



The Hellgate Lance

The Future of Dances at Hellgate Re-evaluated After Homecoming Dance Cancellation

Ila Bell
Editor-in-Chief

After a short notice cancellation for the homecoming dance, Principal Judson Miller spoke with the National Honors Society and the Parent-Teacher Association (KORT) to announce the discontinuation of dances at Hellgate in the future. The cancellation came five days before the dance was supposed to take place and upset many. Miller discussed concerns with school etiquette in dances, as well as issues with the amount of effort required to put on the dances. He emphasized the lack of energy and support for smaller school dances within the student body. Ending the meetings, he stated that as of now dances other than prom will not be in the future.

Prior to the meeting with NHS, Miller sent out an email to parents outlining the reasoning for his decision to discontinue homecoming. The outlined reasons included adverse behaviors seen at dances from students and parents, amount of resources required to put on a dance and disagreements within the student body on how to put on a "fun" dance and what is considered appropriate.

"HHS can no longer be in the entertainment business," said Miller in the email. Miller elaborated saying that "the expectation is that school sponsored dances function like a safe nightclub," expanding on the unrealistic expectations he finds are present within such events.

"You guys are always gonna think that whatever product I put forward isn't very good," Miller later said in an interview. Miller went on to say that schools are responsible for putting on many more social events than 10 to 15 years ago. "I would much rather have those resources going into educational purposes," said Miller.

Senior Ally Parsons said that the timing of the situation was the most frustrating. "I know people that had already bought dresses," said Parsons, noting that some of her friends had spent upwards of

\$80. Parsons said that this announcement, although disappointing, wasn't surprising given Hellgate's past attempts at dances. "I was just expecting it to be canceled anyway," she said.

Similarly, senior Sawyer Reed sees the disappointment within some of the student body and especially underclassmen. "It is kind of sad we haven't had one in five years," said Reed.

Miller later went on to say, "Prom is going to stay. It's a really important high school experience, it caters to an older group of students and it's off campus."

"The problem is that for the past 10 years, every dance that I have done I have gotten emails the next day," said Miller. Going on to say that the general opinion is people either thinking that the dance was not fun, too sexualized, or it was fine. "I'm just not able to provide a consistent experience," said Miller.

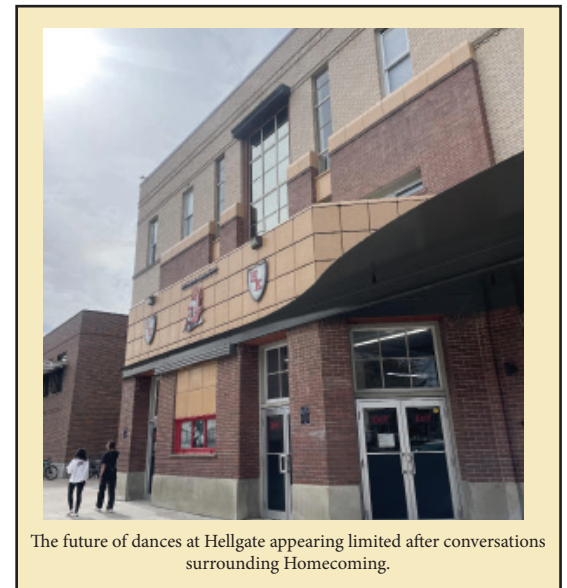
"I think that everyone expected it," said junior Story Caldwell. Caldwell said that she was not planning to go, and the cancellation didn't upset her too much.

Senior Anika Stimec said that the blanket statement of no future dances besides prom was "a little harsh."

The behaviors which Miller partially credits for this decision consist of students arriving under the influence, parents attempting to pick up kids under the influence and arriving late, and students sneaking out of the dance location into the school. "All of those things combined make a pretty miserable experience," said Miller.

Students within the NHS meeting met this announcement with extensive questions regarding how other schools are able to put on dances. Miller overall answered these by saying it is not the lack of ability, it is the lack of attendance and the behavior that has been the root of the issue. The conversation was then furthered to the KORT meeting on Oct. 10. Miller said that resources would be better reallocated to other parts of the school. NHS students overall seemed disappointed by the announcement.

Parsons, like many other students, finds dances to be one of the ways for the Hellgate community to connect outside of school hours. "That's where you socialize and where you meet new friends, you

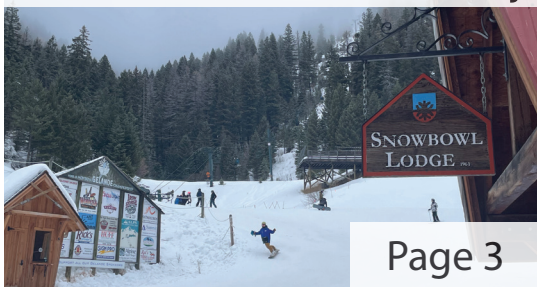


The future of dances at Hellgate appearing limited after conversations surrounding Homecoming.

hang out with friends who go to your school," said Parsons. However, a lot of students like Caldwell don't feel extremely saddened by this announcement.

Miller emphasized other areas to find common ground between school functions and events everyone finds enjoyable, such as the GOAT game. "This isn't me intentionally trying to be adversarial," said Miller. "I have to attend to the brand of Hellgate High School and the liabilities of Hellgate."

Snowbowl Controversy



Page 3

Meet the Baristas



Page 10-11

Stensrud's All-State Finish



Page 17

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Covid Cases Increase Around the Country

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In the last month, the United States have seen a notable increase in cases of Covid 19. Though the initial pandemic has been declared over, hospitals are seeing a recent increase in patients with the virus.

Mandy Slaughter, a local surgical technician, has confirmed that hospitals have seen a recent increase in Covid cases in Missoula. "I think people's sense of security has gone up. They feel safe so they are interacting more freely, which has been happening more freely and also cold and flu season has been kicking up, so that may have something to do with it as well," she said.

As far as differences in the strain go, Slaughter said, "I don't know this for sure but I think there is less death associated with the current Covid cases. It seems more run-of-the mill like the flu, ore cold-like symptoms." She said that this was likely associated with better care of Covid, "The fact that people have been vaccinated and also herd immunity, so it's more contained because of that."

For further containment going forward, healthcare workers are starting to take extra precautions. "At St. Pat's specifically, workers are starting to mask up. Everyone is wearing a mask at all times, which we weren't previously having to do," said Slaughter. "As healthcare professionals, it's our job to do the best we can to keep the community safe."

Emergency Doctor Michael Masiowski has noticed a big increase of Covid hospitalizations in the past few months. He believes that it is due

to the new variant. However, Masiowski said, "We definitely understand more about how to manage people." Masiowski said hospitals have changed the way they control oxygen levels, and it has shown success in treating people with Covid, resulting in a much lower mortality rate.

Masiowski believes that Covid is never going to go away but he hopes for the future that there will be a better understanding on potential negative side effects from the vaccine. "That's one of the things that hasn't been well studied because it was kind of a touchy political subject," Masiowski said. He hopes that it can be studied without political intervention.

Masiowski believes that humans' natural immunity, as well as vaccinations for Covid will become very valuable and important. Masiowski is concerned about the possible future Covid variants. "Once we reach a level of immunity hopefully things will get better. The only thing I worry about is what's going to happen with the different variants that we get, are we going to get ones that are more transmissible, more dangerous, or more lethal?"

Masiowski expressed that wearing masks might not be as beneficial as we once thought, with the exception of N95 masks, and that it is much more important to not touch your face, especially around your mouth and nose. "It's most important to have very good donning and doffing protocols (not touching your face without a glove on, washing your hands, etc.) to prevent the new spread of Covid," Masiowski said. One thing is clear, Covid is on the rise again, in our schools, in Missoula, and in the country. It's important to take reasonable steps to reduce the spread, and protect yourself and others in the community.

Snowbowl Remains on Track to Open Despite Allegations

Will Hansen
Reporter

Per usual, rumors about Missoula's beloved ski hill have been circulating. Following a number of unfortunate events regarding Snowbowl and their chairlifts, the idea that the hill might not be able to open for the 2023-2024 season has been spreading via word of mouth and a number of articles. But are these rumors real, or just the usual talk about Snowbowl?

In the late 2022-23 season, a problem with the Snow

Park chair occurred, causing a four-year-old to fall from the lift. Because of this, the Forest Service shut down the lift "until an in-depth inspection could occur by a third party engineer," according to a press release from the Forest Service. This prompted an uproar in Missoula, fueled partially by an article from the Missoulian. The possibility that Snowbowl might not be able to open began circulating.

Snowbowl operates in the Lolo National Forest under a type of Special Use Permit that requires yearly inspection

of lifts and other amenities. These inspections happen every year, and if the safety requirements aren't met, Snowbowl needs to remedy them in order to open.

"We are following our normal process for this time of year in authorizing the ski

he recommended have been completed," said Snowbowl's management.

Snowbowl also said that they are making a number of changes to improve overall safety, including extra staff training, changes to loading procedures, new tools and

**"We are confident... that Snowbowl will open as anticipated."
- Snowbowl, via a Press Release**

lifts to operate," said Carolyn Upton, Forest Supervisor for the Lolo National Forest, in a press release.

"This year, as part of the process, we did request that Snowbowl hire a third-party engineer to review all the lifts to make sure they were in compliance with the new industry standards released in 2022, and to look at the lift involved in the unfortunate accident that happened in March," said Upton.

In a press release put out on Oct. 6, Snowbowl said that an "experienced" aerial tramway engineer was hired and completed inspection and evaluation on all of the lifts, especially Snow Park.

"All the corrections that

technology, and better communication.

The work and improvements that Snowbowl has made are being evaluated for Forest Service approval.

"We are confident... that Snowbowl will open as anticipated, weather dependent, on Dec. 8. We will update the public as soon as the Forest Service has given us final approval," said Snowbowl. They also made it very clear that if they weren't allowed to open, all passes and coupons would be refunded in full.

Snowbowl's response to these rumors about not opening, which may be surprising to some, was very mature, and they're proactively working towards an as-expected opening.



A snowy day at the base area of Snowbowl; days like this should be coming soon. Photo by Will Hansen.

Gender & Sexuality Alliance Returns to Hellgate

Julia Key
Reporter
Devyn Deschamps
Managing Editor

This school year Hellgate is welcoming back the Gender & Sexuality Alliance Club, ending a hiatus from a year prior. The Gender & Sexuality Alliance, or, more commonly, GSA is a student-run, constitutionally-protected, national club that

works to unite students of all gender identities to collectively assist their community.

Sometime within the last year or so Hellgate's GSA mysteriously disappeared. Hellgate student Kobe Espinoza decided to take action and start Hellgate's GSA back-up.

"I want Hellgate to be more known as welcoming and outgoing," said Espinoza. Espinoza's goal for the club is to give support to members of the LGBTQ+ community - whether that be discussion about life experiences or moral support for those considering coming out.

Having space to talk openly about gender and sexuality can be massively helpful for teens who are discovering their identities. "I think GSA is important for our community because there's a lot of bullying happening for being a part of the LGBTQ, and I think we need a space," said Espinoza.

A common misconception that prevents recruiting new members, Espinoza mentioned, is that students believe they can't be a part of the club if they aren't LGBTQ+. "Hellgate should know that the new and improved GSA club will be welcoming anyone, no matter if you're straight or you're a part of the LGBTQ+," said Espinoza.

Espinoza aims to create a safe space for LGBTQ students, after he faced ridicule for his identity. "I wanted to restart the GSA because I used to live in Arlee and it was a real homophobic place, I wanted to create a space where people could feel comfortable in their skin and in how they identify themselves," said Espinoza.

The advisors this year are Assistant Principal Britt Hanford and English teacher Darci Coffman. The advisors' role is to simply supervise the activities and discussion of the club. Additionally, Hanford said they are able to "bring access to resources, organizational assistance, and lots of enthusiasm."

This is Hanford and Coffman's first year advising for GSA, after being approached by Espinoza for the position. "Now that I am an administrator, I am going to have to get creative and deliberate about making connections with students," said Hanford. Admittedly, the administration and student body have been disconnected in some ways, with the Student Government being the only club that is in constant contact with them.



Signs like this one around Hellgate welcome LGBTQ+ students into safe spaces and classrooms.

Despite this, GSA has the opportunity to change the relationship between students and administrators in a more progressive and supportive manner, especially as Hanford pledges to have the club sustain its student leadership. "My initial goal is to foster discussions about the focus of the club and where students want to take it," said Hanford, "I'm most excited to see who shows up and hear what they want to accomplish!"

The club will meet monthly in Ms. Coffman's room, room 357, with no sign-up required. "Students can look forward to having fun and making new friends," said Espinoza. So be on the lookout for new announcements if you're interested in GSA!

Missoula's Local Restaurants Closing

Kahlia Loewen
Reporter

Several classic Missoula restaurants are closing this fall season, breaking countless locals' hearts. Many of these restaurants have been here since the 90's and were an integral part of creating the downtown Missoula that locals love and tourists come to experience.

Missoula culture is certainly feeling the loss, though new restaurants are already coming in to take up a hopefully permanent spot in the developing world of downtown.

The first to fall was Bagels on Broadway which closed its doors in early 2023. The beloved breakfast place has been open since 1993 and was a local favorite for grabbing a good cup of coffee and a quick bagel sandwich. Their closing was originally supposed to be a temporary one, meant for renovations, though for unstated reasons the closure became permanent.

The comfy little restaurant stood onlooking the beautiful Missoula Courthouse and was an incredibly popular place for locals and judges alike to grab their morning coffee before a long day of work.

Thankfully there was only about a month-long lag where we had no access to bagels and baked goods as the newer Morning Birds Bakery has taken over the space and is giving downtown the same

warmth and sweetness as bagels did. Though Bagels on Broadway will be missed, its location will still get the love it deserves from locals.

Lydia Milbrat, a downtown restaurant frequenter said that she will miss the various bagels and delicious soups Bagels was known for. She also said that "Downtown doesn't quite feel the same when you drive through it because of all the changes made to the infrastructure," expressing her remorse for the lost atmosphere Downtown once held for her.

The next to fall was Sa Wad Dee which closed Sept. 1. This Missoulian classic was first opened in 1997 by owner Sumalee Tdim Foy. Foy is retiring after 26 long years as owner of Sa Wad Dee and handing ownership over to her daughter. The two decided to transition to a food truck, so though it may be gone from downtown, some of the menu items will not be gone forever.

The restaurant also stood prominently across from the Missoula Court House and served an incredible array of layers and judges and served to add an interesting addition to Missoula's food culture

The most recent closure was that of Burns St. Bistro on Oct. 1. The cafe and restaurant opened in 2012, and though it is a more recent addition it claimed its way into the hearts of many foodies throughout Missoula. Known for their candied bacon and late weekend brunches, after nearly 12 years of service, they're closing.

The bistro was a popular hub for college and high-school student to come and have fun little study sessions with delicious coffee and interesting food as brain power. Though they have not stated the entire reason, they are still offering catering and priority committed events to end their legacy. Milbrat also stated that she would miss the yummy huevos rancheros and the warm atmosphere she had enjoyed when going to brunch with friends at the Bistro.

The last set to close is The Catalyst, due to close its doors on Nov. 22. The Catalyst is closing its doors more as a practicality versus some of the more personal reasons of the other restaurants. The building is approaching the end of its lease, and as the owners are approaching their older age they are experiencing difficulties in the operation and continuation of their restaurant.

Sadly, though the Catalyst was put up for sale several times already, nobody had an interest in buying it. The legacy and popularity may be too in-



Sa-Wad-Dee stood prominently across from the court house for 26 years. Photo by Kahlia Loewen.



The Catalyst cafe and restaurant has lived on Higgins Ave. in Missoula, Montana for over 30 years. Photo by Kahlia Loewen.

timidating for any new aspiring owners. Many will miss their hash browns, but many more will miss the sweet welcoming atmosphere of the restaurant with a clear view of developing Missoula.

Though it is common for restaurants to grow and change, the sudden spike of closure of many Missoulian classics is heartbreaking and leaves a growing hole in the culture of downtown Missoula. A likely cause for the mass closures is the ever-changing infrastructure of downtown Missoula. Buildings that had stood for decades have been torn down and already rebuilt in the span of five years.

The new downtown Missoula is not only hard on the palces that thrive in it but it has also been a bit of a challenge for locals to adapt to. Lots of downtown frequenters have been offput by the near constant construction and modernized buildings.

Another possible cause is that with the new buildings comes lots of new competition. Several new restaurants have opened only blocks away from the classics, taking away valuable customers.

Many of these small restaurants are faced with the fact that they will have to either change and grow into the new Missoula or be left behind in the past.

Local Drag Show Shines Amongst Drag Ban

Viv Steinberg
Reporter

In May 2023, anti drag bill, HB 359, was passed in Montana. Charlotte “Charley” Macorn, a local artist and creator, was in the courtroom testifying when Montana governor Greg Gianforte signed the bill banning drag performances from being hosted in government-funded locations, as well as banning minors from attending such shows.

Macorn highlighted the fact that, “...these shortsighted anti-constitutional bills [are] not a local grassroots movement in Montana. These are people from out of state who are spreading this moral panic across the country.” Macorn mentioned a Montana representative speaking during the trial, “...

and he was reading from it, and he didn’t know the words in it. He did not write it. Someone else wrote that. That was not a Montanan doing what’s right for Montana.”

The representatives who signed the bill did not respond to requests for comment.

Months later, despite the prohibition on drag, Macorn’s drag troupe House of Mysteries put on a drag variety show called Let’s Duet Sept. 29 and 30 at Westside Theater.

Macorn’s troupe came to fruition after she and her friend Heidi J met while collaborating on a mural project for Missoula Base. Each of them had a background in creative cross-dressing, and they “both kind of felt that (they) wanted to...do more of it, but not just...to lip sync or to dance. We wanted to

try to...blend other art forms into drag to see what happens. And so the experimental drag troupe House of Mysteries was born.” said Macorn.

To give a taste of the show, Macorn said her favorite element has been the ongoing building of a storyline in between various shows. “We’ve been building a feud between Iris Von Moxley and The Millennial of Mayhem: Margaret Murder, where they’ve been kind of in each other’s faces...appearing and disrupting their performances at different shows, building up a rivalry.”, said Macorn. “And now we’re going to put them together, where Iris will be challenging Margaret for the Montana Drag Wrestling Championship.”



“Let’s Duet” was performed Sept. 29 and 30 at Westside Theater

Photograph courtesy of Emily

Abortion Rights One Year Post Roe v. Wade Reversal

Amelia Richmond
Reporter

On June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court reversed the 50-year-old Roe v. Wade decision in a 5-4 vote. This ruling has set abortion rights in the United States back by decades.

Roe v. Wade was overturned by the decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case. Dobbs v. Jackson looked to ban a Mississippi law that would prevent abortions later than 15 weeks. Many previous cases have been brought before the Supreme Court that had the potential to overturn Roe v. Wade. The only difference between those cases and this one was the makeup of the judges on the Court. Previously there was a liberal majority, but following Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death and replacement by Amy Coney-Barrett, the majority is now conservative. Of the five judges that voted in favor of reversal, all identify as conservative and four are male.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, 29% of women in the United States are living in states where access to abortion is severely restricted. As stated in an article by Planned Parenthood, up until 1860 abortion was allowed until fetal movement could be felt. This means that about 1 in 3 women in America now have less abortion rights than they would have had in 1800.

16 months post-Roe, the effects are obvious. As written in U.S News and World Report, 15 states now have a complete ban on abortion, many with very limited exceptions. Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas have complete bans on abortion with exceptions for medical necessity but not cases of rape or incest. Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, and West Vir-

ginia also have complete bans on abortion, however their exceptions to the law include medical necessity and cases of rape or incest which have been reported to law enforcement. The laws offer open-ended interpretation of what medical necessity is and may leave patients and doctors vulnerable to prosecution. These states also have complete bans on abortion medication meaning, that those seeking abortions must drive hours to get access to the care they need.

There isn't only bad news though. The same report in U.S News illustrated that seven states have no restrictions on abortion, one (Vermont) permits abortion up until the third trimester, and in an additional

the Montana Constitution which protects the right to "procreative autonomy". This means that unless the constitution is changed, Montanans will maintain the right to abortion.

Despite some wins, the devastating effects of the end of Roe v. Wade are still felt nationwide and don't stop with abortion. When Roe v. Wade was first decided in 1973 it was decided that the right to abortion was enshrined within the Due Process Clause which states that no citizen can be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process." The Due Process Clause was also used in the Supreme Court decisions that protected the right for married couples

to access to contraceptives and the right to same-sex marriage.

In his concurring opinion Clarence Thomas wrote that Due Process did not protect abortion as it did not fall under the category of a person's liberties. By this principle he also claims that other rulings decided on the basis of Due Process should be reevaluated and potentially overturned.

In 2015 the case of Obergefell v. Hodge was heard by the Supreme Court and it was decided that same-sex marriage was protected by the due process clause. In reaction to that Thomas's opinion and others calling for the reevaluation of the right



Stickers mailed out by Planned Parenthood have faded into irrelevancy following the reversal of Roe v. Wade.

Photo by: Amelia Richmond

12 states abortion is legal until the point of viability.

Surprisingly Montana falls on the list of the states in which abortion is legal up to viability despite Governor Gianforte's efforts. The Governor has shown that he is openly opposed to abortion. On May 16 of this year, Gianforte signed four laws that severely restricted access to abortion. One even made it a felony to perform the most common termination procedure. In a statement published on the Montana Government website Gianforte stated that he was proud of the bills as they would "protect the lives of unborn babies in Montana." Two days later, on May 18, the Montana Supreme Court blocked the ban stating that the bills were violations of the clause in

to same sex marriage, Joe Biden passed the Respect for Marriage Act in December of 2022. This act requires all states and territories to recognize same sex and interracial marriage. If Thomas gets his way and this precedent is overturned, states will still have to recognize all marriage licenses but they will not be required to issue them.

The destruction left in the wake of Dobbs v. Jackson is shocking. Thousand upon thousands of American women have been left without intrinsic rights and politicians have turned their attention to what they can reverse next. It is time to take a stand, it is time to force our government to wake up and protect us before they have nothing left to protect.

Recent Freshman Elections Spark Corruption Controversy

Joaquin Brodie
Reporter

After the recent freshman elections took place and Presley Clark and Jack Pew were announced at the bonfire as the next president and vice, controversy has been sparked over the fairness and equality of the officers' elections.

This year many people have been wondering about the sudden shift of the election's style. For a while, the last elections were held with separate ballots for both president and vice. This year the elections returned to double ballot votes, with both parties running together. Although this has left some confusion in the student body, Student Government insiders said that this shift was nothing but a deliberate decision in hopes of giving the freshmen more courage to run, rather than subjecting them to the humiliation and stress of running alone. This decision assured it will not be extended to future elections, since it was largely considered a failure by the greater Student Government.

But by far the biggest potential concern of corruption is that in the past, the student vote counted as only 60% of the actual presidential decision. But this year that number has been



lowered to just 50%. Meaning that the decision of the entire freshman class is equivalent to the decision of the 12 members in Student Government, causing the potential that the decision of 30 freshmen voters could be countered by just one officer.

This Student Government overview was created as a mode of preventing a popularity contest-like atmosphere, and is carried out by looking over applications, and then giving them a score of 1-10. Luckily the victors of the recent election were both the most popularly voted students among freshman, and government officers. So that at least with this singular election the results are actually true to the populous, and thus fair. Even so, this controversial mode of deciding could seem shady. In fact many students, including Rio Thelan, call it entirely corrupt.

As for the winners of last week's elections, both had held student body positions throughout middle school, and Clark related in her interview about how she raised money for all new waterfalls in her last school. When asked what sets her apart from other potential candidates, she answered, "I'm driven, especially what I do is going to benefit more than just me". Pew replied, "My principal mindset, acting with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice, and respect."

Other candidates who lost have, in some cases, been offered a ceremonial position in the government because their applications convinced officers of their fitness for office. Even those who did not win will always be able to participate through the Student Government club which takes place each Wednesday.



American Students Can Go To College in Europe for Free

Joaquin Brodie
Reporter

College prices here in the United States have been skyrocketing, and with few to no options left, many high school graduates are considering going international.

The rapid increase of tuition prices is no secret, with a survey by Higher Education stating that almost 77% of Americans claiming that college would be difficult, or impossible to afford. But the sheer amount of this increase can be staggering, with the education data initiative cataloging a tuition cost raise of almost 750% since 1963, even when factoring in inflation.

This decision ends up with only the very wealthy being able to pay in cash, and causing most others to face a choice of lifetime debt, or not attending university at all. This has prompted many companies, like Google, to offer training programs for future employees as an alternative education to the expensive traditional university. But in these hard times here at home, many students seek better luck elsewhere. In fact, in 2021 almost 15,000 U.S. college students went to a school out of the country. Many seeing Europe as a potential safe haven.

These hopes are not entirely unfounded, as several nations in and around Europe offer free college, not only for locals but for international students as well, and although the chances of getting in can differ, acceptance rates tend to be similar to many higher-end local universities. For example, the Free University of Berlin, (a very prestigious European university) has a free international acceptance rate of about 15%, and while this may appear daunting, keep in mind that many Ivy Leagues have an acceptance rate closer to 4%, and they can end up being extremely expensive. On the other hand, quite a few European schools have far higher levels of acceptance. The University of Copenhagen accepted over 17,000 international students last year alone. This has prompted many



Graphic by Joaquin Brodie

desperate American high schoolers to try to seek a better, and less elitist form of education abroad. Because while American system does at least in theory give out scholarships, it is in general far more pay-to-play than that of more progressive nations like Germany and Poland.

Hellgate High School's junior Addisyn Hendrick said that she would certainly consider an out-of-country education, although she admits that it would be hard without a friend, or someone that she knows. This is certainly a deal breaker for many students, who find it a daunting prospect to leave their friends and family and move across the pond.

"I definitely considered it," said Gabriell, who is currently going to Hellgate for his senior year after transferring from Big Sky. But he then admitted that he felt like moving schools was hard enough and couldn't imagine moving countries too.

The other important thing to consider is that

every country has different laws, and FREE can mean different things in different places. For although upon a cursory examination more than 10 countries offer at least very cheap college, this changes once you look a little closer. For example Czech offers free tuition as well, but only for students who know, or are willing to learn the Czech language.

It is also important to look at countries based on their quality of education, cost of living, and quality of life, for many sources place colleges in the United Kingdom as some of the best in all of Europe, yet British university costs are an average of 22,000 pounds (27,000 dollars), and this seems to be a general trend, with many of the best European colleges also being in some of the most costly nations.

Yet even so, foreign university is a valuable option, and it is being considered throughout our school, and our country.

Hellgate's Leaky Cauldron

Iris Lowe and Wilson Freer
Reporters



Pictured from left to right: Shannon O'Brien, Mary Gibbons, Molly Bradford.

What's your favorite thing about the coffee cart?

Shannon O'Brien says, "Seeing all the cool kids come up and meeting them."

Mary Gibbons says, "I like doing the lunch shift cause it's fun to see everyone coming and going and moving about."

Molly Bradford says, "Trying to match someone to their drink and just seeing what it's like to be a highschooler in 2023."

Connection to Hellgate

O'Brien has a son who is a freshman at Hellgate, Bradford has a junior and Gibbons has a daughter who is a junior but has been a barista at the Coffee Cart since 2015.

Fun facts

O'Brien was a state Senator and a former teacher in Washington and Missoula College. Bradford was a barista at Starbucks long before coming to the Coffee Cart. Bradford owns Missoulaevents.net as well as Missoula indoor ads.



Erin Berryman works the Wednesday morning shift from 7:30 to 9:30.

"I love getting a little glimpse into the world of high schoolers." Connection to Hellgate: Berryman currently has a son who is a sophomore, along with two younger kids who will be attending Hellgate in a few years.

Fun Facts: "I also work at Rattlesnake Elementary so I see a lot of familiar faces."

Erin
Berryman

W

For serving for students at the Leaky Cauldron is an opportunity for parents to see every morning these fun activities and request toward the success of the school.

What is the Leaky Cauldron?

For many years, the Leaky Cauldron has been serving drinks and creating a welcoming environment for students in Hellgate High School. Profits from the Leaky Cauldron go to Hellgate's KORT, or PTA, which is an official non-profit funding organization run by students. This organization meets on the first Tuesday of each month and one of their tasks is deciding where the funds go. Anyone in the Hellgate school organization can request funding from KORT and each of the requests will be discussed to try and allocate money to the cause. Now, let's learn a little bit about some of the smiling faces you may see at the coffee cart.



Sally Painter

Sally Painter works the Tuesday morning shift from 7:30 to 9:30 am.

"My favorite thing about the coffee cart is meeting the students and crafting drinks that bring them joy."

Connection to Hellgate: Painter has a junior at Hellgate.

Fun Facts: Painter's drink of choice while working is a double shot latte with two pumps of caramel. She describes herself as "enthusiastic and boisterous due to the occasional caffeine kick."

Libby Schneider



Libby Schneider works Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30

"I love being involved with the Hellgate Community."

Connection to Hellgate: Schneider is an alumni and a former coach at Hellgate. Schneider also has a sophomore at Hellgate.

Fun Facts: "I'm terribly afraid of spiders and sharks, and I absolutely love dad jokes."

Craven's Coffee

Leaky Cauldron

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2 shots	\$4.00	\$4.50
Americano		
1 shot	\$2.50	\$2.50
2 shots	\$3.00	\$3.00
Latte		
1 shot	\$3.00	\$3.50
2 shots	\$3.50	\$4.00
Italian Soda	\$3.00	
Creamosa	\$3.50	
Chai	\$3.75	\$4.00
Steamer	\$3.00	\$3.50
Hot Chocolate	\$3.00	\$3.50
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Hot Water	\$.50	\$.50

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Hellgate Counselors Help Students Prepare for College

Julia Key
Reporter

Preparing for college can be very confusing without the proper guidance and understanding of the process. I talked to Hellgate counselors Aine Franczyk and Tri Pham to answer high school students' burning questions about college.

How and when should we apply to college?

Pham: I think a simple answer to that is that it's all online now, predominantly, so you can go to the school that you're interested in and basically hit the apply now button, and almost everybody's an undergraduate student. The way I see it is the application season is pretty much from now until January roughly. But some schools have what's called rolling admissions. And so that means that you can apply, throughout the year. And so for seniors, that's now.

How do we find good schools that cater to our personal wants and to our needs?

Franczyk: I think that you have to do some personal reflection about what you want in a school. I think asking yourself some questions like, what am I interested in studying? And maybe you don't know that, and that's fine. But if that's the case, then where do I want to live? Do I want to live on the West coast? Am I interested in East Coast schools, Southern, maybe local. So like, thinking about the area you want to be in is gonna help define where they go. And then if possible, I know not everyone can do it, but if you can, getting on a campus and kind of seeing how it feels for you if you've narrowed it down to some of these certain schools that you're interested in or region and things like that.

Pham: I would add that there are lots of tools out there that you can use. The ACT people, their website's called the College Board, and they have a tool called Big Future, and you can answer all those kinds of questions that (Franczyk) just talked about, and then it'll kind of kick out some schools. The other one is Montana Career Information Systems. It's called MCIS and it's developed by the state of Montana. And you can also kind of answer some of those questions and then it'll kick out a list of schools for you.

This is a very general question, but a lot of students wanted to know why college is currently so expensive.

Franczyk: I think that there's many factors going into it. I think that just as things have gotten more expensive and higher ed has gotten more expensive, some of the costs seem pretty insurmountable for many families. And I think that looking at ways to fund it or scholarships, some schools have huge endowments and give a lot of money, it just depends on the school.

Pham: What I would add is if you go onto a modern or go onto a nice college campus now, the buildings are beautiful, the food service is outrageous in some of these places, some places have sushi, that is an option. I heard that the University of Missouri has a lazy river for students in their rec center. I don't know if that's true or not. The level of services that are being offered for students to kind of cater to some of these families wants and needs is really intense. But these are the kinds of services that are available to students. Even at the University of Montana students can rent rafts for free. You can take your buddies and go camping or rafting and stay in the river. And then now the expectation is that students are wanting those things, especially students that can afford it. The breadth of things that are being offered to students is enormous.

Franczyk: I think on the other side of that, I think that students nowadays are questioning the cost and the value of attendance more than they ever have. So students are thinking if I do pay this much, I want to go into a field or an area where I'm going to make money to be able to afford to pay for this. Students are questioning that and asking more and more the value of a higher education than they ever have. And that is the result of the cost.

What do student loans look like and when do those kick in?

Franczyk: How much you're going to pay is just so dependent on where you're going, what your family qualifies for, what kind of aid you qualify for, how much you take out, and then what kind of plan you choose to pay it off. There's just a lot of variables in that. But I always, I always tell students, I think it's a good gauge to not borrow more than you're gonna make your first year getting out. So you know, if you're going to be a teacher, you know, you can kind of get the average teacher salary and you probably don't want to borrow more money than that. Whereas, if you're going to be a doctor or an engineer and you're gonna make a lot more, maybe you have a little more grace to borrow more. I mean, you just don't want to get yourself in so much debt that it's crippling you.

How to apply for financial aid? How do we navigate WUE schools? How do we apply for FAFSA?

Franczyk: I think the first thing is going to the website, reading through getting a pin, we'll offer some workshops and different things to help you help families navigate that. You'll want to fill out the FAFSA in the fall of your senior year, and see what kind of money you might get. I think it's worth seeing. And part of that, too, is if you are going to borrow money, if you borrow through the government, the interest rate is so much lower than if you go out and take a private loan out for applying for loans.

Pham: A couple things to keep in mind. You shouldn't pay for it. You shouldn't pay for the FAFSA to apply. You shouldn't ever have to pay to apply for a scholarship. And I say that because there are scams out there that have gotten families and kids in a little bit of trouble but it's very rare. The thing that's complicated about

the WUE is that each school does it a little bit differently. So it does require a fair amount of research if you are looking at those schools. But in general, the scholarship is worth one and a half times in-state tuition. So let's say Western Washington University, for example, let's just say it's \$10,000, you'd pay 15,000 versus, I don't know, it's probably 25,000 for out of state. So it's a really nice scholarship.

What classes should we take now to prepare us for college?

Franczyk: You want to take courses that challenge you, that looks different for every student. I could say you need to take all the AP and IB courses, you can, but for some students maybe they might do one or two, and that's pretty challenging for them. Some students might do five or six. I do think taking the most challenging courses you can, within your realm or what works for you. I think it's important to do four years of math and three to four years of science and three to four years of social studies and three to four years a foreign language. That is going to make you more ready and prepared for the academics in college. Some students are really involved in extracurriculars and outside of school activities and work, and that's important too. So you're trying to balance your academics and your rigor with the commitments you have outside of school and also having balance and taking care of your emotional wellbeing and your physical wellbeing. It's going to look different for every student and you have to do what works for you.

Pham: We have a lot of really fun electives here, so that's also really a great way to kind of prepare yourself. Now that you've tried a bunch of things that are pretty low risk here at high school they might be of interest to you in college. And that kind of helps you steer, where you might want to study.

Is college worth the time and money?

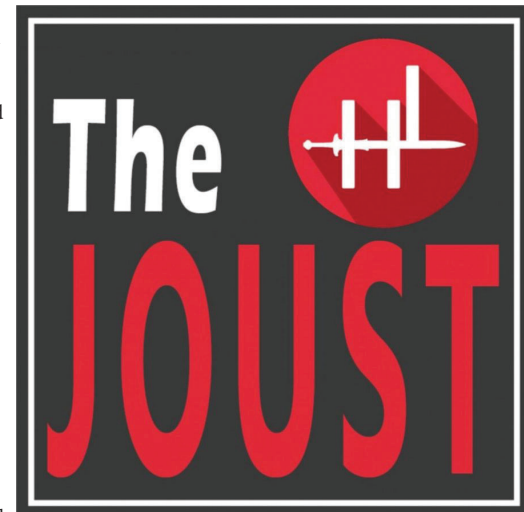
Franczyk: I think you just have to look at every individual and every individual has to make that decision if it's right for them. Like, I don't think you can say, yes, college is worth it for everyone regardless. I don't believe that. I think that I really value college. I see the value in it, I promote it, but at the same time it isn't necessarily the best pathway or choice for every student. And for some students it could be a waste of time and money, and they're way better off putting their energy towards something else. I really promote gaining skills. However that is, is it through the workforce? Is it through a two year school, a four year school? You really have to meet every student where they're at. I don't think I can just blanketly be like, college is good for everyone. It really just depends on the individual.

Pham: I think it's a really complicated question with a complicated answer. One thing that I say often to students, especially if you go into a four year school, you have to, in your brain, decide you're going to finish. One year in a four year school is nothing, two years is less, all you have most of the time is a bunch of debt and a bunch of good stories. But it doesn't amount to much. So if you want a four year degree, the first thing is you're committing to finishing it. If not, and you don't know for sure, then you might want to look at a one year certificate or a two year trade school.

Franczyk: a degree says a lot and it means a lot, you're figuring yourself out, you're learning a lot about yourself through that experience, which is valuable. And the cool thing I think about college too is you can go at any time. I mean, that's such a beautiful thing. Some people don't know what they want to do and they need five years to figure it out. And then they go and then they're really committed. They know what they want to do. It feels very valuable. I just think that's so beautiful. You don't have to go right after high school if you're not quite ready.

Pham: My last statement probably would be, it's very highly individual, it's complicated. I'm going to venture to guess that for most high school counselors, this is the conversation that's really fun and interesting. And we would love to have more of these kinds of conversations as opposed to 'why are you failing your class?' I think we get underutilized in that way. It's my favorite conversation to have with students.

As a senior, preparing for college can be a very nerve wracking experience. Here at Hellgate, we have great college resources. If you have any questions that were not answered here, you can set up an appointment with your counselors with the QR codes at student services and around the school, or you can send them an email. They're always happy to help. You can listen to the full version of this interview on our podcast The Joust, which you can find on hellgatelance.com or on Spotify.



Annual Pro-Am Tennis Tournament Benefits Watson Children's Shelter

**Elliote Banziger
Reporter**

For the past 13 years, during the first weekend in October, the Peak Health and Wellness Racquet Club has hosted a charity event, the Pro-Am Tennis Tournament, for the Watson Children's Shelter.

The Watson Children's Shelter is a place where more than a hundred kids every year stay if they are in need of temporary housing. The children, ages 0-14, are able to stay at the shelter until a solution to their family crisis is found.

In 1968, Janice Watson opened "Jack and Jill Nursery" after she retired from teaching elementary school at Target Range. At that time, Missoula Child Protection Services and the police did not have many people to turn to when looking for housing for children in need, Watson graciously welcomed many children into her home. In 1977 the nursery was turned into the Watson's Receiving Home. The home continued to grow and expand, even with the passing of Janice Watson in 1993. Her vision became the Watson Children's Shelter. In 2010 the shelter added a second location at

4878 Buckhouse Lane, right next door to the Peak Racquet Club.

At the time of the grand opening of the shelter, Scott Potter (Peak Athletic Club Tennis Director) was struck by the great work of the shelter and wanted to help contribute, and so the Watson Children's Shelter Pro-Am tennis tournament was born. For 13 years, the fundraiser has grown to raise over one million dollars for the shelter. In addition, the event has become a fun tradition for the tennis community in Missoula while attracting tennis professionals from all over the world.

This year, 34 professionals from around the world made their way to Missoula to participate in this fundraiser. The weekend was made up of five main events. It started on Oct. 5 with an auction where community members could bid on a pro to be their partner in the upcoming pro-am tennis tournament. On Oct. 6, the junior-pro doubles tournament took place. This is a unique opportunity for young junior talent to get to play high-level tennis with current and past professional tennis players.

The adult Pro-Am tournament also began Oct. 6 with the champions crowned the following afternoon. The main event of the weekend was the pro-pro portion of the tournament, which took place the evening of Oct. 6. This part of the tournament is when two professionals play together against two other professionals, this leads to some very high level and entertaining tennis. In addition to the great tennis, there was also a fun atmosphere with food, drinks, and a chance to bet on who would win. There was also a silent auction with numerous prizes ranging in size, from Peak T-shirts to signed game worn Roger Federer tennis shoes.

Jesse Witten, who at one point in his career got a set off of Novak Djokovic (the #1 player in the world), has participated in the pro-am for 10 years. He said he continues to come because "this is an amazing event, one of the best."

The tournament director, Scott Potter continues to put the event together because, "It's for the kids that don't have a chance." It is his way of giving back to the community and he will continue to put this event on for as long as the Missoula community continues to come out and support it.



Pro-Pro finalists and champions pictured left to right, Jesse Witten, Robert Kendrick, Thomasz Solyka, Ethan Vaughn. Photo by Elliote Banziger.

Andy Smetanka Releases New Missoula Documentary

Amity Rogalski
Reporter

Andy Smetanka's new documentary titled, "A Place (Sort Of)" had its debut showing Sept. 14 at the Wilma Theater. The film consists of hours of found footage of Missoula compiled over eight years and split into two parts, narrated by local voices.

One viewer described the film as "a home movie for the whole town of Missoula." And that statement is accurate. Footage as far back as the 1920s all the way to the present was used as the film showed both historic and ongoing Missoula traditions.

Director Smetanka said that he was inspired by trying to find personal footage taken by him and his friends in the '90s, leading him to seek out more and more lost footage. "I just loved shooting this film and collected a lot. Eventually a story took form," said Smetanka.

"I think the hardest thing about making the film was finishing the narration," he said. "I wanted it to be just right." He said that it was difficult writing something that was meant to be said aloud rather than be read due to his personal writing style. "There's nothing like hearing your words come out of someone else's mouth to realize when they're BS," Smetanka said.

Smetanka has also remarked on his surprise

at the impact the film has had already had. "A woman came up to me in the theater,

found me, and thanked me for having a shot of her deceased husband while the scene was going on," he said. "I think those kinds of accidents touch lives I didn't even intend to. More than anything, I wanted it to be something that rewards multiple viewings." As for when the film will be available for wider release, the answer is still uncertain. Smetanka said, "There's this part of me that sort of wants to lock the movie up and show it once a year at the Wilma because it was such a fantastic time that I kind of want to do it again. I'm not totally comfortable that you can just let any moment pass you by because you think you can catch up with it later." However, it is shown at the Roxy Oct 16-19.

Smetanka added that the film was both very personal, as well as a reflection on Missoula. "I sort of thought of it as a Noah's arc," he said. "Where I could just kind of put my favorite things about Missoula in it, where whatever happens to the town, the people who remember it will always look back on it some of the same way that I do."

Smetanka had several sources for these hours of local footage that he collected, the Mansfield Library film archives being one, supplying him with a one-of-a-kind hundred-year-old materials. "I heard through the grapevine that some people were super active about super eight stuff back in the '70s and I went looking for them. In some

cases, I found stuff that they had never shown anywhere before and a couple things that had been floating around on YouTube for a while."

Because of this film's very recent showing, it is hard to determine where it will go from here. Many Missoula locals at its initial showing had remarked on memories that they had made in Missoula throughout the centuries.



Andy Smetanka on the opening night of his film.

photo by Amity Rogalski

TGR's 'Legend Has It' Could Be Best Ski Movie of 2023

Will Hansen
Reporter

Teton Gravity Research has been at the forefront of ski movie making since 1995, and their newest film, 'Legend Has It', shows why. With an emphasis on aesthetic shots which show both the scenery and skier, cheer-worthy sends and drops, callbacks and mentions of past "ski lore", and a variety of different locations all around the world, TGR's 2023 addition to their already robust catalog could be one of the best ski films of the year.

Just like last year, the Wilma hosted the Missoula screening, and it continues to be the perfect venue for the job. The ski community showed up in full force, and it was confirmed to be the most people at a Missoula TGR screening ever. The stoke was high and the room was buzzing with skiers and snowboarders of all ages.

The night started off with a live raffle hosted by a Gull Ski employee and a surprise appearance from Parkin Costain and Maggie Voisin, two skiers from the film. People walked away with TGR merch and skis from Line and Volkl. Costain and Voisin also signed posters and talked with fans.

After a couple trailers, including one for TGR's first ever snowboarding-exclusive film, it was finally time. Energy was high, and the Wilma went crazy as TGR's symbol appeared on the screen.

The film has a stacked cast, from consistently good older skiers like Tim Durtschi and Sage Cattabriga to legends in the making such as Marcus Goguen and TGR favorite Kai Jones. There isn't a lack of talent in any shot.



"Legend Has It" on the Wilma's silver screen in Missoula. Photo by Will Hansen.

Because it was shot in the record breaking snow season of 2022-23, the film is full of crazy powder clips and face shots all around. One of the first edits shows a 44 inch day at Jackson Hole, which is quintessential TGR. There's even a point when Costain gets stuck in snow up to his chest and has to do a summersault to get out of it, drawing lots of laughs and whoops from the crowd.

The film is divided up by location. It's shot in stunning places like Patagonia, Jackson Hole, Alaska, Palisades Tahoe, and even Pakistan, and the beauty of each of these places, both in mountains and culture, is highlighted in every segment. You get a feel for the people and vibe of whatever place they're skiing, which is something not a lot of ski movies do and this one does wonderfully.

Towards the end of the film, we see sixteen year old Kai Jones hit a gigantic cliff, land horribly, slide down the mountain, and stop in a pile of snow screaming. He gets evacuated by helicopter and we get to see his full recovery from two broken legs. It's a snap back to reality for skiers, and a reminder that the possibility of injury, even for the best of us, is always there. The film ends with an inspiring edit of some of Kai's highlights over the years of his young and talented career.

TGR continues to pump out the best of the best in ski films, and 'Legend Has It' was a particularly good one. Stoke for the 2023-23 season was already high among the ski community, and thanks to this amazing and inspiring ski movie, it's even higher.

Painkiller: a Docuseries

Liz Gray
Reporter

Painkiller is an extremely eye opening dramatized docuseries about Oxycontin and the dangers it presents. One of my favorite things about Painkiller is that it shows you all angles, from what Purdue Pharma had to do to get the drug approved, to how they use attractive college-aged girls to sell the pills to pharmacists. It shows how Oxycontin impacts peoples' day to day lives and the impact that their addiction has on their families.

Painkiller shows that Purdue Pharma jumped through a lot of hoops so that Oxycontin could be pushed onto the market faster than it otherwise would have been. Oxycontin is a highly addictive schedule two narcotic, typically used to treat severe pain and cancer. Oxycontin is 1.5-2 times stronger than morphine.

Throughout the series we also see how Purdue Pharma manipulated young college girls into selling Oxycontin by giving them fancy gifts and nice apartments. These girls were supposed to sell Oxycontin while knowing absolutely nothing about it. They were expected to sell it with their only claims being that it's not addictive and that it's the "safest drug on the market." The truth is that neither of these claims has been proven.

Overall Painkiller did an amazing job on showing what is wrong with the pharmaceutical business. Some of the pills that they are pushing do help with pain, but a lot of them are not always safe and a lot of the time there isn't extensive research done to see if they are actually safe. I would definitely recommend watching Painkiller, but I would be aware that it touches on some pretty heavy topics. Painkiller is currently only streaming on Netflix.



Stensrud's Six-Win Career Highlighted by Second Straight All-State Finish

Brennan Labbe
Reporter

BILLINGS- With one last medal hung around her neck, Anna Stensrud wrapped up one of the most memorable Hellgate golf runs in the past decade.

On the practice green at Lake Hills golf course September 29, after a T-4 State placement, Stensrud's name would be called for a final time in Hellgate red and gold.

"I'm really proud of how much I've dedicated myself to golf," said Stensrud with a smile after her finish. "As a freshman, I didn't take the game too seriously, and I didn't play well either. The harder I practiced and the better I got, the more rewarding it became to play in these tournaments."

And what a reward it was.

With another trio of wins to back up her impressive junior campaign last fall, Stensrud fired multiple rounds in the 70's in her senior year, including a 74 (+2) in her hometown at the MCPS Invite.

"I didn't really have any expectations for my senior year," said Stensrud. "I obviously wanted to

play my best, but I also wanted to enjoy my senior season with friends. The competitive mindset definitely cost me some strokes through the end of the season. My main effort was to play my own game."

Despite some struggles in the final tournament of her career, Stensrud fought through adversity to fire rounds of 80-81-161, to finish inside the top-5 at the AA level. Carding four birdies for the tournament, including back-to-back birdies on holes two and three on day two in Billings, helped bring that fire back. But with the track record that she made for herself throughout her final campaign, the bogeys tallied up made their mark on the birdies.

"Definitely not the way I wanted to end my four years of high-school golf," chuckled Stensrud. "But now that this chapter has closed, I am looking forward to new and exciting opportunities to open."

And the opportunities are endless. With multiple colleges getting wind of Hellgate's talented senior, Stensrud has made her name known throughout Montana. Wins at the MCPS Invitational, Helena Invite, Western AA Divisional, and top-five



Stensrud pictured in the middle of her teammates earlier this year at the Helena Invitational. (Pictured left to right) Presley Clark, Landrie Anderson, Anna Stensrud, Cat Helmer. Photo by Brennan Labbe

placements in the remaining three tournaments of her final season was more than enough to solidify her talent to play at the next level.

"I am looking forward to a new, competitive realm of golf that will be a completely different atmosphere than I'm used to," said Stensrud.

From an unusual pandemic filled freshman year, to a star-studded senior finish, Anna Stensrud had a career as a Hellgate Knight that will be remembered for a long time. Stay tuned to Stensrud's story as she continues to tear up competition at the collegiate level next season!

Girls Hockey in Montana Has Promising but Fragile Future

Amelia Richmond
Reporter

While the girls playing hockey in Montana are not fragile, the future of their program may be. With fluctuating numbers both in the Missoula and the state of Montana the program seems to always be in a state of uncertainty. Coaches and hockey directors statewide are wrestling with how to best approach the program.

Grace Hoene is the Youth Hockey Director in Missoula, she has been playing hockey for almost her entire life. She spent most of her time in youth hockey playing on girls teams. When she moved from Minnesota to Montana she began playing adult league hockey but was soon recruited to coach. At the time the only option for girls hockey was an in-house practice team. From here, though, Hoene said the program began to grow and a 14U team was added, followed by a 14U girls league in Montana. She then moved up to coaching 19U as the programs in Missoula expanded further. Now Hoene is no longer coaching but is still involved with hockey

as the Missoula Youth Hockey Director where she is now involved with both the youth and girls side of hockey.

Hoene said that the biggest challenge we are now facing in girls hockey is, and always has been; numbers. Numbers are unpredictable up until the point of registration, so it can be difficult to make plans for the program. Efforts are being made to recruit more girls, with 'Try Hockey for Free' events and opportunities for young girls to experience higher level hockey. When asked why girls should choose to play girls hockey Hoene said, "Why I would encourage girls to play girls hockey is number one to grow the game." She went on to explain how girls in hockey are in a unique position where they almost have an added responsibility of growing the game. Hoene also highlighted the benefits for development that girls hockey offers and the greater chances for advancement past high school. Most importantly she said that it is, in her opinion, simply more fun to play with girls.

Hoene herself has fond memories of playing and coaching girls hockey; she is still friends with her teammates from her 14U season and even attended one of their weddings this summer. She recounted her favorite coaching memory of when the 19U team won the state championship for the first time. "We were the underdog" she said of the team at the time. "There was a Bozeman team that had won two or three years in a row and were really cocky." She then went on to describe the moment the team won: "We had just tied it up and then the



Grace Hoene is the Missoula Youth Hockey director and a former girls hockey player.
Photo courtesy of Mike Williams.

next shift Ali Elliott over to Sid Tripke, scored the game winner and it was just electric." The program has gone on to celebrate multiple other state championship wins for both the 14U and 19U programs. The banners hanging in the rafters are perhaps one of the best endorsements for the program.

Looking back and forward there is a lot of hope for the program. "The level of play has increased tremendously. If you could snapshot girls hockey ten years ago versus now, it is way way better," Hoene said of program development. "Every year it has gotten better and better."

In the future Hoene hopes to see competition at the younger levels too. While Missoula has been able to field strong 14U teams in the past they have struggled to find teams to play as other towns simply don't have the numbers. This year the program has been rebranded from 14U to 12U/14U in order to better represent the true nature of the team. Hoene hopes that this rebrand will be a "happy medium" but is uncertain how the program will look in the future.

Despite a promising future there is still some concern. "Hockey is growing in Montana, but it is still very fragile," said Hoene. It is up to us all to protect this sport for generations to come.



'Try Hockey for Free' events, depicted above, are a great way to introduce new players to the sport and increase participation in girls hockey.

Photo courtesy of Grace Hoene.

Fantasy Football Brings People Closer

Evyn Good
Reporter

Duh nuh nuh, duh nuh nuh. The precious sound of a Fantasy Football notification. The sound of fall, the sound that haunts or enralls millions all over America. The idea and creation of Fantasy Football has brought many kids closer to their parents, bosses with their employees, and teachers with their students. While the game itself could be considered a frustration and anxiety-inducing experience, Fantasy Football as a whole has had an incredibly positive force on me and many other people around the U.S.

Fantasy Football is a game where leagues as small as four and as big as 32 compete against each other by drafting players from NFL teams, and being awarded points based on how well players are doing. The teams compete head to head against each other, and whoever scores the most points by the last game on Monday is ruled the winner for that week.

Each week of games marks the beginning of a new week for Fantasy players. The players that are drafted are quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, tight ends, kickers and defense/special teams. There are many different types of leagues, but the two most common ones are standard and points per reception (PPR). Standard leagues have touchdowns being worth six if caught by a skill position player, or run into the endzone by any player. One point is awarded per 10 yards that are caught or ran for by any skill position player. A skill position player is a player who plays running back, wide receiver or tight end. PPR, or a Points Per Reception leagues follow all of the same rules, except each catch a skill position player makes is worth one point. This scoring system and its complexity leads to many players feeling overwhelmed by how everything is tracked and how everything works. While this is very true, and I myself often feel

overwhelmed by how point scoring is tracked, leagues can be simplified and adjusted in order to have these problems go away.

The scoring for quarterbacks is slightly different. For every yard that is thrown, it counts as 0.04 points. Passing touchdowns count as 4 points, and rushing touchdowns count as 6 points, and every rushing yard counts as 0.1 point.

Defenses and kickers also have to be scored differently. Defenses start out at a baseline of 10 points, and go up or down based on how well that team's defense is playing that day. This is determined by the defense's ability to prevent points being scored on them and how many yards are being allowed while doing positive defensive plays, such as sacks, interceptions, and fumbles. Each fumble and interception is worth two points, and a sack is worth a single point. If the defense or special teams unit scores a touchdown it is worth six points.

Kickers are awarded points based on how many points they may be responsible for. An extra point kick is worth a single point, a field goal of 10 to 35 yards is worth two, a kick of 26 to 45 is worth three, and any kick beyond 45 yards is worth four points.

My favorite aspect of the Fantasy Football season is the banter and conversation that is created amongst the league members. I am in a league with my extended family, and the league allows for everyone to feel involved, while also giving each person a reason to talk to one another. For my family, it has brought us closer and allowed for friendly competition to be had. While yes, sometimes friendly competition can become too extreme and can lead to fights and unnecessary amounts of stress, the grand majority of the time is spent with each league member feeling united and more connected than they would have without it.

Fantasy Football has had an incredibly positive impact on me and has led to my obsession

with sports to have something I can use and gain something out of, while also connecting me to my family and friends. Fantasy Football isn't for everyone but it can be made to where anyone enjoys playing it, regardless of whether you like football or not.

So get out there Fantasy Footballers, connect with old friends, colleagues, family, whoever and come together and watch the points score of players you will never meet and will never know you, and watch your blood begin to boil as your players play poorly or have your body yell with excitement over beating your opponent. Draft a team and create a Fantasy Football League and have a good time this fall and winter, watching your team win and lose, all while coming closer together with those you care about.










	STARTERS	OPP (RANK)	PROJ	SCORE
QB	 K. Pickett Pit QB	@LAR (21st) Sun 2:05 PM	14.9	-
RB	 A. Kamara 🇺🇸 NO RB	Jax (13th) Thu 6:15 PM	17.8	-
RB	 K. Ingram 🇺🇸 Ari RB	@Sea (17th) Sun 2:05 PM	8.1	-
WR	 S. Diggs 🇺🇸 Buf WR	@NE (14th) Sun 11:00 AM	19.3	-
WR	 A. Brown 🇺🇸 Phi WR	Mia (24th) Sun 6:20 PM	19.2	-
TE	 D. Goedert 🇺🇸 Phi TE	Mia (21st) Sun 6:20 PM	12.2	-
FLX	 C. Watson GB WR	@Den (17th) Sun 2:25 PM	12.5	-
D/ST	 Eagles D/ST Phi D/ST	Mia (2nd) Sun 6:20 PM	3.5	-
K	 R. Patterson Det K	@Bal (29th) Sun 11:00 AM	7.9	-
		TOTALS	115.4	0.0

Photo of a Fantasy Football Team.
Photo by Evyn Good.

Favorite Fall Activities

Rowan Hull
Reporter

The fall season is here. Let's find out what some of Hellgate students' favorite things to do are.

“My favorite thing to do during the fall season is to go to the Field of Screams with my friends.”
- Olive Printz (sophomore)

“My favorite fall activity is setting up Halloween decorations around my house.”
- Ellie Dula (senior)

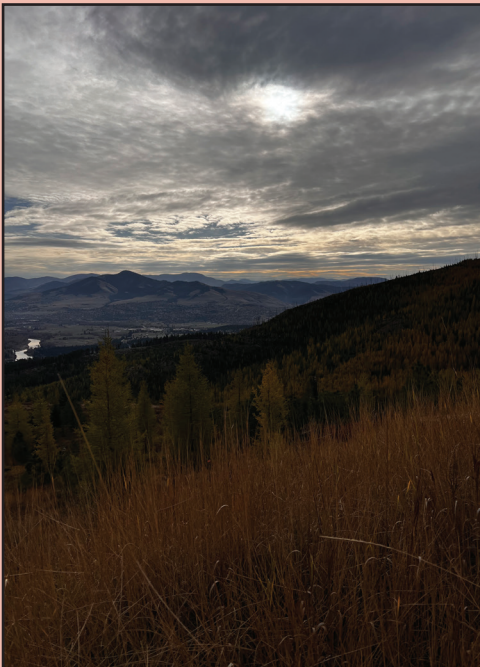
“My favorite fall activity is riding my bike around town.”
- Kellen Dick (sophomore)

“My favorite thing to do in the fall is go on walks in the forest once the trees turn orange.”
- Charlie Bell (junior)



Halloween decorations in Missoula.

“My favorite thing to do in the fall is to carve pumpkins with my friends and then smash them after Halloween.”
- Taylor Thorton (junior)



Fall scene in Missoula.

“My favorite thing to do in the fall is to trick - or - treat with my friends, but were getting a little old now.”
- Alex Duello (senior)



Halloween pumpkins ready to be carved.