

MAY 2022

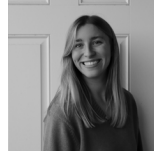
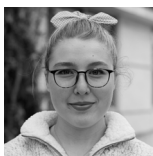
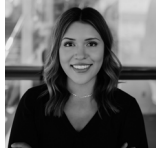
BL  **T**
MAGAZINE



THE TEAM

Nataly Davies
Nataly Davies & Courtesy

Cover Photo
Staff Photos



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Associate Editor
Creative Director
Marketing Director
Assistant Marketing Director
Copy Editor
Creative Copy Editor

Brianna Finnegan
Abby Fackler
Gia Mazzarella
Dakota Brown
Kat Hockema
Bailey Brockett
Emily Pearce

Nataly Davies
Cyndi Enderle
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Daniel Gonzalez
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Karina Rodriguez
Megan Schwartz
Angeline Silva
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Olivia Webster

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

I remember scanning through the tables while I carried my tote bag from the university. There were pins from the LGBTQA center, bookmarks from the women's center and stickers from my college. I had free water bottles and granola bars, but my eyes widened when I finally found the organization I knew I wanted to join. Not even a freshman yet, I picked up a newspaper, a magazine and an application, certain I would be a reporter the second I got up to Moscow.

My last four years in student media have been some of the most important years of my life. I have worked with our student publications, Blot and The Argonaut, since I arrived on this campus. I have served as Editor-in-Chief of both of these publications during a pandemic that has changed the way our world functions, and completely shifted the university experience as well.

I'm very proud of my time with these publications and with the amazing team I've had along the way. In this issue, my last publication with Blot, we wanted to dive into our community of the Pacific Northwest and determine, what is the culture here.

In this issue, you will find stories such as the PNW road trip map which features the best places to stop when on a road trip through the PNW. Speaking of travel, we have another piece about the recent trend of van life. Using photos, we explore public art in Moscow with a photo story on local artists. We also have a piece on local authors and the recent work they have published.

For Humans of Moscow, we talked to local business owner Stefan Yauchzee from Pour to discuss what it's like owning a beer and taproom. We also have a story discussing climate change and its impact on the agriculture business in Idaho, and our centerpiece for this issue is on the elusive Bigfoot.

As always we have plenty of creative writing, with a short story about a camping trip and a poem about nature. And of course, there is online content as well on our website www.blotmagazine.com.

B. Finnegan

Brianna Finnegan
Editor-in-Chief

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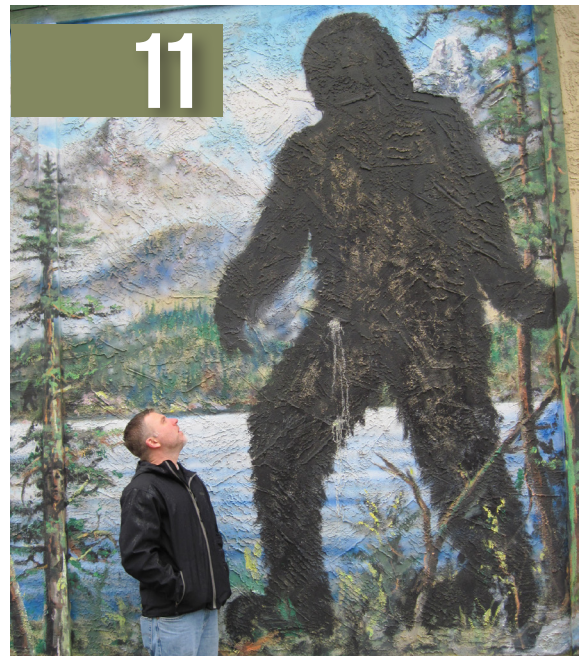
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THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST: AN AUTHOR'S PARADISE

HOW DOES THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST INFLUENCE LOCAL LITERARY ENTHUSIASTS?

Story By | *Katarina Hockema*
Photos By | *Anteia McCollum*
Design By | *Megan Schwartz*

A woman's home office is embellished with books, articles and scraps of paper from the floor to the ceiling. Literary awards and promotional posters line her walls, framing her in her seat and seemingly consuming her figure into a million words on a page.

Mary Clearman Blew, an emerita professor at the University of Idaho and renowned author specializing in creative nonfiction, fiction and Shakespeare, has a longstanding history with the Pacific Northwest.

Blew, 82, is a fourth-generation Montanan who spent her childhood on a homestead in rural Montana, originally established by her great-grandfather who worked as a railroad surveyor in 1882.

Blew described life on the homestead as an experience truly from another time, detailing a lack of electricity, running water and very little technology, as rural Montana was far behind the rest of the state in terms of industrializing and moving into an era of modern technology. "Raised as a boy" by her father along with her other sisters, in her words, Blew helped her family with homestead chores and duties, and was expected to fulfill the expectations of staying within the homestead as an adult woman as well.

However, from a young age, Blew felt that she had a different future in mind. She expressed a talent and passion for reading and writing, often finding "strange reads" leftover from cowboys and other eccentric community members. Publications such as the *National Geographic* gave her a "picture of another culture," and these childhood reads fueled her interest in combining



MARY BLEW SITS AT HER DESK WITH BOOKS FROM PNW AUTHORS ORGANIZED ON THE SHELF BEHIND HER.

fiction and nonfiction writing to express her connection to Montana and beyond.

Blew went on to study at the University of Montana, receiving her bachelor's degree, as well as her master's, eventually earning her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 1967. Blew has taught at Northern Montana College, Pacific Lutheran University, Lewis and Clark State College, and, rounding out her career, the University of Idaho. Several of her published works focus on her personal connection, as well as fictionalized accounts of life in Montana through several different time periods, ranging from 1925 to modern times in a series



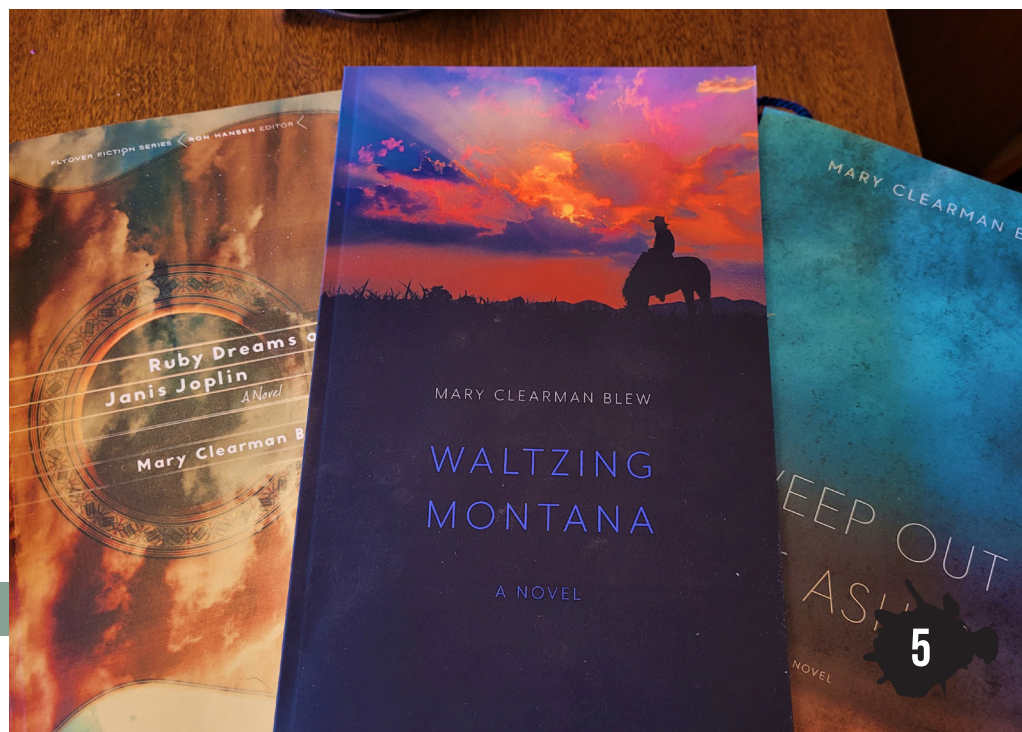
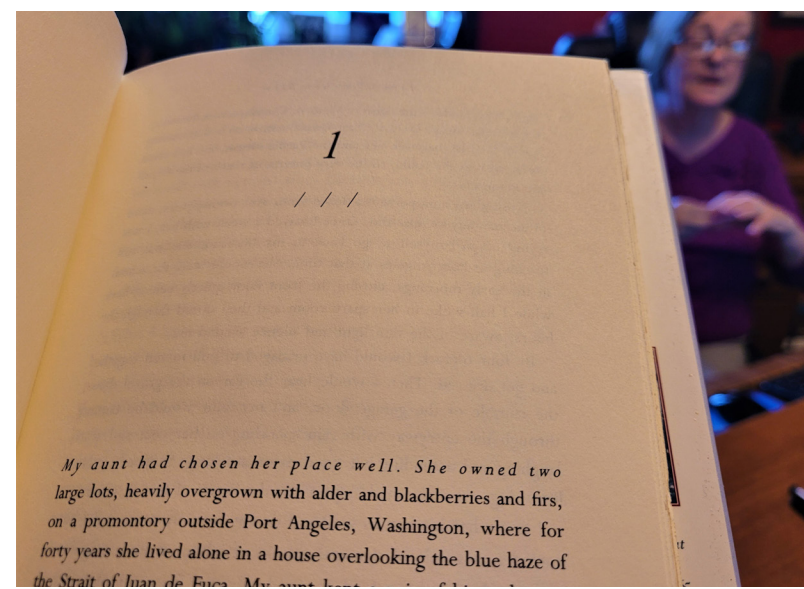
A STACK OF BOOKS AUTHORED BY MARY BLEW.



of works she refers to as a “Montana quartet.” Blew’s influences and inspiration draw from specific Montana experiences, as well as feminist and gender-equality focused schools of thought that came to a head during her career as an educator.

This quartet consists of four separate installments detailing stories of livelihood in rural Montana. Firstly, there is “Waltzing Montana: A Novel,” a fictionalized story based on the life of midwife Edna McGuire. Following, there is “Sweep Out the Ashes,” a story about a woman teaching college history courses in northern Montana in the 1970’s. Next comes “Ruby Dreams of Janis Joplin: A Novel,” detailing a young woman dealing with the isolation of small-town life and the powerful bonding capacities of music. Lastly, “Think of Horses: A Novel” will conclude the quartet with its release this fall, chronicling the journey of a romance novelist who returns to her family’s homestead in Montana to restart a life in spite of several challenges that await her.

From a life of rural simplicity to a whirlwind career of success in literature, it is clear that the Pacific Northwest has stayed with Blew through her entire life, enriching her works and inspiring her to create stories that not only express her personal experiences, but realize the stories and perspectives so often needed in modern literature today.



CONTINUED ONLINE AT BLOTMAGAZINE.COM

PHILOSOPHY OF THE CROP

AN INCREASE OF GLOBAL TEMPERATURE AFFECTS IDAHO'S AGRICULTURE

Story By | *Emily Pearce*
Photos By | *Daniel Gonzalez*
Design By | *Gia Mazzarella*

It's August, and smoke fills the air, like a hazy, diaphanous sheet.

While in the era of Zoom, wildfires were at a record high, charring the Pacific Northwest. We see climate change with our own eyes, and humans, ecosystems and Idaho's landscape feel its effects.

"First, the climate is changing," Jeffrey Hicke, a geography professor at the University of Idaho said. "That's been well established, the temperatures are increasing, snowpack is declining, glaciers are receding (and the) sea level is rising. All those components of climate are changing in ways that we would expect given warming. And we know that humans are the cause of it."

Climate change has affected forests in the Pacific Northwest as global warming promotes wildfires, according to Hicke. As a result of temperature change, fire season lengths have increased, burning earlier and later than a regular season. And as summers become warmer, dry conditions lead to more flammable material and fuel spread.

Around 50% of human activity can be associated with the recent increase with climate change, according to Hicke. Due to deforestation, fossil fuel burning and greenhouse gases, temperatures have annually increased, documented over the past century.

Stated in the "Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture in Idaho" provided by The McClure Center, average temperatures globally have increased by 1 °C, or 1.8 °F since

1960. Idaho has increased 0.24 °C, or 1.4 °F, per decade between 1974-2010, and as of 2020 Idaho's average temperature has increased slightly above the global average, according to the assessment.

Along with rising global temperatures, the assessment states a prediction of more "heat stress" days. Heat stress days are when temperatures are or exceed 100 °F. According to the assessment, projections for years between 2040-2069 will experience an annual average of 25 heat stress days.

Heat stress can have detrimental effects on the well-being of people and living organisms. Working in high temperatures can increase work delays, lower productivity and lead to absence from work and school, according to Katherine Himes, director of the McClure Center. In severe



weather, people may feel adverse effects such as mental health impacts, injuries, fatalities, and loss of homes, jobs and income.

In Idaho, 2.5 million animals inhabit the state, and of that number, 635,000 are cows and cattle, according to the assessment. Severe temperatures affect cow's productivity, and production of milk. Heat stress can lower milk production, conception rates, feed efficiency and increase diseases and metabolic disorders in cattle, the assessment stated.

Cattle are a large contributor to Idaho's agricultural economy. Idaho is the third largest milk producing state in the U.S. and in 2019, beef and milk production accumulated \$1.7 billion as an industry, stated in the assessment. Agriculture, along with food and beverage sales, supply 18% of Idaho's total business sales.

Due to temperature increase, climate change has lowered agricultural production by 20% nationally, and the Pacific Northwest has seen a decline by 12.5% between 1961-2020. This decrease can be attributed to delays in planting due to excess spring rain, temperature-controlled storage, increasing costs

of pest management and summer irrigation, according to Himes.

Snow and precipitation in early spring are crucial for water supply in the Pacific Northwest. Grant Harley, a climate change researcher at UI, has studied snowpack using weather stations and instrumental gauges. Reviewing research conducted over the past 120 years, Harvey has monitored snowfall and drought records.

Hicke said. "So that means that we have less water available in streams and for human uses in late spring (to) early summer."

This precipitation event can lead to summer drought and risk of flooding.

While navigating severe temperatures, irrigation in the summer may alive produce loss and drought effects. Patrick Hatzenbuehler, lead author for the agriculture section

"COINCIDENTALLY, THE PAST 20 YEARS HAVE BEEN THE WARMEST IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST 1000 YEARS."

"We found that since 2015 about six (or) seven years has been the lowest snowpack in the past 500 years," Harley said. "Coincidentally, the past 20 years have been the warmest it has been in the past 1000 years."

Snowpack is important for retaining water. It acts as water storage as it melts throughout the spring season. Because of warmer temperatures, snowpack is melting earlier in spring in a more concentrated way, according to Himes.

"Snowpack is declining because the warming conditions have led to precipitation that used to fall as snow, and is now falling as rain,"

of the assessment, said plants don't grow well in extreme temperatures, and irrigation is a key aid to adapt to these hot environments.

In Idaho, the main produce grown throughout the state includes potatoes, wheat, barley, hay, hops, onions and pulses, which include chickpeas, beans, lentils and dry peas. Potatoes in particular suffer in high temperatures.

Potatoes are a heavy water using crop, according to Hatzenbuehler. In dry summers, soil moisture evaporates, leading to the need for more irrigation. Potato storage is also affected by extreme temperatures,



without temperature control the crop is vulnerable to sprouting and diseases. Potato diseases thrive in temperatures above 50 °F, and as temperatures continue to rise it becomes difficult to cool produce without refrigeration efforts, the assessment stated.

Precipitation also affects soil retention and nutrients. “Annual precipitation is limiting enough

Along with produce increase, weeds are expected to emerge earlier and migrate.

A rise in carbon dioxide levels increases photosynthesis in wheat, barley, corn and some weeds, according to the assessment. Specific weed species, like *Chenopodium album* and *Setaria viridis*, will benefit from this increase and compete with crops in farmer’s fields.

future climate change, which are mitigation and adapting to climate change, according to Hicke. Mitigation is reducing greenhouse gas emissions and includes switching to renewable energy, consuming environmentally smart food, reducing driving, switching to an electric vehicle and using LED lightbulbs. With increasing temperatures, people must adapt to climate change. Hicke gives a good example from the extreme heat the Pacific Northwest experienced last summer.

“The heat wave in June in the Northwest killed hundreds of people,” Hicke said. “So, making sure that people have air conditioning, helping them perhaps if they don’t have the resources to purchase air conditioning units, is one way of adapting to these growing heat waves.”

Harley said something people can do is calculate their carbon footprint, which is the total amount of carbon dioxide and methane gases created by individuals’ actions. Harley also recommends purchasing carbon offsets, giving money to more sustainable energy practices.

As a group, Eigenbrode said people can combat climate change by joining the Citizens Climate Lobby. The lobby is an organization, with a regional chapter on the Palouse, whose goal is to raise awareness and find out how to lobby for policies better for climate future. Founded in 2012, the lobby is continuing to be active, evoking change within the community.

“50% OF CLIMATE CHANGE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO HUMAN ACTIVITY, AND IS CONTINUING TO INCREASE, AFFECTING THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO HICKE.”

that in order to make it worthwhile to farm, a practice that’s become widespread is to just skip a year,” Sanford Eigenbrode, project director at REACCH said. Rain falls on the dirt, and farmers will let their fields pile up until next year while soil accumulates moisture. Though this practice is common, it can promote fallow which is unsustainable.

A way to combat fallow is by planting cover crops, to rotate during growing season and create resiliency to climate change. There are many different species farmers can experiment with, but most commonly are legumes, according to Eigenbrode,.

Another factor of climate change, along with temperature rising, is carbon dioxide increase. Most crops are expected to have a higher yield in response to higher carbon dioxide levels, according to Hatzenbuehler.

In combination of increased carbon dioxide levels and rising temperatures, weeds are predicted to grow geographically, expanding from southern states to northern states. The assessment attributes this expansion to weeds being able to adapt to dry and hot conditions.

Weeds are also predicted to sprout earlier in the growing season, before or while crops develop. The assessment states yield loss occurs most when weeds emerge with or before the crop.

50% of climate change can be attributed to human activity, and is continuing to increase, affecting the world, according to Hicke. Though its effects cannot be reversed, there are things people can do to reduce their carbon footprint.

On an individual level, there are two main ways people can reduce

PUBLIC ART IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

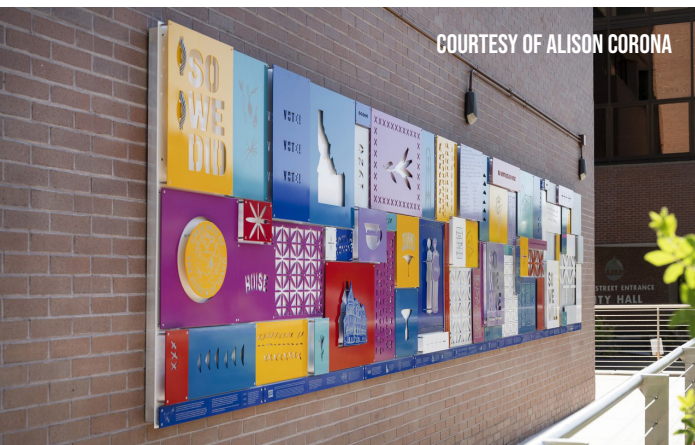
PUBLIC ARTISTS IMPACT THEIR COMMUNITY ONE PIECE AT A TIME

Story By | *Abby Fackler*
Photos By | *Abby Fackler and Courtesy*
Design By | *Gia Mazzarella*



Justin Pickard, an artist and University of Idaho alumnus living in Moscow believes that public art is what centers a community.

“The original word for religion, its etymology, is community,” Pickard said. “Throughout time, we’ve used community in relation with art to convey a lot of cultural ideas. I think now we’re at an age where we can separate art into its own community and not have it ride on the coattail of religion. Having art that isn’t based in politics or religion, and just in the sense of community is really important. A commonality between all religions is that there’s some sort of art to help bring people together – so, just having public art brings people together naturally.”



Stephanie Inman, a Boise-based public artist and cultural planner with works featured at Boise City Hall, understands some of the resistance towards public art, but thinks the benefits outweigh the costs.

“It’s taxpayer dollars, so you have to be very responsible with all your decisions,” Inman said. “I understand some people being hesitant, but I also see so much value in it. And once it’s there a lot of people really are appreciative. It’s accessible, and everyone can visit that.”

UI students Brittany Blakely and Tala Davis create paper flowers that hold seeds of native Palouse plants that they plan to distribute for the public to plant at the end of the semester – all from Blakely's kitchen table.

"I found a paper-making tutorial on Tik Tok and thought, 'why not?'" Blakely said. "I think it's going to be a fun project for the community to take part in that'll also benefit the environment on the Palouse."



Faith Clark, a UI alumna, was chosen by the City of Moscow to have her sculpture installed outside of the Intermodal Transit Center in 2021.

"It's one thing when you make something and you're like, 'this is super cool, but only two people in my direct vicinity are going to see it,'" Clark said. "But if it gets put in a public forum all of these people get to see it even though they have no idea who I am, and I think that's very cool."



Kim Timmons, a UI student working on a metal angler fish to submit to Moscow's call for art, believes public art is invaluable to a society.

"Everything in life is about art," Timmons said. "Anything you love or anything that gives you joy – an artist did that. Any song you like, and building you think is cool – an artist or a designer made that. Humans are creative, social creatures and to have pieces of work that solely represent that, I feel like that's really important."





THE ULTIMATE HIDE AND SEEK CHAMPION

**DISCOVER THE HISTORY, THE EVIDENCE AND A WIDE RANGE
OF BIGFOOT OPINIONS FROM BELIEVERS AND SKEPTICS**

Story By | *Bailey Brockett*
Photos By | *Nataly Davies and Courtesy*
Design By | *Gia Mazarella*



You've seen them on bumper stickers and postcards, in movies and TV series, video games, roadside attractions, museums, even in advertising for insurance commercials; an immensely tall, shaggy, slightly hunched, ape-like figure commonly known as Bigfoot or sasquatch.

What started off as a handful of local legends, grew to become a cultural phenomenon here in the Pacific Northwest. Many Bigfoot enthusiasts credit the notorious 1967 "Patterson-Gimlin Film" for kickstarting this collective obsession, as the short documentary allegedly features the first captured footage of Bigfoot. But before they adorned the bumpers of cars or the logos of social distancing awareness campaigns, sasquatches were the subject of stories specifically tied to Indigenous peoples' oral storytelling history and traditions. These trickled into the stories of parties involved in the western expansion; reports in Ohio and Pennsylvania newspapers of encountering seven-

foot tall, wild, hairy men, according to Cliff Barackman, a Bigfoot field researcher, the host of Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot" TV series and owner of the North American Bigfoot Center in Boring, Oregon.

appear overnight, simultaneously confusing and intriguing him.

"They took some plaster casts and brought it to a taxidermist, who had never seen (the footprints) before, and eventually brought it to the

"...AND THAT'S WHERE THE WORD 'BIGFOOT' WAS BORN," BARACKMAN SAID.

"Many of these stories actually describe behaviors that weren't even known in apes until Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey did their pioneering studies in the 1960s and 70s," Barackman said. "But yet, here we are, in like 1843 and you have a giant, hairy man throwing rocks, and that continued to happen, so eventually they slapped some names on them."

The term "Bigfoot" wasn't coined until 1958 when a man named Jerry Crew discovered massive 16-inch footprints on a freshly graded road he was building in northern California. The footprints would continue to



CLIFF BARACKMAN, HOST OF ANIMAL PLANET'S 'FINDING BIGFOOT.'

newspaper in Humboldt County, and that's where the word 'Bigfoot' was born," Barackman said.

Many documented Bigfoot sightings have occurred at night near dense, wooded areas, much like the terrain of the Pacific Northwest and parts of Canada, where Jeffrey Meldrum, Bigfoot expert and a professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University, had a potential encounter. On a five-day research trip in Alberta, Canada, Meldrum and his colleagues heard something approach their campsite late at night.

"We'd always stay up quite late in hopes that something might visit the camp," Meldrum said. "And sure enough, at about two in the morning one night, suddenly we started hearing vocalizations, these whistling chirping calls, and then the sound of heavy steps. Something that sounded like a bull moose was around just outside of the firelight, under the cover of the brush."

Attempting to observe the animal with a night vision monocular, Meldrum caught a brief glimpse of an exceptionally large silhouette breaking from cover and crossing the road they were camped adjacent to.

"And we had seen footprints previously, 13.5-to-14-inch footprints, and what we saw had to have been at least seven feet tall," he said.

Through his research, Meldrum devised a technical formula to estimate how many sasquatches can be found in a particular area, based on how many black bears are also documented in the area, as the optimal habitats for both creatures are similar. Keeping in mind a variety of other factors play into this, Meldrum's rule of thumb is for every 200 black bears in a region there is one sasquatch. In Idaho, for example, with a population of about 35,000 black bears, Meldrum estimates there to be approximately 150 to 300 sasquatches in the state.

Many individuals, like Mark Warner, a historical archeologist and University of Idaho professor, aren't

particularly sold on Bigfoot's existence. While Warner, who considers himself a Bigfoot skeptic, finds the anthropological aspects and mythologies of Bigfoot fascinating, he attributes his research with fossils to be the source of his doubts that such a creature could exist.

"Scholars have been doing a tremendous amount of research on humans and primates throughout the world, and we've found robust

"AND WE HAD SEEN FOOTPRINTS PREVIOUSLY, 13.5-TO-14-INCH FOOTPRINTS, AND WHAT WE SAW HAD TO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST SEVEN FEET TALL," HE SAID.

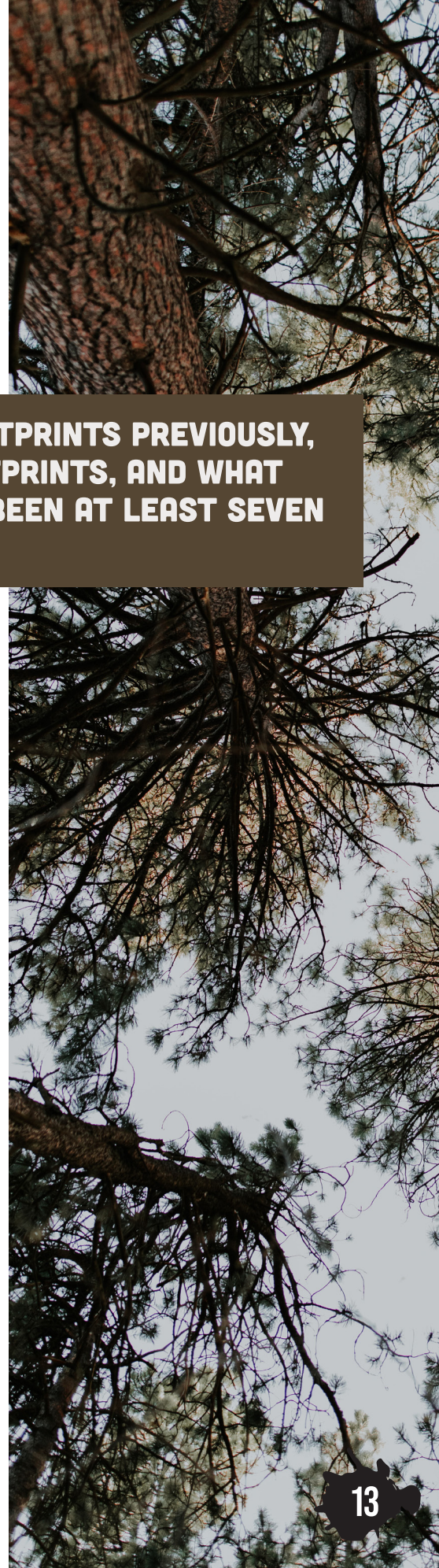
evidence of our hominid origins going back millions of years through multiple fossil accounts," Warner said. "What we really don't have is conclusive physical evidence of Bigfoot. Where are the skeletal remains of some large, bipedal primate?"

Other individuals, such as Barackman and Meldrum, believe in the existence of Bigfoot so sincerely they've conducted and presented extensive research, seeking to destigmatize the subject.

Evidence Meldrum has found to be particularly convincing includes his main study, footprints, as well as scat and hair.

"We have hair that can't be attributed to common forms of wildlife, but it shows primate characteristics," he said. "We hear vocalizations that can be analyzed spectrographically that don't match other forms of wildlife. (There is) a lot of evidence that should compel the scientific community to at least remain open minded about the possibility."

Barackman also finds the study of sasquatch footprints to be the main, credible source of evidence that they are an existing species. Superficially, sasquatch footprints appear to be overgrown human footprints, but the mechanics behind their foot structure





proves otherwise, he explained.

“Like every other ape species and most human ancestors, they’ve retained a tremendous amount of flexibility in the mid part of their foot, whereas human beings don’t. We have an arch like a longitudinal ‘L,’” he said. “The science and the physics behind their foot structure is exactly what would be necessary to carry a mass of their size.”

What appears to unite believers and skeptics alike is the acknowl-

edgement over the last few decades, Bigfoot, or perhaps the idea of them, has generated immense traction among the public.

Warner attributes this to the general imaginative tendencies of humans and the means by which we cope with the unknown.

“We read fiction like crazy, we tell ghost stories,” Warner said. “Believers in some faiths will look at another faith’s origin stories as myths and so on. I think this is part of the creative

process, and I think good stories sell.”

Similarly, Meldrum believes the phenomenon is related to humans’ fascination with the mysterious and is intrigued by what Bigfoot has come to symbolize.

“Bigfoot will represent something that’s rare, elusive, hard to find,” he said. “It’s just iconic, all the places it appears, all of the pop art and the culture and the logos. Bigfoot this, Bigfoot that.”

YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESSFULLY GO SQUATCHIN’

1. HYDRATION CARRIER & A LIFESTRAW

Bring plenty of water and a carrier or two to keep it fresh and cool. Yeti, Hydroflask and Nalgene are durable and reputable brands, and a Lifestraw will filter any source of water to ensure it’s drinkable.

2. BINOCULARS

In the event that you do spot Bigfoot, you’ll probably want to do so at a distance.

3. CAMERA WITH EXCELLENT ZOOM RATIO

You’ll want to document your evidence, but make sure you can actually see the evidence.

4. SNACKS

Don’t forget to eat on your adventure! Trail mix, jerky, protein bars and dried fruit are great nonperishable options. Remember to keep them in resealable bags so you don’t attract any *unwanted* animal attention.

5. TENT & RAIN FLY

Bring a tent that has a quick and easy setup, and make sure to bring a rain fly so you and your equipment stay safe and dry!

6. SURPLUS OF FIRE STARTERS

Fire is a must in this potentially dangerous situation as it can ward off predators, cook food, boil water, provide heat and deter bugs! Fire starter examples include matches, a lighter, road flares and tinder.

7. WEAPON/PROTECTION

This is totally up to you, but a knife or bear spray couldn’t hurt. Also understand what wildlife you could potentially encounter and how to scare them off.

8. FIRST AID KIT

Injuries are not out of the question on a Bigfoot search, so you want to be prepared for as many as possible. Make sure your kit at least includes Band-Aids, breakable ice packs, hydrogen peroxide, gauze, bandage wrap, Neosporin or off brand, tweezers, burn cream, ibuprofen, Benadryl and anti-diarrhea pills.

9. MAPS OR GPS & A COMPASS

The last thing you want is to be lost in the woods with wild animals, and potentially a sasquatch.

10. SUNSCREEN & BUG SPRAY

Don’t be fooled, the sun and mosquitos are your actual worst enemies in the wilderness.

11. QUALITY OUTDOOR APPAREL & HIKING BOOTS

This isn’t “Naked and Afraid.” Layer up.

A SUBLIME WAY OF LIVING VAN LIFE IN THE PNW



Story By | *Angeline Silva*
Photos By | *Jake Vegas and Hailey Vachon*
Design By | *JacQueline Walker*

Delicately ranging from large mountain tops to lush rainforest eco-systems, the Pacific Northwest offers sublime views, a taste of saltwater air and an endless richness of hiking and exploring for nature enthusiasts all around. For some, the Pacific Northwest has become a top tier travel destination, where many travel from far and wide to explore the matchless terrain. For others, the Pacific Northwest became a way of living within their vans, traveling from sight to sight, soaking in the picturesque landscape.

Their Background

Traveler and photographer Jake Vegas found himself at a standstill in life. Overwhelmed by the disarray of school and life, Vegas sought a trip to study abroad in Italy in 2019. With an unexpected fate, Vegas realized he missed his flight, stranding him in the LAX airport. "I think it was destiny for me to miss my flight that day," Vegas said. "I flew myself back to Boise, where I talked to my family and told them I needed to travel somewhere else. I eventually found myself with a one-way ticket to Honolulu, which then led me to the island of Maui, Hawai'i. I truly had no plans or structure of where I wanted to live, so I bought a van, leaving me on an island where I knew nobody and only had about \$20 in my pocket."

With a new way of living, Vegas spent the next six months renovating his van, providing himself with a simplistic, yet fulfilling way of living.

"My plan was to renovate my van out, but it was a big hassle since I had nowhere to take the time to do so," he said. "I designed how I wanted it to look at a local coffee shop, which also happened to give me the time for a lot of self-reflection and time alone, which I hadn't had before. Having to exercise my thoughts was a big challenge with the stuff I was dealing with, but it gave me ample time to reflect on my past. I truly learned how to become my own best friend, and I eventually

learned to appreciate the solidarity that came with living in a van."

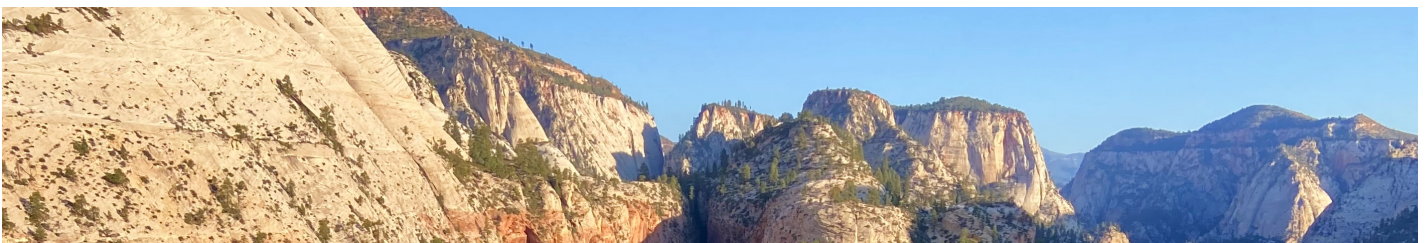
Vegas realized he had a burning passion not just for traveling, but for encouraging and inspiring others that their dreams and aspirations can become a way of living, a new reality of life.

"I love doing things for others, especially teaching," he said. "I felt a new sense of excitement for life, and I wanted others to know that they can make their traveling 'dreams' a reachable outcome. I want to move others to allow themselves to experience culture shock, and I knew if I could do it, anyone else could do just the same, even all within a van."

Hailey Vachon graduated from the University of Idaho in the spring of 2021, earning a double major in psychology and sociology. Growing up as a child, her family often took weeklong camping trips where she first dipped her toes into the world of traveling.

"My motivation for traveling all started when I was just a kid," Vachon said. "My family and I always had RV's growing up, where we had the opportunity to take weeklong camping trips. I grew to be super comfortable in the wilderness and being around places that weren't necessarily comfortable taught me to adapt and adjust my ways of living."

"After graduation, COVID made finding a job extra



difficult, so I decided I wanted to take the year to travel with my van since it was becoming so popular,” Vachon said. “I bought my van before graduation and spent the whole summer preparing and planning my travels for the months to come.”

Snippets of Advice When Living in a Van

Living in a van can cause an upheaval of unexpected twists and turns, often leaving Vegas and Vachon to adapt to different situations.

“I think one of the biggest pieces of advice I could provide to someone interested in van life along the Pacific Northwest, or just in general, is to allow yourself to become adaptive to new situations that may come up,” said Vegas. “I think it’s so important to go into traveling with a mindset full of adaptability and acceptance. I can remember sleeping on the metal flooring of my van for a few weeks while I was waiting to remodel the inside, and if I hadn’t allowed myself to become adaptable to the situation, I truly would have been pretty miserable with myself.”

Vachon encourages looking into apps that will help find suitable camping spots, all while keeping safety in mind.

“As a woman, safety was first on my mind before I started my traveling,” Vachon said. “I think a lot of the time, social media can glorify the life of living in a van, but there’s so much more that goes into it than what meets the eyes of viewers watching influencers and travel bloggers post about their experience.”

With safety at the forefront of her mind, Vachon recommends looking into the apps iOverlander, FreeRoam and Allstays. Each app helps locate camping sites within your area, making overnight stays easier while on the road. In terms of hiking, Vachon recommends Gaia GPS, as well as the NPS app for national parks.

“Aside from those apps I found to be helpful, I would also give the advice to just simply have level expectations,” Vachon said. “Social media apps such as Instagram have the tendency to glorify van life, where it makes living in a van seem effortless. I thought traveling would be an all-around euphoric experience, but it can be really challenging to find safe places to stay. Having proper expectations for what you’ll find while living on the road is crucial and such an important part of traveling. Not falling to believe that Instagram pictures influencers post are truly as realistic as they may make it seem.”



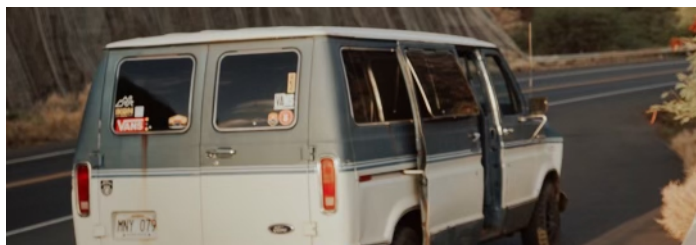
Raising an Ear to Homelessness Awareness

Van life can be a fulfilling experience for many. For others, living in a van or car is sometimes the only option, and highlighting the genuine struggles of those without homes is important. The glorification of van life can outshine those who struggle with housing and progressing ways to support these individuals should be highlighted through the community of Moscow, and all around.

Located in the heart of our community is a nonprofit organization known as Family Promise of the Palouse. FPTP is dedicated to assisting those who are currently experiencing homelessness to gain independence and a promising future. Executive director Autumn Avery has been working with FPTP for the past seven years.

“We’ve been in operation since 2013 and are currently serving our 98th family through our program,” Avery said. “We also offer prevention and diversion, so if someone is being evicted from their property, we aim to provide them with a hotel room during the days they wouldn’t have a home. We always have tons of volunteer opportunities available. We have a donation drive where we accept feminine products, home goods, clothing, etc. We also take volunteers who are willing to work with our families and play with the children, so the mothers get a chance to shower.”

Living life in a van is certainly an experience worth living but setting aside the time to educate oneself on ways to help those in our community who are struggling with homelessness is of utter importance as well. Non-profit organizations such as FPTP are always looking for volunteers willing to make a difference in the life of children and families. As a community, there are ample opportunities to volunteer, raise awareness and work towards the progression of help and support for those struggling with homelessness each day.



ROAD TRIP THROUGH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

EMERGE YOURSELF IN THESE DIFFERENT ATTRACTIONS

Story By *Olivia Webster*
Illustrations By *Megan Schwartz*
Design By *Megan Schwartz*

The Pacific Northwest is well-known for its geographic beauty, hiking trails, national parks and granola culture. But what about attractions and things to go do and see? What are other options in case you don't like hiking or camping? What else is there to do?

To start off in Washington, they have the popular **Pike's Place Market** which was founded in 1907. It is considered by locals as the "soul of Seattle." This unique, huge market spans a total of nine historic acres in the center of downtown Seattle. This is where locals and tourists come to visit, shop and eat.

It is one of the largest and oldest continuously operating markets in the United States and features local small businesses from the area, according to the Pike's Place website. It has everything you're looking for in a farmer's market layout style from fresh local flower bouquets to the famous fish market right at the front. Also in Washington, is **Mount St. Helens**, the active stratovolcano about 100 miles south of Seattle. It is best known for its major eruption in the spring of 1980 and continued to have volcanic activity until 2008. Mount St. Helens has hiking trails and climbing destinations for all levels of climbers. There is also a

visitor center in Silver Lake, which is about 30 miles west of Mount St. Helens with different exhibits to learn more about this infamous volcano.

In you ever find yourself in Portland, Oregon looking for something different to do besides visiting Voodoo Donuts and Powell's bookstore, stop by the **International Rose Test Garden**. More than 10,000 different individual roses bloom between the months of late May to October. On their website, they explain the purpose of this garden is to test for new rose varieties. They already have around 610 different rose varieties. When this rose test garden first opened in World War I, hybridists sent roses from all over the world to this specific garden in Portland.

"This will be the best opportunity to experience and discover the diversity of roses," Rachel Burlington, the International Rose Test Garden curator said. "Have you ever seen a striped rose before, or seen one with 100 petals, or sniffed a rose that smells like a jolly rancher? You can see over 610 different varieties and be amazed about how distinct they are from each other."

While you are still in Oregon, it's worth it to go to the coast and eat as much seafood as your heart desires.

There are countless towns along the entire **Oregon coast** to visit and stay in. The seafood is fresh, delicious and it's a great location to spend the day and collect shells or dip your toes in the wet sand. Fair warning: it will be cold!

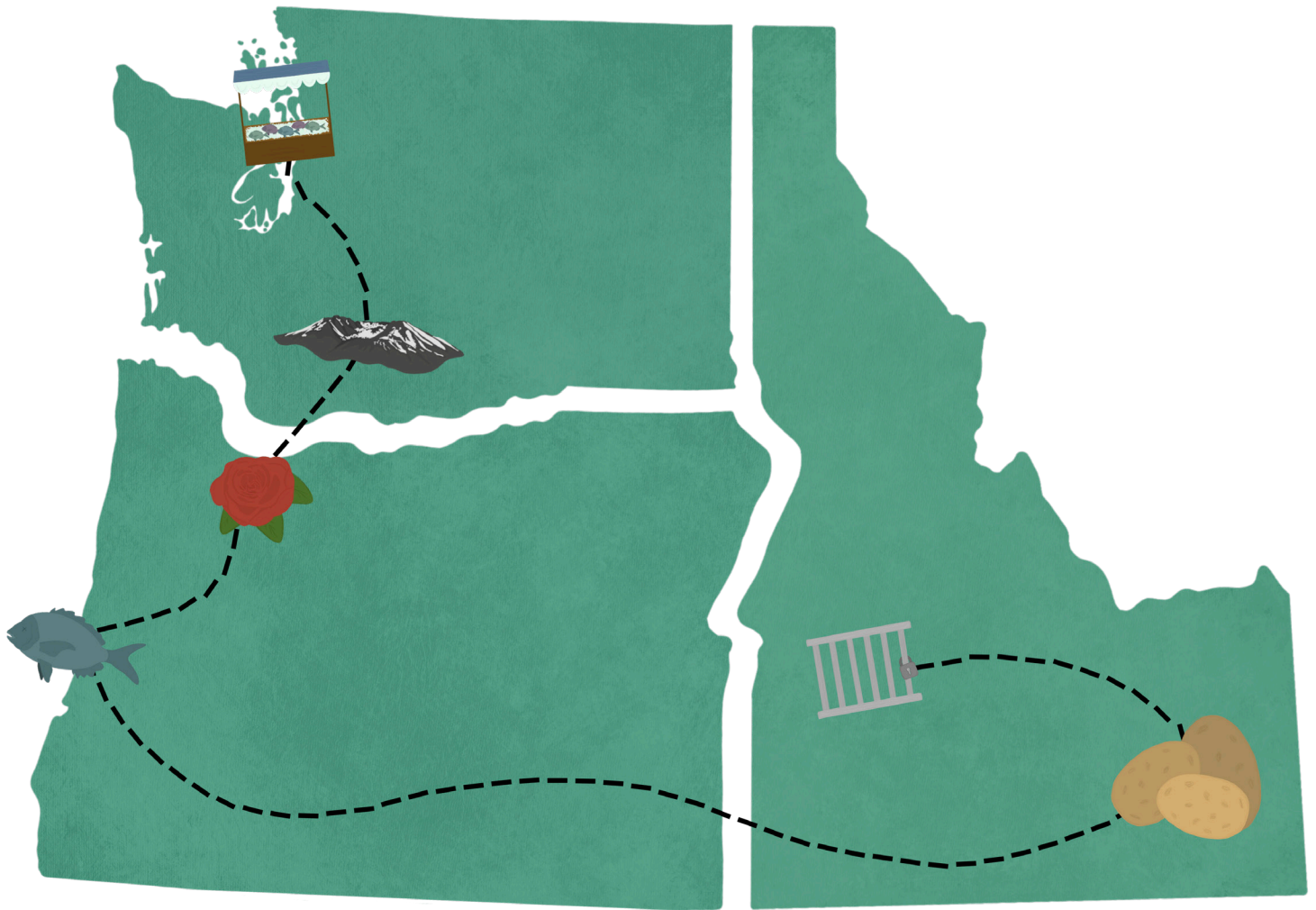
Now, to end our Pacific Northwest road trip, let's stop in Idaho. Idaho is sadly a land-locked state so there's no coast to visit, but there are plenty of other attractions to see.

Located in Blackfoot, Idaho is the **Potato Museum**, and we all know that Idaho is best known for its potatoes. The museum is located in the old Oregon Short Line Railroad Depot that was built in 1912. It is jam-packed with the history of potatoes and the revolution of the potato industry. The museum provides the growing and harvesting process, nutrition, educational and trivia facts about potatoes.

Tish Dahmen, the executive director of the Idaho Potato Museum, says that the museum is a fun way to learn about potatoes.

"The biggest and most photographed attraction at the museum is the giant potato in front of the building that measures to be 20 feet in length and about 10.5 feet in height," Dahmen said.

If you aren't sold yet about this



attraction in southeast Idaho, wait until you hear that the Potato Museum also has a potato cafe to visit! The Potato Station Cafe, located in the Idaho Potato Museum, has anything you need to fulfill your potato dreams. They have a long range of unique potato dishes from potato bread and potato salad to potato ice cream and potato cupcakes.

In the heart of Idaho is the capital, Boise. Boise has a lot to offer visitors with their continuously extending downtown with shopping centers and local restaurants to try. Something more historic to visit in

the capital of Idaho is the **Old Idaho Penitentiary**. It was built in 1870 and is only one of four territorial prisons open to the public today.

During its 101 years of operation, the site saw escapes, scandals and death row inmates. The site offers guided tours to learn about the rich history of this old penitentiary that's been a part of Idaho's history for over a century. There are also conspiracies about the prison being haunted, and the well-known crew of Ghost Adventures has even explored the prison to investigate ghosts for themselves.

Jacey Brain is the visitor services

coordinator at the Old Idaho Penitentiary. Brain says the prison itself reflects the changing of the philosophies and practices of prisons, which include different kinds of punishment.

"At the Old Idaho Penitentiary, visitors uncover the realities of prison life through true stories of those who lived and worked there," Brain said.

If you ever find yourself wanting to go on a road trip, stop by one of these attractions and find out for yourself, the essence of the Pacific Northwest.

HUMANS OF MOSCOW

STEFAN YAUCHZEE, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO ALUMNUS, REFLECTS ON HIS DRIVE TO OPEN POUR COMPANY

Story By *Nataly Davies*
Photos By *Nataly Davies*
Design By *Gia Mazzarella*

Shadows of students walking by sweep back and forth across the room as Stefan Yauchzee opens a door to one of the refrigerators filled with beer. He inspects the aluminum can carefully before setting it on the counter, showing it as one of his favorite recommendations. The University of Idaho alumnus had always wanted to venture into this type of business and now he stands proud as the owner of Pour Company, located on the edge of campus and near the heart of downtown Moscow.

STEFAN YAUCHZEE IS THE OWNER OF POUR COMPANY.

Q: Why did you decide to open your own beer taproom and bottle shop?

A: After graduating in 2004 I worked for somebody else for 15 years. I would say I wanted to do this for about five years and made the decision at the end of 2019 to leave and do my own thing. Moscow needed a spot like this. All my friends, including myself, whenever we would visit Seattle or Portland, we would always be returning with hundreds of dollars' worth of beer that nobody here was just carrying. I decided I would just start it, so we have access to good beer in Moscow.

Q: Did you face any issues with Pour Company since it opened at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: Selling beer in a pandemic was not too difficult, especially since everybody was working from home. It was hard for the first three months because as a bar, I was unable to open until a later stage of the Idaho Rebound reopening plan. Pour Company wasn't able to open until late June 2020 to allow inside drinking and even then, people weren't comfortable going out. Social media and lots of word of mouth and just having beer selections that you can't find anywhere else around the Inland Northwest. Operating a good website where people can see what's in stock and purchase online was beneficial. We had a lot of curbside orders go out.

Q: How does your inventory selection process go?

A: I've been into craft beer since I was at drinking age, that's all I've ever had. I've been chasing it and traveling a lot. Additionally, I follow tons of breweries on Instagram. I'm always actively searching when I travel and always begging distributors to bring things into the state for us. I'm always looking around at what other people have and looking for different items and stuff that no one else is bringing in.

Q: Which Pacific Northwest brew is your current favorite and why?

A: I would say right now if you're looking at like breweries in the Pacific Northwest that you can get in Idaho, check out Lumberbeard Brewing. They also opened during the pandemic up in Spokane and they have not made a beer that has not been well done. We are lucky to have them and close to us too. When you travel to Spokane, you can visit the brewery. You can get them here on drafter and the can too. As far as distribution they are the best Pacific Northwest brewery that I have been excited about.



A VARIETY OF LUMBERBEARD BREWING PRODUCTS SOLD AT POUR COMPANY.

WHAT WAS MISSING?

A TRIO OF COUSINS SEARCH FOR MEL'S HOLE

Story By

Illustrations By

Design By

Cyndi Enderle

Megan Schwartz

Megan Schwartz

Among forests of trees, and countless mountains, is a highway that runs its thin stream of pavement along the dirt surface. On the interstate speeds a small vehicle carrying a trio of cousins who haven't seen each other since they were tall enough to run their heads into the kitchen table. With the persistence of Kylie and Evans' parents, Leigh, the oldest of them all has plotted to take them on a particularly special camping trip.

Leigh aspires to venture into dense thicketed mysteries near Ellensburg, Washington. In the car, all the way from San Diego to the Ellensburg area, is the longest the three of them have spent time together without parental supervision. This trip is prefaced by the fact Kylie is close to graduating from high school and Leigh has volunteered to take her on this senior expedition and by the parents' absolute insistence that the three should bond more before becoming adults.

The three have semi-awkward conversations. They use what they know already of talking about their parents. "Yes, mom is doing well, she recently took up gardening and dad has taken up a new hobby of being a hand radio operator." "I'm so glad I finally graduated, I think I want to major in psychology."

This can only go on for so long.

The extended small talk drags out to a suitable natural stop. Kylie turns her attention outside as they pass miles of rock and forest. She's from the city, so she's not sure if she'll like camping. But she gradually finds herself captivated by the numerous seas of trees and the mountains that make them seem like waves of earth frozen in time. The idea brings her mind to a time when they all played together.

They had visited Yellowstone National Park and their parents were helping them sort out what each rock was. They had put all the rocks in a pile and lost track of who had gathered what, but Leigh's dad identified a small uncut diamond. And as young kids do, they fought over it. Kylie

argued the rock was closer to her side so therefore she was the one who found it. But then Leigh said Kylie had picked out mostly bigger rocks so it had to be his.

This fighting continued until the adults stepped in, grabbed the rock, and agreed to settle the dispute at the end of the trip. The children reluctantly agreed and continued the trip through Yellowstone. However, the dispute was never resolved. They had continued their tour of the park and the argument was mostly forgotten about, except by the children. Kylie had waited until the end of the trip to finally get back what was hers. She asked her parents, her aunt and uncle about the rock, and while they remembered, both promised her that neither of them had the stone. Kylie felt a huge injustice. She was convinced that someone was lying to her and had the stone. She interrogated everyone as well as a 9-year-old could with little success. She finally gave up the endeavor as her family split apart watching the car drive away in the opposite direction.

Unsurprisingly, Kylie does not like camping, nor is Evan a fan. For the first few days Kylie is huddled up inside a tent and bounded up in more clothes than she'd ever need and encased in a sleeping bag. This is not fun. At first, she was put off by the absence of human activity and the lack of faraway structures. She is confronted with the ideas of mortality and emptiness during their hikes, and it would fill her with anxiety if the forest also wasn't so calming. When she's alone it quietly hums on a frequency she can't hear but feels with her skin. She might be getting used to it.

Leigh tells them that he's searching for Mel's Hole, an urban legend of the Pacific Northwest. In the late 90s, a man had called into a radio station to announce an amazing discovery on his property. On his property near Ellensburg, he had discovered a bottomless pit at least 80,000 feet deep from what he measured with fishing line.

He had said his neighbor's dog had died and was thrown into the hole, and that days later, the dog was seen to have been alive. He had claimed the US federal government had seized his property and had gone to drastic measures to conceal his discovery.

Leigh was on a mission to find this hole or at least something resembling it during this trip. Kylie was fascinated by this story but doesn't believe it, especially the mystical qualities. Who cares if there are ten bottomless pits in the world that we don't know about? What does that do for us? But she humors Leigh by continuing his fruitless pursuit.

They continue to hike for several days for several hours to Kylie's annoyance. Finally, she tells him they should end the trip and go spend the rest of the time in Portland or Seattle. However, Leigh is driven. He believes that he will find Mel's Hole, that he'll uncover the truth and be applauded as a hero.

Kylie sensed this arrogance. He will not be convinced. In a form of protest, Kylie declares she will not move beyond this point. Evan, the neutral party, says he is not interested in searching for a fairytale and wants to follow the river back the way they came to at least enjoy himself. The three are at a standstill.

Hours pass and Kylie remains camped out in the original area of the argument. Leigh has gone his own way, as had Evan but Kylie assumes he'll be back soon. It begins to get dark. Leigh returns, giving into Kylie's demands but wants to keep searching in another direction for one more day. Kylie is relieved, except Evan hasn't returned yet. If he wasn't back now, he really needed to be back soon.

After more time and more arguing the anxiety creeps up upon them that Evan is lost. And after more heated disagreements they pack up camp to search for him. They follow the river where Evan said he would be following looking for any evidence of his existence near it. The arguments are put aside for this time.

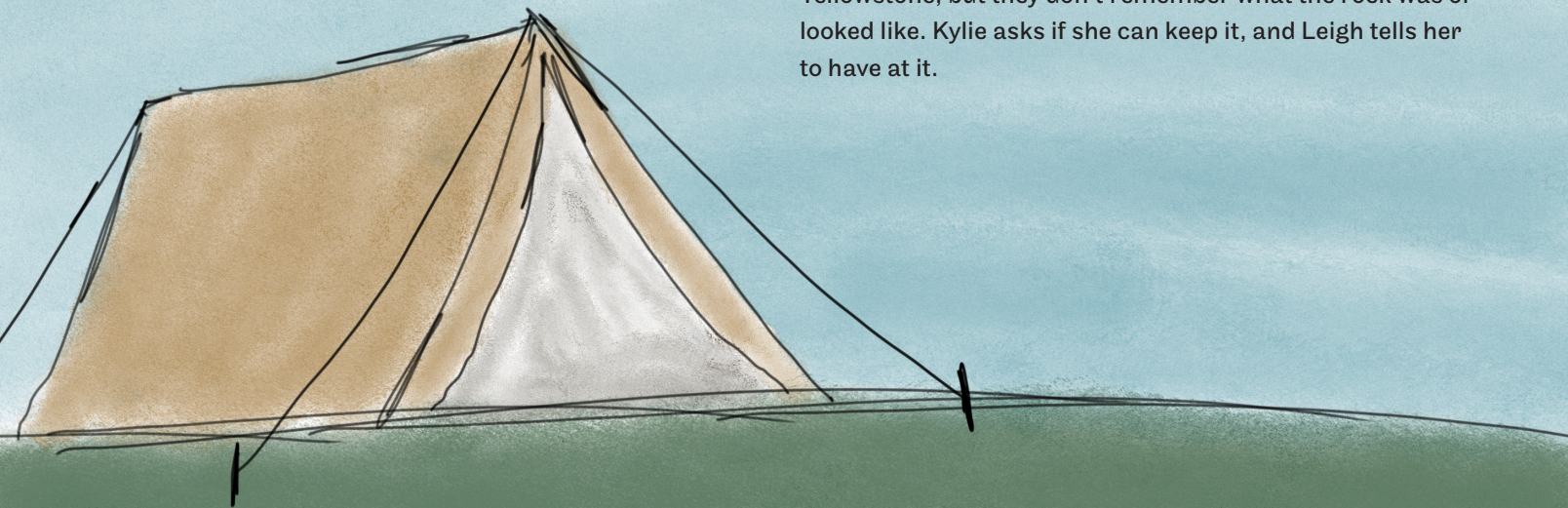
When it is the latest that both should be up, they decide to just settle where they are and continue to search in the morning. Kylie can't sleep. With her anger repressed at this moment, the anxiety that Evan is hurt or possibly worse makes the openness of the forest feel suffocating. When it's morning they continue to follow the river but split off from it when they see mine to the west in the distance. But what draws them to it is not the structure itself but the bright colors of the tent that tell them it's Evan. They rush to the location to find him about to leave.

He apologizes several times, but it's not necessary for Kylie and Leigh's peace of mind. He tells them that he went too far and saw the mine and wanted to see it. But it was too dark by the time he got to it and didn't want to get lost in the dark trying to get back to them. Kylie takes in this explanation while Leigh studies the mine in awe. Kylie registers this and tells him that he still agreed to leave with them.

Leigh sighs and proceeds to gather up just a couple of agates as a souvenir.

During their drive to Portland, Kylie is picking through the rocks Leigh picked up when she goes wide-eyed. Shocked, she slowly reaches into the bag, grabbing it to see the small diamond. She could swear that it was the diamond from their Yellowstone trip.

She gestures to the stone to Leigh and Evan asking them if they remember it. They remember the trip to Yellowstone, but they don't remember what the rock was or looked like. Kylie asks if she can keep it, and Leigh tells her to have at it.



In this forest, we have trees...

Leaves of green,
And a stump of gold.
Fresh fruits of labor,
And a knotted heart turned old.

Sprouting when rain first met dirt,
An envious eye sees all.
Thriving in summer sun,
And withering in the fall.

Wildlife enjoy an offering it bears,
Rodents and birds nest as at home.
Sheltering generations of squirrels and sparrow,
Seeing many souls but still feeling alone.

Life is what this spirit has come to be,
Observing and generosity it says is key.
Dwelling and ruminating for all this time,
It is the tree that has seen a millennium.

Story By | *Emily Pearce*
Illustrations By | *Megan Schwartz*
Design By | *Megan Schwartz*



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