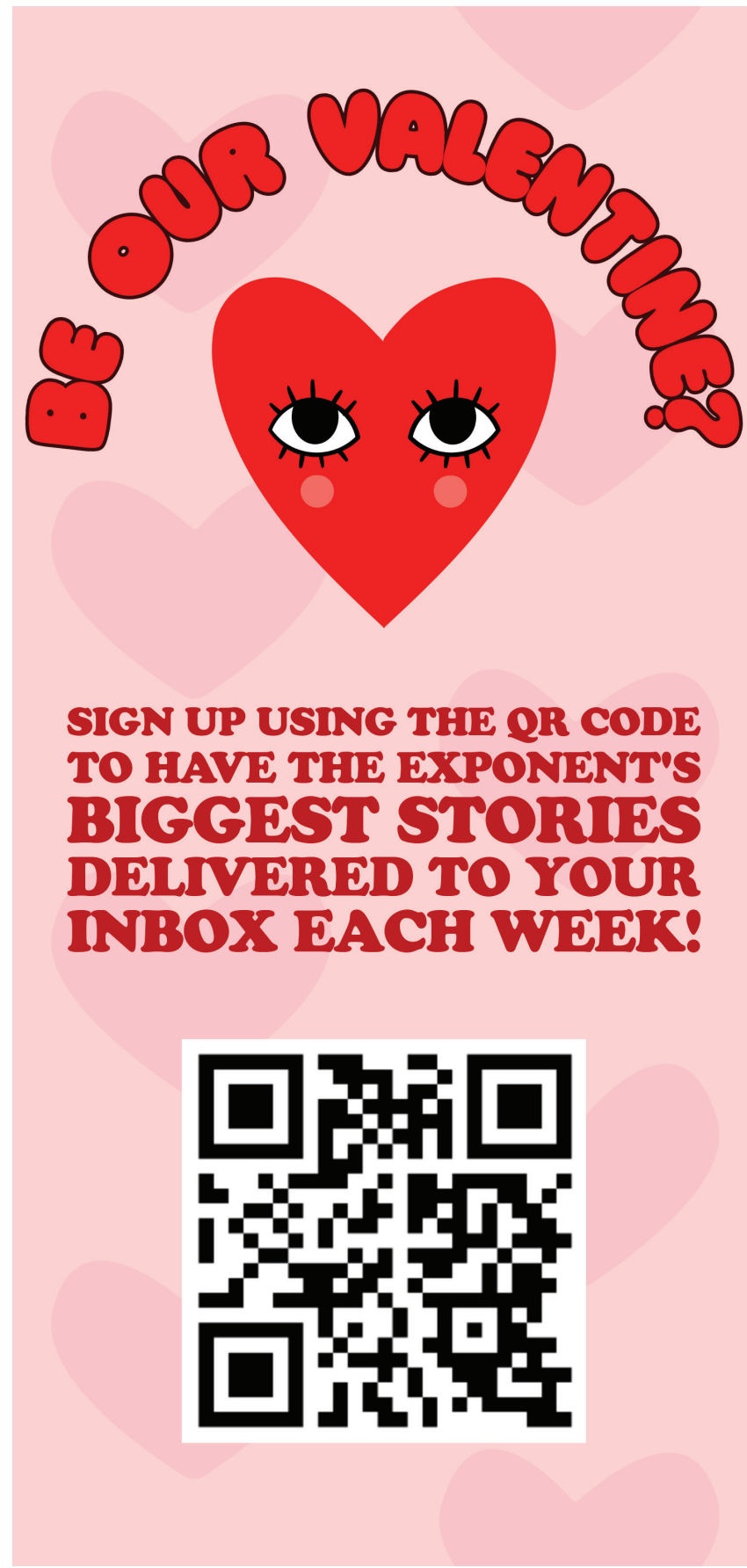
"We want to make sure that the participants have as much support as they can," they said. "The Writing Center tutors will have a holistic or trauma-based approach to how they're going to address these very personal stories."

Bielsky said Common Voices will be classified as a "Speak Out Event." According to MSU's Mandatory Reporting Tools website, this designation means that Campus Civil Rights will not require mandatory reporting for any sensitive disclosures made during these events.

"It's really an extra layer of confidentiality and protection for the student," Bielsky said. "It creates a space where students can speak honestly about their lived experiences as a part of the storytelling process, without automatic escalation into a formal report."

Students are invited to attend the upcoming information sessions at 4:00 p.m. on Feb. 3 and 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 4. Both sessions will be held in the Student Commons, located in Strand Union Building 185.

For more information, visit *https://linktr.ee/StudentCommonsMSU.*



Opera Montana brings Tony award-winning musical to Bozeman

BY JASMINE BARLOW

In recognition of the 41st Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Student Commons worked alongside the Black Student Union, TRIO Support Services, Campus Civil Rights and Forward Montana to honor his legacy.

On Jan. 19, they hosted Opera Montana for a preview of their upcoming performance "Ragtime," a Tony Award-winning musical based on the 1975 novel by E.L. Doctorow, along with a Q&A with three actors from the show and the conductor.

According to the Director of the Student Commons Sophia Bielsky, the musical engages with themes of prejudice.

"Being able to watch a musical that is focused on sharing these lived experiences of certain communities is really powerful," Bielsky said. "Ragtime is a musical that centers several different stories that reflect social change throughout time and also their individual experiences."

Opera Montana held the opening night of "Ragtime" on Jan. 23, and the show will run until Feb. 1. The musical follows a Jewish immigrant family, a white family and a Black family in the Harlem area seeking the American dream.

"Every step that they take forward, they get pushed back by the system or by racism and things that are done to them to make them feel less than," said Emerald Hart-Ullman, a member of the ensemble and director for community engagement at Opera Montana.

Hart-Ullman said the story is relevant today, as people may see their neighbors struggling and want to help, but do not know how.

"It's interesting that something like that can be mirrored in our own society," Hart-Ullman said. "[That] can be related to and looked at from a different perspective throughout the show."

Bielsky said performances like "Ragtime" matter because they use art to tell a story with important underlying messages.

"Art is such a powerful tool, or such a powerful device, in the way that it shows how people respond to social change and the way that they're able to imagine something better together," Bielsky said.

According to them, the goal of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration was to find an art form that was accessible, meaningful and rooted in the Montana community, which is why partnering with Opera Montana was so important.

"We're really grateful for that, that experience of bringing the arts into our students and our faculty and our staff," Bielsky said.

Hart-Ullman said the cast has a strong sense of community.

"Our principles come from Chicago, New York, Texas, all over the nation. We're really lucky to have so much time together putting the show together that we create this beautiful community and mosaic of people who understand each other," Hart-Ullman said.

Hart-Ullman said this musical experience brings a variety of powerful messages, helping the audience understand the family's differing social statuses in the show and how they relate to real-life situations and social systems.

"Hopefully this brings our community together even more to show each other more kindness and to recognize that we're all just people trying to live our lives and experience the human experience," Hart-Ullman said. "And that rather than be at odds with each other, we should support each other with kindness."

For more information on Opera Montana's "Ragtime" performance, visit *https://www.operamontana.org/* or visit its Instagram *@opera_montana*.



Emerald Hart-Ullman, Michael Sakir, Kateena Bell, Sophia Bielsky, Jim Williams, Katya Kabeya, Chanielle Rice and Julian Collins in the SUB ballrooms on Jan. 19. Photo by Jasmine Barlow.

MSU PD Unclaimed Property List

The Montana State University Police Department posts an ongoing list of unclaimed property that we have in our possession. The property is listed in the link below as "MSUPDUnclaimed Property." Per Montana State University Resolution Number 601, if the property remains unclaimed for a period of three (3) months from the date of initial posting, it will be destroyed, returned to the finder, donated, converted to law enforcement use, or sold at public auction, the property or the value of the property is not redeemable by the owner or another person entitled to possession. To check the MSU PD Unclaimed Property List, go to: *https://www.montana.edu/police/found-property.html.*

If you are missing property and you suspect any of the property on these lists may be yours, please get in touch with us at *foundproperty@montana.edu* or by calling (406) 994-2121.

Change Fueled Campus Frustration, not Canvas

BY VERA GRABOW

Last fall, Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Brightspace, a widely beloved academic platform, was replaced by Canvas, sparking complaints and confusion among students and faculty. This frustration, however, is likely a result of our natural tendency to overreact when faced with change, and does not reflect the merits or drawbacks of the platforms themselves.

Alerts and notifications appeared across campus websites last spring semester, reading, "Canvas Coming Soon Summer 2025." Many students felt the imminent switch from D2L was poorly explained and were not ready to give up the comfort of the old system.

One of these students was Sakina Kurani, a senior kinesiology major, who felt annoyed with the University. "I was not too happy about the switch, because, come on, I only have one more year," she said.

"Maybe it's just human nature, we want to stay with what we're used to"

-Josh Meyer

This learning curve was felt across every classroom on Campus, from professors adjusting to a new system for entering grades to students learning how to navigate every new tab.

While I can admit to a few eye rolls, the transition turned out to be far less negative than I expected. Most college students are technologically literate, and eventually the negativity dissipated as campus adjusted to the change.

For some, the switch was an upgrade, as many college preparatory courses in high school taught students how to navigate Canvas. Phoebe Bruns, a sophomore political science major, was surprised to find that the University didn't use Canvas already, and said that getting used to D2L was the real adjustment.

"D2L was so outdated," Bruns said. "I feel like Canvas is just easier to understand."

Josh Meyer, an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Education, discussed the psychology behind technological transitions and the University's process to make them as seamless as possible.

Meyer touched on the different ways that students and faculty might approach such changes in their lives. Some are early adapters, while others are more resistant to change. "Maybe it's just human nature, we want to stay with what we're used to," he said.

Meyer's positive outlook does not discount any frustration, as adjusting to new platforms is hard. However, in order to contend with change, we need to be optimistic and self-aware. The benefits, solidarity and unification promoted by Canvas across the Montana University System (MUS) may outweigh the drawbacks of this small transition.

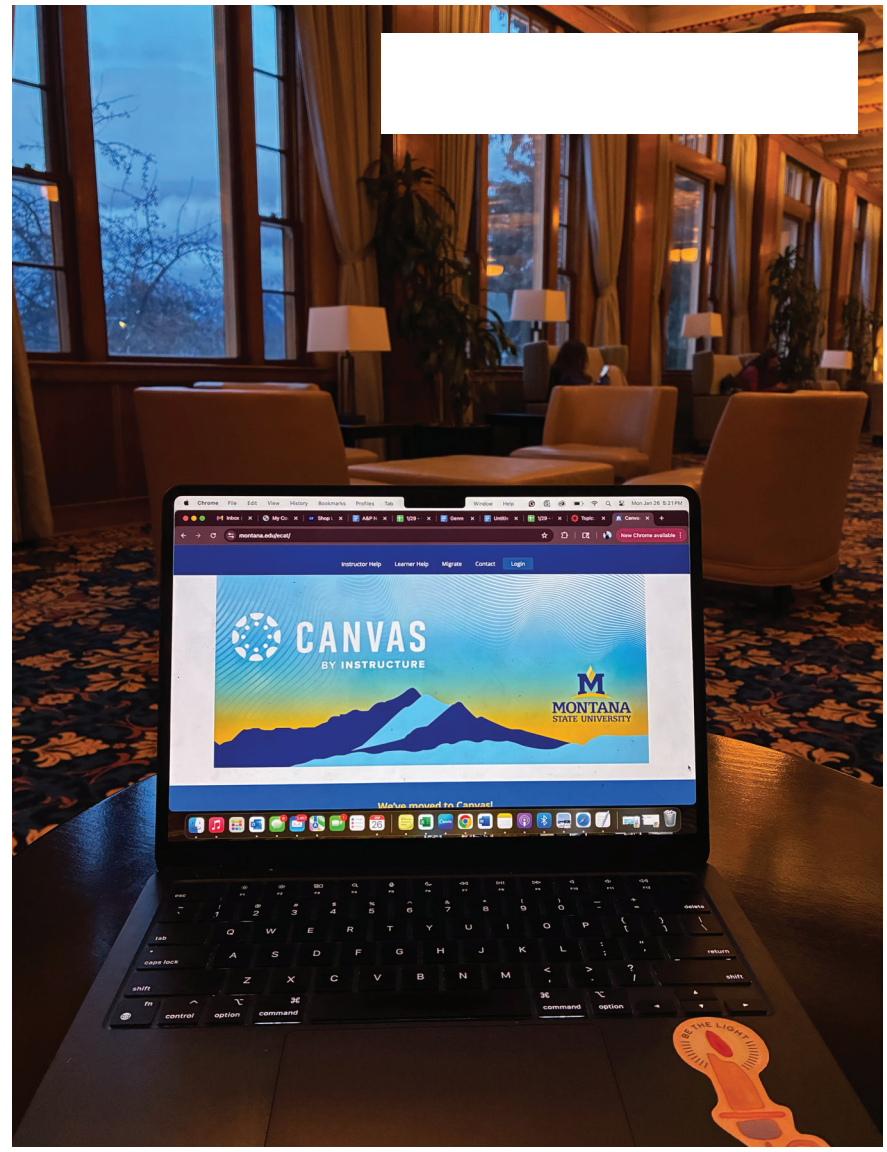
Meyer also highlighted Montana's efforts to standardize platforms across MUS campuses to improve accessibility.

"If indeed [Canvas] is a more robust system, it makes sense to all be on the same page," he said.

Recognizing that everyone is navigating this change together can foster a sense of solidarity and shared purpose. By shifting our attitude, we can move toward a pragmatic framework that changes how we embrace technological change.

The world is not ending because of this switch, and students seem to understand that the drama will subside. "I don't think [Canvas] had a negative or positive impact," Kurani said, emphasizing the long-term irrelevancy of the platform change.

I would even go as far as to say that students are beginning to admire Canvas as much as they can — for a learning management system that produces nightmarish to-do lists and perpetually emails us due date reminders.



CALENDAR JAN. 29 - FEB. 04

THU 29

SEX ED 2.0: WHAT WE DIDN'T LEARN IN HIGH SCHOOL
PROCRASTINATOR THEATER
@ 6:30 P.M. - 8 P.M.
This panel discussion, sponsored by the Student Advocates for Reproductive Rights at MSU and the MSU Women's Center, will include professionals from MSU's Student Wellness, Bridgercare and the OhHi Collective.

FRI 30

COSMOS AND COOKIES
MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES, BAIR LOBBY AND TAYLOR PLANETARIUM @ 5:30 P.M.
A family-friendly event for MOR members that celebrates the wonders of the cosmos in the Taylor Planetarium. Be among the first to watch their new planetarium show, "Dark Biosphere."

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

SAT 31

SWEET PEA FESTIVAL ICE CARVING COMPETITION
SOROPTOMIST PARK @ 9 A.M.
Celebrating a decade of icy creativity, the beloved winter event invites solo carvers, friends and family teams to transform massive blocks of ice into one-of-a-kind winter masterpieces.

SUN 01

CARS AND COFFEE BOZEMAN
CITY BREW COFFEE ON 19TH
@ 8 A.M. - 10 P.M.
Cool, rare and unique cars showing up every Sunday.

MON 02

SHOW AND TELL NIGHT
SUB 185 @ 4:30 P.M. - 6 P.M.
You're invited to the Student Commons Show and Tell night! Bring a seven minute (max) powerpoint presentation on anything you are obsessed with. Come celebrate passion, knowledge and community with good folks, tea and snacks.

TUE 03

BLIND DATE WITH ARCHIVES
MSU LIBRARY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
@ 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Have you ever wondered what's hiding in the Archives and Special Collections at MSU? Well, you are in luck! This February they are making it easier for anyone to come visit by booking a Blind Date with the Archives.

WED 04

EXCEL BASICS LEVEL 1
MSU LIBRARY HEATHCOTE CLASSROOM @ 12 P.M. - 1 P.M.
Learn the basics of Excel, from general spreadsheet formatting, data formatting (%, $, etc.), using formulas and functions, referencing cells in formulas, inserting and formatting charts and printing.



WE ARE HIRING!

Editor-in-Chief 2026-2027

Submit a cover letter and resume to dax@bigskysolutionsstrategies.com

Applications close Feb. 15, 2025

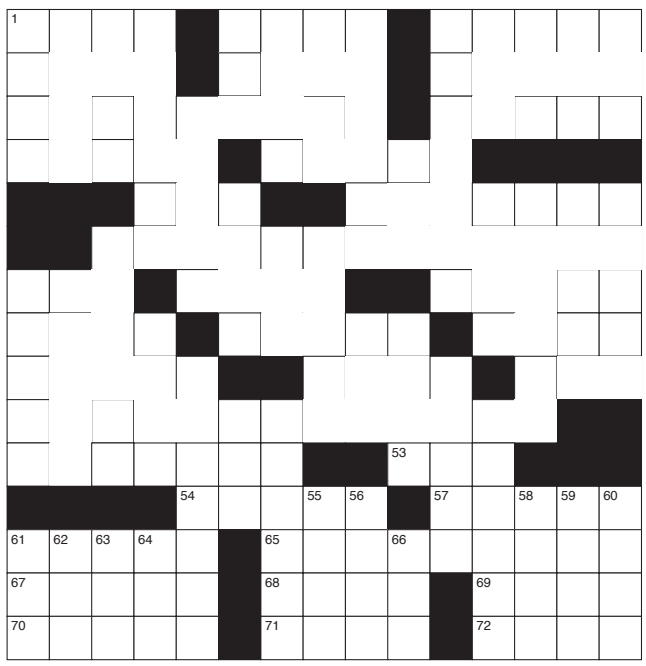
PUZZLES

Brought to you by the MSU

exponent

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

CODE: # 6TA9X7Z9



Across

1. Metal band with a stinging name
5. Oshkosh's st.
9. C sharp, equivalently
14. X-____ (razor blade tool)
15. Cry made while the reins are pulled
16. Dangerous African virus
17. Be an obstructionist
19. Tablecloth material
20. Org. for strays
21. Part of a religious title
23. Store posting: Abbr.
25. Preppy sock patterns
30. 1982 Meryl Streep film
33. Hospital ward, for short
35. Crooned
36. Aristotle, to Alexander the Great
37. "Peter Pan" dog
39. Religious leader
42. Part of SASE
43. Perfect
45. TV explorer of cartoons
47. Laugh, in Lyon
48. England's Charles
52. Parlor artwork
53. Court grp.
54. The whole ball ____
57. Tiny particles
61. Metal tag on a cord
65. Price of a ticket
67. Keep ___ out
68. Mortgage, e.g.
69. Meat-inspecting grp.
70. Drill bit
71. Rather and Quayle
72. Marshmallow chick

Down

1. "Fuzzy Wuzzy ____ bear ..."
2. Play segments
3. Word on a red sign
4. Rain garment
5. Address part
6. "If ___ a Hammer"
7. Notes before ti
8. Soprano Maria
9. Joy
10. Mulder and Scully's org.
11. ___ Nol (Cambodian leader)
12. Pub pint
13. Prepare leather
18. Famous family of Western lawmen
22. Ball's path, maybe
24. Half of a Chinese dog breed
26. Annie Lennox song, "No More â€˜I Love ___'"
27. Metric measures
28. Cause of some food poisoning
29. Medieval menials
30. Naturally illuminated
31. Pig ____ poke
32. Lines on a staff
33. Far from fitting
34. "It Happened One Night" director
38. 'Travels With My ___' (Graham Greene novel)
40. Archery equipment
41. Shah's former realm
44. Bespectacled Muppet
46. Serenades for lovers parting at dawn
49. Computer prog. abbr.
50. Kennedy's assassin
51. Really enjoys
55. 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
56. Marvel mutants
58. River of France
59. Pie a la ____
60. Clothes closer
61. Towing org.
62. Large antelope
63. Lower limb
64. Observe
66. Nationwide's business, briefly

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CODE: # K11BL

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Bemuse
Booting
Camper
Coerces
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Expires
Implementations
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Mysteries
Nears
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Phosphorescent
Plush
Revamp
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Rightmost
River
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Satin
Seconds
Snort
Spurted
Stirs
Tarter
Thesis
Timer
Tiniest
Tried
Unawares
Unman
Users
Vogue

the BOX

Question: What is your favorite wintertime activity during a low-snow year?

Staring out the window, hoping it snows

Skiing (suck it up lil bro)

Doomscrolling

Thinking about Connor

Cyberstalking my rude neighbors

Removing the catalytic converter from all Ford models manufactured from 2000-2007

Taking my anime body pillow on dates

Building a dirt man (like snowman but dirt)

Singing poor renditions of Johnny Cash songs over my seven-beer lunch

Eating bulbs out of the campus garden beds

SSRIs

Siphoning gas from MSU administrators' cars

Abolishing the snow science degree

Pushing climate change pseudo-science

Removing menstrual product dispensers from the SUB

Reading the Exponent

Declaring myself captain of the ship

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

