



Best of

2016

Moscow

A woodsy getaway



A place to escape to make memories, go on dates, appreciate the woods

Lyndsie Kiebert
Argonaut

The first time University of Idaho students Olivia Dowling and Bill Sexton took their cat Bella hiking on Moscow Mountain, the cat barrel-rolled off a small cliff.

“She was OK, but she was visibly upset,” Dowling said. “It was very comical. I even recorded it.”

Dowling and Sexton have been dating for almost four years and adopted Bella one year ago as of last month. One day, as Dowling scrolled through Instagram, she came across an account named “Camping With Cats.” That’s when an idea began to take shape.

“I was like, ‘we have a cat, and we like the outdoors,’” Dowling said.

It only seemed natural to purchase a cat harness and visit the mountain with Bella in tow, Dowling said. The cat — stubborn as she is — decided to be deadweight at first, fighting against the harness. But within 20 minutes she warmed up to the

mountain trail adventure.

“She normally leads the way,” Dowling said.

Despite the small cliff mishap, the couple and their cat now visit Moscow Mountain nearly three times a month when the weather is warm. They often bring along a picnic and make a day of it, Dowling said.

“I’d say it’s an amazing date place,” she said. “Since Bill and I are both from Alaska, we are always striving to find something similar — to see some big views, like we used to do in Alaska.”

Scott Metlen, head of the Department of Business at UI and president of the Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA), said that while Moscow Mountain is an incredible place to get out and play, it is important to remember that all of the land is privately owned.

“Everyone that gets to play on that mountain gets to do so because the landowners are gracious enough to let us,” Metlen said.

Standing at nearly 5,000 feet high and

130 square miles in size, Moscow Mountain is home to 70 miles of cross-country trails and 20 miles of forest roads available for exploration. Walkers, runners, mountain bikers and horseback riders all frequent the woodsiest place in Moscow.

“You look at it from (campus), it looks like this little Podunk mountain,” Metlen said. “But once you get on it, it feels like a big mountain.”

He said no state or federal funds go toward maintaining the mountain’s trail system — it is all done through MAMBA volunteer work. Metlen also said because the land is privately owned, it is important to respect the landowners’ wishes. Fires are never allowed on Moscow Mountain, motorized vehicles are only permitted on the roads — not the single-track trails — and off-trail hiking is prohibited.

“There’s a list of ‘don’ts’ that let us ‘do,’” he said.

Metlen said that although Moscow Mountain is located less than a half-hour drive from the middle of town, bears,

cougars, bobcats and moose call the mountain home. These animals have yet to mistake a hiker for food, but Metlen said it is a good idea to enjoy the mountain with a buddy just to be safe.

“It’s just a great place to be, and it’s close,” Metlen said. “But it’s still a wild place, even though it’s so close.”

Metlen said that on a clear day the mountain offers views of Steptoe Butte, the Wallowa Mountains and even the Seven Devils Mountains — over 100 miles southeast.

“For a lot of people, that mountain is pretty sacred to them, because it is a place to get away,” Metlen said.

Dowling said once the weather warms up, she, Sexton and their adventurous cat will be back to enjoying their favorite weekend getaway.

“Bella is ready to get back outside,” she said.

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A bar with history

Corner Club has brought personality to Moscow for decades



Kevin Neighbors
Argonaut

The people of Moscow are passionate and proud of what they have to offer, including the Corner Club, which has been a favorite for locals since 1948.

Marc Trivelpiece, the current owner, said the establishment hasn’t changed much over the years.

Trivelpiece has owned and managed the bar with his wife Stacie since 2007.

Trivelpiece said he moved to Moscow because he grew up in a small town and likes the way a small-town community feels. He attended the University of Idaho while he worked at the Corner

Club as a bartender.

He said one of the reasons the previous owners sold the club to him was because they knew he wouldn’t change it.

Many of the pictures on the walls and displays were there when Trivelpiece attended UI and he and his wife have preserved them all.

“We just keep adding more Vandal memorabilia,” Trivelpiece said. “It’s a Vandal bar and it has been since the ’70s, and it will be as long as I own it.”

In the family’s eight years of ownership, they have worked to preserve the Corner Club as a place to unwind and have a good time.

Trivelpiece said he enjoys the community he serves and what his bar represents.

“It’s neat in the fact that at any given time you’re able to find several different types of people here,” Trivelpiece said.

He said he knows many of his patrons by name, and enjoys greeting them as they come in and acknowledging them as they leave.

Trivelpiece said the best part of owning the Corner Club is the relationships he has made in the community.

“I meet a lot of the college students and I get to watch them go from an irresponsible 21-year-old to parents,” Trivelpiece said.

To Trivelpiece, his bar is more than just a way to support his family. He said the students that come in are important to him. Moscow is his home, and the people in it are his family and friends.

Trivelpiece said he and his wife take pride in making the Corner Club a home for many in Moscow.

As students leave the university and start their careers, everything changes but the Corner Club is a constant, he said. As Trivelpiece said, “it is a Vandal Bar.”

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Family, fresh bread



Local sandwich shop provides high-quality food for individuals, businesses

Nina Rydalch
Argonaut

Margo Gildner, a Stax employee and Moscow native, said she began working at Stax about a year ago in order to save up some money and she has loved it. She said Stax is the best sandwich shop in Moscow and although it is not the fastest, it has the highest quality food.

"There's no preservatives, nothing like that in there, which is why it always smells like fresh-made bread when people come in here in the morning," said Andy Severson, manager of Stax's Moscow location.

Severson said he makes the bread early in the morning, so the shop smells like freshly baked bread when it opens. Stax is also well known for its portion size, he said.

"Our regular is enough to feed most people, so our large is very big," he said.

Severson said Stax offers a variety of cold sandwiches, but it also has grilled sandwiches, soups and salads. The grilled sandwiches are the most popular option among the customers, and there are also various special ingredients in addition to the normal deli options, he said.

"We had a Tuscan seasoned chicken that was really popular here, and then more recently a chipotle pesto," Severson said.

He said Stax has two locations, both in Idaho. One is in Moscow and the other in McCall. He said the Moscow location is the "mother location," having opened the October 2009.

"We've really kind of been embraced

by the community," he said.

The owners then introduced a Stax to McCall in 2012 and Severson said he hopes to open a third location in Lewiston in June.

"We have always kind of wanted to have multiple locations," he said.

Severson said Lewiston would be a good fit for Stax, as it is a small Idaho town and Stax is a family shop. He said Stax was a convenient source of income for the owners because they could take their kids to school in the morning and by the time school ended they could pick them up.

"It started as a way for the original owners to stay very active in their kids' lives," Severson said.

Gildner said the family atmosphere

extends to the relationships between the employees.

Severson said it is common for them to make five to six hundred sandwiches a day. He said this includes serving people who walk in for grab-and-go from the University of Idaho and other local businesses, especially medical offices.

Severson said he thought it was likely easier for customers to call in the morning to order a working lunch than to go somewhere in the middle of the day.

"I would imagine every department at the U of I (buys sandwiches) off and on throughout the year," he said.

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Bookin' it to the library



The Moscow Public Library adds resources, character to the Moscow community

Austin Maas
Argonaut

The Moscow Public Library is a place where Moscow community members read and learn in an inviting and unique space.

Chris Sokol, the director of the Latah County Library District, has worked at Moscow Public Library since 1998.

As the headquarters for the Latah Library District, Sokol said the Moscow Public Library has a wide variety of services available to anyone in the community.

"(There is) equal access for everybody — nobody is turned away," Sokol said.

She said the library carries an extensive collection of popular books and DVD's, offers free Wi-Fi and even hosts online

language-learning resources that can be accessed anywhere using a library card.

Sokol said the library is open to anybody in the community, including university students, and provides a different perspective than the University of Idaho Library.

"Sometimes it's nice to get off campus but still know that you're getting the same high-quality resources," Sokol said.

Aside from traditional library resources, Sokol said the Moscow Public Library also offers downloadable audiobook and music services, as well as weekly story time events for children.

Sokol said her favorite part of the job is having the ability to offer new, helpful materials to community members. She said one recent addition has been the implementation of "Maker Kits" that support Idaho's STEM initiative.

In addition to a continually growing collection of materials, the Moscow Public Library also has a unique social media presence.

What was once an abandoned stuffed-animal hamster has become a tool for delivering the latest library news via social media. Sokol said "the library hamster" is a creative way for library staff to present information online through fictional narratives written from the perspective of a stuffed hamster. Narrative blog posts with library event information are posted at thelibraryhamster.tumblr.com.

Sokol said after the hamster sat at the front desk for a while she had the idea to use the library staff's shared passion for knitting to have a little fun.

"I started knitting him mittens and a hat just to be goofy," Sokol said.

She said many staff members

began to contribute by knitting the hamster outfits and crafting miniature books for its collection. The hamster's first of many reads was "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka.

The library hamster's most recent outfit is an Ernest Hemingway themed outfit made by Jackie Carter, who is also a library employee.

"I'm a creative person and knitting is a creative outlet that I wouldn't normally have elsewhere," Carter said.

One Moscow resident who frequently visits the Moscow Public Library is 89-year-old Betty Lindsay. Lindsay, who grew up in Moscow and studied at UI during World War II, said she has been visiting the library ever since she returned to Moscow 15 years ago.

"I come to the library for books every two or three weeks," Lindsay said. "When I run out, I

come back."

Lindsay said she loves Moscow and thinks it has been interesting to see how the community changed over the years.

Sally Perrine, a circulation desk employee, began working at the library in 1999 and said the best part of her job is having conversation about books across the desk with people of all ages.

She said she believes the library is an escape for a lot of people.

"Before I worked here, I was on the other side of the desk, and soon, when I retire, that will be my place again," Perrine said. "I love this place."

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Styling Moscow



Essence Salon offers the community more than just haircuts

Hailey Stewart
Argonaut

For the past 10 years, Essence Salon and Spa has been styling the hair of Moscow community members from all walks of life.

Katie Lazzarini, the owner of Essence Salon and Spa, said one of her favorite parts of styling hair is getting a glimpse into the life of who sits in her chair.

"There are so many professions that I get to learn about on a day-to-day basis," Lazzarini said.

Kaitlan Brown, a stylist for Essence, also finds that meeting the residents of Moscow makes her workday as a hairstylist unique and interesting.

"There are so many different kinds of professions that walk through our door," Brown said. "The fact that I get the chance to meet lots of different people and hear all about their lives is what makes my job so interesting."

Anna Breed, a client of Essence for the past ten years, said the salon now feels like a sort of family member to the 11 employees that work in the salon.

"Coming to see friends is the best part," Breed said. "It is nice to be around people who know your name and your personality."

Hairstylists often act as therapists for their clients, hearing the most personal details of their lives. For employees of Essence Salon and Spa, their days are filled with haircuts as well as casual therapy sessions.

"Sometimes clients just want to talk about their day, and they just want someone to listen for a while," said Gordon Mellott, an Essence stylist.

Lazzarini said salons often have a very similar feel, but Essence tries hard to create a unique feeling for its clients. Keeping a good energy in the

salon is a must for her, which she says also applies to the staff.

"Sometimes when you think of salons, they can either be really quiet or people are talking about daily drama," Lazzarini said. "I think our culture here, employee wise, is very supportive, and clients feel that when they come in."

Brown said it is the vibe of the salon that brings people in and makes them comfortable to relax while getting their hair styled and converse with those around them.

Along with creating personal relationships with clients, the staff of Essence connects with the community as a whole as well.

Lazzarini said perhaps the most rewarding aspect of her job is going out into the community to engage with Moscow residents and helping out at community events.

"We do a lot of outreach with the community, but the Moscow Raid fashion show is always a blast," Mellott said.

Along with connecting with the community, Essence has also become an educational business.

Early this year, Essence began a program to help young cosmetologists who are straight out of school become accustomed to the actual business of being a stylist.

"It is scary to be fresh out of school, so we like to help with the process," Lazzarini said. "We aren't a large corporation, which helps us to help them."

The tradition of creating a welcoming and energetic environment for Essence clientele seems to be what makes the salon a hot spot.

"We all love doing hair, but I think that making someone feel happy while in here, and having them walk out the door feeling beautiful and good about themselves when they walk out the door, is the best part of owning a salon," Lazzarini said.

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Stylist Anna Breed works with a client March 4 at Essence Salon in Moscow.

Moscow's taste of Mexico



La Casa Lopez brings flavor to the people of Moscow

Nina Rydalch
Argonaut

La Casa Lopez has been dishing out the flavors of Mexico in downtown Moscow for over a decade, and the locals have named it the best restaurant in town for the second year in a row.

Owner Mitchel Lopez said the restaurant has provided diners with an atmosphere reminiscent of Mexico, complete with soft Latin music in the background, authentic Mexican food and an overall casual dining experience.

"I like everything about that place," said Alma Delic, a student at the University of Idaho.

Shauna Donaldson, also a student at UI, said she has been to the restaurant a couple times, including once to celebrate

her most recent birthday, and appreciated how everything looked.

"We wanted to provide an atmosphere that you can feel like you're in Mexico at least, or somewhere tropical," Lopez said.

Lopez said they have achieved that goal through the music, rustic décor, bright foliage and a fountain running in the center of the restaurant. Lopez said the music they play is a mix of everything, unlike many other Mexican restaurants, which choose one genre and play it continuously.

"We play everything from mariachi to salsa, to Latin rock, to new age Spanish music," Lopez said.

He said he wants the music to make people want to dance and in fact, people often do dance as they wait in the foyer.

He said his mother and father also own the restaurant, and three of his siblings play a role in making the restaurant a success.

"It's been always a family affair here," Lopez said.

The Lopez family first came to Moscow in 1994.

According to Lopez, his father had been searching for a different job when Lopez's uncle, who was opening a restaurant in Spokane, called to tell him there were available buildings in Moscow and Lewiston.

"He checked out Lewiston, and then they came back around and checked out Moscow. They fell in love with Moscow," he said.

He said his father enjoyed the hospitality of the small town, something Delic said La Casa Lopez also embodies.

"The wait staff is very friendly, the servers are as well," Delic said.

In 2002, they found their current location, and remodeled it to bring a rustic Mexican feel to the place, Delic said.

Lopez said the restaurant atmosphere is part of why he loves going to work.

"I get to listen to music, I get to make food for people that are wanting to try new things and I get to laugh with them," he said.

He said he was surprised and excited to hear La Casa Lopez was voted the best restaurant in Moscow.

Lopez said he thinks customers appreciate the consistency of the food quality, the price range and the colors.

He said since it opened, the restaurant has grown as Moscow and Pullman have grown. At the beginning, they had 20 to 25 employees and now they have about 50.

"Whether a customer is having a bad or a good day, we want them to come in here and have a great time — have food that's been made fresh, that's authentic," Lopez said.

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A home away from home



Locally-owned Idaho Inn finds success over the last five years

Griffen Winget
Argonaut

Sonal Sisodiya began working with her husband Ram and father-in-law a few years after they founded the Palouse Inn located in Moscow.

"Working at the Palouse Inn was about giving back to the community that allowed us to start our business," Sisodiya said. "Working here inspired us to take the opportunity given to us in 2011 and buy the Idaho Inn."

Sisodiya said the Idaho Inn took a lot of work in the beginning, but they put

their heart and minds into the project.

They worked around customers' hours so as not to disturb anyone.

Keaton Dickson, a front desk clerk at the Idaho Inn, believes part of the hotel's success comes from being locally owned.

"The reason why the Idaho Inn is successful is because we are completely local and are focused on our customers' needs that tend to be forgotten by larger chain hotels," Dickson said.

Sisodiya credits the success of the Idaho Inn to the supportive community in Moscow and within the University of Idaho.

Sisodiya said the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival and other university events bring in excited customers and she loves

making their stay in Moscow the best it can be.

She said they strive to create a fun loving and laid back atmosphere at the Idaho Inn.

"Sonal and Ram are both laid back people who I like working under," Dickson said.

The owners are currently renovating the lobby to make it more inviting to guests.

"We work hard to keep the property looking nice for our guests," Sisodiya said.

"It is something that myself and my staff love to do. Seeing how clean and beautiful it is makes us all happy."

Dickson said the busiest times usually happen whenever there are football games or during the summer. He said it

can be a bit crazy, but he loves seeing how many people want to stay at the Idaho Inn.

Sisodiya and her husband are both alumni of the University of Idaho.

"We are really thankful to have the University of Idaho near us and to have developed a relationship with them," Sisodiya said. "We love giving back to the University in any way we can."

Sisodiya said she looks forward to many more years of managing the Idaho Inn, and can't wait to continue improvements.

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Moscow's music legacy

Keeney Bros. Music Center's legacy thrives after nearly four decades

Hailey Stewart
Argonaut

For the past 38 years, Keeney Bros. Music Center in downtown Moscow has been helping the community music scene thrive.

The center started in a small garage in 1978 as a repair shop for band instruments. Before the music shop found a home in its current downtown location, it moved between two different garages for 13 years while the business grew.

Dale Keeney, the owner of Keeney Bros., said as word of the shop moved throughout the community, customers began to ask for shipments and repairs of more than just band instruments.

"More and more customers kept asking for things I didn't do, but when I realized I could get them a certain product, it just started to develop into a full-fledged music center," Keeney said.

The music shop is a full-service store that sells, rents and repairs instruments. It also provides music lessons.

"You can come in and try all 100 guitars that we stock if you want to," Keeney said. "Being able to do that in an actual store is rare nowadays."

Caleb Murdock, Keeney Bros. store manager, said the store has a very diverse group of customers who look for all kinds of instruments, and helping them find the perfect instrument is often the best part of his workday.

"Along with telling bad jokes, my job is to help customers figure out what kind of instrument works best for them," Murdock said.

He said during summer months, Keeney Bros. engages children in youth programs that acclimate them with all of the different instruments that the store has to offer.

"We kind of do a petting zoo of sorts, except with instruments," Murdock said. "They play around with each in-



Austin Maas | Argonaut

Woodwind and brass repair technician Matt Evavold repairs a piccolo trumpet at the Keeney Bros. Music Center workshop.

strument a little, and that is always a lot of fun to watch."

Graeme Wilson, the director of marketing for Keeney Bros., said the store has always been closely connected with elementary and high school students.

Starting this year, Keeney Bros. has begun to sponsor local bands looking to become more involved in Moscow's music scene.

Wilson said getting involved with local bands is an initiative that was created because support for community bands and musicians is hard to find.

"We look for bands that are driven and just want to make music all of the time,"

Wilson said.

Keeney said live music within the community is growing immensely with the help of coffee houses, local events and the student population.

He said Keeney Bros. looks to motivate community members to play music out-and-about as well.

"Hopefully we encourage people to say, 'oh hey, maybe I should get the band back together,' or 'we should start that band,'" Murdock said.

Keeney said the shop's strong presence is thanks to the customers who rotate in



and out of Moscow, telling others about all of the services that the store has to offer.

"Downtown Moscow is amazing, and to be here is great," Keeney said. "So, we keep our standards high, and that is how we will always keep it."

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Old world coffee

Moscow's best study spot features in-house coffee beans, family and warmth

Hannah Shirley
Argonaut

Over the years, plenty of people have told Pat Greenfield she should get rid of the nearly 100-year-old community table in the front room of Bucer's Coffeehouse Pub.

Greenfield, who owns Bucer's, said there are plenty of good reasons to do just that — making room for a bigger stage, clearing room for a dance floor or creating seating for more people by swapping it out for several smaller tables.

But Greenfield said the community table must stay.

“(The table) makes it very common for you to sit with someone you might not otherwise sit with,” Greenfield said. “You might have a pastor with his bible out sitting across from two gay guys holding hands and having coffee. It's awesome.”

This cozy, community atmosphere helped Bucer's win The Argonaut's 2016 Best of Moscow Study Spot.

Greenfield said she appreciates the students who come into the coffeehouse as much as they seem to appreciate her — she said students are always courteous, buying something to eat or drink to justify their table, and offering to move their studies to a smaller table to make room for bigger groups that come in.

She said she rarely has to remind someone to purchase something, but she never kicks anyone out. That's because in Bucer's, Greenfield said ev-

eryone is like family.

“It feels like home,” Greenfield said. “To thousands of people, it just feels like home — they move away, they come back with their stuff and their kids and we have the same tables. You can get a panini and a side and it's very hearty, and it really feels like home.”

Greenfield has been roasting coffee for 20 years, and she moved her business from Lewiston to Moscow with her husband 16 years ago. They opened Bucer's with another couple who had a shared vision and a shared love of beer and wine, coffee, cigars and books.

She said the cozy, old world feel of the coffee shop happened naturally, following their love of classic art and emphasis on hospitality.

“What draws people in is their love of coffee,” Greenfield said. “Once they get in

they notice the brick, the leather, the wood, everything is very warm.”

Greenfield said the Moscow community, which has come to love Bucer's walls of old books, toasty panini's, cozy back smoking room and Thursday night open jazz jams, has been supportive of her since the beginning — especially as a woman and a single mother running her own business.

“I love my job,” Greenfield said. “If there's anybody who would like to be encouraged to open a business, I feel like I could be a little shot in the arm of encouragement.”

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Running to the rink

The Palouse Ice Rink draws crowds during weekends

Will Meyer
Argonaut

For many Moscow community members, ice skating at the Palouse Ice Rink has created a special set of memories.

Bryan Hawn, manager of the Palouse Ice Rink, knows a thing or two about making memories on the ice.

"I grew up in Northern British Columbia, so being a Canadian, I coach, I ref and I play (hockey)," Hawn said.

Hawn said when he's not fulfilling his duties as ice rink manager, he and his family are on the ice playing hockey.

The ice rink has been open since 2001 and is located next to the Moscow Fairgrounds.

He said the rink will hopefully expand sometime in the near future to account for the high demand of groups that wish to book it consistently throughout the rink's six-month season.

"We definitely have more demand than we have available ice, and that's a unique thing for facilities as a whole," Hawn said. "But then again, living around here, we do have limited winter activities."

Hawn said the popularity of ice skating often comes down to the social aspect, especially in a college town. He said he believes various groups come to the Palouse Ice Rink not only for the wintery "glow" of ice skating, but also for the large variety of winter activities available during winter.

"We provide a bunch of different programs whether it be hockey, skating and curling. People will book birthday

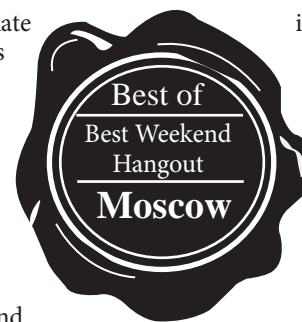
parties during open skate sessions ... there's always just an activity going on," Hawn said.

"You've got this little arena that has an outdoor feel, but yet enough space to hang out. I find that the groups — that's all they do — get to their spot on the ice and just socialize."

Eamonn Parke, a University of Idaho senior, works at Palouse Ice Rink and said during the winter months the hustle and bustle of the ice rink keeps him involved.

Parke said the ice rink is a great place to come, not only for the environment but also for the affordability of the activity.

"(Palouse Ice Rink is) different in that



it's a community-run rink, so it's different than a lot of activities around," Parke said. "It's kind of an army of people that keep this whole thing running."

Hawn said that he loves seeing the variety of those that come to ice skate, especially because the ages break the usual routine and schedule at the rink.

"You never know what you're going to get," Hawn said. "In all honesty, it's a lot of fun because you have a lot of people that don't normally show up to the arena and they're out here just creating great, organized chaos."

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Game day's hottest hangout

Applebee's brings food, excitement on game day

Luis Torres
Argonaut

Moscow has several popular locations for tourists and locals to enjoy quality service and a fun game day experience. Applebee's General Manager Jon Jordan said the Best of Moscow recognition will boost the restaurant's morale.

"It's great because we have a lot of students who work here that go to Idaho and WSU," Jordan said. "When I told them (of the Best of Moscow win) they thought it was awesome that they were a part of it."

Applebee's hostess Madison Williams said during football season the crowd can be intense.

"If it's game day, the bar is packed," Williams said.

Jordan said part of their game day success comes down to how Idaho and Washington State University athletic programs perform, especially in football.

"It's always a huge factor that drives people to come out of town to watch the games when they're doing well," Jordan said. "You do have your genuine alumni that come in no matter what, whether they're winning or losing."

Williams said major events such as football games require a lot of help from other employees.

"It can get pretty crazy so we usually have two to three hosts, especially when we have big groups of people come in,"

Williams said.

Jordan said their game day customer demographic can vary.

"When WSU was playing well this season, we had a lot of alumni in their '60s and '70s that were coming from Seattle and stuff," Jordan said.

"Then we get a lot of students come in. Players usually come after the game every now and then and bring their friends."

Jordan said the vibe of Applebee's becomes even more exciting when people from different states arrive on the Palouse.

"When you have teams like Oregon and USC come into town, we usually see (fans) in their colors and uniforms," Jordan said. "It makes a huge difference



and it's fun."

Jordan said sporting events are crucial for the restaurant to succeed.

"Production is tough and you have to get the right people to have a successful business," Jordan said. "It takes some planning to make sure we are prepared when big events take place."

Jordan said he has worked in the restaurant industry most of his life and is used to consistency, but said he had to adapt to a small-town environment.

"There's a lot of turnover down here being a college," Jordan said. "It's a lot of training, a lot of coaching and a lot of hard work."

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Austin Maas | Argonaut

Red Star Coffee Company Barista Kieleann Cordon hands coffee to a customer March 8. Red Star was awarded Best of Moscow's Best Coffee House.

Craving a caffeine fix

Red Star Coffee Co. is a long-time favorite

Mihaela Karst
Argonaut

Red Star Coffee Company has been serving the busy people of Moscow for a little over seven years now, and the community seems to love the shack now more than ever.

Shannon Nichols, the owner of Red Star, said the business is doing well and is getting better all the time. One of her favorite things about her job is the customer base she sees almost every day.

"We've got a lot of regulars that have been coming here the whole seven years," Nichols said.

Red Star sits on the corner of Peterson Drive and West Pullman Road. Due to its proximity to the University of Idaho campus, they find themselves being the solution to many college students' need for caffeine, she said.

"We have a lot of students that come through and so we get to see them all," Nichols said.

She said many of the students that stop by the stand end up becoming regulars whom she befriends. Nichols said once graduation season comes around, there is always a bittersweet moment when they make a final drink for the graduates and wish them luck.

Nicole Hanson, a Red Star barista since August, said the interactions with the customers have become the best part of her job.

"I love when they come through, they're all so sweet," Hanson said. "The regulars are so much fun. Once you know their drinks it's perfect, and you already know what they want when they pull up."

Nichols said university events such as Moms' Weekend, Dads' Weekend and the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival bring in a lot of business for Red Star.

In addition to those events, Hanson said finals week has turned into one of their busiest times.

"I see a lot more people at night for sure," Hanson said. "Between eight and nine, normally (Moscow is) dead, but (we are) so packed during that time."

Despite its proximity to the UI campus, Red Star sees just as many working community members as college students.

"We really get a variety," Hanson said.



Nichols said she started "pay-it-forward" day, where the coffee shack buys one drink for a customer in the morning, and then the kind gesture is passed on from car to car throughout the day.

"I always pick somebody that looks like they're having kind of a tough day — maybe they have tests, maybe they're running late or their kids were cranky," Nichols said. "It makes their day."

Whether a busy college student looking for a Red Bull Bomber before a

morning lecture or a working mom looking for a steaming hot mocha before taking the kids to school, the folks at Red Star say they are more than happy to help anyone find something they'll love.

"It's a really good environment," Nichols said. "The community has just been really good to us."

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With sprinkles on top

Moscow's downtown doughnut shop brings sweet treats and a fun experience

Emily Sandoval
Argonaut

It all started with one small machine and a table at the Moscow Farmers Market. Today, with new owners and a bright pink storefront on the corner of 6th and Main Street, Buy the Dozen Donuts is a budding business.

With their one-year anniversary of ownership quickly approaching, Ray Wallace and his wife Jennifer said they couldn't be happier with the outcome of their store.

"I've always wanted to own my business and having this fun store is a great way to serve the community," Wallace said.

Wallace said the best part about owning a store in downtown Moscow is the diversity of the customers who come in.

"Moms with their strollers after yoga class, college students looking for something to satisfy their sweet tooth, everyone just seems happy all the time," Wallace said.

As members of Buy Local Moscow, the Wallaces said they are supported and welcomed by other owners, forming a tightly knit community of downtown businesses.

"It's fun to feel connected to other events going on downtown," store manager Amanda Kelly said. "I feel like we get to be a part of them through customers that come in and share their experiences with us."

Kelly and Wallace are grateful for the achievement of being named Best Sweet Spot in Moscow. They said they hope that it will spread the word about

the store and bring more attention to those who are unaware of the business' existence.

Wallace said their main goal is to accommodate the community's needs, and make sure everyone knows where they are located.

Buy the Dozen recently extended its weekend hours to cater to the downtown crowd in the late hours of the night.

Wallace said they hope to have a larger shop with seating for customers to hang out and enjoy their treats in the store in the future.

He said Buy the Dozen is involved with the community both in the store and around town.

From school fundraisers to special



orders, weddings to marathons, Kelly and other employees are constantly working to produce doughnuts for Moscow doughnut lovers. Wallace said the store has many unique traits, from its location and appearance all the way down to the doughnuts themselves.

He said one of their popular creations is the Idaho maple bar, shaped as a large "I" in support of the Vandal community and students who visit their shop every day.

"They're hard-working and awesome and just make the store a fun place to be — which is our goal," Wallace said.

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Celebrating mothers' love

A weekend of celebrating moms, students

Diamond Koloski
Argonaut

For years, the celebration of our mothers and their love has been highlighted once a year during Moms' Weekend at the University of Idaho. Timothy Helmke has been a Student Alumni Relations Board adviser for nearly 20 years, and advises the Moms' Weekend planning committee.

"Moms are just appreciative of the focus we have on them, and the opportunity that we offer them to come to campus and spend time with their students," Helmke said.

Merchele Greene graduated from UI in 1990 has a daughter who graduated from UI last year and a son who is currently a junior.

She said that when she was a student, Dads' Weekend and Moms' Weekend were combined into a single "Parents' Weekend," and it was the one time a year her parents would visit. Greene has now attended three Moms' Weekends and said she thinks the event is a great way for parents and their students to bond.

"I think it is a really good way for moms and dads to envision a day in the life that their kid is having so far away from them," Greene said.

She said it helps her get to know a piece of her children's lives as they're developing and figuring out what they want to do in the world.

"It's a chance for all of us to showcase the best of what we have going on on campus," Helmke said. "We highlight student talent, and it's just an opportunity to celebrate with our moms, and who doesn't love their mom?"

He said this year's theme is "Vandal Mom for President," because it coincides with the campaign season.

Helmke said the biggest event each year is probably the Phi Delta Turtle Derby, and Greene said she remembers sharing those memories with her parents when she was a student at UI.

"I think the greatest part about Moms' Weekend is that SARb has really set up the ground work for it, but then a lot of other clubs and Greek houses plan their own things," Wil Everly, the Moms' Weekend co-chair, said.

He said the board helps these groups market their events along with the weekend's itinerary.

"I think possibly what's made it the Best of Moscow is that everyone can have their own experience within what's going on in the Moscow community and the UI community as a whole," Everly said.

Everly said some of the most popular events are the Saturday morning Jazz Choir Brunch, the Turtle Derby and the wine and cheese tasting.

"We have all these different facts," Everly said. "You can't actually go to everything that happens on Moms' Weekend because there is a lot of double planning."

He said that is because the weekend is not solely planned by SARb, but that it builds a framework that other groups can build off of.

"Everyone can have their own Moms' Weekend experience," Everly said.

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Rented with reliability

Students, community members turn to Hill Rental Properties for reliable service

Corrin Bond
Argonaut

On the day rent is due every month, University of Idaho Senior Rachael Lewis walks into Hill Rental Properties' office to see familiar faces and a plate of freshly baked cookies.

"The day rent is due they have a little cookie thing on the front desk, you can walk through the front door, you can have a cookie and pay your rent," Lewis said. "It's so much more encouraging to pay rent on time because you get a cookie."

Lewis, who first began renting with Hill Rental Properties in the fall of 2014, said she prefers the agency to other renters in town.

"They're very clear about what they need, their contract isn't like 15 pages, even though some places are," Lewis said. "Fifteen pages is daunting to read, but

also it's like, 'Why 15 pages?'"

Karla Benjamin, the property manager of Hill Rentals, said the company values clear communication with tenants and within the office.

"We work really hard to get a lot of communication between our employees so we're all on the same page," Benjamin said. "We know about apartments moving in or moving out and just, you know, we keep track of our tenants."

The company, which was created by Otto Hill in the '70s, began as a set of apartments in Moscow and Pullman.

Benjamin said the two branches of the rental agency split into Hill Rental Properties and Summer Hill Rentals around 2002.

Even before the split, Benjamin said Hill Rentals has worked to provide renters with positive customer service experiences.

"One of the most challenging things

is making sure tenants get the very best customer service," Benjamin said. "When they have a work order, it's taken care of right away. When they have a concern, it gets resolved right away — we always look for where we can improve so tenants get more for their money."

Beyond providing good customer service, Benjamin said Hill Rentals also tries to maintain a level of flexibility, as they cater to a diverse population.

"We do rent to a very diverse population," Benjamin said. "We have students and non-students. There's different needs and expectations so some days we have to be pretty flexible."

The quality of customer service is among the reasons Lewis said she prefers Hill Rentals to other Moscow agencies she's rented from in the past.

"I like Hill Rentals a lot



because I can walk in there and I know who the people in the office are and I have a really good relationship with them," Lewis said.

When it comes to serving students and Moscow community members, Benjamin said she and her colleagues like to follow the golden rule: treat others the way you want to be treated.

"Our philosophy has always been to treat our tenants like we would want to be treated if we were renting an apartment," Benjamin said. "Everything we do from renting the apartment to maintenance, that's our underlying motto, how we've organized our office."

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OPINION

An all-inclusive gastropub

Local taphouse and kitchen makes best new addition for variety, accommodation

When I think "gastropub," or "pub" in general, I only think of Tapped. Tapped is a typical gastropub with fries, burgers and of course, beer.

The menu has options for everyone and will cater to food allergies.

The best appetizer? Bacon-wrapped dates. The cooks take whole dates and wrap them in crispy bacon. Then, the bacon-dates are drizzled in a thick glaze with orange, thyme and balsamic vinegar.

While I try to maintain a fairly "clean"

diet, I am a sucker for french-fries. Since my first visit to Tapped, I crave their fries specifically. The fries come coated in herb salt, paired with two yummy side sauces. Even a more simple food, like a ham and

cheese sandwich, is taken up a notch at Tapped.

The sandwich comes with mild Cougar Gold cheddar, applewood ham, apple aioli and sweet mustard. Tapped also serves a wide variety of salads, soups and desserts.

However, in my opinion, their burgers are their greatest triumph. A number of the burgers feature sauces and aioli's made with beer, like the garlic beer cheese sauce and beer mustard sauce.

Customers also have the option to

replace a beef patty with a chicken breast or a portobello mushroom.

I have food allergies, so when I go out to eat, I need knowledgeable, flexible staff members.

The wait staff has been incredibly helpful by rattling off ingredients and double-checking possible contamination. I've never had to send anything back to be remade. This flexibility is greatly appreciated and the most attractive quality, to me, in a restaurant.

While it may be a pub, that doesn't mean that customers under the age of 21 aren't allowed inside. No matter their age, everyone is welcome.

In a college town, where drinking is practically a sport, I enjoy being able to grab a drink with friends after a concert or in celebration — even if my drink is root

beer, which they have on tap, it's always delicious. Because the taphouse does not serve hard alcohol, those under 21 also have the option of sitting at the bar. A majority of their beers and wines are from Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California. They have nine different beers from the local area — Pullman, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint.

An interactive screen behind the bar shows how much is left in each keg and if it was "just tapped." It is nice to have a different kind of restaurant in Moscow. Local brews, good food and flexible staff, what else could a person want?

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Argonaut





Hill Rental Properties

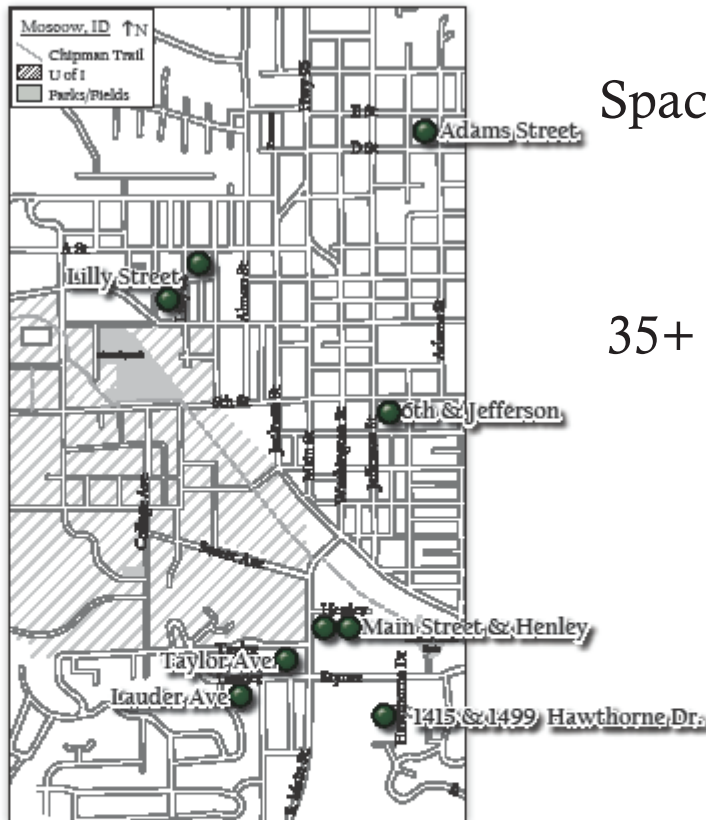
Multiple Locations & Floor Plans

Spacious 1 & 2 bedroom units close to Campus

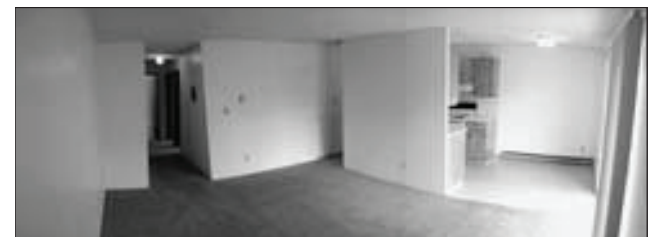
On-Site Laundry Facilities

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