

The Retort



THE VOICE OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

November 20th, 2013

msubretort.org

Vol.90, Issue 6

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SERVICE STING!
GET INVOLVED!

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SOUP AND SUCH
DELICIOUS LUNCH

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LIKE A HIKE
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PINTEREST
THE NEW CRAZE

STUDENT POLL

Should The Retort become a weekly paper in 2014-15?

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VETERAN'S LOUNGE OPEN INTERVIEW: KAITLIN NICHOLS

By STACEY FALDETTA
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Veteran's Day is a very important day in which every one of us needs to honor and remember the men and women in service for our country that work tirelessly each day so we can maintain our freedom. All give some, some give all.

On Tuesday, November 12, 2013, a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of a new veteran's lounge for all students, staff, family, and veterans



Flag Folding Ceremony at Dedication

to use. It is located in the SUB, and has an area for vets to congregate and talk, or relax and watch TV, or

even play video games on the brand new Xbox.

See LOUNGE p.4

By CORY LOVEC
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Kaitlin Nichols can overcome. Along the lines of an Earl Boykins or Darren Sproles, Kaitlin Nichols has shown that size doesn't matter. She throws out the stereotype that short people can't play. She also keeps herself busy with school, and although she is just 19, academically she is essentially a junior. Persistence seems to be a common theme with her. I had a chance to catch up with Kaitlin Nichols last week:

Lovec: What got you started in athletics?

Nichols: I think I was



Kaitlin Nichols - Tennis

just bored as a kid and mom just wanted something for me to do. I can't really remember; I started when I was like four, so I have no idea for sure. [laughs]

See INTERVIEW p.12

VETERAN'S MEDICINE WHEEL

By TABBY MAUST
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At first glance, it may seem odd to see a group of people removing all the river rock from the landscaping in front of the Liberal Arts building but in all reality, these honorable people are in the act of creating something sacred.

On November 12th, students, faculty, and community members gathered on the lawn before the LA building in order to create the annual Veteran's Medicine Wheel that honors both the men and women who fight to protect our nation and our Native American students that attend MSU Billings.

The morning arrived frigid and covered in snow, but by the time the Medicine Wheel was to be created, the sun had made the earth green again. The ceremony started out with four distinguished Marines — Alex Ward, Joe Aguillar, the Bender and Jim Borner — presenting the colors.

The crowd was also very fortunate to hear the national anthem in Crow from the talented Desja Eagletail, who also

provided the closing song of "Amazing Grace".

After prayers were said and TAPS were presented, Julia Kelly took the stage. As a retired Command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army, Kelly spoke to the crowd about courage, bravery, and honor. "I could fill a book up about these topics!" said Kelly humorously.

Yet she launched into a shortened, though just as powerful version, of these ideas. She saw courage as the emotion that gives you the strength to do scary things. "I had the courage to enlist in the army, the courage to leave home and my culture," she told us. Yet she saw bravery as the actual act in the face of danger — no matter if you are stopping a bully from hurting another child or running into a fire to extinguish it.

See Medicine P.14



SIGMA TAU DELTA SPONSORS THE 2013 WRITERS ROUNDUP

The 2013 Montana Writers Roundup will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 12:00-5:00 p.m., at the Shrine Auditorium in Billings, 1125 Broadwater Ave., in conjunction with the Family Tree Center's Festival of Trees (which has a nominal \$3 entry fee). Included in the event are a book sale/book signing by local and regional writers and a basket of books raffle.

Authors who will be available for friendly discussions and book signing during part or all of the afternoon include Jimmie Ashcraft, MD; Cynthia Berst; Marion Driscoll Cadwell; Meredith B. Cox; Montana's Poet Laureate Tami Haaland; Brooke Jennings; Curt Layman; Wally Mading; Bernie Quetchenbach; Andrew

Seddon; Souther and Linda Griffith; Karen Stevens; Tom Thayer of Northwest Speaks; Alan Tucker; Richard Waltner; Sherry Winn; and more.

The Montana Writers Roundup is organized annually by Sigma Tau Delta, the MSU Billings branch of the international English honor society, a nonprofit academic organization. Sigma Tau Delta uses its share of the proceeds to support a variety of English scholarships, awards, and activities.

Autographed books make wonderful holiday presents, and the gift-wrapping is free, so come and see what our local and regional

authors have to offer! For more information, please contact Rachel Schaffer, faculty advisor, MSU Billings Department of English, Philosophy, & Modern Languages, at 657-2954 or rschaffer@msubillings.edu.



As part of the Roundup, a deluxe basket of signed books and gifts will also be raffled off. Tickets, available at the event, cost only \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00; the drawing will be held around 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and you need not be present to win.

SEE YOU NEXT SEMESTER!

This is the last issue of The Retort for the Fall 2013 semester. Issue 1 of the Spring 2014 semester comes out January 22nd!

GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS!