

MONTANA KAIMIN



A death at Aber Hall Campus responds to tragedy

Story by Emily Tschetter



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November 10, 2022 | Volume 125 | Issue No. 11



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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UM's reluctance to hire a cross country coach is unacceptable

A Division I athletic team should have a coach.

Yet this fall, the athletic department at the University of Montana left a coach position open for the men's and women's cross country teams. Two weeks ago, the Griz got almost last place at the Big Sky Conference championship. The women's team placed ninth out of 10 teams, and the men's team placed eighth.

The Kaimin can't help but point out that not having a coach likely played a part in the team not doing well. The lack of support, shown in this week's edition of the Kaimin, has frustrated the athletes who are some of the brightest students at our campus.

The UM women's cross country team has the highest grade-point average of any sports team on campus, and the men's cross country team has the third highest, according to grade point average data from the athletic department.

The women's team also features Beatrix

Frissell, UM's first Truman scholar since 2014. Frissell has been featured on the University's main social media for this accomplishment multiple times.

Frissell also has articles written about her by UM, news outlets around the state and was in the annual Montanan alumni magazine. She is one of UM's best and could be a marketing tool.

In that same alumni magazine, UM Athletic Director Kent Haslam states, "Grizzly student-athletes continue to outpace the undergraduate student population in all academic measures." Haslam also boasts the GPA of student athletes in the magazine. That high GPA is boosted by the men's and women's cross country teams.

Despite being such a talented team academically, the cross country program has not had a head coach since last semester. Instead, UM is using two volunteer coaches to help with cross country.

The team technically falls under Doug Fraley, UM's newly hired track and field

coach. However, his expertise and track history does not lie in cross country. Instead, he's a pole vaulting expert.

Every other Big Sky Conference school either has a head cross country coach, an assistant coach specializing in cross country or a head track coach that specializes in cross country. UM does not, following the loss of former head coach Clint May over the summer. He left to take another coaching position.

It is absurd that the cross country team doesn't have hired leadership and even more crazy that the coaches the team has are unpaid.

These athletes trained under coaches in high school and were the best of the best. They earned D-I scholarships. So why don't they have D-I coaching?

By comparison, UM's football team has 16 people listed on its coaching staff. The men's basketball team has seven coaches listed. The Lady Griz basketball team has five coaches.

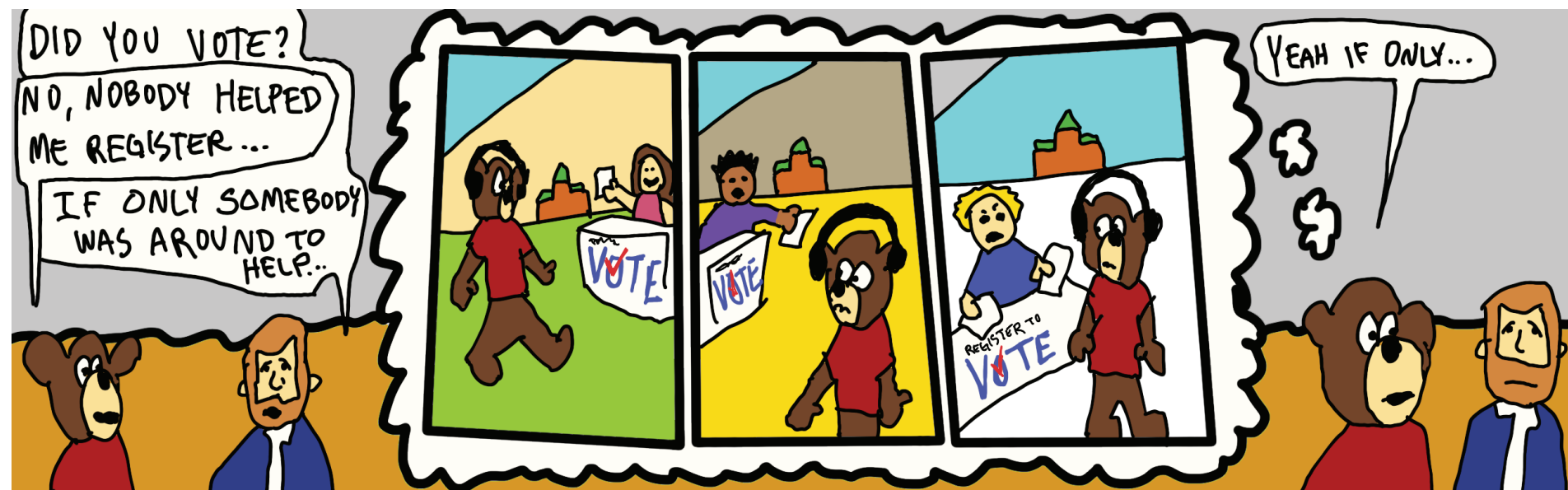
While all Griz athletes have good GPAs (the football team is the lowest at 3.21), the women's cross country team boasted a 3.61 cumulative GPA last academic year. The Lady Griz had a 3.49 cumulative GPA in 2021.

If UM cares about student athletes, why is it disregarding its best academically performing student athletes?

If Haslam and UM do care about student athletes and academics, there is no excuse for Frissell and her team to be disregarded so much that she speaks out against it on the public record — which she did in the Kaimin this week. UM's inability to hire a coach for one of its best-performing students and athletes is an utter failure in leadership.

Like it? Hate it? Let us know. Email us your opinions at griffen.smith@umontana.edu.

THE GARAGE: SE 3 EP 11



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN



White Grizmas

Monte props his feet up on a Griz cheerleader to watch the latest Monte Movie on Griz Vision on Nov. 5. The Griz won 57-0 against Cal Poly in a game engulfed by a blizzard. To see more snowy photos, turn to page 8. **ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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Homeless camp site closed indefinitely, UM receives STEM diversity grant, Montana's increased mental health needs

EMILY TSCHETTER

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MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL MOVES TO CLOSE HOMELESS AUTHORIZED CAMP SITE ON NOV. 16

After a final push to keep the Missoula Authorized Camping Site open, City Council moved to table a motion calling for more funds and to close the site indefinitely.

The majority of City Council voted to table member Daniel Carlino's proposal to keep the site open with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Carlino, Kristen Jordan and Sandra Vasecka voted for the resolution on Nov. 2.

Obstacles like lack of running water, the possible expansion of the city's contract with private security firm Rogers International and general funding concerns prevented the motion from moving forward. The Missoulian reported either county commissioners would need to amend the budget to continue funding the site, or the city would start paying the entire operating costs at the beginning of December.

The city staff is helping ACS residents move out of the campsite using \$10,000 in transition funds, many to the emergency winter shelter on Johnson Street.

Although the shelter has enough capacity to house every current ACS resident, some residents said accommodations for pets and storage are some reasons they will not move to the emergency winter shelter.

UM EARNS \$2.5 MILLION GRANT FOR PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN STEM

The University of Montana was one of six U.S. universities and the only college in Montana to secure a \$2.5 million grant to help increase BIPOC students' participation in STEM fields.

Aaron Thomas, a chemistry professor and director of Indigenous Research and STEM Education, led the effort to secure the Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant with the help of other UM researchers and administrators.

Thomas, a member of the Navajo Nation, also helped land a \$740,000 National Science Foundation award for STEM diversity efforts. He currently oversees a \$3.3 million Department of Education grant called Montana American Indians in Math and Science that encourages middle and high school Indigenous students in to look into STEM fields.

The HHMI funding will help boost collaboration with tribal communities

and UM for career-building for Indigenous students. It will also allow UM to implement more first-year programming in STEM, childcare opportunities and emergency funding.

HHMI said students of color select science-related majors at the same rate as white students, but they graduate with STEM degrees at half the rate of white students.

Thomas said he worked with UM employees Julie Baldwin, Ke Wu, Frederick Peck, Naomi Kimbell, Brad Hall, Nathan Lindsay and Scott Whittenburg to secure the grant for UM. Thomas hopes the funding will help UM become a national model for other colleges by supporting and uplifting its Indigenous community.

STATE DATA SHOWS INCREASE IN MONTANA YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services released long-term data from the last decade showing youth in Montana are experiencing a mental health crisis while counselors are in short supply.

Data from 2011 to 2020 showed children aged 11 to 17 died by suicide at a rate of 11.9 per 100,000 people, which is double the national average. On top of this, multiple university mental health care providers told the Montana Free Press that students have reported staggering rates of hopelessness and demand for mental health services.

More than 47% of UM students reported moderate to severe levels of distress over the past year, a jump of 8% from 2020, according to an American College Health Association survey. UM's eight licensed counselors and three interns saw 1,300 students last year. Counseling director Erinn Guzik told MTFP the last few years have been challenging to meet student demands.

Part of that demand is for after-hours crisis response, but UM does not have after-hours counselors available. Guzik said one of UM's top priorities is to hire more counselors.

The suicide prevention nonprofit JED Foundation ranks Montana 49th in the country for the prevalence of youth behavioral health problems and treatment services access.

EATING DISORDER CARE CENTER OPENS IN MISSOULA

The first in-person specialized care center for eating disorder care in western Montana opened last week when The Eating Disorder Center of Montana opened a second satellite location in Missoula.

Before, western Montana patients had to travel to the EDCMT's main Bozeman office, which was founded in 2013, to receive in person care. Clinical director Hannah McKinney told KPAX that she hopes the new office will be a resource for all western Montanans.

The center will provide outpatient care involving nutrition counseling, psychotherapy, and "intensive outpatient" care with individual sessions, group therapy and dietitians present for meals for six to twelve weeks.

The National Eating Disorders Association said calls to its helpline increased by 58% since 2020. McKinney said she hopes the office can fight stigma around body image and increase support for eating disorder care, especially when resources can be lacking in rural states.

EDCMT is accepting referrals from medical providers and self referrals, and individuals can reach out if they are concerned about a loved one.

POLICE BLOTTER

CAVEN WADE

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UMPD had a slow week, which may mean students are fully engulfed in their studies since they only have a few weeks to get those grades up. Officers responded to events from a laundry fiend in Craig Hall to a shattered study hall door. Here are four incidents UMPD responded to from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

MONDAY 10/31: GLASS GLADIATOR

UMPD responded to a report of an intoxicated student kicking out a glass door in the second floor study lounge in Miller Hall. UMPD cannot confirm this, but it was reported that the student may have hit someone while shattering the glass. The intoxicated person was quickly identified. However, there was no evidence to support that he had caused the glass to break. If you're going to drunkenly kick something, it might be a good idea to choose an item that's a little more sturdy and less noticeable.

TUESDAY 11/1: DRYER DRAMA

UMPD responded to a criminal mischief report where someone broke off the dryer vent on the outside of Craig Hall. This damage could cost up to \$1,500, and there is currently no known suspect. Craig residents are now without properly functioning dryers and washer tops. Students looking to do laundry just can't win.

WEDNESDAY 11/2: BOOZIN' ON THE BUS

On Nov. 2, UMPD was flagged down by a bus driver near Missoula College. The bus driver had a very intoxicated and not so pleasant passenger with them during their route. The driver naturally wanted him off the bus, and asked the officer nicely if he could escort the passenger to his desired destination. A ride from the police is probably cheaper than getting an Uber.

WEDNESDAY 11/2: THE BEARS ARE BACK IN TOWN

UMPD received a call that a brown bear was spotted near campus. Officers were unable to locate the bear, and when they made contact with the person who called it in, they said that they waited around 30 minutes after seeing the bear to report it. The bear is probably just getting ready for a nice comfortable hibernation, with some homemade cooking fresh from the campus trash bins in its stomach.

Museum of Montana Art and Culture needs volunteers to move art

ASA THOMAS METCALFE

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A year after the University of Montana campus was founded, The Museum of Montana Art & Culture was born. Approximately 125 years later, the museum has amassed over 11,000 pieces of art and for the first time, is moving into its own dedicated building on campus.

With the move comes a demand for volunteers to help.

Meetings to educate perspective volunteers began in September. While at least 50 members of the community have tentatively agreed to be a part of the project, the MMAC estimates a need for another 10 people and hopes to recruit students into the ranks of amateur art movers.

"The search is going well," Rafael Chacón, director of the museum and professor of art history, said in an email. "We'd love to have a few more UM students involved."

In March of 2022, the University began construction on the new building which will become the permanent home to thousands of pieces. When completed next year, the new structure, which is in front of the Adams Center and razed approximately 220 parking spaces in Lot P, will be the new MMAC.

"I'm just hoping the University takes steps to add more parking space in the future. That was a big stressor going into this project," said Dagny Walton, a third-year graduate student of fine arts at the University.

Walton is part of a committee overseeing the movement of works into the new building.

The MMAC was scattered throughout the campus as its collection grew, but for the first time in a very long time, it will all be collected into one central location.

"Our collection isn't accessible and that's the problem," said Chacón.

Over the past century, pieces have been placed in storage around campus or added to displays in campus buildings, but records have at times been incomplete and the size of the vast collection isn't exactly known.

"We suspect somewhere between 11,000 and 12,000 pieces," said Chacón.

This uncertainty is an expected hurdle in the gathering of the artifacts but what isn't so sure is what kind of complications it may cause for the transportation of the items into their new home.

Because the collection ranges in size from "small porcelains" and "tiny objects," to massive sculptures and framed paintings, the process of moving the collection is daunting.



The Missoula Museum of Arts and Culture is under construction and is projected to open Fall of 2023. GRIFFIN ZIEGERT | MONTANA KAIMIN

"We have a couple of large pieces of sculpture, some in storage, that will need to be moved, either by volunteers or the movers at facility services," said Chacón. "Some things will have to be hand carried."

At the start of each month, the committee and interested volunteers meet in the fine arts building to discuss the impending task. At the first of such meetings in September, there was talk of recruiting and a hopeful timeline.

The major move is planned to begin in February and last for over a year, a length of time that will be difficult for most volunteers to commit to. Some people have insinuated that the move could be simple, like when the Mansfield Library changed locations.

"It's not 1962 and we're not moving the library in three days," Chacón said.

Not only will movers be contending with

the elements of weather in the early months, but the objects will need to be cataloged before and during their transition. Volunteers will need to physically move the collection across 6th street, potentially on ice. The campus has also denied parking passes for volunteers and so the community members will have to walk from the nearest non-permitted parking area before beginning the task.

Despite the loss of crucial campus parking, Dagny Walton, a UM fine-art graduate student who moved to Missoula from Colorado five years ago, said the new MMAC building is a sign that the University is beginning to prioritize the arts.

"For me, at least, it's an indication that UM is valuing art and valuing history and culture and museums," said Walton. "I think it signals the University's willingness to expand a

liberal arts program."

The depth of history and culture hidden within the MMAC collection itself is unknown.

The century of collecting and storing has undoubtedly netted items that have not been accounted for, and according to Chacón, some similar museum moves in the past have even found undiscovered art hidden within previously known works, like secret paintings on the backs of used canvases and other such surprises.

Although there is no way of knowing for sure, he predicts that will be something discovered in the process here.

"Those discoveries will happen," said Chacón.

For students interested in volunteering, contact Ashley Rickman at ashley.rickman@umontana.edu

Can't get enough? Start listening.

This week on **THE KAIMIN CAST**, Elinor Smith talks to her sister about Twilight themed candles and the nuances of Etsy. Next week, tune in with Alyssa Tompkins for a deeper look into the gardens at the UC.

THE KAIMIN CAST



New episodes out Monday. Scan for the latest.

A death at Aber Hall

Campus responds to tragedy

Story by Emily Tschetter

There are no physical reminders of University of Montana freshman Otto Wang where he lived on the eighth floor of Aber Hall.

Within a week of his passing late on Sept. 12, someone had picked up the flowers off the sidewalk scattered next to the building.

His dorm room's door, No. 806, was wiped clean one week later. His neighbors could no longer see his nametag outlined in a pink cutout heart or the dozen scattered sticky notes reading "Fly high," "I miss you" and "Rest in peace."

The door remains bare today, his name nowhere to be found on the floor. Otto died after falling to the sidewalk from a hallway window facing the University Center on Aber's eighth floor. It's unclear what exactly happened late on Sept. 12.

Otto Wang, from Gaston, Oregon, was 18 years old and did not declare a major. Edwin Wang, his father, told the Kaimin that Otto loved cars, outlandish trivia and good food — especially sushi. He played on his high school football team and fought for what he believed in, with particular passion for animals.

Edwin Wang said Otto's affection for the outdoors helped him choose the University of Montana. Edwin said Otto thought it was the right place for him — that he could thrive with independence in Missoula while not being too far from home.

It saddens Edwin Wang that students at UM will not get to know his son more. In an email, he wrote that the news devastated his family.

"He was just starting to find his rhythm in life as a young man, and to see all the possibilities open to him extinguished has been heartbreaking," Edwin wrote. "That I will never again get to see my son smile, laugh with friends or do all the things in life he enjoyed has been one of the most difficult things I have had to confront."

Ronan Cardus, a freshman paramedic major, said he spent time with Otto on occasion during the first two weeks of the semester. He said he knew Otto enjoyed snowboarding and cars, but Otto talked very little about himself and was not very social.

Cardus attended a Griz football game with Otto two days before he died.

According to a video shared with the Kaimin and from interviews with people who lived near Otto, he likely ingested

hallucinogenic mushrooms the night of his death. A separate video taken by an eighth floor resident that night showed a smashed window at the end of his floor's hallway.

Edwin Wang said the University informed him his son jumped while under the influence of hallucinogenic mushrooms.

As the weeks rolled on after his death, the University said little about the incident. The University of Montana Police Department closed its investigation, finding no crime was committed.

No official shared Otto's name or the circumstances that led to his death. Anthony Matury, a sophomore who lived across the hall from him, said he feels like Otto has been forgotten.

"It's kind of haunting to come up through the elevator and look down the hall," Matury said.

The students who lived close to Otto and experienced his death in their dorm hall are dealing with that trauma in their own way, he said.

"I've been doing pretty OK. I've come to terms with what happened," Matury said. "We can't change it. But I have had a hard time absorbing everything. The presence is still lingering."

On Sept. 14, the entire University learned about the death in a campus-wide email titled "Please support one another." Vice Provost for Campus Life Leslie Webb said an unnamed student died in a residence hall early the previous morning.

The message also said UM would not release further details about what happened and outlined counseling services available on campus.

UM police chief Brad Giffin confirmed he received the finalized toxicology report at the end of last week. The information from the report will only be released to Otto's next of kin.

Cardus remembers receiving a video via Snapchat at about 9 p.m. from Otto, showing him taking hallucinogenic mushrooms by the Clark Fork River. Cardus said he called Otto shortly after that and confirmed that his floormate planned to return to Aber that night. He said he asked Otto to keep him updated.

After Otto died, Cardus showed the video to UMPD and to others on the floor, including Matury. Julian Cruz, who lived next door to Otto, said he was also made aware that Otto was under the influence of hallucinogenic mushrooms on the night of Sept. 12.

Cardus said Wang told him he had four grams of mushrooms, which Missoula Students for Sensible Drug Policy Chapter President Michael Layeux says is more than the typical 1.5-2 grams average psilocybin mushroom users take. However, Layeux said because the potency and type of hallucinogenic mushrooms is unknown and it is unclear if Wang measured how much he was taking prior to the video, it is hard to determine exactly how much he ingested.

"It can definitely be a potentially traumatic experience," Layeux said. "Some people can become overwhelmed by the response they have. That's why people say it's really important to be in a stable headspace when you decide to do it."

The Kaimin reached out to the two resident assistants who serve the floor through UM Housing. They declined to comment. But Cruz, a 24-year-old freshman music major, said he heard Otto running around the halls about an hour before he died.

Cruz, Matury and Cardus also said Otto's roommate witnessed Otto's uncontrolled distress. The roommate went to Cruz's dorm room, unsure of what to do. The Kaimin reached out to Otto's roommate, who has since moved out of Aber, but did not receive a response.

When Cardus heard Otto return to Aber Hall and started making noise in the hallway, he said he called two other residents and told them Otto was under the influence



Otto Wang in his high school football uniform. **EDWIN WANG | CONTRIBUTED**

of drugs. Cardus avoided going into the hallway where he said Otto was making a lot of noise.

He said he didn't know what to do and was worried for everyone's safety after peeking out of his door and seeing Otto's state. "I don't think he was even in Aber Hall," Cardus said. "I saw the look on his face and his mind wasn't there. He didn't have anything behind his eyes." About a half hour later, students on the floor heard glass shatter. Cruz, Matury and Cardus said no one was in the hallway to see exactly what happened.

Cruz is a nontraditional student from New York who spent two years doing EMT and forensic work in South America. He said his first-responder training prepared him to go downstairs and outside the building to find Otto while the RAs called UM police.

Cardus recalled seeing Cruz return to the floor, color drained from his face.

Giffin said the police report didn't reflect who placed the call, nor Cruz's initial presence on the scene. He said UMPD was dispatched at 11:52 p.m. on Sept. 12 and arrived within minutes.

Dave Kuntz, UM director of strategic communications, said most administrators were alerted within the hour. Erinn Guzik, the director of Curry Health Counseling, received an email from UM Housing at about 6:30 a.m. asking for counselors to be dispatched to Aber Hall.

She and Mark Dadmun, the assistant director, cleared their schedules and spent the entire day counseling students and staff who work in the building, which is half residential dorms, half offices. The top five floors of the 11-story building are dorm rooms.

Kuntz told the Kaimin and other news outlets at 9 a.m. there was no danger to the public from the situation. UM Housing then sent an email to the residents in Aber Hall sharing that counseling services were available to them in the building.

Matury said he was generally satisfied with UM's response to Otto's death, but wishes a memorial would have been arranged. He was also frustrated that the campus communications email did not mention anything about the involvement of drugs in the incident.

He said after days of students posting on the anonymous social media app Yik Yak assuming his floormate's death was a suicide, he took it upon himself to post that it was drug-related. He said he believes Otto's death was an accident.

"He took his own life, sure, that's how you can qualify that as a suicide. But it was still an accident, it wasn't intentional," Matury said. "I didn't specify that it was an accident at the time, and that's still sitting with me now. I'm cursing everyone out for rewriting the story when I sort of rewrote it myself."

Cardus became frustrated when flowers placed outside Aber by himself and other residents were picked up within days of the incident. Kuntz said it's likely that a worker with facilities services may have picked them up without knowing of their purpose.

Cardus then said he was the one to outline Otto's nametag in a pink heart. He left a pad of sticky notes and a pencil beside the door for others to leave kind messages.

Cardus agreed that what happened was an accident, and wishes the University would have shared information about substance abuse and mental health issues to inform and help other students who are struggling.

"I think his death should be thought of as

"He took his own life, sure, that's how you can qualify that as a suicide. But it was still an accident, it wasn't intentional."

Anthony Matury, a sophomore who lived across from Otto Wang

the same as if somebody had taken a lot of drugs and accidentally stepped out into the road," Cardus said.

Kuntz said the University currently has no plans to hold a memorial or release more information about Otto's death, even after UMPD received the toxicology report.

Kuntz said although he doesn't know the family's specific request regarding what can or cannot be shared about what happened, UMPD is still staying in regular contact with them.

"What's challenging for the University is we're in this age where there is a push for immediate information to be released," Kuntz said. "Once you let that information out of the jar, it's obviously hard to push back in. So I would rather move slower than folks would like us to for accurate and appropriate information, rather than responding to demands from Yik Yak or other channels that are pushing the University to move quicker than we have the information ourselves to move."

Edwin Wang said Giffin and the staff at Aber Hall were helpful in the days following Otto's death, but he did not know the exact details of the University's response. He also received messages from President Seth Bodnar and Vice Provost for Student Success Leslie Webb.

Cruz, along with sophomore Chayten Pippin, who lived close to Wang, said they are satisfied with UM's counseling response and are glad the University did not release more information out of respect for Otto's loved ones.

Guzik, the counseling director, said although services did not stay in Aber Hall, two to three extra urgent student counseling slots stayed open at Curry for students for about two weeks after the incident. "Quite a few" students sought counseling, she said.

She said two urgent appointments and one walk-in spot remain open today, and students continue to come to Curry regarding Otto's death. Assistant counseling director Mark Dadmun said students are informed about the roughly 3-week wait time for a regular counseling appointment, but can get an urgent spot the day of or the next day if they need to be seen sooner.

Layeux, the Missoula SSDP president, said he wishes the University would've shared that substance use was involved for a learning opportunity, especially because

he feels students don't know what to do when someone becomes overwhelmed on a drug trip.

The Zendo Project, a group providing education on safe ways to mitigate harms of drug use, offers a peer support manual to teach students who to call and how to help users in different spaces like parties or at home.

Layeux suggested testing and weighing doses, taking small doses at first when trying a new substance and never doing it alone. Layeux also said EMTs or Missoula's Mobile Support Team can be more effective than police at de-escalating someone experiencing an overwhelming trip.

"An ambiguous conversation about 'being there for each other' isn't as constructive as advocating for a safer community," Layeux said. "We need a rallying cry to have the University be more honest about what this was."

When asked about whether the University is considering pushing more drug safety messaging following the incident, Kuntz said that is always in consideration and is part of conversations administrators are having as they reflect on the University's response.

However, Giffin said UMPD would not participate in that messaging.

"I don't think you can put out a message to say that you should do illegal drugs safely, because there's no safe way to do that," Giffin said. "We wouldn't ever want to encourage someone to ingest an unlawful substance and have that message come from the police department."

Following unconfirmed reports of students requesting to move out of Aber, Kuntz said UM Housing cannot discuss the matter because of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act rules.

He said students can still ask to relocate and the University will accommodate their requests if possible.

Meanwhile, the students on the eighth floor of Aber Hall have banded together to care for each other. Cruz said soon after the incident, they created a group chat and started organizing activities, including hangouts, dinners and a day trip to Flathead Lake.

"It was very melancholic at first, but as bad as it may be, we've become really good friends now," Cruz said.

Matury's 20-credit schedule has kept him

too busy to attend many group activities, but he feels the tragedy brought the floor closer together.

"It's become a brotherhood, even if it's growing a little bit more distant now as time goes on," Matury said. "We're still looking out for each other and caring for each other."

Cardus said he did not sleep for the rest of the night after Otto died. He and a few other residents stood together in the parking lot and spoke about skipping their classes the next day. He said he was thankful for others being with him as they processed what happened.

"It was an experience that brought out everyone's emotions and made everyone feel vulnerable," Cardus said. "We all embraced each other, and everyone in this hall made a tragic situation seem a little easier."

For weeks afterward, Otto's death stuck with him.

"I wasn't necessarily replaying things in my head afterwards, but I suppressed it every day afterwards, while classes were really hard," Cardus said. "Classes still get harder, and it's difficult keeping up with everything and also dealing with things going on in your own head."

While students took time to discuss Otto's death, despite the limited details, conversations on campus have largely moved on from the subject. UM administrators and staff publicly mentioned it in unspecified ways, including at a leadership summit organized by the Student Advocacy Resource Center held within two weeks of Otto's death, and in conversations and reporting around how UM is responding to a campus-wide mental health survey published last semester. The survey showed 62 percent of respondents reported feeling hopeless and socially isolated.

Cruz said some students on the eighth floor continue to stay in touch with Otto's former roommate, and they still move forward together.

"You never really know. At the end of the day, it could happen to anyone," Cruz said.

Call (800)-662-4357 for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 24-hour hotline for treatment referrals.

The Fireside Project psychedelic support hotline, (623) 423-7433, also offers peer support by phone and text for people in the middle of psychedelic experiences.

If you are in crisis and need immediate help, dial 988.

WELCOMING THE WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter came in a blink this November, dumping its first snow across the Missoula Valley on Saturday evening. Photographers with the Kaimin got into the conditions to see the first act of a cold winter.



RIGHT: Mitch Roberts celebrates after completing a wide open pass in the first quarter, putting the Griz up 13-0.

ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN

BELOW: Griz dancer, Aubrey Irons, stands in the snow during the game on Nov. 5.

NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN



BELOW: In nothing but body paint, a wig and some pants, sophomore UM student Will Thomas yells out to "Move the Chains" as Griz gain another first down. Griz football set a record for most first downs during the game against Cal Poly on Nov. 5.

ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN

IT'S SNOW JOKE

Griz bury Cal Poly as flakes fly

GRIZ FOOTBALL IS NO STRANGER to the cold — and the weather in Missoula seems like it can change every five minutes — so the team keeps the conditions in mind when preparing for white out games like the one on November 6th.

The Grizzlies dominated Cal Poly this past Saturday, winning 57-0. With the snow starting to come down during the first quarter, fans and players were prepared for the snow globe-like conditions.

Sophomore wide receiver Aaron Fontes, 20, said he uses Vaseline on his arms and blue latex gloves under his game gloves to help resist the cold and keep the contact of the snow off his skin. The Oxnard, California, native hadn't even seen snow till joining the program at UM.

"First time I ever saw snow was here in Montana 2020," Fontes said. "It was a different experience for sure. Looking up at the sky

and there's white snow coming down kind of shook me for sure. But honestly I like it, can't even lie."

Fontes studies anthropology at UM and lives in the dorms. When he saw the snow, he said "Got my boy X [Xavier Harris], went outside, and made some snow angels for the first time."

Head coach Bobby Hauck said that they check the weather in preparation for the games and have different equipment like massive heaters to help with the cold. But ultimately the experience they get just practicing in Montana is enough to be ready.

"Spring ball is never good weather around here so you get used to playing in it," Hauck said. "Part of it's acclimation, part of this mindset that like I said, it's way easier to play in the cold than it is in the heat."

Even Griz fans have to prepare for the games to cheer and support the team like dedi-

cated fan Will Thomas, a sophomore in management information systems studies from Missoula. He toughed-out the cold adorned in body paint and a white and maroon wig.

"This is unreal, haven't had a true white-out in a couple years," Thomas said. "I love the few fans that are here. The energy is unreal and cold is just a mindset Griz football is a lifestyle."

Griz athletics as a whole is prepared to face the challenges that come with chilling winters and use them to their advantage against teams like Cal Poly who don't have the opportunity to prepare for climates like Montana's.

- Aston Kinsella | Reporting by Jack Marshall



RIGHT: Students try to stay warm as they walk between classes during a snow squall on Nov. 7 2022.

GRIFFIN ZIEGERT | MONTANA KAIMIN

A SKIER'S PARADISE

Preparing for Snowbowl

WITH WINTER FAST approaching, Missoulians are busy preparing for the colder weather and snowfall. But for Snowbowl ski area, the winter preparations began months ago.

"From the minute we close in April we start preparing for the next season," said mountain manager Pat McKay, who has worked at Snowbowl for 34 years and lives on-site at the resort. He discovered Snowbowl after moving to Missoula from Boise, Idaho, in 1985.

"Everybody talked about Snowbowl and when I moved here it was like, 'oh yeah you gotta check out Snowbowl'," he said. "But somehow I ended right here, solid."

McKay and his team work year round to keep the mountain maintained. In the off season they worked to maintain the machines that keep the resort running in the winter, taking them apart to work on them and reassembling them in the fall. "We take it apart, because it's easier to work on it, then here we are, snowing and we're putting it back together," he said.

This year the off season is especially busy at Snowbowl as they work to get a new chairlift up and running. Snowbowl president Brad Morris said that the lift should be open in mid December. In previous years, skiers and snowboarders had to take two separate lifts to access the runs at the top of the mountain, but with the addition there will be a direct connection from the base to the top of TV Mountain. Morris says he hopes adding the new lift will keep the base-less crowded by getting people up on the slopes faster.

The past few years Snowbowl has been forced to open later in December than in the past due to a lack of snow, according to Morris. This year the resort is estimated to open on December 17.

-Maddie Crandall

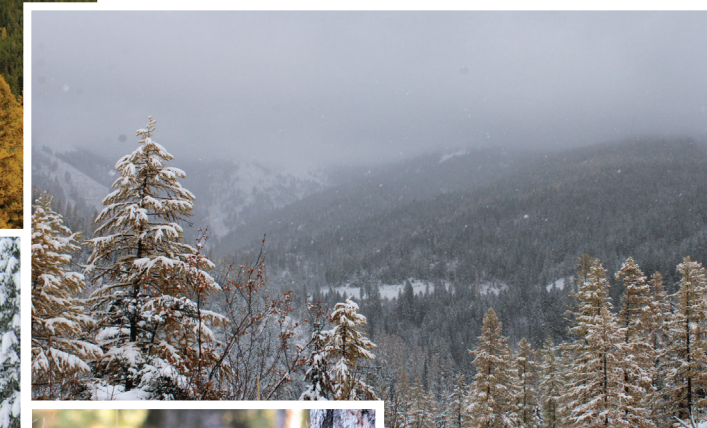


LEFT: The view of the Snowbowl ski area from Snowbowl Road on Tuesday, Nov. 1, just before a series of snowstorms would blanket the mountain in snow. MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

BELOW: By Friday, Nov. 4, the same place on Snowbowl Road provides a view of the area covered in snow, with snowfall continuing throughout that day and into the next. MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN



ABOVE: As snow continues to fall, mountain manager Pat McKay (far right) and a crew of maintenance workers at Snowbowl prepare to use a bulldozer to pull a Cat, used to groom the slopes, into position on a set of tracks. They are reassembling the machine on Nov. 4, 2022, after taking it apart during the off-season. MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN



LEFT: A black bear peeks out from behind a tree just off Grant Creek Road, about half a mile from Snowbowl Road, on Oct. 16th, 2022. The bear was seen in the area throughout the morning, staying close to a deer carcass on the side of the road.

MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN



A NEW LOOK

The transformation of campus

AS THE PUMPKINS ATOP Main Hall begin to decay, winter has made the leaves fall from the trees and cold winds blow into Missoula. Temperatures continue to drop toward freezing.

Students prepare for the change in season as they trade their fall flannels for fluffy coats and mittens to keep them warm while they walk to class.

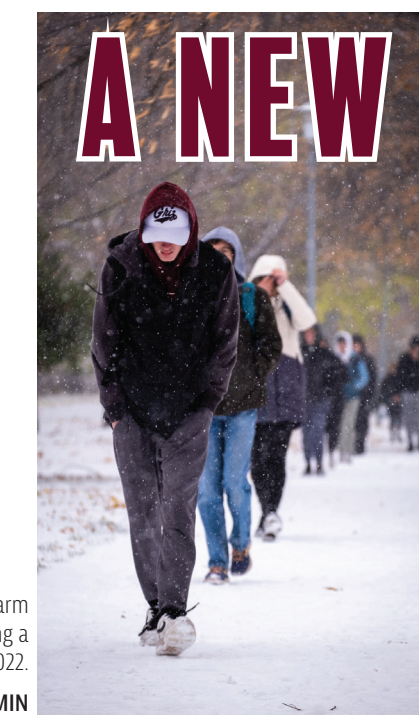
Montana's winters have a reputation for being brutally cold as most UM students can probably attest. Winter on campus is a time spent dreaming of warmer weather and painstakingly trying to find an activity to avoid the seasonal depression associated with the winter months.

Mason Davis, 21, is a transfer student

studying anthropology who returned to Montana after spending three years at Pacific University in Oregon. "I missed there being an actual winter during the months I was used to," Davis said.

The coming of the winter snow also allows students to look forward to partaking in outdoor activities. While Davis was in Oregon, he often reflected on his lack of access to his favorite winter sport: snowboarding. "I'm excited for the changing season because I have not been able to get out and board for a few years. Now I can go out whenever I want," Davis remarked.

-Andy Mepham



Celebrating Title IX, civil discourse at DiverseU

Last week, presentations filled the classrooms of the University Center with topics like free speech to neurodiversity. The Kaimin covered several of the presentations. To read more about DiverseU, visit the extended story at montanakaimin.com.

OFFENSIVE SPEECH IS HARD TO PROHIBIT ON CAMPUS. HERE'S WHY

Earlier this semester, a series of religious protesters caused tense crowds to gather at the University of Montana after some told students they would go to hell if they did not repent or convert to Christianity. Many students demanded the University take a stance on hate speech and prohibit similar religious protesters. However, at a DiverseU panel on Wednesday, UM said its hands were legally tied.

Even if speech is upsetting, it cannot be easily banned without opening a legal can of worms, UM general counsel Lucy France explained.

France referenced a court case where another university punished a fraternity for a racist skit including blackface and lost a lawsuit. In that case, the responsive court said the school should be able to prevent offensive content without silencing students.

France referenced a second court case in which a feminist student group at the University of Mary Washington claimed the school wasn't doing enough to prevent sexual assault on campus after a rugby team's sexist chant was reported. Shortly after the student group released an opinion piece in the student newspaper, the group allegedly received over 700 cyberattacks via the anonymous social media platform Yik Yak. Some included threats of rape and murder, court documents show. The student group sued the school for not taking enough action to protect them, and an appeals court held that the university should have done more.

Those two cases show that every incident of offensive behavior will be very fact-specific, and therefore a broad rule about speech just isn't easily applicable, France said.

Director of UM's journalism school and professor of First Amendment law Lee Banville said it is difficult to take a stance without jeopardizing future instances of free speech.

"Speech that everyone agrees with doesn't really need to be protected," Banville said.

Freedom of speech protects those that disagree with the majority, which preserves the public's right to protest, Banville explained. If the government gets to decide who can and cannot speak, it would open the door for that decision to change with each election. For example, a ban on neo-Nazi protests could be used against Black Lives Matter protests,

Banville said, citing a planned neo-Nazi march that occurred in the '70s.

The University essentially represents the government in situations such as the religious protesters on campus, Banville said. If UM bans the religious protesters, it could be easy for future administrations to use the same ban against other groups. This naturally conflicts with UM's stated goal of tolerance, Banville said.

Director of Inclusive Excellence Salena Beaumont Hill said she sees the impact on students when they come to her office in the Branch Center, emotionally rattled by religious protesters on campus. In those moments, Hill said her job is to validate, but she also wants to educate students on the nuances of the situation.

UMPD Chief Brad Giffin advised students to remain emotionally detached from offensive behavior. People who are saying offensive things are usually emotionally invested as well, Giffin said, so responding with patience will keep the situation from escalating. In the 36 years he's worked in law enforcement, Giffin said the majority of people he's arrested have broken the law in an emotional response.

"Counterspeech really is the antidote to speech you don't like," Giffin said. "More speech, I think, is better than speech that is just not allowed."

—Christine Compton

'IDENTITY HARMS CAN HAPPEN AS NON VERBAL RESPONSES TOO': BIAS RESPONSE TEAM

People from diverse backgrounds often face aggression on campus, and non-verbal discrimination can create equal harm for victims as the verbal ones, speakers said in a discussion about bias response at the University.

The Bias Response Team is a newly established campus authority to help people with different backgrounds facing aggression because of their identities. They arranged a session at DiverseU to introduce their support for students who face discriminatory bias.

"The incidents of identity-based harm don't happen in a vacuum," said Alison Pepper, the coordinator of prevention education at the Student Advocacy Resource Center. "It doesn't always have to be violent and verbal — sometimes a glare or an invisible gesture can traumatize the person who can sense the aggression because of their identities."

Speakers from the BRT said students facing such discrimination can feel hesitant to talk about such incidents because of the general notion that "everybody goes through them," but they requested students come and speak up when they need support.



Director of the Journalism School Lee Banville speaks to a group of DiverseU attendees in the UC Theater. A panel of university officials from varying positions gave their thoughts on the meaning of "free speech" at UM during a session of DiverseU on Nov. 2. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

"We work towards making UM a safe and inclusive environment for everyone and we are here to provide advocacy and support to students who experience or witness an incident of identity-based harm," said Murray Pierce, the director of multicultural affairs at the University of Montana.

Kevin Bosh, a participant from the audience, shared his experience of facing discrimination for his sexual orientation.

"I have been shamed or felt unwelcome in different gatherings because of being homosexual," Bosh said. "It's not like I was exposing anything about my sexuality, I was just being myself. But it was made pretty clear to me that I wasn't welcome."

BRT provides a safe space to talk about such incidents for students who face any kind of harm because of their identities, but they don't have any authority to take action against the perpetrator. However, they can refer the victim to relevant campus resources if the victim wants to take formal action.

"Our goal is to establish a culture of respect among every student on the campus. We promote constructive dialogues between individuals in an incident so that even the perpetrators can realize the impact of their action," said Jen Euell, the director of SARC.

—Najifa Farhat

STUDENTS BRING FORWARD A CRITIQUE OF TITLE IX AT DIVERSEU EVENT

Students called into question the effectiveness and overall outlook of Title IX as a protection for universities at a DiverseU panel.

Elani Borhegyi, a senior environmental science major, and Erin Heaton, a sophomore studying social work, sociology, and gender studies hosted the presentation titled "Worth Celebrating?: An Honest Critique of Title IX." The presentation was in response to the University's 50th anniversary celebration of Title IX, which was adopted in 1972. They hosted a discussion questioning to what extent the policy targeting gender and sex-based discrimination should be celebrated.

"You might think that we're just here to bash a university policy, and that's not entirely true," Borhegyi said. "We want to give an honest critique, and the truth is that there are many upsides to Title IX."

The two appreciated the process of neutrality between prosecutor and defendant in Title IX cases in conjunction with Title VII, which prohibits harassment, assault and discrimination based on sex, race and religion, in higher education.

Heaton also recognized the policy's effectiveness for athletics on campus. It gives funding to female athletics, and creates a more equal field for college sports.



President Seth Bodnar, left, extends an arm and a greeting out to Danielle Pease in front of the newly dedicated tree for Title IX on Nov. 4. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

The two then went into a deep dive of how Title IX has failed directly within the University system. The failures stem from the University looking at the policy as a "cure all," according to Borhegyi and Heaton.

Borhegyi shared sentiments that they believe Title IX should be another valuable resource on campus, but not the end-all-be-all for support for students.

The two also discussed how the University treats Title IX as a plan A when it really is a plan B. According to Heaton and Borhegyi, the policy doesn't do anything to deter discrimination or assault, but is simply there as a response to an unfortunate situation that has already occurred.

The two also shared that students they talked to felt that Title IX doesn't give appropriate due process, or any feeling of satisfaction following reports being filed.

"Title IX can change very easily. It's based on the interpretation of presidential administrations, and there's potential for it to be very regressive," Heaton said.

Borhegyi and Heaton also discussed individual students' encounters with the process of filing a Title IX report. The process can take a long time, forcing victims to relive traumatic events under the current process rules.

At the end of their presentation, both

speakers gave the opinion that Title IX should be celebrated cautiously.

"Title IX does not hear from the students, and Title IX is here to protect the University," Borhegyi said, quoting a student they interviewed for the presentation.

—Caven Wade

TREE DEDICATED NEXT TO MAIN HALL TO PAST, FUTURE TITLE IX EFFORTS

Fifty years ago, there were no national scholarships for college women playing sports, or even championships or steady funding and equipment. Many universities did not allow female students to take certain classes, and some required women to have higher average test scores and grades than their male counterparts to gain admission.

That all changed on June 23, 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law, which banned sex-based discrimination at federally-funded higher education campuses like the University of Montana.

Students led by Danielle Pease, the chair and founder of the Associated Students of the University of Montana's committee on Equitable Education, dedicated an oak tree next to Main Hall on Friday to trailblazers on Title IX issues.

The dedication coincides with DiverseU, an annual symposium focused on diversity

topics and civil discourse.

"This is a week for celebrating our progress," former ASUM Vice President Melissa Glueckert said at the dedication. "Title IX has saved so many lives and helped thousands of voices be heard."

President Seth Bodnar, Vice Provost for Student Success Leslie Webb and leaders in the Office of Equal Opportunity joined those in the audience. The Office of the President provided \$1,500 to add a plaque with a quote from Patsy Mink, who was instrumental in Title IX's passage and the first woman of color in Congress.

Third-year law student Cierra Anderson shared how Mink was very successful in college, but was repeatedly denied entry to medical school during a reception in the Branch Center after the dedication. Mink then became one of eight women in Congress at the time, and she emerged as the leader in gathering votes for Title IX in 1972. The policy passed 212 to 211 in the House of Representatives.

"Every person sitting in the audience is preceded by generations of fearless advocates who fought against gender-based discrimination in this country," a letter from U.S. Senator Jon Tester read at the reception. "There is no doubt that we have made great strides in the last 50 years, largely thanks to organizations like yours at UM, but there's

still work to do. We've got a long road ahead, but I know you're up to the task."

Title IX was first focused on class and athletic opportunities, but over time expanded through mostly informal rulemaking to issues of sexual harassment, violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Department of Education under President Joe Biden put many of Title IX's uses into law this year and listed transgender people as one of its protected classes.

Pease said the tree is supposed to commemorate the many past advocates that made Title IX's applications at colleges possible, but also represents room to grow in its implementation in the future.

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX at UM responded to 186 incident reports in Fiscal Year 2022. The office provides anti-discrimination trainings for students and staff through different groups on campus like the Student Advocacy Resource Center and Human Resource Services.

"This work is never over, but the people here with us today and the people I know will follow up these efforts give me the confidence that deliberate advances toward equity and inclusivity will remain intact, no matter the adversity that will come," current ASUM Vice President Alexandra Berna said at the reception.

—Emily Tschetter

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

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60									61			
62									63			64
65									66			67

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Pesters
 - 5 Bathroom item
 - 10 Left on board?
 - 14 Fairytale villain
 - 15 Biscuit topper
 - 16 Caesar's 57
 - 17 Change direction
 - 18 Braid, as a rug
 - 20 Not budging
 - 22 Drove round & round
 - 23 Lonely place?
 - 24 Fix, as leftovers
 - 26 Movie double, often
 - 29 Educator, briefly
 - 32 Barley bristle
 - 33 Confident
 - 37 Like some desserts
 - 39 Absconded with
 - 40 Drone, for one
 - 41 Incompatible
 - 44 AAA service
 - 45 Former "Tonight Show" host
 - 46 Formal ritual
 - 48 Driller's dream
 - 51 The Regal Beagle, e.g.
 - 52 Heart of the matter
 - 55 Zilch
 - 59 Dry white wine
 - 61 Superfruit berry
 - 62 Angelic feature
 - 63 Done to death
 - 64 Anagram for "nail"
 - 65 Black cat, to some
 - 66 Varieties
 - 67 Cutlass, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 Astronomer's sighting
 - 2 Got on
 - 3 Lionel, to Drew Barrymore
 - 4 Sunday delivery
 - 5 Tibia locale
 - 6 Lowest female voice
 - 7 Crumb carrier
 - 8 Bloodsucker
 - 9 Lofty nest (var.)
 - 10 Guitar pick
 - 11 Cameo shape
 - 12 Tear to pieces
 - 13 In a dead heat
 - 19 Finishes filming
 - 21 Places for rent, briefly
 - 25 Uphold, as the law
 - 26 Wrapped garment
 - 27 Ribbed fabric
 - 28 State of disorder
 - 30 Like a long speech
 - 31 Record holder?
 - 34 Substitute delegate
 - 35 Oracle
 - 36 Like morning grass
 - 38 Parasitic person
 - 42 Speaker output
 - 43 It's outstanding
 - 47 Hawaiian "thank you"
 - 49 Rag composer Joplin
 - 50 One of the Fondas
 - 52 Say again
 - 53 Pillow covering
 - 54 Red-tag event
 - 56 Court cry: Var.
 - 57 Freshwater worm
 - 58 Martini liquors
 - 60 Bite

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Pickle-o-scope

ANNA HENNING
anna.henning@umontana.edu

The holiday absolutely nobody asked for, National Pickle Day, is coming up on Nov. 14. To prepare your heart, mind and taste buds, the stars have decided to let pickles solve your existential crises. Recently, you've been grappling with the question: "Who am I?" So find your pickle identity and emerge transformed.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):
Why be like other boring pickles when you can be a Kool Aid pickle? You get so desperate to be special that you're willing to pickle yourself in Kool Aid despite already being pickled. Did you ruin the good thing you had going? Definitely.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):
You try to be everything for everyone as one of Famous Dave's hot pickles. Why commit to being sweet or spicy when you could be both? It doesn't always work. Sometimes you're lacking in the spicy department.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):
As a pickled lime, you don't back down from a challenge, even if you question where you fit in. You come across as too strong for many people, and you worry if you're too much. You're not, you just haven't found people who appreciate your crunch yet.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):
Why be a boring sweet pickle when you can be so much more? That is, if your definition is going from a sweet pickle to a sugar overload. As a candied pickle, you're just a poser sweet pickle with a fancy name. At least you get creativity points.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):
As a refrigerated pickle, you may be feeling left out. You're the type to withdraw from the crowd and also be upset that you're not included. You're okay with people having fun without you, but not too much fun. It's your world, everyone else in the refrigerator of life is just background.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):
You're a Jimmy John's dill pickle. Not the slices, the whole damn pickle. You're larger than life, but we're pretty sure it's just because you're compensating for something.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):
There's safety in numbers, so you're a slice in the sea of bread and butter pickles. You may not seem flavorful to some, but your personality is palatable no matter what group you're paired with. You may feel lost in the role of supporting character, hesitant to find individuality.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):
Stop running away from responsibility. You're Pickle Rick from "Rick and Morty." You'd rather do anything else than face your own emotions. Dear Gemini, please remember that just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should. Love, the Kaimin xoxo



Your biggest desire is to steal attention from everything else, the catalyst to your villain pickle era.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):
You hold onto things for far too long. Your spirit is the embodiment of pickled eggs. Be prepared for a future full of things you don't need, or start throwing things out now. Start with that taxidermied two-headed hamster you've been hiding from your roommate.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):
You're fried pickles, and you can't stand being overlooked. Your worst nightmare is being interrupted or not getting a turn to speak. Just know you are more valued than you think. Don't forget that you are everyone's favorite, but don't let that fry your brain.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):
As cinnamon pickles, your choices are questionable. Like, why do you start decorating for Christmas in October? We admire your commitment to reaching your goals, but they just don't make sense. What matters is if you like your decisions, just like it matters if you like that haircut.

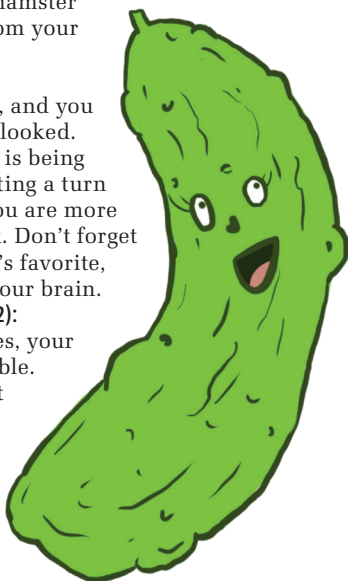
LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):
Stop being a sad cucumber! You're a wannabe pickle, too indecisive to make a flavor because you're desperate for the approval of others first. While your feelings are valid, you need to commit to a choice so other cucumbers can have a turn.

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KATRINA SABOL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Mountain Running Film Festival returns to celebrate Missoula's running community

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Often dubbed "the hub of the five valleys," Missoula is located at the convergence of five different mountain ranges, which many trail runners call home. On Nov. 3, The Wilma Theater paid tribute to these local athletes with a series of films about endurance during the ninth annual Mountain Running Film Festival.

"We try to have (the films) be inspirational and diverse," said Jimmy Grant, who helped start the first annual festival. "Everything from the elite runners, all the way to the first-timers, and of course the landscapes are magnificent."

The films shown Thursday night transported viewers to many destinations and storylines. These included chasing the clock through the White Mountains of New Hampshire, a cancer survivor finishing the Cascade Crest in Washington and a film set in Montana's own Bridger Range.

Grant, who graduated from the University of Montana in 2000, helped create the film festival as a way to raise money for trail stewardship through his non-profit organization Montana Trail Crew. The festival has a consistent turnout each year, with over 430 runners in attendance on Thursday.

He established the "Trail Crew" with a group of friends after noticing a lack of stewardship opportunities for runners. Eventually, the organization merged with Run Wild Missoula, which has grown to over 1,600 members and hosts the majority of Missoula's running events.

Although the films shown were new to the audience who attended the festival, the stories and vast mountain landscapes are something that the Missoula running community is familiar with.

Tanner Pace, a member of Run Wild, has lived in Missoula his whole life and played lacrosse at UM before getting into trail running. Pace said that although friends and family are mostly what keeps him here, as a runner, there is no better place to live.

"It is exciting to not only explore new areas and routes but also see how familiar places change with seasons or over years," Pace said. "We are graced with incredible



Event-goers fill the Wilma during the Mountain Running Film Festival on Nov. 3. The event was hosted by the Montana Trail Crew and featured an eclectic mix of films and lottery prizes. ANDY MEPHAM | MONTANA KAIMIN

access to public lands and running is, in my opinion, the best way to enjoy it."

For some places, getting to a decent trail for training could be a day trip or a once-a-week indulgence, but Missoulians have access to an endless amount of trail systems right outside their door.

"I'm able to be in a cool spot that would be like a weekend hike destination, but for me, it's a lunch break," Grant said. "I work downtown, so I am able to run up Mount

Sentinel, be standing on top of a mountain, then run back to my office and back to work. If I wasn't a trail runner, there's no way I would be able to do that."

All of the money raised from the film festival goes back to the community and helps the Trail Crew maintain trails and work to create new ones. For instance, The Trail Crew adopted, built and rerouted a trailhead in the North Hills. They completed the task by using money raised from the

film festival to purchase the private land, donate it to the city of Missoula and then apply for a grant to build a kiosk at the trailhead.

One of the races hosted by Run Wild is the Pengelly Double Dip, which is a half-marathon that models the unique beauty of Missoula's layout, as it starts and ends in the city, but still covers 3,400 feet of elevation gain.

"It is a really iconic Missoula race," Grant said. "It shoots right up the University of Montana campus, and goes all the way up the summit of University Mountain, back up Mt. Sentinel, then bombs down smokejumper to the Kim Williams. You aren't going to find a tougher half-marathon, especially one right from the city."

Those who follow trail running have likely seen Missoula runners at the top of the charts in some of the biggest ultra-marathons in the world, including California's Western States.

One of the most defining moments for Missoula's running community took place this past summer when Missoula native and Hoka athlete Adam Peterman ran away with the Western States title in his first-ever 100-mile competition, not to mention the most famous one in the country. On Nov. 5, Peterman also won the 80k Trail World Championship in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Peterman came back to Missoula after finishing his collegiate running career at the University of Colorado. He integrated himself back into the community by working as a race director at Runner's Edge and assistant coaching the cross country team at Hellgate High School.

The penultimate film of the night followed Peterman through his last mile at Western States. The crowd at the Wilma immediately lit up and applauded the familiar face on the screen.

"The most important thing about Missoula's running community, is that despite the fact it's rather large and includes world-class athletes and coaches, it's an exceptionally welcoming and friendly community," Pace said.

A Division I team without a coach

HOLLY MALKOWSKI

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The University of Montana cross country team is a Division I program with runners from all over the country who are given scholarships to run in Missoula. The women's cross country team has the highest grade-point average of any UM sports team and features a Truman Scholar. What this Division I team doesn't have is a head coach.

"It kinda felt like there was no buy-in for the cross country team, like no one really cared," senior runner Beatrix Frissell said. "We literally weren't given a coach for the season and no other Division I sport would ever be expected to do that here at the University of Montana."

The team didn't have a coach all summer and all of fall season, after Montana's new director of track and field, Doug Fraley, was hired to replace former cross country and track head coach Clint May.

The team took eighth in mens and ninth in womens during the 2022 Big Sky Conference Championship, and had five athletes place in the top 50.

Frissell is a 21-year-old senior from Polson, Montana, who has a bachelor of arts in political science and is finishing her degree in environmental science. She said she came to UM because she loved the cross country team when she met the members, and also so she could be a part of the Davidson Honors College.

"I considered taking a fifth year here, but I'm done," Frissell said. "I don't feel like the athletic administration supports distance running in a city where UM distance running is huge."

The current head coach, Fraley, is a pole vault specialist who was hired to take over the track and field programs, including the cross country program. He is from Fresno, California, and went to Fresno State University where he was a three-time national champion in pole vaulting. His father was also a track coach in Fresno. Fraley coached at Tulane University and Washington State University before coming to Montana.

"Having to take over the cross country program and the track program has been a great experience for me," Fraley said. "I love being at UM, and I love being in Missoula."

Fraley said his transition was made fair-



Beatrix Frissell, 21, a double major in environmental science and political science from Polson stands outside the Adams Center on Nov. 4. Frissell has run for the Griz XC team for the last four years with the last two coaches and now her senior season with two volunteer coaches. **ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

ly easy by two volunteer coaches that were already leading the team over the summer. He enjoys being the coach of both, and sees the cross country team as part of the track team.

"One of the things I want to make sure we do with this program is have the cross country and track teams be one family," Fraley said. "I don't think those should be separate entities."

The two volunteers who helped with coaching the teams over the summer were not paid. Even during the season, the team had two unpaid coaches doing a majority of the work. Fraley acted in more of a supervisory role.

"It was really frustrating," Frissell said. "We got no communication throughout summer about the head coaching updates

from the athletic administration."

Despite this, Frissell was impressed with how the team pulled together and made the best out of the season.

"I am amazed at how well the team has done and how positive the girls are and how close they are," Frissell said. "I think that we all feel exhausted by how tiring it was to have to battle this uncertainty that shouldn't have been a thing."

Frissell is a three-time Academic All-Big Sky Conference athlete, and won the Truman Scholarship and a UM President's Award last spring. She was also an All-Big Sky Athlete of the week and a Big Sky Conference performer.

"The athletic department administration dropped the ball, and I don't have very much respect for that," Frissell said.

May, Frissell's former coach, used to be the only cross country coach. He took the lead reins when former head coach Brian Schweyen stepped down in August of 2020.

Brian Schweyen's wife, Shannon Schweyen, is currently suing UM after she was fired from her job as the head women's basketball coach at UM. The former Lady Griz head coach and player alleges that UM discriminated against her based on her gender.

The UM cross country team will run in the NCAA Mountain Regional on Nov. 11.

Jonathan Brown's Division I dream is finally here

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Jonathan Brown is locked in for whatever may come, whether it be his long journey from London to the United States or his self-started graphic design career. Now, he will live out another goal: playing Division I basketball.

"I've pinched myself a couple times," Brown said. "It's not a dream. I'm really here now."

This isn't Brown's first attempt at basketball. Hailing from West London, Brown grew up with athletes around him, including his brother who played semi-pro soccer. But for Brown, his passion was basketball.

His start was at Fresno Pacific University, a Division II program in Fresno, California, where he played solid minutes and averaged seven points per game. His freshman year was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which helped fuel one of his interests: graphic design.

If you go on Twitter and search up jwbrown235, you will find graphic designs of players from many different sports, with Griz players being the most recent addition to his art.

During long periods of isolation during Brown's freshman year, he took up graphic design by watching YouTube videos, eventually finding that his passion went beyond just a hobby.

"I was like, 'it can't be that hard,'" Brown said. "Let me just go on YouTube, ask a couple of friends I had, and so I downloaded Photoshop in like 2019 and I got to free styling with YouTube videos, and by myself. But yeah, here I am now."

After his freshman year of college, he moved on to Central Methodist University, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school located in central Missouri. It was there that he would get a taste of U.S. snowfall and life-changing basketball.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, or NAIA, is an association much like the NCAA, but it employs smaller schools, giving scholarship opportunities to student-athletes. Schools like Montana Technological University and Carroll College are at the NAIA level.

This change in competition level didn't matter much for Brown as he was a part of a Central Methodist team that attended the NAIA national tournament in the 2021-2022 season. He was a large part of that success, averaging 13.4 points in only nine starts his first year, before going off with 18.6 points per game and a huge 35-point performance the next season.

Success like that eventually got him an offer to play Division I for the Grizzlies and head coach Travis DeCuire came calling.

"It's typical when you get guys transferring up to junior college or NAIA, that it takes a little bit of time to adjust to the pace of the game, the physicality of the game," DeCuire said. "It's a little different but he's gifted athletically, physically in that regard. So he's done well, fitting in chemistry-wise."

The offseason is over now and game time has begun for the 22-year-old Griz newcomer. Combining his hobbies and talents hasn't just been a struggle, it's been a reward.

"It's challenging, I will say that for sure," Brown said. "When you play sports, there's challenges everywhere. But it's been fun. I will say that it's been fun being able to kind of do something outside of sports, but within sports, but outside of the playing aspect."

Even though he is listed as a redshirt junior on his UM Athletics page, he has the free time to do it. Brown secured his undergraduate degree in accounting and is now embarking on a two-year master's program in business administration.

The freedom with his class schedule has given him a chance to make more of the art he loves while preparing for the basketball season ahead.

For Brown, while the journey from London to the states was rough, things are finally making sense. With COVID restrictions finally lifted, he was able to see his family for the first time in years.

"This was a breath of fresh air," Brown said. "It was nice to be back, take some time off. I'd been playing basketball and been in America for so long that I had always had pressure on me to do whatever, but I got home and I was like, I felt free."

With a visit back to the Swinging City under Brown's belt, he is in the groove now. And for Brown, it was never a matter of if he could or when he could, it was how he could get to the top of college basketball.

Brown is an electric player, both around the arc and attacking the basket. When you see his art and then his playstyle, you see one thing: creativity. He isn't afraid to take a risk offensively, make a highlight play and show people what a London kid can do.

"Through COVID, there's been a lot of movement in athletics in general," DeCuire said. "And to see him succeeding through those changes tells you that he's determined to be successful down the road."



Griz basketball player and graphic designer Jonathan Brown plays around with a ball on November 4. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Griz basketball will take on Xavier University in Cincinnati on Nov. 11, before returning home for a Missoula tournament starting Nov. 17.

The Grizzlies will play Merrimack College, Troy University and St. Thomas University in the Adams Center over the three-day event.

Smoke in the air

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY GRIFFIN ZIEGERT
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The University of Montana Forestry Club held its annual Smoker event on Saturday, Oct. 29. The intention for the gathering this year was to teach young members about the long-held traditions of the club, and to help them learn the true meaning of fighting fire with fire.

More than 20 students, consisting mostly of people within the school of W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Resto-

ration, loaded into a bus on Saturday to drive to the Lubrecht Experimental Forest. The Lubrecht Forest is a 28,000 acre plot of forested land preserved and kept by the Forestry School.

Since the last Smoker event, senior club members created burn piles in the forest to give new students the opportunity to learn how to use common wildland firefighter tools to properly maintain the growing problem of forest fires within the state of Montana and surrounding areas.

BELOW: Forestry Club member Andrew Reynoso learns how to safely light a burn pile using a drip torch.



RIGHT: Andrew Reynoso, a forestry student in the University of Montana Forestry Club lights a burn pile prepared by senior club members to teach younger members how to properly maintain the Lubrecht Experimental Forest.



ABOVE LEFT: Jared Fossek shows members of the forestry club how to black-line fires using a drip torch.

ABOVE RIGHT: Charlie Chabot teaches prospective wilderness firefighters how to create a fire-line to prevent spread using a pulaski, an axe-like tool used in fighting fires.

LEFT CENTER: A forestry Club member walks between two burn piles in the Lubrecht Experimental Forest on Oct. 29 2022.

BELOW RIGHT: Members of the forestry club start up a generator to provide power to workers in the Lubrecht Experimental Forest.