

MONTANA KAIMIN

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

HOW LOCAL ARTISTS HAVE
CONTINUED TO CREATE DURING
THE PANDEMIC



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Cover Photo
Sara Diggins



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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EDITORIAL

Griz basketball is back! But is Missoula ready?

In mid-October, UM made it official: Griz basketball will be returning after getting cut off in the spring, to the delight of most fans. But is it the right decision for the community?

COVID-19 cases are surging throughout the U.S., and especially here in Montana. Rival Big Sky Conference teams such as Eastern Washington and Portland State had good reason to vote to play on. As two states that feature Big Sky Conference teams, Oregon and Washington have among the lowest states for case rates per 100,000 people in the U.S.

California and Colorado, which also have teams in the Big Sky Conference, are doing worse than their Pacific Northwest neighbors, but seem to have the pandemic relatively under control.

Montana, on the other hand, has the 7th highest number of cases per capita in the

nation in the last week, and continues to set record case counts every day. Missoula County also reported 173 new cases in its latest COVID-19 update.

Gallatin County, home of UM's primary rival, Montana State, has seen 169 new cases in the last week.

UM and Montana State already face the very likely possibility of halting the Big Sky Conference season due to positive tests, but even they aren't the most concerning.

There are four teams the Griz face from Idaho and Utah, which are ranked 11th and 9th respectively in the nation for COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in US states for the last week.

The head coach of UM men's basketball, Travis DeCuire, told reporters in October that rather than hoping a halt to play won't happen, his team will make a plan for when, not if, one happens.

The Centers for Disease Control recently warned that Thanksgiving may be the

next occasion for COVID-19 superspreader events, and UM has asked its students to self-quarantine before winter break to help prevent the spread of the virus.

And yet, the Lady Griz will travel to Utah for a game the day before Thanksgiving, sharing a court with athletes from one of the most COVID-19 affected states in the country.

The next scheduled Lady Griz game, after Utah State, is in Missoula against North Dakota, the state with the most COVID-19 cases, per capita, in the nation.

After the game against North Dakota, the Lady Griz will also get a visit from another Utah team, Utah Valley.

All this close contact is a cause for worry, to say the least. Already this semester, most of UM's athletics teams, including the entire cross country team, have had to be quarantined. The Champion's Center, UM's training facility, has also been shut down at

least once.

If UM can't keep its own teams safe, how is it a good idea to bring people from across the West in contact with them?

Despite an initial belief that the virus does not affect young people, more than 400 people in the U.S. between the ages of 15 and 24 have died from COVID-19. Young adults should not have to get sick, let alone die, for our entertainment. Athletes' friends and family shouldn't have to avoid them while sports go on as usual.

More than 238,000 people have died in the U.S. from the coronavirus. Unless the Big Sky Conference develops an NBA-level bubble plan to temporarily contain this virus, no one should play basketball.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at
editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers in Last Week's Sudoku:

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

CORRECTION: Last week a Kaimin photo caption incorrectly identified Robby Hauck as Jace Lewis. It has since been fixed in our online article.

Briefs: Business startups, bus funding and police shooting

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MAN DEAD AFTER CONFRONTATION WITH MISSOULA POLICE

After a man attacked Missoula Police with a knife Saturday evening an officer shot and killed him, according to the Missoulian. Police who responded to a disturbance call on the north western side of Missoula on Sherwood Lane were apprehended by the knife-wielding man. The officers told the man to drop the knife, but he instead attacked one of the officers. In defense the officer shot the man, who was later pronounced dead. Nobody else was harmed. The Montana Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations, is investigating the confrontation. The next day, a call to action circulated social media demanding the department to release the names of officers involved as well as relevant body camera footage and that the circumstances and details of the killing be made clear. The Kaimin is reporting this

story more in-depth. Updates will be published at montanakaimin.com.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ACA

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law under the Obama administration, was challenged before the Supreme Court on Tuesday. With President Donald Trump’s criticism of the law and a now more conservative leaning court-with three justices assigned by Trump during his term-all or part of the act could be in jeopardy. The law was previously challenged in 2012, but was upheld by a 5-4 decision. Two lower court rulings found the care act unconstitutional, although it’s likely the Supreme Court will make the inevitable decision. At risk is the health insurance of more than 20 million Americans, including those insured privately and with Medicaid, according to the New

York Times. The law allows people under the age of 26 to stay on their parent’s health insurance, meaning many college students would be left without insurance if the law is overturned. Without the healthcare act, coverage of pre-existing medical conditions, emergency care, prescription drugs and maternity care are all at risk as well.



VOTERS IN FAVOR OF MORE MOUNTAIN LINE FUNDING

Voters approved a \$3 million per year budget increase to Missoula’s Mountain Line bus service in last week’s election. Over the next few years the 20 mill levy increase will extend evening hours, add Sunday services, hire 10-20 more drivers, add more routes and help buy more electric buses. The new services will be implemented in

2022. The mill levy increases tax on property to help fund the new services. Since the service became zero-fare in 2015 ridership has increased by 70% to around 1.5 million rides a year, according to the Missoulian.

UM GRAD TAKES HOME TOP PRIZE IN BUSINESS STARTUP

Lily Clarke, who graduated from the University of Montana this year with a Master’s in Systems Ecology, took home the top prize of \$15,000 for her business startup plan for the 31st annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge. The challenge is hosted by the UM College of Business and UM Blackstone LaunchPad and accepts entries from students around the state. Nine teams were chosen by judges and narrowed to four teams that competed live. Clarke’s business is called High Morel and uses mushrooms to remediate wastewater from breweries. “As a scientist without prior business experience, it is wonderful to win this competition,” Clarke said to UM News.

Blotter: Car theft, car found and more hate stickers

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Crime continued to take the backseat around UM, as UMPD logged only 12 crimes since last week’s blotter. The most common offense was criminal mischief, allegedly committed by rowdy people on Halloween.

10/31 CAR THEFT

A student found that someone had broken into his car, parked by the Lommasson building, early in the morning. Though the student recalled having locked the car, there was no sign of forced entry. His wallet and a bunch of climbing gear were stolen from the vehicle. UMPD said there are no suspects, and there is no security camera in the area.

11/1 PARTY FOR TWO?

UMPD responded to a noise complaint late on Halloween night, in Cinnabar Court in the University Villages. The officers arrived at what appeared to be the tail-end of a party, to find two dudes talking loudly by their front door. Officers told the duo to keep the noise down.

11/1 GILKEY GLASS

A beer bottle was flung at the first-floor window of a classroom in the Gilkey building, likely on Halloween night. UMPD said that only the outside layer of glass was broken by the bottle, and nobody tried to get inside the building.

11/4 FOUND CAR

UMPD discovered a car that had been reported stolen from a UM parking lot in

September, just blocks away, on Arthur Street. Officers confirmed the car was stolen, and towed the vehicle back to their lot on campus. There is no information on the suspect, but the owner of the car was notified that their car is safe and sound. The owner has to get new keys made before they can start driving again.

11/4 HATE STICKERS ESCALATE

Stickers displaying false, bigoted slogans were recently spotted on campus. Subsequently, even more offensive stickers, bearing false statistics on people of color and the LGBTQ+ community, appeared at UM bus stops and were removed by UMPD officers. UM’s legal council is working with the FBI to further investigate this latest round of sticker harassment. The Kaimin will follow up on this story.



COLTON ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21					22				
23						24			25					
				26		27			28			29	30	31
32	33	34					35				36			
37						38	39				40			
41					42				43	44				
45					46				47					
			48	49				50		51		52	53	54
55	56					57			58					
59						60					61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

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- 1 Rough guess

5 Game for high rollers

10 Fall shade

14 Part of GMT

15 Trojan War figure

16 Not duped by

17 Newspaper bio

18 High-society group

19 Pantyhose flaw

20 Amount rarely paid

22 Crown

23 Prop for Picasso

24 Genesis villain

26 Rocker David Lee

28 Sleuths, briefly

29 "Mr. Robot" network

32 They show the way

35 Torn's partner

37 Complaint

38 Stomping ground

40 Rooney who played Lisbeth Salander

41 Instructive

43 Logo, e.g.

45 Whole bunch

46 Notable period

47 Notion

48 Desert basin

51 Specialized lingo

55 Misbehave

57 Deceptive statement

59 Muffin type

60 Aesop's ending

61 Pasty-faced

62 Rifle part

63 "Gladiator" star
- 64 Kind of cell

65 Gets rid of

66 Clergyman's house

67 Miffed
- DOWN

1 Mink, for one

2 Leg bone

3 Off the mark

4 More prosperous

5 "Believe" singer

6 Really enjoy

7 Brady house-keeper

8 Mary Martin role

9 Sony on the NYSE

10 Bow coating

11 Artificial

12 Marquee name

13 Robe for Caesar

21 Till the earth

22 Midterm, say

25 Like some olives
- 27 Casual garment

30 Drought-ridden

31 Eden dweller

32 Aid in crime

33 Change, as decor

34 Put back to work

35 Harbor craft

36 Make flush

39 Literary repetition

42 Cry of pain

44 Vegan no-no

47 Spouse's family

49 Female relatives

50 Hammerin' Hank

52 Enthusiasm

53 Different

54 Culinary herb

55 "Dancing Queen" group

56 Heart of the matter

58 Head for the hills

60 Turn-of-the-century year

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Scorpio season is continuing rent-free

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As Scorpio season continues flying by in all its impassioned glory, the frantic intensity of our resident desert-dwelling sign continues to influence us all. And now that the election pandemonium has finally quieted, we may be left wondering where to direct this excess energy...

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Scorpio, sometimes being around you is like being around the most annoying golden retriever. But, like, an edgy golden retriever. Let’s divert some of this passion into your classes. You know, the ones you’re on the brink of choosing credit/ no credit?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): As you head into the back half of the week, reflect on that pile of laundry growing in the corner of your room. Really give it some space in your mind to breathe, percolate a little.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Caps! We think it’s time to start a new puzzle. That really difficult one, too, that you’ve been waiting to tackle. I mean, what else are you going to do? Stress about the state of the country? Study for finals? HA.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Okay Aquarians, how can we put this nicely? Self-reflection is a beautiful thing. Now that you have lots of time for it, maybe work through the realization that you are, in fact, capable of being wrong.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Do you have a fun project you’ve been putting off? Scrapbook-ing? Redesigning your room? Scheduling a doctor’s appointment? Well, this is your sign!

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Now is the perfect time for you to pick up knitting. Don’t ask us why, Aries. We just have a feeling it’s right.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You guys have spent the last few weeks being independent #Boss-Babes, and we love that journey for you. But as Scorpio season winds down, we recommend utilizing some of its last dregs of passion on your relationships, romantic or platonic.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Now that there are literally only five days of class left, it might be a good time, Geminis, to figure out your plans for winter break. We get it’s fun to be spontaneous and quirky, but you know what’s even better? Financial responsibility.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Call your damn grandma, Cancer. She misses you and you’ve been putting this off for far too long.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Leos, you finally have time to make that “Day in My Life” YouTube video! Next stop, Emma Chamberlain-level fame.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): Checking in on our local mom-friend. Honey, as John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what you can do for others, ask what you can do for yourself?” Or something like that. Might we suggest meditation? Or hot yoga?

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): Plan a trip, in detail. Regardless of whether it can actually happen or not, this particular kind of escapism is just what you’re missing right now.

UM asks students to limit social circles before winter break travel

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As the fall semester wraps up, students and staff are making plans for a long winter break. Hundreds of UM students will travel for the winter holidays, while others will be forced to extend their stay on or near campus due to coronavirus exposure — while rates of COVID-19 reach all-time highs in Missoula County.

There are currently no restrictions on traveling out of Montana, but about half of those coming from other parts of the United States are theoretically required to obtain a negative test or submit to a quarantine in order to enter the state. At UM, the administration is asking students to begin limiting their contact with others now, before everyone leaves for break.

“Our goal is to protect students from unknowingly bringing home COVID-19 to their families that they’re visiting when they return for the holidays, or wherever

they might be going during the break,” UM spokesperson Paula Short said. “What we’re asking students to do is continue to go to work, continue to attend classes, continue to do those sort of essential things, but restrict your activities outside of those really essential items.”

Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest travel time of the year, and this semester comes to an official end the day before the holiday, on Nov. 25. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the holidays pose a large risk for transmission of the coronavirus, due to increased interactions.

Short urged students and staff to take precautions.

“If students are planning to travel home for the holidays, and that home includes an elderly relative or an immunocompromised family member that they might be spending time with, they should take this extra seriously,” she said. “It’s really to try to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.”

Short said the University has done a

good job of mitigating spread. She credits the campus’s relatively small caseload to UM’s cancellation of extracurricular activities in early October. While UM leveled out to about 50 active cases over the last two weeks — with 352 total since Aug. 12 — Missoula County has continued to see numbers rise, to more than 800 active cases last week.

More than 20 people in Missoula County have died from the virus in the last month, most of them over 70 years old. There have been several outbreaks at retirement homes, and a record 44 people were hospitalized last week.

Missoula City-County Health Department director Ellen Leahy said students should make a safety plan for their returns home, which might include wearing a mask around family members.

“I would really recommend the same [COVID-19] precautions that they’ve been using at school. And be particularly careful, because when they go home, it is possible that during travel they could acquire

infection, even if they take precautions,” Leahy said.

Such precautions include frequent handwashing and disinfecting of surfaces, staying six feet apart from others and wearing a mask.

“These holidays are going to be a huge temptation,” she said. “I cannot say this enough, but this virus spreads through people you know. It is your friends. It is your family.”

Though the large majority of students will be free to travel during winter break, some will have to ride out the end of the semester in quarantine and isolation. Short said that these students will get the same support from UM Housing and Dining as they did during the semester.

The Curry Health Center will also remain open during break. Staff will continue to perform COVID-19 testing as long as supplies are available.

Jus Chill’n to permanently shuts its doors

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The end of the fall semester also marks the end of Jus Chill’n, an on-campus business for the past 18 years.

According to the interim director of University of Montana Dining, Byron Drake, the smoothie establishment, located on the first floor of the University Center, is closing due to a decrease in sales, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Drake said it was not UM Dining’s decision to close Jus Chill’n. The smoothie joint is owned by a private party, Brenda Hallis, who said that, after steady sales for the first two and half weeks of school, business “has become almost nonexistent at the University.”

Jus Chill’n previously had two other locations: in the Southgate Mall and the UM campus recreation center.

The UC location of Jus Chill’n will continue to be open through the end of fall semester, but will not reopen in 2021,

Drake said. UM Dining will offer new jobs to the 11 people who currently work there.

“We want to help any employees looking for employment,” Drake said.

Ella Kennerly, a UM student who has worked at Jus Chill’n for the past three years, said she is planning to transfer to another restaurant owned by Hallis, The Ruby Cafe, but has mixed feelings about moving on.

“It is sad, but it’s bittersweet,” Kennerly said. “[The decision] makes sense. It has been slow for a while.”

Finn Story, another Just Chill’n employee of three years, echoed her sentiments. He decided not to accept UM Dining’s offer of employment, but has yet to find another job.

The UC will put the soon-to-be-vacant smoothie space out for bid, a process conducted by UC director Adrienne Smith.

Although Drake said he is sad to lose Jus Chill’n, he wished Hallis well.

“It is disappointing to us, but we completely understand,” Drake said.



Jus Chill’n will be closing its doors for good on November 25, after 18 years in the University Center. “It’s definitely a bummer, but something we’ve seen coming,” said Haley Prothero, a new employee of the smoothie stand. **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

ASUM discourages intrusive online proctoring

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana’s Senate passed a resolution discouraging the use of online proctoring deemed intrusive to students.

James Flanagan, the vice president of ASUM, authored the “Resolution Urging University of Montana Instructors to Avoid Online Proctoring,” which passed unanimously on Oct. 28.

“There are so many other stressful things going on in students’ lives that this intense proctoring of exams is not something they should be putting on students,” Kylie Stokes, a senior at UM, said. “There is no real, valid reason for them to take it this far.”

Stokes has an online class in UM’s School of Speech, Language, Hearing and Occupational Sciences. Five days before the midterm, Stokes learned it would be proctored through the third-party service ProctorU. Stokes said she had two days to register for the service or she’d have to pay to take the exam.

Stokes took the test a few days after registering and said when she clicked on ProctorU’s Google Chrome extension she was unexpectedly placed on video chat with a proctor. She said the proctor took control of her computer, closed her tabs and set parental controls.

Stokes also said she had to present a photo ID, show her desk, the four walls of her room and was informed background noise could lead to her test being voided.

She said the unexpected live proctor and the feeling that she was expected to cheat caused her to rush through the test.

“I definitely did not do even close to as well as I could have because I was anxious, feeling weird about this thing,” Stokes said.

Flanagan said student anxiety is one of the three major issues intrusive proctoring services, such as ProctorU, lead to. He said the other two main issues are the invasion of privacy and the expectation students will have a good environment to take the exam with a clean desk and functioning webcam.

Flanagan is on the Instructional Plan-



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ning Group, which develops recommendations for teaching this semester during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group sent out best practices for final exams to UM faculty. The best practices are to give open book exams, use essay questions and to do a final project or a timed test when possible.

Flanagan said the resolution is not advocating for in-person proctoring this semester, but rather to start a conversation with faculty over intrusive online proctoring.

“We want to move away from this sort of hostile relationship between faculty and students where it’s sort of pitting them against each other with these proctoring programs and instead a more collaborative, compromising relationship,” he said.

Flanagan said many faculty were not aware of programs such as ProctorU. The University is not associated with ProctorU, but does distribute a limited number of licenses for the online proctoring service, Proctorio.

Proctorio utilizes artificial intelligence to monitor students testing and flags suspicious behavior that can be reviewed.

It’s unclear how many courses at UM

are using Proctorio, ProctorU or other similar proctoring services.

Flanagan said the goal is not meant to force professors who have trained and prepared for exams using online proctoring services to completely change their plans. He said the resolution is to further discourage intrusive online proctoring, especially for next semester, and to welcome potential policy changes regarding

intrusive online proctoring.

Stokes said it’s likely many students on campus have come to terms with this sort of proctoring as an accepted part of online learning.

“People, I think, are too quick to accept that as the new normal, regardless of what it does to their mental health and their test scores,” Stokes said.



THE SHOW MUST GO ON

HOW LOCAL ARTISTS HAVE CONTINUED TO CREATE DURING THE PANDEMIC



▼
Elijah Jalil glances at the sky during an outdoor practice session in Silver Park for his performance at KBGA radio's Birthday Bash. The festival was live streamed in early September due to COVID-19. Before his album "Nothing to Say," dropped in September, Jalil also performed on a bus for Mountain Line's streaming sessions and filmed socially-distant music videos. (For more on Jalil, read "The Art of Resistance," September 14, 2020) **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Visitors peruse a snake sculpture at the Clay Studio of Missoula in early November. Post-baccalaureate UM artists displayed their ceramic works during an end-of-semester show. Arrows on the ground marked the recommended path that viewers could take to socially distance and flow through the studio to look at the pieces. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Over the course of the semester, Kaimin photographers have documented Missoula's art scene, on and off campus, as it adapts to pandemic setbacks and regulations. From livestream concerts to art exhibitions, we've seen these adaptations in play. The Kaimin multimedia team has curated the following portraits as a testament to the resilience of local artists.



In early September, Sarah Schaeffen, left, and her husband, Peter, lead a small group in rhythm in Silver Park. The Schaeffens own Sacred Ally, an "empowerment arts" center, and this was their first Full Moon Drum Circle since COVID-19 hit Montana. They began the event by drumming together. Soon, four other drummers joined. "It's nice to have people connect," Peter said. "It makes a sense of community." (For more on Sacred Ally, read "Drum circle channels lunar rhythm," September 8, 2020) **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



► A performer at the Zootown Cabaret wipes down the microphone stand after singing at the outdoor concert outside of the Prescott House in early October. Performers wore masks during the show and wiped down the microphones and stands, and the audience sat on the grass socially distanced. (For more on Zootown Cabaret, read "The show goes on for Zootown Cabaret," October 7, 2020) **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



► In late August, Callie Woodman, left, and her husband, Chris, members of the local band, Good Old Fashion, play in a Mountain Line bus in Caras Park. Mountain Line's Electric Stream Sessions festival live streamed bus-based concerts to a virtual audience. The Woodmans' appearance was their first gig back. However, Chris said he understood the challenges other bands have faced during the pandemic. "Had we been trying to play gigs, it would've been tough," he said. The Mountain Line Livestream served as a replacement for the River City Roots Festival, which usually draws thousands of people. (For more on the livestream, read "Mountain Line Electric goes acoustic," September 3, 2020) **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

◀ The Zootown Cabaret performs for a socially-distanced and masked audience outside of the Prescott House in early October. “We found music from composers that we weren’t very familiar with or familiar with at all,” Dr. David Cody said. Cody founded the cabaret and is the coordinator of musical theater in the School of Music at UM. (For more on Zootown Cabaret, read “The show goes on for Zootown Cabaret,” October 7, 2020) **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



◀ The Norwell Band performs at Food for Your Ears, a socially-distanced concert and fundraiser, at Phyllis Washington Park Amphitheater in late September. It featured a multitude of local musicians, including The Fertile Crescent, Cosmic Sans, Emzee & Silas, Norwell Band and Elijah Jalil. The event raised enough money to provide more than 110,000 meals to Montanans in need. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**



▶ Ceramics students, separated by plexiglass dividers, work in UM’s Art Annex, separated by plexiglass dividers installed by maintenance. Due to the large class size and open workspace in the studio, the dividers were placed on the tables and between sides of the sinks, each student has access to disinfectant and their own labeled bin in which to keep their materials. Professor Julia Galloway praised UM maintenance staff for helping to make the studio accessible during the pandemic. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

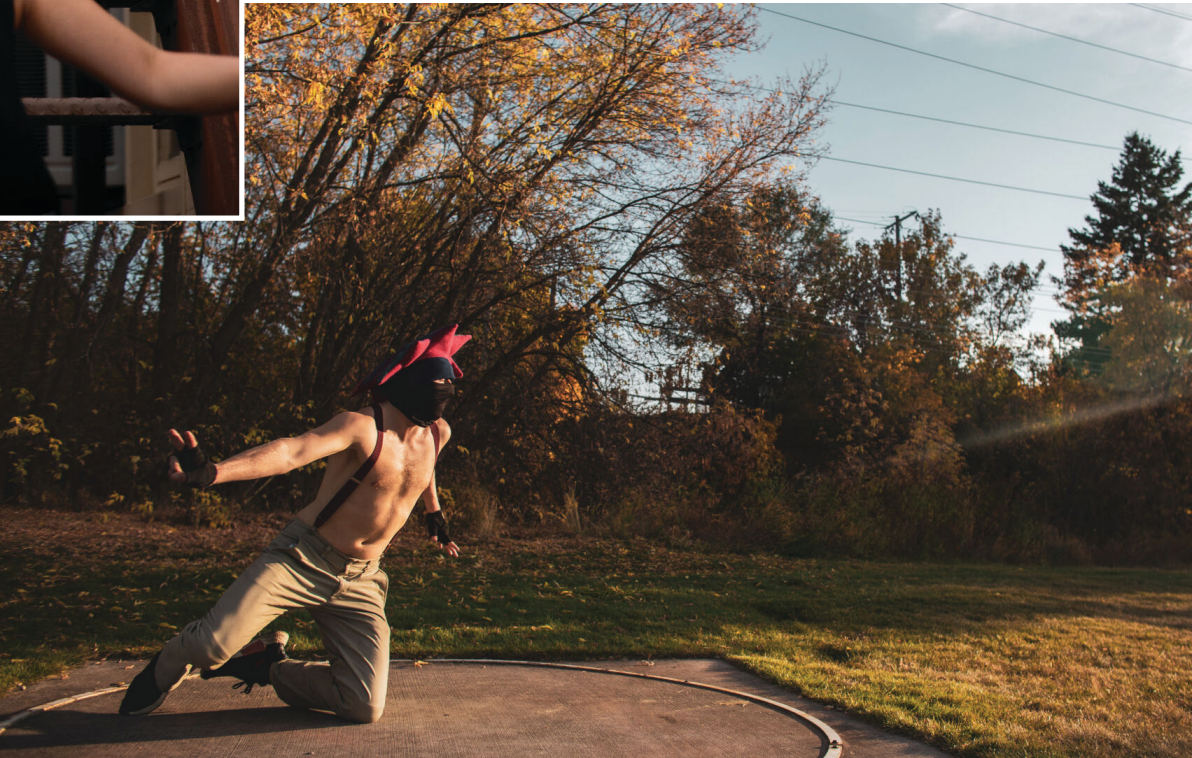


▶ As part of Dance on Location, UM dancers Ashley Lindgren, top, Renee Ross, middle, and Rebecca White, bottom, perform a piece titled “Internal Scream” on the east side of the Social Sciences Building. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

▶ UM dancer Augustus Ballantine performs in the Dance Underground concert in Toole Park in early October. Dance Underground was pre-recorded, then streamed online to ticket holders as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19, rather than the typical format for a dance concert. (For more on Dance Underground, read “Dance Underground’ to surface in video form,” October 11, 2020) **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**



▶ UM dancer Maeve Fahey leans against a pillar on the south side of the Clapp Building at the beginning of her piece, “Sanctuary,” in the Dance on Location series. The dance was part of the annual Dance on Location performance, put on by the Creative Practice I class at the University of Montana. The dancers wore masks, as did the audience. The masks, in addition to the outdoor venue and locations that made social distancing easy allowed the concert to be COVID-19 safe.(For more on Dance on Location, read “Dance on Location’ explores campus nooks and crannies,” September 22, 2020) **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**



UM Post-Baccalaureates ceramic art display’s quiet opening night

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With the sun fading fast, the warm light shining on the lonely ceramic art began to seep into five empty folding chairs that congregated outside of the Clay Studio of Missoula. The chairs were supposed to be filled with the many people who would attend the exhibition, but all that sat there was the disappointment of yet another beautiful thing falling prey to COVID-19.

The University of Montana’s post-baccalaureate ceramics program hosted its opening reception of the “Enouement” fall exhibition at the Clay Studio of Missoula on Friday, with a small attendance during the three hours it was open to the public.

The one-room display would be tight in normal circumstances, but COVID-19 made the small art studio seem that much smaller. The studio offered hand sanitizer upon entering, and people were required to put on masks before taking the first step in the building.

Arrows on the floor directed the viewers to remain COVID-19 friendly, though only a few people stood in the studio. One side of the floor featured larger pieces in their own respective corners, while the other featured smaller pieces crammed and mixed together on shelves.

On the right wall was a display of pots painted a rusted silver, shaped like wheels of metal meshed with gears. A life sized, two-headed black and white snake slithered in place on the middle wall, with a single red fishnet on its body. In the middle of the room was a blue peacock made partially out of clay and partially out of what looked to be pieces of a bathrobe.

The turnout was lower than expected, said Brady Monk, the artist behind the “Stoneware” display in the corner of the main room. Monk’s work is among that of eight other post-baccalaureate artists who were given the opportunity to participate in the “Enouement” display.

Monk said his art is not at all visually inspired by the events of COVID-19. But as an artist, his vision for his pieces was revamped after the initial hit of the pandemic in March.

“The concept started before the pandemic, but was not finished until we could get back to the studio,” Monk said.

The pandemic has not necessarily taken a toll on the art per se, but rather the artist,



Ceramic pieces made by University of Montana post-baccalaureate students line the shelves at the Clay Studio of Missoula during their show on Nov. 6, 2020. Several students displayed a range of work from mugs, bowls and flasks to larger sculptures mounted on the walls. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

said Trey Hill, an associate professor of arts at UM. Hill teaches two ceramics classes and a sculpture class at UM. He also helps the post-baccalaureate students facilitate their work and the exhibition they opened on Friday.

The process to get artists back into the studio and working like they did before the pandemic has been difficult, Hill said. “It’s easy during this time to sit on the couch and let the time pass,” he said. “But these artists are actually taking advantage of it and making thoughtful, strong, well-made work.”

Some of the event’s artists said their art does not directly pull inspiration from the struggles of the pandemic, but Hill said many current ceramics students are using the pandemic to influence the message behind their art.

“I think it’s good. Make work about

what you see, make work about the experiences you are having,” Hill said.

Some students found inspiration from the pandemic, but others have struggled, not only to find a place to continue working, but also the motivation to create the meaningful work they’ve wanted to make.

Three plates float to the left of the two-headed snake in the heart of the exhibition. Each plate displays a different cat, each with a price tag of \$50. The artist, Nicolle Hamm, is a 2020 UM graduate of Fine Arts with a focus in ceramics.

When the pandemic forced UM to close during the month of March, Hamm was in the middle of her BFA exhibition pieces. They were set to be on display in April of 2020, when the school cut the cake and shut down the ceramic studio for all the artists.

“I basically stopped working for about

a month,” Hamm said. “Everyone was depressed when we got kicked out of the studio.”

When August came around, Hamm, now graduated, said all of the post-baccalaureates flooded to the studio to cram in work for the art on display in “Enouement” and get their craft back in action.

“I think that all of us are thinking that at any time we could get kicked out again,” she said.

Though the opening night wasn’t as lively as hoped, Hill said he is still hopeful for the future of these artists.

“I’m really proud of them in the way that the students came to play here and lean into these hard times,” he said.

The “Enouement” exhibition will remain open Nov. 6 to 21, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m Saturday.



Montana Kaimin reporter Clarise Larson holds her embroidery project made during the Calm and Crafty night hosted every Thursday night on Zoom by the Student Involvement Network. Participants picked up embroidery materials at the ASUM office and followed along with the Zoom class to make the craft.

CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

‘Calm N’ Crafty’ Zoom event passes vibe check

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With finals week creeping unwelcomingly closer, many people look to find relaxation in things: TikTok, drugs, alcohol, YouTube, alcohol, Netflix, music, alcohol, etc. But if you’re looking for a way to relax that does not involve a headache in the morning or hours of screen time at night, perhaps “Calm N’ Crafty” is for you.

The University of Montana’s Student Involvement Network hosted its first of three “Calm N’ Crafty” Zoom events last Thursday evening. The network started the crafting series to give people a healthy outlet to relieve stress during the end of the semester. The three-week series features sunset embroidery, Macramé key

chains, and fringe wall hangings.

Before hopping onto a Calm N’ Crafty Zoom meeting, the participants must stop by the Associated Students of the University of Montana headquarters in the University Center to pick up the goods in their individual brown paper bags. This week, upon opening the brown paper bag, there were three sets of earthy-like colored string, a needle, cloth for embroidering, and a wooden-circle hoop. The hoop itself was about the size of a pickle jar lid (ASUM really spent the big bucks out here) big enough to display on a shelf, but probably not welcomed on a blank wall.

The Zoom call consisted of 10 women. It felt like a ladies’ night out. The host of this event was Sabine Englert, a sopho-

more at UM. The craft of the night: sunset embroidery. Though, to be honest, it was whatever you damn well pleased to make, Englert said.

Englert did her best verbally and visually to teach the basics to the group. Sadly, most computer cameras suck at doing their job, so a lot of guessing had to be done. Nonetheless, the group prevailed with only minor hiccups and all was swell.

During the session, everyone collectively reminisced about the times when gatherings like this were not through a screen. The mood of the Zoom call was comforting and forgiving. Many—if not all—of the participants had never held a needle in their life, but all smiled and laughed off any mistakes that were made.

During the individual crafting, Englert muted herself and encouraged the group to play whatever music or podcast comforted them the most.

By 8 p.m., everyone in the group had made an outline at least. The beauty of embroidery is you can spend as little or as much time as you like, Englert said. The call ended with friendly waves, and hopes to come for the following week’s craft.

The “Calm N’ Crafty” series will continue through the fall semester. The next craft will be key chains at 7 p.m. Thursday, followed by fringe wall hangings on Nov. 19. Head to ASUM for your free crafts and plop on Zoom if you are stressed and want to spend your time with good people and good vibes.

'Let Him Go' is a slow burn, but the resulting embers are worth it

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Fair warning before you see "Let Him Go:" Part of it takes place in Montana. And its director, Thomas Bezuca ("Big Eden") isn't from Montana. You will constantly be reminded of those facts as the screen drowns you in country drawls, rustic family diners and some old-fashioned "Aw, shucks, why don't you come down to the ranch sometime?" feels.

This pandering takes some getting used to, as does the first half of "Let Him Go." The frustratingly slow pace made me wonder if Rotten Tomatoes made a typo when it labeled the film a thriller. But once that second half kicks in, audiences will wake up to exhilarating action and gut-punching family drama.

Ranchers Margaret and George Blackledge (Diane Lane and Kevin Costner, respectively) have just lost their son (Ryan

Bruce) in a horse-riding accident. Their daughter-in-law, Lorna (Kayli Carter), remarries into an abusive relationship, and soon she and her son are in the clutches of the infamous Weboy family. When the clan takes them to their home base in Nebraska, Margaret and George set out on a road trip to get their family back, by any means necessary.

And when I say road trip, I mean the kind where your iPad's dead, your siblings are fighting and there's still six hours to go. At least, that's what the first hour of the Blackledge's journey feels like. The couple literally and figuratively take too many detours, making pit stops and meeting new faces that won't contribute to the plot, if at all, until your bladder gives up. Lane and Costner's sophisticated performances are slight remedies, especially when many of the actors they stumble into look like they got straight C's in acting school.

But just when you're wondering if it's too late to catch the bus and finish that ethics paper you keep putting off, "Let Him Go" introduces you to its antagonists, the Weboy family. Their leader, Blanche (Leslie Manville), is the kick-ass villain I haven't seen on the screen in years. She relishes every evil deed and one-liner on screen, making for a blood-thirsty foe pulled straight from a Quentin Tarantino flick.

Fortunately, she's not the only thing carrying the second half. Some late-game, tear-jerking scenes may help the audience build a more intimate connection with the Blackledge couple's deep history of grief. Maybe they'll realize the slow scenes early on were meant to establish the loving relationship between Margaret and George, and make them give a shit about the rescue.

If not, who cares? The gun fights are awesome!



Listening to 'Disco' is like watching a popstar fail

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Do you know that feeling when a friend shows you a song they love and you pretend to like it so you can validate them? But then they take your lackluster enthusiasm as ardent devotion and make you listen to the entire record? And you're just sitting there wondering if this is what purgatory feels like?

That's what listening to Kylie Minogue's latest album "Disco" is like.

This may seem harsh if the only new Minogue music you've heard in the past year was her fantastic single, "Say Something," which was released as a groovy summer track in July. And it would be if "Disco" wasn't such a blood bath (you know, like Disco Bloodbath. We have fun here).

"Disco" is boring. There's no push and pull, no storyline, nothing to keep listeners engaged. Instead, it's a bunch of songs that sound like a middle-schooler attempting to belt out unreleased Lady Gaga hits

and doing it really, really badly.

"Disco" sounds like a pop record but in the worst ways. It's as if Minogue's producers combined all the standard pop formulas, like catchy choruses and simple verses or electro-dance influences, mashed them all together, and then threw the finished product through a meat grinder. It has no heart, and it leaves me feeling bad for Minogue, who was still a certified pop star in my mind up until my first listen.

The instrumentals try to get funky but never commit, leaving listeners in limbo. It's the feeling we get when we wait for the beat to drop in a song, but it never does.

We spend the first nine songs waiting for the record to match the energy of "Say Something." It never quite gets there, even with some standouts like "Dance Floor Darling" and "Till You Love Somebody." Those standouts work because they FINALLY match the energy we were expecting, instead of settling for low-tempo half-hearted tracks. But then those tracks finish, and it's almost like someone is mak-

ing fun of us. Giving listeners three songs that are good on a 16-track record feels a little sadistic, if we're being honest.

Minogue's 1980s emulation doesn't feel like she's reaching into a grab bag, trying to get something that might win her some praise. In fact, it sounds a lot more authentic than some of the synth-loving new artists who try to get us to jam with old techniques they don't really understand. And if Minogue's voice wasn't so lackluster, yet so prominent on the record, it might have made a bad record good.

Don't get it twisted, you don't need to be a superstar vocalist to be a talented artist. Autotune exists for artists who can't carry a tune in a bucket but are devoted performers or fantastic instrumentalists or casual visionaries. But Minogue's nasally voice gives listeners like me goosebumps, and not in a good way. "Disco" is a non-stop ode to bad vocals.

Maybe I'm not Minogue's intended audience with "Disco." But I also know that listening to this record in its entirety



shouldn't have felt like waiting in line at the DMV. And when I went back to listen to it again, I had to turn it off because it just left me feeling anxious and frustrated. That should never happen, even if I'm not a Kylie Minogue superfan.

The ballad of a sports-less sports reporter

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A question I probably should have considered before I signed on with the Kaimin is how to report on the lack of sports.

I've done well, considering the circumstances. Given that all fall sports have been canceled and all clubs and intramural teams are hanging on by a thread. But I feel like I've been deprived of the actual sports reporting experience, the same way everyone else has been deprived of their own sports experience.

I'm not writing about Griz wins or Griz losses. You don't get to read about how coaches feel after a victory. And aside from the reporting aspect, I'm missing out as a fan, the same as anyone else. I'm a sophomore, but it's my first year here on campus after a stint at community college. And I'm sure I'm not alone in saying I don't think there's been a worse year to start the real college experience.

Every Griz sports story we've published so far consists of phrases such as "when they can play." The Griz club baseball team is hoping to compete for a conference championship, when they can play. UM star Beatrix Frissell will be one of the best runners in the Big Sky for UM cross country, when she can run. UM linebacker Jace Lewis will look to prove he deserves that preseason defensive MVP honor he earned, when he can play.

When they can play.

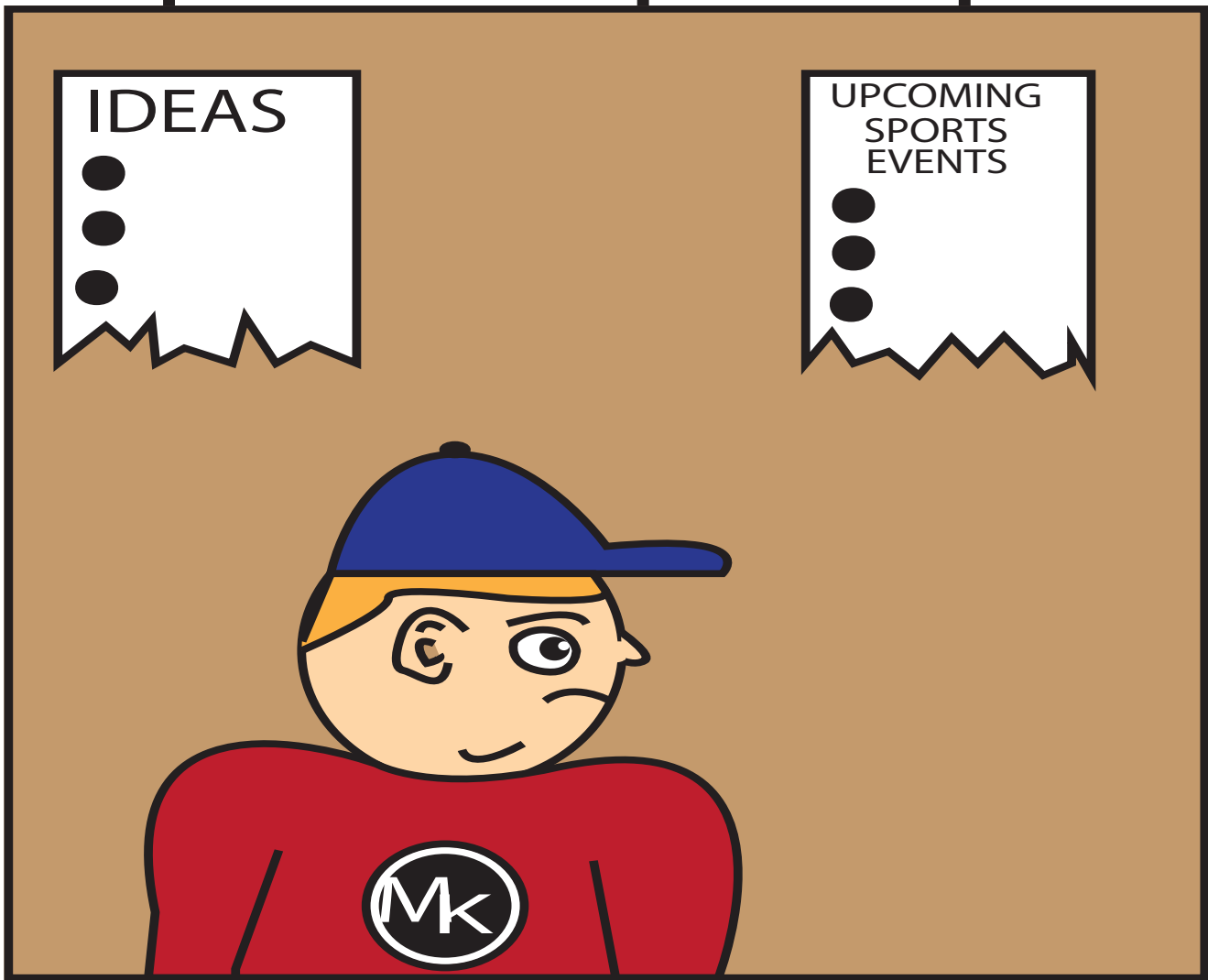
When can they play?

COVID-19 is a very real, very serious pandemic, and sports should undoubtedly take a back seat in times like these.

Keeping students safe should be the top priority, and if sports don't completely ruin that they're sure as hell not going to help it.

So I get it. We all get it. Everyone misses Griz football. But almost everyone understands that Griz football is not and should not be a priority right now. But more than a couple of times, I've asked myself if this was it. Is this the career I've been planning for years?

Which, the obvious answer to this question is, no, it's not. Sports are coming back, responsibly. Basketball is going to start up in about a month. I'll be able to do the type of reporting I've wanted to do for



JACK MARSHALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

a long time.

But to start out my career in a climate like this is disheartening. Even though things will be back to normal at some point, trying to get a foothold in a currently dead business has been difficult. Much like the athletes who I hope to report on at some point, I'm waiting with baited breath to see what happens next.

Not in the sense of "I can't find a job," because I found one, and I love it, but it's been difficult in the sense of me feeling like I'm not good at this. Week after week of clawing around for stories that have anything to do with sports in general, knowing that whatever I end up writing will almost certainly have the theme of

"everything is up in the air," and the guilty feeling I get telling my editor I have no idea what to write about this week takes a toll.

To feel like that, when you've spent years dreaming of an opportunity like this, is damn near crushing. I can't imagine our athletes feel much different.

I've told people the reason I'm studying journalism is because writing is the only thing I'm good at. It's partly a joke, but mostly not. So when the only thing I'm good at becomes a thing that I'm not very good at, I have to take a step back and evaluate.

Taking that step back usually leads me to think with logic rather than emotions,

which usually fuels thoughts like what I previously described. But when I think logically, things don't seem so bad. I don't know that I'm not good at this because I've barely done it. I should probably give myself some time before I declare that I'm a bust and I'm bad at writing and I should just give up. In short, I'll cut myself some slack.

Everyone has been affected by this virus. I fully acknowledge that not having stuff to write about is extremely low on the list of bad things stemming from COVID-19. And things will get better. I don't know when. But I have faith that they will. For all of us. And you know you'll see me at the next Griz Football game.

Pushing Boundaries. Highliners meet despite a canceled festival

JP EDGE

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Longtime Missoula highliner and adventure sport enthusiast Griffin Gilbert said he doesn't feel nervous right before he steps onto a highline.

Highlining is a newer sport evolved from slacklining, a discipline of climbing. It is done at extreme heights, anywhere from 50 feet to thousands of feet above the ground. The line is one inch in diameter, and flat to help with balance.

Around 12 highliners from Missoula and Idaho collaborated in the event, which took place near Lolo Hot Springs. Two lines were put up, one stretching 60 feet, the other over 150 feet long.

"Around this time last year we had an event with over 47 people over the weekend," Gilbert said. "But with the pandemic we had to push back the number of people."

Gilbert said he started highlining just before he moved to Missoula from North Carolina about seven years ago. With his graduation money, he bought his first highline. He was surprised to find very few highliners in the Missoula area, but the sport is growing.

"I take a lot of inspiration also from people here in the community that are doing the adventure of rock climbing down in the Bitterroots who are exploring things that have never been climbed before," Gilbert said.

He went on to describe some of the lines he has put up in the Bitterroot Mountains south of Lolo Pass, including Montana's longest highline in the Bass Creek drainage, that stretch over 800 feet.

The growing sport has also brought together many students here at the University of Montana. On any given sunny day on the Oval, students can be seen on slacklines stretched across trees, music playing, as other students pass by.

One of the students who stood up on the long, 150 foot highline on Sunday was senior Claire Steffe, who was introduced into slacklining on campus through a friend.

"I like slacklining because it makes me happy, and I've met many friends from it," Steffe said. "I like it because it gets me outside and active and I love the community."



TOP: University of Montana student, Kevin Benevides, carefully places his feet along the 60 foot high line. This was the second high line rigged during the gathering. BOTTOM: The organizer of the event, Griffin Gilbert, begins to walk the 150 foot high line. Gilbert has organized many of the high line gatherings and encourages participants of all skill levels to try. **EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN**