

# MONTANA KAIMIN

## THE FORD FACTOR

The rise of Montana's  
star cornerback

STORY BY Jack Marshall



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Cover photo by Maddie Crandall

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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'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

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THE GARAGE: SE 3 EP 2



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

# A reminder to be bear aware

The bears are back on the University of Montana's campus and hungrier than ever. With fall rapidly approaching, bears are fattening up for the winter on more than just huckleberries and chokecherries.

Since mid-August, UMPD has issued two alerts of bears wandering north of Washington-Grizzly Stadium and near the Prescott House. Bears in Missoula are undergoing some kind of "natural food failure," meaning they're flooding into areas of Missoula to pick from fruit trees and trash cans, according to James Jonkel, the Fish, Wildlife and Parks wildlife management specialist.

What does this mean? Don't be oblivious of your surroundings, on-or-off campus. "Don't be like a Yellowstone tourist," Jonkel said. "Don't lose your sense."

UM falls under a "bear buffer zone," an area along the fringes of Missoula city limits with special garbage disposal requirements because of frequent bear activity.

Currently, Jonkel said two bears have been frequenting campus. One is a larger black bear and the other is a smaller black bear meandering near the M-trail. Jonkel said bears congregate near fruit trees for food, including crab apple and Mountain-ash trees on campus.

For anyone who is a part-time student or staff member, there are a few ways we can peacefully coexist with our furry campus companions.

First: Don't follow the bears. OR if you do, try to keep a safe distance and inform UMPD of their whereabouts. As tempting as it is to earn the title of bear-chaser, we can't all be Jonkel (or Bear Grylls).

Secondly, don't feed the bears. While this may seem glaringly obvious, food conditioning is no joke, especially when a bear decides your arm resembles a rotisserie chicken. This also means being conscious of where you put your trash.

While Jonkel is working with the UM student chapter of the Wildlife Society to install bear-proof trash cans on campus, he said not all trash cans on-campus are bear-proof (like they should be).

As more bears visit our campus in search of food, the University needs to modernize its waste collection. More bears eating out of trash cans can condition them to not be afraid around humans, which is dangerous for unsuspecting students living or learning right next door.

Food conditioning is also dangerous for the bear, as wildlife officials are more likely to euthanize a problem bear if it is used to eating human food and wandering in the city. As Jonkel likes to say, treat your waste, fruit and bird seed like cash; don't leave it laying around.

In past years, FWP has gotten reports of bears not only digging through trash bins but entering people's houses in search of food. Once it reaches that stage, FWP is usually required to euthanize the bear, not relocate it.

Montana FWP euthanized two Missoula bears in August after the duo broke into Rattlesnake area homes in search of food.

Lastly, you should take into account your own safety, not just the bears. Two weeks ago, the dean of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, Alan Townsend, and a UM colleague, Scott Ferrenberg, were charged by a grizzly while scouting the Bandy Experimental Ranch, a UM-owned ranch north of Ovando. Had Ferrenberg not brought bear spray, the encounter likely would have ended differently. Read more about the standoff (on page 7) in this issue.

With the density of grizzly populations increasing, Jonkel predicts encounters around the area will likely increase. It's only a matter of time until a grizzly wanders dangerously close to campus, meaning all students should be prepared any time they recreate.

"If you have a hiking pole in one hand, you better have a can of bear spray in the other," Jonkel said.

UM is a great place to recreate and live, but Missoula is home to much more than humans. We need to learn how to co-exist with all animals, including bears.

— Haley Yarborough, Arts & Culture Editor

*Like it? Hate it? Let us know.* Email us your opinions at [editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com).



## Bodnar's first pitch

University President Seth Bodnar walks away from the pitchers mound with PaddleHeads player McClain O'Connor after throwing the first pitch for University of Montana game night on Sept. 2 at Ogren Park at Allegiance Field. **RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

**SUDOKU** Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

**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.

*Answer to Previous Sudoku:*

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

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# Indoor practice field delayed, native studies professors depart UM, fires drop air quality

EMILY TSCHETTER

emily.tschetter@umontana.edu

## UM AMERICAN INDIAN BUSINESS LEADERS NAMED CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

UM's chapter of the American Indian Business Leaders won Chapter of the Year 2022 in the university division.

AIBL is the only nonprofit in the United States exclusively dedicated to indigenous business students, according to the UM news service. Larry Gianchetta, the AIBL adviser and former dean of the business school, said UM students "demonstrated that their business acumen ranks among the best nationally."

All students can participate in AIBL regardless of academic major, career goals and race. The competition is separated into a high school, tribal college and university division. UM won the honors at the 28th AIBL conference in August at Rancho Mirage, California.

Millie Bearleggs, the UM chapter president from Browning, also brought in first place in the business pitch competition. UM took home \$2,000 in prize winnings from both competitions.

## FIRES IN IDAHO, OREGON DAMAGE AIR QUALITY ACROSS WESTERN MONTANA

After the National Weather Service forecasted dry and windy weather across from California to Montana on Friday, Missoula fell into an orange haze with an unhealthy air quality.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality issued air quality alerts through the weekend in Beaverhead, Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders counties. Smoke in western Montana is coming from active fires south and east of Missoula, but also large fires in Idaho and Oregon.

Missoula fell under the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" category, meaning children, smokers, the elderly and people with heart or lung diseases should limit time spent outdoors.

Hot and dry conditions are expected to continue through the week in most places in the Northwest, meaning fire activity could escalate. The National Interagency Fire Center reported more than 1 million more acres have burned this fire season compared to last year.

## THREE FACULTY WITH NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES EXPERTISE LEAVE UM

Three faculty who focus on Native American fields left UM for larger research institutions over the past two months.

Monte Mills, the former acting dean of the law school and co-leader of the law school's Indian Law Clinic, left to join the University of Washington law faculty last month.

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign said last week environmental studies professor Rosalyn LaPier joined its history department. The college also offered a position to chair of Native American Studies at UM David Beck, LaPier's partner.

Beck told the Daily Montanan both him and LaPier will have lower class loads and more time out of the classroom to conduct their research. Both UW and UIUC report 28,000 more undergraduate students than UM at each university.

The three faculty members' departures come at a time of Native American enrollment growth at UM, with a 23% increase in both undergrad and grad programs since 2018.

## UM DELAYS NEW INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

UM athletic director Kent Haslam told the Missoulian that the athletic department is delaying the construction of the new inflatable indoor practice facility once again.

The project has a renewed completion date of October 2023 after officials moved back the facility from November 2022 and then March 2023. The building will have a bubble covering that can go up during winter and bad weather, but will otherwise be an open-air facility.

The \$7.2 million project is 100% privately funded, including \$315,000 raised by the 2001 national championship football team. The field will have amenities for the football, soccer, softball and track teams.

Haslam also oversaw the building of the Washington-Grizzly Champions Center, the creation of a softball program and field and the Eric and Blair Sprunk Student-Athlete Academic Center, among other infrastructure projects in his tenure.

# POLICE BLOTTER

CAVEN WADE

caven.wade@umontana.edu

As students returned to campus, the University of Montana Police Department began their long battle against crime for the 2022-23 school year last week. They didn't see a lot of action, so new students are either being exceptionally good, or they're planning a storm. Here are five reported incidents from Aug. 28 to Aug. 31.

## SUNDAY 8/28: HAVE TO SMOKE SOMEWHERE

UMPD received a complaint on Aug. 28 that someone was smoking cigarettes on the Oval. Although not technically against the law, UMPD found it very inconsiderate to the "no tobacco" signs across campus and gave the individual a warning. However, UMPD has no authority to make the individual stop smoking. Smoking on campus is a policy violation at the University that needs to be enforced by a UM staff member. Maybe they'll choose to step off campus next time they decide to light up.

## MONDAY 8/29: THE RETURN OF THE BIKE THIEVES

UMPD received a call on Aug. 29 that two bikes had been stolen from the Sisson Apartment Complex. The first bike was stolen sometime between Jul. 26 and Aug. 12, with the second bike taken on Aug. 26. Currently, there is no identified suspect. One week into the school year, and students already have to worry about their trusty bikes going missing.

## MONDAY 8/29: NOT THE FLIERS!

At 10 a.m., an RA gave UMPD a report of criminal mischief in Duniway Hall. An unidentified suspect ripped photos and other items off a bulletin board, scattering them across the floor. No major damage was reported. This individual must have been really tired of seeing ads for campus events.

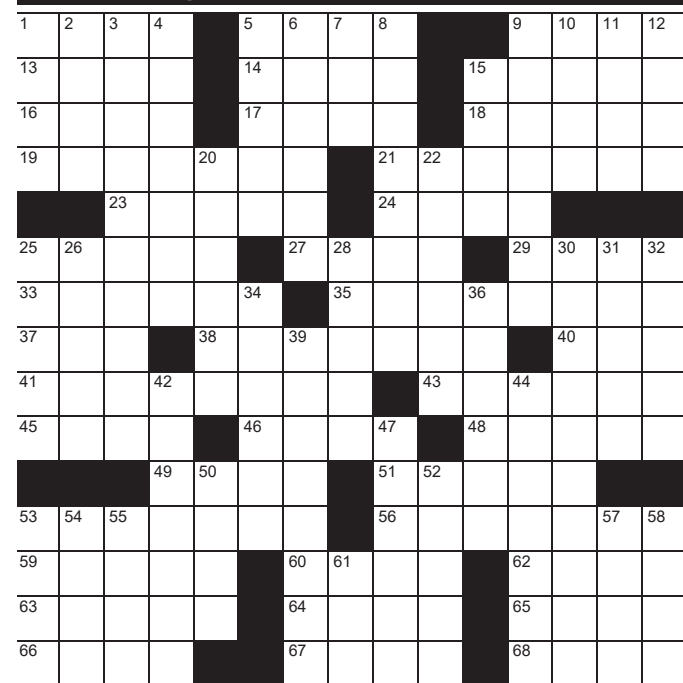
## WEDNESDAY 8/31: BEARS ARE BACK IN TOWN

At 1 p.m. on Aug. 31, UMPD responded to a report of bear sighting by the Prescott House. They quickly chased the bear away from campus. No person or animal got hurt in the process. Congratulations freshmen, that's the first of many "Bear Aware" emails for the semester. The bear might just have school spirit trying to spend time with new students and really get them in touch with their 'Grizzly Pride'.

## WEDNESDAY 8/31: STAY OUT OF THE VEHICLE

UMPD received a report of a motor vehicle trespassing at 3 p.m. on Aug. 31. Someone broke into a van in the Dornblaser parking area. Nothing was reported stolen, and there is currently no identified suspect. Why do people out there keep forgetting which car they own?

## The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



### ACROSS

- 1 Unappetizing fare
- 5 Intersection sign
- 9 Baseball's Hershiser
- 13 Back of the neck
- 14 Kind of code
- 15 Newspaper, sometimes
- 16 "Get \_\_\_ it!"
- 17 Pleased look
- 18 Flower oil
- 19 Legendary wailer
- 21 Apropos
- 23 Pay-stub figure
- 24 Sheltered, nautically
- 25 Usurer's offerings
- 27 Course
- 29 Arsenal stash
- 33 Richly decorated
- 35 "So long!"
- 37 Bunch of bills
- 38 Not at sea
- 40 Corn's core
- 41 Calvin Klein fragrance
- 43 Audience demand
- 45 Give a facelift to
- 46 Neuter a horse
- 48 Xbox enthusiast
- 49 "\_\_\_ here"
- 51 Take over
- 53 Motorcycle add-on
- 56 Vote in again
- 59 Go gaga over
- 60 Dry-as-dust
- 62 Nothing but
- 63 Well-known
- 64 Talent show prop
- 65 "On the double!"
- 66 Husky burden
- 67 Internet browser
- 68 Floor model
- 26 Provide an address
- 28 Gas additive
- 30 Payback
- 31 Demi or Dudley
- 32 On the wagon
- 34 Mystery
- 36 Tropical fever
- 39 Cheap ship accommodations
- 42 Sister of Snow White
- 44 Full vehicle
- 47 Between before and after
- 50 Got 100 on
- 52 Wetlands plant
- 53 Minus
- 54 Revered one
- 55 Lavish affection (on)
- 57 Happy as a \_\_\_
- 58 Keyboard goof
- 61 Serling of Sci-fi TV

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

# Which Griz fan are you?



MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

ANNA HENNING

anna.henning@umontana.edu

It's September, the start of footb— I mean, school. Definitely meant to say school. That first University of Montana victory sure is looking better than your syllabus quiz grade though. Who couldn't use a little good old-fashioned school spirit? It'll help you get through the semester. But what kind of Griz fan are you really? Look to the stars to find out.

## VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):

You've never been a huge football person, but you read two ESPN articles and now you believe you're an expert. You have no idea what the penalties mean or what the line of scrimmage is, but that won't stop you from telling everyone you think a different play should've been used.

## LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):

You want a Griz victory, you're really there to have fun. You love being in the stadium and feeling the crowd's energy. It gives you all the warm fuzzies. Unfortunately, this sentiment quickly disappears when you believe the ref made a bullshit call.

## SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

Honestly, you hate football. You don't like the noise, the crowd or the rules of the game. You'd much rather be anywhere else, but you wanted to get your money's worth of that UM athletic fee. Go Griz, I guess.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):

You're tailgating in your minivan, which is parked in a no-parking zone. You'll attempt to flip burgers with the portable grill, but quickly bail when you realize you can't grill them like your mom can. You only hope the game will be better than your cooking.

## CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

You don't typically watch football, but you enjoy casually attending. While this is true, you're also gonna leave 10 minutes early so you don't get stuck in the post-game traffic. You hate nothing more than being stranded in a sea of shitty drivers with road rage.

## AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):

You want allllll the attention on you, so you'll be the

loudest during the crowd cheers. People will admire your commitment to school spirit, but it'll quickly get annoying. It's okay we still love you xoxo.

## PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

You want to go to the game to feel included, but quickly get overwhelmed by the crowd. You'll take frequent breaks to get nachos so you have an excuse to get away from people. Sure, you're gonna have wicked diarrhea tomorrow, but that's a price you're willing to pay <3

## ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

MUST! GET! FREE! PIZZA! Your broke ass will push and shove to get even a crust. Seriously, though. Have a little self-control. We all have no money after paying this month's rent. At least you're not hangry for the rest of the game.

## TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

Does anyone need a tampon? Water? Sunscreen? As the mom of your group, you'll check in on everyone to see if they need anything. You'll pack anything and everything into your tiny clear tote bag, creating a nightmare for the security person who has to go through it.

## GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 21):

You're on a social marathon of telling people every dad joke in your repertoire. In your efforts, you will miss seeing every touchdown. Of course, you'll pretend you saw it so nobody knows and scream just to contribute to the chaos.

## CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22):

You are determined to get the perfect game day experience. You always get there an hour and a half early just so you can get the perfect seats at the 10-yard line. You go through the five stages of grief every time something goes wrong because you can't disconnect the game from real life.

## LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

You'll be in the front row with your shirt off. Your stomach will be painted with the "O" in "GO GRIZ." You're extremely proud of your work. You put a lot of time into making that "O" crispy in hopes of making it onto a UM Insta post.

## THE KAIMIN CAST

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## Go Beyond Your Major Influence Your University Experience

BECOME A

# STUDENT AT LARGE

# A Grizzly guide to Biden’s loan forgiveness plan

CHRISTINE COMPTON  
Christine.Compton@umontana.edu

Millions of American college students buzzed with enthusiasm when U.S. President Joe Biden announced a student loan forgiveness plan Aug. 24, including many Montana Grizzlies.

Within days of the reveal, UM students and graduates sprinkled their social media feeds with cheers, shock and curiosity. Many UM graduates in 2020 had well over \$20,000 in debt, according to nonprofit data, so the zeal makes sense.

But as Biden’s plan develops, questions hang in the air: Who qualifies? What steps are there? And how is the University of Montana involved?

Here’s a spoiler for the last one – it isn’t. At least, not in the way one might think.

## What’s the plan?

Biden’s plan allows some borrowers to cancel as much as \$10,000 in federal student debt per student. The full amount would only be available to borrowers who make under \$125,000 per year based on tax income.

Pell Grant recipients, a federal grant that usually doesn’t require repayment, can also cancel another \$10,000 on top of that, adding up to \$20,000 in possible loan forgiveness.

The plan came in a larger set of student debt policies from the Biden administration. Biden extended the March 2020 freeze on student loan interest until January 2023 just last week, although it was slated to end in September.

That means borrowers now have a little extra time to prepare to pay off their debt.

Borrowers can expect an application for debt cancellation by early October, and relief is supposed to come within 4-6 weeks of submission, according to the Department of Education. DOE’s recent loan information reflects around 8 million people are already expected to receive relief. Regardless, all interested borrowers should apply by November 15 to be processed before the interest freeze ends.

The plan only applies to federal education loans held by or on behalf of the Department of Education and made before July 1 of this year, so students shouldn’t apply for loans hoping to make some easy cash.

Those who have paid debt off through the student interest freeze aren’t out of luck, either. They can request refunds through their

loan servicer as long as they have payment receipts from after March 13, 2020, when the freeze was put in place.

Biden’s plan could face challenges in the coming weeks. While no lawsuits have been made yet, some groups such as allies of conservative think tank Heritage Foundation have considered testing Biden’s plan in court, The Washington Post reported.

It’s unclear what that means for borrowers in Montana, but it’s possible that Biden’s plan may change.

## Why cancel student debt?

The goal of the plan is to boost social mobility, Biden explained in his announcement speech.

As students graduate and begin paying off their loans, the accumulating costs devour money otherwise spent on homes, careers and family. The degree that should have opened the door to the middle-class is careening some graduates down the financial ladder, Biden said.

“Many of you had to leave school because the financial strain was much too high,” Biden said. “About a third of the borrowers have debt but no degree and – worst of both worlds: debt and no degree.”

Student debt isn’t foreign to UM. In 2020, 62% of UM’s graduating class had student loan debt, according to The Institute for College Access & Success, a non-profit that advocates for affordable higher education. The average debt of 2020 UM graduates was \$27,308, outranking MSU, MSU-Billings, Rocky Mountain College, University of Providence and Montana Tech.

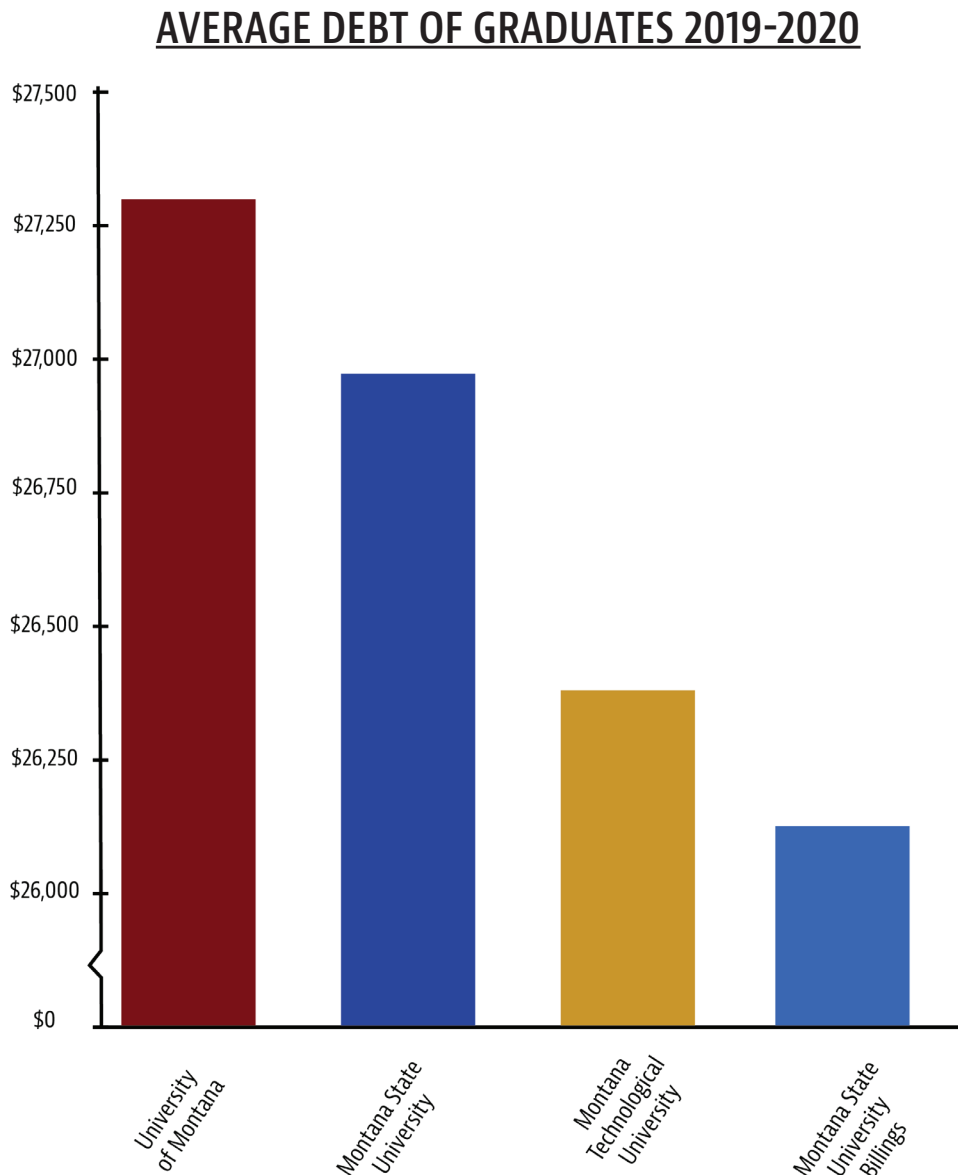
## How does UM fit in all this?

Before UM students scramble to apply for debt forgiveness, it’s important to know what avenues they’ll need to make it happen. While the University can provide guidance, it can’t do the work for them.

“The announcement is still a little fresh,” UM director of strategic communications Dave Kuntz said.

It’s too early for universities to have specific plans for Biden’s work, Kuntz said. Even when they do, the qualifications for loan cancellation will be too personal for a one-size-fits-all approach.

It doesn’t help that Biden’s plan will likely help more recent-graduates and alumni than current or prospective students, Kuntz said. Most federal student loans offer a six month



Source: The Institute for College Access & Success. KATRINA SABOL| MONTANA KAIMIN

grace period after graduation before borrowers are expected to start paying their loans back, Federal Student Aid explains on its website. Alumni and recent graduates likely have more debt and are usually deeper into the repayment process than current students, so chances are more applicants will be graduates than students, Kuntz said.

Because of this, the University doesn’t plan to announce Biden’s loan forgiveness

plan as part of its financial aid programming, Kuntz said. It’ll be up to students to work with financial aid and student support offices to find out what will work best for them.

“Right now, the University is a supporting role,” Kuntz said. “We’ll guide students to resources available.”

Students should visit [studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement](http://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement) for official updates on Biden’s student debt forgiveness plan.

# UMPD tests e-bikes for faster response times

CAVEN WADE  
Caven.Wade@umontana.edu

Students will see the University of Montana Police Department around campus on new electronic bikes this semester, which aim to speed up response times and officer mobility.

UMPD purchased two brand new police e-bikes over the summer, and bike officers have started testing them throughout campus. The tests will help lay out the department’s procedures and safety when using the new bikes on patrol.

“It’s just our hope that we’ll be able to get across campus more quickly, especially when there’s so much congestion from students or events,” said Brad Giffin, UMPD chief.

UM is considered a closed campus, which means there are no direct street accesses through the campus, according to Giffin. This makes cars or other motor vehicles less effective when trying to respond to a call in the area.

The new e-bikes hope to solve this mobility problem by allowing officers a faster way to go from one point to the next through the sidewalks on campus, according to Dave Kuntz, UM director of strategic communications.

The new e-bikes will also help with officer fatigue due to the electronic pedal assistance. E-bikes have batteries connected to the pedals that supplement the pedaling, especially uphill.

“The benefit of the e-bike is when an officer gets there, they’re not worn out, because the bikes are pedal assisted,” Giffin said.

The new bikes have a battery life of around 30-50 miles depending on how much the officer manually pedals. They take about six hours to fully charge once they run out of juice.

Giffin has some reservations about the new rides weight. The bikes weigh around 80 pounds, which can take away from the mobility factor. Officers cannot pick them up and take them anywhere like they could a normal mountain bike, according to Giffin.

However, the benefits of response time and the positive impact Giffin anticipates the bikes will have on UMPD’s campus relations overcomes the weight factor.

“I think they’re friendlier,” Giffin said. “It’s easier to approach somebody that’s on a bike than in a car. It encourages people to stop and talk.”

The new bikes have an extra seat that can be attached to the back to help get people in need out of congested areas. This will mostly



Brad Giffin, UMPD chief, stands behind one of the new e-bikes that will be used for the police to get around campus on Sept. 2. “With the heavy congestion with vehicular traffic we can zip around the University without getting stuck in traffic at all now,” Giffin said. RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

be used during Griz football games when someone may be in a crowded area that isn’t accessible by car.

The bikes should finish testing within the next two weeks to be fully operational and rolling around campus.

# UM forestry faculty charged by grizzly bear

HALEY YARBOROUGH  
haleyyarborough@umontana.edu

Alan Townsend and Scott Ferrenberg heard the growl of the grizzly before the two saw it.

Following a game trail up a conifer-covered slope on the Bandy Experimental Ranch, a UM-owned cattle ranch North of Ovando, a large male grizzly surprised the UM faculty members when the bear emerged from vegetation uphill on Aug. 28.

A few seconds later the bear puffed itself up and charged.

“We don’t think the bear was naturally aggressive,” Ferrenberg said. “We startled it, we think it was sleeping and it was in really tight, shady cover which is why we had no idea it was there.”

Townsend, the dean of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, and Ferrenberg, the associate director of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experimental Field Station, stood roughly 30 feet apart when the grizzly bluff charged Ferrenberg from the side.

A bluff charge is a tactic used by bears

meant to scare or intimidate perceived threats. When the bear noticed another person, it pivoted its head, paused briefly and began to charge Townsend, prepared to attack.

Ferrenberg speculated that had it only been him, the encounter would have played out differently.

“I think if it had just been me, it was going to be a bluff charge,” Ferrenberg said. “When it recognized there was a second person, it was overwhelmed and began to charge Alan.”

Townsend reached for his nine-millimeter handgun filled with bear loads—ammo developed to protect fishermen and backpackers when traveling in bear country. In retrospect, he said he should have reached for his bear spray, a more effective bear deterrent than a gun.

Evidence of human-bear encounters suggest that shooting a bear can escalate the seriousness of an attack, Townsend said.

“I joked later that it was probably just as effective to throw [the gun] at the bear,” Townsend said.

Townsend was well aware grizzly bears

can run up to 35 miles per hour before the encounter. When he realized he should not shoot the bear, he decided to run downslope to an alcove of trees to buy himself a few seconds and get in a defensive position.

As he reached to grab his bear spray, Ferrenberg ran towards the bear and used his bear spray, enveloping it in a plume of orange spray. After the bear ran away, Ferrenberg followed it up the hill to ensure it would not come back.

“He was either really brave, really stupid or both,” Townsend said.

Looking back, Ferrenberg and Townsend said they made mistakes, but that they hope their experience will teach students how to properly deal with a bear—especially because grizzly bear density is increasing.

Grizzly populations are expanding into areas where they have not been for decades, including working private lands and places where human populations are expanding, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

“We’re starting to have sightings and possible encounters in places people don’t think

they’re ever gonna happen,” Townsend said. “That includes around Missoula.”

Townsend posted a Twitter thread of recommendations on how to avoid and deal with grizzly bear encounters. This included avoiding dense cover when possible, making lots of noise and having bear spray on hand instead of holstered.

He also suggested always bringing a partner and practicing with bear spray in advance.

Both Townsend and Ferrenberg said they will not let the encounter deter them from getting outdoors, but the experience made them much more aware of the risks of living in bear country.

While they both have encountered plenty of bears, they said the seriousness of the situation opened their eyes to being more prepared.

“I was worried it was going to be like falling off a skateboard,” Ferrenberg said. “I actually cleared my schedule yesterday afternoon so I could go to a place where I knew bears were at and went out with all these precautions in mind and made noise and had the spray ready. I’m not going to let it deter me.”

# THE FORD FACTOR

Montana's senior cornerback poised to win after leading Division I football in interceptions

STORY BY Jack Marshall



Cornerback Justin Ford runs down the field toward the ball on Sept. 3 against Northwestern State. The Griz football team beat Northwestern State 47 - 0. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Griz cornerback Justin Ford grins after a practice on Aug. 30. Ford rose through the ranks last season. He's back to show Griz Nation and opponents more of what he can do. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

**J**USTIN FORD focused his eyes behind the opposing team's line of scrimmage on the turf of Washington-Grizzly Stadium last November as Montana football fans roared inside the sold-out arena.

Ford, who sat more than 2,300 miles away from his southern-hospitality filled, quiet hometown of Concord, North Carolina, anticipated the opposing team to snap the ball for a 47-yard field goal attempt.

This wasn't just any foe during that late-season game. It was archrival Montana State University, who beat the Grizzlies in the previous five matchups. MSU snapped the ball and Ford flew toward the kicker.

Right before he leapt in the air to block the attempt, he froze. The Bobcats faked the field goal. Montana State wanted another chance to score a touchdown as time disappeared from the Brawl of the Wild game.

Before Ford could react, Griz linebacker Jace Lewis blocked a toss from the holder.

The ball bounced freely on the turf. Players scrambled over each other for possession. Ford, the 6-foot-2-inch cornerback, raced into action. He scooped up the ball and sprinted for the end zone. A record attendance of 26,856 people erupted as Ford scored and put Montana up 26-3.

"When the ball gets in your hands, especially as a corner, it's one of the loudest plays in the game," Ford said. "But for us, everything is silent."

While Ford remembered silence on the play that helped UM take back the Brawl of the Wild title, his little brother Prince Ford recalled his view from the stands a little differently.

"That shit was rocking," Prince said. "I was in a student section when he scored that return and they were hyping me up like I scored."

Ford's touchdown against MSU was one of many brilliant plays he made in the 2021 season, which featured him leading all Division I football with nine interceptions

and being named a first team All-American.

His junior season is arguably the best all-time from a UM corner, but now he is back for one more year with higher expectations. This fall, Ford is the centerpiece of a Grizzly defense that will help UM compete for a national title. But he hasn't always been in the spotlight.

## A CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNEY

Ford was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1998 before moving to North Carolina. He is the middle child of two brothers who are also athletes.

From an early age, Justin Ford was unstoppable once he set his mind on something, according to his older brother Naquan Ford. So undeterrable that Justin earned the nickname "Murder, Death, Kill," or MDK for short.

"He's willing to take consequence for anything he does," Naquan Ford said. "You see it on the field. Sometimes he'll make a judgment call and just blitz because he sees something and it works out in his favor."

The Ford brothers are all four years apart. Naquan Ford, 28, Justin Ford, 24, and Prince Ford, 20, all grew up playing football. Naquan Ford was selected as an All-District corner. Prince Ford played at the same junior college that Justin Ford did.

Both of Justin Ford's brothers agreed that the cornerback is persistent in getting what he needed.

Naquan Ford remembered when his younger brother would often lose his iPhone charger cord and steal his other family members' chargers, so their mom began labeling the cords. She said that if hers went missing, severe punishment would follow.

Inevitably, Justin Ford lost his charger and began eyeing his mom's.

"He went in there, took the charger and charged his



**ABOVE:** Montana redshirt junior Justin Ford reacts as he rushes onto the field with other teammates as the Griz prepare to take on Cal Poly at Washington-Grizzly Stadium Sept. 4, 2021.

**ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

**RIGHT:** Senior cornerback Justin Ford prepares for the play on Sept. 3 against Northwestern State during the team's first home game.

**MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



phone. His statement to me was, 'Well at least my phone is going to be charged.'" Naquan said with a laugh. "He's going to risk it because in his mind it's going to be worth it."

Prince, the youngest of the Ford brothers, remembered once their mom's watch was broken. She once again threatened punishment for the brothers. She told them that she would spank them until one of them confessed to breaking her Mickey Mouse watch.

"Neither of us would own up to what happened to the watch," Prince said. "I am very confident that he lost it."

"It's his fault about the watch," Justin Ford said in rebuttal with a laugh. "We both went down though."

As Ford got older, he developed as a football player. Once in a Pop Warner football game, Naquan Ford witnessed Justin's emergence as an athlete.

"He played quarterback (and) threw a touchdown, he played running back (and) ran for two touchdowns (and) played defense and tackled damn near everybody on the field," the eldest brother remembered. "Even at his age I didn't have that type of animalistic behavior."

In high school, Justin Ford broke his school's record for interceptions — something he also did at Montana — and then broke his own record the next year. Yet, Ford was not highly sought after.

According to Ford's longtime friend Jonathan Earl, the two didn't have the grades to get into a Division I school. Instead, they went



Jonathan Earl, left and Justin Ford pose before a high school football game. The two played on the same junior college team before signing deals to play Division I football. **JONATHAN EARL | CONTRIBUTED**

## UP THE DEPTH CHART

After their JUCO journey, Earl and Ford both made it to Division I. Ford headed to University of Louisville. Earl went to Boise State University. In their Division I careers, both suffered injuries. Earl had to get back surgery and eventually retired while Ford transferred after a preseason ankle injury sidelined him from play in 2019.

"He didn't get along well with the coaches over there," Earl recalled. "Injuries will set anybody back."

Ford was recruited by Montana out of JUCO, so when he re-entered the portal, the Griz called again.

Ford's transfer led him to the Treasure State, where he enrolled at UM in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. After getting to UM, he got COVID-19 and kept getting quarantined, so he was sent home to North Carolina.

In North Carolina, Justin Ford got to finally meet his nephew and Naquan Ford's son. Naquan said that his younger brother is a great uncle and he can leave his son with Justin for hours on end.

"They have a real dope bond," Naquan said. "I love it."

Before the 2021 season, Justin Ford was unknown to most in the Big Sky Conference. He was not listed on the All-Big Sky Conference preseason defensive team. After he saw that he wasn't recognized, the cornerback tweeted that he was snubbed.

"Obviously I wasn't going to be on it (the preseason team)," Ford said. "But that was just my message to let you know that I'm here to make big plays."

Ford's prediction wasn't wrong. After starting as a backup corner to open the season, he quickly found his way into the starting lineup.

Justin Ford's football grit continued in his time with UM. Once in a game against Sacramento State, he leapt into the air while blitzing the quarterback, expecting to bat down a pass.

When the quarterback didn't throw his pass, Ford smacked the football out of the QB's hand while on the decline of his athletic leap. He forced a fumble.

His stubbornness came through in big moments. During the Brawl of the Wild, Ford didn't let MSU's star receiver Lance McCutcheon



University of Montana cornerback Justin Ford looks up at the scoreboard as the Griz take on the University of Washington Huskies on Sept. 4, 2021.

**ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

generate any offense while covering him in the game. MSU's number one wide receiver only caught three passes for 30 yards. Ford allowed two of the completions.

McCutcheon graduated in 2021. He now plays for the Los Angeles Rams and had a breakout campaign in the NFL Preseason. No matter the skill level, Ford has the same approach for each player he covers.

"The receiver in front of me, he's never going to get the best of me," Ford said. "That's my mindset and I'm pretty sure it's going to work that way."

Ford's flashiness carried over to the Griz. He once intercepted a pass, sprinted into the endzone and then effortlessly chucked the ball into the crowd with one hand.

The quarterback he picked off? Eastern Washington's Eric Barriere, who won the award for best offensive player in the FCS in 2021. As the season progressed, so did Ford. He started to tally interceptions. A three-game interception streak quickly became four and then five.

If a cornerback has a reputation for interceptions, opposing offenses begin to scheme to keep the ball away from them. To counteract this, Ford studies game film late into the night to get a sense of the opposing team's plays.

"Obviously from how he plays you could tell he's a great athlete," Prince Ford said. "He takes calculated risks and knows what's coming. He anticipates and he studies."

In a game against Southern Utah, Ford noticed that the Thunderbirds had motioned a running back onto the side of the field he guarded.

"You wouldn't put a running back on a corner that has an interception in every game, so I figured he wasn't gonna get the ball," Ford recalled.

When the ball was snapped, Ford pushed the running back out of bounds and sprinted towards the nearest receiver. His play prediction was right and the ball was tipped right into his hands. His interception streak lived on.

After catching the ball, Ford raced towards the end zone, dodged a tackle and then sized up an offensive lineman in front of him. The offensive lineman was Braxton Jones, a 6-foot-5-inch tackle who was taken in the 5th round of the 2022 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears.

In a feat of untapped athleticism, Ford jumped over the top of Jones like he was a basketball player dunking on him. A play Ford recognized went from a potential incomplete pass to a jaw-dropping interception returned for a touchdown.

"You can be as athletic as you want, but why not be athletic and know the play is coming?" Ford said. "It's just a double whammy."

His interception streak only continued. In a road game against Northern Arizona University, Ford wore a flashy pair of Pit Viper sunglasses. He was impossible to ignore, but he still found an errant pass for his eighth straight interception.

**"Any competitor is going to want to throw the ball at me if I'm talking smack."**

*-Justin Ford*

In the upcoming football season, Ford said more of the cornerbacks at UM will be featuring them. "Stay tuned," he added.

The glasses are just one part of the North Carolina native's style. He often will pair long white socks with a baggy long sleeve shirt under his jersey. As he gets into position for a defensive play and hunches over, his mouth-guard hangs off his facemask next to his un-croed gloves.

Ford pairs his on-field style with plenty of

trash talking. He can often be seen jawing with the opposing team's bench post play. After UM beat Montana State, Ford tagged the Montana State Football team directly on a cigar he was smoking in an Instagram photo he posted.

"I just love it when a receiver talks back," Ford said. "I think I play at my highest level whenever we're going back and forth. Any competitor is going to want to throw the ball at me if I'm talking smack, so it kinda works in my favor."

## ONE MORE CHANCE

When the 2021 season was all said and done, Ford broke the UM single season interceptions record, but the Griz did not win a national championship. UM fell out of the quarterfinals in the playoffs for a second straight year.

After considering a bid to the NFL draft, Ford decided to return to UM for one last season. He has been named on the watch list for the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the best defensive player in the FCS, and is a pre-season All-Big Sky Conference pick.

He was voted the best returning cornerback in the FCS and was put on the Reese's Senior Bowl Watchlist.

While Ford had spectacular stats, sometimes he would give up catches. In UM's season-ending loss to James Madison University last year, JMU's receivers seared the Griz secondary. JMU had 248 passing yards and didn't throw an interception.

In the offseason, UM brought in a few new cornerbacks to compliment Ford, including former All-Big Sky pick Jayden Dawson, a transfer from the Idaho State University. With a revamped secondary, UM ranked top-5 in the preseason FCS polls, its highest spot in more than a decade.

"We're really tough. The expectations are really high here," linebacker Marus Welnel said. "It's not win half of our games and we're happy with it. It's championship or nothing."

Welnel, who will wear UM's legacy number #37, will be lining up next to Ford on the defensive side of the ball. In UM's home opener against Northwestern State, the Griz defense didn't allow any points to be scored.

"Every year I've been here we've been really good, expectations are high every year," Welnel added. "We'll see how good we are."

In that game against Northwestern State, Ford once again got his hands on the ball, recovering a fumble in the 47-0 win.

UM's next game will be at home on Sept. 10 against South Dakota.

Ford plans to head to the NFL draft after his last season at Montana. Until then, he said he will continue to listen to his favorite warmup song, "Ay Ay Ay" by Shy Glizzy, in the 2022 season. He will also pair that with listening to his other favorite artist, NBA Youngboy.

"That's the vibe I'm feeling," Ford said.

# Film, grief and Nicolas Cage

MICHAEL BEVERLEY

Michael.beverley@umontana.edu

For University of Montana philosophy professor Matthew Strohl, movies are more than entertainment; they're a reflection of reality, a passage to not just feel gratified but uncomfortable.

A self-proclaimed film buff, Strohl thinks some films are an important way to deal with grief, especially if they include Nicolas Cage.

"There's been something of a push to sanitize representation... to create art that we want to see of a world we want to live in and reflect that back to us where all injustices are erased," Strohl said. "The way I would press against that is that the social function of art is to sometimes show us what we don't want to see about ourselves."

On Monday Aug. 29, Strohl led a lecture on pigs, grief and Nicolas Cage. The lecture followed a showing of the film "Pig," which stars Cage as a truffle hunter who lives in the Oregon wilderness, before returning to civilization to hunt down the person who stole his beloved pig.

The movie screening was a part of the UM Humanities Institute's "Re-Imagining Death, Dying and Grief" series, an event that aims to generate discussion that builds community and public engagement around a challenging topic through the arts.

The topic of this series focuses on grief and death.

"'Pig' I suggested because it occurred to me as a recent movie that I thought people would connect to really easily," Strohl said. "It's 90 minutes long, it goes down easy but by the end of it it really gets somewhere... If the goal is to bring the public in and share a communal experience and talk about grief, it seemed like a good movie to accomplish that... Nicolas Cage is an actor audiences connect to really easily."

Of course, Nicolas Cage movies are not the only movies Strohl watches. From Twilight to B movies from the '80s, Strohl is a rabid consumer of all movies, good or bad. While Strohl's original research interests were in Greek philosophy, he moved on to specialize in philosophy and film around



Professor Matthew Strohl leads a discussion on the movie "Pig," featuring Nicolas Cage on Aug. 29. The discussion was part of a series at the Missoula Public Library called "Re-Imagining Death." LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

nine years ago. He recently published the book "Why It's OK to Love Bad Movies" and has a follow up titled "Hard to Watch," releasing in late 2023.

While Strohl said he does try to watch films that challenge him, he does resort to classic escapist films.

"I'll tell you what, when my dad died the first thing I put on was not 'Pig' or a movie about grief, it was 'The Fast and the Furious: Part Three Tokyo Drift,'" Strohl said. "Then I went back and watched part four and then part one and then part two and then three again. I went directly to car

chases. The familiar, escapist Dom and the family type stuff."

Strohl said, over time, he worked his way back to watching movies about grief. He said that was part of the point of the series, to recognize that films are more than mindless entertainment.

"Part of what this new book I'm writing is about is reasons to challenge ourselves, right?" Strohl said. "Because what I worry about is when we treat our media consumption as too much as a means to gratification. Gratifying the world we want to live in or the way we want to see things or

the kind of experiences we want to have. And we lose track of the capacity of art to make us feel things we don't want to feel."

The "Re-Imagining Death, Dying and Grief" series continues throughout the semester, with screenings of "After Life" on Sept. 9 and the film "Titane" on Oct. 14 at the Missoula Public Library. Lectures and Q&A sessions by UM's Japanese language and culture professor Brian Dowdle and Strohl will follow the screenings of each film. More information, including film more showings later this fall, can be found at MissoulaPublicLibrary.org.

# Musical to carry on Jeannette Rankin legacy

ASA THOMAS METCALFE  
asa.metcalfe@umontana.edu

More than a century since former United States Rep. Jeannette Rankin graduated from the University of Montana, her legacy remains not just imprinted on a University hall, but in the form of a Broadway-bound musical. On Thursday, Sept. 8, the Montana Repertory Theater is giving UM audiences a chance to see the early developments of Rankin's story on stage in the play "We Won't Sleep."

"We Won't Sleep" is an outside production coming to Missoula for a workshop experience to help complete the writing and music composition before the play continues journey towards Broadway release.

The musical has been in development for a few years, but after COVID-related delays hindered plans to bring the play to Montana, it is only now making the trek to Missoula to be workshopped at MRT.

"We do a lot of that here," said Michael Legg, artistic director of MRT. "We're a new play development theater. We're very much about helping people understand what it takes to create a play like this and really inviting them into every step of the process."

While most theaters host finished works, the MRT helps creators take ideas and turn them into finished plays. They take submissions for playwrights, or musicians. The theater also sometimes discover talent and foster it into a stage production.

"This happened because of a partnership we have with the National Jeannette Rankin Foundation," Legg said. "It's inspired by her life and her legacy. The play itself is a very contemporary pop musical that is mostly about voting rights, women's rights, and having agency as a woman in contemporary America."

Rankin was born in 1880 somewhere near Missoula, when Montana was still a territory. She graduated from UM in 1902 with a degree in biology. After moving to Washington state, she became deeply involved in the women's suffrage movement. In 1911, she became the first woman to speak before the Montana state legislature, when she argued for voting rights in her home state.

In 1916 she became the first woman ever elected to Congress and continued to push for women's rights at the federal level. Her quest for better democratic representation at home was delayed when the U.S. entered World War I. She voted against that declaration of war, just as she would vote against the declaration of war with Japan before the U.S. entered World War II decades later.

Rankin was the only member of Congress to vote against the declaration of war with Japan.

Through her two congressional terms she became known as a champion for workers and women's rights, as well as an obstinate advocate for peace — an advocacy that has maintained her a folk hero type status to some for nearly a century.

Rankin's name comes up in Missoula quite a bit. Her name has been passed onto a University campus building, a road, a street and a city park. There is also the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center located on the Hip Strip.

"What is so exciting about being in Montana is there is no explanation needed when we talk about the incredible Jeannette Rankin," Ari Afsar, the playwright, said.

How the life and legacy of a Montana woman born in the late 1800s came to inspire a stage musical will take some imagination. But Afsar isn't new to contemporizing historical figures. Afsar performed as Eliza in the Chicago production of "Hamilton," a small part of her extensive and impressive resume.

"This musical is important right now," Afsar said. "For many reasons, including women empowerment, investigating our history, confronting the truth, but I think most importantly, it is to move the needle forward in the change that we want to see in our policy."

"We Won't Sleep" will be workshopped on Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Sept. 9, with a presentation on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Masquer Theater on campus.



AMERICAN MEMORY IMAGES | CONTRIBUTED

# As Spikeball takes the nation, new UM club takes over the Oval

HOLLY MALKOWSKI

holly.malkowski@umontana.edu

University of Montana students have started a club for “the love child between volleyball and four-square,” also known as Spikeball. Spikeball isn’t new to UM, as going out to the Oval on any warm day will offer a sight of the iconic little yellow ball and trampoline-like net. It joins the everyday UM festivities of hammocking, playing football, slacklining and studying.

“Back at home, [Spikeball] was always kinda my thing I did with my friends during the summer, and I was really into it,” Spikeball Club President Jake Amend said. Amend enjoyed the sport back home with his friends in Washington.

He started the Spikeball club in the fall of 2021, making it official in the spring of 2022.

“When I found out that there wasn’t a [Spikeball] club on campus, I was like, ‘Well I can start that. It’s not that hard,’” Amend said.

All organizations at the University must go through ASUM to make sure they meet all the necessary qualifications, get an adviser and have enough staff. He went through the procedures to make it official. It is now a part of the Sports Club Union at UM.

“I really wanted a community where people did things that I like to do, and a safe space for people to make friends and have fun,” Amend said.

Spikeball consists of four players separated into two teams. Similar to volleyball, one team serves to the other. Team members usually try to get a first pass, set each other up, and spike the ball away from the other team. The net is a circle, allowing the players to move wherever, as long as the ball doesn’t touch the ground or hit the net more than once.

Possession changes each time the ball touches the net. The game is affectionately known by some as “roundnet,” and distinguished by its large yellow trampoline net and matching ball.

The meetings for the Spikeball Club are very loosely structured. People can come play if they so choose or they can throw around a frisbee, do homework or listen to music. It’s

a way to get some activity in, but also an excuse to lounge with friends.

The club holds tournaments on occasion with prizes to win and are typically a part of Griz Attack: Yard Game Triathlon. The members have a group chat to let each other know when they’re going to play but anyone

is welcome to join. The club will also sometimes shout to nearby people on the Oval, inviting them to play.

One member, Alex Hershbine, was playing Spikeball with her friends when the club invited them all to come play. Hershbine is from Birmingham, Alabama, so she loves spending time outside to enjoy nature and the mountains. That was her main reason for coming to school at the University of Montana, and now she spends a lot of her time between classes hanging out on the Oval.

Her friend group decided to join them when asked, and now she’s an active member of the club along with some of her friends.

Spikeball is a game that anyone can learn, even on their first try. The company sells beginner sets, pro sets and even ones that glow in the dark or float on water. Spikeball.com even includes something called “Spike-School,” a section of videos to teach the rules and concepts of the game and quizzes to follow them up.

It also has access to tournaments and all the kits the company has to offer. The UM Spikeball Club has its very own Dunkin Donuts branded net from a limited edition collaboration done in July 2021.

On her first day at UM, Sophie Kotz was looking to make some friends and walked out onto the Oval. She had played Spikeball a few times back home in Seattle, but would by no means say she was an expert.

Kotz saw some people playing and asked to join them. There she met August Tolzman, also a member, which led her to join the Spikeball club.

“I like just having something to do outside, actively, that’s on campus,” Kotz said. “You meet a lot of new people doing it, too, especially when you are on campus



Spikeball Club member Tanner Ecker hits the ball off the net set up in the oval on Sept. 1 as club member Alex Hershbine watches. The club’s members enjoy the relaxed environment of their meetings. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



**The University of Montana School of Journalism Presents the 2022 Pollner Lecture**

**“Curiosity is the Cure” by 2022 Magazine Award Winner Jacob Baynham**

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playing.” She’s now a junior and still part of the club.

Spikeball is sweeping the nation, with more than four million players and even a Collegiate Spikeball Championship. Amend took something from him and so many other

people love and turned it into an official club for UM students to enjoy. The club provides a way for students to meet other people with similar interests and allows for time outside. Someday, maybe UM will have a Collegiate Spikeball team, too.

# UM volleyball brings the heat in opening tourneys

MAX DUPRAS

max.dupras@umontana.edu

After its best start since 2008, the Griz volleyball team is hitting the road for two tournaments.

Volleyball at the University has experienced hardships. It hasn’t had a winning record since the 2013 season where the Grizzlies knocked out Northern Arizona in the first round of the Big Sky Conference tournament.

Now with four wins under its belt, head coach Allison Lawrence hopes to return to glory after more than 30 years of not bringing home a postseason trophy.

“As a group, we really believe that leadership can come from all places,” Lawrence said. “And sometimes that means the players are leading things and the coaches are the followers. Sometimes that means a freshman is leading. Sometimes it’s a senior.”

UM is hauling in a strong freshman class with four strong out-of-state prospects. Redshirt freshman Sierra Dennison is ready to represent Missoula as one of two Sentinel High School standouts on the roster. Dennison’s great uncle, George, was a former UM president.

But the real gem of the Grizzlies’ offense this year is the reigning All-Big Sky second team selection Paige Clark.

After switching to an outside hitter last season, Clark has developed into an offensive weapon for a team that struggled to score last season.

“My goal is to do what I can to help everyone else succeed together as a team,” the sophomore outside hitter said. “So, ultimately, my goal is to do what I can do best.”

This year’s sophomore leader is not a one-hit wonder either. She recorded one of her best games statistically in the Grizzlies’ loss to UC Davis in the Ellesyn Invitational, garnering 18 kills with a stellar .405 hit percentage.

The Idaho Falls native is not only an expert hitter for the Griz but a great leader as well.

“Paige stands out to you, yes, because of how many points she scores for us, but also because of her energy levels,” Lawrence said. “She’s just someone you want to play next to and if I was to ask you who on our team would you want to be your teammate, I think you’d pick Paige because she makes volleyball fun.”

What she tries to bring is not always based on her team-leading stats but how she makes the young players feel at home, just like how the team’s seniors did for her last season.

This squad of improving young players could turn into a winning culture for the Grizzlies. Including local star Sarina Moreno, the team has five seniors that are all accustomed to the qualms of losing seasons.

But this year looks different. A Grizzly volleyball squad with tenured talent, a star hitter, strong prospects and four wins to start the season should keep Griz fans optimistic as they travel east.

It will face some strong teams like University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, who are coming off an impressive start to the season with a record of 3-1.

Not all signs are pointing to a definite win in any of the three matchups, but the Grizzlies have only improved in non-conference play over the past three seasons.

Clark and Lawrence are

both eager to take on the mental battle that comes with being away from home for multiple weekends but the real challenge they now face is following up their home success with some much needed away wins.

But with a person like Paige Clark, you’ll always have that energy to win.

“It’s something I’ve always done,” Clark said. “Like, if you ask anyone, I’ve always been crazy like cheering on. So, I just feel like it just makes the game more fun to cheer.”

The Grizzlies play Prairie View A&M on Sept. 9 in Edinburg, Texas before facing UTRGV. The team’s next home match is on Sept. 24 against Idaho.



Assistant volleyball coach Annika Albrecht tosses a ball to Maddie Pyles for a drill during an Aug. 31 practice, gearing up for a 10 game road trip starting Sept. 2. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Alicia Wallingford (left) and Paige Clark jump to block a hit during practice on Aug. 31. Clark is coming off a strong freshman season, having led UM in aces and finishing with the most kills in 8 out of their last 13 games. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



# Griz fight demons at home

WORDS BY CALEB BRINTON  
caleb.brinton@umontana.edu

PHOTOS BY LUKAS PRINOS  
lukas.prinos@umontana.edu

The University of Montana Grizzlies led by new transfer quarterback Lucas Johnson routed Northwestern State Demons 47-0 in the football season opener at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Sept. 3.

During his first start as a Grizzly, Johnson put on an impressive show, running for 76 yards with a long of 37 and averaging of 10.9 yards per carry. His arm did not disappoint either, completing 15 of 24 passes for a total of 208 yards, four touchdowns and only one sack.

“Obviously, it’s a good win,” said UM’s head football coach, Bobby Hauck. “Anytime you get a shutout in college football, this day and age is virtually impossible to do so good by our guys . . . I think Coach Laird does a really good job. I liked their team. Good looking team, I think they’re tough. I don’t think they

have any back down in them.”

Offensively, the Demons failed to find footing against the Grizzly defense, who sacked the opposing quarterback four times and intercepted two passes.

The defense didn’t stop there. It kept Northwestern off the scoreboard altogether. The defense had four forced fumbles, recovered three of them and returned a blocked punt for a touchdown.

“You know what they do and what they have done over the past. And they put a lot of pressure on the quarterback,” Brad Laird, head coach of Northwestern State University, said about the Grizzly defense at a press conference following the game. “You know, they bring a lot of pressure from a lot of different looks but, you know, I mean, I thought we did a lot of good things to be able to pick those up. I think the biggest thing for us was not being able to stay consistent.”

The Griz will return to Washington-Grizzly Stadium at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 10 to play The University of South Dakota.



**ABOVE:** A pizza box tower tips over in the student section of Washington-Grizzly Stadium.



**ABOVE:** Fans yell at the top of their lungs watching Griz football play its first game of the year.



**LEFT:** University of Montana wide receiver Mitch Roberts is lifted into the air after scoring a touchdown against Northwestern State. Griz Football won the game 47-0.



**BELOW:** Northwestern State players jump over running back Marcus Knight during Saturday's game. Next Saturday, Griz Football will play against South Dakota at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.