

MONTANA KAIMIN

**30
DAYS
LATER**

As the government shutdown continues with little progress toward a solution, campus has begun to feel its impacts.

STORY BY

AIDAN GRAHAM

PHOTOS BY

HENRY DOELLINGER



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COVER GRAPHIC BY BARRETT CLEMENT

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Kiosk



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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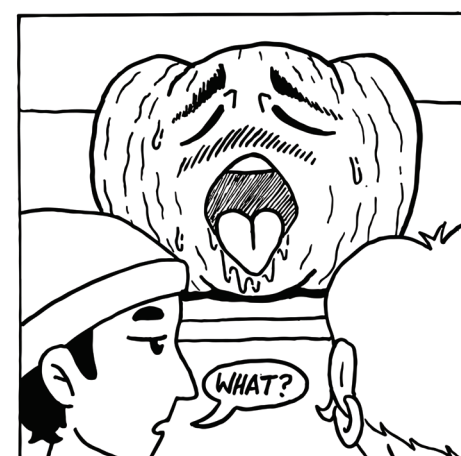
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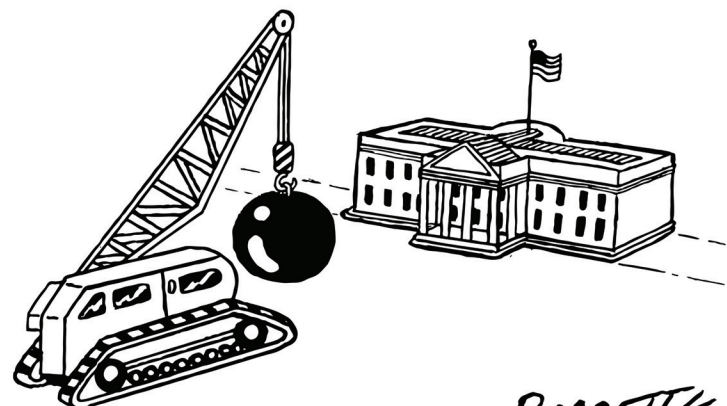
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POLITICAL CARTOON

"WON'T INTERFERE WITH THE CURRENT BUILDING."



2025

Don't punish students for ASUM's mistakes

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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

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When I received my acceptance letter to the University of Montana in the spring of 2021 in my small living room in Knik, Alaska, the first thing I worried about was transportation.

As someone who has been unable to get a driver's license due to my medical condition, the idea of moving to a town I didn't know, let alone a state I knew nothing about, was horrifying.

I arrived in Missoula intimidated, frightened and worried about what my future would hold. How would I get to doctor's appointments? If I had a medical emergency, how would I get the help I need? How would I get to the airport to go home?

Now in my fifth year of college, I work two jobs, one at the Montana Kaimin, and the other at UM Dining. Because of my crammed class schedule, the questions I now ask myself have changed. How will I get to my 6 a.m. shift? Will the buses be running when I get off of work at 11 p.m.? When do I need to leave my apartment in order to get to class on time?

The University of Montana UDASH system just announced it is changing its maroon line pick up times from every 15 minutes to every 30 minutes from 11 a.m. to about 3 p.m. This creates a strain for students like me who rely on that transportation, along with students with disabilities who do not have the option to ride a bike or drive a car. For some of them, the bus system is their only option.

As the winter months creep in and the crisp fall air becomes harsher on my lungs, I am preparing for what getting to campus in the morning will look like for me with unreliable buses. The bike I relied on for the summer months breaks often, and the walk to campus is an hour long. Even the nearest bus stop is several blocks away. I have found myself relying on my friends for rides to campus or having to leave an hour early in order to make it to school when the bus is not available.

As we covered in this week's issue, the Associated Students of the University of Montana changed the ride times in part because of overspent budgets. ASUM Transportation's mission states that it is guided by the ASUM core values. "We are continuously improving our services to address the evolving needs of UM," it reads. But when improving services comes at the risk of compromising student accessibility, what is ASUM's responsibility for upholding its mission statement?

When ASUM overspends and must cut entire bus routes to save money, it is making changes to the important resources to fix its mistakes at the expense of the students.

According to the UDASH website, the transportation system provides an average

of 2,251 rides per day and about 27,018 rides per year. This was before it cut the purple line, which supplied a reliable and consistent bus route to campus from the Sawyer Student Living, and reduced its pickup times for the maroon line, which gets students from Lewis and Clark Villages and the Dornblaser Park and Ride. The parking lot at the field is one of the few places where students can park and get a ride to the University to avoid the war that is finding a parking spot.

The program that once offered up to five different routes — the purple, red, blue, green and gold lines — now only offers two routes.

While the new lines, maroon and silver, mirror the routes of the red, blue and green lines, the other two have been discontinued altogether, one of which offered an after-hours option for transportation.

Because of my work schedule, I have to work into the late hours of the night. Sometimes I don't get off work until midnight. The gold line used to run from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., making stops at Lewis and Clark Villages, the main campus and downtown.

This offered students like me transportation after late night shifts, and also a safe ride home for students downtown after a night out. I am lucky enough to have friends and coworkers take me home, but this is not an option for everyone.

When you open the ASUM website, a large, bold statement announces its mission to "enhance the student experience through providing services, advocating for the rights of all University of Montana students as a diverse, unified body." It's a statement that now feels nothing short of ironic, as the services it provides are being removed or altered. For a program that preaches it is "for the students," it feels as though it is causing additional problems.

When the service on campus meant to provide resources, opportunities and solutions to students does the opposite, the distrust in the program grows. In the past, only about 12% of the student body voted in the ASUM election. When ASUM wonders why it does not attract more of the student body and why it doesn't hear from the people, it should look back on decisions like this to find the answer.

- Sav Chavez, news editor

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at elle.daniel@umontana.edu

Fall maintenance



Zack Moshey enjoys the afternoon driving the leaf sweeper on Oct. 27. Music playing over his headphones, Moshey can't help but have a smile on his face. "I'm having a great time," Moshey said.

WILL LADYMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

In local news...

SAV CHAVEZ | NEWS EDITOR
savannah.chavez@umontana.edu

MISSOULA'S CLARK FORK MARKET GREENLIT FOR WINTER SEASON

The Missoula City Council adopted a resolution on Oct. 22 that allows the Missoula Clark Fork River Market to continue operation in the winter. The resolution was sponsored by council member Mike Nugent.

The winter market will operate at the Badlander in downtown Missoula on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 1 through April 30. The resolution allowed the Missoula Clark Fork River Market to access several state exemptions, according to KPAX.

The resolution states that local farmers and other vendors were looking for further opportunities to promote and sell their products past the regular summer market season. By going through the Missoula City Council, vendors will be able to make income while providing local products to consumers, according to KPAX.

"It allows a farmers' market to take advantage of some very specific exemptions and allowances in the retail food law and the local food choice act, without which they wouldn't be able to do," Shannon Therriault, director of environmental health at the City-County Health Department, said to KPAX.

This allows vendors to bake and sell bread and other home-cooked foods without a license, as well as coffee. The scale will be smaller than the summer market and will still offer local produce, food and music.

MISSOULA TENANTS FACING UNCERTAINTY

Tenants of 1335 Dakota St. said they are frustrated after learning from a taped note on their doors in August that they must either buy their homes or move out when their lease expires, as the building has been sold, according to NBC Montana.

"We love our homes, none of us have had a desire to move," Amanda Shuk, a resident at the building, told NBC. Shuk has lived in the complex for over a year.

Shuk said the notice informed tenants that the building's new owners, RHSC LLC, a Utah-based company, would be entering the units within 24 hours.

NBC Montana reached out to Missoula Property Management, which currently oversees the units, for information on the new owners, but it did not reply to a request for comment.

While the current owners have told tenants that their current leases will be honored, they will need to purchase their

apartments or leave when their contracts end, according to NBC Montana.

MONTANA FOOD BANK OPENS NEW \$13.5M MISSOULA HEADQUARTERS

The nonprofit Montana Food Bank Network began construction on a new \$13.5 million facility last year to increase the amount of food it serves to people across Montana.

Last Wednesday, the new 56,000 square foot headquarters opened its doors.

With federal workers missing paychecks due to the shutdown and low-income food assistance benefits in doubt, the needs provided by the food bank have never been greater, president and CEO of the Montana Food Bank Network, Gayle Carlson, said to the Missoulian.

"This building means double the capacity and double the ability to serve our state," Carlson said. "We are being very proactive in doing some emergency response for the government shutdown."

The Montana Food Bank Network is Montana's only statewide food bank, serving 330 different community food banks, pantries, schools, senior centers and shelters.

CHIMNEY CORNER HAIR STYLING

WALK-INS WELCOME

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON'S

LOOK FOR THE SIGN

APPOINTMENTS
MONDAY- SATURDAY

LOCATED ACROSS CAMPUS
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MISSOULA



This week on the Kaimin Cast ...

The University of Montana "herd" on YikYak faces both positives and negatives to anonymity, but the community continues to grow with daily engagement.

YikYak was shut down in 2017 due to cyberbullying, and came back in 2021 with guidelines to prevent another shutdown. Despite the guidelines, cyberbullying still exists on the platform.

In an email to the Kaimin, Mark Ferriter, assistant director of UM counseling services, said, "There is a risk of dependency on this platform for connection that could reduce comfort, skill and capacity to explore alternative forms of connecting with people."

YikYak's creators hope no harm is done within herds, but the app's usefulness and good intent are up to its users to uphold. At UM, users believe that the herd is building social connections more than breaking them down.

Sophomore Jason Agostino said, "Take it with a grain of salt, only use it for what you want. Don't feel inclined to stay out of it, stay in it. I think that experience of YikYak and being able to laugh at funny jokes and stuff like that is all what you make of it."

Listen to Kaimin Cast this Thursday for Joining the "Herd": Building connection through anonymity on montanakaimin.com.

-Grace Golbach, audio reporter

Due to scheduling delays, the Kaimin Cast episode on the UM Woodsman Team will no longer be released.



New Kaimin Cast
episode out this
week. Stay tuned.
Scan for the latest



NO FEDERAL FOOD AID TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON NOV. 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture posted a notice on its website stating the federal food aid will not go out on Nov. 1 due to the ongoing government shutdown.

"Bottom line, the well has run dry," the USDA notice states. "At this time, there will be no benefits issued Nov. 1. We are approaching an inflection point for Senate Democrats."

The notice comes after the Trump Administration said it would tap roughly \$5 billion in contingency funds to keep benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) flowing, according to The Associated Press.

WHITE HOUSE EAST WING DEMOLISHED

President Donald Trump moved forward with the construction of a ballroom, completely demolishing the East Wing of the White House, according to The Associated Press.

The East Wing is where former first ladies have planned state dinners and promoted causes. Trump said last Wednesday that keeping the East Wing as it was would have "hurt a very, very expensive, beautiful building," referring to the ballroom that he said presidents have wanted for years.

The ballroom is proposed to cost up to \$300 million, according to Trump, though that number may change.

"I won't be able to tell you until I finish," he told reporters. "But I'll donate whatever is needed."

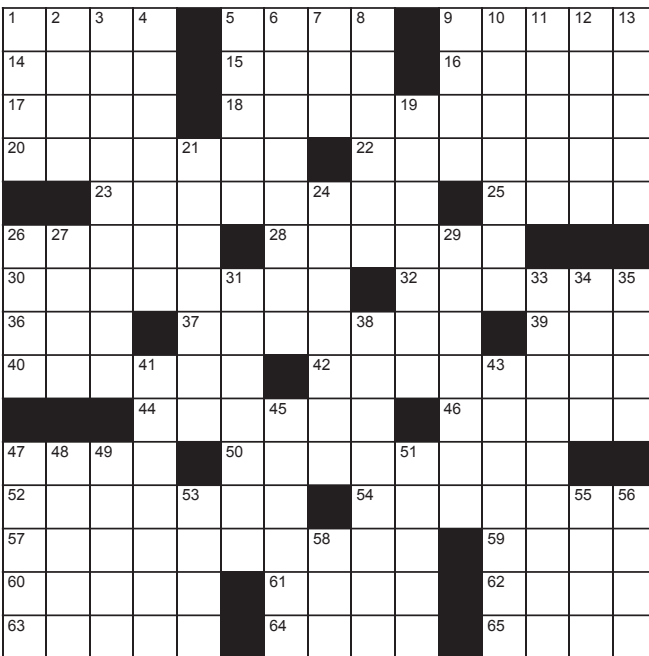
As the public criticizes the White House for the destruction for the ballroom, White House officials have pushed back, citing the history of add-ons to the Executive Mansion during its more than 200-year existence, according to AP News.

U.S. TRADE WAR DRIVES CANADA TO FAST-TRACK PORT EXPANSION

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney pushed to expand the Port of Montreal as Canada seeks to grow trade outside the U.S. port, according to The Wall Street Journal.

This is a result of President Donald Trump's trade war accelerating plans to expand the biggest eastern container port in Canada.

Officials said the new container-handling terminal will cost about 1.6 billion Canadian dollars, the equivalent of \$1.15 billion, but the cost of the expansion could increase. The Canadian minister in charge of U.S.-Canada trade, Dominic LeBlanc, recently estimated the project at 2.3 billion Canadian dollars.



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ACROSS

- 1 Heavenly strings
5 Calcutta attire
9 Waves of grain color
14 Pitcher in a still life
15 Tree of life site
16 Anchor rope hole
17 Additionally
18 Deprive of vital parts
20 Coastal disaster
22 White weasels
23 Painter Henri, but not Matisse
25 Cut with a light beam
26 100-eyed giant of myth
28 Ill will
30 Goes in again
32 Detection device
36 Quaint lodging
37 Makes certain of
39 Org. in 2025's "The Amateur"
40 Senile sort
42 Maintain the guitar
44 Upcycles, say
46 Air-show maneuvers
47 Pirate's drink
50 Hard on the ears
52 One who proves false
54 Lathering up
57 Cuts in (on)
59 Direction at sea
60 Tractor name
61 Ran off with
62 Scot's family

- 63 Pick up on
64 Peppy
65 Salad green

DOWN

- 1 Police, slangily
2 Cobblers' tools
3 Coming back strong
4 You or me
5 Appears to be
6 Cabinet members, e.g.
7 Camping gear chain
8 Trousers measurement
9 Start of a break-in
10 Monroe of "Some Like It Hot"
11 Swahili master
12 ___ Park, Colo.
13 Baseballer Pee Wee
19 Carnival offerings
21 Like monastery life
24 Guarantor
26 Very dry
27 Gambling town
29 Proving ground
31 Software buyer, usually
33 Tiny trace
34 Sty cry
35 Threads in shreds
38 Circuit board part
41 Ones in a debate
43 Plunder
45 Walks like a rooster
47 Power networks
48 Rapp of 2024's "Mean Girls"
49 Many times
51 Somewhat dark
53 Locust or larch
55 "Hud" Best Actress Patricia
56 Trait carrier
58 Cork sound

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Saw-o-scope

SAV CHAVEZ | NEWS EDITOR

savannah.chavez@umontana.edu

Hello readers. I want to play a game. It's Halloween, which means it's time for the long-awaited "horroroscope." Each and every one of you have qualities that would land you in an iconic Saw trap. Love it or hate it, it is Jigsaw's time to shine, baby. So without further ado, let the games begin.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): You don't know how to shut the fuck up. It is physically impossible for you. Talk talk talk, that's all you know. For that, you get the Oxygen Crusher. By running your mouth, your ribs will slowly be crushed. Maybe you'll finally leave some air for the rest of us. Will you keep quiet for once, or will you speak your last words?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Boring and forgettable, you blend into the background, often lurking and stalking, eavesdropping on the people around you, which makes you mostly unproblematic, much like Daniel Matthews. You get the Nerve Gas House. I am sure you will be invisible enough to make it through the house and walk free, just to slip into the abyss once more.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Capricorn, you're a freak and you're proud.

Word is that you like to be bound and gagged. This time, we will put a collar on you too, the Laser Collar. If you are well behaved, you won't be sliced up by the lasers surrounding your pretty little head. Though who knows? You might like that. **AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** You enjoy the classics and that's okay! You think fast and don't hesitate to execute the task at hand. When you wake up not knowing where you are with the taste of metal in your mouth, you immediately jump into action. The Reverse Beartrap is no match for your swag. While you may panic, you always do what has to be done. You cut into that man's stomach, get the key and rip that Reverse Beartrap off.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Pisces, you know how to plot and scheme. You are willing to lay on the bathroom floor for eight hours just to make a grand reveal. You are John Kramer, the mastermind, the puppeteer, the creator of the games. You are Jigsaw. Everyone wants to be you or work with you and no matter what anyone tells you your ethics are not questionable because "Most people are so ungrateful to be alive, but not you. Not anymore."

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Listen, I like picking people's brains as much as the next guy, but you might have to take it to the next level. You are about to go diggin' in your brain with the Brain Surgery trap. Now you get the chance to pick your own brain. Careful now, it might tickle a little!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You easily fold to temptation and you love a fresh vape, which is why you would get the Needle Pit. One whisper that a fresh menthol Vuse pod is at the bottom and BOOM, you are diving headfirst into a pit of 120,000 syringes. Anything for that sweet sweet cancer, as Adam Stanheight would say.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): The most minor of inconveniences often set you off. When things go wrong, you jump to the worst case scenario, which could make one feel as though they want to pull their hair out. With this trap, you won't have to! With the Scalping Seat, you can just sit back, not really relax, but have your hair, and more, pulled out for you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): You give and give a little more to all the people around you, but when is it your turn? Apparently not right

now. You, my dear Cancer, get the Pound of Flesh trap. I hope you like putting your all into everything you do, 'cause it's time for you to give a little more, maybe an arm? But swing hard and swing fast, you want to make sure you get through that bone!

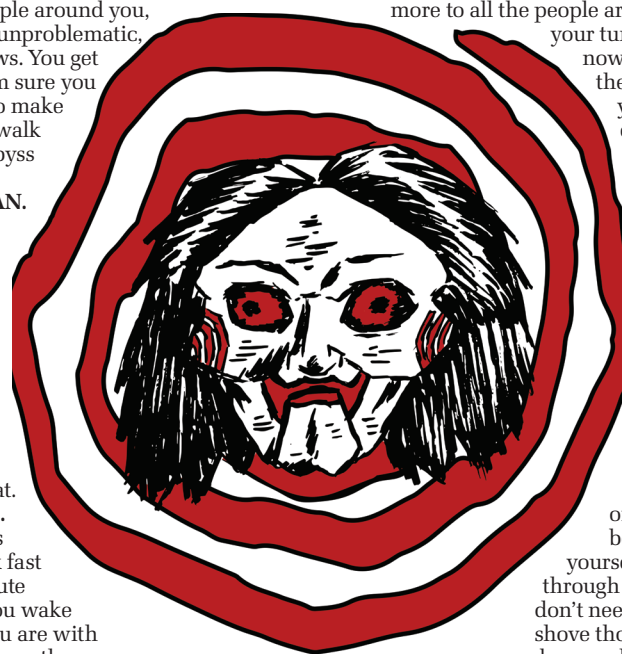
LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

Raised on the expression "pull yourself up by your bootstraps," you are stubbornly independent. You don't like a helping hand 'cause you think everyone is just getting in your way. This is why you get Bobby's Trial. Instead of pulling yourself up by your bootstraps, you will be lifting

yourself up by the hooks piercing through your pectoral muscles. You don't need anyone's help, so you just shove those hooks through them bad boys and get levitating. Have you ever thought of trying suspension? Well now is your chance, good luck!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): Much like Cancer, you will do anything you can to save the people around you from making mistakes, but that can prevent them from changing, from benefitting from those mistakes. You, my dear Virgo, must go through Detective Rigg's Trial with the purpose of letting people save themselves. If you move on, and let the time run out, you will pass. Sit back and focus on yourself for once.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): We all have hobbies, some better than others. Unfortunately, you are a victim of the 11 p.m. doom scrolling hobby. How much do you value your sleep, dear Libra? I think the Eye Vacuum would do a lot for you. One would think you can't mindlessly scroll watching TikToks or Instagram Reels without eyes, but I fear you would still find a way.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

New UDASH schedule causes student frustration

SABRINA PHILIP | NEWS REPORTER
sabrina.philip@umontana.edu

Service times for the UDASH bus system at the University of Montana have changed, leaving many students frustrated and having to find alternate modes of transportation.

Earlier this semester, the maroon line UDASH bus arrived at each stop on its route every 15 minutes. Now, the bus comes every 30 minutes, creating less consistency in the bus schedule.

There is no set timeline for a switch back to the regular schedule due to the Associated Students of the University of Montana having reservations regarding funding for new buses and difficulty communicating with the bus company. Liam Edwards, the current ASUM Business Manager, hinted at the possibility of an increase in the student transportation fee as a solution, but ASUM is prioritizing making budget cuts, due to overspending, to avoid moving in that direction.

According to Vickie Rectenwald, the director of ASUM transportation, the change is mainly due to the need to charge the electric buses and because some of the buses' battery packs are out of service.

"One thing we have experienced in the past few months with the three electric buses is some of the battery packs are not operating," Rectenwald said. "So effectively, two of those buses are only working at half capacity, and one is working at zero capacity. Under normal or ideal conditions, those buses would be able to drive for 120 to 150 miles without charging, but now they can only operate for 75 miles. And that's reduced when it's either really hot or really cold."

According to Rectenwald, UDASH was started in 1999 by the student government due to frustration with the University's lack of transportation. The system started with a \$2 transportation fee for students, which has increased to \$49, and a couple of large vans as buses in a gravel parking lot.

Rectenwald explained that both the routes and the number of buses have increased, yet the system continues to be fully funded by the student transportation fee. The school now has six buses, three of which are diesel and three are electric, an addition that was introduced in 2016.

"The electric buses that are in service right now have very large batteries in the floor and on the ceiling of the buses," Rectenwald said. "They are plug-in charge types, so they go back to the garage, we have charging infrastructure there, and they get plugged in."

Rectenwald said that electric buses run off these batteries, creating no tailpipe emissions. They are also different from diesel buses in that there is not a lot of fluid maintenance, and they are quieter. Yet they are more sensitive to weather, and the efficiency depends more on the driver.

This switch was motivated by ASUM, Rectenwald explained. Edwards explained that this decision was primarily made due to the former ASUM staff's goal to encourage sustainability.



Students board the maroon line UDASH bus on Beckwith Avenue on Oct. 27. JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN

"You have probably noticed the Mountain Line, one of our biggest collaborators, they're completely electrified by now," Edwards said. "We actually had plans back when we bought the buses to be fully electrified by this fiscal year, which I was really sad to see when I dug through my files and found that."

Edwards said while they cannot meet this fully electrified goal for the buses this fiscal year, ASUM's new target date is 2030.

In the meantime, the UDASH system on campus still has to sort out problems with the three electric buses currently running.

In the past few weeks, these inconsistencies in the battery packs have led to issues with the bus schedule, creating problems on campus with last-minute UDASH cancellations on the app, leaving students to devise alternative transportation methods.

"Especially in the past two weeks, week and a half, it seemed more off. I started walking home because I don't have time to wait for the bus," said Sara Flindt, a dance major from Vancouver, Washington.

According to Rectenwald, these problems first started on Aug. 25. To eliminate inconsistency, ASUM Transportation created a new permanent adjustment of buses running every 30 minutes instead of every 15 minutes throughout the day.

"When our service runs, the buses are turned on around 7 a.m. and the service ends at 8 p.m.," Rectenwald said. "That's definitely more than 75 miles. So, we send a combination of electric and

diesel buses out every day. But if diesel buses are in the shop and we're limited to battery electric buses, we have to switch some of those out during the day to charge them to make sure they can last the rest of the day."

Rectenwald said the adjustment allows for a four-hour charging period from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. During this period, one diesel bus is running, one electric bus is charging and one electric bus is running. She said that as of now, one diesel bus is under repair, one electric bus is not working and a diesel bus is used as a backup.

Edwards and Rectenwald both said the solution to this problem is difficult due to budgeting and the warranty of the batteries. Edwards said the company the University bought the buses from has gone bankrupt, and the new parent company is currently overwhelmed with lawsuits due to faulty buses around the country. This has created a delay in receiving new batteries under warranty.

Additionally, Edwards explained that the financial aspect of fixing this problem creates many obstacles. He said that as of now, ASUM has severely overspent, and it is "trying to find opportunities for cost savings that impact the least amount of students." He said cutting the purple line helped ASUM "reduce costs for September from about \$89,000 to \$69,000 for a 22% decrease."

"The choice to cut the purple line was not made lightly," Edwards said. "We would have never even considered it if we were not certain it

could help us from going under and losing all the lines we offer."

Edwards said a hindrance to fixing the UDASH buses is a lack of the old leadership at the University today who were present when the buses were originally bought in 2016. He said he thinks their "estimate for the cost savings of switching to electric was too high."

"I don't think a single person who was there for the bus purchase still works in transportation or ASUM," Edwards said. "It was a completely different set of people who made this decision that I think was unwise. I think we would not be in this situation if we had been a little more cautious about how much of our operating revenues we wanted to tie up in non-operating costs."

Edwards and Rectenwald, who also work together on the ASUM Transportation Advisory Board, both said the solution revolves around student input.

Edwards said they are working hard at ASUM to make as many necessary cuts as possible for it to be "financially viable." He said they want to consult students for ideas and listen to them before suggesting a transportation fee increase.

Due to the lack of new batteries received from the bus company under warranty and a lack of funds to finance the new buses, the change from a runtime every 15 minutes to every 30 minutes will remain permanent. According to Rectenwald, an exact timeline for new buses is a work in progress, but unknown.

Corner crossing remains illegal in Montana

MADELYNN PANDIS | FEATURES EDITOR

maddie.pandis@umontana.edu

Nearly 1.56 million acres of public land will remain inaccessible to recreators in Montana after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the Iron Bar Holdings v. Cape lawsuit.

The Iron Bar Holdings v. Cape lawsuit addresses the issue of corner crossing. Corner crossing is when a recreator, or in this case, a hunter, climbs over the point where two corners of private property touch. Even if hunters use a ladder to cross the fence corners, not ever physically setting foot on private land, some court systems might consider it trespassing on a landowner's airspace.

The Supreme Court's decision not to address the corner crossing case, which has received national attention and support from various public land advocacy groups, means that corner crossing is now legal only in six states: Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Kansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Corner crossing in Montana still remains a legal gray area, keeping hunters just as confused as their local law enforcement around the issue.

Across the West, public and private land is organized in a checkerboard pattern, remnants of a land distribution system from 19th century railroads. Envision the white checkerboard boxes as public land, and the black as private. Where two private land corners touch in front of a public land parcel, in Montana, the public is not allowed to cross the private corners to access the public land.

This is called corner-locked public land, and according to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, it's illegal for the public to access these lands without the private landowner's permission.

In the case that there are two separately owned private corners blocking public land, recreators will need to get permission from both private landowners to access the public lands they pay taxes on.

Corner crossing has always existed in the unknown of public access law, until now. In 2021, four elk hunters used a ladder to climb over a four-corner junction, where a parcel of Wyoming public land was blocked by a private ranch. When the ranch, Iron Bar Holdings LLC, caught the hunters, their local county attorney prosecuted them for trespassing.

The case went to a jury trial in district court, where the hunters were acquitted. In response to the verdict, the Iron Bar Holdings ranch then filed a civil lawsuit against the hunters for \$9 million in property damage. The lawsuit was then dismissed by the 10th circuit federal court.

Jesse Kodadek is a Missoula lawyer, spending most of his time litigating issues related to easements and access to property for both public and private land. He said the Iron Bar Holdings v. Cape lawsuit is a good example of how complicated litigation can get.

"It takes time and energy, and litigation is no fun," Kodadek said. "The same day they were acquitted by a jury, the landowner served them a civil lawsuit alleging a civil trespass and asking for \$9 million in damages, because he claimed that was the value he lost by not being able to exclude people from public land."

Kodadek said the mix of hunters attempting to access public land that wealthy landowners have had exclusive access to is why the case got pushed to the Supreme Court.

"A rich landowner had enough money to spend, paying a big high-priced national law firm with Supreme Court experience, to take a run at it and hope the Supreme Court would decide differently. Probably because they thought that the United States Supreme Court favors big money and people who are going to donate to conservative causes, because they do," Kodadek said.

The 10th circuit court dismissed the case, referencing the Unlawful Inclosures Act of 1885, which prohibits any inclosure of public lands that obstructs free passage or transit over them. By dismissing the case, this legalized corner crossing only in states located within the 10th circuit court system. Had the case been addressed by the Supreme Court, all corner crossing would either have been outlawed or legalized throughout the country.

Even though the Supreme Court denied to hear the case, UM Backcountry Hunters and Anglers President Amory Kindle said the 10th circuit court decision is still a win for public land access.

"It sets a great precedent to move forward. It's not the finish line, just a step in the right direction," Kindle said.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Christy Clark gave her second agency summary, where she was asked about the legality of corner crossing in Montana. In the summary, Clark stated, "We still consider corner crossing trespassing in Montana."

But the Missoula County Attorney disagrees with Clark's statement. Matt Jennings has been the county attorney since last April, and said that nowhere in Montana law is the act of corner crossing stated to be illegal.

"Trespassing in Montana requires that you basically be on the premises of another, that doesn't include airspace. So, under Montana law, I do not believe in corner crossing so long as you don't set foot on private property," Jennings said.



A screenshot from ONX maps shows varying land ownership near Drummond, Montana.

CONTRIBUTED | ONX

In order for there to be a crime, Jennings said, the public needs to know what is and is not illegal. Due process requires clarity, and if a regular person can't understand a law clearly enough to know if they are breaking it or not, it's unconstitutional. In Jennings' words, "void for vagueness."

Under the leadership of Jennings, the Missoula County Attorney's office said it will not prosecute anyone in Missoula County for corner crossing within reason.

"If the corner crossing, for instance, involves somebody walking across private property, even if it was in, you know, 10 feet of a corner, that could be a trespass. And I don't take that lightly. Private property rights are very important, and we respect those," Jennings said. "But this issue of corner-crossing where somebody is using GPS software, and they know exactly where the corner is and they're only infringing on a tiny minuscule area of airspace, that is not illegal under Montana law."

In every Montana county, each county attorney has a different interpretation surrounding the legality of corner crossing. So while Jennings said that Missoula County won't prosecute anyone for corner crossing, that doesn't mean the public is safe from prosecution everywhere else in the state. And, as the Iron Bar Holdings v. Cape case showed, no one is safe from being served a civil lawsuit.

Unless a different federal court comes to a different conclusion regarding corner crossing, it's not likely the Supreme Court will

ever address the issue, leaving all other states in the dark.

Not all hope is lost regarding access to public lands. Jennings said even though there is no statewide rule that says the public can have full access to all public land, there may be a different solution.

"In some ways, this discussion is a little bit unfortunate because we have people that should be acting neighborly and talking to one another about things like access and how we should treat land and wildlife, and instead they're getting into a disputing argument," Jennings said.

He also said the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks block management program for hunters is a real-world solution to help the public access more land. Block management is a cooperative program between private landowners and the public to provide the public with free opportunities to hunt private land or to access public land that is corner-locked by private land. This hunting season, about 1,200 landowners have enrolled 6.8 million acres of private land in the program.

"I hope our state and federal agencies all work together in making sure that we improve access, that we consolidate some of our checkerboard system, that we continue to support our fun hunting and fishing heritage and improve those access methods without unnecessary arguments and bitterness and confrontation. I think we can work through a lot of this," Jennings said.

Former NASA researcher takes on new position at the University's Forestry and Conservation program

BLUE ROGALSKI | NEWS REPORTER
blue.rogalski@umontana.edu

Previous NASA research scientist Troy Magney started a new position at the University of Montana as the W.A. Franke Endowed Chair of Forest Conservation this semester and is teaching several classes.

Magney currently works and teaches in the field of ecophysiology at the University. An ecophysicist works on building an understanding of how entire ecosystems respond to and interact with their environment, according to Magney. He said that his particular focus is tracking the cycling of carbon dioxide and water vapor in and out of ecosystems.

Magney was one of three finalists who interviewed for the position created with an \$18 million donation from the W.A. Franke family.

Scott Ferrenberg, the associate director of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, stated in an email to the Kaimin that Magney is at the forefront of adapting ecophysiology technology, like hyperspectral cameras and laser scanners.

One area Magney's lab covers is building spectrometers, which are used to measure light emitted by plants.

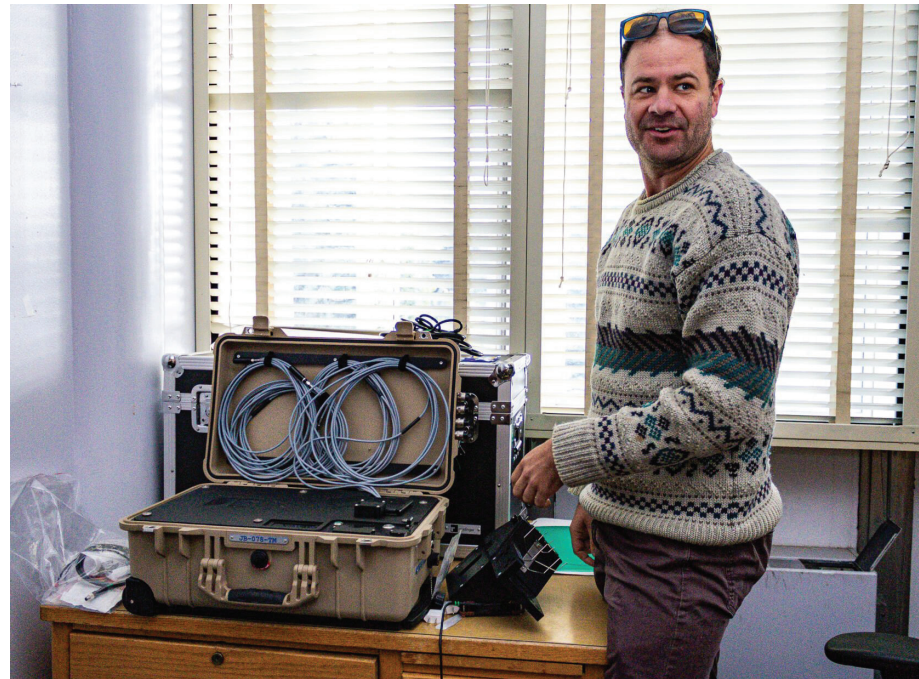
"Traditionally, we were only able to see when trees were doing photosynthesis by clipping instruments onto leaves. One of the methods my group has led is measuring the glow of plants, called chlorophyll fluorescence," Magney said. "When plants absorb light to do photosynthesis, they also emit a tiny bit of light just beyond what we can see with our eyes."

Spectrometers help to mimic what satellites can capture in terms of chlorophyll fluorescence.

As part of his new position, Magney will teach three classes at the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation related to forest ecophysiology, tree biology and environmental remote sensing. Forest ecophysiology looks at how trees respond to their environment and changes in it. Environmental remote sensing, another tool used in Magney's field of study, is the measurement of plants from a distance.

Magney said the ability to do this is beneficial in viewing ecosystem health at a larger scale, rather than focusing on the individual. His class in this area will introduce methods of measuring light bouncing off of plants.

He said this is useful for trying to understand whether or not forests can continue to sustain themselves as "carbon sinks," capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



New W.A. Franke Endowed Chair of Forest Conservation and ecophysicologist Troy Magney shows his spectrometer. A spectrometer measures the amount of light a plant gets to track the photosynthesis cycle throughout the year. **JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Spectrometers scan tree canopies to give rich data sets on when photosynthesis is occurring during the day and when it is happening during the season, based on carbon dioxide and water vapor going in and out of ecosystems.

"The core theme of the research is scaling physiological processes, or measuring at different scales. It gives us a much cleaner idea about what satellites can and can't tell us about forest health," Magney said.

The process of scaling observes the ecosystem very closely, from looking at individual

plants to looking at the ecosystem as a whole.

Magney said he was very interested in taking a position in Missoula and moving from California, where he was a professor at the University of California, Davis. "I have always wanted to come back to this part of the country and specifically work on issues in the forests that I've come to love," he said.

He said he saw a collaborative community of scientists in Missoula that attracted a lot of people interested in the field. "I see Missoula, very much, as one of the hubs of conservation in the American West, and I wanted to be

a part of that," he said.

Ferrenberg said that because of the recent retirement of Anna Sala, an ecophysicologist in biology department, there was a lack of tree physiology experts at the University of Montana. He stated that Magney's hire using the \$18 million donation was an important step forward toward filling the spot.

"He is already well respected, and I expect his influence on campus will be widespread among colleges and departments as he continues to get established," Ferrenberg stated.

Magney previously worked in the Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA in Pasadena, California.

Historically, the lab focused on jet propulsion, but now about 20% of the lab works on earth science. He focused on how much carbon dioxide the environment could actually absorb.

"The best estimate right now is for every four molecules of CO₂ that a human emits, two of those can be absorbed by the Earth, either by the ocean or in ecosystems, and the other two stay in the atmosphere with a lifetime of 20 to 30 years," he said.

In his work with NASA, Magney developed formulas for environmental tracking of carbon dioxide and photosynthesis through satellites.

"What we're seeing in forests all across the northern hemisphere is that their growing season is becoming earlier in the season and the end of it is lengthening," he said. "What we've observed from satellite data in the last 30 years is something called the 'greening' of the boreal forest, which spans from the U.S. up north into Canada. The satellite records show that there is more biomass being grown."

Satellite products that Magney developed at NASA are used to map the carbon dioxide uptake in ecosystems. Magney said that his work measuring carbon dioxide levels in the environment has impacted the way that he feels about environmental issues and conservation.

"Plants are really our best and only means of taking up the CO₂ that we emit," Magney said. "It has certainly made me understand the power and value of protecting our natural spaces that serve as our only carbon reservoirs and carbon sinks."

Under the current U.S. administration, Magney said environmental changes are unpredictable. But it's not all doomed. "Looking at global CO₂ emission data, there's some reasons to be optimistic," Magney said. "We're seeing a leveling off of CO₂ emissions in many developed countries around the world."

"I have always wanted to come back to this part of the country and specifically work on issues in the forests that I've come to love,"
Magney said.

UM loses Seelhoff, wins the Big Sky

DILLON RICHARDSON | SPORTS REPORTER
dillon.richardson@umontana.edu

The University of Montana's soccer team is now without one of the best players in the Big Sky Conference after she exited the game on Oct. 12 with a broken collarbone.

Prior to Chloe Seelhoff's injury, the Kaimin spoke to her about her role on the team as a leader on and off the field. Now that she is out until at least December, Seelhoff said she is struggling to watch her team play without her. "I don't know how to be injured," Seelhoff said. "I don't know how to sit on the sideline and not be sad."

Her injury happened just two minutes into the second half against Idaho State University, on a play that Seelhoff initially thought she would score on.

"I honestly thought I was through to goal," she said. "[The ISU defender] stuck her leg pretty high, got the ball. I tripped over it and landed directly on my shoulder, so it caved in, and then I just heard it snap."

At that moment, Seelhoff said she knew it was her collarbone, but tried her hardest to stay in the game.

"At first I was like 'I can play through this, like maybe it's just a muscle,'" she said. "The doctor made me relax, and so I relaxed and that was probably the worst pain I've ever felt. Then he had a sling all ready, and that is when it just hit me: I'm done, my season's over."

Head coach Chris Citowicki said he didn't think anything of the play initially.

"This has happened before. Chloe's falling over and it takes a while to get up, then she's fine," Citowicki said. "But then she's not getting up, and not getting up, and then you see what she's holding and I was like 'Ah crap, this isn't gonna be good.'"

Citowicki described her injury in one word: "Devastating."

Seelhoff said because she's never been hurt before, she's struggled, but her other injured teammates are helping her as much as they can.

"To be able to do this with them has been super helpful and they're getting me through it," Seelhoff said. "I'm learning as I go, obviously, it's still really hard. I think the game day was very hard for me, but it's also fun to see from a new perspective and learn from watching them."

Seelhoff said that while she is done playing as a Griz, she hopes her soccer career isn't over quite yet.

"They are having the first ever National Women's Soccer League combine for women. I think it'll be invite only, so hopefully based on my stats and video I can get an invite to that," she said. "If I can get even a second week of trial it would be a dream come true, just to get my name out there, have people see me play."

For her last game as a Griz, as part of the senior day recognition at UM, Seelhoff, along with other injured seniors Kayla Rendon Bushmaker, Georgia Boone and Reeve Borseth, started the game, a moment that Seelhoff described as bittersweet.

"It meant a lot to us four," Seelhoff said. "It

was super special to do that with them and to get one last pass completion. I really liked that. It was really sad, but I think it meant a lot to the parents to see us back on the field."

Citowicki said that moment came about because Randy Dedini, the coach of California State University, Sacramento, had asked to do the same thing a few years ago. Sacramento State was the Griz's opponent for senior day, so it worked out perfectly.

"Funny enough, when it's our turn, we're asking them," Citowicki said. "It was a very special thing for them, and really hard to watch, I think, for all of us."

He said what the team is going to miss the most from Seelhoff is how aggressive she is.

"She tries to get in behind, she tries to create things," Citowicki said. "We've had to talk about that consistently now that she's gone, like 'Channel your inner Chloe.' Just put your hand up and scream that you want the ball and run through, because if we don't do that, we can't score."

Despite Seelhoff's injury, Montana secured its third straight conference title last week by

defeating Portland State University 1-0, which marked the Griz's 11th shutout. After winning the title, UM now has 15 days until its next game, something that Citowicki wished were different.

"I think it's a disservice to the number one and number two seeds because they have to sit and watch the quarterfinals," he said. "Everybody has a lot of time off, but then the quarterfinal happens, they get the rust off, the adrenaline shot of winning, and then they get to play the team that's sat around for 15 days and done nothing."

Citowicki said that being at home is hard to beat.

"It's so much better to sleep in your own bed and not have to be in a hotel away from your family," he said.

He said the key for UM to bring home the tournament title is to stay focused and healthy during the time off.

"The main thing is of course staying healthy, staying fresh," he said. "The fresher you can be, the better you're going to be playing."



Chloe Seelhoff tries to go around a Sacramento State defender with the ball in the semifinal Big Sky Championship game on Nov. 8, 2024. **MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

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SPORTS BRIEFS

HANNAH BENITEZ | SPORTS EDITOR
hannah.benitez@umontana.edu

PANDAS VICTORY

The Montana Grizzlies were able to extend its win streak to 8-0 with a 49-35 victory over the Sacramento State Hornets. This came after Sac State's president made comments about the Griz.

"We're looking forward to playing the Montana Pandas, sorry, Montana Grizzlies. Grizzlies. I think that's their name right? They haven't played anybody this season," Luke Wood said on an ESPN broadcast. "I feel bad for their fans that have to experience a loss like that on the road, but we'll see."

Griz head coach Bobby Hauck responded when asked about the remark during a press conference, "We're aware their president called us JV. So we're aware. We'll deal with that as need be on Friday night."

When asked about the panda comment, Hauck remarked, "The guy's kind of a clown, right?"

Throughout the first half, the Griz and Hornets traded pairs of touchdowns, including a 64-yard pass from Keali'i Ah Yat to Michael Wortham.

Eli Gillman put the Griz ahead before the whistle called for halftime with a 13-yard running touchdown.

Montana entered the third quarter with a score of 28-21.

The third quarter went quickly without much action, the Griz getting the only score with a touchdown from Evan Shafer, gaining 75 yards on nine plays.

However, the fourth quarter was electric for fans, as the teams traded touchdowns. Wortham got his third touchdown of the night and Malae Fonoti got his first of the night.

The Griz special teams and defense were able to pull off some exciting moves in the game. Kicker Ty Morrison committed the fake punt that found Ian Finch for a 28-yard pass on fourth and long.

The defense was able to get six sacks on Sac State quarterback Cardell Williams.

"We whooped their tail tonight. It wasn't close, and it was fun to do it here," Hauck said after the game.

SECOND TIME COMING

On Oct. 27, Chris Citowicki, head coach for Griz soccer, earned the United States Coaches Team Pinnacle Award for the 2024-25 academic year.

This is the second consecutive season that the program achieved this award.

The Griz will play its first game of the tournament on Nov. 7, in the semifinal at its home stadium. Montana will be trying to advance to the championship match for the first time since 2021.



The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, a national research facility that conducts research on over 112 million acres, remains closed during the federal government shutdown.

As the government shutdown continues with little progress toward a solution, campus has begun to feel its impacts.

STORY BY AIDAN GRAHAM | PHOTOS BY HENRY DOELLINGER

A cooling blast of air escapes the steel industrial-size freezer as professor Sarah Certel pulls a test tube from within, filled from top to bottom with slowly awakening flies.

Holding the tube with one hand, she produces another from a small rack on her laboratory desk, filled with a blue viscous syrup for the flies to feast upon. Slowly,



UM Director of Military and Veteran Services Patrick Beckwith stands outside his office on Oct. 24. Around 250 students in the military and veteran services program are impacted by the federal government shutdown.

she pulls the top from one tube, gently shaking the now jittering flies from one end to the other. The insects crawl up the glass.

On the third floor of the Health Sciences building at the University of Montana, Certel and her team use fruit flies to understand gut-brain signaling and the effects of ingested diseases on males and females, as well as furthering neurocommunication research. But that research is now in jeopardy due to the ongoing government shutdown.

It's been one month since the federal government shut down on Oct. 1, shuttering offices and leaving most employees at home with no work and no pay. For scientists like Certel, the shutdown not only slows research, but poses concern to all programs and people that rely on federal funding. The University of Montana remains wary over the current and future impacts it may have on its various labs. The current shutdown is now the second longest in U.S. history, with no end in sight.

"We're not super impacted today," UM spokesperson Dave Kuntz said. "But each day this goes on, we're getting a little more anxious. Whatever deal is struck to end it, that's what we'll be combing through for the most details."

On the UM campus, no programs have been shut down at this time, according to Kuntz and Vice President of Research Scott Whittenburg. However, while the government remains shut down, many funding proposals, research grants and financial aid requests continue to go unprocessed.

"Obviously the shutdown of the federal government is a concerning issue for

the University. Our biggest concern for the moment is support for our students, students on Pell Grants, students in the TRIO program, students in the highest financial need," Seth Bodnar, president of the University of Montana, said in an interview with KPAX on Oct. 20.

CONGRESS SHUTTERED

On Oct. 1, at the turnover of the new federal fiscal year, Congress locked in a stalemate over budget proposals for the 2026 fiscal year. The shutdown, fueled by partisan disagreement, had Democrats and Republicans debating over federal spending levels, foreign aid rescissions and a dramatic rise in health insurance subsidies. While Democrats fight these proposals in Congress, speaking avidly against proposed cuts to the Affordable Care Act, GOP senators have remained absent from Washington, D.C. with President Donald Trump negotiating in their stead.

The current proposal, based on the fiscal year 2026 proposal by the White House, would see federal non-defense discretionary spending, or funding for programs like scientific research and education, cut by 22.6%, with a focus on reduced spending for essential programs such as Medicaid, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Education. The DOE has a proposed 15% cut which could see a potential loss of roughly \$60 billion compared to the prior fiscal year.

Additionally, massive cuts nearing 85% have been proposed to foreign aid, international affairs and disaster relief programs. Cuts to these programs have led to reduction in humanitarian aid.

The largest debated proposal on the floor is a rise in premiums for the Affordable Care Act, which supports affordable access to private healthcare. If passed in its current state, Americans dependent on the ACA could see a 30% increase to their insurance premiums, according to the New York Times. Under those numbers, a couple making \$80,000 a year could see premium increases of \$13,000 to \$24,000 per year.

While these debates continue, the disagreement on a budget has stopped all allocation of funds for the time being, shutting down the federal government until a solution can be found.

CAMPUS CONCLUSIONS

According to Kuntz, as long as the government remains shut down, the University offices can't communicate with the federal aid offices, delaying all financial aid processing, which in turn delays registration. "The more those processes are delayed, the more barriers are put up for students and it makes it even harder for us to recruit them," Kuntz said.

Additionally, the shutdown remains a threat to funding for research performed on campus. Campus research is primarily reimbursed, meaning the University is awarded a certain amount of money over a specific amount of time, but is not given that funding directly. Instead, the University collects receipts for equipment and materials, billing their total cost to a federal funding agency, which then reimburses UM for its research costs.

In a memo from the University, researchers were told to continue to use their allocated funds as needed, but to

LATER

hold “non-vital” spending on research and shipment until the shutdown is over. The memo also stated that during the shutdown, proposals and renewals for future funding can’t and won’t be approved by any federal funding offices.

Certel, whose research funding is awarded by the Montana Army, said the shutdown is already affecting her team’s research.

“When there’s nobody working in the federal government, these reimbursements cannot happen, and so the University is sort of floating these grants,” Certel said.

For the time being, Certel must follow the shutdown guidelines.

“We’re all only purchasing essentials now for our work, and we’re being careful,” Certel said. “But there are people in my lab who are supported on grants, so at some point it’s important the shutdown ends before it starts affecting those who aren’t technically federal employees, but [are] still supported on federal grants. I’d like it to be over sooner than later.”

While federal grants remain in the air, the research department remains steadfast in the belief the shutdown should have minimal impacts on current projects.

“While we are starting to see a slowdown in reimbursements due to the significant increase in research awards last year, our expenditures and therefore reimbursement is significantly above previous years. In other words, any impact on our budgets will be minimal unless the shutdown lasts another month or two,” said Vice President of Research Scott Whittenburg.

In regards to future budgeting plans, the University plans to continue as normal, but remains wary toward possible changes in whatever proposal Congress will agree upon. Student financial aid and support programs like the Pell Grant and TRIO, which remain in contention between the executive and legislative branch, are such proposals concerning the University.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Amidst the shutdown, over \$28 billion in funding has been frozen or cancelled for projects and programs across the U.S., and over 900,000 “non-essential” employees have been furloughed, or placed on temporary unpaid leave, according to an analysis by the New York Times. Over 90% of cancelled funding would support projects in Democrat run districts.

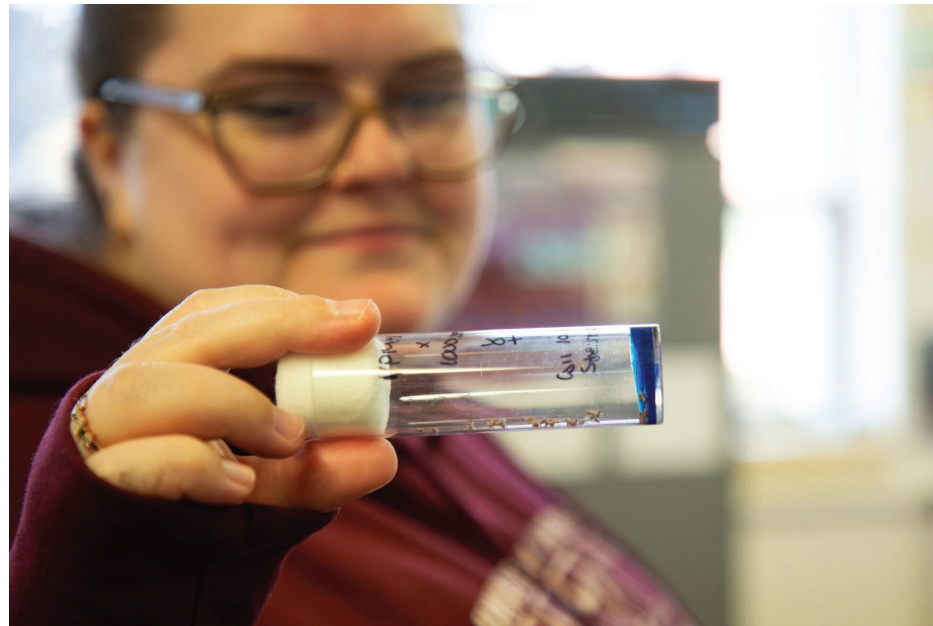
Furloughed employees have traditionally been guaranteed back pay once a shutdown ends. However, during this session, that remains up in the air. White House lawyers have continued to argue the interpretation of the 2019 Government Employee Fair Treatment Act. The argument states that back pay is not signed off in the new budget by Congress.

During this time, the Office of Management and Budget has encouraged departments to consider staffing and

Secretary Brooke Rollins. If the shutdown continues, all payments for SNAP and WIC will be halted until further notice.

Veterans programs across the U.S. have also seen delays due to heavy furloughs slowing down benefit processing. The UM campus enrolls over 400 veterans. Bodnar said in an interview with KPAX that the University administration is concerned about funding such as federal aid and VA benefits for veteran students.

“We’re seeing delays in the funding that



Lab manager and research technician Megan Wilson demonstrates research on the effects of pathogens on gut-brain signaling in flies at UM on Oct. 24. The research relies on reimbursement through federal grants that are not available during the government shutdown.

program cuts to ones not budgeted for in HR1, also known as the “Big Beautiful Bill Act.”

A memo sent to all federal agencies stated that all programs should “use this opportunity” to consider mass reductions in force for programs or projects whose funds have lapsed since Oct 1. and “aren’t consistent with President Trump’s priorities.”

As the shutdown continues, programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, which supply funds for food to upward of 42 million people, including seven million pregnant women, are at risk of halting support. Funding for both programs will run out on Nov. 1, according to Department of Agriculture

makes attending possible for some of those student groups,” Bodnar said.

Additionally, non-veteran students are granted stipends from Chapter 35, also known as Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance. Those eligible are the spouse or child of a veteran who is either totally disabled due to a service-related condition, was killed in action or listed as missing in action during their service.

Keagan Bennett, a sophomore cybersecurity major, is a UM student who receives a Chapter 35 stipend.

“I receive a certain amount of money each month for what my parents did in the military and I get to choose what month I want the money sent in. I can use the money for rent and groceries, which

really helps me be able to focus on school because if I manage my money correctly, I don’t really have to work while in college,” Bennett said.

Because of his delays in funding, Bennett has found difficulty in paying for food and groceries. If his payments don’t come in soon, he worries he may have to find additional work that could affect his ability to focus on his studies.

“I have to find that money in other ways on such short notice,” he said. “It’s so early on right now, I haven’t felt the effect quite yet, but if it goes on any longer I definitely will.”

Bennett is one of roughly 250 students who benefit from Chapter 35 at UM.

Pat Beckwith, director of veterans services at UM, said he is anticipating anxiety from students if the shutdown continues.

“I think it’s fair to say that as long as this furlough continues, the anxiety and stress that is centered around not getting paid these stipends will become real. And people that rely on those stipends to live will be faced with critical decisions of whether or not they can afford to continue either as a student or in a particular housing assignment based on whether or not those funds come in,” Beckwith said.

Beckwith, a former commander and executive officer of the Montana National Guard, has worked to give support for veteran students during the shutdown. According to Beckwith, students in VA rehab and finance programs are unable to contact their counselors. Others are going into debt to pay for housing their benefits are supposed to cover, and with offices shut down or overworked, veterans services can’t act as a liaison for these students.

The veterans services office, while concerned, has expressed hope during these difficult times. “We’re engaging with students that we can help with financial hardship in these moments, but our goal is to fill a short gap. The longer those gaps [get], the less finances we have available to leverage for those types of circumstances.”

While concerned, Beckwith, on behalf of veterans services, believes that the VA will come through with the money to support these students eventually.

As the shutdown continues, it inches closer and closer to surpassing the longest shutdown in U.S. history. The 2018 government shutdown, which lasted 35 days, saw an unrecoverable \$3 billion loss in gross domestic product, or the total monetary value of goods and services in the U.S., due to processing delays and furloughs.

While University programs remain stable for now, an extended shutdown may harm faculty, staff, students and the lives of anyone who benefits from any federal social program.



A WALK IN THE TUNNELS

Pipes and high voltage cables line the tunnels under the University of Montana, at points forcing visitors to crawl and climb through the interconnected network.

STORY BY ELLE DANIEL

PHOTOS BY HENRY DOELLINGER

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY KAIRI LISING

Before descending into the tunnels beneath the University of Montana campus, our guide, Tim Gauthier, stopped and said, “First question: Do you want to crouch or climb?”

Our intrepid group consisted of Kaimin reporters, editors and members of the multimedia team. We ventured below, where most UM students rarely get the opportunity to go to see what the tunnels beneath campus are really like — and what they’re really used for beyond legends, myths and lore.

We shared a nervous look, not sure what to expect, and decided to crouch first.

With Gauthier, the associate director of engineering and utilities at UM, as our tunnels tour guide, we ventured off into the dark. Gauthier said he doesn’t come down

into the tunnels that much anymore, but as he wound through one corridor into another, it was clear he still knew his way around.

Beneath our feet, the ground grew uneven and disrupted. Soon we walked on unsteady piles of large rocks interrupted by wooden beams, our footsteps crunching and grinding against the stones.

We shared the single-file hallways with large, white insulation-wrapped pipes covered in a thick layer of dust. The pipes carry steam and heat through the roughly three miles of tunnels below campus, heating the buildings. Other small pipes carry deionized water to and from the buildings with laboratories, like the Charles H. Clapp building. Their clangs echoed down the snug corridors like a ghoulish knocking from inside a buried coffin.

Some of the fixtures in the tunnels are decades old, their installation years scrawled

down on tags and steel beams in white chalk. The oldest we found dated back to 1925, updated in 1969. The machinery has outlasted world wars, major terrorist attacks and 17 presidencies.

The tunnels are something out of a horror video game, a liminal maze of hallways that go on so long in some stretches, you wonder if you’ll ever actually reach the end. One Reddit user described them as “hot and nasty,” and that’s dead on. Within minutes, I peeled off the various knitted layers of my fall outfit in a feeble attempt to cool down.

Spiderwebs connected from the ceiling to the wall like decayed drapery. They caught on our heads and shoulders as we walked, drifting from our shoulders like phantom wisps. We paused to shake them off, careful not to stop for too long. This is not the place where we wanted to get separated.

But even if we did, rudimentary ladders

led up to metal trapdoor hatches. Gauthier said whenever he gets too claustrophobic, he pops out onto campus for fresh air.

There are a handful of ghost stories down here, including sightings of an eerie gentleman and his ghostly German shepherd. But if anything, it’s the collection of cobwebs, the groans of the steam in the pipes and the graffiti on the walls that makes the tunnels a spooky “Scooby Doo”-esque maze.

On one wall, simple black handwriting read, “All work and no play,” a famous quote from the hit horror novel, “The Shining” by Stephen King. Gauthier isn’t sure who put it there, along with most of the other scribbles, drawings and symbols on the walls.

Gauthier said he once found old packages of lightbulbs containing mercury by the



Gallery | As above, so below

tunnel's lighting fixtures, but bulbs like that are no longer in use.

Overhead, the already low ceiling closes in even tighter, crunching us in so low we had to stoop down, hands braced against our knees to fit.

As we walked, Gauthier pointed out graffiti. He spotted an errant can of beer discarded beneath the pipes. I asked him what brand. Gauthier paused to check.

"Coors Light," he said, voice echoing down the corridor.

I quickly lost track of where we were beneath campus. Only one section of the tunnels was familiar: a steep slope of concrete with a wooden plank to reach the other side. Clambering over it, wobbling on the plank, I half-expected to spot the cast of "The Goonies" waiting for me on the other side.

Our tour took us beneath the University Center to below Main Hall and underneath the power plant to the Clapp Building. Then we detoured under the residence halls.

A cool breeze picked up like the phantom touch of a specter, and we followed it down a wide tunnel to a construction site. We'd found ourselves spit out in the basement of the still-under-construction residence hall. I like to think we looked like ghosts ourselves to the construction workers who spotted us.

When we finally made it back to the University Center, we remerged as a quartet of dusty, cobweb-covered reporters among the hustle of the UC. After all that time down below, we were a little more grateful for the well-lit spaciousness of our newsroom.

Ultimately, like most of the scares thrill-seekers enjoyed during the October month, the tunnels are what you make of them. If you find yourself down in the dark on a tour, expecting hot, stuffy tunnels covered in dust, that's exactly what you'll find. But if you want to embark on a winding adventure full of mysteries scrawled on the walls, ghost stories and the wailing cries from creatures lurking in the dark, it's up to you to create that magic for yourself.



The University of Montana has an estimated over three miles of maintenance tunnels of various lengths and sizes connecting campus.



Montana Kaimin arts editor Kairi Lising investigates a locked tunnel beneath the University of Montana on Oct. 15.



Editor-in-chief Elle Daniel examines a tag hanging in one of UM's tunnels during a tour.

Anything Goes: Students stage classic Broadway musical

SYDNEY MOATE | MONTANA KAIMIN

sydneymoate.moate@umontana.edu

Criminals on the lam. Evangelists in tight dresses. A stage built like a cruise ship. Falling in love again and again. All this and more is in the School of Theatre and Dance's newest musical, because now, God knows, anything goes.

The acting program brings classic Broadway to the Montana stage in "Anything Goes." The musical takes place on a luxury liner bound for England and centers on a stowaway, Billy Crocker, who is attempting to win the love of the engaged Hope Harcourt, aided by a group of gangsters and nightclub singer Reno Sweeney.

"Anything Goes" is a massive production for the theatre school. There are nearly 100 students involved, including 22 student performers, 16 student musicians and over 50 technicians from set design to wardrobe to board operators.

Olivia Tyrrell leads the cast as Reno Sweeney. From Billings, Tyrrell is a 22-year-old senior studying acting and communicative science and disorders.

According to Tyrrell, there are around 500 costume pieces for 22 actors and thousands of hours have been put into it.

It features large dance numbers to Cole Porter songs, including "Anything Goes," "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow." The songs are backed up by tap dancing, trumpets, costume changes and all the flair one could expect to see on a real Broadway stage.

"This show was written at a time there was a lot of unrest in the world. People were looking for an escape," Tyrrell said. The play was written in the 30s, coming out of World War I and going into World War II. It was written to get away from the darkness cast by this tension and give people a good night at the theatre. Tyrrell feels this makes it a great play to see today. "It's a nice break from the heaviness of the world," she said.

"Anything Goes" was written in 1934 and based on music from Porter. It is one of the oldest Broadway musicals still in rotation. Tyrrell said it was originally terrible, with a lackluster story and racist commentary that perpetuated stereotypes, used offensive accents and racial slurs. Since then it has been rewritten over and over again. Different writers have pulled more Porter

songs into the show over the years.

Tyrrell described Reno as a comedic role, an evangelist who pokes fun at religious standards and rules for women of the time.

Tyrrell said she thinks of Reno's message as, "Just because you're not perfect doesn't mean you're not going to heaven. You only have one life, live it, but be a good person, have fun while you can."

UM last did "Anything Goes" in 1987. It has been rewritten since then. This current version is close to the 2011 Broadway version starring Tony-winning actress Sutton Foster as Reno. The 2011 show was based on journalist Timothy Crouse and librettist John Weidman's 1987 rewrite, which won a Tony award for best revival.

This production is directed by Chae Clearwood, a Master of Fine Arts in directing candidate. Clearwood started as an actor in theatre 10 years ago. From Montana, she has acted mostly in New York and Arizona. She came back in 2020 to start teaching and directing community and high school theatre and started her master's in 2022.

"Anything Goes" is one of those original Broadway productions," Clearwood said. She said it has lots of jazz standards people will love and enjoy and lots of commentary on social status, marriage and social norms.

Some of these include how the show pits high society characters against fame-oriented comedians. The gangster Moonface Martin is treated as a star by the passengers, a nod to the public obsession achieved by criminals. It pokes fun at class status as a superficial performance. And "Anything Goes" explores the issue of transactional marriage versus marriage for love. Hope Harcourt, a debutante set to be named for status, battles with her love of Billy Crocker and her obligation to follow her mother's wishes.

The other MFA directing candidate, Christopher Kehoe, who is on the community engagement committee for the musical, described the show as a romantic comedy built off the vaudeville era. He said the comedy in this show is great for younger audiences.

"Anything Goes" is running until Nov. 2. There are shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.



"Anything Goes" leads Olivia Tyrrell and Nick Monsos strike a pose during the show's dress rehearsal on Oct. 22, in the University of Montana's PARTV Center. **TORI KUEHL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

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Will del Toro's 'Frankenstein' revive the original or be a failed experiment?

BEE REISWIG | MONTANA KAIMIN
bee.reiswig@umontana.edu

Louise Economides was underwhelmed when she first read "Frankenstein."

Getting her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Economides expected horror and drama from the novel, which are often present in its film adaptations.

Looking at her office now, that initial reservation is long gone. There are figures on her over-full bookshelf of Frankenstein's creatures: not Frankenstein — a common misconception is that the titular character is named for the monster. An adaptation's movie poster leans above them. Over her desk is a detailed depiction of a few of "Frankenstein's" scenes — entirely quilted. As she speaks, a pair of Frankenstein's monster heads bob, hanging from Economides' ears.

"I've come to see how central a text it is for understanding the modern world, basically, and I think that's why as a novel, it's also sort of taken on a life of its own in popular culture. Including, like, breakfast cereals. Frankenberries," Economides said. "You know, put 'Franken' in front of anything and you've got a Frankenstein reference."

It's true. There are 90 pages on the Wikipedia for "Frankenstein films." The narrative is reimagined and brought to life in new ways every time, pieced together with a new variety of pop culture references and deep literary meanings. But will anyone get it right?

The newest addition is Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein," which came to select theaters on Oct. 17. Though Missoula theaters don't have the movie on the docket, "Frankenstein" will be available globally on Netflix on Nov. 7.

"I honestly think that there's never been a truly great adaptation of 'Frankenstein,'" Economides said. "I know that it's probably my literature nerd kind of bias coming in there, but it's such a complex novel that I often feel, for whatever reason, maybe commercial reasons or whatever, that a lot of the film versions have kind of flattened the novel."

Economides said she was looking forward to del Toro's version of the story. She hopes to see references to "Paradise Lost," in the



University of Montana professor Louise Economides shows off her copy of "Frankenstein" and her Mary Shelly biography in her office on Oct. 24. **TORI KUEHL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

vein of the original novel. The 1818 edition of "Frankenstein" includes an epigraph from "Paradise Lost" that outlines Shelley's focus on creators and their creations, according to Economides. Frankenstein's creature reads "Paradise Lost" and cites it as a big reference in his life. Economides is also interested in new angles from which to view the story.

For example, it would appear that Frankenstein will be using soldiers on the battlefield for body parts, as a way to look at warfare throughout the Romantic Period in the early 19th century.

"In a sense, it seems right to me that soldiers would be used because they are kind of seen to be often pawns in these large conflicts," Economides said.

In Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," the creature isn't only made from human parts. According to Economides, the scientist also uses animal pieces during the process of creation.

B. Elizabeth Armstrong, a 23-year-old senior in environmental sciences from Omaha, Nebraska, was always fascinated by Shelley's description of the creature's eyes. They are described in the novel as "watery" and were "almost of the same colour as the dun-white

sockets in which they were set."

But to Armstrong, the ideal adaptation wouldn't focus as much on the monster himself. She outlined a version she's imagined that only takes place in the aftermath of making the creature. He'd stay just out of sight, with only his eyes being seen from time to time.

"I feel like they should be more focused on Frankenstein," Armstrong said. "His journey [is] like disappearing and trying to run away from his grief and his grief following him, so the monster is pretty much a depiction of grief and longing for a new beginning."

"Frankenstein" has long been an important book to Armstrong. She bonded with one of her best friends in high school when they realized they both loved the novel while in the locker room together. She agrees with Economides — no film has ever done the original story justice. That doesn't mean they aren't entertaining, though.

"I have looked into the [new] movie ... and I don't think it's going to be a proper adaptation," Armstrong said. "I think it's still going to be fun. I think all 'Frankenstein' materials get to be fun."

Armstrong is one of the few people in

the contemporary literary community who might sympathize with Frankenstein rather than the monster, according to Economides. But when the novel first came out, that perspective was far more popular.

"In the contemporary scene, we tend to see Victor Frankenstein as kind of a big jerk. And I get that, because in a lot of ways, he is very narcissistic and flawed as a character," Economides said. "And I think for us now, in the contemporary world, it's much easier to empathize with the creature and the creature's plight because the creature has been neglected by the person who should have been his parent, Victor."

Economides pointed out that the scientist could be read with good intentions rather than solely the "mad scientist" motivations of fortune and fame. Those may be pieces of his motivations, but he can also be read as optimistic, wanting to help the world through the scientific process.

That's one of the things about "Frankenstein." It can be interpreted and adapted in a million different ways. "Our Hideous Progeny" by C.E. McGill follows Victor Frankenstein's granddaughter in England's 1850s paleontological scene. The movie "Rocky Horror Picture Show" adds a campy, flirty, 70s twist to the classic reanimation. Armstrong enjoyed Emma Stone in the movie "Poor Things," in which the actress plays a version of the creature.

Economides would love to see an adaptation that digs into the environmental aspects of the story. She discussed the fact that it can be read as an allegory for artificial intelligence quite easily. Economides often uses "Frankenstein" to teach her students to look at the same text through a variety of lenses. She will be teaching the novel in her course British Romanticism in the fall of 2027.

Amelia Springer, a 23-year-old creative writing alum, found the novel represents her struggles as a disabled woman.

"I feel like there's so many different layers of the monster that people can resonate with," Springer said. "My disability, that's what I got from the monster. But I feel like everybody can find pieces of themselves within him, and I think that's why the story is a classic and has stood the test of time."

Student composers debut brass-focused pieces

NICOLETTE SEIBEL | MONTANA KAIMIN

nicolette.seibel@umontana.edu

Low, grounded sounds of tubas jumbled as prancing melodies from surrounding instruments rang through the auditorium. Anticipation reached its limit for 32-year-old tuba and music composition major, William Buchanan.

Tonight was his world premiere, a specialty debut of his composition titled, “I Remember the Days.” Buchanan wrote the piece as an exploration of thoughts, the ones that happen before we fall asleep. “All those fleeting thoughts, thinking about homework or thinking about the person you love, thinking about that ice cream flavor from 17 years ago,” he said.

“I Remember the Days” was Buchanan’s first ever full composition, which was displayed during a capstone project called Montana Mornings and Summer Nights, produced and organized by history and education major Taryn Thompson. Thompson had always wanted to host a recital. In turn, students, including Buchanan and others, were given the opportunity to include their own compositions amongst other arrangements of music, which were performed exclusively by brass and woodwind instruments.

The event showcased the range that only euphoniums, tubas and flutes could accomplish, while also putting a spotlight on the creativity of composers at the University of Montana.

In Buchanan’s piece, lofty high notes from the tuba in the foreground with waves of new melodies from euphonium pushed and pulled between soft and secure tunes before a new train of thought carried a harshness that slowly and sweetly resolved.

For Buchanan, the first section of the piece is about falling in love for the first time, then a tragic breakup and his six years in the Army before going back to college and finally finding artistic and musical freedom at the University of Montana. It is a testament to his own journey and 27 years playing his horn.

When writing music, Buchanan thinks like a painter. Sounds are his paints and instruments are different moods. A saxophone to him is clean, humble and emotional, whereas a trombone is the hustle and routine or the “tempo of life.” The tuba and euphonium like the earth, and flutes the air.



Kaleb Trippe prepares to conduct his composition, “Fugue in D,” for the UM Tuba and Euphonium Consort in the University of Montana’s music recital hall on Oct. 22. **CONTRIBUTED | ROBERT MORRISON**

“I’m always excited when we get to play with the flutes, it’s so cool,” Buchanan said. “It brings a lot of airiness to our earthiness, it completes elements, bounces a lot of things out, makes the sky feel more blue.”

On the chilly October evening, green curtains framed flute, euphonium and tuba players in the dimly lit music recital hall. A small audience gathered to be engrossed in the performance and compositions featured in Montana Mornings and Spanish Nights.

The UM Flute Choir Consort took to the stage first to play five songs, including “Defying Gravity” by Stephen Schwartz and “Chasing Caribou,” written by UM music composition graduate student Sylvia Wood.

Wood’s piece was dissonant, blue and

adventurous. Somberness spiraled from the 15 flutes, including Wood’s. She had written the piece after being inspired by nature documentaries three years before.

“I was watching these giant herd migrations and I was like ‘Oh my gosh, what if I turned that into a piece of music to some degree,’” Wood said.

Wood has written many pieces before through commissioned work and occasional recitals, but she doesn’t normally get the opportunity to write for an instrument she plays and have a group prepared to perform it. She writes music by experimenting with different melodies to create a scene that evokes specific tones and themes.

For her, “Chasing Caribou” was a take on

nature’s cutthroat, beautiful journey. She hopes her scenes resonate with others.

“Music is a really powerful tool to communicate ideas and open people to ideas that they might have not been open to before,” Wood said. “That is how I hope to use it, and I hope people are open to that too.”

Afterward, a buzzing intermission made way for a solo euphonium piece. Kaleb Trippe, a tuba performance major, arrived at the conductor’s stand in front of UM’s Tuba-Euphonium Consort. Conducting for the first time, Trippe wasn’t nervous. He was proud of the piece he had composed, which his peers would be performing, “Fugue in D.”

The piece showcased different sections of tuba and euphonium intentionally clashing with each other. Playfully melodic, it doesn’t follow formal music theory, and it was created exclusively on plane rides when Trippe was traveling to and from the International Tuba Euphonium Concert in Valencia, Spain.

“I have never been able to sleep on plane flights and on the way there I was running on no sleep for about 20 hours. On the way back it was more like 40 hours,” Trippe said. “So it’s a very sleep deprived piece when I wrote it, but I’m really happy with how it’s all come together.”

Trippe’s journey with tuba and euphonium started during a 5th grade tuba audition when he made the longest note and he has been hooked ever since. Now he is the first person in his family to pursue music and become a college graduate. Playing with the University of Montana Tuba-Euphonium Consort throughout his college experience has opened pathways for writing pieces for tubas that are not as conventional.

“You just don’t hear tubas playing like Bach-style chorale material where it’s super complicated and there’s a lot of melodic lines going through it,” Trippe said.

Though Trippe has been playing with the consort for five years, he still finds that every concert is special because for him, it can never be repeated.

The recital closed with all the instrumentalists: flutes, euphoniums and tubas coming together and playing an arrangement of Bobby McFerrin’s song “Don’t Worry Be Happy,” by tuba and euphonium professor Dr. Benedict Kirby. The audience smiled and swayed as the happy tune lingered on in the minds of listeners throughout the night.

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