

MONTANA KAIMIN

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AMY SINGS IN THE TIMBER'S FIGHT TO
RESTORE MONTANANS' FREEDOM

STORY BY
MEGHAN JONAS
PHOTOS BY
CLAIRE SHINNER



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Cover Photo
Claire Shinner



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

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Hey Montana Legislature, get off our lawn

In 2018, Mike Adams, a sociologist and prominent right-wing columnist, came to the University of Montana to give a lecture called "The Death of Liberal Bias in Higher Education" as part of the Jeff Cole lecture series. If you were a student then, you might not remember the lecture, but you might remember the controversy that surrounded it. Maybe you had friends protesting against it, or you protested against it, or you supported it, or maybe you just remember all the drama at the University Center that day.

Everyone was able to express their opinions. Adams still spoke on campus, and those who disliked him protested it. Nobody's free speech rights were infringed upon.

Nearly three years later, the Montana Legislature is bringing this dead horse back from the grave.

Lawmakers accused UM of not equitably protecting Adams' right to speak freely at the University on the floor of this legislative session in support of an unnecessary bill, House Bill 218. Some professors, students and our own School of Journalism's former dean spoke out against Adams' visit, citing Adams' previous statements about women, minorities and the LGBTQ community.

Helena's fascination with university procedure is concerning to us on a number of levels. This legislative session has seen bills introduced that would limit universities' control of guns on campus, the ability to support transgender athletes, and to regulate their own free speech policies. We wonder whose interests are truly being protected when the legislation centers around such policies rather than the students who are impacted by them.

In our anecdotal experience, significantly more students care about their personal safety in the event of a school shooting than their right to carry firearms on campus.

HB 218, which was heard by the House Judiciary Committee at the end of January, is meant to extend free speech to all outdoor spaces on college and university campuses in Montana. The language of the bill allows

for universities to create objective guidelines surrounding free speech, which UM already does. If a university or college violates this law they could be subject to \$2,000 to \$75,000 penalties, payable to the offended student or group.

This bill is redundant and unnecessary, as UM has a written procedure that protects free speech in any capacity. The procedure states: "The solution does not lie in censorship. Once we begin to pick and choose on the basis of which speech may occur, we open the gates to having our own voices silenced—yours, mine, and all those who do not voice majority opinions." That is to say, UM already supports universal free speech within its role as an educational institution.

Universities should be able to regulate the speech protocols on their campuses, given that their primary purpose is education. Legally, this means if a type of speech impedes that purpose, the institutions should be able to handle it. These decisions should not be subject to a legislature that meets only once every two years.

Campuses are meant to foster discourse. And any further legislation is not only unnecessary, it doesn't truly serve the students it pretends to protect. It solves a problem that does not exist, and only functions to limit the autonomy of universities.

It worries us when the legislation comes from a place of assumption; assuming there is a restriction on free speech without citing a specific infringement.

Given the current legislature's fascination with universities—usurping universities' rights to oversee athletics, guns and speech—we eagerly look forward to the focus and attention the legislature will provide when it comes time to review the state's budget. Let's see some of that same energy when you're doling out funding to the universities you seem to care about so much.

Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?
email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

Go Beyond Your Major Influence Your University Experience



BECOME A STUDENT AT LARGE

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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Feature Photo: Missoula Winter Market



Missoula Valley Winter Market vendor Tom Robinson sits behind his assortment of cacti on Saturday, January 30. Robinson is one of around 40 vendors that can be found selling their goods at the market each week in the empty Lucky's Market storefront at Southgate Mall. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

KAIMIN COMIC



Briefs: Gianforte's address, graduation and vaccination progress

Gianforte State of the State address

Gov. Greg Gianforte talked Thursday, Jan. 28 about improving the economy, implementing abortion restrictions and treating addiction in his first State of the State address. In regards to the economy, he encouraged lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 65, which would enact protections from COVID-19-related lawsuits against businesses that are in "substantial compliance" with existing public health orders. The bill does not apply to government agencies. Gianforte also wanted lawmakers to pass House Bills 136 and 167, which restrict abortions after 20 weeks gestation and establish penalties for healthcare providers who do not give life-preserving care to infants born alive after an abortion procedure, respectively. Regarding the economy, Gianforte referred to many of the goals of his Montana Comeback Plan, including revising tax policy — such as providing property tax and income tax relief to low income Montanans — and eliminating the business equipment tax. He also affirmed Joe Biden's presidency, current health directives and the efforts to expand the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force. (Alicia McAlpine)

Public transportation mask mandate

As of Feb. 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has mandated that all "passengers on public conveyances" traveling into or within the U.S. — including by airplane, taxi, bus and ride-share — must wear masks unless eating or drinking. A similar order had been blocked by then-President Trump, but on Jan. 21 President Biden signed an executive order requiring masks during interstate travel. The CDC order echoes this, and encourages transportation providers to remove passengers who do not comply (with a few exceptions, such as passengers under two years old or who have applicable medical conditions). (AM)

UM plans in-person commencement

UM is continuing to plan an in-person commencement on May 1 in the Washington-Grizzly Stadium, according to an email announcement sent Feb. 1. It will be held outdoors and be socially distanced along

Centers for Disease Control guidelines. All graduates from 2020 who couldn't attend in-person graduation ceremonies because of COVID-19 are welcome to participate in the commencement. UM administrative staff predict there will need to be multiple ceremonies to accommodate all graduates, since they're not yet sure what the stadium's final capacity will be. They are also planning to livestream the event for those who can't attend in person. (Mazana Boerboom)



Missoula County COVID-19 vaccine dashboard

Missoula County is in Phase 1B of vaccination. As of Monday, the county was still in tier 1 of Phase 1B, which includes all people over 70 years old, and Native Americans and other people of color over 16 who could be at a higher risk for COVID-19. The county launched a dashboard with information on COVID-19 vaccine distribution, including a map of vaccination distributors and statistics. The dashboard is updated every Monday. As of the last update, Missoula had

vaccinated more than 10,000 people, and nearly 2,500 people have had the second dose of the vaccine. To be fully immunized, people must have two different shots spaced about two weeks apart. Montana as a whole has vaccinated more than 107,000 individuals, meaning that both Missoula and Montana have administered vaccines to about one in 10 Montanans. (MB)

Ice rink now open to public

At the beginning of the semester, UM's ice rink was open only to students, who could register for time slots on GrizHub. Now the rink has opened up to the wider Missoula community with "Open Skate" hours throughout the week, according to a UM News release. Monday through Thursday, open skate hours are open on a first-come, first-serve basis from 10 to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. with group reservation times from 12 to 1 p.m. and in the evenings. Friday through Sunday, open skate runs from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. No more than 25 skaters are allowed on the rink, masks must be worn at all times and skaters must fill out a form at the gate for county contact tracing protocols. (MB)

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				68					69			

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- ACROSS**
 1 Happy as a ____
 5 Coffee concoction
 10 Question starter
 14 Direction at sea
 15 Cupid's projectile
 16 Eagle's roost (var.)
 17 Sit for a photo
 18 Factory feature
 20 Well-kept, to a sailor
 22 To the point
 23 Studio stand
 24 Wise teacher
 26 Baseball deal
 28 Potential lifesaver
 32 Mudbath locale
 34 Out of shape?
 36 Hard to come by
 37 Sight starter
 39 Parade proudly
 41 Sign of sadness
 42 Egg on
 44 One more time
 46 Monet's forte
 47 Vegetable skinner
 48 Disneyland shuttles
 50 Eventually
 53 Out, in a way
 56 Metamorphosed insect
 59 Put on a front
 61 Worsen
 63 Castle surround
 64 Black cat, to some
- DOWN**
 1 Memory mishap
 2 Halawa hello
 3 It's measured in ohms
 4 Legal-sized fish
 5 Strike with a whip
 6 Military strength
 7 Figure of speech
 8 Subway fare
 9 Woolly mama
 10 Marsh rodent
 11 Preside over
 12 Parentheses, e.g.
 13 Daycare denizen
 19 Hard to rattle
 21 Generous serving
 25 Sampling specialist
 27 Abandon
 29 Sternum
- 30 Enterprise Rent-____**
31 Drew's "E.T." role
32 Model in a bottle
33 Lodgepole, for one
35 "La la" lead-in
38 Steadfast
40 Not tried out
43 Mortise's partner
45 Stroll in the shallows
49 Warm-blooded sort
51 Elba of "The Dark Tower"
52 Dolphins' home
54 Put on cloud nine
55 Prevent
56 One to worship
57 Staff note
58 Years and years
60 Dried out
62 Posting at JFK

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Blotter: Stolen tailgates, noise complaints and green danks

GRACE CARR

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Between Jan. 21 and 27, UMPD reported nine crimes on and around campus. Disorderly conduct was the most common crime this week, making up two out of three reports.

FRIDAY 01/22: WATCH YOUR TAIL

A man started his day off on the wrong foot when he found the tailgate of his truck had been stolen from the parking lot of Helena Court. He reported the theft late Friday morning, but figured it could have happened anytime since Jan. 19. There is no suspect information.

FRIDAY 01/22: IS IT LEGAL?

UPMD responded to Coloma Court early Friday evening when a caller reported the smell of some electric lettuce coming from one of the apartments. No one answered the door when officers arrived, so the individual inside was not identified. The possession of marijuana in Montana above the age of 21 is no longer a crime. No citations were made, but a report was written because the age of the person inside the apartment remains unknown.

SUNDAY 01/24: ROWDY GAME NIGHT

A Sisson Apartments resident reported a noise disturbance from the apartment above hers around 2 a.m. on Sunday. Officers arrived to find a group of people playing cards, but there was no

drinking involved. The group was warned about the noise and left to continue their sober game night.

SUNDAY 01/24: SCREAMS AND SHOUTS

A family disagreement turned into a yelling match late Sunday evening in the Bannack Court area. The caller reported a young child and an adult woman screaming and yelling. Officers arrived to find a young mom dealing with a child who wanted to stay at their grandma's house for the night. They were both warned and released, and the winner of that battle is unknown.

WEDNESDAY 01/27: GUESS WHO'S BACK?

A woman was removed from the Van Buren Street Footbridge Wednesday afternoon for

shouting and disorderly conduct. The city police department say they have been dealing with the same woman frequently over the past couple weeks for similar reasons. She was previously a student at The University of Montana and recently returned to Missoula. UMPD gave the woman a warning and escorted her from UM property.



OLIVIA SWANT- JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

It's 'Groundhog Day' and we're all Bill Murray



ADDIE SLANGER

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OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Picture me this: You wake up on a regular Tuesday morning, checking your phone to turn off the alarm. Then you see the date. March 13, 2020, and the first COVID-19 case has just been confirmed in Montana. In this especially masochistic "Groundhog Day" situation, are you more of a Phil or a Rita?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 — FEB. 18): Hey you main character-lookin' bitches, this "Groundhog Day" scenario is targeted toward you, and you only. What lesson do you need to learn to help us escape the loop? What have you been ignoring? By all means, take your time. You're only here for eternity.

PISCES (FEB. 19 — MARCH 20): Pisces, you'd be the one to crack the code. Love, kindness and friendship were all we needed. It turns out, the real 2020 was the friends we made along the way.

ARIES (MARCH 21 — APRIL 19): No rules? Aries, you'd be out here living your best day. All that just-barely-held-back anger would manifest itself because the universe would allow it. Go rob a Target. Break up your best friend and her toxic boyfriend. What's the worst that could happen?

TAURUS (APRIL 20 — MAY 20): After the initial shock of the alarm (and being forced to wake up in general) you'd process the date with that perfected detachment only you are capable of. And instead of getting out of bed and investigating any further, you'd stay curled up for an eternal Friday the 13th.

GEMINI (MAY 21 — JUNE 20): Instant panic mode. You know that feeling of claustrophobia, where you're trapped and hopeless? That's the default for you in this situation. As someone who's

already plagued by indecision, this is certifiably your Sixth Circle of Hell.

CANCER (JUNE 21 — JULY 22): Is it a cop-out to say "curl up and cry in bed?" We know you guys get a lot of flack for your emotions. But we can't help but agree.

LEO (JULY 23 — AUG. 22): The fact that there are no consequences is a dangerous piece of knowledge for a Leo. You'd go right up to your crush and plant one on 'em. Stand up to that crotchety professor. Hit the Stocks dance floor one last time, but for eternity.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 — SEP. 22): Okay, there has to be a scientific explanation for this. What are the physics of a time loop? Virgo, you'd get out your color-coordinated highlighters and pencils and get to work solving the puzzle. No way you're reliving this day over and over.

LIBRA (SEP. 23 — OCT. 22): "Man," you'd think to yourself, "I have to stop taking Advil PMs before bed. These dreams are getting more and more realistic."

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 — NOV. 21): Scorpio, ever the opportunist. "Hey," you'd say to your friends in class, "I bet you \$10 we aren't going back to school after today." No one knows how to capitalize off uneasiness more than you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 — DEC. 22): Just another morning <3. Why is everyone acting so weird? Sag, you wouldn't realize anything was off until President Bodnar sent out an email calling off school for two weeks after Spring Break.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 — JAN. 19): Ever the trendsetter, you'd come to school in a mask, sparking fear and judgement. Why so paranoid, Cap?

UM Global Engagement opportunities adapt to pandemic restrictions

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International travel has been suspended for University students for fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. And even though abroad options for the summer and the 2021-2022 school year seem uncertain, the Global Engagement Office said UM will be making decisions as early as February.

"Per UM's International Travel policy, UM will review the Department of State's Travel Advisories and Centers for Disease Control Health Notices as the primary basis for decision-making, but will also look at factors such as the availability of vaccinations," Marja Unkuri-Chaudry, the director of education abroad and partnerships at the Global Engagement Office stated in an email.

Despite physical barriers to international travel, the Global Engagement Office has still been offering opportunities for students to be globally engaged.

"We've been in constant communication with students whose programs were deferred and have encouraged them to stay involved despite the global pandemic," Unkuri-Chaudry said.

While UM students are grounded, a cohort of students from abroad was allowed to come to campus this semester, despite travel restrictions. Four students from a partner university in Spain were allowed to travel to Montana as part of their exchange agreement.

Isabel López-González, an anthropology exchange student from Spain, is currently enrolled in in-person classes at UM. Before coming to UM, López-González received a negative COVID-19 test in Spain, and said that with the pandemic, she does not expect to return to Spain for her entire exchange year.

Even with COVID-19, López-González said she has had a supportive and positive experience at UM.

"This university is the best thing ever," López-González said.

In addition to the students who were able to have an in-person abroad experience by coming to UM, Unkuri-Chaudry said that the Global Engagement Office has been working virtually to strengthen collaborations with partner universities abroad.

These collaborations include virtual exchanges, otherwise known as COIL courses. COIL stands for Collaborative Online International Learning. One such COIL course occurred in the fall semester as a virtual exchange between UM's School of Theater and Dance and Sophia University in Japan.

According to the Global Engagement Office's



Isabel López-González, an anthropology exchange student from Spain, sits in front of the Griz statue on Jan. 21, 2021. López-González left her home in Spain two weeks ago and said she has adjusted well to life in Montana. SARAH MOSQUERA | MONTANA KAIMIN

website, this course included a four-week module where students studied a play and opera based on the myth of "Madama Butterfly." The course consisted of lectures, discussions and a final project, where students in UM's costume design class collaborated with Sophia University students to create a "mood board" showcasing costuming ideas for the play.

Unkuri-Chaudry said the Global Engagement Office is currently working to develop more COIL courses by connecting faculty from UM with partner universities. She also said that, even as students are able to participate in in-country exchanges again, the Global Engagement Office hopes to continue developing online courses.

"I'm excited at how our virtual programs have

been going with COVID," Unkuri-Chaudry said. "I'm really proud that, here at the U, we have so many opportunities to be engaged globally."

López-González has also been glad for the opportunity to study abroad. Despite COVID-19 complications, she said the exchange has exceeded her expectations thus far, and would recommend to other students that they take advantage of abroad opportunities.

As for the rest of her own exchange, López-González does not plan to let COVID-19 be a hindrance.

"I want to live this experience," López-González said. "I want to try to get an internship, and study with the people I want to... I just want to take a lot from this."

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
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'Good teaching is good teaching': Student teachers grapple with COVID-19 challenges

MARIAH THOMAS
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For Dac Cederberg, it was a shock being back in a classroom in January after nearly a year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a student teacher, Cederberg has spent nearly a month at Sentinel High School in Missoula.

"In this time when a lot of us have been so isolated, it's been great to meet students and get a chance to connect with them," Cederberg said.

Cederberg decided he wanted to teach after obtaining his undergraduate degree in English literature. Following graduation, Cederberg moved to Spain and taught English, and worked at a theater camp during the summer.

"I wanted to do that for forever, and then realized I could," Cederberg said.

He then applied to get his masters degree in education at the University of Montana, with the goal of becoming a teacher.

Cederberg said his experience as a student teacher has allowed him to make connections with students, but doing this during a pandemic brings challenges.

Dani Smith, the director of field experiences at UM's School of Education, said those in the student teaching program this year have been anxious about in-person placements. Typically, Smith said these placements can be international, out of state or in state, but this year has been different. Those wanting an in-person experience have had to choose mainly from in-state placements.

In addition, Smith said, there's been uncertainty about how the situation in the classroom will look day to day.

For example, during Cederberg's first month of student teaching at Sentinel High, Missoula County Public Schools has been following a hybrid model for students' presence in the classroom. According to the MCPS Return to School overview, the hybrid model splits students into two separate groups based on their last names. Each group attends school for two days a week, with the extra day dedicated to cleaning the school facilities.

At the last Missoula school board meeting, the board decided that high school districts and elementary districts will be transitioning to the next phase of their reopening plan. Phase 2 will



University of Montana masters student Dac Cederberg stands outside Sentinel High School, where he started student teaching at the beginning of January. Missoula County Public School are working off a hybrid model of teaching, with students split into two groups of in-person and online learning. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

bring Sentinel High School to nearly full capacity. According to the MCPS website, the transition period will start with four-day weeks. Sentinel planned to transition to Phase 2 on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

For Cederberg, this means that hallways will be filled with more students. Cederberg said it's tough to keep distance with these conditions, but he thought students and staff at Sentinel are doing a great job following COVID-19 safety precautions.

Smith said the uncertainty on a day-to-day basis, like the changing COVID-19, has not been a total negative.

"One of the qualities you need to have as a teacher is flexibility," the School of Education's Smith said. "Flexibility and versatility have been challenges our

candidates have risen to."

Cederberg concurred. With the hybrid model, he said he has had to learn how to operate Google Classroom, teach virtually and provide online assignments. He also said all of the basic principles of teaching he's learned at UM still apply, whether the school is remote or in person.

"Good teaching is good teaching," Cederberg said.

In the future, he plans to incorporate some of the new virtual learning activities into his classes, specifically online assignments.

Smith said that while this period has required flexibility and learning on the parts of student teachers, their job prospects for the future are good.

"Teachers have really proven how

resilient and flexible they can be during COVID," she said.

She hopes the overall estimation of teachers will increase as a result of the pandemic. She also said there is a great need for teachers right now, and employment prospects for future graduates, like Cederberg, are hopeful.

This is good news for Cederberg, who hopes to one day be the head of his own drama department. He said that while this kind of position is difficult to obtain, he is gearing up to apply for jobs in the coming months. He added that he would be willing to move in order to meet his future professional goals.

For now though, Cederberg must brave the crowded hallways of Sentinel High.

FIGHTING FOR A SECOND CHANCE

AMY SINGS IN THE TIMBER'S FIGHT TO RESTORE MONTANANS' FREEDOM

STORY BY MEGHAN JONAS
PHOTOS BY CLAIRE SHINNER

Cody Marble spent nearly half his life in the criminal justice system for a crime he did not commit.

At 17, he was arrested and placed in the Missoula County Juvenile Detention Center for marijuana possession. After spending five months in the center completing a youth drug treatment program, Marble was released. Four days later, he was arrested and charged with the rape of a 13-year-old inmate.

But the rape never happened. False testimonies and ineffective assistance of counsel led to his wrongful incarceration. After his conviction in 2002 and probationary release in 2005, Marble's accuser recanted his story multiple times and numerous guards, inmates and counselors insisted that Marble was innocent.

Despite this, Marble's innocence was not proven in the eyes of the law until January 2017. For 14 years, from age 17 to 32, Marble did not have his freedom.

Marble's father, Jerry Marble, was one of the thousands of family members who have contacted the Montana Innocence Project, an organization that provides free legal representation to those wrongfully imprisoned in court, using DNA testing and extensive research to exonerate the innocent. It's one of 67 such projects worldwide.

His father hired as many lawyers as he could, Marble says. He visited him. He believed him. He knew his son, and trusted in that knowledge. But it still took 14 years to prove that his son was innocent.

As someone who's formed a career fighting for justice, Amy Sings In The Timber knows the power of listening.

For those wrongfully convicted, communication is a lifeline to their freedom. For their families, communication is hope.

"People are desperate to have someone listen to them about their loved one," says Sings In The Timber, the new executive director of the Montana Innocence Project. Throughout her career as a lawyer and an advocate, she has spent hundreds of hours honing her ability to listen, creating change along the way.

Although it's impossible to determine, several national studies estimated that between 2%-10% of those in prison have been wrongfully convicted. Meaning, of the 2.3 million currently serving time in federal and state prisons, between 46,000 to 230,000 are potentially innocent people, imprisoned for a crime they did not commit.

Marble is one of seven Montanans the Montana Innocence Project has exonerated since its founding in 2008.

"Our applicants for legal services are often seeking our services as a last hope," says Caiti Carpenter, legal director of the Montana Innocence Project. Over 850 in-

2% TO 10% OF THOSE IN PRISON HAVE BEEN WRONGFULLY CONVICTED.

2.3 million people are currently serving time in federal and state prisons

46,000 to 230,000 potentially innocent people are imprisoned for a crime they did not commit.

Source: Chicago Tribune

GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

nocence claims have been reviewed by the Montana Innocence Project. Together, the seven exonerates spent over 100 years serving time for crimes they didn't commit, including rape and murder.

It's an accomplishment Sings In The Timber is building on. She uses her previous work in non-profit and justice organizations to create an institution capable of protecting the innocence of even more Montanans.

Sings In The Timber is not from Montana, but the state is where she feels at home.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, a descendant of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, she attended the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and University of Wisconsin, graduating with degrees in anthropology and Native American studies. Sings In The Timber knew she wanted to go to law school, and she knew she wanted to practice Indian law. After looking at traditional Indian law schools in Arizona and Oklahoma—and discovering that UM had extensive offerings in Indian law and an Indian law clinic—she decided that UM was her first choice. She moved to Missoula in 2002 and graduated from law school in 2005.

After graduating, Sings In The Timber worked with friend and former Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau in the office of Indian Education. There, she and Juneau worked to ensure that Native students received the same quality of education as their non-Na-

tive peers. They also traveled around the state, making sure Montana's public schools were properly educating students about Native American heritage as mandated in the state's constitution.

Afterward, she worked for multiple justice organizations. First as the inaugural director of the Montana Justice Foundation, building the organization up for eight years, and then joining the board of directors for the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana.

Sings In The Timber made the decision to move her young family back to the Midwest, settling in Chicago in 2015. She and her husband wanted to be closer to his family, especially as they raised their two young children. But she always knew she wanted to return to the West.

By 2019, Sings In The Timber was raising her children alone. Her marriage had fallen apart. She didn't have the support she needed to raise her family alone. She knew she couldn't stay in Chicago.

She had two options: She could move back home to Milwaukee, or she could move back to Missoula, leaning on the support of her found family.

The decision to move back to Missoula is not one Sings In The Timber has ever regretted.

"We were sort of raising our kids together," Sings In The Timber says. Now, she juggles helping her kids with school projects, sitting on the board of Open Air Montana and running the Montana Innocence Project.

Sings In The Timber had been involved with the Montana Innocence Project even before she took on her official role as executive director.

In 2008, when the Montana Innocence Project was founded, Sings In The Timber had been working as the director of the Montana Justice Foundation for a year. The newly-created Innocence Project approached the Justice Foundation for funding, opening up the potential for a new partnership for the foundation, which had never funded an Innocence Project up until that point.

It took time and board education to get the Justice Foundation's full support, recalls Sings In The Timber. The Innocence Project focused on getting justice for people post-conviction, but many of the issues they faced were the same as the Justice Foundation, which primarily focuses on civil legal aid.

The partnership made sense on many levels. Both organizations routinely focus on indigency claims, in which a defendant cannot afford legal counsel and is assigned a court-appointed attorney.

After receiving board support, the

Justice Foundation—with Sings In The Timber leading—provided grant funding to the Innocence Project. This let Sings In The Timber see the project up close as she conducted on-site visits, reviewed further applications for funding and completed program evaluations.

It was during these visits when Sings In The Timber got to know the Montana Innocence Project's founding team. And in a way, she became a vital part of their organization, long before she ever even formally joined.

Sings In The Timber became the executive director of the Montana Innocence

Project in January 2020. She worked as a private consultant in Missoula for only five months before being recruited for the role.

When Sings In The Timber left Missoula for Chicago in 2015, the Montana Innocence Project had an executive director, a legal director, a staff attorney, a part-time volunteer coordinator and a part-time development and communications director. The project was active in the law school's clinical programs and had a robust relationship with the School of Journalism.

When she returned, there was an executive director, a legal director and a quarter-time staff member maintaining their website. Lack of resources and funding had deplet-

NATIVE VOICES

LESS THAN 7% OF THE MONTANA POPULATION IS NATIVE

But...

20%

Of the men's state prison population is Native

34%

Of the woman's state prison population is Native

28%

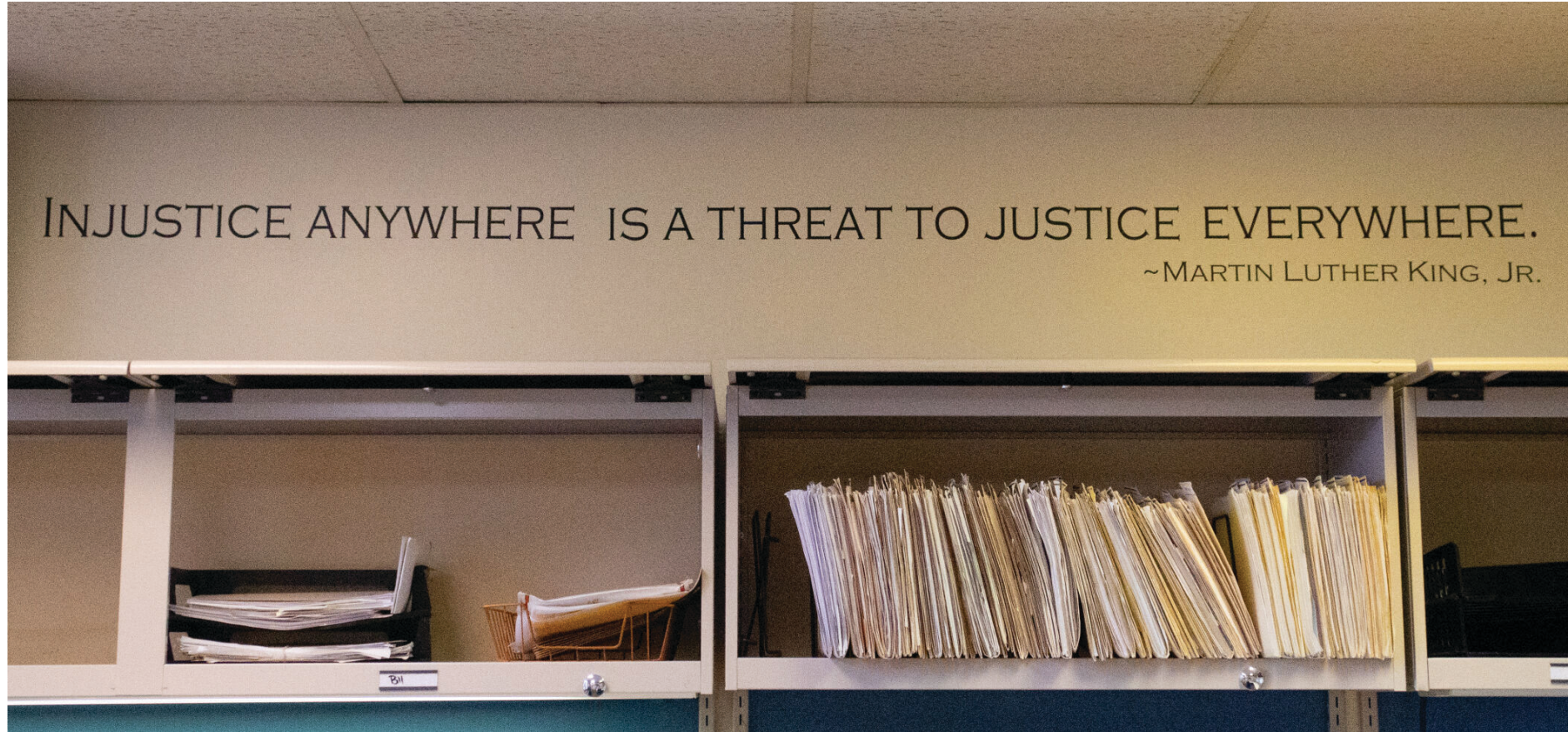
Of the MT Innocence Project applications are from Native people

27%

Of people arrested for failure to appear in court or parole violation were Native

Source: ACLU

GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN



A quote from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," on the wall in the office of the Montana Innocence Project at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. The Montana Innocence Project has freed seven exonerees since its founding in 2008. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

ed the organization's staff.

Sings In The Timber "hit the pause button." She completed a full program evaluation immediately. Now, there are three full-time staff members, Sings In The Timber as executive director, Caiti Carpenter as legal director and Randi Mattox as development and communications associate.

The Montana Innocence Project currently contracts out for their investigations, but Sings In The Timber hopes that once the program is able to start hiring interns again, meet in person and receive vital funding, the Project will have the resourc-

es they need to do their necessary and essential work.

Sings In The Timber says that one essential part of her role at the Montana Innocence Project is providing justice for wrongfully convicted Native American people.

She remembers telling a local attorney that she wanted to practice Indian law. She was entering the legal workforce and attending legal mixers, trying to find opportunities to gain relative experience in her new field.

"Are there a lot of opportunities to practice Indian law in Montana?" the attorney asked.

For context, there are 12 recognized tribal nations in the state of Montana. There are seven recognized reservations, covering over 675,000 acres, according to the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Less than 7% of the population in Montana is Native American. But according to the ACLU, Native men make up 20% of the population in men's state prisons and Native women make up 34% of the population in women's state prisons. 27% of the people arrested in the state for failures to appear in court or parole/probation were Native.

About 28% of the applications the Montana Innocence Project receives come from Native people.

"Indigenous justice is a priority for this organization," Sings In The Timber says.

There are physical barriers to pursuing indigenous justice in Montana. Most of Montana is rural, meaning the time someone may spend researching and asking questions may be dedicated to traveling across the state.

"There are a lot of additional resources if you don't have to spend two days driv-

ing," Sings In The Timber says.

However, the Innocence Project representatives need to be physically present in order to form relationships with people in the state's remote communities. "You have to have relationships and build trust before you start asking questions and getting in people's business," Sings In The Timber says.

She says it's an uphill climb. But she isn't discouraged.

The Montana Innocence Project also leads efforts in lobbying for bills protecting the rights of exonerees working to stop injustice at the source.

"We are working on not only providing free legal support to people who are innocent of the crimes for which they are convicted, but also raising awareness of the drivers of wrongful convictions, and building coalitions to affect legislative change to correct and create laws that support a just and fair legal system," Carpenter says.

On her birthday this year, Sings In The Timber was attending a House Appropriations meeting to advocate for Montana House Bill 92. The bill, which is currently

working its way through the Montana Legislature, would allow exonerees to receive compensation for the years they were wrongfully convicted and imprisoned.

The bill also protects the state from individual lawsuits from exonerees. It would provide relief for exonerees and simplify the compensation process for them, while also protecting the state from lawsuits deemed exorbitant, despite the state's own personal wrongdoing in wrongfully convicting and incarcerating innocent people.

One such lawsuit comes from Richard Raugust. Raugust spent 18 years in prison, with a life sentence looming over his head. He was freed in 2016, becoming the Montana Innocence Project's first freed client.

Raugust sued the state for \$97 million in 2019. The state denied his claim in 2019, but Raugust's suit is ongoing.

To receive compensation from House Bill 92, a person who was wrongfully convicted would argue their innocence in front of a jury in the court that initially convicted them. If they were exonerated, they would be eligible to receive \$60,000 for each year they spent in prison. They would also be able to receive \$25,000 for each year they were on probation or parole.

If House Bill 92 was in place when Marble, who was wrongfully convicted of rape, was exonerated, he would have received approximately \$455,000.

Instead, Marble was given nothing. When he was released in 2005, Marble was close to homelessness. Without the support of his family, Marble says he would have gone straight from prison to the homeless shelter in Great Falls. Even now, he's living in Conrad instead of Missoula, saying, "I couldn't afford to live in Missoula if I wanted to." When he was released from prison, he had no job skills and little to no way of making money. His life, he says, was taken from him.

"I'm not 17 anymore," Marble says.

Marble has chronic pain in his neck and back from the years he spent sleeping on bad beds in worse conditions.

His father wrote in a 2019 letter to the Missoulian: "I have witnessed first hand the struggles that my son Cody has had to contend with. I've listened to his nightmares. I've witnessed his financial and health problems that are directly related to his wrongful conviction. I've tried to help all I can, but my resources are limited."

Marble has had no compensation from the 14 years he spent serving time for a crime he did not commit. The years he spent with his innocence in question and life in limbo can never be replaced.

"They're never going to be able to fix the wrong they did," Marble says. But this compensation bill is a start.

Sings In The Timber has seen a groundswell of public support for the Montana Innocence Project, particularly after the public reckoning of racial and criminal injustice sparked last summer.

Marble finds hope in the knowledge that more and more people are becoming aware of wrongful convictions. "It's kind of becoming a fad," he says, referencing the countless shows and documentaries that focus on wrongful convictions. Now Marble helps out at the Montana Innocence Project when he can.

He may not be able to get back the years he lost. But now, he has a life. A life, Marble says, that was saved by the relentless, unwavering support provided by the Montana Innocence Project.

Says Sings In The Timber, "If folks don't know the reasons why someone is wrongfully convicted, we aren't able to advocate and change the situation that put them there."

"I've witnessed first hand the struggles that my son Cody has had to contend with. I've listened to his nightmares."
- Jerry Marble

Current Cases

Aaron Oliphant - served three years and counting



Photo courtesy of Rena Oliphant

Aaron Oliphant, a dedicated father of five children, was charged by the state of Montana with aggravated assault of his son, Raidyn, in June of 2016. The state relied on controversial evidence of "Shaken Baby Syndrome," despite medical doubts about the validity of the tests administered to Raidyn. Oliphant's defense attorney did not consult any medical professionals to investigate these claims.

On June 3, 2020 the Montana Innocence Project filed a motion for new trial, a petition for post-conviction relief and a request to stay proceedings pending full discovery. Oliphant has served three years and counting.

Katie Garding - served nine years and counting

In 2008, Katie Garding was pulled over for a cracked windshield after a hit-and-run. When the officers noticed the lack of damage to her car that would come from a hit-and-run, they let her go. Garding was charged with vehicular homicide, leaving the scene of an accident and driving without a valid driver's license in April 2010, two years after the death of Bronson Parsons. This came after Garding's former partner made a plea deal implicating Garding in the accident.



Photo courtesy of the Montana Innocence Project

The Montana Innocence Project attests that there were multiple issues with Garding's trial, including withholding evidence and ineffective counsel. Three accident reconstruction experts hired by the Montana Innocence Project have concluded that Garding's car could not have caused Parson's death.

The Montana Innocence Project has filed a petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus in federal court after Garding was denied a petition for post-conviction relief and a second appeal. Garding has served 9 years and counting.

Bernard Pease - served 36 years and counting

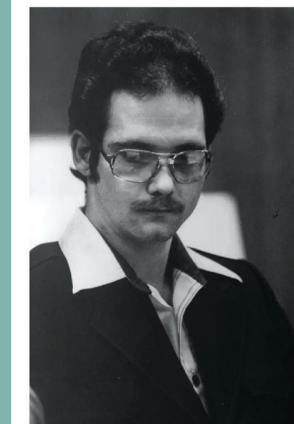


Photo courtesy of the Billings Gazette, the Billings Police Department and the Montana Crime Lab.

Bernard Pease was charged with deliberate homicide, also known as first-degree murder, in 1984 after the alleged rape and murder of Maria Philbrick, a sex worker living in Billings, Montana.

Pease was not seen in the area of Philbrick's murder, and the only physical evidence tying Pease to the case were hair and blood samples found in Pease's bedroom during police investigations.

In April 2019, the Montana Innocence Project filed a petition for DNA testing of the evidence found in Pease's home. In May 2019, the Montana Innocence Project served the petition to test the DNA to the Montana Attorney General, the Yellowstone County Attorney, and the Montana Crime Lab.

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

No singers necessary

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Madlib likes to be just a little mysterious, like his former collaborative partner MF Doom (RIP).

That veil of mystery has followed the producer, rapper and multi-instrumentalist (born Otis Jackson Jr.) in his newest effort “Sound Ancestors.” Rumbblings of a new Madlib album first appeared in Fall 2020, but the true mysterious shocker came in the form of who the illustrious musician was working with: Four Tet.

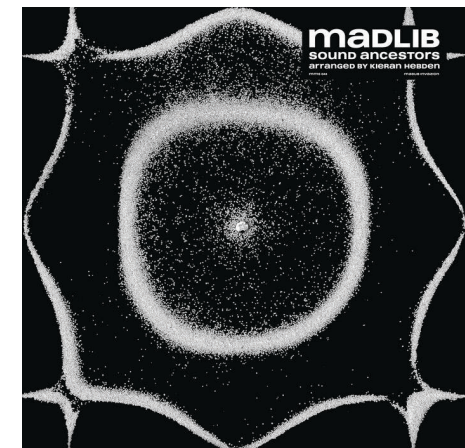
Four Tet, an English electronic artist specializing in regionally-flavored house and dance hall music, would seem a counter-intuitive choice for a producer known for boom-bap beats with heavy samples.

But this 16-track enigma of an album of mostly instrumentals works so damn well.

Picture this effort as a sonic gradient, with each color—or track—flowing to the next, down and down, creating a multi-hued scale of sound. But this gradient isn’t one color, it’s all different mutations of shade; it’s a collage of different tones from bright to dark.

Madlib provided the color: Four Tet brought the canvas.

And what they created together is an album without a vocalist that is one of the most vocal records of the year. Madlib’s



classic samples and uses of captured phrases, like Snoop Dogg uttering “foshizzle dizzle” on “Loose Goose,” or the vocal sample from “Lost in a Lonely World” by the ‘60s MoTown group The Ethics on the beautiful “Road of the Lonely Ones,” provide both tongue-in-cheek and soulful moments for the beats they glide over.

“Road of the Lonely Ones—which was the lead single—is a standout. The gentle falsetto crooning of The Ethics goes from vocal line to instrument with Madlib’s creative shuffling and hard stopping of the sample. The snare is classic New York hip-hop, providing a smooth ratatat backed with hand claps and just enough reverb to make it sound spacious.

A linchpin of the record, which is a handicap for others (like Maggie Lindemann), is the fluidity of the tracks from one to the other. But what makes this album all the more mysterious is how this newly-forged duo can throw in every genre — reggae (“Theme De Crabtree”), Spanish flamenco (“Latino Negro”), indie rock-flavored funk (“The New Normal”) and many more — and get away with it.

This genre-fluidity is at first jarring, but when the next song kicks in it feels like it was always meant to be there, like a hug from Grandma or a line at Trader Joe’s.

The songs are short as well, with an average run time of two and a half minutes. A boom-bap, snare heavy track like “Chino” will make the muscles of the neck loosen and cause the head to bob for two minutes. And whilst that head is bobbing, the ear will be treated to some staccato piano and the occasional record scratch.

This clash of styles between Madlib and Four Tet made something really special: An album that, on paper, would appear scattered and lost. But really, it is a cohesive and polished piece of longform music.

There is a certain old-school gentlemanly sheen to the record that mixes with new-school swagger and panache. It’s weird, perfect, half-baked, confusing and smart. A contradiction of music that must be enjoyed, no questions asked (but you’ll have a ton, especially where the samples came from).

‘WandaVision’ is not a sitcom, regardless of the laugh tracks

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Disney Plus’ first Marvel TV show “WandaVision” is not the conventional superhero badassery fans are used to, but that’s not a bad thing.

Structured as a mid- to late-20th-century sitcom, “WandaVision” deviates from the grandiose violence and chiseled superheroes of the typical MCU films to present a spectacle of raunchy humor, variable fashion sense and laugh tracks.

Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth Olson) and Vision (Paul Bettany), two of the most powerful Avengers in the MCU, star as husband and wife in the deceptively classic “sitcom.” Despite being an unconventional couple (she’s a mutant with witch-like powers, he’s a sentient A.I. with a cyborg body born from an Infinity Stone), there’s a chemistry between Olson and Bettany that makes for a charming shared performance.

The first two episodes explore the couple’s navigation of ‘50s suburbia, attending luncheons, hosting disastrous dinners and dutifully attempting to “fit in.”

If nothing else, “WandaVision” accurately replicates a bygone era of sitcoms like “I Love Lucy,” with its white-picket fences and gossiping housewives. Episode three shifts tone to the Technicolor ‘70s, donning a very “The Brady Bunch” look.

Anyone that has watched “Avengers: Infinity War” knows Vision died brutally at the hands of Thanos. But no one needs to watch the films to know that something is off. While “WandaVision” replicates the humorous dialogue of sitcoms, it is an impostor. Scenes depicting a man in a bee suit emerging from the sewers replace

any thought of raunchy, light-hearted fun, with an eerie feeling reminiscent of the “The Twilight Zone.”

Yet the best part of the series is the pair’s struggle to understand why these discrepancies are disrupting their perfect world. With every fourth-wall break, the audience sees a part of their emotions that span beyond their husband and wife alter-egos.

For the first time in a long time, the grief of Wanda losing her brother, Pietro, becomes apparent, something many other Marvel films failed to depict.

As for supporting roles, comedic actresses like Kathryn Hahn present a character whose outwardly enthusiastic personality stems into something more mysterious. Teyonah Parris as Monica Rambeau slowly chips away at the fallacies of this reality, with a smart performance that suggests Wanda and Vision are not alone in their confusion.

Without these emotionally nuanced performances tethering the show to reality, “WandaVision” could easily drift into orbit. The show’s attempts to defy the tropes of the MCU are commendable, but it’s evident that it could easily get sidetracked in the aesthetic of its alternate world. Often amiable sitcoms like “The Brady Bunch” achieve the fun better than “WandaVision” ever could.

But the newest episode offers promise for a greater grip on the “real” MCU. Even if it’s hasty and more of a preamble to the events that transpire in previous episodes, it’s a healthy sign that “WandaVision” is channeling its focus on Wanda’s creeping insanity, rather than bad sitcom jokes. The first four episodes are currently available to stream on Disney Plus, with five more on the way.



UM artists continue protest art creation

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A simple stroke of a horse-hair brush can be an act of protest. Subtle clicks within an illustration suite can produce a form of resistance and power — especially in the midst of the previous, often controversial, presidential administration.

Two UM students have used art to shed light on issues that became painfully apparent during the term of the last president. Now, with a new administration in place, Rhiannon Reddoor and Walter Medcraft want the messages behind their art to continue to radiate.

Issues such as immigration, gender and American identity have taken the country by storm in recent years. But something that isn’t being addressed enough is the disrespect and destruction of Native American land, said Rhiannon Reddoor, a UM student and member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, which is based on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation.

Reddoor had a piece featured in the 26th Annual Juried Student Art Show. The art, which won first place, reads, “Colonialism is Cannibalism” with a picture of a dead, demon-like animal looking back at the viewer. The art focuses on the Keystone XL pipeline and its permit, granted as one of President Trump’s executive orders.

Other issues she wants to tackle are landback efforts (the reclamation of tribal lands by Indigenous peoples), and missing and murdered Indigenous people, which have become increasingly known issues in the recent years.

“I’ve never directly referenced Trump. I don’t really plan to,” Reddoor said. “But issues I touch on are issues Trump has caused that face Native Americans.”

Reddoor said there was definitely political art before, but now more eyes are turned on it because of the outrage Trump has caused during his term.

“I would say, whether it is positive or negative, Trump’s face and everything about him is now this icon,” Reddoor said. “If you show a picture of him now in a political piece, you kind of already know everything about the piece. Whether we like it or not, it’s kind of like he is immortalized.”

Looking to the future, Reddoor said she

is hopeful for the new administration and the work they have already done for the Native American community, though there is still a lot more that needs to be done.

“We saw the [Keystone XL pipeline] permit get revoked again by Biden which is really good, that doesn’t mean we’re done. I am hopeful, but cautiously hopeful,” Reddoor said.

Kevin Bell, director of the School of Visual and Media Arts at UM, says cultural critique in art has been far stronger in the past four years than at any other time while he has been teaching.

“The last president was a very energetically polarizing figure, so there are a number of students who were—and still are—wrestling with those issues,” Bell said. “Art is always looking for something powerful and important and meaningful to say, and there has been no lack of possibilities in the last four years of that.”

Bell says he is curious how his students’ art will shift now with a new administration in office and what will happen as the polarization of the last four years continues to echo and reverberate through our society.

“I am constantly surprised by the students,” Bell said. “I think some of them experienced a sort of sigh of relief that the chaotic, tumultuous years are over. The last four years have been a fantastic time to really expose and highlight some important issues in culture that we need to address, and I don’t think that is going away.”

On the fourth floor of the art building, a corner of the studio has a sign that reads, “Walter Medcraft’s Art.” The corner is scattered with old skateboards painted with faces, abstracted bodies and canvas stacked upon each other. At the center is a painting of an undead Donald Trump staring at the people who walk past it.

Medcraft, a junior at UM, said the painting is a reference to the ‘80s dystopian horror movie “They Live,” where the wealthy are revealed to be undead versions of themselves, indoctrinating onlookers to “obey and consume.”

“I’ve never actually seen the movie,” Medcraft laughed.

The inspiration to focus more of his art on political and protest speech came to him in the past year. Medcraft said he felt



Artwork courtesy of Rhiannon Reddoor. CONTRIBUTED | KAIN BRAUNEIS

a shift in his inspiration for pieces after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the twin city of his home, St. Paul.

“I painted pieces for the George Floyd memorial and left them there. I thought, ‘This is what I should be doing,’” Medcraft said.

Medcraft has painted or designed numerous amounts of protest art during his minor at UM, saying many were to make issues Trump brought to the nation continue to get recognition beyond the president’s term.

“It really opened the country up, and

I don’t think these issues will ever stop without continued recognition,” Medcraft said.

Now that Trump’s term is over, Medcraft says he wants to continue to paint pieces that have political or civil rights issues as the center of the piece. His latest Trump pieces will likely be the last of his painting of the president, he said.

Teams are not using positive tests to avoid games

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While the men's basketball matchup between Montana and Montana State was canceled due to a positive COVID-19 test in the UM program on Jan. 27, fans brought the rivalry to social media. It all started when an MSU student videographer tweeted a video of an MSU player staring down a UM player in last year's matchup.

Some MSU players quickly tweeted out replies to the video (which are now deleted) insinuating UM was scared to play MSU. To suggest that UM made up a COVID-19 positive test to avoid playing its rival is shallow and just straight-up false.

UM has beaten MSU in 19 of the last 20 men's basketball games they played. None of the current rostered players on UM's team have lost to MSU. The Griz certainly aren't scared.

If perhaps MSU had been the top dog in recent years against the Griz, it still would have been uncalled for to suggest that UM used COVID-19 to get out of a game. COVID-19 is a very real disease that has killed over 440,000 Americans.

In any scenario, a positive test should be considered with the utmost seriousness. There is no reason to ignore COVID-19 safety measures just to play basketball.

Student athletes would give anything to continue playing the sports that they love so much. It must have been hard enough for UM's basketball players to miss their rivalry game, but seeing that rival taunt them for following safety measures must have stung even more.

Luckily, some former UM players were ready to battle it out on social media. Former forward Sayeed Pridgett tweeted out a video of him dunking on an MSU player while former guard Kendal Manuel mocked an MSU player for scoring zero points in one of the last rivalry games (this was the same player in the video MSU's student videographer tweeted out).

We have a great sports culture in Montana and the Griz/Cat rivalry is the best part of it, but when things go downhill, UM and MSU fans both need to keep some class. Last week's Twitter war showed a lack of it.

Lady Griz lose physical game to MSU, get swept in regular season for third straight year



The University of Montana Lady Griz defend against the Montana State Bobcats during a maroon-out game on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020 in Dahlberg Arena. **EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN**

JOHN ORZECZOWSKI

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Fresh off a stinging 24-point loss to Montana State in Bozeman, the Lady Griz returned to Missoula to play its second game against the Bobcats in three days. While it wasn't as tough a loss as Thursday night's was, Montana once again fell to the Bobcats, 60-70, on Saturday afternoon.

"There was a total investment about being better today. I'm proud of them for doing that," head coach Mike Petrino said after the game.

While offense was still hard to come by for the Lady Griz, UM fared much better than Thursday night. Redshirt Sophomore Forward Carmen Gfeller played like she had a chip on her shoulder after only scoring eight points in the last matchup, dropping 22 on six-of-nine shooting and 10 out of 11 from the free throw line. She was helped out by forward Abby Anderson,

who contributed 12 points to go along with 10 rebounds and guard Sophia Stiles, who scored 10 points, including a perfect eight-for-eight from the free-throw stripe.

Petrino praised Gfeller for her efficiency and made it clear that he was happy with her and Anderson as the primary offensive options for the team, despite their recent scoring woes.

However, the rest of the team combined for 16 points total. MSU out-rebounded UM, had more assists and committed fewer turnovers than the Lady Griz did. Montana State especially dominated in the first quarter, going up 19-11 by the first buzzer.

The next three quarters were pretty evenly matched in terms of points scored, but the Lady Griz were never able to go on a run to make up for that early deficit.

"We had more energy today," Petrino said. "The problem was we didn't get any stops."

MSU immediately came out firing, powered by eight points by sophomore guard Darian White and a barrage of threes up and down the roster. White would cool down from the field, but consistent free throws throughout the game gave her 19 points to lead the Bobcats in scoring.

The Lady Griz haven't beaten Montana state since February of 2018. Anderson, Stiles and senior forward Madi Schoening are the only girls on this year's roster who have won a game against their in-state rival. Petrino himself was an assistant coach.

The Lady Griz fell to 7-6 this weekend, and 4-4 in conference play. MSU jumped to 9-5 and 6-2 in conference play, and are now third in the Big Sky Conference, a spot previously held by Montana before these two games. Montana is now looking ahead to the 5-6 Portland State Vikings, who they'll host at Dahlberg on Thursday, Feb. 4, and Saturday, Feb. 6.

Griz Volleyball dropped in straight sets by Weber State

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The University of Montana volleyball team matched its opponent Weber State for most stretches during a Jan. 31 game, but in crunch time the Wildcats shut down any Griz comeback attempts. UM lost in three straight sets, the first two coming down to five points or fewer.

"I think that was the best volleyball we've played all year," said head coach Allison Lawrence. "It was much better, just cleaner volleyball than last weekend, and we took care of our details and put ourselves in position to win two of the sets."

The game, in Missoula, was the first time UM played at home since Nov. 2019. The 2020 season was postponed until this spring.

The new season, abbreviated and against only opponents in the Big Sky Conference, started last week when Montana split a series versus Idaho State.

Montana started the game hot against Weber State, taking as much as an 18-16 point lead in the first set. Much of early scoring came from outside hitter Amethyst Harper, who had three kills early in the game.

Harper finished with 10 kills and five digs. Harper and the Griz played as a younger squad, with three freshmen getting significant time. UM setter Carly Anderson set the pace with 31 assists and an occasional misdirection kill. Anderson, a freshman, had one more assist than Weber State's senior setter Ashlyn Power.

The end of the first set featured a Montana run that tied the score at 23, thanks to a cross court kill by Harper. While the score was tight, Weber State took control of the final plays, which Lawrence said was an early season issue for the young UM team.

"It was just a moment here or there where we wouldn't hold our serve, and then Weber would go on a two three point run," Lawrence said. "Those just constantly made us feel like we couldn't relax and sort of be the aggressor from out in front."

Montana lost the first set 23-25, and started the second set in a similar spot, tied with the Wildcats at 17 points. Weber State



University of Montana middle blocker Peyton Boutwell, left, and outside hitter Amethyst Harper, right, jump for the ball during a game against Weber State on Jan. 31, 2021. The Griz lost three straight sets to the Wildcats, the first two coming down to five points or fewer. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

broke down Montana with a strong block by Riley Weinert, and then a lead taking kill by Sam Sheiss.

Sheiss finished with seven kills and a match-leading four blocks. Weber took the second set 25-20, and Montana struggled to come back from the deficit.

"Weber is a really polished, really organized team that executes at a very high level, and so to feel that our offense was executing along with them was really encouraging," Lawrence said.

Weber State finished 26-9 in the 2019 season, and also played in a postseason tournament. While Lawrence said the Griz needed some work, she is excited about the new faces on the team.

"I think their growth rate is going to be really dramatic," Lawrence said. "They're hungry to do big things here and to take this program to higher heights than it's been in a long time."

UM's next games will be on the road at Southern Utah on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8.



The University of Montana volleyball huddles during a game against Weber State on Jan. 31, 2021. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Gallery | UM vaccine clinic

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University of Montana pharmacy student LynDee Feisthamel poses for a portrait at the Adams Center after administering a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to a Missoula County resident. "It's very exciting and emotional to be able to participate in the vaccination process and help out my community," she said.



Patients inside the Adams Center on Sunday, Jan. 31 fill out paperwork and get information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. The Missoula County COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination Team said the public vaccine clinic is free regardless of whether people have health insurance, and was intended for residents who did not have regular healthcare providers.



A patient receives his first dose of the vaccine. The Missoula County COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination Team, in partnership with the University of Montana's School of Pharmacy, organized the county's first free public vaccine clinic for residents who qualify for Phase 1A and priority recipients in Phase 1B of Montana's COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan. People who met the county's criteria were told to apply online for a vaccination appointment prior to arriving at the Adams Center.