

MONTANA KAIMIN

Back to Montana

UM post-grads look
to the future after a
pandemic-prompted
return home

NEWS

DiverseU in review
page 6

OPINION

Books are better
page 12

SPORTS

Local runner marathons for
a cause
page 14

Volume 123
Issue No. 12
November 4, 2020



Cover Photo
Claire Shinner



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, “Qe’ymín,” that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means “book,” “message” or “paper that brings news.”

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CLASSIFIEDS

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KAIMIN COMIC



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EDITORIAL

Don't check out of politics just because the election is over

The day has finally come. It's Wednesday, Nov. 4. The election is over.

Does it feel surreal to say that? We're writing this on Monday, Nov. 2, not totally convinced that we won't wake up Wednesday to a "Groundhog Day" situation ('Ooh,' we'd think, as we checked our phones in the morning. 'Friday, March 13. Spooky.').

But we digress. In the early months of the pandemic and the tumultuous summer that followed, politics — and polarization — jumped to the forefront of conversation. Politicians campaigned on platforms supporting or opposing deeply emotional and important issues. Attack ads spread disinformation, and people all over social media, on both ends of the political spectrum, warned of fake news.

Then came fall, and the debates, and with them, a renewed surge of advertisements and mailers, texts and phone calls. If you've

been in Montana, the equal parts xenophobic and perplexing accusations of politician relationships with China will be forever ingrained in your mind.

As a voter, it was exhausting.

And now, the election has happened — or, more realistically, is in the process of happening. In Montana, one Steve will proclaim victory in the Battle of the Steves, and a new governor and U.S. Representative will prepare to take office. After an endless campaign season, it might be tempting to tune back out for another four, or at least two, years. What's done is done, right? We put in our time and energy and awareness, so now we can rest?

Wrong, actually. If anything, now is when your engagement matters most. Your civic duty extends beyond Election Day.

After the election, issues like public-lands access, the right to abortion, natural-re-

source management and healthcare will still require your attention, especially as the state legislature gears up for its 2021 session. Bills that affect all of us at UM, such as free speech on college campuses and higher-education funding, will likely come up for debate again.

Next spring, our local legislators will meet in Helena for 90 days to pass bills that correspond to the ballot initiatives you just voted on. Stay up to date on the debates and bills discussed in the 2021 state legislative session. Find out who your local representatives are and write them to express your support or opposition to various policies.

If you followed the recreational marijuana initiatives I-190 and CI-118, or the LR-130 gun-control legislation, you should remain interested in the policies our representatives and senators decide to pursue.

And think of the issues you didn't get a chance to vote on directly, such as how state funds are allocated, reproductive rights and income taxes. After all, most of what legislators do is not backed up by a popular vote; it's on us to make sure that the bills they draft and vote on reflect our desires. And if they don't, to vote them out of office the next time around.

So please, stay involved. We know that it can be time-consuming and disappointing to keep up with politics. It can feel disempowering. But if you felt any pride or a sense of accomplishment when you turned in your ballot, hold on to that.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com



We offer free enrollment assistance

Open enrollment is Nov. 1 through Dec.15. Providence certified counselors are available to help you learn more about insurance and expanded Medicaid coverage. Appointments are available at Providence St. Patrick Hospital to help you sign up for a plan.

Please call 406-543-7271 or email MTMarketplaceHelp@providence.org to make your appointment today. Phone or virtual appointments are available.

Please bring the following information to your appointment:

- Social Security numbers (or immigration document numbers)
- Income information (e.g., pay stubs, W-2 forms, Social Security or disability benefits, unemployment compensation)
- Your username and password for an existing HealthCare.gov account or your email account if you need to create a new account

You can also visit HealthCare.gov for details about your health insurance options and to sign up for a plan.



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

		7						
	9						8	
6		2	8			5		
						4	3	
	6	8			2			
4				3	5	7		
		4	9				5	3
	5			4				
	7				3	2		

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

1	5	4	2	6	3	7	9	8
2	9	8	1	4	7	3	5	6
6	7	3	9	8	5	1	2	4
3	6	5	8	2	1	4	7	9
7	2	9	4	3	6	5	8	1
8	4	1	7	5	9	2	6	3
4	8	6	3	7	2	9	1	5
9	3	2	5	1	8	6	4	7
5	1	7	6	9	4	8	3	2

Briefs: Voting records, art dean and ‘Can the Cats’

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NEW EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER
The City of Missoula launched a second homeless shelter over the weekend to help relieve strain on the Poverello Center. The new overnight center, located in central Missoula, will house up to 150 people every night, and will stay open through the winter. The recent expansion came after the Poverello Center slashed its occupancy by almost half to keep up social distancing recommendations. The new center will be open 24 hours a day, and features hot lunches, bagged meals and socially distanced sleeping spaces. It is located at 1919 North Ave. W.

MONTANA BREAKS ALL TIME VOTER RECORD
With more than two days until the Nov. 3 election, Montana surpassed its all time high in voter turnout. According to political reporter Mike Dennison, over 517,000 ballots

had been received by the state by noon on Nov. 2. Previously, the all time high stood at 516,000 in the 2016 presidential election. Out of Montana’s 56 counties, 45 opted to do an all mail in ballot, sending a ballot to every registered voter. Missoula County reported at least an 82% return rate as of Monday night.

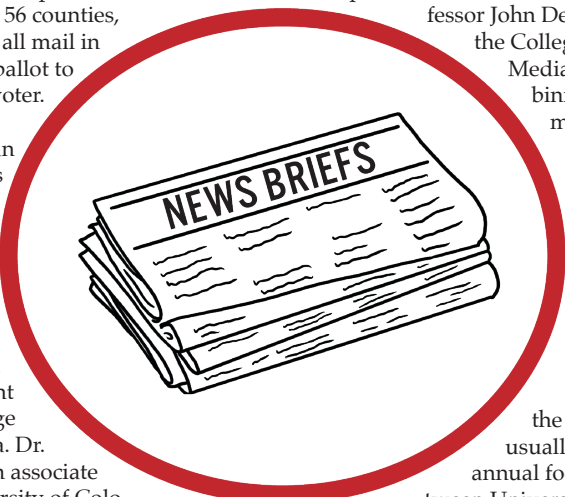
ARTS AND MEDIA DEAN HIRED
After searching for over a year, UM selected the first permanent dean of the College of Arts and Media. Dr. Laurie Baefsky, an associate dean at the University of Colorado, Denver, will start as the head of the school on Jan. 1, 2021. Baefsky has a back-

ground in music and interdisciplinary art from universities across the country. She will replace Interim Dean and Associate Professor John Deboer. UM created the College of Arts and Media in 2019 by combining the schools of music, theater and dance, journalism, media arts, art and integral arts and education.

GRIZ ESPORTS LAUNCHES ‘CAN THE CATS’
While the ‘Can the Cats’ food drive usually centers on the annual football game between University of Montana’s Griz and rival Montana State University’s Bobcats, this year the UM Esports team will

sponsor the event. The drive will run from Nov. 6 to Nov. 20, and features amateur and team video game competitions live streamed on Twitch. Other groups, including Greek Life and UM Housing, will also be collecting donations during the food drive. To learn more, look online at canthecats.com, or visit their facebook page.

NEW MISSOULA COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS
Missoula County started operating on new COVID-19 restrictions Oct. 29 after health experts in the county said the amount of new cases were out of control. Gatherings without masks and social distancing are limited to 25 people, serving alcohol must stop at 10 p.m., businesses are limited to 50% capacity and the county asked people to stay home if they can. This comes after hospitalizations in Missoula County rose to over 30 last week, and over 10 people died from the virus last week. There have been 17 deaths since Oct. 9.



Blotter: Snow drifting, scammers and graffiti

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Crime in and around campus appeared to have hibernated for winter. Since the last blotter, another 10 crimes have been reported. The most common call UMPD responded to was service requests to turn heat on.

10/23 JOY RIDE
The heavy snowfall last weekend was no match for a driver on Gerald Street by Fraternity Row, who purposefully drifted through people’s front yards. The driver was not found by UMPD, but the car did reportedly bust a sprinkler system at Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. There is no description of the car or the suspect, just some incriminating tire tracks.

10/24 LAUNDRY LOOTING
The repeated theft of coins from laundry units around the University Villages

continued this week after a suspect drilled into two machines in Bannack Washhouse #2 late on a Saturday night. The stolen coins and busted machine costs \$500, and UMPD said they have been following leads and plan to start stepping up patrols in the area. The suspect behind these thefts has stolen thousands of dollars worth of coins this semester.

10/25 PANTZER POTHEAD
Three times in the last two weeks, UMPD responded to complaints from an RA of a student smoking it up in Pantzer Hall. Officers reported clearly smelling burnt weed from a student’s room twice. While the student refused to come out to see the police, UM Housing slapped the resident with two conduct violations. Another incident involved officers responding to a complaint, but could not actually locate the source of the marijuana despite catching a waft.

10/28 INTERNET HOODWINKING
Another naive student took the email bait of online hackers and lost \$1,900 to a phishing scheme. UMPD said scammers get at least half a dozen people a semester with the trick of “hiring” students and offering really nice sounding wages. They then ask the victim to give personal information, deposit a check and then take money straight from the student’s bank account. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, then it is likely a scam.

10/29 Police graffiti
UMPD responded to a report of a person who spray painted two trash can lids likening the police to pigs. The lids read “Cops go inside” and “Pigs go in here,” referring to the trash cans. UMPD called the crime criminal mischief and did not disclose the exact location of the vandalized cans.



COLTON ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

The Weekly Crossword													by Margie E. Burke		
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18				19					
20					21			22							
			23				24								
25	26	27				28					29	30	31		
32						33				34					
35				36					37	38		39			
40			41			42					43				
44				45	46			47							
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50	51	52				53					54	55	56		
57						58				59					
60					61					62					
63					64					65					

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- ACROSS**

1 Chop finely
6 Ballroom move
10 Similar (to)
14 Squirrel's snack
15 Bartlett, for one
16 Hard or soft ending
17 Sound reasoning
18 Among other things
20 1992 thriller "Basic _____"
22 Deer's home
23 Cafeteria item
24 Bookkeeper's stamp
25 Element
28 San Francisco icon
32 Phony
34 Lunch place
35 That girl
36 Hyundai model
39 Tupperware top
40 Seat anagram
42 Eyeglasses feature
44 Equestrian event
47 Very serious
48 "My ____!"
49 Bit of smoke
50 Clothing
53 Airplane's wake
57 Co-signer, say
59 Yorba _____, Calif.
60 Life sentences?
61 Directs a weapon
62 Script direction
63 Hair goops
64 Brief quarrel
65 Place of another
- DOWN**

1 Neighbor of Algeria
2 Screen symbol
3 Eggy drinks
4 Animal
5 Completely surround
6 Like Thai food
7 Revival setting
8 Devour
9 Kind of house
10 Given, as custody
11 Cabbage kin
12 Bearded bloom
13 Shipshape
19 Muddy up
21 Birth-related
24 Part of a suit
25 Needed liniment
26 Give a buzz
27 Spare anagram
28 River ride
- 29 "People" person, briefly
30 Mel's Diner waitress
31 Equestrian
33 Argentine dance
37 Lacquer ingredient
38 Last Supper diners
41 Wearable souvenirs
43 Publishing brand
45 Medical fluids
46 Sports venues
49 Bottom of the barrel
50 Wide-eyed
51 London subway
52 Peacock's pride
53 Unwakeupable state
54 Stud fee?
55 Brainchild
56 Fat for cooking
58 Bellboy's bonus

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

L	A	D	E	N	S	C	A	R	S	C	A	T
A	R	I	S	E	T	I	R	E	T	A	L	E
U	N	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	D	O	M	E
G	I	G	S	T	A	I	N	S	L	E	E	T
H	E	E	L	S	P	L	A	T	T	E	R	
		I	D	Y	L	L	R	E	N	A	M	E
B	L	A	M	E	E	Y	R	I	E	M	I	A
R	O	B	E	R	T	S	A	P	P	E	A	L
A	D	S	V	I	S	I	T	L	A	N	K	Y
D	E	T	A	I	L	N	I	T	E	R		
		A	S	S	E	S	S	O	R	N	A	A
A	M	I	S	H	L	U	N	A	R	U	N	O
J	A	N	E	S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E
A	Y	E	S	O	V	A	L	P	O	I	N	T
R	O	D	S	W	E	R	E	T	R	O	T	H

Star signs from a galaxy far, far away

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NAT BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

In honor of the return of “The Mandalorian” (it’s really all about that adorable green nugget, the Child), we’re gonna dole out astrological love with a “Star Wars” twist. Whether you are the tauntaun that rides into battle or the tauntaun that Han Solo stuffs an unconscious Luke Skywalker into, we’ve got you covered. **SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21):** ‘Tis the season for Scorpions. With crushing intergalactic swagger and a need for control, Darth Vader is definitely your “Star Wars” spirit animal. But you’re Good Vader, the version of the Sith Lord who saved his son and the galaxy. You’re evil with a heart, pretty much. **SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22):** Sag, you couldn’t be anyone but R2-D2. You’re always down to help and may or may not be an android. Sometimes, you speak in beeps and boops and no one understands, but it’s your craving for adventure that matters most. **CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19):** Cap, you’re the mom friend of the group. And who’s more of a mama bear than Chewbacca? The furry giant always looks out for Han Solo, takes care of the Millennium Falcon and probably makes sure that everybody eats dinner. **AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18):** Ya just don’t like labels, Aquarius, and that’s okay. You know who else doesn’t like labels? Admiral Ackbar. Actually, he hates traps, but the point is, he’s unique and so are you. **PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20):** Yo, Pisces, chill out. Stop feeling stuff so deeply all the time, like Kylo Ren. Carrying that much emotional baggage will make you become a whiny Sith Lord, and nobody wants that. **ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19):** Oh, Aries, why do

you always need to be number one? It’s very Emperor Palpatine of you. You would totally build two Death Stars just to make a point. And then come back in the last movie to totally ruin the story. **TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20):** Taurus, you tend to be trustworthy and relatively drama-free, just like Obi-Wan Kenobi. You take the high ground and work your ass off, and won’t back down from a challenge. Even if that challenge is Darth Maul and you have no idea how to win. **GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20):** Gemmy, you shot first, just like Han Solo. Snappy one-liners and kneehigh boots define you, as does your love for wookies. Maybe one day you’ll beat the Target run in half an hour. **CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22):** Okay, so what if you were a tauntaun? A majestic, furry lizard-camel that romps through the snowy wastes of Hoth. Sound good? **LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22):** Leo, you have big main-character energy. You’re Luke Skywalker, and you have the “I trained in a swamp with a little green man” swagger. But Original Trilogy Skywalker, not the angry and old Skywalker who drinks blue milk. **VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22):** Congratulations, Virgo, you are the Mandalorian. Your big-picture thinking and determination to finish what you’ve started are cut from the same cloth as the Child’s accidental stepdad. Just don’t go flying around any sarlacc pits. **LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22):** Libra, you’re kind and compassionate. You put others in front of yourself. You are Leia Organa. But not Space Leia, because that was dumb, and the Force doesn’t work like that.

Snapshots of UM’s first virtual DiverseU

The University of Montana hosted its 15th DiverseU event last week to highlight activism and diversity on campus and to promote civic discussions. This year the symposium was held via Zoom in response to COVID-19 precautions. There were over 30 presentations spanning Wednesday and Thursday with topics ranging from race to sexuality to abilities. Each one was organized by UM students, faculty, staff or community members. Montana Kaimin reporters attended several of these events to share the topics discussed.

Executive dysfunction leads to Zoom struggles

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Clinical Assistant Professor Jennifer Schoffer Closson and Allison Beall discussed the struggles of virtual learning for people dealing with executive dysfunction.

Executive function is an umbrella term for several cognitive skills, such as mental flexibility, impulse control, switching tasks and making plans. People who struggle with executive dysfunction often have mental and physical blocks that make achieving goals difficult.

The presentation also focused on neurodiversity, or variation and atypical patterns in brain function, including executive function or lack thereof. Many commonly known neurodiversities also impact executive function, such as autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder, depression, PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. Everyone struggles with executive dysfunction at some point — especially now, since executive dysfunction affects ability to deal with change, and the world has changed radically since the spread of COVID-19.

“Zoom is the ultimate executive functioning challenge,” Closson said.

Closson said executive function is primarily impacted by context, and COVID-19 has changed the context all of us live in. COVID-19 has caused fear and worry, loss of support systems and services and radical change to the format of schooling. People with executive dysfunction had to adapt to a new way of learning.

Closson and Beall said executive dysfunction can look like laziness and procrastination, but it’s not. People with executive dysfunction can take a long time switching tasks because change is harder for them than most. Closson and Beall concluded by stressing the importance of empathy and self-advocacy in these trying times.

Black Student Union presents at DiverseU

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The Black Student Union’s presentation for DiverseU centered around multiple aspects of Black culture, LGBTQ+ activist Marsha P. Johnson and the history of Africa.

The first presenter, Black Student Union member and UM student Abbe Watson, spent the first half of the hour-long Zoom presentation on Johnson, who was an activist and helped to initiate the first gay pride rally. According to Watson, she was one of the first openly trans-gender activists, and was an important member of her community. She unexpectedly died in 1992. Though the death was ruled as a suicide many objected to the claim.

Watson chose to talk about Johnson because she said she was a powerful Black woman whose actions had a substantial impact. She believes Johnson does not receive much recognition of her feats. Johnson represents the many transgender people whose murders receive no attention, Watson said.

Faduma Omar, another member of the student union and UM student, also presented. She spent the latter half of the presentation talking about the “Vast World of Africa” and the multiple cultures that reside in the continent. Omar singled out a handful of countries and discussed their citizens and their unnoticed problems.

Namibia, for example, has a domestic violence problem. Yet Omar pointed out that the country has a beautiful culture. Omar emphasized the importance of raising awareness for the problems she spoke about, ranging from domestic violence in Namibia to refugee camps near Somalia, with hopes that she will create a difference.



President of UM’s Gerontology Society Jenna Russell, center, at an event where the society gathered the public’s thoughts on aging. Russell hosted a virtual DiverseU talk on the issue of ageism and how it has been further revealed during the pandemic. **JENNA RUSSELL | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Ageism in the time of COVID-19

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Jenna Russell, the president of UM’s Gerontology Society, spoke to a virtual audience about the issue of ageism in society and how it has been further revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Russell presented, “An Ageist Society Exacerbated by COVID-19,” at the University of Montana’s annual DiverseU event.

Russell spent much of her presentation showing a TED Talk given by Anika Kumar on the age gap. The TED Talk explained how ageism has created a society that isolates older people, but this could be changed by redefining society’s view on aging.

Russell also highlighted common stereotypes of older people. She said despite the view that aging is a rapid decline, it’s unique to each person.

She said another common stereotype is many older people are dependent on others to care for them. She said only about 5% of older people are in nursing homes at a given time, which she learned in one of her Gerontology classes, about the study of aging.

Russell said COVID-19 has worsened issues such as elder abuse because abusers are often family members or caretakers that older people may be isolated with.

She also said the idea of herd immunity being an option because young and healthy people are less likely to die from COVID-19 is another example of ageism.

People can help combat ageism by educating themselves and those around them, volunteering with long term care facilities, calling an older relative and joining the gerontology society. The student group works with older people in the community and hopes more people begin to recognize ageism and change it.

“Just as ageism is not talked about, it needs to be broadcast so people know that it’s real,” Russell said.



Erim Gómez’s journey of perseverance

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UM lecturer Erim Gómez helped conclude the University of Montana’s DiverseU event on Thursday evening, as he described the struggles he has overcome on his path to a PhD.

Gómez’s presentation, “From Special Education to PhD: A Latino’s Journey to a PhD,” highlighted his journey as a first generation college student.

Gómez is the son of two Mexican American immigrants. His mother came over to the United States in the 1950s and was a migrant farm working in Texas. His father had one year of formal education and came to the United States as an economic refugee at 19 years old.

When Gómez was 5 years old, he was inspired by the image of grizzlies in Yosemite National Park on the National Geographic channel. This began his interest in wildlife and conservation.

Gómez spent his teenage years in a town of 4,000 in Oregon where his family was one of three Latino families.

He attended Southern Oregon University and failed pre-calculus three times before discovering he could take high school math instead. He eventually made it to calculus and finished his undergraduate education in six years.

Gómez received his master’s degree from Washington State University in Natural Resource Sciences in 2011 and is defending his PhD this Fall.

When Gómez was in graduate school his brother, Edrik, passed away in a helicopter crash while fighting a fire in California. Four months later his father passed away, too.

Gómez has grappled with depression and anxiety, especially after the deaths of his father and brother. He is an advocate of destigmatizing mental health illnesses and provides his students with resources to get help.

He also had a learning disability that went undiagnosed until graduate school. Gómez was diagnosed with dysgraphia, which makes it hard to put thoughts down on paper.

Gómez said he’d never had a Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professor in his time at three universities, and now he is a wildlife biology lecturer at UM.

Next summer he plans to go to his father’s state of Jalisco, Mexico, to mentor graduate students and find future research opportunities.

Erim Gómez speaking at a protest at Washington State University, while he was a graduate student there. Gómez hosted a talk at DiverseU about his journey to a PhD as the son of Mexican-American immigrants. **ERIM GÓMEZ | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Outdoor advocacy for Missoula’s BIPOC community

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The Missoula outdoor recreation community is widely dominated by wealthy white people. Alex Kim is here to change that.

Kim, the racial justice engagement specialist for EmpowerMT, advocated for seeking courage to explore outdoor recreation for the Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community of Missoula, as part of UM’s DiverseU event.

Missoula is home to almost any type of outdoor recreation possible, but the typical community is dominated by white people with fancy gear, Kim said. That can be intimidating and scary for someone who has no experience, and can feel unwelcoming at times for BIPOC people.

“I want to see folks who look like me,” said Kim, who is a first generation Korean-American.

Kim said outdoor recreation is possible for anyone, regardless of race or financial status. It is within people’s differences that we can make a community.

Part of Kim’s goal with EmpowerMT is to provide all of its outdoor recreation programs for free. Not only are the programs meant to be an introduction to outdoor recreation, but also to encourage people of the BIPOC community to find the courage to immerse themselves in outdoor culture.

Access to the outdoors is a spectrum, Kim said. Having a \$3,000 fly-fishing pole is not going to make the fish bite more, and having a fancy jacket does not make you a better paddler. As long as the gear works, Mother Nature does not care if it is a name-brand, Kim said.

Kim said when he first came to Missoula from the East Coast, entering into the outdoor community was scary and confusing. Now, his mission with EmpowerMT is to make that process easier for the BIPOC community than it was for him.

“We want folks encouraged to be outside, we want folks to know that they can be here,” Kim said.



David Herrera, left, and Steven Barrios, right, in February 2020. Herrera hosted a DiverseU talk on Oct. 29, 2020, about the the Montana Gay Health Task Force (GHTF). They discussed how GHTF have maintained their HIV and STI services during the pandemic and the importance of getting tested for, preventing and getting treated for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis. **DAVID HERRERA AND STEVEN BARRIOS | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Montana Two Spirit Society

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As part of DiverseU, representatives from the Montana Two Spirit Society talked about their organization, as well as what two-spirited people are.

David Herrera is the director of the Montana Two Spirit Society. Steve Barrios, the organization’s board chair, joined him on the Zoom call.

Herrera said that the term “two-spirited” is an umbrella term to describe Indigenous people who are LGBTQ+, but would prefer to be associated with their tribes, many of which already had their own word for LGBTQ+ people.

Barrios continued by saying that identifying as a two-spirited person carries some cultural weight. In many Indigenous cultures, two-spirited people were revered as spiritual leaders until colonization. He said that two-spirited people are called upon to help their communities more than others.

The Montana Two Spirit Society aims to help Indigenous LGBTQ+ people. To that end, it hosts an annual gathering for two-spirited people. It’s website says that the goal of the gathering is to “encourage all people to heal the damage wrought by racism, sexism, ageism, colonialism, ableism, transphobia, generational trauma and homophobia and the negative impacts these have on health.”

One of the ways that the Montana Two Spirit Society helps Indigenous LGBTQ+ people is through their partnership with other organizations that provide HIV and STI tests.

Herrera then went on to demonstrate a rapid HIV test.

In a post-presentation interview, Herrera said that in the 25 years that the Montana Two Spirit Society has held the gathering, it has grown immensely.

“It’s a good problem to have,” Herrera said. “We’ve outgrown some venues.”

Abortion access in Montana limited despite privacy rights

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While Montana and the rest of the country currently have access to abortions, speaker Maggie Bornstein said there is more reproductive healthcare to fight for. The Zoom lecture discussed Montana’s limited abortion facilities and how the future may hold a change in national policy with a now heavily conservative Supreme Court.

“So actually, good news. Montana’s constitution provides stronger protections for safe, legal abortion than the United States Constitution,” Bornstien said to about 50 people. “So, a lot of us have been wondering what will happen if Roe v. Wade is changed.”

Bornstein, student director of the University of Montana’s women’s resource center and an ASUM senator, brought up that the United States Senate recently confirmed appellate court justice Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court in October, replacing Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg anchored the liberal side of the court, and Barrett is known for ruling socially conservative, including on reproductive rights cases.

Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court case, classified an abortion as protected by a woman’s right to privacy under the 14th amendment. While Justice Barrett said she will follow legal precedence in making a decision, Bornstein argued in her speech that there is a risk the Supreme Court could overturn the case because the Court is now more socially conservative.

Montana’s right to privacy should protect reproductive healthcare in the case of an overturn of Roe v. Wade, though the state laws are always up for change in the Montana State Legislature.

In Montana, Bornstein said there is a lack of access to clinics that perform abortions. In 1982 there were 20 clinics statewide, and in 2014 only five clinics remained. According to the lecture, 93% of Montana counties do not have a center that offers abortions.

Instead of reproductive centers offering abortions, Bornstein said another health group, known as crisis pregnancy centers, are on the rise. She said these centers do not offer abortions or accurate medical care, but instead give out resources for expected childbirth and care.

There are 14 of these locations statewide, and while Bornstein said they can be a good tool for a woman trying to have a child, they might be misleading for someone not in the position to give birth.

Dia de Los Muertos is not your costume

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Energetic Latin music played as a time-lapse video showed Avianna Soto, president of UM’s Latin Student Union and DiverseU presenter, setting up her ofrenda, the Spanish word for offering.

More than 10 candles, some with photos of Jesus Christ or sugar skulls, covered a two-tiered table, lined with intricately animated skulls and floral patterned tablecloths. Incense, marigolds and a bottle of Fanta surrounded a photo of Soto’s grandparents. An embroidered handkerchief from Soto’s grandmother, who died before she was born, would soon be added to the table, as well as a brandy-stained shot glass from Soto’s grandfather, who died when she was a year old.

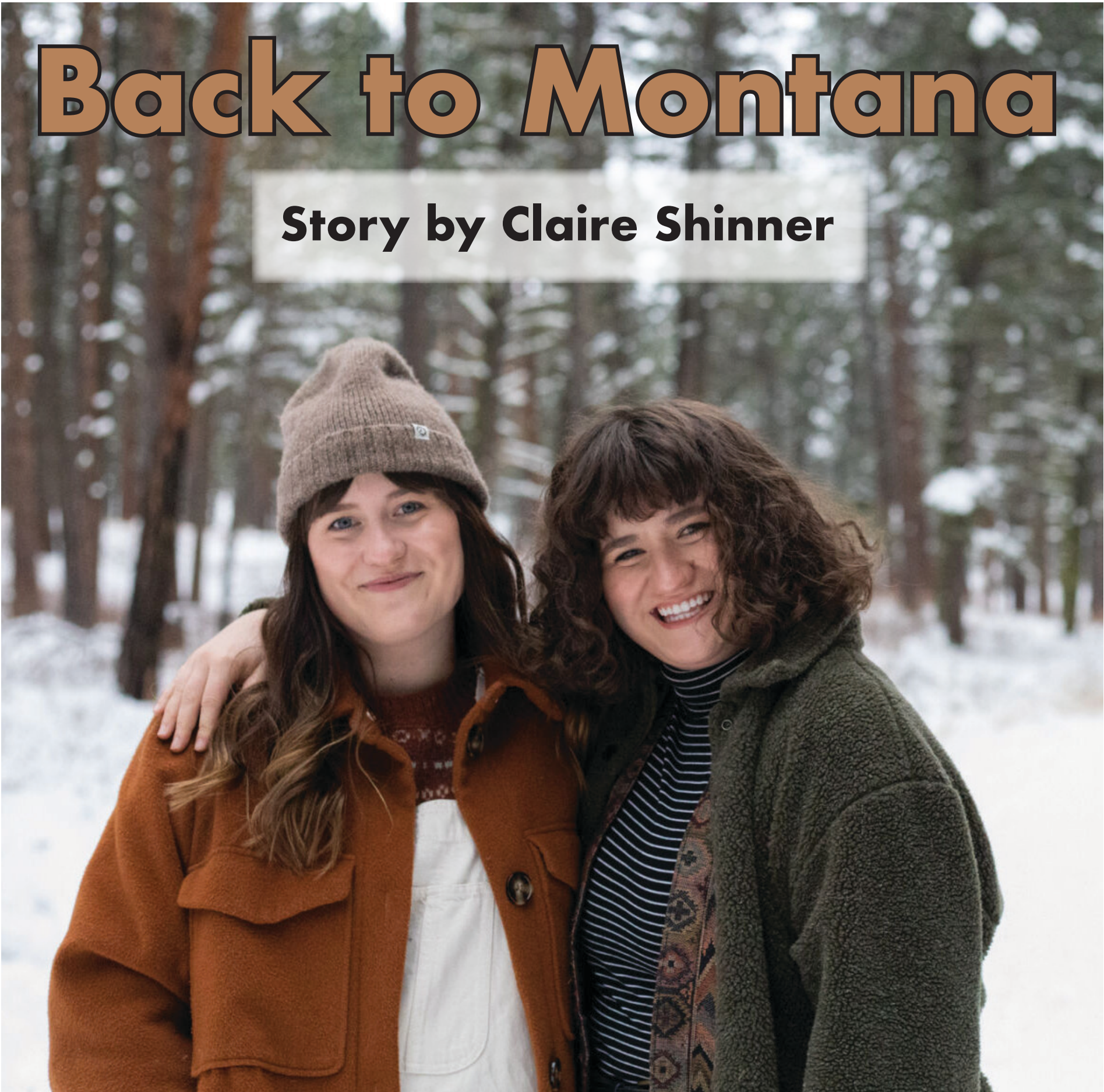
Crackerjacks, pistachios and pan de muertos would be carefully placed on the ofrenda on Dia de los Muertos.

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, falls on Nov. 1, just a day after Halloween. Soto said the holiday, which is sometimes called “Mexican Halloween,” has been appropriated in the past, and continues to be appropriated today.

Soto’s presentation showed celebrities like Kris Jenner and Party City models with sugar skull makeup. The popularity of the sugar skull costume is deeply hurtful to the Latinx community, Soto said. She continued, saying that her cultural traditions and holidays are not an excuse for people to throw a party.

Missoula’s Festival of Remembrance, which had been called Festival of the Dead up until 2018, was also mentioned by Soto. She described the frustration she felt as a result of the festival, which uses Latinx traditions without having any Latinx leadership. It was for show, Soto said, not for honoring and remembering loved ones.

Soto ended her talk by saying that people should honor their loved ones, but do it from a place of education and knowledge. When asked if it was alright for non-Latinx people to have an ofrenda, Soto said that there was nothing wrong with honoring family members in that way, as long as people educated themselves and recognized the privileges they may have.



Back to Montana

Story by Claire Shinner

Sisters Michelle and Aline Dufflocq-Williams piled into a taxi at John F. Kennedy airport on June 23, 2020, fresh off a connecting flight taking them from Missoula to Salt Lake City to New York. They were separated from the driver by a large sheet of Plexiglas. Unlike the last time they were in New York, or any time before, both wore masks.

Brooklyn brownstones bathed in evening light flew past the window of the taxi as the pair made their way back to the apartment they’d been away from for three months. The sisters dragged six days’ worth of luggage up the stairs and opened the door to an apartment that now felt foreign.

“It looks so good,” Aline said, glancing around the entryway, as Michelle filmed her reaction for the sisters’ YouTube channel. The channel, Michelle & Aline, focuses on videos centered around New York City life, with vlogs about their work weeks, shopping, going to Broadway shows, visiting museums, nights out in Manhattan, fashion and more. It boasts over 21,000 subscribers.

“It looks so big,” Michelle said in the vlog, reacclimating to the apartment after the extended trip home. “Why are the ceilings so tall?”

They opened their refrigerator, full of rotting groceries and leftovers: cheese, bagels, a Ziploc bag of cilantro. Relics of their life before the pandemic.

The sisters’ return to the city was a short one. They had only come to pack up their things, for the time being, and move back home for the time being.

“Why didn’t we just throw the eggs away?” Michelle said.



The sisters fled the pandemic-stricken city in March, returning home to Missoula. This migration — back to work, school, cities — has been a common experience for American adults, especially young adults, since the spring. As the coronavirus pandemic tore its way across the country and case numbers began to rise, so, too, did the number of people fleeing large cities for more secluded, safer areas.

According to a July survey from the Pew Research Center, roughly one-in-five Americans have either relocated due to the pandemic or know someone who has. Michelle and Aline left Brooklyn for Missoula on March 17, early on during the U.S. pandemic. During March, April and May, roughly 5% of New York City residents fled. The week after the sisters’ departure, the city saw a 200% increase in coronavirus cases.

Two years ago, Michelle moved from Montana to New York City for a job in social media management. The work itself had always been online, of course, but now she had to work remotely.

Aline, who moved to New York City after her graduation in 2019, stopped getting shifts at her restaurant day job. She began waiting tables soon after her arrival to pay the bills and support her real work of writing short films and performing at open-mic nights. Those, too, were soon canceled.

Like many other Americans who had the wherewithal to leave big cities at the onset of the pandemic, the pair moved back in with their parents, which was both a welcome change of pace and slight setback.

“It is odd, especially since we both lived at home all through college and it feels like we just did all of this,” Michelle said. “The goal was, I think, when we lived with our family all through college was to save for this adulthood in the big city and now it just feels almost purposeless when you think back like, ‘Well, why did I go through that if I’m just going to end up here at almost 26 years old?’”

They’ve had some tough conversations as a family, Aline said, though their mom is over the moon that they’re home. Aline and Michelle acknowledge their privilege in having a solid and good relationship with their parents.

“Setting healthy boundaries has been important,” Michelle said. “I feel like we have gotten closer with them, which has been nice, but at the same time, many tensions have arisen.”

“We have had some difficult conversations,” Aline said. “But it’s all good, it’s all positive.”

Aline moved home and back into her college job, working at a bakery in Missoula. She’s enjoyed going back to a job she knows how to do and seeing familiar faces again, but it’s been hard to face the déjà vu of it all.

“I feel really good working at my job currently,” she said. “But I think it comes in waves, the idea of, ‘Does work feel satisfying?’ In terms of working independently, I think it’s hard to self-motivate all the time, in terms of coming up with creative projects.”

Michelle continues her work online and remotely. She and her coworkers make do on Zoom, but it’s inconsistent and not as collaborative as in-person meetings were.

“It’s still satisfying to complete work in such a tumultuous time, where I know people have been laid off or furloughed and it does feel good to still be contributing to something,” she said.

The two considered coming back and finding another apartment, and even extended their lease in New York through July, a month after it was initially up. But when Michelle found out her office would work remotely until at least January, and Aline ran out of money, they



Michelle and Aline’s empty Brooklyn apartment after they moved out in June 2020. The sisters returned to Brooklyn for six days after being gone for three months to pack up their belongings and move home to Montana for the time being.

decided to stay home and make their move back to Montana semi-permanent.

When the two moved out of New York City, they were concerned about letting their YouTube audience down. Not only did they have to come to terms with abandoning their lives in the city, they had to justify that choice to their audience. “I’m personally very happy with the decision we made,” Michelle said in a video explaining the move.

“I definitely was concerned about how realistic it would be to continue living the way that I was living, with really no job prospect or no way to pursue that entertainment side of things,” Aline said. “It felt less worth it, honestly, to be having those costs without the thing that I was there to do.”

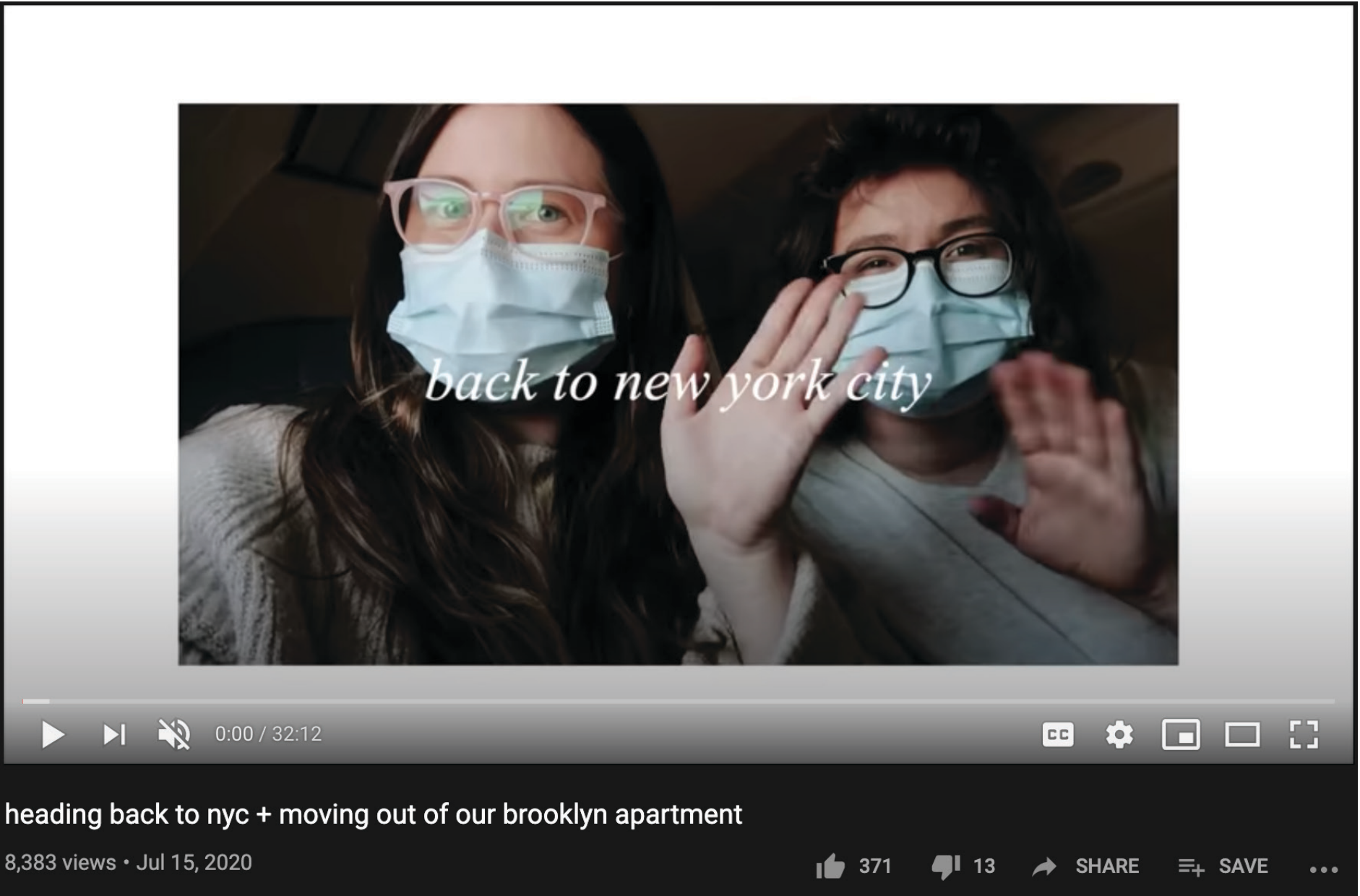


On Feb. 28, UM graduate and Bozeman native Claire Chandler was notified that her office in Seattle was shutting down. There were only four confirmed COVID-19 cases in the entire Pacific Northwest at the time.

Chandler was living in Seattle’s colorful Queen Anne neighborhood and working for a Big Four, multinational accounting firm, at the corner of 5th and Union, downtown.

Her boss confirmed by text message that the office was closing for in-person work until further notice.

Chandler and her parents left Seattle on March 11 for Australia to visit her brother. But as soon as they touched down in Australia, they began to hear that the pandemic was spreading across the U.S. and the world. When her connecting flight back to Seattle was canceled,



Michelle and Aline on their flight back to New York on June 23, 2020. This was one of three YouTube videos the pair filmed while in New York packing up their apartment to move home.

she decided to return to Montana with her parents and work remotely from there for a few months.

In May, she returned to Seattle with the intention of staying. But in September, when she was informed her office would be closed until at least June 2021, she decided to sublet her apartment in Seattle and officially move back in with her parents.

For someone like Chandler, who grew up in Montana, rural and isolated in a way, this move back home has generated a big question mark over the future. She had a great job in a big city, pursuing her goals. Now she was back at home, out of necessity and pragmatism. It wasn’t an easy thing to reflect on.

“I feel like, as long as I was a kid, they always just said, ‘You should go have a big city experience,’” Chandler said. “‘Montana is a wonderful place, but you’ll really value it more if you understand other parts of the country and other parts of the world.’”

Chandler’s work had always involved working with people over Zoom, with her manager in Florida and her director in Texas, so her transition to working remotely from her parents’ house wasn’t as hard as she’d anticipated.

Chandler is fortunate in a way many others facing the pandemic are not. At home, her parents feed her and do her laundry for her (though, she joked, it’s mostly because her mom doesn’t want her to touch the washing machine). She feels lucky to be able to come home and see her parents rather than being cooped up, alone, in her apartment.

Her job is just as demanding as it was before, so she doesn’t get much social interaction

outside of her family. All this time at home has made her realize that settling down in Montana isn’t what she wants for her life just yet.

“[Living in a city] is just fun,” she said. “There’s tons of young people everywhere, you go out all the time, there’s a lot of energy. I definitely want to end up in Montana, but I think I’m a little too young to live here yet.”



For young adults across the country, the pandemic has presented a setback most wouldn’t expect. In Chandler, Michelle and Aline’s cases, they’ve ended up back at home again after barely starting out in the job market outside of Montana.

For now, Chandler is living at home with two of her siblings and her parents, and Michelle and Aline continue to post YouTube videos, focusing on their daily life in quarantine in Montana and planning on moving back to New York in 2021.

“We’re so grateful to have the ability to be in Montana right now because it’s such a special place to us,” Michelle said in a July 30 video. “Even though we have been branded as NYC queens, we really love Montana. I think it’s so important to remind yourself that it’s a possibility to love two places, even if they are vastly different.”

I was excited for ‘Dune,’ until I read the book

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Ever since the release of the trailer for the latest adaptation of Frank Herbert’s “Dune,” I have been waiting to indulge in Timothée Chalamet’s talent (but mostly his beautiful chin). So I was devastated, to say the least, when the release date was back a year due to COVID-19.

I found the next best thing and ordered the book, in the hope that my imagination would conjure Chalamet until Denis Villeneuve’s movie finally arrives.

However, imagining sexy 24-year-old Chalamet as the gawky 15-year-old Paul Atrides described in the book was quite disturbing. It felt wrong and weird. I couldn’t get myself to finish the book, and felt angry at Warner Bros. for choosing a main character so different from Herbert’s description.

This is not the first time cinema has taken such liberties with a book.

Mark Shogren, a director and a film professor at UM, says that even literary classics like “The Modern Prometheus,” better known as Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” become completely different on film, and can even deter people from checking out the original.

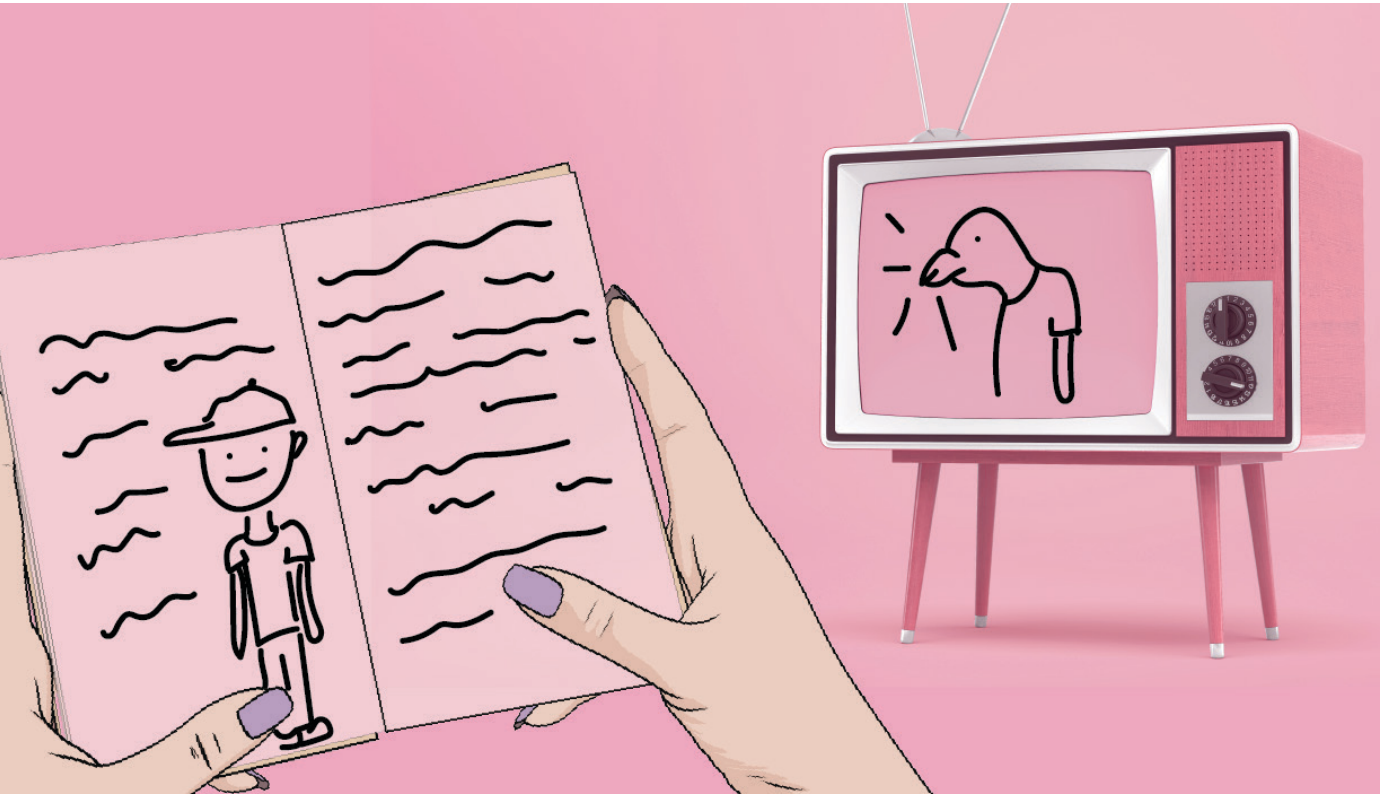
“If I described a square head and a neck with some pegs in it, everyone would know it’s Frankenstein’s monster,” says Shogren. In Boris Karloff’s depiction, Frankenstein is a creature with childlike curiosity and the intelligence of a sea cucumber.

However, that is far from the case in the book. In Shelley’s novel, the monster is portrayed as hideous but intelligent.

Shogren says he was disappointed by “The Modern Prometheus,” because it was so different from the movie adaptation. He believes that books and movies need to be analyzed separately in order to respect the perspectives of each type of media.

People want absolutely everything in the books to be in the movie, but that’s not the reality behind the film, UM literary professor Robert Baker said.

It is not practical for a film to depict each and every detail, and if they did, the film would likely be boring, Baker said. He says movies should be seen as a change in perspective rather than a comparison to the book.



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Recall the last time you read a book, where you created a world within your mind equipped with detail that you took from the author and made into a functional universe. When you watch a different perspective (which a movie is) it shatters the reality you’ve created, Baker said.

“It would be like a conversation with another reader,” Baker said.

This annoyed me. There is nothing quite like watching the movie version of “The Hunger Games” or “Harry Potter” and bashing on the film executives who had the audacity to stray more than a millimeter from the plot.

Movies aren’t meant to tailor to your imagination, they are meant to complement it.

So there you have it. I’m not saying it’s not fun to hate on movies, but I am saying there should be something said about how truly different these types of media are.

November 2021 can not come soon enough. I guess I’ll just have to watch “Call Me by Your Name” for the hundredth time to get my Chalamet fill. I’m not complaining.



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It’s Christmas in the Goo Goo Dolls’ hearts

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Never, in all my angsty teen years of listening to the Goo Goo Dolls, did I expect the post-grunge band — known for their heart-ripping “Iris” — to release a Christmas album.

And never, in all my years of listening to Christmas music way too early in the season (we’re talking July, folks), did I think such an album would be good.

But “It’s Christmas All Over” might just be a Christmas miracle.

Goo Goo Dolls frontman John Rzeznik told Billboard that they made the album to bring joy to the “shittiest year ever.” It combines old favorites, like “Have Yourself a Very Merry Christmas,” with personal picks, like Tom Petty’s “Christmas All Over Again,” and a couple of new, heartfelt jaunts.

One of these new songs is “This Is Christmas,” inspired by Rzeznik’s three-year-old daughter. In it, Rzeznik and Co. belt out lyrics about celebrating the small things, like a child’s unforgettable Christmas. It’s not sickly sweet or overly positive, a rarity in holiday music. Mellow guitar and percussion drift in and out, lullaby-like.

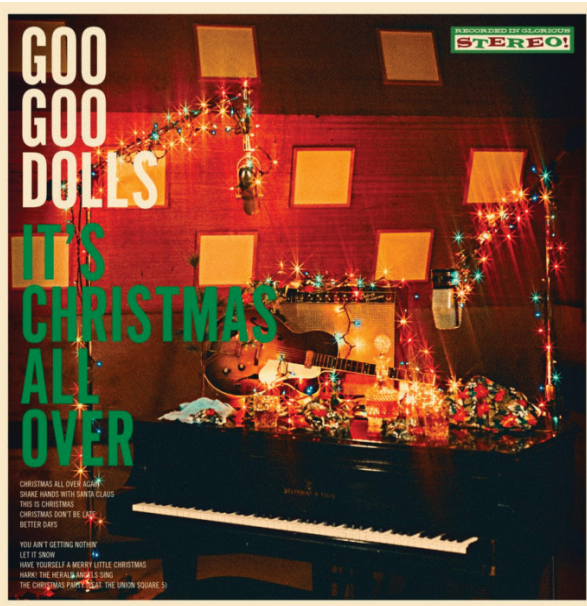
“You Ain’t Getting Nothin’” is jazzy, with horns and a rhythm you could snap your fingers to. It’s a Christmas diss track, reminiscent of “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch” — a great way to fight the mid-album lull.

The Goo Goo Dolls’ version of “Christmas Don’t Be Late,” with its odd vocals that go from breathy to ‘I smoke six packs of cigarettes a day,’ is lackluster. No cover of that song will ever sound as good as the original, but that doesn’t mean we should throw it out.

“Better Days” features a singing child whom we can only assume is the aforementioned daughter. Listening to children sing is not my favorite thing, but I’m also not going to shit on a kid for trying. That wouldn’t be very “best time of the year” of me.

Ella Fitzgerald, Bing Crosby and Burl Ives all crush the Christmas game, but most new Christmas releases fall flat. That is, except for Michael Bublé — we would never disrespect the masterpiece that is “Cold December Night.” Or Mariah Carey.

It’s hard to top the greats, but given that this year has been a garbage fire, I can’t wait for the holidays. Christmas brings me joy, and it obviously brings the Goo Goo Dolls joy, too. Why deprive ourselves of even this small glimmer of grungey hope?



‘Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm’ is a thoughtful, if disappointing, return to Kazakhstan

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In an industry that values drama as the highest art (thanks, Oscars), we often underestimate comedy’s power to explore the vilest parts of American culture. Take the 2006 Sacha Baron Cohen movie, “Borat,” which used raunchy, unscripted pranks to critique xenophobia and toxic masculinity.

It was this unapologetic approach that made the film so good and, sadly, what makes the sequel on Amazon Prime, “Borat Subsequent Moviefilm,” a slight letdown. Despite covering one of the most politically contentious times in our country’s history, it’s not as shocking or poignant as its predecessor. Still, it’s a perfectly fun ride, thanks to a humorous, thoughtful plot.

Cohen returns as Borat, Kazakhstan’s fourth-best journalist. His country sends him on a mission to offer Vice President Mike Pence a bride in exchange for America’s friendship — but the bride in question ends up being Borat’s daughter, Tutar (Maria Bakalova). Thus begins an all-American road trip filled with improvised run-ins with real people and some reluctant father-daughter bonding time.

The film’s strongest moments are the scripted segments, something I never thought I’d say about a “Borat” film. Cohen and Bakalova have impeccable chemistry, resulting in solid banter and a genuinely heart-warming arc for their relationship.

Their interaction also leads to some great satire involving Borat’s “Daughter’s Owner’s Manual.” Tutar questions it’s outlandish claims, like how women will be eaten by their vaginas if they masturbate. Though outlandish, the book speaks to a world where female voices are still not valued in American society.

Unfortunately, the improvised segments with American citizens aren’t as strong. Our country’s sins are a much easier target than they were back in 2006, but targeting extremists for laughs almost seems too easy. In “Borat Subsequent Moviefilm,” Borat gets a crowd of gun-wielding country hicks to sing about injecting Obama with the “Wuhan flu.” Compare this to the original film, where he managed to get a crowd of seemingly sane Americans to cheer for the death of Iraqi women and children. By choosing the obvious this time around, Cohen fails to expose what we don’t see every day on the news.

Still, the film has moments of spontaneous gold. An episode involving a plastic baby is the perfect blend of horror and hilarity. Tutar’s time with a babysitter gives the story surprising emotional weight. And the climactic interview with Donald Trump’s attorney, Rudy Giuliani, makes for some of the most damning footage of him this year — which is saying a lot.

“Borat Subsequent Moviefilm” isn’t the masterpiece that the first Borat film was, but perhaps it doesn’t have to be. It’s still an entertaining mockumentary that will give viewers a break from this largely laughless year. To quote Borat, “High faaaaiiive!”



UM graduate runs NYC Virtual Marathon to raise awareness about suicide

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Running the New York City Marathon is hard enough, but Kira Neidens decided to do it virtually this year to help raise awareness for suicide. Neidens ran the New York City Marathon — in Missoula — this Saturday to honor her nephew, Harrison Rex Maughan.

Maughan was a senior at Hellgate High School, taking advanced math classes at the University of Montana when he took his own life on Nov. 4, 2015.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYC Marathon opted for the virtual run this year. Runners registered to complete the 26.2-mile race in their hometowns. According to the marathon’s website, runners could complete the marathon any time between Oct. 17 and Nov. 1.

Runners tracked their route through GPS on an app called Strava, and uploaded their results using the app to see how they compared with other runners. Even though the marathon was virtual this year, runners still had to complete their 26.2-mile activity all at once.

Neidens said that this year, the NYC Marathon was having its 50-year anniversary, and it was close to the five-year anniversary of her nephew’s passing, so she decided it would be a good time to run in honor of Maughan.

“I’m hoping to be able to help people who have the same struggles that Harrison did,” Neidens said.

Along with running the marathon to honor her nephew, Neidens has been raising money to run for Team American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention raises awareness, funds scientific research and provides resources to those who have been affected by suicide.

In order to compete in the NYC Marathon, Neidens needed to raise \$3,500. To date, Neidens has raised \$5,730, including one generous donor who gave \$1,600 to her cause because they knew her nephew.

“It’s been heartwarming to realize the collective power we have as a community,” Neidens said.

Neidens said that she has run mar-



Kira Niedens raises her arms to break the make-shift finish tape held by her family and supporters at the finish of her New York City virtual marathon on Oct. 31, 2020. Niedens ran the race to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention after her nephew, Harrison Rex Maughan, took his own life in 2015. Niedens ran the race, her second marathon in three weeks, in under four hours. The time marked a new personal best for Niedens. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

athons before, but this year has been different than others with the challenges posed by COVID-19. She said that when the pandemic hit in March, she had been taking a class about running 5Ks through UM, but her training came to a stop as she grappled with the pandemic, as well as with completing her degree.

“I only ran once in both April and May,” Neidens said.

She ramped up her training through June, though, when she decided to run the NYC Marathon. However, she struggled with injury during her training. At one point, Neidens didn’t even think she’d be

able to run the marathon, and it would have to be a run-walk combination to finish it. But, even with the combined challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and injuries, Neidens did not lose her motivation.

“Doing this for Harrison has pushed me to overcome any doubts about doing this,” she said.

Neidens said that her goal for the NYC Marathon was to run it in under four hours.

On Saturday, she beat her goal, running the marathon in 3:54:56, placing 105 out of

1,972 runners in her gender, and 498 out of 4,379 runners overall.

“It feels very fulfilling,” Neidens said of finishing the race in her nephew’s honor. “I wasn’t sure I could hit the four-hour mark and to exceed that — he was my wings. It’s just really amazing to be able to inspire people and make sure they know that they can do hard things.”

To find more information and resources from The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, you can visit their website: <https://afsp.org/>.

Former UM student promotes new book about the Bob Marshall Wilderness

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The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation held an online Zoom event last Thursday with author and UM alumnus John Fraley and two famous wilderness advocates and outfitters — Smoke Elser and Bill Workman.

“I think there’s a lot of spirits in the Bob Marshall,” Fraley said, “because when you look at people that have been there for a long time, like Bill (Workman) who’s been in there for 40 some-odd years, you’ve left a lot of your DNA in there, left a lot of your elements in your body.”

The event was to promote Fraley’s book “Heroes of the Bob Marshall Wilderness,” a book made of adventure stories of some of the early pioneers in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex of Northwestern Montana. The story is meant to capture what those early generations of wilderness advocates were like and how their influence still resonates with people today.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness was set aside as a part of the original Wilderness Act of 1964. Today, the entire complex of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, including the Scapegoat Wilderness and Spotted Bear, consists of 1.5 million acres of carefully preserved wilderness. Every year, thousands of hikers, backpackers and horse packers take advantage of this beautiful landscape.

This event was the first of a series of four Fireside Chats held by the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation.

Fraley is an author whose career took him all across the wildernesses of Montana as a wildlife biologist. He is now retired and has written several books, many of which are about life in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

He first came to Montana as a teenager and received degrees in fish and wildlife biology from both UM and Montana State University. He taught wildlife biology at Flathead Valley Community College, where he is now an adjunct faculty member.

His books include works such as “Rangers, Trappers, and Trailblazers: Early Adventures in Montana’s Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park,”

“Wild River Pioneers: Adventures in the Middle Fork of the Flathead, Great Bear Wilderness, and Glacier National Park,” and “A Woman’s Way West: In and Around Glacier National Park from 1925 to 1990.”

This wilderness has a captivating effect on those who enter its borders. To people who know it, it is simply called “The Bob.” It would take one about two weeks to get through the entire thing with a pack of mules and horses.

As the law states, since it is designated as “wilderness,” no cars or any motorized vehicles are allowed within the wilderness boundary. This makes for a thriving industry in guided horse packing.

Smoke Elser was one of those grizzled men in the Zoom conference. His appearance shows years of experience in wild places, and his stories captivated everyone who was listening, including those on screen, even his friend, Bill Workman, who has also spent many years in the Bob.

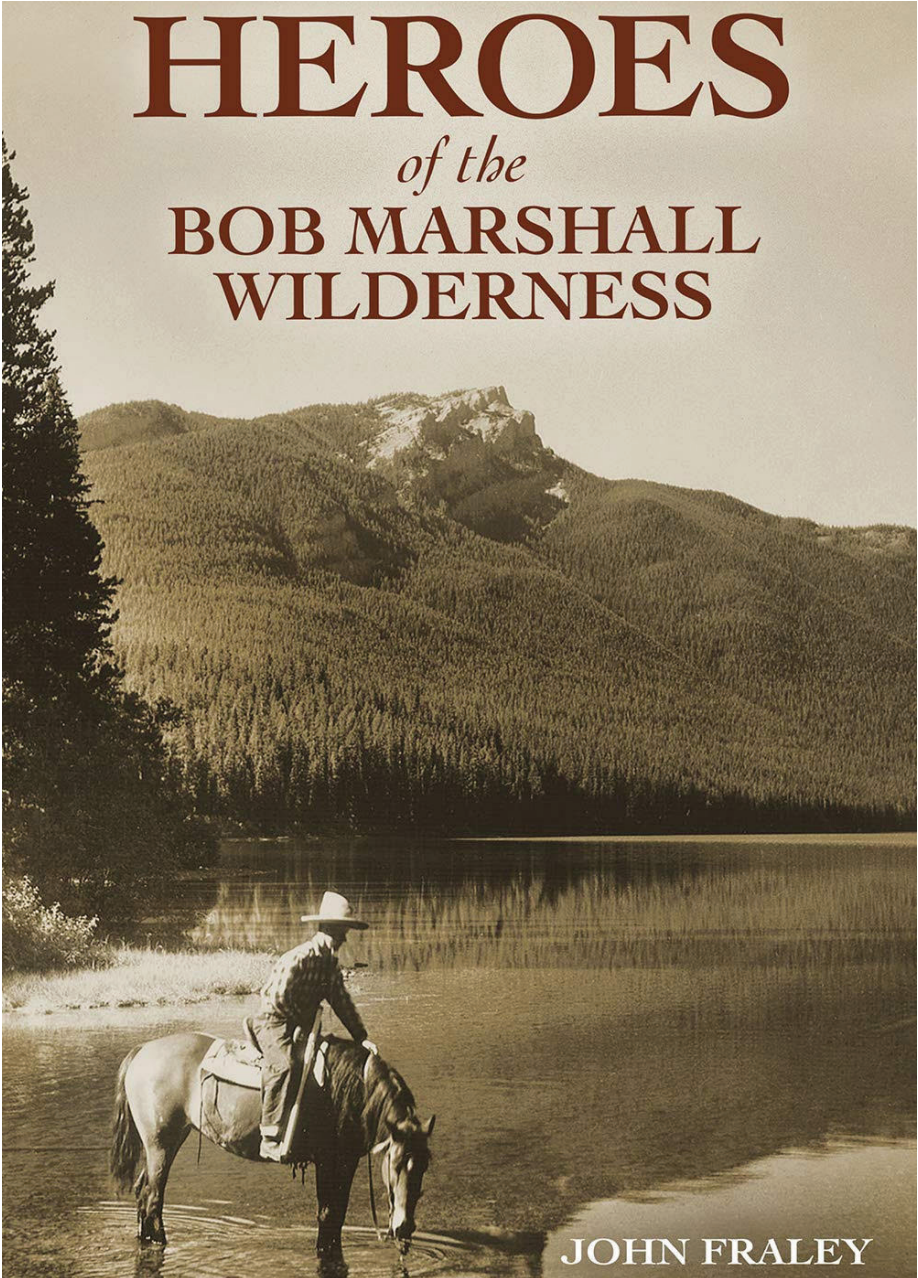
Most of the event was storytelling from these well-known outdoor icons. Most of the stories involved one of the two outfitters describing some of the guest experiences they went through.

Elser, a legendary outfitter who has spent most of his life in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, told tales of his time guiding trips, one about an inexperienced hunter he brought out. This hunter wore completely orange clothing from head to toe, and his gun was not even out of the box.

“He was probably wearing orange underwear,” Elser said. “But I never saw.”

On another occasion, in 1969, Elser said after days of his mule carrying two large bags for a guest family that the father insisted on bringing, they asked one night to watch the moon rise from the top of a ridge. When they arrived, the father unloaded the heavy bags and revealed a small television, generator and a satellite to watch cable. That night, Elser and the guest family watched Neil Armstrong land on the moon from the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Known as the one who spearheaded the founding of the Wilderness Society in 1935, The Bob Marshall Wilderness gets its name from a long time wilderness advocate and legend of the outdoor world, Bob Marshall. He is most known for hiking 30 to 40 miles per day, despite having



health issues. Doctors believed his death was either because of sunstroke or food poisoning.

Despite never truly recovering from his sickness, Bob Marshall spent many years in the Alaskan Wilderness with Inuit, where he wrote numerous detailed letters about his experiences.

Although he was not alive to see its creation, the influence Marshall had on American society through his letters led to the adoption of the Wilderness Act of 1964

and to the creation of the wilderness in his name.

When asked what the Bob Marshall Wilderness meant to him, Fraley responded that the Bob is a very spiritual place.

Many of those who enter the Bob Marshall Wilderness feel its profound effects. Its existence has created almost a cult following, and many of those who have spent years in its boundaries still have many stories to tell.

Jace Lewis aims to be the next great UM linebacker

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Jace Lewis is the latest in a long line of elite linebackers for the University of Montana Grizzlies. The fan-titled “Linebacker U” has been a hard-hitting powerhouse for years.

“He’s a team-first guy ... I love coaching him,” said Bobby Hauck, UM’s head coach.

Montana has been unofficially named “Linebacker U” by fans for its consistent talent at the position. Names like Brock Coyle and Jordan Tripp made the jump from Missoula to the pros at the position.

Former UM linebacker Dante Olson is currently a member of the Philadelphia Eagles practice squad after being signed as an undrafted free agent, released, having his rights claimed by the Edmonton Football Team CFL team, and then being re-signed by the Eagles following a mar of injuries around the position.

In the 2018-19 season, Olson recorded 179 tackles, leading the FCS for a second straight year and earning him the Buck Buchanan award for top defensive player in the FCS.

Lewis recorded 131 tackles in the 2018-19 season.

With Olson having moved on to the NFL, the spotlight is now firmly on Lewis. He was named to the preseason all conference defensive squad. He was also named preseason Defensive MVP of the conference.

“We don’t pay attention to external accolades,” Hauck said. Lewis echoed this, saying he was honored to receive the recognition but is more concerned with postseason than preseason.

Lewis, a native of Townsend, Montana, is a walk-on. He played both quarterback and linebacker for the Broadwater Bulldogs, passing for over 4,000 yards and recording 344 tackles throughout his career.

Redshirting his freshman year, he saw his first playing time for the Griz in 2017 as a linebacker, recording 16 tackles in 10 games. He continued to grow into



University of Montana redshirt senior linebacker Jace Lewis focuses on a drill during the beginning of practice in Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Oct. 27, 2020.

SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN

2018, posting 62 total tackles and earning himself a spot as a second team all Big Sky special teams player.

In 2018, linebacker Josh Buss, another in the line of strong linebackers at UM, graduated. He led the team in tackles that year and recorded 273 tackles over his career. Lewis was tasked with filling the void Buss would leave. Hauck noted that Lewis really stepped up his game in response to this challenge.

In 2019, Lewis more than doubled his tackles from the previous year, with 131 in his first season as a starter. He ended up fifth in the conference in tackles per game with 9.4 and earned a spot on the All Big

Sky first defensive team.

“Everything is up in the air,” Lewis said. With the conference’s current plans, he’s set to be one of the top defensive players in the country if he gets to play in the spring. He says he’s ready for whatever happens.

He also added that the defense is looking sharp in practice and praised the “great group of guys” he’ll be sharing the field with.

Hauck heaped similar praise on Lewis, noticing how hard he worked every year to get to the point he’s at now.

Hauck credits his recruiters with finding talents like Olson and Lewis but also prais-

es the athletes themselves. “The culture is to work hard,” he said. Dominance at the position only comes with countless hours in the gym and at practice.

Lewis has not garnered NFL attention like Olson did last season. Whether he will or not remains to be seen, and largely depends on what happens this spring.

When asked if he had a goal for tackles this coming season, he responded by simply saying he cared more about winning.

The fan-given nickname isn’t going to end with Lewis after this season, either. There are currently 13 players at the position, and seven of them are either normal or redshirt freshmen.