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FEBRUARY 26, 2026

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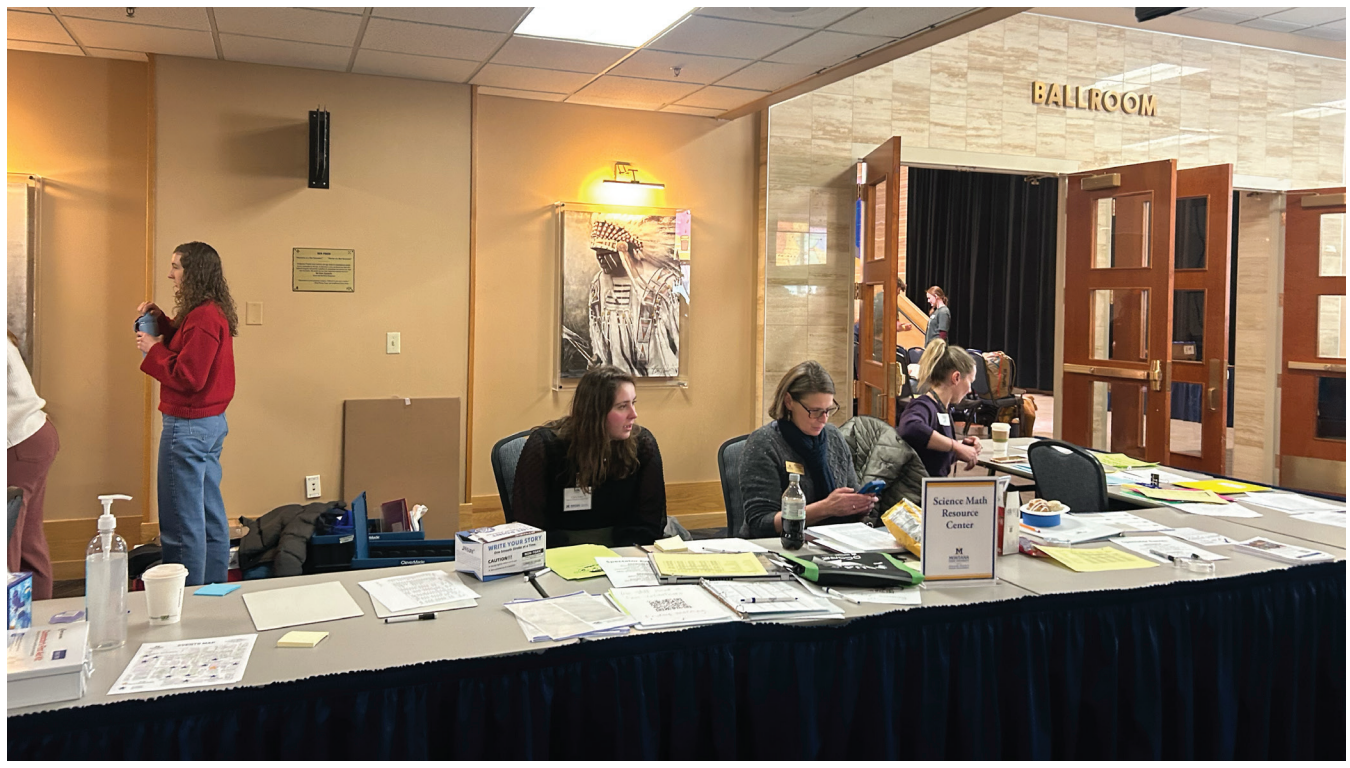
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EPA NO LONGER REQUIRED TO REGULATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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THE MSU exponent
Volume 120, Issue 17



Volunteers sit at Science Olympiad check-in booth in the SUB on Feb. 19.

PHOTO BY CHEYANNE KERNS
COVER DESIGN BY LELA HASLUP
COVER PHOTO BY CONNOR MCLEAN

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MEME OF THE WEEK | u/the_dapper_shrimp



ASMSU
Montana Newspaper Association

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

COMPILED BY LELA HASLUP
DESIGNED BY LELA HASLUP



High school-aged male dies on MSU's campus, investigation ongoing

BY THE MSU EXPONENT EDITORIAL TEAM

Trigger warning: This brief contains mention of suicide.

An individual died after jumping from the MSU Parking Garage roof in the early hours on Saturday morning, according to the Bozeman Police Department Media Report released on Sunday.

When asked for comment by the Exponent on Wednesday, Interim Vice President of University Communications Michael Becker said that just before 1 a.m. on Saturday, officers from the MSU Police Department responded to a report of an individual in distress who had reportedly jumped from the top of the parking garage.

"Upon arrival, officers located a high school-aged male, and despite immediate response efforts, the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene," Becker said. "The incident is being investigated as a suicide."

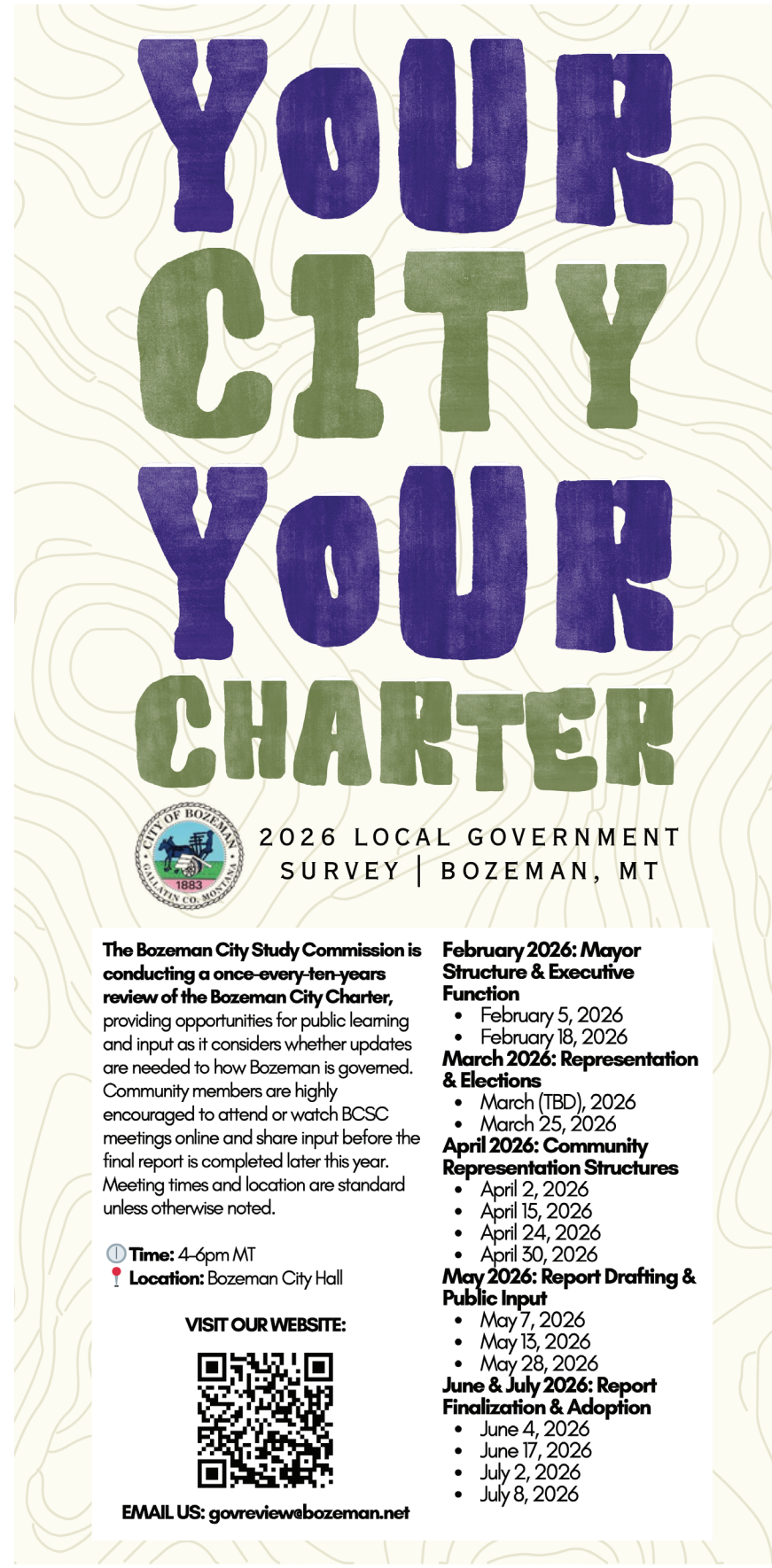
Becker added that MSU responders, the Bozeman Police and Fire Departments, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office coroner and chaplain and an EMS service were on scene.

The specific cause of death and identity of the deceased will be released by the Gallatin County coroner, according to Becker.

This is a developing story.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, there are resources to help. These include MSU Counseling & Psychological Services and the Dean of Students CARE Program. To contact the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988.

To contact the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988.



ASMSU hosts "Pray for Snow" festival in place of annual Rail Jam

BY BERT BALA

Students enjoyed food, watched local bands and viewed skiing and snowboarding videos at the Pray for Snow music festival last Saturday. The event was held as a replacement for the annual Rail Jam skiing and snowboarding competition.

The Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU) and the Office of Student Engagement normally host Rail Jam, but this year's lack of snow led to its cancellation, according to the MSU News Service.

"Rail Jam is such an iconic event on the MSU campus," said ASMSU Assistant Events Director and financial engineering major Kershaw Mellott. "The key factor is the snow and, with a year like we're having, it's real tough to do a Rail Jam like we know and love."

For the past four winters, the Dobbie Lambert Intramural Fields have transformed into a snowy slopestyle. There, athletes competed for the chance to win prizes, and the campus community came to watch. This year, Pray for Snow was held in the Romney Oval.

"We still want students to be engaged on campus," said business major Josey Blazer, the ASMSU events team marketing associate. "We still wanted students to have an event to look forward to."

According to ASMSU At-Large Senator and liberal studies major Ben Wilson, the goal was to get students involved. "It's really unfortunate that Rail Jam isn't happening, but we tried our best to still give people a great time," he said.

ASMSU President Lenny Triem said the Pray for Snow event was designed to mirror past Rail Jams and honor MSU's skiing and snowboarding culture. "We're mourning Rail Jam as well," he said.

The 2026 spring semester would have marked Rail Jam's fifth year. "I'm a little disappointed that it got canceled, but I mean, what can you do with this little snow?" said attendee and mechanical engineering major August Kreiter.

The festival featured four bands, a prize raffle and a video screen displaying Rail Jam competitor submissions. The event also offered several food trucks and free meal vouchers to the first 150 people to arrive.

Several students attending the event voiced their enthusiasm. "I think it's pretty sick," Kreiter said. "I'm excited for free food, good music. It's a little cold, but that never stopped me before."

"The stage setup is awesome over there," said kinesiology major Griffin Stagg. "It's just in the middle of campus; it's a great spot."

According to Triem, events like this allow students to connect. "It's a way to foster community. It's a way to bring people together to have fun," he said. "Big events like [these] are unique circumstances where you can make those connections and spend time with friends."

"I hope that [students] come to next year's Rail Jam, snow willing," Triem said. The Rail Jam tradition is set to continue next spring, according to him.

To learn more about ASMSU, visit *https://www.montana.edu/asmsu/*.



DJ mixes at the Pray for Snow event in the Romney Oval on Feb. 21. Photo by Luci Bourgeois.

Snowman Protest aims to spread awareness about Montana's warm winter

BY AVA AHLEMEYER

A crowd of people — joined by handmade, cardboard snowmen — gathered at Soroptomist Park in Downtown Bozeman on Saturday for a protest. Organizers used the playful winter icons to spotlight Montana's unusually warm winter and the concerns it raises for the region's water access and outdoor economy.

The protest — organized by the MSU chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) — aimed to raise awareness about the local impacts of climate change and encourage community members to collaborate to find long-term solutions, according to the CCL website.



Cardboard snowman at Soroptomist Park on Feb. 21.
Photo by Luci Bourgeois.

"[We're] trying not to fearmonger," said CCL member and MSU sophomore Paige Frumkes. "We want to make it fun with the arts and crafts."

CCL is a national nonpartisan climate advocacy program that trains volunteers to build relationships with the media, according to its website.

To spread their message, participants built cardboard snowmen that held signs saying things like 'Make Montana Snowy Again' and 'Help! More Snow!'

"It's just a great opportunity to say, 'What would a snowman say?' They'd be like, 'We are bummed,'" said Co-Leader of the Bozeman CCL chapter Kristen Walser.

Posters displayed fun facts about the environment and a whiteboard was set up for community members to write their favorite thing about Montana winters.

CCL member and protest organizer Hannah Hader said the lack of snow could affect the local water supply.

"I am really sad to see that there is no snow. I'm from Montana, and I stayed here because I love snow and the winter so much," Hader said. "I'm also really worried, because this snowpack will affect our everyday lives. This is our drinking water. This is going to be in our lakes and reservoirs."

Walser echoed this sentiment, saying that the low snowpack will have a continuing effect through the summer.

"Runoff is pretty important for summer water and for the fisheries and cold water fisheries, for crops, for cattle," she said. "If it's warm now, you better believe we're going to be melting in the summer. It's going to be hot."

Walser said the warming winter isn't just an environmental concern but an economic one.

"What would a snowman say? They'd be like, 'We are bummed.'"

– Kristen Walser

For example, according to an NBC Montana article published on Feb. 18, the National Collegiate Athletics Association alpine skiing National Championship was moved from Bridger Bowl to Park City, UT due to the lack of snow.

The relocation of the championship resulted in sunk preparation costs and revenue losses for Bridger, according to the article.

According to Hader, the lack of snowpack will impact agriculture, drinking water supplies and the summer activities many Montanans rely on.

"Our snowpacks have a direct correlation to crop growth, to our drinking water, to our recreational water. That's our fishing and tubing," Hader said. "And without this water, we don't get those things. We're going to be on severe drought restrictions."

"We're just trying to raise awareness. We're trying to make people feel like they have control over what's happening," Frumkes said.

To learn more about CCL, visit *https://citizensclimatelobby.org/* or follow its MSU chapter's Instagram *@ccl_montana_state_university*.

Millie the peregrine falcon educates on conservation at the MOR

BY CAITLIN RODGERS

On the third Saturday morning of every month, there is a line out the door of the Museum of the Rockies (MOR). Children carrying stuffed birds wait eagerly among the crowd of visitors, all of whom are there to meet the feathered ambassadors of the Montana Raptor Conservation Center (MRCC).

The MRCC regularly holds "Raptor Meet & Greets" at the MOR, along with other events at Bridger Bowl, local schools and the MRCC headquarters. These are designed to educate the public on how to help preserve raptor populations for future generations, according to the MOR's website.

At these events, attendees observe a presentation on raptors that features an ambassador bird for visual aid. These birds are rescues that have been rehabilitated but cannot be released back into the wild due to injuries or human imprinting, according to the MRCC website.

During the meet and greets, the MRCC also sets up a display table where attendees can touch real raptor wings, claws and skulls from deceased birds.

"I was excited to check [the meet and greet] out since it looked like they were going to be bringing live birds; I wanted to meet them," microbiology and pre-vet student Paige Weaver said. "I'm definitely a hands-on learner, so I love when there's a physical example at those kinds of events."

The MRCC is based in Bozeman, but responds to requests for raptor rescue over 88,000 square miles of eastern Montana, according to its website.

"We started back in 1988 as Big Sky Wildcare, and then in the early '90s we saw a need for just raptors, so we've been the [MRCC] since," said Keaton Thomas, the MRCC's director of raptor education. "We typically rescue about 200 birds every year, but 2025 was a record-breaking year with 250."

He said about 40 percent of birds brought to the MRCC can be released back into the wild.

The organization releases raptors provided they can lead full, productive lives. Birds unable to rejoin the wild are humanely euthanized. However, the organization does provide a lifetime home and long-term care for some unreleasable raptors serving as ambassador birds, according to the MRCC website.

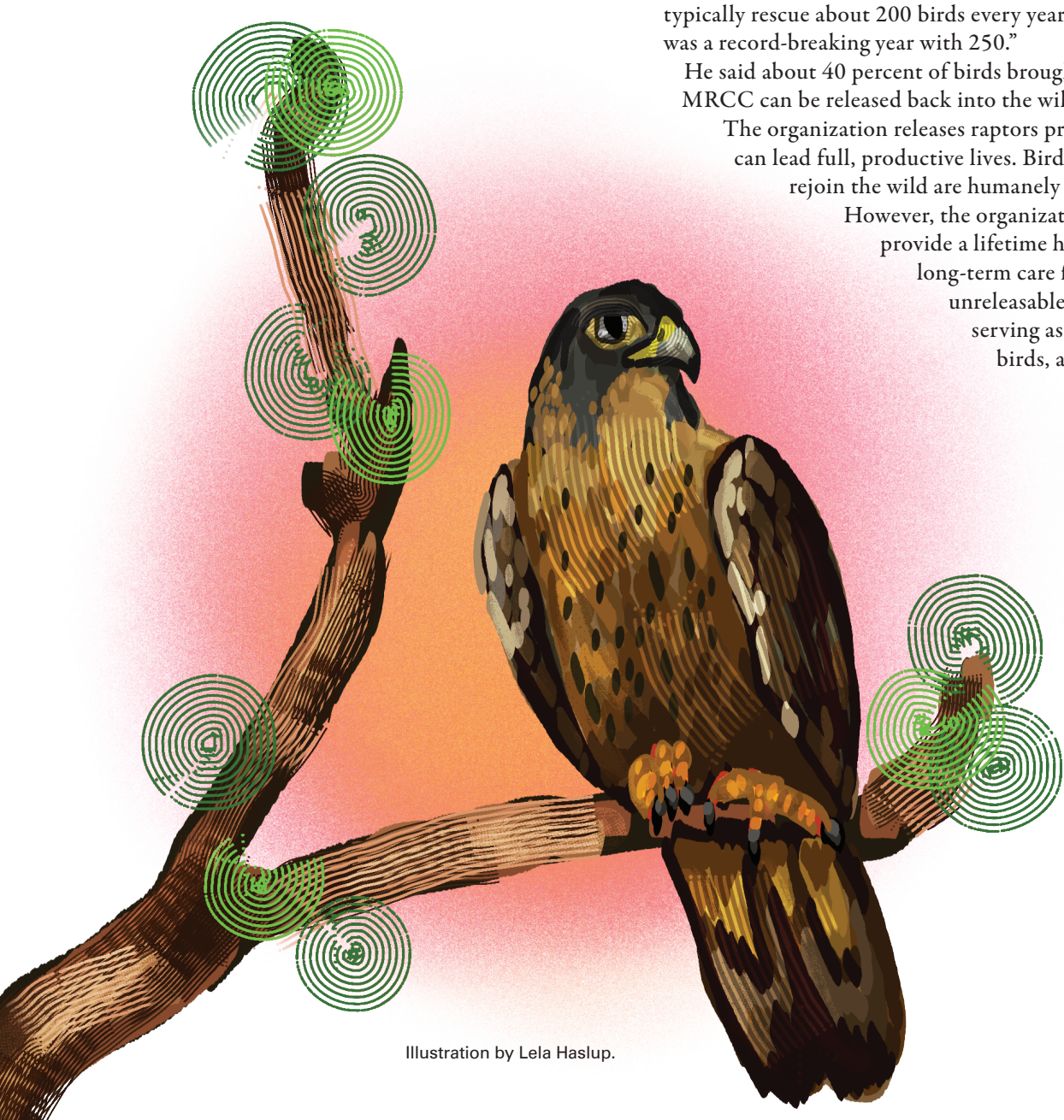


Illustration by Lela Haslup.

This month, Millie the peregrine falcon — one of the 13 ambassador birds — came to the MOR. Millie's story is a triumph not only for the rescue and rehabilitation of all raptors, but also, more specifically, for peregrine falcons. According to the MRCC website, the species neared extinction before conservation efforts brought their numbers back up.

"[Millie] was found right off I-90 in Bozeman. She was unfortunately hit by a car, and didn't have any broken bones, but did sustain feather follicle damage," Thomas said. "So, she has permanent damage to the way that her feathers grow in. She can fly, just not well enough to be released out in the wild."

According to Thomas, raptors like Millie are a critical part of Montana's ecosystems. He said educating the public on birds like her is essential for conservation efforts.

"We educate over 13,000 people every year, and we focus on raptor conservation," Thomas said. "Raptors are an indicator species, so they let us know how the health of the environment that they're in is doing. They're very important in predator-prey control."

Raptors maintain ecosystem health by regulating populations of small mammals, birds, fish and reptiles. Decline in raptor breeding success may indicate environmental imbalances, which is why monitoring their populations is important, according to the National Park Service website.

According to Thomas, another of the MRCC's current concerns for raptors is lead poisoning. "We try to educate hunters and fishermen on the importance of not using lead when doing those outdoor things, because that is how they get to the lead poisoning, by ingesting pieces," he said.

"We've had three seagulls come in so far in 2026 that have had lead poisoning. One of them, unfortunately, did pass away. One is doing really well, and then one that we just got in is a very guarded outcome," Thomas said.

According to the MRCC website, approximately 99 percent of injury calls are due to human factors.

Millie's message is not only important for the conservation of raptors, but also deeply impactful for observers, according to Weaver.

"Learning about rehabilitated animals really gives you an appreciation for life," she said.

To learn more about the MRCC, visit *https://montanaraptor.org/*. To report a sick or injured bird, call (406) 585-1211.

Showcasing the Exponent photographers

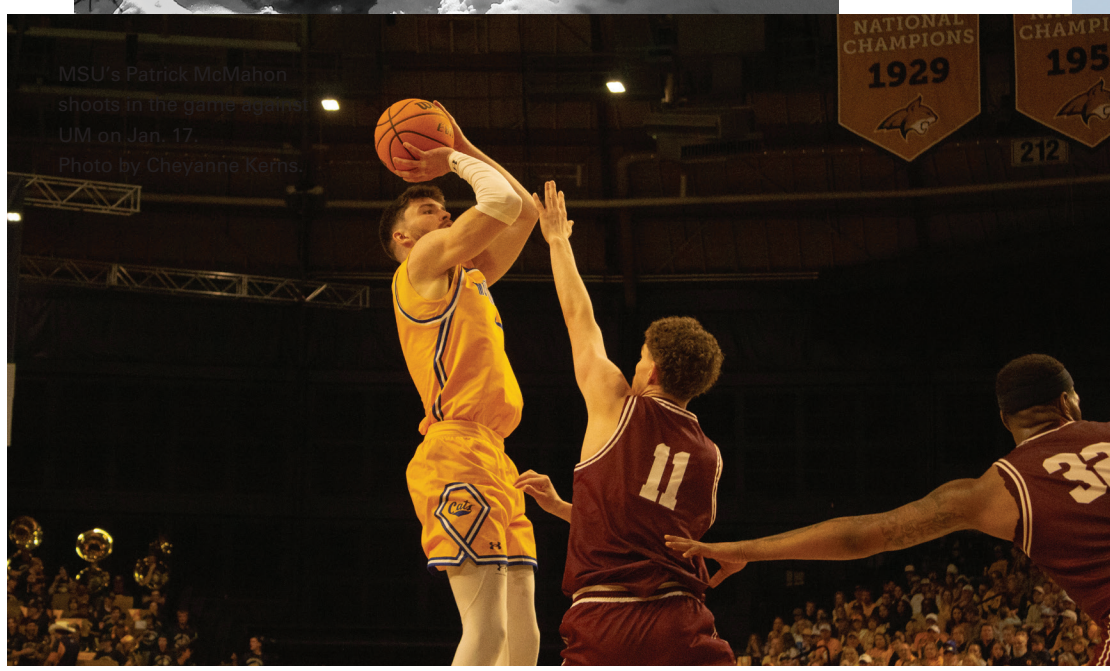




Self portrait on rolleicord on Feb. 17.
Photo by Marina Adelmann.

Shea Chiara and Jinie Lu the dog in Grand Teton National Park on Feb. 7.
Photo by Luci Bourgeois.





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

‘IT COMES DOWN TO WH
EPA RESCINDS ENDA

By Avery Edwards

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its rescission of the 2009 Endangerment Finding on Feb. 12. This scientific determination provided the basis for federal regulation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by establishing that these pollutants are harmful to human health.

“You could characterize [the Endangerment Finding] as a determination that climate pollution endangers public health and welfare,” said Alexandra Amonette, Montana’s Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) state print media coordinator.

The Endangerment Finding required that climate emissions be regulated under the Clean Air Act, according to CCL Research Manager Dana Nuccitelli. The new interpretation only requires the EPA to regulate local pollutants — not indirect impacts from global pollutants such as GHG emissions, he said.

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, the EPA repealed GHG emission standards for motor vehicles, marking the single largest deregulatory action in U.S. history, according to its website. This decision comes after the EPA’s determination that without the Endangerment Finding the organization lacks the authority to regulate vehicle emissions.

“As a result of these changes, engine and vehicle manufacturers no longer have any future obligations for the measurement, control and reporting of GHG emissions for any highway engine and vehicle,” the EPA wrote in a statement on its website.

According to Nuccitelli, if the courts affirm the rescission, Congress would have to amend the Clean Air Act or pass a new law enabling the EPA to regulate climate pollution from GHGs again.

CCL is a nonprofit focused on federal climate solutions, according to Amonette. She said that it emphasizes a respectful, nonpartisan approach that can lay a sustainable foundation for climate action.

According to Amonette, implications of the rescission could be broader than vehicle emissions. “[The finding] has served as the framework for federal regulations based on emissions from vehicles, power plants and industry,” she said. Without the Endangerment Finding, the EPA lacks clear authority to regulate emissions from these sources, she said.

According to Nuccitelli, revising regulations is much easier than undoing laws enacted by Congress, because such laws can be undone only by a majority vote.

“That’s a high bar to clear, especially when a law is passed on a bipartisan basis,” he said. “Regulations, on the other hand, can be revised by agencies whenever they decide they can justify doing so, which often happens when a new party takes control of the White House.”

Nuccitelli said that regulatory instability creates significant uncertainty for businesses and can make it difficult for the federal government to reduce emissions.

The rescission has already spurred lawsuits against the EPA, Amonette said. On Feb. 18, a diverse coalition of health and environmental protection groups sued the EPA over the ruling, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

Nuccitelli said that issues with the EPA’s rescission will likely reach the Supreme Court.

“The court will have to decide if the Clean Air Act can apply to indirect effects from climate pollutants that are mixed throughout the atmosphere, and whether the climate change contribution from American vehicles is enough to warrant regulation,” he said.

“Can we actually make an act towards decreasing our carbon footprint, or is this the new normal?”

- Harper Norsen

According to MSU political science professor and climate change researcher Paul Lachapelle, these cases could now be tied up in court for years. “These kinds of decisions, which were considered settled case law, are now being redetermined,” he said.

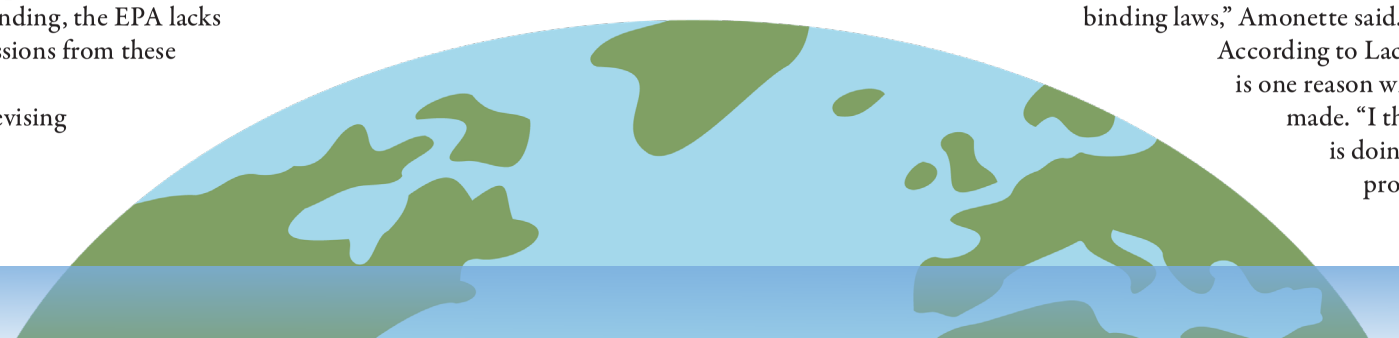
For environmental protection groups like CCL, these types of changes underscore the importance of establishing protections on climate policy that can endure even as federal leadership changes.

“So you have these EPA regulations, and they swing back and forth every time a new political party takes control,” Amonette said. “If you can get a law passed in Congress, it’s durable. It can’t be revoked by whoever is controlling the White House.”

Amonette said that laws passed in Congress are important because they represent the American people. Because of this, CCL lobbies to pass climate protection policy in Congress.

“[CCL] has a lot of accomplishments where we’ve gotten laws passed by both sides of the House and both sides of the Senate, and that’s durable. They’re binding laws,” Amonette said.

According to Lachapelle, industry pressure is one reason why decisions like this are made. “I think what you’re seeing is doing this for the short-term profits of a small group of



IO YOU'RE VOTING FOR': NGERMENT FINDING

corporate interests and industry," Lachapelle said.

According to him, this decision undermines the long-term health and welfare of the global population and environment.

Some MSU students also expressed worry that climate action is being sidelined in favor of industry and economic interests.

"In my mind, what [the rescission] does is give these companies more power so they can make money and not protect the environment," said conservation biology junior Joseph Hammell.

"I feel as though it's a step back in terms of climate action," said mechanical engineering senior Harper Norsen. "It's allowing for reduced limits on tailpipe emissions so the tippy-top can make a little more money."

To Norsen, this recent EPA decision demonstrates the partisanship of climate policy.

"This type of finding being overturned — that was a political choice," he said. "So it comes down to who you're voting for, and that can change how we, as a country, fight climate change."

Hammell said that the partisan divide over climate issues has made them difficult to discuss in class.

"I don't even hear about this in my classes as much as I wish. I think maybe people want to avoid the politics, which is kind of a shame," he said. "[Climate change has] just gotten grouped into that politics thing, which it shouldn't be."

The rescission has raised questions for Norsen about the future of climate policy.

"Are we just going to continue on that path? Obviously, we're experiencing a real thing, especially this winter," he said. "Can we actually make an act towards decreasing our carbon footprint, or is this the new normal?"

Lachapelle said that while the U.S. is no longer seen as a world leader on the issue of climate change, it still has a responsibility to combat it. The U.S. has released more CO2 than any other country, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"As the largest cumulative emitter of [CO2] emissions, I think we have a responsibility," Lachapelle said.

He said deregulation is a predictable part of conservative governments, and the Trump administration is no exception.

"I mean, there's been no surprise and no secret about what the Trump administration was going to attempt to do with Project 2025," he said. Project 2025 suggested significant federal reforms to reduce regulatory burdens, according to UC Berkeley Law.

Additionally, Lachapelle said that official estimates for global temperature increases — another measure of climate health — are likely too conservative. The UN estimates global warming projections over this century to be 2.3 to 2.5 degrees Celsius, according to its 2025 Emissions Gap Report.

Lachapelle said this number could actually be up to three or four degrees Celsius. "That is a fundamentally different world than what we know right now, a very unstable world, a world that is likely devoid of coral reefs and Arctic ice and a world that I wouldn't want to live in," he said.

Nuccitelli said that we are already seeing impacts of the climate crisis with worsening extreme weather events. "Increased climate pollution will worsen the climate crisis at a time when we need to be doing everything we can to reduce emissions as fast as possible," he said.

To learn more about CCL, visit its website at *https://www.citizensclimatemt.org/*.



Random Acts of Silliness summons mythical creatures at parade

BY ELLERY WAKEFIELD

An old legend says that every winter, a series of mythical creatures — known as the Menagerie of the Imaginary — appear for one night to light up the Bozeman sky.

According to the team at Random Acts of Silliness (RAS), the fantastical creatures are actually handcrafted lanterns created by local artists and MSU students.

On Feb. 21, around 400 community members went to the Gallatin Regional Park to show off their lanterns. Each was carefully crafted to fit one of three categories: air, water or earth.

Anna Visscher, the creative and communications director for RAS, said that the parade was meant to bring light to the community during the dark winter season.

"We wanted to create something at a time of year where it feels like winter has been going on and on," she said. "We're sick of the monochromatic landscape, and we're craving color and light and connection with our community."

The first parade was held by RAS in 2024 in collaboration with MSU students and faculty and community artists. Jade Lowder, the foundations coordinator at the School of Art, said he was approached by RAS after a member saw one of his class's projects.

"We did this project where students make oversized cardboard versions of their own heads," Lowder said. "I was posting [the projects] online and showing off what the students did, and [RAS] saw these photos and reached out to see how we could be involved."

"MSU students have been an integral part of the lantern parade since its inception," Lowder said. "The students came up with crazy, wild designs, which was one of the big principles and successes of the parade."

That year, Lowder said he realized that Ideation Creativity — an art class offered every spring and summer semester — would be a perfect setting to make lanterns.

For this parade, students in the class created a giant fish with woolly mammoth tusks and a bird with a rabbit's head and jackalope antlers, among others.

Kate Little, a freshman studio art major, said her group made a reverse mermaid with a fish body and human legs.

"It was a delight to hear all the 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the audience and especially the children — the children were just amazed as the lanterns floated by," she said.

Little said it was really cool to see their art displayed and the positive reaction from the Bozeman community.

"Art and events like this enhance the lives of the audience or the people who come to see it," she said. "It's something unusual; it happens once a year. It just creates something different and exciting and spectacular in their lives."



"ARTWORK DOESN'T JUST EXIST ON A WALL OR IN A CLASSROOM; IT REACHES OUT AND TOUCHES PEOPLE."

– JADE LOWDER

The parade was led by head lanterns created by professional artists and followed by lanterns from students and the community. The Earth realm was led by Amelia the Bird Horse, the water realm was led by Echo the Dragoon and the air realm was led by Phineas the Phoenix.

"We've encouraged people to think about where your lantern feels at home," Visscher said regarding the set categories.

In addition to the parade at the park, RAS held a viewing at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds for children and those with mobility limitations.

"It's very hard for people with any kind of mobility limitation to get to a place in the park where they can watch, and kids were getting cold and tired and bored," Visscher said. "So we really wanted to make an event for our youngest fans and our oldest fans at the same time."

She said that the goal of the parade was to foster community engagement.

"You're standing next to someone you don't know, who also lives in your community, who might be a very different socioeconomic level, might be coming to this with kids, without kids," Visscher said. "A common misperception is that everything we do is for kids. [We] do everything for the young and young at heart. It's just reaching that inner child and that sense of play and whimsy."

Diane Radcliffe, a Bozeman resident who created a lantern, said events like these bring joy to Bozeman.

"I think these events are huge," she said. "The more we can [do] them, the more fun there is to have."

Lowder said that parades and community events are great ways for students to showcase their art.

"Artwork doesn't just exist on a wall or in a classroom; it reaches out and touches people," he said. "I want to show our foundation's students that there are different routes to making art and to showing people your art."

For more information about RAS and its events, visit its website at *https://www.randomactsofsilliness.com/*.

‘We treat everybody like family’: Fully Loaded Tacos focuses on flavor and fresh ingredients

BY AMANDA FULTON

As the afternoon light filters through the windows of the new Mexican restaurant just behind Johnstone Center, the smell of simmering spices drifts into the seating area. A bowl of oranges sits on the check-out counter with a note that reads: “Please Grab Some! Enjoy.” A customer takes one, thanking the establishment’s co-owner Elizabeth Valenzuela.

“I want to be known as that little restaurant in the corner of somewhere that is just super homey,” Valenzuela said after the customer left. “I know every little town has one, where it’s like the hole in the wall, but it’s just so good, it’s so friendly.”

Located on College Street, Fully Loaded Tacos is owned by fiancées Kirk Cardoso and Valenzuela, who met in California in 2018. The pair moved to Montana in 2019 with their first daughter, who was two months old at the time.

“When we met, we knew we didn’t want to stay in California. I initially thought Texas. When he was like, ‘What about Montana?’ I was like, ‘What’s Montana?’” Valenzuela said.

Cardoso explained that he fell in love with the Madison Valley while helping a friend move there in 2014.

“It was springtime, everything was beautiful and water was flowing everywhere,” he said. “Being from California, the land of drought — I’m an Aquarius. She’s an Aquarius. Water is flowing through us, and I like seeing the moving water.”

> “We want to offer what we’re used to, and that’s good quality, good flavor.”
>
> – Kirk Cardoso

Three years after moving to Montana, the pair started Fully Loaded Tacos in Ennis. Cardoso sold his home in California to help Valenzuela pursue her passion of opening a restaurant, she said.

According to Cardoso, once the food trailer opened, it was an instant hit.

“We noticed that the food is bland in a lot of places out here, and her food’s always been really flavorful, and she’s like, ‘Why don’t we do this?’ That’s how we got started,” Cardoso said. “And people really enjoyed the real, authentic flavor.”

Now the parents of four young children, Cardoso and Valenzuela leased the Bozeman location in March 2025 and renovated the space before opening in October.

“The idea of having 17,000 students across the street was appealing. If we can just get a small fraction of that a day, I think we’d be golden,” he said.

Cardoso said that while the restaurant had been popular in Ennis, changing economic conditions there prompted the move to Bozeman. However, on Feb. 23, the food trailer was reopened in Ennis after being closed since September, allowing them to serve customers in both communities.

According to Cardoso, the lengths they go to source their ingredients sets their business apart. Their tortillas and torta bread are from a family-run bakery in California, requiring lengthy drives every few months to stock up, according to him.

“We’ll either meet [Valenzuela’s] parents in Nevada somewhere, or I’ll drive all the way to California and pick up the tortillas. We try to keep them as authentic as possible,” Cardoso said, adding that they also try to score the freshest produce they can during these trips.

“We’re not relying on what the local distributors have. We’re sourcing it ourselves, and I think you can taste that in our food.”

Cooking has always been a part of Valenzuela’s life. She grew up going to work with her mother at her aunt’s restaurant and later helped with her aunt’s food trucks.

“I practically grew up cooking,” she said. “I would always make dinner after I got home from school for the family.”

Valenzuela said she cooks each dish the way she would want it prepared for herself and loves seeing how customers respond to her food. “I like it when you give them their plate and they’re like, ‘Oh, wow, this is nice.’ Or, ‘Oh, this is good,’” she said.

Valenzuela — who is currently serving as her friend’s surrogate — said her love for giving to others shapes the way customers are treated.

“If there’s someone that comes in and, you know, we can sense that they’re on a budget, I always throw in an extra taco. I’ll upgrade their kid’s burrito,” she said. “[Cardoso] will come in and go, ‘Hey, this guy only had enough money for two tacos, but give him three.’

“It’s a family environment. We treat everybody like family,” she said.

Cardoso said that the pair appreciates their loyal customers, both in Ennis and now in Bozeman. “We’ve only been open since October, and the amount of five-star reviews — I mean, we’re surpassing places here that have been open longer,” he said.

“We want to offer what we’re used to, and that’s good quality, good flavor.”

Fully Loaded Tacos is located at 815 W College St, Suite A. To learn more, visit *https://tinyurl.com/2efykdcr*.



Menu inside of Fully Loaded Tacos in Bozeman on Feb. 25. Photo by Cheyanne Kerns.

Local organizations collaborate for National Eating Disorder Awareness Week

BY MOLLY HOUSER

Trigger warning: This article contains discussion of eating disorders.

Approximately nine percent of Montanans — around 93,512 people — will have an eating disorder in their lifetime, according to Harvard's 2020 Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders program. The same report found that in Montana, about 33 people die each year as a direct result of eating disorders.

Feb. 23 to March 1 is National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. In recognition, the Bozeman treatment center Eating Disorder Center of Montana (EDCMT) is holding a Q&A with eating disorder professionals on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Your Yoga studio.

According to Elysa White, the executive director at EDCMT, therapists and registered dietitians from the clinic will lead Saturday's panel. White said discussions will center on eating disorders, diet culture and body image.

"[Eating disorders] thrive in isolation and usually are quite hidden," she said. "There can be some shame and guilt around that, and also receiving help can feel really hard — there's a lot of stigma around mental health and receiving treatment.

"We want everyone to feel like there is a resource, that there's support in the community, that they don't have to do this alone, and that we're here to help them through this. We want people to be able to live out loud, wholeheartedly and be themselves," she said.

White said the center offers holistic, evidence-based treatment — such as family-based therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavioral therapy — to patients aged 12 and older. At intake, patients meet with a registered dietitian and a therapist to assess the level of care they require. A treatment program is then recommended to best serve the patient's needs, according to EDCMT's website.

"Our vision is really to create a future where patients can live out loud," White said. "They overcome their eating disorder [through] access to care — which is compassionate, expert patient care."

Additionally, she said EDCMT is dedicated to raising community awareness through preventative education.

"Eating disorders have one the highest mortality rates of any mental health disorder," she said. "95 percent of individuals with eating disorders are between the ages of 12 and 25.

"Focusing on that early prevention and early treatment can make a huge difference in the long term success of people's recovery — that early treatment really leads to a higher rate of full remission, especially with adolescents," she said.

EDCMT is also collaborating with Country Bookshelf this week. Staff at the bookstore have curated a display of books focused on body image, diet culture and relationships with food.

"We are a third space to our community," said Marion Bowler, the front-of-house manager at Country Bookshelf.

"A lot of people come in kind of looking and trying to find resources that they may not be able to find elsewhere."

Bowler said stigmas associated with eating disorders can prevent people from seeking help, but partnerships with community organizations such as EDCMT can make it easier to access resources.

"I think when people are able to come into a space that is inviting and welcoming and there is no strain or pressure to have a certain idea about anything. People are more at ease [and] able to say, 'This is what I'm looking for,'" she said.

Saturday's event is free and open to the public. White said EDCMT aims to increase community access to education and support.

"[We help] people feel like they can live out loud, that they can be themselves, that they can feel comfortable in their skin and not have to miss out on opportunities that are really important for their life, their joy, their happiness," she said.

"[Eating disorders] thrive in isolation and usually are quite hidden."

– Elysa White

For more information about Saturday's panel, visit *https://tinyurl.com/53kwpb8d.*



Getting a Science Degree is Harder Than an Arts Degree

BY SARAH SCHARFF

Undergraduate students can find university life challenging for a number of reasons. Many experience homesickness, have trouble making friends and struggle with the pressure of adult life. They balance all this while pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree — or the more demanding Bachelor of Science (BS) degree.

Science degrees are among the most difficult to obtain because exams, homework and heavy course loads can take up all a student's time. In many science courses, exams determine most of your grade and typically require precise, technical knowledge.

This isn't to say that BA programs are not difficult, as many require their own applied knowledge, but the structure of BS coursework — exam-heavy and technical — often makes the path more demanding.

Personally, my decision to double-major in writing and paleontology was easy. Writing comes naturally to me and it's one of my many hobbies. However, my BS track requires summer courses and heavily weighted exams, as well as classes that require significant amounts of coursework. This is most evident in my math and chemistry courses, where exams make up the majority of my grade.

"BSs crush your soul, and BAs crush your dreams."

– Castillo Rodrigo

Castillo Rodrigo, a junior BS psychology student, said tests are significant portions of his grade and require him to apply concepts from research papers.

"That's pretty difficult, because some [researchers] don't know how to write papers, but I have to remember they're published," he said.

Colin Pipinich, a junior mechanical engineering student, said that the tests from these classes can be troublesome. According to him, mechanical engineering exams could be 90 percent high-level math and only 10 percent other concepts covered in class.

Pipinich said he remembers an exam where one wrong answer could take your grade from a C to a D.

"We have a lot more of these fundamental things that if we don't have a 100 percent grasp on, then [grades] fall apart," he said.

Pipinich noted that it's also possible for science course content to be backpedaled, meaning that something taught last semester gets corrected by new research. That constant evolution can make students feel like they studied certain principles or concepts for nothing.

Despite the rigor required for BS degrees, earning a BA can pose its own unique challenges. Whereas a BA in film, photography, art or writing might appear on the surface easier than a science degree, this might not be the case for every student.

Simon Gatte, a senior film and photography student, said that most of his coursework consists of writing essays on film theory and other concepts.

According to him, many film and photography students enter the program knowing how to use a camera or edit, but lack interest in higher level concepts or theory. As a result, they tend to find those courses more challenging.

"So when they get faced with this kind of stuff, it's a little bit more difficult because they don't get interested in that side more going into it. They get interested more after," Gatte said.

Rodrigo acknowledged that those pursuing a BA might encounter challenges that BS students don't have to face, such as presenting their homemade work to a class or professor. "They're getting criticized for something they love," he said. "BSs crush your soul and BAs crush your dreams."

Nico Newman, an architecture professor who studied environmental design, said that the most difficult part of earning his undergraduate degree was developing good time management skills. "Nobody showed me how to do that," he said. "I didn't really seek help to figure that out."

According to Newman, his students struggle with this same issue, and also tend to overestimate their understanding of architecture before they've taken courses.

"There's a lot of preconceived notions of what an architectural program is," Newman said. "They have an idea of what something should be before they know what it is."

Despite the challenges some BA students may face, such as time management and mastering abstract concepts, students studying science face more pressures from their degree track — difficult exams, a lack of choice in schedules and an inability to partake in hobbies.

All degrees have their pros and cons — whether we choose to pursue a career in the sciences or in the arts, there may be bumps in the road shaped like exams and midterm essays. In the end, we hope to leave here doing what we love and having our diplomas to prove it.

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.

Skipping School to Ski Is Not Hot

BY VERA GRABOW

On any given Tuesday, the upper parking lots at Bridger Bowl are filling up by 9 a.m. While the mountain hums with activity, students' seats remain conspicuously empty back on campus.

Southwest Montana offers endless skiable terrain — some of the best in the country. It's no secret that many students come to MSU as much for the mountains as for the classroom. Outdoor culture is central to life in Bozeman, but when skipping class becomes a routine rather than an exception, students' accountability begins to erode.

It is easy to understand the appeal. Skiing is a way for us to spend time outdoors and cultivate relationships with like-minded hobbyists. "[It] is a really good way to get some exercise, fresh air. It's good for mental health," said Grace Turk, a freshman studying psychology.

Turk said she's willing to skip class for a powder day if the conditions are good and her grades allow for it. "If the snow looks really good, and I haven't gone skiing for a few days and my grades are fine, I'm just like, 'Alright, screw it, I'm going to go,'" she said.

"You're paying a tuition to take these classes. You're not paying a tuition to go skiing."

– Rob Brown

For some students, if it seems like missing class will have no ramifications, there is little reason not to — especially in the age of online notes and posted lectures.

"I can get all the information online," Turk said. "As long as I don't have a test, I'm gonna go ski."

I agree, it's hard to pass up a day with friends and not give in to the enticing fresh tracks — but if we're willing to skip any day of class just because of a snowstorm, where do we draw the line? It's hard to stop the habit once it's reinforced, and it can be detrimental to our education.

Rob Brown, a junior studying political science, said that he values consistent attendance. "Your main job is school; you're here to get an education," he said.

Not only is missing class problematic for students' success, it's also disrespectful to faculty who rely heavily on participation. Professors spend hours creating curricula and syllabi to ensure students get the most out of their time in school.

Other students also suffer because of their peers' poor attendance, as it disrupts the class's rhythm. "If you're teaching important stuff to 30 kids, and only 10 kids show up, it's not really worth teaching that curriculum," Brown said.

All courses have different attendance policies. For example, in smaller classes where students' grades are penalized if they miss, people are less likely to skip on a powder day.

"In my upper division classes, which tend to be smaller, I think students miss a lot less often because I can tell when they're gone," said history professor Amanda Hendrix-Komoto. "But I have noticed in lower division classes that attendance declines over time."

Hendrix-Komoto stated that attendance and participation are key to successful learning. Without student engagement, even a well-designed curriculum can feel disconnected from students' lives.

"Even if you already know the material, or think you do, part of the idea is that you learn from each other, and that's difficult to replicate if you've missed that particular class," she said.

Skiing might seem appealing to students whenever the snow tracker climbs, but it shouldn't compromise the academic commitment that brought them here in the first place. "It's my hope that students are not here to ski; they're here to engage in the academic work we're doing," Hendrix-Komoto said.

When the snow falls, it's easy to rationalize missing class. "Sometimes you get lucky, sometimes it'll be like, class is canceled," Brown said. "[But] all the days I really want to go, there is a justification somewhere."

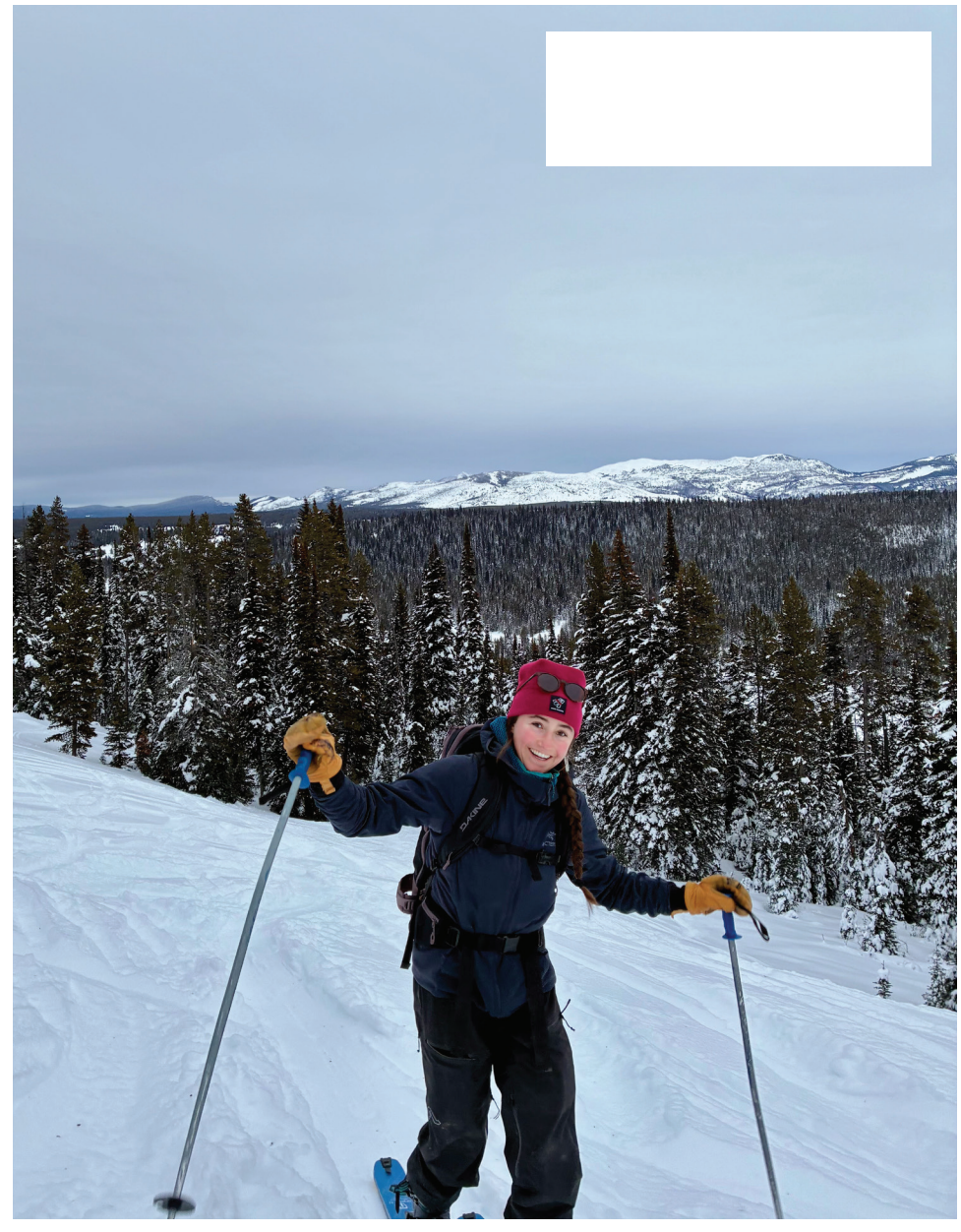
The solution is not necessarily to reprimand students for skipping class to enjoy the beautiful outdoors; it's to help them balance their priorities.

"I think weeks are meant for work in school. Weekends are meant for all the fun activities you want to do," Brown said.

While skipping class once or twice for skiing can offer a mental reset, the experience becomes less meaningful and your academic success suffers as the frequency increases.

So, stay in school, because the lifts will keep spinning, snow will fall again and the mountains are not going anywhere.

"You're paying tuition to take these classes," Brown said. "You're not paying tuition to go skiing."



CALENDAR

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

FEB. 26 - MARCH 04

THU 26

BEAVERS: BEACONS OF HOPE
MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES
@ 5:30 P.M.
Join the Museum of the Rockies in welcoming New York Times bestselling author Leila Philip to Montana for an author talk on how we can learn from beavers to restore the lands we love.

FRI 27

THYME BISTRO: GALLATIN COLLEGE'S STUDENT BISTRO
HANNON HALL DINING ROOM
@ 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Thyme Bistro is a student-run restaurant where Gallatin College culinary students bring their skills to life, one plate at a time. Stop in and see what they are cooking this week!

SAT 28

WAY TO GROW! HOUSEPLANTS 101
PHOENIX GARDEN CENTER
@ 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.
This information session is for beginning and intermediate plant parents.

SUN 01

AFRICAN CULTURAL NIGHT
SUB BALLROOMS
@ 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Come join the African Student Association as they showcase African culture through music, drama and a fashion parade.

MON 02

ANNE FRANK: A HISTORY FOR TODAY
BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
@ ALL DAY
Explore the life of Anne Frank in this exhibit from the University of South Carolina's Anne Frank Center.

TUE 03

EAT TO THRIVE
BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
@ 11 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Karen Mitchell will lead a live cooking demo where food meets function. Learn anti-inflammatory recipes and practical nutrition tips you can use every day.

WED 04

MORE PERFECT: SEX APPEAL — A MODERATED DISCUSSION
SUB, ALUMNI LEGACY LOUNGE
@ 12 P.M. - 1 P.M.
Pre-Law advisor in the College of Letters and Science Sara Callow will be joined by her students to moderate a discussion on sex-based discrimination and the legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg as an advocate before and during her tenure on the Supreme Court.

PUZZLES

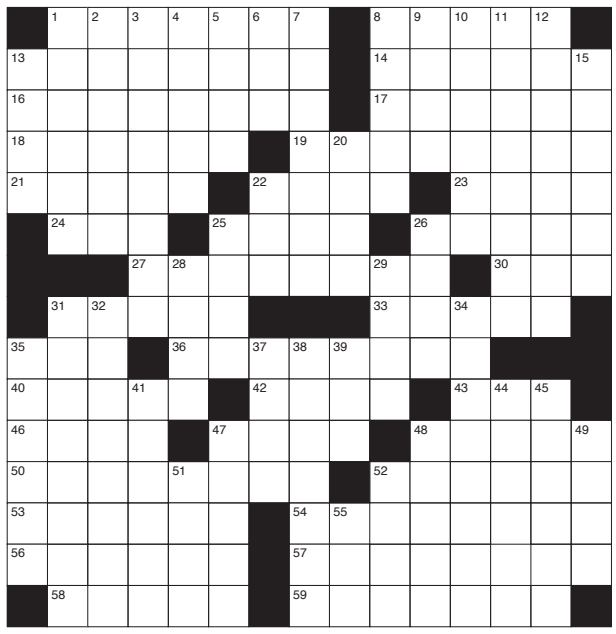
Brought to you by the MSU

exponent

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

CODE: #7253HEWU

Crossword #7253HEWU



Across

1. Cause of yawning
8. Chased up a trunk
13. Oenophile's love
14. Some Texas tycoons
16. Newspaper deliverer, say
17. Triangular chip
18. Make safe
19. Big name in gloves
21. Cake sections
22. Sheepish sounds
23. Cowboy's polite assent
24. "Marrakesh Express" band, for short
25. Former Georgia senator Miller
26. "This ___ joke!"
27. City in NE Illinois
30. Cartoon frame
31. City on Spain's southwestern coast
33. Nosed (out)
35. Pet name
36. Group of spectators
40. "... ___ death do us part"
42. Nullify
43. Rush song "By-____ & the Snow Dog"
46. Explorer Hedin
47. "____, Joy of Man's Desiring" (Bach movement)
48. Panama divider
50. Upper part of a car seat
52. El Greco subject
53. Removes, as a knot
54. Absinthe or ouzo
56. Watch closely
57. Speed demon
58. Pharmacy weights
59. Diminishes

Down

1. Like the Six Million Dollar Man
2. Burdens
3. Took back
4. Pretty pitchers
5. One thin coin
6. ___ roll (hot)
7. Servants
8. Botherations
9. Kind of squad
10. Jetson of cartoons and namesakes
11. High standing
12. Loathed
13. Agonize (over)
15. Everyday
20. Pretzel topper
22. Golfer Hogan
25. "The Lion King" majordomo bird
26. Visiting the U.S. capital
28. Container for some drugs
29. Wine prefix
31. Met
32. Aardvark, for example
34. "Oh, be serious!"
35. "Quiet!"
37. Membership fees
38. Set up for use
39. End of some e-mail addresses
41. Former Indian prime minister, Gandhi
44. 2,000 pounds
45. Music comes from them
47. Witty remarks
48. Wood measures
49. Work-living space
51. Paper measure
52. Lipton products
55. Use the loo

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CODE: #J990WK

medium sudoku

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	9	6	8					1
5			1			6		
		7	6	3		8	2	

CODE: #M341XP

word search

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

CODE: #F585ZT

Ached	Gravy	Psalm	Surge
Altos	Heresy	Queued	Thanked
Calve	Hewed	Recalled	Toted
Cataract	Idiosyncrasies	Refuse	Unload
Crude	Improvisations	Regards	Waged
Disenchantment	Later	Reined	Weeded
Dusty	Maced	Slits	Windiest
Effigies	Moistens	Smoke	Woven
Eldest	Notch	Sober	
Emits	Plagues	Souvenirs	
Finest	Posing	Steaming	
Gooey	Preach	Struck	

the BOX

What is your dream job after you graduate?

Court jester

Infomercial actor

The vice president of the U.S.

God

A ***dubious*** gnome in trouble

The person who gets to hit Connor

Paint flavor tester

Corrupt New York financier

Brock Tessman

TV game show host

Whatever it is Mitch McConnell does

Big fat magpie who eats trash

Facebook lowballer

Lord Byron

A priest

Flower bed designer

Eunuch

Screw eater

Big cat named Bert

Depop reseller

Tall Tales & TIDBITS

BREAKING NEWS

I've been limited to only one shrimp addition to the paper per week.