

The Retort



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CANVAS SUPPORTS LOCAL ARTISTS

STUDENT POLL

If MSUB offered Honors Programs for specific majors, would you participate?

VOTE @ poll.msubretort.org

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SIGMA TAU DELTA PROMOTES LOVE OF LITERATURE

By **ASHLEY TWIFORD**
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Sigma Tau Delta can be described in multiple ways. They are not a sorority, but rather an English honors society and they are a society of involved and caring community members. President of the society, Korilynn Kessler, and member Charity Dewing, are working, often through the nights, to make sure that they are helping those in need. Their new project is to raise and donate \$600 for both Washington Elementary School and Broadwater Elementary School to create better libraries for the kids.

Kessler and Dewing have been planning and working with other members of Sigma Tau

Delta to raise money through various themed bake sales and cotton candy sales on Tuesdays. They gave money raised from the previous Harry Potter and cupcake bake sales to the Billings Animal Rescue Kare (BARK) to aid the shelter in providing for lost and adoptable pets. Now they are moving toward a different passion of encouraging literacy in young children.

Dewing felt the sense of duty when she was working with Arts Without Boundaries and teaching poetry workshops after school at Washington and Broadwater. "Their library was just really lacking," she said. They only had a small room full of books for children to pick from.

These schools are also very socioeconomically diverse schools. Dewing said that one student might be thinking of a vacation in Hawaii and another might come to school in January wearing flip-flops because the family can't afford winter gear. Dewing and Kessler's ultimate mission and passion, helping those in need, can sometimes be derailed by their ambition, though. Their initial intention was to work with Scholastic and purchase books for the libraries. However, that route, with the money they raised, would only allow them to provide for a single classroom.

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ADVENTURE STARTS WITH THE RIGHT PACK

By **TABBY MAUST**
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I, like many of us, am ready for the warm weather and all the fun that comes along with it! But since our Montana spring is on hold, we can all certainly gear up for the adventures that are ahead, and I started with my first true backpacking pack.

No matter if there are plans in place for day hikes or a rugged week-long trek through the backcountry,

a good pack is the first place to start. But how do you know which pack is right for you? After doing my research and talking to every expert around town, I've come up with a perfect guide to get you on track.

How long is your trip?

How long you plan to spend in the great outdoors will determine how big a pack you will need. Packs are measured in liters

or cubic inches. For an overnighter or a day hike, you won't need much more than 20-50 liters. For a weekend trip 50-60 liters is more your fit. If you're planning a multi-day hike the minimum size starts at 60 liters, but depending on the sort of gear you carry, you may want an 80 liter pack. For anything past five days, make sure you get a pack with 80+ liters.

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MSUB FACULTY AND STUDENTS BRING SALSA TO YVBC

By **NICOLE MOSURE**
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Music department faculty member John Roberts is an alumni of Montana State University Billings. After moving to California to pursue his education, he returned to the Magic City to fill the position of former professor Jim Robertson was no longer able to teach due to illness.

Since his return he has attempted to bring some flavor to the music scene in Billings. Roberts plays the trombone and during his time in California he developed a taste for Latin music.

On Saturday, March 15, over 250 people packed the Yellowstone Valley Brewing Company Garage. There was barely any walking room. You may ask, why were all these people gathered here? John Roberts and his band "Pan Blanco," affectionately named after his Los Angeles nickname, meaning "white bread,"

were bringing some Latin flavor to Billings.

While the band was playing, senior student Patricia Hampton and her dance partner Jarrett Lambert were dancing.

The pair currently is involved with the MSUB Dance Club that meets every Tuesday in the atrium.

"I am passionate about dance; it is a part of my everyday life, and I do mean every day! It was extremely exciting and encouraging to be able to teach and perform with Jarrett and share such an important part of who I am with others," Hampton said about the opportunity to teach and perform.

The pair taught salsa lessons for an hour before the show, and then the dancing really began. The band was scheduled to play from 6-8 that night and actually ended up playing longer due to the crowd's excitement.

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