

MONTANA KAIMIN

A BLACK DIAMOND WINTER

SKI HILLS BRACE FOR A PANDEMIC SKI SEASON

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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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Community

Let's make some peace. Looking for students and faculty interested in joining a multi-campus virtual rosary prayer group. All are welcome. Call Fr. Chris 415-854-9900

JOURNALISM COURSES To Fulfill Gen-Eds



Media History & Literacy
Online - Winter, Face-to-Face - Spring
JRNL 100 HY

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Study journalism and get a great job.

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Come see us in DAH 201
umt.edu/journalism

A look at our source demographics

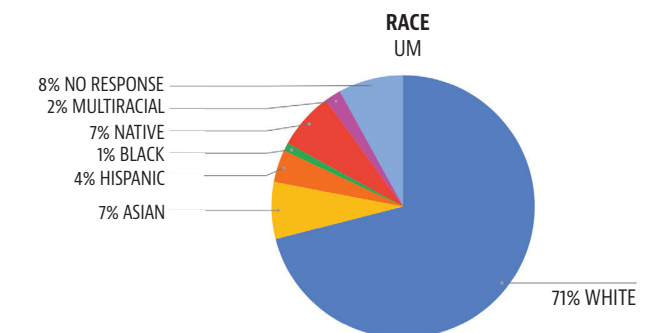
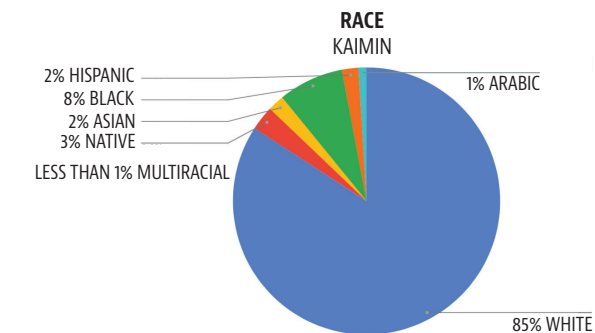
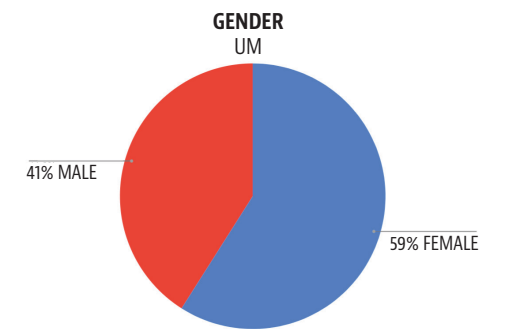
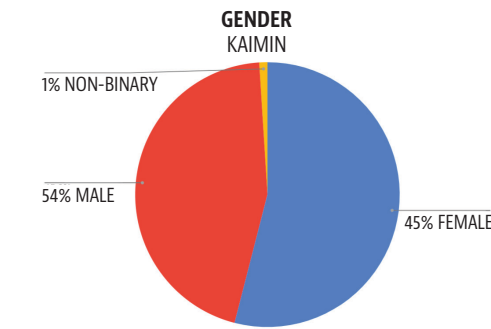
At the beginning of this semester, the Editorial Board published a racial equity action plan moving forward as a newsroom. One of our top goals was to conduct a diversity audit examining the race and gender breakdowns of sources we use in our stories. The results of this source audit are meant to help our newsroom in two ways. First, to give our staff and readers a definitive look at how the Kaimin has represented the campus community so far, and second, to offer our staff a metric from which to improve.

Our team read through 93 issues dating back to Autumn 2017 and analyzed who we've talked to and who we've photographed, and how that compares to UM's 2020 student enrollment demographics. **Here's what we found:**

- The Kaimin has under-represented our campus BIPOC community. While our demographics are similar to those of UM, the past four years of coverage still trends overwhelmingly white. UM's Native and Asian student population percentages in particular are much higher than the percentage of represented voices in the Kaimin.
- Our gender ratios are relatively even, with a slight lean toward male sources. This is a slight inversion to UM's ratio.

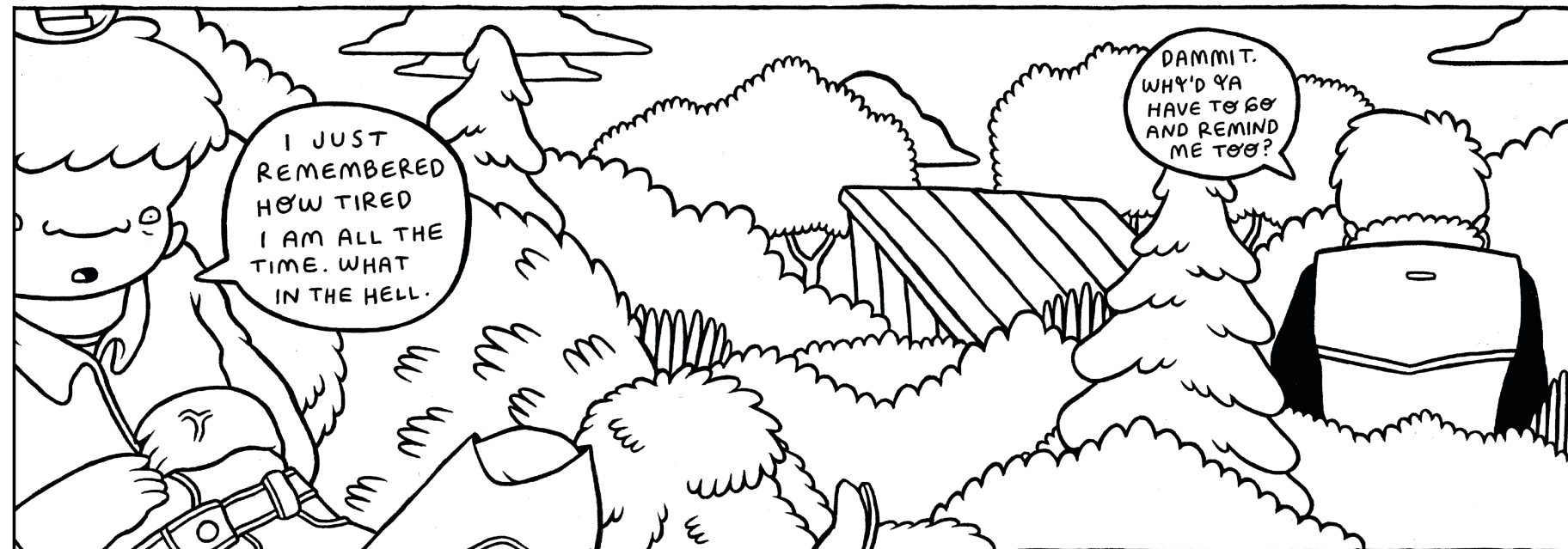
Our goal was to use this data as a tool to gauge how well we have represented our community. More importantly, it will help us identify where we need to improve moving forward.

As Editor-in-Chief, this semester check-in is important because it allows us a chance to start into Spring 2021 with tangible numbers showing us where we've been and how we can do better. As Editor, I want to do better. And I want the Kaimin to do better. We'll keep you updated as we go.



ERIN SARGENT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

KAIMIN COMIC



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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21st annual Can the Cats, Nov. 6th-20th

- Food donations will be accepted in the UC Game Room, Branch Center, Main Hall & all residence halls
- Cash donations will be accepted at all campus dining locations

Visit canthecats.com for a full schedule of events!

Briefs: Vaccines, Thanksgiving meals and winter markets

VACCINE HOPES RISE IN THE U.S.

As the cold weather and COVID-19 cases surge, multiple vaccines for coronavirus reported up to 94.5% effective, according to New York Times reporting. The virus kills more than 1,000 people every day as the U.S. is seeing its largest spike in cases since the pandemic started. The two companies to announce initial reports are Pfizer and Moderna. The Food and Drug Administration said that a vaccine needs to be at least 50% effective to be approved, and both are reporting much higher. The vaccines are still being reviewed, but researchers are optimistic that they could be widely available in the spring. There are also dozens of other researchers working to produce a vaccine as well, including the University of Montana's own Center for Translational Medicine. (Mazana Boerboom)

UM STUDENTS FUND 16,500 FEED MONTANA MEALS

UM Entertainment Management students spent the semester raising over \$5,500 for the Montana Food Bank Network, the

only statewide foodbank, according to UM News. The food bank works with 230 pantries, food banks and homeless shelters across Montana, and it will use the money raised by the entertainment management students to buy more than 16,500 meals for Montanans in need. The department split students into 10 groups that all brainstormed creative ways to fund-raise the money using their entertainment management skills. This is the fourth year the programs have joined forces. "Partnering with the Montana Food Bank Network really opened my eyes to the statistics of hunger in Montana," Sunshine



UM FOOD PANTRY MAKES THANKSGIVING GRAB BAGS

The University of Montana Food Pantry will be giving out grab-and-go Thanksgiving meal kits from Nov. 23-25. The bag will contain

Mohler, one of the students who worked on the project, said to UM News. "I found it interesting just how much people were willing to give to a great cause, even in the midst of a pandemic." (MB) things that come with a classic Thanksgiving dinner. This is the food pantry's second

MISSOULA WINTER MARKET OPENS IN MALL

The Missoula Valley Winter Market had its opening day Saturday. The market was in the Missoula Senior Center for its first six years and made its move to the Southgate Mall this year. It's open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdays through mid-April. The market is occupying the old Lucky's Market space that has sat empty most of this year. The new location gives the market enough space to spread out and take appropriate COVID-19 precautions while still selling the local goods. More information can be found on the market's Facebook page. (MB)

A Schitty horoscope, from us to you



NAT BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

ADDIE SLANGER

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As we finish the year in a desperate crawl, we can all rest easy knowing Thanksgiving is waiting for us around the corner. What better way to celebrate the best family holiday than with the most iconic family of 2020? While your household is hopefully less dramatic than our beloved Roses, let's see how you compare to the characters of "Schitt's Creek." **SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):** Scorpios, don't lie to us. You'd love to one day live in a barn away from society and harvest pine cones. You are Mutt Schitt. **SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22):** Sags, you're unpredictable and more than a little unstable. You and your God-complex are perfectly suited for David Rose. Like David, you were most likely dressed by your parents into your teens and bedazzled things well past a socially-acceptable age. **CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19):** Oh Caps, our stoic and steadfast parental friend of the Zodiac. Nothing makes you happier than balancing a budget or organizing a spreadsheet. Johnny Rose would be proud to know he's assigned to you. **AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** Mysterious. Edgy. Closed-off. Aquarians, of course you're Stevie Budd. That's an honor. **PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):** You beautiful, emotional idiots are, undoubtedly, Twylla Sands. Full of sage wisdom often offset with frank sincerity, we couldn't pair our favorite waitress with any other sign. **ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):** Okay, Aries, we feel

like this one is obvious. You're Ronnie. You don't put up with bullshit, you're overly competitive and you probably have a great acapella voice. And while you may be intimidating at first, inside we know you're all big teddy bears. **TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):** Taurus, your practicality, ambition and off-putting self-confidence makes you a Patrick Brewer through-and-through. How does it feel to be the most beloved character, you walnuts? **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):** Afraid of commitment and averse to labels? Check and check. A little bit mysterious? Yep. By our calculations, that makes you Jake (you know, the one who pulls David AND Stevie?). **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** Your sensitivity and loyalty make you Ted Mullens. And don't get us started on your love of puns. But you're never half-hearT-ED in anything you do, just like him. **LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):** Hey you dramatic, self-obsessed main characters. As the theater kids of the Zodiac, you can't be surprised we're giving you Moira Rose. You continue to rock onward and upward. We love you, bébés. **VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):** There is no character more perfectly suited for you than Joslynn Schitt. Responsible, inclusive, sweet—and possessing that little, mysterious edge. Just enough that people are slightly scared of you and your pink satin hair scarf. **LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** Ew, David! Don't think we'd assign you Libras with anyone other than Alexis Rose. You're icons, just like her. And if you, too, one day "just go for bubble tea" with Adam Levine? We'd love that journey for you.

Blotter: Stealing spree, parking lot donuts and a stolen TV

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Since last week's blotter, UMPD reported 17 crimes in and around campus. Five bike thefts took the top offense of the week, but cases ranged from bear catching to assisting the U.S. marshals with an arrest. In an update to last week's blotter, the FBI has yet to respond to the University's request to determine whether stickers found on campus could be classified as a hate crime.

11/6 BIKE-STEALING SPREE

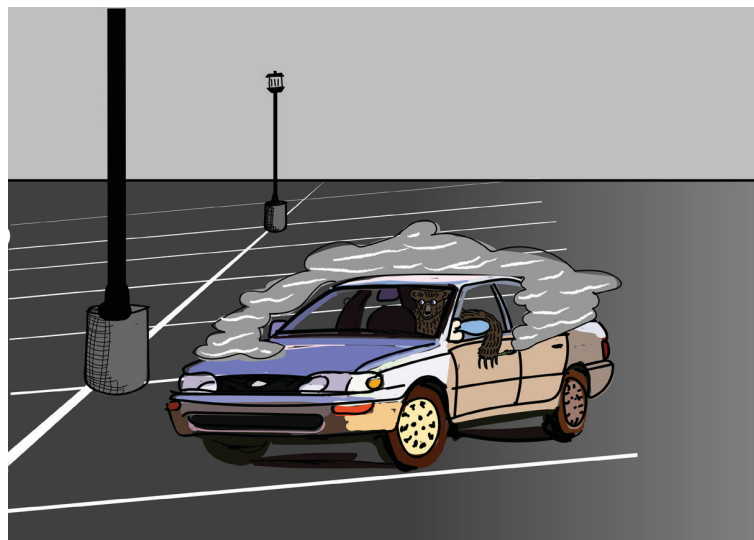
Three bikes bit the dust in a period of just 12 hours at the music building, the social sciences building and the Lommasson Center. One of the bikes was snatched within an hour after the owner left it, and the owner did not have a serial number to submit the expensive cycle to a national database. UMPD said bikes should be locked with a steel U-lock, which can be purchased from the Facility Services building.

11/7 PARKING GARAGE DONUTS

Officers responded to the top floor of the University parking garage to find a car drifting around the lot on fresh snow with a skier towed by a rope on the end. According to UMPD Lt. Brad Giffin, the garage is a hotspot for tearing up fresh pow' and it is all monitored by camera. UMPD caught people there three different times last week and warned them to take their snow escapades elsewhere.

11/10: FOOD TRUCK TV

Remember when UM had its own campus dining food truck? Me neither, because the truck has sat out of commission for the last couple years in the Facility Services secured parking lot. When officers checked on the truck last week, they found someone stole the TV off the side of the truck, but they have no idea when. The crime could have occurred at any point from January to last week. There are no suspects in the case. UMPD estimated the TV cost \$400.



COLTON ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

11/11 GREEN CARD

Officers responded to Lewis and Clark late at night after a concerned student saw a very hotboxed car in the parking lot. When UMPD arrived, they confirmed the car was in fact boxed, but the owner of the car

supplied a green card, which allows them to legally possess marijuana for medicinal use. Officers warned the late night toker and made them drive off campus to continue their boxing.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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55	56	57					58		59		60			
61							62		63					
64							65				66			
67							68				69			

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- ACROSS**
1 Vehicles for hire
5 Windows predecessor
10 Literary lioness
14 Friend in war
15 Without delay
16 Prom goer
17 Romantic setups
19 Police, slangily
20 Soldier with a spear
21 Ordering option
23 It may be bitter
24 First ____
26 Doomsayer's sign
27 Like some gains
30 Horse's tidbit
33 Comment on, in a way
35 Ballroom dance
37 Overhead items
38 Smallest in size
41 Working stiff
42 Barn bundles
44 Era that began in 1957
46 "____ takers?"
47 Loffiest
50 Salty drop
51 Thanksgiving serving
52 "Poison Arrow" band
55 Flowering vine
59 Man of the cloth
61 Alert
62 Writing desk
64 Ship of Greek myth
65 Linus' younger brother
66 Andy's radio partner
- DOWN**
1 Knitting stitch
2 Detective
3 Pinkerton
3 Extremely
4 Lip-____
5 Baroque tune
6 Hot spot
7 Numbers to crunch
8 Leopardlike cat
9 Bagel variety
10 Wharton's "____ Frome"
11 Salacious look
12 Musical chairs goal
13 Part of a pot
18 Gave out
22 Word on a penny
25 Lavish affection (on)
28 Misplace
- ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD:**
S T A B C R A P S R U S T
T I M E H E L E N O N T O
O B I T E L I T E S N A G
L I S T P R I C E T I A R A
E A S E L S E R P E N T
R O T H P I S U S A
A R R O W S T A T T E R E D
B E E F H A U N T M A R A
E D I F Y I N G E M B L E M
T O N E R A I D E A
S A L T P A N A R G O T
A C T U P H A L F T R U T H
B R A N M O R A L A S H Y
B U T T C R O W E S T E M
A X I S M A N S E S O R E



NAT BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

Note taking software could soon be gone for many

JACOB OWENS

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Access to Sonocent, the little-known audio note-taking software, could be reduced to only a small portion of the University of Montana as soon as next fall if more people don't find it.

Sonocent is software produced by a company in the United Kingdom that allows students to catalog their notes. UM began its pilot program of the software with 30 students in the fall of 2017.

"The real issue is not the software, it's just getting the word out," said Timothy McHenry, the assistive technology coordinator for Disability Services for Students (DSS).

McHenry examined the software in 2015 before it was brought to UM through the purchase of individual licenses by DSS. McHenry said as demand grew, the department purchased a site license for the software, which provides 5,000 licenses for individuals and 5,000 for labs.

The cost is covered by the student computer

fee and DSS, but if the break-even point is not reached by the end of spring 2021, McHenry said the software would likely return to being purchased via individual licenses, primarily for DSS students.

He said his last tabulation revealed 40% of students using Sonocent are not in DSS.

Sonocent has four panes: images, reference, text and audio. The image pane is where students can upload slides from presentations, PDFs and images to go with typed notes and information in the reference and text panes.

The audio pane contains recorded files that have been uploaded in the system or recorded by the program, but it does not provide transcriptions. The pane splits audio into chunks that can be deleted, reorganized and color coded so students can focus on certain parts of a lecture.

Emma Kiefer, a first year graduate student in UM's Environmental Studies program, began using Sonocent last fall when McHenry presented Sonocent and its condensed and cloud-

based counterpart, Glean, to the Associated Students of the University of Montana senate.

Kiefer used Sonocent to keep up with her heavy workload.

"This is different than just your regular audio recorders because you can get kind of a map after you listen to your lecture, and see where you marked important information, or audio to delete or audio you didn't understand the first time around," Kiefer said.

Kiefer does not currently use Sonocent due to increased remote learning this semester and having more discussion-based graduate courses.

Carol McKenzie, a third year pharmacy student, used Sonocent for the last three years, but has not used it this semester because many of her classes are recorded via Zoom or mp3.

McKenzie said it's an excellent program for in-person courses. She'd often use Sonocent to download PowerPoints and then record the lecture.

Whether Sonocent will be widely avail-

able when in-person teaching fully returns is unclear.

McHenry said the department has distributed roughly 300 licenses this semester, 33 short of the break-even point for the annual cost of the site license.

Sonocent is currently being tested on Moodle, which, once completed, could increase the visibility of a software McHenry describes as a "study center" without the time constraints of a classroom.

"With Sonocent I can go back and I can actually relive the moment," he said. "I can say, 'Well I need this, I don't know this, I need work here, I don't need work here.'"

Kiefer said Sonocent is one of several accessible technologies at UM that should be more widely promoted and encouraged by faculty and the University.

"I think this software is a really great start to accessibility at UM, and I wish that UM was giving more attention and publicity to the program," Kiefer said.

Fitting the pandemic: Behind the scenes with UM Theatre

CLARISE LARSON

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University of Montana's Theatre and Dance program had its entire student body building scenes and designing costumes that would be used in its fall semester performances, until COVID-19 hit. Everything required major changes in order to bring shows to life this semester. Now the program looks to the future in order to prepare for the spring semester's performance.

The scene-design crew managed to keep busy, but in a completely different way from years before, scene shop manager Brian Gregoire said.

The team built 27 saw horses, tap squares for socially distant dancing, a mountain of suitcases for a "Dance Up Close" performance and other smaller projects for either personal or small scale events, Gregoire said.

"If you boil it down, instead of large scale scenery, it equates to smaller individual projects. More project-based than production-based," Gregoire said.

The crew only built about 5% of the typical amount they usually make in a year for theater props, Gregoire said.

Dance became the primary focus for prop production, with the crew making more this year than ever before. Gregoire said the reason was the way the performances were structured: Theater was almost all on Zoom, while dance was filmed in the Masquer Theatre or outside.

The dance program was able to use the Masquer Theatre because its performances were mainly solos. The theater program, however, was left to its own devices to figure out how to make a production with multiple people.

For the fall semester productions, Zoom was the only option that seemed safe and doable, associate professor of scenery and costume design Alessia Carpoca said.

Zoom has been a blessing, but also a downfall, Carpoca said. Having the production all online allowed it to happen in the most COVID-19 safe environment, but it also meant sacrificing many things that made the plays in the past so special.

In years past, students came together to hand-make costumes for cast members. Now, fittings happen on Zoom. And many costumes are ordered online from Amazon.

"It was convenient in the way that we could order from Amazon, but the problem came when we tried to do fittings," Carpoca said. "We cannot do that anymore [in person]. We can't physically touch the performer right now."

The decided process was not ideal, Carpoca said. First, the actor would try on the costume

while on Zoom with the students. Next, once the students had some idea of what needed to be altered, the costumes were sent to the costume shop. Finally, they would sit for three to five days before being touched, to make sure they were COVID-19 safe.

"To let the bugs die," Carpoca said jokingly.

It's been a learning process, Carpoca said, but many students are doing their best to adapt.

"It's kinda hard to fit yourself," said Ember Cuddy, a theater design and technology major. Normally students would be learning how to draft patterns and make costumes for other people. Instead, Cuddy is designing a t-shirts.

"It's fun, but it's kinda weird," Cuddy said.

Costume shop supervisor Paula Niccum reflected on the past semester, saying everyone in the program learned more than they ever had. The student experience had been a combination of regular curriculum and adaptation in light of the pandemic.

Looking to the future, Niccum and Carpoca have used what they learned to come up with a solution to the issues they faced while recording and teaching over Zoom.

"Our first show, 'She Kills Monsters,' was all on Zoom and recorded from the actors' homes," Carpoca said.

"It's hard to control sound and light quality in a dorm room," Niccum said. "We wanted more control for better lighting and prop-set up."

The solution to that problem did not come until all productions were over, but Niccum said she thinks it's going to work.

The solution is simple: Create a makeshift studio where audio and lighting can be controlled, and is also COVID-19 friendly.

The makeshift studio takes place in the trap room. No, not a room where the theater program keeps its enemies. It's the room under the trap door on the stage. The room is also home to as many pieces of clothing as the eye can fathom.

The studio will be built in the corner of the room surrounded by colorful jackets and boots of all sizes. Here, actors can book the space to record their performances for the play instead of at home.

The studio will not be available until next semester, but it gives hope to both Carpoca and Niccum for more controlled and quality performances for the spring semester.

"Our take [on COVID-19] is like everyone else: We don't like it, but we're going to create something anyway," Carpoca said.



Desiree Westenkow holds a tap square that was made for socially-distanced tap dancing on Nov. 12, 2020. Set design projects like this have shifted from large scale collaborative pieces to more personal individual projects due to COVID-19. MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

A BLACK DIAMOND WINTER

SKI HILLS BRACE FOR A PANDEMIC SKI SEASON

STORY BY MARIAH THOMAS

AND

PHOTOS BY SARA DIGGINS

Henry DeLuca, an avid skier and the president of the University of Montana's Ski and Snowboard Club, felt the itch to get out in the snow on a chilly recent Wednesday. Powder blanketed the ground in Missoula, and ski trails left tracks down Mount Sentinel.

For local skiers and snowboarders, the powder was an invitation to get out for the first time this winter. DeLuca and a few friends drove up to Marshall Mountain. Meteorologists had predicted a La Niña winter, meaning optimal skiing conditions.

DeLuca, who joked that he's been skiing "since he could walk," loves the joy and camaraderie the sport brings.

"I think it's just a great way of self-expression and creativity," he said.

In Montana, skiing and snowboarding usually dominate outdoor sporting from November to March. But like all aspects of life this year, winter sports will have to change, and skiers will assume a shared responsibility of keeping the community safe and healthy.

The National Ski Areas Association has recommended that ski areas make plans to deal with COVID-19. Best practices include requiring masks in both indoor and outdoor spaces, social distancing, disinfecting surfaces and communicating these plans to the public. Ski areas near Missoula seem to be adhering to these guidelines, but to varying degrees.



FAST MOUNTAIN FACTS

SNOWBOWL

30 MINUTE DRIVE NORTH

\$653 COLLEGE, \$717 REGULAR

VERTICAL FEET: 2,600

LOOKOUT PASS

ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTE DRIVE WEST

\$139 COLLEGE, \$449 REGULAR

VERTICAL FEET: 1,150

DISCOVERY

ONE HOUR AND 35 MINUTE DRIVE EAST

\$450 COLLEGE, \$575 REGULAR

VERTICAL FEET: 2,388

LOST TRAIL

ONE HOUR AND 50 MINUTE DRIVE SOUTH

NO COLLEGE PASS, \$574 REGULAR

VERTICAL FEET: 1,800

GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

MONTANA SNOWBOWL

For avid skiers like DeLuca, it is important to know the new guidelines, and how to keep outdoor communities as safe as possible, even in the midst of COVID-19.



When the pandemic began in March, Snowbowl, along with other ski resorts in the area, shut down to stop the spread of the virus.

Now, as Snowbowl looks toward the winter, its owner, Brad Morris, said the resort will open without any limit on the number of people allowed on the ski hill.

"We have lots of capacity," he said.

The indoor spaces, however, including the ski lodge and shop, will operate in line with health department regulations. While Snowbowl is still planning to offer ski classes and gear rental, it is asking that people complete transactions online as much as possible.

In outdoor areas, Snowbowl will request that people mask up in lines and

maintain social distancing, consistent with national recommendations.

Despite these changes, Morris said that students at the University of Montana who take the ACTivity class in collaboration with Snowbowl will still have a mostly normal experience.

The students enrolled in this class ski and snowboard for credit, with six opportunities to visit the hill during the spring semester. The class is taught by Snowbowl instructors, and there are fees for equipment rental. Snowbowl also offers an ACTivity course that teaches UM students how to be ski instructors.

The director for ACTivity, Chris Riley, said fewer students will get to participate this year because classes have been capped at 42 students due to COVID-19.

Riley also said the class may be terminated before the spring semester begins if coronavirus rates become worse in the state. In that case, students would receive a full refund on tuition and fees.

"We want to make sure that we can offer a high-quality class, but if we can't do it in a safe manner, then there's no point," Riley said.



**"I THINK IT'S JUST A GREAT WAY OF SELF-EXPRESSION AND CREATIVITY."
- HENRY DELUCA**

When Snowbowl closed early in the spring, UM's Ski and Snowboard Club had to wind down its activities.

"At that point, it wasn't as normalized as it is now," DeLuca said. "Snowbowl closing was a big deal last year."

With the main hill closed, UM's Ski and Snowboard Club had to wind down its activities. This semester, the group has only held two outdoor, socially-distanced events. But DeLuca said the club is still planning to meet and ski together as much as possible in the spring.

"What I'm most worried about is getting people rides," DeLuca said, since carpooling is by its nature not socially distanced.

Since the club started in 2018, DeLuca said, carpooling has been an important group activity, especially for freshmen who do not own cars. But this year, "It's a risk we're all running every day," he said.

"What reducing that risk might look like is only having people who are already in close contact carpool together."

DeLuca is also worried that skiers will not have as much access to local hills this year due to coronavirus limits.

While Snowbowl does not have current plans to limit the number of people on the ski hill, other ski lodges in the area are making preparations for worst case scenarios that could be presented in the winter with COVID-19. Namely, Lookout, a ski hill on the border of Montana and Idaho—and a student favorite.



LOOKOUT PASS SKI & RECREATION AREA

"We want to make sure that we can have a winter that is successful and safe," Matthew Sawyer, the director of marketing at Lookout, said.

This summer, Lookout had the benefit of hosting the Hiawatha Bike Trail, a 15-mile course. This experience taught the ski hill how to keep people safe in the



SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN Henry DeLuca, president of the University of Montana Big Mountain / Freeride Club, glances up at the slopes.

best parts of the day is going to the bar with your friends at the end," DeLuca said.

Lookout has removed tables from the lodge to promote social distancing, and is asking customers to wash their hands frequently. Masks will also be required inside.

Lookout skiers will have to use their cars as lockers, instead of the units at the hill.

Lookout does still plan to offer seasonal and daily gear rentals.

Sawyer encourages skiers to enjoy Lookout whenever they can, but to avoid coming on a high-traffic day, like a weekend or holiday, if at all possible.

"I know it sounds silly, but one of the



DISCOVERY SKI AREA

Ciche Pitcher, the president of Discovery Ski Area in Philipsburg, said, "It's not going to be the same this year as it was last year."

Discovery has closed its lodge—the biggest change so far, Pitcher said—and expects to lose money as a result. The lodge will only be open to those with private ski lessons or rental appointments. As for food, Discovery has implemented an online ordering system for pick-up from the lodge.

Nevertheless, Discovery anticipates a



SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN A sign posted in Gull Ski Shop on Nov. 11, 2020, reminds shoppers to maintain a distance of six feet from one another, which is considered the safe standard for social distancing.

busy ski season. Discovery will limit the number of people on the ski hill if COVID-19 gets worse in Montana, but season pass-holders will always be allowed, Pitcher said. While he doesn't expect any capacity issues on the hill, the parking lot is a limiting factor. Pitcher's biggest concern is that Discovery could see larger numbers of people than their parking lot is able to hold. Discovery has spoken with the forest service about these concerns, and plans to turn people away if the hill becomes overcrowded.

"I think that if we manage parking, other things will be in good shape," Pitcher said.



LOST TRAIL SKI AREA

Lost Trail, a hill in Sula, MT, opens Dec. 3, but could not be reached for comment. It does, however, list a COVID-19 plan on its website.

The plan is consistent with National Ski Areas Association recommendations. Lost Trail will require face coverings indoors, in all lines, during ski and snowboard lessons and while loading and unloading chairlifts. It also states, "If you arrive together, ride together," meaning one household unit per chairlift. Lost Trail plans to limit entry to its rental shops, and social-distancing guidelines will govern all indoor spaces. Like Lookout, Lost Trail asks that riders use their cars as a "personal lodge" for activities such as getting ready, consum-

ing food/beverage brought from home and taking breaks." The plan concludes: "We appreciate your cooperation as we ALL adjust to this temporary new normal."



While local ski areas may worry about their finances this season, Missoula's Gull Ski and Snowboard Shop is seeing double the sales of last October. "I think it's two things: time and mon-



SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN Henry DeLuca tries to pick up speed on the approach to make-shift rail at Marshall Mountain. DeLuca and a few members of the club managed to get in some early season turns and tricks after snow blanketed the nearby Marshall Mountain in over two feet of snow on Nov. 11.

ey," salesman Nathaniel Solberg said. Solberg, a ski expert, has worked at the shop for four years. He guessed that the increase in sales is due in part to the fact that people are working from home, and kids are only at school for half the week. "A lot of the sales we're seeing right now are families," Solberg said. Solberg said Gull has been selling a lot more weekday passes to local hills than usual. He also said he's seen many people buying two season passes, one each for Lookout and Snowbowl. "That money they'd usually spend—they can spend half that on a season pass," he said. Solberg has been surprised by how

much backcountry gear the shop has been selling. Gull is almost out of boots for women, and manufacturers are out of stock. He added that a new backcountry binding called "The Shift," which connects a ski boot to a ski, has been selling out quickly, despite its price tag of \$600. While these sales are good for business, Solberg worries that inexperienced skiers may be going off trail. He expects that search and rescue teams will have their hands full this year. Skiers new to backcountry, he said, should take an "avalanche one" course to learn basic safety measures. DeLuca echoed Solberg's concerns. He encouraged students who are considering

this option to go with friends, make sure they know what they are doing and invest in the proper gear. Hayden Blackford, a UM junior whose dad was a backcountry ski guide, said he noticed a lot more people out in the backcountry when local ski hills closed last spring, but wasn't worried. "Generally, I don't think people will buy the gear and make that investment without knowing their stuff first," Blackford said. "That'd be like going from zero to 100."



Last Saturday, Lookout opened for

the first time this season. DeLuca was thrilled, despite the changes COVID-19 will require. "What these limitations pose to us is different opportunities," DeLuca said. "Being outdoors and getting activity will help boost your immune system, and it's just a fun activity that people can enjoy," he added. Ski areas provide the solace of the outdoors that so many have sought during the pandemic. "As a ski industry as a whole, while things have been difficult, skiing can be kind of a respite," Pitcher, Discovery's president, said. "We're excited we can be a resource for communities going through

Shopping small is a lot easier than you thought

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What a shit show 2020 has been. Most people feel like they're running a race on a hamster-wheel, myself included. But there's one thing 2020 can't take away from us, and that's our holiday spirit.

Imagine: Hugs from your family, holiday food, time-honored traditions (like movie marathons while you try to avoid your high school ex). Makes your heart warm just to think about it, doesn't it?

Oh, and gifts. So. Many. Gifts. But if you're one of the 57.4 million Americans who filed for unemployment since the pandemic hit in mid-March (according to Forbes), the thought of buying gifts for your loved ones might seem more scary than joyful.

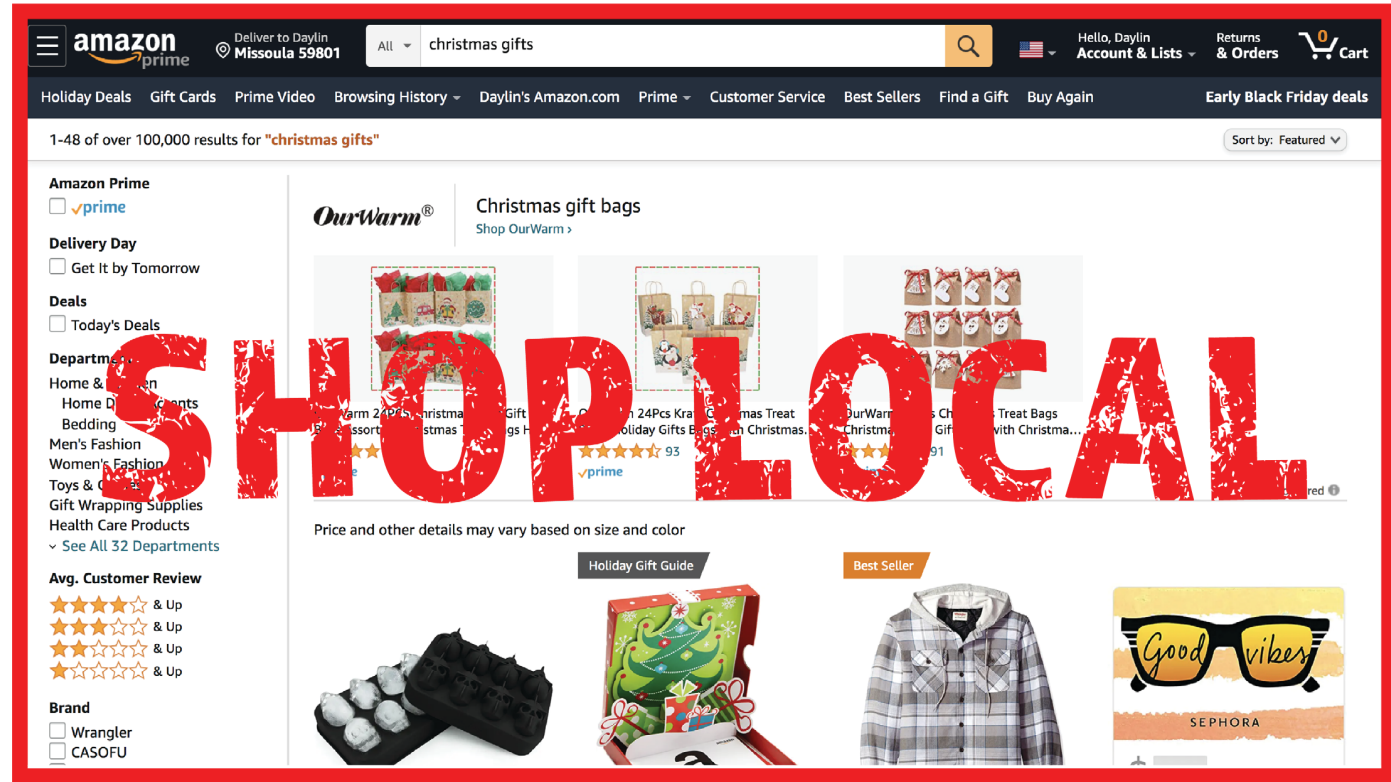
Let's face it, the holidays are expensive. The U.S. is consumerism-driven and we desire for more items than we need (or can afford). According to the American Psychological Association, a large culprit driving Americans' desire to buy comes from being surrounded by advertisements, whether they're popping up on phones or interrupting our favorite shows.

And you know whose advertisements I see the most?

Amazon's. If you've ever met me, you've no doubt heard me rail against the evil that is Amazon. Not only is it a monopoly that has crushed millions of small businesses, it's also notorious for treating its workers inhumanely. Thousands of workers have spoken about the mental and physical toll that comes with working for Amazon. Time Magazine reported that workers were only allowed to be "off-task" for 18 minutes in a 12-hour shift. That includes bathroom breaks, getting a drink of water or even walking slower than Amazon's algorithm wanted. Oh, and that doesn't include workers' 30-minute unpaid lunch break.

Conglomerates like Amazon don't treat their employees like they're human. And the only face we have for Amazon is Jeff Bezos, who became \$48 million richer from March to June. Bezos is literally profiting off a global pandemic.

Our cold hard cash is going straight to Bezos



DAYLIN SCOTT | MONTANA KAIMIN

when we buy from Amazon. Not to Amazon employees, who earn \$15 an hour for a job that makes them cry. And that, my friends, does not put me in the holiday spirit.

But lucky for us consumers, there's an alternate way to buy. And that way is small businesses.

Small businesses need our support more than ever. According to a study done by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 41% of small businesses had to close at some point during the pandemic. And with cases in Missoula rising, it's likely some businesses will have to close again in order to keep their employees and customers safe.

Walking into a local shop in Missoula feels like walking into a Norman Rockwell painting, but so much better. Being able to physically see who I'm supporting is magical. When I step into Ear Candy, I know that I'll be able to chat with employees about Nick Cave, Harry Styles

or Fleetwood Mac and leave with at least three used records for my collection.

When I go to Aporta, I know I'll leave with sustainably and ethically sourced products and be able to live out my hygge-dreams. And when I go to Betty's, I know the employees will tell me I look cute and I'll be able to pet Jethro, one of Missoula's favorite pet cats. And the best part is, I know my money is going to businesses who support the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ community.

It's not enough to say we support things like fair wages, land sovereignty and ethical production. We have to use our money to say it too.

It's more difficult to pick something out for a loved one when it's not coming off an Amazon wishlist. But it's worth it. And that personal touch doesn't go unnoticed.

Buying from local businesses doesn't need to be expensive either. A book from Shakespeare and Co. or a new tackle box from Grizzly

Hackle Fly Shop costs about the same as ordering it from Amazon. That grandpa-looking sweater your cousin sent you from Urban Outfitters? I can almost guarantee you'll find a better one from one of our many local thrift stores. And that \$60 macramé wall hanging? There are artists on Etsy who will sell you a better one for half the price. Yes, Etsy may still take a cut, but at least you'll be supporting creators individually.

When we buy from small businesses, we aren't blindly giving our money to a trillionaire. As cheesy as it sounds, we're supporting someone's dream. We're helping someone pay rent, put food on the table or send their kids to college.

If we truly want to be a collaborative and collective community, we need to support each other.

And maybe I'm a sap, but knowing I can give back in more ways than one does put me in the holiday spirit.

'Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Story' is a familiar, but lively musical extravaganza

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I never thought I'd nerdgasm watching a non-franchise, Netflix Christmas special. But when the ensemble belted the climactic melody "Make it Work," I couldn't help myself. The rhythmic hammer slams, the furious footwork and dynamic cinematography provided the wonder I experienced watching "Mary Poppins" for the first time.

As a musical-theater lover, it's been tortuous seeing inept directors fumble through number after number in their song-heavy offerings, from Guy Ritchie asking his actors to just walk and sing in the "Aladdin" remake, to Dexter Fletcher cramming Elton John tunes wherever they'll fit in "Rocketman."

But in just under four minutes, director David E. Talbert ("First Sunday") proves that staging an energetic, story-driven musical on the screen is still possible. And while nothing else in "Jingle Jangle: A Christmas

Story" quite reaches those heights, the film still makes for a charming adventure with some early Yuletide cheer.

The once great toy-maker Jeronicus (Forest Whitaker) has reduced his factory to a pawn shop decades after his former apprentice, Gustafson (Keegan Michael-Key), stole his book full of ideas and used it to build a manufacturing empire. To save his home from foreclosure, Jeronicus must make his last great idea: a flying robot called Buddy 3000. He'll need the help of his granddaughter/math whiz (Madalen Mills).

And, of course, he'll need to...believe ("pukes").

Thankfully, Talbert keeps the focus of the film on Jeronicus, not the cutesy kids or robots. The inventor's struggles with the loss of his craft and family allow the film to explore themes of depression and isolation, both of which are covered too little in family films.

The downside is that Talbert leaves the kids' movie clichés underdeveloped and doesn't find anything interesting to do with

them. Despite heavy build-up in the beginning and an energetic performance from Michael-Key, Gustafson doesn't get enough screen time to overcome the tired "greedy villain" trope. Buddy 3000, similarly, doesn't stand out from the umpteen other E.T.-like creatures that a little band of brats has to save.

But all is forgiven once the filmmakers bring those bopping musical numbers, courtesy of John Legend, Bruno Mars, collaborator Philip Lawrence and others, to life. No tune feels like a soundtrack obligation, but rather an integral part of the story that further develops the plot and characters.

The energy is heightened by lively choreography from "The Greatest Showman" alum Ashley Wallen. Talbert lets us absorb every minute of the theater-esque thrills, which is a breath of fresh air in an era of rushed, auto-tuned nightmares (Did I mention Guy Ritchie sucks at musicals?).

If you can stomach the clichés, give "Jingle Jangle" a try. If not, you're still required to download "Make it Work" on Spotify.



Paris Jackson joins the ranks of indie sad girls

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Sometimes, an album knocks you off your feet. And today, that album was "wilted," the debut from Paris Jackson. Yes, that Paris Jackson, the daughter of the late Michael Jackson.

From the opening notes of the first track, "collide," listeners are pulled into a drifting sense of relaxation. Gentle guitar muddles with mellow synth as Jackson starts to sing. And as she sings, it becomes crystal-clear that this isn't another celebrity's vanity album. Jackson's voice is smoothly melodic with just a hint of an edge as she fully puts on the beaten-up hat of a singer-songwriter.

But before we can get too comfortable with this softness, Jackson gradually increases her musical dimmer switch on the next track, "undone."

The tempo increases as a backing band comes in with piano, drums and all the other fixings. Jackson breathily sings about addiction, heartache and a longing for the past. It's the type of subtle pain that feels like a bruise, aching when it's least expected.

Jackson's hippy-dippy-let's-go-join-a-commune energy starts to shine through on "repair," matching the energy of the sad sun-

flower-eye that graces her album cover. We get hit with alien synth and noises that could be wailed out in the middle of the night. Sadness that once was childlike, but has now turned into adult pain continues to dominate, even as Jackson's voice takes on a happy lilt near the middle of the track. "I want to live, I want to hold my head up high," Jackson sings as guitars strum her along.

Jackson sounds like a mix of Phoebe Bridgers's sad girl indie and Willow Smith's philosophies. Jackson sings about how the people in her life are cosmic, and it's not hard to picture her as the girl who explains your aura to you in a crystal shop.

Samples that sound like waves rushing over the shore sit below the track, commanding our attention without taking it away from Jackson's lyrics.

By the fifth song, it seems obvious that the tempo of this record is not going to dramatically change in the second half. But then, energetic strumming comes in as Jackson gently sings about being born in the Dead Sea and fires, refusing to drown or be burnt.

But even with that occasional strumming, "wilted" never gets too wild (except for the weird demonic mumbling near the end). In fact, that strumming in another context



would seem slow and mundane. But when Jackson intermingles it with her sad-girl lyrics, it seems downright cheery.

The love song "let down" takes a minute to sink in. You might think it's just another sad song in an album of sad songs, but this time it's about love. It's a welcome relief, especially for the gut-punch of a song that follows.

The song "eyelids" feels like listening to a diary being read aloud. Listening feels voyeuristic. Simple and sad piano is the only thing to accompany Jackson as she sings, "Cut my eyelids so I can't see you float out

the door. Burn my tongue out 'cause I don't want to taste you no more. Break my fingers so your song can't come out of my bones. Tear my heart out so the feel of that memory is gone." It's painfully personal, in the most vulnerable way.

The song "wilted" is one of the most emotional debuts released this year. Jackson and her collaborator Andy Hull didn't let listeners breathe for a second, and it worked for them. Any moment of lightness, even when it's melancholy, feels like a gift to keep in the closet for a rainy day.

Local biologists plan sting on campus bears

JP EDGE

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Since late October, UM has sent out ten warnings to students and staff about bears on campus. First it was just a “bear encounter,” but subsequent alerts described a “large bear” and “two bears.” Plans are in place to remove the bears.

Students and faculty are notified of the bear sightings through the UM Alerts system by email and text messages, usually arriving just after dark or early in the morning when the bears are most active. The UM Police Department is required by law to send these messages for the safety of the community.

The bear sightings on campus have all been black bears. The first sighting was of a bear digging through a trash can behind Aber Hall.

The purpose of the alerts, UMPD’s Brad Giffin said, is to remind “people who aren’t familiar with bears” that they’re “a predatory animal, they’re not pets.”

So far, the UM bears have not been aggressive toward people, but the bear sightings are still reported to the UMPD by students or faculty and pose a serious threat to campus safety.

“The bears are coming off Mount Sentinel, out of Hellgate Canyon and Pattee Canyon. We have set traps for these bears, but the bears are ranging widely and working and visiting other neighborhoods as well,” James Jonkle, a wildlife management specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, said.

Jonkle tried to get approval for bear traps to be put on campus to expedite the relocation process, but the administration so far is not comfortable with the idea. During winter session, he believes that trapping the bears as a sting operation on campus may become a possibility.

According to the North American Bear

Center, black bear attacks on humans are a rare occurrence. They state that since 1900, only 61 people have been killed by black bears in North America.

“Last year I got alerts about crazy people around campus. I didn’t really think bears were a big deal here,” sophomore Brooke Nicklay said.

However, bears wandering onto UM’s campus “is not that uncommon,” according to Jonkle. “It’s kind of funny how everyone’s gotten so scooped up on it, because we’ve had a long history of bear activity around the campus.”

Jonkle said that, in years past, the UM campus has been visited not only by bears but also deer, bighorn sheep, herds of elk and even a moose once on Jacobson Island.

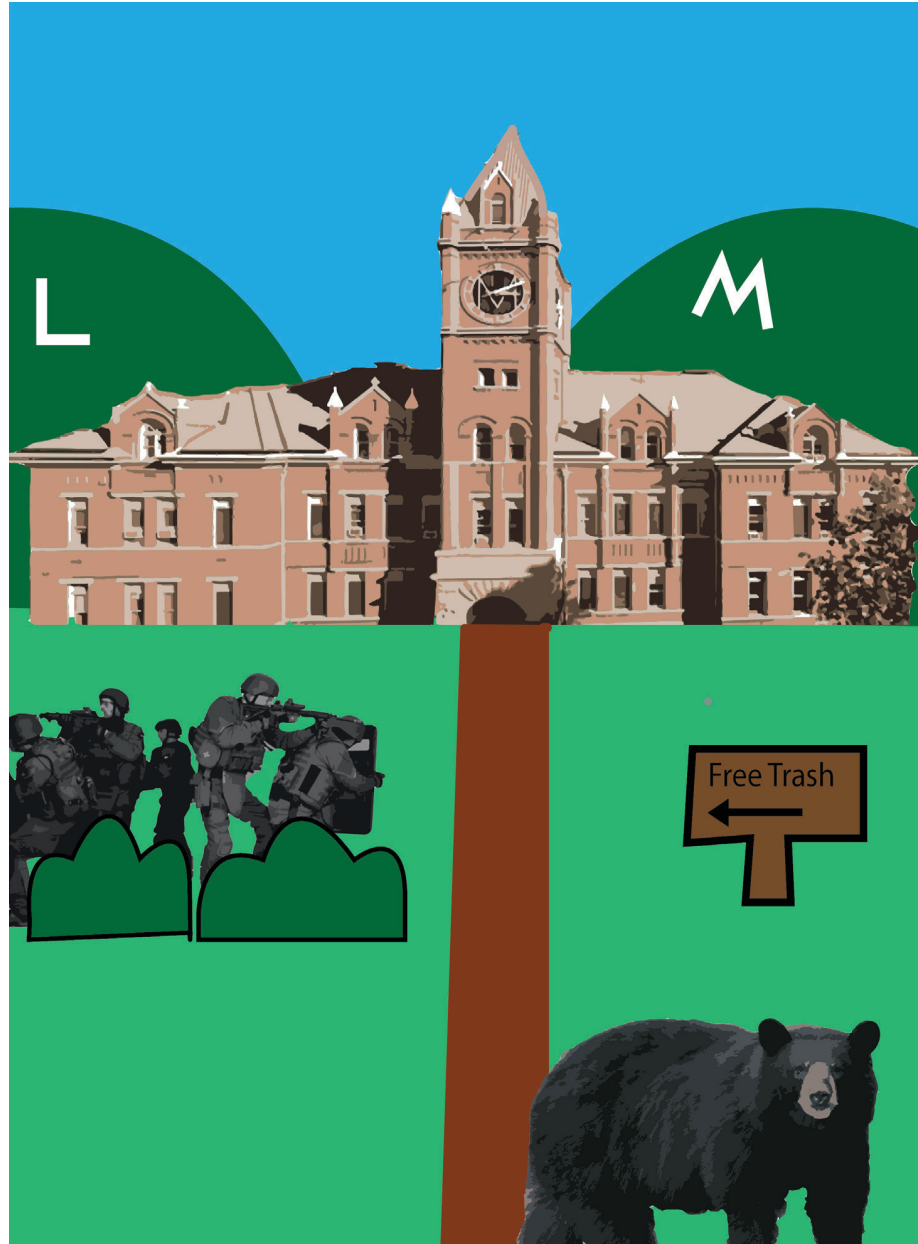
As part of the sting operation, UM Wildlife Society students will work with Montana Fish Wildlife, & Parks as well to “bear proof” the campus by locking trash cans and mapping spots that might attract bears, such as fruit-bearing trees and gardens.

“The big thing is removal of attractors. The bears, no matter how far you move them away, they usually come back home,” Jonkle said.

One black bear has already been darted and captured in the Rattlesnake area and has since been relocated. Black bears usually begin hibernating in November or December, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Please call UMPD at (406) 243-4000 or 911 in the event you encounter any bear on or near the UM campus. Do not approach the bear for any reason.

More information and updates on local bears can be found at Missoulabears.org, and consult the City of Missoula’s Bear Buffer Zone PDF listed on the website to see where bears are active around the Missoula area.



JACK MARSHALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM volleyball team wins at voting

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Last month, the UM athletic department’s new Diversity and Inclusion Committee set a goal of getting 100% of its staff and players to vote in November. Volleyball head coach Allison Lawrence and her team not only met the 100% voter registration goal, but started a more in-depth conversation about political participation by helping to educate her players through a curriculum that includes diversity and inclusion.

“The main piece for me is that voting is the best way to take care of your community and country,” Lawrence said. “I think it’s important as a coach to not just be civically engaged, but also to share opinions.”

In order to foster those conversations, Lawrence split the team into four small groups and provided them with prompts about the electoral college, local ballot measures from each girl’s home state, voting laws and the history of voting. Each group did research and presented its findings to the rest of the team.

Lawrence said that she hopes to use these conversations about voting as a jumping off point for larger conversations about diversity and inclusion, social justice and what leadership means to her players.

Sarah Ashley, a freshman and outside hitter on the volleyball team, studied the history of voting. Her group looked into Jim Crow laws, voting rights for people with felony convictions and women’s suffrage.

“I’m proud of our group for taking this first step,” Ashley said. “It feels like we’re helping to lead the charge to make our schools a more diverse and safe place.”

Redshirt sophomore and defensive specialist Kelsey Nestegard researched local and national elections. Nestegard focused on what voters saw as the most important issues, and where each candidate stood.

She did not specify which issues were a focus.

“I think it’s important to keep having these conversations and know that they have a bigger spark and can spread,” Nestegard said.

After being a part of these team conversations, Nestegard and Ashley both voted in their first election: Nestegard in her home state of Washington and Ashley in Montana.

“I got nervous after I put my ballot in the mail,” Nestegard said. “Then, I got goosebumps because I could feel how much it mattered.”

Ashley said she was surprised by how easy it was to register and vote. She also emphasized how important social justice was to her personally.

“I just want it to be clear to people that diversity and inclusion are social changes, not political ones,” Ashley said. “Hopefully, we can move that away from being a political issue.”

Ashley said that the results of Montana’s election motivated her to continue pushing for change, and that she hopes to not let the energy fade from the movement for more inclusivity at UM.

For Lawrence, who is building a young team, the biggest goal is to help her players be comfortable with having these types of conversations.

“We want to make sure that the girls know topics that are personal and political are not off limits, and that we are creating a safe space to have those sometimes uncomfortable conversations,” Lawrence said.

According to Ashley, this effort on the part of Lawrence and the coaching staff is paying off.

“We grew as a team, and it really helped us to build trust,” Ashley said.

The volleyball team is set to play its first game of the season on Jan. 24 against Idaho State.



University of Montana head volleyball coach Allison Lawrence smiles for a portrait before coaching volleyball practice on Nov. 11, 2020. Lawrence prioritized engaging the volleyball team in topics related to voting during the election season after UM’s new Diversity and Inclusion committee set a goal of getting 100% voter participation within the athletic department. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

The story behind Monte's TikTok success

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On a sunny September afternoon, UM's beloved mascot Monte rocked back and forth on a swing under the Madison Street bridge. Once he got enough momentum, he let go and backflipped into the Clark Fork.

Members of the UM marketing team, including Darren Mason, the assistant director of marketing, stood on the banks the river, filming this stunt for social media.

"We definitely had a couple of people ready just in case anything went wrong," Mason said.

Monte's plunge into the water paid off. To date, some 188,000 people have viewed the video on TikTok, an app with over 850 million users.

"See I went to MSU but (the) Griz have a cooler mascot for sure," one user commented.

Monte has over 16,000 followers on his TikTok, which is @montebear. His videos are all among the most viewed videos of the #gogrizz hashtag, which had 4.5 million views, on the app.

Mason said that the swing video also drew attention to an earlier one of Monte frolicking around and hugging fans at a football game. That video, captioned "stay strong Griz nation," now has over 18,000 likes.

Another video, in which Monte does a front flip over a moving car, has over 31,000 views.

Mason is Monte's helping hand for all of these videos. If he's not filming, he's either holding a prop or making sure Monte doesn't get hurt or drown in the Clark Fork.

"I give all the credit to Monte, honestly," Mason said. "If I can be a little part of helping out and just making sure we can execute at a higher level, I'm happy to do that."

Mason is originally from Nebraska, where he attended Nebraska-Kearney University. He played receiver for Nebraska-Kearney, who compete in the NCAA's Division II for football.

"I joke about it, but I like to say that I participated in college, I didn't play," he said.

Mason graduated with a degree in sports administration and then interned in Clemson University's sports-marketing department. When Clemson won a football championship in 2016, Mason was given an honorary ring.

He then worked in marketing at Ohio State University.

While at Ohio State and Clemson, Mason got into TikTok, which was then a new app used primarily to make dancing and singing videos.

As the app grew in popularity, Mason noticed that Ohio State's mascot, Brutus, had started a TikTok account. Brutus's account gained over 225,000 followers and 2.7 million likes within a year and a half.

Mason started working at UM in 2019 and put his TikTok knowledge to use. Monte created his first video in the fall of 2019, and though the early TikToks didn't gain a lot of traction, they eventually found an unintended audi-



UM assistant director of marketing Darren Mason (left) shows UM's mascot Monte a video of him flipping over a moving car while UM's creative director of video marketing Austin Valley (right) looks on. The final video of Monte's dangerous leap has over 32,000 views on the TikTok app.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN MASON

ence: hate-watching Montana State fans.

"GO CATS GO!!!!!" an MSU fan commented on Monte's first post. Later comments included "Ftg" and "Bro do u got like only boomers going to your games."

Around Halloween, Monte "duetted"—or responded by video to—a TikTok featuring Montana State's mascot, Champ the Bobcat. That video showed Champ frolicking in the snow to Mariah Carey's iconic Christmas tune, "All I Want For Christmas is You." Monte duetted with a video of himself carving a pumpkin in the snow.

"It's still spooky season. Should we tell him?" Monte's caption read.

That video got over 600 comments, as UM and Montana State fans dissed each other's mascots and football teams. Monte currently has around 10,000 more followers than Champ on TikTok.

"If there's Cat (Montana State) fans that have an opinion about it, obviously they're going to, so we're going to ignore the hate and all that stuff," said Mason. "We do enjoy the relationship that the rivalry brings between the two mascots."

Mason helps Monte with more than just TikToks, such as his skits during UM sporting events. Mason also oversees marketing for Lady Griz Basketball, volleyball and softball, and leads the Grizzly Marketing Academy at UM, which gives students hands-on sports-marketing experience.

Monte's TikToks, though, remain a specialty. Recently, Monte has appeared in a few of the UM dance team's TikToks, including one where he joins them in a Halloween-themed dance. The UM dance team, @grizdanceam on TikTok, has over 8,800 followers.

"Getting more engagement is definitely a goal," Mason said. "We're always brainstorming and always looking to see what the next kind of this we can do is. Monte is super talented when it comes to tumbling and all of that."



We offer free enrollment assistance

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

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

Please bring the following information to your appointment:

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

You can also visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) for details about your health insurance options and to sign up for a plan.

