FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February breaks snow records; another 11 inches due this weekend

BILLINGS, Feb. 27, 2014 – The shortest month has graced campus with bounteous snow, and lots more arrives this weekend. The Billings office of the NOAA National Weather Service reports that accumulating snow may be heavy Thursday through Friday night, with 11 inches forecasted through Saturday night. Following the storm, temperatures crater below zero Friday night through Monday morning.

RMC Groundskeeper William Greenwalt and crew John and Harold Lott use a Bobcat skidsteer with an angle broom attachment to clear walkways. Greenwalt comes in at 4:00 a.m. on snowy days, and his crew joins him at 5:00 a.m. A pickup with a snowplow clears parking lots. The College’s Ransom mower has a snowblower attached for winter, and a Kubota tractor uses its bucket to clear accumulated piles. Greenwalt said of his crew, “They’ll all grab a shovel and head out and start doing entryways.”

This winter has seen 81 inches of snow in Billings, already the fifth snowiest winter on record. February snow of more than 28 inches has already broken the 1978 February record of 22 inches. Nine separate days so far, also a record, have seen snowfall in Billings of more than four inches.

The average high temperature for the dates of March 1 and 2 is 44 degrees. This year, the predicted high both days is -6 degrees, about 50 degrees below normal. Temperatures return to 32 degrees by Tuesday.

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